



GARF film, donations, p.4



Math winners, p.16

## Budget Proposal Holds Line On Public Works Spending

by Diane Oberg

City Manager Josué Salmerón's budget proposal calls for a 2.7 percent increase in the Public Works budget, with expenditures increasing from \$4.586 million in the adopted budget for this fiscal year to \$4.711 million in FY25, which begins on July 1. A breakout of expenditures by major budget category is shown in the table on page 12.

The Public Works Department has a wide range of responsibilities including maintenance of all city buildings and grounds, waste collection and recycling, sustainability, the Greenbelt Connection and maintaining 26 miles of city streets and 532 acres of city parks.

Staffing will decrease by one as the supervisor positions for parks and playgrounds and for horticulture will be merged into one position.

Assistant City Manager Timothy George and public works management met with the Greenbelt City Council on April 17 to review this budget. Salmerón was ill and did not attend.

Some department activities such as the Greenbelt Connection (budgeted under "Miscel-

laneous"), the Greenbelt Cemetery ("Other Funds") and certain maintenance activities are reflected in other budget categories. (For example, maintenance of the Municipal Building is covered in the General Governments budget.)

### Revenues

Some activities generate revenue to wholly or partially offset costs. Waste collection and recycling fees, the landfill disposal rebate and sale of recyclable materials are expected to bring in \$748,900, unchanged from the current budget. The sustainability and recycling area has garnered \$384,770 in grants for specific projects. An additional \$300,000 grant was recently received.

### Challenges

Acting Public Works Director Brian Kim said the department faces three challenges. The first is ailing infrastructure. A significant portion of the budget is devoted to maintaining and upgrading infrastructure and equipment. "As these assets continue to deteriorate," he wrote, "the demands for maintenance and upgrades will only escalate," further straining

See PUBLIC WORKS, page 12

## 14- and 16-Year-Old Arrested For Schrom Hills Shootings

by Melissa Sites

At a press conference at Schrom Hills Park on Monday, April 29, Greenbelt Chief of Police Richard Bowers announced the arrest of two teenaged suspects in connection with the shooting of five young people that occurred there on April 19, during an unsanctioned Senior Skip Day gathering that drew a flash mob of around 500 people to the park (see the April 25 issue).

The suspects, aged 14 and 16, are from Bowie and District Heights. Both attend Bowie High School. As juveniles, their names cannot be released at this time. Aisha



Chief Richard Bowers speaks at a press conference at Schrom Hills Park on Monday, April 29. Standing next to him is Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy.

Braveboy, State's Attorney for Prince George's County, who was present in Greenbelt for the press conference, stated that the

suspects will be tried as adults, for attempted homicide and gun-related charges. Motives for the

See SHOOTINGS, page 10

## PGCPS Holds Information Session On Coming Transportation Changes

by Madi Eades

### New Bell Times for Greenbelt Schools

Greenbelt School	New Bell Times	Tier	Time Change
Dora Kennedy French Immersion	9:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.	3	15 minutes later
Eleanor Roosevelt High	8:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.	2	15 minutes earlier
Greenbelt Elementary	8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.	2	45 minutes earlier
Greenbelt Middle	9:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.	3	30 minutes later
Magnolia Elementary	9:30 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.	3	15 minutes later
Springhill Lake Elementary	7:30 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.	1	15 minutes earlier

DATA COURTESY PGCPS

The new bell times for PGCPS schools were announced April 25.

On Saturday, April 27, the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) administration held an information session at Eleanor Roosevelt High School about transportation changes coming this fall. Although this was the seventh of nine meetings scheduled, it was the first to be held after the new times were announced.

The changes are part of Superintendent Millard House II's introduction to the district, acknowledging long-standing issues with the transportation system, such as long bus routes, delays, driver shortages and safety concerns.

"Our focus is clear: To provide students with safe and punctual transportation," said Dr. Charoscar Coleman, chief operating officer for PGCPS.

Coleman discussed five priorities for Phase 1, the 2024-2025 school year: bell time shifts, relocation of bus stops, reassessment of bus stops within walk zones, codification of an opt-out program for students who do not need bus transportation and timely information on bus schedules, route changes and locations for community members with students.

See PGCPS, page 15

### Election

## Circuit Court Judges: A Primer

by Kit Slack, Streetcar Suburbs Publishing

In the primary election May 14, voters will decide which four out of five candidates will be judges for Maryland's Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Circuit court in Maryland is the trial court for major civil cases and serious criminal cases, along with those involving juveniles and family court disputes. Judges on the ballot will serve as four of the 23 full-time circuit court judges in the county.

### How do circuit court judges get their jobs?

Initially, Maryland's governor typically appoints judges. To be eligible for appointment, nominees must be U.S. citizens, registered voters and Maryland lawyers at least 30 years of age. They have to have lived in the

state for at least five years and in the county for at least six months.

The governor appoints candidates from lists created by local nominating commissions, which Maryland governors have set up for this purpose in various forms since 1970.

Next, after they are appointed and working, circuit court judges must stand for election; interested candidates may file to run against them, without being nominated, if they meet the basic qualifications. Winners of the election serve 15-year terms as judges. They may serve more terms following the same selection process but must retire by age 70.

### Are judicial elections a good idea?

According to reporting by Maryland Matters, since 2002, more than a dozen judges have lost contested elections across the state. For the 30 years prior to that, judicial elections were rarely contested.

An effort to do away with contested judicial elections may lead

to a constitutional amendment revising the judicial selection process coming before voters as soon as 2026.

Those who support judicial elections say elections build public trust in the courts and are a check on the governor's power and a not-very-transparent process. Those who oppose judicial elections say fewer qualified candidates will want the jobs if they have to campaign for them, and that campaign contributions could compromise impartiality.

### Which judges run for office?

Only circuit court judges, who are the trial judges for larger disputes, run for office.

All other Maryland judges have their appointments confirmed by the Maryland Senate. They don't run in contested elections. The Senate confirms the appointment of

See JUDGES, page 6



Cheri Simpkins



Donnell Turner



Stenise Rolle



Darren Johnson



Michael Sheehan

### What Goes On

#### Monday, May 6

7 p.m., City Council Budget Worksession: Recognition Groups 1, Municipal Building

#### Tuesday, May 7

7 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Recognition Groups 2, Municipal Building

#### Wednesday, May 8

7 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Green Ridge House, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

- Photos courtesy Streetcar Suburbs Publishing; Sheehan photo courtesy FayFoto Boston



PHOTO BY JOHANNA GODERRE

Spring blooms



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OC = Open Captions  
CC = Closed Captions  
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

**SHOWTIMES:**  
**MAY 3rd - 9th**

**The Old Oak**  
(NR) (2024) (113 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Mon. 4:00 PM  
Tues. 7:15 PM  
Thurs. 5:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM

**Challengers (R) (CC) (DVS)**  
(2024) (131 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)  
Wed. 7:00 PM

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

**Lost World Workshop**  
Ages 8-12  
Partnership with GATE - \$15  
Ticket for The Lost World &  
snacks included!  
Sat. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**The Lost World**  
(NR) (1925) (68 mins)  
With live music by  
Andrew E. Simpson!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 1:00 PM

**To Sir, With Love**  
(NR) (1967) (105 mins)  
Free Cinema Classic

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

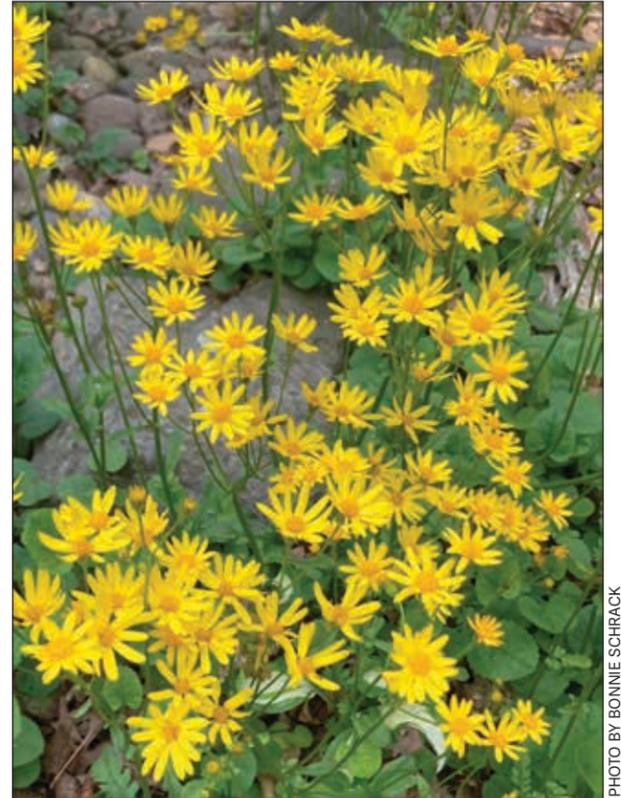


PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK

Native golden groundsel, packera aurea, in Mary Lou Williamson's garden

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On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### The Old Oak

The Old Oak is the last pub standing in a once thriving mining village in northern England, a gathering space for a community that has fallen on hard times. There is growing anger, resentment and a lack of hope among the residents, but the pub and its proprietor TJ are a fond presence to their customers. When a group of Syrian refugees move into the floundering village, a decisive rift fueled by prejudices develops between the community and its newest inhabitants. The formation of an unexpected friendship between TJ and a young Syrian woman named Yara opens up new possibilities for the divided village in this deeply moving drama about loss, fear and the difficulty of finding hope. Legendary British Director Ken Loach, 87 years old, has announced that The Old Oak will be his final film.

### Challengers

From visionary filmmaker Luca Guadagnino, the film stars Zendaya as Tashi Duncan, a former tennis prodigy turned coach and a force of nature who makes no apologies for her game on and off the court. Married to a champion on a losing streak (Mike Faist, West Side Story), Tashi's strategy for her husband's redemption takes a surprising turn when he must face off against the washed-up Patrick (Josh O'Connor, The Crown) – his former best friend and Tashi's former boyfriend. As their pasts and presents collide, and tensions run high, Tashi must ask herself, what will it cost to win?

### The Lost World

In London, professor Challenger (Wallace Beery) announces that prehistoric creatures are alive and flourishing in the Amazon jungle and declares his intention to mount an expedition proving his point. Journalist Edward Malone (Lloyd Hughes) volunteers to go and convinces his newspaper to fund the journey. Paula White (Bessie Love) hopes to find her father, a missing explorer. They and others undertake the voyage and witness dinosaurs and humanoids doing battle in a magnificent landscape.

### To Sir, With Love

American Mark Thackeray (Sidney Poitier) has recently received his degree in engineering, but cannot find work. To make ends meet, he takes a job as a teacher in a rough London East End school populated mostly with troublemakers who were rejected from other schools for their behavior. While the students at first see Thackeray as just another teacher open for ridicule and bullying, his calm demeanor and desire to see them succeed gradually earn him their respect.

### Letters Policy during Elections

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.

The News Review will not print letters endorsing candidates. The News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.

# 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 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.

### Storytimes

Friday, May 3, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356776](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356776).

Monday, May 6, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356749](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356749).

Wednesday, May 8, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356784](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356784).

### Talk Health

Friday, May 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., ages 18+ (adult). Take charge of your health at free blood pressure screening sessions led by University of Maryland (UM) School of Nursing students. Bring your medications for a personalized review. Empower yourself with valuable insights on how to manage your health better.

Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10127177](http://pgcmls.info/event/10127177).

### Teen Action Group

Wednesday, May 8, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 to 18 (teen). Need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in the community, gain friends from around the area and make your voice heard in your public library. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356452](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356452).

## Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, May 4 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see deep-sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. All are welcome and there is no charge. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes to set up on the hilltop.

Observing will begin at 9 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

## Workshop, Screening Saturday at Cinema

On Saturday, May 4 at 11 a.m., Greenbelt Cinema will be hosting a stop-motion animation workshop for children ages 8 to 12 in partnership with Greenbelt Access Television (GATe). At 1 p.m. see a special screening of *The Lost World* with live music accompaniment by Andrew Simpson. Snacks will be provided. There is a fee for the workshop and movie. For more information, visit [greenbeltcinema.org/movie/lost-world-workshop](http://greenbeltcinema.org/movie/lost-world-workshop).

## Bicycle Committee Annual Spring Social

Hoping for better weather the GHI Bicycle Committee Annual Bicycle Social has been rescheduled to this Saturday, May 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. (This event was postponed from April 27 due to rain.) The event takes place at the GHI Building, 1 Hamilton Place, adjacent to the bicycle repair station. There will be presentations, light refreshments, swag as well as door prizes awarded to 10 lucky attendees. Light refreshments will be available.

For more information, email John Campanile, chair, GHI Bicycle Committee at [jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com).

## Music, Vendors, Crafts At Green Man Festival

Join the fun at the Green Man Festival on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12 at Roosevelt Center. There will be Drum Circles both days. Bands will be playing all day, including DragonSong, the local Greenbelt HONK!Situation, the Funicular Project, Kiva, Zedicus & Abyssinia Roots, Batala and Totally Bowie. In the evening, music continues inside the New Deal Café both days, with Soulfied Village and the Supernational Sound System.

There are over 40 vendors, crafts for kids, info booths, a Green Man Parade, food, roving entertainers, face painting and family fun both days. Bring family and friends. Dress as your favorite fairy, green being, butterfly or creature. All free. For more information, visit [greenmanfestival.org](http://greenmanfestival.org).

The festival is a project of CHEARS (Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society).

## Photo Exhibit on Greenbelt At Corcoran School of Art



PHOTO COURTESY DANIELLE TOWERS

**Greenbelter John Henry Jones, one of the subjects of Danielle Towers' photography, presents her with flowers from his garden at a reception for the show.**

Danielle Towers' photojournalism thesis on the City of Greenbelt is now on display at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. Towers is a graduating photojournalism student at George Washington University who chose Greenbelt as her focus. Over the last year she photographed numerous Greenbelt community events and residents, working as a photographer for the News Review on election night and other special occasions.

Some of the questions she pursued were: What are the implications of community design on the way we live? What does design say about our values? How is that reflected through the lives of the people who live in Greenbelt? "We need to be thinking about what types of communities we want to hope for, to dream for," says Towers.

You can visit Danielle's photography of Greenbelt, which is part of the Next Festival, on display at the Corcoran School April 17 to May 16, Wednesday to Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. at 500 17th Street NW.



## Museum Lecture May 4 On WWII Women: Pt. 2

For their spring lecture, the Greenbelt Museum welcomes back Greenbelter and Museum docent Donna Peterson, whose talk, *Women of WWII: Part Two*, picks up where her first talk, in April 2022, left off. These are stories of brave women who left their loved ones at home to serve their country in its time of need. They are the women heroes of the greatest generation. Note that the previously planned tour following the talk has been postponed. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, the Recreation Department and the City of Greenbelt.

The talk is a free, in-person event. Advance registration is not required, but those who register will receive reminders for the event. The talk will take place in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center at 1 p.m. on Saturday. To register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/872247254017?aff=oddtcreator](http://eventbrite.com/e/872247254017?aff=oddtcreator).

## Arthritis Walk Saturday

This Saturday, May 4, the 20th anniversary arthritis walk will take place at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School track, 7600 Hanover Pkwy. Organized by Arthritis & Pain Associates of Prince George's County's rheumatology office in Greenbelt, it will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Earn a medal for each lap around the track, whether walked, jogged or run.

## Ladies Auxiliary GVFD Bake Sale on May 5

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department is having a bake sale at the Co-op Supermarket ramp on Sunday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come visit the popular bake sale tables. There will be lots and lots of homemade baked goodies waiting for you.

## Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and families.

### Libros, Bolas, Burbujas ... Diversión!

El viernes 10 de mayo a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

## Shred-It Event

Saturday, May 18, from 8 to 11 a.m. bring your unwanted paper documents to be shredded for free at the 2024 Greenbelt Shred-It Event. The event will take place at 112 Centerway.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

**Greenbelt Access Television**  
**May 4, Sat - May 10, Fri**  
 Verizon FiOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
 (School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
 Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

**THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station**  
 Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)  
**Beat the Devil (1953)**  
 Join us for this action-packed adventure film, directed by John Huston and starring Humphrey Bogart and Jennifer Jones!

**New This Month**  
**Heroes of Ukraine - War Veterans Lobby Congress for Aid**  
 This is our coverage from an event last month, in which Ukrainian War Veterans were thrown a reception at Ukraine House in Washington, DC. Many veterans took this time to urge Congress for military aid. A few days ago, Senate approved a \$6 billion aid package.

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

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

TH 5/02	FRI 5/03	SAT 5/04	SUN 5/05
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm <b>Wolf's Blues &amp; Sit-In Jam</b> 6:30-10pm Sign up & Jam!	<b>Proverbs Reggae Band</b> 7-10pm Unique rootz reggae with soul	<b>Dance Little Sister</b> 7-10pm Rolling Stones tribute Band. An NDC fav!	<b>THIS COULD GO BOOM!</b> 6-8pm The best in local and touring music from underrepresented artists
MON 5/06	TUES 5/07	WED 5/08	TH 5/09
<b>THE MONDAY MAUVENESS KARAOKE</b> 6-9pm Hosted by Mike Bennett	S.A.W. Open Mic w/ Lynn Hollyfield 6-9:30 Sign ups at 6pm	<b>Madwitch</b> 7-9pm A blend of haunting, high energy, two-fiddle harmony tunes	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm <b>The Greg Mayer Project</b> 7-9pm R&B, rock & soul
<b>SPECIALS!</b> <b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE <b>WEDNESDAY</b> \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE			

Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

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**THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.**

**Contact: [jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com). We promise: It won't hurt!**

# GARF Concludes Donation Drive with Free Documentary

by Nancy Newton

The count begins. GARF (Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom), a city recognition group, is wrapping up its third donation drive for bras and menstrual products. Sorting and counting the donations before the next step: delivering them to the nonprofits I Support the Girls and the Greater DC Diaper bank. These organizations in turn distribute the products to more than 75 agencies serving vulnerable and low-income populations, including Greenbelt's Pink Pantry Project. In each of the previous drives (2021 and 2023) Greenbelters generously gave more than 10,000 menstrual products, and GARF expects a similar number this year.

Although 10,000 is quite a bounty – enough to fill a minivan – it's also the average number of menstrual products an individual uses over a lifetime, according to the National Institutes of Health. The estimated lifetime costs of these products range from \$9,000 to \$18,000, presenting a considerable economic hardship for many.

However, as public health experts point out, menstruation is more than a bodily process, and good menstrual health requires more than the ability to obtain menstrual products. Culture, religion, education, politics, business and more affect the way individuals experience the menstrual cycle. For this reason, GARF, together with Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, will sponsor a showing of the feature documentary Periodical. The Canadian documentary magazine POV describes the film as "a scientific and sociological look at all things periods, from puberty to menopause and everything that happens during the 40-plus years in between." This event celebrating the culmination of GARF's



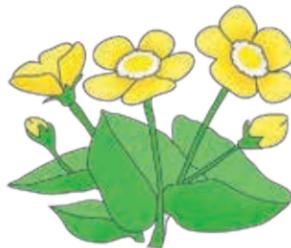
PHOTO BY NANCY NEWTON

Greenbelters Katy Pape, Janet Cantwell and Ellen Weiss stand on the Co-op ramp after a successful day collecting bras and menstrual products for GARF's drive.

product donation drive is open to the public and will be held Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m. in Room 202 of the Community Center. Admission is free, but donations of period products and bras are welcome. Planned Parenthood will facilitate a discussion following the film.

The co-founders of GARF explained the mission and vision of their group: "As an organization concerned with a broad range of issues related to reproductive health, we want to go beyond helping people get access to period products. There's still a lot of stigma, shame and misinformation surrounding menstruation, and there's more we can do to

normalize discussion around this topic and ensure that people who menstruate can experience it with comfort and dignity ... We hope both men and women will see this important film and consider it as a starting point for more frank conversations about something so common that it happens to almost half the people in the world."



The Bible Says...

For all things are possible with God.

Mark 10:27



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

**MCFcc.org**

## St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

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

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

## ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**

135 Crescent Rd.

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



Congratulations to Dora Kennedy French Immersion and Greenbelt Middle School math teams who won gold, silver and bronze medals in the recent PGCPS' Annual Math Meet, held on April 27 at Walker Mill Middle school in Capitol Heights.

Happy birthday to Greenbelt News Review member and writer, Dr. Lois Rosado, who will turn 80 this month!

Happy birthday, also, to John Henry Jones who will turn 96 on May 6. He would welcome friends and neighbors who would like to stop by.

Congratulations to Greenbelt resident Stan Zirkin for having saved a life at the Fort Totten

Metro Station. On April 13, as he was waiting for a train, a fellow passenger jumped onto the tracks to retrieve his hat, which had been blown off by the wind. Unfortunately, the climb back up to the platform was steep and the passenger could not get up. Stan noted his distress and immediately reached out his hand to help him up. It should be noted that Stan is 79 years old and not tall. The rescue was successful. Less than one minute later a train came roaring down the track where the passenger had been trapped.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

"It behooveth man to adhere tenaciously unto that which will promote fellowship, kindness and unity." – Bahá'u'lláh



## Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

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

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

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

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate hope with us.

## 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](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725

Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 5, 2024 at 3:00 pm

**The Path of Love**

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek with Liturgist Andy McIntire

According to the proposed revision of Article II of the Unitarian Universalist bylaws (which will be voted on at General Assembly next month), "Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values." What might it mean for us to center that power? What is the path of Love?

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:  
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, 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://www.zoom.us/j/98519851985)

## Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



## ELCA Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

10774 Rhode Island Avenue

301-937-7646

Rev. Jongkil Na

10:00 am Service

11:00 am Fellowship

[APLChurch.org](http://APLChurch.org)



Come and Join Us!  
Located in the Beltsville Professional Center



# 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 [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



### MEETINGS FOR MAY 6-10

Monday, May 6 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION – RECOGNITION GROUPS – GROUP 1**

Tuesday, May 7 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION – RECOGNITION GROUPS – GROUP 2**

Tuesday, May 7 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Discussion with Judge Philip Nicols About General Orders, Planning for PSAC's Fall Community Meetings on Dangers of Radon, etc.*

Wednesday, May 8 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION – GREEN RIDGE HOUSE**

Wednesday, May 8 - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BUDGET WORK SESSION, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL AND PENDING LEGAL MATTER**

*In advance, the hearing impaired are 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).*

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, immediately following the Council Work Budget Work Session - Green Ridge House, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss the appointment, performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; and 2) to consult with legal counsel regarding pending legal matters.

**\* The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk



### 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.

### NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY 2024 MAY 17, 6:30 - 8:30 AM

*Parking Lot of Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway*

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 16,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, low-cost commuting option and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 100 Pit stops in the regional area.

Register at [biketoworkmetrod.org](http://biketoworkmetrod.org);  
Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, [dquynnreno@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dquynnreno@greenbeltmd.gov) (240) 542-2053.



### CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- Dementia Friendly America Webinars, May - June.
- Emergency Diaper Distribution. Must register <https://forms.gle/3YdCeg8mC5LRfJsT6>.
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road  
*Upcoming Dates: May 16, from 1 - 3 pm*
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)  
*Upcoming Dates: May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm*

For descriptions and information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms) and see ads on this page!

### WALKING FOR WELLNESS 2024

Saturday, May 18, 9 am  
Buddy Attick Park Lake

May is observed as Mental Health Awareness Month. Help the Greenbelt Police Department raise awareness and provide support for those in our community. Join us for a delightful spring walk around Buddy Attick Park Lake. Enjoy the fresh air and other smiling faces.

Vendors for this event should arrive by 8 am.

The Wellness Walk will begin at 9 am, but walkers and runners are encouraged to start arriving by 8:30 am.

Sponsored by the Greenbelt Police Department.  
550 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. (301) 474-7200.



### THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union for their generous donation of \$1,000. This donation will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for the City of Greenbelt's Annual Back 2 School Health Fair.

If you'd like to donate or volunteer, please contact [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov).



### DEI AUDIT SURVEY FOR PHASE II

Call all Greenbelt residents! Please complete a brief questionnaire for phase II of the DEI Audit. Your input will help us plan various town halls and focus groups for Phase II of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion audit.

Visit <https://forms.office.com/r/eWt3XN0LDZ>.



### EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION Open Registration

Please remember that you must register each month.

Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent's name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate.

To register: <https://forms.gle/3YdCeg8mC5LRfJsT6> or call Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302.



### 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.

### REPARATIONS COMMISSION - UMD STUDENT DATA PROJECT THURSDAY, MAY 9, 7 PM, ZOOM

Learn about the Reparations Commission partnership with a UMD student team from the College of Information Services. The students "capstone" project has focused on collecting and analyzing data on equity gaps and disparities in Greenbelt for consideration as one measure of the historical and current impact of racism.

For more information and Zoom link, visit <https://ow.ly/M6QW50RsP8e>.

### FEATURED PET SAVANNAH

Adopt Me Today!  
Call (301) 474-6124.

This gorgeous 3-year-old, female diluted calico was found in a nearby neighborhood after a local resident called to report her sighting. Savannah is a very gentle, sweet gal who loves affection, sunbathing, and chasing cat string toys. She is on the hunt for her new family and is now available for adoption.

If you're ready for her purrfect cuddles, please ask about her today!

Call (301) 474-6124 or email [animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov)!



### ARTFUL AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS SPRAY AND PAINT

Sunday, May 5, 1 - 4 pm, Greenbelt Community Center.

Spray paint art workshop, Art Studio Open House and Sale, plus a Chinese dance concert!

Info & Sign-up: <https://bit.ly/4axwZn4>.

### WELCOME KIT STUFFING PARTY

Thank you for all your donations for the 2024 Welcome Kit! We will be hosting a stuffing party at the Municipal Building located 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 on

**THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2-4 PM.**

Contact [candrews@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:candrews@greenbeltmd.gov) for more information & to attend!

### 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](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag).



### GREENBELT RECREATION'S SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE

[www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide)

Registration currently open. Sign-up today!

Be on the look out as our Summer Activity Guide is coming soon.



Election

# Five Candidates are Running For County Circuit Court Judge

The following information is from the five candidates for circuit court judge (in alphabetical order). The News Review has summarized their professional experience and community involvement. Voters will vote for four out of the five candidates.

**Darren Johnson (age 47)**

**Professional Experience:** Johnson currently serves as a judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Prior to his appointment, he served as a domestic magistrate for Prince George's County for five years, for matters concerning divorce, custody, child support and truancy. Prior to that, he worked in the National Appeals Division for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where he received the Director's Award for Outstanding Service. Prior to the USDA, he was in a private practice working primarily in Prince George's County and Baltimore City.

**Community Involvement:** Johnson volunteers with St. Joseph Catholic Church, Faith Moravian Church of Washington, D.C., and the Capital Area Food Bank. He is vice president of Community Legal Services of Prince George's County and participates with the Kappa League for Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He plays in a softball league.

**Stenise Rolle (age 46)**

**Professional Experience:** Rolle has over 20 years in the legal profession, during which she has worked as a litigator, an administrator of judicial education courses, a magistrate and now a judge on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Her legal career began as a civil litigator, litigating complex wrongful death and personal injury cases. Upon starting her own law firm, she expanded her litigation work to include family law and criminal defense. A highlight of her career was serving as the director of graduate student legal aid at the University of Maryland College Park.

Rolle also worked in the administrative office of the courts as manager of judicial education, responsible for the planning of educational courses and programming for judges and magistrates throughout the state. She was a magistrate for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

**Community Involvement:** Rolle is vice president of the Franklyn Bourne Bar Association and part of the executive com-

mittee for the Prince George's County Bar Association. She serves on the Access and Fairness Subcommittee of the Maryland Judicial Council's Equal Justice Committee, the Workgroup to Study Mandatory Continuing Legal Education in Maryland, the Judicial Conference Planning Committee, a Judge Liaison for the Prince George's County Mock Trial Program and is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and former cheer-leading coach.

**Michael Sheehan (age 35)**

**Professional Experience:** Sheehan is a Marine Corps veteran and public servant. He currently practices tax law, which touches numerous other areas of the law, so will bring a unique perspective to the bench.

**Community Involvement:** Sheehan is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, as well as the American Constitution Society, a progressive legal organization whose mission includes helping realize the promise of equality for all, including people of color, women, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities and other historically excluded communities.

**Cheri Simpkins (age 50)**

**Professional Experience:** Simpkins served as a former district court judge for over six years on criminal, civil, family and traffic cases. As a circuit court judge, she oversees more complex and serious cases. Earlier, in her 14-year tenure as a prosecutor, she specialized in child abuse and sexual assault cases. She was an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law School and the University of Baltimore Legal Studies Program.

**Community Involvement:** Simpkins is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Links, Inc., Jack and Jill of America and participates in mentoring programs, educational workshops and community service events empowering women and supporting underserved communities. She hosts programs



like Schools in Court, educating teenagers about the legal system and promoting civic engagement. Simpkins also participates in the Reading and Robes program, fostering literacy and legal awareness among children, and the Maryland Supreme Court Council for Language Access sub-committee.

**Donnell Turner (age 56)**

**Professional Experience:** Turner is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Virginia School of Law. He is a former labor and employment attorney, former assistant state's attorney for Prince George's County and former U.S. Department of Justice attorney from 2001 to 2012.

He served as principal deputy state's attorney for Prince George's County and former inspector general for the Prince George's County Police Department. He was a Prince George's Community College adjunct professor and received the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association President's Award in 2014.

**Community Involvement:** Prince George's County Bar Association – member (2012-present), Board of Directors (2013-19), Criminal Law Committee (2013-18). Maryland State Bar Association – member (2014-present), Judicial Appointments Committee (2016-22). J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association – member (2015-17; 2021-present). First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C., Junior Golf Program volunteer coach (2014-present).

The information for this report was compiled by Streetcar Suburbs News, where it first appeared and is reprinted here with permission.

## JUDGES continued from page 1

the district court judges who settle misdemeanor, motor vehicle and landlord tenant cases, as well as other smaller disputes. The Senate also approves the appointment of judges in appeals courts and the Maryland Supreme Court. These higher court judges' names do show up on ballots at the end of 10-year terms for yes-or-no retention votes. No one can run against appellate and supreme court judges – only against circuit court judges.

**How did judges get on the ballot?**

Former governor Larry Hogan appointed Donnell Turner September 2, 2022, and Darren Johnson and Stenise Rolle on January 9, 2023. Governor Wes Moore appointed Cheri Simpkins November 21, 2023.

Michael Sheehan is the only candidate who is not currently a judge and wasn't appointed by a governor. He is running as a challenger.

**How to vote**

Polls will be open on May 14 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early voting is available May 2 through May 9 at early voting centers.

Any voter may vote by mail; requests for mail-in ballots, for those not already on the permanent mail-in voter list, must be submitted May 10. To check your registration and request a mail-in ballot, go to [tinyurl.com/58kebv8h](http://tinyurl.com/58kebv8h).

Kit Slack is the Executive Director of Streetcar Suburbs Publishing. The publishing group includes three monthly newspapers along the Route One corridor, the Hyattsville Life & Times, the College Park Here & Now and The Laurel Independent, as well as the website Streetcar Suburbs News. This article is reprinted with permission.



Native iris cristata, dwarf crested iris

PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK

**THE RUDES ABIDE**  
A Rude Mechanicals One-Act Festival  
In Residence at the Greenbelt Arts Center  
123 Centerway, Greenbelt MD  
Fri & Sat 8pm May 10-May 18  
Masked Matinee Sun 2pm May 12  
[greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)  
[rudemechanicals.com](http://rudemechanicals.com)

**A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**  
Last weekend!  
APRIL 12 – MAY 4  
Fri + Sat (8pm)  
Sun (2pm)

Book by **TERRENCE MCNALLY**, Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**, lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**, and based on the film "A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE." Directed by Julia Arbutus, produced by Greenbelt Arts Center, musical direction by Johanna Alonso.

A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

**Friends of Patuxent's WILD**

**BEE & FLOWER FESTIVAL**  
Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
at the National Wildlife Visitor Center  
Patuxent Research Refuge's South Tract  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708

Native Bee & Plant talks  
Native Plants - free & for sale  
Discovery crafts  
Nature Walks  
Fun for all ages

Discover new ways to connect with nature

**Election**

# U.S. House of Representatives Maryland District 4 Candidates

The Republican candidate, George McDermott is running unopposed.

Four Democratic candidates are running.

**Joseph Gomes**  
No Response

**Glenn Ivey, age 63**  
Day job: Congressman, representing Maryland's Fourth Congressional District



**Glenn Ivey**

Community involvement: Cheverly soccer coach 1997, Prince George's County state's attorney 2003-11, member of Congress 2023-present

**Emmett Johnson, age 44**  
Day job: I am the principal agent and owner of Mid Atlantic Insurance Financial. Prior to that, I played professional football after my college career at Virginia Tech.



**Emmett Johnson**

Community involvement: I have been coaching kids' athletics, including flag football and track.

**Gabriel Njinimbot, age 50**  
Day job: Entrepreneur and author  
Community involvement: president of Bali Cultural Association-U.S.A., 7 years; participated in elections in the City of Laurel; door knocking and phone banking for Progressive Maryland



**Gabriel Njinimbot**

*Streetcar Suburbs News compiled information from the candidates, which is printed here with permission.*

- Photos courtesy Streetcar Suburbs Publishing

# Life-Threatening Dangers of Radon: Awareness, Detection, Mitigation

by Steven Mirsky

High levels of radon have been found in some homes in Maryland and specifically in Prince George's County. Long-term exposure to high concentrations of this radioactive gas in the home can cause lung cancer, but it can be easily detected. If measured above acceptable levels, effective permanent mitigation is accomplished with a relatively simple system.

Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless radioactive gas that is emitted as a decay product from deposits of underground uranium. Uranium is a naturally occurring element that has existed as long as the Earth. Radon was first discovered by scientists in 1900 but was not identified as a danger until 1984 when a worker at a nuclear power plant under construction in Pennsylvania set off a radiation detector even though there was nothing radioactive at the plant. The EPA identifies radon as a carcinogen responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year, which is more than for second-hand smoke.

Although colorless and odorless, radon can be detected by easily obtained devices: radon detectors, radon monitors or radon alarms. A one-time-use disposable mail-in radon detector test kit costs less than \$20. Alternatively, an electronic digital continuous radon monitor can be purchased for between \$100 and \$200 from online retailers or large electronics or hardware stores.

If the radon level in a home is below the EPA limit of 4 picocuries per liter, there is no recom-

The Greenbelt Public Safety Advisory Committee will be sponsoring interactive presentations later this year on radon, carbon monoxide and preparation for severe weather events.

mended action. If it exceeds the limit, then a radon mitigation system should be installed. Although it sounds fancy, these systems are simply a vertical pipe of PVC or other material that is embedded through the floor of the basement or slab at the bottom of the home, routed up through the roof to the outside and equipped with a constantly running small blower fan inside the pipe. This system continuously draws air from below the home where the radon is being generated and exhausts it outside. The resulting lower pressure underground keeps the radon from entering the home and instead routes it to the atmosphere, where it would normally end up if the home were not there. After installation and operation, a follow-up radon measurement will show that the concentration has dropped below the EPA limit.

*Steve Mirsky is a nuclear engineer with advanced knowledge of radon and carbon monoxide.*



**LEGAL NOTICES**

## Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

**Environmental Assessment for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) Traffic and Utilities Mitigation Prince George's County, Maryland**

**All Interested Parties:** The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 United States Code Section 4321 *et seq.*), herein after known as NEPA, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations that implement NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500 to 1508). NEPA requires that federal agencies consider the potential environmental consequences of proposed and alternative federal actions in their decision-making process.

The Proposed Action consists of traffic and utilities mitigation activities associated with the construction of a replacement currency production facility (CPF) at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The construction and operation of the replacement CPF was addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Construction and Operation of a CPF in the National Capital Region, and the signed Record of Decision was dated 8 October 2021. The Proposed Action for this supplemental EA includes various improvements to the roadways and seven (7) intersections identified in the EIS as requiring mitigation in order to minimize delays and reduce queue lengths. It also includes utility infrastructure improvements required to accommodate the replacement CPF and additional improvements for the CPF that are outside of the limits of disturbance identified in the EIS. This EA will evaluate the environmental consequences, or lack thereof, that may occur as a result of the Proposed Action and will be prepared in accordance with the NEPA.

The draft EA is available for review and comment for 30 days from publication of this notice. The document can be viewed on the BEP Replacement CPF project website at: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/BEP/>. Hard copies of the document can be reviewed at the Prince George's County Public Library, Beltsville Branch and Greenbelt Branch, as well as the Vansville Community Center, during open hours throughout the 30-day public comment period. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration within 30 days from publication of this notice to: ATTN: BEP EA, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District Planning Division, 2 Hopkins Plaza, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201; or send via e-mail to: [BEP-Updates@usace.army.mil](mailto:BEP-Updates@usace.army.mil).

On May 13, 2024, BEP will host an in-person public meeting regarding the Draft EA, and invites your participation. The public meeting is scheduled from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm and will be located at the Log Lodge on BARC at 302 Log Lodge Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705. Verbal or written comments on the draft EA will be accepted during the public meeting.

Requests for a printed or electronic copy of the Draft EA should also be sent to the email or postal address provided above. In the event the public meeting needs to be postponed, a message will be posted on the BEP Replacement CPF project website above, and the meeting will instead be held on May 14, 2024 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the Log Lodge.

## Aviso de disponibilidad del proyecto de evaluación ambiental

**Evaluación medioambiental para la mitigación del tráfico y los servicios públicos de la Oficina de Grabado e Impresión del condado de Prince George, Maryland**

**A todas las partes interesadas:** La Oficina de Grabado e Impresión (BEP, por sus siglas en inglés) ha preparado un proyecto de evaluación ambiental (EA) de conformidad con la Ley de política ambiental nacional de 1969 (sección 4321 y *concordantes* del título 42 del Código de los Estados Unidos), en adelante denominada NEPA, y los reglamentos del Consejo de Calidad Ambiental (CEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) que regulan la NEPA (partes 1500 a 1508 del título 40 del Código de Regulaciones Federales). La NEPA exige que las agencias federales consideren las posibles consecuencias ambientales de las iniciativas federales propuestas y alternativas en su proceso de toma de decisiones.

La iniciativa propuesta comprende actividades de mitigación del tráfico y los servicios públicos asociadas a la construcción de una instalación de producción de moneda (CPF, por sus siglas en inglés) de reemplazo en el Centro de Investigación Agrícola de Beltsville (BARC, por sus siglas en inglés). La construcción y operación de la CPF de reemplazo se abordó en la declaración de impacto ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) definitiva para la construcción y operación de una CPF en la región de la capital nacional, y el acta de decisiones firmada tenía fecha 8 de octubre de 2021. La acción propuesta para esta EA complementaria incluye varias mejoras a las carreteras y siete (7) intersecciones que, según la EIS, requieren mitigación para minimizar las demoras y reducir la longitud de las colas. También incluye mejoras en la infraestructura de servicios públicos necesarias para colocar la CPF de reemplazo y realizar mejoras adicionales para la CPF que están fuera de los límites de perturbación identificados en la EIS. En esta EA se evaluará la presencia o ausencia de las consecuencias ambientales que podrían producirse a raíz de la iniciativa propuesta. La EA se preparará de acuerdo con la NEPA.

El proyecto de EA está disponible para revisión y comentarios durante 30 días a partir de la publicación de este aviso. El documento se puede consultar en el sitio web del proyecto CPF de reemplazo de la BEP: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/BEP/>. Se puede consultar la versión impresa del documento en la Biblioteca Pública del condado de Prince George, en las sucursales de Beltsville y Greenbelt, así como en el Centro Comunitario de Vansville, en horario de atención al público durante los 30 días del período de comentarios públicos. Se invita a las partes interesadas a presentar observaciones por escrito para su consideración en un plazo de 30 días a partir de la publicación de este anuncio. Podrá dirigirlas a la siguiente dirección: ATENCIÓN: BEP EA, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District Planning Division, 2 Hopkins Plaza, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201; o se pueden enviar por correo electrónico a [BEP-Updates@usace.army.mil](mailto:BEP-Updates@usace.army.mil).

El 13 de mayo de 2024, la BEP organizará una reunión pública presencial para abordar el proyecto de EA. Se los invita a participar. La reunión pública se realizará de 6:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m. en la cabaña [Log Lodge] del BARC en 302 Log Lodge Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705. Durante la reunión pública se aceptarán comentarios verbales o por escrito sobre el proyecto de EA.

Las solicitudes de una copia impresa o electrónica del proyecto de EA también deben enviarse a la dirección postal o de correo electrónico proporcionada anteriormente. En caso de que sea necesario posponer la reunión pública, se publicará un mensaje en el sitio web del proyecto de CPF de reemplazo de la BEP mencionado anteriormente y la reunión se llevará a cabo el 14 de mayo de 2024 de 6:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m. en la cabaña.

# 2024 GHI Election: May 9-10

## Check your Email!

The annual membership meeting returns to the Community Center Gym, as before the pandemic. You must be on-site to participate.

GHI has contracted a new vendor, Simply Voting, to host this year's election. Simply Voting will send emails to GHI member addresses on file with a link to your ballot.

Check your inbox(es) and spam folders for a message by May 2 from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com).

If you plan to vote online and don't receive this email, you should update your email address by contacting GHI Member Services as soon as possible. Regardless, all members can vote in person on-site Thursday after the annual meeting, or Friday 4-8pm at the GHI Office.

Path	Prerequisite	Where & When	Method
<b>1. Absentee</b>	Cast ballot for Board & Audit Committee before annual meeting	<b>GHI Office</b> During office hours May 3, 6, or 7	Submit absentee ballot application at GHI Office, then immediately vote on paper ballot
<b>2. Online</b>	Current email address must be on file with GHI	<b>Simply Voting website</b> After annual meeting Thursday May 9 until 8pm Friday May 10	Secure personalized link from Simply Voting on your smartphone, tablet, or computer
<b>3. Annual Meeting</b>	Not already voted	<b>Community Center</b> Immediately after annual meeting	In-person supported online voting
<b>4. In Person at GHI</b>	Not already voted	<b>GHI Office</b> 4-8pm Friday May 10	In-person supported online voting

## Choose your path to vote!

Sign-in for the May 9 annual membership meeting opens at 7:00pm in the Community Center Gym. Members must be in-person to participate. The election for Board and Audit Committee begins when the meeting goes into recess. Members can vote online or in-person.

Please see the official meeting announcement mailed to every member for more information.



## Board of Directors

(4 of 9 positions up for election for 2-year terms)

### Stefan Brodd

2 Court Westway

I have been a member of GHI since 1999, and a resident of Greenbelt since 1981. I was elected to the Board of Directors in 2016, serving first as Vice-President, and as President since November of 2020. I have chaired, served as Board liaison, or served as a member on a number of committees and task forces, including Member Outreach, Legislative and Government Affairs, Zoning, Transition, and Maglev. Professionally I am a musician serving two American and three Nordic churches, and collaborating with my husband Christopher Cherry in musical programs for the City of Greenbelt and other area organizations; in a previous career I worked at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center in software development and data analysis. I have served as a board member and volunteer for several non-profit organizations. I am committed to cooperative ideals and, in particular, to their living embodiment in GHI.

### Audrey Donohue

42 Court Ridge

Audrey Donohue joined the GHI Cooperative Community in January 2024. She is a 200-hour certified yoga teacher, avid hiker, and loyal dog mom to two pups finally aging out of their adolescence. Audrey holds a Bachelor of Science in journalism and public health and will earn her master's in public health, program design, monitoring, and evaluation in August 2024.

Audrey is seeking a position on the GHI Board of Directors to help sustain the co-op and its values into 2026. Previously, Audrey completed a two-year term on the Board of Directors for the Society of American Military

Engineers Blue Ridge Post as the Relationships and Recognition Chair and both established and chaired a corporate diversity and inclusion committee for 200+ employees.

Audrey founded her career on a legacy of community service and international citizenship including time spent volunteering with Peace Corps Benin and living in Cairo, Egypt as a third culture kid. Audrey brings seven years of management consultancy and international diplomacy experience; helping manage multilateral projects for the U.S. Department of State, USAID, USACE, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation with a totaling value greater than \$1.5B. She has worked across sectors, including resource management, health, policy and system strengthening, infrastructure, journalism and media, and research and development.

Audrey believes that a successful co-op is built on civic participation, social inclusion, equitable representation, and accountability in management. If elected, Audrey will embody these principles in her tenure on the board.

### Ed James

56 Court Crescent

Ed has been an active GHI member since 1977. He has been a Director for 18 years and Secretary for 16 years. He serves on the Buildings, Bicycle, Investment, Member Outreach, Finance, and Woodlands Committees and on the Sustainability Subcommittee. He also serves as Treasurer (and co-founder) of the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation.

Ed has previously served as GHI Treasurer and on the GHI Audit Committee, been a Greenbelt Jaycees Treasurer, Greenbelt CPR instructor, Greenbelt Internet Access Cooperative Director (co-founder), New Deal Cafe Director and Audit Committee member, a member of Green ACES, an Old Greenbelt Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair (co-founder), and more recently the President of

the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union Board. He has also acted as a fiscal agent (via the GCDC) for numerous GHI entities, such as the Greenbelt Theatre, the Maker Space, the Greenbelt News Review, the City of Greenbelt, and the Greenbelt Business Alliance.

His education includes degrees in Physics, Biochemistry, Zoology, and Computer Science. His professional experience includes Martin Marietta Labs, the International Monetary Fund, Sprint, the University of Maryland, EPA, NASA, and DOT. He retired early as a Software Engineer.

Ed was heavily involved with the recent HIP project by working on the test and production portions of HIP. Ed is involved with the planning of upcoming programs, such as the proposed WSSC pipe replacement program, and future replacement programs for some electrical and plumbing systems. Ed works to keep GHI on solid footing financially, physically, and culturally.

### Debbie McKinley

55 Court Ridge

My husband and I have lived in GHI since 2009. We very much enjoy the community spirit in GHI as well as its garden-like setting. I am currently serving on the Board of Directors as the Vice President. I am also the Chair of the Stormwater Management Subcommittee and Member Handbook and Board Policies Standardization Task Force. I also serve as the Board Liaison for the Buildings Committee.

My education and career are in environmental engineering. My focus while on the Board of Directors has been on building resiliency within GHI to climate change as well as standardizing the Member Handbook and Board policies to make them easier to use. I believe my skills and attention to detail have made me a valuable member of the Board of Directors and I would like to continue my service for another 2-year term.

I am excited by the new energy brought to the senior management team at GHI and wish to continue working in this invigorated environment. I hope you are pleased with my performance on the Board of Directors to date and will support my reelection to another term.

### James Whipple

14 Court Hillside

Almost immediately after moving to GHI, I ran for the board of directors because I knew what I stand for benefits all of GHI, even Greenbelt as a whole. I knew that keeping to Greenbelt's founding values while adapting to the modern age is the right path for all of us. Those values of cooperation between neighbors and reinforcing community spirit are core to my philosophy as a member of the board of directors. Now that I've completed my first term as a board of directors, and ran for city council, I am even more informed, even more prepared, to continue the work needed to guide GHI into the future.

I grew up in Prince Georges' County, regularly came to Greenbelt in my youth, studied Engineering at the nearby University of Maryland College Park. I am fully devoted to improving our community through principles of engineering and urban development. I have participated and led volunteer efforts to build a sense of community and, more importantly, help our most vulnerable neighbors. Apart from board, I currently serve as minute taker for the Handbook Task Force and as chair of the LGAC to maintain GHI's seat at the legislative tables.

My plans are based on the urban development lessons that we can see from comparable communities worldwide, like in Europe and Japan. These lessons we can incorporate into our own community and make them full-blooded American, to make people feel connected again to their neighbors, and transform our way of life.

### Community Groups Gather Saturday, May 4

The Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition is hosting a meeting at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Saturday, May 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. to connect various community action groups. Those who want to connect with like-minded individuals who are actively working toward positive change in Greenbelt, whether in environmental conservation, social justice, education reform or any other heartfelt cause won't want to miss out on this event.

From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., a representative from each group will speak for three minutes about the work they're doing. It's an opportunity to showcase each initiative, connect with potential collaborators and gain support for these activities.

Skill-sharing workshops will take place between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a skill to share. The Peace & Justice Coalition will share advice about how to hold successful hybrid Zoom meetings. For more information, contact Daniel Thies at [thies.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:thies.daniel@gmail.com).

### U.S. Route 1 Night Work, Lane Closures

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will begin final paving this week on U.S. 1 (Baltimore Avenue) between Campus Drive and Md. 193 (University Boulevard) in College Park. The work will be completed in early June, weather permitting. Drivers are asked to stay alert, stay focused and be aware of reduced speed limits and changing driving patterns in the work zone. Slow down and move over in work zones. It's the law. Motorists in need may dial #77 on their mobile devices for assistance. Customers who have questions may call the SHA District 3 Office at 301-513-7300 or toll-free at 1-800-749-0737.

### Final Week for Quilts At Federal Courthouse

The exhibit, Quilts Across Maryland, currently on display at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse will end Wednesday, 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.

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 quilts 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.

### 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.

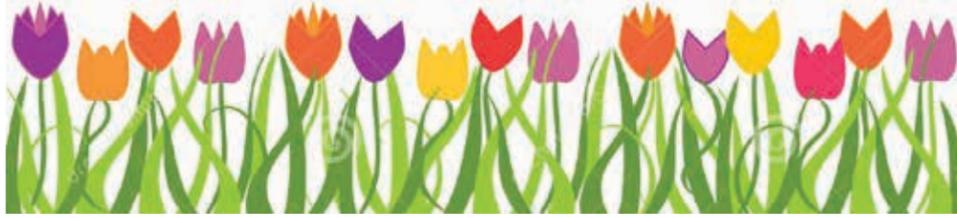
### Mishkan Torah to Host Open House, May 19

Mishkan Toran invites the community to join them for a Lag B'Omer Family Celebration and Open House on Sunday, May 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. Enjoy a klezmer concert with renowned band Lox & Vodka at 3 p.m., family-friendly crafts and games, a community nosh table, music and dancing. This is a chance to meet and learn about this welcoming, inclusive Jewish community. Learn more on their website at [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org). The event is free to attend, but RSVPs are requested on the website.

### Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library, maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

To donate books, email [friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com). Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk.



## Candidates for GHI Election (continued)

### Audit Committee

(All 3 positions up for election for 1-year terms.)

#### Zach Conron

65 Court Ridge

I am running for Audit Committee, because I love GHI and always feel most fulfilled in life when I am serving others. My wife Sarah and I moved to Greenbelt in 2018 because we love the close and collaborative nature of the community. We also love living next to all the things that keep Greenbelt "green", especially the preserved woods. I have been on the Woodlands Committee for several years now focusing on invasive removal and the restoration of native ecology. I have also served for almost a year on the GHI Audit Committee where we asked questions and offered suggestions to improve or simply clarify the decisions of the Board of Directors. I believe in GHI's mission and will continue to do my best to serve the interests of the whole membership as well as future generations in our community. Please vote for me for Audit Committee in 2024!

#### Stephen Holland

56 Court Ridge

I moved to Greenbelt 21 years ago and have lived in GHI for most of those years. I was attracted to GHI's walkability, green spaces, and strong sense of community. I was also impressed by its tradition of long-term planning. Over the years, I have served on GHI's Board of Directors and various committees and task forces. I currently serve

on the Finance Committee, which has given me insight into GHI's budget process and some of the financial challenges we will face when we replace our plumbing infrastructure during the next two decades. In the larger Greenbelt community, I was treasurer of the Greenbelt Soccer Alliance for several years and am active in local efforts to improve public transit, an essential service if GHI intends to pursue aging-in-place plans for our members. During the day, I work at NASA/Goddard as a scientist and programmer. My job involves analyzing large, complex datasets and finding practical solutions to unexpected problems. I would like the opportunity to apply these skills to help our cooperative by serving on the Audit Committee.

#### Bill Jones

15 Court Ridge

Bill Jones is a retired math and computer science professor. He moved to GHI with his wife Ginny in 2004. He was on the GHI Board for ten years, 2011–2021, and is currently Chair of the GHI Audit Committee. He has also served for 16 years on the GHI Finance Committee and Investment Committee. This means that he brings a lot of historical knowledge to the Audit Committee, as well as his training in Actuarial Science. His primary interest is in helping maintain the long-term financial stability of GHI, so future generations have the opportunity to live here.

He has been involved in many volunteer activities in Greenbelt, such as helping people fill out their income tax forms through VITA, tutoring first graders in reading at Greenbelt Elementary,

delivering Meals On Wheels locally, and acting in plays at the Greenbelt Arts Center. Currently he is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Greenbelt Co-op Grocery and is Chair of the Membership Committee of the New Deal Cafe Co-op. He is also Treasurer of the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee, which brings refugee families to Greenbelt and supports them until they can become self-sufficient.

### Nominations & Elections Committee

(All 5 positions up for election for 1-year terms)

#### Dan Gillotte

10 Court Hillside

Dan Gillotte is a long time cooperator having first become a member of a food co-op in Maine in 1992. Dan has been the manager of food co-ops since 1998 and moved here (and became a member of GHI) spring 2020. Dan has served on numerous boards over the years including:

- National Co-op Grocers (6 years total and 3 years as board chair)
- Co-op Grocers Information Network (7 years total, as president for 5 years)
- AHB Community School (3 years total, as chair for one year)
- Austin Independent Business Alliance (for more than a decade as a founding member)

Dan has worked for boards for his whole adult life and understands the importance of board perpetuation

for successful organizations. He loves living in this cooperative community of GHI and Greenbelt and is happy to serve if elected on the small but mighty nominations committee.

#### Theresa R. Henderson

1 Court Laurel Hill

Theresa was born and raised in the Washington, D.C. area. She has lived in GHI since 1983. She currently enjoys living on Laurel Hill Rd. with her husband Steve, their adult child Maddy, their two cats and a bird. She is currently employed at the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center as a Support Scientist/Biochemist. She is presently serving on the Nominations and Elections Committee for her tenth term and has been delighted to work with the other committee members, the GHI Board and the GHI staff. She would be honored to serve this cooperative on this committee for another term

#### Tom Jones

1 Court Woodland

Tom has served on Nominations & Elections for 10 years, including the past 9 years as chair. Tom grew up on Northway and has been a GHI member since 1997. His grandparents moved to 11 Court Southway in May 1942.

Tom has a Physics degree from New Mexico Tech and an MBA from Loyola University Maryland. He works as a Software Technical Program Manager at the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory (CATT Lab) within the Civil Engineering department, managing the nations transportation data.

In 2010, Tom chaired the GHI Finance Report Subcommittee that drafted revisions to make the annual report easier to understand. In 2011, he chaired the GHI website redesign committee, and later served on the GHI Information Technology task force. In 2021, Tom and his wife Johanna proposed comprehensive GHI permit reform.

With other Greenbelt-founded cooperatives, Tom has served on the News Review Board of Directors since 2014. In prior years, he served on the New Deal Café Audit Committee for 5 years and the Rapidan Camps Board of Directors for 22 years, including 15 years as president.

Tom also manages the website and photography team for the Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race.

#### Joe Ralbovsky

62 Court Ridge

Joe Ralbovsky is 70% water.

#### Luisa Robles

32 Court Ridge

I have lived in GHI since the spring of 2001 (22 years!).

I bumped into GHI while pursuing my PhD at UMD. I came to see a movie at the theater and fell in love with the Roosevelt Center, and the layout and walkability of GHI. I knew several people that studied at UMD and lived in Old Greenbelt. My degree was in environmental sciences and sustainable development and I am now the Sustainability Coordinator for the City. I have served on the Board of Directors and the Woodlands Committee for GHI, and on the Forest Preserve Advisory Board for the City.

# SHOOTINGS continued from page 1

shootings are still unknown at this time.

Bowers spoke to gathered reporters, alongside members of law enforcement, including Prince George's County Sheriff John Carr, U.S. Marshal for the State of Maryland Mathew Silverman and Greenbelt officials, including City Manager Josué Salmerón, Mayor Emmett Jordan and City Councilmembers Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompei, Silke Pope and Kristen Weaver. Bowers praised the Greenbelt Police Department Criminal Investigative Unit for tireless efforts on the case over the past 10 days. He also thanked the U.S. Marshals Joint Fugitive Task Force, who made the arrests, as well as Prince George's County Police, Maryland State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation who all cooperated to identify the alleged shooters.

The five teenagers who were wounded in the shooting have all recovered enough to be released and are now home from the hospital.

Jordan acknowledged the Greenbelt Police Department for their expert medical care helping save the lives of the victims until ambulances could arrive.

Jordan praised the law enforcement officers who sprang into action to handle the crisis and went on to ask two questions that are on the minds of Greenbelters: "What is going on with truancy in the schools? People coming together and being able to converge ... along with the county, state and nation, we're grappling with this problem. We need to come to grips on how to deal with these large spontaneous gatherings. And what is a 14-year-old and a 16-year-old doing with a gun?" Braveboy noted that truancy levels in the county



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

**Bryce Rusk, one of the five Greenbelt park rangers, points to the mobile camera now in Schrom Hills Park. "We're keeping an eye on the parks as always," he told the News Review.**

are at around 30 percent and mentioned the county's response to truancy and working with parents, but others present noted that county school policies determine how schools and police officers can respond to truancy.

Salmerón said the city would speed up safety enhancements, including cameras and license plate readers. He spoke of safety as a community effort not solely the responsibility of law enforcement, requiring an investment in social services, too. "Remember, hurt people hurt people," said Salmerón.

At a public safety budget worksession scheduled for Monday, April 29, council was to consider how many cameras and license plate readers might be needed in public spaces around the city. A large mobile camera trailer is currently posted near the pavilion at Schrom Hills Park. Greenbelt Police video footage from dash and body cameras is available on the police web-

site for public viewing, but Bowers indicated that reports from witnesses were key in identifying and apprehending the suspects, whereas the camera footage highlights the speed of police response in reaching the victims and treating them for gunshot wounds.

All 53 of Greenbelt's police officers receive emergency medical training annually on how to use Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) kits. Speedy application of trauma dressings and wound seals by officers on the scene helped save the lives of those who were shot.

Anyone with information or video of the Schrom Hills event that could aid the investigation is urged to call the police at 301-474-7200 or email [CRIMETIPS@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:CRIMETIPS@greenbeltmd.gov).

## Greenbelt Chess Club

The Greenbelt Chess Club meets on the second, third and fourth Tuesday of the month, May 14, 21 and 28. The meetings take place in the Greenbelt Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels.



## Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings and welcomes new members, especially string players. For more information, visit [GreenbeltOrchestra.org](http://GreenbeltOrchestra.org).



## PORCH Food Pickup

Greenbelt PORCH collects donations of nonperishables and hygiene products and brings them to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry. Donations must be placed by front doors in containers marked RUAQ or PORCH visible from the street. The pantry cannot accept open containers or food that has expired.

Sunday, May 12, by 11 a.m. for 1 to 8 Courts Ridge Road, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent Road and 1 to 2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, May 18, by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, May 19, by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com) by noon on May 19 and he will come to your porch.

Monday, May 20 by 10:30 a.m. for Pinnacle Property Apartments.

Sunday, May 26, after 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road and by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome; especially needed are coordinators in Greenbelt East. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, email Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com).

## Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club Plant Sale

The annual Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club Plant Sale will take place Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Roosevelt Center parking lot. Roaming Stone will be sharpening tools and knives for a fee. Reel mower blade sharpening will not be available. The sale will take place rain or shine.

## May 15 Deadline for SHA Recreational Trails Grants

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) is accepting applications for two grant programs designed to expand bicycle and walking opportunities throughout the state. Applications for both the Transportation Alternatives Program and the Recreational Trails Program are being accepted through Wednesday, May 15.

Transportation Alternatives Program projects enhance mobility and accessibility including bike and pedestrian facilities, restoration of historic transportation buildings and conversion of abandoned railway corridors to pedestrian trails. The Recreational Trails Program benefits construction, enhancement, repair and maintenance of land- and water-based recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and nonmotorized use.

These programs are funded by the Federal Highway Administration and awards are administered by SHA. Funding may be requested for up to 80 percent of a project's reimbursable costs. The remaining 20 percent or more is the responsibility of the applicants to fund through a local match.

SHA has a single application for both programs, which streamlines the process and helps determine the best potential funding source for each proposal. Local governments, nonprofits, government-sponsored community groups, regional transportation or transit authorities, school districts and education agencies, natural resource or public land agencies and tribal governments are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. May 15. For more information on the process and eligibility criteria, visit <https://onestop.md.gov/forms/mdot-tap-rtp-fy25>.



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**MOTHER'S DAY**

**GET READY FOR MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 12**

# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 22 - 29, 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](mailto:pd@greenbeltnmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one incident with Child Protective Services, one death, two domestic disputes and five mental health diversions including one overdose. One missing person case was resolved. Police provided assistance in two cases on how to take legal action and how to file charges.

**Robberies**

On April 24 at 6:48 p.m. near 9126 Springhill Court, a man was punched multiple times and his belongings were stolen by two men who were located by police.

On April 24 at 6:54 p.m. near 6150 Springhill Terrace, while a man was getting out of his truck, three men came from behind, assaulted him, and stole his phone and money. He had minor injuries.

On April 26 at 8:04 p.m. near 9234 Springhill Lane, a masked man entered a restaurant through the rear door, produced a handgun, demanded money and left on foot. Security cameras recorded the incident.

On April 28 at 8:02 p.m. near 9102 Springhill Lane, two young men demanded money from a man and when he resisted, they pushed him to the ground and struck him several times. He went to a hospital to receive treatment for his injuries.

**Armed Person**

On April 23 at 2:28 p.m. near 9121 Springhill Lane, a boy was walking along the sidewalk and saw a group of boys. One pointed a gun at him.

**Assault**

On April 22 at 2:13 a.m. near 5810 Greenbelt Road, a man said he was assaulted by a security guard in a yellow vest. Officers did not find the suspect.

On April 27 at 11:50 p.m. near 7600 Hanover Parkway, a woman said her friend attacked her. She did not show any physical injuries and was given a warrant-advised form.

**Fight**

On April 22 at 8:05 p.m. near 6301 Breezewood Drive, a group was about to fight but they fled when officers arrived.

**DUI**

On April 24 at 11:43 p.m. near 8300 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a vehicle was moving erratically on the wrong side of the road. The vehicle smelled like alcohol; the driver was incoherent and her speech was slurred. She was arrested after field sobriety testing.

**Fraud**

On April 22 near 5803 Cherrywood Terrace, an unauthorized credit card account was opened. On April 22 near 5465 Stream Bank Lane, Social Security numbers were fraudulently used to file taxes and apply for loans. On April 25 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman bought a gift card and gave the information over the phone to a person she believed was a customer service rep. When she checked the balance on her card, it was zero.

**Trespassing**

On April 26 at 9:12 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, mall security asked a banned woman to leave. She was cited for trespassing.

**Theft**

On April 23 at 10:26 a.m. near

550 Crescent Road, a man left his vehicle unlocked and went shopping; upon his return several items were missing from the car. On April 26 at 3:09 p.m. near 226 Lastner Lane, a package delivered by FedEx was stolen off a porch. On April 27 at 10:46 p.m. near 44 Crescent Road, a man's key and building pass were stolen from his bag. On April 28 at 8:11 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a Ring camera recorded a man stealing packages.

**Commercial Theft**

On April 22 near 6100 Greenbelt Road: around 5:19 a.m., two shoplifters were identified using camera footage; at 12:08 a.m., a man involved in several thefts was identified by his driver's license photo, and charges will be filed as part of a theft scheme; at 1:02 p.m., a suspect pushed a cart full of merchandise out of the store without paying; and at 1:11 p.m., a man stole merchandise.

On April 23 near 6100 Greenbelt Road: at 6:51 p.m., a known suspect stole several items, and charges are pending; and at 8:03 p.m., a known subject was reported for multiple thefts; charges were sought.

On April 24 at 11:00 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several game controllers.

On April 25 at 5:57 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was seen leaving a store with a bag of stolen shoes.

On April 27 near 6100 Greenbelt Road: at 12:22 p.m., a repeat shoplifter was arrested after he took items from the store without paying; and at 1:15 p.m., a known shoplifter who concealed items and passed all points of sale was arrested and banned from the property.

On April 27 near 7607 Greenbelt Road: at 12:37 p.m., a man stealing items was stopped, identified, and banned from the store; and at 3:12 p.m., a man and woman stole merchandise and fled in a gray or black sedan.

**Vehicle Crimes  
Stolen Vehicle**

On April 26 near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a 2006 Ford F150 (Md. 9GB8220) was left broken down in the parking lot; upon the owner's return it was gone.

**Attempted Vehicle Theft**

On April 24 at 1:58 a.m. near 5346 N Center Drive, a man was seen in a vehicle, and when police arrived he ran but was captured and arrested.

**Theft from Auto**

On April 22 near 6112 Breezewood Drive, someone broke a vehicle window and stole tools. On April 24 near 6401 Golden Triangle Drive, tags were stolen. On April 28 near 5909 Cherrywood Lane, a vehicle was damaged by a large brick, and money was taken. On April 28 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, money was stolen; a cellphone found in the car will be placed into evidence.

**Vandalism/Damage to Auto**

On April 24 near 6120 Breezewood Drive, a window was broken; near 6202 Springhill Drive, windows and brake lines were vandalized. On April 25 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a large rock broke through a window. On April 27 near 7811 Mandan Road, a sunroof was damaged. On April 28 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a window was broken but nothing appeared to be missing.

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PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

A great blue heron ignores the turtles at the Lake and vice versa.

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**PUBLIC WORKS** continued from page 1

FY25 Proposed Public Works Expenditures in \$thousands		
Dept	Proposed Expenditures	% Change
Administration	1,762.8	1.0%
Equipment Maint.	427.6	8.9%
Street Maint.	1,222.1	1.9%
Street Cleaning	161.5	11.1%
Waste Collection	956.7	2.8%
Cemetery	8.6	48.3%
Roosevelt Center	171.5	3.0%
<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>4,710.8</b>	<b>2.7%</b>

the department's ability to maintain continuity of services.

One major example of this is the indoor pool at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. The pool is not draining properly, according to Kim, leading to failure of the lining of the pool and deterioration of the outside wall. Kim said the department is currently doing an engineering study and the cost of the repair is not yet incorporated into the budget. The expected extended closure of the pool will also reduce pool revenues.

**Other Challenges**

The department also needs to invest in budget lines affecting training and education to offset the loss of institutional knowledge driven by retirements and organizational changes, Kim noted.

Increasing technology, he said, is affecting many aspects of the department's operations from timekeeping to maintaining equipment, vehicles and tools. "To remain current and efficient, it's essential that our workforce is equipped with the necessary expertise to adapt to these technological advancements," he wrote.

**Goals**

Like most other city departments, Public Works is managing a number of American Rescue Plan Act funded projects and is working to ensure all funds are encumbered by the deadline. Other objectives include: 1) reviewing how the department is organized with the possible retirement of several "deep-rooted" employees, 2) expanding community knowledge and participation in recycling, 3) incorporating additional alternative fuel vehicles into the citywide fleet and 4) reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Sustainability**

Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles reported that the curbside composting collection pilot is "going great." There will be a ribbon-cutting event for the new composting facility at Trinity Church on May 3. The contractor reports that Greenbelt's collection is the cleanest among the communities participating in the pilot with the main contaminant being glossy paper, such as popcorn bags or ice cream containers. On average, 90 percent of participants are setting out their compostables each time.

There are currently 200 participants. The city will be seeking to recruit 200 more. Once the pilot ends in about 16 months, the city will need to consider whether to offer the program as a city service and at what cost.

Robles said that the solar farm

should begin operating in the last quarter of calendar 2024. The farm is in Oxon Hill near the border with the District of Columbia.

**Waste Collection**

Waste collection service fees and other revenue were budgeted to fall short of expenditures by \$181,700 in the current fiscal year and are projected to fall short by \$207,800 in FY25. This compares to a shortfall of \$50,582 in FY22. Some shortfall is expected as it reflects materials discarded by the city. But Councilmember Kristen Weaver noted that the shortfall is consistently increasing and that the fees may need to go up at some point.

**Connection**

For the current fiscal year, the budget anticipated rider fares to cover 5 percent of the service's cost. It is now estimated that fares will cover 4 percent. Salmerón's FY25 budget calls for fares to cover 3.5 percent of costs. Kim said the service is generally fully booked with most riders being elderly or needing rides to medical appointments. Seniors pay \$1 per ride while other riders pay \$2.

**Animal Shelter**

The existing shelter building is over 20 years old, and Kim said it is no longer feasible to repair it. Instead he recommends replacing it using the capital projects fund.

**Cherrywood**

Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby said that the Cherrywood Complete Streets project has been deferred until the schedule of work related to the FBI building is known.

**Toastmasters Meet**

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

**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.

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

# FY25 General Gov't Budget Discussed by Council, Staff

by Diane Oberg

The General Government budget accounts for cross-departmental management functions of city government with components including city council; the city manager's office, city clerk, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) staff and grants coordinator; economic development; finance; human resources (HR); information technology (IT); and public information office (PIO). The Greenbelt City Council met with City Manager Josué Salmerón and his staff on March 28 to discuss his proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 (FY25), which begins July 1.

**Overview**

Salmerón proposes total general fund expenditures of \$5.1 million, up 4.4 percent from the current year budget (\$4.9 million) – see table for details. The largest proposed change requests are HR (up 9.7 percent) and Community Promotion (up 12.33 percent). The Public Officers category (council activities funds) is unchanged. The Municipal Building account will be discussed at the worksession on the Public Works budget.

Staffing is flat with the manager's executive assistant position deleted and a lower-graded constituent services position added, both in the city manager's office.

**Armory**

One item not yet in the budget is for the Greenbelt Armory. Although the city has not yet received the deed, Salmerón noted that the city has recently started paying the utility bills. The city has requested funding from a state bond bill but also has set aside \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a feasibility study.

**ARPA Projects**

Several multi-departmental efforts are underway or planned. These include managing and programming ARPA projects to ensure that all approved projects are encumbered by the federal deadline of December 2024. This became a little heavier lift as Economic Development Coordinator Kevin Simpson, who has been overseeing many of the ARPA grants, recently resigned for personal reasons.

**Automation**

Another major effort is to more fully automate city records. City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon reported that the finance system

FY25 Proposed General Government Expenditures in \$thousands		
Dept	Proposed	% Change
Council	229.7	0.0%
Administration	1,249.8	4.4%
Economic Dev.	219.1	-0.5%
Elections	0.0	-100.0%
HR	545.2	9.7%
Finance	956.3	2.5%
IT	1,001.2	3.5%
Legal Counsel	185.0	0.0%
Municipal Building	167.3	49.1%
Community Prom.	483.3	12.3%
Public Officers	71.7	0.0%
<b>Total Gen. Govt.</b>	<b>5,108.6</b>	<b>3.8%</b>

implementation is nearly complete. The city had hoped that other departments would be able to work with the same vendor, but most department heads do

not feel that the software meets their needs. Gaymon plans to have the contractor come out and

See **BUDGET**, page 13



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# BUDGET continued from page 12

see if there is a way to integrate their needs into the system. HR Director Dawane Martinez says they have a vendor under review to provide an HR information system that will be able to feed information to the finance system.

### City Code

The city clerk's office will spearhead an effort to assess and update the city code and charter, involving a committee of legal experts, community stakeholders and relevant departments. The goal is to "create a legal framework that promotes transparency, fairness and effective governance." Although the council budget has a metric showing no charter amendments in FY25, Salmerón says he has a draft proposal for filling council vacancies reflecting the concerns of residents, council and staff that he has not yet presented to council.

The city is reviewing a software package to improve access to the city code, in place of the current text file on the website.

### Website

The city's contract with its website contractor expires in FY26. The PIO will be leading an effort to evaluate alternate vendors and assess what the city needs from its website. Salmerón noted that the current website was designed to be "our everything," including records library, streaming service and more. He suggested that this may not be the best approach. Mayor Emmett Jordan called for the website to be searchable and information easy to find.

This work will also include looking at how council provides streaming/video of its meetings. The city recently began streaming meetings on Facebook and YouTube. YouTube, in particular, may be able to replace the Granicus videos, as it does not require viewers to sign in and can provide translation and captioning.

### Other Languages

Work is also underway to provide more city materials in other languages. Public Information Officer Chondria Andrews says her office is using a pool of staffers who are fluent in other languages to translate documents. Andrews reported that, at a recent Four Cities meeting, an option was presented to provide Spanish translation at \$79 per hour.

### Policy Review

Another cross-department project is a review of all city policies. The normal standard is that policies should be reviewed every five years and updated as needed. Salmerón noted that most of the existing HR policies date from 1972. However, with limited staff, some of this work could be slow. Martinez has already implemented a number of new policies and is working on a review of all HR policies.

### Performance Measures

The budget document provides performance measures and objectives for each of the organizational units. In reviewing the measures for the city manager's office, Councilmember

Kristen Weaver, somewhat jocularly, suggested that "number of meetings held" may not be the best metric. Salmerón agreed to seek other metrics for FY26. (This same metric appears in the council budget.)

### Other Goals

The budget document lays out objectives for each of its organizational units. These goals include:

- Developing a DEI program and framework and training all city staff.
- Establishing a DEI action team to address findings from the DEI audits.
- Developing records retention policies to preserve historical data and comply with legal requirements.
- Incorporating health and equity goals into grant application processes and guidelines.
- Digitizing the large volume of finance and HR records currently stored on paper.
- Continuing to press the state to provide real property and property abatement reports on a timely basis. However, the city cannot dispute abatements, Jordan said.
- Implementing business retention and expansion strategies.
- Implementing additional network security monitoring.



## City Notes

For Earth Day, Environmental/Sustainability, Park Rangers and 15 volunteers removed four cubic yards of invasive plants and planted 50 native plants, shrubs and trees. Horticulture/Parks removed tree stumps for Pepco's tree plantings and installed a shade structure at Greenbelt Station. Public Works Streets crew installed three crosswalks on Springhill Lane.

Aquatic & Fitness Center staff and Public Works replaced the motor on the baby pool and prepared the outdoor pool for county inspection.

After two cat adoptions, Animal Shelter residents are 10 cats, six kittens, five dogs, a rabbit and a snake.

The Assistant City Manager and Public Information staff met with Luminis Health about American Rescue Plan Act programs. Information Technology met with Comcast to expedite service installation at Schrom Hills.

The Community Center accommodated Scouts, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Community Orchestra, Honk! Situation, Greenwood Village, Astronomy, Unplugged and 21 rentals.

Park Rangers increased patrols in parks, anticipating Senior Skip Day situations.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program's monthly produce distribution served 222 households.



PHOTO COURTESY AMINA KHALIFA

American College for Girls (ACG) grad Amina Khalifa poses with her sister and classmates at Granita Restaurant in Cairo, Egypt. Amina holds open the News Review; her sister Pepsi sits to Amina's right. These women have been friends for 65 years.



PHOTO BY HEATHER ETTUS

Barred owl at Greenbelt Lake

## Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

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

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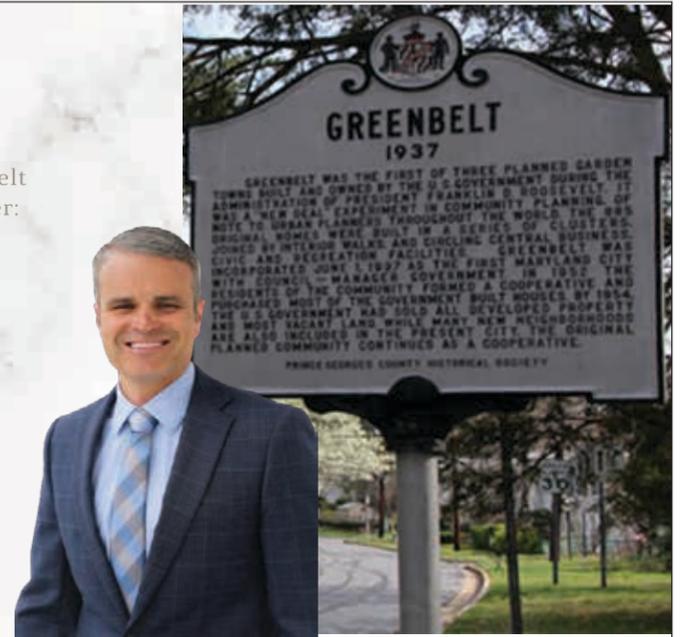
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#1 in Sales for Greenbelt from 2017-2023

PGCPS continued from page 1

**Bell Time Shifts**

The goal of standardizing bell times throughout the district is to improve transportation efficiency and better utilize buses and drivers by eliminating double bus trips on the same route and adding an hour between school start times to ensure safe on-time arrivals, said administrators. (The transportation audit also highlighted the potential to cut 119 vehicles and \$16.9 million annually through bell time optimization.) "This action will create three standardized school start times across the district: 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.," said Coleman. "This is vital because it will balance the number of bus trips needed on each time tier and allow us to better match the available staff with the needed bus trips."

Yet, 90 percent of schools within the district will face either no change or a time change of 15 minutes or less, said Coleman.

Among Greenbelt's schools, Greenbelt Elementary will see the largest change, with a 45-minute shift to an earlier time. The school day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:40 p.m.; Greenbelt Middle School will see a 30-minute change to start later, at 9:30 a.m.; and other Greenbelt schools will shift by 15 minutes.

**Bell Time Concerns**

Coleman explained longer bus routes throughout the county will be broken up. No bus driver will be driving all over the county. It frees up buses to service more than one time tier after completing their shorter first route, said Coleman.

PGCPS is predicting a shortage of drivers for next year. It's part of a national shortage, he said. "You can either hire your way to the number of people you need or you can make the need smaller by becoming more operationally efficient. And so, we're trying to work both sides of that aisle," Coleman said Saturday.

**Relocation of Bus Stops**

Currently, 76 percent of students within the PGCPS district have a bus stop within 0.24 miles of their home, reported the Director of Transportation Keba

Baldwin. According to district policy, PGCPS allows bus stops 1.5 miles away for elementary students and 2.0 miles for middle- and high-school students.

"We propose to extend that walking distance to 0.46 miles on average," said Baldwin. "This adjustment is anticipated to reduce ride times, improving our on-time arrival."

**Reassessment of Walk Zones**

Presently, the transportation audit suggests roughly 22,000 students have a bus stop and are transported by bus within the walk zone of a school. PGCPS plans to conduct a safety audit to determine which bus stops are still needed and which can be removed, said Baldwin.

Greenbelt Councilmember (and mother of two PGCPS students) Jenni Pompi questioned how PGCPS is determining what is a safe and unsafe walking zone. Some Greenbelt students have to cross major roadways with no sidewalks to get to school.

The process of determining safe walking passages will use the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration criteria and local knowledge, said Coleman, who also noted that families can appeal determinations through the Transportation Resolution System.

Coleman highlighted that significant improvements could be made to pedestrian and traffic infrastructure and to address crossing guard shortages – cooperation from the county is needed to address these issues.

"It's not always going to be a person that's going to be able to man each place, but certainly, we can make investments in infrastructure to support what's needed to provide for safe pas-



PHOTO BY JENNI POMPI

PGCPS leaders held an information meeting about upcoming transportation and school changes at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Saturday. From left, Board of Education Representative for District 2 Jonathan Briggs, Director of Transportation Keba Baldwin, COO Charoscar Coleman, Director of Family and Community Partnerships Sheila Jackson and a sign language interpreter

sage," said Coleman.

**Opt-out vs. Opt-in**

"If you don't need a bus, tell us," said Baldwin.

Students who have other transportation arrangements are asked to "opt out" of bus assignments. "By prioritizing the opt-out strategies, we can detect non-riders sooner, thus avoiding redundant routing and promptly realizing advantages through decreased transportation demands among students annually," said Baldwin.

**Phased Changes**

The five changes in Phase 1 will be introduced this upcoming school year.

"The prioritized recommendations that have been tagged are being carried out in a modest, not overly aggressive way," said Baldwin. "But these shifts are still projected to provide significant improvements in their overall performance of transportation."

*Madi Eades is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.*

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# Two Greenbelt Schools Are 2024 PGCPS Math Champions

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) held its fourth in-person Annual Middle Grades Math Meet on April 27 at Walker Mill Middle School. There were 47 teams from 15 middle schools competing this year. Two Greenbelt teams aced their way to medals.

The annual middle school math competition was first held in April 2017, cancelled due to Covid in 2020 and 2021, and in 2022 and 2023 the competition was held online. This year it resumed in person for the first time since 2019.

### Dora Kennedy French Immersion

Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) middle school mathematicians took first place among the seventh-grade teams as well as first place in the Algebra/Geometry category. They also secured second place in Accelerated Math 1. DKFI's scholars were led by math teachers Georges Akolo and Marc Yougnia.

### Greenbelt Middle School

Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) took second place among the county's eighth-grade teams. Myrna Natividad, a mathematics teacher at GMS for 16 years and sponsor of the Math Club, coached both sixth grade and Accelerated Math 1 teams, which came in second and third place this year.

Yongsul Cho's Accelerated Math 2 team of sixth and seventh

graders also took third place. Cho has been a math teacher at GMS for five years.

GMS has taken home an award as winner or runner-up in at least one category in every year of the competition, reported Coach Natividad. "Many students realize their potential through math competitions such as this, and it brings joy to see the students get excited and have fun while learning mathematics," she said.



DKFI's sixth grade Accelerated Math Team with the winning trophy. From left, PGCPS Mathematics Instructional Supervisor for Grades 6-8 Michelle Dyson, DKFI students Hassan Jalloh, Praise Modozie, Hussein Jalloh, Queen-Grace Djeutcha, Wolfgang Stone and DKFI math teacher and coach Georges Akolo

PHOTO COURTESY DKFI



GMS mathematicians: first row, from left, Timothy Hudson, Samia Saeed, John Won, Edouard Haba, Ashley Perez, Sophia Martinez, Florenza McKenzie, Matthew Eaton, Joshua Littlefield. Second row, from left: Mr. Yongsul Cho (math teacher/coach), Eliana Hebert, Muhammad Zaid, A.J. Credle, Rais Bello, Nathan Fomo, Chrisbon Fotso, Beny Sardineta, Ezekiel Kelley, Benjamin Twedt, Ms. Manuela Pagunsan (science teacher). Third row, from left, Samory Pene, John Nathaniel Jordan, Jaden Asagaya, Braden Asagaya, Ronan Jackson, Theophilos Larsen, Mrs. Myrna Natividad (math teacher/coach)

PHOTO BY CARLOS PUGH

## PGCPS Middle Grade Math Meet Winners

### Sixth Grade

Winner: Kettering Middle School coached by Maribel Brador  
 Runner-up: Benjamin Foulois Creative and Performing Arts coached by Leon Fields

### Seventh Grade

Winner: Dora Kennedy French Immersion coached by Georges Akolo  
 Runner-up: William Wirt Middle School coached by Anthony Mesina

### Eighth Grade

Winner: Thomas Johnson Middle School coached by Oluwafunmilayo Ogeyingbo  
 Runner-up: Greenbelt Middle School coached by Yongsul Cho

### Accelerated Math 1

Winner: Kettering Middle School coached by Maribel Brador  
 Runner-up: Dora Kennedy French Immersion coached by Georges Akolo

### Accelerated Math 2

Winner: William Wirt Middle School (702) coached by Anthony Mesina

Runner-up: William Wirt Middle School (701) coached by Anthony Mesina

### Foundations For Algebra

Winner: Benjamin Tasker Middle School coached by Evelyn Policarpio

Runner-up: Oxon Hill Middle School coached by Kristina Vaughn

### Algebra/Geometry

Winner: Dora Kennedy French Immersion coached by Marc Désiré Yougnia

Runner-up: Walker Mill Middle School coached by Victoria Baltazar



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