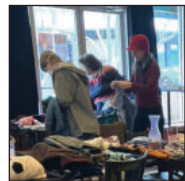




ERHS softball, p.15



Clothing sustainability, p.6

Consultants Brief Council on City's Economy; Prepare Strategies, Plan

by Matthew Arbach



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Work is underway on the construction of a senior housing development on Greenbelt Road.

Economic development was the first topic discussed at the Greenbelt City Council worksession on May 5. Three consultants, Molly McKay from Willdan Financial, Rick Amminato from Civic Consulting and Alivia Metts of the Metts Group, were there to share their most recent

findings and analysis of the city's business environment and how to improve it. They laid out the city's many strengths as well as some weaknesses that need addressing, with the general sentiment being that there is much

See **COUNCIL**, page 11

The Way of Rachel Cross

by Will Hammann



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT RECREATION ARTS

Rachel Cross

Somewhere along the roughly 500 miles of the Camino de Santiago she's currently hiking, Rachel Ann Cross will turn 62. The musician and artist-in-residence in Greenbelt has hiked this pilgrimage across Spain, known in English as the Way of St. James, twice before. Now she braves the northern route, which features more mountains and fewer people.

"It's an amazing walking meditation," says Cross, who enjoys the inspirational sights and chance to meet people from all over the world.

Cross' hikes are one of many of her muses. From her childhood in Los Angeles and Columbia, Md., to her early adult life in New York City, Paris and

the time, now her husband, Henry Cross.

"At some point," she recalls, "we looked at each other and said, 'are we going to be in the restaurant business – or are we going to be in the arts'?"

They vowed to remain in the arts.

My Language Is the Arts

Cross made both music and visual arts since being a teenager. They were important to her in getting through those years and she found that she was good at them.

"My language or how I made sense of the world was through the arts," says Cross.

Cross could express herself

See **CROSS**, page 13

FY 2026 Budget

Recreation, Arts Present Goals, Progress and Needs to Council

by Erik Hanson

On April 23 the Greenbelt City Council heard from the Recreation Department about their Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget and then heard about revisions to the city code.

The Recreation department budget, as presented by department head Greg Varda, is made up of nine sub-budgets: administration, arts, aquatic and fitness, museum, therapeutic recreation, community center, recreation

centers, recreation programs and special events. Total expenditures of the department are about \$8.5 million and total revenue is almost \$2 million. The department sought to "share the pain" of the \$4 million budget cut across sub-departments, while maintaining the 2 percent COLA and 3 percent performance increases that allow them to retain and attract staff. Total full-time employees (FTE) for the department will

be reduced by .5 FTE as the vacant aquatics coordinator position won't be hired until January.

Budget Additions

Proposed budget additions in comparison to FY 2025 include a 2 percent COLA for non-classified staff at a proposed cost of \$36,000 and developing a special events team staffed by non-classified employees at a proposed

See **BUDGET**, page 10

Temporary Space at Armory Will Expand Compost Program

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The current mulch piles at the armory site

The city's curbside composting program currently uses an outpost at Trinity Church on Good Luck Road to process and cure food scraps from 410 homes but will be expanding by utilizing space at the armory site to cure the compost. At its April 28 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council approved this temporary use of space at the armory, a property the city acquired in September 2024. The site is currently unused as the city considers future

possibilities and weighs costly renovations.

Mayor Emmett Jordan introduced the proposal and explained that the use of the additional space will allow the composting program, which is currently limited by space, to serve 660 homes and lower the per-home cost. City Manager Josué Salmerón said they were looking to use extended facility space where the compost can sit and cure, anticipating staff from the company Compost Crew rather than city staff would be on site twice a week to sift and turn over the compost. While allowing the program to grow, the proposed use of armory space would not cost the city any money, explained Salmerón. Compost Crew

would like access to water and electricity, however, said Salmerón, which could be installed or brought in, after

See **COMPOST**, page 10

What Goes On

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day, City Offices Closed

Tuesday, May 27

7:30 p.m., Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, May 28

7:30 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Final Budget Review, Municipal Building

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



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Dancers from RoseQi Dance Arts and Gina Ling Chinese Dance Chamber perform traditional and contemporary Chinese dance at the Community Center. See page 16.

Letters to the Editor

A Thankful Fire Dept. Auxiliary

On behalf of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, I would like to thank our friends, neighbors and communities for participating in and coming to our indoor community yard sale on Saturday, May 10. It was a huge success and very well attended.

We are extremely thankful that so many have generously

supported us over these last nine years of yard sale Saturdays. We are a success because of each of you; for that, we are thankful and grateful.

Until next time, take good care, stay safe and continue being a great community looking out for and helping each other. Greenbelt really is GREAT!

Kathy Reynolds
Past President
Greenbelt FD Ladies Auxiliary



PHOTO BY NICK HALL

A groundhog scales a fence at the corner of Eastway and Ridge Roads.

City of Greenbelt Park Ranger Liz Thomas spotted an Eastern coyote in the forest behind Schrom Hills Park on May 8.



PHOTO BY LIZ THOMAS



Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
MAY 23rd - 29th

When Fall Is Coming
(NR) (2025) (102 mins)
French w/ English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 1:30 PM
Tue. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Bonjour Tristesse
(R) (2024) (110 mins)
In English and French w/
English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM
Tue. 5:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM
Mon. 4:30 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

The Battle of Algiers
(NR) (1966) (120 mins)
Film in Focus
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 7:00 PM



KNOCK KNOCK.
WHO'S THERE?
GREENBELT.

GREENBELT WHO?

GREENBEL' DIDN'T RING
SO I HAD TO KNOCK!



Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

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

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

When Fall Is Coming

Michelle is enjoying a peaceful retirement in a Burgundy village, close to her longtime friend Marie-Claude. When her Parisian daughter Valérie drops off her son Lucas to spend school vacation with his grandma. Michelle, stressed out by her daughter, serves her toxic mushrooms for lunch. Valérie quickly recovers, but forbids her mother from seeing her grandson anymore. Feeling lonely and guilty, Michelle falls into a depression ... until Marie-Claude's son gets out of prison. Said critic Zachary Barnes of the Wall Street Journal, "That it is still worthwhile owes largely to the sympathetic, sinuous performance of Hélène Vincent, in the lead role of a grand-mère who may not be as simply sweet as she first appears."

Bonjour Tristesse

At the height of summer, 18-year-old Cécile (Lily McInerny) is languishing by the French seaside with her handsome father, Raymond (Claes Bang), and his girlfriend, Elsa (Naïlia Harzoune), when the arrival of her late mother's friend, Anne (Chloë Sevigny), changes everything. Amid the sun-drenched splendor of their surroundings, Cécile's world is threatened and, desperate to regain control, she sets in motion a plan to drive Anne away with tragic consequences. An adaptation of Françoise Sagan's unforgettable coming-of-age novel by the same title, Durga Chew-Bose's Bonjour Tristesse masterfully captures the complexity of relationships between women and how they wield influence over one another's fates.

The Battle of Algiers

Paratrooper commander Colonel Mathieu (Jean Martin), a former French Resistance fighter during World War II, is sent to 1950s Algeria to reinforce efforts to squelch the uprisings of the Algerian War. There he faces Ali la Pointe (Brahim Haggia), a former petty criminal who, as the leader of the Algerian Front de Liberation Nationale, directs terror strategies against the colonial French government occupation. As each side resorts to ever-increasing brutality, no violent act is too unthinkable.

Community Events

New Deal Café Hosts Annual Meeting June 1

The annual meeting for members and friends of the New Deal Café will be held on Sunday, June 1 from 1 to 3 p.m., in the back room of the Café at 113 Centerway. Sign-in and payment of annual dues begins at 12:30 p.m.

The Café's board will present reports on the Café's status, its financial health and a preview of coming events. In addition, two proposed changes to the bylaws will be presented and voted on by members. These include a change to the members' annual dues from \$50 for the first two years with \$25 yearly renewals thereafter to a flat fee of \$30 for both new and renewing members. An additional proposed bylaw change involves an increase in board members from the current five-member board to seven.

Elections will be held for what will be four board of directors positions (if the bylaw change is adopted) and three positions on the audit committee. Members who are current on their yearly dues and would like to run for a seat on the board or audit committee should submit their nominations in writing along with a brief biography on or before Wednesday, May 28 at noon. Nominations will also be open during the annual meeting prior to the election of the 2025/26 board.

The agenda and candidate bios for the annual meeting will be posted on the Café website, newdealcafe.com, on Friday, May 30 by 5 p.m.

Only those who are presently members can vote on the bylaw changes and in the election. The membership coordinator will be on hand for those who need to renew or join.

See the ad in this issue of the News Review for more details and instructions on how members may vote by absentee ballot. Come early to lunch served by Kenny's staff.

For more information or questions, email to social@newdealcafe.com.

Chess Club Meets

The Greenbelt Chess Club meets on Tuesday, May 27. The meeting will take place at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Motiva Public Art Dedication



PHOTO BY GREENBELT RECREATION ARTS

Public art at Motiva

All are invited to join the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program on Friday, June 6 at 6 p.m., to celebrate the collaboration that brought public art to the entrance of the Motiva Apartment community. The program takes place at the sculpture site on the north side of the development entrance at 6400 Cherrywood Lane. Meet lead artist Erwin Timmers from the Washington Glass Studio and learn about the concept and process behind the piece. Timmers' art focuses on recycled and sustainable materials and practices. No reservations required. Hosted by Motiva.

Mental Health Services Event Saturday, June 7

The Greenbelt Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is presenting Greenbelt Mental Health Services at its annual Not For Seniors Only event on Saturday, June 7 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. The presenter, Glenda Bullock-Willis, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, is a senior community counselor with Greenbelt CARES. The committee chose this topic because of the ongoing economic stresses such as unemployment, inflation and other internal and external stressors, including depression and the embarrassment or shame associated with mental health issues. The presenter will not only describe the mental health resources available in Greenbelt but also resources to help pay for them. Seating is limited to 50 people. All ages are invited. For more information, call 240-542-2056 or email pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov.



More Community Events
are located throughout
the paper.

Artful Afternoon Offers Art, Dance Program

Enjoy a free, all-ages art workshop and dance program at the Community Center on Sunday, June 1 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2 to 3 p.m. The theme for June's artful afternoon is tie-dye pride. Make fun and colorful designs with provided bandanas, or bring a T-shirt, tote bag or other cotton item from home. While working, enjoy an al fresco performance of original dance pieces choreographed and performed by students in the Eleanor Roosevelt High School dance department, under the direction of Angel Chin. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at sugeni.us/VEZw. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. This activity will take place on the front lawn at the Community Center. For information about more Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Award-Winning Film OnStreet Artist TMNK

On Saturday, May 31 at 1 p.m. the Greenbelt Cinema will host a screening of Nobody Was Here: The Life of TMNK. This powerful documentary explores the life and artistry of TMNK (The Me Nobody Knows), a former advertising marketing professional who left behind corporate success to become a renowned street artist. TMNK's raw, thought-provoking art tackled social and political issues, leaving an indelible mark on the urban art scene.

Through rare footage, in-depth interviews and a compelling visual narrative, the film delves into TMNK's evolution as an artist, his struggles and the profound impact of his work. Nobody Was Here is a tribute to creative freedom, resilience and the transformative power of art.

The award-winning director, Rico James, currently living in Miami, is originally from Silver Spring and graduated from Howard University.

GAC Celebrates AAPI Artists

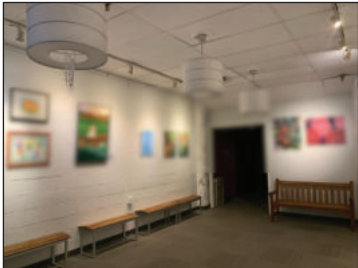


PHOTO BY TRUC LE

Current AAPI Gallery (the paintings have been blurred because the gallery is not yet open)

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, the Greenbelt Arts Center is hosting a special AAPI Artist Reception on Friday, May 23, starting at 5 p.m.

The event showcases the work of six Asian artists from the DMV area, featuring a range of styles and mediums. Guests are invited to drop by, meet the artists, enjoy cultural snacks and explore the gallery. Select pieces will also be available for purchase.

This free, drop-in event highlights the creative voices of the AAPI community and offers an opportunity to support and connect with local talent. For more information, visit greenbeltartscenter.org.



Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. There is one more meeting in May: May 28, Bingo.

Members may also want to attend the Not for Seniors Only Greenbelt Mental Health Services Event on Saturday, June 7, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 201. Greenbelt CARES will provide a presentation on mental health services in Greenbelt and how to pay for them. The presenter will be Glenda Bullock-Willis, LCPC, senior community counselor for Greenbelt CARES.

Poetry In The Garden

The Greenbelt Poetry in the Garden group will meet on Sunday, June 1 from 3 to 5 p.m., in the clubhouse of Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway.

The public is invited to join in reading poems or just listening and getting inspired. Light refreshments will be served.



Astronomical Society To Meet May 29

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet Thursday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. Glen Bock will explain the moon's librations. The meeting is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Health Screenings At Greenbelt Legion

Residents living in and near Greenbelt can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 will host this community event on Monday, June 16. The site is located at 6900 Greenbelt Road.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; kidney and thyroid function and more.

Free parking is available.

Special package pricing is on offer, but consultants will work with attendees to create a package that is right for them based on their age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit the website at lifelinescreening.com. Preregistration is required.

21st Annual

Utopia Film Festival

October 18th - 22nd, 2025

Call For Submissions:

On-Time Deadline - June 24th

Late Deadline - July 22nd

Extended Deadline - August 15th

UtopiaFilmFest20770@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 5/22	FRI 5/23	SAT 5/24	SUN 5/25	
<div>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</div> <div>The HalfSmokes 7-9pm</div> <div>Performs favorites from the WHFS playlist</div>	<div>Sandra Dean Band 8-11pm</div> <div>Combines gutsy guitar solos, revved up bass and Sandra's soulful voice</div>	<div>NDC JAZZ JAM, 2-5pm</div> <div>Proverbs Reggae Band 8-11pm</div> <div>A positive and unique rootz reggae band</div>	<div>ASL BRUNCH, 10:30-12noon</div> <div>Reggie Right Eye and The Missing Pieces 6 - 8pm</div> <div>Blues, roots rock and more!</div>	
MON 5/26	TUES 5/27	WED 5/28	TH 5/29	New Deal Cafe
<div>LIVE BAND KARAOKE W/ MIKE SCOTT & FRIENDS 6 - 9pm</div> <div>Sign-ups begin at 6pm</div>	<div>NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 7 - 9:30pm</div> <div>Sign-ups at 6:15pm</div> <div>Play music, read poetry, or ?</div>	<div>Kim's Grand Rounds - A Songwriters' Circle 7 - 9pm</div> <div>Songwriters in a unique setting</div>	<div>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</div> <div>Charlotte Morris 7 - 9pm</div> <div>Nashville-based songwriter weaving a unique musical blend</div>	<div>IT'S THE CAFE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY!</div> <div>Visit our donations page to help fund our October celebration festival!</div>

*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

Svend Schmidt



PHOTO COURTESY NORMA SCHMIDT

Svend Schmidt

Svend “Sven” Robert Schmidt Jr. died at his home in Greenbelt on May 10, 2025, at the age of 68, after a short but fierce battle with cancer. Sven was born on August 9, 1956. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps and 16 years in the United States Navy, and later became the Lead Mechanic in Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s Greenbelt Motor Shop. Returning to education after 20 years, he then earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Maryland followed by an Advanced Certificate in Biblical Interpretation at Northeastern Seminary in Rochester, N.Y. Sven and his wife Norma lived together in Greenbelt for 27 years.

Bahá’í Focus On Communities

On Saturday, May 31 the Greenbelt Bahá’í community will host a countywide conference at the Community on building vibrant and welcoming communities. The public is invited to attend, share ideas and explore with other attendees ways to strengthen and transform our families and neighborhoods with positive values and ideals. Break-out groups will offer time to discuss and plan individual and collective action. Learn about the community-building methods and resources being used by Bahá’í communities worldwide. Activities provided for children age 4 and older. More conference information and the registration form are available at forms.gle/m1dyLtuLB13yY4i7.

Food Bank Pop-ups For Federal Workers

To support those who have been impacted by recent reductions in federal jobs and funding, the Capital Area Food Bank is holding pop-up food distributions this spring.

Beginning on Saturday, May 31, pop-up distributions will offer pantry items and fresh produce food boxes on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, or until supplies last. The pop-up distributions can be found in the parking lots of the following retail locations:

Maryland

Giant, 7546 Annapolis Road, Lanham
Giant, 7074 Allentown Road, Camp Springs
Giant, 5500 Silver Hill Road, District Heights.

Anyone in need of food assistance can find the times and locations of additional food distributions among the group’s partner network by visiting the Get Help page at capitalareafoodbank.org, or call the Hunger Lifeline at 202-644-9807.

Sven’s greatest fulfillment was teaching adult bible study classes at All Saints Lutheran Church in Bowie.

Sven is survived by his wife of 30 years, Norma Allenbach Schmidt; his father, Svend Robert Schmidt Sr.; sister, Katrina Whaley; brother, Keith Schmidt; sister-in-law, Emily Schmidt; and a multitude of nieces, nephews and cousins.

There will be a memorial service at All Saints Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m. All are invited. The church is located at 16510 Mount Oak Road, at the intersection with southbound Route 301. The live stream can be accessed on the All Saints homepage at allsaintsbowie.org by clicking What’s Going On and then Worship.

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.



PHOTO BY KEN BITTER

On Sunday, May 18, the St. Hugh Tea Committee celebrated their annual Bridget McDermott Sodality Tea. A good time was had by all. Committee members include, from left, Mary Bitter, Barbara Ford, JoEllen Sarff, Anu Simon, Betty Triplett and Donna Peterson.

Find More Peace Through Meditation

Katrina Boverman and the Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood are once again offering summer Guided Meditation classes. The synagogue is a peaceful setting welcoming to all, but meditation is also offered via Zoom.

Attendees have expressed quieting of their bodies, minds and spirits, a deepening of inner stillness and a better ability to reconnect with themselves. Common experiences outside of the class for participants have been greater ease falling asleep and more patience during challenging times.

Classes begin Monday, June 2 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. for seven sessions, held every other Monday through August 25. There is no charge; donations are welcome.

For more information email Katrinaboverman@yahoo.com or call 301-641-1035.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

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.

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)

– Community Conferences –
Saturday May 31 in Greenbelt
*Working together for a just, united,
loving & peaceful world*

Scan with
cellphone
camera for
conference
info



Greenbelt Bahá’í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

THANK YOU To Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice!

**We know love by this,
that Jesus laid down His life for us;
and we ought to lay down our lives for others.**
1 John 3:16



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 25, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Four of a Kind

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

In the spirit of both our May theme (The Circle of Life) and Memorial Day, we’ll explore the interfaith intersection of four fallen service members whose kindness in life (and death) was truly one-of-a-kind.

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

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on 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*

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

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
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

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

At the Library

All Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) branches will be closed Sunday, May 25 and Monday, May 26 for the Memorial Day holiday. All regularly operating branches will reopen on Tuesday, May 27 at noon.

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 23, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13262295](#).

Wednesday, May 28, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13262085](#).

Thursday, May 29, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13262211](#).

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](#).

Effective May 12, the PGCMLS Ask A Librarian telephone reference service line is being phased out. Customers may call the Greenbelt Library directly at 301-345-5800 for their reference inquiries and to book passport service appointments during regular Library operating hours.

City Notes

Various departments facilitated and participated in Bike to Work Day, Wellness Walk, Springhill Lake Elementary School’s Career Day and a Senior Luncheon with County Councilmember Ingrid Watson.

The Grant Coordinator facilitated a visit from State Senator Alonzo Washington announcing a Bond Bill award for Community Center elevators.

Economic Development attended a Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce event, met vendors at the Farmers Market season opening and partnered with CARES on a Job Fair at Beltway Plaza.

At the Animal Shelter, Public Works reinstalled the sink and hot water heater. While renovation continues, staff responded to 40 calls.

The Community Center Dance Studio Annex now has curtains to protect the floor from sun damage. The outdoor pool opened while staff and contractors continued indoor pool renovations.

Therapeutic Recreation’s senior activities included a lecture on China and a Baysox excursion. Park Rangers supported the Green Man Festival and the Farmers Market season opening.

The CARES director attended Governor Moore’s signing of HB814 concerning Youth Service Bureaus.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

Visually impaired may listen for free

Call Metropolitan Washington Ear

301-681-6636

No special equipment needed



City Information & Events

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

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 27 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge

Petitions and Requests

Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)

Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Older Americans Month Proclamation

- National Gun Awareness Day Proclamation

- Pride Month Proclamation

* Minutes

Administrative Reports

* Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- A Resolution Affirming the City of Greenbelt’s Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; -2nd Reading, Adoption

- A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Professional Design Services and Community Engagement for the Development of a Master Plan for Indian Creek Park from Mahan Rykiel Associates, Inc. At A Cost Not to Exceed \$25,600.00, and an Additional Allowance Not to Exceed \$7,000.00 for Procurement of Engineering Support Services from The City’s On-Call Engineer; -2nd Reading, Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- Briefing on Prince George’s County Transit Vision Plan

- Authorization for the City Manager to Approve Payment to Greenbelt Homes Inc for Playground Maintenance

- Presentation of Fleet and Equipment Electrification Plan

- Maryland Municipal League (MML) 2025 Legislative Action Requests (LAR)

- Council Activities

- Council Reports

* Meetings

* Stakeholders

* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board

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

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

MEETINGS FOR MAY 26-30

Monday, May 26, **NO MEETING - MEMORIAL DAY**

Tuesday, May 27 at 7:30 pm, **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 27, **CLOSED SESSION - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 27 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, On the Agenda: Discussion on Not for Seniors Only**

Tuesday, May 27 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, On the Agenda:**

Tuesday, May 27 at 7 pm, **GREEN ACES AND GREEN TEAM, On the Agenda: Presentation on Anaerobic Digester Systems for Food Waste, Green Man Festival, Update on Solar Farm, Update on EV Charging Stations, Recommendation for Solar Roof Projects at Greenbelt Youth Center and Green Ridge House, Electrification Feasibility, Curbside Compost Pickup Grant Updates**

Wednesday, May 28 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - FINAL BUDGET REVIEW**

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.

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.

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

FEATURED PETS

JUNIOR

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124.

Six-year-old Junior has been in a foster home for almost a year and is still looking for a forever home! Junior (now affectionately nicknamed Juni) has insulin-dependent diabetes, but he doesn't let that slow him down. While administering an insulin shot might seem scary, Junior takes his medicine like a champ. Junior's foster says he's a gentle soul. He's super affectionate and loves to be wherever the household action is. His favorite activity is sitting by the door or window and watching the local wildlife and ongoing outside (he's a great neighborhood watch). He also gets along with everyone he meets — including his cat and dog foster siblings!

If you're interested in adopting jazzy Juni, call (301) 474-6124 or animalsservices@greenbeltmd.gov!

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, immediately following the Regular Council Meeting in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;

The purpose of this meeting is 1) Obtain legal advice on an annexation matter.

*** The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day

THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of May 26

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday

Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday

Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday

Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, May 30.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

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

May Art Shares. Present and discuss your art in a friendly and supportive environment. FREE. Adults: F 5/23, 7-8 pm. | Youth Under 16: Th 5/29, 4:30-5:30 pm Greenbelt Community Center, Room 113, 15 Crescent Road. Registration recommended at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Two New Spring Classes!

Fused Glass Wall Art or Dish. M 5/26, 11 am. Fused glass is the art of melting colored glass into art pieces.

The Stitchery. M, 5/26-6/30, 5:30-7:30 pm. Embroider a flower basket from a kit or bring your own project.

MORE ARTS IN MAY & JUNE

- **Choreography Club Performance.** F 5/23, 6 pm. FREE. Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio. Reservations not needed.
- **June Artful Afternoons:** 6/1 (Greenbelt Community Center) and 6/8 (Springhill Lake Recreation Center. FREE art workshops. Advanced sign-up recommended.
- **Motiva Public Art Dedication.** F 6/6, 6 pm. Motiva, 6400 Cherrywood Lane

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.

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.

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
rsigworth@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.

Sewing, Swapping: Clothing Sustainability in Greenbelt

by Diya Shah

Before tossing out an old shirt, buying something new or shopping the latest and greatest brand, some Greenbelt residents are asking a different question: how can we take care of what we already have – and each other?

That question is at the heart of the clothing sustainability and mutual aid effort in Greenbelt. Whether it's through classes, giveaways or swaps, Greenbelters are finding ways to reduce waste and support one another.

Sewing Classes

Art teacher and community-builder Vanessa Zanin is at the forefront of this sustainability initiative, teaching classes at the Community

Center on sewing, upcycling, needle felting, tie-dye and more. For Zanin, it's about more than just the needles and thread and fabric. You might come to her class to learn how to sew, but you'll leave with a deeper understanding of why it matters.

"I want to teach the world to sew," she said. "It's important. Whether we're sewing up our favorite pair of socks or we're sewing up some skin. We need those skills; people need those skills."

Whether or not people come to the class with sustainability in mind, Zanin makes sure to discuss from the very first session the environmental cost of fast fashion and the value of reuse. "Not many people know how horrible the fashion industry is for the Earth," she said.

As one of the most polluting sectors in the world, the fashion industry contributes almost 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and is the second largest consumer of water, according to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Millions of tons of textile waste are produced every year, UNEP reports, and every second, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of garments is landfilled or incinerated.

"Why do we need 10 of the same shirt?" Zanin exclaimed. "There's no need for that! This world is melting and we need to leave it in a better place."

Zanin aims to make her classes as accessible as possible and invites anyone to sign up no matter their skill level. "My jam is teaching people brand new," she said. "Don't be afraid. I'll build your confidence, I'll get you started and then you'll be like 'Wow, I can't believe I just made that.'"

Zanin emphasized the importance of building and contributing to one's community, and her classes are just one thread in a larger fabric of community-driven sustainability efforts in Greenbelt.

Clothing Giveaway

On Thursday, May 1, the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program (GAIL) hosted its first free clothing giveaway at the Springhill Lake Recreation Cen-



One of the clothing swaps organized by Elizabeth Berken at the New Deal Café



A sweater Vanessa Zanin mended as part of the Friends & Family Art Workshop, Wool Felting onto Sweaters, where she teaches how to make art out of holes

ter, offering new and gently used clothing items donated by Greenbelt residents and organizations. According to Katherine Farzin, the community outreach coordinator for GAIL, the event was designed to support vulnerable populations, help divert clothing from landfills and create a sense of neighborly support by clothing families and individuals.

Clothing Swaps

Another Greenbelt resident, Elizabeth Berken, echoes that sentiment of community care through the clothing swaps she organizes at the New Deal Café. It's something that happened in the community where she used to live and she began organizing it in Greenbelt two years ago. Held once each season, the swaps invite residents to bring in those long-forgotten clothes at the back of their closet and give them a second chance – possibly in a neighbor's wardrobe just down the street. The swaps are casual, free and open to all, with no pressure to bring or take a certain amount. It's as much about connecting with others as it is about the clothes themselves.

"It gives me hope ... it gives me joy," said Zanin about the community she fosters through her mending classes.

In the face of a worsening climate crisis accelerated by the overproduction and waste of the

fast fashion industry, it's easy to feel powerless. Yet the efforts of Greenbelt residents to do what's possible within their community demonstrate that local action matters and can make a difference. Clothing sustainability in Greenbelt isn't just about what people wear – it's about how they care for the environment, for their neighbors and for the future.

The next clothing swap will take place in June at the New Deal Café. To learn more about the classes offered at the Community Center, see the Recreation Activity Guide on the Greenbelt city website.

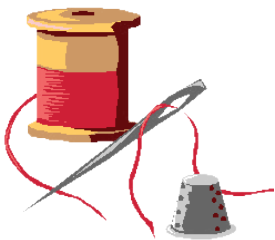
Diya Shah is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the Greenbelt News Review.

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE



Gloves stitched and mended by Vanessa Zanin

- Photos courtesy Vanessa Zanin



Buddy Attick Plan Approved, Speed Cameras Get Update

by Diane Oberg

At its May 12 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council approved the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan, authorized a new speed camera contract and held the second public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget.

Buddy Attick Park

Council approved the 2025 Buddy Attick Park Master Plan, which was developed by Mahan Rykiel Associates and reviewed by city staff and residents. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) unanimously recommended approval although it identified several issues that it felt warranted further investigation and development. These included the handling of downed trees, the use of the lake and its navigability, staffing needs and practices, and trail surface materials. PRAB also called for treating the plan as a living document.

Mayor Emmett Jordan noted a concern from the public session that the natural feel of the park be maintained. He also stressed that the plan does not call for a paved trail all around the lake. Recreation Director Greg Varda said that he hoped to have some of the pavilions installed by the Fourth of July.

Speed Cameras

On a 6 to 1 vote with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed, council authorized the city manager to enter into a new contract for speed cameras with its current contractor Altumint for a cost of \$3,499 per camera per month for a total of \$167,952 for a year. This is an increase of \$699 per camera per month. The police evaluated other contracts and concluded Altumint's proposal was the most cost-effective option. This approved contract is for one year with options to renew through 2029. To mitigate the higher cost, the city will purchase just four cameras and rotate them among the seven locations currently holding cameras. The contract will involve replacing all the current equipment with upgraded models.

Roberts disputed the effectiveness of the cameras, believing that speeds are going down only because drivers know where the cameras are and reduce speed near the cameras only to speed back up once past the cameras.

Police Chief Richard Bowers said these locations will still be limited to school zones and an officer must still approve citations.

Legislation

Two bills were introduced for first reading and will be up for adoption at the May 27 council meeting. The first was a resolution suggested by Councilmember Jenni Pompei to reaffirm the city's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

The second was a resolution to engage a contractor to develop a master plan for the Greenbelt Station Indian Creek Park area for a cost not to exceed \$25,600 from Mahan Rykiel Associates. The approval also authorized spending up to \$7,000 for engineering support services from the city's on-call engineer. The contract also includes public engagement and will build off the Greenbelt Station Greenspace Vision Plan.

Budget

The meeting featured the second (and last) public hearing on the budget, which is scheduled to be adopted at the June 2 council meeting.

Resident Lore Rosenthal, under Petitions and Requests, suggested that the city put out a more concise document with budget highlights so that residents would not need to wade through the 280+ page budget document or watch all the individual work-sessions. Resident Bill Orleans supported this request.

Orleans also questioned why city taxpayers must pay the \$80,000 management fee to the contractor managing Green Ridge House. He asserted that the city could do this work on its own.

Under Administrative Reports City Manager Josué Salmerón cautioned that there is a potentially significant, but as yet unknown impact on the FY 2026 budget from the actions being taken by the federal government. He expects that, at minimum, Greenbelt CARES funding will be impacted.





Council reporters wanted!

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The Abrego Garcia Case Continues, Accompanied by Greenbelt Protests

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Friday, May 16, there was another hearing in the Kilmar Abrego Garcia case at the federal court in Greenbelt. Judge Paula Xinis was seeking evidence of what the Trump Administration was doing to facilitate the return of the mistakenly deported Beltsville resident, as ordered by Xinis and the Supreme Court over a month ago.

The Trump administration has previously admitted Abrego Garcia's deportation to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador was an "administrative error," yet also stated he "will not return to our country under the Trump administration." The administration has also alternatively claimed Abrego Garcia's deportation was not an error and redoubled its allegations of Abrego Garcia's ties to the MS-13 gang. It has also argued it is unable to facilitate his return from a foreign country.

Xinis had ordered depositions from three Department of Homeland Security officials but on Friday a Justice Department lawyer argued a declaration from Secretary of State Marco Rubio explaining the need to invoke state secrets sufficed. The administration argues releasing information in court about returning Abrego Garcia would harm foreign relations.

Judge Xinis is seeking further explanation and evidence for why the administration should be able to invoke the privilege of state secrets in this case.

Outside the courthouse, demonstrators and the Rapid Response Choir gathered yet again. Their cries and signs called for Abrego Garcia's return and for due process.



The Rapid Response Choir sings outside the federal courthouse in Greenbelt on May 16 as the Kilmar Abrego Garcia case takes place inside.



U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey arrives at the courthouse to speak at the press conference in support of Kilmar Abrego Garcia on May 16.



Patel Says FBI Will Leave Hoover Building; No New Site Announced

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Friday, May 16, FBI Director Kash Patel announced the FBI will be leaving its current headquarters in the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, D.C. since it is "unsafe for our workforce." The deteriorating condition of the building has been long-established and a new headquarters has been planned for more than 15 years. After a bid process spanning over a decade, Greenbelt was selected as the site of the new FBI headquarters in November 2023 but President Trump has since vowed to stop the FBI from coming to Greenbelt, instead saying he wants to keep the headquarters in Washington, D.C. On Friday, Patel said the FBI will relocate 1,500 employees stationed at the Hoover building to other FBI facilities across the country. He didn't say where the new headquarters housing the remainder would be located.

Members of Maryland's federal and state governments, including Governor Wes Moore,

U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks and Representatives Steny Hoyer, Jamie Raskin, Kweisi Mfume and Glenn Ivey, issued a statement saying Patel has "recognized what everyone, including his predecessors, have known for decades: the J. Edgar Hoover building is unsafe, unworthy and unaccommodating of the FBI's vital national security and law enforcement mission."

"The solution is clear and the decision to move the headquarters to the site in Greenbelt, Maryland, was final. This site was selected based on a thorough, objective process examining cost, construction timeline, transportation access, community impact and the FBI's mission requirements," said the Maryland politicians. "Team Maryland remains committed to providing the world's premier law enforcement agency with the world's premier law enforcement facility. If the Trump Administration truly shares that goal, it will work with us to proceed on this project."



NOTICE OF NEW DEAL CAFÉ ANNUAL MEETING

June 1, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Back room of the Café

113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Sign-in & payment of annual dues begins at 12:30 p.m.

** NOTICE REGARDING ABSENTEE BALLOTS **

If a member cannot attend the meeting in person for any reason, an Absentee Ballot for the Board of Directors will be accepted. For more information about submitting an absentee ballot, contact the Board Secretary at <social@newdealcafe.com>

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article III. Membership, Section 1. Qualifications

CURRENT TEXT

- a. "Membership is open to all who pay the minimum membership fee of \$25..."
- b. "Renewing active membership in the Cooperative requires payment of \$25 annual dues."
- c. "The \$50 Membership fee may be waived at the board's discretion for special circumstances."

PROPOSED CHANGE

(Effective date: January 1, 2026)

- a. "Membership is open to all who pay the minimum membership fee of \$30..."
- b. "Renewing active membership in the Cooperative requires payment of \$30 annual dues."
- c. "The \$30 Membership fee may be waived at the board's discretion for special circumstances."

Article IV. Directors, Section 1 Board of Directors

CURRENT TEXT

"The property, business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors composed of five members."

PROPOSED CHANGE

"The property, business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors composed of seven members."

Elections will be held for:

Board of Directors [2 positions]

NOTE: THE CHANGE IN BYLAWS WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF OPEN BOARD POSITIONS TO FOUR (4)

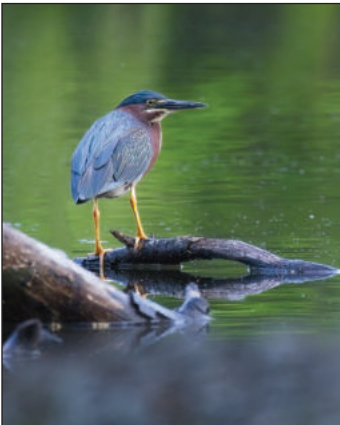
Audit Committee [3 positions]

View the complete agenda www.newdealcafe.com

Come early and enjoy a delicious lunch!



Pollinator at work: bee on an azalea



Green heron at Greenbelt Lake



Beaver at Greenbelt Lake

- Photos by Nick Hall

Maryland Parks Launch New Day-Use Reservation System

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelters planning to head to a beach or park this Memorial Day weekend should be aware of a new day-use reservation system being rolled out by the Maryland Park Service. It will require all visitors to reserve day-use passes in advance during peak times, such as weekends and holidays. It is a move they hope will limit overcrowding, traffic issues and closures due to the parks reaching capacity. Reservations can be made through the Maryland State Parks website using a system that went live on Monday, May 19. As of Saturday, May 24, day-use reservations will be required for two parks: Sandy Point State Park, a popular daytrip for those looking for a nearby beach, less than an hour's drive from Greenbelt, and Greenbrier State Park, located near Boonsboro, about a 90-minute drive from Greenbelt.

The advance reservations will be mandatory on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, with no same-day drive-up access allowed.

Later this summer, the system will expand to other parks including Point Lookout, New-towne Neck and North Point State Parks.

The day-use passes must be reserved online and fees paid at that time. A reservation can be made up to seven days in advance of a visit and can be edited or canceled until 8 a.m. the day before the visit. Visitors will check in with a QR code upon arrival at the park and discounts will be validated for Maryland Park Pass holders, veterans and individuals with disabilities. Park staff may also adjust and require additional payment based on the actual number of visitors in a party.

“The goal of this new day-use reservation system is making our parks more welcoming and accessible to all,” said Maryland Park Service Director Angela Crenshaw. “By allowing visitors to plan ahead, we’re helping families make the most of their time outdoors – with less stress and more confidence that they’ll have a great day in our state parks.”

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) says the system is needed due to the influx of new visitors entering Maryland State Parks – particularly those with public swimming access such as on lakes, the Chesapeake Bay or ocean – following the pandemic. Park visitation rates increased from an average of 10.8 million per year from 2010 to 2019 to an average

of 18.7 million per year from 2020 through 2024. An increasing number of visitors has resulted in parks reaching capacity and closing more frequently. These sudden closures can result in traffic issues such as backups and in disappointment for visitors, says MDNR.

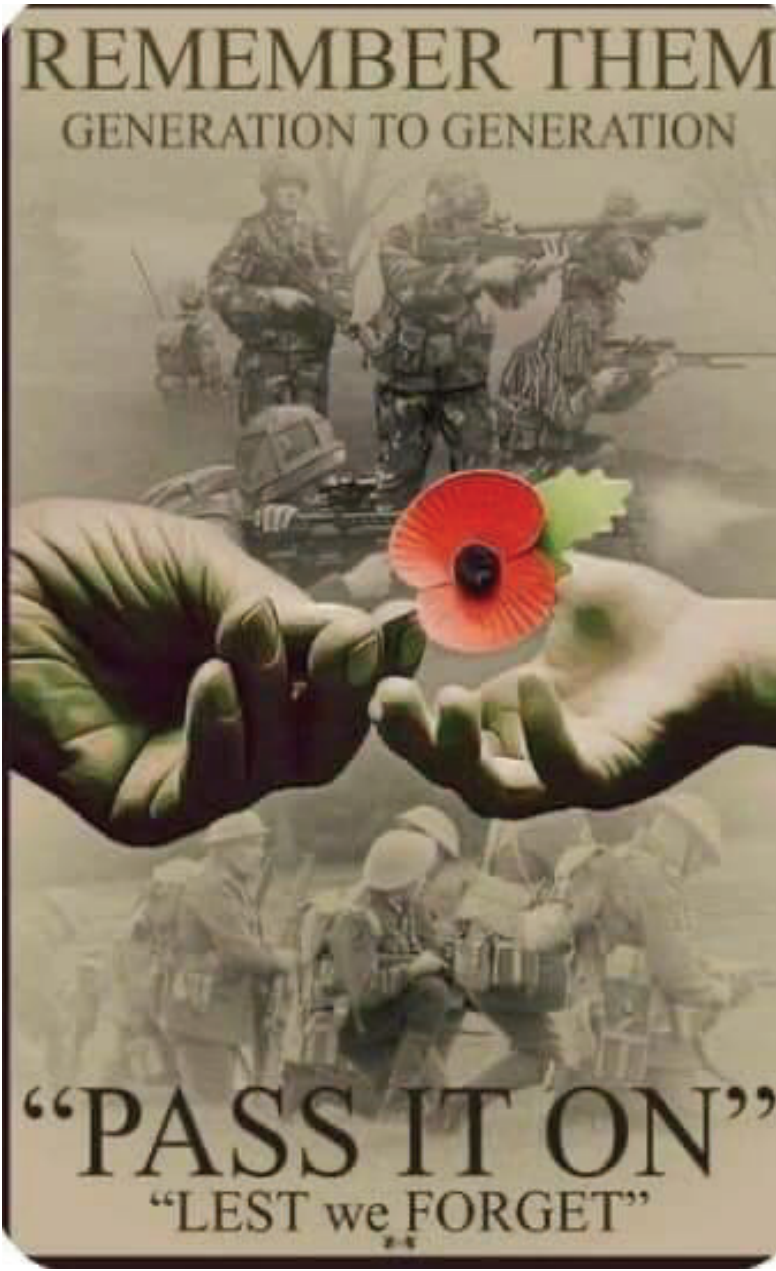
If Sandy Point or Greenbrier is on one’s list for summer day-trips, visit parkdayuse.maryland.gov to create an account and purchase a day-use pass, and look out for similar requirements beginning at other parks later this year.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER

The outdoor pool opened early this year, on May 12. This followed the closure of the indoor pool on April 7 (see the March 27 issue). The outdoor pool is also expected to remain open longer than the traditional end-of-season Labor Day weekend in an effort to provide opportunities for swimming while the indoor pool renovations continue. The indoor pool is expected to be closed until late September.

NATIONAL POPPY DAY



FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

IN REMEMBRANCE
OF THOSE WHO FELL
PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM

Greenbelt Unit 136, American Legion Auxiliary



Greenbelt Farmers Market

Sundays 10a - 2p

Southway and Centerway

GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

City Council Looks at a Variety Of Election-Related Questions

by Diane Oberg

Among other actions at its May 12 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council accepted several reports from the Board of Elections regarding possible referendum questions, heard a presentation on the 2023 community questionnaire results and authorized submitting the city’s 2026 Program Open Space projects.

Referendum Questions

Council accepted three Board of Election reports concerning possible 2025 referendum questions. The board took no position on whether to include these questions. One is to ask if election districts should be created so that some councilmembers would be elected solely by voters in a specific district. Some councilmembers would still be elected at large.

The second question would ask if council terms should be extended to four years and if so, should councilmembers be subject to voter recall petitions.

The board had also been tasked with developing a question to ask if 16-year-olds should be permitted to serve as poll workers. Their report found this to be a “very worthwhile suggestion” but the members “did not think that this relatively minor election day issue should be referred to the voters.”

Bike Parking Petition

Tom LeaMond asked for better bicycle parking at Roosevelt Center. He pointed out that bikes are easy to steal, so it is important that racks be available in locations that are secure and have sufficient foot traffic to discourage theft. He noted that a location right outside of the Co-op Supermarket would meet those criteria.

City Manager Josué Salmerón said the city is studying the issue so it can take a more comprehensive approach to identifying areas where more bicycle parking is needed. Resident Michael Hartman noted that studies can delay action and recommended just putting a rack near the Co-op, then doing the study.

Survey Results

Assistant City Manager Timothy George gave a presentation on the results of the 2023 Com-

munity Questionnaire. George noted that the response rate was about half that experienced in 2021, when the city mailed the questionnaire along with the application for a mail-in ballot, which was expensive. In addition, the 2021 election had a much longer early voting window with early voting having a higher response rate than election day voting.

George noted that the respondents are not representative of the city’s population. All but 12 percent of respondents own their own homes despite renters making up a significant portion of residents. Despite large populations in the east and west of the city, 71 percent of survey respondents were from the center of Greenbelt.

Finally, the questionnaire was only available in English, ignoring the significant Spanish-speaking portion of the electorate. George said that the city is working toward creating a Spanish version of the questionnaire.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver suggested reviewing the questions saying that some seem to cover activities the city no longer offers. She was also concerned that the length of the questionnaire may reduce response rates and about the lag in receiving the results. Council is only now, just over five months before the next election, seeing the 2023 results.

George suggested referring the issue of the questions to the Community Relations Advisory Board. He said this would not affect the city’s ability to have a 2025 questionnaire alongside the council election.

Open Space

Council, on a 6 to 1 vote with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed, approved seeking approval for two Program Open Space projects. The first, \$275,000 for Greenbelt Station Outdoor Recreation Amenities is a carryover from last year since it has not yet been approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW). The second, for \$1.5 million, would fund the replacement of the Youth Center roof and improvements to the patio area. This project also requires BPW approval. Roberts did not explain his vote but has a history of opposing using Open Space funds for purposes other than land acquisition.

Future Topics

The presentation of the Fleet and Equipment electrification plan was deferred to a future meeting given how long this council meeting had already run.

Council briefly discussed possible legislative action requests to propose to the Maryland Municipal League. These will be discussed at the next council meeting to meet the May 30 deadline.

Greenbelt CORES Gets Started

by Matthew Arbach

Greenbelt CORES (Collaborative Opportunities for Resilient and Enduring Solutions) has had a productive start. The community-led task force is focused on developing strategies in response to the recent upheavals occurring in the federal government around reductions in funding, resulting in loss of employment and governmental institutions, specifically how it affects Greenbelt.

The first meeting was held on April 11 at the Community Center. According to Melissa Ehrenreich, who spearheaded this effort, 20 to 25 participants were in attendance. After making introductions, the meeting was focused on the “What,” these being “core topic solutions,” and the “How,” or “system supports such as emotional support, volunteerism, policy/civic engagement and communication.”

It was proposed that future meetings should occur in all parts of the city, instead of just Greenbelt Center. Suggestion boxes throughout the city and stickers with QR codes that link to sites of interest, as well as using TikTok influencers, were other recommendations.

Ehrenreich shared her effort to find private funds to hire a volunteer coordinator. She also outlined her concept for an “idea spiral,” which would facilitate sharing ideas and create a support web of groups, resources and volunteers.

Food Resources

Food availability was a major topic of discussion. Ehrenreich promoted the Great Greenbelt Cook Along, a shared community meal, aided by the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) and the Great Food Transition Project (GFT), which addresses food sustainability, equity and affordability (for more on the GFT see the News Review April 4, 2024, issue). These meals would occur in homes as well as community spaces where there will be a chance to further explore task force solutions and ideas. Ehrenreich cited Geraldine Adams as a local leader in the GFT and a Food For Life instructor, who possesses a food certification and expertise in the production and organizing of community meals. Ehrenreich is in the process of finding kitchen facilities that could accommodate these communal meals and is working with the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket to publicize and provide sales of the meal ingredients. She sees Greenbelt Access Television as a potential resource in the production of cooking videos. A pilot of this program was held on April 16 at the Community Center kitchen.

A subsequent meeting was held on April 25 at The SPACE, with about 15 attendees.

Food was a major topic again. It was pointed out that there is already a plethora of existing resources to take advantage of, both in the city and the county. Some of the city programs include: the Senior Nutrition Program at the Community Center, the CHEARS-led Three Sisters Gardens, St. Hugh’s food pantry and the CHEARS food forest at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. County food organizations include the Prince George’s Food Equity Council, the Food Assistance Provider Network, Prince George’s County Food Rescue and Find Food – Food Pantry Listings.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance was another area explored. Ben Fischler suggested a fundraiser for those struggling with GHI co-op fees, adding that the GHI finance office could deal with the particulars. Kim Keyes recommended attending the many job fairs, both at Beltway Plaza and in the surrounding DMV area and the Greenbelt Financial Literacy Workshop.

Other Suggestions

Erica Johns suggested helping individuals with filling out assistance forms and with navigating bureaucracy such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. She also mentioned that the Greenbelt News Review plans to increase employment advertising in its pages, in collaboration with local employers.

Lore Rosenthal suggested that CORES look at Greenbelt becoming a Transition Town, an effort that was broached by the city in 2009. According to the Transition Handbook by founder Rob Hoskins, this movement seeks to create communities built

around renewable energy with “an emphasis on supportive human relationships.” The question of whether Greenbelt could be a Transition Town was raised by a Greenbelt Climate-Action Network (GCAN) speaker over 16 years ago and in the April 23, 2009, News Review issue. For more information on the Transition Town movement visit transitiontowns.org.

Larry Hilliard emphasized the positive effect of team sports on young people and community building, pointing out the many opportunities both in the city and the region.

Individuals Volunteer

Robert Goldberg-Strassler offered his assistance efforts in the areas of food collection, the environment, eviction relief, literacy and Medicaid access.

Erica Johns offered her connections with helpful Greenbelt associations and their community services, such as the Greenbelt Rotary Club and the city’s Greenbelt CARES family services bureau.

Council Support

Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Amy Knesel were present to offer their support. Weaver noted the city’s clear progressive approach, citing its DEI department, Reparations Commission and police policy to not assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement in matters lacking a criminal warrant. She noted the city’s real financial concerns, with its \$4M budget deficit and uncertainty ahead regarding potentially reduced federal funding and business tax revenue perhaps leading to future budget cuts. Knesel promoted a strategy of

See CORES, page 10



Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

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

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



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COMPOST continued from page 1

considering the cost-benefit analysis.

Activity at Site

Salmerón supported the temporary use of the facility for the composting program, noting it would have a benefit of bringing activity onto the site and deterring “aspiring artists” from putting their “artwork” on the building, while also making use of the property. He addressed a prior concern about compost being a potential eyesore by suggesting folks drive by the armory site now to see the mulch piles currently curing there. (The city has “a mulch pile problem,” in that it generates more mulch than it uses and welcomes people to take mulch, said Salmerón.) Councilmember Kristen Weaver said the compost crew would bring activity to the site twice a week and conduct sifting twice a year. Weaver said the city is still in the brainstorming process for the future use of the armory and it is understood by the compost program organizers that the use of the site is not intended to be permanent. “Once we decide what to do with the armory this can shift somewhere else,” said Weaver.

Another Drop Site?

Jordan advocated for a way for those in apartments and condominiums to bring their food scraps and participate. While they couldn’t bring scraps to the armory site, which will be locked up, they could bring it to Buddy Attick Park, responded Weaver. She noted that those in multifamily homes are able to participate in the pilot curbside program but the program hasn’t received much interest from them – there is just one participant from Franklin Park apartments. In addition, this move to use armory space would increase the number of people who could participate, since the program is currently at capacity, said Weaver. Jordan noted rules of condominiums and apartment complexes may prevent residents from placing items for curbside pickup and he advocated for an additional site to drop off scraps in Greenbelt East, rather than the single site at Buddy Attick, which he says is inconvenient. Salmerón said they would discuss options but a concern would be how to create another drop-off point that’s secure and used appropriately. Salmerón gave the example of the Hanover Parkway recycling center, where household and construction trash had been placed in the recycling bins. Jordan said



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The current mulch piles at the armory site

he believes food scraps are different and noted there’s an inactive composting site at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. It’s hard for people to come from Schrom Hills Park and Greenbelt East to Public Works to deliver their scraps, said Jordan.

Compost Pickup

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said if food scraps collection was part of the regular waste collection a lot more people would participate. Also, people would like to be able to get the end product – compost – for their yards, he said. (Under the current USDA grant compost has been returned to Greenbelt’s community gardens but under regular operations with Compost Crew, participants would have to purchase compost at a reduced rate). “This should be a part of our waste collection service,” said Roberts, “because this year we’re going to ask people for more money for that service. So, if we’re going to ask for more money we should be providing more benefit for that money.” (For more on the potential coming changes to waste collection and the increasing cost to residents see the April 15 issue). The motion to allow the compost program to use space at the armory was approved unanimously.



BUDGET continued from page 1

cost of \$20,000. A memorandum from Varda notes that in FY 2023 council approved a non-classified minimum wage of \$15/hour and a 2 percent COLA for non-classified staff in FY 2024 and FY 2025. These are cited by Varda as important steps in staff morale and retention. The new special events team will be staffed by non-classified employees and their tasks will include setup, risk management, AV management and troubleshooting, post-event cleanup and ensuring community events run smoothly. The team is expected to be utilized for approximately 40 events a year.

Proposed Budget Cuts

According to the executive summary of the proposed budget from Varda, there will be a reduction of \$9,100 in membership, education and training costs across all budgets, a reduction in the administration budget of \$8,000, coming from public notices and uniforms; a reduction of \$43,500 from the aquatics budget by hiring an aquatics coordinator after January 1, 2026; and a reduction of \$6,000 from the Arts budget through a reduction in special programs/overtime. It also incorporates a reduction of \$2,600 in the museum budget noted as special programs/miscellaneous and a reduction of \$5,500 from the recreation centers, taken from overtime and departmental equipment.

Arts

Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald noted the Arts Department provides studio space for eight artists at the Community Center and employs 53 teaching artists. About 2,800 people participated in art classes this year, 350 youth participated in arts camps and approximately 3,000 people attended 21 original musical theater and dance performances.

Aquatic & Fitness

Aquatic & Fitness Center Supervisor Stephen Parks reported

that staff are being assigned other duties while indoor pool renovations are underway. Emails totaling 1,018 went out to Aquatic Center members offering a membership pause during the renovations.

Museum

Museum Director Megan Searing Young reminded council that while the Greenbelt Museum is owned and operated by the city, the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) is a separate organization that fundraises for and advises the museum. FOGM so far has raised \$330,000 to build the addition planned for the Education and Visitor Center at 10-A Crescent Road. The total cost for the project is estimated to be \$550,000, leaving \$220,000 yet to be raised.

Therapeutic Recreation

Anne Oudemans reported that Therapeutic Recreation won a Maryland Municipal League award for their inclusion program.

Community Center

Trevin Green, the new Community Center supervisor, told council that the facility is extending Saturday hours and marketing available meeting rooms.

Recreation Centers

Andrew Phelan, Recreation assistant director for recreation centers, said that the Springhill Lake Recreation Center gymnasium floor had been resurfaced and the new playground had been opened. The center now opens at 10 a.m. weekdays to accommodate a popular preschool story time.

Special Events

LaToya Fisher reported on Recreation programs and special events. She noted that summer camps and programs operate at full capacity including the Springhill Lake Recreation Center summer program. She also noted that Recreation staff now provide support for all special events in Greenbelt, whether hosted by city departments or other community groups.

Recodification

In the second half of the worksession, City Clerk Bonita Anderson shared progress on the recodification of the city code. The city contracted Municode to incorporate 25 ordinances from 2013 to May 2023 into the 2012 city code book. The new code book is being reviewed by staff and should be finalized by the end of 2025.

CORES continued from page 9

addressing individual needs and was glad that CORES was being driven by the city’s residents with minimal city intervention.

There was another CORES meeting on Sunday, May 18 at Schrom Hills Park, to discuss housing stability and connecting residents to volunteerism, civic engagement, and neighbors. The group expressed a need to better understand who is at risk of housing insecurity in order to intervene quickly. They agreed they needed to enhance their knowledge of financial resources available and the need to “scale up”

local short term and emergency funding, with the assistance of businesses and neighbors.

The next meeting will be June 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center.

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COUNCIL continued from page 1

to base a strong foundation on moving forward.

Assistant City Manager Timothy George, who has been spearheading this effort, joined by City Manager Josué Salmerón expressed the need for the city to create a strategic plan that will enhance and grow the city’s economy. This meeting was the second gathering in a four-stage process. George said a “new paradigm” is required, as the city still seeks to recover financially from Covid, among other challenges.

Employers

Metts explained that the city has a largely service-based economy, with the highest percentage (at 30.2 percent) of jobs in the professional, scientific and tech services, with NASA being the major employer. Metts said that this is a unique and fruitful feature for Greenbelt. She said that the city’s proximity to the Food and Drug Administration and the University of Maryland is also a major component to the city’s business model.

According to Metts, some other emerging and strong industries are healthcare, scientific research and development, computer design services, custom computer programming, and professional and administrative management services. Said Metts, all this is “great potential to build upon.”

Metts reported that 96 percent of the city’s workforce commute into Greenbelt. Meanwhile only 4 percent of residents stay in the city to work, with 24 percent commuting to Washington, D.C.

Real Estate, Development

According to McKay, Greenbelt is behind in how it compares to its surrounding municipalities in new real estate development. Greenbelt West has stalled in its mixed-use redevelopment with Greenbelt Center dealing with areas of aging infrastructure. All combined, McKay said that this impacts “the ability to attract private sector business.”

Council responded that there are important reasons for this situation. Councilmember Rodney Roberts cited the city’s ethos as a residential community foremost, with Mayor Emmett Jordan mentioning its landlocked position in the county, making growth difficult. Councilmember Silke Pope added that part of the land is outside city control, so the city is reliant on developers and owners.

McKay understood these reasons, acknowledging that there have been some recent efforts, such as the planned Beltway Plaza redevelopment and the recent Motiva and Greenbelt Road condo constructions.

Jordan said that redevelopment may be a sounder strategy for Greenbelt.

Business Climate

Aminato shared his findings on the business climate in the city. He cited the common sentiment among business owners that Greenbelt is a strong community, with great amenities and quality of life, with a rich historic and cultural heritage. An abundance of “regional collaboration resources” and the potential to make the most of branding and place-making were also noted.

Yet there were negative perceptions as well, such as a lengthy development process, a change-resistant attitude at times, a lack of incentives, retail vulnerability and divestment, a stagnant

tax base as well as a sense of high crime and under-performing schools. Some key words used to describe the climate were unpredictable, frustrating, challenging and bureaucratic.

Aminato said that a way forward is to “look for a proactive approach” that grows business “without losing the character of Greenbelt.”

Opportunities

McKay laid out some target opportunity areas. She identified key assets as the armory, the Municipal Building and the fire station. She recommended a strategy that would “unlock the value of public land for redevelopment and co-location.” She saw promise in focusing on mixed-use housing, cultural space, civic anchors and small business incubation. Adaptive reuse, joint ventures and service relocation were recommended approaches. The consultants’ final vision would be to consolidate city operations, modernize services and catalyze private investment.

McKay continued with some target areas for revitalization: Roosevelt Center, Greenway Center and the Greenbelt Road corridor.

The consultants stressed improving walkability. They also suggested incentivizing investment through grants, facades and public-private partnerships. The outcome would be to create “vibrant, connected districts that reflect Greenbelt’s identity and serve surrounding neighborhoods,” said McKay.

Lastly, McKay saw healthcare providers, life science firms and outpatient clinics as an overall growth target area. She suggested leveraging assets like the new Prince George’s County Health Center on Edmonston Road, Greenbelt Commons Medical Park and Capital Office Park, on the so-called Medical Mile along Greenbelt Road.

Next Steps

Councilmember Kristen Weaver suggested the study incorporate recent data from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments about the percentage of Greenbelt workers who are federal employees, which is estimated to be up to 15 percent and, in addition, federal contractors who may account for a further 15 percent of the city’s residents.

One resident asked if members of the public could submit written comments to council, which she was told they are welcome to do. She also suggested that the analysis that included remote workforce may need to be updated in light of return to office orders for federal employees and that climate change and community resiliency should be taken into consideration in planning for development.

Moving forward, a further draft plan for council will be made by the consultants, based on the feedback and work with staff. The next worksession on this topic will likely be in June. Said Salmerón, the goal is to build “consensus” with all parties, to create the best possible strategy.

Constitutional Rights



PHOTO BY LEAH COHEN

This information station at the front desk of the Community Center provides information on constitutional rights in 19 languages. Each card has two different sides; one informs you of constitutional rights and the other is a message to immigration enforcement agents, designed to be slipped under a door. The cards were created from the website ilrc.org/red-cards utilizing the 19 languages available there. They are being restocked as needed.



PHOTO BY MARC MANHEIMER

This migrating common loon rests and refuels in Greenbelt in mid-April before continuing on its journey northward.

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 12-18, 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@greenbeltnmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported three mental health diversions, two involving attempted suicide, and four domestic incidents, one leading to arrest.

Armed Robbery

On May 14 at 4:36 p.m. near 7569 Greenbelt Road, a man was considered a person of interest in a robbery investigation but nothing definitive was found and there were no charges made.

On May 15 at 11:43 p.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, two armed masked men entered a store, stole money and items, and left before officers arrived.

On May 16 at 12:03 p.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, two boys were robbed of their phones by a group of youths who entered an apartment building and pointed guns at them.

Armed Person Arrested

On May 18 at 3:37 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a man pointed a gun at another man who was walking in a parking lot. Officers found the man; he was identified, and two firearms were found hidden nearby. The armed man and his brother were arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Gunshot

On May 15 at 11:37 a.m. near 7700 block of Hanover Parkway, a caller heard a gunshot and found a bullet hole in her wall. She thought it came from outside her residence, but investigation determined that it came from inside the home. Officers found a 3D printer and 3D-printed firearm parts made by a young person.

Assault

On May 12 at 1:43 a.m. near 5810 Greenbelt Road, a group of friends argued with each other over a tab, and the disagreement turned physical.

Break-ins

On May 13 at 11:28 a.m. near 7474 Frankfort Drive, the lock to a building’s main entrance was damaged and someone broke into the shed. No items were reported stolen.

On May 16 at 12:47 p.m. near 8 Laurel Hill Road, while a woman was sleeping, someone entered her residence, stole items and left things disarranged.

Fraud

On May 12 at 13:14 p.m. near 24 Ridge Road, while filing her taxes, a woman discovered that someone was fraudulently using her name and Social Security number.

Theft and Shoplifting

On May 13 at 6:32 p.m. near 7421 Morrison Drive, a package was stolen from the front steps after it was delivered. The suspect appeared to be a boy.

On May 16 at 5:38 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, someone stole items and left before officers arrived. On May 18 at 12:04 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, three women took items and left without paying.

Vehicle Crimes
Stolen Vehicles

Two vehicles were stolen: on May 14 near 6156 Springhill Terrace: a gray 2021 Honda Pilot (Md. 7GB4316); and on May 15 near 7680 Mandan Road, a black Infiniti G37 (Md. 5BW1285).

Stolen Vehicle Located

On May 12 near 8007 Greenbelt Station Parkway, officers located a 2001 Toyota Corolla that was confirmed stolen through the Fairfax Police Department.

Theft from Auto

On May 14 near 550 Crescent Road, a Honda Civic window was shattered and a purse was missing.

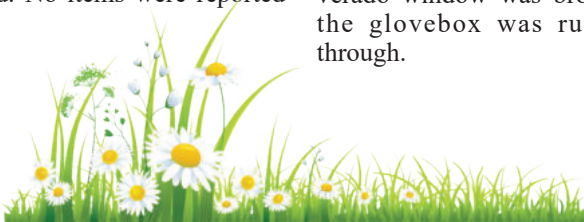
On May 18 near 7200 Hanover Drive, a 2017 Honda Civic window was broken and a laptop computer was stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On May 12 near 8226 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a 2024 Toyota RAV4 window was broken.

On May 13 near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a rear tire was slashed on a 2024 Acura.

On May 14 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado window was broken, and the glovebox was rummaged through.



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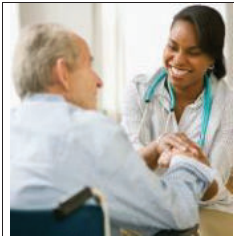
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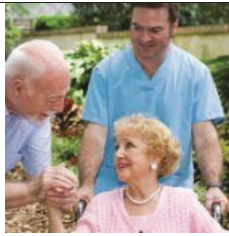
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Katherine Farzin and Brendy Maddox of the City's Pink Pantry project, a program of Greenbelt Assistance in Living, show some of the more than 5,000 menstrual products donated by Greenbelt residents. The Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (GARF) coordinated the collection drive, which ended May 17.



GHI Bicycle Committee member Lisa Milani discusses bicycle security and safety at the annual GHI Bike Social.



Greenbelt Cinema Executive Director Caitlin McGrath climbs the ladder to change the marquee, while community members decorate with chalk below.



Melissa Rosenberg, executive director of the Autism Society of Maryland, shared a presentation and group discussion about Autism Acceptance and Advocacy on Saturday, April 26. This event was particularly timely given the remarks recently made by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. about individuals with autism. District 22 State Senator Alonzo Washington also made remarks about educational challenges in Prince George's County.



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CROSS continued from page 1

and meet other people through art. She would go to open mics and meet other musicians that way.

Born in Washington, D.C., her family moved to Los Angeles, where she found early inspiration for her art. For eight years, they lived in Watts, where Cross' mother was an art teacher. The area is known for the Watts Riots in 1965 and also the Watts Towers, an historic landmark that late artist and resident Simon Rodia designed and built by hand out of scraps.

The towers served as a significant artistic influence for Cross, who would climb around them as a child. She was fascinated by Rodia's use of repurposed materials and emulates the practice in her own work.

"Early on, I saw that as something beautiful and fantastic," Cross says.

Now, she sees everything as art supplies because the world has so many different materials to offer. She adopts the perspective of someone who just landed on Earth and doesn't know how people use things; she looks at the color, shape and texture of things and decides from there what she can do with them.

Cross often uses beads or broken jewelry that's either donated to her or bought from thrift stores. That way, she says, "everything gets a new life."

To Cross, this makes her art more human. "As humans, we get to recreate ourselves all the time and give ourselves new life," she says.

Cross says her art is greater as a whole than the scraps she uses before they're put together.

"I feel that way about human beings – when we work together,



Artwork by Rachel Cross

when we unify, that's when we're at our best."

Post High School Years

After high school, Cross went to Parsons School of Design in New York City. She was in the city at the same time that prolific artists Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat were starting their careers as graffiti artists, and while Andy Warhol was still alive.

New York "formed a lot of my confidence that people could make a life in the arts, because in New York City it's everywhere, there are a lot of them," says Cross. "It was a very frenetic and amazing time."

During an exchange year in Paris, Cross made money busking around museums, at metro stations and in trains where she met musicians from all over the world. "It was a very integrated music and art kind of life there," she says.



Rachel Cross leads the recent Ukulele Picnic at the Community Center.

But art schools at the time, Cross says, didn't teach students about the business side of art. After her time in Paris, she took a couple years off from studying while she learned that for herself. She "did all kinds of things to get through and figure it out," like art shows, busking, waiting tables and bartending. She then finished her formal education at the Corcoran School of Art and Design in Washington, D.C., laying the groundwork for the rest of her life as an artist.

Planet Rachel

Before she went to college, Cross' family made one more move from coast to coast, this time from Los Angeles to Columbia, Md. While living there she was first introduced to Greenbelt, where she played guitar at the New Deal Café. Columbia was a planned community much like Greenbelt, which may be why she resonated with it, she says.

Now, Cross has a studio on the third floor of the Community Center among seven other artists granted residence by the city. She calls her own business and website Planet Rachel.

Since beginning her residence in 2016, Cross has taught all kinds of classes in the visual arts as well as music. She began offering guitar classes, but switched to teaching ukulele a couple years before the pandemic. "It really took off," she says, because the ukulele is a much more accessible instrument for people than guitar and had a greater appeal to residents look-

ing for something to do. Her students have high praise for her. "She's the best," says Jan Morrow. "We started out as beginners. We had two chord songs, and now we're playing songs that were difficult at first but ... we've advanced."

Another student, Laura Bonkosky, says, "She's really good at breaking things down for [students of] different levels." "She's also really funny," Bonkosky added, "funny and warm."

Apart from classes and lessons, Cross also hosts an annual recital called the Ukulele Picnic, where her students and anyone else can come to the Community Center to sing and play music (see the May 1 issue).

She's appreciative of the residency program and praised it as a model of community arts engagement. "I wish that all cities would have similar programs," Cross says, including Takoma Park, where she now lives.

Community programs or not, she says, "I think artists find artsy places and they find the artsy people. They find their tribe."

After Cross reaches Santiago de Compostela, her current camino's final destination, she'll return to her work in Greenbelt in June. She encourages people to come to artists' open studios at Greenbelt and sign up for art, music or dance classes.

"The arts are uniquely human," Cross says, "and without them, I don't know what we are."

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



Artwork by Rachel Cross

Greenbelt Travels



Carol Slatin enjoys the News Review while sailing on the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.



Mark Gordon from GHI travels to Bairro Alto in Lisbon, Portugal, along with his News Review.



The Parker-Feng family took a cruise during this spring break that included Colón, Panama, as a port of call. At the Aqua Clara Visitor Center they observed a Supermax ship passing through the Panama Canal via the lock system. Here Amy Feng and her son Nathaniel Parker-Feng stand in front of the sign of the visitor center.

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Sports

ERHS Softball Team Beats Gators, Advances to State Semifinal

by Patrick Gleason

With only one inning complete, the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders led 5-0 in their state quarterfinal matchup on Saturday, May 17 against the Perry Hall Gators. The fast Raider start, initiated by lead-off hitter Desiree Fuller's quick rounding of the bases, ascertained momentum that Roosevelt never fully relinquished in a rematch of last season's state semifinals, when the Raiders completed an adrenaline-filled comeback victory. Fuller and senior classmates Bree Mullikin, Samiah Smith and Nikki Lilja pieced together hits with aggressive base running – aided by Gator miscues – to sprint to their early lead against a team featuring the state's hits leader. Roosevelt tacked on another run in the bottom of the second on a windy afternoon filled with sunshine and energy from the Raider bench; the commanding lead and team spirit helped Roosevelt weather a Perry Hall comeback in the final three innings.

As the game progressed, the Gators began hitting Roosevelt starting pitcher Natalia Jarquin's throws and found several gaps in the Raider outfield. Perry Hall's leading hitter came to bat as the tying run with two outs in the top of the seventh – and final – inning. After a deep drive that went just foul down the right field line, the Gators laced a triple that scored two runs, one shy of a tie ballgame. Perry Hall had a chance to send the tying run to score for what would have been a close play but elected to hold the runner at third. Jarquin recovered and won the final at-bat, inducing a groundout to junior second basemen Addison Green, who calmly fielded the ball and threw to Lilja at first to seal a 12-11 Raider victory in a still undefeated season.

As the state's overall number one seed, the Raiders need a victory in the state semifinals against the Winston Churchill Bulldogs to earn a place in the state fi-



PHOTO BY ERIC KONGCHOU

Senior Desiree Fuller and the Roosevelt Raiders are hoping for their second straight state final appearance after a 12-11 victory on May 17.

nal against either the Northwest Jaguars or Leonardtown Raiders on Saturday, May 24 at the University of Maryland. An all-Raider final would be a rematch of last season's championship game where Leonardtown bested Roosevelt. The championship game is scheduled for 3:30 p.m., following the 1A final at 1 p.m. The 2A and 3A finals will follow the 4A game for a full championship Saturday. Roosevelt continues to fight for its first state title since 1985 as they build on last year's state final appearance.

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Jonathan Jones To Fly to Museum

Washington Commanders player Jonathan Jones will arrive at the College Park Aviation Museum on Tuesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. for a special fly-in and meet-and-greet with local youth and teens. As a licensed private pilot, Jones wants to share his passion for aviation and inspire the next generation to dream big. The museum is operated by the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.



Weekly Programs Held at The SPACE

Artrepreneurship, meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5 to 7 p.m. Four-week program.

Sundays, Sewing Classes, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

Wednesdays, Beginners Music Classes in Ukulele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fridays (1st and 3rd of the month), Free Art for All Game Night, 5 to 7 p.m. Play for fun and gear up for monthly tournaments.

Saturdays, Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m. Space Family Band Jam Session, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Joe is back. Bring an instrument or borrow one from The SPACE and jump into the jam.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For details call 240-244-6115.

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PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

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AAPL Heritage Month

Chinese Dance Performance Wows

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Sunday, May 4, the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program presented Chinese Dance Images, 90 minutes of stunning Chinese dance, featuring performances by RoseQi Dance Arts and Gina Ling Chinese Dance Chamber. The program was in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPL) Heritage Month and opened with the presentation of a proclamation by Mayor Emmett Jordan to dance directors Rose Xinran Qi and Gina Ling.

The dances were as varied as they were beautiful, some involving fans and traditional music, some with contemporary music and costumes, some sensual and elegant and others fun and unexpected. One featured young dancers as school children with backpacks. Each told a story.

The costumes were striking, incorporated into the movement and spectacle. The skill of the dancers, whose sequences were at times as gymnastic as artistic, was impressive. The audience was treated to 25 dances in total, awed by the talented performances, including some by very young dancers.

Among the audience in the Community Center gym, some of the youngest viewers sat cross-legged on mats, in front of the seating, at the edge of the dance floor, captivated. I attended with several children, the youngest of whom was 3 years old. After over an hour of performances, he was ready to leave. But each time new dancers came onto the stage he turned and said, “maybe just after this one,” until, in the end there were no more and the lights came on.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Dancers from RoseQi Dance Arts and Gina Ling Chinese Dance Chamber perform traditional and contemporary Chinese dance.



Greenbelt Travels



PHOTO BY BARRETT BEDFORD-DILLOW

A member of Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, reads the Greenbelt News Review atop the lunar rover that a team, including Greenbelter Barrett Bedford-Dillow, is working on at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, on April 22.



PHOTO BY JAN MORALES

Jan Morales holds up his News Review in the Place de la Bourse, the main square of Bordeaux, France.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

Lore Rosenthal and Michael Hartman visited their nephew and family in the Kirkwood neighborhood of Atlanta, Georgia.



PHOTO BY EFFIE LEVNER

Effie Levner visited Morocco -- seen here at the Hamam, a public bath dated to 789, in the city of Fes.