

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 88, No. 9

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

JANUARY 23, 2025

## Black American History Month

### Greenbelt Offers Many Celebrations During Black American History Month

by Lois Rosado



**FREED (Female Re-enactors of Distinction) will come to Greenbelt again on February 21. From left: Marcia Cole, Joyce Bailey, Patricia Tyson and Lavinia Broadnax**

“Black American History Month” is being acknowledged in Greenbelt by various groups. This year’s theme is African Americans and Labor. The month-long celebration is about the history of the nation, and many groups in Greenbelt join in to illuminate information that has often been omitted from history books. Using the title Black American History Month avoids “othering” of African Americans by conveying that Black history is American history as Black Americans are African.

#### Scheduled Events

Beginning on Sunday, February 2 there will be an Artful

Afternoon program at the Community Center from 1 to 3 p.m. The same activity will be held at Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Sunday, February 9 at 1 p.m. The program is inspired by the work of Aaron Douglas, painter and muralist. He founded the Harlem Arts Guild during the Harlem Renaissance to advance Black American painters and sculptors.

Also on February 2, a city-wide Art Exhibition will open with a reception at the New Deal Café at 1 p.m.

On Monday, February 10 at See **HISTORY MONTH**, p. 6

### Council Changes Code and Charter To Codify Process to Fill Vacancies

by Maurice Crawford

At the January 13 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council approved changes to the City Code and Charter that lay out how a vacant council seat can be filled. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was the only member to oppose these changes.

The new process diverges from the steps council took at the end of 2023, after the late councilmember Ric Gordon died in November, the month he was elected to his second term. In January 2024, council appointed Amy Knesel to serve for the remainder of the term, over objections both from those who wanted the next-highest vote-getter in the recent election to be appointed and from those who called for a special election to be held.

The new changes determine

the following: (1) if the vacancy occurs after an election and 181 days before the next election, then a special election will be held to fill the vacancy; (2) if the vacancy occurs between 60 and 180 days before the next regular election, then councilmembers must fill it by majority vote within 45 days. Council must hold public hearings and allow written nominations of candidates until the date of the final hearing. (3) If the vacancy occurs 60 or fewer days before the next regular election, then the seat may remain vacant until after the election, or council may fill the seat at its discretion, by majority vote and after at least one public hearing. (4) If more than 90 days before an election there are three or more council vacancies, then the seats must be filled by special

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

### Temperature Plunges and Parkway Residents Remain Without Heat

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Tuesday, January 21, a day the City of Greenbelt’s alert system shared an Extreme Cold Advisory from the National Weather Service and schools had a delayed opening due to low temperatures and icy conditions, residents at Parkway Gardens told the News Review they are still without heat. On Tuesday, City Manager Josué Salmerón said code enforcement was currently conducting inspections at the property. The city had given the management company until January 20 to find a solution. That date passed and residents reported no improvement as the temperatures dropped to the low 20s Tuesday and Wednesday, with a low of 11 degrees at night. On Wednesday, January 22, Greenbelt’s Director of Planning & Community Development Terri Hruby confirmed to the News Review that both Parkway Gardens and Crescent Pointe apartments had failed to resolve the heating issues.

On Wednesday, Hruby told the News Review the city is actively



#### Parkway Gardens Apartments

pursuing enforcement actions. Those include issuing initial fines of \$4,200 to Parkway Gardens. If the heating issues are still not resolved in ten days, additional fines of \$10,500 will be issued and \$21,000 every ten days thereafter. At Crescent Pointe the first round of fines total \$1,200. Subsequent fines will escalate to \$3,000 and \$6,000 fined every ten days the issues are unre-

solved. “The City remains committed to ensuring compliance with all relevant codes and protecting the safety and well-being of residents,” Hruby told the News Review.

Parkway resident Paul Leeks, a former maintenance supervisor who said he was familiar with the boilers, told the News Review they missed state-required

See **PARKWAY**, page 7

### Schools Seek to Protect Access, Safety for Immigrant Students

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Friday, January 17, Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) Superintendent Millard House II shared a statement of commitment to “safe and supportive schools,” and though it did not mention the incoming president or the inauguration, his accompanying video message spoke of “a new chapter ahead for our nation,” and the written statement spoke of standing on “the brink of change,” “transition” and “uncertainty,” while clearly seeking to address the fears of immigrant families. “We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that every child – regardless of background, language or country of

origin – receives a high-quality education in a safe, welcoming environment,” stated House, who also said, “at this time, schools remain considered secure locations under federal law,” and “we do not anticipate Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity on school grounds.”

PGCPS stands in solidarity with families who “feel unsettled

right now,” read the statement. “It is important for our families to know the following: Every child has the right to a free public school education, regardless of immigration status. Our commitment to this fundamental principle is unwavering. PGCPS does not track the immigration status

See **SCHOOLS**, page 11

#### What Goes On

**Monday, January 27**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, January 29**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: City Manager Quarterly Update, Municipal Building

**Save the Date: Thursday, January 30, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall: Discussion of Pool Deck Repairs and Aquatic Services for 2025 Season**

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



Heroes remove snow at the Co-op. See story on page 12.



# Letters to the Editor

## No Heat

I am a resident of Parkway Gardens Apartments in Greenbelt. This letter is a statement of the condition of no heat in the apartments since October 2024. Pinnacle Property Group was notified that there was a boiler problem in May 2024 by myself. I have been employed by them as maintenance supervisor and previously employed with Vista Management for 14 years, managing Parkway Gardens and I'm very familiar with the boilers and their condition. Inspections were not requested of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations and Global Boiler Insurance Company, who then condemned the boilers for non-inspection since the February 2023 expiration date.

Paul Leeks

## Public Accountability Requested

It seems our town has an enduring mystery that rivals the best detective stories: the Case of the Missing Poop Bags. Every morning, unsuspecting pedestrians play a real-life game of "Don't Step on the Landmine" as they navigate sidewalks and grassy patches. The culprits?

Dogs whose owners seem to believe their furry companions' contributions to the ecosystem are above cleanup.

I understand carrying a bag to scoop up your pet's artistic expressions isn't glamorous. But here's a wild idea: if you're not prepared to deal with the business end of dog ownership, maybe reconsider the stroll through public spaces. Some owners don't even bother with the pretense of caring – walking around with their dog but not a poop bag in sight. Others, bold as brass, let their dog do the deed and walk away like they've been awarded diplomatic immunity. At least pretend you care! Fake a sneeze, bend down and rustle a leaf or something.

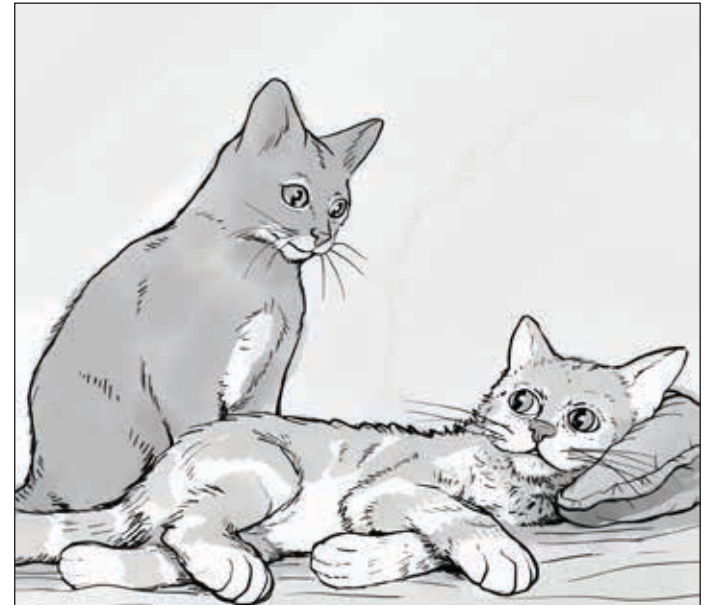
Should we resort to taking pictures and starting a community gallery of shame? Perhaps a little public accountability will inspire a change of heart. And if that fails, maybe we can hire the neighborhood cats to unionize and protest.

Dog owners, we're not asking for much. Just scoop the poop and keep Greenbelt looking – and smelling – like a place we all want to live.

Here's for clean sidewalks and shared civic responsibility,  
Abhijit James Masih

## Correction

Last week's article about the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department's proposal for temporary buildings at Beltsville's Chestnut Hills Park to temporarily house firefighters and apparatus stated the project was sent for mandatory referral. It was subject to mandatory referral only for administrative review by county planning staff rather than the full planning board. Thus, no public hearing was required. Construction began during the week of January 13 (see page 12).



I'm taking it easy this year.

- M. Kusie, News Review, January 19, 2023

## 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.



Little Free Library #4388 on Greenhill Road has a new companion.

## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### Nosferatu

Director Robert Eggers' film, from Focus Features, is a Gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her, causing untold horror in its wake. It is a remake of F.W. Murnau's 1922 film *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror*, itself based on Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. Bill Skarsgård stars as Count Orlok, while Nicholas Hoult and Lily-Rose Depp are Thomas and Ellen Hutter. Said critic Danny Leigh of the *Financial Times*, "The film is fine – an artisanal horror made with care and invention."

### The Room Next Door

Ingrid (Julianne Moore) and Martha (Tilda Swinton) were close friends in their youth, when they worked together at the same magazine. Ingrid went on to become an autofiction novelist while Martha became a war reporter, and they were separated by the circumstances of life. After years of being out of touch, they meet again in an extreme but strangely sweet situation. "The Room Next Door" showcases a carefully choreographed dance between two Oscar winners that elevates both of their performances to greatness," said critic Odie Henderson of the *Boston Globe*.

### Sing Sing

Divine G (Colman Domingo), imprisoned at Sing Sing prison for a crime he didn't commit, finds purpose by acting in a theater group alongside other incarcerated men, including a wary newcomer (Clarence Maclin), in this stirring true story of resilience, humanity and the transformative power of art. It's an unforgettable ensemble cast of formerly incarcerated actors. Said critic Justin Chang of *The New Yorker*, "Having pared away nearly every detail that doesn't advance the plot, Kwedar and Bentley rely heavily on their lead actors to fill the ensuing breach. In this, at least, their instincts are sure."

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:**  
JANUARY 24th - 30th

**Nosferatu (R) (CC)**  
(DVS) (2025) (131 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 7:45 PM  
Sat. 7:45 PM  
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)  
Mon. 5:00 PM  
Tues. 7:30 PM  
Thurs. 7:30 PM  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:00 PM  
Sat. 7:30 PM  
Sun. 5:00 PM  
Mon. 4:00 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM

**The Room Next Door (PG-13)**  
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (110 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Mon. 2:15 PM (OC)  
Wed. 5:00 PM  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sat. 5:00 PM  
Sun. 2:30 PM  
Tues. 5:30 PM  
Thurs. 5:40 PM

**Sing Sing (R) (CC)**  
(DVS) (2024) (107 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Wed. 7:20 PM  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Mon. 1:30 PM  
Tues. 7:50 PM  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

# 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

## New Deal Art Exhibit To Open February 2

The citywide art exhibit will open on Sunday, February 2 at the New Deal Café. A reception will be held at 1 p.m. Come join in the fun. For more information email [blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com](mailto:blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com).

## Poetry in the Garden

The Poetry Club will meet on Sunday, February 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the clubhouse at Schrom Hills Park in Greenbelt East. The topic for this free session will be African American poetry. The public is invited to read their chosen poems or enjoy listening and discussing this topic. Refreshments will be served.

For more details, call Effie at 443-415-1053.



## Astronomical Society To Meet January 30

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 30 in Room 114 of the Community Center. Joseph Grikis, of ASG and the Cumberland Astronomy Club, will give a presentation entitled The Most Famous Astronomer You Never Knew. The mystery scientist was a highly talented and historically underappreciated stargazer, physicist and mathematician. This will be a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. The link will be posted before the event at [greenbeltastro.org/events](http://greenbeltastro.org/events).

The meeting is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## Greenbelt Chess Club

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, January 28 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, go to [tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m](http://tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m) and complete the brief form. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com).

## GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit [givesgreenbelt.org](http://givesgreenbelt.org).

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

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

## At the Library

The 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.

### Storytimes

Friday, January 24, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12329222](http://pgcmls.info/event/12329222).

Wednesday, January 29, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12329123](http://pgcmls.info/event/12329123).

Thursday, January 30, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12329149](http://pgcmls.info/event/12329149).

### Holds on Materials

Customers may continue to place holds on physical materials (books, DVDs, Blu-Rays) via the PGCMLS catalog ([catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris](http://catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris)) or the Ask a Librarian/Biblio Consulta Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. Items may be picked up inside branches or a contactless curbside service appointment may be scheduled same-day or up to a week ahead via the PGCMLS website or the Ask a Librarian/Biblio Consulta Telephone Reference service.

## Book Discussion Group at New Deal

The Bibliophiles will meet from 11 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of each month at the New Deal Café. The first meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 12. The agenda includes introductions and house-keeping, followed, time permitting, by discussion of their first nonfiction book: Celebrating the Third Place, Inspiring Stories About the Heart of our Communities by Ray Oldenburg. The book will be reserved at the Greenbelt Library's e-book; the paperback can be ordered from Amazon or the Libby app from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Email RSVPs to [VanCaldwell@wvcaldwell@gmail.com](mailto:VanCaldwell@wvcaldwell@gmail.com) with the subject line Bibliophiles.

## Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes the Prince George's County schools. Annual dues are up for renewal.

January 29 – New Year closet inventory with Jan Derry. Jan tells how to inventory closets to be more efficient.



## 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.

## Makerspace Repair Café

The Makerspace Repair Café will be open on Saturday, February 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (volunteers needed as well). Bring bikes, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library Saturdays are from 10 a.m. to noon, Sundays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go to [tools.greenbeltmakers.org](http://tools.greenbeltmakers.org) for more information.



## Toastmasters Open House, February 1

Looking for a fun and supportive way to improve communication and leadership skills? Come to the Toastmasters Open House on Saturday, February 1 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center to network with local members and learn how to join a club near you. Visit [bit.ly/4fnSAjJ](http://bit.ly/4fnSAjJ) for more information and to register.

## Museum Open House: Valentines and More

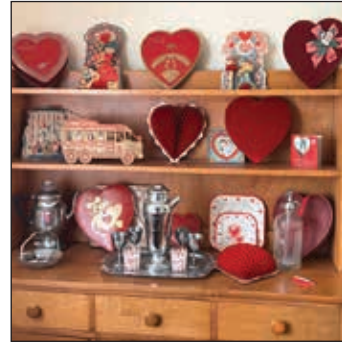


PHOTO BY MEGAN YOUNG

### Sweets for the sweet

Join the Museum for Be Our Valentine, a free Museum open house on Sunday, February 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 10-A Crescent Road. Visit for a quick tour and a lighthearted look at love in the 1940s and 1950s. See vintage valentines, decorations, funny ads, magazines and more. This is a free event, pre-registration and tickets are not required. Visitors of all ages and abilities are welcome.

The Museum has always been committed to creating an inclusive environment, so this year they are hosting the youth-led nonprofit We Are Artistic as part of the open house. The group will be educating visitors about Spread the Word to End the Word, an effort to stop use of the harmful "R" word, historically used to describe people with intellectual disabilities.

## PORCH Has One More January Food Pickup

The impact of a fully stocked pantry is profound. The shelves were emptied at the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association food pantry at St. Hugh's during the holidays. To help keep the shelves stocked, PORCH will pick up nonperishable food placed on porches as scheduled below.

Sunday, January 26 – by 4 p.m. for 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road and 8 and 10 Courts Southway, and by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.



## Lafayette Credit Union Hosts Budget Workshop

Lafayette Federal Credit Union is hosting a Budgeting Basics Workshop on Saturday, January 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Credit Union in Greenway Center.

This workshop is designed to provide community members with techniques to take control of their finances. In this interactive session, experts will outline how to track income and expenses, master budgeting basics, create a personalized budget plan and more. Light fare is included. RSVP at [lfcu.events/budget0125](http://lfcu.events/budget0125).

## the seagull

by anton chekhov  
a story in music

at

8pm fri & sat: january 24, 25, 31 & february 1  
2pm sun: january 26 (facemasks required)  
pay-what-you-will! 8pm wed january 29

scan qr code for tickets or visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)

## 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 9am-10pm; Tuesday—Thursday 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 12midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm**

TH 1/23	FRI 1/24	SAT 1/25	SUN 1/26	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm  <b>Goldbug Revival</b> 7-9pm Americana band with a love for songwriting	UKULELE LADIES, 3:30-5:30p <b>The Bob Band</b> 8-11pm The vibe, spirit and arrangement of Bob Dylan's original recordings	PRIVATE EVENT IN BACK ROOM, 2 - 5pm  <b>Skyla Burrell</b> 8-11pm High-energy jumping, swinging, jazzy and rockin' blues	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30 - 12noon MEET SENATOR ALONZO WASHINGTON, 1:30-3pm <b>Big Howdy Band</b> 6 - 8pm Progressive bluegrass group with vocal harmonies	
MON 1/27	TUES 1/28	WED 1/29	TH 1/30	
<b>SUPPORT THE CAFE!</b> JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP	<b>NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes</b> 6:30-9:30pm Sign-ups at 6:15p Express Yourself!	<b>The Slade Band</b> 7-9pm Funky blues & roots with elements of rock	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm <b>Reggie Right Eye &amp; The Missing Pieces</b> 7-9pm Blues, roots rock, rockabilly & more!	<b>New Deal Cafe</b>  PLEASE TIP GENEROUSLY. IT'S THE ONLY PAY BANDS RECEIVE, AND WE WANT THEM TO COME BACK! [MINIMUM: \$10]

\*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.



### CARES Needs Fund Donations

For the past three years, Greenbelt CARES has used federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to help prevent evictions brought on by Covid. The ARPA money ran out in October. Once again, it is up to Greenbelt residents to help our neighbors. Although evictions have decreased since the pandemic, families are still facing eviction because of increases in rent, illness, death of a family member or a financial crisis such as expensive medical care or car repairs.


A recent poll shows that many persons do not have financial stability due to a lack of job security, no health insurance and decreased ability to save for a financial crisis.

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be that safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

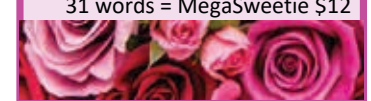
### Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

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




Your love might be real  
Or a plot  
You may be a Knight or a  
Bouder  
But whatever your plan  
Fer sure, you're The Man  
When you publish your  
twelve-dollar flatter

31 words = MegaSweetie \$12



See p. 6 to get yours!




**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



### Volunteers Needed For Tool Library

The Greenbelt Makerspace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at [signup.com/go/UNkLnqk](http://signup.com/go/UNkLnqk) or email us at [staff@make125.org](mailto:staff@make125.org) if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt Makerspace is accessed via the exterior stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.

### Free Tech Support

Marylanders Online is currently offering free one-on-one tech support in English and Spanish for Maryland residents. Technicians can help with devices, including software and hardware, internet service and digital skill classes. Anyone can sign up for an online or in-person session online at [marylandersonline.umd.edu/get-help/schedule-appointment](http://marylandersonline.umd.edu/get-help/schedule-appointment) or call 301-405-9810 or toll-free 1-866-206-9467. In-person meetings are held at 8400 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 104, College Park. Online appointments are held on Google Meet.

## GCC Holds Next Interfaith Conversation on February 3

How do different faiths and philosophies ask their adherents to engage in small acts intended to make the world a better place and to make life a little better for others? On February 3 at 6 p.m., Greenbelt Community Church (GCC) and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights will host their second interfaith conversation. The free talk will be held in the basement of GCC which is located at 1 Hillside Road.

The four-person panel includes Rabbi Saul Oresky from Mishkan Torah, who will represent the Jewish community. Reverend Clara Young, from GCC, will represent Christianity. Dr. Hema Sidhu will speak for the Sikhs.

And YaYa will address a non-religious point of view.

The focus was proposed by GCC organizer Carol Bellamy who mentioned J.R.R. Tolkien's quote from The Hobbit about how people think it takes great power to stand against darkness, but that actually it's the "small everyday deeds of ordinary folk. ... Small acts of kindness and love."

Refreshments will follow the talk. Audience members are asked to register in advance from a link on [greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/events/small-acts-of-kindness-an-interfaith-panel-discussion](http://greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/events/small-acts-of-kindness-an-interfaith-panel-discussion), particularly if they need accommodations, such as interpreters.

Anyone needing the use of an elevator, contact the church at 301-474-6171.

**LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW**  
Visually impaired may listen for free  
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear  
301-681-6636  
No special equipment needed



**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

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-5410  
Pastor Evelyn Romero

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



**Mishkan Torah Congregation**  
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism



**Greenbelt Community Church**  
One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Join Us Sunday  
10:15 AM  
for Worship and Church School

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



**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

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

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




Thanks to the residents who shoveled snow from the disabled parking spaces by the Co-op grocery store this week and helped to make the store and Roosevelt Center more accessible for all. Thanks also to those who assisted their neighbors with shoveling.

Our appreciation to GHI for their efforts to pre-treat courts and to the city workers who have kept our roads clear during the recent snow and ice.

Our thoughts are with our neighbors without heat in Parkway Gardens and Crescent Pointe apartments, particularly during this week's low temperatures.

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



**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT**

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION  
Community Center Room 114  
15 Crescent Rd

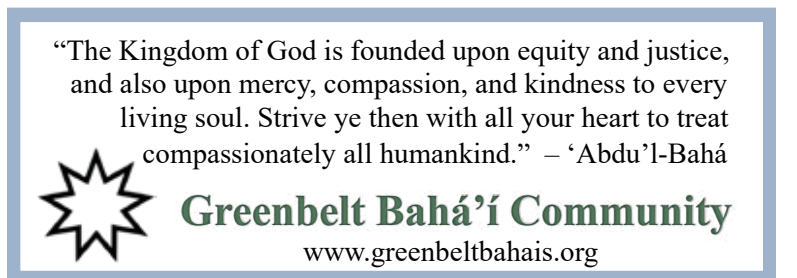
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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



"The Kingdom of God is founded upon equity and justice, and also upon mercy, compassion, and kindness to every living soul. Strive ye then with all your heart to treat compassionately all humankind." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

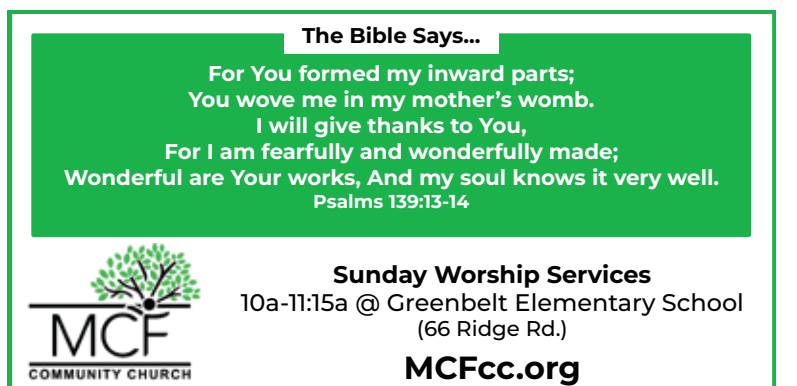
**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)



**The Bible Says...**

For You formed my inward parts;  
You wove me in my mother's womb.  
I will give thanks to You,  
For I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.  
Psalms 139:13-14

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



**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

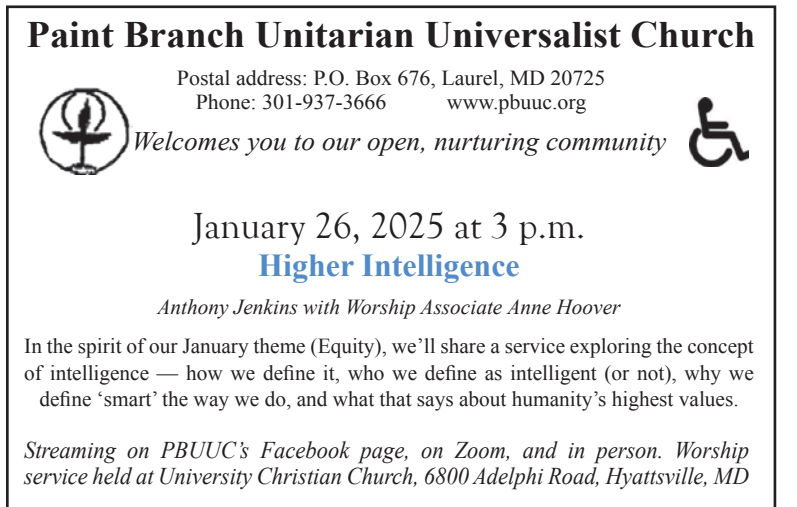
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 26, 2025 at 3 p.m.  
**Higher Intelligence**  
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Anne Hoover

In the spirit of our January theme (Equity), we'll share a service exploring the concept of intelligence — how we define it, who we define as intelligent (or not), why we define 'smart' the way we do, and what that says about humanity's highest values.

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



**Two Centering Prayer Groups**  
Hyattsville and College Park, MD

**Calm your inner clamor!**

**Mondays at 7:00pm** St. Mark's Catholic Church Hyattsville, MD  
**Wednesdays at 9:30am** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church College Park, MD

For details contact facilitator Donna Chacko at 301-277-2970 or [serenityandhealthdc@gmail.com](mailto:serenityandhealthdc@gmail.com)

To learn more about Centering Prayer, go to [www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/](http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/)





# City Information & Events

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

## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Monday, January 27 at 7:30 pm

#### ORGANIZATION

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Petitions and Requests
- Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
  - Black History Month Proclamation
- \* Minutes
- Administrative Reports
- \* Committee Reports
  - \* Park and Recreation Advisory Board Report #24-4: (Basic Certification Application for Four New Groups)

#### LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Chapter 2, Article IV Ethics Provisions of the Greenbelt City Code; *2nd Reading and Adoption*
- An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland to Make a Supplemental Appropriation in the General Fund in the Amount of One Million Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand (\$1,665,000) for Repairs to the GAFC Indoor Pool Deck; *1st Reading, 2nd Reading, Suspension of the Rules, Adoption*

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- Legislative Session Updates and Upcoming Planning
- Authorizing the City Manager to execute contracts for the GAFC Indoor Pool Repair
- Approval of Basic Certification Application for Four New Groups
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- \* Meetings
- \* Stakeholders
- \* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).*

*This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV) or call (301) 474-8000.*

### CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NOTICE

At its regular meeting of January 13, 2025, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until February 22, 2025, at the Municipal Building, as well as on the City's Web site at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

Copies may also be requested from the City Clerk. It will become effective on March 4, 2025, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. As also required by state law, this notice is given to provide a fair summary of the resolution. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2114.

Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §32 "Vacancies on Council" to Change the Procedure for Filling Vacancies on the Council by Following Procedures in Newly Enacted § 8-14 of Chapter 8 of the City Code

Purpose: To amend the City Charter to establish procedures for filling a vacancy on the City Council.

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

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY VISIT Monday, February 10, 11 am - 4 pm

Join Greenbelt Recreation and Senior Globetrotting as we visit The National Museum of African American History and Culture. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. Enjoy lunch on your own at the museum or at a local restaurant.

You may register online or in person at Greenbelt Community Center. Activity #178202-1. Resident: \$5, Non-Resident: \$7

Events and programs are 60+ (Open to All Ages). Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240)- 542- 2056. [pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov).

### RFP: MASTER PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THREE HISTORIC GREENBELT CEMETERIES

Close date: February 14 at 3 pm

The City of Greenbelt ("Owner") requests proposals from qualified historic preservation and cultural planning professionals ("Consultant") for the preparation of a Preservation Master Plan for the preservation, maintenance and use of three historic cemeteries: Hamilton, Walker, and Turner located in the City of Greenbelt. The Master Preservation Plan will provide guidance for the restoration, preservation, heritage tourism and maintenance of the cemeteries.

Please provide an electronic and original hard copy to:

Terri Hruby, Director  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
15 Crescent Road, Ste. 200, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
[thruby@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:thruby@greenbeltmd.gov) (301) 345-5417

All requests for clarifications or additional information related to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing (via email) by January 29, 2025 and directed to Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development, at [thruby@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:thruby@greenbeltmd.gov). All answers will be provided in writing and posted on the City's website on or before January 31, 2025.

View the RFP at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/advanced-components/rfp-posts-list>.

### MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 27-31

Tuesday, January 28 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, Discussion on Not for Seniors Only Event*

Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, *On the Agenda: Annual Principals Meeting, Minutes of December Meeting, Educator Event Update, Discussion Meeting with College Park Education Committee*

Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 pm, **CITY MANAGER QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Thursday, January 30 at 7:30 pm, **TOWN HALL - DISCUSSION OF POOL DECK REPAIRS AND AQUATIC SERVICES FOR 2025 SEASON**

*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).*

### FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

**UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS  
THURSDAYS: FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 20, APRIL 17**

**Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Lower Parking Lot:** 1 - 3 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia Maddox at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center:** Registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

### LINOLEUM BLOCK PRINTMAKING

**Saturday, 2/1 & 2/8, 11 am - 3 pm**  
*Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road*

Learn the basics of linoleum block printmaking with this two-meeting workshop. Students will learn the tools and techniques needed to hand print small linoleum block relief prints on their own. Over the first meeting, the instructor will introduce and demonstrate the image transfer process, carving the block, inking and printing of an image. Between meetings, students will work on their own image transfer and carving of the block. At the second meeting, students will be able to finish carving, test print, adjust their design and print an edition in black.

### JOIN THE CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city? Do you want to have a say in how our local government operates? Now is your chance to make a difference!

The City of Greenbelt is forming a Charter Review Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to our city's charter. We are looking for dedicated residents who are eager to contribute their time and expertise to this important process.

Submit an application at the following link: <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/boards-committees/application-for-appointment-to-boards-and-committees>. *Scheduling interviews for February 3 at 7:30 pm.*

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

### "IF I WERE MAYOR" ESSAY CONTEST 25TH ANNIVERSARY

This digital essay contest has inspired nearly 50,000 young minds to dream big & learn about local government. The theme for this year's contest is "building community for a new generation."

This contest is open to all Maryland 4th grade students enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year. Essays must be submitted digitally, not exceed 275 words, begin with "If I were mayor," and received no later than March 7, 2025.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3W3nVBG> to learn more.

### CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION!

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. Public Works will pickup trees at locations listed below or online. Please insure all ornaments and lights are removed. Drop off your trees for recycling at specified areas up until **February 7, 2025**.

- GHI**
  - Ridge Road, 73 Court (opposite playground)
  - Plateau Place and Ridge Road (corner on playground side)
  - Research Road and Hillside Road (corner)
  - Ridge Road, 44 Court (Area near playground)
  - Eastway & Crescent Road (corner)
  - Ridge Road, 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)
  - Crescent Road and Ridge Road (playground at junction)
  - Parkway (corner across from 58 Court Crescent Road)
  - Parkway (corner across from Community Church)
  - Southway, 7 Court (playground at Little League field)
  - Ridge Road, 11 Court and 13 Court (area between courts)
- BOXWOOD**
  - Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane (playground)
- Lakewood**
  - Greenhill Road & Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)
- CHARLESTOWNE VILLAGE AND CHARLESTOWNE NORTH**
  - Property adjacent to Attic Park
- UNIVERSITY SQUARE**
  - In front of swimming pool
- LAKESIDE NORTH**
  - Near Swimming pool
- SPRINGHILL LAKE**
  - Field past 9294 Edmonston
- GREENBRIAR**
  - Between buildings 7708 & 7710
  - Between buildings 7728 & 7730
  - Between buildings 7826 & 7828
  - Between buildings 8003 & 8009

### GLEN OAKS

- Between buildings 7903 & 7905
- Between buildings 7509 & 7511

### HUNTING RIDGE

- Between buildings 6936 & 6978

### WINDSOR GREEN

- At court entrances, picked up by Windsor Green staff

### GREENBROOK VILLAGE AND ESTATES

- Southeast corner of Ora Glen Dr & Matthew Dr
- Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and Greenbrook Drive
- In front of barricade - Mandan Road & Matthew St

### GREENWOOD VILLAGE

- Opposite 8175 Mandan
- Opposite 7646 Mandan
- Opposite 7648 Mandan

### GREENSPRING AND GREENSPRING II

- Southwest corner of Megan Lane & Craddock Rd
- Park area between 7926 & 8006 Greenbury Dr
- Corner of Spring Manor Drive & Springshire Way
- Open area between 6519 & 6515 Springcrest Dr

### BELLE POINT

- Corner of Vanity Fair Dr. & Prince James Way
- Open area between 7800 & 7801 Vanity Fair Dr.
- Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive

### GREENBELT VILLAGE

- Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Dr
- Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive
- Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Dr

### GREENBELT STATION

- Central Park field along Stream Bank Lane



### 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.

### RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Fiscal Year 2026 Recognition Group applications and policy guide are now available on the City website at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/recreation-parks/recognition-groups-applications>.

**Applications are due by close of business Monday February 3, 2025.**

Please call Cathryn Pracht at (240) 542-2196 with any questions.



# HISTORY MONTH continued from page 1

7 p.m., the Hyattsville Library will screen the film Just Another Bombing. Greenbelt resident, Iona King, whose story is featured in the film, will be present to answer questions.

On Wednesday, February 12 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Community Center, the Golden Age Club will feature Dr. Carroll Gibbs, scholar and author, who will speak about African Americans in the West. The event is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, February 15 at 1 p.m. in the Greenbelt Library auditorium, Kamau B.A. Sadiki will share his research as a diver engaged in the Underwater Archaeological Slave Wrecks Project of the National Museum of African American Culture and History, the Izeko Museums of South Africa, George Washington University and Diving with Purpose. He will use audio and visual aids to share this information.

On Monday, February 17, the Peace and Justice Coalition will screen Finally Got the News, a documentary about the League of Revolutionary Black Workers in Detroit's auto factories in 1969. Bill Fletcher Jr., a prominent African American labor activist, scholar and author will lead the post-film discussion.

On Thursday, February 20 at 7 p.m., the Greenbelt Museum will host a virtual Zoom program featuring members of the Norfolk Botanical Garden for a retrospective on the garden's history involving Black American women employed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s and a look forward to the site's latest project, Garden of Tomorrow.

On Friday, February 21 at 2 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 103, the community is invited to Tea with the Ladies of FREED (Female Re-enactors of Distinction).

On Saturday, February 22 at 1 p.m., the Greenbelt Cinema will show Piece by Piece, a Lego blocks biographical musical comedy about the life of Pharrell Williams. Admission is free.

On Sunday, February 23 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center, be treated by the Greenbelt Orchestra to works from the African diaspora, including music by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges; Samuel Coleridge-

## Did You Know?

Historical knowledge is vital to understanding. The term "woke," for example, is constantly misused today by those who are ignorant of its context and history, which did not begin with the aftermath of the George Floyd murder. The famous blues singer Lead Belly first used "woke" in the 1930s to caution Black Americans returning to visit relatives in southern states to be careful so they would not become one of the 4,400 racial terror lynching victims of America. They had to meticulously follow Victor Green's (a New York postal worker from Harlem) Green Book - the Negro Motorist and Tourist Guide to learn where it was safe to stop for gas and/or food. African Americans had to travel with toilet paper, because they could not use gas station bathrooms, and pack food because there were few restaurants to serve them. They left at 5 a.m. to start their trip, so that by the time they reached southern states it would be daylight. Black Americans avoided traveling into the South at night. The word woke is now being used to denigrate, rather than uplift and unite. Most of us would prefer to be alert rather than duped and maybe harmed.

Taylor; Quinn Mason and Florence Price.

### Learning Erased History

It is hoped the Greenbelt community will take advantage of the variety of programs, come and learn that which has been omitted or erased from most American history books. It is important that the entire history of America be known, so we can advance as one nation. We don't have to agree, but we all should know our history.

It is important to learn all

American history. For example, we learned about the Nueces massacre of German immigrants in Texas who refused to fight for the Confederacy a few months ago (see the November 7, 2024, letter to the editor and Historical Demand for Repair and Redress in the November 14, 2024, issue). That information is not in our history books and should be. There is so much more American history to learn, and we should never stop seeking it.



A blue jay takes flight.

PHOTO BY KEN LOO

# Decline in ERHS Academic Performance Tracks Poverty

by Randy Chow

As reported in the January 9 issue, Eleanor Roosevelt High School saw a dramatic decline in test scores in the 2023-24 academic year, according to the Maryland State Department of Education.

Paul Lemle, president of the Maryland State Education Association, acknowledged an inseparable link between children's test scores and their levels of poverty. He said, "If we want to fundamentally and sustainably improve test scores, then we need to fundamentally and sustainably address child poverty and its root causes."

### Subsidized Meal Correlation

Greenbelt's poverty rate is 14.5 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This is about 5 percent higher than the state poverty rate, but Roosevelt serves students from across the county as well. A more targeted statistic for the prevalence of poverty among students at the school comes from the percentage of students who participate in free or reduced-price meals.

As part of the state's initiative to take care of students who come from disadvantaged back-

grounds, the Free and Reduced-price School Meals program provides those students with lunches.

In the 2022-23 academic year, 55.2 percent of Roosevelt families were enrolled in the meal program. Four years earlier, 2018-19, 39.6 percent of families at Roosevelt were enrolled in the program. In only four years, nearly half again as many students were receiving subsidized meals. A recent publication on school rankings from U.S. News and World Report indicates that in 2024, 59 percent of students across the country received subsidized meals.

Prince George's County School Board Member Jonathan Briggs said, "Child poverty is a significant challenge, and I think it's especially concerning for me as a school board member and probably many other school board members because of the possibilities that could exist under the new [Trump] administration, where there can be additional funding stripped from schools from the federal level."

### Wider Implications

Considering how low

See ERHS, page 11

## Valentine Ad Submission Form

Drop at Co-op office, New Deal Café counter, or Greenbelt News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Text (Please Print Legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Count of Words: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Included \_\_\_\_\_

(up to 20 words, \$6; 21-30 words, \$9; 31 to 40 words \$12.. \$3 per 10 extra words (or part) Need help? [GNRValentines@gmail.com](mailto:GNRValentines@gmail.com) or call 301-474-4131 Mon & Tues, 2 to 4.

No change given. Overpayments become donations. (See Love Note examples in this issue)

**Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café**  
 Toss it? No way!

**Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café**  
 Saturday Feb. 1 from 10 am - 2 pm  
 at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway


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

**Tool Library** Saturdays 10 am - noon,  
 Sundays 11 am - 1 pm  
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>



**NEW LISTINGS!**


**73D Ridge Road**



3 BD | 1 BA \$225,000

A roomy, beautifully designed deck and landscaped back yard is one of our favorite things about this peaceful, well-maintained co-op townhome.

**11Q Ridge Road**



3 BD | 1.5 BA \$385,000

Beautifully updated and meticulously cared for Greenbelt co-op home with a half bath on 1st floor!

**Kim Kash**

Realtor®  
 m 301.789.6294  
[kim.kash@compass.com](mailto:kim.kash@compass.com)

COMPASS

**BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW?**

Don't be silly, call Lilly!  
 (240) 332-0603



**GET \$50 OFF YOUR NEXT SERVICE!**

**LILLY ELECTRIC**

**Valentine's Day is Coming**

**Send a love note to your cuties.**

**Sweetie** (\$6 up to 20 words)  
**SuperSweetie** (\$9 21-30 words)  
**MegaSweetie** (\$12 31- 40 words)  
**\$3 per 10 extra words (or part thereof)**

**Submit by 6 p.m. Saturday Feb 8**  
**Appears 7 p.m. Feb 12 (electronically) and Feb 13 on paper.**

**Send/Pay Electronically:** Use Valentines button on [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

**In Person:** Place legibly written Love Note with exact payment (cash or check) either at Co-op Grocery Store office, New Deal Café counter, or GNR office door slot (Room 100) in the Community Center  
**Put your name/phone on all items**

**Need Help?**  
 Email [GNRValentines@gmail.com](mailto:GNRValentines@gmail.com)  
 or call 301-474-4131 Mon/Tues, 2 to 4.  
 (See Love Note examples in this issue)



# Heat Repairs Progress, Still Broken Pipes at Chelsea Wood

by Erica Johns

By the afternoon of January 21, 39 of Chelsea Wood's 47 condo buildings had heat, according to a map sent by the complex's management company Metropolis to residents that afternoon. Repairs were made to hot water pipes serving both halves of the complex on Tuesday. Residents in the 39 buildings were cautiously optimistic. Pipes to eight remaining individual buildings remain broken.

## Progress

As of January 13, two boilers were leaking and one was shut down for repairs. Metropolis informed residents on January 20 that both boilers were repaired and operating. On January 22, Metropolis wrote that one boiler was leaking again, forecasting its repair for that day.

On January 21 Metropolis notified residents that the pipes to the front and back halves of the complex were repaired and heat was functioning for 39 of 47 buildings. The pipe serving the front half had failed in October and the one serving the back failed in December. However, on January 20 Metropolis reported new issues with pipes serving eight buildings in the back half of the complex: a pipe serving four buildings broke over the weekend and the other four buildings require specialized piping that they say is not readily available. On January 21 Metropolis said they were actively working on those buildings and were confident the buildings would have heat very soon.

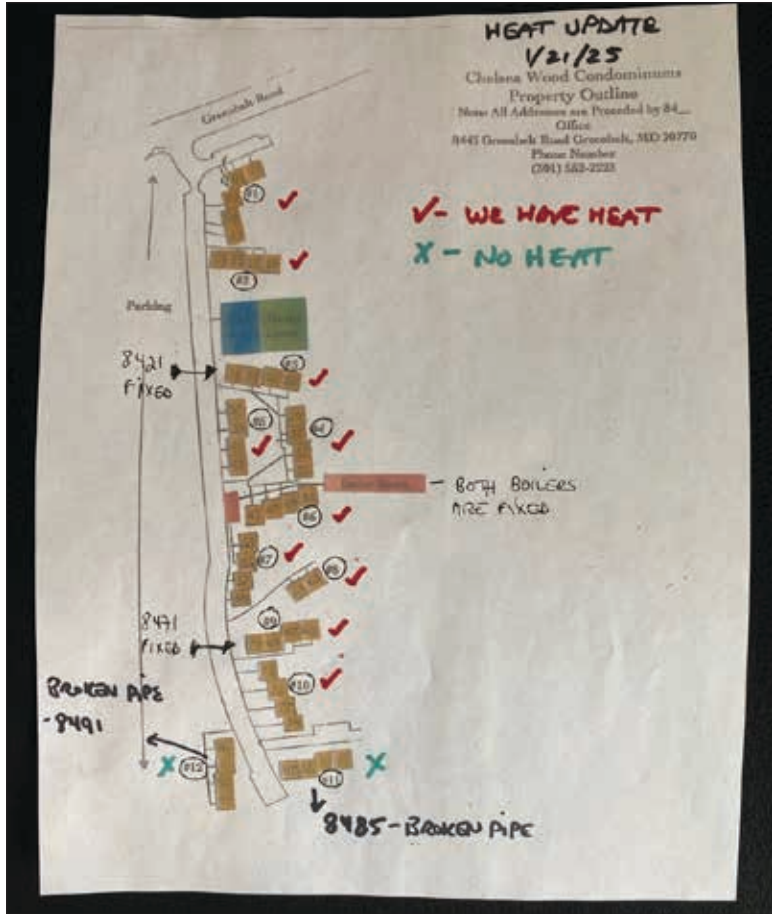
On the afternoon of January 21, several residents confirmed to the News Review that their buildings had heat; for some it was the first time this season because their heat first failed in October 2024. They shared cautious optimism with each other, not daring to trust the heat until it proves reliable for 24 consecutive hours, given previous restorations that quickly failed.

## Challenges and Costs

A January 20 email from Metropolis staff to residents said Chelsea Wood was built in 1968, with much of the piping 57 years old and deteriorating. They wrote that most of the piping being underground or inside walls makes it impossible to inspect until a leak occurs, which they cited as an explanation for the multiple leaks and shutoffs for repairs over the years. Metropolis became Chelsea Wood's management company on January 1, 2025.

The Metropolis staff wrote that the recent breaks and failures included two underground pipes breaking under concrete slabs, which were repaired by rerouting the pipes around the buildings. This work along with the boiler repairs cost over \$200,000, which "the community does not readily have," they wrote.

The January 20 email included a notice to residents of a new condo fee increase and special assessment: "This is why the board had to make the difficult decision to raise dues and enact a special assessment. Without these funds, we cannot make these necessary repairs. I understand that some residents have requested dues refunds. However, this is simply not feasible and would be irre-



Of the 47 condo buildings at Chelsea Wood, 39 had heat on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 21, as reported by the complex's management company Metropolis Condominium Management.

sponsible of the board. These repairs are essential for the benefit of the entire community."

Resident Jocelyn Cox said this was residents' first notice of this information, there having been no recent board meetings nor a board email on the topic. She said there were fee increases and special assessments in both 2023 and 2024.

## No Official Action

Cox wrote to the News Review that she has not yet received advice from county at-

torneys, which the county's Community Relations/Common Ownership Communities office staff told her they first requested on December 20. Nor has she heard from the office of Maryland Senator Alonzo Washington. She said she spoke with him on December 30 and his staff called her January 7, saying they would look into resources.

Tuesday's heat for the majority of residents was welcome news amid forecasted temperatures from 11 to 31 degrees.

## PARKWAY continued from page 1

inspections and were condemned by their insurance company for non-inspection in February 2023. Hruby said the city requires the presence of a valid "Boiler Certificate of Inspection" issued by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) to pass their annual inspections. In this case, Hruby says a boiler inspection took place in March 2024, as confirmed by DLLR, but the certificate of inspection was withheld due to deficiencies. The News Review left messages for Pinnacle Properties, who managed the apartments until the end of 2024, and Dreyfuss Management, who took over January 1, but neither responded to our calls.

Parkway resident Brittany Winfield said her window unit doesn't work well and she's resorted to running the oven for warmth. She has a nine month old who gets into everything, so

she can't run her space heater safely during the day.

Roderick Simmons has lived in Parkway Gardens since 2008. This is the first time he's experienced problems like this but he's now been without heat since November. Simmons says he went to the apartment's management about it a while ago and then to the city for help. Simmons says he mostly stays in his bedroom and stays warm using comforters and a plug-in radiator. His windows have become very foggy, says Simmons, which he attributes to the lack of heat and circulation, and mold has begun growing on them. Simmons says he has taken to wiping down his windows with bleach and a rag. He wasn't too worried about the dropping temperature, which was below freezing when he spoke with the News Review on Tuesday. "I'm just waiting," he said.

# How to Safely Warm a Cold Apartment without any Heat

by David E. Shapiro

Greenbelt residents are searching for ways to stay warm amidst frigid temperatures this week. Some apartment buildings in the city are without central heating. A broken heating system in mid-winter can be dangerous. We face two menaces: the cold itself and some ways used to warm up, a local electrician warns.

## Cold Can Be Dangerous

Getting cold doesn't give one a cold. Still, stay cold and the body struggles to stay well. Vulnerable people develop hypothermia when they get cold enough. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says symptoms can include shivering, stiff muscles, sleepiness, even difficulty speaking and confusion. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) adds clumsiness to the list of symptoms and warns that because [hypothermia] happens gradually and affects one's thinking, one may not realize they need help. That makes it especially dangerous.

An extremely low body temperature can be deadly, but symptoms begin before reaching that level of danger. When confused or clumsy, people make mistakes.

## Warmth: Some Cautions

A second hazard: the ways of warming up. Tom Lyons, director of communications for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), cautions: "We advise people to never use an oven or stovetop to heat their home. It is not safe."

Why not? Gas appliances, along with fireplaces and fuel-using units such as camp stoves, can put out carbon monoxide (CO) that builds up when they're run continuously without ventilation. NFPA warns that a person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter period of time.

Several thousand Americans end up in the emergency room each year due to non-automotive

CO poisoning, says the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Of the 200-plus people in the country who died of CO poisoning in 2020, 33 succumbed to emissions from fuel-operated portable heaters. The NLM warns the most common symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea and confusion. Note the overlap with hypothermia. The CPSC says we notice symptoms more as CO concentration increases above 70 parts per million (ppm).

That's the average adult. Who is extra susceptible to hypothermia? Infants, fetuses, seniors, people with lung or heart issues as well as anyone in poor health, according to the CPSC.

How can one recognize CO exposure? CO is colorless and odorless. CO alarms help, though the U.S. standard, UL 2034, requires CO alarms not to shrill in response to a concentration of about 70 ppm before an hour has passed. An alarm can pass the test even if it waits up to four hours to shriek at that level. The NLM warns that it is often hard to tell if someone has CO poisoning, because the symptoms may be like those of other illnesses. People who are sleeping or intoxicated can die from CO poisoning before they exhibit any symptoms.

Electric heating, like the portable radiators provided to Parkway Gardens residents, can be safer, but also carry risks. If a heater trips circuits, it can be a fire hazard, especially if the circuit breakers are unreliable. Only use one heater per circuit, and unplug other appliances fed by the circuit. If circuits lack accurate labels, check which outlets stop working along with the heater. Keep flammables away from heaters. Modern ones that meet the U.S. standard turn themselves off when tipping over. Noncompliant or old ones may not.



Stab-lok panels, manufactured primarily by Federal Pacific (FPE) or Federal Electric (FEP), remain in various buildings and complexes around Greenbelt. Even where installed legally, their circuit breakers are unreliable in preventing fires. With either Stab-loks or overfusing, it is especially critical to monitor what we plug in, because an overload may not be automatically interrupted in time to prevent a fire.



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# Curbside Food Scrap Collection Program Offers New Signup Now

by Tom Taylor

A new signup round for the City of Greenbelt's free curbside food scrap collection program is now underway. The city will begin providing free curbside food scrap pickup to 90 new Greenbelt households for six months, starting in late February.

This will be the third group of households to join the program, adding to the 320 households that began participating in the project's first two rounds. The program started in February 2024.

Signup for the program is on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration for the upcoming February start date is open. Residents should pre-register on the Compost Crew website at [compostcrew.com/greenbelt](http://compostcrew.com/greenbelt) or by scanning the QR code below.

Residents without access to digital media may pre-register by calling Compost Crew Customer Service at 301-202-4450 or Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt coordinator for the program, at 240-542-2153.

The first 90 names to pre-register will receive an email from Compost Crew in February asking them to complete the registration. Interested residents should act quickly, as some households have already pre-registered after hearing about the first two rounds of participation.

Residents already pre-registered do not need to take any further action until they receive the February email asking them to complete the registration. Those who complete the registration will then receive their collection bins within the week prior to the first collection date in late February.

The program is open to all Greenbelt residents. They may join individually or in combination with close-by neighbors to help fill the seven-gallon bin for weekly pickup. Pickup service for six months is offered free of charge. There is a one-time cost of \$20 to purchase the collection bin.

Compost Crew, a locally owned food scrap recycling business, will pick up the food scraps weekly and deliver them to their compost processing facility – named Compost Outpost – at Trinity Assembly of God Church on Good Luck Road. High-quality compost will be returned to Greenbelt for use as a soil amendment to improve Greenbelt gardens and public lands. Composting will reduce food waste going to the landfill and lower greenhouse gas emissions coming from the landfill.

Compost Crew reports that the first two rounds of the program have gone well, with a high rate of weekly household participation and excellent resident cooperation in placing the correct, acceptable items in the compost bins.

The first delivery of finished compost to Greenbelt's three community gardens – Gardenway,



PHOTO BY CAROL GRIFFITH

Alan Van Order, business development coordinator of Compost Crew, thanks the city and its partners for the success of the Food-scrap Curbside Collection Pilot Program on May 9, 2024.



Scan this QR code to sign up for the next phase of the composting program.

Hamilton Place and Henry's Hollow – was completed in October. Another delivery is set for this spring. Gardeners are using the compost to add nutrients to the soil in their garden plots. Goals of the project – in ad-

dition to reducing food waste going to the landfill – include assisting food production in community gardens, improving soil health and demonstrating the benefits of returning a valuable recycled resource to the community.

High-quality compost is a key factor for the soil improvement and food production components of the project. The compost delivered is registered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and exceeds all acceptable standards. Lab test results showed high quantities of valuable nutrients contained in the finished compost, and it was rated as having reached ideal maturity.

Eric Raun, coordinator for Henry's Hollow community garden, described the finished compost delivered as "of excellent quality." He added: "All the gardeners who I talked to were very pleased and are looking forward to another delivery in the spring. It's great to have a program whereby the community enriches the gardens of Greenbelt."

The program is a partnership of the City of Greenbelt, Compost Crew and Trinity Assembly of God. Funding is provided through a pilot project grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For any questions, contact Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt sustainability coordinator, at [lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov) or 240-542-2153.

Tom Taylor is a member of the Greenbelt Zero Waste Team.

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

election.

Speaking at the meeting, resident Bill Orleans favored the amendment but objected to council retaining the power to appoint a councilmember. He said, "... The better practice of democracy is that people are not appointed to elective office, they are elected ..." This sentiment was supported by Roberts who said the new process "is just extending the right of council to appoint people, and I don't think we should be appointing people. It

should be the residents electing people." Mayor Emmett Jordan said that the new process does "remove a great deal of discretion from council but lays out a process ... and is a step in the right direction."

Resident J Davis pointed out some discrepancies between the changes in the city code versus what was in the charter, but was assured by Councilmember Kristen Weaver that these had been addressed.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

Gaggles of geese take to both the ice and the water of the lake.



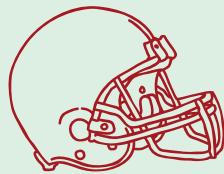
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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 13-19, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

### Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported three domestic incidents, one with an arrest, two mental health diversions, one involving attempted suicide, and two sexual assaults.

### Break-in Attempts

On January 15 at 7:00 p.m. near 36 Ridge Road, an unknown person entered a woman's home without permission; she screamed when she saw him and he fled.

On January 16 at 7:42 p.m. near 6500 Springcrest Drive, a woman heard a noise coming from her rear door and went to investigate; she screamed when she saw someone trying to break in, causing them to flee.

### Fraud

On January 14 near 7724 Hanover Parkway, a sum of money was withdrawn from a man's bank account without authorization; the bank did not know where the transactions originated.

On January 17 near 6100 Breezewood Court, someone fraudulently took funds from a man's account; near 7223 Hanover Drive, a business check was forged and cashed for several thousand dollars.

### Trespassing

On January 13 at 1:12 p.m. near 7730 Hanover Parkway, a resident said that a man who does not live there was hanging out in the building stairwell making her feel unsafe.

On January 19 at 11:37 a.m. near 5217 Sable Court, former tenants returned to an apartment after being evicted by the Sheriff's Office; the locks were changed.

### Theft and Shoplifting

On January 14 at 8:17 p.m. near 6920 Hanover Parkway, residents in an apartment witnessed another resident's son steal several of their delivered packages. The suspect admitted that he had

taken multiple items from people and returned all of them.

Residential packages were stolen on January 14, near 7505 Mandan Road, and near 414 Ridge Road.

On January 13 at 11:50 a.m. near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, a woman ordered food and walked out without paying.

On January 13 at 1:10 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man and woman left the store without paying for their items.

On January 14 at 10:58 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man and woman placed items into a large shopping bag and left without paying.

On January 14 at 11:29 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two men and a woman stole merchandise.

On January 15 at 10:58 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a woman stole food items and officers found her. The store did not want to press charges, but wanted the woman banned.

On January 16 at 2:37 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, two men wearing all black stole items and fled in a white Kia with unknown temp tags.

On January 16 at 7:32 p.m. near 7429 Greenbelt Road, multiple suspects rushed into the store and stole multiple items before fleeing in a silver SUV.

On January 19 at 12:59 p.m. near 7483 Greenbelt Road, three girls stole hair products and fled.

### Vehicle Crimes

#### Stolen Vehicles

On January 14 near 9125 Springhill Lane, a 2010 Infiniti G37 (Md. 7EP5757) was reported stolen. On January 18 near 5915 Cherrywood Lane, a white 2015 Mercedes ML-Class (Md. 12602CL) was reported stolen.

On January 16 at 4:32 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a

man left his gray 2021 Toyota RAV4 (D.C. GJ7426) running with the keys inside and doors unlocked in the parking lot of 7-11, and it was stolen.

#### Stolen Vehicle Located

On January 16 near Kenilworth Avenue and Cherrywood Lane, officers located a gray Kia Forte on the side of the road with heavy damage in the front. The owner of the vehicle said it had been stolen.

#### Theft from Auto

On January 16, rear tags were stolen near Walker Drive and Golden Triangle Drive (Md. 3EW0175); and near 9014 Breezewood Terrace (Md. 1DJ7196); near 7501 Greenway Center Drive, registration stickers were stolen from a company vehicle, a Ford van; and on January 17 near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a disability placard was stolen.

On January 13 near 7619 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a woman's purse from her car while she was at the gas pumps; near 6207 Springhill Court, a window was broken on a red 2005 Toyota Prius, and several items were stolen.

On January 15 near 9106 Springhill Lane, the airbag was stolen from a Honda Civic; near 9116 Edmonston Road, several items were missing from a vehicle, but there were no signs of nor damage from a break-in.

On January 17 two Honda Civics had windows broken and money/credit cards stolen; near 6011 Springhill Drive, a 2006; and near 6101 Breezewood Court, a 2015.

#### Vandalism to Auto

On January 18 near 5819 Cherrywood Lane, a 2024 Hyundai Santa Fe was broken into but nothing was taken.

## Youths Assaulted; Backpacks Stolen

On Thursday, January 16, at 5:01 p.m., officers responded to the 6100 Block of Springhill Terrace for a strong-armed robbery. Officers met a juvenile victim who was assaulted by six boys. The suspects took the victim's backpack and fled the area on foot.

The next day, Friday, January 17, at 5:31 p.m. another strong-armed robbery was reported. The juvenile victim said he was jumped by three boys in front of Springhill Lake Elementary School. A red backpack was stolen.

## Stay Off the Ice, Police Advise



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

A frozen Greenbelt Lake on Monday, January 20

A picturesque frozen Greenbelt Lake lured multiple visitors onto various parts of its unusually frozen surface on Monday, among them a couple seeking photo opportunities and a family with their dog.

However inviting it may look, Greenbelt Police Department advise against venturing onto the frozen Lake surface. It isn't possible to guarantee the ice is thick enough to support you, warned Officer Ricardo Dennis.

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SCHOOLS continued from page 1

of students or their families.

Our schools are safe spaces for all children. Families can feel confident sending their children to school each day, knowing that PGCPs is committed to protecting their right to learn in a secure, supportive environment."

The school board has had proactive conversations about coming changes since the fall, said District 2's Board of Education Member Jonathan Briggs. Speaking to the News Review toward the end of the fall semester, Briggs said, "We have a significant Latinx population and them feeling safe in schools with the possibility of a lot of challenging policies that may be coming their way, there's a deep focus there." The Census Bureau's population estimate for July 1, 2024, shows Greenbelt as 17.1 percent Hispanic or Latino and 28.0 percent foreign born. PGCPs student demographics as of September 30, 2023, report 52,606 Hispanic/Latino students, who make up 40.7 percent of the student population. According to Briggs, for District 2, of which Greenbelt is part, over half the school population is Latino/Hispanic. "We were already dealing with a number of families that were not necessarily undocumented but that were just not feeling comfortable coming to the school because of ... policy stances." Briggs said the school board wants to ensure enrollment trends don't decrease, expressing some concern about what the coming year could look like.

Briggs also noted another potential consequence of a new administration with an anti-immigration platform is less willingness among families to provide information, which can in turn impact schools' funding. Schools receive federal financial assistance to support low-income students under the Title I program, for example. "As you think about the federal dollars that schools receive, whether it's Title I funding or other protected populations that are covered by federal dollars, making sure that ... families feel comfortable providing that information so that schools get those dollars [is a priority]," said Briggs. "Because as the state is faced with the budget shortfall, the last thing we need is schools not getting

all the necessary funding ... especially based on their student population, because people are fearful of submitting documents ... because they're scared of ... being identified and having family members that might be deported or things like that."

Asked what he'd say to those afraid that school enrollment and official documentation could be dangerous for a family or make them more vulnerable to deportation, Briggs replied, "I know for a fact that the superintendent, the school board and our elected officials in Annapolis are all aligned on supporting some of our most vulnerable residents, and whatever may happen at the federal level, we still have a lot of power to determine what happens in the state of Maryland. I know that that's really the goal ... at all levels of government, everyone's working at: to support those that are most in need." The school district had been having those discussions during their Legislative Day on November 8 with a number of elected officials at the municipal, county and state level, said Briggs, "and we continue to have those discussions as a school board, with the superintendent." Briggs suggested the district can consider best practices from states that have already navigated challenges with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or an influx of immigrant families, whether it be school board policies or advocacy at the state level. Briggs would like to see a thoughtful and well-prepared set of protections for those who may be concerned about what could happen next.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

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(And for 12 bucks a time  
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See p. 6 to get yours!

ERHS continued from page 6

Roosevelt's meal program enrollment rate is relative to some other schools in the district, Briggs is worried about the academic performance of other district students. "Roosevelt is a good case study for the larger district," he said. "If they're struggling (at Roosevelt), then that means that a lot of our other schools are probably also significantly struggling."

**Other Impacts of Poverty**  
Briggs noted that another challenge related to poverty is that students with limited financial resources have limited access to technology, which has become a crucial ingredient in educational programs. Previously, Maryland schools were granted billions of dollars from the federal government to mitigate the pandemic's impact on student learning as part of a program called the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

Students could take school-provided Chromebook laptops home for their assignments, but that's no longer the case. "We're



Eleanor Roosevelt High School main entrance

PHOTO BY RANDY CHOW

not there anymore," Briggs said. "We have less funding because [pandemic relief] funds ... fell off in September. ... That is a significant challenge because the digital divide has been a barrier for access for many students, particularly low-income students, whose families may not have the technology at home."

Briggs was not optimistic that much could be expected of the federal government during the next four years. He expects that educational programs are more likely to suffer than not.

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



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## Losers Whine, Heroes Act

by Andy Zmidzinski

I'm a loser. Sunday morning I saw a post on Facebook about a snow pile blocking the ramp and disabled parking spaces outside Co-op. I scrolled on. But Jenna "Osha" Norwood, who wrote that post, took action. She called out for volunteers. First to respond

was Jenny Moser Jurling. Soon, others arrived to dismantle a two-week-old pile of snow. They took action when no one else would. They are everyday heroes, exemplars of the "can do" Greenbelt spirit. Thank you!



PHOTO BY ANDY ZMIDZINSKI

From left, Carl Sanders, Angelina Tan, Claudia Tan, Jenny Moser Jurling, Julie Winters and Andre Cutair. Not pictured, Moira Sweeney and Tom Leamond.



## Fire Department's Construction Begins at Chestnut Hills Park

Construction of temporary buildings for Beltsville firefighters and apparatus began at Beltsville's Chestnut Hills Park during the week of January 13. Despite opposition from Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department, Prince George's County Fire and EMS

Department plans to relocate firefighters and some equipment to the park, one mile from the Beltsville station, for at least two years during the station's renovation. For more on the relocation see the January 16 issue.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Construction of temporary buildings for Beltsville firefighters and apparatus began during the week of January 13 at Beltsville's Chestnut Hills Park, as shown on January 16. Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department plans to relocate firefighters and some equipment to the park one mile from the Beltsville station for at least two years while renovating the station.

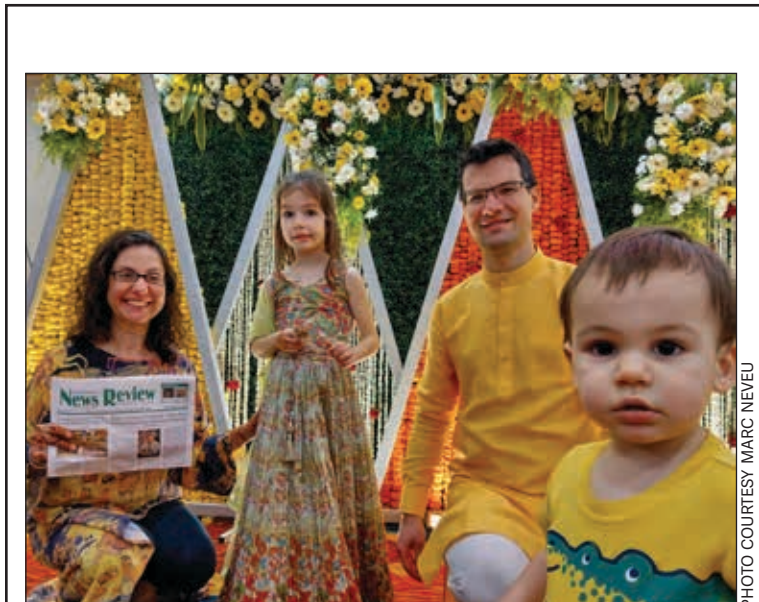


PHOTO COURTESY MARC NEVEU

The News Review traveled to Mumbai, India, with the Neveu family (from left, Svet, Shaya, Marc and Ilan) to attend the wedding of Marc's sister. The yellow outfits were worn to the Haldi ceremony. Haldi is the Hindi word for turmeric, which is spread as a yellow paste on the newlyweds so they shine brightly throughout the multiday festivities.

## City Notes

Public Works removed snow and treated streets and sidewalks to prevent icing, assisted by park rangers. Economic Development visited seven businesses and Code Enforcement inspected five commercial properties and 10 rentals.

At the Community Center, 50 Senior Fit participants welcomed a new instructor. Recreation attended an Active Aging Fire Safety/Fall Prevention Workshop and Springhill Lake Recreation Center staff worked with a Learn-2-Earn facilitator on program logistics. The new center supervisor attended the Golden Age Club and several introductory meetings.

Aquatic & Fitness Center staff completed Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor Update and the swim team started their Winter/Spring Practice.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted a county fire safety presentation and finalized plans with Luminis Health for a hypertension and diabetes workshop.

Twenty dog park permits are now active, 17 for Greenbelt residents.

In December, CARES counseled 172 individuals (41 under age 18) and tutored 23 students: 16 in General Educational Development preparation, 12 in English for Speakers of Other Languages and five for Workforce Development.

## Winter Programs At the Refuge

The Patuxent Research Refuge Film and Speaker Series brings the research and conservation of the refuge to the screen on the first Friday of the next few months, from 5 to 7 p.m. Each date will involve a free movie screening or a speaker talking about the practices and research conducted at the refuge.

Each event has a different theme with different speakers or films, making no two events the same.

The theme for February 7 is environmentalist Rachel Carson and her impact in today's world.

For more information, visit [fws.gov/event/patuxent-wildlife-research-refuge-film-speaker-series](https://fws.gov/event/patuxent-wildlife-research-refuge-film-speaker-series). Or contact the refuge staff: William O'Boyle, [william\\_o\\_boyle@fws.gov](mailto:william_o_boyle@fws.gov) or 301-497-5772 (Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The Refuge Visitor Center is located at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Md. Route 197.



## Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. The theme for January is Raccoons and Skunks.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5760. Visit [fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center](https://fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center) for more information.

## Council Approves FOP Bargaining And Forest Preserve Trail Changes

by Maurice Crawford

At its January 13 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council approved a new collective bargaining agreement for police that impacts their pay among other things, and determined how council will deal with council vacancies in the future (see article on page 1). They also heard a presentation on the new Pepco rate increase, updates on transportation plans around the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and changes coming in the Forest Preserve.

### Collective Bargaining

Council unanimously passed a resolution to approve the city's Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge No. 32. The agreement is the result of negotiations conducted over the last several months. The agreement will last for four years and take effect on July 1, 2025.

Police Chief Richard Bowers mentioned that one of the more important issues addressed by this agreement was aligning the pay scale with peer police departments (e.g., Bowie and Laurel) to ensure that Greenbelt can offer competitive pay to its officers. Specifically, changes in cost of living, wage scale and merit adjustments translate into a 10 percent increase in year one and 8 percent in years two and three. The increases for later years will depend upon the cost of living adjustments (COLA) for all of the city's employees, which have not been determined. The agreement also includes an increase in specialty pay and in language pay. The latter is important because of the diversity of languages spoken in Greenbelt and recognizes that several officers are skilled in a second language.

Other aspects of the agreement focused on promotions and their timing. Bowers pointed out that there are young staff in the department and these changes provide better opportunities for advancement.

### Pepco Rate Increase

A Pepco representative spoke to the rate adjustment that began on January 1, 2025. The effect of this change is that customers may experience about a 5 percent increase in their electric bill. This 5 percent is approximately composed of a 1 percent supply increase and a 4 percent surcharge that funds Empower Maryland. The representative described actions customers can take to mitigate the effects of the increase, like budget billing; the energy efficiency program; turning down the thermostat; using energy efficient light bulbs, and other energy saving tips available on the Pepco webpage.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested that Pepco "... be more open and say that this is an increase and not an adjustment." Councilmember Danielle McKinney asked if there is a potential for more than a 5 percent increase and when customers would know what it would be. The representative responded that they won't know beforehand what the exact amount of the increase will be. The 5 percent was calculated based upon a particular usage of six months of 840 kw per month so the final amount depends on how much electricity a customer

uses. For some it will be more than 5 percent; for others it will be less. In either case, there will be an insert in the January bill.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver suggested that residents take advantage of the information offered by the Empower Maryland program to reduce the effects of this increase.

### Roadway Improvements

The city has reviewed the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Design Off-site Roadway Improvement plans and has concerns regarding these plans. Ryan Sigworth of Public Works said there are a number of concerns, but the main ones are the lack of alignment of the plans with the Prince George's County Master Plan of Transportation regarding bike lanes. The bike lanes on Edmonston Road should be physically separated from car traffic and at the intersection of Powder Mill Road and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway there should be space for bike lanes. The federal National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) will hold a public hearing on February 6 and city staff intends to attend and testify at this hearing.

Resident Lore Rosenthal wanted to know if the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures were being followed, if the supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) had been approved and if this was the last opportunity to comment on the project. Sigworth responded that this project has been going on for years and the EIS has been cleared. The hearing by the NCPC is an opportunity to send letters and emails. There will be other plans presented but they will go directly to the NCPC for review and not to Greenbelt.

Council voted unanimously to send a letter to the NCPC voicing their objections to the project.

### Forest Preserve

The Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) requested that council approve trail reroutes and closures in order to move trails away from potentially dangerous locations, reduce unnecessary trails and comply with the Forest Preserve Master Trails Plan. These changes include (1) rerouting sections of the Canyon Creek Trail that are next to steep slopes (near where Canyon Creek intersects with the Perimeter Trail) and (2) closing the northwest branch of the Eagle Bridge Trail, rerouting trail users onto the existing northeast branch.

Council voted to approve changes to the trails with Roberts voting nay. Roberts opposed the changes because he felt that as a forest preserve it should be left alone.

### Ethics Provisions

Weaver provided the first reading of changes to Chapter 2, Article 4, Public Ethics. The proposed changes are meant to align the city code with current state law. Mayor Emmett Jordan encouraged residents to visit the city's website to examine the proposed changes.

