



ERHS Soccer Seniors, p.11



Scholarship Winner, p.12

Reality TV Show Destination X Features ERHS Alum Tai Lowry

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY JEROME THOMAS

Greenbelter Tai Lowry took part in a wild ride across Europe for the NBC reality show Destination X. The watch party took place at the Greenbelt Cinema.

Greenbelter Tai Lowry took part in a wild ride across Europe for the NBC reality show Destination X, hosted by Jeffrey Dean Morgan. Ten contestants were selected to live, eat and sleep on a bus with blacked out windows and move around to destinations unknown. Their challenge was to figure out where they were by solving clues. One by one they would be eliminated if their guesses were too far away from where they really were.

The atmosphere was electric at Greenbelt Cinema as the attendees of the private premiere party watched the first episode of the show. The show itself was tense and well-paced, and the clues were tricky and clever. It was exciting to see the realization bloom across Lowry's face when she figured out exactly where they were. Then, on screen, Morgan intoned, "The player that

See DESTINATION, page 8

Greenbelt Animal Shelter Reopens With Upgrades and More Staff

by Will Hammann

After months of closure, the freshly renovated Greenbelt Animal Shelter reopened Monday, June 2 and welcomed residents to an open house to see the changes, apply to volunteer and meet the staff who kept the program running through a difficult stretch.

That especially difficult stretch started with the resignation of two out of three animal services officers in July 2024, leaving Officer Carolina Aviles to juggle the various duties of Greenbelt's animal services program by herself.

Part of why the shelter shut down was that one officer couldn't possibly do all of that alone, said Patricia Fillman, who became supervisor of animal services that August. She said Aviles "went above and beyond" by caring for the remaining animals,



PHOTO BY WILL HAMMANN

Inside the Animal Shelter there are new floors.

getting them adopted, picking up rescues and more.

"She's done an amazing job, so we're hoping to take some of that load off of her now," Fillman said. The two of them were joined at the end of 2024 by Officer Bella Scribner, a former park ranger, returning the staff to its original complement of three

See SHELTER, page 8

Greenbelt Labelled Sanctuary City by Homeland Security

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Thursday, May 29, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published on its web site a list of sanctuary cities, counties and states it said were defying the government and endangering America. Among them was Greenbelt. The city responded with a press release, in which it stated that it "complies with all applicable federal and state laws and fully cooperates with the courts on matters related to federal immigration policy and does not obstruct the lawful enforcement of federal immigration laws." DHS removed its published list of sanctuary jurisdictions sometime on Monday, June 2.

DEI Statements

In February, the City of Greenbelt issued a public statement that shared the community pledge and reaffirmed the city's commitment to being a "welcoming community that celebrates all our residents and treats everyone with dignity, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or immigration status." It also stated that the Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) "is not

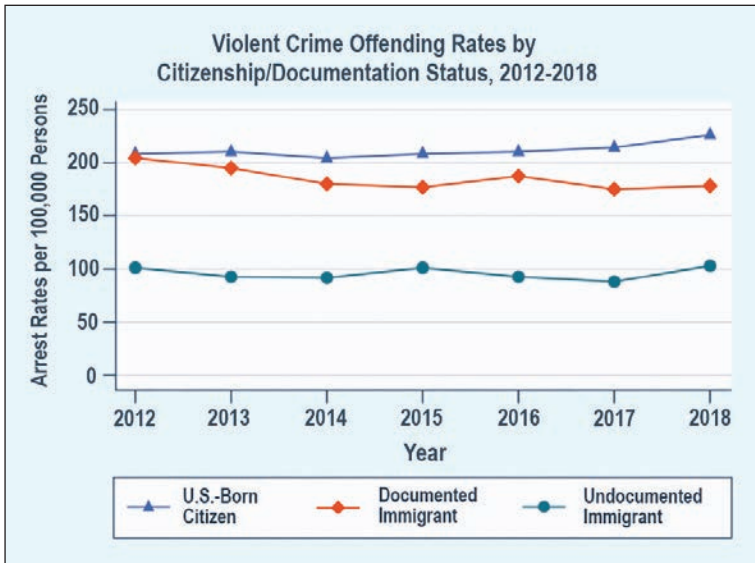


CHART BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE/TEXAS CCH DATA

An NIJ-funded study examining data from the Texas Department of Public Safety estimated the rate at which undocumented immigrants are arrested for committing crimes. The study found that undocumented immigrants are arrested at less than half the rate of native-born U.S. citizens for violent and drug crimes and a quarter the rate of native-born citizens for property crimes. This chart shows offending rates for violent felony crimes in Texas. Documented immigrants include naturalized citizens.

responsible for enforcing immigration laws and does not assist with federal immigration enforcement activities. They will never ask for your immigration status." Local police departments are not

required to check immigration status during law enforcement, as immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility.

See SANCTUARY, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, June 9

7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Advisory Board/Committee Chair (Stakeholder), Municipal Building

Wednesday, June 11

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Legislation Retreat, Municipal Building

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

City Council Affirms DEI Commitment, Funds Indian Creek Master Plan, Bike Racks

by Maurice Crawford

During the May 27 Greenbelt City Council meeting council affirmed its commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), approved funds for the creation of a master plan for Indian Creek Park and for the installation of a bike rack near the Co-op Supermarket, and received a briefing on the county's transit plan.

Commitment to DEI

Councilmember Jenni Pompei introduced a resolution for second reading and approval that affirms council's commitment to DEI. Council voted in favor of the resolution with Councilmembers Rodney Roberts and Silke Pope opposing and Mayor Emmett

See COUNCIL, page 9



PHOTO BY CITY OF GREENBELT

2025 Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) student award winners are, from left, Elvis Ventura, Hannah Baker, Tre Leon-Lierman, John Makinde (back), Amarius Sekajipo (front), Feraol Kebebe, Pauliya Brooks, Alana Johnson, Abraham Kabbia, Jedd Isafengo, Reign Agendia and Helen Sickie. See story on p. 6.

Letters to the Editor

Name the Employees

In reading about the beginnings of Greenbelt (and I apologize for not having the source to quote for you), it has been noted that there was a scattering of Black people in service and physical labor positions in the community, but that these individuals were often overlooked and ignored by the white residents. There is very little record of their presence or contributions to the community. Understanding that absence is key to building resiliency and equity into today’s community.

The photo feature Tree Planting in the May 29 issue of the News Review perpetuates Greenbelt’s tendency to celebrate volunteers while overlooking service and labor workers by failing to identify the Public Works employee by name. Make it a point to include names for everyone who works on community projects. If your policy were to only print photos that name everyone, the News Review would be a leader in building resiliency and equity in this community – in words and in actions.

Leah Cohen

Editor’s note:

On the issue of naming people in photos we publish, the paper works hard at getting names, but is not always successful.

Help Keep Greenbelt Green

I’m writing to you to ask for something in the News Review. You see, recently, I have been working on my Eagle Scout project here in Greenbelt. I was working on it in Schrom Hills Park, at the Three Sisters Garden there, renovating and restoring it. This past weekend, I finished that work, but corresponding with my troop on the topic brought something to my attention: There are so many different places in Greenbelt that need the help of volunteers, in gardens and parks and with organizations. And there are very few ways for people to learn about them. To learn why they’re important, why they’re needed, to learn how and where people can help.

I hope that perhaps you could take this into consideration for future issues. A lot of what makes Greenbelt Greenbelt is its ... well, its green places: its parks, its gardens, its trails, they are a major part of Greenbelt, even if not everyone sees them, and not all the time.

We need to take care of the green places, and there are so many opportunities to do so, to help with organizations like CHEARS who have gardens and

See LETTERS, page 11

Braveboy Elected County Executive

Prince George’s County voters selected Aisha Braveboy as the next county executive via a special election on Tuesday, June 3. The county executive position was vacated by Angela Alsobrooks after she was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Democrat Braveboy, current State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County, ran against Republican Jonathan White, a U.S. Air Force veteran. By Wednesday morning, Braveboy had over 89 percent of the vote to White’s less than 10 percent.



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:
JUNE 6th - 12th

The Phoenician Scheme
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS)
(2025) (105 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tue. 7:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 7:45 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM
Wed. 3:30 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

Jane Austen Wrecked My Life (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (94 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM (OC)
Wed. 3:00 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM

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

Cosmic Dawn
(NR) (2025) (98 mins)
Free Event in Partnership
with NASA’s Goddard Space
Flight Center
Doors open at 6 PM
Post-screening Q&A
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 7:00 PM



- News Review, August 18, 2016

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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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.

Correction

In the article 2026 Budget Proposes \$46,900 for Advisory Boards, Committees, the text and chart reflect the proposed budget shared by the city, in which Green ACES and the Green Team each have a \$1,000 allocation. However, John Lippert, chair of the Green Team and Green ACES, submitted only one \$1,000 request for Green ACES alone.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Phoenician Scheme

From director Wes Anderson (Asteroid City, the Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar, The Royal Tenenbaums), the film tells the story of a family and a family business. Critic Travis Hopson of Punch Drunk Critics calls the movie, “the most enjoyable and daring movie Anderson has ever done.”

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.

Cosmic Dawn

The film tells the incredible true story of the James Webb Space Telescope – humanity’s largest and most powerful space telescope – on a mission to unveil the early universe, against all odds. The 90-minute documentary brings viewers on an unprecedented journey through Webb’s delicate assembly, rigorous testing and triumphant launch, showcasing the sheer complexity and breathtaking risks involved in creating a telescope capable of peering billions of years into the past. Follow the telescope from an idea developed at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center all the way to the launchpad in French Guiana, with never-before-seen footage captured by the Webb film crew offering intimate access to the challenges and triumphs along the way.




This Week at the New Deal Café



Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

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Greenbelt, MD

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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 6/05	FRI 6/06	SAT 6/07	SUN 6/08
<p>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p>Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm</p> <p>Big, bodacious boogie jam hosted by Wolf Crescenze</p>	<p>Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes 8-11pm</p> <p>Chicago, west coast, swing and jump blues</p>	<p>CELEBRATE PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY!</p> <p>Mauvin Graye & the Graye Line Band, 2 - 5pm</p> <hr/> <p>Friends of Pluto 8 - 11pm</p> <p>One of DC's hottest cover bands</p>	<p>ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a-12p</p> <p>BACK ROOM CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT, 1-4pm</p> <hr/> <p>Eleanor's New Deal Cabaret 6 - 8pm</p> <p>An amazing ensemble cast!</p>

MON 6/09	TUES 6/10	WED 6/11	TH 6/12	New Deal Cafe
<p>MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT 4 - 9pm</p> <p>LIVE BAND KARAOKE 6-9pm</p> <p>W/ Mike Scott</p>	<p>NDC Open Mic w/ Anthony Case 7 - 9:30pm</p> <p>Sign-ups at 6:15pm</p> <p>Bring it to the NDC stage!</p>	<p>BOOK CLUB, 11a-12n</p> <p>Fall Risk 7 - 9pm</p> <p>A musical trip from rock covers to The Goatman</p>	<p>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p>The Bachelor & the Bad Actress 7 - 9pm</p> <p>FUNDRAISER FOR THE SPACE "FREE ART FOR ALL"</p>	<p>IT'S THE CAFE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY!</p> <p>Visit our donations page to help fund our October celebration festival!</p>

**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.

Fire Department Yard Sale



A steady stream of bargain-hunters filled the main reception hall and community room at the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, May 10, for one of the fire department's annual yard sales. All manner of tchotchkes, keepsakes, household goods, clothes, jewelry, decorative items, CDs, DVDs, collectibles and who knows what else filled 17 tables of found treasures at the event. There was a healthy turnout early, as the parking lot was full within the first hour.

PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

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.

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy, nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 13 de junio a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrá libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

St. Hugh's Rummage Sale



St. Hugh's 2024 rummage sale

St. Hugh's Annual Rummage Sale will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. There will be great bargains on toys, books, linens, furniture, jewelry and more. Lunch and homemade baked goods will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

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 began 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.

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.

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.

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at 10:00 AM**

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

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

**We are an
Open and Affirming
Church**

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.

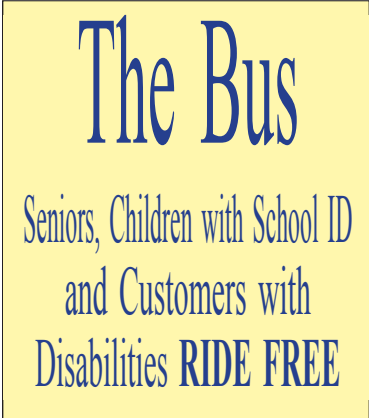
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

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

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, located at the corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads. 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).



The Bus
Seniors, Children with School ID
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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)

"Prayer and acts of service may seem like a feeble and slow response when weapons of destruction are fired; they are, however, the means by which, ultimately, those weapons will be silenced forever."
— Universal House of Justice



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

**And my God will supply all your needs
according to His riches in glory
in Christ Jesus.**
Philippians 4:19



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
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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 8, 2025 at 3 p.m.
To Forgive Is Divine

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Carol Boston

In the spirit of our June theme (Redemption), we'll explore forgiveness of others (and of ourselves) as a spiritual practice – and a very necessary element of self-care.

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

City staff supported Greenbelt’s Memorial Day and Pride flag-raising ceremonies. Police trained city employees on responding to active attacker situations.

Legislative and council engagements included a teleconference with Governor Wes Moore’s staff and other municipalities regarding sanctuary city designations by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Economic Development helped four firms with county permitting.

Public Works installed 20 traffic bollards, provided 136 Greenbelt Connection rides and, with Police and Pepco, installed cameras at four locations. Animal Control responded to 33 calls.

Environmental/Sustainability received a \$250,000 Maryland grant for a new EV refuse truck. Horticulture/Parks planted appropriate trees for shade remediation, assisted with Memorial Day set-up/breakdown and delivered mulch to community gardens.

Arts offered workshops on fused glass and embroidery, and Artful Afternoon entertainment featured the Eleanor Roosevelt High School dance department. Therapeutic Recreation supported inclusion for Parent’s Night Out.

Park Rangers installed furniture in their new headquarters at Schrom Hills Park.

Planning and Greenbelt Assistance in Living representatives networked with other communities at respective national association conferences.

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.

All PGCMLS branches will open at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, with passport acceptance service starting at 2 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, June 6, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13509313](#).

Wednesday, June 11, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/13509208](#).

Introduction to Medicare

Tuesday, June 10, 6 p.m., ages 18+. The Library hosts a program for those who are new to Medicare, find Medicare confusing or want help navigating their options for Medicare coverage. This program offers education and guidance about Medicare for individuals turning 65 and current beneficiaries. Topics include Medicare coverage options, prescription drug plans, supplemental coverage, Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare savings programs, Plan Finder Guide and Medicare fraud/scams. Presented by the Department of Family Services State Health Insurance Assistance Program. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12928934](#).

Passports

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 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 Information & Events

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

MEETINGS FOR JUNE 9-13

Monday, June 9 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - ADVISORY BOARD/ COMMITTEE CHAIR (STAKEHOLDER)**

Wednesday, June 11 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - LEGISLATION RETREAT**

Wednesday, June 11 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday June 12 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Community Questionnaire Update Discussion**

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.

DFA Northern Prince George’s County Presents FREE WEBINARS Thursdays at 7 pm, Zoom

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.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

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

FREE Artful Afternoon. Sunday, 6/8, Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 1:30-2:30pm. All ages welcome! Tie dye colorful designs with provided bandanas, or bring your own white cotton item from home. Greenbelt Honk! Situation performs 1:30 - 2pm. Sign up at greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Walk-ups also welcome as space permits.

Art Pays It Forward. Sunday, 6/8, Greenbelt Community Center, 11am-3pm. A unique charity art sale featuring works by Greenbelt artist William Moats. Proceeds benefit the Greenbelt CARES emergency fund. More information at greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

MORE ARTS IN JUNE

- Art Share meet-ups:** ages 15 and under, 6/5, 4:30pm; ages 16 and up, 6/13, 2pm. Greenbelt Community Center.
- Benefit Concert for Ole Hass** 6/8, 7:30pm, Greenbelt Baptist Church
- Summer Kick-Off Celebration** 6/12, 3:30-6:30pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center

JOIN THE CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

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

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

Submit an application at the following link: <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/boards-committees/application-for-appointment-to-boards-and-committees>.

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

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

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>.

Let's Celebrate! GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, 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 or call (301) 345-2208.



FRIDAY, JUNE 6

3 PM Greenbelt Pride Flag Raising Ceremony
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

10 AM - 1 PM Chesapeake Bay Celebration Volunteer Event
Register with kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov. Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road.

1:2:30 PM Not For Seniors Only: Mental Health Services in Greenbelt
Greenbelt Community Center, Room 201, 15 Crescent Road

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

11 AM - 3 PM Art Sale Benefiting Greenbelt CARES
Greenbelt Community Center Art Gallery (Room 112), 15 Crescent Road

12 PM Naturalization Ceremony
Greenbelt Community Center Auditorium, 15 Crescent Road

1-3 PM Greenbelt Museum Tours
Greenbelt Museum, 10B Crescent Road

1:30-2:30 PM Artful Afternoon
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

3 PM Greenbelt Concert Band Performance
Greenbelt Community Center Auditorium, 15 Crescent Road

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 email us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov!

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET for the

**GENERAL FUND
BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND
CEMETERY FUND
DEBT SERVICE FUND
REPLACEMENT FUND
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND
GREEN RIDGE HOUSE FUND
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND
GREENBELT WEST INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

At its regular meeting of June 2, 2025, the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, adopted the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2026, thereby approving expenditures as follows:

General Fund:	\$40,149,100
Building Capital Reserve Fund:	\$1,707,500
Cemetery Fund:	\$0
Debt Service Fund:	\$1,053,400
Replacement Fund:	\$1,231,500
Special Projects Fund:	\$799,100
Green Ridge House:	\$1,800,700
Capital Projects Fund:	\$3,454,800
Community Development Block Grant Fund:	\$230,000
Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund:	\$3,245,000

Copies of the adopted budget document will be available for examination no later than September 2025 at the City Offices at 25 Crescent Road and on the Greenbelt Website (www.greenbeltmd.gov).

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.

SANCTUARY continued from page 1

At the recent May 27 meeting, city council also approved a resolution that affirms the council’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

Neighboring College Park was also on the list of sanctuary cities. It does not have a police force but its city council signed a One College Park Proclamation on January 21, declaring its own commitment to DEI. That statement celebrated diversity and did not mention immigration enforcement.

Greenbelt’s City Council narrowly passed its motion to issue a letter reaffirming their commitment to diversity and the community pledge in February (see the February 26 issue) and a resolution affirming their commitment to DEI in May (see article on page 1). Councilmembers Amy Knesel, Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompei and Kristen Weaver have been the four in favor in both instances, with Mayor Emmett Jordan opposed to the February letter and abstaining from the May resolution and Councilmembers Silke Pope and Rodney Roberts opposed to both. In February Jordan cautioned against placing a “target on the City of Greenbelt” while Pompei, who introduced both motions, spoke of a time for moral fortitude.

White House Statement

Prior to the deletion of the sanctuary jurisdiction list, the White House shared a press release entitled “DHS Exposes Sanctuary Jurisdictions Defying Federal Immigration Law” and its tagline read, “Sanctuary jurisdictions undermine the rule of law and endanger the lives of Americans and Law Enforcement.” The press release further read, “DHS is committed to exposing these lawless jurisdictions to the public and making them accountable for not respecting the rule of law. ‘These sanctuary city politicians are endangering Americans and our law enforcement in order to protect violent criminal illegal aliens,’ said DHS Secretary Kristi Noem. ‘We are exposing these sanctuary politicians who harbor criminal illegal aliens and defy federal law. President Trump and I will always put the safety of the American people first. Sanctuary politicians are on notice: comply with federal law.’ Each jurisdiction listed will receive formal notification of its non-compliance and all potential violations of federal criminal statutes. DHS demands that these jurisdictions immediately review and revise their policies to align with federal immigration laws and renew their obligation to protect American citizens, not dangerous illegal aliens.”

Conflation of Immigrants and Crime

Key to the administration’s messaging is linking immigrants to crime and labelling them a threat to the United States and

City Response to Inclusion On DHS Sanctuary List

The City of Greenbelt’s response to recent inclusion in the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) sanctuary list was posted on May 30: The City of Greenbelt complies with all applicable federal and state laws and fully cooperates with the courts on matters related to federal immigration policy and does not obstruct the lawful enforcement of federal immigration laws. The safety of all who live, work or play in the city is our highest priority as we continue to serve and support this diverse community.



its citizens. The administration has used this approach to justify not only immigrants’ deportation but also their incarceration. For example, in the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia (see the April 10, 17 and 24 issues), who was deported to El Salvador through what the administration called an “administrative error,” he was not only removed from the U.S. but also placed in a maximum-security prison, despite being charged with no crime in either country.

Commenting on the City of Greenbelt’s public post of their response to the designation online, City Councilmember Silke Pope aligned herself with this view, expressing disagreement with (unspecified) policies and stated, “I certainly do not want [Greenbelt] to become a haven for criminals.” Pope later deleted her comment and did not respond to our email request for clarification of her stance.

Contrary to strong rhetoric from the current administration, studies show that immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, commit crime at significantly lower rates than natural-born citizens. Studies by the American Immigration Council, National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and FBI and Census Bureau data concur on this matter, and a study showing immigrants commit less crime than U.S. citizens was available on the Department of Justice website until it was deleted in early March. The deleted analysis showed undocumented immigrants were arrested for violent crimes and drug crimes at half the rate and for property crimes at a quarter of the rate of U.S.-born citizens (see chart).

Consequences

An Executive Order (EO) on April 28, entitled Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens outlines some proposed consequences for jurisdictions designated as sanctuaries. As legal basis, the EO cites prohibiting obstruction of justice (18 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.), unlawfully harboring or hiring illegal aliens (8 U.S.C. 1324), conspiracy against the United States (18 U.S.C. 371), and conspiracy to impede federal law enforcement (18 U.S.C. 372). It also states

assisting immigrants may amount to violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (18 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.) as well as violate laws prohibiting “discrimination against Americans in favor of illegal aliens and protecting Americans’ civil rights.”

Section three of the EO is titled Consequences for Sanctuary Jurisdiction Status. It states federal funds to sanctuary jurisdictions, including grants and contracts, will be identified for suspension or termination, “as appropriate.” It also states legal remedies will be pursued to end “violations” and “bring such jurisdictions into compliance with the laws of the United States.”

Meanwhile, the City of Greenbelt asserts it has neither violated nor obstructed any federal laws.

The author is a naturalized U.S. citizen.



Greenbelt Concert Band Celebrates Greenbelt

Enjoy a dynamic performance featuring a variety of musical styles that celebrate the spirit of Greenbelt in a concert for the community on Sunday, June 8 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym.

While the concert is free, donations to the Greenbelt Concert Band, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, are tax deductible and help the band to continue bringing quality music to the community.

For more information, visit greenbeltconcertband.org.



ACE Student Awards for 2025: 12 Greenbelt Students Recognized

by Greenbelt News Review Staff

On May 21, the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) held their 30th Student Awards Ceremony. Current members of ACE include Chair Janet Mirsky, Troi Dixon, Denna Lambert, Gulnura Rakhyshova and Robert Snyder. Jenni Pompei is the liaison on the Greenbelt City Council and Liz Park is the city staff liaison. ACE, formed in 1994, seeks to promote high quality schools for Greenbelt.

The Student Awards complement the Educator Awards, which ACE presented earlier to teachers and staff members from Greenbelt schools (see the March 27 News Review issue). The honored students each received certificates of recognition from the city, county and state. Elementary and middle school students received \$25 gift cards from ACE and graduating Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) winners received \$2,500 scholarships. Delegate Anne Healey also awarded her House of Delegates scholarship during the ceremony.

Magnolia Elementary

The first 2025 ACE student award winner from Magnolia Elementary School was Feraol Kebebe. Feraol, as one of the school’s safety patrols, assists with monitoring the halls during arrival and dismissal, as well as bus behavior. He takes his duties seriously and fulfills them with great pride. He also has a 4.0 grade point average. He was described as a student leader who exemplifies the school’s values and expectations.

ACE recognized Alana Johnson from Magnolia Elementary as well. Alana, a positive and hardworking student, also serves as a safety patrol, a role model to her peers and younger students. Alana can always be counted on to do the right thing – even when no one is watching, said her nominators. She was described as a studious and committed learner.

Greenbelt Elementary

Robert Snyder presented the Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) Awards. The first went to Jedd Isafengo. Jedd consistently demonstrates curiosity, dedication and a love for learning, said his recommenders. He excels in

all core subjects and has been recognized as an Honor Roll student. Jedd is a positive role model among his peers, showing leadership and teamwork on the basketball team and in his church group, where he supports younger kids. He was described as a well-rounded, driven young man with a bright future.

Also recognized from GES was Helen Sickie. Helen is a shining example of leadership and compassion, said nominators. At church, she coordinates activities for younger children, showing patience and a natural gift for guiding others. Helen is also a trusted pet sitter, known for her reliability and care. As a safety patrol at school, she ensures students have a calm presence, keeping them safe. On the stage, Helen expresses grace and discipline through her ballet. Balancing academics with a giving spirit, Helen was described as making a meaningful impact in every space.

Springhill Lake Elementary

Snyder then presented the Springhill Lake Elementary School (SHLES) awards. The first winner was Abraham Kabbia. Abraham was described as an energetic, confident student. In the school’s drama club he impressed an audience in his role of the cowardly lion during last year’s production of The Wiz and this year took on the role of Grandpa Joe in the spring musical Willy Wonka Kids. He serves as a role model for students who are new to the world of theatrics, said nominators. Abraham earned Honor Roll status throughout the school year. As a peer mediator, Abraham encourages students to use dialogue and engage in mutual respect as a way to resolve differences. He also participates on the Greenbelt football team, assisting in leading his team to many victories.

The second winner from SHLES was Reign Agendia, recognized for her outstanding commitment to community service and leadership. A true school citizen, Reign helps teachers and works collaboratively with students, said her nominators. She

See AWARDS, page 12

Kim Kash's Listings

Scan the QR code to check out everything that Kim Kash currently has on the market!



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This study takes place at U Md. College Park

Council Looks at Mostly Minor Possible Adjustments to Budget

by Erik Hanson

On May 28, the Greenbelt City Council held its final review of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget following 12 budget worksessions and ahead of a vote on the final budget on Monday, June 2. After changes determined at the meeting, total budgeted revenues stood at \$40,221,600 and expenses at \$40,145,800, leaving \$75,800. A planned downward adjustment of revenue by \$50,000 due to delayed implementation of new waste management fees will result in \$25,800 remaining.

City Manager Josué Salmerón noted that some 60 businesses had challenged their property tax assessment, potentially costing over \$1.8 million if all appeals are awarded. But the city has \$2 million set aside in cash reserves without affecting the budget to cover this potential change, if necessary. The process of challenging assessments typically takes 18 months so not all abatements would impact FY 2026.

PGCMA and Advocacy

Councilmembers Amy Knesel, Jenni Pompei and Silke Pope all recommended pausing the \$3,200 dues contribution to Prince George’s County Municipal Association (PGCMA) due to the organization’s lack of financial responsibility and transparency. The issue was set aside to be considered at a later time since voting does not take place at worksessions. Councilmember Danielle McKinney pointed to the line item for maglev, currently \$25,000, and asked if that will have to increase. Salmerón believed it would be sufficient since the city had used less than half that last year but anticipated an increase in general legal services from \$50,000 to \$80,000, primarily driven by how active council has been with this legislative work. Mayor Emmett Jordan suggested setting aside \$10,000 to \$20,000 for advocacy efforts and possibly partnering with sister municipalities to replace lobbying services lost from PGCMA, which Pompei noted is under the umbrella of the Maryland Municipal League. Chapter organizations like PGCMA will no longer be allowed to have their own lobbyists, so this is something that will be lost whether or not Greenbelt leaves the county chapter.

Refuse, Solid Waste

The Save as You Throw (SAYT) project was discussed and it was determined that it would not go into effect citywide until January 1, 2026. This would result in a 50 percent reduction (\$50,000) in revenue from collection fees that would have occurred should the plan have gone into place July 1. Councilmember Kristen Weaver said she would like to propose the city cover the cost of the food scrap program,

which she believes they can do without a deficit.

Advisory Groups

Council discussed miscellaneous grants and contributions. Jordan noted some advisory boards submitted specific requests and reports of what they spent money on last year and others did not. Council had an amount of \$45,900 budgeted for advisory boards and committees. General issues raised included: Did the organization make a specific request? Would a grant be used for a specific project that might not happen without the grant or is the grant going to an operating budget? Should council give to advisory boards? Should council prioritize organizations with a history of receiving funds over first-time requestors? Councilmember Rodney Roberts spoke against funding advisory boards and committees, saying they should provide advice only. (For more on advisory group funding see the May 29 issue.)

Additionally, council committed \$1,500 to GIVES, \$5,000 to Meals on Wheels and \$1,500 to Washington Ear.

Recognition Groups

Recreation Director Greg Varda, representing the grant review panel for Recognition Groups said that the panel had reviewed applications that added up to \$153,375 in grant requests and made recommendations to stay within the \$120,400 budget. Weaver suggested reducing the recommended amount allocated to the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee. She recommended allotting the same amount as last year, which was \$4,000, rather than the \$12,500 recommended by the review panel, since the increased request from that committee involved direct aid to people overseas rather than benefitting those in the city.

Public comment came from Frank Gervasi of the Refugee Aid Committee, who said the intention for money from the city is to help immigrants they come in contact with, beyond the two refugee families currently in the city, particularly following cuts to the Lutheran Social Services (for more see the May 14 issue).

Other proposed changes include an updated request from the Reparations Committee from \$23,000 to \$27,000. McKinney requested details on the increased cost for transcription services in their budget. Council concurred to vote on allocating \$25,000.

Pompei recommended fully funding The SPACE’s request due to the number of residents served and the enrichment activities offered in Greenbelt West. The review panel’s recommendation was to fund \$24,000 of the \$30,000 requested.

Of the grant total of \$271,800 in the draft budget, at the end of the worksession, council had proposed awarding \$217,600, leaving \$54,200 to go toward the fund balance.

Following discussions with Pepco, McKinney asked if there is a chance Greenbelt may need to pay for streetlights this year. Salmerón responded that if so it would be funded from cash reserves and that the city also awaits a refund from Pepco that can be used toward the purchase of lights. Jordan said the city needed to work with their delegates and senator over the disputed responsibility for lights with the State Highway Association.

Dog Park

Pope had requested an additional bid to see what it would cost to have water at the dog park. A second bid came in but was still too costly, around \$150,000. Resident Frank Gervasi suggested a solar-powered cistern would be less expensive.

The council passed the FY 2026 Budget on Monday, June 2, adopting the changes suggested at the final review. There was little discussion, save over fully funding the amount requested by The SPACE, which several council members spoke against doing, but which was ultimately funded at that higher amount of \$30,000 in a vote of 6 to 1 with Jordan opposed. The June 2 council meeting will be covered in a subsequent article.

Anna Bedford-Dillow contributed to this article.



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.

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. Free parking is available.

Trump Withdraws Isaacman’s Nomination to Lead NASA

by Ellie Jornlin

President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that he is withdrawing the nomination of billionaire tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman as the next NASA administrator. The decision came just days prior to a Senate vote on Isaacman’s nomination.

Trump posted on his social media platform Truth Social that he would be choosing a new nominee for the position. “After a thorough review of prior associations, I am hereby withdrawing the nomination of Jared Isaacman to head NASA. I will soon announce a new nominee who will be mission aligned, and put America First in Space,” he wrote.

Trump announced Isaacman as his pick in December before taking office. Isaacman has close ties with SpaceX Chief Elon Musk and has commanded and funded two SpaceX missions.

“It’s essential that the next leader of NASA is in complete

alignment with President Trump’s America First agenda and a replacement will be announced directly by President Trump soon,” White House Assistant Press Secretary Liz Huston said in a statement.

While no new nominees have been named, Trump is expected to choose someone who aligns more closely with his vision for space policy. The decision leaves the leadership and direction of NASA in question. Isaacman had described himself as “an advocate for science,” and the withdrawal of his nomination at a time when the administration seeks to slash NASA’s budget, particularly its Science Mission Directorate (see the April 17 issue), likely means “nothing good” for the agency, one source at their headquarters told the News Review.

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



Bob and Sara Hindsley on the Earnslaw on the Wakatipu River in Queenstown, New Zealand, on March 27.

PHOTO BY SARA HINDSLEY



The Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports the Greenbelt Museum. Join

FOGM to help share Greenbelt history and receive free admission to the historic house, invitations to lectures, and more.

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DESTINATION continued from page 1

SHELTER continued from page 1



Tai Lowry (left) reacts with the audience at the watch party.

dropped their X furthest away from the destination is ...” – cut to commercial, and everyone in the theater screamed.

Lowry was chosen from around 200 hopefuls to be on the show, after being cold cast. “I received a DM [direct message] from the producer, and I thought it was a hoax. But it was real!” At Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Lowry was voted Most Spirited. She attended Frostburg University and Stetson University College of Law in Florida, as well as a semester abroad in Tokyo through Temple University, before working as a prosecuting attorney in Prince George’s County. After a brief marriage, she realized, “I can reclaim my life. I don’t have anyone else to consult with. If I want to see the world, I can make that happen!” She moved to New York and became a flight attendant.

Her career experience as a prosecutor – being able to detect if people are being truthful and to see into their motivations – is not so different from her job as a flight attendant, where her situational awareness, resourcefulness and calm responses under pressure help her to ensure the safety of a plane full of passengers. Her ability to work with different teams as flight crews change was also very helpful on the show, as groups and allegiances challenged cast members to work together while still competing against one another. She prepared for the show by making notes at the library, watching movies that would teach her about Europe, studying pop culture, and playing

games at Board and Brew like Geo Guesser and other trivia, dexterity and brain games. She also prepared physically by doing weights and cardio. The show was challenging because the contestants would be led blindfolded through a lot of varied terrain, and on the bus they never saw the sun.

Lowry gave credit to her mother for always encouraging her to follow her dreams, beginning in childhood when she was her Scout leader and dance mom. Lowry plans to build on her experience on social media, including a podcast based on her father’s career as an NFL player for the Washington team and for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the 1970s. She also feels “the reality show is a great community to be a part of, and I’m hoping this leads to more television opportunities.” However, she is not leaving law entirely behind, but moving into real estate and property law.

The biggest thing that Lowry learned from her experience was even greater confidence in her own abilities: “By playing the game and by opening myself to this experience, it taught me how much I was holding myself back, by not putting myself out there, by being afraid of being judged. Now I have a reinvigorated sense of self-confidence. That little voice of self-criticism – that voice is gone now!”

officers.

Though the shelter is now open and operational, Aviles said that challenges still remain with only three people. “I think we could definitely benefit from one more person ... that would just be able to give us that breathing space.”

The Renovations

The installation of a new floor was the most critical of the renovations, according to Aviles, who said the previous one had peeling tiles and water damage caused by the regular cleaning of cages. The new floor’s surface is slightly inclined to help drain water and prevent future damage.

Other changes include a stackable washer and dryer, which Aviles said freed up space since the old system took up the entire wall of the laundry room.

The HVAC system was replaced because it broke down frequently, said Aviles. New walls make the shelter look cleaner and more open, and window screens were replaced with metal ones to prevent the cats from tearing them.

“We had a small budget, so I think they did the best [they could] with the money they had,” Aviles said.

But she also said that it would be nice if the shelter, which was originally meant to be a trailer, could be kept as an office and space for the cats and a new facility could be built for the dogs.

Cats and dogs living in the same space get stressed despite being physically separated, and it also makes it hard to hear when the officers are trying to talk to potential adopters.

“That would be probably the best-case scenario, but I like the changes now, so we’ll be able to hold out for as long as we can.”

Community Support

At Monday’s open house, residents, city councilmembers and police officers intermingled to learn about the shelter’s changes.

Some residents were longtime volunteers, like Liz Tobey, who



Visitors mingle outside the animal shelter.

has assisted at the shelter almost continuously since 2012. During that time, she adopted two cats there and made a lot of friends. “It’s been a great experience,” she said.

Tobey said that it’s especially important right now for Greenbelt to take care of its cats and dogs because federal layoffs have led some to lose their apartments, and various other factors that might lead to animals being surrendered.

“Having the shelter gives [animals] an opportunity to be adopted by another family that can give them what they need,” said Tobey. “I’m really happy that the shelter’s reopening.”

During the shelter’s closure, Greenbelt animal services sometimes relied on help from Prince George’s County Animal Services Division, where Fillman had worked as an officer for a decade.

Deputy Chief Tim White said, “[Fillman] coming over, knowing the policies and procedures, having the contacts, having worked there – it’s just bolstered our relationship to help us be able to serve the community better

through our partnership.”

Other help comes in the form of grants that Greenbelt animal services program has and is seeking.

One such grant from the Department of Agriculture offers city residents vouchers to get their animals spayed or neutered for free, said Fillman, who encourages people to apply.

Fillman said the program also is seeking a 2026 grant to help animal services do trap-neuter-return with cats, letting them be released back into the community without producing more cats. This will help community cat programs, through which residents create miniature shelters to help take care of outdoor cats, Fillman said.

Mayor Emmett Jordan, one of the local leaders present for the open house, said that there’s a strong possibility to build a new shelter in the future. “We have some plans,” he said. “The money’s tight, but it’s a priority going forward.”

Will Hammann is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the News Review.

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Sports

ERHS Soccer Seniors Leave Legacy Of Success with a Promising Future

by Patrick Gleason



PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA VAN DER HAVE

The ERHS soccer class of 2025 celebrates a dominating county championship victory over the Oxon Hill Clippers in October.

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School girls soccer team graduates a senior class whose on-field achievements have been matched – even out-matched – by their academic accolades. The core group of players who helped revitalize the program after the coronavirus shutdown, earning two county and region championships in the last three years, now look to futures of sustained success. Three Raiders will continue their soccer careers at the collegiate level with midfielders Sadie Swart and Jada Savage – four-year varsity starters who controlled the Raider midfield throughout their careers – both heading to Virginia. Swart chose Sweet Briar College and Savage opted for Virginia State University after considering Howard and Hampton universities. They will be joined in Division II by goalkeeper Nikki Lilja, who will be playing soccer and softball at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

Two Raiders will head even further south with Leia Barton attending Georgia State University on a full-ride scholarship and Alena Beckmann selecting Vanderbilt University this fall, while midfielder Hariette Ngwatung has elected to join the Maryland Army National Guard prior to furthering her soccer career. The remaining quartet of Raider seniors will

continue their studies close to home: Cora Moore, Arianna Casalini, Alyssa Casey and Gabriella Martinez all chose the University of Maryland, College Park. Finally, team managers Emelin Talavera Baca and Jocelyn Romero Vasquez received full-ride nursing scholarships; Talavera Baca will study at the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota and Romero Vasquez will attend Trinity Washington University. Over their final two seasons, the Raiders posted a 30-3-1 record with back-to-back state quarterfinal appearances.

They yield to another promising collection of players, headlined by midfielders Autumn Freeman and Gabrielle Johnson who won the North American Cup in Seattle last May while playing for Bethesda Soccer Club. Several Division I programs have offered Freeman scholarships, while Johnson traveled to L’Albir, Spain, this past April for a U-16 U.S. Women’s National Team camp. Johnson completed a week of training while playing in two games against the U-16 Spanish National Team. The U.S. squad dropped the first game 4-3 while tying 1-1 in the second matchup. Despite the large graduating class, the legacy of success and returning skill have the Raiders determined to lift more trophies this autumn.

Letters ct'd from p.2

projects to help educate Greenbelt, or even just helping out Wednesday mornings at 10, in Buddy Attick Park, with the Park Rangers at the gardens there.

I hope to shed a little light on the little things that anyone can do, to help out here and there

to keep Greenbelt and its parks, trails, lakes, gardens, and help make a big part of what makes us Greenbelt a little healthier, a little cleaner and a little nicer.

Casey Fitzpatrick
Greenbelt Resident
Boy Scout, Troop 214B

COUNCIL continued from page 9

the week of June 6 to 12 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Week and encourages residents to expand efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

This proclamation was accepted by Moms Demand Action, an organization dedicated to reducing gun violence in the U.S. (see wearorange.org to learn more and find out how to participate).



PHOTO COURTESY BETHESDA SOCCER CLUB

Gabrielle Johnson, here playing for Bethesda Soccer Club, traveled to Spain earlier this year with the U-16 National Team.

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John Makinde Named 2025 David Craig Scholarship Winner

by Douglas Mangum

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund (DCMSF) has selected John Makinde as its 2025 recipient. DCMSF awarded its final scholarship award as a foundation on May 19 at the Senior Awards Ceremony for Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS).

The DCMSF is transitioning away from the scholarship being open to the winner’s choice of schools to its new home at Frostburg State University (FSU). To be eligible to receive the DCMSF-designated scholarship, now housed at FSU, the selectee must be accepted and attending or planning to attend FSU post-graduation. The award will still serve as a scholarship priority opportunity for one ERHS senior each year as long as they are accepted as an FSU enrollee.

DCMSF has awarded financial assistance for a graduating senior at Roosevelt from 1987 to 2025, during which time winners have attended in-state (Maryland) as well as out of state, public and private institutions, to follow their dreams of higher educational opportunities.

Childhood Foundations

Makinde, this year’s recipient, will attend the University of Maryland at College Park this fall. Makinde uses his resilience, self-motivation, perseverance, sacrifice and innovation to define himself as an athlete and an entrepreneur. The youngest child of a hard-working single mom, he admits that these talents and skills come from observing his mom, and have formed the foundational strength and values in all aspects of his life.

Makinde’s diverse experiences and curiosity about different perspectives grew from a childhood in Nigeria. His search for perspective includes four years of studying Japanese language and culture. He volunteered with the National Honor Society, student government and the African student union, his local church, soccer team and served as a basketball and volleyball team manager. Makinde has also helped with the city’s Easter egg hunt and Labor Day Festival.

Participation in these activities helped with his academic growth, compassion and leadership. He formed the basketball analytics club where he created stats to help the basketball team players and staff find ways to improve their execution and performance. He attends church every week, where he helps with the children’s department and the media needed during church programs and activities.

Commitment to Service

Makinde was the 2025 Greenbelt Advisory Council on Education student award winner, a scholarship award that recognizes school involvement. He believes his involvement is part of his story. It fuels the kind of person, learner and contributor he strives to be each and every day.

It is this involvement and his outlook that swayed the committee to choose him over 10 of his classmates who applied. Portions of his letters of recommendation opened a window to how he is seen by others, as a quiet leader and a willing, behind-the-scenes servant and impactor. Those who know



Scholarship recipient John Makinde

him best testify to his discipline, humility and integrity, and say that he leads with a heart, with purpose to inspire others with his actions.

Makinde has a deeply-rooted commitment to service while balancing a rigorous course load of Advanced Placement and honors classes. One of the ways he showcases his commitment to academic enrichment and cultural exploration is with his participation in the Virginia Tech Black College Institute.

Student Government

He served as the president of student government – upon his election the entire student body was elated. The organizational structure and overall rapport has significantly improved with Makinde representing and overseeing fundraising and initiatives like spirit week. His nature has made him a respected presence among his peers, a reliable leader, very approachable, responsible and hard-working, technologically proficient, diversely skilled and a lover of sports and statistics.

This is a direct quote from his Student Government Association advisor: “During campaigning last year, John emphasized how important it would be to him as president that students have a place to enjoy themselves safely outside of an academic setting this year. John has successfully organized a large portion of back-to-school night, spirit week, class night, homecoming, pep rally, homecoming dance and the beginning stages of quarter one on a roll assembly. Each of these events has run smoothly, and the students reported having an even better experience than the year prior at each event.”

Uniter of People

The fact that everything Makinde gets involved in shows notable improvement is an amazing testament to his rapport and abilities as a uniter of people and their ideas. He is a rare example of how one person can make great strides in his community by selfless acts of grace and integrity.

The DCMSF is proud to announce John Oluwatobiloba Makinde as the 2025 scholarship award recipient and their final selectee from the foundation. The dissolution process for the DCMSF is ongoing, but the financial assistance continues into the future. Congratulations to this Greenbelt resident and Roosevelt graduate and to all the members of the class of 2025.

Douglas Mangum graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1979.

Two Greenbelt Scouts Complete Projects Here, Win Eagle Award

by Stacy Stewart

Sam Stewart-Ricketts and Kellen Murray, two dedicated Scouts from Greenbelt, achieved the highest award in Scouting, Eagle Scout, during a ceremony held on Friday, May 23 at the Elks Lodge in Riverdale Park. The celebration drew more than 80 friends, family members and community supporters. Mayor Emmett Jordan, flanked by Councilmembers Kristen Weaver, Amy Knesel, Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompei and Silke Pope, read out a letter of recognition and presented a Public Service Citation to each new Eagle Scout for their individual contributions to Greenbelt.

Both Scouts completed ambitious service projects in Greenbelt to earn the prestigious rank. Murray worked with the Greenbelt Forest Preserve to reroute several trails to mitigate safety and erosion issues. Stewart-Ricketts cleaned and restored the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial on Crescent Road, including replacement of the dead tree at the center of the memorial.

Both offered special thanks to Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, the



Sam Stewart-Ricketts and Kellen Murray earned the rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony on May 23.

city’s environmental coordinator, for his guidance and support of both projects. Their efforts highlighted leadership, perseverance and commitment to service.

The Eagle Scout rank recognizes years of hard

work, outdoor skills and community leadership. Both recipients started as Cub Scouts in Greenbelt’s Pack 202 and then graduated to Riverdale Park’s Scout Troop 214. In 2021, they both became founding members of Greenbelt’s Venturing Crew 746. They have planned backpacking and bike trips, gone on high adventure trips to Montana and Florida, and dedicated themselves to the principles of Scouting, which include loyalty, honesty and integrity.



Scouts from Troop 214 hold signs displaying the emblem of each rank leading to Eagle. From left, the ranks are: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life.

AWARDS continued from page 6

hones her writing skills as a member of the Advanced Writing Academy and uses her knowledge to help classmates as a peer tutor. Reign plays the trombone and participates in many afterschool programs, while maintaining her Honor Roll status.

Reign is a member of the Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars, a local jump rope team. She has advanced to become team captain for the Springhill Lake Elementary School division and works patiently with new jumpers. With a strong sense of purpose, Reign was described as embodying the values at the heart of the award: service, leadership and a deep commitment to community.

Dora Kennedy French Immersion

Troi Dixon presented the award for Dora Kennedy French Immersion School to Hannah Baker. Hannah is a third-generation Greenbelter. According to her nomination, Hannah embodies academic excellence, leadership and service. She has a stellar work ethic, intellectual curiosity and a natural ability to lead. She serves as president of the National Junior Honor Society, a Student Ambassador, a member of the Environmental Green Team, as flag bearer and is an accomplished trombone player in the school band. Her teachers speak of her with deep admiration, noting her readiness to learn, her drive to assist her classmates and her dedication. Hannah is an active member of Scout Troop 214G and Venture Crew 746. A talented athlete, she swims with both the Patuxent Aquatic Club and the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team. She leads with heart, purpose and poise, said nominators.

Greenbelt Middle

Dixon next presented the awards to two Greenbelt Middle School students.

The first went to Tre Leon-

Lierman. Tre has consistently excelled academically, earning Honor Roll status every quarter and participating in honors and advanced math courses, demonstrating a commitment to academic excellence. Tre actively contributes to his community, whether by helping classmates or in school activities. His leadership, dedication to learning and strong work ethic make him a positive role model for others. The ACE Award was found by his school to be a perfect fit for Tre’s exemplary behavior and commitment to making Greenbelt a better place.

Next, Pauliya Brooks was recognized. As a consistent honor roll student, Pauliya upholds high academic standards and serves as a role model for peers. Pauliya is always willing to lend a helping hand in the classroom, assisting teachers with tasks and supporting fellow students to create a positive learning environment. Pauliya is an active member of the drama club, showcasing creativity, teamwork, and dedication. Her participation in an optional extended learning program after school helps strengthen her math and English skills. Pauliya’s hard work, service, and enthusiasm make a positive impact both in and outside the classroom.

Eleanor Roosevelt High

Janet Mirsky presented the Eleanor Roosevelt High School awards. These students will receive college scholarships of \$2,500 each.

The first winner was Amarius Sekajipo. Amarius has lived in Greenbelt for six years and also attended Greenbelt Middle School. At ERHS, he has consistently demonstrated academic dedication, leadership and artistic talent. Currently a senior, he is enrolled in challenging courses including AP Capstone Research, AP Human Geography and AP Pre-calculus AB. Amarius is also enrolled in drawing/paint-

ing, showcasing his creativity. He is varsity captain for basketball, lacrosse and golf. He was instrumental in the lacrosse team’s success in winning the county and regional championships. Amarius is an active member of the class of 2025 student council. He is a well-rounded young man who will excel in higher education, say his teachers.

The second scholarship was presented to John Makinde, a life-long Greenbelt resident. He has attended Greenbelt Elementary, Greenbelt Middle and ERHS, where he has consistently demonstrated academic excellence. John’s weighted GPA is over 3.94, while taking rigorous AP and honors courses. His commitment to excellence extends beyond grades. As president of the Student Government Association, he leads with a strong sense of responsibility, representing the student body and collaborating with administrators and peers. John is also an active student-athlete, serving as manager for both the basketball and volleyball teams. Through these roles, he has displayed excellent teamwork and organizational skills. His nominators emphasized their belief in his future success and positive contributions to come and spoke of his leadership, dedication and passion.

House of Delegates Scholarship

Delegate Anne Healey announced ERHS senior Elvis Ventura as the winner of her \$500 scholarship. Elvis was selected for his dedication to learning, leadership and strong work ethic, which made him a role model for others, said Healey. Accepting his award, Elvis said he had been shaped by his time at Greenbelt Middle and ERHS.

Multiple GNR staff, including Bonnie Schrack, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Joan Estenson, Linda Lucas and Erica Johns contributed to this article.