



Armory Meeting, p.7



ERHS Softball, p.15

Earth Day

Springhill Lake Elementary School Students Clean Up Nearby Stream

by Ryan Colasanti



PHOTO COURTESY DANIELLE TODD-JONES

Students from Springhill Lake Elementary participate in their annual stream cleanup.

Third through fifth grade students at Springhill Lake Elementary School got to spend 45 minutes outside on a gorgeous day and were all excited to aid in the cleanup of the small stream behind the school. “[The students] are always excited and incredibly helpful,” said Shana Sterkin, an instructional lead teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary. “They kind of feel

powerful having an outlet to do something positive for the environment.”

The program started over two decades ago and both Sterkin and fifth-grade teacher Danielle Todd-Jones have taken it over since starting at the school. The event brings students outside of the classroom to participate

See **CLEANUP**, page 16

A Forgotten Byway

Ridge Road in Years Past: The Road to Riddle’s Bridge

by Alan Virta

Ridge Road loops around old Greenbelt from its beginning at 1 Court to its western end where it meets Crescent Road at the police station. Its length is approximately three miles. Almost all of it was built in the 1930s and 40s when Greenbelt was built. One section, however, is much older. It is all that is left of an old road that predates Greenbelt by 200 years. That was the road to Riddle’s Bridge.

Riddle’s Bridge (and before it, Riddle’s Ford) was a well-known landmark in northern Prince George’s County in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was located near the confluence of Beck’s Branch and the main Beaver Dam Creek, approximately where the Baltimore-Washington Parkway passes over Beaver Dam Road today. From the Colonial era through the 1860s, the Riddle family owned the land around the bridge, hence the name.

The road to Riddle’s Bridge was described in the 1739 and 1762 county road surveys. In the latter it was recorded as running “from Bladensburg by the late Captain Edmonston and so afterwards John Riddles.” Edmonston’s land encompassed much of Berwyn Heights. The southern section of that road is now known as Edmonston Road



SOURCE: SIMON J. MARTENET’S ATLAS OF PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, 1861. ANNOTATED BY ALAN VIRTIA

A map from 1861 shows Ridge Road.

from Bladensburg to Greenbelt.

The Road’s Path

From the approximate site of Greenbelt High School (currently Dora Kennedy French Immersion) the road to Riddle’s Bridge then jutted northeasterly across the maze of 1950s and ’60s pavement of Kenilworth Avenue and the Beltway to climb

150 feet to the heights where the water tower now sits. The ancient sunken road winding up the hill (now closed to vehicular traffic) once saw yokes of oxen trudge up and down its path. Hogsheads of tobacco rolled down the road on the way to the port of Bladensburg. Tobacco planters, tenant

See **RIDGE ROAD**, page 10

FY 2026 Budget

Council to Look at Community Development, Planning Dept.

by Diane Oberg

City Manager Josué Salmerón’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 2026), which begins July 1, allocates \$1.404 million to the Department of Planning and Community Development, up from \$1.393 million in FY 2025, an increase of 3.3 percent. This represents 3.5 percent of total proposed city

expenditures.

On April 16, the Greenbelt City Council discussed this budget and received some general budget updates from Salmerón and City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon. The department’s expenditures are partially offset by \$970,000 in fees such as street

See **BUDGET**, page 12

District 22 Pledge to Fight for Due Process, FBI HQ, Federal Workers

by Will Hammann



PHOTO BY PAM BEIDLE

State Senator Alonzo Washington speaks at the District 22 post-legislative session meeting. From left, Washington, Delegate Nicole Williams, Delegate Anne Healey and Delegate Ashanti Martinez

“We are all engaged in a great battle to protect our democracy, our constitution, our rule of law.” Those words opened a statement from U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen that he wrote to constituents meeting in Greenbelt Saturday, April 19. A campaign staffer read the statement aloud in place of

Van Hollen, who had just arrived back in the U.S. the day before the meeting.

He had been in El Salvador where, on April 17, he met with Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Prince George’s County resident who was mistakenly deported by President Donald

Trump’s administration to the Terrorism Confinement Center, the notorious mega-prison built under Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele.

Van Hollen’s words were shared during State Senator Alonzo T. Washington’s annual post-legislative session meeting held in the Greenbelt Library,

See **DISTRICT 22**, page 13

What Goes On

Monday, May 5

7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Economic Development Retention & Expansion/Discussion of Increasing Refuse and Recycling Service Fees, Municipal Building

Wednesday, May 7

7:30 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Green Ridge House, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 and the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Matteo (5) rides the cherry picker with his mom Angela at the City’s first Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday. See more on p. 16.

Letters to the Editor

Juvenile Delinquency Or Casting Aspersions?

The article, *Some Residents Reflect on Juvenile Delinquency as More Wheels Stolen* (April 17 issue), connects a recent flurry of thefts that have occurred in the geographic proximity of a high school to juvenile delinquency. The result is opinion, not news. It perpetuates stereotypes and promotes suspicion at the same time as reporting that there is no evidence suggesting who has been perpetrating these crimes.

These neighborhoods are, not coincidentally to the consideration of significant auto thefts, adjacent to the junctions of two interstate highways (295 and 495) and have direct access to two highly trafficked thoroughfares (Md. 193 and Hanover Parkway). That is more relevant to the issue of auto parts theft than proximity to a local high school.

Leah Cohen

Thanks

The Greenbelt Makerspace and Tool Library would like to thank the community, the Granite Building and especially our 18 volunteers for supporting Saturday's very successful Repair Cafe. We rescued over 40 broken items (lamps, jewelry, clothing, furniture, bikes, computers, etc.) with just a few that were too broken to repair. We will hold another Repair Cafe on July 19. Mark your calendars to be part of this cooperative effort to keep things out of the landfill.

Robert Candey

Absence of Agency On Earth Day

Goddard Space Flight Center did not celebrate Earth Day this year. It's usually a big event drawing many visitors inside the gates. Across the lawns, there have been booths of exhibits and hands-on activities. Through a special telescope, you could

look right at the Sun, even see it changing. There were even more ways of watching Earth: in the past and present, and where it is projected to go. You could watch the Earth changing.

But not this year. Even NASA Headquarters was a no-show. The short Earth Day message released by NASA this year celebrates NASA's efforts to mitigate natural disasters. It describes how NASA's observations of Earth help farmers, fishermen and diggers further exploit it. Concern for the planet's state might be there deep in the background but the word "climate" does not appear even once. With no mention of the changing climate, there is no Earth Day. NASA simply did not show up for Earth Day this year.

But the White House did. The message: "On Earth Day, We Finally Have a President Who Follows Science," claims praise for Trump in helping the environment. It describes how allowing more logging helps reduce wildfires. It claims wind turbines kill birds, and at a rate so high that the cost outweighs the benefits. And it ends the "forced use" of paper straws.

Last year, by contrast, NASA gave an Earth Day media briefing in which the message from the NASA Administrator, retired astronaut Bill Nelson, described NASA's important role right from the start of Earth Day in 1970. He described the impact of the photo of Earthrise taken by the astronauts. He described the precious "pale-blue dot" seen by Voyager as it left the Solar System. He described environmental degradation he personally observed from the Space Shuttle. He stated that NASA was also a climate agency. And then he described the next generation of Earth-observing satellites.

This is the same next generation of Earth observations that the Trump administration aims to cut. In fact, Trump aims to cut the whole NASA Science Mis-

sion Directorate by 50 percent. That could force the closure of Goddard Space Flight Center. On Earth Day 2025, NASA does not mention climate change, does not claim to be a climate agency and may be claiming little agency at all.

Robert Tyler



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:
MAY 2nd - 8th

A Nice Indian Boy
(NR) (2025) (99 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Tue. 7:45 PM
Wed. 7:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 1:15 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

Japanese Avant-Garde
Pioneers (NR) (2025) (100 mins)
English and Japanese with
English Subtitles

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:45 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 5:45 PM
Tue. 8:00 PM
Wed. 8:00 PM
Thurs. 5:20 PM

The Legend of Ochi (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (95 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC)
Mon. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM
Mon. 3:30 PM
Tue. 5:45 PM
Wed. 5:40 PM

10th Anniversary Event
Come celebrate our 10th
anniversary as a nonprofit
theater!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. VIP: 3:30 PM, GA: 4:30 PM

Steel Magnolias
(PG) (1989) (118 mins)
FREE Cinema Classic

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



AUDITIONS WERE LAST WEEK,
BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pat Scully, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; Carol Griffith, Erica Johns and Sandy Rodgers

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.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

A Nice Indian Boy

Cultures collide when an introverted doctor brings his white boyfriend home to meet his traditional East Indian family. Naveen Gavaskar (Karan Soni) is a soft-spoken doctor who falls in love with Jay Kurundkar (Jonathan Groff), a white man adopted by two Indian parents. After comic misunderstandings, frank fights, emotional revelations and reconciliations, they come together again to plan Naveen's and Jay's big Indian wedding.

Japanese Avant-Garde Pioneers

Amidst the profound social change and political turmoil of post-war Japan, a bold generation of avant-garde artists and photographers emerged in the 1960s, forever transforming the global art landscape.

The Legend of Ochi

In a remote village on the island of Carpathia, a shy farm girl named Yuri is raised to fear an elusive animal species known as ochi. But when Yuri discovers a wounded baby ochi has been left behind, she escapes on a quest to bring him home. Said critic Richard Abele of the Los Angeles Times, "Burnished by Evan Prosofsky's painterly cinematography, [the film] is a beautiful case for the tactile spectacle of puppetry as maybe the most intimate enchantment tool."

Steel Magnolias

M'Lynn (Sally Field) is the mother of bride-to-be Shelby Eatenton (Julia Roberts), and as friend Truvy Jones (Dolly Parton) fixes the women's hair for the ceremony, they welcome a helping hand from aspiring beautician Annelle Dupuy Desoto (Daryl Hannah). Diabetic Shelby has a health scare, which is averted but doesn't bode well for her hopes of having children. Time passes, and the women and their friends encounter tragedy and good fortune, growing stronger and closer in the process.

Community Events

Open House Offers Array of Art Activities



Art by Artist-in-Residence Rachel Kerwin

Studio Open House

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program will host an Art Studio Open House and Sale on Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. Tour the studios of the Center’s eight artists in residence on the third floor, and see their latest creations. Visit the Greenbelt Access Television studio on the second floor, and enjoy a rolling demonstration of stop-motion animation. See a new exhibit of documentary Greenbelt photos by Danielle Towers in the first-floor halls. Chat with community artists and Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructors on the first floor. Artists will have both fine art and elevated functional wares available for purchase.

Spray Painting Artful Afternoon

Enjoy a free all-ages art workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. Use spray paint and stencils to make fun and imaginative art pieces. The workshop will be led by artist Shaymar Higgs of The SPACE, a place of “free art for all.” The event will take place on the front lawn at the Community Center, weather permitting. The rain location is inside the Community Center, room 201. Pre-register (recommended) at sugeni.us/VLuA for one of two sessions: 1 to 2 p.m. or 2 to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Chinese Dance Program

At 3 p.m., celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a program of traditional and contemporary Chinese dance at the Community Center. With beautiful costumes and music, the presentation includes elements and influences of Chinese opera, poetry, arts and traditional folk dances. Featured companies include RoseQi Dance Arts and Gina Ling Chinese Dance Chamber. Admission is free. An RSVP is recommended to reserve a seat.

Reserve seats for these activities using the links at greenbeltmd.gov/arts, where one can also learn about a scholarship art auction to benefit the Mary Purcell Geiger Fund supporting Greenbelt Recreation Arts and senior programs. All of these activities are part of an Artful Afternoon. Greenbelt Recreation Arts Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Golden Age Club May Schedule

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

May 7 – Business meeting
May 14 – Presentation by Nichole Ruffin about Essences. Nichole has previously led a seated yoga class for the club. She has her own business where she gives massages, sells essences and holds yoga classes, all to promote healthy living.

May 21 – Birthday celebration honoring those with birthdays in April and May. Bring snacks to share.

May 28 – Bingo



Racial Justice Student Awards on May 3

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee and the Prince George’s County Lynching Memorial Project invite the Greenbelt community to join them in celebrating the student winners of the Racial Justice Essay and Creative Arts Student Awards Contest on Saturday, May 3 at 1 p.m. at the Community Center.

Come cheer on these young students. This year there are two winners from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. For more information contact blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com.

Poetry in the Garden Hosts Guest Speaker

The community is invited to a poetry reading event on Sunday, May 4 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Schrom Hills Park clubhouse. The topic for this meeting is Persian poetry. The guest speaker will be Faezeh Fatemi, who is Iranian American with deep knowledge of Persian poetry and culture.

Light refreshments will be served. For more details, call Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.

Indoor Yard Sale Benefits GVFD

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFD) Ladies Auxiliary is having an Indoor Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fire house at 125 Crescent Road. Those interested can reserve a table for a fee. For further information call Kathy at 301-474-4372. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event is handicapped accessible.

Sign Up for May’s Arthritis Walk, ERHS

On Saturday, May 3 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School will host the 21st Annual Walk to Cure Arthritis in Prince George’s County, to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Funds raised help in finding solutions, better treatments and a cure. To register for this event or to donate, go to events.arthritis.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1744.

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, May 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children’s books and free healthy, nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leeny Juegan

El viernes 9 de mayo a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George’s presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, “Fue muy bueno!” Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Friday, May 9 Is Next Local Blood Drive

Greenbelt Recreation is holding a blood drive on Friday, May 9 at the Community Center. Sign up at redcrossblood.org/give.html/finddrive. Search zip code 20770 under Find a Drive. Appointment times fill up fast and walk-ins may be turned away.

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.

Green Man Festival: Bands, Vendors, Fun

Join the fun at the Green Man Festival on Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11 at Roosevelt Center. Great bands will be playing both days, including KIVA, the Duck Pins (bluegrass), the Greenbelt HONK! Situation, the Magical Mystery Four, MadWitch, the Piper Jones Band, D’Vibe & Conga and the Mauvin Graye & the Graye Line Band. Music continues inside the New Deal Café both evenings, with Black Masala and Poehemia (Celtic Rock). There will be a drum circle on Saturday with Katy Gaughan. There are over 40 vendors, crafts for kids, info booths, a Green Man Parade, food, face painting, hula hooping and family fun both days. Bring family and friends. Dress as a favorite fairy, green being, butterfly or creature. All free. For more information, visit the Greenbelt Green Man Festival Facebook page.



Peace Camp Coming Back to Greenbelt

For the past three summers, Little Friends for Peace, a local organization, has been hosting a peace camp at Greenbelt Community Church for children and teens ages 5 to 14. Scheduled for July 21 to 25, the theme will be Mission Imagination, which includes cooperative games, storytelling, team building, conflict resolution and creative ways to inspire positive change. There is a fee, but needs-based scholarships are available. For more information, go to lffp.org/peacecamp.html.

Three Sisters Center Garden Workshop

On Saturday, May 3 at 10 a.m. agronomist Che Axum of Greenbelt Grows will be providing a workshop at the CHEARS Three Sisters Center Garden (on the east side of the Community Center, upslope from the Ground Floor East entrance). This free program will cover “How to Prepare a Growing Bed” and focus on important factors to maximize productivity. Come to the workshop for some inspiration for your own garden. Following the presentation, participants or volunteers are welcome to assist with plantings till noon. Refreshments provided.

Greenbelt Grows (Greenbeltgrows.org) is a community-driven initiative dedicated to enhancing food security and promoting sustainable living in Greenbelt.

Chess Club Meetings for May

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, May 13, May 20 and May 27. The meetings 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 the mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

TH 5/01	FRI 5/02	SAT 5/03	SUN 5/04	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm Monthly big, bodacious blues jam	Kevin Robinson & KERQ 8-11pm High energy bluesy rock. Jimi Hendrix, anyone?	La Unica 8-11pm A pan-genre party band with a fusion of rock, funk and soul	Supernational Sound System 6 - 8pm A unique fusion of West African and Arabic rhythms	
MON 5/05	TUES 5/06	WED 5/07	TH 5/08	New Deal Cafe
MONDAY MAUVESS KARAOKE 6 - 9pm Take the stage and perform!	S.A.W. Open Mic w/ Lynn Hollyfield 6 - 9:30pm Sign-ups at 6pm Featured act plays from 8-8:30pm	The Campfire Sessions w/ Joe P. Swelterpants 7 - 9pm 7p: Kim Eaton / 8p: Ronya-Lee Andersson	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Dede & The Do-Rights 7 - 9pm Strong vocal harmonies and infectious rock 'n roots country	IT'S THE CAFE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY! Visit our donations page to help fund our October celebration festival!

***Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot) com, click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”**

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Catherine Dorsch-Beller



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Catherine Dorsch-Beller

Catherine Dorsch-Beller was born on November 9, 1944, and lost her courageous battle to ALS on April 4, 2025.

Catherine was born and raised in the District of Columbia. She attended St. Martin's and St. Aloysius grade schools and Notre Dame Academy High School on North Capitol Street. She diligently worked for Washington Hospital Center Radiology Department as chief technologist, where she also played on the department softball team and could usually be found sitting in right field. Later she joined her husband in their commercial glass business. She lived life to the fullest and had the chance to enjoy traveling with friends and family.

Married to James L. Beller, who died on December 2, 2001, Catherine lived in Greenbelt's Windsor Green community. She was an active member and leader there for over four decades and served on the board, architectural control committee, finance committee and landscaping committee. On a summer afternoon one would find Catherine enjoying a dip and fellowship with others at the community pool.

Also a Windsor Green neighborhood watch captain, she kept her block together. She was a role model to her neighbors and their young children. Every year she would bake cookies and prepare Easter baskets for them. Catherine loved to garden and had the best-kept yard and house on the block. She had a sense of humor and was brutally honest, which was always so refreshing. As a good friend, she was ready to listen and lend a willing hand. A strong woman of faith, she was actively involved in church and the greater community.

Catherine leaves behind a loving sister and three brothers, two sisters-in-law and four nieces, one nephew, five great-nieces and two great-nephews. She will be greatly missed.

Catherine's memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 17 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 3107 63rd Street, Cheverly. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the ALS Association at als.org.

Ronald Kolbe



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Ronald L. Kolbe

Former Greenbelter Ronald (Ron) Lynn Kolbe, 74, of Durham, N.H., died on April 12, 2025, at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Boston, with his wife and daughter by his side after a hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was born June 3, 1950, in Washington, D.C., the son of the late Casper Maul Kolbe and Ruthlee Cade Kolbe. As a child he moved with his family to Empire Place in Greenbelt. He was a member of Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church and joined Boy Scout Troop 746 there. He enjoyed swimming at the Greenbelt pool and other community activities. He attended North End Elementary School, Greenbelt Junior High School and High Point High School. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park, a master's in nuclear engineering from Purdue University

and a Ph.D. in computational fluid dynamics from the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

Over the course of his career, he worked for many public and private institutions, including the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Shepherd University, Northrop Grumman, NASA and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. He was a member of multiple professional societies.

After retiring, Ron and his wife, Margaret, moved to Durham, where they were active members of St. John's United Methodist Church. There he sang in the choir, assisted with dinners for the homeless and helped in the church gardens. He was also a popular substitute at the local high schools.

Ron is survived by his spouse of 41 years, Margaret Garrett Kolbe; his daughter, Katharine (Kate) Mellitz and her husband Daniel Mellitz and his two granddaughters, Mackenzie and Abigail; his sisters, Elizabeth (Betty) Kolbe and husband John Moore and Carolyn Bray and husband Peter Bray; and numerous nieces and nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Pancreatic Cancer Foundation under the American Cancer Society at P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741 or on the website for the Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

A local memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 3 at 11 a.m. at Friendship United Methodist Church in southern Anne Arundel County. Lunch will follow the service. Interment will be a private service at a later date.



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.

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

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

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

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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



Financial Literacy At Favor's Table

A presentation on the importance and benefit of life insurance will be offered on Saturday, May 3 from 1 to 2 p.m. at 6215 Greenbelt Road, Suite 205. Food, clothes, bras, underwear and shoes will be distributed at the end of the session. Space is limited. To sign up, text 202-468-2049. Confirm attendance so that enough of bags of food can be prepared.

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.



Condolences to the family, friends and neighbors of Windsor Green resident Catherine Dorsch-Beller, an active member of her community and church.

Our sympathy also to friends and family of former Greenbelt resident Ron Kolbe, who grew up here and went on to have a distinguished scientific career as well as a full life with his family, church and community.

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

Quilts Across Maryland Hang at Courthouse

The 22nd exhibition of Quilts Across Maryland currently hangs at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse on Cherrywood Lane through May 6. The works demonstrate a wide range of styles and techniques that illustrate the versatility of the medium and the creativity of the artists.

Included are quilts by local artists Pat Scully of Greenbelt and Janet Freitag of Berwyn Heights.

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](https://ccg1985+owner@groups.io)

“Shut your eyes to estrangement, then fix your gaze upon unity. Cleave tenaciously unto that which will lead to the well-being and tranquillity of all mankind.”

– Bahá’u’lláh

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org



The Bible Says...

Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance
Matthew 3:8



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
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

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



May 4, 2025 at 3 p.m.
The Company We Keep

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Sue Bollens

In the spirit of our May theme (The Circle of Life), we'll consider our life's inner circles (the people we each choose to keep closest to us) – and what those circles show us about our truest values.

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
www.myholycross.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M.
Bible Study: 11:15 A.M.

Thursday Thrift Store
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

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, May 2, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13262292](#).

Wednesday, May 7, 12:15 a.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13262082](#).

Thursday, May 8, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13262208](#).

Books at Bedtime
Wednesday, May 7, 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/13248997](#).

Virtual Events
PGCMLS continues to offer virtual events for the public. The schedule of upcoming programs may be accessed at [pgcmls.info/events](#).

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
Several city departments and police collaborated on Greenbelt’s first Touch-a-Truck event and on public safety preparations for Senior Skip Day. Public Safety/Community attended a Four Cities meeting with County Fire Chief Tiffany Green.

Constituent Services and Economic Development presented a financial literacy workshop. Information Technology and Public Information attended an FBI communication training hosted by the police department.

Code Enforcement and Public Works collaborated on new LED-enhanced, solar-powered crosswalk signage. Public Works facilitated Earth Day, Raku pottery and electronics recycling events. Horticulture/Parks installed a memorial garden and two memorial trees.

While the Animal Shelter upgrade continues, staff responded to 40 calls.

The outdoor pool has been drained and cleaned.

Community Center staff produced 248 laminated immigration rights cards. Arts staff installed photographs by Danielle Towers, who gave an artist’s talk hosted by Recreation, Arts and the Museum.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted a senior trip and, with Rangers, collaborated on a presentation by the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.



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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 MAY 5-9

Monday, May 5 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RETENTION & EXPANSION/DISCUSSION OF INCREASING REFUSE AND RECYCLING SERVICES FEES**

Tuesday, May 7 at pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Discuss Possible Tree Tour as Part of Fall Fest 2025*

Tuesday, May 7 at pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Arts Advisory Board (AAB) Visibility Shirts or Banner, Multilingual Welcome Sign*

Tuesday, May 7 at pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Status of Revised Licenses Plate Reader General Order/PSAC Recommendations, Update on Meeting with City Manager and Chief Regarding PSAC’s Recommendations for Department General Orders Per PSAC March 6, 2024 Report, Planning for Fall Presentation to Increase Community Awareness of Scammer Techniques*

Wednesday, May 7:30 at pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - GREEN RIDGE HOUSE**

Wednesday, May 7 Immediately Following the Work Session - **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL MATTERS AND PENDING LEGAL MATTERS**

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. 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.

BIRDING 101

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 7:30-9:30 AM

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Join Environmental Coordinator, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, and the Greenbelt Park Rangers for an introductory birding tour around Greenbelt Lake.

Email kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov or visit our [Sign-up Genius page](#).

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>.

IN-PERSON MEMORY CAFE

Wednesday, May 7 at 1:30 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East 15 Crescent Road

This fun and interactive workshop is designed for everyone whether you’re seated or standing, there’s a place for YOU to get moving! Nancy, an expert choreographer, will guide you through creative dance, music, and movement that’s all about self-expression and having fun! Explore choreography, discover your own unique dance moves, and join in a lively group performance to celebrate the power of movement.

No experience needed! Just bring your energy, creativity, and a smile! Let’s dance together and share our stories in this joyful, lighthearted session. 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.

Don’t miss out on this chance to move, connect, and make lasting memories. Register now! Email Natalie Garcia at ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or call (240) 244-6010. See you there!

OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Section 3-305(b)(1) and(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, immediately following the Council Budget Work Session Green Ridge House, in the Municipal Building Library, 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction, and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or individuals about pending or potential litigation.

**** The public may attend the Special Council Meeting of the City Council immediately before the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

GREENBELT JOB FAIR

Saturday, May 17 12-3 pm

Beltway Plaza Mall (Near T.J. Maxx), 6000 Greenbelt Rd

Join us for our semi-annual Greenbelt Job Fair! Learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Contact Deji Ayoku for more information or to register your business for the Job Fair by emailing dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov.

RFP: HANOVER PARKWAY BIKEWAY FACILITY 90% ENGINEERING DESIGN PLAN

Close date: May 30 at 3 pm

The City of Greenbelt (“Owner”) requests proposals from qualified civil engineering professionals (“Consultant”) for the preparation of 90% engineered design of the Hanover Parkway Bikeway Facility project for the future construction of an off-street bikeway facility along a 1.9-mile corridor on Hanover Parkway.

Please provide an electronic and original hard copy to:

Ryan Sigworth, AICP, Community Planner II
Department of Planning and Community Development
15 Crescent Road, Ste. 200, Greenbelt, MD 20770
sigworth@greenbeltmd.gov, (240) 542-2042

All requests for clarifications or additional information related to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing (via email) by May 1, 2025 and directed to Ryan Sigworth AICP, Community Planner II, at rsigworth@greenbeltmd.gov.

All answers will be provided in writing and posted on the City’s website on or before May 16, 2025.

[View the RFP at Hanover Parkway Bikeway Facility 90% Engineering Design RFP](#)

View the existing 30% engineered design plan at Appendices and 30% Engineered Design Plan.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Departure from Parking & Loading Standards Application Greenbelt Advisory Board

Notice is hereby given that the Greenbelt Advisory Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **May 7, 2025 at 6:30 pm** in the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 114, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD on an application filed by Greenbelt Trade Center, LLC for consideration of a request for a **Departure from Parking and Loading Standards (DPLS)** for premises located at 7501 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770. The Applicant is requesting a departure to reduce the amount of required parking from 767 parking spaces to 608 parking spaces in order accommodate medical office uses in the existing building as well as the other existing uses.

For additional information please contact Ryan Sigworth, AICP, Community Planner II at (240) 542-2042.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Art Studio Open House and Sale! May 4, 1 - 3 pm, *Greenbelt Community Center*. Tour the studios of our Artists in Residence at the Greenbelt Community Center, and see their latest creations! Greenbelt Recreation teaching artists will be featured as well. Most participating artists will have works available for purchase.

FREE Artful Afternoons. Sunday, 5/4, Greenbelt Community Center, 1 - 3 pm. Sunday, 5/11, Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 1:30-2:30 pm. All ages welcome! Spray paint imaginative and fun pieces by layering textures and shapes with artist Shaymar Higgs of The SPACE. Walk-ups also welcome as space and supplies permit.

MORE ARTS IN APRIL & MAY

- Art Share (meet-up) 4/27
- Raku Observation, Rescheduled for 5/3 Schrom Hills Recreation Center
- May Artful Afternoons, 5/4 and 5/11, Greenbelt Community Center, and Springhill Lake Recreation Center
- Chinese Dance Concert, 5/4 Greenbelt Community Center
- Pet Portraits Painting Class, 5/9 & 5/16, Greenbelt Community Center

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>.

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

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 Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** 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.

GREENBELT RECOGNITION GROUP PROGRAM GRANT REVIEW PANEL MEETING Thursday, May 1, 7pm

Panelists elected by their home advisory boards and committees will be meeting virtually to discuss FY2026 Project and Operating Grant applications from Council-recognized community organizations.

For meeting access information, write to cp راحت@greenbeltmd.gov or call Cathy Pracht at (301) 397-2200.

FREE CLOTHING GIVEAWAY MAY 1, 10 AM - 12 PM

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Free new and gently used clothing for women, men, and children (newborn to 3 years old) Event is for Greenbelt residents only RSVP required.

Call (202) 670-6497 or email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov

Special Election

Voting in the County Special Election for County Executive

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

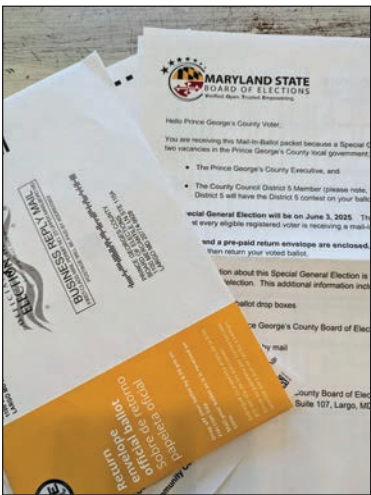
Residents should have begun receiving mail-in ballot packets for the special election for a new county executive, which were sent out April 19. Aisha Braveboy, current State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County, is the Democratic nominee and Jonathan White, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is the Republican nominee.

Every voter will receive a mail-in ballot, unlike other general elections when mail-in ballots had to be specifically requested. Or you can vote in person if you prefer during early voting or on Election Day. The special election was precipitated by the election of former county executive Angela Alsobrooks to the U.S. Senate, a seat vacated by the retirement of Ben Cardin (D).

Ballot Drop-off Option

You can return your ballot by mail or drop it off at a ballot drop box. The Maryland Board of Elections advises that the drop boxes are very secure, with only trusted election officials having access and ballots picked up every day. Drop boxes are not affiliated with the U.S. Postal Service. There are several ballot drop-off locations in the county, though none in Greenbelt. A list of locations is included with the ballots, with the nearest being at Good Luck Community Center in Lanham, approximately three miles away, and Lakeland College Park Community Center, approximately four miles away.

The deadline to register to



Voters in the special election can use mail-in ballots or vote in person.

vote in this election is Tuesday, May 13 and the last day to request a ballot if you did not receive one is Tuesday, May 27. However, you may also register to vote or update your voter registration information in person during early voting or on Election Day.

Voting In Person

Early voting will take place May 28 through June 2, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. Election Day is Tuesday, June 3 and voting places will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Our nearest voting center for both early voting and election day voting is College Park City Hall, 7401 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 201, College Park.

Voting by Mail

To vote by mail you can use the prepaid envelope found in the packet. Due to potential backlogs and delays with the U.S. Postal Service, voters opting to vote by mail are urged to mail their ballot as soon as possible. All ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day, June 3.

For more information visit the Maryland State Board of Elections website at <https://tinyurl.com/5xcrws5z>.

Information for this article was compiled from materials provided by the Maryland State Board of Elections.



Euan (3) drops off his parents’ ballots at the Lanham dropbox.



www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

City Election

How and When to Register To Vote in 2025 City Election

by Ryan Colasanti

The City of Greenbelt election is scheduled for November 4, but residents intent on voting can start the registration process now to avoid any last-minute errands before Election Day. This year Greenbelt will have a unique election, with noncitizens now being eligible to vote for the first time in city history. The registration process differs for anyone not a U.S. citizen.



Process for Noncitizens

Noncitizens are required to register in person with the city clerk via a paper form. Potential voters will have to prove they are 16 years or older at the time of the election and that they reside within the City of Greenbelt. Online registration is not available for noncitizen voters. The deadline to register to vote with the city is Tuesday, October 14, and after completing the registration process, noncitizens are able to vote only in the city’s election.

Process for Citizens

U.S. citizens who reside in Greenbelt have to register with the county either online, in person or by mail if they haven’t done so already. The deadline to register or make updates to addresses or personal information is October 6, the fifth Monday before the election, before 4:30 p.m. Citizens are able to register or update their information online using Maryland’s Online Voter Registration system (OLVR) found on the Maryland State Board of Elections website or by using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4z8pebpj>. If a resident wishes to register using

a paper registration form, they must print the form from the Prince George’s County Board of Elections at <https://tinyurl.com/f7aa94y8>, acquire one from the city clerk’s office or contact the county Board of Elections to request a form be mailed to their address. Paper forms must be mailed to the County Board of Elections at 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, Largo, MD 20774. Citizens that don’t have a valid Maryland license or Motor Vehicle Administration-issued ID card must fill out a paper registration form.

Those ineligible to register to vote and participate in the election are persons who were convicted of buying or selling votes, deemed incapable of voting by a court of law due to a mental disability or are currently imprisoned or paroled on a felony conviction, according to the State Board of Elections website. Otherwise, all city residents who are at least 16 years old at the time of the upcoming election are eligible to vote.

Process for Students

High school students who meet the 16-years-old-or-older requirement are among those eligible to vote. For student voters, the same registration process applies, with citizens needing to register with the county and noncitizens in person with the city clerk. College students attending the University of Maryland or other schools around the area are also eligible to vote as long as their Greenbelt address is their legal domicile.

To find more information on the city election – including a timeline of events – residents can use the Election Information

tab on the City of Greenbelt’s website at <https://tinyurl.com/yc2kk7kp>. More information for registering with the county can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/shpv2jx2>. Representatives from the City of Greenbelt will also be at some local events providing attendees with election information and guidance on how to register to vote. Residents can call the city clerk’s office at 301-474-3870 with immediate concerns or questions.

Ryan Colasanti is a student with the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

45th Annual CROP Walk Helps Local Food Banks

On Sunday, May 4, members of area churches, including Greenbelt Community Church and Catholic Community of Greenbelt, will walk in the 45th annual Hyattsville CROP Hunger Walk, this year at David C. Driskell Park in Hyattsville. Funds raised will be divided with 25 percent going to Help by Phone, which stocks local food pantries, and 75 percent to Church World Service (CWS), which expects to be focusing funds on refugee assistance.

CWS has partnered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for years. As USAID funding and programs are stopped globally in some communities, CWS is now the only agency there to help.

To join the walk or sponsor a walker, contact Naomi Littlefield at 202-246-1072 or littlefieldnaomi@gmail.com or visit events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/greenbelt-community-church-greenbelt-md.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

A RUDE MECHANICALS PRODUCTION AT THE GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL PREVIEW WEDNESDAY MAY 7 AT 8PM

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS MAY 9, 10, 16 & 17 AT 8PM

SUNDAY MAY 11 AT 2PM (FACEMASKS REQUIRED)

WWW.RUDEMECHANICALS.COM WWW.GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT US ON THE WEB!

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FREE FIRST SUNDAY BEGINNER'S IMPROV WORKSHOP

5:30PM 5/4

ALL SKILLS LEVELS AND AGES WELCOME!

(MINORS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PARENTS)

Residents Work Toward Consensus Ahead of Final Armory Meeting

by Ryan Colasanti

On Tuesday, April 22, about 20 Greenbelt residents gathered at the Municipal Building for the third of four weekly meetings to aid in the design of the Greenbelt Armory site.

Residents were welcomed to the charrette meeting with an agenda and three green dots that they used at the end of the meeting to mark design sketches they liked. Food and drinks were provided and a raffle with gift cards as prizes ended the evening.

There were four tables for attendee seating. Each table was equipped with a site map and thin paper sheets that members of the AMAR Group LLC used to make sketches of different designs based on the suggestions of residents at the table. Although there were four tables, most residents gathered around two of them, providing ideas to the AMAR illustrators and drawing in their own suggestions. At the end of the meeting, there were about seven designs for residents to peruse and vote on by placing on their favorites the three green dots handed out at the beginning of the meeting. The design concept that received the most dots was one that incorporated both municipal and residential components.

Housing

All but one of the design concepts created during the meeting included some form of housing. The desire for housing, especially intentional living and affordable living places, was brought up at the first meeting and has been a priority for residents to this point. Most of the designs the groups created placed a municipal building at the front of the property and then housing in the back. This design strove to create a welcoming government building as the gateway to Greenbelt with the functionality of housing tucked away from the foreground. One of the two groups mapped out exactly the kind of housing property they desired, complete with first floor parking, meeting spaces and a green roof with solar panels to take advantage of the site's exposure to sunlight. Some also added that with a new municipal building it would allow some city offices to move out of the Community Center and the current Municipal Building.

The Anacostia River

In addition to the preference for incorporating housing, the desire for the site to retain a natural feel continued into this third meeting. Those wanting to retain areas of nature on the site were happy to hear that because an Anacostia River tributary runs on the property there are specific areas that can't be developed. A portion of that restricted area can be developed – part of the existing parking lot – because it was created before the current restrictions were in place. But for the most part, much of the currently undeveloped site will remain untouched. The thought from members of the AMAR Group and residents alike was to landscape that area and create biking and walking trails for residents to enjoy. The idea was universally welcomed among the group and followed through on the wish from the first meeting



Members of the AMAR Group sketch different designs based on the suggestions of residents around the tables.

when residents voted most favorably for the Art Deco design.

Fire Station

The desire for a new fire station on the property was not a prominent part of the discussions. Only one sketch included the proposition and that sketch received zero green dots, meaning no one at the meeting liked the design sufficiently to choose it. That specific design also included a hotel and an engineered lake that residents didn't care for, which may have contributed to the lack of "likes," but Taylora Imes-Thomas of the AMAR Group said that discussions about putting a fire station or police station on the property weren't brought up much from residents in the second meeting. While the idea of a fire station was discussed toward the end of the meeting, one resident pondered the need for a new fire station

when the city lacks staff to fill the current station, referring to the removal of career firefighters from the area (see June 13, 2024 and October 17, 2024 issues).

There was one final community meeting scheduled to discuss plans for the Armory on Tuesday, April 29. Imes-Thomas said members of the AMAR Group would compile their notes and residents' comments from the first three meetings to develop three to six complete renderings for the site based on those notes. Residents at the final meeting were to vote on those renderings and the style elements and focus with the hope of coming to a consensus to present to the city council in the future.

Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

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Food Distribution in Greenbelt

by Bonnie Schrack

The News Review recently reported that the Capital Area Food Bank will be holding new pop-up food distributions for those affected by cuts to the federal government's workforce and funding. They are being held Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, the nearest location being in Lanham. See the April 3 issue for more details.

In Greenbelt there are two ongoing programs already offering food to those in need, one provided by the City of Greenbelt through the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program, and the other by St. Hugh's Catholic Church.

Produce Distributions

The monthly produce distributions administered by GAIL are held in two locations, both on the third Thursday of every month. One distribution location, operating out of GAIL offices in the lower level of the Community Center, is open to all Greenbelt residents, regardless of where they may live, with food supplied by the Capital Area Food Bank. Each household does need to register in advance to get a card, which can be done by stopping by the GAIL offices from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, or by contacting Brendy Garcia at bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-424-0302.

The distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center is only able to accommodate 75 households, who must be residents of Greenbelt West due to the limitations of the city's transport capacity to bring food to that location. Participants need to contact Garcia at GAIL to register. GAIL welcomes volunteers to assist in these programs.

Currently, there have not been interruptions or a decrease in the food available through GAIL. The News Review will report on whether planned cutbacks in USDA food deliveries to the Capital Area Food Bank affect availability in the future.

Church Food Pantries

Greenbelters are also able to obtain food assistance from the St. Hugh's food pantry. This food comes from several sources: bags of groceries purchased by customers at the Co-op Supermarket, donations of food and money by St. Hugh's church parishioners and others, and food collected from residents of the Greenbelt community by Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) for the PORCH project.

The church asks that those receiving food be residents of Greenbelt, but does not require proof of residence. They stress that people of all faiths, beliefs and backgrounds are welcome to receive food. The pantry operates from the church offices from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday. They request that people call 301-474-4327, if possible, to let them know before stopping by. Each household can receive a bag of nonperishable food items once a week. A limited amount of fresh food is available once a month to those in need, by appointment.

Restoration Church has until recently also offered a food pantry to Greenbelters but this was discontinued because of their move to Beltsville. Their food bank is now open at the new location, 5600 Sunnyside Avenue, on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Kim Kash's Listings

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2025 GHI Election: May 8–9

Check your Email!

The 2025 annual membership **meeting** will be in the Community Center Gym. You must be on-site to participate.

Like last year, GHI has contracted Simply Voting to host this year’s **election**. Simply Voting will send emails to GHI member addresses on file with a link to your ballot.

If you plan to vote online, it is your responsibility to ensure GHI has your current email address as soon as possible. You can update or confirm your email address by contacting GHI Member Services.

All members (with and without email) can vote in person Thursday immediately after the annual meeting, or Friday 4–8pm at the GHI Office.



Board of Directors

(6 of 9 positions up for election: five complete 2-year terms plus one 1-year term to fill a vacancy)

Sabrina Baron

2 Court Southway

I seek my second two-year term on the Co-op’s Board of Directors, having lived in GHI for 10 years. My origins go back to a KY tobacco farm; being the first in my family to attend college; ultimately earning a PhD. I have taught History at the University of Maryland for 23 years. As a GHI Member, I have served on the Architectural Review Committee and several task forces. I also served on the Friends of Old Greenbelt Museum board. Living in Takoma Park for over 10 years I was President of a local preservation non-profit; also served on city committees, and the boards of community organizations such as the Old Takoma Business Association. At UMD, I have served numerous terms in the University Senate; also given service to my college as well as my department. Actively serving my communities is a priority for me. As a member of GHI’s Board of Directors, I have a view of the Co-op that is significantly different than the ordinary member’s view, seeing what a complex community we have here. On the Board, I have worked to support/advance the concerns of members such as the increasing amount of Co-op fees, real estate taxes, and insurance costs. A realistic approach to Co-op finances is an important issue for me. I also work to resolve controversial issues such as yard inspections in a way that treats the membership fairly.

Nancy Boyd

3 Court Ridge

Nancy Boyd is running for reelection for the GHI Board of Directors. She has served on the Board for 2 years and has participated on the

Path	Prerequisite	Where & When	Method
1. Absentee	Cast ballot for Board & Audit Committee <i>before</i> annual meeting	GHI Office During office hours May 2, 5, or 6	Submit absentee ballot application at GHI Office, then immediately vote on paper ballot
2. Online	Current email address must be on file with GHI	Simply Voting website After annual meeting Thursday May 8 until 8pm Friday May 9	Secure personalized link from Simply Voting on your smartphone, tablet, or computer
3. Annual Meeting	Not already voted	Community Center Immediately after annual meeting	In-person supported online voting
4. In Person at GHI	Not already voted	GHI Office 4–8pm Friday May 9	In-person supported online voting

Choose your path to vote!

Sign-in for the May 8 annual membership meeting opens at 7:00pm in the Community Center Gym. **Members must be in-person to participate.** The election for Board and Audit Committee begins when the meeting goes into recess. Members can vote online or in-person. See the meeting announcement mailed or emailed to every member for more information.

Candidates for GHI Election

These GHI members have formally indicated their agreement to serve if elected, and provided these biographical sketches to the Nominations & Elections (N&E) Committee. Electronic ballots for Board of Directors and Audit Committee will be cast online and in-person, described above. Members of our 9-member board are elected to staggered 2-year terms, with 5 directors elected in odd years and 4 in even years. However, since a vacancy arose when a Board member resigned in April, there are 6 open Board positions this year. Because GHI Members elect the N&E Committee during the annual meeting, N&E is not on the electronic ballot. Candidates are listed here in alphabetical order by last name, but each electronic ballot will list candidates in random order.

Records Retention and Handbook Taskforces and chaired the Yardi Member Portal Taskforce. She has also served as the Board liaison for the Companion Animal Committee. She identifies her most important role as a director is to serve as an advocate for cooperative members and to act in their best interests.

Nancy has lived in GHI for 16 years. She and her adopted dog Gus enjoy the walkways, the woodlands, the parks and the friendliness of the residents. She holds a Masters in Administration focusing on nonprofit management and has worked as an administrator and executive assistant for several nonprofits, including the National Geographic Society, the National Women’s Law Center and the Society for Science and the Public. Nancy has volunteered at several animal rescues, rehabilitating raptors and reptiles, horses and parrots. She has also served on several nonprofit boards.

Now retired, she looks to continue contributing her knowledge and experience to the GHI Board and the community to ensure that GHI remains a thriving, prosperous and enjoyable place to live.

Chuck Hess

42 Court Ridge

Chuck Hess has lived in GHI for over 40 years. He is a CPA specializing in Income Taxation. He has been active in GHI, being elected to both the Audit Committee and Board of Directors and serving on the Buildings, Finance, Investment, and many other Committees. He is the Chair of both the Finance and the Investment Committees, both which are tasked with oversight of the \$16 million budget and over \$40 million in Audited assets.

He has served on the Board of Directors for over 30 years, most of them as Treasurer.

He served on the Board of Directors and the Building Committee

through the \$25 Million HIP program without any borrowing, because of the Replacement Reserve program he helped create. He is looking towards the upcoming Plumbing Replacement Program. He is determined to see that it is done professionally with as little disruption as possible to our daily lives.

His knowledge and efforts in revising GHI’s Investment policy have earned millions in extra income over the prior practice.

He believes that GHI is among the best co-ops in the world and appreciates the new ideas and views of the new members of the Board and also believes that his institutional memory and financial knowledge will help the co-op maintain high standards for providing an honest, well-run, efficient, and compassionate home for all its members.

Paul Kapfer

6 Court Hillside

Paul Kapfer has practiced law for over 30 years—20 in the military and more recently as general counsel for an affordable housing owner and developer headquartered in Chicago. He works there and remotely from his GHI unit. Paul is currently serving on the GHI Board of Directors and Finance Committee (2023–2025), where he has advocated for greater revenue generation to offset the inevitable rise in monthly member fees. On the Finance Committee, Paul helped design a loan program to assist member relocations made necessary by pipe replacements in GHI units. Recently, Paul agreed to serve on a task force working to reach a global solution for the replacement of Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) pipes throughout GHI.

Paul is an avid, if aging, hiker and biker and heads for Shenandoah National Park at every opportunity. In his GHI yard, he loves vegetable gardening and finding shade-loving

shrubs and replacement saplings for old-growth trees sacrificed to the insurance underwriters.

Philip Larkin

19 Court Ridge

A lifelong Greenbelter, I have lived in GHI—on and off, at three different units—for roughly 20 years. I am seeking a second two-year term on the GHI Board of Directors.

I have extensive experience managing programs and projects, leading strategic planning activities, and overseeing contracts, particularly as a civil servant at NASA. I’ve also worked side jobs as a handyman, and I know building trades and GHI home construction well.

Looking back on my first term, I take pride in helping stand up the renewed Member Engagement Committee, digging in on the details of the Pipe Replacement Program, and asking the occasionally uncomfortable question about expenditures or standing procedures. It has been particularly rewarding to meet so many of our neighbors, GHI and city staff, and fellow volunteers.

If reelected, I will remain focused on three main questions:

1. Resiliency: How do we enable durable solutions that reflect the careful planning of Greenbelt’s founding and safeguard against future vulnerabilities? Further, how can we cooperatively bolster the resiliency of our members?
2. Efficiency: More than just saving money, are there functions that GHI has taken on that could be modified? How do we maintain a cooperative model that emphasizes owner responsibility?
3. Engagement: How do we temper the sometimes-adversarial relationship between members and GHI and renew a collective commitment to our Co-op?

Thanks for your confidence in 2023. I hope to continue to serve.

Arts Advisory Board Meeting May 6

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include upcoming event planning and proposed multilingual signage. Greenbelt residents who may be interested in joining the board are encouraged to attend. The draft agenda includes business, a mixer, discussion of Board visibility and a multilingual welcome sign. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, email alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov.

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. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.



Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, 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.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially string players and low brass. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.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 or email us at 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.

Candidates for GHI Election (continued)

Victoria Whitten 10 Court Plateau

Victoria Whitten joined the GHI Cooperative Community in December 2023 with her wife and two small dogs. She is a bird watcher, jigsaw puzzle enthusiast, avid reader, and aspiring gardener. A New Hampshire native, Victoria holds a degree in English from Colby-Sawyer College and a master's in English Literature from the University of Maryland.

Victoria is seeking a position on the GHI Board of Directors to help sustain and strengthen the cooperative's values into 2027. She believes the co-op can help foster a strong, vibrant community where neighbors support each other in uncertain times. Her experience in nurturing and developing an inclusive community dates to her undergraduate years, where she served on the Academic Success & Inclusion Board, ensuring equitable access to resources for international students. Additionally, she founded and expanded academic tutoring programs, growing the programs to serve over 300 students weekly.

Professionally; Victoria has eight years of project management experience and a decade of expertise developing safety, regulatory, and compliance training for agencies such as CMS, USAID, CDC, and DHS. She works for a Baltimore-based tech company focused on improving government services. Her experience managing multi-stakeholder projects, navigating complex regulations, and implementing scalable solutions aligns well with the responsibilities of the GHI Board.

Victoria believes a strong cooperative thrives on active engagement, shared responsibility, inclusivity, and creative problem-solving. If elected, she will use a collaborative approach to uphold these principles and tackle complex problems, ensuring GHI remains a place where every member feels supported, heard, and empowered.

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

Stephen Holland 56 Court Ridge

I have lived in Greenbelt since 2003 and spent most of those years in GHI. I was attracted to Greenbelt by its green spaces and walkability, and I noted the pride people take in their community and their willingness to make it a better place. GHI's tradition of long-term planning made it a very appealing place to live. During the past decade I have served on GHI's Board of Directors,

various committees, and several task forces; I have also volunteered with several community groups. My time on the GHI Finance and Investment committees has given me insight into GHI's budget process and some of the financial challenges we will face in the next several years. In the larger Greenbelt community, I was treasurer of the Greenbelt Soccer Alliance for several years and am active in local efforts to improve public transit, an essential service if GHI intends to pursue aging-in-place plans for our members. I work at NASA/Goddard as a scientist and programmer. My job involves analyzing large, complex data sets and finding practical solutions to unexpected problems. I would like the opportunity to continue to apply these skills to helping our cooperative by serving a second term on the Audit Committee.

Bill Jones 15 Court Ridge

When I retired as a math and computer science professor in 2004, my wife and I asked our daughter where we should relocate to be near her. She brought us to Greenbelt and said GHI is the best place to live around here. And she was right—it is the best place to live in the area, and not just because our daughter now lives just a few courts away.

I have served on the Audit Committee since 2022, and on the Finance Committee and Investment Committee since 2006. I served on GHI's Board from 2011 to 2021. I am a proud bean-counter, working to make sure that our members get the best value for their coop fees:

- I was instrumental in putting GHI's Fee Deferral Program in place for those of us on a low fixed income.
- I helped in the H.I.P. program, meeting with members of each cohort to help them understand what their choices are, and make the most cost-effective decision for their unit.
- I used my experience in Math and Finance to help make improvements in GHI's long-term reserve study.

Outside of GHI, I've been on the Co-op Board, NDC Membership Chair, and Treasurer of Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee. I've also volunteered at Greenbelt Elementary School and G.A.C.

I ask you to vote for me so I can continue working to keep our co-op fees from increasing too much, so that GHI can continue to be the best place to live.

Carl Sanders 2 Court Southway

I've lived in a GHI with my wife and 6-year old son for coming up on three years. In the time we've lived here, we've been lucky to be involved with the many local community schools, organizations, and activities. I would

love to contribute to the community on the GHI Audit Committee.

I have years of experience in various leadership and volunteer positions in churches, pre-schools, and community organizations in our previous homes in St. Louis and Bloomington, Indiana. I am a strong believer in good governance and fair-minded decision-making.

I currently work as an economist for the U.S. Census Bureau, with previous experience teaching college level Economics. Our family hopes to stay in GHI long-term and looks forward to what the future brings!

Nominations & Elections Committee (All 5 positions up for election for 1-year terms)

Dan Gillotte 10 Court Hillside

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

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

Dan has worked for boards for his whole adult life and understands the importance of board perpetuation for successful organizations. He loves living in this cooperative community of GHI and Greenbelt and is happy to serve if elected on the small but mighty nominations committee.

Theresa R. Henderson 1 Court Laurel Hill

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

Tom Jones 1 Court Woodland

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

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

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

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

Tom also manages the website and photography team for the May 3 Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race.

Joe Ralbovsky 62 Court Ridge

Shoot for the moon because, even if you miss, you'll get to die in space.

We should all be flossing, daily.

We should all be checking for ticks, nightly.

Challenge your assumptions.

Joe is 70% water.

Luisa Robles 32 Court Ridge

I have lived in GHI since the spring of 2001 (23 years!).

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

RIDGE ROAD continued from page 1

farmers, indentured servants and enslaved men and women all traversed this road.

Even the pioneers of the New Deal city negotiated the hill with their automobiles when Greenbelt was still new. In the early 19th century, when Edmonston Road was opened northward to Beltsville, it climbed the hill on the same path before descending down the north side, avoiding the low swampy area that was only conquered by modern highway engineering in 1940 (Greenbelt Cooperator, July 18, 1940).

From the top of the hill (at the water tower), the road to Riddle's Bridge followed the course of present-day Ridge Road as far east as Research Road. Ridge Road homes with addresses in the 100s eastward to the 70 courts front upon the old colonial road. From about Research, the road then headed northeasterly toward the bridge, passing through land owned and farmed by the Riddle family. It carried travelers into and out of the vast area of the Patuxent watershed known historically as "the Forest of Prince George's County."

An important milestone in the history of the road occurred on May 2, 1798, when the county's levy court "ordered that Gabriel P. Van Horn and Richard Cramphin arrange with some party or parties to construct a bridge at Riddle's Ford over the Eastern Branch and supervise the maintenance of the same for a period of five years" (R. Lee Van Horn in Out of the Past: Prince Georgians and their Land). Beaver Dam Creek and Beck's Branch at that time had not yet been so named; they were considered the upper reaches of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, now called the Anacostia.

Landmarks

Notable landmarks along the road to Riddle's Bridge included the country home of Benjamin K. Morsell (1791-1870), a merchant, politician and judge in Washington. He called his home Montebello. It was located near the present-day water tower at the top of the hill. Morsell's land encompassed most of Boxwood Village below. A native of Beltsville and veteran of the War of 1812, he kept his own farm in Greenbelt throughout his career in Washington, retiring to Montebello a few years before the Civil War.

A later owner of Montebello was Milton E. Smith. The Washington Evening Star reported on December 27, 1892, that "a very enjoyable Sunday

school celebration took place on Monday at Montebello, the residence of Mr. Milton E. Smith, editor of the Church News, near Branchville." Montebello was a center of Roman Catholic activities, including occasional masses, until Holy Redeemer Church was built in Berwyn Heights in 1912.

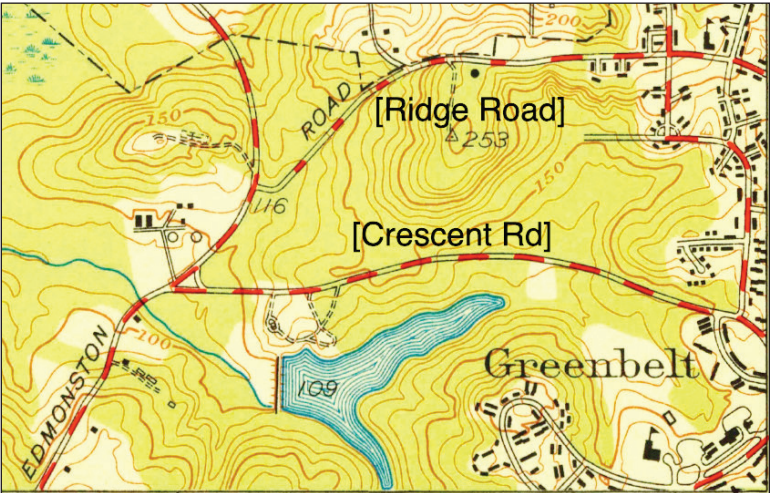
The Hurley family bought Montebello in 1925 and sold it to the federal government for Greenbelt in 1936. A map entitled Our Town, published in the Greenbelt Cooperator on May 9, 1940, calls the hill "Hurley Hill." It also depicts the long cedar-lined drive that led to the house. The cedars were still standing in 1965, when the News Review reported that they could still be seen from Braden Field in the center of town (April 29, 1965).

Another site just off the road to Riddle's Bridge was the Union

Methodist Chapel. The heirs of Samuel and Susannah Turner sold an acre of land to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the chapel in 1824. It is marked on Simon J. Martenet's Atlas of Prince George's County, 1861. No records have been found to document its demise, but it was gone by 1878 when the G.M. Hopkins map of the county was published.

Federal Acquisition

In the 1930s the federal government acquired the land around and beyond Riddle's Bridge to add to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The homes and farms beyond the bridge were abandoned. Soon after Greenbelt was built, that part of the old road heading northeasterly from newly named Ridge Road was closed. The road to Riddle's Bridge soon faded from memory.



Ridge Road on a 1951 map



The oldest part of Ridge Road, now closed to vehicular traffic, once saw yoked oxen trudge up and down its path.

- Map scanned and photo by Alan Virta



Fred Edwards at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center in Yorktown, Va., on March 31

PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWARDS

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Forest Preserve Board Discusses Fire Safety after BARC Brush Fire

by Diya Shah

At its April 24 meeting, Greenbelt's Forest Preserve Advisory Board discussed fire safety concerns in the aftermath of the large brush fire that broke out on Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) property behind Greenbelt Elementary School in late March (see the April 3 issue).

The fire, which began Sunday, March 30, burned over 10 acres and prompted a multi-agency emergency response. Though no homes or structures were damaged, the incident sparked renewed discussions among board members about forest management and wildfire prevention.

Stephanie Warner, a resident and forest preservation advocate, presented research showing that drought conditions linked to climate change are increasing the risk of fast-moving fires. She noted that Maryland already averages about 650 wildfires a year, burning roughly 3,500 acres, and that the Mid-Atlantic region is expected to see more frequent summer droughts.

"Our new normal is going to be summertime drought conditions," said Warner. "This creates a situation where fire is much more likely to happen and will start to burn in a larger way than we would expect it to have been before."

Warner also highlighted how invasive plants like multiflora rose and Amur honeysuckle, which dominate parts of Greenbelt's woodlands, contribute to a heavy "fuel load" that can worsen fires.

By allowing invasive shrubs to grow unchecked, "we have essentially laid the groundwork for a gigantic conflagration near our homes," Warner said, saying that more attention should be focused on educating the community about the dangers of invasive species and what it takes to have an ecologically healthy and fire-resistant forest, despite how "nice" invasive flora and fauna can tend to look.

Board members expressed support for seeking a professional

assessment from the Maryland Forest Service through its Community Wildfire Protection Plan program. Such an assessment could help identify areas most at risk and recommend strategies for mitigation, such as managing invasive growth and creating defensible spaces near homes.

Members also discussed how Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Woodlands Committee and the city could collaborate on future stewardship efforts. Ideas included combining volunteer programs with potential grant funding or city budgeting to address invasive species removal more systematically.

Beyond forest management, members also raised concerns about fire risks stemming from human activity, including open campfires, grills near garden plots and lit candles during city events. While some of these issues fall outside the board's direct jurisdiction, several members said they would recommend that the city council review fire safety policies more broadly.

Ideas for next steps were put on the agenda for the next advisory board meeting, and board members plan to further develop proposals to bring to City Council.

Diya Shah is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 21-27, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. 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 mental health diversions, one involving attempted suicide; three domestic incidents, one with cutting injuries and one resulting in arrest; and two sexual assaults, one involving Child Protective Services. Two missing juvenile cases were resolved. A firearm found in a house being sold was turned over to police.

Robbery
On April 27 at 3:15 p.m. near 8143 Mandan Terrace, a man walked up to a woman outside her residence and demanded the jacket she was wearing. When she refused, he ripped the jacket off her, and as he fled, he dropped the jacket.

Assault
On April 21 at 4:16 p.m. near 200 Lakeside Drive, a man was walking his dog; the dog jumped up onto another man who pulled a gun and pointed it at the dog, then left in a black BMW sedan.

On April 26 at 11:46 p.m. near 6942 Hanover Parkway, an intoxicated man caused a disturbance; he began shoving others inside the residence and was struck in the head. He was uncooperative and refused medical treatment.

On April 26 at 6:19 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a female middle school student was forced into a fight by other students on her way home from school. The school was notified of the incident.

On April 27 at 5:19 a.m. near 6320 Golden Triangle Drive, two intoxicated women began fighting each other, resulting in minor injuries; they declined to press charges.

DUI Arrest
On April 26 at 9:01 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Kenilworth Avenue, officers responding to a vehicle accident arrested the driver of the striking vehicle for DUI.

Hit and Run
On April 23 at 10:59 a.m. near 6420 Cherrywood Lane, a man came to the station to report a hit and run on his car, along with the striking vehicle information.

Theft and Shoplifting
On April 21 at 3:36 p.m. near 7455 Greenbelt Road, employee theft was reported to officers by the store's loss prevention officer; at 4:11 p.m. near 7495 Greenway Center Drive, two suspects stole merchandise and fled on foot; at 4:35 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was caught fleeing after shoplifting. All items were returned, and the man was banned.

On April 21 at 7:37 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a boy stole merchandise and fled; at 12:21 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman tried to roll a cart full

of merchandise out of the front entrance. A loss prevention employee tried to stop her, and she ran out of the front entrance leaving the cart behind. Officers caught her before she could flee in her vehicle.

On April 22 at 12:37 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two men dressed in all black filled their bags with multiple items and walked out.

On April 23 at 4:28 p.m. near 8003 Mandan Road, a girl dared a boy to throw a brick through a screen door, causing damage to the door. Parents were present, and the resident requested no further police action.

On April 25 at 9:51 p.m. near 7722 Hanover Parkway, a package was stolen from a residence; at 3:17 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole several clothing items. She was captured and the items were returned. Charges are pending.

On April 26 at 1:58 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl stole items; she was taken into custody and was noncompliant; at 4:14 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, four men wearing black hoodies stole items.

Vandalism
On April 26 at 9:39 a.m. near 4 Gardenway, a residence window was broken.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles
On April 27, near 7720 Hanover Parkway, a 2015 Kia Sorento (Md. 79056HT) and, near 5300 North Center Drive, a black 2017 Lexus IS 200T (N.C. HEW1236) were stolen.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle
On April 24 at 7:23 p.m. near 6144 Springhill Terrace, a witness saw three men pulling on car door handles and looking inside of vehicles, attempting to gain entry. When the neighbors walked outside, they ran away. There was no damage to any of the cars.

Theft from Auto
On April 21, near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone stole an oil-filled container from a vehicle; near 7200 Hanover Drive, a 2022 BMW X4 had a window broken and items stolen; and near 6400 Ivy Lane, a vehicle had a damaged window; and a 2016 Mercedes-Benz had the sunroof broken and several items stolen.

Wheels were stolen on April 21 near 7200 Hanover Drive from a rental 2025 GMC Yukon, and near 6500 Capitol Drive from two Honda vehicles.

Tags were stolen April 24 near 159 Centerway from an 89 Dodge truck (Md. 9Z8659); and April 26 near 51 Crescent Road.

Vandalism to Auto
On April 25 near 5917 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2014 Ford Focus window was broken.

Singing Along at Greenbelt's Fifth Annual Ukulele Picnic

by Will Hammann

Guitar-shaped cases gleamed on the backs of women strolling through Roosevelt Center on April 6. I followed them into the Community Center to a room filled end to end with a ukulele orchestra roughly 20 women strong, joined by several men and children, all seated in a semi-circle facing the front of the room. There was no music yet, but my ears were met with cheerful chatter and the sound of chairs and stands being dragged across the floor.

Front and center behind a microphone stand stood yet another ukulele-wielding musician, whom I approached. This was music and arts teacher and Greenbelt Artist-in-Residence Rachel Ann Cross, who said I could interview her on one condition: "Only if you sing along."

I agreed, so I grabbed a songbook and took a seat. The songbooks, which Cross compiled herself for the picnics, have a reference page for chords with tabulation, and lyrics and chords for 20 songs from a variety of genres like pop, R&B, folk and rock.

Throughout the hour-long event, Cross sang and played her own ukulele, guiding her students and the others from verse to verse and song to song, starting with The Lion Sleeps Tonight.

Most of the group were students of Cross, but they were joined by friends, family and anyone else who found themselves in the room, like myself. All were welcome to play their ukulele or guitar or just sing along.

People in the room next door for Greenbelt's Artful Afternoon turned their heads and even walked over to listen, and were swiftly offered a seat by Cross to join in if they'd like.

This was what Cross calls the Ukulele Picnic, an event sponsored by the City of Greenbelt. Cross started hosting it in 2020, when she was forced by the pandemic to find an outdoor alternative to the recitals that she normally hosted for her students who would invite friends and family.

The tradition carried on annually despite pandemic restrictions fading away and this year marked the fifth. It was also the

first to be held indoors due to potential rain, but no less of an occasion.

"They just keep getting better and better because my ukulele students keep practicing," said Cross, who added that the picnic "is a way for me to celebrate them and to invite other people into the Community Center."

Cross said that there are two or three groups of her students who play regularly among themselves and in public for different events. One such group started meeting and playing together in the fall of 2018 while studying under Cross, according to Jan Morrow, Judy Kendall and Laura Bonkosky, members of the group who were at the picnic. "We have all gotten so much better," said Kendall. "We started with Rachel, and then we were sort of advanced beginners, and then by playing together, you get better."

The group started playing outside after the onset of the pandemic, aptly naming themselves the Pandemic Sisters. Now that the pandemic has passed, they're called the Zookulele Collective & Dave. They have nine members including Dave Meng, who plays guitar alongside the ukulelists.

The group plays at various venues and community events, such as the Berwyn Heights Porch Concert this past Saturday. They'll perform next at the Greenbelt Farmers Market on May 18 from noon to 2 p.m. "Keep your eyes peeled," said Bonkosky.

The picnic ended with Aloha 'oe, a Hawaiian farewell song with lyrics serving as a reminder



Rachel Cross (foreground) with Lore Rosenthal.

that the picnic would return next year. "One fond embrace, before I now depart, until we meet again."

Will Hammann is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



A row of tulips by the sidewalk welcomes spring on Lastner Lane.

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Greenbelters Enjoy Spring Break

BUDGET continued from page 1

Whether at Home or Away



Exuberance breaks out on Hillside Road during Spring Break.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL ZELIFF



Bob Burkett, Melissa Pickworth, Phoebe Burkett and Elyzabel Guild pose with the Greenbelt News Review in front of the recently restored and reopened Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France on March 28, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY MELISSA PICKWORTH



Toastmasters Meet

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



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KOMBUCHA, SPARKLING & LOCAL



DISTRICT 22 continued from page 1

where over a dozen local and state officials and an audience of about 100 residents were present. Washington also used the meeting to hold a rally to stop the maglev after he concluded the legislative review. (See the April 24 issue.)

Washington thanked Van Hollen for his statement and his efforts in pushing for Abrego Garcia's return to the U.S. which both Trump and Bukele have repeatedly refused in spite of the Supreme Court ruling that he should be brought back to the U.S. Van Hollen said that Trump, with Bukele's help, is "tearing down the due process that is core to our country," and warned that his defiance of court orders "is only going to lead to further despair for us all."

"I will continue to fight tooth and nail to defend every Marylander from Trump and Musk's law-breaking administration," Van Hollen wrote, a pledge that was echoed by the lawmakers present at the meeting.

Immigrant Rights

One such lawmaker, State Delegate Nicole Williams, shared bills that she and her colleagues, including Delegate Ashanti Martinez, chair of the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus, had fought to pass for that very purpose. "We believe in due process here in the State of Maryland," Williams said.



A crowded room for the post-legislative roundup and maglev meeting

One bill that passed successfully designates certain places such as schools, libraries, churches and hospitals as sensitive locations. The bill also directs the attorney general to guide those institutions on how they should respond to deportation efforts by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents at said locations.

Another bill that passed restricts the ability of the federal government to obtain personal data from state agencies by requiring them to first provide a warrant.

Williams noted that other bills failed to pass, such as one banning 287(g) agreements in Maryland, which allow local and state law enforcement to act on behalf of ICE. Martinez said that they're building momentum to pass the bill in the future.

Martinez also said, "We had to do everything that we could as a state within our rights to protect our neighbors," referring

to immigrants, who make up about 17 percent of Maryland's population, numbering over a million in 2023, according to the Comptroller of Maryland. "We had to make sure that our policy reflected people."

FBI Headquarters

Officials at the meeting said they had to fight Trump on other issues, too, such as the relocation of the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt, which is in jeopardy since Trump said he is "not going to let that happen." Instead, he wants to build another FBI building in Washington, D.C.

"We are still fighting tooth and nail here in the state for the FBI headquarters. We have to," Washington said. They have to because, to Washington, the proposal is fleeting – "a once in a generation opportunity."

Washington noted that the state has already allocated \$200 million just for infrastructure improvements around the site of the proposed headquarters, and there

is still work to be done.

"This is our moment in time to make a significant difference in our community," he said.

Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Watson stood behind Washington's rally to fight for the headquarters in Greenbelt, but also addressed additional federal policies that carry significant local impacts.

Other Challenges

Watson emphasized that the state budget, with a deficit of about \$3 billion, is the most difficult that the state has faced in years, but the challenges it poses are compounded by executive orders from the Trump administration. She said federal layoffs could have long-term impacts on the tax base and economic stability of the county, which is home to nearly 73,000 federal workers. "We are looking at the prospect of layoffs and closures across the state, all by the federal government," including NASA Goddard, Watson said.

Van Hollen wrote in his statement that he and his colleagues are "working to defend federal workers from illegal firings, defend Medicaid and Social Security from outrageous budget cuts and preserve the rule of law in the face of Trump's tyrannical attacks."

Will Hammann is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

GARF Donation Drive Runs Through May 17

The Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (GARF) is holding its fourth bra and menstrual product donation drive through Saturday, May 17. This year the city's Pink Pantry Project, a program of Greenbelt Assistance in Living, will receive the donated menstrual products. The nonprofit I Support the Girls will receive the bras. New and/or gently used bras of any size or type and new sealed menstrual products will be accepted. Large pads with wings are the period product in highest demand. Gently used means clean, no large stains, broken clasps or straps, holes, stretched out elastic, smoke smell even after washing, missing underwire or underwire poking through. Other items such as period panties, menstrual cups and new underpants in unopened packages are also needed. GARF will be on the Co-op Supermarket ramp on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive donations. Donations can also be dropped in bins at the Co-op Supermarket, Aquatic & Fitness Center, Youth Center and Community Center throughout the drive until May 17. For more information, email greenbeltarf@gmail.com.

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Sports

Winning Raiders Softball Team Prepared for Great Post Season

by Patrick Gleason

After a run to the state championship game last year, the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders softball team has maintained their momentum this season. With a 15-0-1 record thus far, the Raiders close out the regular season on Friday, May 2, against the Suitland Rams. The 4:30 p.m. home game will culminate a dominant regular season for coach Delton Fuller's squad. Led by senior shortstop Desiree Fuller and senior pitcher Natalia Jarquin, the Raiders have not been tested by county opposition, punctuated by their 22-0 victory over the Bowie Bulldogs.

Senior Nikki Lilja has moved from centerfield to first base this season while senior catcher Samiah Smith remains a stronghold behind the plate. Bree Mullikin bats second and plays

third for the Raiders while Bailey Bernhard, Jaiden Smith and Grace Audu complete Roosevelt's outfield. Finally, junior Addison Green fields second base for a team primed for another deep postseason run. Over spring break, the Raiders never rested, besting Severn Run 25-0, St. John's 11-0 and North County 5-3, while tying Century 5-5. They began preparations for the county championship game the next week, followed by the start of the state playoffs.

Last spring, Roosevelt defeated Richard Montgomery and Perry Hall in the state quarterfinals and state semifinals before falling to Leonardtown in the state final. With a senior-laden lineup replete with playoff experience, Roosevelt is ready to build on last season's success.



Desiree Fuller at bat

PHOTO BY ERIC KONCHOU

Progress Made on Outdoor Pool

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt swimmers are awaiting the reopening of the outdoor pool with even more eagerness than usual. This year it will not only signal the start of summer in Greenbelt but for many residents it will also mean the resumption of pool access, swim team practices, water classes and more. The indoor pool has been closed since April 7 for necessary renovations, which are expected to take until the end of September. Consequently, efforts have been underway to open the outdoor pool earlier than the traditional Memorial Day weekend date and to keep it open past Labor Day, until the indoor pool is once again available.



The outdoor pool, pictured here on April 29, has been drained and is in the process of being cleaned.



Construction work continues at the indoor pool, photographed here on April 29.

- Photos by Diya Shah

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City’s Touch-a-Truck Event Delights All in Beltway Plaza

The City of Greenbelt held its first ever Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday, April 26 in the parking lot of Beltway Plaza. Among the agencies that brought vehicles for children and adults alike to check out and climb into were Greenbelt Police Department,

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Public Works. Rides in a cherry picker were among the most sought-after activities, and many also searched for all the booths and trucks to complete a scavenger hunt. Plenty of horns were sounded throughout.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Thiago (5), Teo (3) and Gavin (4), front, check out the vehicles.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Kaleb Lambert (5), left, and Arthur Gerdes (5) show off their new hats, prizes won at one of the booths.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Some of the vehicles at the Touch-a-Truck event



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Greenbelter Yanice rides the cherry picker with her grandsons.



CLEANUP continued from page 1

in picking up trash along the stream behind the school, teaching students a sense of ecological responsibility. Sterkin and Todd-Jones partner with the Alice Ferguson Foundation, a public charity based in Accokeek that promotes ecological responsibility and educates young people about those principles, according to its website. The foundation aids the event by providing the gloves, bags and other supplies (in coordination with the City of Greenbelt) for the students and volunteers, said Sterkin. In return, Sterkin and Todd-Jones send them data gleaned from what they discovered.

The day started with the fourth graders and ended with the third-grade class cleaning up what remained both in the stream and around the watershed. Students were separated into groups of five to 10 and paired with one of the volunteers – including Robert Goldberg-Strassler of the Greenbelt Plogs group – aiding the educators. The groups were armed with gloves, a trash grabber and two bags (a yellow one for garbage, blue for recycling). The groups trekked back behind the school with their equipment and waded into the water and the surrounding area to hunt for debris.

Students found all sorts of objects from glass bottles to shopping carts filled with waterlogged leaves and cardboard. Larger objects like tires were also found in the stream. A group of students even found a child’s car seat. It took the whole small group to carry it to the trash area. Sadly,

that’s not even the wildest thing Sterkin and her students have found over the years. Sterkin said they’ve found couches, mattresses and even a small motorcycle. “If you can imagine it, we’ve pretty much have found it in the stream,” Sterkin said.

The annual event empowers students to understand the responsibility each person has to keep their community clean and healthy. It teaches them personal responsibility, as well as other useful skills such as teamwork and communication. The students get to learn valuable skills and lessons with real life experience while improving their community in the process. “That’s one of my favorite parts, just seeing them

help each other and kind of like leading the charge,” Sterkin said. “... It’s just a great experience for them to kind of build that leadership role and help each other.”

The students enjoyed it so much that many disappointed sighs echoed the whistle alerting them to the end of their 45-minute cleanup session and the eventual continuance of their day in the classroom. The children’s wet boots slogged on their way back into the school to change and celebrate by devouring pizza before returning to their regular class schedule.

Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the Greenbelt News Review.



Students display some of the items they pulled from the stream. They found many large items as well as small ones.

- Photos courtesy Danielle Todd-Jones



Students from Springhill Lake Elementary participate in their annual stream cleanup.



PHOTO BY RYAN COLASANTI

Students found all sorts of objects from glass bottles to shopping carts filled with waterlogged leaves and cardboard.