



Youth crafts at Sparkle Mart, p.5



Holiday Farmers Market, p.12

## Congress Works to Secure BARC's Future but Much Risk Remains

by Owen Kelley

On November 25, Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks announced news about the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). Back in July, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said it would vacate the facility over the next few years.



In November 2025, BARC building 003 was partially covered with scaffolding during renovations.

The senators announced in a press release that Congress had allocated \$6 million in the 2026 budget for renovation and construction at BARC. The senators also announced that Congress intends to restore BARC research funding to the same level as 2024.

Nonetheless, BARC remains at risk. There is no indication that USDA has canceled its plan to vacate the facility. Furthermore, the question of BARC's 2026

research funding may be headed to a showdown between Congress and USDA in early January.

To understand this situation, consider the law that Congress passed on November 12, 2025. Known as Public Law 119-37, it ended the government shutdown. It also funds USDA for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 (October 2025 through September 2026).

### \$6 Million for Renovations

The appropriations bill explic-

itly provides \$3 million in funding to continue BARC building and infrastructure renovation during 2026. The law uses congressionally directed spending to appropriate an additional \$3 million for BARC renovations. Each year, an individual congressman

can call for directed spending on a limited number of projects in his or her district. These projects are listed in Congress' joint explanatory statement, a report that is associated with this year's appropriations bill.

The \$6 million in 2026 renovation funds is good news, especially considering that USDA had proposed earlier in the year that there be no funding for BARC

See **BARC**, page 7

## Public Safety Town Hall Addresses Crime Trends and Juvenile Justice

by Ellie Jornlin

The Greenbelt Police Department held a public safety town hall meeting on Thursday, November 13 at Springhill Lake Recreation Center to discuss crime trends, juvenile justice issues and ongoing efforts to strengthen community engagement in response to the recent Franklin Park shootings in October (see the October 9 issue).

Franklin Park representatives were present at the meeting, including General Manager Denise Knight. "The meeting reaffirmed the importance of open communication, coordinated efforts and shared accountability in addressing safety concerns across the community," said Knight.

"For over a decade, Franklin Park has sustained a strong part-

nership with the Greenbelt Police Department, including a designated community police officer who is actively engaged on our property," Knight said. "Community policing, regular communication and joint participation in resident events have strengthened trust between officers and residents. This partnership has contributed significantly to reduced crime over the years, and we value the leadership and support of the police chief and his team."

Police Chief Richard Bowers opened the meeting by summarizing recent crime patterns in the city. According to the department, crime rates were much lower before 2020 and there was a substantial spike in crime from 2022 to 2023. However, the past two years have shown a decrease in overall crime in Greenbelt and a return to pre-Covid levels.

"Last year crime was down

See **SAFETY**, page 9

## Fiscal Issues Lead City to Pilot SAYT Program: Part One

by Erica Johns

### Revenue Sharing between City and WasteZero

Bag or Sticker	Retail Price for Case of 200 Bags (Set by City)	City Receives	WasteZero Retains
Small	\$160	\$120.05	\$39.95 (24.5%)
Medium	\$250	\$192.75	\$57.25 (22.9%)
Large	\$400	\$315.50	\$84.50 (21.12%)
Max Trash Sticker	\$70 plus \$4.88 for WasteZero to print, handle & ship stickers	\$70	\$4.88

INFORMATION COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The chart shows what residents will pay for SAYT bags and stickers, and what revenue the city and WasteZero will each earn. The Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Beltway Plaza Hardware will carry the bags. WasteZero prints, inventories and mails the stickers.

Part One of this report covers the need to address city waste collection budget deficits, how the SAYT pilot and WasteZero were chosen to help address the deficit, WasteZero and city revenue sharing, and other options to reduce waste collection costs and expand revenue. Part Two, to be published next week, will cover more on deficit components, history, and outlook and planned use of SAYT revenue.

A mandatory year-long Save as You Throw (SAYT) pilot begins January 2026 for all households with city trash service. It is intended to address a growing city waste collection budget deficit that began in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. The decision to address

the deficit now was triggered by Prince George's County landfill trash "tipping" fees rising from \$70 to \$85 per ton in July 2025 and \$90 in July 2026. Landfills' decreasing capacity and the unpopularity of opening new ones are contributing to rising landfill fees nationwide. City of Greenbelt Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles told the Greenbelt City Council in their March 3 worksession that of the county landfill's three areas, one is full, one is near full and the third will reach capacity within 15 years, when the county would begin exporting trash.

See **SAYT**, page 6

### What Goes On

Monday, December 15

No Meeting: City Council Retreat

Wednesday, December 17

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Legislative Priorities/Pre-Budget Discussion, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for more information.



Park Ranger Patrick Mullen and Gaye Houchens flank Santa, with the Greenbelt Concert Band in the background. See story, p. 12.

PHOTO COURTESY PEGGY HIGGINS



# Letters to the Editor

## Clarification

The letter to the editor in last week's paper, SAYT: More Questions, stated that "the property taxes we pay to Prince George's County include waste collection." All residents do pay a solid waste service charge to the county to support the landfill. However, payment for collection is determined locally and in the case of Greenbelt households who use city waste collection, the city charges a fee. Households in Greenbelt who use private collectors pay fees to those companies.

## Peace Man, Source of Solace

I was unaware of the competition for the title of Greenbelt's World-Famous Utility Pole until your December 4 article, and want to add to the lore of what has been dubbed the Original World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole. With its peace-sign-wielding stick figure, it became a talisman during a hard time in my life. Take a walk to the Peace Man one friend regularly encouraged me, and I would drag myself there and lay my hand on the Peace Man in hopes some peace would transfer to me. On one walk I was horrified to find that a utility worker had stapled a strip of numbers over the Peace Man. Who would desecrate our beloved pole of peace? For my birthday present, two friends removed the strip with (some difficulty) and relocated it on the pole. Peace was restored in the neighborhood! Friends and I took on the

unofficial role of caretaker of the Peace Man. We repainted it several times over the years, one time including festive glitter. One such touch-up was documented in a video uploaded to YouTube. My co-caretaker moved away and the Peace Man began to fade. But recently a friend noticed that someone had spruced him up. Thanks for your care of our beloved Peace Man, whoever you are. And gratitude to the original artist, whose name was shared by a passerby during one of our touch-ups. Long may the Peace Man bestow blessings to the people of Greenbelt and to the world overall. We need it.

Cynthia Newcomer

## 88 Years of Delivering And Reading the News

My hometown newspaper has been delivering important news and information to the City of Greenbelt for 88 years now. Very impressive! At 82, I have been reading the Cooperator/News Review for my entire life. My connection with this paper was strengthened when I began delivering the paper every Thursday when I was 10, in 1953. That route stayed in our family for many years.

Jim O'Neill in 16 Court of Ridge was our distribution manager. That \$1 every Thursday seemed like a fortune!

Even though I have lived elsewhere for many years, I have kept up with Greenbelt news every week.

Robert H. Haslinger



## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### Eternity

In an afterlife where souls have one week to decide where to spend eternity, Joan (Elizabeth Olsen) is faced with the impossible choice between the man she spent her life with (Miles Teller) and her first love (Callum Turner), who died young and has waited decades for her to arrive.

### Rebuilding

A gently humanist story of the American West from director Max Walker-Silverman (A Love Song), the film follows Dusty (Josh O'Connor), a reserved, divorced father whose ranch has burned down in a devastating wildfire. Now living in a trailer community on a government-run campsite, Dusty finds solace with his new neighbors who have also lost everything, quietly reassembles his life, and starts reconnecting with his ex-wife Ruby (Meghann Fahy) and young daughter Callie-Rose (Lily LaTorre). Filmed against the rapturous backdrop of southern Colorado, Rebuilding is a ruminative, moving portrait of resilience and human connection in the wake of loss.

### The Tale of Silyan

In this documentary, director Tamara Kotevska tells the story of a white stork, Silyan, and a Macedonian farmer, Nikola. Their lives intertwine when Nikola, abandoned by his family, saves the injured bird from a landfill. As Nikola and Silyan form a bond, they find solace and companionship in each other's solitude.

### The Muppet Christmas Carol

The Muppets perform the classic Dickens holiday tale, with Kermit the Frog playing Bob Cratchit, the put-upon clerk of stingy Ebenezer Scrooge (Michael Caine). Other Muppets - Miss Piggy, Gonzo, Fozzie Bear and Sam the Eagle - weave in and out of the story, while Scrooge receives visits from spirits of three Christmases - past, present and future. They show him the error of his self-serving ways, but the miserable old man seems to be past any hope of redemption and happiness.



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:  
DECEMBER 12th - 18th  
Eternity (PG-13)  
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (114 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM  
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:00 PM  
Tues. 7:45 PM  
Thurs. 7:45 PM  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:00 PM  
Wed. 7:45 PM

Rebuilding (PG)  
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (95 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 5:30 PM  
Sun. 5:30 PM  
Mon. 2:30 PM (OC)  
Wed. 8:00 PM  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:30 PM  
Tues. 5:45 PM  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

The Tale of Silyan  
(PG) (2025) (80 mins)  
In Macedonian  
with English subtitles  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 7:45 PM  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Wed. 6:00 PM  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Tues. 8:00 PM  
Thurs. 6:00 PM

The Muppet Christmas  
Carol (G) (1992) (85 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 1:00 PM

Storytime on Screen - FREE  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Sun. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM  
Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM



## Christmas and New Year Deadlines

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are both Thursdays this year. Our printer requires us to print a day early, which means advertising and editorial deadlines will be a day early for those issues. Advertisements: Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 22. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 19. There will be no office hours on Tuesday, December 23 and no ads will be accepted that day.

Submissions: To be considered for publication, articles over 700 words are due by Sunday, December 21 at 2 p.m. All letters to the editor (300-word limit) are due by Sunday, December 21 at 6 p.m. Articles under 700 words and photographs are due by 2 p.m. on Monday, December 22.

## Letters Policy

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

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

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

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:  
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).  
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).  
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.  
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.  
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.  
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.  
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

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



# Community Events

## At the Library

The Greenbelt Library has reopened after a two-week closure for maintenance and repairs. The 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, December 12, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/14888011](http://pgcmls.info/event/14888011).

Wednesday, December 17, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/14887921](http://pgcmls.info/event/14887921).

Thursday, December 18, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/14887931](http://pgcmls.info/event/14887931).

### Storytime on Screen

Sunday, December 14 and Monday, December 15, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema. Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with PGCMLS, is offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15074088](http://pgcmls.info/event/15074088) or [pgcmls.info/event/15074089](http://pgcmls.info/event/15074089).

### STEM Fun

Tuesday, December 16, 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Explore robotic cubes through interactive challenges that spark curiosity and creativity. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/14876301](http://pgcmls.info/event/14876301).

### Ride and Read

Thursday, December 18, 11 a.m., ages 16 and up. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with 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 be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/14889883](http://pgcmls.info/event/14889883).

## Greenbelt Honk! Situation Solstice

Join Greenbelt Honk! Situation, Greenbelt's community street band, on Saturday, December 20 at 6 p.m. as they parade and play music to bring back the daylight. The parade will start at the Greenbelt Firefly Sanctuary and continue down the creek trail past Braden Field and arrive for a set of holiday "Scarols" at Roosevelt Center. Bring lights and warm clothes.

The parade route is relatively flat and paved with a grade by the fields and just short of a mile. Folks who can't parade are encouraged to meet up at Roosevelt Center.



## Upcoming Art Shares

An art share specifically for youth (ages 15 and under) will be held Thursday, December 11 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., with light refreshments provided. Sign up at [sugeni.us/eSwV](http://sugeni.us/eSwV).

These events are hosted by the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program and will take place in Room 113 in the Community Center.

Participate in a relaxed show-and-tell with other local art makers. All experience levels are welcome. Bring one to three pieces of artwork to present and discuss in a supportive environment. Artists ages 16 and up will meet on Sunday, December 14 from 2 to 3 p.m. No registration is needed, but sign up for updates here: [sugeni.us/eZ34](http://sugeni.us/eZ34). See and sign up for future dates here: [sugeni.us/eh3P](http://sugeni.us/eh3P).

City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts).

## GIVES Quarterly Meeting and Party

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will hold its December quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 201.

Following a brief meeting, they will celebrate the holidays and their 30th anniversary with a potluck party. All members, past and present, are invited and encouraged to come celebrate with us. Bring stories about GIVES and a favorite dish to share.

## Rotary Club Hosts City Constituent Services

On Thursday, December 11 at the Community Center, Room 114, the Greenbelt Rotary Club will sponsor a talk by Gizelle Alvarez, the city's first constituent services coordinator. Alvarez took the role in January 2025 to address city residents' service requests and complaints by liaising between residents and city departments, community organizations, and county and state agencies.

Come hear what Alvarez has learned since January about resident needs, how she approaches identifying and meeting those needs, and her plans going forward. Refreshments and conversation will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. presentation. The Club meets every Thursday at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m., except the second Thursday of the month when club members host this evening speaker series.

## Guthrie Featured At New Deal



PHOTO BY LESTER BALOG (WOODY GUTHRIE PUBLICATIONS)

Woody Guthrie

Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café will screen Woody Guthrie: Ain't Got No Home, on Monday, December 15 at 6 p.m. Guthrie wrote and sang about real life issues ranging from hardships and extreme poverty to the great achievements of FDR's New Deal. His songs are timeless. His dedication to democracy, justice, human rights and progress are still extremely relevant today.

After the film there will be a singalong of some of those songs, like Dust Bowl Refugee, Deportee and Ain't Got No Home in this World Anymore. Also included will be songs by his two best pupils, Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan. Come out to the Café on Monday and join in for an inspiring evening. Or watch via Zoom and still sing along. This month's Reel and Meal program is sponsored by the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE). For more information, visit [newdealcafe.com/events/reel-and-meal](http://newdealcafe.com/events/reel-and-meal).

## Mentoring Open House

Join Boys to Men Mentoring Greater Washington and Girls to Women Mentoring Greater Washington for an Open House event on Saturday, December 20, 2 to 7 p.m. at the Youth Center. This event is designed to introduce the group's mission and programs to the community while offering delicious food, a circle for boys and girls, a gift card giveaway and opportunities for discussion.

## Chess Club Meets Tuesday, Dec. 16

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, December 16 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, visit [tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m](http://tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m) and complete the brief form. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com).

## Ukelele Ladies Holiday Singalong December 19

Greenbelt's Ukelele Ladies will host a holiday singalong at the New Deal Café on Friday, December 19 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Lyric sheets will be available, and everyone is invited. Community sign language will be provided. Come join the fun.

## Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. Next Wednesday's meeting is the last of 2025:

December 17. Holiday party, members only, everyone must bring hot or cold food. December birthdays will also be celebrated at this meeting.

The membership committee will begin collecting 2026 dues on January 7 after the business meeting. Pay dues with a check made out to Greenbelt Golden Age Club. If paying with cash, have the exact amount.

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes Prince George's County schools. If in doubt, call 301-474-0646.

## Christmas Eve Caroling At the New Deal Café

Celebrate the holiday with a community singalong of favorite carols from 2 to 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24. Song sheets will be provided. Sing in the new year — let your light shine.

## Favor's Table Offers Literacy Class

Favor's Table is offering a financial literacy class on Wealth Creation, Protection and Wealth Transfer on Saturday, December 13 from 3:30 to 4 p.m. at 6215 Greenbelt Road, the tall building beside McDonald's, 2nd Floor, Room 205. This class is for adults and those who have never attended the class. Text 202-468-2049 to sign up by Friday, December 12. Confirm attendance to receive bags of food. Food, clothes, bras and shoes will be given away at the end of class.

## Star Party Saturday December 13

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will hold a star party at the Greenbelt Observatory near Northway Fields on Saturday, December 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Visitors can come into the observatory dome to watch the telescope operators or bring their own telescopes. The event will be cancelled if it's clouded over, raining or snowing.



## Krampus Comes A-calling Saturday

Greenbelt Honk! Situation, Greenbelt's community street band, is conjuring up the Alpen Christmas demon Krampus (and his friends) for a fun and weird holiday celebration in Roosevelt Center. Our fourth annual Greenbelt Krampusnacht is a great time to whoop it up with all kinds of crazy winter creatures and costumed folk. Live holiday "scarols" will be performed by the band as well as a dance by the Witches of the Green Shire. Bring new, un-wrapped presents for Toys for Tots so all can have a merry season.

Details: Saturday, December 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free and family friendly. Costumes are encouraged. Photo opportunities will abound.



### WINTER CLASSES

Visit Greenbelt Recreation's Activity Guide for More Information!

#### DIGITAL ANIMATION (With Mister Geo!)

Tuesdays, January 13<sup>th</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 5pm to 7pm  
Ages 11+

#### SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING (With Shaquel Davis!)

Sundays, February 8<sup>th</sup> - February 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 2pm to 3:30pm  
OR Mondays, February 9<sup>th</sup> - February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30pm to 8pm  
Ages 16+

#### HOMESCHOOL DIGITAL ANIMATION (With Mister Geo!)

Mondays, January 5<sup>th</sup> - March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
11am to 1pm, OR 1:30pm to 3:30pm  
Ages 8+

#### BEGINNING FILMMAKING (With Alex Hickox!)

Thursdays, January 8<sup>th</sup> - February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm to 8pm  
Ages 16+

at

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION  
Community-Driven Storytelling

## 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 12/11	FRI 12/12	SAT 12/13	SUN 12/14	
<b>Swampgrass</b> 6:30 - 10p Energetic, vibrant DC-based plays classic bluegrass and more progressive songs	<b>The Wharf Rats</b> 8 - 11pm Shakin' psychedelic jam band <b>UGLY SWEATER PARTY!</b> Prizes awarded!!!	<b>Built 4 Comfort</b> 8 - 11pm Lead by NDC Music Coordinator Liz Springer! Cover songs with lots of sassy style!	<b>ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a- 12pm</b> <b>Scotch and Soda</b> 6 - 8pm Jazz, Latin and swing with a deep groove. A cool listening room experience	
MON 12/15	TUES 12/16	WED 12/17	TH 12/18	New Deal Cafe
<b>REEL AND MEAL</b> 6:30 - 9pm A monthly film series exploring social issues	<b>NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire</b> 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm	<b>PUB QUIZ</b> 7 - 9pm Bring your own team or form one on the spot!	<b>Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet</b> 6:30 - 9:30 Long-running blues jam. All skill levels are welcome!	<b>DON'T FORGET TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS!</b> That's the only way we pay them and we want them back!

\*Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."  
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.



Obituaries

Nancy Birner



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Nancy L. Birner

Nancy L. Birner died peacefully at home in her favorite chair, with family members by her side, on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2025, at the age of 94.

Nancy was born Nancy Louise Schmidt on November 21, 1931, in Garfield Heights, Ohio, the first child of George and Louise Schmidt. She was born into a family where both faith and sports were important: Her father was the football coach at Garfield Heights High School and her mother was a Lutheran school teacher and an avid bowler and golfer. Nancy was baptized on December 6, 1931, at St. John Lutheran Church in Garfield Heights.

During the Great Depression, the family moved to Champion, Ohio, where her father served as a county agricultural agent and Nancy attended elementary school. A quick learner, she earned excellent grades in school. She also hunted rabbits with her father (until her mother found out). The family later moved to Cuyahoga Falls, where Nancy was confirmed in her Christian faith at Redeemer Lutheran Church. In 1949 she graduated from high school and enrolled at Concordia Teachers College in Illinois.

During the summers of the early 1950s, Nancy served as a counselor at Camp Pioneer on the shore of Lake Erie in New York. She was homecoming queen her senior year, and received her Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1953 and then taught at Martin Luther School in Pennsauken, N.J., for three years.

While serving as a camp counselor, she met Edward Birner, a fellow counselor who was studying for the ministry. Although she failed to show up for their first date (she had decided it was too cold to swim, whereas he had wanted to see her in a swimsuit), they eventually became engaged. After she postponed the wedding for a year while she traveled the country with friends, the two were married on June 30, 1957. Shortly afterward, they moved to Greenbelt, where Ed accepted a call as Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. They lived in Greenbelt for more than 40 years, where Nancy served in many volunteer capacities, maintained their home and kept their four rambunctious sons in line as they all quickly grew taller than their barely five-foot-tall mother.

When Ed retired after more than 40 years in the ministry, the two moved to the Village at Rockville, where Nancy cared for Ed through years of illness until his death on March 14, 2010. After his passing, she involved herself in the life of the community, serving as a devoted hospice volunteer at

the Village for many years and as an elder at the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Rockville, later becoming a member of the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew in Silver Spring.

Nancy was a joy to be around, a treasure to her family and friends and a valued member of her church and community. Her Lutheran faith was the solid rock upon which her life was built, and she kept up a lifelong practice of devotions and Bible study. She combined a gentle grace with an inner strength, and was unfailingly kind and generous. Nancy loved to read, to visit with friends and family and to walk and swim. She was a deeply loved and devoted friend and family member.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents George and Louise Schmidt and by her husband

Edward. She is survived by sons Andrew (Betty), Paul (Kirsten), Jonathan (Sandra) and Joel (Linda); grandchildren David (Amanda), Suzanne, Zachary (Kit), Amy (Sean), Lauren and Danielle; and great-grandchildren Madison, Haylee and Oliver. In addition, she is survived by sisters Kay (Victor) Streufert and Mary Jane (Robert) Schwarz and brother John (Connie) Schmidt.

Memorial services will be held on Tuesday, December 16 at 10 a.m. in the chapel of the Village at Rockville and at 2 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew in Silver Spring, with a reception to follow each service.

Flowers or donations in Nancy's memory may be sent to the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, 15300 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20905.



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

A selection of the pottery for sale at Sparkle Mart in the Community Center on Saturday, December 6

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-5410  
Pastor Evelyn Romero

**Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Living Generously in a World that Holds Back**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
One Hillside Road  
Join Us Sunday  
10:15 AM for Worship  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

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**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

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

Archbishop Gives Mass

Robert Cardinal McElroy, Archbishop of Washington, will be visiting St. Hugh of Grenoble Roman Catholic Church on Sunday, December 14 and celebrating the 11 a.m. Mass. All are invited to attend.

Celebrate Hanukkah At Mishkan Torah

Mishkan Torah invites the community to a family-friendly Hanukkah celebration for kids and adults of all ages, and for the installation of new Cantor Yael Fischman. Join them starting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 14 for Hanukkah storytime, a candle-lighting ceremony, music, latkes, doughnuts and more. Register for free on the website [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org). Registration is open until December 13 even though the website states registration is closed after December 7. The event is free to attend.



It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Nancy Birner, longtime Greenbelt resident who raised her four boys here and served in many volunteer capacities at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, where her husband Ed served as pastor for 40 years.

Hearty congratulations to Peggy Higgins, who was honored by County Executive Aisha Braveboy as one of five county senior citizens for her "extraordinary" service to county youth and families. Higgins is currently chair of Greenbelt's Public Safety Advisory Committee and membership coordinator of the News Review.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

A Band with a Mission: Hear Relics Saturday

The Greenbelt Relics, a rock and soul band that plays music from the 60s and 70s, will appear on Saturday, December 13 as part of the Greenbelt Community Church Christmas concert, from 7 to 9 p.m. The concert will benefit the Help by Phone food bank for local food distribution.

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT**

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Community Center Room 114  
15 Crescent Rd  
[cathcomgreenbelt.org](http://cathcomgreenbelt.org)  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
[CCGI985-owner@groups.io](https://ccgi985-owner@groups.io)

"How can I claim to have known Thee, when the entire creation is bewildered by Thy mystery, and how can I confess not to have known Thee, when, lo, the whole universe proclaimeth Thy Presence and testifieth to Thy truth?" – Bahá'u'lláh

**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

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

**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](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)  
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 14, 2025, at 3 p.m.  
**Sing We Noel**  
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Sue Bollens

In the spirit of our December theme (Uplifting Through Arts) and of Advent/Christmas, we'll share a service centered in the art of music – featuring our Music Ministry Director Amelia Brown and the Paint Branch Choir.

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







PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

Enterprising young artists and crafters proudly staff their table of homemade drawings, jewelry, bookmarks and other items in the youth artists room at the annual Sparkle Mart at the Community Center on Sunday, December 7. Pictured, from left, are Gisela Bardossy and her daughter Catalina Tillard, Evelyn Sage and Maren O'Roark.

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT & BAKE SALE

## SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER | 7-9 PM

Join us for a festive night of live music, holiday classics, and rockin' vibes with The Relics! Plus a tasty bakesale.

Greenbelt Community Church UCC  
One Hillside Rd

FREE event

Donations received will go to Help by Phone






# 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](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



### MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 15-19

Monday, December 15, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL RETREAT**

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD, Agenda TBD**

Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, Agenda TBD**

Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30pm, **WORK SESSION - LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES/PRE-BUDGET DISCUSSION**

*In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto: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](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).*

### SAVE AS YOU THROW MAXTRASH STICKERS

MaxTrash stickers for the upcoming Save As You Throw program are now available for purchase online at <https://myflexusa.com/industries> or in-person at the Greenbelt Municipal Building Finance Window, 25 Crescent Road.

- Pay \$70 for 6 months (\$140/year)
- Toss up to 3 large bags per week in any brand bag
- Total annual cost: \$240 base + \$140 = \$380/year

If you opt for the SAYT trash bags over the MaxTrash sticker, you can find them in-person at the following locations:

- **COOP Supermarket, 121 Centerway**
- **Beltway Plaza Hardware Store, 6000 Greenbelt Road (Beltway Plaza)**

For more information visit <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/610/Save-As-You-Throw-SAYT-Program>

### PRE-K STORY HOUR (BILINGUAL) HORA DE CUENTOS DE PREKINDER

Friday, December 12 from 10:30-11:30am  
Springhill Lake Recreation Center

**Children Ages 0-5**

Come and Enjoy the Wonderful World of Storytelling and free healthy snacks. Friends & Family are all welcome!

**Niños de 0 a 5 años**

Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos y bocadillos saludables por gratis. ¡Amigos y familiares bienvenidos!



### SUPPORT SHOP WITH A COP

Every year, our agency proudly participates in "Shop With A Cop." We invite you to support our 2025 fundraiser by purchasing one of our decorative holiday ornaments. The proceeds will help us keep this wonderful program funded. This season, we have a brand new design, so please consider becoming a proud sponsor.

The "Shop With A Cop" event provides law enforcement officers and young members of our community a chance to spend quality time together in a positive setting during the holiday season. Both the officers and the children enjoy a day filled with laughter, shopping, eating, and wrapping gifts. It is truly heartwarming to see all the smiling faces, knowing that this event has positively impacted many families in Greenbelt over the years.

Contact Rico Dennis at [rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov).

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2025-2026		
Week	Location	Holiday
December 8-12	Boxwood	
December 15-19	Woodland Hills	
December 22-26	Lakeside	<b>Christmas</b> December 25
December 29 - January 2	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	<b>New Years Day</b> January 1

### CURRENT GAIL PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, email Katherine Farzin at [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 542-2019.

- **OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ADULTS** 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required.
- **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.

### UPCOMING FOOD GIVEAWAYS

**Thursday, December 18 at 1 PM**  
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Limited to 100 Greenbelt households with one box being given per address. Call Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or email [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov) to register.

**Thursday, December 22 at 10 AM**  
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Registration is required. Call Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 to receive a produce card before distribution day.

Participants must provide proof of Greenbelt residency. Contact Kathrine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov) to learn more.

### OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ALL GREENBELT ADULTS

**1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month**  
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Need computer access? Visit our free lab at the Greenbelt Community Center. Every Wednesday & 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required as spots are limited.


Register: [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov) | (202) 670-6497.

### COMMUNITY INPUT FOR INDIAN CREEK PARK PLAN

The City of Greenbelt invites residents to share feedback on the proposed concept plans for Indian Creek Park. The trail will connect Cherrywood Lane and the Greenbelt Station Development north of the park site.

**The feedback form will close on December 15**, and results will be discussed at a second community meeting in late January.

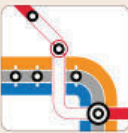
Review the presentation slides and submit your feedback at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/indiancreekpark](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/indiancreekpark).



### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

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



### planned metrorail track work advisory for our community

#### GREEN LINE TRACK WORK IN DECEMBER

Metro would like to inform riders of [planned track work](#) on the Metrorail system that may affect service in our area for the month of December.

From December 16-30, no stations will be closed, but the Green Line will single-track through three stations: U Street, Columbia Heights, and Georgia Av-Petworth. This work is part of ongoing efforts to maintain safety and service across the system.

### SANTA PAWS IS COMING TO TOWN!

**Saturday, December 13th, 12pm-2pm**  
Greenbelt Police Department Multipurpose Room, 550 Crescent Rd

Please join Greenbelt Animal Services for our annual Santa Paws event. Bring your furry best friends to get a digital photo with Santa. All photos are \$10 per family, and all proceeds go towards the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. (CASH ONLY)

**\*Police K9's are Free of Charge\***



### \* VOLUNTEER \* VACANCIES \*

**APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD 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, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, 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](http://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](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx).

Winter Registration Now Open for ALL Sign-up for classes, workshops, meet-ups, and special events for all ages. Registration for non-residents begins 12/8 at 10am. See brochure and more information at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide). Winter session begins January 5.

Friends & Family Workshop: Felted Holiday Orbs 12/12, 5:30-7pm Greenbelt Community Center

This workshop is great for participants of all ages, and no experience is necessary! Adults and teens ages 12+ can learn to needle felt flat or spherical shapes. Children under 12 can cut out wool felt, or learn to make pom poms. Registration required; see page 38 of the fall activity guide for details: [bit.ly/49lmlDb](http://bit.ly/49lmlDb).

#### MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- Art Share (meet-up) Sunday 12/14, 2pm Greenbelt Community Center
- Artful Afternoon 1/4, 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) and 1/11, 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center) Sign up here: [sugeni.us/ehUi](http://sugeni.us/ehUi)

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.



HIGGINS continued from page 1

Services Department but also worked in youth protective services, and she’s also held elected office,” she said of Higgins, who represented District 2 on the Prince George’s County Board of Education from 2010 to 2014. “Her life’s work really focused on working with children and the needs of children.”

Higgins was the youngest of the five senior awards recipients last week. The oldest, Velma Eura Long, is 108 years old and had served as one of America’s Rosie the Riveters during WWII, among many other accomplishments and acts of service. Others included Elsie Jacobs, who led and transformed the Suitland community through events, social services and public safety initiatives, advocating for residents of all ages and backgrounds for over 30 years; 96-year-old Margaret White, recipient of the International Medal from the Washington Center for Aging, who dedicated decades to serving at D.C. General Hospital and Howard University Hospital, among others. Since 2004, she has led the Millwood Waterford Citizens Association, advocating for smarter growth and a better quality of life. Patricia Abbott, who dedicated over 50 years to



Peggy Higgins was particularly excited to have her own reserved parking spot at the event.

social service is the final recipient. Higgins was delighted and surprised that she was going to be honored, said Johnson. “Myself and County Executive believe that our seniors are our cherished jewels of the county,” said Johnson, who noted she herself is also a senior. “The younger generation stands on our shoulders and we believe that we should be honored, celebrated and respected and – importantly – given the resources necessary to live our best lives,” said Johnson. “Many seniors suffer from

loneliness so this was a chance to get together, network – and our seniors had a ball at their ball!” said Johnson. Almost 1,700 seniors gathered at Martin’s Crosswinds for the celebration, for which seniors were offered free tickets. Johnson’s whole department is dedicated to making sure seniors in the county live well and thrive, she said. Although there have been senior services within the Office of the County Executive and within the Department of Family Services, “this is the first time that we’ve had a Division of Senior Affairs in the County Executive,” said Johnson. The new division was created six months ago, under the leadership of Braveboy when she took office. Johnson says their office can now focus solely on seniors, make the calls, put seniors directly in contact with resources and cut through some red tape. Johnson said she was elated to be named the director of senior affairs, the new position she’s held for the last six months. “It’s a passion,” she said of her work. This was the first ball held under County Executive Braveboy but “it’s the first of many, I’m sure,” said Johnson. They began planning for it in October. Johnson was “absolutely” happy with how it went, “because the seniors were happy,” she said.

SAYT continued from page 1

**Waste Collection Deficit**  
A deficit in the solid waste collection account occurred in every fiscal year since 2019, except 2020. Information presented by Public Works to council in March 2025 listed deficits of \$50,777 in 2019, \$34,842 in 2021, \$162,993 in 2022, \$270,313 in 2023, \$207,800 in 2024 and projected \$279,635 for 2026. The deficits were reimbursed annually from the city’s General Fund. Because the General Fund is funded through taxes from all Greenbelters, not only city trash-served homeowners, residents who pay for private waste collection have been subsidizing waste collection for city-served homeowners.

**Addressing the Deficit**  
To address the deficit, council considered raising all served households’ annual fees to around \$400, or possibly reducing both trash and costs by charging households according to how much trash they generate (see the March 13 issue). Council asked the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) for recommendations. After discussions in the May 5 and May 28 worksessions, council chose the SAYT pilot to test charging more to households that generate more trash, and planned to raise awareness of recycling, composting and donation opportunities. On September 8 council unanimously voted to conduct the pilot to “assess the feasibility, effectiveness and public reception of transitioning to a volume-based pricing model to

manage residential solid waste.”

**How Was WasteZero Chosen?**  
On September 24, council approved contracting with WasteZero to implement the pilot. Robles told the News Review that she and Green ACES were previously aware of WasteZero, and that she contacted several similar companies which did not respond. Prince George’s County waste service was not considered, she said, because the county previously indicated they would require all Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) homeowners to place trash cans at curbs. New rules taking effect in January require moving cans from GHI trash closets and enclosures, but not moving them to curbs. GHI’s 1600 units make up approximately 61 percent of the 2,600 households listed in the waste collection budget. Another factor Robles and City Manager Josué Salmerón cited was that the county provides less bulk trash service than Greenbelt.

**Revenue Sharing**  
WasteZero has charged nothing for its work up to this point, including consulting with Green ACES, city staff and council; supporting virtual town halls and information sessions; and coordinating with local stores, Robles told the News Review. WasteZero’s revenue will begin when residents begin purchasing bags and Max Trash stickers.

According to the contract in the September 24 council agenda packet, stores will order cases

See SAYT, page 8



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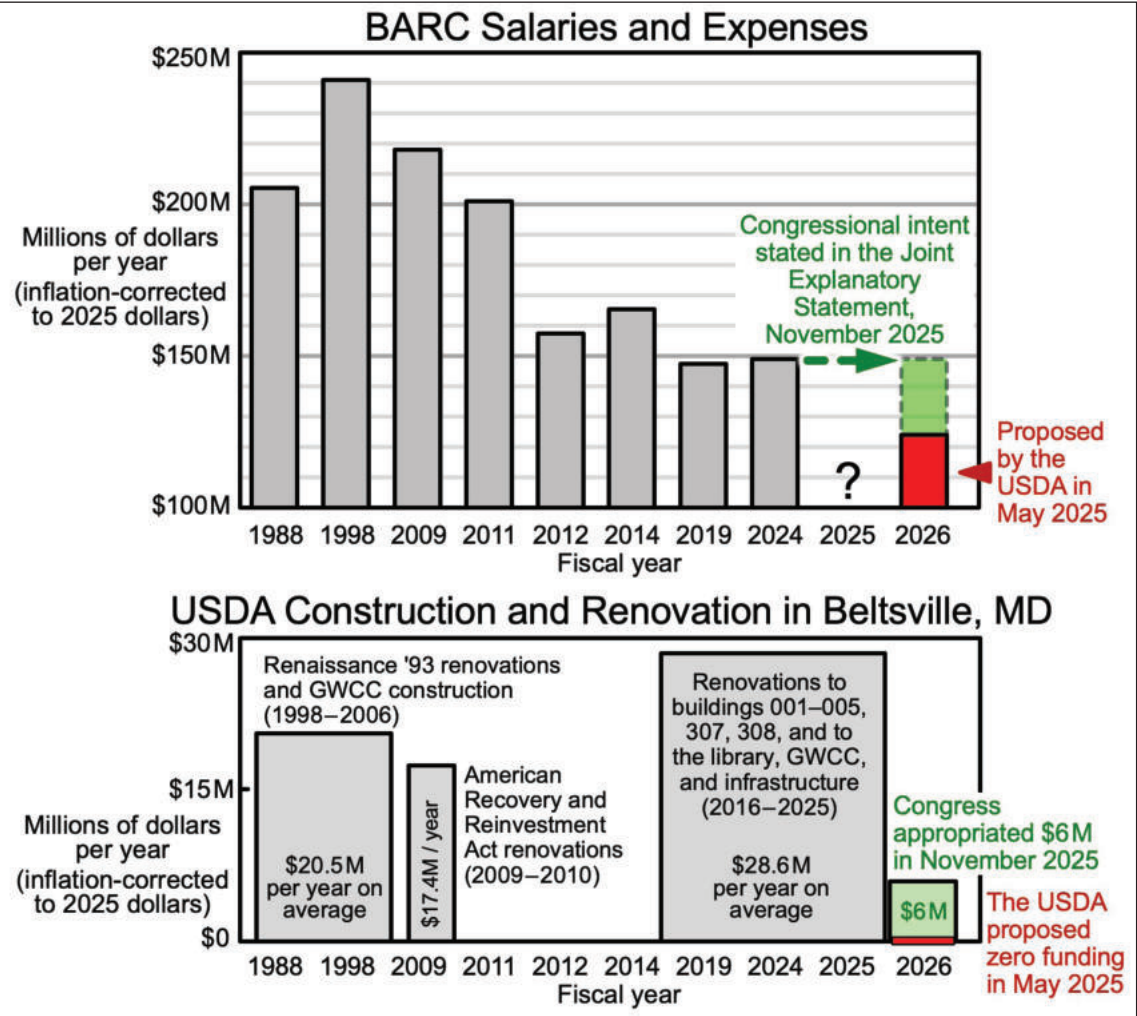
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BARC continued from page 1



renovations during 2026. For details on the proposed cuts, see pages 20-45 of USDA's FY 2026 budget justification for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), which was published in May 2025.

Since 2016, the USDA has spent over \$200 million on renovations in Beltsville that include work on two clusters of BARC buildings: Buildings 001 to 005 on Route 1 and Buildings 307 and 308 on Powder Mill Road. During the past 10 years, USDA also renovated two other Beltsville facilities: the National Agricultural Library on Route 1 and the large office complex on Sunnyside Avenue. This office complex has room for 1,911 employees and is called the George Washington Carver Center. In July 2025, USDA announced plans to vacate the Carver Center as well as BARC.

**Research Funding Uncertainty**

In May 2025, USDA proposed a drastic cut to BARC research. It proposed spending only \$128 million in FY 2026, much less than the \$144 million spent as recently as FY 2024. Both years' figures are stated on pages 20-32 of the ARS FY 2026 budget justification.

Unfortunately, the appropriations bill that Congress passed in November does not explicitly forbid the cuts to research funding that USDA had proposed back in May. The appropriations bill is not detailed enough to break out the funding for individual research units such as BARC.

**Congress Intensifies Oversight**

Congress threw down the gauntlet when it passed the USDA budget. Section 716 of the appropriations bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress by January 11. She must report how much of her department's Congressionally appropriated 2026 budget she will spend on each unit of the ARS.

Section 716 also requires the Secretary to tell Congress how many people currently work at each research unit and how many people she plans to hire at each unit during 2026.

These reporting requirements are an unusually explicit form of congressional oversight. They sug-

gest that Congress is concerned that USDA would otherwise disregard Congress' intent.

**Restoring FY 2024 Funding**

Last month, Congress expressed support for fully funding BARC research, and specifically for funding it at no less than the level in 2024. This statement is found in a report called a "joint explanatory statement." Such statements are prepared by the conference committee that reconciles the different House and Senate versions of a bill. These statements are considered a definitive expression of Congress' intent.

The relevant passage in the report is at the beginning of the ARS section:

"The agreement provides \$1,793,063,000 for the Agricultural Research Service, Salaries and Expenses. The agreement rejects research terminations and laboratory closures proposed in the President's budget request and expects extramural and intramural research to be funded at no less than the FY 2024 levels."

The Executive Branch, and specifically USDA, might choose to ignore congressional intent and try to follow its own interpretation of the law. Past administrations, however, have generally avoided doing so. If the Executive Branch tries to thwart congressional intent, Congress may retaliate by passing more restrictive legislation. In addition, a court may overturn an action if it finds it to be contrary to the proper interpretation of a law.

**Historical Context**

Even if Congress were to succeed in restoring BARC research funding to what is was in 2024, financial constraints would still limit BARC's ability to address

the nation's agricultural research needs.

Already by 2024, annual funding for BARC research had shrunk by more than 35 percent during the prior 20 years if one factors in inflation. Nationwide, federal funding for agricultural re-

search dropped 19 percent during the same period, after adjusting for inflation. There is concern in Congress that China, the United States' economic rival, now spends much more on agricultural research than does the U. S. government.

Two charts accompany this article to illustrate this history. The top chart shows BARC research funding dropping from \$200 to \$250 million per year to just \$140 to \$170 million per year after the 2007 to 2009 recession.

As the chart indicates, it is unclear what BARC spent on salaries and programs in 2025 because the Trump administration allowed 20 percent of the employees at the ARS to resign between February and April 2025. USDA has not disclosed how many BARC employees were lost. As previously discussed, BARC's budget for 2026 is not yet determined.

The bottom chart shows that, during the past 25 years, there have been three periods of

See BARC, page 11

### Seasons Greetings from

# Nugent & Kash

OF COMPASS

Veteran Compass agents **Andrew Nugent** and **Kim Kash** are bringing a big shift to Prince George's County real estate and beyond. We're here to advocate, to represent, and to celebrate the diverse people, neighborhoods, and cultures that make the DC metro area special—including and especially Greenbelt and Prince George's County.

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COMPASS

## Happiness

Saturday, December 13 at 8 PM

Sunday, December 14 at 2 PM

## Happening

a multimedia experience featuring original instrumental music and a full set of funk-and-roll-hip-hop-soul

scan QR code for tickets or visit [GreenbeltArtsCenter.org](https://GreenbeltArtsCenter.org)

## Christmas Cheer

An a cappella holiday celebration with

# The Chromatics

8pm Saturday, Dec. 20  
2pm Sunday, Dec. 21

scan QR code for tickets or visit [GreenbeltArtsCenter.org](https://GreenbeltArtsCenter.org)

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SAYT continued from page 6

of 200 bags from WasteZero. Residents will purchase bags in “sleeves” of five bags at sales tax-free prices. Stores will use customer revenue to pay WasteZero, which will retain 21.1 to 24.5 percent and transfer the remaining revenue to the city (see chart on page 1).

City Buildings, Local Businesses

In a March 3 worksession Mayor Emmett Jordan said the city doesn’t charge itself for waste collection in city buildings. Robles said city staff could improve their separation of trash, recyclables and compostables to further reduce trash and landfill fees.

At the same worksession, Robles and Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll reviewed annual rates charged to businesses and churches using city waste service, including \$280 for low trash volume businesses, \$814 for high volume customers such as restaurants and \$335 for churches. Carpenter-Driscoll said the businesses were mostly in Roosevelt Center. He described the rates as low for the region, last reviewed 10 years ago and due for an update.

This month Robles told the News Review that reviewing business and church rates and training city staff to separate trash, recyclables and compostables will begin in 2026 after the start of the SAYT pilot.

Reducing Costs, Expanding Revenue

To help reduce trash and tipping fees, on September 24 council approved \$26,205 to subsidize FY2026 collection and composting of food scraps and materials like pizza boxes. Curbside bins cost

Concert Band Holds Open House

Ready to make music, meet great people and grow your musicianship in a fun, supportive environment? Come to an open house for new Greenbelt Concert Band members on Monday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

About the Band

The band plays for the joy of music and lifelong musical growth. They warmly welcome musicians of all levels who enjoy making music in a friendly, community-oriented setting. Regular rehearsals are on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. from September to June.

Not a musician? Join the fun. Become a Band Aide, a friend and supporter. Band Aides help welcome concert attendees, assist with setup and breakdown, and capture photos or videos for social media and promotions.

Learn more about the band at [greenbeltconcertband.org](http://greenbeltconcertband.org).



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Curated routes and trail maps:  
[anacostiatrails.org](http://anacostiatrails.org)

**SAYT Bags, Stickers Available**

Save As You Throw (SAYT) bags will be available at the Co-op Supermarket and Beltway Plaza Hardware for purchase from Friday, December 12.

Max Trash stickers can now be ordered via the SAYT webpage and in person at the Municipal Building’s finance window.

Support will be provided for residents with disabilities and Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) residents with complicated trash enclosures.

Residents with disabilities: The city provides on-premises trash collection for residents physically unable to bring their trash or recycling containers to their curb or remove them from GHI trash closets/enclosures. Instructions for requesting the service are on the SAYT webpage. Required documentation is 1) an image of the person’s ID and 2) an image of their disabled parking tag or a doctor’s note. The doctor’s note only needs to confirm the resident’s physical limitation and not any further medical information.

Complicated trash enclosures: Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles said the city will work individually with residents with trash enclosures that make it difficult to remove trash cans for pickup. Those individuals should contact Public Works at 301-474-8004.

For more information, visit the SAYT webpage: [www.greenbeltmd.gov/sayt](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/sayt).

\$10/month and households may share a bin. Alternatively, anyone may take food scraps to a large Buddy Attick Park bin for free.

Salmerón said the city is exploring options to reduce the effort and cost of bulk trash curbside pickup, such as a quarterly collection at Public Works, including homeowner DIY renovation and repair debris.

Combatting Dumping

Another cost he said the city is trying to reduce is from dumping at the Hanover Parkway recycling station, which increases city costs similarly to dumping at the Northway yard waste station. The city added the Hanover Parkway station to serve Greenbelt East residents, only to encounter bulk trash items dumped there. A camera reduced drops of items such as couches and mattresses easily tied to vehicle license plates, but cannot address nonrecyclable items hidden in generic bags untraceable to vehicles. Dumpsters contaminated with non-recyclables incur higher costs than non-contaminated recyclables.

Resident Bill Orleans asked council during several 2025 work-

sessions to consider expanding waste collection service in Greenbelt, which Salmerón told council that city staff were exploring. This month Salmerón told the News Review of the intent to begin serving and obtaining revenue from new residential customers in FY2027, particularly multifamily buildings.

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children’s books and free healthy, nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Will Save As You Throw Save Residents Money?

by John Lippert

When Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) and Green Team members talked to residents about the Save As You Throw (SAYT) program, some residents approved of it but said the name is misleading because they expected their costs would increase. However, when shown the size of the city-approved bags, a surprising number of residents said they would only need one small 8-gallon bag every other week. Will SAYT save residents money? In the bottom chart below are some hypothetical examples.

Amelia saves \$19.20 per year compared to what she’s currently paying. Bill and Betty pay just \$1.60 more a year. All the others pay less compared to purchasing Max Trash stickers. For some households, SAYT offers an opportunity to save money compared to a new, higher flat fee for everyone that the City would otherwise need to establish.

Green Team members reported an encounter they found heartening: One resident who lives in a single-family home said she is going to try to “go low,” seeing how little trash she and her husband can generate each week. Why not make a family game of it? SAYT limbo, anyone? What can you save by careful purchasing, composting and by fully exploiting curbside recycling and Greenbelt Public Works’ many other recycling opportunities?

John Lippert is Chair of Green ACES.

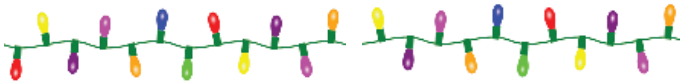
For information about Refuse and Recycling visit [greenbeltmd.gov/548/Refuse-Recycling](http://greenbeltmd.gov/548/Refuse-Recycling). For information about Food Scrap Composting visit [tinyurl.com/rbn55neb](http://tinyurl.com/rbn55neb). For information about SAYT visit [greenbeltmd.gov/sayt](http://greenbeltmd.gov/sayt).

Cost/bag	Bag Size
\$0.80	small (8-gal.)
\$1.25	medium (13-gal.)
\$2.00	large (33-gal.)

Annual	2026 Fees Explained
\$280	Current fee
\$240	SAYT base fee for everyone beginning 1/1/2026
\$140*	Cost for 2 Max Trash stickers (6 mos. each)
\$380*	Base fee and 2 Max Trash stickers
\$392	Cost per household for the city to break even

\* Plus S&H for the stickers & cost of ordinary trash bags

Hypothetical Examples	Annual Cost
Amelia lives alone and needs only one small bag every other week.	\$260.80
Bill and Betty need one small bag every week.	\$281.60
Joseph and Letitia need a medium bag every week.	\$305.00
Sheila lives alone but gardens, and needs to dispose of empty bags of garden soil, mulch and fertilizer. She uses one medium bag half the year, and one large bag half the year.	\$324.50
Karen lives alone with her two cats. Each week she uses a medium bag for trash and a small bag for cat litter.	\$346.60
Calvin, wife Mona, and their two sons, use a large bag every week, plus 10 medium bags a year for special occasions.	\$356.50





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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 1 to 7, 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](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

**Incident Summary**  
Greenbelt Police reported four domestic incidents, one resulting in arrest, and one case involving Child Protective Services.

**Threats**  
On December 3 at 10:38 a.m. near 7603 Mandan Road, a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School informed school staff and the school resource officer that a man who is known to her approached and threatened her.

On December 5 at 5:20 p.m. near 6970 Hanover Parkway, a person who was previously involved in a violent domestic relationship reported they are now being threatened by others because of what happened.

**Harassment**  
On December 6 at 2:52 p.m. near 60 Crescent Road, a man was harassed multiple times by another man living in the area, but did not know his name or exact address.

**DUI**  
On December 7, two traffic stop investigations resulted in DUI arrests: at 8:17 p.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Springhill Drive, and at 10:20 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Southway.

**Fraud**  
On December 6 near 15 Greendale Place, a man reported check fraud to his bank.

**Trespassing**  
On December 1 at 1:34 a.m. near 6000 Breezewood Drive, a man who was banned was found sleeping in the building. He was arrested and transported to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On December 7 at 8:15 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an officer on patrol saw a person who was banned; a citation was issued for trespassing.

**Theft and Shoplifting**  
On December 3 at 4:21 p.m. and at 4:48 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone caught stealing was released on a criminal citation.

On December 4 at 6:10 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl stole items worth under \$100 and was banned; at 7:15 p.m. near 7545 Greenbelt Road, a group of women came in and began looking around; an employee then

heard the exit sensors beeping.  
On December 5 at 1:59 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a suspect stole merchandise and fled on foot toward Greenbelt Road.

On December 6 at 12:26 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone walked past all points of sale without paying for merchandise; at 7:14 p.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, two suspects took items.

On December 7 at 3:32 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items, was cited, banned and issued a criminal citation arrest; at 12:28 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter stole items from Target and fled in a vehicle; at 9:33 p.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a man consumed food without paying.

**Vehicle Crimes**  
**Stolen Vehicle**  
On December 4 near 6207 Springhill Court, a woman lost her keys, and then her car went missing overnight and was returned in the morning. Because this had happened before, she was given a steering wheel club to deter future theft and advised of other options.

**Recovered Stolen Vehicle**  
On December 4 near 6205 Springhill Court, a stolen vehicle was found and towed, with an attempt to notify the owner.

**Theft from Auto**  
On December 1 near 6209 Springhill Court, someone stole a wallet containing personal items.

On December 2, tools were stolen near 7480 Greenway Center Drive from a 2023 Chevy Silverado, and near 7722 Hanover Parkway from a work truck.

Rear tags were stolen on December 3 near Gardenway and Crescent Road from a 2016 Mazda CX3; on December 4 near 7107 Lake Drive from a 2012 Hyundai Santa Fe; and on December 6 near 7810 Vanity Fair Drive from a 2020 Ram pickup.

On December 3 near 6214 Breezewood Court, all four wheels were taken from a 2026 Toyota Camry.

On December 6 near 203 Lakeside Drive, a Honda Odyssey had a parking pass stolen.

**Vandalism to Auto**  
On December 6 near 54 Ridge Road, a vehicle was damaged.

## SAFETY continued from page 1

about 20 percent overall and this year we're down close to 15 percent overall, so those are really good decreases that we continue to see not only here in Greenbelt but county and statewide," said Bowers.

He explained the earlier increase in crime, especially during the pandemic, was mostly due to juvenile crime committed by middle- and high school-aged students. Juvenile crime is a major point of interest for the Greenbelt Police, especially since many recent contact and non-contact shootings involved juveniles, according to Bowers.

Bowers said young offenders are often released without adequate services, supervision or accountability, which he said is the most common cause of repeat incidents.

"The Juvenile Justice System, the Department of Juvenile Services, they make decisions as to what they feel are in the best interest of the child, but aren't always in the best interest of everyone else," Bowers said.

He gave an example of a juvenile arrested for attempting to steal a car, in which the only consequence for the adolescent was to write a 250-word essay. Later, the juvenile was arrested for being involved in a non-contact shooting.

"You can see the lack of consequences translate across the board," Bowers said. "Those offenders are essentially being released back into society without rehabilitation, proper supervision and proper consequences for their actions."

Bowers also addressed the 2021 Juvenile Interrogation Act, which limits how police can question minors. The legislation requires law enforcement to notify a juvenile's parent or guardian and allow the child to consult with an attorney to permit police interrogation. Bowers explained that attorneys rarely grant police questioning, which makes it difficult to hold juveniles accountable.

At the same time, the law is intended to protect young people from being intimidated or coerced

into admitting to crimes they may not have committed. "We've seen children, some as young as 10 or 12, get arrested or assumed to have done something they didn't do," said District 22 Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington. The protections also ensure that minors have someone to guide them and safeguard their rights, which is especially important for youth of color, who are disproportionately impacted in the system. "We want to protect these young people; we need it. It's about finding a balance between accountability and protection for our youth," said Washington.

While much of the discussion focused on challenges police face in handling juvenile crime, local coach and youth advocate and recent city council candidate Kevin Lockhart shifted the conversation

to solutions for teens outside the justice system. Lockhart, a Greenbelt resident for 18 years, has spent over 15 years coaching youth, including 10 years with the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club. "I talked to my teams, and if they don't make their high school teams, the Boys and Girls Club ages out at age 14, they've got nothing to do," Lockhart said. "We need to get some kind of program for kids of those ages: mentoring, sports, interacting with the police. I think that would help."

City officials acknowledged Lockhart's concerns and described existing programs designed to engage youth in safe, positive activities. Greenbelt Councilmember Danielle

See SAFETY, page 11

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PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors

on December 18, 2025

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

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on November 20, 2025

b) Contract Matters

c) Member Matters

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

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on November 20, 2025

b) Statement of Closed Meeting Held on December 18, 2025

c) 2026 Cooperative Insurance Renewal Quote - 2nd Reading

d) Yard Task Force Survey Proposal

e) Request to Purchase Two Vehicles

f) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on January 8, 2026

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

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uqzoiG9XHGq9rswP\\_N9LZj33gbi9r](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR** – “All Star” for sale, \$500. Like new. Lightweight and foldable. Retail for \$1,300+. Text 240-422-1584 for details or to test out.

**FOR SALE** – LG 75-in. OLED EVO AI TV, C4 Series w/remote, was store display (not in box), is wrapped; LG 65-in. QNED AI TV in box; and 2-seater pale green-beige couch, have photos if needed. Call 301-575-7058 and leave voice.

NOTICE

**COME JOIN MISHKAN TORAH** for a family-friendly Hanukkah celebration for kids and adults of all ages - and the installation of our new Cantor, Yael Fischman! Join us starting at 4pm on December 14 for Hanukkah story time, a candle lighting ceremony, music, latkes, doughnuts, and more. Register for free at [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org), preferably by December 7. The event is free to attend.

SERVICES

**HOUSECLEANING** – Over 20 years in Greenbelt area. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

**COMPUTERS, WIFI, PRINTERS** – Installing, Repairing, Troubleshooting; Documents Printing, Pickup, Dropoff, Training. JBS, 240-601-4163.

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**CARING KIM'S PET CARE** – Drop-in visits, boarding and walks. Mornings, Noon, Evenings and Nights, seven days a week. By a lifetime animal lover and caregiver. Offered for dogs, cats, and other small animals. Call Kim at 301-520-6708 for appointment or with any questions.

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**SOLO ELECTRICAL SERVICES, LLC and HANDYMAN** – Service calls, EV chargers, Heavy ups and other electrical needs. Call 240-704-4993.

**FRANK'S VIDEO CONVERSION** – Convert VHS tapes/8mm movies, slides to DVD. LP records to CD. DAT tapes to CD. Home 240-295-3994, Cell 703-216-7293. [franksvideoconversion@gmail.com](mailto:franksvideoconversion@gmail.com).

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**ANGELA'S HOUSE CLEANING AND PAINTING** – Cleaning your home like my own, at reasonable prices. Painting inside and out. References available in Greenbelt. Ten years' professional experience. [AngelaLazo1@hotmail.com](mailto:AngelaLazo1@hotmail.com); 240-645-5140.

**YARDS MULCHED** – Garden side, \$25; Service side, \$25. No end units, sorry! Call Pat, 301-213-3273.

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**LEW'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY** – Free estimates, fabric samples, local business for over 30 years. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.



Holiday Deadlines

December 25 is a Thursday this year, as is January 1. Advertising and editorial deadlines will be a day early. Advertisements: Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 22. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 19. There will be no office hours on Tuesday, December 23 and no ads will be accepted that day.



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RATES

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

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

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

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

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

**AD DESK:** 301-474-4131 or [ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

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BARC continued from page 7

renovation and construction at USDA facilities in Beltsville. During the first of these periods, a USDA program called Renaissance 93 invested about \$20 million per year on average in Beltsville during 1998–2006. During the second period, the renovation funding was part of the government response to the 2007–2009 recession. The third period saw renovation spending that averaged about \$28 million per year during 2016–2025.

It is good news that Congress has appropriated \$6 million for BARC renovation and construction in 2026. It is also good news

that Congress has put in writing that it intends for BARC research to be funded at no less than its level in 2024. It remains to be seen if the Secretary of Agriculture will follow Congress’ intent or will cut BARC funding anyway. Either way, she must inform Congress of her decision by January 11. Still hanging in the air is the threat that the USDA will vacate BARC over the next few years as stated in the department’s July 2025 reorganization plan.

The author has also written about BARC on the Greenbelt Online blog: <https://greenbeltonline.org/?s=barc>.

**Md. Senators Sponsor \$6M in BARC Funding**

In a November 25 press release Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks, both D-Md., announced they had secured provisions to, among other things, support the continued operations of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). This includes \$6 million to modernize aging buildings and to make infrastructure upgrades needed to continue agricultural research at BARC, including to finish steam system repairs from power plant to endpoints, repair water towers and the water treatment plant, and repair wastewater main lines.

The senators secured additional funding to help catfish processing, a major concern for Maryland’s small seafood businesses. They also announced federal funding for community-led projects throughout Maryland within the fiscal year 2026 for agriculture, rural development, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies. These projects support first responders, economic development and more.

BARC, which supports 1,000 jobs, has been targeted for closure by the USDA.

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Each year, the News Review publishes Holiday Greetings from area residents. Greetings will be published in the issue requested. Deadlines for submitting greetings are **Mondays at 4 p.m. (except Sundays, December 21 & 28 at 4 p.m.)**

Display Ad Rates apply. Contact the Ad Desk at 301-474-4131 or go to [greenbeltnewsreview.com/submit-a-display-ad](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com/submit-a-display-ad)



SAFETY continued from page 9

McKinney highlighted the Greenbelt Police Department Summer Youth Program, a multi-session camp run entirely by police officers that offers activities and mentorship for Greenbelt youth. “I’ve seen some of the teenagers, 13-year-olds, holding onto the officers at the end of camp, saying ‘We’re going to miss you.’ It was incredibly touching,” McKinney said. “We’re planning to expand and share more of these experiences because it makes such a difference for the kids and for the relationship between youth and police.” However, as Lockhart pointed out, the camp only runs up to age 14.

Despite the success of existing programs, officials and community members agreed more opportunities are needed for older teens, particularly those between 14 and 18, who often fall through the cracks.

As the meeting wrapped up, residents asked how they could help improve safety and support youth in the Greenbelt community and officials discussed ways to better spread the word about future town halls and meetings such as this, so more community members attend and contribute. “We can’t do this alone. Trust and communication, that’s how we make Greenbelt safer,” said Bowers.

*Ellie Jornlin is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism and former Greenbelt News Review intern.*

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# It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like the Holiday Season

by Matt Neufeld

It's beginning to look a lot like the holiday season in Greenbelt, as the city and the Greenbriar/Glen Oaks community held their annual Tree Lighting ceremonies last week. The end results literally lit up Greenbelt from the old downtown all the way out to Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, providing a colorful and festive backdrop for the holidays.

### Roosevelt Center

Hundreds of celebrants filled a bustling, colorful and lively Roosevelt Center starting about 6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 5 for the city's annual Tree Lighting ceremony. Attendees ranged from toddlers to senior citizens, and many wore holiday-themed hats, lights and sweaters to add to the atmosphere. People filled up every part of the Center.

In front of Greenbelt Cinema, there were constant, long lines for free hot chocolate, ginger snaps, oranges and peppermint candies. A costumed Grinch - a friendly Grinch, it should be noted - roamed the crowd and greeted people. At the end of the main plaza, on the Crescent Road side, the Greenbelt Concert Band Brass Choir played an array of classic holiday songs.

At 7 p.m., Mayor Emmett Jordan took the stage where the Brass Choir was set up. "Isn't it great ... seeing everything lit up!" Jordan exclaimed. He noted the various city holiday activities going on during the weekend, including Sparkle Mart on Saturday and Sunday at the Community Center, activities at the Greenbelt Museum and the Cinema's free showing of the original television version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* after the Tree Lighting ceremony.

As Jordan spoke, he noted that a light snow was falling, adding to the atmosphere at no additional cost. With a string of blinking lights around his neck, he led the crowd in singing several holiday songs, including *Deck the Halls* and *Jingle Bells*.

The excitement grew as the swirling, twirling lights of a Greenbelt Fire truck appeared on Crescent Road. That meant the highly-anticipated arrival of the evening's special guest: Santa Claus. The band struck up *Here Comes Santa Claus*. Bedecked in his traditional red-and-white outfit and with a mane of bright white, curly hair and beard, topped by his red-and-white hat, Santa made his way from the fire truck to the stage, where he greeted the enthusiastic crowd with a round of hearty Ho-ho-hos!

Santa handed out red-and-white candy canes to a swarm of excited kids. Every child got a candy cane, some got two, and Santa had enough of a supply that a few adults got candy canes, too. Age is but a number - especially during the holiday season.

Jordan then led the crowd in a countdown from 10, someone hit a switch and the Greenbelt holiday tree, in the middle of Roosevelt Center, lit up in multicolored lights - and everyone cheered.

Following the excitement outside, many piled into Greenbelt Cinema to see *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, a television special written by Dr. Seuss that first



A crowd gathers before the tree lighting in Roosevelt Center on Friday, December 5.



Children pose with the Grinch.

aired in 1966. The Cinema holds 368 people, and nearly every seat was filled.

After the showing, the crowd dispersed into the night, ready to hit the Sparkle Mart on Saturday and Sunday and the Museum and holiday Farmers Market on Sunday to continue the festivities.

### Greenbriar/Glen Oaks

Three nights earlier, on December 2, the Greenbriar/Glen Oaks community held its Tree Lighting ceremony at the sprawling complex's Community Center at the intersection of Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway.

Residents and staff first gathered in the Center's main reception and activity room for hot chocolate, cookies, muffins and snacks. Musician Saxman Will entertained the crowd with holiday favorites, including *Let It Snow*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Santa Baby*, *Jingle Bell Rock* and *A Holly Jolly Christmas*. The Community Center and the reception room were decorated with brightly-colored trees and the reception room tables were adorned with red-and-white poinsettias. A free raffle was held, and two lucky attendees won a poinsettia.

After awhile, the crowd moved outside to the front of the Center and after a brief countdown, a switch was hit and trees and bushes promptly lit up in multi-colored lights. The crowd cheered,

then moved back inside for more hot chocolate, snacks and holiday music.

It's definitely looking a lot like the holiday season in Greenbelt.



A batch of tiny, one-red-ornament-adorned Christmas trees - resembling the little tree that was defiantly and proudly chosen by Charlie Brown in the classic 1965 television special *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, was on sale at the Farmers Market on Sunday, December 7.



Greenbelt's Christmas tree is decorated and the *Reel Magic of the Holidays* is at the Greenbelt Cinema.



A child tightly hugs their parent as they step away from the crowd during the tree lighting on Friday, December 5.



Sam Collins entertains market goers with his stilt-walking skills at the holiday Farmers Market on Sunday, December 7.

