

PTA used book sale, p.7



Tree plantings, p.12

Greenbelters Urged to Garden; May Help with Food Insecurity

by Will Hammann



The Three Sisters Garden at Schrom Hills Park in summer 2025

Over 80 years after the establishment of Greenbelt's community gardens, Councilmember Danielle McKinney launched Greenbelt Grows this April.

She said that the initiative, partnered with the Greenbelt Rotary Club and the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS), is geared toward helping gardeners grow

more and address issues like food insecurity by creating stronger community connections.

McKinney has tended a shared plot in Greenbelt's Gardenway community garden for almost three years, after about a decade of gardening elsewhere, first on an apartment balcony and then in the town of Cheverly's gardens while she was on Greenbelt's

waitlist.

"It's definitely my happy place," she said. But as a member of the Greenbelt City Council, she's made it a goal of hers to get more people gardening.

She hopes that residents can use Greenbelt Grows as a network to get information about

See GARDEN, page 11

Medicaid Anniversary Forum Warns of Deep Cuts to Come

by Ellie Jornlin

Last Wednesday marked the 60th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid, on which local and federal leaders gathered in the Greenbelt City Council chambers to celebrate the programs' legacy and warn of federal changes that could strip health coverage from thousands of Marylanders.

U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey and State Delegate Ashanti Martinez headlined the event, along with public health leaders from Prince George's County. They discussed the positive impacts of Medicaid and health equity in Maryland, and how the Trump Administration's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) threatens to undo significant progress.

"Medicaid has made a huge difference in the lives of the American people," said Ivey. "That's why it's been so shocking and disappointing that the Trump Administration passed the largest cut in history."

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the OBBBA will cut federal spending on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) by an estimated trillion dollars.

Ivey noted that the budget cuts are estimated to affect 17 million people nationwide. "Whether we

like it or not, that bill has passed. We have to work together now, at every level of government, to protect our people," said Ivey.

Martinez, representing Maryland's 22nd legislative district and sitting on the Health and Government Operations Committee, emphasized the state's responsibility to step up to protect its people.

"Fortunately, some of the biggest cuts won't hit for a few years, but we need to prepare," Martinez said. "Where the federal

See MEDICAID, page 8



Panelists, from left, Stephanie Klapper, Dr. Sonya Bruton, Representative Glenn Ivey, Delegate Ashanti Martinez and Michele Eberle, discuss the legacy of Medicare and Medicaid and the proposed cuts to them that may affect over 400,000 Marylanders' health coverage.

What Goes On

Monday, August 11
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, August 13
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Rent Stabilization, Municipal Building

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

James K. Giese, Former City Manager, Has Died

James K. Giese, 94, Greenbelt's city manager for 28 years, died at his home in the Collington retirement community on Monday, August 4. He served from 1962 to 1990. Giese steered the city during the 1960s and 1970s, known as Greenbelt's turbulent development



James K. Giese

years that brought major highways, shopping centers and single-family housing throughout the planned community and threatened the green belt.

He was named Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen in 2010 and was the recipient of many awards from planning organizations. Giese was known for his professionalism. An article on Giese's long career will appear in next

week's News Review. A memorial service will be held in the Greenbelt Community Church at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 5, with further details to come.

PHOTO COURTESY NEWS REVIEW FILES

BARC Closure Plans Remain Unclear After Senate Hearing

by Will Hammann

Plans for the closure of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) remain hazy after a July 30 Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on the USDA's reorganization proposal, which drew criticism from Democrats and Republicans alike.

The USDA's lone witness, Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden, said that BARC would close over a not-yet-determined number of years and a not-yet-determined number of employees would be relocated to other locations.

The hearing was swiftly called



BARC Administration Building

by Arkansas Senator John Boozman (R), the chair of the committee, who was dismayed that the administration had not notified Congress about the proposal prior to USDA Secretary Brooke

See BARC, page 6

PHOTO BY ANTONY22, COURTESY WIKIPEDIA

Maglev Stopped in Its Tracks

by Ellie Jornlin

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced that the proposed Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation rail line, known as maglev, is no longer happening.

Federal officials cancelled the \$26 million in grant funding for the project, as the rail line would have negatively impacted federal agencies and significant infrastructure. "FRA determined the direct effects would have substantial negative effects to agency operations or to important resources managed by federal agencies. In addition, indirect effects would also significantly impair critical infrastructure and operations and ongoing agency missions," according to a press release from the FRA.

They noted that this decision does not eliminate the possibility of maglev's future in the U.S.,

See MAGLEV, page 8



Maglev protest signs

PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE TRANSIT

Letters to the Editor

Celebrating Peace Camp

During the week of July 21 to 25, I had the wonderful opportunity of supporting a Peace Camp at Greenbelt Community Church. Led by the founders of Little Friends for Peace, Mary Joan and Jerry Park, the camp focused on the themes of caring, sharing, cooperating, shining and celebrating. It was a joy to witness 22 campers, ages 5 to 14, and 16 counselors (many between the ages of 15 and 19) experience a calm, creative and fun week of learning about and practicing peace.

It was inspiring and hopeful to be in a space that nurtured peace with music, movement, cooperative games, creative arts, sharing

talents and enjoying the outdoors. I am full of gratitude to all who supported, assisted and enabled this peaceful and loving experience.

Patience Robbins

Watch Your Step

In your July 31 story about ground bees, having “Not Aggressive” in the headline was not a good thought to put in bold type above the fold of the front page. Why do I say that? Well, last month I stepped into an ivy-covered area of my garden, a place I’ve put my foot in many times, only to be attacked by frenzied ground bees (yes, I thought they were yellow jackets). They were not visible until I

See **LETTERS**, page 4



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9

Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6

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

SHOWTIMES:
AUGUST 8th - 14th

Oh, Hi! (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (94 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:30 PM
Sun. 4:15 PM (OC)
Thurs. 7:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 6:00 PM, Sun. 3:30 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM, 5:00 PM
Tue. 5:45 PM, Wed. 8:00 PM

Bad Shabbos (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (84 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:45 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 7:45 PM, Sun. 5:45 PM
Tue. 8:00 PM, Wed. 6:00 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

The Last Class
(NR) (2025) (71 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:30 PM, Sun. 6:30 PM
Mon. 3:00 PM, Wed. 5:40 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:15 PM

The Parent Trap
(PG) (1998) (128 mins)
Sensory-Friendly Screening - FREE
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 1:00 PM

The Wiz (G) (1978) (134 mins)
In Partnership with The SPACE for
Greenbelt’s Emerald City Pride
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:00 PM

Make A Circle (NR) (2025)
(60 mins)
In Partnership with the Maryland
Association for the Education of Young
Children - tickets and event info at
bit.ly/GCmakeacircle

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Tue. 7:00 PM

Blur: To The End (NR) (2024)
Summer Concert Series
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 7:30 PM

Mr. Peabody & Sherman
(PG) (2014) (90 mins)
School’s Out Series - FREE
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM



Letters Policy

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

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

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

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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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 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- 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.

**FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.
DON'T FORGET TO TIP THE BANDS!**

Obituaries

Ian Tuckman

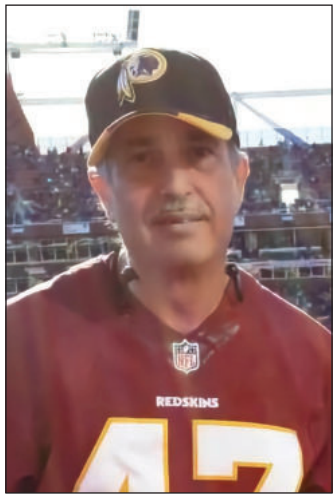


PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Ian Tuckman

Longtime Greenbelt resident Ian Bennett Tuckman died on July 21, 2025, at the age of 66. Born on April 28, 1959, in Delaware, Ian had a lifelong love of live music and rarely missed a chance to attend a concert. He was also a passionate fan of the Washington Commanders and proudly supported the University of Maryland Terrapins basketball teams.

Ian attended DuVal High School, class of 1977, and worked as a circulation manager for the Greenbelt News Review for many years. He loved connecting with people through shared interests and was known for his amazing memory. One of Ian’s favorite Greenbelt stories is having a local street named after him in his neighborhood as a child. He is survived by his daughters, Melanie Robertson (Conner) and Tatiana Baldyga (Daniel), his grandchildren: Nolan, Lila and TJ Robertson and Bennett Baldyga; and his sister, Valerie Lynn. He was preceded in death by his parents, Morton and Diane Tuckman. While his journey was not always easy, it was uniquely his own. A memorial will be held in the fall, with more details to follow. In honor of Ian’s lifelong passion for music and music education, donations may be made to the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council at pgahc.org/donate.

Letters cont'd from p.2

stepped in, but they left me with half a dozen really painful stings that evolved over the next few days into intense itchiness. I’m grateful that I am not allergic to bee stings. It could have been a lot more serious. Thanks to your article, I now know that these bees don’t attack unless threatened but, like me, I suspect others won’t even know they’re stirring up the bees until it’s too late. It’s not unusual to notice a front-page headline but not have time to read the story.

Rotary Club Hosts Disaster Aid USA

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is sponsoring a presentation about local nonprofit Disaster Aid USA (DAUSA). DAUSA Vice President Bill DuBoyce will speak about its national and worldwide disaster aid and relief mission on Thursday, August 14 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 114. Refreshments and conversation will begin at 6:30 p.m. DAUSA was founded in 2010 by the Rotary Club of Prince George’s County to respond to disasters across the country and the world. It stages trailers and equipment across the United States, ready to respond to hurricanes, wildfires, floods and more. Responses in 2025 have included western Maryland and Texas floods and California wildfires. DAUSA teams remove debris, use chain saws, pump water from basements, clean homes, tarp roofs and provide meals, supplies and more, free to affected residents. The club usually meets on Thursdays at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m.

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.

David Craig Raider Roast And St. Hugh’s Reunion

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship has been providing financial assistance for graduates of Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) since 1987. Its annual fundraiser, the Raider Roast, celebrates its 12th year at the Greenbelt American Legion during the Labor Day Festival. The 2025 celebration is combining with a St. Hugh’s parochial school all-classes reunion on Saturday, August 30. The public is invited to share in the continued purpose of honoring David and his entire family, along with past and present awardees, and classmates of St. Hugh’s at the Raider Roast. The fundraiser includes a cornhole tournament – registration will be open until 12:30 p.m. on the same day. Bags drop and play begins at 1 p.m. A pulled pork dinner is scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. For combo tickets for the tournament entry and meal, or separate event tickets, call or text Doug Mangum at 301-474-7874 or email dahammer61@yahoo.com; or buy them at the Co-op Supermarket ramp on Tuesdays, Aug. 12 and 19, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The David Craig scholarship was founded in 1986 after the death of Greenbelter David Craig, ERHS alumnus, class of 1979. The scholarship has now been moved to his alma mater at Frostburg State. This year’s recipient, John Makinde, was given a \$3,000 award and will be attending the University of Maryland. To learn more, go to davidcraigmsf.blogspot.com.



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.
Season of Rest

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

We Are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE 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.

Our Neighbors

Condolences to the family and many friends of Greenbelt’s longest-serving city manager, James K. Giese. It is with sadness that we report the death of longtime Greenbelter and member of the News Review family, Ian Tuckman. Our condolences also to the family and friends of Greenbelt resident William Askew, who was killed recently in Laurel. (See story page 9.)

Congratulations to Kathy Labukas on her wins at the recent National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa. Among women 75-79 she medaled in every event she swam in, including winning 1st place in the 200-yard individual medley. Kathy started competing in swim-

ming in 1957 for the Greenbelt Sharks, stopped competing after high school and took it up again in 2023 with the DC Water Wizards team. She says she’s looking forward to competing at the next National Senior Games in Tulsa, Okla., in 2027. Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



PHOTO COURTESY KATHY LABUKAS

Kathy Labukas wins medals at the recent National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa.

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)

“A requirement for living a life of service to humanity ... is constant effort to develop truthfulness, trustworthiness, and justice, ensuring that they are ever-present in thought and action.” – Bahá’u’lláh

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...
Then they cried out to the Lord
in their trouble;
He saved them out of their distresses.
Psalm 107:19

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

August 10, 2025, at 3 p.m.
**Upholding Our Vision Through Song:
The Power of Hymns**
Amelia Peele with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty
Every time we come together in community, we sing hymns in celebration. They surround us with warmth and comfort in their familiarity. But they also unify us in our pledge to uphold the vision for peace and justice and to live our commitment to love. Come sing with us!
Streaming on PBUUC’s Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



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 CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Monday, August 11 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
- **Update on Greenbelt Square/7010 Greenbelt Road Development Project**
* **Minutes**
Administrative Reports
* **Committee Reports**
* Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2025-02 - Community Wildfire Protection Planning

LEGISLATION

- A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein when Total Fiscal Year Purchases from each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars; *-2nd Reading, Adoption*
- A Resolution to Implement “Save As You Throw” (SAYT) Program and Adjust Solid Waste Collection Fees; *-1st Reading*
- An Ordinance to Make a Supplemental Appropriation in the Capital Projects Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, in the amount of one hundred twenty-four thousand eight hundred and sixty-five dollars (\$124,865) for additional Capital Projects Fund expenditures over the FY2026 appropriated amount; *-1st Reading, Suspension of the Rules; -2nd Reading, Adoption*
- A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of New Fitness Equipment for the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center at the Quoted Price of \$46,999.50 from Johnson Health Tech North America, Inc.; *-1st Reading*

OTHER BUSINESS

- Authorization for City Manager to Execute Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Contract
- Authorize City Manager to Execute Contract for 90% Engineering Design Plans for Hanover Parkway Bicycle Facility
- Replacement of Public Works Case Loader and Freightliner w/25cy Packer
- Authorization for City Manager to Execute Clear Ballot Contract
- Campaign Signs on City Property
- Discussion of Referendum Questions for the 2025 City Council Election
- Discussion on the Continuation of Curbside Food Scraps Collection and Local Compost Processing
- Approval of Agreement to Sell Compost Outpost Equipment to Compost Crew
- Discussion on National Park Designation for Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, and NASA Goddard Properties
- Discussion on USDA Public Comment Period on Proposed Department Reorganization Plan
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Replacement of Vandalized Playground Slide
* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.
This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

MEETINGS FOR AUGUST 11-15

Wednesday, August 13 at 7:10pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**

Wednesday, August 13 at 7:30pm, **WORK SESSION - RENT STABILIZATION**

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.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE TOWN HALL Thursday, August 14, 7-8:30pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Greenbelt Residents Invited to August Town Hall on Community Questionnaire Updates.

The City of Greenbelt's Constituent Services Coordinator, in partnership with the Community Relations Advisory Board, invites all residents to a public town hall for a discussion on the community questionnaire. This discussion will focus on proposed updates to the City's biennial community questionnaire. This is an opportunity for residents to review and provide feedback on changes aimed at improving how the City collects data and responds to community needs. Your voice matters—help shape how Greenbelt listens and serves!

Contact Gizelle Alvarez at galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION DATES & DEADLINES: 2025 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

First day to receive papers and file nomination petition	8/18
Last day to file nomination petition (by 5pm)	9/22
Date of drawing for placement on ballot – 7pm	9/22
First Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12pm)	9/26
First day to send out mail-in ballots	10/03
Last day to register to vote (must be received by 4:30pm Upper Marlboro)	10/06
Second Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12pm)	10/24
Early Voting begins .	11/1-11/2
Training session for Election Judges and Clerks	11/03
Election 7am-8pm	1/04
Mail-in ballots must be received by 6pm	11/04
Final Contributions & Expenditures Report (12pm)	11/7
Charter Meeting for swearing-in at 7:30 p.m	11/10

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

LET’S DANCE!

Sunday, August 17 at 6 pm

Roosevelt Center, 131 Centerway

Join us for an end of the summer line dancing event! For more information, contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2056.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR FOR GREENBELT FAMILIES Tuesday, August 19 from 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us for a fun and resource-packed Back to School Health Fair! Must be a Greenbelt resident.

To register, contact Brendy Garcia at bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

CCI Block Party. August 9, 12-3pm, 7615 Ora Glenn Dr
Join a Summer Celebration during CCI's Block Party with free games, food, and prizes! Register for FREE at <https://ow.ly/AKxo50Ww2Jo>.

10th Annual Palmer Park Block Party & Resource Fair. August 9, 11am-2pm, Parkview Baptist Church, 7900 Oxman Dr.
Please join Senator Alonzo Washington for the 10th Annual Palmer Park Block Party & School Resource Fair! There will be free food, entertainment, community resources, and school supplies.

Back to School Backpack Giveaway with Senator Alonzo Washington. August 10, 1 pm, SDA Seabrook, 8900 Good Luck Rd
In collaboration with the Seabrook SDA Church, please join Senator Alonzo Washington for a back-to-school Backpack Giveaway!

Career Relaunch Initiative. August 14, 7pm, SDA Seabrook 8900 Good Luck Rd
Register for Free: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcEsHeURYwholJWRzNv4IbFev6frQgD34YVo8NQ8pIRQ7XDw/viewform>.

8th Annual Community Cuts for Kids. Sunday, August 17, 2-6pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Please join The Burton and Craig Shields Foundation for the 8th Annual Community Cuts for Kids (#CCFK)! Children will be able to register for a free haircut/styling. There will be free food, entertainment, community resources, and school supplies. To register for a haircut or hairstyling, please visit: <https://www.thecraigshieldsfoundation.org/ccfk-2025-dmv-registrations>.

FEATURED PET - 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 meeting this jazzy Juni, call (301) 474-6124 or email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov!



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>.

PINK PANTRY

The Pink Pantry provides free menstrual products to Greenbelt residents, including pads, tampons, and wipes from trusted brands like Cora, Always, Rael, HoneyPot, and more!

To receive these products, register by contacting Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 or bgarcia@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.

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, Charter Review Task Force, 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.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

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

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.

FREE Artful Afternoons. Sunday, 8/10, 1:30pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Help create the colorful mosaic surface that will adorn a joyful new sculpture being created for the Braden Athletic Complex! All ages are welcome. Walk-ins welcome as space permits.
Sign up here: sugeni.us/VAbW.

Camp Encore Performs “The Odyssey”. 8/13 at 1pm and 8/14 at 7pm. Greenbelt Arts Center. The quick-witted hero Odysseus must escape one peril after another. Teen actors play multiple roles in this exciting production, featuring original songs and choreography. For FREE tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Business Office or call (301) 397-2208.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Motiva Public Art Dedication** 8/10, 1pm. Motiva entrance. In case of inclement weather, check the event listing on www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts.
- **Art Share (Meet-Up)** 8/10, 2-3pm. Greenbelt Community Center.
- **Creative Kids Camp Performs “Memory Quest”** in Central Park 8/15, 10am & 2:15pm, Greenbelt Community Center.

TAKE CONTROL TO REDUCE SCAMS: CHOOSE YOUR TOOLS OF EMPOWERMENT

Learn how to spot and reduce scams, increase your cyber awareness, and discover tools to protect your personal information. Presented by Aileen Kroll, a long-time advocate for seniors and persons with disabilities. Aileen has served as a dedicated social worker and, after attending law school, has continued her advocacy through legal and community support.

Together, we'll explore how to support one another and build a stronger, more informed community.

Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov or via email at (240) 542-2056.

CAREGIVER NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Your feedback will help us better understand your needs and how we can support you. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/4e5F6ds to get started! **The deadline to complete the survey is September 3.**

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

Brought to you by Dementia Friendly America, The Maryland Umbrella Group, Prince George's County Health Department, and the City of Greenbelt.

City Economic Worksession Ponders an Uncertain Future

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council’s June 30 worksession with the consultants examining the city’s economic development and city Economic Development Manager John Mason showed obvious concern for the federal employee/federal contractor situation, although at that time there was less certainty than now about the fate of the FBI (10,000 staff now staying in D.C.), NASA (5,000 positions fewer), BARC (all 800 going) and the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (1,000 never coming). Compared to January’s actual and prospective federally-related employment, therefore, Greenbelt is losing approximately 17,000 positions: 11,000 that would have been new and 6,000 that impact existing employees.

Study Findings

Molly McKay, a consultant at Willdan Financial and Economic Consulting Service, and Rick Ammirato, a principal at Civic Consulting Group, presented study findings to council. They described their focus as on shared goals and a strong local community that retains its community character. Their Economic Strategic Plan focused on businesses, rather than on residents, and identified gaps: what businesses feel is missing and what resources are needed. They used existing data and included a focus on the growing local healthcare segment, offering nine initiatives, of which four (#s 1, 2, 4 and 6) were presented (the full document is on the city website with the meeting agenda at greenbeltnmd.gov).

Selected Initiatives

Initiative #1: Greenbelt Post-Covid Resilience Strategy: McKay reported this as having been very successful with effective use of American Rescue Plan Act-funded support with money strategically spent.

Initiative #2: Greenbelt Business Connect Program (Business Retention + Attraction): recommendations include outreach to programs involving local businesses, with some outreach already launched by Mason who started work with the city around the study’s inception.

Initiative #4: The Greenbelt Thrive Marketing Campaign: this recommends expansion of an incentives toolbox for new and expanding business and leveraging state, county and other local resources and initiatives.

Initiative #6: Redevelopment Strategy: The consultants preferred Scheme 3 for the Armory, a mixed-use municipal/commercial alternative, including city offices, commercial space, live/work units and about 2,500 SF of dining alternatives. They cited the Armory as a catalyst that could connect the three areas of Greenbelt as a central “doorway.”

Reactions

Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt that putting commercial space and dining in the Armory would merely divert sales from existing businesses. Resident Bill Orleans noted that while the Armory may be a geographic center, it is not the heart of the city – Roosevelt Center is. He felt council should instead incorporate residents’ input from the three community meetings

and not listen as much to outside consultants “who didn’t have a stake.” He agreed with Roberts that Scheme 3 would detract from Roosevelt Center.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney asked whether Greenbelt residents have the skill sets needed downstream. The consultant team noted some mismatches and recommended collaborating with Employ Prince George’s on “upskilling.” Mason echoed this later as he noted that only a small percentage of Greenbelters both live and work in the city – meaning it is importing and exporting skills.

Economic Development

Following the study presentation, Mason gave a summary of economic activity and his office’s activities. He focused on Roosevelt Center, and the quest for funding for a make-over to enhance its appeal. He sees it as the city’s “brand,” the unique feature that sets the city apart.

He also focused on rental space, responding to Councilmember Amy Knesel that most leases were in the five-year range and noting that his office uses data on lease expiration to schedule visits to businesses that might

be deciding on location. He said that at least some buildings were doing well for rental occupancy (though the impact of federal cuts is not yet factored in) but did not answer Knesel’s question on current occupancy statistics.

He noted Greenbelt had a large medical and legal business focus and that 60 percent of businesses employ only one to four individuals. Services need to be tailored accordingly: for example, assistance with county permits (provided by his team) is crucial to small businesses, whereas large businesses would have their own specialists.

Measures of Success

Mason emphasized that they were tracking the success of their initiatives using metrics to pin down concrete gains against quantifiable outcomes such as leases, occupancy and new businesses and were poised to produce an online dashboard to track these indicators. He spoke of additional funding sources from programs administered by banks.

All participants were aware, however, that the coming months could derail the best laid plans – and it seems likely they already have.

Federal Job Losses Threaten Local Economy

Federal employee/contractor job losses from BARC and NASA Goddard are of apex jobs, the top of a pyramid composed of many others that exist because of them, like electricians, store clerks, painters, cleaners, child care facilities, restaurant staff and hairdressers.

Urban Blight

The closing of Youngstown Sheet and Tube in 1977 (a steel manufacturer in Youngstown, Ohio) resulted in only 4,000 lost apex jobs, but prompted the domino effect characteristic of the decay in its Rust Belt region, with plunging house prices and infrastructure decay. It is possible that Greenbelt could be a founding member of a new type of blighted region, incorporating once-thriving communities around the Beltway whose economies melted down as the result of reductions or eliminations at NIH, EPA, NOAA and others – all agencies using science to improve health and tackle climate issues.

Disappointed Developers

BARC’s approximately 6,500 acres (10.1 square miles) could be sold to developers – that’s about 65,000 new homes at average suburban densities of 10 per acre. Developers might have previously welcomed this but if there are no jobs, there are also no buyers.

GES PTA BOOK SALE

Collection Alert



Dust off those books, games, puzzles, and media! It's time for the annual Greenbelt Labor Day GES PTA Book Sale and we would appreciate your donations!

Collection dates and site are:
Saturday, Aug 9th: 8:30-11:30
Saturday, Aug 23rd: 8:30-11:30
@ St. Hugh of Grenoble
135 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770
please only drop books during these times

Updates @ <https://tinyurl.com/GES-PTA-Book-Sale>
Questions? booksalegespta@gmail.com
Facebook @ Greenbelt Elementary PTA

Volunteer sign up: 

Thank you!

BARC continued from page 1

Rollins’ July 24 announcement, a sentiment shared by many other senators present.

In response to that criticism, Rollins announced a 30-day public comment period on August 1, opening the USDA to feedback from stakeholders until August 26.

At the hearing, North Dakota Senator John Hoeven (R) cited the relocation of the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture during the first Trump administration as an example of proper notice and collaboration with Congress.

He said that a year-long review preceded the institutes’ relocations, during which time 136 communities across 35 states made the case to be the new hosts for the sites, which ended up in Kansas City.

Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar (D), the most outspokenly critical of the proposal at the hearing, also referred to those relocations, but said that they were “nothing short of a disaster,” as a 2023 report by the Government Accountability Office showed that the offices produced fewer reports and took longer to process grants as a result of their relocation.

With 90 percent of USDA workers already located outside the National Capital Region, Vaden argued that those at the four



The Beltsville Agriculture Research Center sign on Route 1

offices designated for closure, including BARC, would be put to better use elsewhere with the majority of their colleagues.

But Klobuchar stressed the importance of having department workers close enough to interact with lawmakers and peers in other agencies nearby. “You need people who can meet with you, to go to the White House so that you don’t have people that do not have the interests of rural America making all the decisions,” she said.

Klobuchar added that the proposal’s impact would be further compounded by tariffs increasing the cost of agricultural supplies as well as the loss of 15,000 USDA employees who accepted a deferred resignation in May.

Vaden argued during the hearing that the relocation of the local offices had a strong legal basis, citing the Use It Act, part of the Water Resources Development Act signed by President Joe Biden in January. The act requires buildings to be at least 60

See BARC, page 8



Rotary


Club of Greenbelt

Disaster Aid USA:

A Local Nonprofit with Worldwide Impact

A Conversation on **Thursday, August 14 at 7 pm**
Starting with refreshments at 6.30 pm
Community Center Room 114

Monthly Speaker Series - 2nd Thursday of the month - greenbeltrotary.org



PUBLIC POLICY VOLUNTEERS

The University of Maryland's Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy, in partnership with the State of Maryland, is looking for volunteers age 50+ to serve as volunteer legislative leaders during the 2025-2026 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The twelve-week classroom training (two days per week) begins on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, and ends on Wednesday, December 3, 2025.

Classes will be held at the University of Maryland Extension, 8930 Stanford Blvd, Suite 25, Columbia, Md., 21045. The volunteer assignment will be in the legislative offices of members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

Participants will serve a minimum of two (2) days per week starting Wednesday, January 14, 2026, and ending Monday, April 13, 2026.

For more information or for an application, contact Wesley Queen at wqueen@umd.edu.

Celebrating 60-plus Years Of GES Used Book Sales

by Ellie Twedt

I recall reading an article in the News Review around this time last year that mentioned the first record of the Greenbelt Elementary School (then the North End Elementary School) call for used books for a sale at the Labor Day Festival was in 1965 (see the August 15, 2024, issue)! As a member of the Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) PTA, I'm proud to know that we are celebrating at least 60 years of relocating used books

within our community and supporting our teachers and students with funds for classroom supplies, field trips, musical equipment and much more.

I have met many former GES parents who have devoted countless hours to the organization and execution of the Labor Day Used Book Sale, and I'm honored to be a member of their elite group. The details of the sale have changed from year to year, especially during the Covid era. I'm sure many in Greenbelt share in my relief and joy that the sale has come through those difficult times and continues to regrow through the support of many dedicated volunteers.

This year we will repeat our book collection schedule from last year, accepting books at the back of St. Hugh of Grenoble Church on Saturday mornings August 9 and 23. We do not accept textbooks, magazines or magnetic media such as VHS tapes or cassette tapes. We do accept board games, puzzles, CDs, video games and vinyl.

We will open the sale the Friday evening of Labor Day weekend with a \$4 charge for hard cover books and \$2 for soft cover. On Saturday and Sunday, books will be half that price, and on Monday books are free with donations accepted. All leftover books will again be donated to the Lions Club of Bowie for their regular used book sale. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase all weekend.

We welcome volunteers from the community who would like to help us sort the books on donation days or sell the books



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Young browsers at the Labor Day Festival book sale in 2024

on Labor Day weekend. More information and links to the sign-up pages can be found at tinyurl.com/GES-PTA-Book-Sale.

Thank you, Greenbelt, for over 60 years of support, and we look forward to selling you many, many books again this year.

Ellie Twedt is co-manager of the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA Book Sale.

Greenbelt Chess Club Meetings for August

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, August 12, 19 and 26. The meetings will be held at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the club's mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Grant Available for Projects That Help Greenbelt Thrive

by Donna Hoffmeister

Do you have an idea for a project that could benefit the Greenbelt community? The Jim Cassels Community Service Award may be just what you need to get started. Now in its 20th year, the award provides \$1,500 to local initiatives that serve the community in creative and practical ways. Previous projects have included everything from an art program at a local elementary school to conflict resolution workshops, demonstrating the wide-ranging and positive impact the grant has had on the Greenbelt community. Previous winners may apply again, recognizing that successful programs often need ongoing support. Whether you want to start something new or expand an existing program, this grant could provide the funding you need.

Last year's award went to Greenbelt Makerspace, a group focused on reducing waste and encouraging repair over replacement. Located in the Granite Building, Makerspace offers quarterly "repair cafés" where volunteers help residents fix everything from toasters to jewelry. They also run a weekend tool lending library. The award helped them expand their services to include bike repairs.

Another ongoing effort supported by the award is the Bilingual Pre-K Story Hour, organized by RUAK. Since 2024, this monthly event at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center has helped promote early childhood literacy in both English and Spanish. Greenbelt Library staff lead young children and their caregivers in stories, songs and simple language lessons.

In 2021, Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café received the

award to support its monthly screenings of documentaries focused on social justice, followed by community discussions. Prince George's Community Collaborative Resolution Center used its 2020 award to hold conflict resolution workshops for residents. In 2018, the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts worked with fourth graders at Greenbelt Elementary to create shadow puppets and perform a Ukrainian folktale. And in 2015, WAGS (Well-Wishers for the Animals of Greenbelt Shelter) provided workshops about a dog's or cat's stress signals and safety around unfamiliar pets.

Ready to turn your community idea into reality? Application forms are available on the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket's website and at the in-store Service Desk, though online submissions are preferred. The deadline for the

2025 Jim Cassels Community Service Award is September 15. Winners will be announced at the Co-op's annual meeting on October 18.

The award honors Jim Cassels, a longtime Greenbelt resident, founder of the present Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and a 1978 recipient of Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen Award. This is a chance to carry on Cassels' legacy of community-minded action – and to bring a new idea to life for Greenbelt. Email project coordinator Donna Hoffmeister at donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net with any questions.



NEW LISTINGS!

45N Ridge Road



NEW PRICE

2 BD | 2 BA \$360,000

This roomy 2-bedroom brick Greenbelt co-op townhome has been expanded to create a space that could be used as a third bedroom, or a great home office or family room, with a second full bath.

2B Ridge Road



2 BD | 2 BA \$410,000

The charming brick end unit townhome is the kind of home that savvy Greenbelt co-op shoppers can wait literally years for. This gem of a home is one half of a duplex, with a garage on the other end of the row that conveys with the sale.

2J Northway



2 BD | 2 BA \$360,000

This spectacularly renovated brick co-op townhome in Historic Greenbelt has been renovated with exceptional care and very high quality materials, from top to bottom—including a powder room on the entry level.

Kim Kash

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COMPASS

2K Westway



UNDER CONTRACT

3 BD | 2 BA \$329,900

A brick, 3-bedroom end unit with an addition, a half bath, a huge yard and central air conditioning! Savvy buyers wait for opportunities like this.

6F Research Rd



UNDER CONTRACT

1 BD | 1 BA \$150,000

A first floor 1-bedroom Greenbelt co-op home! Fresh paint, a renovated bathroom, new flooring in kitchen and bath, and beautiful, shiny hardwood floors make this an easy, happy choice for anyone looking for a thrifty first-floor home.

58M Crescent Road



UNDER CONTRACT

3 BD | 1 BA \$285,000

This charming end-unit Co-op with garden-ready yard is a rare find in the heart of Historic Greenbelt. The art-deco townhome has bright southern light, landscaping designed for extra privacy, and a spacious yard already set up for home gardening.

Greenbelt Farmers Market

Sundays 10a - 2p

Southway and Centerway

GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

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MEDICAID continued from page 1

government folds, Maryland has to step up.”

The proposed changes will significantly impact the roughly 331,000 Marylanders making up Medicaid’s expanded population, as well as immigrants and Deferred Action Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, according to Michele Eberle, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Eberle is a longtime health policy expert and explained many of the upcoming healthcare changes under the OBBBA.

Beginning in January 2027, Medicaid’s expanded population will have to verify every six months that they are still eligible for coverage, a change she estimated will double administrative costs and likely lead to coverage gaps.

Eberle noted that enhanced federal tax credits that help 70,000 Marylanders afford private health insurance are set to expire at the end of this year.

“If Congress doesn’t act, many will lose coverage, and it could drive up costs for everyone else in the marketplace,” she said.

Eberle also explained that immigrant communities will be hit especially hard. Any DACA recipients who were deemed lawfully present are no longer deemed lawfully present and are ineligible for coverage effective August 25. She also warned that changes to immigrant eligibility (October 1, 2026) and the expiration of federal premium tax credits could leave tens of thousands without affordable coverage by early 2026.

Dr. Sonya Bruton is the CEO of CCI Health Services, serving 45,000 patients last year, of whom 58 percent were supported by Medicaid. She warned that with these cuts, health disparities will grow.

“Medicaid is a tool for equity,” Bruton said. “So when it becomes health equity, it is literally a pathway for reducing health disparities, for preventing illnesses from entering into the community and threatening the health and well-being of all of us.”

Despite the grim projections, the panelists highlighted Maryland’s efforts to protect its community.

Stephanie Klapper, deputy director of the Maryland Healthcare for All Coalition, cited the state’s Prescription Drug Affordability Board, the first of its kind, which now has the power to cap high drug prices for all Maryland residents. She also pointed to Maryland’s Easy Enrollment Program, which connects people to health coverage through tax returns and unemployment forms.



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PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Attendees hear that federal tax credits that help recipients afford insurance coverage will expire at the end of 2025 and that beginning in January 2027, Medicaid recipients must verify eligibility twice annually, which may increase administrative costs and cause coverage gaps.

Ivey noted that Wednesday’s event was part of a nationwide effort by House Democrats to educate communities about the bill’s impact, in which more than 100 similar events occurred across the country that day.

“Knowledge is power,” he said. “And there’s a lot of misinformation we need to fight.”

“Federal changes are coming,” Eberle said. “But we are still here ... to help you and we will increase our support.”

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



Goddard Visitor Center to Close; Other GSFC Closures Announced

On Monday, August 4, the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) union, Goddard Engineers, Scientists and Technicians Association (GESTA) announced they have received notification of upcoming closures at GSFC from GSFC management.

Beginning October 1, the visitor center, cafeteria, vending services, motor pool services and recreation center at GSFC will close.

Several similar closures of cafeterias, motor pool, visitor center and others were simultaneously announced for Wallops Flight Facility, another NASA space flight center, located on Virginia’s Eastern Shore.



MAGLEV continued from page 1

but the Baltimore-Washington route will not be the one to move it forward.

Opponents of the high-speed train were extremely happy with the news. “This outcome is a tremendous victory for our communities,” said Prince George’s County (PGC) Councilmember Thomas Dernoga in a statement.

“I fully support the decision to cancel the SCMaglev project,” said PGC Councilmember Jolene Ivey in a statement. “This project would have caused serious harm to Prince George’s County, displacing wildlife, disrupting neighborhoods and threatening the Patuxent Research Refuge and other natural areas.”

There was widespread opposition to the project in Greenbelt, including from the city council,

because of its potential impact on the Forest Preserve.

Many Maryland residents protested the proposed project, citing negative environmental impacts and a big price tag (see April 24, 2025, issue).

Maryland District 22 legislators also issued a statement saying, “It is the result of relentless and unified opposition from our community and elected leaders – a coalition of residents, advocates, faith leaders, council members and state legislators who stood together to protect our neighborhoods, homes and environmental legacy.”

“Let this moment be a reminder of the power of public engagement and what we can achieve when we fight for each other,” they added.

BARC continued from page 6

percent occupied, and Vaden said USDA’s Washington buildings don’t meet that criterion.

Yet a Greenbelt resident and researcher at BARC, who declined to have his name in print, said, “we are struggling to find offices for everyone,” and Vaden’s numbers “are absolutely irrelevant to BARC.”

Another talking point of Vaden’s was that the proposed hub cities – Fort Collins, Colo.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Raleigh, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Indianapolis, Ind. – would offer workers a much lower cost of living than in areas around the current location.

But housing in Beltsville is cheaper than in Fort Collins, Salt Lake City and Raleigh – three of the five hubs – according to Greenbelt resident and atmospheric scientist Owen Kelly in an article published on Greenbelt Online.

“We have a half-baked agenda that will almost certainly result in worse services for farmers in rural communities,” said Klobuchar.

Will Hammann is a University

of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

Bibliophiles Book Discussion Aug. 13

The Bibliophiles of Greenbelt, a nonfiction history book group, invites the community to read and join in a discussion led by Rex Weingarten of the book *You Are Not American: Citizenship Stripping from Dred Scott to the Dreamers*, by Amanda Frost. The discussion will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 13 at the New Deal Café.

The entire community is invited to read along, even if they can’t attend the meeting – the Bibliophiles hope to build community through shared reading, books, ideas and ideals.

For more information, visit their Facebook page at: Bibliophiles of Greenbelt, the New Deal Café events calendar or email wvcaldwell@gmail.com (put Bibliophile in the subject line).



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round-up

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Round up your total to help our community organizations!

August Round-Up Group:

Greenbelt Labor Day Festival

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred July 28 - August 3, 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 incident involving Child Protective Services, one mental health incident involving an armed person and six domestic incidents, two resulting in arrest, and one involving vandalism.

A firearm, found while cleaning out belongings, was released to Greenbelt Police. Police assisted with a medical emergency involving a young child. Evidence was found in reference to a sexual assault kit.

Assault

On July 29 at 5:27 p.m. near 7654 Mandan Road, a tow truck driver was attempting to tow an illegally parked vehicle when the owner of the vehicle jumped into the tow truck, stole the keys, attempted to run away and assaulted the driver. The vehicle owner was arrested and taken to the Department of Corrections.

On July 30 at 1:01 p.m. near 6196 Greenbelt Road, a man standing in front of the movie theater became involved in a verbal altercation with another man who struck him in the face.

On August 1 at 8:30 a.m. near 7816 Hanover Parkway, a woman was involved in an argument and was struck with a crutch; she refused medical aid.

Indecent Exposure

On August 3 at 2:41 a.m. near 6142 Springhill Terrace, a woman heard a noise at her window and saw a man outside exposing himself. He ran away, and officers searched the area.

Suspicious Auto

On July 29 at 8:10 p.m. near 5900 block of Springhill Drive, officers went to a parking lot to look into a report of two possibly intoxicated women consuming alcohol in a vehicle who then drove away.

Theft and Shoplifting

On July 30 at 12:23 p.m. near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, two women left their luggage on a bench outside a hotel while they went inside to check in to their room. When they returned, they saw someone rummaging through their belongings who then drove away with some of their items.

On July 31 at 12:11 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man and woman stole merchandise and fled in a blue Toyota; at 2:25

p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, two women stole store merchandise and fled on foot.

On August 2 at 8:36 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man entered the store, stole a large quantity of items and drove away in a white Chevrolet Suburban.

Fraud

On July 30 near 8009 Mandan Road, a mailed check was intercepted and altered; near 6807 Landon Court, a woman was defrauded by an elaborate online investment scam.

On July 31 near 6152 Springhill Terrace, a man noticed fraudulent activity in his bank statements; his credit card was fraudulently used.

On July 31 near 7910 Kara Court, a woman lost her bank credit card and found several unauthorized charges on her account.

On August 1 near 7817 Mandan Road, someone hacked a man's phone and stole money from his account, opened a loan in his name and ordered items from his Verizon account.

Vandalism

On July 30 at 11:40 a.m. near Mandan Road and Ora Glen Drive, the glass portion of the bus stop had been spray-painted with red and yellow paint in the form of a symbol.

On August 2 at 8:48 a.m. near 8155 Mandan Terrace, property was damaged by a family member's acquaintances. One man present had an open warrant for assault and was transported to the Department of Corrections.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on July 29 near 6009 Springhill Drive, a 2018 gray Honda Accord (Md. 3GK0996); near 9123 Springhill Lane, an Infiniti G35 (Md. TBG7657); and on August 3 near 9135 Edmonston Terrace, a black Kia Forte (Md. 5GS9114).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On July 28 near Lake Drive and Greenbrook Drive, a Hyundai Elantra was located with ignition damage after being stolen the previous day.

On July 30 near 7016 Megan Lane, by using an Apple AirTag a man located his 2024 Honda Civic, which had been stolen a few days prior.

Theft from Auto

On July 29 near 5908 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2010 Infiniti G37 was broken into overnight and found with items missing.

On August 1 near 7301 Morrison Drive, a vehicle window was broken and items stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On July 29 near 61 Ridge Road, a 2016 Toyota Sienna had a window broken with nothing taken.

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33-year Old Greenbelt Man Killed Friday in Laurel Shooting

A 33-year-old Greenbelt man was killed in a shooting that occurred Friday, July 25 in Laurel.

At approximately 10:20 p.m. on July 25, officers responded to a shooting in the 13200 block of Laurel Bowie Road in the unincorporated section of Laurel. They located William Denard Askew in the roadway near the shooting scene, suffering from gunshot wound(s). He died on the scene.

Askew was a resident of Breezewood Drive. His family called the killing senseless and say his life mattered and he deserves peace and justice. "His mother is completely devastated — overwhelmed with grief and unable to face the burden of laying her son to rest alone," says Askew's aunt in an online fundraiser (gofundme.com/f/justice-and-peace-for-william-denard-askew).



justice-and-peace-for-william-denard-askew). Services for Askew were held on Thursday, July 31.

Detectives are working to determine a motive and identify a suspect in the shooting. A reward of up to \$25,000 is being offered for information that leads to an arrest and indictment.

Anyone with information on this case who would like to speak to a Homicide Unit detective may call 301-516-2512. People can also leave anonymous tips by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), visiting p3crimesolvers.com or using the P3 Tips mobile app. Refer to Case Number: 25-0040942.

Information for this article was drawn from a Prince George's County Police Department press release.

PHOTO COURTESY GOFUNDME

William Denard Askew

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PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on August 14, 2025

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

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on June 12, 2025 & July 17, 2025
- b) Member Matters
- c) Financial Matters
- d) Contract Matters

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

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on June 12, 2025 & July 17, 2025
- b) Statements of Closed Meetings Held on July 17, 2025 & August 14, 2025
- c) YARDI Task Force Presentation
- d) Sustainability Committee Charter
- e) 2025 Second Quarter Financial Statements
- f) Member Handbook Presentation
- g) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on September 18, 2025

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

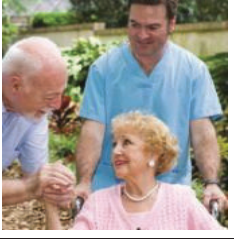

- a) Approve Minutes of the GDC Open Meeting Held on June 12, 2025
- b) 2025 Second Quarter Financial Statements

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

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r



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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at [zellepay.com](#). Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](#).

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GARDEN continued from page 1

gardening and also to share produce with those who may need it. Shaymar Higgs, founder and executive director of The SPACE: Free Art for All, said that’s exactly what he’d like to see in Greenbelt.

“I always have plants that I’m trying to give away, cuttings that I’m trying to give away. There isn’t really a channel for that, or even for tool sharing,” Higgs said. “It would be nice to have those kinds of channels.”

He also has a plot on Gardenway where he grows plants native to Maryland and plants that are part of local African American history, and he’s started his own initiative to encourage gardening in Greenbelt.

Gardens as Therapy

His initiative, called Real Men Grow, focuses on improving men’s mental health by getting men in the garden and comfortable in nature. “Gardening is so therapeutic and takes you out of the crazy, artificial world and brings you back to the natural environment which we’re all from,” he said.

An Invasive Native

But Higgs also wants to use his platform as a gardener and community activist to educate people on the harm caused by, in particular, the red trumpet vine, which he often sees other gardeners growing.

The plant is popular for its large, trumpet-shaped red flowers, because they attract hummingbirds and because they’re easy to grow. But the plant, though native to this area, is also invasive, grows aggressively and has strong roots that make it hard to remove.

“That stuff destroys your garden,” Higgs said, likening the plant to zombies because cuttings can grow on their own.

He said that he thinks that the plant should be outright banned, but hopes to introduce people to alternatives such as the cardinal climber, another form of vine with a red flower that attracts hummingbirds but isn’t so detrimental.

Tree Encroachment

Another challenge facing Greenbelt’s community gardens is the gradual encroachment of trees, foliage and development on the garden space perimeters, slowly shrinking the size of the gardens, according to Ellen Bastio, president of the Greenbelt Community Garden Club for the last two years.

The club, formed in 1938, administers three locations including the Gardenway space where McKinney and Higgs garden and where Bastio served as coordinator for three years prior to her term as club president.

Bastio said that the waiting list for community garden plots has consistently numbered at around 20 people over the last few years, so reclaiming former garden space is a pressing issue.

City Support

This year, Greenbelt’s Public Works Department felled several trees and replaced them with native shrubs, restoring some sunlight to the plots where shade had made growing difficult.

The department also mows the grass on the garden perimeters, and provides supplies like wood chips and mulch collected from other maintenance activities.

But conflicts, such as the health of Greenbelt’s forest preserve and whether or not the city has funds to spare, complicate the matter.

“As a community, that’s our biggest challenge right now,” said Bastio.

McKinney hopes that through Greenbelt Grows, residents can be empowered to make an impact on issues like preserving the community gardens as well as combatting food insecurity and promoting healthy eating and recreation.

She, Bastio and Higgs, all of whom have Greenbelt community garden plots, are out gardening almost every morning. “It’s a mental health break from the

world,” said Bastio.

Being responsible for their own plots means they can all realize their own vision. Higgs went so far as to build a pond in his plot to increase biodiversity, which helped adapt to the area’s swampish environment. “Everyone has a water problem back here,” said Higgs. “I’m like, why don’t you just work with nature?”

Volunteer Opportunities

For those who want to garden but might not be prepared for so much commitment, there are volunteer opportunities in the three Three Sisters Gardens (located at Schrom Hills Park, the Community Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center), which are managed by CHEARS, a partner of Greenbelt Grows. There is no waitlist and there are no fees, unlike for the community gardens, where the club has to charge gardeners between \$15 and \$37.50 per year depending on the square footage of their plot in order to keep things running.

The Three Sisters Gardens are where Greenbelt Grows holds their workshops. They held one on Saturday, July 26 at the Schrom Hills Park location focusing on container and transitioning gardening for planting in the fall, and there are more to come.

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

Craft, Vendor Show Coming to Fire Hall

The Spooktacular Craft and Vendor Show is coming to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, 125 Crescent Road, on Sunday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Greenbelt FVD Ladies Auxiliary, hosting the event, has a few tables still available to rent. Email Kim Lewis at gvfdsls@gmail.com for reservation information and inquiries.

The craft and vendor show is filled with wonderful arts and crafts. Get a head start on holiday shopping.

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 are held from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. 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.



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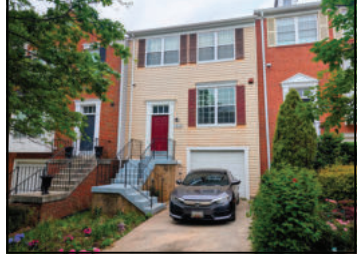
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ERHS Beautification Projects By Students: Past, Present, Future

by Patrick Gleason

The grounds of Eleanor Roosevelt High School have welcomed thousands of students in the last six years. While the volume of students has not changed, with an attentive eye a passerby would notice that the school landscape has blossomed thanks to a legion of student volunteers who have planted over 80 trees on campus in that time. Prior to the pandemic, members of the class of 2020 reinvigorated the former Garden Club. Louisa Ellison and Nicole Miko spearheaded the efforts and renamed the group the Shrub Club, while Jamie Kraske, Bolu Ogunneye, Corina Miko and Caitlin Shoemaker contributed to the club's initial projects. They began with pruning existing plants around campus in 2018 and partnered with Greenbelt's Public Works Department to improve the plantings between the school fields and Greenbelt Road. The first new trees – three eastern redbuds – were installed on March 17, 2019, as the Shrub Club collaborated with the Arbor Day Every Day program under the support of then principal Reginald McNeill. More plantings occurred in the spring of 2020 before the coronavirus halted in-person activities for students.

While county policy still prevented Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students from participating in volunteer activities in the fall of 2021, Roosevelt alumni filled the void as the University of Maryland (UMD) student group Flower STEM, founded by 2019 ERHS alum Vincent Lan, helped organize, fundraise and complete a planting and painting project at Roosevelt. Lan partnered with fellow Roosevelt alumni including Orven Cruz, Selah Thom, Adrian Seemangal, Noah Absalon, Kevin Lopez-Piñeda and Christus Quidlat, along with other UMD students to complete two murals – one inspired by a night sky and the other a cherry tree – and plantings. Kamalani Sittman and Ryan Mesidor, ERHS class of 2021, designed the tree mural while Jasmine Williams of UMD designed the sky mural. The Science, Discovery and the Universe Scholars Program, led by UMD's Erin Michelle Thomson, provided additional volunteer support to complete the planting of over 10 trees inside the fence of the football field.

Since 2021 more trees have been added along the main field's fence, along the school's primary driveway, on parking lot islands,



Kaho Maeda and Ally Hernandez work with friends to plant a maple in the fall of 2023.



Tewobstya Tsegaye (right) has helped complete planting projects at ERHS each of the last three years.

- Photos by Filbert Tettekpoe

behind the stadium and near the steps that descend from Greenbelt Road. These plantings would not have been possible without countless students – Shrub Club members and student volunteers alike, especially members of the ERHS girls soccer team, who have completed a team service project alongside the Shrub Club each of the last four autumns.

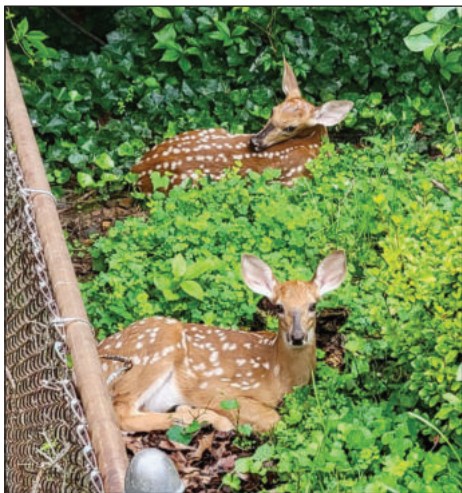
New plantings include crape

myrtles, sweetbay magnolias, tulip magnolias, kwanzan cherries, weeping cherries, maples, river birches, eastern red cedars and bald cypress.

This past fall Roosevelt students collaborated with UMD's Good Neighbor Day to plant 15 cedars behind the track on the football field's near endzone. Rising seniors Filbert Tettekpoe, Andrea Bempah, Tewobstya Tsegaye and Kaho Maeda continue Ellison's work as leaders of the Shrub Club, while the efforts of the ERHS soccer volunteers have also allowed for all but two of the school's temporary classrooms to be painted. The painting projects will finally be completed this fall – culminating seven years of school beautification efforts, while planting and pruning are likely to continue enhancing the school environment.

The graduating class of 2025 contributed significant efforts from members including Leia Barton, Joemeline Mbah, Alyssa Casey and Grayson Hough. And much of the painting over the years came from the hands of the classes of 2019 and 2020, including Dursha Ragunathan, Nidhiksha Ragunathan, Thanusha Ragunathan, Sophia Dada, Nyah Clay and lead artist Maeriel Batugo. ERHS 2022 graduates Meegane Konchou and Man Lun helped design and execute an additional mural in the fall of 2021, while ERHS coaches Ian Gleason, Jerrold Joyner and AJ Sesay have contributed

to multiple projects. There are countless others to thank and credit for the school beautification efforts that future generations of students will hopefully continue. A rising Roosevelt senior recently said, "Whenever I walk by that tree with my friends, I tell them – I planted that!" Anyone can plant a tree, while the entire community benefits from its presence.



Two fawns wait patiently in a Boxwood Village back yard for their mother to return on Tuesday, July 15.



Great blue heron reflected in the lake at Buddy Attick Park

Buddy Attick Tree Planting Honors the Late Kap Kapastin

by Kristen Weaver



PHOTO COURTESY KRISTEN WEAVER

Pictured from left: Andres Gingles (principal attorney, Gingles, LLC); Marilyn Coolidge (corporate retail real estate executive); Kristen Weaver (mayor pro tem); Todd Turner (executive director, Office of Ethics for Prince George's County, former county councilmember and Beltway Plaza Wall of Fame honoree); Judith "J" Davis (former mayor and Beltway Plaza Wall of Fame honoree); Matt Tedesco (attorney, McNamee Hosea, P. A.); Larry Taub (attorney, O'Malley, Miles, Nylan & Gilmore); Bob Kim (attorney, McNamee Hosea, P.A.); and Nancy Catron (broker/principal, Catron Real Estate, Inc.)

A tree was planted on July 27 at Buddy Attick Park in honor of Marc "Kap" Kapastin, longtime general counsel for Quantum Companies (owner of Beltway Plaza) and a friend of Greenbelt for many years. An obituary was

published in the News Review on July 18, 2024. The dedication took place on July 15.

The plaque reads "Kap Kapastin, June 29, 2024, Real Estate Gentleman and Treasured Friend."

Local Mystery Book Author Meets with Golden Age Club



PHOTO BY WAYNE WILLIAMS

On July 30, Lauren Silberman, Greenbelt's Agatha-award-winning author, met with the Greenbelt Golden Age Club. Silberman received the 2023 Agatha Award for Best First Novel for Crime and Parchment. She discussed aspects of writing focusing on both her cozy mystery series (which she publishes as Daphne Silver) and her nonfiction books under her own name. There were many many questions from members – apparently the club has a wealth of future authors. Above, Silberman speaks to Tissa Rogers after her talk.



PHOTO BY AMINA KHALIFA

A mobile pet vaccine clinic in the parking lot at CVS at Greenway Center on Sunday, June 15