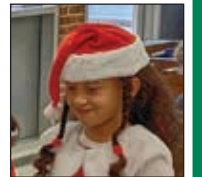




Gobble Wobble Results, p.16



Santa visits Youth Center, p.16

## Condition of Armory Outlined; Recommendations to Come

by Daniel M. Thies

On Wednesday, December 4, Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with a representative of the AMAR Group LLC firm to discuss the Preliminary Armory Feasibility Assessment.

Discussion of the Armory's condition began with an overview of the location's history. While it was owned by the state since its construction in 1954 for use by the Maryland National Guard, in recent decades the site has been in a fallow state. For the last few years, Greenbelt has had an interest in acquiring the unused property. In 2020, architecture firms evaluated the location for a variety of developments, but it wasn't until September 2024 that the city was finally able to purchase the Armory's buildings and site.

Many ideas of how the city could use the Armory have been put forth. When the city attempted to get bond funding for assessing the site, it noted that the Armory is "a possible location for the Greenbelt Vol-



When council toured the Armory building in October, following the acquisition, they found that copper wires had been stripped from electrical boxes, the ceiling bowed and rubble filled the corridor.

could be used as a temporary animal shelter was also floated. However, in order to know what uses are actually viable and what work is needed to get the site in a ready state, the city contracted AMAR Group to survey the Armory's condition and provide recommendations for renovation.

Taylor Imes-Thomas, representing the AMAR Group, spoke to the work their team has done to evaluate the conditions of the buildings at the location. Imes-Thomas has some prior experience with the Armory as she was one of the people who reviewed the site in 2020. The firm's findings made it clear that in the 70 years since its erection, time has taken its toll.

The building exterior shows clear signs of deterioration and weathering with dire implications for the bones of the building. The AMAR Group's photographs showcased the erosion of the

See **ARMORY**, page 12

unteer Fire Department and/or a new municipal building." In a worksession evaluating potential projects for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, the idea that a part of the Armory

## PGFD Update: Greenbelt Gains EMS Duty Officer, Ambulance

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Prince George's County Fire Chief Tiffany Green at last month's County Council hearing

More fire department staffing changes are coming on December 29, said the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department in a memo released Friday, December 6. Of the four stations that lost career staff as part of the summer staffing plan (Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Bowie-Belair and Bunker Hill) one, Bunker Hill, will see some return. In addition, Laurel will gain career

firefighters at one of their stations. Greenbelt will be the new location for the Northern EMS Duty Officer (NEMSDO) and will have a 24/7 paramedic ambulance. The future of staffing at the station, however, still seems precarious.

**Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights**  
In Greenbelt the majority of

See **FIRE DEPT**, page 10

## What Is the JEDI Action Team? A Look at Its Origins and Work

by Erica Johns

The memorandum requesting action on City Councilmember Rodney Roberts' August 2024 remarks about the Public Works Department was written by the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Action Team, which consists of city staff. The team was created in response to council's direction to act on findings from the 2023 JEDI audit of city government (for more on the audit and the team's creation see the May 9 issue). To learn more

about the team, the News Review asked City Manager Josué Salmerón and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer Tyra Smith for their insights on its work.

### Intentional Efforts

Salmerón said council intentionally created the city's DEI Officer position and planned audits to orient the city more to DEI. He said council's vision

See **JEDI**, page 13

## New Deal Café: What's New And Coming; Much to Cheer

by Joan Estenson

There was much cheering and applause at the New Deal Café's quarterly business meeting on November 25. Those in attendance were pleased with the changes. While the Café has been in transition since Kenny Hilliard took over as manager on November 1, he aims to have all the changes in place by January 1.

The biggest hitch to the transi-

tion was that Hilliard was in the hospital for several days, only getting out on October 31. In spite of that, changes are underway. Those already in place include a temporary menu and new paint, with new wallpaper to be hung. The piano has been tuned but needs to be replaced; another piano may be donated. Another change is the "informational dis-

play," aka the television. Hilliard assured members, repeatedly and emphatically, that he is not turning the New Deal into a sports bar. The TV allows those in the front room to see the band performing in back, and will allow showing movies and events like the Super Bowl and World Series.

### Finances

Membership renewals and

See **NEW DEAL**, page 9



Patrons, musicians and staff at the New Deal Café on the evening of Tuesday, December 10, with some of that evening's open mic performers visible on the TV

### What Goes On

**Monday, December 16**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan Outline and Sign Design Concepts, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, December 18**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: DEI Audit - Phase II Report Presentation, Municipal Building

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



The Greenbelt Honk! Situation performs at the Baltimore Krampus Festival on Saturday. They were joined by revelers in elaborate costumes and impressive makeup, and even a dancing Mari Lwyd horse skull puppet. See article on page 16 and details of Greenbelt Krampus in Community Events on page 3.



### Holiday Deadlines

To accommodate our printer's Christmas and New Year's schedule, our December 26 and January 2 issues will be printed a day late, but our deadlines will be a day early for those issues.



Advertisements: Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 23 or 30. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 20 or 27. There will be no office hours on Tuesdays, December 24 and 31, and no ads will be accepted on those days.

Submissions: To be considered for publication, articles over 700 words are due by Sunday, December 22 or 29 at 2 p.m. All letters to the editor (300-word limit) are due by Sunday, December 22 or 29 at 6 p.m. Articles under 700 words and photographs are due by 2 p.m. on Monday, December 23 or 30.

Don't be a goose and risk coal in your stocking or being added to the naughty list – get your ads and articles in on time.

## Letters to the Editor

### A Boxwood Blight

On our daily walks with our dog in Boxwood Village, primarily on Lastner Lane, we've noticed an abundance of doggy doo on common areas, in people's yards and smooched (eww!) onto the sidewalk. It's a nuisance and just plain gross.

Not scooping your pet's poop is bad because it:

1. Pollutes water: Rain and snow melt can wash dog poop into storm drains and waterways, contaminating them with bacteria, parasites and other pathogens. This can make people and animals sick, and can even close beaches to swimming and shell-fishing.
2. Harms wildlife: Dog poop can contain parasites that can transfer to wildlife, like birds and squirrels.
3. Damages lawns and gardens: The nutrients in dog poop can cause algae and weed growth, which can reduce the oxygen in the soil and harm plants.
4. Attracts rodents, creating a

nuisance.

5. Can be a health risk: Dog poop can contain harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites that can make people and pets sick.

6. Can be smelly, unsightly and messy. Yes! We have experienced this!

7. Can be a courtesy issue: Picking up after your dog is the courteous thing to do for your neighbors.

See **LETTERS**, page 15

### Corrections

In last week's issue we published an image of the proposed intersection of Ridge Road and Southway. The caption should have identified the shaded green section as pervious area.

In last week's issue the photo of Greenbelt's first dentist, Dr. James McCarl, the caption failed to identify his assistant, dressed in white, as his wife Delpha McCarl.

### On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

#### A Real Pain

Mismatched cousins David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the odd couple's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history. Said Leonard Maltin of leonardmaltin.com, "Jesse Eisenberg has nothing to prove; he has already staked his claim as an actor, writer and director. But A Real Pain digs deeper than he ever has before – and it's a really good movie."

#### Flow

This animated feature is a wondrous journey through realms natural and mystical as it follows a courageous cat after his home is devastated by a great flood. Teaming up with a capybara, a lemur, a bird and a dog to navigate a boat in search of dry land, they must rely on trust, courage and wits to survive the perils of a newly aquatic planet. From the boundless imagination of the award-winning Latvian filmmaker Gints Zilbalodis (Away) comes a thrilling animated spectacle as well as a profound meditation on the fragility of the environment and the spirit of friendship and community. The Washington Post calls the film "a magical, wordless animated adventure," that the paper's critic Ty Burr gives the highest rating – four stars.

#### Elf

Buddy (Will Ferrell) was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. As it happens, this is Walter Hobbs (James Caan), a cynical businessman. After a DNA test proves this, Walter reluctantly attempts to start a relationship with the childlike Buddy with increasingly chaotic results.

#### American Psycho

In New York City in 1987, a handsome, young urban professional, Patrick Bateman (Christian Bale), lives a second life as a gruesome serial killer by night. This biting, wry comedy examines the elements that make a man a monster.

### Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 19 issue. (There is a charge. Contact ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.)



Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
www.greenbeltcinema.org  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

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

#### SHOWTIMES:

DECEMBER 13th - 18th

**A Real Pain** (R) (CC) (DVS)  
(2024) (90 mins)

**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 7:45 PM  
Sat. 8:00 PM

Sun. 3:00 PM (OC)  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM

**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sat. 5:30 PM

Sun. 5:00 PM  
Mon. 2:45 PM  
Tues. 7:45 PM

Thurs. 7:45 PM

**Flow** (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2024)  
(85 mins)

**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:30 PM  
Sat. 5:45 PM

Sun. 5:15 PM  
Mon. 3:00 PM (OC)  
Tues. 7:30 PM

**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 7:30 PM  
Sat. 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:45 PM  
Mon. 5:00 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM

**Elf** (PG) (2003) (90 mins)  
Free with a suggested \$5  
donation per person

Sponsored by the Greenbelt  
Recreation Department  
Don't forget to bring a NEW  
pair of gloves or socks - we'll  
use them for a mid-movie  
snowball fight, then donate  
them to Greenbelt CARES

**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 3:00 PM

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

**American Psycho** (R) (2000)  
(104 mins) - Cult Classic  
Free trivia at 7 PM! Hosted  
by @TheScreenBliss

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



! WHY DID THE CAT NEED  
A COMPASS?



BECAUSE IT WAS ASTRAY !

### Letters Policy

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

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

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



## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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#### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.



# Community Events

## At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

### Pre-K Story Hour/Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder

Friday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling. Friends and family welcome. ¡Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contrar cuentos. Amigos y familiares son bienvenidos! Hosted by Greenbelt Branch Library staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12056242](http://pgcmls.info/event/12056242).

### Storytimes

Friday, December 13, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12055798](http://pgcmls.info/event/12055798).

Wednesday, December 18, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12055757](http://pgcmls.info/event/12055757).

Thursday, December 19, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12055786](http://pgcmls.info/event/12055786).

### Storytime on Screen

Monday, December 16, 10:30 a.m. ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway. Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), is offering a free program of stories, songs, and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. Note, no unaccompanied children or adults. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12056230](http://pgcmls.info/event/12056230).

### STEM-tastic

Tuesday, December 17, 4:30 p.m. ages 8 to 12. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using pocket-sized robots, and learn basic programming concepts. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12056288](http://pgcmls.info/event/12056288).

### Virtual Book Discussion

Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 p.m., ages 18+. Join friends and neighbors for a lively virtual book discussion. This month the group will discuss Temple Folk by Aaliyah Bilal. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12063241](http://pgcmls.info/event/12063241).

### News Suite

The PGCMLS News Suite ([pgcmls.info/news-suite](http://pgcmls.info/news-suite)) offers quick and easy access to many national and international newspapers and magazines, including digital editions of the Washington Post, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal, plus the Baltimore Sun and USA Today via PressReader.

## Dems Hold Holiday Party, Meeting

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club invites the community to join their holiday celebration and annual meeting on Friday, December 20 at 7 p.m. The festive gathering will take place in the Greenbriar Terrace Room, located at 7600 Hanover Parkway. Highlighting the evening's program is special guest Charlene Dukes, Ph.D., vice chair of the Maryland Democratic Party and former president of Prince George's Community College. Dukes will address attendees and officiate the swearing-in ceremony for the Club's 2025 board members. This event not only marks a joyous holiday celebration but also commemorates the Roosevelt Club's unwavering dedication to democratic principles. All are welcome to attend this evening of civic engagement and holiday cheer.

## GIVES Meeting And Holiday Party

Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) members are invited to the December Membership Meeting and Holiday Party on Saturday, December 14. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. and the party will start at 11 a.m. Both will be held in the Community Center, Room 202.

GIVES members may bring a dish to share if they wish, but it is not necessary. Dishes can include, but are not limited to, salads, desserts, sandwiches, chips and dip. Drinks will be provided. Around 25 to 30 people are expected to attend.

Those attending should send an email to [givesoffice@gmail.com](mailto:givesoffice@gmail.com) or call 301-507-6580 and leave a message, including information about any dish they're bringing.

## Holiday Soap Opera Showing at GAC

The Naughty List is an improvised soap opera based on Christmas lore, convoluted plotlines and audience suggestions. Each week's story is based on the previous week's revelations. While not suitable for children, this dark comedy helps dispel the feeling of being overwhelmed by the holidays. The Naughty List has two more shows on Saturdays December 14 and 21 at 8 p.m. at the Greenbelt Arts Center. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).

## The Snow Queen Dance Performance



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Greenbelt Dance Studio dancers will perform The Snow Queen.

The Greenbelt Dance Studio Dance Performance Club presents an imaginative telling of the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale. Enjoy ballet, jazz, contemporary, ballroom and tap performances by dancers ages 6 to adult. Performances will take place at the Community Center on Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m. and on Sunday, December 15, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are now available at the Community Center business office for a small fee, call 301-397-2208.

## Krampusnacht Festival This Saturday, Dec. 14



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT HONK! SITUATION

The Greenbelt Honk! Situation at the 2023 Krampusnacht

Greenbelt Honk! Situation is conjuring up its favorite holiday demons and cryptids, weird sugar plum fairies, Santas and more for a twisted but family-friendly Krampus event. Greenbelt Honk! Situation will provide holiday scarols and other tunes along with some treats for the naughty and good alike.

Photos with Krampus and other creatures are encouraged.

Bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

Greenbelt Honk! Situation is Greenbelt's award-winning community street band since 2021.

The Festival happens this Saturday, December 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Roosevelt Center.

## Reel and Meal to Show Two Utopia 2024 Films

Monday night, December 16, the Reel and Meal program at the New Deal Café will screen two of the best films from the 2024 Utopia Film Festival. Beyond Barriers: The Road to Well-Being and Food, Fiber and the Female Farmer.

The Road to Well-Being looks at a border town where a Mexican mother and a retired U.S. businessman work together to improve the wellbeing in a border community. Many challenges, including severe drought, are faced by this small international community of friends working together.

Food, Fiber and the Female Farmer introduces us to a number of longtime Maryland women farmers who display skill, grit, tenacity and good business sense in this crucial local industry.

Both filmmakers will be present for discussion of the issues raised in their outstanding films. Cheryle Franceschi will be present live in the Café and Laura Carlson will join via Zoom from California.

As always, this monthly event, both in person at the Café and online virtually, is free. Pre-registration is required to attend via Zoom. Online registrants are accepted starting at 6:45 p.m., and the live program starts at 7 p.m.

For more information visit the New Deal Café website, check email notices and flyers around town or call Frank Gervasi at 301-467-2418.

## Greenbelt Chess Club December Meeting

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, December 17. The meeting will take place at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com). To be added to the mailing list, go to [tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m](http://tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m).

## Christmas Eve Caroling At The New Deal Café

Celebrate the holiday on Christmas Eve, December 24, at the New Deal Café with a community sing-along of favorite carols from 2 to 4 p.m. Song sheets will be provided.



## Artist Reception at GAC

On Friday, December 13 from 5 to 7 p.m., all are invited to a reception for David Campbell, who is exhibiting his paintings in the lobby of the Greenbelt Arts Center.

## Solstice Lantern Parade Dec. 20



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT HONK! SITUATION

The 2023 Winter Solstice Parade (which appeals to the gods for the return of crop-growing weather), was a success, given that spring and summer did, in fact, return in 2024.

Greenbelt Honk! Situation is inviting the community out to celebrate the Winter Solstice on Friday, December 20, and bring back the sun with a community lantern parade.

Join the band at the Greenbelt Firefly Sanctuary and parade to Roosevelt Center via the stream path and by Braden Field. The evening will end with a set of holiday scarols at Roosevelt Center.

The gathering will commence at the Firefly Sanctuary at 6 p.m. with the parade to Roosevelt Center to follow.

## This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.



113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

\*\*\* Monday 5pm-10pm; Tuesday—Thursday 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 12midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED

TH 12/12	FRI 12/13	SAT 12/14	SUN 12/15
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm <b>DRAG BINGO</b> with D'Manda Martini 7-9pm Unlimited Bingo!	<b>UKULELE LADIES, 3:30-5:30</b> The Paulverziers 8-11pm Hard driving blues with some of the finest DMV musicians	<b>49 Cent Dress</b> 8-11p A tasty mix of rock with a dash of blues & soul	<b>CLOTHING SWAP, 11a-2p</b> Grateful Sunday featuring JDAB 6-8pm Tribute to the Grateful Dead
MON 12/16	TUES 12/17	WED 12/18	TH 12/19
<b>REEL AND MEAL</b> 7-9pm A MONTHLY FILM SERIES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE	<b>Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire</b> 7-9:30pm Sign-ups at 6:30pm. Express yourself!	<b>PUB QUIZ</b> 7-9pm Bring your own team or form one on the spot!	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm <b>The Porch Delights</b> Front porch style Americana
			<b>New Deal Cafe</b> We want to hear from you! <a href="http://NewDealCafe.com">NewDealCafe.com</a> ; Click on ABOUT, then CONTACT THE CAFE

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

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

\*\*\*HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING TRANSITION\*\*\*  
Thank you for your understanding - NDC Board

**Greenbelt Access Television**  
**Dec 14, Sat - Dec 20, 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)  
**The Snow Queen (1957)**

Join us for this stunning animated musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, a timely showing to complement the Greenbelt Recreation's Dance Performance Club's upcoming performance of The Snow Queen on December 15th!

New This Month  
**Greenbelt Concert Band Holiday Concert**  
Tune in to see our coverage of the Greenbelt Concert Band's Holiday Concert from December 1st, filled with gorgeous renditions of beloved holiday classics!

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



In Memoriam

**Dottie Spivacke**

Dottie Spivacke was a firm believer in the arts, and in the Greenbelt Arts Center. She made volunteering for GAC a cool thing to do, but more importantly, she was there for both the customers and for the performers and their crew when emergency situations arose.

She was and will always be the epitome of stepping up to make a difference in the quality of life in Greenbelt and made all of us – fellow volunteers, customers and those who made the performance possible – more enriched by taking part in GAC’s productions.

Most important, I loved her and her spirit.

---Konrad Herling

**St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church Dec. Schedule**

St. Andrew’s mission and purpose is to build an inclusive, welcoming Christian community. They are a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and The Episcopal Church, and are partners with The Humble Walk campus ministry at the University of Maryland. Below is the Holiday schedule.

Blue Christmas Service: A service for the weary, will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 5 p.m. A service of readings, music and quiet contemplation for those who have a difficult time during the holiday season, and those who support them.

Christmas Eve, December 24: 5 p.m., Christmas Eve service with “no rehearsal pageant;” 9:30 p.m., Christmas Carols; and 10 p.m., Christmas Eve service

Christmas Morning service, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas, December 29, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

The church is located at 4512 College Avenue, College Park. Go to saeccp.org or call 301-864-8880.

**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+owner@groups.io

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

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am  
Sunday School 9:15am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

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

**Advent Retreat December 14**

All are welcome to join the Catholic Community of Greenbelt for an Advent Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The topic is “Maintaining the peace of God in a world of chaos and violence,” led by Father Ted Keating. The event will take place in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, 2nd floor, and also on Zoom. Coffee and tea will be available for those attending in person. Bring a snack or sandwich for the lunch break. For more information, visit [cathcomgreenbelt.org](http://cathcomgreenbelt.org) or contact [cathcommgreenbelt@gmail.com](mailto:cathcommgreenbelt@gmail.com).



**GCC Concert, Bake Sale on Dec. 15**

Greenbelt Community Church will hold a Christmas concert and bake sale on Sunday, December 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 1 Hillside Road. The concert will feature Christmas classics as well as the more rickrolling music of The Relics.

The concert is free but donations will be accepted. Money from both the donations and the bake sale will go to Help By Phone and College Park Meals on Wheels.

**Obituaries**

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present. You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

“How can one see others in the greatest need and yet take delight in one’s fortune?” – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**Greenbelt Bahá’i 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)  
301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

**Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrate hope with us.**

**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

**The Bible Says...**

Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child (Jesus) who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.  
Matthew 1:20

**Sunday Worship Services**  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)  
[MCFcc.org](http://MCFcc.org)

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
One Hillside Road

We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Church

**Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School**

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

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

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

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



Congratulations to Greenbelter Rasheeda Childress, who was on National Public Radio WAMU’s 1A, a daily show about current issues. Childress, the senior editor for fundraising at the Chronicle of Philanthropy, was on the Giving Tuesday (December 3) edition of the show, discussing the state of giving in America. She shared what some local charities were doing for Giving Tuesday and ways charities are trying to reconnect with donors, amid a decades-long decline in people giving to charity. To hear the show on podcast, visit [thela.org/segments/the-state-of-giving-in-the-united-states](http://thela.org/segments/the-state-of-giving-in-the-united-states).



**Rasheeda Childress**

PHOTO BY JEFF JONES

Childress also lends her talents to the News Review as a copy editor.

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

**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

December 15, 2024 at 3:00 pm  
**Song of Songs**

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Carol Boston

In the spirit of our December theme (Pluralism), we’ll give voice to the four-part heart of the Christian season of Advent (hope, joy, peace, and love). Together we’ll share a service centered in song – featuring Amelia Peele, Francesco Barrett, and the Paint Branch Singers.

Streaming on PBUUC’s Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

**Christmas Services**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
4522 College Avenue, College Park, MD 20740  
[www.saeccp.org](http://www.saeccp.org)

**Blue Christmas Service:**  
A service for the weary  
December 15, 2024, 5pm

A service of readings, music, and quiet contemplation for those who have a difficult time during the holiday season, and those who support them.

**Christmas Eve, December 24th**  
5pm Christmas Eve service with "no rehearsal pageant"  
9:30pm Christmas Carols  
10pm Christmas Eve service

**Christmas Day, December 25th**  
10:30am Christmas morning service

First Sunday after Christmas,  
**December 29th**  
8am & 10:30am service of Christmas Lessons and Carols





# City Information & Events

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

## MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 16-20

Monday, December 16 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - GREENBELT STRATEGIC WAYFINDING PLAN OUTLINE AND SIGN DESIGN CONCEPTS**

Tuesday, December 17 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION, On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, First Repair Symposium Report, Subcommittee Reports, Public Comments**

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - DEI AUDIT - PHASE II REPORT PRESENTATION / SPECIAL MEETING - ARPA END OF YEAR CONTRACTS**

Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD, On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, Council Liaison Updates, Discussion: Bureau of Engraving and Printing Off-Site Roadway Improvements - Preliminary Review, Staff Updates**

Wednesday, December 18 at 7 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Approve Agenda/Minutes, Council Liaison Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Update**

*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).*

## APPLICANTS WANTED FOR CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

The City of Greenbelt is seeking applicants to join the Charter Review Task Force. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the future of our community.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS

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

## DANCE PERFORMANCE: THE SNOW QUEEN

December 14 at 2 pm  
December 15 at 11 am & 2 pm  
Greenbelt Community Center

The Greenbelt Dance Studio, a program of Greenbelt Department of Recreation, presents an original production of Hans Christian Anderson's The Snow Queen. The inspiration for the movie Frozen, The Snow Queen tells the story of a brave young girl who rescues her best friend from the clutches of the cold-hearted Snow Queen. The production features a talented cast ages 6 to adult, performing a range of dance styles including ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary and classical Chinese.



Tickets: \$5; advance sales (highly recommended) at (301) 397-2208.

## VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN 2025-2030 PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR INPUT TODAY!

Prince George's County is seeking residents to share their perspectives and concerns about traffic safety in the County. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8QGKV72>.

## LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2024-2025

Week	Location	Holiday
December 16-20	Woodland Hills	
December 23-27	Lakeside	Christmas December 25
December 30 - January 3	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	New Years Day January 1

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays  
**THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.**

## REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE Week of December 23 and December 30

Monday Route – Regular Schedule  
Tuesday Route – Regular Schedule  
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday  
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

*There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, December 27 and Friday, January 3.*

## SHOP WITH A COP FUNDRAISER

Thank you for being so supportive and generous!

The Greenbelt "Shop with a Cop" fundraiser challenge coin is now available for \$20.

Each year, the Greenbelt Police Department proudly participates in "Shop With a Cop," fostering community spirit and support. To raise funds for this heartwarming event, a challenge coin has been created in the shape of an ornament, showcasing the Greenbelt Police Department badge adorned with lights on one side and the year of the event on the back.

We welcome donations and all proceeds go directly to the Greenbelt Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" program which supports families in the Greenbelt community. We couldn't do this without your support. Donations can be made online by visiting <https://ow.ly/mg6h50Tzs6P> or by emailing [rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov).

## SANTA PAWS

Saturday, December 14 / 11 am - 1 pm  
Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR PHOTOS WITH SANTA PAWS!

Bring your pets to get a digital photo with Santa! All photos are \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the City of Greenbelt Animal Shelter. \*Police K9 are free of charge\*



## PUBLIC ART PROJECT For Braden Athletic Complex

Public Art for the Braden Athletic Complex Community members who use the Braden courts, fields and pedestrian/bike path.

Participate in an **Active Stakeholder Survey** to help guide a new public art project! <https://bit.ly/3OgITcQ>.

Read more about the project: <https://bit.ly/3UTjrqi>.

Sign-up to attend a **virtual public meeting** at 7 pm on Tuesday, 12/17 with artists under consideration at <https://bit.ly/40TI7h3>.



Sculpture at Motiva

## PROPOSED COUNCIL VACANCY PROCESS

The proposed Council Vacancy Process legislation will be introduced for a first reading on **December 9**. A public hearing on the proposed Council Vacancy Process will be held on **January 13, 2025**.

The Greenbelt Board of Elections has proposed two options for the Council to consider in the event of a vacancy on City Council. If "Option 1" is chosen, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the Election Code. Alternatively, if "Option 2" is selected, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the City Charter. Both options will follow the proposed timeline for filling the vacancy as follows:

### 1. VACANCY OCCURS (REASON: DEATH, RESIGNATION, INCAPACITY, OR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE):

- Determine the timing of the vacancy in relation to the next election

### 2. MORE THAN 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

#### Special Mail-in Election:

- Candidates must file nomination papers.
- Ballots are mailed to voters.
- Voters have 30 days to respond.

### 3. BETWEEN 60 AND 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

#### Council Majority Vote:

- Seat filled by majority vote after a public hearing.

### 4. Within 60 Days of Next Election:

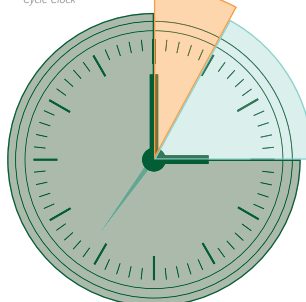
#### Council Discretion:

- The seat may remain vacant or may be filled at the Council's discretion.

### 5. SIMULTANEOUS VACANCIES:

- If three or more vacancies occur simultaneously, a special election is required.

Two (2) Year City Election Cycle Clock



## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/elections](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/elections)

OR scan the QR code below



## 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).



## PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Greenbelt, MD** - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT?

**Office of the County Executive**  
[countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us](mailto:countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-4131

**Office of the County Fire Chief**  
[tdgreen@co.pg.md.us](mailto:tdgreen@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 883-5200

**At-Large County Council Member Hawkins**  
[At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us](mailto:At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-2195

**County Council Member District 4**  
[councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us](mailto:councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-3094

*Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:*

*City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or [council@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:council@greenbeltmd.gov).*

## 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 **Advisory Committee on Trees, 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!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today! Call (301) 474-8000.

## WINTER SHOPPING TO THE MALL IN COLUMBIA

Monday, December 16, 10:30 am

Enjoy a holiday decor and shopping at The Mall in Columbia! Enjoy lunch on your own at the many restaurants! Pick up will be at Greenbelt Community Center and Green Ridge House.

Register online or in person at the Community Center, 60+, all ages welcome!

Resident: \$5, Non-Resident: \$7.

For more information, contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240)542 2056, [pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov).



## Greenbelt Eats

# A Hungry Student Roundup Of Greenbelt Budget Eateries

by Johana Gonzalez-Cruz

For students and staff, school days often feel longer than they should be, and they end their day craving a bite on their way home from school. With \$20 in hand, a short lunch break and a craving for something new, where can one get something to eat near Roosevelt without a car? Opting out of the fan favorite Wendys, I set out on a local travel adventure, taking no more than a 20-minute walk to find four local restaurants easily accessible and with great value, that provide a satisfying experience for students and teachers alike. Whether a hungry teacher during lunch break or a group of students wanting to eat something after school, these four local restaurants prove one needn't go far – or spend much – to enjoy a filling meal. In no particular order, here are my four local picks.

## New Deal Café

Classic American Flavors and Greenbelt Charm



A classic American burger at the New Deal Café

A fan favorite, the New Deal Café, located in Roosevelt Center, serves up American food by day and live music and arts at night to a clientele of both Greenbelters and non-Greenbelters. At my visit, I got the Burger Overload — a classic American burger with tater tots. With a drink, it totaled \$21.47.

The quality of the food stood out the most: the vegetables were crisp and fresh and the patty was juicy, unlike dry patties at fast food eateries. The tater tots were crispy and salty, bringing the meal together. One can't go wrong with a classic burger in general, let alone classic American food. New Deal Café proves that right. It was slightly over the \$20 budget I set, but considering the quality of the food, friendly staff, and cozy atmosphere that is elevated through live performances, it's worth the extra dollar. New Deal Café's focus on fresh, American flavors makes it a winner.

## Pollo Cabana

Bold Peruvian Flavors, Big Portions



Charbroiled chicken with fried rice and plantains from Pollo Cabana

Opening its doors in 2011, Pollo Cabana, located in Greenway Center, brings a taste of Peru. Its most popular dish is Peruvian charbroiled chicken (pollo a la brasa), which is a standout. I tried the one quarter white chicken which includes a choice of two sides. I opted for arroz chaufa (fried rice) and plantains, all for \$13.50. A bottled drink brought my final total to \$18.30.

Considering the size of this meal, I can say it's enough to feed two people, which is impressive for the price. The chicken was heavily seasoned, with garlicky, earthy components that complemented the sweetness of the plantains and the saltiness of the fried rice. Together, the components flowed effortlessly together, creating a flavorful meal that satisfies one's cravings. Taking into consideration the authentic Peruvian flavors at a reasonable price and the generous portions, Pollo Cabana is the place to visit on a budget with a chance to try something new.

## Osaka

A Taste of Japan, a Short Walk Away



The colorful sushi combo from Osaka

Located right across from the Goddard gate, Osaka Restaurant has been a Greenbelt staple for many years, serving a variety of Japanese cuisine such as sushi, noodles and other Japanese dishes alongside select Korean plates. I tried one of their many sushi plates, the sushi combo, which includes a six-piece cucumber roll, 6 pieces of nigiri and a miso soup on the side. My total for this order was \$17.65.

My biggest takeaway from Osaka is the quality of the food, specifically the sushi, which brought a cool and refreshing taste from the cucumber roll. The richness of umami from the pieces of salmon, maguro and ika nigiri balanced well with the meaty flavor from the shrimp and crab stick nigiri. While some may not be open to trying raw fish, I would recommend it, as it's something new diners may find themselves liking. If that isn't appealing their menu has plenty of cooked options. Overall, Osaka's calm ambiance and diverse menu at such a short distance from Roosevelt is what makes it worth visiting.

## Bb.q Chicken

Filling Korean Comfort Food

A popular chain in Korea, bb.q Chicken, located in Greenway Center, is the newest addition on the list, serving authentic Korean fried chicken and dishes. I tried the Rosé Tteokbokki, a creamy take on a classic Korean



Korean food: rosé tteokbokki from bb.q Chicken

- Photos by Johana Gonzalez-Cruz

street food, which is described as "less spicy, more creamy" made from "rice cakes and fish cakes in a sweet and spicy chilli reduction." The dish includes rice cakes, fish cakes and a boiled egg in a sweet and spicy chilli sauce, all for \$13.95. The star of the dish, the rice cakes, are extremely chewy and soft, which combine well with the creaminess of the sauce and the salty, moist fish cakes. The hearty boiled egg is what brings everything together for this filling comfort food. The unique Korean flavors at such an economical price make bb.q Chicken worth visiting.

Feeling hungry yet? Whether a return or new visitor, these restaurants are worth taking the time to satisfy cravings and support local businesses. Next time you're in search of something to eat, bring a friend or two – or go solo – and give these spots a try.

Johana Gonzalez-Cruz is a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, writing for the Raider Review, where this article first appeared.

## Continued Board of Ed Meeting Yields New Chair, Vice Chair

by Daniel M. Thies

On Thursday, December 5, in the continuation of an annual meeting that usually lasts less than an hour but this time took multiple days, a new chair and vice chair of the Prince George's County Board of Education were elected. Both were party to a lawsuit they filed earlier in the week to prevent the election taking place before new members were seated. The votes of newly elected members proved pivotal in the election of the chair.

### Delayed Results

Most races for public office were called over a month ago. However, a few county races turned out to be too close to call on election night – such as the District 7 and District 8 Board of Education seats. This meant that a full count of the regular, mail-in and provisional ballots had to be completed before the Prince George's County Board of Elections certified the winners. Although the tallying slowly indicated who the victors were, they still weren't certified by the Board of Elections by the time the Board of Education's annual meeting started. As a result, a contentious week took place within the Board of Education chambers as one election delay beget another.

On Monday, December 2, the Board of Education annual meeting opened with some newly elected members unable to be seated and some outgoing members still in place.

As we reported last week, the Board of Education's annual meeting on the first Monday of December was contentious. Presiding Chair Lolita Walker attempted to move ahead with the election of a new chair and vice chair while board member Shayla Adams Stafford led a call to delay until new members were seated and a coalition of current and incoming members filed a restraining order against the chair and the board in Circuit Court

(see the December 5 issue). Ultimately, the board unanimously voted to postpone to a second session of its annual meeting on Thursday, December 5.

### Results Confirmed

Thankfully, before that second session, the Board of Elections was able to certify the winners of those district seats. In District 7, Phelton C. Moss had a narrow lead over incumbent and Board Vice-Chair Kenneth F. Harris II, which widened as mail-in and provisional ballots were counted. Meanwhile, in District 8, Zakyia Goins-McCants overcame Angela R. Jones for a seat previously held by appointee Madeline La-Salle Frazier in one of the county's all time closest elections with over 40,000 ballots coming down to a difference of 13 votes.

### Chair, Vicechair Elected

During the second session of the annual meeting, and with those new seats filled, the question of who would be the next chair and vice-chair was brought up again. Walker (District 9), who has been chair for the last six months and previously served as the vice chair, was nominated; she spoke to the values she has tried to lead by and would continue to act upon if elected for a full term. Brannndon Jackson (District 6) was also nominated, and in his presentation he spoke to how the president-elect's plan to dismantle education across the country compelled him to throw his hat in the ring for chair to ensure that everything is done to protect the county's access to education and resources. With six votes in favor and three opposed, Jackson was elected as the next chair. Jonathan Briggs (District 2, which includes Greenbelt), the only candidate for vice chair, was declared elected by the chair.



## Maria's Beauty Shop

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!  
Thank you for all your  
support throughout the years.



141 Centerway  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4881

## The GCF needs volunteers!



The Greenbelt Community Foundation is very shorthanded. We need board members, a webmaster, fundraisers, and especially a treasurer. For as little as an hour a month you can help us continue to help Greenbelt. Have you considered making a New Year's resolution to help the community more? Well, now's your chance. Contact us at [greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com) or visit <https://greenbeltfoundation.org> for information on how to join us.



# Utopia Film Festival Encore

by Daniel M. Thies

Two Utopia films described below will be shown at the Monday, December 16, Reel and Meal. (See page 3.) For reviews of other films shown at the Festival, see the October 24 issue.

On Sunday, October 20, the Utopia Film Festival was in full force. The Greenbelt Cinema and New Deal Café each showed three blocks of films that combined original animated productions, shorts and feature-length documentaries. Those with a full weekend pass had to make some tough decisions for which films they would see and which ones they would miss.

Fortunately, several Sunday blocks included encore presentations, offering viewers a second chance to watch some of the films. For example, the New Deal Café's morning block included the short Scrap, a punchy comedy with a sci-fi setting that was shown the night before at the Municipal Building and the feature-length Saving Walden's World, a grounded documentary that Utopia showed during the July Reel and Meal event.

Even if a viewer had previously seen one or more of the films, the combination of the different films in these blocks highlighted the themes they shared, even if their approaches differed wildly. I had seen both Scrap and Saving Walden's World previously, but the block made me aware that both are stories about people with imperfect pasts learning to be better for the sake of the next generation.

The blocks were also opportunities to hear from some of the filmmakers. At the end of the second block of films, Cheryl Franceschi, director of Food, Fiber & the Female Farmer, talked about the trials to get funding to produce the film and land interviews with various female farmers in Maryland. As a veteran of the Utopia Film Festival who previously lived in Prince George's County, Franceschi also spoke about her love for the intimate nature of the festival. Her film was shown in a block of features about cultivating a healthier environment, whether it was a community garden and health clinic in The Road to Well-Being, healthier soil to combat the erosion of Louisiana in Unintended Consequences or a fairytale of animals coming together to heal the world in Las Nogas.

Yifan Wang, director of the short film Son of a Beach, likewise enjoyed his time at the Utopia Film Festival. This was the first film festival Wang, a fresh director, attended as a participant. The Chinese film student is currently taking classes in Boston but traveled to the D.C. area to attend the event. His film was shown at the New Deal Café alongside other features focused on the cultural importance of sports: where Son of a Beach explored how corruption can hurt the joy of competitive play;



Utopia Film Festival organizers Chris Haley (left) and Susan Gervasi (right) recognize Iona King (center), one of the subjects of the documentary Just Another Bombing? This is Donal and Iona's Story.

Negro League Baseball Comes to Greenbelt highlighted the local and living history of the Negro Baseball League in Prince George's County; and Beisbol: The Legends of Puerto Rico showed the rich intersection of the Negro Baseball League and the rise of Puerto Rico Beisbol. Before Wang made his way back to Boston, Utopia made sure to treat him to Greenbelt's local flavor, giving him a copy of the Greenbelt News Review issue that announced his film in the event line-up and sharing some pizza from Generous Joe's.

The Festival was nearly wrapped up around 5 p.m., with Monday's Reel and Meal playing encores of I've Endured: The Music and Legacy of Ola Belle Reed and of Festival to Support Ukraine. The Utopia Film Festival plans to broadcast several festival films on Greenbelt Access Television's public access channel. Just as the Festival is about "seeking a better world through film," the event organizers are already thinking about how to make next year's Festival even better.

Daniel Thies is a member of Greenbelt Access Television and volunteer for the Utopia Film Festival and writes for the News Review.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT & BAKE SALE

### SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER | 4-6 PM

Join us for a festive night of live music, holiday classics, and rockin' vibes with The Relics! Plus a tasty bakesale.

Greenbelt Community Church UCC  
One Hillside Road

Donations received will go to Help by Phone & College Park Meals on Wheels

# Cookies on the Bridge Continues Tasty Acts of Kindness to Students

by Sophia Reynolds and Tinashe Maravanyika

Many students who attend Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) enjoy walking to Greenbelt Center, whether it's with their friends, or by themselves just to enjoy a nice walk or go home. Starting from ERHS near the Greenbriar community, their walk crosses the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on the Spellman Overpass and passes a playground where there are usually people handing out treats to students. This kind gesture is greatly appreciated by many; as one student, junior Sebastian Zeller, says, "I thought it was pretty sweet and also a very Greenbelt thing to do."

But why do they do it? These student reporters interviewed volunteers Mary Wade, Debbie Cooley and others.

Wade and Cooley said they only participate on Mondays while on other days of the week members from the Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) group help. Why are these foods handed out? Wade said that it was initially to monitor the area. She said, "When they [students] got to the bridge they were getting beaten up, or people were bullying kids and taking what was theirs." (See the November 2, 2023, issue for more on the history of Cookies on the Bridge.) Now that fights and bul-



Betty Sonneveldt stands next to her homemade cookies near the pedestrian bridge, waiting for high schoolers to pass by and partake.

lying have diminished, this activity remains "a good way to be able to interact with the students and ask how their day was," said Robert Goldberg-Strassler, director of RUAK.

On Friday, November 22, Betty Sonneveldt was lending her helping hand by giving out homemade cookies in addition to the usual carrots and store-bought cookies. Sonneveldt says she enjoys being a part of this kind act because she believes it

to be "a very, very great thing to do." Sonneveldt told us that, in addition to the regular RUAK volunteers, members of the city council visit on the last Friday of every month to participate. So, students, the next time you leave school, consider stopping by and getting a snack after a long day of learning.

Sophia Reynolds and Tinashe Maravanyika are ERHS students writing for the Raider Review, where this article first appeared.

## Golden Age Club December Plans

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. Because of the December holidays, the schedule for this month is different. Greenbelt seniors are welcome to come as a guest, then pay dues and join the club.

Remember, the club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes the Prince George's County Public Schools.

### December meetings:

18 – Holiday Luncheon (members only). Each member attending brings a food item to share. Bring a side dish or a dessert. Meats and cheeses will be provided.

25 – Christmas/Hanukkah. No meeting

January 1 – New Year's Day/Hanukkah. No meeting.

## Stamp Out Hunger Close to Home

Greenbelt PORCH will pick up nonperishable food as scheduled below.

Sunday, December 15 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village

Saturday, December 21 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

No P.A.L. (Porch at Large).

Sunday, December 22 – after 4 p.m. for 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road, after 4 p.m. for 8 and 10 Courts Southway, after 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

## Donate Sneakers For People in Need

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

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

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# Sparkle Mart Fills Community Center with Treasures, Music

by Tim King



The main gym in the Community Center held many Sparkle Mart vendors, with more in different locations throughout the building.

Sparkle Mart, the city's annual juried art and craft fair, brought local artistry and holiday magic to Greenbelt this past weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, the Community Center transformed into a winter wonderland of regional and homegrown talent displaying and selling their wares.

The Sparkle Mart is a one-stop shop for everyone on one's list. Artisans and artists come together to sell an enormous variety of one-of-a-kind goods, and the money goes right into the vendors' pockets. Specialty soaps, beautiful blown glass, piles of jewelry and accessories, Christmas ornaments, self-published books, hand-carved woodworks and knitted and crocheted garments barely scratch the surface of what is available.

This year, live music and food trucks joined the party. On Saturday, there was klezmer music from Seth Kibel and Friends and on Sunday, bluegrass from Rock Creek Revival. Just a few feet away, the Farmers Market returned for one last round before fully shutting down for the winter.

The recent cold snap may have been to blame for what some vendors characterized as less foot traffic than last year. But on Sunday the glow from the fair seemed to bring some warmer weather along with it.

### Highlights Youth Crafts

The Youth Crafts on Sunday offering was especially impressive. Youngsters ages 10 to 13 from Greenbelt and the DMV showed off handmade jewelry, framed paintings, greeting cards and more. Besides a chance to hone their artistic skills, this fair offered them an invaluable lesson in product ownership, price setting, merchant technology and, in some cases, maybe a little haggling. It is inspiring to see the next generation of makers set up alongside their elders.

### The SPACE: Free Art for All

Sometimes shopping for ornaments and crafts can feel like a blast from the past. But The SPACE's booth reminded us that the future is here, with fantastic 3D-printed figures and contemporary fashion accessories.

### Greenbelt Museum

The Greenbelt Museum is perhaps the most unique of all the booths. They offered merchandise specifically tailored to and inspired by Greenbelt, with miniatures, tote bags, placards, cards, books and other souvenirs. Anyone who missed the booth can shop in the Museum's online store ([greenbeltmuseum.org/shop-2](http://greenbeltmuseum.org/shop-2)). To keep up with Museum news and activities follow them on their social media or subscribe to their newsletter.



The SPACE: Free Art for All at Sparkle Mart

- Photos by Tim King

# Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Spotlights the City's Helpers

by Daniel M. Thies

Last Friday evening, the city held its 86th annual tree lighting ceremony at Roosevelt Center. In spite of the unusually cold weather, dozens of families, young couples and merry neighbors filled the town center as the Greenbelt Concert Band prepared their instruments on the raised platform for the night's speakers and performers.

At 7 p.m., the band played familiar classic carols and the crowd joined in. After a few numbers, Park Ranger Patrick Mullen took the stage to thank everyone for coming and to highlight that along with the many holiday decorations city staff had spread throughout Roosevelt Center over the past days, they also had placed compost bins. Staff members rang jingle bells next to the bins. Mullen also let the children know that he heard over the radio that Santa Claus was flying in and would be landing at the Greenbelt Fire House shortly.

Next, Mayor Emmett Jordan gave remarks, reflecting on the long history of the event in Greenbelt and identifying State Senator Alonzo Washington and his family among the crowd. Jordan, members of the city council and Washington's family then led the crowd in a few more carols.

At 7:15 p.m., as the group sang Here Comes Santa Claus, the audience could see the bright reds and whites of the volunteer fire department's fleet vehicles as they made their way to the Center. Waving from the back of Fire Department's 1935 Ford Howe pumper, Santa Claus dismounted and quickly took to the platform, exciting the children waiting with their parents. Santa immediately began handing out candy canes to the children, who lined up at the dais. Finally, around 7:25 p.m., the city turned on the lights of the fir tree in front of the Mother and Child Statue.

Although the ceremony wrapped up only 30 minutes after it kicked off, Jordan informed the audience that the recreation department would continue to hand out hot cocoa to warm up the crowd and that festivities would continue throughout the evening. Immediately after the tree lighting, Greenbelt Cinema held a free showing of How the Grinch Stole Christmas and the Greenbelt Museum held its annual "Deco the Halls" open house. Though many attendants went to check out these offerings, more than a few of the assembled stayed back



Santa hands out candy canes to children at the city's annual tree lighting.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW



Families watch as festive lights illuminate the Roosevelt Center tree.

PHOTO BY DANIEL THIES



Caitlin McGrath, executive director of Greenbelt Cinema, welcomes the community to the free annual screening of How the Grinch Stole Christmas and asks for community support of their Reel Magic fundraising campaign.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

for a turn to be photographed in front of the tree as a keepsake to remember the night.



# The Naughty List

An Improv Comedy Soap Opera

the detective





12/14  
&  
12/21





# Happy Holidays, and a Safe Season

by David E. Shapiro

How do we enjoy happy and safe holidays? Visit friends and family – and keep alert for drunk drivers, especially when you’re walking. ZeroDeathsMd.gov charts fatal crashes, and the Maryland county suffering the worst is Prince George’s. State-wide, more than a third of those killed in December are pedestrians. On dark winter days and nights, pedestrians and cyclists must remember to wear visible clothing.

### Lighting

Decorate with warm and colorful lights. When setting up, don’t put anyone at risk of shock or electrocution. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) warns, “U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 835 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees.” And the trees? “Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in more than two in five (41 percent) of home Christmas tree fires.”

Here’s how to shrink the risk. Outdoors, use only outdoor-rated cords. Plug outdoor lights into ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outside receptacles, rather than passing them through doors or windows. Route cords thoughtfully, not where

they’ll pose tripping hazards, or get pinched or crushed. Don’t leave an extension cord plugged into another extension; safety certifications presume temporary, single-cord use. Finally, beware of overloading receptacles and circuits. Add up the wattage ratings on the nameplates of the loads you’ll use simultaneously, especially heat-producing appliances. Good 15-ampere wiring supplies about 1800 watts safely. Overloading is especially dangerous if the building uses the Federal Pacific Electric (FPE) Stablok breaker panels found around Greenbelt. Research published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers showed those breakers carry a ~10 percent risk of not tripping as they should.

### Candles

When lighting candles, enjoy the glow, but don’t leave flames burning unattended. Set candles well away from flammables such as window treatments and holiday decorations. What’s underneath? Contain the wax and flame safely if a candle or candelabra falls.

Decorate intelligently: NFPA notes, “Candles started 46 percent of [December home decoration] fires.” FEMA’s U.S. Fire Administration says almost half the holiday decoration fires result

from positioning them too near a heat source. Climb sound ladders to hang decorations. The National Safety Council points out, “More than 8.5 million people were treated in emergency rooms for fall-related injuries in 2022.”

### Cooking

Cook festive meals, and restrict that heat too. NFPA reports two of the three worst days for home cooking fires are December 24 and 25. Wear garments that won’t swing over flame, and keep half an eye on your cooking. Unattended cooking is the most common cause of these fires. Parental warning: if you use plug-in cookware, make sure the cords don’t dangle where a child can yank on them.

### Less Sun

Our cheer, camaraderie and light stave away the cold and dark, and the experience of shorter and dimmer days. Do recognize that a neighbor may not have that companionship. If the lack of summer sun induces Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), offering company may be even more valuable. The National Institute of Mental Health advises that in addition to dark thoughts, the winter variety of SAD can bring on unwise eating and social withdrawal. Greenbelt’s spirit is generous. Let’s share it.

## NEW DEAL continued from page 1

new memberships are now being accepted. The Café had the espresso machine repaired at a cost of \$1,100, and will buy a new dishwasher which will cost around \$5,100. To cover those expenses a recent benefit raised \$1,600 and a GoFundMe exists to finish raising the funds. Treasurer Alan Parker reported the Café has \$45,000 in the bank now. He has put together a conservative budget for 2025 for the board to discuss. Income for the Café is from the 4 percent food and beverage surcharge, which raises 60 percent of the budget, along with membership fees, grants, donations, merchandise and loans. Hilliard is now paying for operating expenses, including band meals and all utilities, rent and equipment repairs, putting the Café on a more stable financial footing. Parker said the board is seeking bids for a new accounting firm, since the current one has raised its fees substantially and doesn’t provide the figures the board really needs.

### Music and Coming Events

Music Coordinator Liz Springer reported that events this year have been successful; the Labor Day Festival raised \$20,000 in revenue. No bands had to be cancelled during the transition period. Member reservations for concerts are still an issue with people making reservations and then not showing up at all or not until after the music has started, requiring others who sat at their empty tables to move.

Several events are planned or in the works for 2025. On Wednesday, January 8, Hilliard and others will perform. A grand opening will be held in January, tentatively the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The New Deal’s 30th anniversary celebration will be in spring or

early summer. There will be five menus in 2025, with some overlap between them: breakfast, lunch, dinner, late night and one for members only.

### Hilliard’s Report

In his report Hilliard said “Thank you for trusting me with this,” and added, “Be patient, give us a chance, we still have things to work out. I’m here to listen, my staff is here to listen.”

All the food is fresh, is made at the Café and is thrown out at the end of the day. “To have quality you have to pay for quality.” Hilliard introduced the members of his staff who were there. He said with a few exceptions he trains everyone to do every job in the café.

In answer to questions, Hilliard said that while there had been talk of having table service the tables are too big and prevent the movement needed to allow it. Asked about a full liquor license, he said they are considering it but want to think through what kind and what amount to serve. “We want to be responsible, we want people to be safe,” Hilliard said.

An audience member commented, “The way you’ve been talking is exactly what this place needs.”



PHOTO BY KATRINA BOVERMAN



Venturing Crew 746’s Winter Wonderland was indeed wonderful.



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY KEYES

A very festive car is parked outside the Greenbelt Co-op.

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# City's Ethics Ordinance Updated; Horton New Commission Chair

by Daniel Thies



PHOTO BY DANIEL THIES

At left, Isiah Horton, incoming chair of the Greenbelt Ethics Commission shakes hands with outgoing chair, David Shapiro.

At the Greenbelt City Council worksession on December 4, David Shapiro, the outgoing chair of the Greenbelt Ethics Commission, and Isiah Horton, the incoming chair, spoke about the commission's current draft of the city charter's ethics ordinance. Although the commission was established over a decade ago, keeping the ethics ordinance in compliance with state standards is a cyclical requirement, and the commission also makes itself available to provide clarification when ethical questions arise. City Manager Josué Salmerón noted that the team has been very proactive in their role; in Salmerón's first weeks as city manager, Shapiro was one of the first people to come to him with recommendations.

This new iteration of the ethics ordinance includes minor changes with a focus on the new guidelines being clear. The commission considered using Cheverly's ordinance as a reference point when structuring their current draft as Cheverly's ordinance has recently been approved by the state. Greenbelt did use two elements from Cheverly.

### Clarity and Simplicity

While it may seem simple to copy and paste the parts of the document that work, the commission had spent its previous meetings combing through each line to make sure that the key terms it uses minimize confusion. For example, references to "ministerial duties" have been changed to "administrative duties" after consulting with Assistant State Ethics Commission Counsel Pansy Watson, as the city charter already uses that term. While both words can refer to the same type of activity, in a modern context "ministerial" is associated more with a religious context than a secular one. The commission believes that this attention to detail is vital to the utility of the document, as the plain language should reduce confusion.

### Flexibility

Balancing the need for the draft to stay in compliance with state requirements, the commission also wants procedures for applying the ethics ordinance to make room for extenuating circumstances. While they plan to formalize procedures for things like late financial disclosure forms incurring fines, the commission also understands that people can miss the deadline due to events such as an unexpected hospitalization. When issues like that come up, the commission

plans to specify consistent procedures, with individuals being clearly notified before issues escalate to their maximum penalties, and without undue demands on staff. Shapiro said that their touchstone has been to "Be Greenbelt – Be Human."

### Discussion

Shapiro and Horton took questions from council regarding how different parts of the draft would be applied. Councilmember Kristen Weaver, reviewing the sections covering gifts, wondered if any city official could participate in local community organizations like the "Buy Nothing" Facebook groups, where residents offload household items they no longer use, or if that would violate the ordinance's provisions. The commission representatives saw that, while accepting a valuable gift from someone could create a power imbalance, or the appearance of one, "borrowing a cup of sugar" is a time-honored and community-positive activity that they don't want the city charter to hinder.

# FIRE DEPT continued from page 1

the need is EMS related. The current coverage system in place is working well, Chief Tiffany Green maintained when speaking with the News Review on Monday, December 9. Similarly, coverage for Berwyn Heights is working, she said, and whenever they call to say they don't have staffing, the county sends a fire resource to that station. Everyone is comfortable with that, she said. In addition, if needed, in January the county has committed to adding an EMS resource to that station three days a week. To help meet Greenbelt's EMS need and because Bunker Hill will be gaining staff, the county is moving the NEMSDO from Bunker Hill to Greenbelt. The NEMSDO is a high-ranking EMS position responsible for coordinating EMS operations, including dispatching ambulances and managing critical situations. In addition, Paramedic Ambulance 858 will be positioned at Greenbelt 24/7, staffed with overtime personnel. Ambulance 899 will remain at the station, too, staffed with overtime personnel as the peak demand unit from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. The goal is to enhance EMS response coverage to Greenbelt and surrounding areas, including Berwyn Heights, College Park, Glenn Dale, Lanham and Seabrook.

The News Review asked Green if the addition of a 24/7 ambulance and the NEMSDO to Greenbelt could be taken as a sign the county plans to continue to staff the station. "We never wanted to come out of Greenbelt," said Green. "What does Greenbelt need?" she asked. They need more EMS presence than they need fire, she said. "And what are my volunteers doing?" asked Green. "We've had very little participation from them [while] some stations exceeded expectations," she said. Green suggested she needed to treat stations fairly and hold volunteers accountable. "Does [Greenbelt]

need to combine with Berwyn Heights into one?" asked the chief.

However, she said her commitment is to have staff at Greenbelt. "I do believe that having someone in that station is necessary. I'd like to see multiple EMS [there]."

### Bunker Hill

In selecting which stations to add staff to, Green said they looked at gaps. Of the four stations who lost career staff this year, Bunker Hill had the biggest service gap, she told the News Review, when asked how they made the decision of where to return staff. That station was meeting response time standards for most of its calls but relying on volunteer leadership and she's listened to them and their need for career support in the decision, said Green.

### Laurel

"Once we started looking at our service gaps we saw that Laurel has the biggest gaps in the county," Green told the News Review. Many calls in that area were being met by responders outside of Prince George's County, she said, and they weren't meeting the response time goals. In the Laurel area, at the north of the county, neighboring coverage is provided by Anne Arundel, Howard and Montgomery counties. But those fire departments are spending more time in our county offering mutual aid than we are in theirs and each one of those partners have told PGFD we need to figure out staffing, said Green. The fire department, still critically understaffed, couldn't staff both Laurel Fire Departments (Station 810 and Station 849) so they are staffing one, says Green. Beginning December 29, Station 810 will have six career personnel per shift, totaling 24 personnel across all four shifts. Medic 810 will become Paramedic Ambulance 810.

Increased staffing in Laurel has implications for Greenbelt

because Beltsville was spending the majority of its time in Laurel, said Green. Now she hopes that neighboring fire departments will be more available for the Greenbelt corridor, instead of being pulled north.

### Speed, Transparency

Green says the county fire department is moving with all the speed they can and seeking to be transparent in sharing their future plans as soon as they can. While new recruits are in training and face some of the toughest exams toward the end of that, it's hard to know how many additional staff each cohort will yield due to graduation rates and attrition. As we reported previously, though PGFD gained 29 new recruits in July, they had lost 28 sworn employees since May 31, some of whom were recruits, for a net gain of a single person. This current recruit cohort will graduate Friday, December 27 and will begin working at stations on Sunday, December 29. "We're not even waiting a pay period," stressed Green. She noted they are also bound by collective bargaining agreements and those agreements come into play with which stations can be staffed and with how many members. She is sharing plans as soon as she is able to when she's confident of the number of staff she can rely on as recruits graduate, said Green.

# Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially strings. They are also currently seeking oboe and trombone players. For more information, visit [GreenbeltOrchestra.org](http://GreenbeltOrchestra.org).



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# ARMORY continued from page 1

mortar in its brick walls, exposed rebar where there was concrete, and deep cracks crawling up the sides of the garages and main building. Although the limestone facade at the building's front looks stable, a closer inspection found that the stonework was installed improperly; pins that connect the facade to the building are now bent and warped. The firm also found places where misguided attempts to repair the building exacerbated issues; for example, brick walls designed with holes to drain rainfall were plugged with simple caulking, thus allowing outside moisture to find its way into the buildings and accumulate.

The cracks found on the outside walls continued inside. Imes-Thomas recalled when she entered the Armory's gym, she immediately noticed a large crack across the concrete ceiling. Other rooms had missing ceiling tiles and caved beams. Most of the AMAR Group's photos of the interior displayed the results of taking in years of rainfall. The original hardwood flooring has bowed out of shape or gone soft from years of soaking. Likewise, painted walls have bubbled due to rain collecting between the paint and drywall before bursting. Even the tiling has become discolored where water collected underneath and mold took hold.

Compounding the issue of water retention are the preliminary test results for hazardous materials. The firm found over 30 positive cases of lead in the paint.

Some of the different building materials also tested positive for asbestos. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Code of Federal Regulations, the threshold for a material to be considered asbestos positive is a one percent presence in a sample; however, tests of fiberglass wraps found asbestos levels as high as 10 percent, and over 50 percent in tests of pipe fittings. The extent to which these and other carcinogenic materials may have spread out from the buildings through the flow of rainwater is still unknown.

The AMAR Group will be assessing the rest of what the city acquired in the purchase of the Armory. Given the potential runoff of hazards from the building materials, munitions storage, shooting range and motor pool, the firm is being careful in its analysis of the grounds. After both the building and site observations are complete, the AMAR Group will then report their recommendations for the buildings on January 23 and the site on February 6.

Although Imes-Thomas was cautious about giving any recommendations for actions to take before those reports are completed, City Manager Josué Salmerón explained that city staff have already taken preventative measures to keep some of the identified problems from getting worse: the Armory's roof has been covered to prevent further rainwater from getting inside, and cameras have been installed to deter further



A damaged roof has led to water damage that impacts the ceilings and floors of the Armory.



The Armory's boiler room at the time of acquisition

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

break-ins. Given the facility's hazards, preventing break-ins is in the interest of the well-being

of urban explorers as much as the city property.

## City Notes

The City Manager, Economic Development, Planning and Public Information toured Goddard Space Flight Center and discussed partnership opportunities with staff there. Several departments participated in the District 22 Legislative Dinner. Many city staff attended a town hall hosted by Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Public Safety visited the Volunteer Fire Department to assess tech and Wi-Fi needs. Economic Development collaborated with The SPACE about future funding and toured the Greenbelt Makerspace.

Planning attended a county transportation master plan meeting and Code Enforcement inspected 16 rental properties. Current animal shelter residents are two dogs and a cat.


Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted Learn2Earn training and the Youth Center welcomed Kidz Connect and Teen Takeover.

The Concert Band performed at the Community Center. The Museum supported the Reparations Commission and installed an exhibit in the Community Center display case.

CARES Turkey Giveaway at the Community Center distributed 100 turkeys, and the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program's Holiday Food Box event at Springhill Lake Recreation Center served 250 families.







*Allison Bruff, MD*



*Regina Hampton, MD*

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# JEDI continued from page 1

includes auditing and addressing JEDI in city government through an internal JEDI audit and also in the community with a JEDI audit of residents' experiences living in Greenbelt (also known as a "community audit" or "Phase II audit").

Smith said the 2023 internal audit (by consultant Tribesby) was to identify city government challenges and barriers contributing to employees' negative experiences, and identify employees' actual experiences. The internal audit was meant as a step toward improving employee job satisfaction, morale and teamwork, in a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace. It was followed by the 2024 community audit of resident experiences (with results to be shared at a December 18 council worksession).

The 2023 internal audit found some employees felt their work environment is unhealthy, with colleagues unwilling to share knowledge or power, resistance to new ideas, little partnership between departments and inefficient processes affecting workloads.

### Team Formation

Council directed staff to plan how to address the audit findings. Smith briefed the plan to council in April 2024, including a top-down approach to educate leaders and supervisors on DEI and review policies and programs, and a bottom-up approach through a JEDI Action Team of employees to plan and execute improvements with Smith. The plan included training for all employees in DEI concepts (including intent vs. impact), emotional intelligence, dialogue and conflict management, with additional training for supervisors and the action team.

In April 2024 all employees were informed of the team and invited to join. Thirteen volunteered with supervisor approval. There was no selection procedure because all interested employees were welcomed to the team. Team members began working together in spring 2024.

### The Role

The JEDI Action Team is an advisory group to city management and fellow employees, ultimately accountable to Salmerón. He describes them as "informing decision-making on how we make our workplace the best it can be, certainly better than the audit." He said they will create the city's JEDI lens, which Albright College describes as a framework to ensure that policies, procedures, programs and decisions support DEI. Salmerón said the team provides input when asked (like on remote work policies equitable for all staff) and proactively provides input on issues of which they become aware. Smith said the JEDI Action Team's role is to help ensure city employees have a work environment that feels safe to them, in which they can provide feedback or ideas and that avoids unintentional harms.

Smith characterized the team as conversational and collaborative in how they discuss issues and make decisions, which they make by consensus. Smith said they feel confident and supported by their supervisors to lead JEDI work.

Salmerón and Smith said the team will be permanent, with members continuing as long as they want and changing over time. The team receives no funding because their activity oc-

curs within their workday around their primary job responsibilities. The cost of team training was included in the Tribesby contract. Because the team is internal to city staff, its meetings and activities are not open to the public. They do not keep minutes of their meetings, though Smith said it could become necessary in the future if the team grew larger. Though the team's work isn't public facing, its members are not anonymous. Salmerón said the city released their names to Greenbelt residents who made Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) requests for them recently.

### August Memo

At the August 12 council meeting, Councilmember Rodney Roberts questioned Public Works staff on a department proposal to replace a city vehicle engine, saying of the dealership's price quote, "If you're dumb enough to take that, then you are." (See November 7 issue.) Employees contacted the Action Team the next day, according to Smith, who said the remarks affected employees' morale and their feelings about engaging with city council. She said team members said, "If we're here to make equitable change, if we're here to address the concerns employees have, then this is what we want to be our first call to action." She said the team brainstormed recommendations to address the concerns and wrote the memo.

Salmerón said that as a manager, it's his job to ensure city employees have a safe and welcoming workplace, which includes city council meetings when employees are asked to attend those meetings.

The city council addressed "Unbecoming Conduct of a Councilmember per Council Standing Rules" in its December 9 meeting. At that Monday evening meeting, the council voted 5-2 to publicly rebuke Roberts (with Roberts and Councilmember Silke Pope opposed). Look for a report on that council meeting in next week's issue.

### Next Steps, Continuing Efforts

The JEDI community audit results will be reviewed at the December 18 council worksession. The JEDI Team has drafted justice, equity and inclusion definitions and a city vision statement, which they shared with city staff and will share with residents


for feedback before council review and adoption. The team will review city processes and procedures to incorporate JEDI, conduct employee engagement activities to gain employee input and build relationships across departments, conduct employee awareness and education events, and plan JEDI improvements to address audit findings.

Salmerón said the 2023 audit revealed challenges the city wants to address, to improve working and living experiences for employees and residents, including calling out when someone calls an employee dumb. He acknowledged that "it's not easy work," and emphasized the importance of trust among city staff, between staff and city council, and between Greenbelt voters and the council they elected, because trust enables good governance.

## 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. 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, 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.



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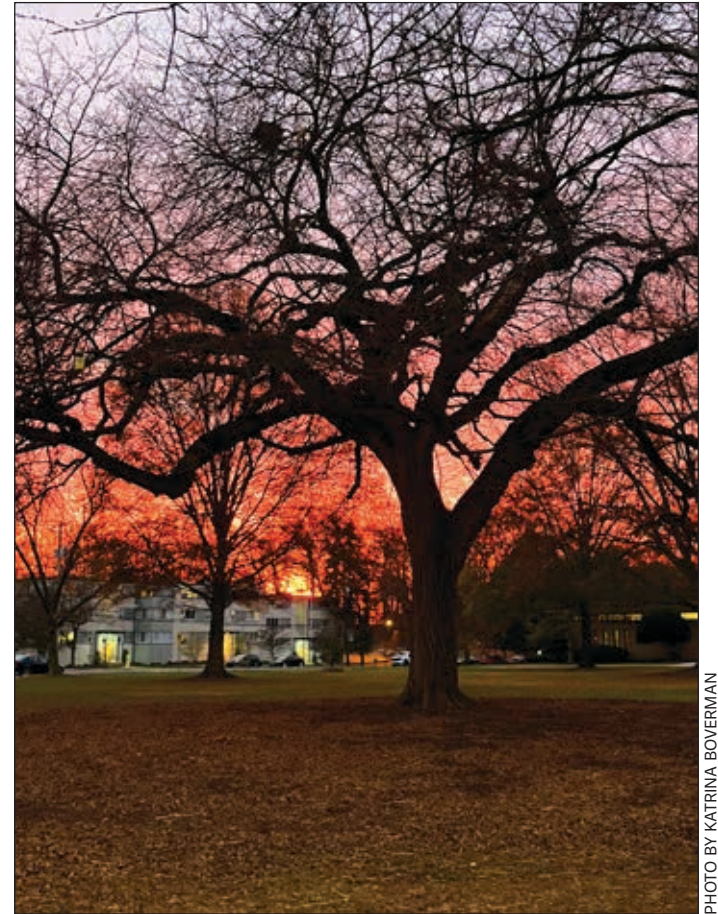


PHOTO BY KATRINA BOVERMAN

A spectacular sunset from the Community Center lawn after Sparkle Mart on Saturday, December 7

## Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

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

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




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- Amendments to the Constitution

Guest Speaker:

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December 20, 2024 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Greenbriar Terrace Room  
7600 Hanover Parkway  
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This is a potluck affair. Please bring some light refreshments.

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**Holiday Deadlines**

Ads are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 23 or 30. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 20 or 27. There will be no office hours on Tuesdays, December 24 and 31, and no ads will be accepted on those days.

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**BOXED:** \$10.90/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$16.35). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

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

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

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## Spotted in Greenbelt



PHOTO BY BILL WILKERSON

**Brett Busang, a prominent American realist, has recently been painting in plein air around Greenbelt, including here, on Wednesday, November 13.**



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

**Eye-catching garden features on Research Road**

## Letters cont'd from p.2

According to princegeorgescountymd.gov, it is against the law to leave your pet's waste on public or private property and may result in fines up to \$250. You can dispose of dog poop in a biodegradable bag, and then in a trash can or at a designated pet waste station. Wash your hands after scooping.

Maryland's Department of the Environment Scoop the Poop initiative educates the public about the benefits of scooping pet's poop.

For the love of (fill in the blank here), scoop your pet's poop!

*The Celdran-Taylor Family*

contribution!

Unfortunately, it only exists on-site and in paper form so far. When asked, the library staff was uncertain whether it would be made available online. I can't imagine why not. A simple, searchable pdf could be uploaded to the website. Then researchers anywhere in the world could benefit from these students' hard work toward making the collection usable.

*Windy Davis*



### Tugwell Finding Aid

I recently attended a presentation by the UMD Community Archiving class summarizing what they had learned from spending their semester combing through the Tugwell Collection. I've lived here for a decade and have always wondered what's in that collection, so the presentation was a great overview.

But if you want to do any real research, you'll need something that has been lacking until now: a finding aid. The UMD students created a 50+ page finding aid covering about two thirds of the collection. What a tremendous

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**3 Bedroom Towhome** Large, fenced backyard that opens onto protected woodland. Remodeled top to bottom, opened kitchen & more.



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# Santa Visits the Youth Center; Children Share Wishes, Photos

Santa visited the Youth Center on Sunday. He welcomed a steady stream of children who climbed on his lap to share their Christmas wishes and take a photo with the jolly celebrity. A cozy backdrop made for a great photo opportunity: Greenbelt Recreation staff snapped shots and printed them right there so little ones and parents could take home a framed photograph that day.

The Youth Center game room, where families waited, was filled with excitement, smiles and high spirits. Children could snack on doughnut holes or fruit, color

in festive pages, play tabletop foosball or sign up to receive a phone call from Santa later in the week. One family wore matching sweaters for the occasion and many children dressed smartly or festively for their pictures. For many, visiting Santa in the Youth Center is a longstanding annual tradition. The News Review has been reporting Santa's annual visits to the Youth Center since the 1960s when the city developed public activities around the December holidays, then called the Festival of Lights.



Children play tabletop foosball as they await their visit with Santa.



Santa welcomes children to share their Christmas wishes and take a photo with him.



Three-year-old Leilani chats with an elf as she colors and waits to visit Santa.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

# Honk Band Performs at Baltimore Krampus; Local Festival Saturday

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Saturday, December 7, the Greenbelt Honk! Situation band and supporters braved the cold and danced it off at the Baltimore Krampuslauf in Fells Point. Krampus is St. Nicholas' dark companion, a horned creature of Alpine folklore. Krampus is traditionally celebrated on or near December 5, which is Krampusnacht, or Krampus Night, the night before the feast of St. Nicholas.

Last weekend the band paraded the streets in Fells Point and performed two rounds of scarols – dark parodies of Christmas carols – in the square. They were joined by members of the Baltimore Krampus, including elaborate costumes, impressive makeup and a dancing Mari Lwyd. Mari Lwyd is a nightmarish hobby horse or skull that makes an appearance during the festive season in Welsh tradition, sometimes linked to New Year revelry and travelling from doorstep to doorstep, singing or challenging residents to gain entry to the home and be rewarded with beverages and food.

This Saturday, December 14, the Greenbelt Honk! Situation will host their own Krampusnacht. Baltimore Krampus revelers also plan to be in attendance in their finest costumes. The community can join the revelry at Roosevelt Center from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dorian Winterfeld, followed by Dave Eubanks on trombone (partially obscured) and Michael Cooney also on trombone, parade with the Greenbelt Honk! Situation in Fells Point.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



The Greenbelt Honk! Situation performed at the Baltimore Krampus Festival on Saturday. They were joined by revelers in elaborate costumes and impressive makeup, and even a dancing Mari Lwyd horse skull puppet.



Cheerful runners of all ages stride through the cold rain at the 2024 Gobble Wobble.

## Gobble Wobble Results

The Gobble Wobble 2024 was a great success despite the rain. The annual 5K run and walk took place Thanksgiving morning around Greenbelt Lake.

### Top three male finishers

Soren Bryan (19:17), Josué Sanchez (20:21), Ian Gleason (21:10)

### Top three female finishers

Sydney Fiore (26:25), Lily Novick (26:46), Kate Morris (27:39)



From left, Mayor Emmett Jordan, the Greenbelt Recreation turkey, Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Silke Pope



- Photos courtesy City of Greenbelt