



Krampus Festival, p.12



First Responders Honored, p.6

## Hanukkah Party Brings Light To a Gray and Rainy Sunday

by Karen Knee



PHOTO BY KAREN KNEE

Cantor Yael Fischman and Rabbi Saul Oresky light Hanukkah candles.

The clouds were heavy and gray, but inside Mishkan Torah the mood on December 10 was festive and bright. About 50 people, from toddlers to seniors, attended the free event, which took place on the third of Hanukkah's eight days.

Children from Mishkan Torah's Karp Family Hebrew School performed a stage adaptation of Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins by Eric Kimmel. Maggie Brown starred as Hershel, a clever

and resourceful traveler who outwits a series of increasingly fearsome goblins (played by the versatile Emmanuel Gold) and brings the holiday of Hanukkah back to the town of Ostropol. Dmitri Barnes played the town's rabbi, and Theo Kliman narrated. Isaac Hoskey and Brian Needelman provided music and sound effects. Cantor Yael Fischman directed the play and led

See **HANUKKAH**, page 11

## GHI Holds Town Hall Meeting Discusses Budget, New Project

by Carol Griffith

The Greenbelt Homes, Inc., (GHI) town hall meeting held December 5 was the first in-person meeting GHI has held since December 2019, announced President Stefan Brodd as he opened the meeting to a round of applause. About 75 GHI members attended the meeting in which the new General Manager, James Claggett Jr., was formally introduced, the 2024 budget was presented and the upcoming pipe replacement program was discussed. Members were encouraged to ask questions directly in the meeting or submit their questions for later follow-up by the appropriate staff person.

Although Claggett has already met many members in an informal meet-and-greet when hired in July, many members were introduced to him for the first time at the town hall. He discussed his background and prior experiences (see November 23, 2023, issue of the News Review) and presented his goals and objectives for GHI. After learning how GHI works and reviewing current processes, he wants to build on the "investment and commitment" of the members in pursuing such priorities as infrastructure issues and continuing the relationship with the city to mutual benefit.

### Budget

The 2024 budget was approved by the Board of Directors in November after two readings in open meetings. As presented by GHI Director of Finance Joseph Perry and Treasurer Chuck Hess, the budget has increases in real estate taxes and insurance costs causing a 3.4 percent increase in operating charges, which will be collected through member fees. The Board also approved an overall 4 percent increase in employee salaries for

See **GHI**, page 11

### What Goes On

**Monday, December 18 7:30 p.m.**, City Council Worksession: State Highway Administration, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, December 20 7:30 p.m.**, City Council Worksession: Municipal Building Architect Study Update & Greenbelt Access Television, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for more information.

## Council Decides on Process For Filling Their Vacant Seat

by Michael Zeliff

On Monday, December 11, the Greenbelt City Council addressed the issue of filling the vacancy on the council caused by the recent death of Councilmember Ric Gordon. The Greenbelt City Charter, in section 32 under Elections, defines this process: "If a seat on the council becomes vacant, the remaining members of council by a majority vote shall, as soon as possible, elect a person to fill the unexpired term. If three or more council seats are vacant at the same time, the board of elections shall call at the earliest date a special election to fill said vacancies for the unexpired terms."

Mayor Emmett Jordan interpreted this language as clear in stating that the present city council has the authority and responsibility to act as soon as possible in appointing a candidate to fill the vacancy. Jordan pointed

### Vacancy Process

Any qualified voter who is at least 18 years of age may be nominated for the office of member of council upon filing at the office of the City Clerk:

- A nominating petition signed by not fewer than 50 voters;
- A written acceptance of the nomination;
- Such other statements as may be required by this charter or by law;
- Completed financial disclosure form;
- A statement of intent will be required. Explain why you are seeking to fill the vacant council seat. One page maximum;
- A résumé.

Upon the finding by the City Clerk that the nomination petition, the written acceptance and such other statements as may be required are in order, the name of such nominee shall be authorized to be brought forth to council for consideration of appointment to the vacant council seat.

**Tuesday, December 12**, is the first day to obtain papers and file a nomination petition.

**Wednesday, December 20** by 5 p.m. is the last day to file a nomination petition.

**Worksession:** Candidate Interviews for Council Vacancy, Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers

A link to all required forms (print or digital) can be found at [greenbeltmd.gov/councilvacancy](http://greenbeltmd.gov/councilvacancy).

For more information, contact the City Clerk at [elections@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:elections@greenbeltmd.gov), 301-474-8000.

### Holiday Publication Deadlines

The News Review office will be closed on Monday, December 25. Submission deadlines will be two days early:

- Saturday, December 23, 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words.
- Saturday, December 23, 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday, December 26, 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.

See page 10 for ad deadlines.

to the charter's guideline in section 31 that states, "The candidates receiving votes amounting to forty (40) percent or more of the number of voters voting at the election, shall be declared elected," pointing out that eight candidates in the November city election had received 40 percent or more of the vote for the seven seats on city council. Therefore, one option would be for the present six members to appoint that eighth candidate to fill the vacancy. Jordan reiterated that, with a lot of work ahead in 2024

on, for example, the city budget, council must act promptly. Councilmember Kristen Weaver offered results from her search through Greenbelt News Review archives on past actions by council when faced with a vacancy. She found 17 instances when the council had filled a vacancy and much variation in the actions taken. The unique factor this time, Weaver added, was that the vacancy had occurred so soon after the election. One common feature was that there was usually

See **COUNCIL**, page 8



PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS

Over the weekend, Greenbelt Dance Studio, a program of Greenbelt Recreation, presented *The New Deal Nut: A Greenbelt Nutcracker*, directed by Angella Foster. See more photos on page 12.

# Letters to the Editor

## Plastic Bag Ban

Coming January 1, Greenbelt will be banning plastic bags in retail stores citing it as "a significant source of litter." If the city is serious about litter, why is trash allowed to lay untouched all over the place. It is a regular daily occurrence to see mounds of trash in the parking lots of Beltway Plaza and Greenway Center (specifically CVS), other retail establishments and even exiting off the BW Parkway in Greenbelt when I'm driving home from work. The Bring Your Own Bag Bill has not been promoted at local businesses with signage, which will have many residents in shock when they go shopping next month, nor were we allowed to vote on such a change. Additionally, what is the next step? A majority of the trash I personally see is fast-food trash. Will restaurants in Greenbelt soon be required to provide you your sandwich in your hands with no wrapping? As taxpaying citizens of Greenbelt, we deserve to see our hard-earned dollars going towards living in a clean environment and not inconveniencing our daily lives. By the chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, John Lippert's, own admission, more than 70 percent of grocery shoppers use plastic bags. In this current economic climate, forcing residents to add on 10 cents for every paper bag used or pay over \$1 per reusable bag needed at the grocery store, will further strain tight finances of Greenbelt families. The least that can be done is creating more awareness other than a post on the Greenbelt website and articles in the

News Review.

Derrick Faison

*The following letters were received before council decided on the process for filling the vacant seat.*

## Filling Vacant Seats

Some residents are promoting a special election to fill the vacancy on city council as the best solution.

Let's remind ourselves that Alonzo Washington was recently appointed by Gov. Moore to fill the Maryland senate seat vacated by Paul Pinsky.

And Ashanti Martinez was appointed to fill the house of delegates seat vacated by Alonzo Washington.

And a few years ago Nicole Williams was appointed to fill the house of delegates position vacated by Tawanna Gaines. (Williams was subsequently elected at the next election cycle.)

Three state legislative appointments right here in our District 22. No special elections there.

Robert Snyder

## Inaccuracies in Letter

I am disappointed to see that the News Review printed a letter to the editor with such glaring misinformation without a note from the editor. The letter from Scott Legendre completely misstates the City Charter requirements for filling Ric Gordon's seat. The Charter absolutely does not say that council has two options for filling the seat; appointing or holding a special election. The Charter requires that council appoint a new member by majority vote as soon as possible. It

is completely silent on how to decide who to appoint. A special election would be contrary to the Charter. Only an advisory election could be allowed, since council would still officially appoint the member, and even that option is in dispute based on the city's counsel.

I hope that this inaccuracy is corrected.

Ginger Archibald



Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
www.greenbeltcinema.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:

DECEMBER 15th - 21st

**Wonka** (PG) (CC) (DVS)  
(2023) (116 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM  
Sat. 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC)  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Tues. 7:15 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM  
Thurs. 5:15 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM

**The Boy and the Heron**  
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2023)  
(124 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 5:00 PM (sub)  
Sun. 5:00 PM (dub)  
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC) (dub)  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 5:00 PM (sub), 7:45 PM (dub)  
Sat. 7:45 PM (dub)  
Sun. 2:15 PM (sub)  
Mon. 5:00 PM (sub)  
Tues. 7:00 PM (dub)  
Wed. 7:00 PM (sub)  
Thur. 7:30 PM (dub)

**It's a Wonderful Life** (PG)  
(CC) (DVS) (1946) (129 mins)  
Sponsored by Choice Clinical  
Services and Greenbelt FCU  
Join us at 12:30 pm for a free  
tasting of our newest con-  
cessions item - Zenjoy Tea!  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 1:00 PM

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

**Die Hard** (R) (CC) (DVS)  
(1988) (131 mins)  
Cult Classic!  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### Wonka

Based on the extraordinary character at the center of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl's most iconic children's book and one of the best-selling children's books of all time, the film tells the story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the Willy Wonka we know today. The film stars Timothée Chalamet, Hugh Grant and Calah Lane. Said Emily Zemler of the Observer: "The film is charming and warm-hearted, much like Paddington and its sequel, and the onscreen delight is infectious."

### The Boy and the Heron

On its opening weekend, this Japanese fantasy film by animator Hayao Miyazaki topped the North American box office, a first for a Miyazaki film. Based on a novel by Genzaburō Yoshino, it tells the story of a young boy named Mahito yearning for his mother who ventures into a world shared by the living and the dead. There, death comes to an end and life finds a new beginning. The film is a semi-autobiographical fantasy about life, death and creation, in tribute to friendship.

### It's a Wonderful Life

Never seen this classic heartwarming Frank Capra Christmas film on the big screen? Here's your chance. After George Bailey (James Stewart) wishes he had never been born, an angel (Henry Travers) is sent to earth to make George's wish come true. George starts to realize how many lives he has changed and impacted, and how they would be different if he was never there. Also starring Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore.

### Die Hard

New York City policeman John McClane (Bruce Willis) is visiting his estranged wife (Bonnie Bedelia) on Christmas Eve. He joins her at a holiday party in the headquarters of the Japanese-owned business she works for. But the festivities are interrupted by a group of terrorists who take over the exclusive high-rise, and everyone in it. Very soon McClane realizes that there's no one to save the hostages but him. Critics' consensus: "Its many imitators (and sequels) have never come close to matching the taut thrills of the definitive holiday action classic."

PETE REPERT



EACH TOWN IS DIFFERENT...  
AND THEN THERE'S GREENBELT!

## 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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## 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

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

### Storytimes

Friday, December 15, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9369894](https://pgcmls.info/event/9369894).

Monday, December 18, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9369873](https://pgcmls.info/event/9369873).

Wednesday, December 20, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9369888](https://pgcmls.info/event/9369888).

### STEM-tastic

Tuesday, December 19, 4:30 p.m., ages 8 to 12. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Acompañanos a explorar la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemáticas. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9395272](https://pgcmls.info/event/9395272).

### Teen Action Group

Wednesday, December 20, 4:30 p.m., ages 13-18. Need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in the community, gain friends from around the area and speak up in the public library. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9680245](https://pgcmls.info/event/9680245).

### Ride and Read

Thursday, December 21, 11 a.m., ages 16 to adult. Get some physical activity at the Library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS such as Libby, Kanopy and Freegal to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride, and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9395258](https://pgcmls.info/event/9395258).

## Free Covid Tests Are Available Again

Once again, four at-home Covid tests per household are available for free from the federal government. Sign up to receive the tests at [covid.gov/tests](https://covid.gov/tests).

## Free Encore Screening Of Best Documentary

Sew to Say is the Utopia Film Festival's best documentary for 2023. The Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café will have this inspiring work in an encore screening on Monday, December 18 at 7 p.m.

The film documents the 1980s women's vigil and protest in Greenham Common, England, determined to stop deployment of American nuclear cruise missiles there. The vigil, mostly peaceful, all female and the longest such social action in British history, stayed encamped for as long as it took to achieve their goals.

Greenbelt's own Leann Irwin, who participated in the Greenham Common action, will host the after-film Q&A. Irwin spent many years active there and in similar actions elsewhere in Europe and here in the U.S. She will share her experiences for what will be an uplifting evening of peace in action.

The free program starts at 7 p.m. live in the Café. Choose from a full dinner menu for the meal part of the evening.

Those joining via Zoom must register at <https://tinyurl.com/ReelDec18>. Sign-in starts at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call Frank Gervasi at 301-467-2418. Come join in for this uplifting, enjoyable and poignant film program.

## Shop With a Cop Requests Donations

Share a little holiday cheer. The Greenbelt Police Department is currently requesting monetary donations from local businesses and residents. These donations are tax-deductible and will be used exclusively to provide gifts to children and their families residing in the City of Greenbelt.

Donations can be made by cash or check at the police station. If by check, make it payable to the City of Greenbelt. For additional information, contact MPO Rahman at [rrahman@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rrahman@greenbeltmd.gov).



## Storytime on Screen

Monday, December 18, 10:30 a.m., at the Greenbelt Cinema. In partnership with PGCMLS, Greenbelt Cinema is offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. Please, no unaccompanied children or adults. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9384182](https://pgcmls.info/event/9384182).

## Golden Age Club Next Week's Meeting

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets weekly on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. On December 20 guest speaker Nichole Ruffin, Caressence Therapeutics, will discuss the benefits of aromatherapy. There will be no meeting on December 27.

## 'Tis the Season of Giving: Feeding Those in Need

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in December as scheduled below:

Saturday, December 16 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, December 17 – by 4 p.m. for the 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road, the 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road and Boxwood Village; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Leave donations of nonperishables and hygiene products by the front door marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. Ensure donated items have not expired. If not part of a regular pickup route, contact Robert Goldberg-Strasser by noon on Sunday, December 17 at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com). He will come to your porch and pick up your donations.

Anyone who has questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, contact Goldberg-Strasser at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com).

## Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

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

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

## Pollinator Plants Workshop

Come to a free workshop to learn how to make an easy mini-greenhouse out of an upcycled plastic milk or water jug and get a free kit to take home: a fully prepped jug sown with seeds of a native pollinator plant, to be left outdoors all winter. It will produce several hardy seedlings by spring.

The workshop is sponsored by the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS). Habitats for plants are being lost to development, along with the birds, bees and butterflies that spread pollen from flower to flower as they feed, enabling plants to reproduce. These processes are crucial, as plants are the basis of our food/energy web, and every life form above them directly or indirectly depends on them.

The one-hour workshop, which will accommodate 20 participants, will take place on Saturday, December 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 103. Register ahead of time by emailing [susanmarycahill@gmail.com](mailto:susanmarycahill@gmail.com) to reserve a spot and to help the workshop planner determine how many jugs to prepare.

## Chess Club Meeting Monday, December 18

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Monday, December 18, in the New Deal Café, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. All ages and skill levels are welcome. The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 8 in the New Deal Café, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.



## Winter Activity Guide Available Online

Greenbelt Recreation has a packed schedule this winter, including music, art and dance classes for pre-school, a host of performing arts classes for elementary and middle school, a wide array of visual arts, ceramics, dance, music, and health and fitness classes for teens and adults, and myriad trips, health and fitness and special interest options for active aging.

Registration for classes and events is ongoing. Visit [greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](https://greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide).

## Calling Artists

Join the citywide African Americans and the Arts Art Exhibit curated by Shaymar Higgs at the New Deal Café and other city locations. This exhibit will showcase the profound impact of Black Americans on visual arts, music, cultural movements and more. The deadline for submissions for this exhibit is Wednesday, January 3 by 5 p.m. Submit your art entries to [shaymar@freecartforall.org](mailto:shaymar@freecartforall.org) to be included in this show. All artwork must be well prepared and ready to hang.

## Français, s'il vous plaît: French at the Café

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the New Deal Café every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages, all levels of fluency are welcome.

**A Chromatic Christmas**  
The Chromatics return to the Greenbelt Arts Center with their entertaining variety of a cappella songs: from covers spanning the past several decades to original songs, and – of course – a selection of holiday tunes in all styles!

**Saturday, December 16 at 8:00 pm**  
**Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 pm**

Tickets available at:  
<https://www.greenbeltartscenter.org/>

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

**Greenbelt Access Television**  
**Dec. 16, Sat - Dec. 22, Fri**  
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

**THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station**  
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)  
**The Great Rupert (1950)**  
We all make jokes about our pets paying the rent. This titular character actually delivers! Full of silly antics from a stop-motion animated squirrel, The Great Rupert is a heartwarming film that the whole family can enjoy.

New This Month  
**Sparkle Mart 2023**  
In case you missed it: the Greenbelt Juried Art & Craft Fair Sparkle Mart took place this year on December 2nd and 3rd. Tune in to hear from some of the many artists and vendors in attendance!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

**This Week at the New Deal Café**  
SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD  
Hours: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 12/14	FRI 12/15	SAT 12/16	SUN 12/17	
FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP, 5:30-6:30pm* <b>Patsy's Honky Tonk Christmas Show</b> 7-9pm Classic country holiday style!	PIANO STYLINGS OF PETER REPPERT, 6-7:30 <b>Wild Anacostias</b> 8-11pm Merry-making New Orleans blues	POETRY OPEN MIC, 1-3pm*  <b>The ULiners</b> 8-11pm Socially-conscious Americana	CLOTHING SWAP, 11am-2pm*  <b>Fez Tones Hafla</b> 6-8pm Middle Eastern music and dance	
MON 12/18	TUES 12/19	WED 12/20	TH 12/21	SPECIALS!
<b>Reel &amp; Meal</b> 7-9pm "Sew to Say" Screened in-house or on Zoom. NewDealCafe.com	<b>Tunes Tuesday Open Mic with Joey Campfire</b> 6:30-9:30pm Express Yourself!	<b>Pub Quiz*</b> 7-9pm Bring your own team or form one on the spot!	<b>Domenic Cicala</b> 7-9pm WAMMIE-nominated roots rock/ Americana artist	<b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE <b>WEDNESDAY</b> \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join or renew your membership. Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](https://www.newdealcafe.com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."  
\*For more information on these and other events, visit the **NDC CALENDAR** page on our website.  
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

# Backstrom Appointed as Ladies' Auxiliary Officer for the County

by Andrew McBride

Greenbelt resident Charlene Backstrom was recently appointed an officer in the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (PGCVFRA) Ladies' Auxiliary, with which she has served for 20 years. In her new role she'll oversee financial administration. Backstrom also currently serves as treasurer of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary, where she's volunteered for 25 years and is a lifetime member.

In recognition of her service and her new position, Greg Gliotti presented Backstrom with a challenge coin from the Greenbelt American Legion Post 136.

Backstrom has lived in Greenbelt since 1971, residing mostly in Boxwood Village and raising four boys here, all of whom attended Eleanor Roosevelt High School. In addition to her involvement with the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and the PGCVFRA, Backstrom has been part of the CERT emergency response team, Greenbelt Police Department's Citizens' Academy and a volunteer with Maryland-National Capital Park Police Volunteer Association. She's also served as Democratic chief election judge for her precinct.

Through her service, Backstrom has helped others and found joy and benefit for herself. "I've gained things such as safety, fire prevention, getting along with others, I have learned how to work a situation through and be a part of the community," she said.

"She's extremely helpful to other residents here," said Kathleen Scriven, Backstrom's Green Ridge House neighbor. "She has taken me to the doctor in Virginia, which is quite a hike. She has taken me there twice and my neighbor to physical therapy, so she has been a real blessing to people here and has only lived here a few years. She is a great representative of the type of person Greenbelt and Green Ridge want in the community," Scriven told the News Review.

Backstrom says helping people is just part of who she is. "I help



PHOTO COURTESY CHARLENE BACKSTROM

Charlene Backstrom, front right, receives a challenge coin from American Legion Post 136. She is pictured here with Lynn Dobbin, Mike Moore and Jennifer Dobbin.

people, I care about people, and when I see someone in need I want to help," she said. "I've learned a lot through my experiences and any opportunities I have to grow, and I feel the need to help the community. I am a people person who loves to take care of people." She credits her motivation to help others to her faith, saying, "I learned through

my faith that God has given me the gift of mercy, which means giving my gift to people. I have been able to be a part of the community and help others through my spiritual walk."

Andrew McBride is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.

### 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

MASS

Sundays 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Road

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
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

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Service for the Weary

Tuesday, December 19 @ 7:00-8:00 pm

Open to all in our community who struggle to find joy in the season. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue and allow yourself a quiet space for reflection and healing.

### St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In-Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM

Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday; Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Please contact the church office if you are interested in any of these resources.

Our Mission: To share God's love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.

"My home is the home of peace. My home is the home of joy and delight. My home is the home of laughter and exultation. Whosoever enters through the portals of this home, must go out with gladsome heart." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

And behold,  
you will conceive in your womb and  
bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.  
Luke 1:31



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

### 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

### 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

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 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

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



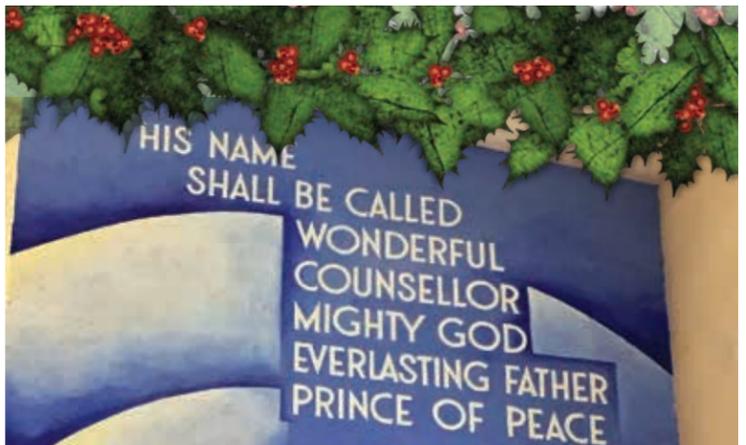
December 17, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Welcome Yule

Eldritch with Worship Associates Anne Hoover and Jacqui Walpole

We invite you to celebrate the symbols of the season, honor the sacred cycles of life found in Nature. Together we explore the wisdom of the Winter Solstice. In Unitarian Universalism one of our six sources of spiritual teaching is stated as: "The Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." This service is led by PBUUC Pagans, coordinated by Penney Hughes and Eric Eldritch

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



Please Join Us this December

We are an Open and Affirming Church

Advent Services Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

The Nativity through African American Spirituals

Christmas Festival Sunday, Dec. 10, 3-5:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert Sunday, Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service Sunday, Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.



Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD  
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



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





# City Information & Events

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

## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



### MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 18 - 22

Monday, December 18 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**

Monday, December 18 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

Tuesday, December 19 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Minutes Review, Subcommittee Updates, Commission Visioning Discussion, Open Comments*

Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 pm, **MUNICIPAL BUILDING ARCHITECT STUDY UPDATE & GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION**

Wednesday, December 20 at 7 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Council Liaison Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report*

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 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 meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).*

### APPLY TO CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Due to the loss of Councilmember Ric Gordon, a seat is vacant on City Council. After discussing next steps during the **Monday, December 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting** (view at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV)), the Greenbelt City Council is seeking to appoint this seat to any qualified voter who meets the qualifications of a regular City election, as stated below.

Any qualified voter who is at least 18 years of age may be nominated for the office of member of council:

- Upon filing at the office of the City Clerk a nominating petition signed by not fewer than fifty (50) voters;
- A written acceptance of the nomination;
- Such other statements as may be required by this charter or by law, including an affidavit of candidacy;
- Completed financial disclosure form;
- A statement of intent will be required. Please explain why you are seeking to fill the vacant council seat. One (1) page maximum.
- A résumé.

Upon the finding by the City Clerk that the nomination petition, the written acceptance, and such other statements as may be required are in order, the name of such nominee shall be authorized to be brought forth to Council for consideration of appointment to the vacant council seat.

**Tuesday, December 12**

is the first day to obtain papers and file a nomination petition.

**Wednesday, December 20 by 5 pm**  
is the last day to file a nomination petition.

**Wednesday, January 3, 7:30 pm, Council Chambers, Work Session - Candidate Interviews for Council Vacancy**

A link to all forms (printable or digital) and an outline of next steps in the process can be found at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/councilvacancy](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/councilvacancy).

For more information, contact the City Clerk at [elections@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:elections@greenbeltmd.gov), or by calling (301) 474-8000.

### CITY FIBER OPTIC INSTALLATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

We're making our connectivity better! Please pardon our appearance as a City fiber optic installation project will take place on Crescent Road beginning the week of December 4, 2023, and is projected to last two months. Thank you!

### CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

*Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations*

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND:** This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas). This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:** Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

**GREENBELT RECREATION:** Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION:** Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

### NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT [WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS)

*You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.*

### ANIMAL SHELTER SEEKING DONATIONS

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter is in need of new and unopened dog toys, cat toys, Pine Cat Litter, wet adult cat food (any brand), Authority Adult and Kitten Cat Food (dry), Authority kitten wet food, Blue Buffalo Food (dry), Kongs (all sizes), essential oils that can be used for enrichment such as lemon, lavender, vanilla, feliway multicat diffuser for cats, pheromone plug ins for dogs, laundry detergent, bleach, dishwashing liquid, dog treats, Easy Cheese spray cans.

[Click here](#) to view our Amazon wish list or visit our website at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter) for more information.

### SHOP WITH A COP Please share a little holiday cheer



The Greenbelt Police Department is currently requesting monetary donations from local businesses and residents. These donations are tax-deductible and will be used exclusively to provide gifts to children and their families residing in the City of Greenbelt.



You can make donations by cash or check at the police station. If you choose to pay by check, please make it payable to the "City of Greenbelt." For additional information, contact MPO Rahman via email at [rahman@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rahman@greenbeltmd.gov).

### LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE | FALL 2023-2024

The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves from the following areas with the leaf vacuum from October 30, 2023 until January 2024. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents NOT to park in front of leaf piles.

**DECEMBER 18 - 22**  
Lakeside, Greenspring I & II

**DECEMBER 26 - 29**  
Lakewood

### COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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

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

Call (301) 474-8000.

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

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

Benefits:

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

**Limited spots are available!**

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at [tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov) or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

### HOLIDAY FOOD BOX REGISTRATION OPEN

Call Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

### BRING YOUR OWN BAG

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

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

For more information on this bill, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag).

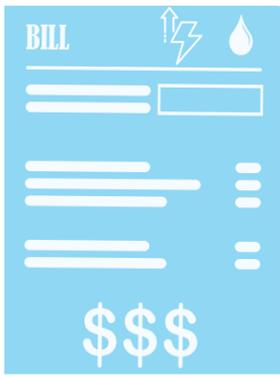


### ENERGY & WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Wednesday, December 27, 10 am - 12 pm & 1 - 3 pm Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd Greenbelt Residents Can Apply for Assistance, offered by Office of Home Energy Programs

In order to help low-income households in the State of Maryland with their energy bills and to prevent loss and aid in the restoration of home energy service, the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) offers bill assistance. To participate in the Water Assistance Program you must have a past due statement and fall under their income guidelines.

For more information, contact Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or via email at [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

This program is being offered by the State of Maryland's Office of Home Energy Programs.



Energy Assistance Income Guidelines		Water Assistance Income Guidelines	
Size of Family Unit	Household Income	Size of Family Unit	Household Income
1	\$25,515	1	\$3,547 / month
2	\$34,510	2	\$4,639 / month
3	\$43,505	3	\$5,730 / month
4	\$52,500	4	\$6,822 / month

### FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

**Community Center:** 1-3 pm, Community Center, Ground Floor East.

**Contact:** [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

*Please note that individuals are kindly requested to refrain from forming a line for produce prior to 11:30 am.*

### EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

The Emergency Diaper Distribution supports Greenbelt families in need of diapers. Greenbelt residents only, you must sign-up each month.

To register: <https://forms.gle/28TFe4T1y83B9E8u8> or (240) 424-0302.

### GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS Applications Rolling Through December 29, 2023

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt's ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).

### COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS | CAFÉ Y CONVERSACIONES Tuesday, December 19, 10 - 11 am Springhill Lake Recreation Center (Greenbelt West Residents Only)

Join us for Coffee & Conversations that will allow you to learn about the resources available in Greenbelt and meet those who live in your community. To register, call (240) 424-0302.

Únase a nosotros para Café y Conversaciones que le permitirán conocer los recursos disponibles en Greenbelt y conocer a quienes viven en su comunidad a partir del martes 19 de diciembre de 2023, de 10 a 11 am. Para registrarse, llame al (240) 424-0302.

### CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

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

For descriptions and information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS).

# Police, Firefighters, City Staff Recognized for Exemplary Service

by Butch Hicks



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

Award recipients, front row, from left: Lieutenant Brandon VanTreese and Sergeant Andrew Boyle of Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department, Alekski Korpela of Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, Maria Auchter and Officer Erick Alvarez of Greenbelt Police Department and Matt Houchens of Greenbelt Public Works Department. Councilmembers, back row, from left: Danielle McKinney, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Kristen Weaver, Silke Pope, Rodney Roberts and Jenni Pompei.

On December 2, the Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 hosted the 35th Annual Public Safety Awards Program. Master of Ceremonies, Post 136 Commander Greg Gigliotti, addressing the crowd of over 150 attendees, said, "We appreciate the opportunity to recognize the selfless contributions made to our community by our local police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and public works employees. You brave men and women respond day-in and day-out to emergencies and the needs of our citizens. Your dedication to the safety and welfare of our citizens is inspirational."

## Erick Alvarez

Greenbelt Police Officer of the Year is Erick Alvarez, the community officer assigned to Franklin Park. The Marine Corps veteran, a young officer of 25, provides proactive, patient, attentive engagement with the community, particularly youths.

Alvarez's award described him as "passionate and always going the extra mile." He has earned multiple letters of commendation and a unit citation. He promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie through his participation in the Police Department's community events such as Trunk or Treat, Meet and Greet, and National Night Out. Police Chief Richard Bowers said, "Officer Alvarez is a well-rounded police officer who takes the initiative and approaches issues with creative thinking."

## Maria Auchter

Property and Evidence Specialist Maria Auchter was recognized for her dedication and the professionalism of her service, including in the communication unit, crime scene investigations and photography training.

"I like being behind the scenes, seeing activity from the officers' point of view," she said. "Proper evidence gathering, pay-

ing attention to seemingly small, minute things, could provide a big break in case investigation."

Bowers said, "In Ms. Auchter's more than nine years of service, she has shown constant dedication to whatever job position she's held, whatever task she's undertaken."

## Alekski Korpela

Alekski Korpela is the 2023 Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad's Firefighter/EMT of the Year. He moved from Iceland to Greenbelt and, looking for new experiences, he became a volunteer firefighter in 2022. "I found it all interesting, including how many people volunteer hundreds of hours each year providing their free time to serve their communities. Something else I found interesting was the professional firefighters associated with our organization who upon completing their work shifts will go home and then return to the station as volunteers."

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Chief Thomas Ray lauded Korpela's extensive hours of training and willingness to volunteer for extra services, in addition to his full-time job and family responsibilities. "The officers and members

thank you for your service to our department and the community that you live in," Ray said.

## Andrew Boyle,

## Brandon VanTreese

Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. named two firefighters as Firefighters of the Year. Sergeant Andrew Boyle and Lieutenant Brandon VanTreese, both second-generation firefighters, were recognized for rescuing a resident from the fully-involved burning home.

"Because we had worked together, we knew what each was going to do," said Boyle.

"We needed to find her quickly, and we needed to get her out of the house fast as the fire was rapidly spreading," said VanTreese. "We did remove her and had her transported to a hospital where she recovered."

Chief Ben Ross praised VanTreese and Boyle and nominated them as Firefighters of the Year "for their quick response without the protection of a hose line, and for their unusual zeal, bravery and teamwork."

## Matt Houchens

Matt Houchens of Public

See AWARDS, page 9

# Bring Your Own Reusable Bag To Hold Items at Checkout

by John Lippert

All Greenbelt establishments providing goods and services in Greenbelt, including grocery stores, restaurants, department stores and small businesses, must stop giving out plastic film carryout bags beginning on January 1, 2024.

Which plastic bags are banned, and what are the exceptions?

Only single-use plastic film bags given at the point of sale are banned. It does not include a plastic bag used to package or contain bulk items such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items; fresh meat or seafood; flowers, potted plants or other damp items; unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods; dry-cleaned clothes; or a plastic bag used to take live fish, insects, mollusks or crustaceans away from a retail establishment.

So, if gathering produce items from the produce department of the grocery store, you may



still use the small plastic bags provided as well as for Greenbelt Farmers Market produce and flowers. Of course, you are encouraged to bring your own bag for these items when at all possible. For more information, email Luisa Robles, sustainability coordinator, at [lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov).

John Lippert is chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Green ACES.

## City Notes

City Manager, Planning, Economic Development and Public Information staff toured Doctors Hospital, exploring partnership opportunities.

Public Works provided 92 Greenbelt Connection rides. Horticulture installed Schrom Hills Park holiday lights. Refuse and Recycling collected 27.54 tons of refuse and 10.85 tons of recyclables and Street Maintenance cleaned all storm drains.

After two adoptions, Animal Shelter residents are six cats, seven kittens and three dogs.

The New Deal Nut dance performance, presented by Arts/Performance staff, was supported by Recreation, Public Works and park rangers. The Community Center accommodated the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program, Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service, Golden Age Club, Concert Band, Community Orchestra, Business Alliance, Farmers Market, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Advisory Planning Board, a blood drive and nine rentals.

Arts hosted a Youth Art Share and offered a ceramics workshop at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, and the Museum's Deco the Halls event drew 108 visitors.

CARES Director Liz Park, chair of the Maryland Association of Youth Services Bureaus, addressed the Maryland House Judiciary Committee.

## Shop Hyattsville for the Holidays!

Enjoy Hyattsville's charms and discover unique art, gifts, and experiences!

Find seasonal promotions and events at [hyattsville.org/lovelocal](http://hyattsville.org/lovelocal)

Take part in our small business scavenger hunt by January 1 for a chance to win a prize!

### FREE PARKING

in City lots from Nov 25 – Jan 1!



DETAILS



PARKING MAP

## ¡Compra en Hyattsville en estas fiestas!

¡Disfruta de los encantos de Hyattsville y descubre arte, regalos y experiencias únicas!

Encuentra ofertas y eventos de temporada [hyattsville.org/lovelocal](http://hyattsville.org/lovelocal)

Participa en nuestra búsqueda de tesoros antes del 1 de enero para la oportunidad de ganar premios.

### ¡ESTACIONAMIENTO GRATUITO

en los lotes de la Ciudad del 25 de nov al 1 de enero!

**MY DEAD AUNT'S BOOKS**

M-Th: 11-5  
F-Sat: 11-7  
Sun: 11-5

USED  
RARE  
& NEW  
BOOKS

5132  
Baltimore Ave  
Hyattsville  
MD

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

Shop Hyattsville

Dine Hyattsville

Arts Hyattsville

#shophyattsville

# School News

## Middle School Team Is Again The Science Bowl Champion

A measure of the talent at Science Bowl's Middle Schools championships could be read by the number of incorrect numbers out of the 90 questions asked: just two. Starting with 16 middle schools back in September, the final four at the Bonnie Johns Media Center's television studio on Tuesday, November 14 were Accokeek, Kettering, Greenbelt and Robert Goddard. After two semifinal games, the two finalists emerging to vie for the championship were two former champs, Greenbelt (having won in 2016) and Robert Goddard (winning in 2021).

After a fiercely fought game, noted for both its near perfection and great sportsmanship, Greenbelt's team was awarded individual gold medals for their well-deserved win. Robert Goddard, also an excellent team and a perennial contender, won silver medals.

Greenbelt Middle School team members are Livia Lu, Timothy



PHOTO COURTESY PGCPSS SCIENCE BOWL

Seated in front, from left, contestants Xiaoqing Cai, Livia Lu and Timothy Hudson. Behind them, from left, host David Zahren, team coach Manuela Pagunsan, GMS principal Marcellus Clement, team alternate Joseph Hudson and team coach Gonzalo Pitpit

Hudson, Joseph Hudson, Xiaoqing Cai and Robert Said. Their coaches are Manuela Pagunsan and Gonzalo Pitpit and the school principal is Marcellus Clement.

A generational science bowl note: Lu's father was in the stu-

dio to cheer on his daughter and to reminisce. He had been a Science Bowl contestant back in 1989, playing for Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School. Science Bowl is now in its 38th year, having started in 1986.

## ERHS Implements Weapons Detector for Students, Visitors

This week Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) was set to begin utilizing a weapons detection system at the main front entrance. The initiation was delayed on Monday due to the two-hour school delay.

The weapons detection system is part of a mandate for all Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) secondary schools and was announced in the summer by the district's new superintendent, Millard House II.

A message from ERHS Principal Portia Barnes said all students and visitors will walk through a weapons detection system at the main front entrance upon arrival at the school. The entry/arrival process will take longer than usual in the first days of the rollout, she warned, and asked for patience.

To streamline entry to the school Barnes said all students should have clear backpacks or book bags (which was also a new mandate for all PGCPS secondary schools this fall). "Non-clear backpacks will be retained, stored for the day and returned at the end of the school day; they will not be allowed into class," said her letter, dated December 7. ERHS has been providing clear backpacks to students free of charge and will continue to while their limited supply lasts.

Upon arrival, students must now remove their Chromebook computers from their clear backpacks and place them on a table before walking through the weapons detector. Students should not have anything in their hands when they enter the school building except their Chromebook, instructed the letter.

"Our goal is to maximize the safety for all students and staff, and these security enhancements provide another tool toward that goal," said Barnes.



## First Snow Causes School Delays

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday Greenbelt saw its first snowfall of the season. Though it was only a dusting in Greenbelt, it caused significant disruption for local schools. At approximately 6:25 a.m., Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) announced a two-hour delay. The school system reported fewer than 20 buses were already on the road by 6 a.m. and the Department of Transportation was in touch with them. PGCPS instructed Special Education buses to drop students back at home and made calls to parents to arrange hand-to-hand drop-off for students who had already boarded their buses for school. "Any students without a parent contact will remain with Transportation," said PGCPS in their Facebook announcement at 6:29 a.m. "There will be no work-study transportation," said the announcement. "Those students should not report to school."

There was no half-day Early Childhood Center, half-day special education programs nor half-day Pre-K and all field trips were cancelled on Monday.

Monday evening PGCPS sent an email to parents apologizing for inconvenience or disruption to their morning. "Unfortunately, the late development of snowfall in some areas necessitated a recommendation to delay opening that was approved at 5:50 a.m. with the preparation of community notices beginning at 6:00 a.m.

As such, our standard notification timeline was impacted," they said in the message.

"Decisions to delay or close schools are never taken lightly, and are always made with the safety of students and staff as our first priority," said the PGCPS email. Parents who did not receive notification of the delayed opening are advised to check that their contact information in the SchoolMax Family Portal is accurate and to sign up for emergency alerts via phone and text message at [asp.schoolmessenger.com/pgcps/subscriber](mailto:asp.schoolmessenger.com/pgcps/subscriber).



PHOTO BY MARC SIEGEL

A dusting of snow is seen at Buddy Attick Park on Monday.

**Deadline for December 28 issue is noon Saturday, December 23**

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**Deadline for January 4 issue is noon Saturday, December 30**

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BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2023

COMPASS

# COUNCIL continued from page 1

a public hearing before council chose a replacement. In the past the process took between one week to 63 days to complete.

Jordan asked Steven Gilbert, chair of Greenbelt's Board of Elections, about holding a special election to fill the vacancy, with ballots mailed to all residents in early February 2024 and returned by the end of that month. Gilbert estimated that the total cost of this election would range from \$50-60K, not counting the time required by city staff and volunteers. All of this could take four to five months to complete, another reason Jordan spoke against the option, saying council should instead act promptly to fill the vacancy.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts advocated for holding what he called a non-binding advisory city election that council then would use to select a new member. He argued that the charter is wide open on this subject. Jordan disagreed, emphasizing the "as soon as possible" stipulated in the charter. Councilmember Silke Pope agreed with Jordan that council's task was to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. She advocated selecting the eighth candidate from the recent election who had received over 40 percent of the vote for the now-vacant seventh seat. Roberts responded that there is no rule requiring council to choose this candidate. Roberts also pointed out that if Greenbelt can afford to spend, as it soon will, \$125,000 on a drinking fountain for dogs, it can afford to fund a special election for the sake of democracy. Councilmember Jenni Pompei noted that in 2018-19 Berwyn Heights twice replaced members on its council by asking for applications and then interviewing prospective candidates before making its decision. Jordan returned to the option of choosing the eighth candidate in Greenbelt's recent election, then asked those attending among the public to respond. Dawn Warner, noting that Ric Gordon had died only 19 days after the election, asked if not the eighth candidate, then who, what? Leon Schachter maintained instead that the best qualified candidate should be chosen, that the process should be open to candidates other than the person who came in eighth. Jane Young stated that she had voted before and didn't want to vote again, especially since the eighth candidate was still available to fill the vacancy. John Lippert added that this eighth candidate had jumped through all of the hoops to run, so council should stick with this individual. Carla Gordon, widow of Ric Gordon, spoke in support of council choosing this eighth candidate to fill the vacancy.

City Attorney Jason DeLoach then entered the discussion, stating flatly that the city charter did not grant council the authority to hold a special election. In response to Pompei's question about calling for applicants, DeLoach answered that Greenbelt can have a truncated application process. What might as soon as possible mean? DeLoach suggested a timeline of 45 but not 90 days would fulfill the requirement. Roberts stuck with the idea of Greenbelt holding an advisory election to give citizens a say in this process, stating that once the

winners had been sworn in, an election was over. An online participant disputed that the public had spoken for their preference through the last election, since they hadn't voted for eight candidates and to take the eighth would be "disenfranchisement." Michael Miller spoke from the audience calling for the council to "embrace the middle road," to accept applications in a process that would last perhaps 30 days and involve public hearings with council ultimately making the decision.

### Motion for an Advisory Election

Roberts' proposal to hold a non-binding advisory election to fill the vacancy was voted on and failed, with only Roberts voting in favor and all others against.

### Motion to Appoint Eighth Vote-Getter from Recent Election

Pope then made the motion that council appoint the eighth candidate from the most recent election. Pope's motion was seconded by Jordan.

"We just had an election four weeks ago ... The 40 percent are there, he came in eighth, it doesn't matter whose name is there, it's about the process ... As Mrs. Gordon said, if it would have been a different name then we wouldn't have all this discussion ... If you come eighth, this was the next person in line," said Pope, who suggested the charter should be amended to reflect this. Jordan also spoke in favor of this being the process within three months of an election. Resident Trent Lierman spoke against selecting someone from the last election. He asked the council to think about what standard they'll use to pick the next candidate and who is the most qualified. He also noted that while Matthew Inzeo got the eighth highest number of votes, it was the second election he'd run in in which he failed to get the votes needed to get elected. Lierman asked council for an apolitical process. Pope responded

saying they couldn't ignore over 1,000 votes for the eighth person, who is the most logical person to appoint. Speaking online, Bob Rudd echoed Pope's sentiments and asked council to "seat Matthew Inzeo now." Ed Fallon sent comments, read by Jordan, that only 7 percent of those registered voted for the eighth candidate. Jordan read a comment referencing Inzeo's past but stopped, saying, "I shouldn't have read that," and insisting he wanted to consider the process rather than the person.

Weaver said it seemed to her less democratic to go with a public forum in which fewer people might participate than did in the recent election. She was particularly concerned about unequal participation by different parts of the city.

The vote to appoint the eighth highest vote-getter from the recent election failed 3-3 with Pope, Jordan and Weaver voting in favor and McKinney, Pompei and Roberts voting no.

### Application Process

Jordan then suggested a nomination period of just one week for nominees. He suggested a question-answer session between councilmembers and candidates with the same set of questions for all. He said the public could weigh in with comments afterward but not directly address the candidates. Councilmember Danielle McKinney agreed that it should move forward as quickly as possible and ensure that voices across the community are heard, not only those that regularly speak in elections. Weaver agreed and suggested a hearing in Franklin Park and Schrom Hills Park. "Going this route we need to make sure we hear from the widest cross-section of people possible," she said. She noted council didn't have another regular meeting until January 8 so they did not need to rush the process to meet the end of the year.

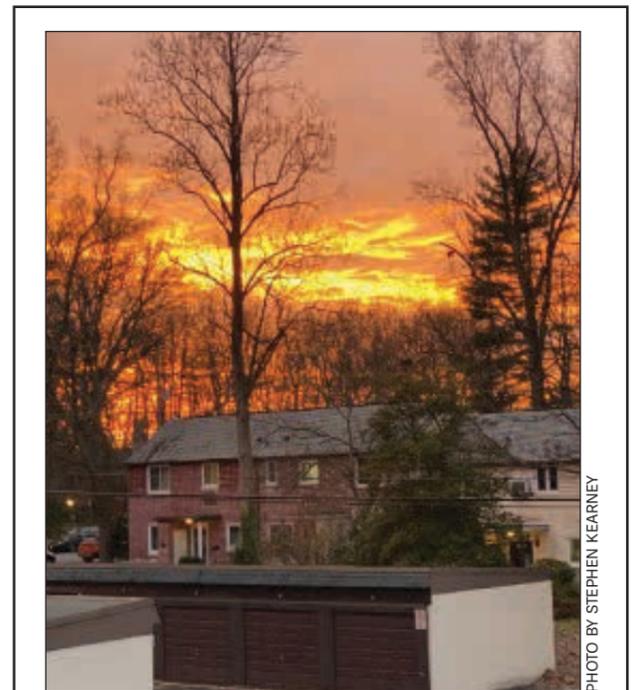
Roberts argued that one week

was insufficient for new candidates to submit all the necessary paperwork. "This is not a horse race," he said, "and as soon as possible does not mean in one week." Weaver clarified that she felt one week was enough time for people to put their résumé forward but was more concerned that more time would be needed to get feedback from the public about those candidates.

DeLoach responded that residents can comment by letter or email and council can consider them on the same day that it holds a special meeting. The idea was that council choose a replacement at its next open meeting, on January 8. Roberts stressed that this process should not be rushed, to which Jordan responded that the budget process requires time to learn, so speed is important. One challenge will be getting information out effectively on what is required of candidates, and when. Weaver recommended more time to make this fair for candidates who are

not well known.

Jordan moved that nominations be opened on December 14 and closed on the 20th. The same guidelines as used before in elections will be followed, requiring for example a petition with 50 signatures by supporters indicating widespread support in Greenbelt and a completed financial disclosure form. City Manager Josué Salmerón recommended later that candidates also submit a statement of intent that includes biographical information and explains why this person wishes to be chosen. After December 20, candidates will have an opportunity to speak and the public a chance to weigh in. After more bickering among councilmembers over details, the motion that council provide an application and interview process to fill its vacant seat passed. Applications will be due by December 20 and discussions begun on December 21. Council will make its decision on January 3 and will swear in its new member on January 8.



Sunset over 11 Court Ridge Road on December 7

PHOTO BY STEPHEN KEARNEY



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 4 - 10, 2023. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one death; one drug overdose; four domestic disputes, including two leading to arrest and one leading to a mental health diversion.

Three missing person cases, all on December 6, were reported and resolved: near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, three juveniles were found in a vacant apartment and returned to their parents; near 9200 Edmonston Road, a 15-year-old left the residence after arguing with a parent; and a 26-year-old woman went missing and was found by a parent and taken to a hospital.

**Robbery**

On December 6 at 8:43 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, an armed person stole someone's shoes. On December 8 at 4:21 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, four males approached a boy and stole his book bag.

**Break-in**

On December 5 at 12:27 p.m. near 120 Westway, someone damaged a door lock and attempted to gain access to an apartment.

**Fights**

On December 5 at 9:26 a.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, employees got into a verbal altercation that escalated to a physical fight; they declined to press charges. On December 5 at 2:32 p.m. near 400 Ridge Road, officers responded to a report of fighting, but neither subject wanted any police help or to file charges. On December 6 at 3:50 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, a juvenile involved in a fight stated he had a weapon but it was not seen. On December 7 at 11:26 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, two men were drinking and got into a physical altercation; they refused medical treatment and did not require further police action.

**DUI**

On December 7 at 4:37 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Cherrywood Lane, a driver crashed into the sidewalk and was arrested for DUI.

**Possession**

On December 7 at 9:05 a.m. near Mandan Road and Hanover Parkway, a vehicle was parked in the middle of the roadway. The driver was arrested for the possession of controlled dangerous substances.

**Car Chase**

On December 7 at 5:47 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a

red Honda SUV tried baiting officers into chasing it. The car's information was forwarded to detectives.

**Fraud**

On December 5 near 7300 Hanover Parkway, a business's account was hacked. On December 6 near 19 Ridge Road, a man's bank account was hacked. Unauthorized accounts were reported December 6 near 7000 Mathew Street, and December 7 near 200 Lastner Lane.

**Theft**

On December 7 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, checks were stolen from the leasing center.

Packages were stolen December 8 near 7500 Mandan Road, and December 9 near 44 Ridge Road.

**Commercial Theft**

On December 5 at 11:10 a.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, someone stole a soda. On December 5 at 3:38 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, a bald man stole multiple items. On December 6 at 9:12 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items. On December 7 at 9:34 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two suspects passed all points of sale with two shopping carts full of items. On December 8 at 5:01 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man who was banned from the store was caught shoplifting, was arrested and transported to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

**Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles**

Twelve vehicles were stolen this week: on December 4 at 3:48 a.m. near 6001 Springhill Drive, a 2020 Toyota Highlander was unlocked and stolen with the engine still on; on December 5 near 6500 Capitol Drive, a Hyundai Elantra at a repair shop was stolen from the lot; on December 6 near 6500 Lake Park Drive, a white 2020 Tesla Model 3 (D.C. GN4970), and near 6200 Springhill Court, a 2014 Black Hyundai Sonata (Md. 6DS4993); on December 7 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a white Toyota Camry (Md. 2FR2211), and near Ora Glen Drive and Hanover Parkway, a Caterpillar 299 Skid Loader was stolen overnight; on December 8 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a white 2005 Ford Econoline Van (Md. 7DF8761), and near 6200 Breezewood Court, a black Toyota Camry (Md. 4FL3271); on December

9 at 4:27 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, a white 2008 GMC Acadia (Md. 6FR1165) was stolen with keys in the ignition and running; and near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a light blue 2017 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 9CY2305); on December 10 at 1:10 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a 2016 black Dodge Challenger (Md. 8FM1681) with the keys inside and the motor running; and near 6200 Springhill Court, a 2013 gray Hyundai Elantra (Md. 3EP0434).

**Stolen Vehicles Recovered**

Three vehicles were found with damage to windows and ignition, and impounded for safekeeping: December 4 near 400 Ridge Road, a 2015 Hyundai Elantra; a vehicle found with the engine running on December 5 near Mandan Road and Hanover Parkway; and on December 6 near 7300 Hanover Parkway, a Kia Soul. On December 5 a Kia Soul stolen near 7800 Hanover Parkway was recovered by Prince George's County Police. On December 7 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, an officer found a stolen vehicle with heavy front-end damage.

**Attempted Theft of Auto**

Three Hyundais and a Kia had broken windows and ignition damage: December 4 near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a 2023 Tucson; December 5 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, an Elantra; December 10 near 6300 Golden Triangle Drive, a 2020 Elantra, and near 5900 Springhill Drive, a 2015 Optima. On December 7 at 4:23 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a woman saw a man in her vehicle, and he fled on foot when she approached.



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**Theft from Auto**

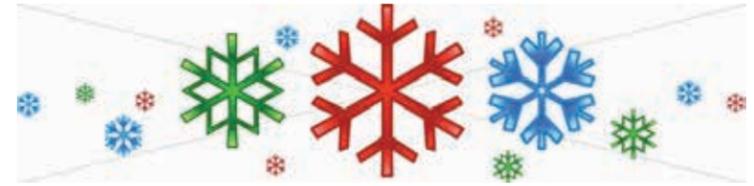
All four tires/wheels were stolen from Honda Civics on December 5 near 8100 Bird Lane and near 7200 Mandan Road, and on December 6 near 6100 Springhill Terrace; and from two vehicles on December 7 near 6500 Capitol Drive.

Vehicles were broken into and items were stolen on December 5 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, and near 6100 Greenbelt Road, from multiple vehicles, and on De-

ember 8 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace.

On December 6 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, four subjects broke into multiple vehicles on the upper level of the parking garage; the suspects fled in a burgundy vehicle.

On December 6 near 7525 Greenway Center Drive, a disability placard was stolen. On December 6 near 157 Westway, tags were stolen (Va. 42404C).



## AWARDS continued from page 6

Works Department, a second-generation city employee since 2012, is always ready to do the needful: from running equipment to team-leading for Fourth of July and Labor Day events. "I like everything about working in the Public Works Division," he said. "We're making the city look good and that includes collecting trash in the pouring rain. The

Labor Day and Fourth of July preparation is challenging helping prep areas so that crowds enjoy the fireworks, Labor Day parade and carnival."

"Matt has an incredible work ethic," said Houchens' boss, Willis Shafer, "and he will one day be promoted to a leadership role in the Public Works organization."

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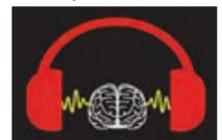
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**For further details, contact**  
Ms. Carol Gorham  
[hearing@umd.edu](mailto:hearing@umd.edu), 301-405-4236



**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**  
**Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on**  
**December 21, 2023**

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors  
a) Legal Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:45- open to members and visitors  
a) Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on December 11, 2023  
b) Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on December 21, 2023  
c) 2024 Corporate Insurance Renewal- 2nd Reading  
d) Placement of the GHI Member Handbook on the Community Website  
e) Member Handbook and Board Policies Standardization Task Force Appointment Process  
f) Motion to hold a Closed Meeting on January 4, 2024

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcu6srTwwH9NVcuUO7UapG\\_xV449g-NGx](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcu6srTwwH9NVcuUO7UapG_xV449g-NGx)

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

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**Holiday Publication Deadlines - Ads**

The News Review office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1. Submission deadlines will be two days early:

Display and Classified Ads that are new and/or need to be paid for up front should be in no later than noon on Saturday, December 23 and 30. Billed ads updated weekly should be in by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 26 and January 2 respectively. Early submission is much appreciated.

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**BOXED:** \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). 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. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

**NEEDED:** Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

**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).

**ZELLE:** The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at [zellepay.com](http://zellepay.com). Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

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301.441.1071 #1 in Sales for Greenbelt in '19, '20, '21 & 2022

# HANUKKAH continued from page 1

attendees in singing Hanukkah songs during and after the performance.

After the play, everyone enjoyed latkes (potato pancakes) and donuts. Fried foods like these are traditional because, in the Hanukkah story, a small amount of oil that should have lasted only one night lasted for eight. This miracle allowed the Jewish resistance fighters, or Maccabees, to keep a light burning continuously after they reconquered the temple. The party wrapped up in the early afternoon with menorah lighting and a singalong.

Mishkan Torah's Children's Education Committee, which co-sponsored the party along with the Sisterhood, is planning to host more events for children and families this winter and spring. These include a playgroup and story time for preschool-aged children on Sunday, December 17 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and events related to the upcoming holidays of Tu B'Shvat and Purim. Visit [mishkantorah.org](http://mishkantorah.org) or email [childrensed@mishkantorah.org](mailto:childrensed@mishkantorah.org) for more information.

*Karen Knee is the Children's Education and Youth Activities Chair with Mishkan Torah.*



PHOTO BY KAREN KNEE

Maggie Brown and Emmanuel Gold perform Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins.



PHOTO BY EVA CHOPER

Candles lit for Hanukkah at Mishkan Torah

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# GHI continued from page 1

2024. Perry emphasized that GHI is in a "strong financial position." All documents detailing changes to the budget for 2024 are available to all members on the Yardi member portal, and letters will be mailed soon to all members regarding their 2024 fees.

## Pipe Replacement Program

Most of the meeting was a presentation by Claggett and Thomas Williams, GHI's director of technical services, concerning the upcoming pipe replacement program. They explained how the water pipes, especially in the frame homes, are at the end of their expected life and are experiencing a high rate of failure. After much research and planning, volunteers for a pilot project have been selected, a firm has been selected to provide engineering services, and a request for proposal for contractors to bid on the work has been drafted. The first phase of the pilot project is due to begin in March 2024 and

will provide useful information about the best method of replacement and the impact of a home's pipe replacement on members. The entire project of replacing the pipes in frame homes is expected to take about 10 years, and then plans will be made to replace the water pipes in masonry homes, the larger homes and then additions. Claggett and Williams provided information about the funding of the project from replacement reserves and reminded members that all information provided at the town hall was also available on the Yardi member portal. Members had many questions, some of which couldn't be answered at this stage of the project, but were reassured that homes would be restored to what is currently there after the replacement is completed and that no other ongoing projects in the homes would be affected by the pipe replacement program.



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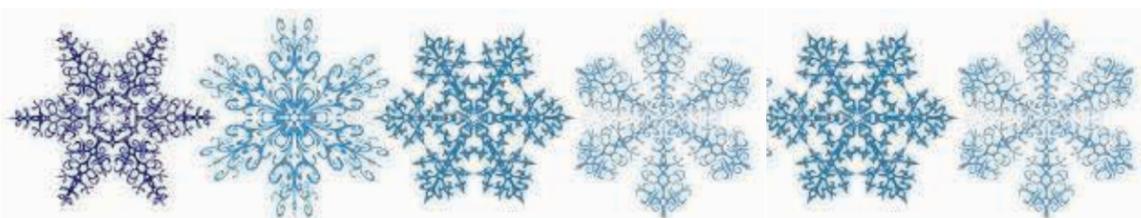
# Krampus Festival

On the evening of Saturday, December 9, Roosevelt Center was filled with music, dancing and impressive costumes for the Krampus Festival. Krampus is a horned character from Alpine folklore said to punish naughty children when St. Nicholas rewards the good.

Greenbelters came out to enjoy SCAROLS, funky versions of favorite Christmas carols, with the Greenbelt Honk! Situation band. Members of the band and some festival-goers dressed as Krampus characters. A Toys for Tots collection was also held.



- Photos by Danielle Towers



# Venture Crew's Third Winter Wonderland Builds Community

by Andrew McBride

Greenbelt Venture Crew 746 hosted its third annual Winter Wonderland at the Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church on Saturday. The Winter Wonderland included a lighted woodland walk, Santa and his antique firetruck, caroling and live music, winter displays, including a live nativity scene, and much more.

"The highlight of every year has been seeing the twinkle in the kids' eyes when they get to talk to Santa," said Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department member Brian Roberts. "It brings the community together, you've got all the groups in Greenbelt coming together for a common event," added Roberts.

"I know these children appreciate it. It's magical, and everyone likes to have some good magic in their life," said William Dobbin, who was Santa for the event. "It helps to instill community togetherness; if you look around this is wonderful. These people worked so hard to set up all these different displays," Dobbin told the News Review.

One of these groups was Greenbelt Recreation, which had a table set up with snacks and trail maps that people could use for biking and hiking. "It seems like people are definitely enjoying it, especially little kids," said Park Ranger Liz Thomas, who ran Greenbelt Recreation's table.

During the last hour of the event, a band made up of Greenbelt residents welcomed the holiday spirit with Christmas songs. "Oh, I love these community events because Greenbelt is so cool and I love the support from all the local people that come out," said Rachel Canavan, who played the ukulele for the band. "It seems like this event is thriving, and I hope it continues to go on for many years when my kids are bigger and are a part of the fundraising themselves," said Canavan.



PHOTO BY ANDREW MCBRIDE

The Pandemic Sisters and Dave play Christmas music for Wonderland visitors.

The event was a fundraiser for the Venture Crew, to support their outdoor programs and make camping equipment and activities open to all Greenbelt teens interested in joining them. For more on the Winter Wonderland see p. 9 of the November 30 issue.

Andrew McBride is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.



PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

Elves' campground

# The Greenbelt Nutcracker

Over the weekend Greenbelt Dance Studio, a program of Greenbelt Recreation, presented The New Deal Nut: A Greenbelt Nutcracker, directed by Angella Foster. The show retold the holiday classic that transported the audience through Greenbelt past and present and featured local dancers from elementary school age to adults. Choreographed by Angella Foster and Lisa Pellittiere, The New Deal Nut showcased a wide range of dances as it transported the audience with ballet, tap, contemporary, ballroom and classical Chinese dance. Among audience members was John Henry Jones whose daughter Corita, daughter-in-law Andrea and granddaughter Maeve were all in the show.



- Photos by Danielle Towers

