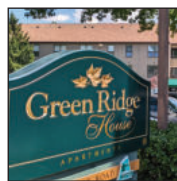




Bike to Work
Day, p.7



Green Ridge
House budget, p.6



Greenbelt Honors Fallen Heroes on Memorial Day

by Butch Hicks

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 officers joined Greenbelt City Council and county and state government representatives on May 26 at the city's War Memorial for a solemn Memorial Day ceremony honoring those who died during the nation's wars.

An audience of about 100 attended, including veterans wearing emblems of prior military service.

Ingrid Watson, District 4 Prince George's County Councilmember, presented a proclamation recognizing fallen service members who "served with courage, distinction and bravery to preserve and protect the value of America's democracy" and proclaiming Monday, May 26, 2025, a countywide day of observance



Mayor Emmett Jordan, center, presents a Memorial Day Proclamation to Sons of the American Legion Commander Lenny Wertz, left. Also pictured are, from left, City Councilmember Jenni Pompi (back), American Legion Post 136 Auxiliary Treasurer Sandi Dutton and American Legion Post 136 Commander Greg Gigliotti.

in recognition of Memorial Day and mourning in solidarity with the families and loved ones of those who sacrificed their lives to protect the United States of America and its people.

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan was joined by Councilmembers Silke Pope, Jenni Pompi,

Rodney Roberts and Kristen Weaver, along with Maryland District 22 Delegates Nicole Williams and Anne Healey. Jordan expressed gratitude to American Legion Post 136 members for their exceptional leadership and service to Greenbelt and surrounding communities. Jordan asked Post 136's commander, leaders of the Sons of the American Legion and Unit 136 Auxiliary to accept a proclamation from Greenbelt.

"We gather here today at the Greenbelt War Memorial to honor and remember those who served in our nation's military and their

See **MEMORIAL DAY**, page 12

FY 2026 Budget

Council Considers \$120,000 In Recognition Group Grants

by Carol Griffith

Two Greenbelt City Council worksessions with city Recognition Groups took place on Wednesday, May 14 and Monday, May 19. Representatives of a total of 18 (nine per session) groups attended in order to discuss their group's request for in-kind or financial support for fiscal year 2026 (FY 2026) with council, City Manager Josué Salmerón and City Treasurer

Bertha Gaymon. City Recreation Director Greg Varda, at the May 14 session, and Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald, at the May 19 session, also participated as the Recreation Department is responsible for administration of the community groups' requests for support, which involves an evaluation committee and grant review panel. Requests for funding this year exceeded \$150,000.

Recognition Groups are, according to city policy, organizations that "enhance the range of cultural, athletic, recreational, civic, service and social opportunities available to Greenbelt residents." They must be not-for-profit and may not be a religious or political organization.

During the worksessions, the groups were frequently praised by council for their significant contributions to the life of the city. While this budget year is "difficult," as Mayor Emmett Jordan noted, both he and the Recreation Department representatives stressed that the work done by the many volunteers of the recognition groups has saved

See **RECOGNITION**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, June 2

7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting: FY 2026 Budget Adoption, Municipal Building
Wednesday, June 4
No meeting

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

Recognition Group	Proposed Award
Total	\$120,400
Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC)	\$34,600
The SPACE	\$24,000
Refugee Aid (GRACE)	\$12,500
Boys and Girls Club	\$9,900
Youth Baseball	\$8,400
Swim Team	\$8,000
MakerSpace (Tool Library)	\$4,200
Soccer Alliance	\$4,000
Community Orchestra	\$3,700
Business Alliance	\$3,300
Babe Ruth	\$2,800

Proposed grant awards for Recognition Groups presented to council by the Recreation Department for FY 2026

FY 2026 Budget

Council Reviews Public Safety Expenditures Ahead of Budget

by Oliver Gaycken

On April 30 City Council held a budget worksession to discuss public safety expenditures, which constitute approximately two thirds of the city's annual budget. Under discussion were budget requests from the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad and the Greenbelt Police Department. Attending the worksession were Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad President Greg Gigliotti and Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Lisa Ray. The Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) was represented by its five-member command staff, led by Chief Richard Bowers.

Fire Department

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) continues to adapt to the significant changes brought about by the reassign-



Greenbelt Police Department

ment of career firefighters and EMTs last summer. Subsequently the city and GVFD brought a lawsuit against the Prince George's County Fire Department; the lawsuit is pending, and no court date has been set. No county personnel are currently assigned to Greenbelt's Engine Company 35 but the station does

See **PUBLIC SAFETY**, page 9

Two Greenbelt Women Learn Art Of Building an Earthen Oven

by Melissa Ann Ehrenreich

Greenbelters Jeannie Bellina and Melissa Ann Ehrenreich traveled on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11 to Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown to learn from former Greenbelt Joe Murray how to make an earthen, smokeless pizza oven using natural materials.

Inspired by stories of how Toronto public parks have created almost 20 pizza ovens for community use surrounded by gardens of tomatoes and basil, the duo registered for a Pearlstone Adamah service project to learn Cob Construction 101.

Murray shared materials, design specifications and wisdom on how to assess clay composition in dirt gathered locally, how to achieve the best mixture to create a thermal layer that could support temperatures of up to



Jeannie Bellina, Joe Murray and Melissa Ehrenreich pose for a picture with the team's handiwork.

750 degrees Fahrenheit to meet kosher standards, and tips for success (a covered oven is key to preventing the oven from eroding when it rains).

The small team of five volunteers onsite created the final 6-inch layer on top of a sturdy

See **OVEN**, page 6

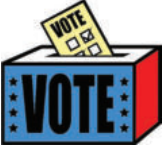
Special Election for County Executive

The 2025 Prince George’s Special Election for County Executive is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3. Ballots were mailed in late April to every eligible Prince George’s County voter and included a postage-prepaid return envelope. You can return your ballot by mail or drop it off at a ballot drop box.

Aisha Braveboy, current State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County, is the Democratic nominee and Jonathan White, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is the Republican nominee.

For those wishing to vote in person, Early Voting is May 28 to June 2.

On June 3, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Our nearest voting center for both early voting and election day voting is College Park City Hall, 7401 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 201, College Park. For more, see page 6 of the May 1 issue.



Tree Planting



On Saturday, May 24, members of the Greenbelt Community Garden Club helped Public Works plant native shrubs around the perimeter of the Henry’s Hollow and Hamilton Place garden fields. Pictured above, from left, are Mac Wirick, Melissa Mackey, Eric Raun and Therese Maxwell.

- Photos by Ellen Bastio



Volunteers Eric Raun (holding the seedling tray) and Melissa Mackey help to plant native shrubs. At right, a Public Works employee uses a drilling tool to create the space for the seedlings to be planted.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Jane Austen Wrecked My Life


Agathe (Camille Rutherford), hopelessly clumsy yet charming and full of contradictions, finds herself in desperate singlehood. Her dream is to experience love akin to a Jane Austen novel and her ultimate aspiration is to become a writer. Instead, she spends her days selling books in the legendary British Bookshop, Shakespeare & Co, in Paris. Invited to the Jane Austen Writers’ Residency in England, she must confront her insecurities to finally fulfill her ambition of becoming a novelist and put an end to wasting her sentimental life. Said critic Tara McNamara of Common Sense Media, “The film is fun for a girls’ night, but it’s also sneakily insightful in its portrayal of a woman who discovers that love doesn’t always come when you’re hungry for it – sometimes, it arrives when your plate is overflowing.”

Friendship

Suburban dad Craig (Tim Robinson) falls hard for his charismatic new neighbor (Paul Rudd), as Craig’s attempts to make an adult male friend threaten to ruin both of their lives. “It suggests not just a subversion but a putrefaction of the Ruddy-comedy genre – a portrait of male loneliness so totalizing, and so scarily close to the bone, that laughs and screams all but bleed together,” said critic Justin Chang of The New Yorker.


The Children’s Hour

Longtime friends Martha (Shirley MacLaine) and Karen (Audrey Hepburn) run a boarding school for girls. When an unruly child, Mary (Karen Balkin), is punished for lying, she concocts a story that Karen and Martha are having a lesbian relationship. When the story spreads, parents withdraw their children from the school. The women’s lawsuit for libel hits many snags when they lack witnesses to speak for them. All the stress adversely affects Karen’s engagement to Joe Cardin (James Garner).



All the news that fits, we print. But not without your help. Write with us!

www.greenbeltnewsreview.com



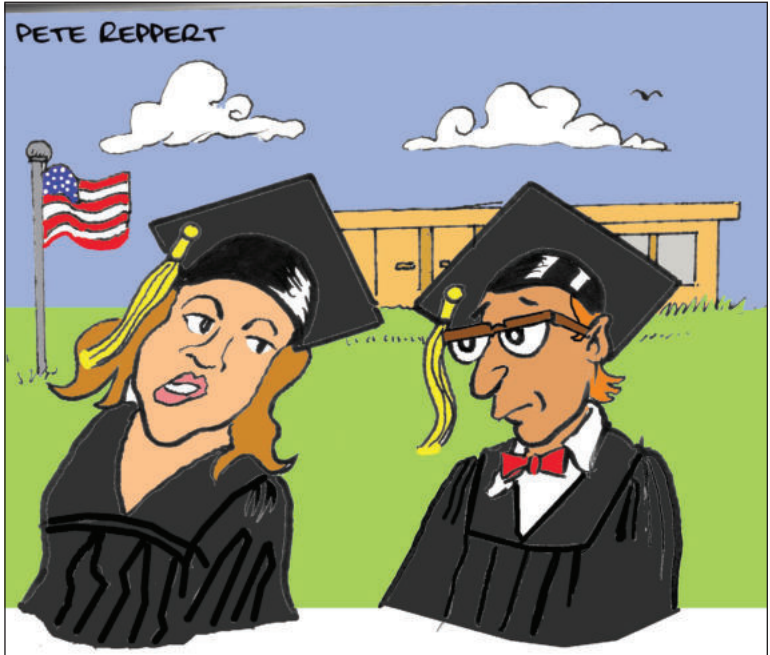
Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
MAY 30th - JUNE 5th

Jane Austen Wrecked My Life
(R) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (94 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 8:15 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC)
Mon. 6:45 PM
Tue. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 4:15 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

Friendship
(R) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (100 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sat. 5:30 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 4:00 PM (OC)
Wed. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM
Mon. 7:00 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

The Children’s Hour
(NR) (1961) (105 mins)
Cinema Classic - Free!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM



PETE REPERT

MY INTUITION TELLS ME THE LIFE OF THE MIND WILL BE A LONELY LIFE INDEED.



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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Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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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.

Chan Meditation



PHOTO BY JULIE ANDRIST

Greenbelters meditate at the Youth Center on March 22.

Greenbelters relaxed and learned principles of Chan meditation at a free event held at the Youth Center on March 22. The two-hour session was led by Kasey Andrist, a senior practitioner of Chan Buddhism. To learn about future sessions, email the Washington, D.C. chapter of Dharma Drum Mountain at chan@ddmbadc.org.

Bahá'í Focus On Communities

On Saturday, May 31, the Greenbelt Bahá'í community will host a countywide conference at the Community Center on building vibrant and welcoming communities. The public is invited to attend, share ideas and explore with other attendees ways to strengthen and transform 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/m1dyLtuLB13yYy4i7.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present. You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. 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.

Benefit Concert For the Hass Family

A benefit concert for Ole Hass and his family will take place on Sunday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Greenbelt Baptist Church. Ole has been battling cancer for several years. Performers will include the Hass family, Chris Cherry and Stefan Brodd, Jon and Anne Gardner, Padi Boyd and Jim Heagy, Caitlyn and Brian McGillen, Elliott Chamberlin, Melissa Sites, John and Ezekiel Kelley, and Sarah Garcia. All donations will go to a GoFundMe campaign (gofund.me/4a0403b7).



Congratulations to Sam Stewart-Ricketts and Kellen Murray on achieving Eagle Scout rank, the highest award in Scouting. They were honored at a celebration on May 23.

Congratulations also to the members of the 2025 graduating class of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

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





Nonprofit?

Get your message here for \$32.70

www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

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

– 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

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.

Find More Peace Through Meditation

Katrina Boverman, a longtime meditation instructor with the SAGE program, and the Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood are offering summer Guided Meditation classes via Zoom only.

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.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

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



St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

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

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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.



The Bible Says...

"A new commandment I (Jesus) give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

John 13:34



MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

June 1, 2025 at 3 p.m.
Reclaiming Our Joy

Rev. Ali K.C. Bell with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty



Before there were parades, there was a riot—and before the riot, there was joy. LGBTQ+ people gathering, dancing, loving—boldly, beautifully, and without apology. This Pride Sunday, we remember that joy is not just resistance; it is redemptive. In the face of rising hate, we reclaim our joy as holy, healing, and defiant. Join us for story, song, and a glitter blessing as we honor the legacy and future of queer liberation.

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

City Notes

The City Manager reviewed billing for the now-operational solar generation project at Claggett Farm and met with Mayor Emmett Jordan and the Prince George’s Fire Department Association president.

Planning and Community Development managed bus shelter construction and electricians restored power to the Aquatic & Fitness Center basement.

Animal Control responded to 78 calls, Public Works provided 127 Greenbelt Connection rides and Environmental held a Pollinator Circle meeting.

Human Resources helped staff members process their tuition reimbursements.

The Community Center supervisor and Public Affairs collaborated on videos and pictures promoting rental spaces. Arts presented a Choreography Club performance and, with Greenbelt Access Television, offered a film workshop for Scouts.

Park Rangers and Police resolved a situation in Schrom Hills, where an unpermitted group was excluding others from the Pavilion.

CARES received three county grants: \$5,000 for CARES, \$2,500 for scholarships and \$4,000 for emergency assistance. The Green Ridge House vaccine clinic served 22 residents. CARES Annual Job Fair connected 160 job seekers and 20 local employers.

At the Library

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

Storytimes

Friday, May 30, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13262296](#).

Wednesday, June 4, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13509207](#).

Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Presented by the PGCPs Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13509384](#).

Thursday, June 5, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13509254](#).

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](#).

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (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.

Curbside Service

Customers may continue to place holds on physical materials (books, DVDs, Blu-Rays) via the PGCMLS catalog ([catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris](#)) or by calling the Library at 301-345-5800. Items may be picked up inside branches or a contactless curbside service appointment may be scheduled same day or up to a week ahead, via the PGCMLS website or contacting the Library. The Library offers sidewalk service 7 days a week until 4:30 p.m.



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
Monday, June 2 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
- **Pride Month Proclamation**
* **Minutes**
- **Statement of Record - Closed Session, May 7, 2025**
- **Statement of Record - Closed Session, May 27, 2025**
Administrative Reports
* **Committee Reports**

LEGISLATION

- FY2026 Budget Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- Presentation of Fleet and Equipment Electrification Plan
- Policy Exemptions for Greenbelt Cinema Operations
- Contract Award RFP 2025-03-R: Community Flood Resiliency Plan
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board
* Departure 22-006-DPLS, Maryland Trace Center - 3

*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 JUNE 2-6

Tuesday, June 3 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Update Regarding PSAC Recommendations for Dept. General Orders, Planning for Fall Presentation to Increase Community Awareness of Frauds/Scams, National Night Out Discussion*

Wednesday, June 4, **NO MEETING**

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.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Greenbelt Day Weekend. Friday-Sunday, June 6-8. Happy birthday, Greenbelt! Celebrate the occasion with special activities and by enjoying the many amenities that Greenbelt has to offer: Parks, pools, cinemas, historical programs, local eateries and much more. Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation for additional information as the weekend approaches.

Not For Seniors Only: Greenbelt Mental Health Services Event. Saturday, June 7, 1-2:30 pm. Greenbelt CARES will provide a presentation on mental health services in Greenbelt and how to pay for them. For more information, call Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056 or email pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar for more info on these events and more!

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 animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov!



ARTS HAPPENINGS

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

Artful Afternoons - FREE. S 6/1*, 1-3 pm, Greenbelt Community Center; 6/8, 1:30-2:30 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center. All ages welcome. Tie-dye colorful designs with provided bandanas or bring your own cotton item from home. Sign-up at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Walk-ups also welcome as space permits. *This date only: Enjoy performances by students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School Dance Department while you create your art.

Motiva Public Art Dedication.EVENT POSTPONED. New date TBA.

Greenbelt CARES Benefit Art Sale. S, 6/8, 11 am - 3 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, Room 112. Prior to the sale, preview over 50 paintings and drawings by Greenbelt artist Bill Moats T 6/3 - S 6/7, 9 am -9 pm. Proceeds will benefit the Greenbelt CARES emergency fund, supporting community rent and utility assistance.

MORE ARTS IN JUNE

- **Youth Art Share (Meet-Up).** Th 6/5. Greenbelt Community Center.
- **Summer Kick-Off Celebration:** 6/12, 3:30-6:30 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

DFA Northern Prince George's County Presents
FREE WEBINARS
Thursdays at 7 pm

Diagnosis Dementia: Now What?. June 12. Join Melissa, for a discussion about the ups and downs that come with a diagnosis. It can be a real eye-opener—or even a relief! Let's begin planning for the future while we navigate life alongside someone with dementia together.

Resilience & Coping Strategies for Caregivers. June 26.Join Miriam Galindo for a discussion on strategies for maintaining emotional and physical wellbeing while caring for a loved one with Dementia. Gain insights into practical tools, self-care techniques, and support resources that can help you navigate the challenges of Dementia caregiving.

GUIDE Model - Intro to Dementia Services. July 12 Join Miriam Ronde-Ponce, for a discussion on exploring the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model, designed to enhance care and support for individuals with dementia and their unpaid caregivers.

Strategies for Improving Communication with Alzheimer's Diseases. July 26. Join Dhurti Patel for a discussion on strategies to improve communication with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This session will explore techniques to enhance understanding, reduce frustration, and support meaningful connection through person-centered communication.

For more information or to register, contact Brendy Maddox at (202) 670-6497 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEMORY CAFÉ
Wednesday, June 4 at 1:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

June's In-Person Memory Café: A song in My Heart Join us for a creative and uplifting workshop where music meets visual arts with the incredible Paula Cleggett.

The Memory Café is a welcoming, stigma-free space for those living with early-stage Alzheimer's, mild cognitive impairment, or other forms of dementia, along with their caregivers. It's a place to connect and make lasting memories together

Register with Natalie Garcia at ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov / (240) 244-6010.

SENIOR COMPUTER LAB GRAND OPENING
Monday, June 2, 11 am - 12 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Celebrate the launch of the brand-new Senior Computer Lab with us! Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP or questions? Contact bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or call (202) 670-6497

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.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

FY 2026 Budget

Council Meets for Green Ridge House Budget Worksession

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On May 7 the Greenbelt City Council met at Green Ridge House for a budget worksession. The city opened Green Ridge House, a city-owned apartment building for seniors, in 1979. Opening the meeting, Mayor Emmett Jordan said 75 percent of the building’s revenue comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which subsidizes rents, and the remaining 25 percent comes from residents’ payments. “No city funds are expended on Green Ridge House,” explained Jordan. The May meeting was the first time council has held a session at the property since before the pandemic.

Highlights of accomplishments at Green Ridge House over the last year, shared at the meeting, include renovating the management office; seal coating and stripping the parking lot; installing new security cameras; ongoing work to have wi-fi as an amenity for residents; making four accessible units more accessible for those in wheelchairs and rollators, with plans to renovate more units as they become vacant; installing a new Key-track machine, which monitors all keys; purchasing new folding tables for events; and replacing windows as needed.

Revenue

Revenue for Green Ridge House comes in the form of rent split between portions paid by residents and portions subsidized by payments from HUD. The percentage split on average is 2:1, with HUD funds being the larger part, but that varies based on residents’ income. While there haven’t been interruptions in HUD payments to date, there has been a delay in reimbursement for the salary of the HUD service coordinator, who has been in place for the last five years.

The 101 units at Green Ridge House are in demand. The waiting list for an apartment is currently approximately 60 would-be tenants long. The list usually opens up once a year, when it gets down to about 30 names. On average 15 units a year turn over, said Green Ridge House Manager Kimberly Potts.

Expenses

Councilmember Danielle McKinney asked if management is projecting increases in gas and electric costs, as other Greenbelt residents are seeing. Steve Seh, regional property manager with the management company Community Realty, says they’ve projected a 4 percent increase.

Jordan noted an increase in the management fee, which Seh says is calculated as a percentage of revenue (4.5 percent), so the increase is due to an increase in revenue. Other expenses include insurance,

which continues to increase, and legal fees for such things as landlord tenant issues.

There have been no big changes in service contractors, though they have changed the pest control company for one which is doing a better job, reported Potts. They’ve also changed elevator service to Alcon after the previous company began subbing out the work. The elevators, about four years old, are in good condition.

Investments and Reserves

The budget includes \$38,500 in proposed revenue expected from the investment of reserve funds. Replacement reserves are funded at \$300,000 annually, with approximately \$1.7 million currently in the reserves, said Seh. Those can be used for capital expenses. Expenses projected for FY 2026 include replacing an HVAC riser at a cost of about \$200,000, though this will be a multiyear project, with work performed between the heating and cooling seasons. There’s also \$82,000 for painting the exterior of the building, said Seh.

Overall Budget

The net revenue for the 2026 proposed budget is \$35,900. City Manager Josué Salmerón noted that this is down considerably from \$189,830 in FY 2024. However, he said he is not concerned given that the healthy replacement reserves can cover the HVAC work and some other repairs.

Residents’ Association

The residents’ association was reported to be very active, hosting events, including trips, ceramics classes and a crab feast, among many others.

The service coordinator position, which is funded through the grant from HUD, was also cited as a boon to residents. The service coordinator links residents to resources and programs and acts like an off-shoot of the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program for residents at Green Ridge House, Christal Batey, GAIL resource advocate, explained. They manage all kinds of things like energy assistance programs, helping with renters’ tax credit, linking them with physical health and mental health services and assisting residents with specific concerns related to family or personal situations. “She’s their mini caseworker on site,” said Batey. They are still waiting to hear if that program will be funded on

the federal level.

Resident Questions

Bob Rand, resident of the city but not Green Ridge House, said the demographics of Green Ridge House “significantly tilt toward white residents,” and he asked how the city could better market Green Ridge House to Black, Hispanic and Asian residents to effect “a more equitable distribution of city services for seniors” and a population better reflecting the city’s demographics. Rand cited a recent demographics report from city staff that identifies the population of Green Ridge House as 65 percent white, 28 percent Black, 4 percent Asian, 2 percent Hispanic and 1 percent of two or more races. Batey said there has been a large increase in residents of color at Green Ridge House following a shift of the aging population in Greenbelt. Batey would estimate that when she first arrived residents were 95 percent white. “It has grown tremendously so for us to be over 40 percent or 38 percent minority, that’s huge. The 62 and older population has historically been a white population here in the City of Greenbelt,” she notes. Residents of color have historically been more transient, relocating with jobs and so forth, she said.

Rand also asked about contingency plans in the face of possible Section 8 funding cuts. Salmerón responded that in the short term Green Ridge House has reserves. In the long term, possibilities include taking every possibility to get incremental increases through the HUD program and dedicating a portion of that toward social activities and social programming, said Salmerón. Considering HUD funding of rent, he says there is an active

See GREEN RIDGE, page 8



Green Ridge House

PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

OVEN continued from page 1

sand dome, fire brick and cob brick base that was previously constructed. After this final thermal layer fully dries for two weeks, Murray will cut an oven opening out of the clay structure, remove the sand inner core and then light a fire to cure the inside of the oven.

Participants were delighted with the hands-on approach and

accessibility of construction, to say nothing of the low costs made possible by sourcing materials straight from the earth. They immediately began to think of ways to engage and bring this concept back to Greenbelt. Could our community build a community oven here to host pizza parties for all? Maybe so.



PHOTO BY JEANNIE BELLINA

Melissa Ehrenreich receives a natural pedicure by mixing dirt, sand, hay and water with her feet.



BENEFIT CONCERT



for Ole Hass* & family

Sunday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Baptist Church



Concert featuring the Hass family and friends, including Chris Cherry & Stefan Brodd, Jon & Anne Gardner, Padi Boyd & Jim Heagy, Melissa Sites. All donations go to the family.



* Ole has been battling cancer for several years.
Donations: <https://gofund.me/4a0403b7>



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Art Pays It Forward, Benefit Art Sale for Greenbelt CARES

by Cynthia Swan



PHOTO COURTESY WILLIAM MOATS

Abstract with Blue, one of the pieces of art available for purchase at the Art Pays It Forward benefit

A unique charity art sale will be held at the Community Center art gallery on Sunday, June 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Greenbelt artist William Moats is donating over 50 paintings, prints and drawings from his lifetime of fine art production. Each piece will be available for a minimal donation that will directly support emergency rent and utility assistance through the Greenbelt CARES emergency fund. The benefit is an initiative of the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA), sponsor of the Emergency Assistance Fund.

The art will be on exhibit for preview at the Community Center art gallery Tuesday, June 3 through Saturday, June 7. The gallery will be open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day during the preview period.

The entire collection will be available for purchase during the Art Pays It Forward event. Visitors can make their selection, donate to Greenbelt CARES Emergency Assistance Fund and then take their new art with them as they leave.

Many members of the Greenbelt community struggle to meet their rent or utility bills. Like the Empty Bowls fundraiser, Art Pays It Forward invites all to join friends and neighbors in this creative way of paying it forward by providing a home for an affordable and original artwork while supporting those in need, symbolizing a community of caring.



PHOTO COURTESY WILLIAM MOATS

Artist William Moats

“Artists want their work to be displayed and become a part of someone’s daily life,” says Moats. “As I’ve thought about all the art I’ve made over the years, I recognize the challenges artists face in trying to sell their work. At the same time, art lovers face a dilemma when wanting to acquire original art, but can’t realistically afford purchasing a new piece.

“I now find myself at a place in my life that I want to let go of these works to make room both physically and internally. I hope through this project I can share my work with our community while contributing to this worthwhile cause.”

For more information about the event, contact Nicole DeWald, arts supervisor, Greenbelt Recreation, at 240-542-2057 or ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov. Or email the artist at billmoats1@gmail.com.

Upcoming Art Shares

Participate in a relaxed show-and-tell event with other local art makers. All experience levels are welcome. Bring one to three pieces of artwork to present and discuss in a supportive environment.

An art share specifically for youth (ages 15 and under) will be held Thursday, June 5 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., with light refreshments provided. Sign up at sugeni.us/VEQd.

These events are sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program and will take place in Room 113 at the Community Center. For more information about the arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.



Bike to Work Day: May 15



A large group turned out in Roosevelt Center for Bike to Work Day on May 15.



Steve Bernheisel shows off his practical folding bike.



City Manager Josué Salmerón poses with Steve Skolnik on his recumbent bike.

May 15 was Bike to Work Day. The Greenbelt pit stop was well attended, with nearly 100 registrants and a great community turnout.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing City staff, dedicated residents, passionate bike enthusiasts, and our fantastic vendors and partners.

- Photos courtesy City of Greenbelt

A Greenbelt family with their bikes: from left, Natalie Bailey, Noah Eubanks and Dave Eubanks



Participants in Bike to Work Day enjoy some free breakfast before setting off.



GAC Holds Artist Reception

by Penny Eileen Martin

On Friday, April 25, Ann Dunne held a reception at the Greenbelt Arts Center to exhibit her interpretative and individual approach to portraiture and give readings from her newly published book, *Conversations with Unexpected Guests*. Light refreshments were provided and the approximately 35 art lovers who visited the Arts Center were warmly appreciative of the chance to get to know the artist and her work.



PHOTO BY LINDA THOMPSON

Ann Dunne reads from her book on April 25.

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.

The agenda and candidate bios will be posted on the Café website, newdealcafe.com.

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

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RECOGNITION continued from page 1

the city “hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Basic Recognition Group Certification allows a group limited free use of Recreation Department facilities. Certification must be renewed annually. Once certified, eligible Recognition Groups may apply for a specific project grant or for an operating grant. Up to \$5,000 in city matching funds may be granted for a discrete, time-limited project, or higher amounts of city matching funds may be applied to programming or operational expenses. There are additional requirements for each type of grant. All grant applications are reviewed by a Grant Review Panel that provides the city manager and council their findings and recommendations concerning eligibility or funding level.

The purposes of the worksessions were to provide council with the findings of the panel and to allow for council discussion of the groups’ requests and plans for the year. In the discussions, council questioned many groups about their efforts to reach and recruit in all parts of the city.

Renewing Certification

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) request was presented by Carolyn Lambright-Davis, the group’s convener. She explained the group’s request for in-kind services as it plans to continue its work on the Great Food Transition Project through demonstrations of meals that promote health and climate justice. After a short discussion of the group’s plans for the year, Jordan called CHEARS “resourceful.”

Greenbelt Concert Band requested in-kind services such as storage and performance spaces. Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee requested access to meeting rooms and use of sound equipment for its programs; Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee requested the use of city facilities and Public Works support for the annual festival; and the Greenbelt Farmers Market requested city support for the set-up of the market and use of city electricity. All groups were deemed eligible for certification by the Recreation Department.

Project Grants

The Greenbelt Business Alliance, represented by Mona Reza, noted the success of the awards dinner and gala in FY 2025 and requested a grant to hold another. Council discussed with Reza the group’s plans for nurturing business opportunities in Greenbelt. Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe) proposed to increase educational opportunities in Greenbelt, particularly at Springhill Lake Elementary School. Frank Gervasi and other representatives explained how the project grant will allow the group to partner with the county school system and a tutoring company to provide literacy services at Springhill Lake Elementary. Julie Winters, speaking for the Friends of the New Deal Café Arts, requested funding for the group’s support for free music festivals to be held in Roosevelt Center. All groups were deemed eligible for a project grant by the Recreation Department.

Operating Grants

Five groups involved with youth sports requested operating grants: Babe Ruth Baseball; Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team;

Greenbelt Soccer Alliance, Inc.; Greenbelt Youth Baseball Little League; and Boys and Girls Club. Council was particularly interested in how the swim team was coping with the inconvenience caused by the closure of the indoor pool, and whether the soccer organization had received enough donations to replace the equipment that had been stolen in October 2024 (see the November 7, 2024, News Review).

Greenbelt Community Orchestra, The SPACE Free Art for All, Greenbelt Makerspace Co-operative and the Greenbelt Arts Center also presented their plans for the use of funds they might receive in an operating grant.

The operating fund request by Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE), represented in the worksession by Frank Gervasi, president, and Joyce Campbell, secretary, received several questions from council concerning their plans for FY 2026. Noting the current inability to bring refugees to the U.S., GRACE plans to provide direct aid to people in conflict areas. Councilmembers stated their desire that funds remain in Greenbelt, and Varda reported that their request for an operating grant had already been reduced.

The city manager’s memorandum states that the proposed FY 2026 budget for Recognition Group grants is \$120,400 and that grant requests total \$153,375. It notes that “as always, decisions rest with the city council.”

FY 2026 Budget

2026 Budget Proposes \$46,900 For Advisory Boards, Committees

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

In addition to grants awarded to Recognition Groups annually (see article on page 1), the city also allocates funds to advisory boards and committees. Several of these groups also made requests for funding, though they did not have dedicated council worksessions, as the Recognition Groups did.

The largest request among advisory boards and committees this year came from the Reparations Commission, which requested \$29,000 and has an allocation of \$23,000 in the proposed budget. The city’s proposed budget also allocates to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) a grant of \$18,000. Green ACES and the Green Team each have a \$1,000 proposed allocation, the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) has \$1,900 and the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) has \$2,000.

Advisory Board / Committee	Proposed Award
Total	\$46,900
Reparations Commission	\$23,000
Advisory Committee on Education (ACE)	\$18,000
Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB)	\$2,000
Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)	\$1,900
Green Team	\$1,000
Green ACES	\$1,000

Grants to advisory boards and committees in the proposed FY 2026 budget

All figures in the proposed budget are only recommendations until council makes their decisions during a final budget review

worksession on Wednesday, May 28, and can be amended until the budget adoption, which is scheduled for Monday, June 2.

GREEN RIDGE continued from page 6

rent comparability study that is in place through January 2028. A new study in 2027 will help negotiate the rent with HUD and Salmerón expects a significant change in rents in our area will be incorporated. Jordan expressed

his dissatisfaction that the rent is based on a study done in 2023, during Covid, and will last until 2028.

Jordan raised the question of smoking, which he described as a “big issue.” Potts responded that there is no smoking on the property. There is a smoking pad on land owned by the city at the back of the property; otherwise, residents must go across the street. Jordan also asked about availability of parking spaces and Batey said there are usually half a dozen available.

It was additionally noted that Meals on Wheels comes to the property five times a week and there’s a city produce distribution there, too.

Bill Orleans, a resident of the city but not Green Ridge House, noted five employees have what he called a “fairly substantial salaries and benefits packet,” and

questioned why the city employs a contractor for over \$80,000 rather than hiring people directly as city employees and managing the property itself.

“The management company can actually do it more efficiently than the city can,” responded Jordan.



Shaya, 6, compares a real luna moth found in her backyard to that of her matching game piece.

- Photos by Marc Neveu



Luna moth observed in a Greenbelt Center backyard. According to Wikipedia, luna moths are not rare, but are rarely seen due to their very brief (7 to 10 day) adult lives in late May or early June and nocturnal flying time.



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COMPASS

GRAPHIC BY JIM THOMPSON

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 19 - 25, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary
Greenbelt Police reported one mental health diversion; one domestic incident; two sexual assaults, one leading to arrest; and one overdose involving Child Protective Services. On May 21, a missing juvenile who has a history of this activity, went to school and did not return.

Armed Persons
On May 22 at 12:15 p.m. near 9336 Edmonston Road, a man was arrested for vandalism and disorderly conduct.

On May 23 at 5:05 a.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Ivy Lane, a man was reported walking around with a weapon. Officers found him, and he consented to a search, but no weapons were found.

Fight
On May 23 at 10:21 a.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, a school resource officer investigated an assault between students that happened on school premises. School officials took over the investigation.

DUI Arrest
On May 19 at 2:02 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Lakecrest Drive, a patrol officer observed a vehicle stopped in the roadway. The driver was asleep with his foot on the brake; he had been drinking and was arrested for DUI.

Hit and Run
On May 25 at 9:04 p.m. near 9153 Springhill Lane, a suspect was identified and charges are pending.

Fraud
On May 19 near 7913 Greenbury Drive, a man was scammed out of several thousand dollars by sending various wire transfers. On May 25 near 29 Woodland Way, someone reported a rental scam.

Theft and Shoplifting
On May 19 at 12:58 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a boy stole several food items. He was caught and all items were returned. He was banned from the property and released to his guardian.

On May 20 at 12:50 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was arrested after passing all points of sale with items; she was issued a criminal citation and banned.

On May 20 at 12:58 p.m. near 7483 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole items and fled.

On May 21 at 10:02 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a Hyper

black and gray mountain bike was stolen; at 4:28 p.m. near 7455 Greenbelt Road, two boys stole items and fled.

On May 23 at 4:07 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a group of girls stole items and fled; at 6:02 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man who had previously stolen items, stole merchandise and fled.

On May 24 at 2:00 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was caught as he left the store; all items were returned, and he was charged with a criminal citation and banned from the mall.

On May 25 at 4:12 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone stole merchandise and fled.

Vehicle Crimes
Stolen Vehicle
On May 20 near 5913 Cherrywood Terrace, a white 2017 Kia Optima (D.C. G14450) was stolen.

Theft from Auto
On May 19, windows were broken and airbags stolen from four Honda Civics: from two 2023 Civics near 7812 Hanover Parkway, and near 6204 Springhill Drive; from a 2025 Civic that also had all four wheels stolen near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, and near 205 Lakeside Drive; also, near 201 Lakeside Drive, all four wheels were stolen from a 2025 Toyota Camry.

Tags were stolen May 19 near 7247 South Ora Court from a 2011 Ford F-150 (rear), and May 24 near 8003 Mandan Road from an Audi Q7 (temporary).

On May 21 near 9008 Breezewood Terrace, a work truck was broken into and items were stolen.

Vandalism to Auto
On May 20 near 7525 Greenway Center Drive, an Acura had the door lock damaged.

PUBLIC SAFETY continued from page 1

have 20 volunteer members. An Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance, an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) duty officer on 24-hour duty and a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance surge unit are stationed at the Greenbelt fire house. A BLS ambulance surge unit has the capability to respond to an increase in emergency calls.

The GVFD has approximately \$750,000 in an account that the city holds. Much of that total is being saved for the impending retirement of Engine 352, a 2014 Pierce fire truck that is slated to be replaced in 2029 at an estimated cost of over \$1 million. In addition, GVFD is currently requesting \$80,000 for the replacement of the chief's vehicle, a 2008 Ford. GVFD has a balance of \$313,301 in its EMS billing account, which is used to maintain and fuel apparatus and to pay for insurance and additional equipment. This fund fluctuates and relies on reimbursements from the county. Ray reported that the GVFD has made progress on streamlining the reimbursement process. During the question-and-answer period, Ray stated that having an additional half-time position with a focus on marketing and recruitment would be especially helpful.

Police Department
The GPD requested \$12,702,100, an 11.63 percent increase from FY 2025. Most of the increase is due to higher pay and benefits as stipulated in the most recent collective bargaining agreement, which aligned the department's pay rates with comparable agencies. Bowers noted that keeping the department fully staffed was a recurring issue that has become more challenging over time, with other municipalities and federal agencies able to offer higher pay and a greater range of secondary assignments. Bowers did note that the GPD's relatively small size had the ben-

efit of providing a more close-knit work environment.

The department currently has four vacancies, and every year there are a handful of departures and new arrivals, a situation that Bowers likened to the transfer portal in college sports. Although the depletion of American Rescue Plan Act funding meant the elimination of a half position in the crisis-intervention team (CIT), Deputy Chief Tim White singled out the CIT work as "phenomenal," praising the work of Rachel Tobin, LCSW, and Officer Michael Thomas. The CIT provides services not only to residents but also to members of the department, who are often in need of support because of the stressful nature of their jobs.

GPD's request included two replacement vehicles after no vehicle replacements in 2025. 36 percent of the departmental fleet has over 100,000 miles, although the benchmark for replacement is not mileage but eight years

in service. Greenbelt resident Michael Hartman asked both the GVFD and GPD whether new vehicles could be hybrid or electric and was told that these options were being investigated. In answer to another question by Hartman about training officers to handle encounters with disabled individuals, Bowers mentioned the recent acquisition of a virtual reality training set that allows officers to experience a situation from the perspective of a person with a disability, allowing for a greater degree of empathy and understanding. As a final note, Bowers reported that the renovations to the animal shelter had been completed and that it would be resuming operations in early May.



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Sports

Eleanor Roosevelt H.S. Spring Sports Season Ends in Disappointing Results

by Patrick Gleason

“These violent delights have violent ends.” Cautionary words from Friar Laurence in Shakespeare’s eternal love story Romeo and Juliet feel fitting to the flurry of success and finality of defeat during the culmination of the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) spring sports season. The fullness of spring’s sweet scents and green profusions are the only appropriate backdrop for the high drama of adolescent competition at the highest level.

After enjoying league, county and region championships, the girls and boys lacrosse teams fell in the state quarterfinals on May 14. The girls traded goals with the Perry Hall Gators before succumbing to defeat, while the North County Knights overwhelmed an – until then – undefeated Raider squad in the boys’ bracket.

Tennis

Tennis partners Leon Bailey and Spencer Smith won a state quarterfinal match in boys doubles before falling in the state semifinal, while Anna Grim and Zaina Hall advanced to the quarterfinals in girls doubles.

Softball

The ERHS softball team still held hope for a repeat appearance in the state championship as they faced off with the Winston Churchill High School Bulldogs on May 20 in a game that materialized Friar Laurence’s haunting warning – with a tempestuous series of events determining the

season. Pitcher Natalia Jarquin breezed through the Bulldog lineup in the top of the first. Then, shortstop Desiree Fuller made quick work rounding the bases in the first inning. Soon enough, the Raiders had sprinted to an early 3-0 lead. The energy of last season’s state semifinal victory permeated the cool evening air.

Eventually the Bulldogs chipped away with well-placed hits. Midway through the game, they held the lead that previously felt secure. By the bottom of the sixth the Raiders trailed by 2. Senior Nikki Lilja dropped a hit over the right side of the infield and utilized aggressive baserunning to pull the Raiders within one point. In the top of the seventh, Jarquin worked through a tense series of at-bats, to keep the Raider deficit manageable. Fuller returned to bat to lead off the bottom of the seventh and placed the ball past third base. The tying run on, and the heart of the order up, victory appeared imminent. Then, Bree Mullikin and Jarquin struck out, leaving the Raiders with almost definite defeat. With Fuller now on third base, the Bulldogs elected to walk cleanup hitter Samiah Smith. Lilja returned to the plate. Deep in the count, she swung; surely a game-ending groundout to second base. But the throw went awry, Fuller scored, and Smith reached third. Tie game. Possibilities of triumph returned. Felt unavoidable. The dugout reached a fever pitch.

Another long at bat with the winning run 60 feet away. A wild pitch and Smith sprinted home, reaching a leg towards the plate as the throw went high in a cloud of infield dirt. As the air cleared,

the umpire made his call: out. The Raider bench and crowd saw otherwise, but the call required extra innings where the palpable delight soured to a violent end.



Leon Bailey and partner Spencer Smith advanced to the state semi-finals in boys doubles a year after Raider Ivanna Canesa earned a spot in the tennis finals.


- Photos by Eric Konchou

Senior Natalia Jarquin guided a strong senior class for a Roosevelt softball squad that has accomplished deep runs in the state playoffs the last two seasons.



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What Do We Know About The Origins of Memorial Day?

by Lois Rosado

It is not widely known that historically, the first grand Memorial Day (Decoration Day) program was held in Charleston, S.C., organized by formerly enslaved and Free Black American members of that city. They were concerned that the 257 Black Union soldiers that had been buried in a mass grave near a former planter’s racetrack had not been given a proper burial. The soldiers had been captured during the Civil War and were held at the track’s Club House, where many died from disease. Formerly enslaved and Free Black Americans felt that the men deserved a proper homegoing ceremony and decent burial

as they had fought to end slavery, particularly in the South. The grave site was dug up and each body was appropriately prepared and re-interred in neat rows; a white fence was erected around the burial site with an archway with signage that stated: Martyrs of the Race Course. A May 1, 1865, march and ceremony was organized by free and formerly enslaved Black Americans and over 10,000 mostly Black residents marched in honor of the fallen soldiers who had valiantly fought to unite the country and free the enslaved. The soldiers were reinterred in 1880 at the National Cemetery in Beaufort, S.C. This Memorial

Day celebration and march to honor Union veterans of the Civil War is considered one of the earliest and most memorable. An extensive article was written in Time magazine by Olivia B. Waxman on May 22, 2020, that includes detailed information on Memorial Day in America. A small group of Greenbelt residents gathered on Memorial Day at the Greenbelt Cemetery on Ivy Lane to lay flowers to honor formerly enslaved individuals buried in the Slave section there. On Memorial Day, everyone must remember our fallen veterans and those who are forgotten.



Memorial wreaths from the City of Greenbelt, American Legion Post 136, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the Greenbelt Police Department



Jordan (8) and Taylor (4) Hodges distribute poppy flowers to Memorial Day program onlookers.



Approximately 100 people attended the Memorial Day services in Greenbelt.



A salute to our veterans

MEMORIAL DAY continued from page 1

ultimate sacrifice,” Jordan said. “We lay wreaths in their memory and acknowledge their threefold service: to community, to country and to family. ... So, on this Memorial Day 2025, may we unite to realize the enduring peace that our fallen heroes envisioned when they made that ultimate sacrifice.” Post 136 Commander Greg Gigliotti’s presentation described individuals’ final acts of courage and bravery and illustrated why Memorial Day reminds us of the cost of freedom.

Said Gigliotti, “Society likes to use the word Hero. There are sports heroes, action heroes and political heroes. But is there any group more deserving of the title than the more than one million men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of this nation?” Gigliotti highlighted a gridiron hero named Jack Lummus, an All-American football star and terrific center fielder for Baylor University. “On February 19, 1945, Jack Lummus was among the first to land at Iwo Jima. A leader of a rifle platoon, First Lieutenant Lummus slowly but relentlessly advanced with his men against entrenched enemy forces. He disregarded wounds inflicted upon him by grenade shrapnel and other small arms fire. He neutralized enemy soldiers positioned in three pillboxes before eventually stepping on a landmine,”



- Photos courtesy City of Greenbelt

recounted Gigliotti. “Jack attempted to stand even though his legs and lower torso were badly mangled. Rushed to surgeons who attempted to save his life, Lieutenant Lummus said, ‘Well, Doc, the New York Giants lost a mighty good end today.’ He died on March 8, 1945, and America lost a mighty good hero. For his actions at Iwo Jima 80 years ago, Jack Lummus was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

“Lieutenant Jack Lummus was one of the most famous heroes of one of history’s most famous battles. But there are so many others that we can also remember. ... People who died while fulfilling their military missions,” said Gigliotti.

He spoke of Navy Lieutenant Commander Lyndsay Evans and Lieutenant Serena Wileman, aviators who both earned multiple combat medals for their actions in the Middle East and conducted multiple 2023 and 2024 combat missions against Houthi terrorists. “On October 15, 2024, the two trailblazing pilots lost their lives when their EA-18G Growler jet crashed during a training exercise near Washington’s Mount Rainier. Even within the safety of the United States, the military is an inherently dangerous profession comprised of professionals willing to sacrifice for us,” said Gigliotti.

Sacrifice for others. This was the final act of yet another hero, Army medic Calvin Bouknight. ‘He died so others could live,’ said a eulogizer at a ceremony last year at Arlington National Cemetery.

Specialist Bouknight was killed in 1965, shielding four of his fellow soldiers in Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Approval for the award was slow, said Gigliotti, as is common, to which many familiar with military medal processes attest. As a result, his original gravestone did not acknowledge his Silver Star. It was through the determination of other veterans that the injustice was finally corrected and his gravestone updated in 2024.

“Fifty years ago, the Vietnam War ended,” said Gigliotti. “Much like our withdrawal from Afghanistan, history will be kinder to those who fought the war than it will be to the policymakers who managed it. For it is the veterans – not the politicians – who give us our freedom.

“The heroes that we honor today are not exclusive to any gender, race or religion. They come from all economic classes and backgrounds. They hail from all 50 states, and some have migrated from other countries. They are a diverse group wedded to the belief that America is a nation worth dying for.

“The heroes that I mentioned had earned prestigious awards and military decorations. But just like the soldiers known only to God, countless veterans have not been recognized for their bravery due to a lack of surviving witnesses who could document their final acts.

“They are no less heroic. We are gathered so that we can remember their sacrifices and celebrate the fact that throughout our history, this great country produces such men and women of honor. We must not forget them.”