



ERHS Basketball, p.11



Tick, Tick ... Boom! at GAC, p.12

## Greenbelt Teachers Honored With Annual ACE Awards

by Matthew Arbach



ACE Educator Award winners from left, Anne Zhu, teacher, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Diarra Dieng, teacher, Dora Kennedy French Immersion; Tamia Perry, resource teacher, Magnolia Elementary; Jamon McEwan, student advocate, Greenbelt Middle School; Danielle Todd-Jones, teacher, Springhill Lake Elementary; and Janna Robinson, teacher, Greenbelt Elementary

On March 18, the city's Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) presented its 30th Educators Awards, according to ACE chair and awards host Janet Mirsky, "to recognize school-based adults who have made an exceptional contribution to our schools." Nominees can be teachers, guidance counselors or other professional, support or building staff. Awardees are nominated by the administrations of each of Greenbelt's public schools.

ACE was formed in 1994, and according to Mirsky, "serves as a link between the community and city council to promote high quality schools for Greenbelt." In addition to these yearly awards, ACE offers grants for school-based projects not addressed by the Board of Education, such as field trips, guest speakers and afterschool clubs, as well as yearly awards to Greenbelt students.

See ACE AWARDS, page 6

## Indoor Pool Will Close April 7; Outdoor Pool Might Open May 5

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



The indoor pool and hot tub are scheduled to close from April 7 to September 29.

Greenbelt's indoor pool is scheduled to close on Monday, April 7, for repairs (see the January 30, 2025, issue). The current projected reopening date of the indoor pool is Monday, September 29. The city hopes to be able to keep the outdoor pool open past the usual Labor Day weekend until the indoor pool reopens. Staff are also working to open the outdoor pool early, possibly as soon as Monday, May 5, according to information on the city's website, though the opening date is yet to be confirmed.

### Additional Hours

The outdoor pool will open earlier and close later than in regular summer seasons. Its projected hours are Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., with closing time extended to 8:30 p.m. between May 24 and September 8.

### Passes and Rates

Daily rates and membership rates will not be impacted. However, passholders who will not use the outdoor pool can pause their membership during the closure. Pool staff say further details regarding membership pauses will be sent directly to current passholders prior to the closure date of April 7.

### Activities and Programs

Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center has announced they will run a modified schedule of programs utilizing the outdoor pool.

See POOL, page 6

## Measles Cases in County, School; Vaccination Rates Declining

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

This month two cases of measles have been confirmed in Prince George's County. This is not necessarily an outbreak, however, because to be considered such there need to be three or more related cases. The two cases in Prince George's County arose in individuals who had travelled internationally, returning through Dulles International and Reagan National Airports on March 14. In addition, there was also a recent confirmed case in Howard County, also a person who had travelled internationally, and on Tuesday this week a case was confirmed in Washington, D.C.

### Measles Hits PGCPs

On Thursday, March 20, parents of children who attend Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) received an email from Superintendent Millard House II informing them of the confirmed case of measles within PGCPS. The confirmed case was at John Hanson Montessori, but the email came eight

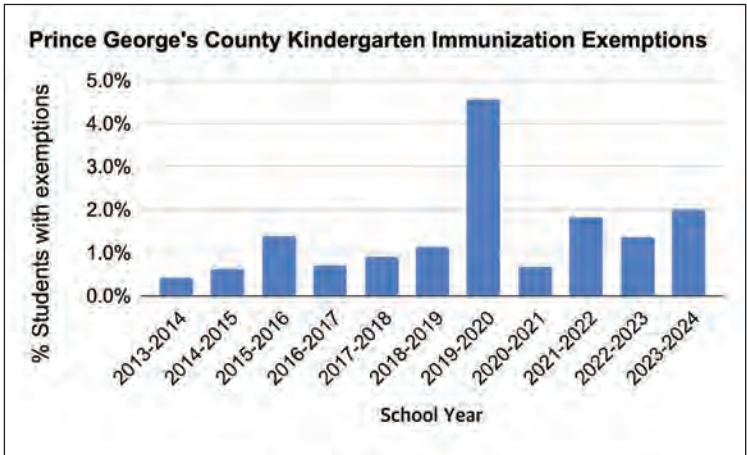


CHART BY RYAN COLASANTI

The percentage of kindergartners using either medical or religious exemptions to school-required vaccinations each school year over the last decade

days after the last known exposure there, which occurred on March 12. The specialty Montessori school is located in Oxon Hill and serves students from pre-k to eighth grade.

In his email, House noted measles cases are rising nationwide and said the school district

"is working closely with the Prince George's County Health Department to monitor and respond to any local impact."

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), nationwide there were

See MEASLES, page 7

## Council Analyzes Its Funding Priorities for U.S. Delegates

by Cathie Meetre

During its March 12 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council reviewed the highest priority projects the city has identified for federal grant discussions with our congressional delegation who, at this time of year, considers the competing requests of its constituent municipalities for federal funding in the form of Bonds. This was done without reference to the current federal situation which offers no certainty what funding, if any, will be available.

Additional material from this meeting will be provided in a separate article.

City Manager Josué Salmerón said it was impossible to guess

what reception the request to our federal delegation would get. He said their choices would depend on the field of requests and the sense of the delegation about what it should back that had the highest chance of success in the allocations.

### Priorities

The top four priorities were 1) improvements to the Greenbelt Museum, 2) an addition to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SHLRC), 3) structural remediation at the Community Center

and 4) replacement of four community playgrounds. Although all the applications were aimed at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) only the museum sought funding from the Historic Preservation Fund. The remaining applications would be to the HUD Economic Development Initiative.

### Greenbelt Museum

Salmerón stated that his highest priority was for an

See COUNCIL, page 8

## What Goes On

### Monday, March 31

7:30 p.m., City Council Budget Worksession: Miscellaneous Grants & Contributions/CARES/Greenbelt Cinema, Municipal Building

### Wednesday, April 2

7:30 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Public Works/Capital Projects, Municipal Building

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



PHOTO BY JENNI POMPI

The City of Greenbelt, in partnership with the immigration law firm Sanabria & Associates, held a Train the Trainer: Know Your Rights session on Saturday, March 8. The session, which attracted some 35 people, sought to equip community leaders, organizers and staff with the knowledge and tools to educate others on their rights when interacting with ICE.



## News Review Hosts Open House April 12

Current and potential members, friends and families are invited to an Open House at the News Review office on Saturday, April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The News Review hasn't missed an issue since our first issue on November 24, 1937. Come learn how the weekly miracle occurs.

Meet the people who make it happen – writers, copyeditors, layout, ad desk, emailers, proofers, business desk and myriad other members. How do they produce a paper full of stories, photos, letters, cartoons and advertising each week? And how can you get more involved? Come find out!

## Letters to the Editor

### Dangerous Firefighter Shortage Evidenced

Local television news crews showed a Montgomery County fire truck and firefighters on the scene of the fire at Franklin Park Apartments, assisting the Prince George's County Fire Department.

This is a very important fact, as former Prince George's County Fire Department Chief Tiffany Green had removed career firefighters from the Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park fire stations. The public needs to know that they remain in danger due to the continued lack of firefighters in the Greenbelt area.

J W Thompson

### Correction

In our reporting on the fire at Franklin Park last week we stated that residents were treated for smoke inhalation by the Red Cross. In fact, affected residents were swiftly transported by medical units for treatment. The Red Cross was on the scene to assist in the recovery but not with medical care.



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ONE THING'S CERTAIN- THIS IS NO ONE'S IDEA OF SHRINKING THE GOVERNMENT!



PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWARDS

A belted kingfisher hangs out at the pond on Hanover Parkway near the Post Office.

### On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

## Death of a Unicorn

A father (Paul Rudd) and daughter (Jenna Ortega) accidentally hit and kill a unicorn while en route to a weekend retreat, where his billionaire boss (Richard E. Grant) seeks to exploit the creature's miraculous curative properties.

## The Penguin Lessons

The film was inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. Expecting an easy ride, Tom discovers a divided nation and a class of unteachable students. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside-down. Said critic Neely Swanson of the Beverly Hills Courier, "The true star of this tale, the one who's in the title of the film, is the penguin. Never pass up an opportunity to interact with penguins, and this one is no different."

## Dirty Dancing

Another chance to see this classic film. Baby (Jennifer Grey) is one listless summer away from the Peace Corps. Hoping to enjoy her youth while it lasts, she's disappointed when her summer plans deposit her at a sleepy resort in the Catskills with her parents. Her luck turns around, however, when the resort's dance instructor, Johnny (Patrick Swayze), enlists Baby as his new partner, and the two fall in love. Baby's father forbids her from seeing Johnny, but she's determined to help him perform the last big dance of the summer.

## The Gleaners and I

An 1867 painting by Jean-Francois Millet inspired septuagenarian documentary Agnes Varda to cross the French countryside to videotape people who scavenge. Taking everything from surplus in the fields, to rubbish in trashcans, to oysters washed up after a storm, the "gleaners" range from those sadly in need to those hoping to recreate the community activity of centuries past, and still others who use whatever they find to cobble together a rough art. Highlighted by Varda's amusing narration.



Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
[www.greenbeltcinema.org](http://www.greenbeltcinema.org)

Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

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

SHOWTIMES:  
MARCH 28th - APRIL 3rd

**Death of a Unicorn (R) (CC)**  
(DVS) (2025) (108 mins)

**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Mon. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:00 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sun. 2:15 PM, 5:00 PM

Tues. 7:15 PM  
Thurs. 7:15 PM

**The Penguin Lessons (PG-13)**  
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (110 mins)

**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC), 4:30 PM  
Tues. 7:00 PM

Thurs. 7:00 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**

Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM  
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM

**Dirty Dancing Encore**  
(PG-13) (1987) (100 mins)

Thank you to members  
Meredith Hendrickson &  
Mike Kemper for sponsoring

this screening!  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**

Sun. 7:00 PM

**The Gleaners and I**  
(NR) (2000) (82 mins)

Film in Focus  
Led by Ariana Nash

Capped at 25, Event Pricing  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**

Mon. 7:00 PM

### Letters Policy

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

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

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



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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- 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

## Library Special Events On Saturday, April 5

Saturday, April 5, 10:30 a.m. In this program, attendees will create and reflect on their personal stories while connecting them to the stories of past Greenbelt residents in the Tugwell Collection. This experience is perfect for children ages 9 to 14. Parents or guardians are encouraged to attend as well. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13259024](http://pgcmls.info/event/13259024).

### Are Co-ops Right for Today?

Saturday, April 5, 2 p.m., ages 18+. Through examining documents from the Tugwell Collection, Greenbelters' views of co-ops over time will be discussed. Can these types of businesses help solve the problems of today? Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13259057](http://pgcmls.info/event/13259057).

Both programs will be presented by students in the University of Maryland College of Information and Center for Archival Futures.

## Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. Annual dues are due.

The Golden Age Club Anniversary Luncheon will be on April 16 at the Holiday Inn, 10000 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, starting at noon. Entertainment will be provided by the musicians of TGIF group, playing favorites from the 50s and beyond. Reservations must be made before April 1. To make a reservation, call Suzanne Sligh at 301-477-3077.

**April schedule:**  
April 2 – Business Meeting;  
April 9 – Spring Ticket Auction;  
April 16 – Spring Luncheon;  
April 23 – Bingo;  
April 30 – Special presentation by Tina Alston, When You Make a Mess, You Clean it Up.



## Greenbelt Recreation Spring Registration

The Greenbelt Recreation Spring Activity Guide is available at [greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](http://greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide). Spring session registration is now open for all.

Greenbelt Recreation classes range from preschool art to senior ceramics, karate to ballroom dance. Registration instructions and contact information for inquiries are located in the Activity Guide.

## Spring Open House At Museum April 6

Welcome spring at the Greenbelt Museum on Sunday, April 6. Come by the grounds of the Museum house (10-A and 10-B Crescent) from 2 to 4 p.m. and plant a seedling to take home. A small selection of seedlings including flowers, veggies and herbs will be provided, one seedling per person, while they last. No pre-registration is required.

While visiting, take a free, quick tour of the Museum house to see spring decorations and the start of a small demonstration victory garden on the grounds. Greenbelters would have gardened for victory in their allotment plots, not in their yards, but many households across the country did have gardens growing just outside of their doors. This will be the Museum's second victory garden. The first was in 2011 in conjunction with our exhibit, Green from the Start: A History of Gardening in Greenbelt. See the exhibit online [greenbeltmuseum.org/greenfromthestart](http://greenbeltmuseum.org/greenfromthestart)

The Museum house will be open 1 to 5 p.m. and the seedling activity will run 2 to 4 p.m. If it rains the activity will take place under a tent.

## Artist Studio Space Available: Apply Soon

Greenbelt Recreation is now accepting applications for studio space at the Community Center through the city's Artist in Residence Program. New residencies will begin in July. This opportunity is open to fine artists and artisans ages 18 and up, including both residents and nonresidents of Greenbelt. The program is best suited for artists who are interested in being part of a professional, creative community and who are interested in engaging members of the general public through teaching, studio open houses and service activities. No vacancies are anticipated, but a limited number of incumbents reapply to the program annually and new applicants are also invited to apply for consideration. Learn more at [bit.ly/3R2URY9](http://bit.ly/3R2URY9). Contact staff at 240-542-2057 by Tuesday, April 1 to schedule a tour (required) and apply by Wednesday, April 9.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## Artful Afternoon Offers Art, Music



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT REC ARTS

### Artful Afternoon activities

Enjoy a free all-ages art workshop and music event at the Community Center on Sunday, April 6. Paint koi fish with local artist Barbara Joann Combs while listening or singing along as local musicians jam on ukuleles, led by Artist-in-Residence Rachel Cross. The event will take place on the back lawn between the Community Center and the Aquatic Center fence, near the Three Sisters Garden, weather permitting. The rain location is inside the Community Center Ground Floor East. Pre-register at [sugeni.us/VqeA](http://sugeni.us/VqeA) for one of two sessions: 1 to 2 p.m. or 2 to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome.

## Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience Robbins at [patience.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:patience.robbins@gmail.com).

## Astronomical Society Will Meet March 27

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet Thursday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. In honor of Women's History Month, Corinne (Cory) Carter, Ph.D., will make a presentation about historical women in the Earth sciences. These range from a 17th century geologist to the women who obtained their jobs while men were away fighting World War II.

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.

## GREa Meeting April 1

The Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREa) holds its next meeting on Tuesday, April 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. through Zoom. Agenda items include reviewing the status of CASA's Immigrant Justice Legislative Package and reviewing Tribesys's Phase II JEDI report to council.

For a link to the meeting, go to [greenbeltraciaequity.org/events/](http://greenbeltraciaequity.org/events/).

## Writing Contest on Peace For Maryland Students

All Maryland middle school students are invited to enter a statewide writing contest focusing on the themes of peace and social justice. The contest, sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, the Benjamin Peace Foundation and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Annapolis Friends Meeting, is open to all seventh and eighth grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland and to home-schooled students corresponding to the same grade levels.

For more details and entry instructions, see <https://tinyurl.com/2674k257>.

## Concert Band Presents A Day with Disney

On Saturday, April 5 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym, the Greenbelt Concert Band will present a Day with Disney and its instrument garden. Attendees are encouraged to dress as their favorite Disney character and enjoy the instrument garden, a chance to meet musicians and learn about their instruments. And then hear hit tunes from all the favorite Disney films.

Greenbelt Concert Band is a volunteer adult musical organization dedicated to providing free musical performances for the community and surrounding areas. As a certified 501(c)(3) charity, the band appreciates donations to cover the cost of music, printing and equipment repair.

Learn more about the band at [Greenbeltconcertband.org](http://Greenbeltconcertband.org).



## Charlestowne Village Board of Directors

The Charlestowne Village Condominiums board of directors had their annual meeting on March 11, and the results of the election are as follows: President, Daisy Brown; Vice President, Jake East; Treasurer, Lois Rosado; Secretary, Thyra Packett; Director, Silke Pope; and Director, Daniel Northover.

## Greenbelt Chess Club Meetings for April

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, April 8, April 15 and April 22. The meetings will take place at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to their mailing list, go to [tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m](http://tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m) and complete the brief form. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com).

**Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television**  
+ April 2025 +  
Verizon FiOS Channel 19 • Comcast Channel 77 • Streaming Online at [GreenbeltAccessTV.org](http://GreenbeltAccessTV.org)

**New Productions**  
From Diving with a Purpose, in which speaker Kamau B.A. Sadiki discusses the archaeological underwater research of the Slave Wrecks Project, to Small Acts of Kindness, an uplifting Interfaith Discussion on what it means to be kind in today's world, to the new episode of What's New at Greenbelt Cinema, and more! Tune in to see all the latest Greenbelt happenings!

**Winter/Spring Digital Animations**  
Mister Geo's Digital Animation students are back in the proverbial kitchen, working hard to serve you up some splendid animations!

**Utopia Film Festival 2024 Selections**  
This month, we revisit a slew of beautiful independent films, each one touching on themes of accessibility and diverse voices in music, filmmaking, sports, and medicine: Hadithi, Heaven on Earth, The Koda-Chrome (W)rapper, and 1001 Cuts.

# This Week at the New Deal Café

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

BECOME A MEMBER!\*

Greenbelt, MD

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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD  
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 3/27	FRI 3/28	SAT 3/29	SUN 3/30	
<b>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</b> <b>Jan Knutson: CD Release Party 7 - 9pm</b> With vocalist <b>Nora Nyi Myint</b>	<b>Still Standing 8-11pm</b> Rockin' Blues, American Roots, Swing and Rockabilly	<b>BACK ROOM CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT, 12-2pm</b> <b>Dance Little Sister 8-11pm</b> Rolling Stones tribute band play the hits you remember	<b>The Sidleys 6 - 8pm</b> A family-based collective, Steve & Annie Sidley will be joined by their sons, Sean, Colin & Ian	
MON 3/31	TUES 4/01	WED 4/02	TH 4/03	New Deal Cafe
<b>LIVE BAND KARAOKE 7-9pm</b> With <b>Mike Scott &amp; Friends</b>	<b>S.A.W. Open Mic, hosted by Lynn Hollyfield 6:30 - 9:30pm</b> Featured act plays 8 - 8:30pm	<b>The Campfire Sessions 7-9pm</b> A monthly "listening session" hosted by <b>Joe P. Swelterpants</b>	<b>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</b> <b>Wolf's Blues Show &amp; Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10p</b> Big, bodacious boogie blues jam	<b>PLEASE TIP GENEROUSLY. IT'S THE ONLY PAY BANDS RECEIVE, AND WE WANT THEM TO COME BACK! [SUGGESTED MINIMUM: \$10]</b>

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

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# Obituaries

## Alice Cobb White



Alice Cobb White

Alice Octavia Cobb White died Thursday, March 6, 2025. She was born on November 28, 1929, in Donora, Pa., to parents who raised her alongside her three siblings, Walter Cobb, Clara Jones and Ronnie Cobb.

After graduating from high school, Alice Cobb married Thomas White on September 9, 1950, becoming Alice Cobb White. Together, they built a home in Greenbelt, where they raised their three children, Gregory, Sharin and Carole.

Always committed to personal growth and education, Alice attended the Gardner School of Business in 1965.

In 1966, Alice became a devoted member of Zion Baptist Church, where her faith remained an important cornerstone of her life. During her time at Zion, she served on the library committee, contributing to the spiritual growth of the congregation. Her professional career spanned 25 years as an executive secretary at the University of Maryland, where she worked in both the Department of Animal Science and the Department of Chemistry until her retirement in April 1991.

Alice's retirement years were as active and purposeful as her

career. She volunteered at Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington, D.C., and worked part-time as a leasing consultant at Georgian Towers in Silver Spring. She had a passion for travel, exploring destinations such as Hawaii, California, Texas, Arizona and Florida, and enjoying multiple cruises throughout her golden years.

Alice is survived by her son, Gregory White; daughters, Sharin White and Carole Montes; grandchildren, Beatrice, Jason, Keva, Ashlee and Ciera; 10 great-grandchildren; nephews Gaylord and Garren; niece Kimberly; brother-in-law George; and a host of friends and relatives who will deeply miss her warmth, wisdom and kindness.

Her legacy of hard work, devotion to family and service to others will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Fort Lincoln Funeral Home located at 3401 Bladensburg Road, Brentwood. Funeral services will follow on Thursday, March 27 at 10:30 a.m.

# Faith in Action to Help Families

by Jeff Warner



MCF led a local team to help families in need in South Carolina. From left, back row: Samantha Vidas, Audrey McQueen, Emily Liang, Varun Singh and Jane Njihia; front row: Becca Hartman, Pastor Jeff Warner, Theresa (homeowner), Annemarie Phillips and Lorenzo Narducci

Members of Maryland Christian Fellowship (MCF) Community Church, some of whom are students at the University of Maryland (UMD), traveled to South Carolina to assist families in need during UMD's spring break. MCF served three families. The team rebuilt deteriorated and unsafe steps, and built and installed handrails. In addition, the MCF team power washed and stained the decks of another home and repaired and installed interior doors and a storm door. One family had been requesting help for 15 years! Their request was answered from the dedicated team that traveled 550 miles one way and paid their own expenses to bless a family in need.

See FAITH, page 8




Our condolences to the family, friends and fellow parishioners of Alice Cobb White, a longtime Greenbelt resident.

Congratulations to the winners of the Education Awards, selected by the Advisory Committee on Education: Tamia Perry, Janna Robinson, Danielle Todd-Jones, Diarra Dieng, Jamon McEwan and Anne Zhu.

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



“So far as ye are able, ignite a candle of love in every meeting, and with tenderness rejoice and cheer ye every heart.” – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá



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

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT**

**Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION**

**Community Center Room 114**

**15 Crescent Rd**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**

**OR - Join us on ZOOM!**

**For ZOOM link:**

**CCG1985+owner@groups.io**

**The Bible Says...**

**Lent-Week #3**

**The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

**1 John 4:8**



**Sunday Worship Services**

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


**MCFcc.org**

**The Bible Says...**

**Lent-Week #4**

**All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him(Jesus).**

**Isaiah 53:6**



**Sunday Worship Services**

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

**MCFcc.org**

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

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

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

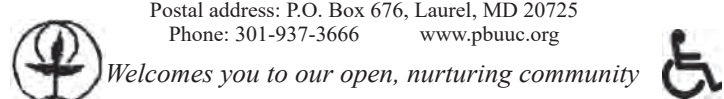
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

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

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



*Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community*

**March 30, 2025 at 3:00 pm**

**The Gift that Keeps on Giving**

*Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Sue Bollens*

In the spirit of our March theme (Generosity) and our 2025 PBUUC Stewardship Campaign, we'll explore ways in which 'the platinum rule' (treat others as *they* would like to be treated) can be a generous and powerful spiritual practice in all our life relationships.

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

## Lenten Agape Meals At Community Church

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, will be hosting its annual series of Agape Meals on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through April 9. The event is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be donated to the missions of the church.

Agape meals are a Lenten tradition for the church and named using the Greek word for the unconditional, unearned love that God has for all. Each simple meal of soup, bread and salad is preceded by a short devotional lesson. These events are a celebration of Lent and intended to promote spiritual reflection while providing an opportunity for fellowship. This year's theme is Unraveling Lent.

The church is located at 1 Hillside Road and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming to all.

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**

**40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt**

**Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors**

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

301-474-5410

**Pastor Evelyn Romero**

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

**Celebrate hope with us.**




**St. John's Episcopal Church**

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

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

**We Preach Christ Crucified**



**(1 COR. 1:18-25)**

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

6905 Greenbelt Rd  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

**Lenten Services:**

Thursdays 7pm  
(March 13, 20, 27;  
April 3, 10)

**Greenbelt Community Church**

One Hillside Road

**We are an Open and Affirming Church**



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

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

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

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**

135 Crescent Rd.

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

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



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At the Library

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

Storytimes

Friday, March 28, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12797070](#).

Wednesday, April 2, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12988851](#).

Thursday, April 3, 10:15 p.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12988918](#).

Books at Bedtime

Wednesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3: Stories, music, and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the Prince George’s County Public Schools Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12986773](#).

Ride and Read

Thursday, April 3, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity while at the Library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12989062](#).

Passport Services

Greenbelt Library serves as a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility. Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting [pgcmls.info/passport-services](#).

City Notes

Public Safety and Constituent Services visited the Franklin Park fire site. Property managers provided names of impacted residents.

Following recent federal actions, Constituent Services updated resources for immigrants and federal employees, City Manager and Economic Development met with a local federal government IT contractor about job opportunities and CARES Workforce Coordinator networked at a county job fair.

Economic Development welcomed 19 organizations to Greenbelt’s first Nonprofit Roundtable.

Animal Control staff answered 102 calls and investigated problem locations. Park Rangers increased patrols after complaints about unleashed dogs in tennis courts. Planning and Community Development inspected Charles-towne North elevators and Environmental/Sustainability met with the Pollinator Circle.

Arts offered a quilting workshop and, at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, started a series of elementary school field trips. Therapeutic Recreation presented a diabetes education workshop and a D.C. Hand Dance social. The Special Olympic Swim Team practiced at the pool.

Museum staff interviewed a Greenbelt resident of the 1950s by phone.

Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988

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



City Information & Events

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

MEETINGS FOR MARCH 31 - APRIL 4

Monday, March 31 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - MISC. GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS/CARES/GREENBELT CINEMA**

Tuesday, April 1 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, On the Agenda: Status of revised License Plate Reader General Order/ PSAC Recommendations, Recommendations for Dept General Orders, Discussion of Possible Community-Based Activities**

Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - PUBLIC WORKS/CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Thursday, April 3 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

*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).*

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:

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.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts) for more information and many other opportunities!

**Apply for Artist’s Studio Space**, Greenbelt Community Center 24/7 access. \$238.94/mo. Contact staff by 4/1 for a studio tour (required).

**Register for Spring Circus Camp**, Greenbelt Community Center, April 14-18. Ages 8-13. Join former Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus performer Greg May for a fun-filled spring break! See page 7 of the Greenbelt Recreation spring and summer camp guide.

**Sign up for FREE Artful Afternoons** in April, All ages welcome!, **Sunday, 4/6**, Greenbelt Community Center, 1 - 3 pm. Make a beautiful koi fish painting. PLUS - ukulele jam and sing-a-long 1:30-2:30 pm, **Sunday, 4/13**, Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 1:30-2:30 pm, Make a beautiful koi fish painting, PLUS - an energizing modern/hip-hop dance break at 2 pm

**Make Fused Glass Jewelry**, Greenbelt Community Center, Sunday, March 30, 11am - 1:30pm. Ages 16+. No experience necessary! Details on page 25 of the Greenbelt Recreation [Spring Activity Guide](#). Register in advance.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

For 6 months your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt. Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity.

To register, visit <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt>.

Questions? Luisa Robles: [lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 542-2153.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §4, “Creation; Qualifications; Compensation” of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on April 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

*\* The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk’s office. For more information, please contact the City Manager’s office at (301) 474-8000.*

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

DONATE TO THE GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

Providing support for low-income Greenbelt parents with nursery items. You can help donate by hosting a community drive, through individual donations, or volunteering at our quarterly distribution.

Seeking donations of gentle laundry detergent, laundry detergent pods, basic thermometers, baby/child nail clippers, night lights, and baby proofing products.

Contact Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@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.

MEMORY CAFÉ: MORE THAN BLUES! A MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH MILES SPICER

Wednesday, April 2, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

In this interactive workshop, Aging Teaching Artist Miles Spicer will bring the magic of music back to life in “More than Blues” a celebration of rhythm, sound, and connection. Miles will lead you through group singing, call-and-response, and acoustic guitar play, blending genres from Blues to Jazz, Rock & Roll, and more! Whether you’re a music lover or just looking for some fun, you’ll dive into the rich history of these timeless tunes and enjoy a lively, hands-on experience. The Memory Café is a welcoming, stigma-free space for those living with early-stage Alzheimer’s, mild cognitive impairment, or other forms of dementia, along with their caregivers. It’s a place to connect and make lasting memories together.

Register now! Let the music move you!

Email Natalie Garcia at [ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or call (240) 244-6010.

Greenbelt Recreation & Autism Society of Maryland Invite You to an AUTISM AWARENESS ADVOCACY PRESENTATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 1 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

Learn about autism awareness, acceptance, and available resources in this informative session led by the Autism Society of Maryland. We hope to see you there. Together, we can create a more inclusive world-one act of awareness and advocacy at a time!

Contact: Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056, [pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov).

LUMINIS HEALTH COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER SATURDAY, APRIL 12, FROM 12 TO 4 PM

8118 GOOD LUCK ROAD, LANHAM, MD 20706

- This free event will provide essential resources, education, and support for expectant and new mothers in Prince George’s County, featuring:
- Expert-led panel discussions on gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, postpartum depression, nutrition during and after pregnancy, and lactation
  - Local vendors offering baby essentials and services
  - Diaper and baby essential giveaways
- Come celebrate this exciting time with us as we honor the incredible journey of parenthood. This event will be held outdoors under a tent, regardless of weather.

For more information, visit <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/9355/>.

S.A.I.L. WITH GIVES

Senior Avoiding Isolation & Loneliness

The SAIL Program in partner with the GIVES aims to support older adults age 60+ or individuals 50 + who have a disability, to reduce feelings of isolation while working to increase community engagement by broadening their access to vital supports.

SAIL provides friendly, in-person visits or cphone calls, free nursing assessments, community student nursing visits, mental health counseling, case management visits, information and referral of resources, and so much more!

Contact us at (240) 244-6010 or at [ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**SAIL is also seeking volunteers who are deeply committed to making a positive impact on society and humanity. Call (240) 244-6010 to volunteer!**

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

Material Drop-Off

We’re looking for materials to add to the City’s *Welcome Kits* for new residents and visitors. Please drop-off at the Municipal Building to Chondria Andrews, 25 Crescent Road , Greenbelt, MD 20770. **NO LATER THAN 4 PM ON APRIL 25**

**Stuffing Party**  
**Thursday, May 8 at 2 pm**  
*Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Rd*

The Public Information Office will be holding a Welcome Kit Stuffing Party to help with packing all of the materials received. Stop by to help starting at 2 pm!

Email [candrews@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:candrews@greenbeltmd.gov) for more information or assistance.

FREE SENIOR PLANET CLASSES - MEDIA & HEALTH FOR ADULTS 60+. FREE. IN-PERSON, 11 AM - 12:15 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

- April 1. Mindfulness Apps**  
Introducing mindfulness and its physical & mental benefits such as reducing anxiety, improving memory, and lowering blood pressure.
- April 15. Messaging Apps**  
Learn about the most popular messaging apps - iMessages, Google Chat, andWhatsApp - learning how to send texts & pictures, making voice & video calls, and how these apps keep your messages secure.
- April 29. Ridesharing Apps**  
Apps have changed the way people get around! Learn about Uber and Lyft and the pros and cons of both.
- May 6. Introduction to AI**  
Learn basic ideas around artificial intelligence (AI), how it’s being used, its limitations, and how it will shape the future.
- May 8. AI & Disinformation**  
Explore how AI is being used to create convincing fakes and clone voices.
- May 20. Everyday Uses of AI**  
Learn how AI is already present in everyday tasks and how its being used across industries so that you can take advantage of the technology.
- May 22. Is That AI?**  
Learn how to differentiate real images versus AI and become a tech savvy internet user by learning to do a reverse image search of images you find online.

**These classes are facilitated by Flora Li, Brendy Maddox, and Katherine Farzin.** To register, email Kelly Lange at [klange@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:klange@greenbeltmd.gov) or call Brendy Maddox at (240) 424-0302.

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).





## ACE AWARDS continued from page 1

ACE members at the meeting also included Stephenie Arcido, Treasurer Denna Lambert and Gulnura Rakhyshova, who served as presenters. The introductory remarks were provided by Mirsky. Also present were members of the Greenbelt City Council and District Four County Council Member Ingrid Watson, all of whom also bestowed awards.

### Magnolia Elementary

The first award went to Tamia Perry from Magnolia Elementary School. Perry is a Title 1 resource teacher and math ambassador. Said Mirsky, Perry is “always working – whether it be modeling a lesson for novice teachers, co-facilitating collaborative planning, covering a class,” as well as many others things, all done with a smile. Mirsky cited her “commitment to carrying out a task and the ability to always find the bright side in every situation.”

Perry thanked God, her family and friends, colleagues and the Greenbelt community. She declared her abiding love of education, and that she is fueled by a “love for working with students and teachers.”

### Greenbelt Elementary

Janna Robinson, a kindergarten teacher and former Grade 1 Level Chairperson, received the award from Greenbelt Elementary School. Mirsky characterized her as “a beacon of inspiration and dedication,” adding, Robinson “consistently invests time in ensuring every student believes in their own abilities and strives

beyond them,” acting as a model of “punctuality, preparation and prudent decision-making,” encouraging risk-taking and maximizing learning opportunities. She also serves outside the classroom as an American Sign Language sponsor and mentor teacher.

Robinson said that this is the first such award she has received in her 18 years of teaching, citing it as “an honor.”

### Springhill Lake Elementary

Springhill Lake Elementary’s Danielle Todd-Jones, a special education resource teacher for multiple grades, was next honored. Mirsky said “she collaborates and inspires teachers with her kind and positive attitude” and is “passionate about doing what is in the best interest of all our students.” This year, she has taken on a new role as special education co-chair, performed with “patience, collaboration and efficiency.” She also leads the school’s Green Team and is a founding member of the Annual Stream Cleanup.

Todd-Jones extolled the many mentors in her career as essential to her success, praising her “amazing colleagues” for their support, drive, assistance and emotional availability, declaring that one “can’t find that at every school.” She applauded her students for their daily willingness to learn and always give their best.

### Dora Kennedy French Immersion

Diarra Dieng was the recipient from Dora Kennedy French Immersion School. A first-grade

teacher since 2021, Mirsky said Dieng “has found her stride quickly through determination, patience, resourcefulness and open-mindedness.” Of Senegalese origin, she speaks Wolof, French, English, “with a spark of Spanish.” Mirsky said that “in three years, she has become one of our most remarkable educators.” Diverging from an initial career path in business administration and human resources, Mirsky said that Dieng is “infinitely patient, gentle but firm, resourceful and full of team spirit.”

Dieng extolled her school, saying that she “would not be able to do any of it,” without its support; thanking all “from the bottom of my heart.”

### Greenbelt Middle

Jamon McEwan was the awardee from Greenbelt Middle School, where he serves as Student Advocate. According to Mirsky, he “has a deep passion for supporting students to not only be strong instructionally, but to build honor and class to our community,” helping “shape the futures of children.” His efforts have led to a 30 percent drop in the school’s suspension rate, where he instills “resolution skills for students through restorative practices.” McEwan also acts as the school’s basketball coach.

McEwan thanked God, without whom “none is possible,” as well as his principal Marcellus Clement, who “shows the way and leads by example.” His daily mission and wish for his students is to “try to be better today than we were yesterday.”

### Roosevelt High

The evening’s last award went to Anne Zhu from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Mirsky cited her “exceptional commitment to fostering an inclusive, engaging and supportive learning environment for all students,” praising her “unwavering commitment to student success, innovative teaching methods, and dedication to professional growth.” Her unique focus on language acquisition, vocabulary development and speaking, listening and writing

skills, especially with recent newcomers to the United States was highlighted. Mirsky noted her “patience, creativity and a strong belief in every student’s potential to succeed.”

Zhu, a teacher for 37 years, thanked her father, a math professor, for his essential support for her career path. She lauded her 150 fellow teachers for their common passion for teaching, stating that it drives her and them to want to “teach another 57 years.”

## POOL continued from page 1

They hope to include youth swim lessons, morning and evening water exercise sessions and senior swim, while also accommodating the summer season practice schedule for Greenbelt’s Municipal Swim Team. The finalized schedule of department programs will be published in the 2025 Recreation Summer Activity Guide.

The hot tub will be closed for the duration of the repairs, confirmed Assistant Director Andrew Phelan. However, the family/accessible changing room and bathroom located off the pool deck, which also serves as an all-gender changing room and bathroom is expected to be available. “At this time, we do not anticipate any access restrictions to the changing room/restroom in the indoor pool area and we hope to have it available throughout the

indoor pool closure to those that wish to use that room,” Phelan told the News Review.

The fitness wing and its hours will not be impacted.



GREENBELT

News Review

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Specialty Care Locations



MEASLES continued from page 1

285 measles cases reported in 2024 but by March 20, 2025, there have already been a total of 378 confirmed measles cases in the U.S. this year.

Also Battling Flu

The measles case was announced just two weeks after PGCPs announced two students had died from flu (see the March 13 issue). “While measles is a serious concern, it is not the only health risk we are currently facing,” noted House. “We remain in the midst of flu season and as you may be aware, our community has recently experienced two flu-related deaths. This serves as a sobering reminder of the importance of protecting our health and taking steps to prevent the spread of illness.”

Need for Vaccination

House’s March 7 email called vaccination an “important step” in keeping schools safe and his March 20 message called it “critical.” “Those who have been vaccinated for Measles (MMR) are at very low risk. However, unvaccinated individuals face a much higher risk of infection. As a precaution, any unvaccinated student or staff member at a school with a confirmed case will be excluded from in-person learning or work until 21 days after the last confirmed case,” stated the superintendent’s message.

PGCPs is currently conducting enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, calling on parents to keep sick children at home, practice hand washing and hygiene and keep children up to date with vaccinations.

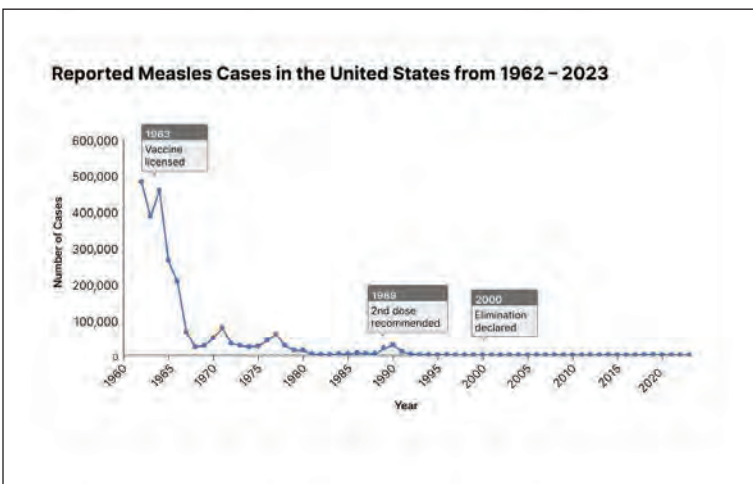
Drop in Vaccinations

According to the CDC, when more than 95 percent of people in a community are vaccinated, “most people are protected through community immunity (herd immunity).” However, nationwide data shows “coverage among U.S. kindergartners has decreased from 95.2 percent during the 2019-2020 school year to 92.7 percent in the 2023-2024 school year, leaving approximately 280,000 kindergartners at risk during the 2023-2024 school year.”

Vaccination coverage in Maryland looks better than the national average. Maryland state law requires that students receive “age appropriate vaccinations,” which include the MMR vaccine. However, the state allows for possible exemptions to vaccine requirements – the most commonly used one is the religious exemption. The number of children in the state and in the county who utilize exemptions to vaccination has risen in recent years and spiked during Covid, according to data from the Maryland Department of Health Center for Immunization. For the 2023-2024 school year 0.66 percent of kindergartners in Prince George’s

County were unvaccinated for medical reasons and 1.33 percent were unvaccinated with a religious exemption, meaning 2 percent of the 98.1 percent of students surveyed were unvaccinated. We can compare those rates to 20 years ago and see that in the 2003-2004 school year the number of kindergartners with medical exemptions in the county was 0.1 percent and those with religious exemptions made up 0.2 percent. Similarly, a decade ago exemptions remained low for the 2013-2014 school year with still only 0.1 percent of kindergartners having a medical exemption and 0.3 percent a religious exemption in Prince George’s County. The number of unvaccinated students was already rising but spiked during Covid, with a total of over 4.5 percent of kindergartners using exemptions for the 2019-2020 school year.

Though there have been three confirmed cases of measles in Maryland this month alone, high rates of vaccination should prevent an outbreak in the state of the kind currently seen in Texas and New Mexico.



Cases of measles in the U.S. dropped dramatically following the introduction of vaccinations. The disease was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. Elimination is defined as the absence of endemic measles transmission in a region for at least 12 months in the presence of a well-performing surveillance system.

Measles symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and red, watery eyes. The rash it’s commonly associated with often takes approximately five days to develop. Those most at risk from the highly contagious virus are the unvaccinated, including babies.

**HRS**

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Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

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

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



**Little Lutheran Story Hour**

**Saturday April 12 11 AM**

**FREE tickets and more information available on EVENTBRITE**

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
**6905 Greenbelt Rd.**  
**Greenbelt, MD 20770**

**FutureFit Youth Strength and Conditioning**

**Who Can Join?**

- Ages 10-14, Boys and Girls
- Open to All
- All Level of Skills Welcome

**Why Join Us?**

- 8 Week program on Tuesdays from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Personal and Team Development
- Promote Physical and Mental Wellness
- Learn Physical Strength, Proper Form And Recovery

**Location:**  
Springhill Lake Recreation Center  
6101 Cherrywood Lane,  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

**Registration:**  
For more information email f.jones@greenbeltnmd.gov or to register online:  
<https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/recreation-parks/virtual-recreation-center/spring-activity-guide>

**Date:**  
**March 25th -May 20th, 2025**  
No class on April 15th

**This program is being supported by a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation**

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**Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.**



COUNCIL continued from page 1

additional \$300,000 from HUD for the Greenbelt Visitor and Education Center (referred to as the Greenbelt Museum). This would provide matching funds to leverage an additional \$300,000 slug of funding from the state – with a goal of \$600,000 total in new funding, half federal, half state.

This stirred up considerable comment among councilmembers who questioned its level of priority or if we should ask for funding at all. The Museum comprises two former GHI houses now owned by the city. One unit is renovated to resemble the house as it would have been in 1937 while the other house is not yet renovated to fulfill its purposes which include a variety of supporting functions for the Museum.

**Priority**  
Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt strongly that we should not seek federal money for such projects and instead focus on initiatives that will help people keep their jobs. Councilmember Danielle McKinney commented that she agreed with Roberts – and she proposed that other items on the priority list were more aligned with the potential needs of residents. She wanted to know what the minimum need was for additional funding for the Museum that would avoid losing funds already obtained.

Councilmember Amy Knesel stated that although the museum facility was owned by the city, the Museum was run by a non-profit organization, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, that had the capacity to propose for funding on its own behalf. Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that the Museum had used a consultant to help it compete for funding but had so far not been successful on a large enough scale. Roberts noted that the funds weren't for programs or even to restore the building to its original state. Salmerón explained that though the title of the fund was "Historic Preservation," its purpose could include educational and programmatic elements other than returning space to its original condition. Roberts was unmoved.

**Recreation Facility**  
The SHLRC project, also on the list for a federal funding request, would not be in competition with the Museum because it is in a different category. Although the entire project has a price tag of \$2 to \$3 million, the grant request to HUD would be for \$750,000 for interior work to the existing facility in preparation for the addition, including repairs and remediation where a wall is beginning to detach. The proposed addition would expand

space for community activities for all age groups and includes programs for child care; Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education; and sports. The city has no funds available for this in the budget.

**Community Center**  
This project would fund repair of part of the addition built in 1967 which is deteriorating.

**Playgrounds**  
The fourth initiative groups four outdated playgrounds, three on city property within GHI's circumference and the fourth on school board property at Greenbelt Elementary School, for replacement.

**Other Projects**  
Additional candidates (in descending order of preference, likelihood or funding opportunities) were new bathrooms at Buddy Attick Park, upgrades to the club house and picnic areas at Schrom Hills Park, a multisport court at Franklin Park, a new municipal building, an Aquatic & Fitness Center splash pad and field restoration at Greenbelt Middle School.

**Discussion of Priorities**  
Councilmember Kristin Weaver stated she preferred to move the SHLRC improvements into first place ahead of the Museum. She favored promoting better facilities for this area of the city and felt that the Museum could perhaps be assisted to raise more funding itself.

Jordan wanted to check into helping the Museum with its attempts to self fund but didn't want to lose the funding from the bond. He also wanted to promote the remediation of the Greenbelt Middle School field (now last on the list) to higher in priority as it had been a negotiated initiative with the school system.

Knesel echoed the desire of others to push SHLRC up to the top noting that the report states that "Currently staff struggles to

meet the need of participants."

Councilmember Silke Pope was a proponent of replacing the Buddy Attick Park bathrooms and asked what funding source would be likely to be appropriate for the splash pad facility for small children. Salmerón replied that following last year's federal guidelines, as they have been told to do as there is, to date, no guidance for this year, there is no category that would cover the splash pad but that it could be funded from Project Open Space if sufficient funds were to be available.

Weaver noted that the splash pad and the bathrooms had previously met with a lukewarm reception from the delegation but Salmerón countered that they had been advised to send everything just in case there was something in there that caught the delegation's eye or was just the right size.

Roberts asked why we were proposing to replace bathrooms that were only 10 years old. Salmerón replied that the installation was suffering from rust, with the doors and frame particularly affected. Roberts appeared much dissatisfied with the rationale, stating that "it doesn't cost \$500,000 to repair it" and that it "really goes to how we're maintaining our buildings."

Although the only clear guidance from the meeting was to increase the priority for SHLRC, Salmerón felt he had what he needed to go forward but expressed his concerns about the Museum – with fewer sources to fund it and the long duration of its evolution – he felt that some review and rethinking might be in order.



Reparations Commission Announces New Website, Community Events

by Gail Crichlow and Lois Rosado

The Greenbelt Reparations Commission (GRC), with support from the Public Information Office, created a website to provide information about the city's reparations work. Go to GreenbeltReparations.Info to find videos and blogs about GRC events and information and resources about local and national reparations work. Greenbelt residents are invited to provide comments and feedback, join the GRC mailing list, and/or volunteer to host a listening session in their neighborhood.

**Hear from the Community**  
The commission needs to hear the voices of community residents who have historically faced any form of racial, economic or social injustice. Those who have (or who know someone who has) experienced injustices with law enforcement, been denied an opportunity to live where they want and/or attended underfunded schools, speak up and share those stories. The community is stronger when working together to make sure each individual is treated fairly. Email Megan Young, staff liaison

to the commission, at myoung@greenbeltnmd.gov to schedule a meeting.

**Upcoming Events**  
Saturday, March 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.: visit the GRC table in front of the Giant at Beltway Plaza to get information about GRC work and to share experiences as a Greenbelt resident. All are welcome. Those who complete a survey will have their name added to a raffle to receive a \$25 grocery gift card from a local grocery store. There are 10 chances to win.

Saturday, April 5, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.: GRC, with help from national and local organizations that have researched reparations, is planning a town hall to be held in the large meeting room at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Light refreshments will be served, and a sign language interpreter can be available if requested in advance.


Friday, April 11, 5 to 6 p.m.: GRC will host a listening session to discuss Greenbelt Then and Now at the Greenbelt Museum, 10-A Crescent Road.



FAITH continued from page 4

Pastor Jeff Warner said, "MCF is serious about putting our faith in action and demonstrating the love of Jesus. I'm so proud of the team and of the love and kindness they lived out with strangers whom we now call friends. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve."

MCF partnered with Home-works of America which is a nonprofit organization that serves disadvantaged communities across the nation. MCF is a local multicultural, nondenominational Christian church that meets Sundays at 10 a.m. at Greenbelt Elementary School (MCFcc.org).



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 17-23, 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](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

### Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death and five domestic incidents, two resulting in assault charges or arrest.

On March 19 at 8:44 a.m. near 6112 Breezewood Drive, officers saw flames coming from an apartment building, alerted the fire department and began knocking on doors to evacuate residents. The fire department extinguished the fire.

On March 20 near 9104 Springhill Lane, a child fell out of a window but was uninjured.

### Assault

On March 17 at 8:48 p.m. near 5909 Cherrywood Terrace, a juvenile was assaulted by another juvenile.

On March 17 at 4:18 p.m. near 9106 Springhill Lane, a group of juveniles were fighting. They scattered and ran off in different directions as police arrived. Two girls were caught and taken to the Greenbelt Police station, then released to their parents.

On March 19 at 10:55 a.m. near Breezewood Drive and Springhill Lane, some students walking to school in the morning decided to cut through a building. While inside, they were confronted by a man who asked them, "What are you all doing in the building?" One student told him to back away and the man struck him once on the head.

### Disorderly

On March 17 at 1:44 a.m. near 6942 Hanover Parkway, a woman was retrieving her belongings after being kicked out. She began arguing and threatening to physically harm another resident. A woman sprayed bear mace on the door as she left.

On March 19 at 1:24 p.m. near 6017 Springhill Drive, a man was yelling, throwing his clothing onto the ground, attempting to expose himself, and appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and taken to the station.

On March 19 at 4:36 p.m. near 4 Parkway, while a woman was walking through the common area of her apartment complex, another resident confronted her unexpectedly and spat at her. Warrant and protective order information was provided.

### Threats

On March 18 at 9:35 a.m. near 6301 Ivy Lane, a former employee was upset, called the office, and made threats. Officers will apply for charges.

### Break-in

On March 22 at 7:37 a.m. near 9308 Edmonston Road, a man reported that someone had been in his apartment and his wallet was missing. The bank was notified after he found a transaction on his card.

### Vehicle Accident with Cutting

On March 17 at 3:13 p.m. near 6925 Hanover Parkway, a man suffering from multiple cuts crashed into a ditch. He had been cut after an argument in a location outside Greenbelt. Officers provided first aid until he was taken to the hospital. Prince George's Police came to handle the investigation.

### Fraud

On March 18 near 5921 Cherrywood Terrace, someone was charging items to a card which was still in the owner's possession.

On March 18 near 9334 Edmonston Road, a man received a call from someone pretending to be from the bank, claiming there was fraudulent activity on his bank account. After reviewing his account details, he was urged to transfer money to another account; he then realized it was a fraud and notified his bank.

On March 21 near 7907 Mandan Road, a woman reported receiving a letter from the Small Business Administration regarding a loan she never applied for.

### Theft and Shoplifting

On March 17 at 11:05 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several perishable items; the store wanted him banned from the property.

On March 17 at 3:43 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man concealed multiple items and fled on foot.

On March 18 at 3:36 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers were called about a shoplifter who got into a blue/silver Infiniti sedan which had a felony status in Anne Arundel County. When the car took off, police pursued, but broke off for public safety reasons. The suspect was identified, and police are pursuing charges.

ing charges.

On March 18 at 4:09 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers stopped a man with concealed merchandise after he left the store; he was issued a criminal citation and released.

On March 20 at 2:31 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole two comforter sets from the store; as he was running, he was confronted and dropped both items.

On March 20 at 5:34 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter was arrested and officers discovered that he was in possession of illegal controlled dangerous substances.

On March 20 at 9:00 p.m. near 101 Centerway, a woman's belongings were taken from a gym locker; a custodian found her bag, but her car keys and wallet were missing.

On March 22 near 6006 Springhill Drive, a package was stolen.

### Vandalism

On March 20 at 4:21 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, an unknown object shattered a bedroom window.

On March 23 at 12:02 p.m.

near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, an apartment was trashed, clothes damaged and a car windshield was broken.

On March 23 at 2:08 p.m. near 9132 Edmonston Terrace, an apartment sliding glass door was broken, and the glass cut the resident.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicle

On March 22 near 9148 Edmonston Road, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 6GN7316) was stolen.

### Theft from Auto

On March 17 at 2:14 a.m. near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, officers observed a man stealing tires from a 2020 Toyota Camry. He jumped in a newer black Cadillac Escalade with Virginia temporary tags and sped away, after stealing two of the vehicle's wheels.

On March 17 near 9011 Breezewood Terrace, the sunroof was damaged and money was stolen from a 2019 Dodge Durango.

On March 17 near 7903 Mandan Road, a Kia Optima's driver-side door handle was missing.

On March 19 near 9015

### Vandalism to Auto

On March 17 near 7911 Mandan Road, a 2019 Kia Optima had a door handle missing; and near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, the sunroof was broken on a 2014 Infiniti Q50.

On March 21 near 7509 Mandan Road, a 2014 Kia Optima had a window shattered.

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE  
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE  
DOCKET NO.: 2025-DR-23-0001  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS  
TO THE DEFENDANT: CARLOS RUIZ, ALLEGED BIRTH FATHER AND JOHN DOE BIRTH FATHER  
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:

1. That an adoption proceeding was filed in the Family Court of Greenville County on January 2, 2025, and in this Complaint, you are alleged to be the father of a Hispanic, female child born in Silver Springs, Marland, on December 28, 2024; and you John Doe are alleged to be the father of a Hispanic, female child born in Silver Springs, Marland, on December 28, 2024. 2. That the Plaintiffs in the above captioned Notice are not named for the purpose of confidentiality; however, the Court knows the true identity of the Plaintiffs and in responding to this notice, you are required to use the caption and the number 2025-DR-23-0001. 3. That if Notice to Contest, Intervene or otherwise Respond is filed by you with the Court within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this Notice of Adoption Proceedings, you will be given an opportunity to appear and be heard on the merits of the adoption. To file notice to Contest, Intervene or otherwise Respond is filed by you with the Court at Greenville County Courthouse, Clerk of Court Greenville County Family Court, 350 Halton Road, Greenville, South Carolina, 29607 in writing of your intention to Contest, Intervene or otherwise Respond. The above named Court must be informed of your current address and any changes of your address during the adoption proceedings. 4. That your failure to respond within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notice of Adoption Proceedings constitutes your consent to the adoption and forfeiture of all of your rights and obligations to the above identified child. It is further alleged that your consent to this adoption is not required under S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-9-310 and that your parental rights should be terminated pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-7-2570 (7). This notice is given pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-9-730 (E). Raymond W. Godwin, Esq. (SC Bar #2162) PO Box 354, Greenville, SC 29602 PH (864) 241-2883 FAX: (864) 255-4342 ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS Date: March 6, 2025



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

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Sports

ERHS Basketball Season Ends at Region But County Claims Two State Titles

by Patrick Gleason

While the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Raiders boys basketball team was not able to extend its pattern of 4A state championships – won in 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022 – this season, their appearance in the region championship game is an improvement from last season and an indication that Coach Chaun Miller is following in his predecessor’s footsteps. The Raiders lost to C.H. Flowers (one of the county’s two state semi-finalists) for the third time this season in a closely contested region final. The Laurel Spartans joined the Flowers Jaguars in the state semi-finals, where the Jaguars succumbed to Walt Whitman, while the Spartans advanced to – and won – their first state championship since 1980.

Despite the absence of the Raiders, who asserted themselves as the premier public school program in the state under former Coach Brendan O’Connell from 2006-2023 in the state finals, Prince George’s County basketball continues to define itself as the state’s most challenging domain. The Spartans narrowly defeated the Raiders in their regular season final before marching to the March 15 state final against Whitman, who after jumping to an early lead, could not match the intensity of a senior-laden Laurel squad, led by Head Coach

Eric Hines. The Spartans sprinted past the Vikings en route to a 68-53 victory at the University of Maryland.

Furthermore, the Largo Lions added to the Prince George’s haul with its second consecutive state championship, earned in heart-stopping fashion on March 14. Led by Cam Ward, a Michigan State-bound senior, the Lions faced off with the New Town Titans in the 2A state final, a rematch of the 2023 final which the Titans won. Despite leading much of the way, behind Ward, now the unofficial all-time leading scorer in Maryland public school history, the Lions found themselves in a one-possession ballgame with only seconds remaining. Ward asserted his Division One prowess much of the afternoon, but missed two free throws, leav-



PHOTO BY ALPHAMADOU JALLOW

Junior Donte Whitaker will return to lead the Raiders next season as they look to extend Prince George's County basketball's successful run.

ing an opportunity for the Titans to steal a victory. Trailing 50-48, New Town pushed the ball up court where guard Tyriq Liggins drove hard to his right before the Largo defender fell, creating

an open three-point attempt for the victory. The shot fell round the rim as time expired, resulting in a raucous celebration for the Lions – and Prince George’s County athletics, having claimed two of the four state titles across classifications.

The Raiders feel they aren’t far off from the hardware earned by the Spartans and Lions this winter. Coach Miller’s squad will return guards Donte Whitaker and DeKare Tyler, who proved instrumental in Roosevelt’s improvements this season, while juniors Tristan King and Pierre-Samual Fomo also contributed important minutes throughout this year’s campaign. Certainly, the Raiders will meet challenges as they look to reassert their dominance in a county awash in basketball excellence.

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**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**  
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors  
on April 3, 2025

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

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on February 20, 2025
- b) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on March 6, 2025
- c) Financial Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- a) Statement of Closed Meeting Held on March 25, 2025, March 27, 2025, & April 3, 2025
- b) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on March 6, 2025
- c) Review of Assignment of Units Policy
- d) Dissolution of the Sustainability Sub-Committee
- e) Exception Request 6-B Ridge
- f) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on April 17, 2025

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwtD-uugzoiG9XHGq9rsWp\\_N9LZj33gbi9r](https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwtD-uugzoiG9XHGq9rsWp_N9LZj33gbi9r)

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

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A Review

# Tick, Tick ... Boom!

by Melissa Sites

The sound of the ticking clock represents the fear of approaching the age of 30 without achieving the big break into show business. Composer Jonathan Larson wrote this musical about his own life, fears and ambitions, before he completed the tremendously successful musical, *Rent*. Jon’s (Michael McCarthy) anxiety is compounded, because his best friend Michael (Dylan Nicholson) left acting to enter the corporate world and his girlfriend Susan (Elizabeth Suzanne) is ready to leave New York. Nicholson and Suzanne also play several other characters in Jon’s life, such as his casting agent, his father and the lead actress in the new musical he is workshoping. Simple set pieces swirl around Jon, representing different parts of his life that he is struggling to balance: his keyboard, where he strives to write great rock tunes that he hopes will transform Broadway; his couch, signifying his domestic life with his girlfriend, the sweet familiarity between them straining as she begins to want something different; the table, signifying Jon’s weekend job at the diner; or Michael’s corporate workplace, as well as Michael’s beautiful new apartment that he can afford because he decided to leave acting to take a corporate job. The show is fast moving, running through 13 songs in 90 minutes.

Women in Greenbelt

## Traveling Pop-up Museum Features Black Artifacts

by Lois Rosado

Regina Small, a Greenbelt resident and curator of the Black Artifacts Pop-up Museum, has been making the rounds traveling to numerous schools during Black History Month in order to educate children about the many contributions of Black Americans. The idea for a pop-up museum began while Small was teaching in the reading program at her church. During Black American History Month, she would bring in artifacts that she had collected over the years featuring Black historical figures and related historical items for the children to examine. Some of these items included typewriters and old-fashioned telephones.

### Traveling Exhibits

Small has stepped away from the reading program in order to expand pop-up museum venues. She wanted to reach a larger audience in order to educate the community about Black American contributions. She sent out 25 letters to various elementary schools in D.C. and Maryland asking if they would be interested in her pop-up museum, with 20 schools responding positively. During Black History Month, Small and her husband traveled to each of the schools to set up her exhibits starting with just four tables but soon expanding to 14 exhibit tables. That exhibit included detailed information about the various historical figures and the related artifacts.

Small is continuing to travel to schools with her Black Arti-



PHOTO BY ACTON VAN DE MOTTER

Michael McCarthy as Jon, Dylan Nicholson as Michael, and Elizabeth Suzanne as Susan in the GAC production of *Tick, Tick ... Boom!*

The songs are pleasant and tuneful, well performed by the cast. McCarthy is great at singing and acting. His voice is beautiful and his emotions are heartfelt. In her supporting role, Suzanne also brings skilled vocals and nuanced acting. Nicholson rounds out the show with the great physicality he brings to the role of Michael. Three-part harmonies throughout the show showcase these powerful voices. The time period of 1990 has two signifiers on stage: one, a poster reading *Silence = Death*; and two, Jon’s comfy plaid flannel shirt, the ubiquitous uniform of the 1990s musician. The autobiographical nature of

the piece means that change is inevitable, and a happy ending is not always guaranteed. The audience knows that Jon will succeed, because we know he wrote *Rent*. But sadly, Larson died of a heart defect just one day before *Rent* opened. Larson dedicated his life to his art, and his art survives, in what would be his 65th year. *Tick, Tick ... Boom!* directed by Margo Myst McCready, shows at Greenbelt Arts Center on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 12. Masks will be required March 30 and April 11. To purchase tickets or to view content warnings, go to [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).

## Probationary Workers Reinstated As Federal Court Battles Continue

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

As we reported on March 13, probationary workers were among the first federal employees at multiple agencies to be cut en masse and indiscriminately as part of the Trump administration’s attempt to reduce the federal workforce. The administration now faces over 100 lawsuits challenging their recent actions related to workforce cuts, the freezing of federal funds approved by Congress and other policies, such as ending birthright citizenship. In the case of fired probationary workers, a judge has ruled that the Office of Personnel Management could not terminate employees at other agencies, and another later ordered a halt to the layoffs and reinstatement of those fired.

Greenbelter Chelly Tavss, an employee at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), still a probationary employee, was fired in February while on maternity leave (see the March 13 issue). Last week, on March 19, she received word, first from her attorneys and then from NARA, that her termina-

tion was rescinded. Tavss was reinstated on Monday, March 24, and returned to the office full-time. During her unemployment she’d remained on a waitlist for childcare for her baby. She told the News Review she’s feeling “cautiously optimistic.”

So far two federal judges – one in California and one in Maryland – have ordered the reinstatement of fired probationary workers. Together, their rulings apply to 24,583 probationary employees across at least 18 agencies. According to Federal News Network, 24,570 have been notified their jobs are reinstated, though most are on administrative leave at least temporarily. Meanwhile the Trump administration has vowed to fight back against challenges to their authority and agenda. On Monday, March 24, Trump asked the Supreme Court to halt the order to reinstate thousands of probationary federal workers. The case goes first to Justice Elena Kagan, who handles emergency appeals from the 9th Circuit in California.

## As the City Welcomes Spring, Memories of Greenbelt’s Winter

by Patrick Gleason

With calendars now matching meteorology, spring is fully upon us, as cherry blossoms will soon match the vibrancy of the daffodils and crocuses dotting our suburban landscape. The changing of seasons is a perfect time to reflect on a winter that proved colder and snowier than most in recent memory. As we appreciate increasing warmth and the profusion of color dotting the landscape, here are recollections from a beautiful, though at times cold and unforgiving, winter.

### January 4, 2025

The moon rose as the colder air compressed its reach on the entire landscape and the frozen silence of a frigid night in suburbia offered a rare peace – a quiet night beneath midnight blue-black skies adorned by starlight twinkling followed a morning punctuated by howling winds, as persistent as they were frigid. Fields encrusted with snow endured January’s bluster while most reasonable beings sought refuge in warmer environs.

### January 23, 2025

The recent air grasped our breath and robbed it from our throats before expelling it in a fogged undulation befitting of a mid-Victorian London skyline. Crystallized and crisped ice and snow still covered shaded northern areas 17 days after the magical powder fell for nearly 24 hours. The cold arrested and asserted itself in a way it hasn’t for several years, unrelenting all January in a formidable spirit befitting of the season. Still, some-



PHOTO BY UNKNOWN

An icy GHI clothesline after a winter storm

how, each morning birds chirped as the dark blue softened to a lighter hue that belied our single digit temperatures – their morning arrival continued a deepest freeze.

### February 19, 2025

A bitter cold returned, proving groundhogs shouldn’t be ignored. Though the snowstorm originally forecast for today steered south, the unforgiving sky never conceded its callous gray omnipotence, matching the dullness of rush hour exhaust, mid-day chimney output and morning breath, all inundated by an Arctic force. While birds still offered cheery notes of warmer times in a seemingly distant future, the stillness of a day frozen in February remained the prevailing notion of this afternoon. Even a crisp horizon illuminated by sunset couldn’t obscure the air that never exceeded freezing on a day that left commuters hoping for something warm to juxtapose evening’s onsetting chill.

*Patrick Gleason teaches English at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and writes about the school’s sports teams for the News Review. He grew up in Greenbelt.*



PHOTO COURTESY REGINA SMALL

The Black Artifacts Pop-up Museum exhibit

facts Pop-up Museum but instead of elementary schools she is now focusing on middle and high school where she finds that the students are very curious and ask important questions. High school students who assist Small with exhibit setup and cleanup are able to earn community service hours.

Small would like to display the museum permanently during Black History Month and on Juneteenth, with a site to be determined. She has been traveling with her museum since 2018. Greenbelt residents may remember her pop-up museum was exhibited at the Community Center in 2020 and again at Springhill Lake Recreation Center in 2021. Small was invited to arrange a small display in Beltway Plaza in 2023.

### New Exhibits

Small calls her newest exhibit *The Wall*, honoring Black American firsts. For example, she has added Marlene Fullilove, the first African American to enter the University of Tennessee’s Dental School Hygiene program. Fullilove was later appointed by the governor of Tennessee to serve on the state Board of Dentistry. Fullilove is Small’s sister.

Also included on *The Wall* are the first Black American pharmacist in Tennessee, Dr. Charles Champion, and one of the earliest cowboys, Tom Herns. In addition to detailed information, Small has also included quotes attributed to each of these individuals.

Small hopes to be back in Greenbelt next year, exhibiting her Black Artifacts Pop-up Museum at the Community Center.