



Back to School, p.16



King Lear at GAC, p.7

Corporal A. Kipke Recognized As Greenbelt Officer of the Year

by Ellie Jornlin

At a Fall 2024 ceremony, Corporal Abbey Kipke was selected as Greenbelt Police Department's (GPD) Officer of the Year. It's an annual honor conferred by the department, which also selects a detective and civilian of the year. This year Detective Oscar Rodas-Flores was named Investigator of the Year and Neshia Cabrera-Pearson is Civilian of the Year. The three were recognized in July by the Police Chiefs Association of Prince George's County.

GPD lauded their outstanding dedication to their duties. "Their efforts have significantly contributed to improving our agency and the community we serve," said the department through a Facebook post.

This month the News Review was able to talk with Kipke about the honor and her work at GPD. She said she was both surprised and humbled when she learned



Chief Richard Bowers, left, with Officer Abbey Kipke at her promotion to corporal in May

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

of her recognition. "It honestly took my breath away a little," she said. "It just felt like all my hard work wasn't going to waste, people were seeing it."

Kipke has served in Greenbelt for six years and currently works with the traffic unit as a night officer, supervising seven other officers. She was part of an effort to relaunch Greenbelt's Crash Reconstruction Unit, which investigates serious and fatal accidents. She also teaches traffic

See **KIPKE**, page 11

Sunday and Monday Schedule For Greenbelt Labor Day Festival

by Pat Scully

Greenbelt's beloved Labor Day Festival, running Friday, August 29, through Monday, September 1, offers a plethora of activities for every age and interest. Carnival rides, bingo, food, sporting events, music performances, the big parade and many opportunities to connect with the community and neighbors are all about to begin. This article focuses on getting the most out of Sunday and Monday offerings at the summer-ending Festival.

Sunday, August 31

For the morning go-getters, the Tour De Greenbelt bike ride has two stages. The first leaves at 9 a.m. from the New Deal Café and heads to Greenbelt Station. The second leg leaves from the New Deal Café around 10 a.m. and finishes at Schrom Hills Park. Make sure to bring a bike (and have a body) that can handle the distance.

Braden Field hosts events for all ages: the egg spoon race starts at 10 a.m., the sack race at 10:30 a.m., T-ball at 11 a.m. and the water relay at 11:30 a.m. Over in Roosevelt Center, the renowned



PHOTO BY JEFF JONES

Labor Day preparations were well under way in the Center by Tuesday.

craft fair begins at 11 a.m. and runs until 7 p.m.

At the Greenbelt Museum, the Retro Town Fair will accept entries of flowers, vegetables, baked goods, canned goods and needlework/sewing from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and then display the entries with their winning ribbons

from 1 to 4 p.m. In addition, tours of the Museum's historic house run from 1 to 5 p.m. on the half hour.

At 11 a.m., at the main stage, a memorial gathering will be held to honor all loved ones who have

See **FESTIVAL**, page 12

City Seeks Community Input For Flood Resiliency Planning

by Erica Johns

The City of Greenbelt has engaged water engineering firm LimnoTech to develop flood mitigation strategies and a Community Flood Resiliency Plan to adapt to storms that drop large volumes of rain in a short time, overwhelm stormwater infrastructure and cause flooding and erosion. Greenbelt Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll asked Greenbelt residents to help identify areas that experience flooding and erosion, during a community meeting on the evening of Wednesday, August 21 in city council chambers. He said the city has relevant information, but needs firsthand eyewitness reporting from across the city for a fuller picture and better plan.

Submission methods include an online survey form and emailing information (including photographs and videos) to Carpenter-Driscoll [see box, p.8]. The survey was described as useful for including detailed information. Multiple submissions are welcome. In addition to using the survey online, Greenbelters may also complete the survey at city booths on Information Day in Roosevelt Center on Saturday, August 30, during the Labor Day Festival.

Community Input Needed
Carpenter-Driscoll said the



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

On the afternoon of Thursday, July 31 water gushes into Greenbelt Lake at the area of the forebay, already marked with a caution cone and barrels because of erosion from flooding two weeks earlier.

problem is caused by storms that drop up to five inches of rain in one hour, remembering the July 19 flooding over the Lakecrest Drive forebay, Greenbelt Lake path and Braden Field, and the repeated flooding of the Parke Crescent apartments. He said Greenbelt East, Greenbelt Center and Greenbelt West all have problems specific to their hydrology, and city staff will need help in learning about everything that happens across the city during these

See **RESILIENCY**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, September 1
Labor Day Holiday, No Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 3
7:30 p.m., Special Meeting/
Closed Session: City Manager's Evaluation, Municipal Building

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

Kilmar Abrego Garcia Detained; Federal Judge Blocks Deportation

by Ellie Jornlin and Will Hamann

Just three days after his release from a Tennessee prison, Kilmar Abrego Garcia was taken into custody again on Monday following a mandatory immigration check-in at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Baltimore.

The Trump administration had announced plans to deport him to Uganda, but U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis issued a temporary order blocking his deportation following his detainment, saying it is "absolutely forbidden at this juncture."

The check-in was required as part of the conditions of his release from federal custody and the detainment happened just minutes after his entrance to the ICE building in Baltimore.

"There was no need for them to take him into ICE detention," said his attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg. "The only reason that they've chosen to take him into detention is to punish him. To punish him for exercising his constitutional

See **ABREGO**, page 10



PHOTO BY WICKI CHEESEMAN

The Rapid Response Choir was in full voice at a rally before a hearing for Kilmar Abrego Garcia at Greenbelt Federal Court House on Monday, July 7.

Letters to the Editor

Greenbelt Needs The News Review

Last week's headline News Review Needs the Support of Our Greenbelt Community can also accurately read Our Greenbelt Community Needs the Support of Our News Review.

Their honest, excellent reporting on issues that affect all of us is vital to our community. The recent stories of waste and possible abuse by the School Board with bus service contracts and fired superintendent payouts hurts our children and teachers and our sense of trust in our representatives.

Moreover, the News Review's thorough coverage of all the little non-controversial events helps

build and maintain our sense of community, our togetherness. We really are together and they tell our story.

With the demise of local papers like the Prince George's Journal and the Washington Post local editions, news from the county and state governments that affect us goes unreported, or at best under-reported.

PBS and NPR were defunded to keep us in darkness. More journalists have been murdered in Gaza than in all the wars since and including World War I. Democracy Dies in Darkness, the subtitle of the once great Washington Post, remains true even if the paper has been neutered.

Frank Gervasi

Prince George's School Superintendent

I totally agree with Frank Gervasi's letter where he says selection of the superintendent of schools is a "travesty" and an expensive one. Voters who elected Aisha Braveboy county executive should hold her ultimately responsible for these hires. Also, great idea to hire next superintendent from county school principals who've proven themselves over the years and have the support of teachers, students and parents.

Kudos to Anna Bedford-Dillow for outstanding reporting of this issue.

Barbara Bjanes

See **LETTERS**, page 12



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 29th - SEPTEMBER 4th

Jaws: 50th Anniversary
(PG) (CC) (DVS)
(2025) (130 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:50 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC),
5:00 PM* guest speaker
Mon. 7:00 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

The Roses (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (105 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 5:10 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:30 PM, 8:15 PM
Sat. 5:20 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM, 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM
Tues. 7:50 PM

Highest 2 Lowest (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (133 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 4:10 PM
Wed. 7:45 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Thurs. 7:30 PM

Rebecca (NR) (1940) (130 mins)
Free Cinema Classic

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

PETE REPPERT

BACK TO SCHOOL



SO FAR I HAVE PERFECT GRADES
IN EVERY CLASS.

City Council Election 2025

What Do You Want to Ask The City Council Candidates?

Once again the city is preparing to elect the members of its city council, the leaders who will make decisions and guide the community for the next two years.

To help our readers assess the candidates and make the important decision of whom to vote for, prior to each city council election the News Review poses questions to the candidates and publishes their responses. This year we will ask questions both in the News Review and in a candidate forum we are co-sponsoring with Greenbelt Access Television on October 9. We at the News Review have some ideas of what issues we want the candidates to weigh in on, but perhaps members of the community have concerns we have not thought of.

So, in the interest of transparency and inclusion we ask our readers: what do you want to ask the candidates for city council?

The News Review board will review submissions and our own suggestions and select three questions to print. The printed answers must be 150 words or less. At the candidate forum, candidates will have time limits for their answers, allowing all candidates equal time to speak. So there will be a limit to the number of questions that can be asked.

Email your suggested questions to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com by Monday, September 22, with Candidate Questions in the subject line.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Jaws

When a young woman is killed by a shark while skinny-dipping near the New England tourist town of Amity Island, police chief Martin Brody (Roy Scheider) wants to close the beaches, but mayor Larry Vaughn (Murray Hamilton) overrules him, fearing that the loss of tourist revenue will cripple the town. Ichthyologist Matt Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss) and grizzled ship captain Quint (Robert Shaw) offer to help Brody capture the killer beast, and the trio engage in an epic battle of man vs. nature. "Once released, Jaws wasn't just a blockbuster hit - it was a phenomenon, a 'super-blockbuster,' in the words of Variety," said Zach Shonfeld. "It became the first movie to break \$100 million at the box office (displacing The Godfather as the highest-grossing film up to that point). It captivated the media. It instilled in viewers such an acute fear of sharks that beach attendance took a well-documented hit."

The Roses

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing: as Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites. The film is a reimagining of the 1989 classic film The War of the Roses, based on the novel by Warren Adler.

Highest 2 Lowest

When a titan music mogul (Denzel Washington), widely known as having the "best ears in the business," is targeted with a ransom plot, he is jammed up in a life-or-death moral dilemma. Washington and Spike Lee reunite for the fifth in their long working relationship for a reinterpretation of the great filmmaker Akira Kurosawa's crime thriller High and Low, now played out on the mean streets of modern-day New York City. "Denzel: he's one name now. He can do no wrong," said critic Roger Friedman of Showbiz 411.

Rebecca

In this Hitchcock classic, a young woman marries a widower only to find out that she must live in the shadow of his former wife, Rebecca, who died mysteriously several years earlier. The young wife must come to grips with the terrible secret of her handsome, cold husband, Max De Winter.

Letters Policy During City Elections

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

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 withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.

In an election year, the News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.



Greenbelt News Review

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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.

Community Events

At the Library

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) branches will be closed Sunday, August 31 and Monday, September 1 for the Labor Day holiday. All regularly operating branches will reopen on Tuesday, September 2 at noon.

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

Storytimes

Friday, August 29, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749408.

Wednesday, September 3, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14157243.

Thursday, September 4, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14157226.

Game On: Bingo

Tuesday, September 2, 6 p.m., ages 18+. Gear up for an exciting time filled with friendly competition. Enjoy light refreshments while playing the classic game of bingo with other adults and win prizes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14160178. The event will be held in the Library Auditorium.

Ride and Read

Thursday, September 4, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity while you're at the Library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Freegal to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and wear loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14174109.

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. 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.

Resources

Customers can access Library resources with a PGCMLS library card number or a LINK card number for Prince George's County Public Schools students. Virtual library card registration is open to Prince George's County residents. Participants can explore suggested summer reads on the Library's Beanstack, NextReads and Book List platforms.



Luncheon on the Lawn Returns Labor Day

The Greenbelt Community Church, at the corner of Hillside and Crescent Roads, will once again be serving luncheon immediately following the Parade on Labor Day, September 1. A meal of barbecue sandwich or hot dog with baked beans, coleslaw, dessert and beverage will be served in the Social Hall and outdoors in shaded areas, weather permitting. Families are welcome. There is a fee for the lunch with proceeds funding the charitable efforts of the church.

The church will also be hosting a booth during Information Day in Roosevelt Center on Saturday, August 30. Church members will explain the church's community outreach, social events and inclusive doctrine.

Books and Author At Luncheon on Lawn

Amy Hansen will be selling and signing her new book, *Wanda Hears the Stars*, during the Luncheon on the Lawn at Greenbelt Community Church on September 1. The book sales (and the lunch) start after the parade. GCC is located at 1 Hillside. A portion of the book sales will be donated to the church.



PHOTO COURTESY AMY HANSEN



Cookies on the Bridge Seeks More Volunteers

It's time for some sweetness for the students. This is a call for volunteers who are looking for something fun and worthwhile to do: consider joining Cookies on the Bridge. On weekdays from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m., volunteers meet at the Spellman Overpass to offer cookies (and carrots) to students coming home from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The goal is to ensure the safety of the students as they make their way home.

Those interested, particularly those who can volunteer on Mondays, or who have questions should contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness), at spreadruak@gmail.com or 301-345-8755 and leave a message.

Candidate Forum To Be Held October 9

Save the date for a city council candidate forum ahead of this year's city election.

In conjunction with GATE, the News Review will host a candidate forum on the evening of October 9 at the Firehouse.

Greenbelt Chess Club September Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, September 9, September 16 and September 23. The meetings will occur 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 their mailing list, contact tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Direct questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

CORES Meets Sept. 4

The community-led Collaborative Opportunities for Resilience & Enduring Solutions (CORES) group will be meeting to discuss resident-supported solutions on education on Thursday, September 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 109. Bring a dish to share for a group potluck and discuss real solutions to meet the rising challenges Greenbelt faces.

Additionally those who require job placement help or want to help match neighbors to potential jobs in your network, send an email to greenbeltcores@gmail.com. For more information, contact Melissa Ann Ehrenreich at melissaehrenreich@gmail.com or 202-412-7942.

New Deal Café Members To Meet September 10

The New Deal Café, a member-owned non-profit cooperative, will hold its next quarterly membership meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

An agenda will be sent to members prior to the meeting.

Poetry in the Garden

The community is invited to a poetry reading on Sunday, September 14 from 3 to 5 p.m., in Schrom Hills Park's club house. This group is open to all ages and backgrounds. You can read your own poem or just listen and enjoy the power of poetry.

Arts Advisory Board Meets Tuesday, Sept. 2

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, September 2 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include general planning and board recruitment, as well as a recap of the Labor Day mixer and discussion of upcoming arts events in the city. Greenbelt residents who may be interested in joining the board are encouraged to attend. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, write to: alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov.

Financial Literacy Class Saturday

Favor's Table presents Financial Literacy: Wealth Creation, Protection, and Wealth Transfer on Saturday, August 30 from 3:30 to 4 p.m. at 6215 Greenbelt Road, Room 205. That's the second floor of the tall building next to McDonald's. This class is for adults who have not attended the class before. Register by texting to 202-468-2049. They will be giving away bags of food and clothing – including bras and shoes – at the end of the class.

Cub Scout Pack 202 Back to Scouting Night

Join Greenbelt Cub Scout Pack 202 for an exciting Back to Scouting Night. Discover adventure, friendship and fun through Cub Scouts. Open to boys and girls, grades K-5. This event will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 11 at the Greenbelt Community Church. Potential scouts are encouraged to bring their family and start their scouting journey.

Golden Age Club September Schedule

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

Here is the schedule of meetings for September:

September 3 – Business Meeting

September 10 – Peggy Higgins: Informational Discussion About Scams and Help You Can Get If/When You Need It

September 17 – Birthday Celebration Luncheon

September 24 – Bingo.



Scholarships Available For Young Women

The 2026 Miss College Park Scholarship Competition is taking place on Sunday, September 28. With the absence over the last few years of the Miss Greenbelt Labor Day Festival competition, young women in the Greenbelt area who are 17 to 25 years old are invited to compete. The deadline to apply is September 7. The competition is open to young women who live, work or attend school in Maryland. The winner, two runners-up, a community service recipient and two top scholars will all receive scholarships. To register go to MissCollegePark.com or call 240-421-1187.

Greenbelt Utility Pole Lookalike Gathering

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 26, at the Greenbelt Utility Pole (you figure out which one), there will be a lookalike gathering. Wear your best utility pole costume. Bring a prize and award it to your favorite cosplayer. Fawning admirers welcome. Photography encouraged.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

TH 8/28	FRI 8/29	SAT 8/30	SUN 8/31
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Deb B & Friends 7 - 9pm Expect anything: Blues, Roots, Jazz - any song with soul	GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL The Funicular Project 8 - 11pm Upward facing funk & roll for "youR soul"	GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL Zydeco Zed 8 - 11pm Roots band blending many influences from rock, funk and more!	GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL The Nighthawks 6 - 8pm This legendary DMV band serves up a delicious mix of Blues, R&B, soul and more!
MON 9/01	TUES 9/02	WED 9/03	TH 9/04
LABOR DAY DC Labor Day Chorus 2 - 4pm MONDAY MAUVENESS KARAOKE, 6-9pm	S.A.W. Open Mic w/ Lynn Hollyfield 6 - 9:30pm Sign-ups at 6pm Featured act plays from 8 - 8:30p	The Campfire Sessions 7 - 9pm A monthly "listening room." Guests: Pet Names & Ammonite	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm A big, bodacious boogie blues jam
New Deal Cafe IT'S THE CAFE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY! Visit our donations page to help fund our October celebration festival!			

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR. DON'T FORGET TO TIP THE BANDS!

FALL CLASSES

DIGITAL ANIMATION (With Mister Geo!)
 Tuesdays, September 9th - November 18th
 5pm to 7pm
 Ages 11+

SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING (With Shaquel Davis!)
 Sundays, September 14th - September 28th
 2pm - 3:30pm
 Ages 16+

HOMESCHOOL DIGITAL ANIMATION (With Mister Geo!)
 Mondays, September 8th - November 17th
 11:30am to 1pm, or 1:30pm to 3:30pm
 Ages 8+

AND MORE!
GreenbeltAccessTV.org/Classes

Community-Driven Storytelling

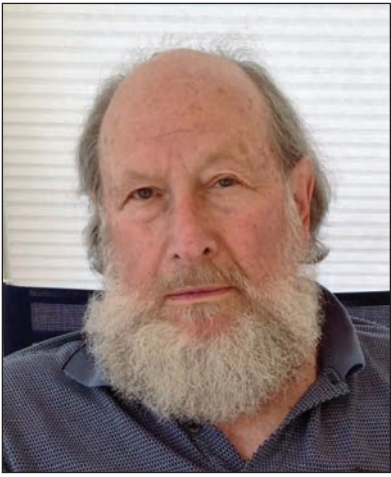
SIGN UP TODAY!
 Visit Greenbelt Recreation's Website to Sign Up, or Reach Out to Us at GreenbeltAccess@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Paul Remenick

by Carol Remenick, Tim Uber and Rick Ransom

Former Greenbelt resident Paul Remenick died Friday, August 22, 2025, at Johns Hopkins Hospital after a six-week hospitalization. He was 81 years old. Paul was born in Washington, D.C., on November 3, 1943, and he and his family moved to Greenbelt when he was 2 years old. His childhood was filled with capers concocted by him and his many Greenbelt buddies, some stunts even coming to the attention of the local police department. His childhood friend Lewis Merritt said that Paul drove his father's 1956 Ford, that they affectionately named The Black Crow. Lewis said that apparently someone had vomited in the back seat and Paul had tried to cover it up with Old Spice lotion. His father mentioned later that he thought Paul might be using a tad too much cologne.



Paul Remenick

PHOTO BY CAROL REMENICK

Jay. He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Rose Remenick, and his older brother Dan. He also leaves many good friends at the McDonald's morning

In his youth he delivered the Greenbelt News Review, and later worked as a pin setter at the old Greenbelt Bowling Alley. In total, Paul lived in five different homes here in Greenbelt. At the time of his death, he resided with his wife Carol in nearby Berwyn Heights. In 1980, Paul started Remenick's Improvements, a name synonymous with quality workmanship throughout Greenbelt and local communities. As much as 90 percent of his business was in Greenbelt, and he was well-versed in working on GHI homes. If you live in a GHI unit, you or a previous owner likely had work done by Paul.

He was soft-spoken, knowledgeable, caring, very personable and extremely generous of his time and talents, whomever he was working with. Lewis said that "Paul left the unit clean and usable after each day." Another life-long friend, Kathy Reynolds, noted that Paul was one of the nicest people she ever knew and that she does not remember ever seeing him angry or disparaging other people. His friend Tim Uber said he thought of Paul as a brother and that "He was the kind of guy he would like to have a beer with, if only Paul drank beer."

Paul is survived by his wife of 40 years, Carol; his former wife Gayle and their three children, Becci (Jeff), Lori (Jerry) and Berri (Megan); six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother

Celebration of Life For Jim Giese

A celebration of life service for former city manager and longtime Greenbelt resident Jim Giese will be held at the Greenbelt Community Church on Friday, September 5 (Jim's birthday) at 11 a.m. Following the service, there will be a luncheon held at the Greenbelt Fire Station.

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.

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.

coffee group, the ROMEOS (Retired Old Men (& Ms') Eating Out). He will be dearly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a location and date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blood Cancer United (formerly the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society) at bloodcancerunited.org or call 888-557-7177.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
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
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship
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

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 31, 2025
No Service
No service today. Our Paint Branch community is taking Labor Day off, with appreciation for the staff, volunteers, and congregants who do the work of the church, which is the work of love. Services will resume next Sunday, September 7 at 3 pm, when we reconnect for a joyful ingathering service.
Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



Our condolences to the family and many friends of former Greenbelt resident Paul Remenick. Paul grew up in Greenbelt and renovated many homes in Greenbelt through his business Remenick's Improvements.

Also wishing everyone a happy, safe and fun Labor Day in Greenbelt!

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

Best wishes for a great school year to Greenbelt's students and teachers as they head back to school.



"Unity and agreement, love and fellowship are the cause of life, whereas dissension, animosity and separation are ever conducive to death." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
@ a private home: email for address
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM! For ZOOM link: CCG1985+owner@groups.io

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

The Bible Says...
Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
Genesis 2:3
Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

Let Us Pray ...
World Day of Prayer for Creation Care is September 1, 2025.
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church also invites you to join us for a Season of Creation, celebrating the beauty of nature and our responsibility to care for the earth, September 7 - October 12.
If you are looking for a church home, come check us out.
4512 College Avenue
College Park, MD 20740
www.SAECCP.org

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.



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.



MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 1-5

Monday, September 1, **NO MEETING - LABOR DAY**

Tuesday, September 2 at 7 pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Labor Day Mixer Recap, Upcoming Arts Events in the City*

Tuesday, September 2 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Update: Ongoing Meeting with City Manager, Chief, and PSAC Recommendations for Dept General Orders, Member Report on PSAC Coverage at National Night Out, Planning of PSAC Fall Presentation to Increase Community Awareness of Scammer Techniques, Review of Department's Strategic Plan, Review of General Orders 304 Light Duty and 414 Promotion*

Wednesday, September 3 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION – ADVISORY BOARDS & COMMITTEES INTERVIEWS (VIRTUAL)**

Wednesday, September 3 - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORK SESSION, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION – CITY MANAGER'S EVALUATION**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS

Gardening Get Togethers. Every Wednesday through October, 10am-12pm. *Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent.* Join City Staff and Community Members as we work to maintain the Pollinator Gardens at Buddy Attick Park! Activities will include mulching, weeding, and planting native perennial species. [Sign-up](#) here.

Birding 101. Saturday, September 6, 7:30-9:30 am, *Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent.* Have you ever wanted to try birding but don't know where to begin? We will go over keys to bird identification, choosing and using binoculars, as well as using different mobile apps in the field. [Sign-up](#) today!

National Public Lands Day. Saturday, September 27, 10am-1pm. *Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent.* Join the City of Greenbelt's Department of Public Works and Park Rangers as we care for and celebrate the public lands we share! [Sign-up](#) here.

Questions & comments to kdricoll@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2168.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day
THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of September 1
 Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
 Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
 Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
 Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, September 5.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge. For more information, email Brendy Maddox at bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or (202) 670-6497.

- FALL PREVENTION CAMPAIGN KICK OFF EVENT.** Th, 9/25, 1-3 pm. Premiere & Film Screening of "Saving Claire" and panel discussion with experts in fall prevention and senior care.
- OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ADULTS** 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required.
- DEMENTIA WEBINARS** 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- FREE MONTHLY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION.** Greenbelt Residents Only. First time participants must provide proof of residency, state-issued ID, birth certificate (or copy) for each child.
- AGING SOLO.** Sept 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 1-2:30pm on Zoom. Learn to set priorities, build your support network, and put your plans into action.
- PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION** at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, Lower Level Parking Lot, 25 Crescent Road. Next on 11/18 at 1 pm
- PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION** at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (*Greenbelt West Residents Only*) Next on 11/18. Must register in advance. Contact bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.



70TH ANNUAL GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL!
Friday, August 29-Monday September 1
Roosevelt Center, 131 Centerway

Join us this Labor Day Weekend for the 70th Annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival! Opening ceremonies begin Friday night where the winner of the Greenbelt Citizen of the Year will be announced. Enjoy food trucks, bingo, carnival rides, and more all weekend long. The event culminates with the Labor Day Festival Parade on Monday, September 1 as floats make their way from the Greenbelt Police Department to the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road.

Ride Vouchers
 \$20 wristband vouchers are on sale at Greenbelt Co-op, now through August 28. These vouchers are exchanged for a wristband for unlimited rides from opening until 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Buy before they go up to \$35!

Find out more at greenbeltlaborday.com!

LABOR DAY RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Friday, August 29-Sunday August 31
Youth Center & Braden Field

Games and fun for all ages. Begins Friday at 6pm with an adult table tennis tournament! Saturday & Sunday there are events for the entire family such as balloon waddle race, a pie eating contest (*Mayor Jordan is the reigning champion!*), sack race, cornhole tournament, and so much more.

Learn more at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar or email asesay@greenbeltmd.gov.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY: GREENBELT LABOR DAY PARADE ROUTE CLOSURE

The City of Greenbelt will host its annual Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 1, bringing festive celebrations and temporary traffic adjustments.

Road Closure Details: Crescent Road, between Westway and Ridge Road will be closed to all traffic during the parade.

Travel Tips: Expect detours and delays in the area. Please plan ahead and allow extra travel time. For transit updates and alternate routes, visit the WMATA website

Thank you for your cooperation as we celebrate safely and smoothly!

GREENBELT ELECTION 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	10/3
Last day to register to vote (must be received by 4:30pm Upper Marlboro)	10/6
Second Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12pm)	10/24
Early Voting begins	11/1-11/2
Training session for Election Judges and Clerks	11/3
Election 7am-8pm	11/4
Mail-in ballots must be received by 6pm	11/4
Final Contributions & Expenditures Report (12pm)	11/7
Charter Meeting for swearing-in at 7:30pm	11/10

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

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION VOTER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Great News: Non-Citizen Residents Can Vote in the 2025 Greenbelt City Council Election by Registering with the City Clerk!

Greenbelt residents are reminded that to participate in the 2025 City Council election - whether as a voter, a candidate for City Council, or a signer of a petition for a candidate - you must be registered to vote. U.S. citizens must be qualified and registered to vote in Prince George's County. Non-citizen residents of Greenbelt may also participate by registering to vote with the City Clerk or by accessing the non-citizen voter registration forms available on the City's website.

To register, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States of America or Non-citizen of Greenbelt
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Be domiciled within the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt as of the date of registration
- Have completed any court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, parole, or probation if convicted of a felony
- Not be under guardianship for mental disability

For information about registering to vote in Prince George's County, contact the County Board of Elections at (301) 430-8020 or visit www.elections.state.md.us. Forms for voter registration for non-citizens are available on the city website, Voter Registration | Greenbelt, MD.

All registration forms must be submitted by the deadlines: citizen voter forms to the Prince George's County Board of Elections in Upper Marlboro by 4:30 pm on Monday, October 6, and non-citizen voter forms to the Greenbelt City Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, October 15.

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk by phone at (301) 474-8000 or elections@greenbeltmd.gov.

*If you are already registered to vote in Prince George's County but have moved or changed your name since the last election, you must complete an application to have this information changed. **This can also be done online at www.elections.state.md.us.*

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

In accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter, a regular election will be held in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, to elect the seven members of the City Council.

Any qualified voter of the City may be nominated for the office of Member of Council upon filing a nomination petition with the City Clerk (signed by not fewer than 50 Greenbelt resident voters), a written acceptance of the nomination, and other statements that are required by the City Charter or by law. Required forms and information are available at 25 Crescent Road, beginning Monday, August 18, from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM MONDAY, AUGUST 18 THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025.

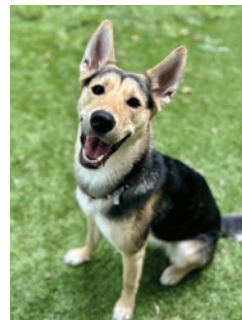
For additional information, call Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000, or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

FEATURED PET - DAISY

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

aisy was surrendered to our shelter through no fault of her own and is looking for her forever home. Daisy was so scared when she was dropped off at the shelter, but has been making so much progress over the last few weeks! Once she warms up and feels comfortable, she becomes an energetic and snuggly girl. Her favorite things include sunbathing, long walks, belly rubs, and playing with toys. Dakota previously lived with kids and cats, and loves other dogs. She's also a great leash-walker, non-reactive on walks, and potty trained!

If you're interested in adopting darling Daisy, call us at (301) 474-6124 or email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov!



LET'S DANCE! LINE DANCING NEW DATE! Saturday, September 6 at 6 pm

Come out and line dance at Roosevelt Center! Line dancing instructor, Mayra Morgan-Martin, will lead us as we learn steps and dance our hearts out!

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.

Fall Registration Now Open for ALL. Sign-up for classes, workshops, meet-ups, and special events for all ages. See brochure and more information at www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide. Fall session begins September 8.

Call for Volunteer Gallery Greeters. 8/30-9/1. Enjoy a new exhibit and help facilitate hands-on activities in the Art Gallery at the Greenbelt Community Center while visiting the Labor Day Festival! High school students and adults welcome. Sign up online: sugeni.us/eZo7.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Artful Afternoon** 9/7, 1-3pm (Buddy Attick Park) and 9/14, 1:30-2:30pm (*Springhill Lake Recreation Center*)
- **Drop-In Makers & Artists ages 4-15 starting 9/10, 4:30-6pm** (*Greenbelt Community Center*)
- **Sparkle Mart Vendor Applications Close** 4pm on 9/12. More information: www.greenbeltmd.gov/482/Sparkle-Mart.

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.

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.

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.

Hometown Heroes Find Distressed Cooper's Hawk, Seek Resources

by Erica Johns

A group of Greenbelt passersby recently banded together to help a hawk they found in distress and then cared for the hawk until a wildlife rescuer arrived.

Impromptu Rescuers

At 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, resident Katrina Boverman walked to the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center for a workout. Passing the Solar Nails Spa at Roosevelt Center, she saw a hawk on the sidewalk. "He was just standing there, moving his head back and forth," she said, "and hawks don't normally do that. He was acting so placidly, I figured he was really bad off, because he was staying in a place where people were around, and wasn't moving when people came within a foot of him." She noticed a wing feather sticking out and flies covering him.



A hawk is found on the sidewalk in front of Solar Nail Spa in Roosevelt Center.

Persons in the spa told her the hawk had been on the sidewalk for about 15 minutes after hitting the spa window. They hadn't called Greenbelt Animal Control, believing it only handled pets. Boverman didn't have a phone with her so customer Rebecca Fletcher offered hers.

Finding Greenbelt Animal Control had closed at 4 p.m. and being put on hold at Prince George's County Animal Control, Boverman called City Wildlife, which performs wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in Washington, D.C. They referred her to Owl Moon Raptor Center in Boyds, where staff answered the phone and said they would send a volunteer to pick up the hawk.

Boverman said Owl Moon advised placing a box or laundry basket over the hawk until the volunteer arrived. Solar Nails manager Tim found a basket and another customer opened the door for Boverman to place the basket over the hawk, which was standing immediately in front of the door. Tim offered to be a contact for Owl Moon and stay after the spa's 7 p.m. closure, around which time the volunteer arrived to take the hawk to Owl Moon.

What Happened to the Hawk?

Owl Moon staff told Boverman the next day that the juvenile hawk seemed to have a virus, based on missing tail feathers, a common virus symptom, and gave it a 50/50 chance of survival. On August 5 Owl Moon Executive Director Suzanne Shoemaker told the News Review the fledgling Cooper's Hawk had West Nile virus, which they are prone to, especially juveniles. She said West Nile can affect vision. Damaged vision and feathers could both have affected flight ability and contributed to the hawk hitting the window. Shoemaker said the hawk began improving, but later declined and was euthanized on August 2.

The previous Saturday, July 26, resident Gina Mai Denn took a video in the Northway Stream Valley Park of crows harassing a hawk on the ground, which may

Coming Together

Boverman observed to the News Review that people wanted to help but didn't know how or what resources were available, but that given something concrete to do, they jumped in. She noted how the pieces came together, from a phone to a basket to a waiting employee to a volunteer driving from Upper Marlboro to Greenbelt to Boyds, saying it was really amazing.

Boverman summarized the experience. "For me, especially at a time when our country seems so unfriendly and unkind, it was an exceptionally kind community experience of caring about another living thing, to have so many pieces pulled together and to have different people do different things. I'd like to believe that the next time people come across an injured animal they'll have an idea that there might be help out there, and will get the help."

have been the same hawk. Referring to the crows and the flies, Shoemaker noted animals' ability to detect and target sick and dying animals.

come across an injured animal they'll have an idea that there might be help out there, and will get the help."

Resources for Sick or Injured Wildlife

Greenbelt Animal Control aims to assist all Greenbelt residents with any animal-related needs; responds for sick or injured wildlife Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., greenbeltmd.gov/159/Animal-Services.

Greenbelt Police nonemergency number, 301-474-7200

Wildlife and Heritage Service, Md. Dept. of Natural Resources, provides referrals to licensed wildlife rehabilitators to respond to sick or injured wildlife; website lists rehabilitators by county, 1-877-463-6497, tinyurl.com/tsb3h6cw.

Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association offers a rehabilitator directory, mwrwildlife.net.

City Wildlife protects and advocates for wildlife and wildlife habitat; provides content and presentations about how to help animals and offers referrals to rehabilitators, citywildlife.org.

Owl Moon Raptor Center rehabilitates birds of prey, owlmoon.org.

Prince George's County Animal Control, 301-780-7200

Reducing Window Strikes: many vendors sell static cling decals as a visual signal to help birds avoid striking glass.



Katrina Boverman (right) and a Solar Nail Spa customer use a laundry basket to trap the injured hawk until rescue organization Owl Moon arrives.

- Photos courtesy Solar Nail Spa



LUNCHEON ON THE LAWN

Adults \$15 Children \$8

1 SEPT | Greenbelt Community Church UCC | AFTER PARADE

One Hillside Road

Barbecue, cole slaw, baked beans, dessert

Community Support Bolsters The Greenbelt News Review

by News Review Board of Directors

The News Review donation drive is off to a great start. We knew Greenbelt was a generous community. Last week we asked for your financial help in fulfilling our mission to deliver independent news for Greenbelt. Apparently many of you agree that our coverage of schools, the fire department, federal issues and more is important as a number of you have already stepped up.

Maybe you appreciate our expanded reporting or the photos of Greenbelt events, people and wildlife. With a city election season underway, maybe you want to know who the candidates are and what they think on the issues facing the city. Your financial support will keep the reporting and photos coming every week.

People have been taking advantage of the multiple ways we offer to make a contribution. Visit our website and click on Help Us on the home page and Contribute on the next page. Filling out the form and making a Zelle contribution can be done entirely online. Zelle allows you to make a contribution annually, quarterly or monthly, whichever works best for you; donations over time ensure us of ongoing support.

You can also put cash or checks (made out to Greenbelt News Review) through our mail slots at the News Review office in the Community Center or the dropbox in the Co-op Supermarket or mail checks to Greenbelt News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Include a note letting us know if you want to receive a thank you gift (see paragraph below) and

have your name listed as a supporter in our anniversary issue in November.

Because we are not a 501(c)(3) organization, but a workers cooperative, contributions to us are not tax-deductible.

Incentives

We are offering small gifts as "thank you's" to contributing readers and to enable you to proudly display your support: car magnets for a \$10 donation, your choice of a coffee mug or cotton tote bag for \$52 contributions, or all three for \$120. Visit us at Information Day during the Labor Day Festival to see some samples. These gifts will be available for pickup at the News Review office during office hours (Monday and Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.) and special weekend hours to be determined in September.

Don't forget that you can take out an ad expressing appreciation for the paper or recognizing someone's birthday or anniversary or other special occasion. Show the love all year round, not just at Valentine's Day. And do patronize our advertisers and let them know you're glad to support businesses that support the News Review.

We've produced a weekly paper, free of charge to Greenbelt, every week since November 1937 and with your support we can continue to bring great journalism to Greenbelt. We appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to provide the best news coverage we can to you, our readers.



Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



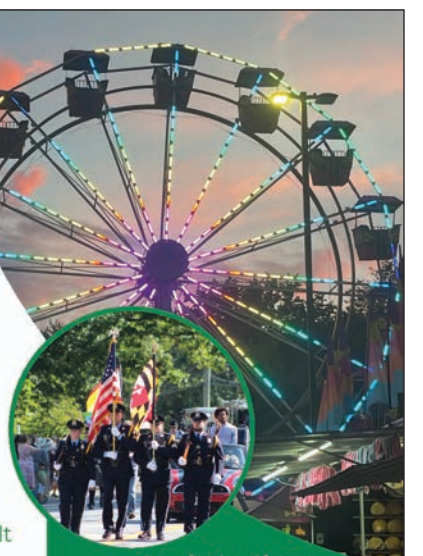
GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival was first held to raise funds to build a Youth Center. It has been held every year since by the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee, Maryland's largest all-volunteer organized event.

Friday, August 29
6 - 11 pm
Saturday, August 30
10:30 am - 11 pm
Sunday, August 31
11 am - 11 pm
Monday, September 1
11 am - 6 pm
(parade starts at 10)



Scan me



Carnival + Bingo
Food + Info Day
Craft Fair
Parade + Games
Live Entertainment
Photo/Art Show
Rising Stars Showcase

SHUTTLE Catch the Shuttle Bus for Free, No-Hassle Parking

- Greenbelt Elementary
- Eleanor Roosevelt High School
- Springhill Lake Rec Center
- Greenbelt Station

greenbeltlaborday.com

A Review

A Powerful King Lear Is Now Onstage at Greenbelt Arts Center

by Melissa Sites

Old King Lear (Bill Bodie) bemoans, “How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is to have a thankless child!” The Rude Mechanicals in residence at Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) present Shakespeare’s King Lear, directed by Claudia Bach. Bodie gives a deep-reaching and heartbreaking portrayal of the tragic old man, who has wrought his own destruction by dividing his kingdom between his daughters according to who claims to love him the most. Lear disowns his youngest daughter Cordelia (Victoria Davidson), who refuses to proclaim her love in empty hyperbole. Because Cordelia is disowned and Lear’s loyal retainer Kent (Erin Nealer) is banished, they go into disguise – Kent as a servant and Cordelia as the character of the King’s Fool. Nealer gives a confident and beautifully understated performance as the good Kent, and Davidson shines in her transformation from naive daughter to disillusioned Fool.

The two older sisters, Goneril (Stephanie Davis) and Regan (Rocelyn Frisco), are bitter, grasping, even panicky, dissatisfied in every situation. Both desire the upstart villain, Edmund (Tommy Stack), whose brilliant monologues make him an audience favorite, drawing approving chuckles as he announces his perfidious plans.

The tragedy of Lear is age without wisdom, family ties devoid of love, while genuine love and good advice go unrewarded. These contrasts are revealed through doubling. The two sons of Gloucester, good Edgar (Ethan Clarkewallis) and evil Edmund, reflect and complicate one another. Edmund repents too late, even as Edgar matures into a leader after almost everyone is dead. Gloucester and Kent reflect two understandings of nobility – one literally blinded, the other heartbroken. Regan and Goneril, the two bad sisters, are opposed to the sweet and good Cordelia. Of their husbands, one is very evil and one finally reaches a line he will not cross.



Bill Bodie as Lear, Erin Nealer as Kent



Ethan Clarkewallis as Edgar, Bill Bodie as Lear

Bach’s program notes advise us to listen for certain key words. Nature, natural and unnatural are one complex of thoughts, intertwined with ideas of nothing and never; madness and blindness also feature heavily in the play. As Lear loses his kingdom and comes to grip with the fact that his daughters do not love him, his hold on sanity unravels. “Am I the king?” he demands, but in fact, he has given up his kingdom. Costuming is important in the play, as Lear sheds his power suit, winding up in an old rock T-shirt, saying “John Barleycorn must die.” Good son Edgar also shifts through costumes on the run, navigating in and out of the appearance of madness.

- Photos by Ian Greear

King Lear is one of Shakespeare’s crowning masterpieces, with its deep human themes and archetypal characters who change and develop over the course of the play, some improving, some getting worse, while many meet their final end. Lear tells a story about bad decisions and their consequences, wisdom versus madness, love versus treachery, the hazards of age and the pain of survival.

King Lear will be performed at GAC at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday of the next two weekends and on Sundays August 31 and September 7 at 2 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit greenbeltartscenter.org.

How You Can Prevent Yourself From Being Victimized by Scams

by Stan Zirkin

In 2024, U.S. consumers reported losing a record \$12.5 billion to scams, a 25 percent increase from 2023, according to the Federal Trade Commission. Of those filing claims, 27 percent lost between \$1,000 and \$9,999; 13 percent reported losses of over \$10,000.

Greenbelt residents are not immune. According to the Greenbelt Police Department, in 2023 and 2024 there were a total of 274 reports of fraudulent activity filed with the department.

To educate Greenbelters on how to protect themselves from the everchanging methods fraudsters use, the Public Safety Advisory Committee, in conjunction with AARP Maryland and the Greenbelt Police Department, is hosting three public meetings on this topic to offer individuals flexibility as to when to attend. The same program will be presented at each of these meetings:

Wednesday, September 10 at 11 a.m., Community Center, Room 201, during the Golden Age Club’s regular meeting. This is an in-person meeting.

Tuesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The City of Greenbelt will provide information on the link on the city calendar at a later date.

Thursday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m., Community Center, Room 114. This is an in-person meeting.

The meetings will include question-and-answer sessions as well as information on what to do if victimized by a scam.

A few of the types of scams that will be discussed at these meetings are described below.

Investment Scams

Consumers reported losing more money in investment scams – \$5.7 billion – than in any other category in 2024. The offers arrive via email, text or by telephone promising the world: invest in this market, buy this precious metal, trust this crypto asset. The temptations – a bigger bank account, a more secure future – are all too real. But these “investments” are frequently worthless or are part of illegal schemes to defraud the public. The alleged brokers may use high pressure tactics and emphasize “deadlines” to generate excitement and a fear of losing out. The phrase “guaranteed” returns is frequently bandied about despite the fact that all investments – even real investments – carry risk.

Imposter Scams

The second highest reported loss came from imposter scams, with \$2.95 billion reported lost.

Imposter scams are a widespread form of fraud where scammers pretend to be someone the target trusts or a person in authority to steal money or personal information, or to gain access to the target’s computer to install malware. They take myriad forms.

Scammers may impersonate government officials like the Social Security Administration, Medicare or the IRS, claiming that the target owes money and needs to pay off the debt via gift card or crypto. They may pose as representatives from legitimate businesses seeking to hire employees to work remotely to obtain personal information from alleged applicants.

Scammers may pretend to be family members needing urgent financial assistance. A new wrinkle involves using AI to imitate voices of loved ones.

Scammers may pose as bank officials claiming that an account has been hacked and that money in the account needs to be moved to protect it; if such action is taken, the funds can be siphoned off to the scammers. Alternatively, they may claim that a substantial deposit has been made to an account and ask the target to click on a link for further information. The link allows them to access the computer and steal the target’s identity.

Online romance scams have been in use for years. Now there is a new twist. Targets receive a text from an unknown number just saying hello or asking if they are planning to meet. To be polite, the target responds to the text to let them know it was misdirected; this starts a potential fake friendship/love interest scam.

Other impersonator scams include tech support scams, where scammers seek to “help” computer owners correct alleged security issues by obtaining remote access to their computer and planting malware; toll road scams where false claims are made about an unpaid balance to a transponder like E-Z Pass and including a link to pay the fee, which results in potential identity theft; and PayPal/credit card scams where the imposter claims that the target made a high value purchase and needs to click on a link or call a “customer service” representative at a listed number to contest the purchase; once again, this results in the theft of money and personal information.

How can people prevent themselves from being victimized by these scams? What do they do if they fall for the scams? Come to the meetings and find out.

Emmeline Bedford-Dillow (8), with her News Review, in front of the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst, leader of the British Suffragettes, for whom she was named, in Manchester, England.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW



PHOTO BY JUSTIN GOTTSCHALK

The Gottschalk family took a trip out west. Here are Anna Gottschalk and Claire Gottschalk holding the News Review in Crater Lake National Park in Oregon.

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 Website: rscds-greaterdc.org/

During Labor Day Festival
No Farmers Market Aug 31
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 We'll Be Back Sunday Sept. 7 - See You Then!
We Need Volunteers! Visit our Website To Sign Up

RESILIENCY continued from page 1

events, so “we’re really relying on everyone to tell us where they’re experiencing problems.”

At the meeting, participants gathered around a map to place stickers on problem areas: dark, medium and light blue for major, medium and minor flooding, as well as red for erosion. LimnoTech Project Manager Anouk Savineau



PHOTO COURTESY CAROLYN LAMBRIGHT-DAVIS

Raised beds at the CHEARS Three Sisters Garden at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center were inundated in a recent rainstorm.

said they want all the information residents have about flooding and erosion, in as much detail as possible. Useful details include location, how much water was observed (for instance, to ankles or knees), how often and when (only in summer or year round) – the more specific, the better.

Savineau said documenting erosion is important since it is caused by excess water flow, and erosion impacts water quality by carrying sediment downstream where it can affect plant and aquatic life, such as in Greenbelt Lake.

The Problem of Water

Attendees described why the effort matters to them. Carolyn Lambright-Davis described water overwhelming raised beds in the Chesapeake Arts, Education and Research Society’s Springhill Lake Recreation Center garden. A resident described their Lakeside Drive home being threatened with rain flowing downhill from a GHI court. GHI Woodlands Committee member Ben Fischler discussed woodland stream bank erosion and Councilmembers Danielle McKinney and Kristen Weaver described floods near

their Greenbelt Station homes. Mayor Emmett Jordan discussed three Greenbelt watersheds (Still Creek, Beaver Dam Creek and Indian Creek) and impermeable surfaces that contribute to flooding and erosion, including water rushing downhill over impermeable surfaces to lower points.

What Is Resiliency?

Carpenter-Driscoll said that in storms with large loads of rushing water, a flood-resilient community can slow the flow, contain the water and let it slowly infiltrate and move to the next part of the stormwater system, instead of causing danger and damage. He said, “It’s being more like a sponge.”

Savineau said flooding may have varied causes, including storm sewer inlets being too small or the sewers themselves being too small so water enters them without being able to quickly move on. The News Review asked Carpenter-Driscoll whether new stormwater infrastructure or practices are needed. He said those could be useful in new developments, but it’s not financially feasible to retrofit existing stormwater infrastructure.

Answering a question about what can be done differently to address stormwater threats, he said, “That’s what we’re trying to find out. We have limited funds, so where should we focus those funds to make the most impact? That’s what we want to glean from [identifying problem areas]. Once we have that, we have a roadmap to look for funding sources.”

LimnoTech will combine problem area reporting with city information, storm sewer infrastructure data from Prince George’s County and hopefully the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, as well as state climate change projections. They will use all this information to map and model where and how water flows and backs up in Greenbelt, organize the problem areas in a hierarchy and propose mitigation options across the city. They expect the effort to take about six months. Carpenter-Driscoll said there will be a project update in a council worksession this fall and a final presentation in early 2026.

Share Knowledge

Access the survey at arcg.is/0zu4K11 or the QR code below. Detailed information is helpful and multiple submissions are welcome.

Email photos and videos of flooding or erosion to City Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov.

For more information about the Community Flood Resiliency Plan, contact Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2168.

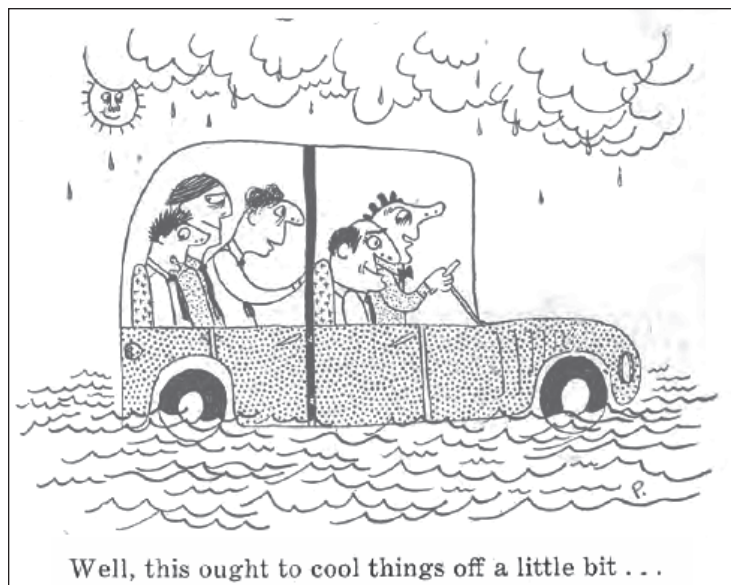


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PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Residents gather around a city map on August 21 to place stickers on problem areas: dark, medium and light blue for major, medium, and minor flooding, and red for erosion.



CARTOON BY IZZY PARKER

- News Review, September 5, 1947

Office Tower Sold for \$27.5 Million

Maryland Trade Center III, a 192,000-square-foot medical office building in an office park adjacent to Greenway Center and close to Hanover Parkway, sold for \$27.5 million on July 22. “Maryland Trade Center III is a multi-tenant medical building that is approximately 75 percent leased and anchored by Luminis Health, which selected the property for its recent outpatient expansion,” said Robert Filley, IPA senior managing director. “The tower is a mile from Luminis Health’s half-million-square-foot hospital and long-term recovery center and is one of the largest medical office buildings to trade in the United States this year.”

Filley and Chez Eider, Marcus & Millichap Senior Director Investments, represented the seller, Greenbelt Trade Center LLC, and procured the buyer, CPF-HCRE – Greenbelt LLC, an affiliate of Chicago Pacific Founders in association with Brian Hosey, Marcus & Millichap’s broker of record in Maryland. “This transaction demonstrates the advantage of combining targeted local knowledge with a coordinated national capital strategy,”

said Eider. “By assembling the right team and accessing relationships across the country, we attracted interest from both institutional and private buyers and created a competitive process that delivered maximum value for the seller.” Lindsay Stroud, senior managing director with IPA Capital Markets, provided debt advisory services and said: “The property has a clear path to stabilization given Luminis’ continued interest in expansion and strong interest from the market.” Completed in 1989, Maryland Trade Center III has been upgraded in recent years with a new lobby and systems upgrades. In addition to Luminis Health and Greenbelt Oncology, tenants include Absolute Care of Maryland, LabCorp, Community Radiology Associates, Anne Arundel Dermatology and Health First Medical Group. The building’s amenities include a two-story atrium lobby, a tenant-only fitness center, and a daycare facility.

Information for this article was derived from a press release from Institutional Property Advisors.



PHOTO COURTESY THE O'ROARK FAMILY

The O’Roark family visits Lilja the troll (by artist Thomas Dambo) at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and laments that they forgot to bring their Greenbelt News Review.

PUBLIC POLICY VOLUNTEERS

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
LEGACY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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.

Outdoor Pool Will Remain Open Until Indoor Pool Reopens

by Will Hammann



PHOTO BY WILL HAMMANN

Crews are currently installing new deck tiles for the indoor pool, which is scheduled to open September 29.

Typically, Labor Day is the final day for Greenbelters who want to enjoy some outdoor pool time at the close of summer. It's frequently a popular post-parade spot, as residents squeeze in a final fresh-air swim. This year, however, there will be a little more time to do so. The outdoor pool at Greenbelt's Aquatic & Fitness Center will remain open until the reopening of the indoor pool, which is still on schedule to occur September 29, according to Andrew Phelan, assistant director of recreation facilities

and operations.

The facility's outdoor wading pool was reopened in mid-July after being closed for a separate maintenance project.

Phelan said that inside crews are currently installing new deck tiles. Once work on the project is complete, city staff will prepare the pool for its reopening.

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

Volunteers Needed For Tool Library

The Greenbelt Makerspace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email us at staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt Makerspace is accessed via the exterior stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.



Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George's County!

Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrials.org

Mahjong Group Meets Weekly on Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Mahjong Group meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Senior Game Room in the Community Center. Instructional classes are offered periodically. Check the Fall Recreation Guide for details.

Unscheduled Spraying Concerns Many Residents of Old Greenbelt

by Melissa Sites

According to a public notice from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA, news.maryland.gov/mda) pesticide spraying occurred on August 5 and August 25 in Greenbelt "due to a public health concern over the potential for mosquito-borne diseases," primarily West Nile virus, which has caused one human illness in Maryland this year. The spraying occurred evenings within a 3/4-mile radius of the Northway ballfields.

This spraying sparked concern among proponents of the Firefly Sanctuary, located in Stream Valley Park. The Firefly Sanctuary was established in spring 2020 by Mary Ann Canter, who brought others on board to create a protected no-spray zone for fireflies and other invertebrates (see the May 28, 2020, issue).

The Permethrin-based solution

that was used is regarded as safe for humans, though MDA recommends avoiding outdoor activities during spraying. Permethrin kills not only mosquitoes, but other insects as well, including beneficial insects like pollinators and beloved insects like fireflies, butterflies, katydids and many insects that support bird and bat populations. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation offers alternatives to spraying pesticides, which can linger in the environment with unintended consequences (xerces.org/pesticides/understanding-pesticides).

For more information about unscheduled spraying, follow MDA's Facebook feed @MdAgDept or call the department's Mosquito Control Program at 410-841-5870.



PHOTO COURTESY JOSH KINER

Valentina Aquila and Josh Kiner catch up on Greenbelt news after a long hike to the Tre Cime in the northeastern Italian Alps.

Retro Town Fair Returns



The Greenbelt Museum will host the Retro Town Fair again on Sunday, August 31 at the Museum grounds at 10 Crescent Road. It has been a fabulous growing year, and we can't wait to see all the gorgeous produce and more.

Categories and hours are the same as last year, with drop-offs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Judging will be done from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The public will be welcome to come in at 1 p.m. and admire the handiwork and talents of their Greenbelt neighbors and friends.

The Retro Town Fair was started in 2012, on the occasion of Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary. It is an homage to the Town Fairs that were held in early Greenbelt at the behest of the new residents eager to show off their gardening prowess. It is all in good fun and works as a community building experience. Ribbons are awarded and bragging rights will last forever. The fair accepts needlework, baked goods, canned goods, homegrown produce, crafts, flowers and more. Check the website, Greenbeltmuseum.org, for entry forms and more information. See everyone at the fair!



Park and Ride Free Bus For Labor Day Festival

Avoid parking problems at this year's Labor Day Festival. Park at Greenbelt Elementary or Eleanor Roosevelt High School and ride the free shuttle bus. The shuttle also calls at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Greenbelt Metro and Greenbelt Station Townhouses, running about every 45 minutes. For more information, visit greenbeltlaborday.com.

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centralmdchorale@gmail.com

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.

58C Ridge Road



2 BD | 2 BA \$290,000

This charmer has a very smart addition that includes a second full bath. Plus, a kitchen bump-out brings in more light and extra workspace, and other fun architectural details add flair and practicality to this co-op townhome.

Kim Kash

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ABREGO continued from page 1



PHOTO BY VICKI CHEESEMAN

John Appiah-Duffell (center back) with others at a rally before a hearing for Kilmar Abrego Garcia at Greenbelt Federal Court House on Monday, July 7

rights.”
John Appiah-Duffell, a six-year resident of Greenbelt who has joined protesters at the Greenbelt U.S. District Court multiple times, wasn’t surprised that Abrego Garcia was detained so swiftly after his release.

“He’s not only a victim, he’s a witness to the crimes against humanity perpetrated by this administration. And so they are gonna do whatever they can to keep them locked up,” said Appiah-Duffell.

Many people have protested the federal government’s persecution of Abrego Garcia. In addition to the Greenbelt federal courthouse where several of his cases have been heard, large protests such as Hands-Off and No Kings in Washington, D.C., were attended by many residents of Greenbelt and other nearby communities.

Melissa Sites is a part of the Rapid Response Choir, a group that sings in protest and has done so in support of Abrego Garcia, who has lived in nearby Beltsville for 10 years.

“To me, Kilmar was literally my neighbor. And as a Greenbelter, this is not how we’re supposed to treat our neighbors. We’re supposed to take care of our neighbors,” said Sites.

Appiah-Duffell and other protesters used a slogan: “Todos somos Kilmar,” meaning “We are all Kilmar.” He says that’s not just a rallying cry, it’s true for

two reasons.
“Like Kilmar,” said Appiah-Duffell, “I am just a person trying to get through my life in this world and do right by my community and my family. And also, like Kilmar, I and basically anybody else could have this happen to us.”

Appiah-Duffell noted how the administration has detained not only undocumented people, but also people who have legal status as residents. Plans to revoke citizenship from naturalized citizens, laid out in a Justice Department memo released in June, added to his concerns.

Before being detained in Baltimore, Abrego Garcia addressed supporters who had gathered outside the building. He said that seeing his family over the weekend filled him with the strength to continue fighting.

“I want to thank each and every one of you who marched. Lift your voices, never stop praying and continue to fight in my name,” said Abrego Garcia.

Will Hammann and Ellie Jorntlin are University of Maryland students at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the Greenbelt News Review.

City Notes

Several departments participated in a CARES back-to-school event. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Constituent Services facilitated a food distribution.

Economic Development met with the Greenbelt Business Alliance and, with Public Information, attended a county Chamber of Commerce networking event.

Code Enforcement inspected 44 properties at Beltway Plaza and attended Federal Emergency Management Agency training. Animal Shelter residents are three cats, seven kittens and five dogs.

Environmental/Sustainability held a community meeting about flooding issues. The Public Works director attended the national Public Works Expo.

At the Aquatic & Fitness Center, contractors laid mortar for tiling the indoor pool deck. The Community Center installed a new exhibition in the Gallery.

Park Rangers welcomed a Roosevelt High School class reunion in Schrom Hills Park. The Summer Kayaking program added a third session by public request.

This season the Museum welcomed around 360 campers, who learned about life in early Greenbelt.

CARES and a local bank established a partnership offering financial literacy classes to residents.

GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

PTA Book Sale Preparations



On Saturday, August 23, the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA collected and sorted books in the basement of St. Hugh’s Church for the Labor Day book sale.



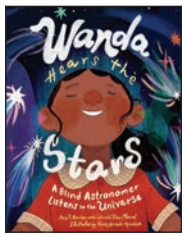
Catherine Hebert helps to move books during the PTA’s book collection day on Saturday, August 23.



Books sorted, boxed and ready to transport

- Photos by Lois Gorman

Amy S. Hansen’s Latest Book is now on sale!
(Available wherever books are sold)



Also on sale at:
Storytime at People’s Books
August 31 9:30 a.m.
7014 -A Westmoreland Ave,
Takoma Park

Luncheon on the Lawn
September 1, after the parade
Greenbelt Community Church
1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt

Lunch and Learning
interview with PGCML
September 2: Noon,
S www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtM5wZ7Tb8I

Storytime on Screen
September 13, 2 p.m.
Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway, Greenbelt

amyshansen.com



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred August 18-24, 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 death, three mental health diversions and three domestic incidents, one involving cutting, two resulting in arrest. A child reported missing was located safe.

On August 18, two young children were left unattended inside a vehicle with the engine running; one was at the wheel pressing on the gas pedal. Officers opened the door and shut off the vehicle. Child Protective Services was notified.

Break-in

On August 18 at 3:06 p.m. near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, a man broke into a business office after hours; security footage was provided.

Attempted Strong-arm Robbery

On August 19 at 8:12 p.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Greenbelt Metro Drive, a boy was jumped by other boys trying to take his ski mask. No one was injured, and he was given a ride home.

Shoplifting/Theft

On August 19 at 11:33 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise and left before police arrived.

On August 19 at 5:01 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was caught after she stole merchandise. All items were returned and she was banned.

On August 21 at 2:12 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two women were stopped after passing all points of sale with merchandise. They admitted to the theft, the merchandise was

returned and they were banned.

On August 23 at 7:57 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter fled in a gray Volvo before officers arrived.

On August 24 at 10:13 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, officers arrested a man who was involved in multiple thefts from the store over time. He was taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Vandalism

On August 22 near 6017 Springhill Drive, while on foot patrol, an officer recognized gang-related graffiti, and near 5993 Springhill Drive, officers on routine foot patrol noticed that a seat at the bus stop had gang-related markings carved into the wood.

On August 24 at 5:35 a.m. near 5333 Stream Bank Lane, a man heard a loud noise and saw a man outside the home. When he yelled from the window, the man ran away. Officers observed a broken window.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on August 19 near 9134 Edmonston Court, a 2016 white Hyundai Elantra (Md. 1DL6620); on August 20 near 5819 Cherrywood Lane, a 2016 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 1FH1224); and on August 24 near 5909 Cherrywood Lane, a 2011 Acura RDX (Md. 3CZ7060).

Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On August 22 near 6230 Springhill Drive, officers located a Honda Accord that had been

stolen elsewhere in Prince George's County.

Theft from Auto

On August 19 at 10:37 p.m. near 6460 Capitol Drive, while the owner was in a restaurant her 2019 Volkswagen Tiguan had a window shattered and a bag stolen; near 6500 Capitol Drive, 14 vehicles were broken into at the Honda dealership and their airbags were stolen; and near 8028 Lakecrest Drive, a Kia Sorrento had been left unlocked and items were taken.

On August 24 near 9334 Edmonston Road, a 2010 Honda Civic had its license plate taken.

Vandalism to Auto

On August 19 near 5801 Cherrywood Lane, a 2008 Dodge Caravan had a window smashed but nothing was taken.

On August 20 near 5815 Cherrywood Lane, a 2022 Hyundai Accent had a door handle broken off and the ignition damaged.

On August 22 at 3:15 p.m. near 6500 Capitol Drive, a woman came to a man's workplace and caused a disturbance after he refused to talk with her. A short time later, he noticed that his car had been vandalized with key marks.

On August 22 near 7745 Greenbrook Drive, a Chevy cargo van had a window broken.

On August 24 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a 2025 Honda HR-V had a window broken; the car was searched but nothing was stolen.

Accident on Route 201 at I-95



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

On Saturday, August 9, there were temporary delays southbound on Kenilworth Avenue at the I-95 exit ramp due to a dump truck on fire. No injuries were sustained.

KIPKE continued from page 1

law and DUI enforcement at the Prince George's Police Academy, a specialty that has become a passion in her career.

Kipke initially studied to become an EMT but changed course after doing a ride-along with Lt. Michael Apgar of GPD and has loved serving Greenbelt as an officer ever since. She was promoted to corporal in May.

"I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else," said Kipke. "Greenbelt has a small-town, family feel, you get to know the people that you're serving."

Kipke's favorite parts of the job are connecting with and building trust in the Greenbelt community. She says the best way to connect with people as an officer is to simply be herself.

"I don't change who I am. I'm the same person once I put this uniform on that I am when I take it off. I like to laugh, have a good time and joke with people," Kipke said.

For Kipke, the recognition is not only personal but also a reflection of her department's culture.

"I want to thank my department for trusting me. The support I've gotten from them and the community has meant so much," Kipke said.

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



Cinema Friends Group Receives Grant from Expanded Heritage Area

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. announces that the approved amendment of its state-certified geographic service area boundary will include the entirety of Prince George's County. The expansion has led to two first-time grantees of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant program for Fiscal Year 2026, one of which is the Friends of Greenbelt Theatre, Inc./Maryland in the Movies exhibit for \$15,000.

Friends of Greenbelt Theatre operates Greenbelt Cinema as a movie theater and cultural center with the potential to reach a large number of visitors. This funding leverages the Cinema's popularity with the general public to show-

case Maryland history, landscapes and architecture through film.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that manages the state-certified Heritage Area in Prince George's County. Certified in 2001, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area contributes to the vitality and economy of the county through cultural tourism. Learn more at anacostiatrials.org.

This article is drawn from a press release from the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.



Food Bank Pop-ups For Federal Workers

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

Pop-up distributions offer pantry items and fresh produce food boxes on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, or while supplies last, in the parking lots of the following Giant supermarket locations: 7546 Annapolis Road, Lanham, 7074 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, 5500 Silver Hill Road, District Heights.

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



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Officer Kipke was recognized by the Police Chief's Association of Prince George's County in July.

KING LEAR

By William Shakespeare





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SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

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FESTIVAL continued from page 1

died in the past year. Then join Katy Gaughan's Drumming for Wellness family-friendly drum circle from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – drums and hand-held percussion instruments are provided or participants can bring their own.

At noon, the booths and bingo reopen for the day, until 10 p.m.

Karen Collins & the Backroad Band entertains with their retro country sound and Karen's witty and heartfelt original songs, from 12:30 until 2 p.m.

At 1 p.m., children's bingo in the Youth Center and the corn-hole tournament (for 12 and older) at Braden Field begin. Then at 2 p.m. in the Youth Center, the youth table tennis tournament (for 12 and under) and the Hot Shot basketball contest (for 17 and under) get rolling.

In the Community Center gym, the art show and photo show will feature local artists and photographers from 1 to 6 p.m. Come vote for favorites. A community engagement project, What's My Prompt? offers attendees a chance to express themselves in words or art, from 1 to 4 p.m. next to the stage.

The Rising Stars Performance Showcase offers local performers a chance to display their talent, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Then the Greenbelt Honk! Situation takes the stage from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., offering their unique blend of tie-dyed brass and drums musicians playing funk, pop and street band favorites.

Flo Anito and the Bay Jazz Project bring the Great American Songbook to life from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Closing out the musical night, from 8 to 11 p.m., Chop-teeth Afrofunk Big Band, a horn-heavy percussive musical crew, will keep the dance floor filled with highlife, rumba, Afrobeat and other sounds from Africa's 1970s heyday.

Monday, September 1

The annual Labor Day Parade begins at 10 a.m. Led by the Grand Marshal (the 2025 Outstanding Citizen) and the Greenbelt Police Department Color Guard, and including the DuVal High School marching band, a variety of musical groups, all manner of local community organizations and more, the parade will honor the city's community spirit. The parade

route will run along Crescent Road, from Greenhill to the reviewing stand at the intersection with Southway, ending about noon.

At 11 a.m., the booths, rides and bingo open until 6 p.m. From noon to 6 p.m., the craft fair continues at Roosevelt Center. The art and photo shows will be open from noon to 4 p.m.

After the parade, from noon to 2 p.m., Luncheon on the Lawn will be held at Greenbelt Community Church (corner of Hillside and Crescent), with BBQ sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans and more available for purchase. At the other side of Old Greenbelt, the Greenbelt American Legion Family Picnic offers food and activities for children and adults from 2 to 4 p.m. Also from 2 to 4 p.m., the Arts Advisory Board hosts a mixer with local artists and art supporters in the Community Center Art Gallery.

On stage, Griefcat, a genre-defying musical comedy duo will make listeners laugh, cry and question their life choices, all in a single chorus. Award presentations for the art and photo shows as well as parade entries begin at 2 p.m. And to close out the Festival, The Nowhere Men and their powerhouse horn section will offer songs from artists like Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Chicago and more.

Booths, bingo, craft fair and the stage all close at 6 p.m., bringing an end to the 2025 Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.



Listen to a Spotify playlist of the Festival bands here: tinyurl.com/LDFbands2025.



Preparations for Labor Day are well underway on Tuesday.



Letters from p.2

Payouts

Former Prince George's County Public Schools Superintendent Millard House II was not the only former superintendent paid to leave. Kevin Maxwell was paid approximately \$800,000 to leave in 2018. PGCPSS has paid out approximately \$1.5 million to get rid of superintendents who were supposedly the best available at the time of their hiring.

James William Thompson

Who's Nonempathetic?

I found the letter called Who's Being Political? (August 21 News Review) disturbing – not only because it evoked the thug-like tactics of our current federal administration, but also because of the writer's negative, one-sided depiction of an interaction with Greenbelt police. The person had asked police about city policy on handling of some immigration issue; then publicly accused the officer of being insensitive, unempathetic, sarcastic, unforthcoming and indifferent. The officer had answered the questions about enforcement of ICE's criminal vs. civil warrants, although not about protecting citizens from potential abductions by masked ICE agents. He might not have had the answer to the latter; we are not told the reason. The person was advised to contact the Chief of Police and ICE. At the same time, by the person's own account, they "kept emphasizing" a point to the police officer, and the officer had to "remark several times" that he [correctly] would not "get political." This language suggests to me that the impassioned, persistent person may have been browbeating the officer. The person would have more appropriately approached the city's administrative or communications personnel, for example, to ask about the city's policy decisions and to offer suggestions as to how to proceed. Our police officers put themselves in harm's way to protect our diverse community daily. They also do community outreach, to promote understanding and trust. What they can't do is make immigration law. They have a hard, complicated job, and I believe they do it as fairly, professionally and humanely as they can within the limits imposed on them. Yet the August 21 letter-writer is casting our police officers as villains regarding ICE. This person might have done well to show the officer the same "kindness and sensitivity" that Constituent Services Coordinator Gizelle Alvarez showed the person in a subsequent visit.

Name withheld at the request of the author

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Transportation Programs Serve Seniors, People with Disabilities

Fares	
TYPE	FEE (EACH WAY)
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Children (6-18 Years)	\$1.00
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All Other Citizens	\$2.00

IMAGE COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Greenbelt Connection fares

Senior citizens and people with disabilities have transportation services available to help them get out and about in Greenbelt and beyond. Those in need of transportation options may find the following information about free and affordable services useful.

Greenbelt Connection

Greenbelt provides a limited transportation service within Greenbelt utilizing a 12-passenger wheelchair-accessible van. Service is available to all residents of Greenbelt. To arrange for transportation call 301-474-4100 at least 24 hours ahead.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Greenbelt Connection does not operate on holidays observed by the city. The fee is \$1 for senior citizens, residents with disabilities and children 6 to 18 years old. All other residents can utilize the bus for a fee of \$2. The service is only available to Greenbelt residents. Visit their website here: <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/562/Greenbelt-Connection>.

Call-a-Bus Program

For trips outside the city, the county's Call-a-Bus is an on-demand curb-to-curb service. This free service is available to all residents of Prince George's County who are not served by, or cannot use, existing bus or rail services. However, priority is given to seniors and persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities must provide their own escort, if needed. Service animals are allowed for the visually impaired.

Reservations can be made up to seven days in advance by calling 301-499-8603 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday

through Friday, excluding county holidays. Hours of service are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding county holidays. Same day requests are accepted, but are subject to availability of resources.

When reserving a trip, be sure to indicate if special assistance, such as a wheelchair lift or escort, is needed. Passengers can opt in to receive a text message confirmation of the ride the day prior to the scheduled ride date. Be ready for pickup 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time and be waiting at a location visible to the driver. Due to traffic congestion, wait 15 minutes before calling to verify if the trip is late.

Call-a-Cab

Call-a-Cab is a transportation assistance program that provides transportation at a reduced cost to seniors and those with disabilities in Prince George's County. Those eligible can purchase coupon books to pay for rides with participating cab companies when Call-a-Bus, Metrorail, Metrobus or other services are not available. A \$20 coupon book is available for \$10. Call 301-883-5656 for more information or visit bit.ly/CACNewApp for an application. Confirm in advance that the cab company will accept the ride voucher. Contact Mobility Program Manager Regina Crawford at recrawfor@co.pg.md.us for a list of participating cab companies.

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transit will host their next outreach program at Greenbelt Community Center on Wednesday, October 8, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

This article was compiled from attendance at an outreach event and city and county materials.

Greenbelt Youth Baseball
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Flexibility, Opportunity: Benefits Of Substitute Teaching in PGCPS

by Darelynn Fung

Want an opportunity to help preserve an institution, connect with the different neighborhoods of Greenbelt and earn money? This trifecta can be achieved by becoming a substitute teacher for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). Primary caretakers and gig workers may find substitute teaching to be a way to increase household income without being tied to full-time employment. For those in need of full-time work, substitute teaching provides a glimpse of teaching as a career.

While the human resources department (HR) of the school district boasts, "Despite a national shortage of substitute teachers, PGCPS has successfully maintained a robust and reliable pool of substitutes," there are often days when teacher absences outnumber the substitute pool. On these days, school staff must fill in beyond their regular duties. (PGCPS does provide extra compensation to educators who cover classes.)

Sharelle Stagg, principal of Magnolia Elementary School, said, "We built a solid list of dependable and capable substitutes last school year due to the hard work of our assistant principal, Ms. Giddings." She added, "We are always looking for caring and committed individuals to support daily instruction." Greenbelt Middle School Principal Marcelus Clement said, "We do have a good amount of subs that rotate in our school, but we always look for more to have support for when teachers are out."

For Greenbelt resident Brooke Kenny, becoming a substitute teacher and working with kids was a natural fit. "Ever since Covid, it has been difficult for me to balance full-time work

with the demands of my kids' schedules. I was interested in working part-time but needed a schedule that aligned with when my kids are in school." Stepping into this role, Kenny has found, in addition to the training provided by PGCPS, the teachers at the schools at which she has subbed have been willing to give support and share their wisdom. She further said, "The more high-quality, reliable subs our schools have, the more consistency the children receive and the more comfortable our teachers feel taking time off to address their own needs."

Becoming a substitute teacher for PGCPS requires a minimum of 60 college credits from an accredited college or university and some experience working directly with children. According to Kenny, "This does not need to be in a classroom setting." Once hired, employees have access to the substitute portal to choose available jobs at any school within the county. The choice to work is in the hands of the substitute teachers. If there is not a job in the portal that aligns with their schedule or interests (location, grade level, subject matter) they can choose to not accept a job. Salary is above the state minimum wage at \$150 a day. A complete application and other information are available at <https://tinyurl.com/yc2eyyf3>. PGCPS HR reports that principal referrals can expedite the process.

Dena Kohn Scholarship Mini-Golf Event

On Sunday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Dena Kohn Theatre Lab Scholarship Fund will hold a miniature golf event as a fundraiser and celebration of the life of lifelong Greenbelter Dena Kohn, who died just before her 23rd birthday.

Each year, her life and spirit of giving are celebrated and commemorated by a fundraiser for the Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship which provides scholarships each summer to teenagers in financial need to participate in the Theatre Lab's Musical Theatre Institute for teens.

The event will be held at Columbia SportsPark, 5434 Harpers Farm Road, Columbia. Attendees can buy baked goods from a Greenbelt baker and original pottery by a Greenbelt potter at the event. Those wishing to sponsor a hole, play a round, make a donation or ask questions can call Niki Kohn at 301-474-8423 or email nikiekohn@gmail.com.

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

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

Kayaking with the City



Kayakers enjoy the city's summer kayaking program on August 23. The program was so popular that a third session was added.

- Photos by Nick Hall



GCB Begins a New Season September 8

The Greenbelt Concert Band (GCB) begins its new season on Monday, September 8 in Room 201 of the Community Center at 6:30 p.m. (open house) and 7 to 9 p.m. (rehearsal). Join in to reconnect, meet new members and kick off another exciting season of community music-making.

Musicians Wanted

All concert band instrumentalists are welcome – especially clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, baritone and tuba players. Whether ready to play, listen in or just stop by and say hello, we'd love to see you.

Band Aides Needed

Love music and community spirit? Join the Band Aides, a fun and friendly team supporting one of Greenbelt's most cherished musical groups. Band Aides help with promoting free concerts and events; assisting with set-up, hospitality and outreach; and cheering on the band as part of the musical family. No musical experience is required – just a love for music and community. Whether one has a little time or a lot, support makes a big difference. If interested, visit greenbeltconcertband.org or email gcb-manager@greenbeltconcertband.org to learn more.

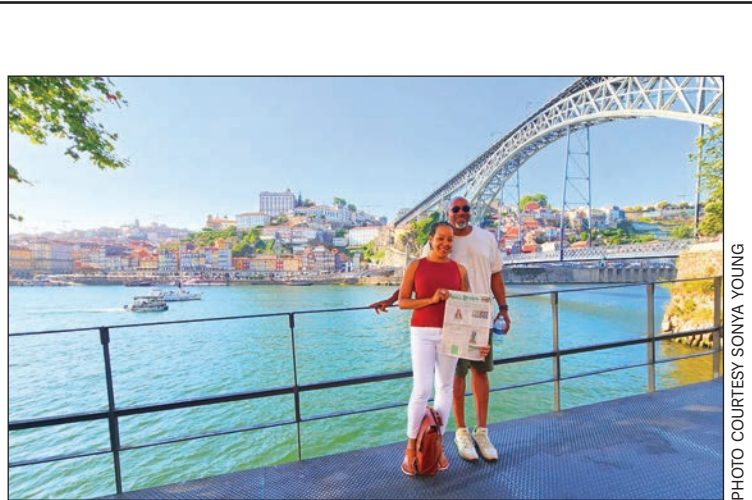


PHOTO COURTESY SONYA YOUNG

Greenbelt neighbors Ray and Sonya Young recently took the News Review on a scenic getaway to Porto, Portugal. With beautiful weather, stunning architecture and a glass (or two) of local wine, they soaked up the charm of this riverside city – proof that a good vacation and good reading go hand in hand.

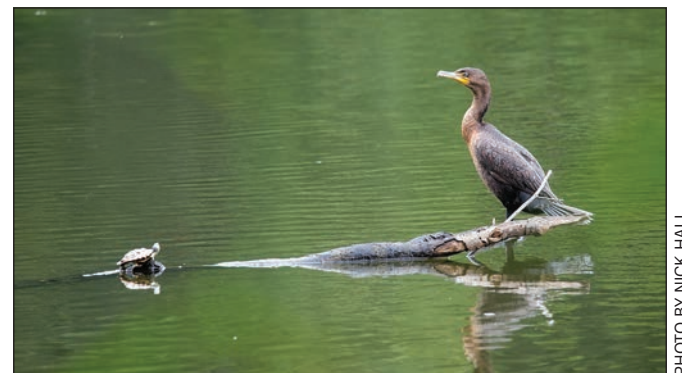


PHOTO BY NICK HALL

A turtle and a cormorant share a log in Greenbelt Lake.

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MISHKAN TORAH is excited to welcome you for the High Holidays this year. Rosh Hashanah is on 9/22-24 and Yom Kippur is on 10/1-2. We have a full program of services and activities for you to ring in 5786 – in person at our synagogue in Greenbelt or on Zoom. Members and non-members welcome. Learn more from our information page, available at MishkanTorah.org.

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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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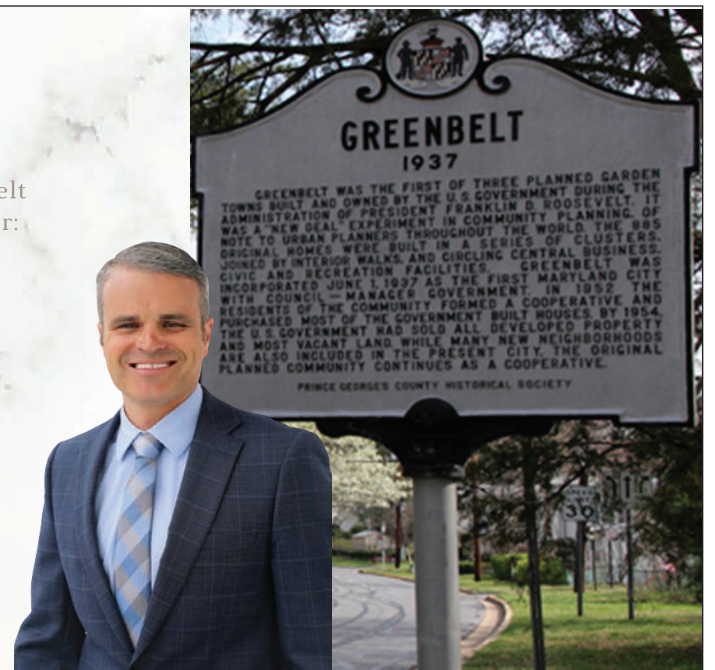
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Sports

Sweltering Summer Soccer Season Will Pass to an Invigorating Autumn

by Patrick Gleason

Despite a barrage of thunderstorms and excessive heat warnings offered by Maryland's second most humid July on record, the Prince George's County Youth Soccer League persevered, navigating cancellations and postponements for a six-game summer season that culminated on Tuesday, August 5. The Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) girls soccer program entered two teams in the league that featured teams from county high schools – including Bowie, Parkdale, Flowers and High Point – as well as some mixed rosters.

Roosevelt United finished 4-1-1, the same as the second place Milan FC, guided by Addison Green's leadership. Additionally, Claudia van der Have and Kyndall Hogans made a formidable combination in the Raider offense, while incoming freshmen Mia Moore, Beatrice Marx and Ayanna Steele offered further offensive options for a team that scored 12 goals on the season. Junior Lien Gareri also safeguarded the Roosevelt goal throughout the season.

The second ERHS team, Raiders FC, finished 2-3-1 with strong play from junior Naomi Petralia, who guided the Raider midfield. Karina and Yadira Reyes Carranza provided senior leadership while underclassmen Abrianna Wilson, Joyce Kengne and Stephanie Aguilar joined in the Raider attack. Juniors Bayleigh Galie, Emily Gills and Allison Zúñiga Euceda defended for a squad that only conceded three goals.

This season marks the fourth installment of the high school girls summer league, which was started by former Northwestern High School coach Carla Benavides. The program provides an important transition into the high school season, which starts on the second Wednesday of August each year. The ERHS girls soccer program has won the last two region championships in the 4A South Region II, which is comprised of mainly Prince George's County teams. If the summer league is any indication, this fall will offer strong competition across the county. Scrimmages for county teams started this week with the first set of fall games beginning the week of September 8. While the ceremonial end of summer nears, hopefully the change in calendar brings more cooperative weather for an autumn of competition and camaraderie across the county.



Senior Claudia van der Have (9) provided offensive bursts all summer for Roosevelt United and will be a vital part of the ERHS attack this fall.



Freshman Stephanie Aguilar celebrates with teammates Treasure Wogu and Naomi Petralia after a goal for Raiders FC during a July summer league game.

- Photos by Elvis Ventura



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Back to School

Bus Driver Shortage Leaves Over 1,100 Routes “Vacant”

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Tuesday over 130,000 students went back to school with Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS). However, getting there is still challenging for some. PGCPS continues to face a shortage of school bus drivers that is “expected to cause delays and longer travel times for some students” according to a statement Tuesday. At the start of this new school year, some 1,119 routes remain “vacant” or without a permanent driver assigned and the school system warns parents to anticipate delays. Sixty-eight of those vacant routes serve Greenbelt schools. PGCPS say their challenges mirror nationwide ones.

Affected Routes

The vacant bus routes include five for Greenbelt Elementary School, three for Springhill Lake Elementary, two for Magnolia Elementary School, 15 for Dora Kennedy French Immersion, 20 for Greenbelt Middle School and 23 for Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The detailed vacant bus route list can be found at tinyurl.com/4zm74uk5. In addition to those routes, others will be impacted as they are “doubled up” or combined.

Delays

PGCPS says all bus routes will be covered but may experience delays. “We want to be clear and transparent with our families from day one,” said Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph. “Your child will get to school safely, but in some cases, it may take longer than planned. Our commitment is to keep families informed so they know what to expect.”

The vacant routes will be temporarily combined with other runs, which PGCPS says may cause buses to arrive later than scheduled. Families will receive delay messages during the first



School buses line up outside Dora Kennedy French Immersion during the first week of school in 2024.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

week of school if their child’s bus is combined with another route, says PGCPS. They also acknowledged that the app StopFinder may not provide accurate information: “You may use the StopFinder app to track your bus; however, please note that information may not always be fully accurate during this adjustment period,” according to a PGCPS statement. On the morning of Monday, August 25, the day before school, StopFinder was not working but by the afternoon the latest issue was resolved. On the first day of school many were unable to track the buses using it. The district is rolling out a new app, named Chipmunk (see the July 9 issue), beginning with routes that start with F and L on September 2, but all other routes are to continue using StopFinder until further notice. For the most up-to-date information about buses, PGCPS advised parents to call the transportation communications hotline at 301-952-6570.

Seeking More Drivers

PGCPS says their transportation team is reassigning staff to cover vacant routes and working to recruit and hire new bus drivers and attendants. “During the first weeks of school, routes may be combined or adjusted once ridership numbers stabilize,” they advise.

The district is taking what they call “aggressive measures” to resolve transportation problems. Those include increasing

pay for transportation staff so that trainee bus drivers now earn \$20 an hour (up from \$18), substitute bus drivers earn \$22 an hour (up from \$20) and substitute bus attendants earn \$16.50 an hour (up from \$15.75). They say they’ve also streamlined the hiring and onboarding process for new drivers. They are also adding tablets to buses to boost routing and GPS accuracy and doubling customer service staff in the transportation department, where parents faced long hold times last year. The district is also expanding the use of contractors and hiring van drivers without commercial driver’s licenses to cover routes.

PGCPS bus drivers must complete a rigorous six-week onboarding process, including classroom and on-the-road training, safety protocols and extensive background checks. While this timeline can lengthen how quickly vacancies are filled, the district remains committed to maintaining the highest standards for student safety,” said PGCPS.

“We know the start of the year will bring challenges, but families can count on us to be transparent, responsive and focused on solutions,” Joseph said. “With higher pay and great benefits to attract drivers, as well as new supports for families, we are building a transportation system that will only get stronger as the year goes on.”

The author has two children who attend Prince George’s County Public Schools.



The vehicle location was unavailable in StopFinder for a combined Greenbelt Middle School and Dora Kennedy route on the first two days of school.



- Screenshots courtesy StopFinder



Caroline and Molly McGillen ride their bikes to Greenbelt Elementary to start pre-K and first grade.

PHOTO BY CAITLYN MCGILLEN



Miles Gibson heads to his first day of school as a junior at Parkdale High School.

PHOTO BY JENNI POMPI



School Resource Officer Terri Pineda joins the Eleanor Roosevelt High School mascot to welcome students back as they begin the 2025-2026 school year.

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE