



Happy Birthday Leaplings, p.6



DKFI families testify, p.12

On February 29

A Look Back, a Leap Ahead

This issue of the News Review is the first February 29 issue since 1996, 28 years ago. Back then Greenbelters were preparing to vote in the March 5 Maryland presidential primary election (then-President Bill Clinton and Lyndon LaRouche were the Democratic candidates and Bob Dole, Lamar Alexander and Patrick Buchanan were the leading Republican contenders). The Greenbelt Community Center had recently opened, although the planned January 13, 1996, grand opening was delayed by a blizzard that dropped two feet of snow on Greenbelt (the Greenbelt City Council, led then by mayor Antoinette Bram, rescheduled the event for March 16, 1996).

By then city recreation programs were up and running in the Community Center, community groups were meeting there and the New Deal Café, which had opened in the Community Center in late December, was regularly open on Friday and Saturday evenings. The February 29 issue of the paper was among the first issues put together in the



Community Center following the News Review's mid-January move to its spacious new (and current) quarters after many years in a crowded basement office at 15 Parkway.

The next time February 29 will fall on a Thursday is in 2052, 28 years from now. What will be happening in Greenbelt then? And will the News Review still be in business? The paper has reported on news and events in Greenbelt each week since November 1937, shortly after the first residents moved into the new town. Many of the current staff are past retirement age so over the coming years younger Greenbelters will be needed to continue this coverage into the future. Consider taking a role – as writer-reporter, copy editor or on some other task – in documenting Greenbelt's history as it's lived, and become part of the dedicated crew that puts out Greenbelt's news each week.

The News Review seeks web builders for website upgrade. See page 2.

Metro Proposes Eliminating The G12 and R12 Bus Routes

by Maurice Crawford

This year Metro is expecting a historic \$750M shortfall and is proposing reductions to bus and rail services that could occur as soon as this July. Public comments on the proposal are due by Tuesday, March 5 (see below on how to submit comments). These changes include the elimination of the G12 and R12 bus routes, a 25 percent fare increase and a 20 percent parking rate increase. These adjustments would also result in a decrease in the service area and hours of operation for Metro Access.



The G12 bus winds through Greenbelt's North End creating a useful link to Metro and Roosevelt Center.

PHOTO COURTESY WIKICOMMONS USER SWAGGING

Proposed Changes to Bus Routes include:

- G12, R12 and 89M – Elimination of service
- C2, C4 and T18 – No service after midnight
- 83 and 86 – No service on Saturday or Sunday
- T14 – Only service between Mt. Rainier and New Carrollton Metro

Rail service would decrease with weekday trains running every 15 minutes, and weekend trains running every 20 minutes. The proposed plan would affect rail operations by closing at 10 p.m. on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends. On the weekends, rail service would begin at 6 a.m. Public input on the changes can be made via wmata.com/

initiatives/budget/Provide-Feedback.cfm. Comments are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5.

What Goes On

- Monday, March 4**
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: TBD, Municipal Building
- Wednesday, March 6**
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Economic Development, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

State Police Search Greenbelt Lake for Missing Woman

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, February 26, Maryland State Police (MSP) conducted a search by boat and on foot in Buddy Attick Park. Multiple boats spent several hours on Greenbelt Lake while officers from MSP and Prince George's County Police Department spanned the lake path and searched the shoreline, eventually wading through parts of the Lake in the afternoon. They were looking for a missing woman from Queen Anne's County who was last seen in Greenbelt. The park remained open for public use as officers conducted the search. Officers also previously searched Buddy



Laura Shallue, 54, of Stevensville was last seen on February 5.



Police used sonar to search Greenbelt Lake on Monday.

Attick Park on foot with dogs on Wednesday, February 21.

On Monday, Detective Sergeant Blackwell of MSP told the News Review that they had searched the wooded areas of the park and were now conducting

an underwater sonar search of the lake.

Laura Shallue, 54, of Stevensville, Md., drove westbound across the Chesapeake Bay

See **SEARCH**, page 9

Franklin Park Worksession Tackles Public Safety Issues

by Cathie Meetre

In a worksession with the Greenbelt City Council on Wednesday, February 21, Franklin Park Manager Denise Knight and Laurie Bonner, vice president for operations of Fieldstone Properties (owner of Franklin Park), spoke with council about its operations in Greenbelt West. This article focuses on the public safety discussion.

Bonner briefed council, stating that Franklin Park, which originally opened in 1963, remains 60 years later the largest apartment complex east of the Mississippi. It has 2,877 residences in 246 apartment buildings and 122 townhomes. At the moment, it is 91 percent occupied: a figure

likely to increase slightly during spring. So far this year, she noted, they have had only one eviction although their delinquency rate is approximately 20 percent. She explained that their focus is to assist renters who are behind to get back on track.

During the meeting, several elements of public safety were discussed, particularly in reference to recent county-level legislation relating to multifamily rental properties.

Lighting

The topic of illuminating parking lots and walkways came up early and often. Mayor Emmett

See **WORKSESSION**, page 11



Students dance with the Nigerian and Ghanaian flags at Greenbelt Middle School's Blacks in Wax Living Museum event on February 22. See story, page 12.

PHOTO BY LAURA CHARLESTON

The News Review Issues RFP For Planned Website Upgrade

The News Review was a little slow to jump on the website bandwagon, but by the early 2000s it had a functioning site. In 2015, we contracted with a local business (operating out of the MakerSpace) to upgrade it to the site we have today.

Nearly a decade has passed, and the site is due a refresh. Some parts of it, like the archive, still work wonderfully, but others have become dated or have dysfunctions not easily fixed. Maintenance is tough for staff who aren't necessarily skilled in web updates, and broken links and retired pages clutter the internal landscape.

We were recently awarded a grant by the city (from ARPA money) to update the website and improve our paper quality. The paper quality was easy to do and is already rolling out each week.

The web update is trickier as

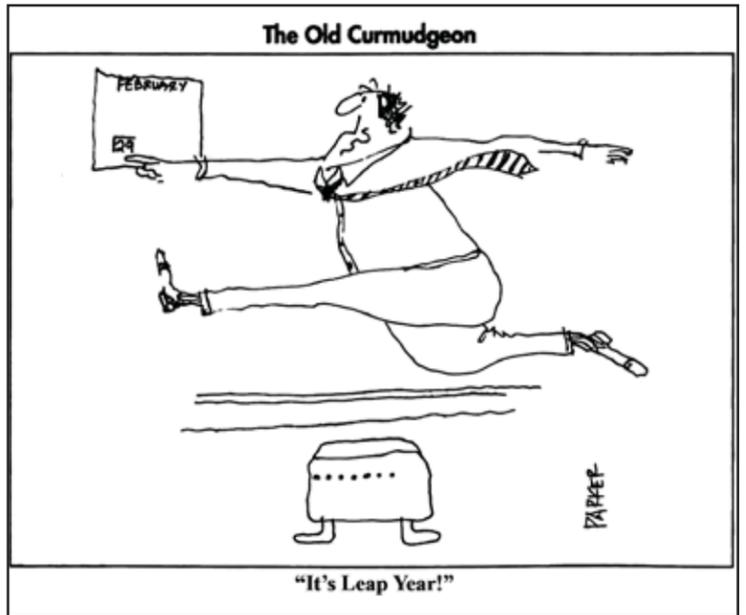
we need to involve a contractor. To that end, we have developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) that sets out what we need and invites potential contractors (companies or individuals) to respond with their approach and an estimate of costs. We've left a four-week period for potential responders to ask questions to make sure everybody is on the same page ... (or web page).

The RFP is available from a link on the News Review's website homepage (greenbeltnewsreview.com), by using the QR Code in the ad on page 8 of this week's issue or going to greenbeltnewsreview.com/RFP/2024GNR-RFP.pdf.

If you, gentle reader, know of a company or an individual that might be interested in responding, we request that you pass on the information. We'd be delighted if a local vendor participated.

Correction

Last week's article about the Re-Enactors of Distinction misspelled one of the re-enactors' names. That re-enactor is Lavonda Broadnax. Additionally, the statue has not been moved and remains in Lincoln Park, Washington, D.C.



- News Review, Thursday, February 24, 2000, by Izzy Parker; the 29th fell on a Tuesday that year.



Letters to the Editor

Do We Need A New City Hall?

We agree with Ronald Benjamin's letter about the solution to present and future office space needs of city employees. Why not rent office space from one of the many existing office buildings in Greenbelt? Not only would leased offices offer an immediate solution but it would save the city money on heating, cooling, maintenance and repairs. Compare the cost of leasing to the cost and time required to build a new building. We think it is a straightforward solution.

Steve Skolnik

Questions Recycling

I was told that I always look at the big picture.

I hereby ask the city council and city manager how much does the city of Greenbelt pay for recycling. How much do they

pay for recycling employees and trucks? How much do they spend on canisters and buckets?

Did you know that it is cheaper to make new plastic than recycle? The first problem is that the plastic must be sorted out. People put a lot of plastic that is not capable of being recycled.

Think that your plastic is being recycled? Think again.

Ocean City Maryland stopped recycling because it cost the city too much. They did it the right way. They recycle plastic to be burned in an incinerator. That makes electricity. Stop wasting my tax dollars. Can you save the environment when only eight percent is recycled.

Has the city done a cost-benefit analysis considering the fact that the return on the investment is very little or none.

Stop recycling when the majority ends up in landfills.

Randall Crenwelge

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Bob Marley: One Love

This biographical drama celebrates the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity. On the big screen for the first time, discover Bob's powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind his revolutionary music.

The Taste of Things

Cook Eugenie (Juliette Binoche) and her boss Dodin (Benoit Magimel) grow fond of one another over 20 years, and their romance gives rise to dishes that impress even the world's most illustrious chefs. When Dodin is faced with Eugenie's reluctance to commit to him, he begins to cook for her. Said critic Max Weiss of Baltimore Magazine, "The Taste of Things is not just a sensual experience for the characters, but for the viewer as well. And it goes beyond the food."

In a Lonely Place

Hollywood screenwriter Dixon Steele (Humphrey Bogart) and his neighbor Laurel (Gloria Grahame) are just getting to know each other romantically when the police begin questioning Dixon about his involvement in the murder of a girl he met once. Certain her new love interest is innocent, Laurel stands by Dixon, but as the police continue pressing him, Dixon begins to act increasingly erratically. The blossoming love affair suffers as Laurel begins to wonder if Dixon really might be a killer. Critics consensus: "Led by extraordinary performances from Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame, In a Lonely Place is a gripping noir of uncommon depth and maturity."



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:
MARCH 1st - 7th

Bob Marley: One Love
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024)
(107 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC)
Mon. 6:30 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

The Taste of Things (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (145 mins)
French w/ English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 3:30 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

In a Lonely Place
(NR) (1950) (94 mins)
Free Cinema Classic!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

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

Repair Café, Quilting Class at MakerSpace

The next free Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café is Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making it useful again.

MakerSpace is also holding a quilting class for beginners on Sunday, March 17 for a fee. Learn what tools are needed, how to read a quilt pattern and how to start putting your fabric blocks together. See tools. greenbeltmakers.org for more information. Borrow tools and other items at the Tool Library on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tree Canopy Focus Of M-NCPPC Meeting

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will host a virtual public meeting for the Update of Subtitle 25, Trees and Vegetation, on Thursday, February 29 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Planners will brief residents and community stakeholders on the new state law, HB 723/SB 526, Natural Resources – Forest Preservation and Retention, that requires revisions to the county's Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance and Tree Canopy Cover Ordinance.

Meeting participants will learn about ways to provide input and written comments prior to the plan approval.

Updates to Subtitle 25 are intended to advance the purposes of Plan Prince George's 2035, the Approved General Plan for Prince George's County, the Functional Green Infrastructure Plan and the county's Climate Action Plan; encourage development in Plan 2035 centers and reduce urban sprawl; protect existing forests and require planting in priority areas; increase the replacement requirement for tree removal; and focus on urban tree canopy as well as protection of forests.

For more information, visit the Planning Department's website or email the project team at Subtitle25update@ppd.mncppc.org. Register online at pgplan.org/feb29.

At the Library

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

Talk Health

Friday, March 1, 11 a.m., ages 18+. Take charge of your health at free blood pressure screening sessions. Led by University of Maryland School of Nursing students, get blood pressure checked and a personalized review of medications.

Storytimes

Friday, March 1, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10082715.

Monday, March 4, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9974720.

Wednesday, March 6, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9974750.

Books at Bedtime

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPS Infants and Toddlers Program for up to 12 community families. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9974905.

Ride and Read

Thursday, March 7, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity in while at the Library. Sign up for an hour ride on one of the stationary bikes with great free apps from PGCMLS like 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 close-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10018066.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Washington Wizards and PGCMLS have teamed up to get Prince Georgians of all ages reading this winter with the Wizards Winter Reading Challenge. The free event runs until March 31. For more information, visit pgcmls.info/wizards.

Buried Treasure Is Coming Up in March

Rehearsals are underway for the 2024 Greenbelt Youth Musical. Tickets are now on sale in the main office of the Community Center for performances on March 2, 3 and 9.

Rec Spring Activity Guide Is Live Online

Greenbelt Recreation has posted its spring activity guide online at greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.

Registration for Greenbelt residents opens at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 4. The spring and summer camp guide is available at greenbeltmd.gov/camps. Registration is ongoing.



Ms. Story's Living History At Greenbelt Arts Center

Take a journey through history and meet a variety of BIPOC women. Some of them you will recognize, some of them may be new to you. All of them will come to life in front of you to tell their stories.

Each weekend of performances is a different chapter, and in each chapter you will meet a different combination of women, ranging from an enslaved woman brought to America from Africa to a playwright whose work is still being done today.

There is one weekend left: March 1 to 3. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are required.



Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, March 5 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include planning an upcoming Arts Mixer and Recognition Group applications. Greenbelt citizens who may be interested in joining the Board are encouraged to attend. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, write to alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov.

Greenbelt Orchestra Free Concert March 17

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

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

2024 Boxwood Village Scholarship Now Open

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

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year's recipient. For the application form and further information, email Pat McAndrew at pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net.

Astronomical Society Meets February 29

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 29 in Room 114 of the Community Center. Dr. Ramin Lolachi, who studies dust scattering on airless bodies, will discuss how this relates to the DART asteroid redirection test and the success of future moon missions.

This is a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. A Zoom link will be posted before the event at greenbeltastro.org/events. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Sewing Class Sundays

The SPACE: Free Art For All is starting a Sunday sewing class, Sew, What?! from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the former Big Lots location upstairs at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. The classes are open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com. Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk.

Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

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.

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

WINTER HOURS: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 2/29	FRI 3/01	SAT 3/02	SUN 3/03
<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Drag Bingo with D'Manda Martini 7-9pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Unlimited bingo!</p>	<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">The Skyla Burrell Band 7-10pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Jumping, jazzy and swinging</p>	<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">NDC SATURDAY JAZZ JAM 2-5pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Great Northern 7-10pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Grateful Dead tribute band</p>	<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">This Could Go BOOM! 5:30-8pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Underrepresented artists in an incredible monthly showcase!</p>
MON 3/04	TUES 3/05	WED 3/06	TH 3/07
<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Monday Mauveness Karaoke 6-9pm</p> <p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Drop It Like It's Hot!</p>	<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">S.A.W. Open Mic w/ Lynn Hollyfield 6-9:30</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Sign ups begin at 6pm</p>	<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">The Campfire Sessions 7-9pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">A monthly "listening" room</p>	<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-in Jam 6:30-10pm</p>
SPECIALS!			
<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE</p>			

Join NDC! Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES. Contact: jbelttower@yahoo.com. We promise: It won't hurt!

Greenbelt Access Television

Mar. 2, Sat - Mar. 8, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77

(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

His Girl Friday (1940)

When an unjust murder comes to light, Hildy the reporter puts her life aside to help crack the case! Rosalind Russell's portrayal of this strong female lead makes this screwball mystery film a great choice to lead into Women's History Month.

New This Month

What's New at Greenbelt Cinema? | March

Join Caitlin and Sheila to find out what fantastic films, both old and new, are coming to Greenbelt Cinema for the month of March!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

Ukrainian Journalist Will Soon Join her Mother in Greenbelt

by Frank Gervasi and Kateryna Medvedeva

Saturday, February 24, 2024, marked two years since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. A number of Greenbelters participated in a large rally held at the Lincoln Memorial that day, which included a march to the White House and the Russian ambassador's residence.

The Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee was established two years ago to help the Ukrainians in their struggle. They are currently sponsoring, along with others, 20-year-old journalist Kateryna Medvedeva to join her mother here in Greenbelt. The committee provided the family with an apartment in December and expect her to arrive within the next month or two.

Medvedeva graduated from university with a degree in journalism and has been working in her home city of Mykolayiv for local news outlets. I asked her to describe what life has been like at home these past two years of Russian attacks. She wrote the following:

"Mykolayiv is a city in southern Ukraine that has the honorary title Hero City for showing its heroism since the start of the full-scale invasion. What's it like to live in Mykolayiv now, two years from the beginning of the fight?"

"One of the main problems since the start is access to clean tap water. In April 2022 the main water pipeline exploded in the Kherson region. Because of that, at the beginning there was no access at all to water in houses for a long time. Now there are locations in the city where you can get clean and drinkable water free. Water from the tap has a really bad quality.

"In Mykolayiv you will hear sirens every day, often multiple times, because every day

Ukraine is under attack. When Mykolayiv was a frontline city – for almost a year – it was shelled almost every day. There is still one part in the Mykolayiv region that is occupied by the Russians. It's called Kinburnska Kosa or Kinburn Spit. It's a really beautiful place with stunning nature and a rich history. It's a place where you can spend wonderful weekends, but now it's not only not possible, but it's also mined and under constant fire.

"Because of inflation prices in Ukraine increased, lots of businesses closed. There is a problem with working places and salaries too. A lot of people left Mykolayiv, but also a lot of people moved here as refugees from

Kherson, for example. It's not safe, but obviously it's safer to be here than living under occupation or on the frontline. Mykolayiv needs help but also provides help for others.

"Mykolayiv and other Ukrainian cities are really trying to revive and re-live. We also want to remind the world that the war is still there and there are still a lot of attacks, still much danger."



Mykolayiv, Ukraine, February 2024

PHOTO BY KATERYNA MEDVEDEVA

"What is the spirit of this age, what is its focal point? It is the establishment of Universal Peace, the establishment of the knowledge that humanity is one family."

– 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

The Bible Says...

Lent-Week #3

The one who does not love
does not know God, for God is love.
1 John 4:8



Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday

10:15 AM

for Worship
and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.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 Invites All to Celebrate Purim

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

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

Purim Party, for families with kids of all ages, will be held on Saturday, March 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be snacks, crafts and Purim stories. Kids and adults are encouraged to come in costume.

Enjoy pizza, an all-ages Purim spiel and a multilingual megillah reading on Saturday, March 23, starting at 6 p.m.

Visit MishkanTorah.org for more information. RSVP for the baking and party to childrendes@mishkantorah.org.



Our condolences to the family and friends of the Greenbelt resident who suffered a medical emergency at the Aquatic & Fitness Center on February 21 and later died at a hospital.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



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.

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



March 3, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Intersectionality

Elizabeth Ann Terry with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

Prophet Audre Lorde shared with us: "There is no such thing as a single issue struggle, because we do not lead single-issue lives." If oppression is intersectional, how can our Unitarian Universalist faith call us to explore and act upon intersectional solutions to oppression?

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

College Park United Methodist Church Mowatt Memorial UMC



LENT SEASON

It is a time of self-examination and reflection on God's infinite love.

Lenten Bible study

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesdays
thru March 20th

Prior to our bible study at 6 pm, we will host a light communal meal that consist of soup, bread, and a drink prepared by our Community Meals Chef, Chris Hough.

This six-week bible touches on the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on a new life and redemption rather than loss.

9601 Rhode Island Av, College Park MD

Saturday Egg-stravaganza

1 p.m. - 2:30 pm

Kids pre-K through 5th grade are invited for a fun-filled Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 30th.

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Maundy Thursday, Mar 28th

7 p.m.

We will worship the Lord through reflection, song, and communion.

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Good Friday, Mar 29th

7 p.m.

During this service, we will remember the passion and death of Jesus. The gradual extinguishing of the candles is accompanied by prayer, hymns, and reading from Scripture.

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Easter Sunday

10 a.m.

Invite a friend to join us on Easter Sunday service as we celebrate God's gift of new life!

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS

Sunday 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owneregroups.io](https://ccg1985+owneregroups.io)

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 Notes

Franklin Park issues prompted a meeting about violation data including the complex's management and police, a walking tour by the manager, a review of Greenbelt property values by Finance staff and a council work-session.

Public Works Environmental/Sustainability staff met with several environmental groups. Food scraps collections for composting began with high participation and low contamination. Animal Shelter residents are 12 cats, five kittens, a dog and a rabbit.

The Community Center accommodated Volksmarchers, Scouts, Golden Age Club, Concert Band, Community Orchestra, Honk! Situation, Black History and Culture Committee, Interfaith Leadership, Business Alliance, Advisory Planning Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Unplugged and 16 rentals.

Arts offered a mudcloth workshop celebrating Black History Month. Circus and Creative Kids Camps filled in the first week of nonresident registration. Therapeutic Recreation facilitated a Golden Age Club birthday celebration.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program distributed free produce at two locations to 242 households. Their education and workforce development coordinator hosted a resumé workshop for job applicants, with job placement help from Springhill Lake Recreation staff.

Greenbelt Quilts Shown At Federal Courthouse

Quilts Across Maryland is currently on display at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse until May 8.

The quilts adorn the walls on three floors of the courthouse's central atrium, allowing both up-close and distance perspectives of the various works of art. For some of the quilts, the visual impact is greatest when the quilt is viewed from across the room; for others, the artistry is most apparent from a close-up view of the stitching and fabric choices. This exhibit allows the viewer to enjoy both perspectives for most of the quilts.

Works by several Greenbelt quilters are on display: Pat Scully's Captain's Wheel and Awesome Ocean; Ann Bauman's Morning to Midnight in Bryce Canyon, and Lidia Carrera's Brilliant Diamonds, as well as a work by Berwyn Heights artist Janet Freitag: Dr. Luigi and Mrs. Bean's Psychedelic Wedding Doona, and numerous works by other members of the Greenbelters' guildmates from the Southern Comforters of Bowie.

The exhibit is available whenever the Courthouse is open to the public, in general, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays.



Brilliant Diamonds quilt by Lidia Carrera



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.

MEETINGS FOR MARCH 4 - 8

- Monday, March 4 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - TBD**
 - Tuesday, March 5 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Draft Report Re: Updated Police Department General Orders, Upcoming Seminar, Other Public Safety Issues*
 - Tuesday, March 5 at 7 pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of February 2024 Minutes, Recognition Group Applications: Discuss Applications and Chose a Grant Review Panelist Representative, Arts Mixer Invitations and Contacts*
 - Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- 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. 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.*



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.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

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.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag.



ARTFUL AFTERNOON

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1-3 PM

Make a paper dragon, and play with a dragon puppet! Advance registration recommended; All ages - FREE
Follow the link at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

- CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:
- March Emergency Diaper Program
 - Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
 - Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm
 - Senior Driver Safety & Mobility Seminar
March 7, from 7 - 8 pm, Virtual

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS.

GREENBELT RECREATION'S SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE
www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide

Registration opens at 10 am on:
March 4 for Greenbelt Residents
March 11 for Non-Residents

GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL BURIED TREASURE

3/2 at 7 pm, 3/3 at 3 pm, 3/9 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Be transported on a magical adventure by Buried Treasure, written and directed by Christopher Cherry.
Saturday, March 2, 7 pm, Sunday, March 3, 3 pm, Saturday March 9, 2 pm & 7 pm.
Greenbelt Community Center Gymnasium. All ages. \$5.
Purchase tickets at the Community Center Business Office or by phone at (301)-397-2208.
Details: <https://bit.ly/3ul0tFq>.

GREENBELT WAYFINDING SURVEY

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) is preparing a Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan for the City of Greenbelt funded by the Prince George's County Planning Department's Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Program, and we are looking for input from the community. Community members are encouraged to take this brief survey, and to identify wayfinding signage gaps or needs in the City of Greenbelt on this interactive map.

Wayfinding can encompass various elements, including signage, maps, landmarks, and other cues that help individuals understand their location, the direction they need to go, and how to reach their intended destination. The Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan will facilitate pedestrian, automobile, bicycle, or transit travel to key sites by providing clear directions along safe and convenient routes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey or interactive map, please email Anusree.Nair@ppd.mnccppc.org.

Thank you for your participation!



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 or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS
MARCH 21, APRIL 18, & MAY 16
TWO LOCATIONS

Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019.
To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

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

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS
at Doctors Community Medical Center, 8100 Good Luck Road

Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings on select Wednesdays in February and March. Screenings will take place on the 1st floor of the North Building at Doctors Community Medical Center.

Dates:
Wednesday, March 6, 10 am - 2 pm
Wednesday, March 20, 10 am - 2 pm



GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS
Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

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.

Grants include:
Childcare Vouchers, Healthcare Vouchers, Higher Education Scholarships, First-Time Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance, Workforce Development Micro Grants, Tree Canopy Grants

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.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

City Council Takes Up Internet, Sustainable Communities, EVs

by Michael Zelif

At its February 12 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council discussed facilities around Greenbelt, approval of funds to plan for high-speed internet in Greenbelt, sustainable communities and a report on electric vehicles (EVs) and charging stations in the city as well as other items. Council also took up issues connected to the State Legislative Assembly and tracking of state and county legislation at its February 12 meeting (see the February 22 issue of the News Review).

Internet Service

Council reviewed a proposal to use money received from the federal government's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), passed during the Covid crisis, to hire companies – in this case Mission Critical Partners and Design Nine, both experienced in working with municipal governments – to plan and install high-speed fiber and wireless broadband internet service for all interested Greenbelt businesses and residents. The rationale is that customers in Greenbelt who agree to pay for this service will receive higher performance at more affordable prices. Andrew Cohill, president of Design Nine, explained that the company will mail a survey to all Greenbelt addresses, returnable by mail or accessible online through a QR code printed on the same survey.

Cohill estimated that the entire project will require four to five months, but Councilmember Danielle McKinney, among others, expressed concern first that Design Nine be very thorough in reaching out to all residents and communities within Greenbelt. Furthermore, along with councilmembers, City Manager Josué Salmerón expressed concern that access to the internet remain strictly neutral, meaning that all customers in Greenbelt will receive the same service. These issues arose in part after Cohill stated that Design Nine will likely recommend that, even though Greenbelt will own the network, it should hire a local internet provider to manage the services. Part of the revenue collected will then be returned back to Greenbelt. Council and staff chose Mission Critical Partners from a list of bidders at a cost of \$114,597 to be paid, initially, by funds received from the ARPA allotment to Greenbelt. Council approved the contract 5-2, with Councilmembers Rodney Roberts and Amy Knesel voting no.

Sustainable Communities

Council unanimously approved

the motion that Greenbelt submit its second renewal application to qualify for the Maryland Sustainable Communities Program. First approved in 2014 and renewed in 2019, this application would make Greenbelt eligible for grants that promote “environmentally, economically and socially responsible growth and development.” Jaime Fearer, assistant director of Planning and Community Development, explained that the application includes a brief summary report of past accomplishments and an action plan for the future. Among accomplishments under Environmental Sustainability are, for example, “Parking lot and stormwater improvements at Buddy Attick Park (2022).” Among future actions, the application includes “Strategy G: Oversee the conveyance of indoor recreation space to the city as part of the redevelopment plans of Beltway Plaza.” Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Jenni Pompi praised staff for bringing together in one place so much good information that council can use in setting annual goals for Greenbelt.

Electric Vehicles

Next, Assistant City Manager Timothy George presented to council a status update on the city's efforts to change its fleet of vehicles over to electric power and to offer residents more charging stations for their present and future electric vehicles. George reported that Greenbelt owns roughly 160 vehicles, six of which are fully electric. Of the 78 police vehicles, 25 or more are hybrid. Public Works owns 70 vehicles, and other divisions such as Planning and Administration own two to three. Currently the city replaces two to three vehicles per year, but that may increase to three to four once infrastructure is laid to provide more charg-

ing stations. Changing over to electric will require 10 to 20 years, George estimated. Greenbelt is seeking alternative revenue sources to help fund this change-over and has received \$7,500 in rebates on two purchases. Super-duty trucks and police patrol vehicles are currently not part of the plan, but a fully electric trash truck has become available for \$600,000, which the city may consider in 2026. With regard to the public, eight charging stations are planned for the parking lot that adjoins the Greenbelt Library and Community Center.

McKinney praised this status report as helpful and affirmative, but wanted to make sure that development will occur across the city. George responded that distribution will be equitable, although Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles explained when asked that management in Franklin Park had been unresponsive when attempts were made to contact them about charging stations. To resident Leon Schachter's question asking who will use public stations requiring 30 minutes for a recharge, Salmerón answered that the plan was to install stations near tennis courts, for example, and other locations where residents will park their cars for an hour or more.

Expressing concern about the human toll required to manufacture batteries for EVs, Knesel said she opposed fast-tracking the installment of this technology. Roberts agreed, pointing out that equipment utilizing hydrogen to produce electricity might soon make present charging stations obsolete. Vehicles are the problem, he said, speaking as someone who works in the auto field, and this new technology that requires huge quantities of

See COUNCIL, page 8

Happy Birthday “Leaplings”

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO COURTESY JILL CONNOR

Sara Connor recently enjoyed a party with friends. Though she's turning 8 this year, Thursday marks just the second time she's been able to celebrate on her actual birthday.

Happy birthday to Sara Connor, turning 8 this February 29. Usually, Sara's parents ask her which day she'd like to celebrate on and she tends to pick February 28, “because she's not very good at waiting,” joked her mom, Jill Connor. Teachers also tend to ask her when she'd like to celebrate at school. “She definitely considers it special,” said her mother. She's very excited this year, and has been announcing that she's turning 8 but it's only her second birthday. Last time Sara turned a year older on her actual birthday she was 4. The family recently read about a 100-year-old woman who is celebrating her 20th birthday. “She considers herself part of a special club,” said Jill Connor,

“and will tell people, ‘I have the most special birthday!’” Occasionally the Connor family has run across forms without a February 29 option but it hasn't proven to be much of an inconvenience. “I don't think it really affects her life too much,” said her mother.

When Jill Connor was preparing to give birth on February 29, she was told by a nurse that leap day babies are called “Leaplings.”

A very happy birthday to Sara and all of Greenbelt's Leaplings!

Happy 16th birthday to Nolan Ossi, who this year will have the chance to celebrate turning 16 on the fourth time his birthday has come around.



SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY, MARCH 8
11 AM - 7 PM

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121 Centerway, Greenbelt • www.greenbelt.coop



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Goddard/Parkway Bridge May Reopen Summer 2025

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY BARRETT BEDFORD-DILLOW

The closed gates at the Goddard exit to the BW Parkway. Barricades help prevent any attempts to enter the campus from the Parkway.

Goddard Space Flight Center employees should have a more convenient route to campus by summer 2025, when the Baltimore-Washington Parkway bridge entrance is expected to reopen. The bridge entrance to Goddard has been closed since September 2021 when the driver of a flat-bed truck carrying a small excavator, misjudged the load's height and hit the bridge.

In December the Parkway Bridge Repair Project, which is being administered for NASA by the Federal Highway Administration, was awarded to RBA Engineering International PLLC, a company based out of Fairfax, Va.

As we reported in the January 12, 2023, issue, NASA's budget for Fiscal Year 2023 included funding for repairs, and the project, then in the design phase, was projected to take up to two years, with an anticipated cost of \$7.5 to \$10 million. The design work was completed late last summer, reported NASA's News Chief Robert Garner. Garner told the News Review that construction is scheduled to begin this spring, with completion estimated in summer 2025.

The SPACE: Free Art For All 2024 Programs

Join in commemorating five incredible years and a host of new community partners at The SPACE: Free Art For All. The organization is thrilled to kick off 2024 with an exciting lineup of fresh programs designed to inspire and engage.

Wednesdays: Beginners Music Classes in Ukelele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts), 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Fridays: Drum Circles with Rainbow Joe, 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturdays: Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For questions call 240-244-6115.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

Black History Month

Two Black History Programs Available for Viewing on GATe

Those who missed the February 4 art reception at the New Deal Café celebrating Black History Month can see it on the Greenbelt Access Television YouTube channel. The 30-minute video focuses on artists whose work is on display at the Café and features a poetry reading by Whiskey Girl. Shaymar Higgs of The SPACE hosted the ceremony and curated the art.

In addition, the February 18 Black History Month cultural presentation at the Community Center, hosted by Carolyn Lambright-Davis and Lois Rosado, is now available for viewing.

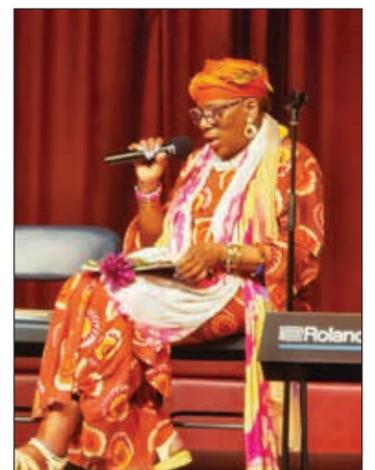
Among the many performances are The Harlem Renaissance by Nana Malaya Rucker, an interpretative dance by De'jah Taylor of Suitland High School, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Jazz Trio, spoken word by Whiskey Girl and a hip-hop dance by Northwestern High School's Kalen Wright.

To view the programs, visit the GATe website at GreenbeltAccessTV.org, click on the YouTube link and then the video. Alternatively, go directly to youtube.com/GreenbeltAccessTelevision and click on the video.



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE

Shaymar Higgs of The SPACE hosts a poetry reading at the New Deal Café.



Kalen Wright, left, and Nana Malaya perform at the Black History Month cultural celebration at the Community Center.

- Photos by Michael Hartman



PHOTO BY IAN BLACKWELL ROGERS

Crocuses are blooming in Greenbelt.



Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café (free)
 Saturday Mar. 16 from 10 am - 2 pm

Quilting workshop Sunday March 17 (with fee)
 at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (volunteers needed as well). Bring your clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library every Sat. 10am-12, Sun 11am-1pm
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>







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The Tugwell Room Reopens In Spacious New Quarters

by Bonnie Schrack

Over 50 years after its founding, the beloved Tugwell Room collection of materials on Greenbelt's history, founding and the ideas that led to its birth, has moved into a room at the Greenbelt Library that will give interested visitors and researchers far more space to work in than the small room it has occupied, as well as much greater visibility.

Formerly used for the many magazines and newspapers that were once a popular resource for local readers, the evolution of information media has led to a great reduction in the production of and demand for printed periodicals. Thus, the large, glass-enclosed space which provided a quiet environment for readers became available for another purpose. It will still be designated as a Quiet Room where there is ample space for anyone in search of a refuge from noise and distraction, in addition to those coming to delve into the riches of the Tugwell Collection itself.

No other town in the county, and few towns of its size anywhere, possesses such a collection of books, pamphlets, journals, maps, blueprints and extensive files, documenting a tremendous range of topics relating to its history. Greenbelt is unique in being a planned community, into which enormous thought and vision were put during the years of its creation. The collection includes much material on the history and theory of town planning, which is of interest to scholars far beyond Greenbelt's boundaries. Yet to no one is it more precious than to the community that has lovingly collected and donated this wealth of documentation on its life and times.

Rexford Tugwell was not only the visionary who brought about the creation of Greenbelt, but as some may not realize, he lived here from 1957 to 1961, the family having bought into the Woodland Hills cooperative development organized by James Cassels. The Tugwells built their home there at 119 Northway. He worked with Charles Schwan and others leading to the creation of the city's Advisory Planning Board, and assisted City Manager Charles McDonald as a consultant. All this and more can be learned in the News Review's obituary of Tugwell on August 2, 1979.



The doorway of the Tugwell Collection's new home



One of the books in the Tugwell Collection



A portion of the Tugwell Collection



A map of the Greenbelt area in 1935, from the Tugwell collection

- Photos by Bonnie Schrack

Further Reading: An interesting article ran in the News Review on August 16, 1979, by Betty Allen, a librarian who was very involved with the Tugwell Room, entitled, "Why Tugwell Room?" It gives much insight into the qualities and character of Rexford Tugwell.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

Visually impaired may listen for free Call Metropolitan Washington Ear 301-681-6636

No special equipment needed



COUNCIL continued from page 6

rare minerals and the like will not save the planet.

People First Canvassing

Council also approved a proposal to award \$45,000 to "a small group made up of People First leaders" for canvassing within "underserved neighborhoods" "to increase participation in the remaining \$1 million plus of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds" awarded to Greenbelt. Councilmembers praised this group of residents within Greenbelt not just for identifying a significant problem – the lack of participation by various communities in deciding how this federal money will be spent – but also in proposing its solution: an outreach program to draw more Greenbelt citizens into this decision-making process. Mayor Emmett Jordan asked that the organizers include other Greenbelt apartment complexes beyond Franklin Park and Charlestowne North in their canvassing and expressed hope that this project, if proven successful, will be expanded across the city as a whole to increase participation in local government initiatives. Other members asked that the People First group keep council informed about its progress in developing and implementing strategies for engaging its target audiences.

American Heart Month

Jordan proclaimed that, "Whereas, nearly half of all American adults have at least

one major risk factor for cardiovascular disease" and "the threat of cardiovascular disease touches almost every family in our nation," February is American Heart Month in Greenbelt to encourage everyone to protect our hearts. A representative from Luminis Health at nearby Doctors Community Medical Center appeared online to encourage all to visit on Wednesdays March 6 or March 20 to get their blood pressure checked and have screenings for diabetes and cholesterol. After being checked, he recommends that people eat at the hospital's cafeteria with its new and capable chef.

Business Conference

Under Administrative Reports, Salmerón began by mentioning the successful business conference in Greenbelt that occurred on February 7 and attracted over 120 participants. After the meeting, those interested visited the new 50,000-square-foot health center being built on Ora Glen Drive off Hanover Parkway, which will include 16 dental offices, 60 exam rooms and training space for up to 300 people. Salmerón also said that in-home visits by nursing students from Washington Adventist University are resuming for the 32 residents of Greenbelt now receiving care.




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The News Review Seeks Vendors for Website Upgrade

Courtesy of a grant from the City of Greenbelt, the News Review plans to make its website more robust, serviceable and maintainable. Improvements include expanded ad processing and uploads of material. The current website is viewable at www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Companies or individuals with the skills to perform these upgrades are invited to respond to a Request for Proposals (see QR code below) or at <https://greenbeltnewsreview.com/RFP/2024GNR-RFP.pdf>

A four week question and answer period will give potential contractors the opportunity to clarify the paper's needs. Final submissions will be due in early-to-mid April. Questions may be sent to GNRWebRfp@gmail.com




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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 19-26, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltnmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department had one death report and two mental health diversions.

On February 24 near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace, a roommate said he had recently killed someone but no evidence was found. **On February 23 near 7800 Mandan Road,** someone talking on the phone suddenly stopped responding, so officers checked on the person.

Break-in

On February 22 at 1:18 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a store window was broken and officers found a man pushing a store shopping cart containing several items. Surveillance footage showed that the man had broken into the store; he was arrested.

DUI Arrests

On February 23 at 9:39 p.m. near Cherrywood Terrace and Breezewood Drive, after a car was stopped for expired registration, the driver's speech was labored and slurred; he was arrested for DUI. **On February 24 at 2:51 a.m. at the same location,** a vehicle driving without lights was stopped; the driver was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On February 23 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, someone took out a loan using a woman's information.

Suspicious Package

On February 25 near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a delivery driver advised she felt uncomfortable delivering a package and suspected it was illegal drugs. The package containing pills was submitted to the police.

Suspicious Person

On February 20 at 7:49 p.m. near 7800 Hanover Parkway, camera footage showed a man wearing a white T-shirt trying to enter the apartment.

Theft

On February 24 near 9003 Breezewood Terrace, a man thought his packages were stolen but the confirmation picture did not show his door; at 4:35 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an employee had a personal phone stolen while repairing a customer's phone.

On February 25 near 7480

Greenway Center Drive, a man had two debit cards stolen; he believed someone came into his room and took them.

Commercial Theft

On February 19 at 6:40 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items. **On February 21 at 9:30 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road,** a repeat shoplifter, identified in numerous incidents of shoplifting, stole three electronic items; charges will be filed. **On February 22 at 3:05 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road,** officers stopped a repeat offender leaving the store with stolen items; charges are pending. **At 7:45 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road,** a man was arrested after leaving the store without paying for his items. **On February 23 at 9:19 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road,** a repeat offender was banned after trying to steal items. **On February 24 at 11:11 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road,** store cameras showed a repeat shoplifter stealing multiple items on three separate dates. **At 3:55 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road,** five suspects wearing black stole merchandise. **On February 25 at 2:30 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road,** a man known from previous encounters left the store without paying for merchandise and will be charged.

Trespassing

On February 23 near 22 Ridge Road, a man entered private property after being duly notified not to do so and was arrested.

Vandalism

On February 22 near 5910 Greenbelt Road, the front exterior glass door of a business was damaged by a rock.

Vehicle Crime Stolen Vehicles

Vehicles stolen this week: **on February 19 near 7525 Greenbelt Road,** a 2019 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 8DP4518); **on February 20 near 6610 Lake Park Drive,** a black 2020 Dodge Charger 392 Scat-Pak (Md. 9EJ7837); **on February 21 near 6000 Breezewood Drive,** a 2013 green Honda Pilot (Md. 6FH2343) left running to warm up; **on February 23 near 9200 Springhill Lane,** a gray 2015 Honda Pilot (Md. 7FA2844); **near 5800 Cherrywood Lane,** a 2019 black Mercedes

Benz E-450 (Md. 7CX7129) and near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a 2019 Toyota Camry (Md. 5FF6538); **and on February 24 near 7825 Jacobs Drive,** a driver for a transport company parked a gray 2013 Toyota Camry, and a gray tow truck towed it away.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On February 20 near 9185 Springhill Lane, a Nissan Maxima stolen from Prince George's County was recovered; **near 6015 Springhill Drive,** a 2015 Hyundai Elantra (D.C. JH0072) was recovered by Riverdale police after being in an accident involving juveniles who fled from the wreck. **Also on February 20 near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive,** a 2013 Hyundai Elantra with damaged window and ignition was found in long-term parking. **On February 23 near 7800 Mandan Road,** a stolen 2017 Hyundai Tucson was found.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On February 19 near 5821 Cherrywood Lane, a 2018 Hyundai Kona had damage to the door lock.

Theft from Auto

On February 21 at 1:46 a.m. near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a witness saw two men breaking into vehicles. When police arrived, the men sped away in a stolen white Dodge Challenger. **Also on February 21 near 6112 Breezewood Drive,** money was stolen. **On February 24 near 7600 Ora Glen Drive,** a vehicle window was broken and a purse and phone stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On February 19 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a driver-side window was shattered. **On February 21 near 9108 Springhill Lane,** the windshield of a 2012 Hyundai Sonata was smashed. **On February 23 near 6115 Breezewood Court,** a vehicle window was broken. **On February 25 near 9300 Edmonston Road,** tires were slashed.

Riverdale Teen Dies Friday In Kenilworth Avenue Crash

On Friday, February 23, at approximately 8:40 a.m., officers responded to the 7900 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a single-vehicle collision. Once on scene, they located the driver of a crashed vehicle, who was unresponsive. He was identified as 17-year-old Erson Cruz of Riverdale and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Preliminary investigation revealed Cruz was traveling southbound on Kenilworth Avenue when his car left the roadway and crashed into a wooded area.

Southbound Kenilworth Avenue near Pontiac Street in the 7900 block was temporarily shut down.

The Prince George's County Police Department investigates fatal crashes that occur within the City of Greenbelt.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit at 301-731-4422.

Information in this article is drawn from a Prince George's County Police Department press release.

SEARCH continued from page 1

Bridge on Monday, February 5 around 8:30 p.m. She then made her way by car to Greenbelt, to visit a relative. During her last known conversation, which was in-person with her aunt, Shallue said she was heading to Buddy Attick Park. The next day, Shallue was reported missing. Her car remained parked nearby, on Lastner Lane.



PHOTO BY JULIA RAYMOND

MSP officers waded in Greenbelt Lake during their search for Shallue on Monday.

To get to Greenbelt, she had been driving her silver 2007 Nissan Altima, Maryland registration, 6CC1702. MSP have investigated the car and found nothing suspicious. Greenbelt Police officers have been in the area several times canvassing the neighborhood and knocking on doors, looking for information and making residents aware of the missing person.

Shallue is a white woman with brown hair and eyes, approximately 5 feet 4 inches tall, weighing around 155 pounds. She was last seen wearing a coat, scarf and small cross-body red or pink purse with a long strap.

It is not the first time Shallue has gone missing. Detective Sergeant Blackwell told the News Review that anytime someone is missing without medication it is

a concern but detectives have not determined if missing medication is critical in this disappearance.

Greenbelt Lake is 20 feet at its deepest and has been the site of a tragic drowning and prolonged search in the past. In 1996, 25-year-old Dwayne Williams drowned after falling from a 12-foot motorized johnboat that had been rented from the concession and rental stand operating at the Lake at that time. It took three days of searching to recover his body (see the July 11, 1996, issue).

The search of the lake on Monday did not yield any evidence related to the disappearance of Laura Shallue.

Anyone with information regarding this case may contact the Maryland State Police Centreville Barrack at 410-758-1101. This case is currently active and ongoing.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA Meetings of the GHI and GDC Boards of Directors on March 7, 2024

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

- a) Approval of Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on December 21, 2023
- b) Contract for Plumbing Rehabilitation Pilot Project - 2nd Reading
- c) Member Financial Matters
- d) Member Complaint Matters
- e) Personnel Matter

GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:45 p.m. - open to members and visitors

- a) Statement of Closed Meetings held on March 7, 2024
- b) Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting held on December 21, 2023
- c) Employee Home Ownership Program
- d) Yard Inspection Form - 2024
- e) 401K Employee Service Provider
- f) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on March 7, 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/tZUlfumqrD0uHtYmiqajPvD83QyzDVzOIIInR>

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



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WORKSESSION continued from page 1

Jordan raised it initially, noting that the parking lots seem very dark and mentioning that, for example, on Cherrywood Lane, the majority of illumination in the parking lots seems to come from the street lighting on the outside edge of the lots, with the side adjacent to the buildings remaining dark. Bonner replied that they had been working with Pepco on lights that were out or underperforming but without result. She also noted that internal to the complex, they have trimmed trees to mitigate shadowing and have an ongoing program that has added/improved lighting as it progresses through the complex. She also mentioned that they are working with Beltway Plaza management because the shopping center's lights are now turned off at night along Franklin Park's boundary with the shopping center, leaving Franklin Park's Breezewood Drive parking lots poorly illuminated.

Currently planned lighting improvements include Cherrywood Terrace and Cherrywood Court. Franklin Park is carrying out extensive tree trimming so that the lights they have are more effective. Also they have additional lights on order.

Cameras

Prince George's County recently enacted legislation that requires security camera coverage of rental apartments (see page 9 of the September 28, 2023, issue). Describing the requirements, Bonner said they didn't want to have a "knee-jerk reaction to an ill-written piece of legislation" so Fieldstone is in negotiations with the county to honor the spirit of the legislation. She pronounced it, however, impossible to comply with the extensive requirements in a six-month period. Part of the problem involves scale – with such a large area (153 acres) and so many apartments, installing such equipment is a major logistical project and significant cost (estimated at \$3M to install and \$500K annually to maintain).

According to Bonner, the county legislation requires a camera at every ingress/egress point of every building as well as within the public areas and the area around the building. In the brick construction of Franklin Park, installation of the cameras involves drilling, wiring, cloud storage, monitoring and maintenance of many hundreds of cameras. She alluded to the fact that Franklin Park's classic 1960s garden apartment design is ill-suited to a comprehensive camera coverage requirement, stating that the idea is more aligned with today's apartment designs which typically have fewer entrances.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts pronounced himself not a fan of cameras everywhere, calling them intrusive and only of use after a crime was committed.

Access Control

County legislation on rental community property access control is also an issue difficult for Franklin Park, which has had problems with groups of unauthorized individuals loitering in hallways. Their 246 buildings each have multiple entry points and 11 or 12 apartments, and the equipment and logistics involved in access control were described as daunting. The management team thought that scaling such a solution to a complex like Franklin Park was not viable. Both the mayor and Franklin Park's representatives frequently referred to working in the spirit of the legislation – the safety of residents – rather than to its letter.

Crime Trends

Chief Richard Bowers described the evolving crime statistics, noting that crime had increased evenly throughout the city and is up 32 percent since 2022, with vehicle thefts contributing the majority of the increase. He is seeing a similar trend this year. Commenting on car thefts, he felt that department efforts to educate the public on how to avoid having their cars stolen had borne fruit. Although cars are still

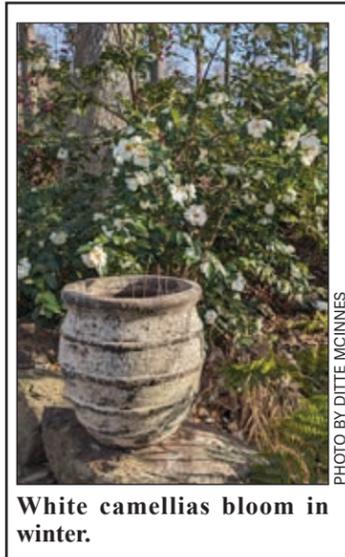
being broken into frequently, far fewer attempts to steal them are successful. He said that so far (45 days) into 2024, they are seeing a 50 percent reduction in thefts.

He spoke positively of Franklin Park's relationship with the department. He said that they have a secondary security company with whom the police coordinate.

Knight also commented that it was a concern that juveniles arrested and released were frequently responsible for additional crimes. In response to a question, she said that residents were liable for eviction if they engaged in criminal activity but that many of the individuals arrested were not residents but came from other locations, including D.C. Knight was generous with her praise for the Greenbelt Police Department and described their regular walkthroughs with her to identify trouble spots and consider strategies for mitigating them. She cited Community Officer Erick Alvarez as a major resource.

Responding to a question from the internet about gang activity, Bowers agreed that groups congregated and were watched, but said that although individual gang members might live in Franklin Park, there was no evidence that organized gang activity was

based there. He also responded to a question about mental health concerns to note that their crisis intervention team had handled many calls for service.



White camellias bloom in winter.

PHOTO BY DITTE MCINNIS

Call for Sports News

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share?

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School News

DKFI Parents Testify at PGCPS February School Board Meeting

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Thursday, February 22, the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education held their February meeting. During it they released the audit of their beleaguered transportation system, Superintendent Millard House II shared positive news of a reduction in absenteeism, the Academic Achievement Committee also had good news and the Policy and Governance Committee put forward a slew of new and revised or rescinded policies for public comment (these items will be addressed in a separate article). In addition, several members of Dora Kennedy French Immersion School (DKFI) attended the meeting to testify during the public hearing period. Others submitted recorded and written testimony, which were entered into the record but not shared during the meeting, and still more were unable to attend or testify as planned because the PGCPS website advised them to log onto Zoom rather than attend in person (an error Board Member Pamela Boozer-Strother said most likely resulted from their recent series of budget hearings that were held on Zoom).

Transportation

During the period for public testimony, one parent spoke passionately about struggles with the bus system. His child has been at least 30 minutes late for school for 100 days now, he told the board. "And you lecture us about attendance!" he added. He pointed to what he characterized as a "shocking number of issues" in the transportation audit and called for the board to address them and fix the school bus problems plaguing the district.

DKFI Move

Transportation was also a key concern for several DKFI parents who spoke about the plans to move the school and lack of transparency in communication (see articles in the February 1 and February 15 issues). Among the requests were calls for data about how many additional school buses and drivers would be needed to transport students if the school, which serves the north of Prince George's County, is moved farther south to the Greater Landover area and what that would mean for families coming from as far north as Laurel. Parents queried how the system plans to hire more bus drivers and get children to school on time when they've been unable to fill the current need and if they've studied the transportation situation at the Kenmoor school, which has been described as already problematic with a single school releasing around 4 p.m.

Need for Stability

The overwhelming call was the need for stability for the DKFI school. Delvin Champagne Sr. brought his son to speak directly to administrators. "My friends and I all want to stay at our current school," said the sixth grader, speaking to the board first in French and then English. His father, a parent to three DKFI students, told the board, "Student mobility reduces academic



Delvin Champagne Sr., father of three DKFI students, argues that the school is one of the best performing in the county and needs stability.



"My friends and I all want to stay at our current school," said Delvin Champagne Jr., who is in sixth grade.

- Photos courtesy PGCPS



"This is the face of one of the students that will be impacted by this change," said parent Benity Sewell.

outcomes." The school is the number-one performing middle school in Prince George's County, argued Champagne, and the third highest performing elementary school, only behind two Talented and Gifted schools (TAG) into which students test. "We will show the state that Prince George's County has schools that can perform and meet and exceed academic outcomes," said Champagne. "We should not play funny business with a school that is meeting and exceeding academic outcomes. We should stabilize Dora Kennedy."

Another parent spoke to the difficulty in recruiting and retaining educators who were good teachers, subject area experts and also fluent in French. In addition, the student body is difficult to replace if there's attrition due to a move because students must be fluent in French after the first couple of years.

Parent Benity Sewell brought her son to the podium so the board could see their decisions were not all about efficiency and where it was most convenient for them to shuffle schools. "This is the face of one of the students that will be impacted by this change," she told them. Sewell also argued that DKFI had never had a permanent home of its own, moving from shared space to an almost-condemned building, to another old building whose remaining lifespan is uncertain. "We are a school that has been transient from its inception," she told the board.

Call for Truth

There's bias against the specialty programs, claims Sewell. "Our students in specialty programs – they're also students. They should not be penalized because their par-

ents made the decision to put them in a specialty program rather than a neighborhood school ... We deserve respect as well. We deserve the truth." Sewell asked the administration for transparency and to be told the truth about the options for the school. Sewell also called for a face-to-face town hall. So far the administration has hosted a webinar with the school community in which it screened their questions and didn't allow attendees to speak. That ended badly, with executives caught live on a hot mic questioning the decision and talking about the school when they thought they'd gone offline.

"Our asks are very simple," said Sewell, listing a town hall as their first ask. "We ask for the truth. We are adults. We are a community. We're here to work together for what's best for these students. So, we're asking for the data that were not disclosed because our town hall was held virtually. It was disclosed that there was information that was deliberately held from us. We were told that Kenmoor school was the only option for our students, only to hear our executive leader who was trying to hold his own team accountable say to them, 'I feel like we're doubling down on a bad decision.'" Sewell applauded Chief Operating Officer Charoscar Coleman for "boldly" questioning the decision and lack of consideration of alternative options despite the data. "We thank you for saying that because that shows that at least some people still have integrity. Please, do what's right," concluded Sewell.

PGCPS now plans to hold an in-person town hall with the DKFI community in mid-March.

This reporter has two children who currently attend DKFI.

Black History Month

Greenbelt Middle School Hosts Blacks in Wax Living Museum

by Laura Charleston

On February 22, Greenbelt Middle School hosted its fifth Blacks in Wax Living Museum, celebrating Black History Month at its American History and Culture event. The event showcases students portraying influential figures from Black history – singing, dancing and reading poetry. It serves as both an educational experience and a celebration of cultural heritage.

Black History Month holds great importance in recognizing African Americans' struggles, achievements and contributions throughout history. The Blacks in Wax Living Museum at Greenbelt Middle School takes this recognition further by providing students with a hands-on learning experience beyond traditional classroom teachings.

Parent Engagement Assistant Carlos Pugh is responsible for the school's American History and Culture event. Commended by his colleagues, students and parents, he has kept the Black Living Wax Museum alive. Pugh says he strives to ensure everyone is represented and feels recognized at the school. "I wanted to give the students a vehicle through which to express their pride in the accomplishments of famous African Americans. Oftentimes, they just have to write something or say, you know, a speech, but in this case, we allow them to embody who the famous person is," he said.

As the weeks drew closer and the excitement ran high, students rehearsed their lines and Pugh ensured everything was in place.

"They were nervous in the beginning, but as the past few days have gone by, you can just see the excitement building, and they start bringing their friends to be in it. Can you find her a part? And can you find her a part? You know, and it's, it's the greatest," said Pugh.

The figures range from civil rights activists to prominent artists, politicians and athletes who have made historical marks. By embodying these figures, students deepen their understanding of Black history and develop empathy and cultural awareness.

"I chose Angela Davis because she's very passionate about herself, and I like how she's natural and speaks up for Black power. And I just love her overall," said seventh grader Jaidyn Mingo, who appeared as Davis.

For parents, seeing their children participate in the Black Living Wax Museum evoked pride. Knowing their child is actively learning about and honoring the past can be deeply gratifying.

"It's not just like a report ... You are that person at the end of each script ... I'm proud to say my son was Benjamin Banneker. It's almost like they took owner-



A student portraying Nina Simone gives out high fives.

ship of what they were actually doing, who they were actually portraying, which means a lot to me," said April Turner, Parent Teacher Association president.

"It was good because, you know, we just had to take our time and really pay attention and just learn. I think that [is] better than an assembly just because everybody got their own time," said LaCandice Smith, mother of Liana Smith, who portrayed Oprah Winfrey.

Students, too, take immense pride in their roles as symbols of these renowned figures. They understand the importance and responsibility of their representations and embrace the chance to inspire others. There are students in seventh and eighth grade, eager to become role models for their peers and younger students in the school through these idols.

"I honestly, I'm glad that younger grades are going to be here because I really want to inspire them to want to do it in the future because this is my first year doing it. And I didn't do it last year or when I was in sixth grade, but I really wish I did because it's actually really fun," said Kimari Gorham, an eighth grader portraying Rosa Parks.

"It was amazing. I remember we were talking about it [and students asked,] 'Mr. Meka, what are we going to change into?' And we're like, 'No, you're just going to stay exactly how you are.' And just seeing Obama, Maya Angelou just staying as them and singing. It was perfect. It was perfect," said Nnaemeka Ariwado, the music teacher.

The opportunity to showcase the achievements of African Americans fills students with a sense of empowerment and responsibility.

Throughout the event, students engaged in various forms of expression, including singing, dancing, music and poetry, adding vibrancy and depth to the exhibit and bringing the stories of historical figures to life in a meaningful and impactful way. The performances continue to foster dialogue, reflection and appreciation for the struggles and triumphs of African Americans. It serves as a reminder that Black history is not confined to the past but is a living, breathing part of our collective identity.

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PHOTO BY LAURA CHARLESTON