



ERHS Media Center, p.9



Happiness Happened, p.8

# Demand for Assistance Grows As Affordability Concerns Rise

by Stephen Lotz

Job loss, stagnating wages, inflation, tariffs and rising cost of living across the U.S. have led to what some call an “affordability crisis.” Greenbelt residents, disproportionately affected by the federal government cuts and furloughs and impacted by the cost of living on the outskirts of the nation’s capital, are among those facing difficulties meeting living expenses even in a city that was founded with affordable housing in mind.

City officials and community leaders in Greenbelt say they are seeing more strain as families try to stay housed amid higher costs, shrinking benefits and limited safety net programs. Seniors on fixed incomes are also struggling.

Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI), the 1,600-unit cooperative, is trying to manage rising expenses itself, while some residents turn to city services and nonprofit organizations for food, co-op fee



PHOTO BY MELINDA BRADY

Brick units were among the first of the GHI homes built in 1937.

assistance and job support.

“There is no way we can artificially construct a little affordable bubble, which some people would like to do,” said GHI Board President Stefan Brodd.

## How GHI Works

The first GHI homes were built in 1937 by the federal gov-

ernment during the Great Depression. Today, all GHI homes sit on land the cooperative owns, with each member purchasing a share that grants “perpetual occupancy.”

Brodd said GHI thinks about affordability in two ways: how

See **AFFORDABILITY**, page 4

# Thirty-Two Under-18s Voted In City Election, Up from Two

by Emerson Gary

In 2018, the City of Greenbelt voted to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections. Following that change, there were outreach efforts to teenagers, including a table with voting information and registration forms in the cafeteria at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) that was staffed by members of Greenbelt’s Youth Advisory Committee and the Prince George’s County branch of the League of Women Voters (see the October 17, 2018 issue). In the 2019 city election, the first to allow teens under 18 to participate, 142 under-18 residents registered to vote and 16 voted. However, in 2023, only two teens under 18 voted. How come?

As a 16-year-old in Greenbelt, I asked my classmates about teen voting, and many did not know that they could vote. Seventeen-year-old Greenbelt resident Cecilia Hass said, “When I was applying for my learner’s permit, there was an option to apply for [voting].” I realized many of my peers have



PHOTO BY ALISON GARY

Emerson Gary shows a flyer she created to encourage teens to vote.

yet to get their learner’s permit. With that in mind, if many teens don’t have their permit yet, how will they know that they can also register to vote?

This fall, before the city election, I created a flyer and small handouts that provide

See **VOTERS**, page 11

# School Academic Scores Not Returned to Pre-Pandemic Levels

by Ashna Balroop

Compared to pre-pandemic years, fewer Greenbelt students are “proficient” in math and English language arts (ELA) on state tests, according to data from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The 2025 school report cards, which were released in early November, are based on the results of state tests over the 2024-25 school year. With the exception of Greenbelt Middle School, Greenbelt schools earned academic achievement scores that have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The 2018-19 school year is as far back as the online historical data on the MSDE report card goes. It also serves as a pre-pandemic benchmark for school performance. Maryland’s state tests use four performance levels to determine if a student has reached proficiency in math or ELA) content. The levels are: one (beginning learner), two (developing learner), three (proficient learner) and four (distinguished learner). A student must score a level three or four to be considered proficient.

The percentage of students achieving proficiency or higher in math and ELA on state tests and the average performance level of students on state tests determine a school’s academic achievement score on the school report cards. Elementary or middle schools can earn a total of 20 points, with each of the four categories worth

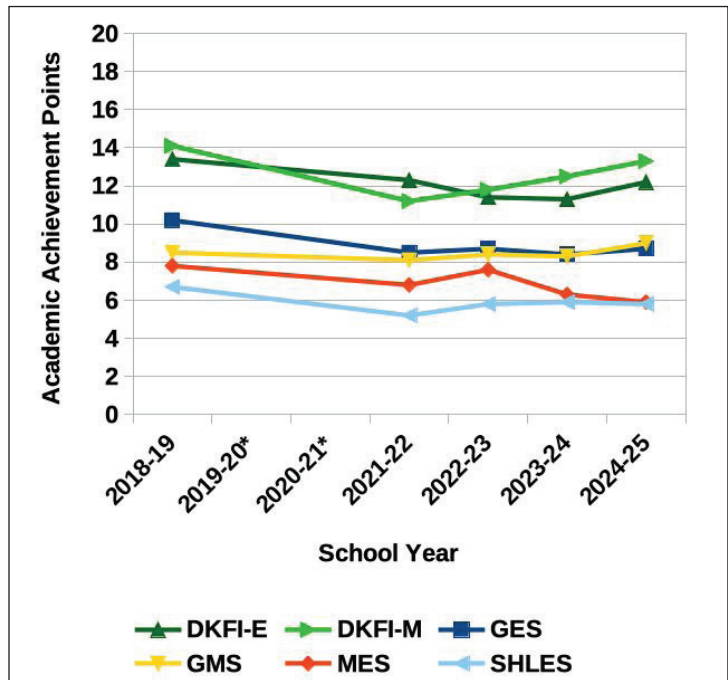


CHART BY BARRETT BEDFORD-DILLOW/MSDE DATA

Academic achievement since 2018 for Greenbelt area elementary and middle schools; asterisks indicate pandemic years

five points, across the categories of “percent proficient mathematics,” “percent proficient [ELA],” “average performance level mathematics,” and “average performance level [ELA].” A high school is scored out of 30, with each category being worth 7.5 points.

## Pandemic Context

There are no report cards for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years because the students were not physically in school during those Covid years, so

See **SCHOOLS**, page 6

## What Goes On

**Monday, December 29**  
No City Council Meeting:  
Winter Recess

**Wednesday, December 31**  
No City Council Meeting:  
Winter Recess

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

# Council Retreat Anticipates Budget Woes Downstream

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council retreat on December 10 was the first of two gatherings to set council’s goals for the next two years. This first session focused on team building and setting up a productive method for tackling the goals. It set the ground rules to, in the words of facilitator Maryland Municipal League Senior Director for Leadership Development Tom Reynolds, “give a place for consensus.” Reynolds had played the same role at a similar retreat in 2023.

All councilmembers were present: Frankie Fritz, Emmett Jordan, Amy Knesel, Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompei, Silke Pope and Kristen Weaver. City

Manager Josué Salmerón was the eighth participant.

The atmosphere was relaxed but purposeful and gave the onlooker, used to seeing council in its normal more controlling role, insight into how these seven individuals function as a team behind the scenes. It was a productive mix of shared goals, commitment to the city and care for its people.

## Preliminaries

Reynolds, without being dictatorial, was gently effective in keeping the meeting on task. Each exercise was designed to shape the desired outcomes by establishing ground rules, focusing

See **COUNCIL**, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Joy, a seven-foot-tall cartwheeling sculpture, was installed on December 10 at Braden Field. See story page 7.



# Letters to the Editor

## GHI Fee Rise, Fixed Incomes

At the December 11, 2025, GHI public meeting, GHI announced that they have created two new yard maintenance positions. A resident questioned this action as she thought this action competed with local businesses. I have written to GHI to impose an immediate hiring freeze due to rising co-op fees and to not fill those positions.

I own a frame one bedroom unit. GHI's letter of December 5, 2025, announced that my monthly co-op fee is being raised by \$59.50, an 11 percent increase. My neighbor's co-op fee is being raised by \$53.00. I am a disabled retiree on a fixed income. I believe that I am not the only resident on a fixed income.

GHI's spending needs to be brought under control. I hope other residents of GHI will contact GHI about the spending. While those two positions play a small

part in the increased co-op fees, it is still a waste of money and a burden on residents.

J W Thompson

*Editor's Note:* According to GHI General Manager James Claggett, one groundskeeper hire will fill an existing open position and the other will be hired on a temporary basis for the fee-for-service yard maintenance program that the GHI Board has proposed piloting.

## Inclusion without Leaders

Last night [Tuesday, December 16] I attended a beautiful Hanukkah celebration in the center of Greenbelt organized by Robert Goldberg-Strassler and Aileen Kroll. It was lovely to be surrounded by Jews and non-Jews alike, those committed to adding light and solidarity to the world in these very dark times. After the massacre in Australia, the Jewish community is on edge and

grieving. Together, those gathered lit our menorahs, chanted the traditional blessings, sang Hanukkah songs and shared Hanukkah foods, a lovely way to experience community, solidarity and hope.

I was surprised not to see any elected Greenbelt officials. In a time when leaders speak about inclusion and community, their presence would have been appreciated; this absence signaled a disappointing lapse in leadership as well as a missed opportunity to stand with the Jewish community of Greenbelt.

Joanie Cohen

*Editor's Note:* Organizers say Councilmembers Frankie Fritz and Danielle McKinney both attended.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center after the first snow day of the season on Friday, December 5



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www.greenbeltcinema.org

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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 26th - JANUARY 1st**

**Marty Supreme (R)**  
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (149 mins)

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

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Mon. 2:45 PM, 6:00 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM

**Hamnet (PG-13)**  
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (125 mins)

**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Mon. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:30 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM

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



Four members of The Holiday Carolers, a roving troupe of a cappella singers fully dressed in elegant, elaborate Victorian-era clothing, roamed a busy Beltway Plaza on Sunday, December 21, four days before Christmas, and sang holiday songs for appreciative shoppers. Pictured from left are Luke Tudball, originally from London but now an Annapolis resident; Ginny Arey, of Eldersburg; Heather Bagnall, of Arnold; and Randy Mullany, of Severn. Hark! The Carolers sing!

PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### Marty Supreme

Marty Mauser (Timoth   Chalamet), a young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness. Chalamet trained in table tennis for about six to seven years, starting in 2018, to prepare for his role in the movie. He kept up his training while working on other films, including Wonka, Dune 2, The French Dispatch and A Complete Unknown, by traveling with a table. "Featuring a bracingly energetic performance from Chalamet that is his career best, Marty Supreme, a story of ambition, fame, cultural identity and the American Dream, is as good a Christmas present as Hollywood could give us in these fractious times," said critic Cary Darling of the Houston Chronicle.

### Hamnet

From Academy Award-winning writer/director Chlo   Zhao, the film tells the powerful story of love and loss that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet. After losing their son Hamnet to the plague, Agnes (Jessie Buckley) and William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) grapple with grief in 16th-century England. A healer, Agnes must find strength to care for her surviving children while processing her devastating loss. The critics' consensus, according to Rotten Tomatoes: "Breaking hearts and mending them in one fell swoop, Hamnet speculates on the inspiration behind Shakespeare's masterpiece with palpable emotional force thanks to Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal's astonishing performances."



- News Review, December 20, 2018

## New Year Deadlines

New Year's Day falls on a Thursday 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 29. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 26. There will be no office hours on Tuesday, December 30 and no ads will be accepted that day.

Submissions: To be considered for publication, articles over 700 words are due by Sunday, December 28 at 2 p.m. All letters to the editor (300-word limit) are due by Sunday, December 28 at 6 p.m. Articles under 700 words and photographs are due by 2 p.m. on Monday, December 29.

# 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

## 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.

It's also a great opportunity for students seeking service credit hours.

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

## Free Spay/Neuter Rabies Shots for Pets

Greenbelt residents are eligible for a free spay/neuter procedure and a rabies shot for their pet, through a Maryland Department of Agriculture grant until December 31. Control pet overpopulation and keep pets healthier at no cost.

To apply, contact Greenbelt Animal Services at [animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov) or call 301-474-6124. Don't wait and miss out at the end of the year during the busy holidays – make an appointment now.

## Community Art Weekly Meet-Ups

Enjoy two free weekly meet-ups starting in January at the Community Center. Yarn & Darn meets on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring knitting, crocheting, embroidery, cross stitch or other fiber art project to work on in a relaxing environment.

Craft and Create, a new group for ages 18+, meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project in progress, or enjoy a new themed project each week. Bring personal supplies, or use what the group members provide. Both groups meet in the Community Center, Room 113. For more information, email [alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov) or [mcason@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:mcason@greenbeltnmd.gov). For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit [greenbeltnmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/arts).

## Celtic Concert, Dance Free in College Park

College Park Arts Exchange is sponsoring a Northumbrian and Scottish small pipers retreat at the Old Parish House in College Park in January. Registered participants are planning an exciting weekend filled with events to improve their musical knowledge while enjoying the process. There are three events when the public is invited to join the fun:

Friday, January 16, 7 to 9 p.m., a short concert followed by lively dancing. No experience is necessary, but comfortable shoes are recommended.

Saturday, January 17, 7 to 9 p.m., Northumbrian and Scottish small pipe duets and trios, followed by a Celtic jam session open to all.

Sunday, January 18, 2 to 4 p.m., Open Jam Session. Bring instruments (e.g., banjo, dulcimer, flute, cello, bouzouki, guitar) to play along with the pipers.

Find out more at [cpae.org](http://cpae.org).

## Free Irish Dance Workshop in January

College Park Arts Exchange is sponsoring a free Irish dance workshop on Saturday, January 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. This low-impact and rhythmic introduction to sean n s dance, a traditional Irish percussive dance style known for its musicality and footwork, will be taught by Kate Spanos, who has over 30 years of training as an Irish dancer and scholar. Perfect for adults of all levels, this class emphasizes connection to Irish music and encourages people to find joy in moving their body to the music. Find out more at [cpae.org](http://cpae.org).



## Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. The January theme is Otters.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5772. Visit [fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center](http://fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center) for more information.

## Make Winter Cards At Artful Afternoons

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to join instructor Amanda Spaid and make beautiful watercolor cards at a series of free upcoming workshops. The activity will be offered on Sunday, January 4 from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, and again on Sunday, January 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. This project is suitable for participants of any experience level. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at [sugeni.us/ehUi](http://sugeni.us/ehUi). Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit [greenbeltnmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/arts). Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



## Golden Age Club

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

The following is the schedule for January 2026.

January 7, Business meeting.

January 14, Speaker: Greg Varda, recreation director, for a question-and-answer session.

January 21, Birthday Party, bring something to share.

January 28, Bingo.

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

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

## Bibliophiles Meet

The Bibliophiles of Greenbelt's January meeting will focus on review and discussion of issues and books from 2025, especially in the context of contemporary politics. Among the books read and discussed in 2025 are *You Are Not American: Citizenship Stripping from Dred Scott to the Dreamers* by Amanda Frost; *Finding Your Third Place: Building Happier Communities (and Making Great Friends Along the Way)* by Richard Kyte; *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder; *American Midnight: The Great War, A Violent Peace and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis* by Adam Hochschild; and *The Friendship Bench: How Fourteen Grandmothers Inspired a Mental Health Revolution* by Dixon Chibanda.

At their January meeting, the Bibliophiles will compile a list of books and discussion leaders for 2026. It could also serve as a community political forum to share thoughts and feelings on current politics.

Bibliophiles' meetings are open to the community and held on the second Wednesday of each month, in this case January 14 at 11 a.m., at the New Deal Caf .

## At the Library

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System library branches will be closed on Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day, and on Wednesday and Thursday, December 31 and January 1 for the New Year's holiday. There is a systemwide hiatus of Library programs through January 3. The 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.

### Winter Reading Challenge

The Library is once again teaming up with the Washington Wizards. The challenge runs through March 14, 2026. Participants may complete and log activities including reading, watching Wizards games, attending library programs (virtual or in person), staying active and engaging with the library and Washington Wizards. Readers who complete the challenge will have a chance to win a variety of prizes including game tickets and a Wizards prize pack. Register at [pgcmls.beanstack.org/reader365](http://pgcmls.beanstack.org/reader365). All ages are welcome.

## Poetry In The Garden

The poetry group will be meeting on Sunday, January 4, in the Schrom Hills Park clubhouse from 3 to 5 p.m. The public is welcome to attend to read a favorite poem or just enjoy listening and sharing feelings. Poetry in foreign language with some translation is welcome.

This event is free of charge. Light refreshment is provided. If more information is needed, call 443-415-1053.

More Community Events  
are located throughout the paper.



# This Week at the New Deal Caf 

BECOME A MEMBER!\*

Greenbelt, MD

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

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

Time to Renew Your 2026 Membership, or Join the New Deal Cafe!\*

TH 12/25	FRI 12/26	SAT 12/27	SUN 12/28
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Cafe closed <b>Happy Holidays!</b>	<b>Marianna Previti</b> 8 - 11pm An evening with this award-winning performer with some of the best DMV musicians	<b>NDC JAZZ JAM, 2 - 5pm</b> <b>Dirty Soul</b> 8 - 11pm Playing swamp funk & rhythm & bluesy soul	<b>ASL BRUNCH, 10:30-12pm</b> <b>NDC ALMOST-ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE, 1 - 3pm</b> Details coming soon! <b>Kim's Grand Rounds</b> 6 - 8pm

MON 12/29	TUES 12/30	WED 12/31	TH 1/1/26	New Deal Cafe
<b>The REAL New Deal Cafe</b> <b>Birthday with KARAOKE!</b> Cake at 8pm!	<b>NDC Open Mic w/ Matt Severson</b> 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm	<b>New Year's Eve w/ Proverbs Reggae Band</b> 9p - 12:30am Visit our website for more details	<b>Wolf's Blues Show &amp; Sit-In Jam</b> 6:30 - 10pm Big, bodacious boogie blues jam	<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.



AFFORDABILITY continued from page 1

hard it is for people to become members, and how hard it is for current members to stay.

“We’re concerned about both things,” Brodd said. “We’ve talked a lot about it, and we continue to talk about it.”

Although members buy a share rather than a deed, prices still rise and fall with the real estate market. Brodd said GHI does not control those prices. “Right now shares range from around \$120,000 to close to \$400,000,” he said. “That is just between the buyer and the seller. We do not intervene in that process.”

Where GHI does have influence is the monthly co-op fee that funds staff, taxes, insurance and maintenance. The cooperative’s 2026 budget is about \$17 million. Real estate taxes and insurance costs have increased sharply, Brodd said, and hiring contractors in one of the nation’s most expensive metro areas is costly.

GHI has tried to control expenses by contracting out large maintenance projects to get lower prices, such as replacing hundreds of roofs at once, and by maintaining policies that largely prohibit renting and flipping properties.

When Members Fall Behind

Members who fall behind on fees can work out payment plans or be referred to financial assistance programs, Brodd said. Evictions, or loss of membership, are rare.

“We have almost no evictions here,” he said. “We had one recently, but it was the first one for a long time. No one is happy about them. No one wants them to happen.”

When GHI removes a member, the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office handles the physical eviction. Brodd said the cooperative cannot control what happens once deputies arrive.

“People found it very distressing, as did I,” he said. “At that point the process was really out of our control.”

Community organizer Shaymar Higgs said the recent eviction shook neighbors and felt out of place with Greenbelt’s identity.

“A lot of people got hurt,” Higgs said. “It made their bad situation even worse. It made their hell really on fire.”

Higgs runs The SPACE, an arts and social collective that distributes free clothes, household items and books, along with community activities and food services. He said layoffs and reduced social service funding have pushed more residents toward grassroots support. “We are literally just listening to the people and meeting them where they are,” he said. “Nonprofits can move a little faster than government.”

Rising Demand for Help

While GHI tries to limit expenses, Greenbelt agencies are seeing more requests for help.

Greenbelt CARES provides counseling, senior services, job support and monthly food distributions.

“We certainly have seen, even before the shutdown, but certainly after, more folks coming to our food distributions and seeking food assistance,” said Liz Park, CARES director.

Food distribution events serve 150 to 300 families a month, Park said, and the city connects residents to energy assistance programs, SNAP benefits and outside charities. “If we can help somebody maintain housing while they get through a crisis situation, it solves a lot of problems,” Park said.

Still, CARES cannot fully meet demand. “We get 10 to 12 applications a month for rental assistance,” Park said. “We are not able to help all of them. The city is not able to meet the full need.”

Park said Greenbelt offers services many municipalities do not, but CARES frequently connects residents to Prince George’s County programs because local money cannot fully cover their needs.

Limited Local Safety Nets

At the Municipal Building, Constituent Services Coordinator Gizelle Alvarez acts as the main point of contact for residents with housing, job and service questions. Most calls involve public works issues, but Alvarez said she is hearing more from people struggling after layoffs and benefit cuts.

“I have had people come to me who have been laid off, asking where they can find resources regarding food or temporary funds,” she said. The city has an emergency rental assistance fund, but it is one-time and donation-based. Alvarez said demand for assistance is outpacing supply. “I have seen less food, unfortunately, and more people attending our monthly food distribution,” she said. Alvarez cited reductions in federal benefits, along with rising housing costs in Prince George’s County and across the region, as

key reasons for the uptick.

Greenbelt can steer people to a new American Job Center at Beltway Plaza and to Deji Ayoku, the city’s workforce coordinator. But Alvarez said the city does not have the power to provide ongoing cash assistance the way county government can.

“We can help with a one-time rental payment that is paid directly to the landlord, but we don’t have the kind of mechanism in place where we can just write a check to a resident for whatever to help [them] get caught up,” she said.

County help is limited, too. A rental assistance program for families at designated Prince George’s and Montgomery County schools announced in November that all new applicants would be placed on a waitlist after what officials called an “unusually high volume” of requests and exhausted funding.

Searching for Solutions

GHI has looked at ways to generate outside revenue to offset costs, including profit from the two small apartment buildings the cooperative owns, and a newly proposed yard-care service members could opt to purchase. Brodd said the board is also looking at whether seniors could tap equity in their shares through a model similar to a reverse mortgage.

“They are sitting on hundreds of thousands of dollars of equity, but there is nothing they can do with it,” he said. “We think seniors especially should be able to leverage that equity to help with day-to-day expenses.”

Brodd said GHI wants residents to know the cooperative recognizes the stakes. “GHI is very concerned about affordability,” he said. “We are concerned for our residents and for offering an affordable option for housing in the D.C. area.”

*Stephen Lotz is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.*



The News Review wishes a very merry Christmas and joyous Kwanzaa to our readers.

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



PHOTO BY EMILY YANG

Cardinal Robert McElroy (left) and Mayor Emmett Jordan had a chance to greet each other after the cardinal’s visit to St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church on Sunday, December 14. McElroy is archbishop of Washington, D.C.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Community Center Room 114  
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December 28, 2025, at 3 p.m.  
Mighty, Mighty Love: Sustaining  
Beloved Community Through the Arts  
Anthony Jenkins, PBUUC Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team  
(DARTT) with Worship Associates Lula Beatty and Erin Wiley  
Paint Branch UU Church celebrates Kwanzaa through the arts.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at  
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- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

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

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www.sthughofgrenoble.org



### Français, s’il Vous Plaît: At the Youth Center

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the Youth Center every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages and all levels of fluency are welcome.

### Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving public speaking and leadership skills. See [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.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.

### Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially string players and low brass. For more information, visit [GreenbeltOrchestra.org](http://GreenbeltOrchestra.org).



### Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting used athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. A donation box outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) accepts old 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.*

#### MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 29 - JANUARY 2

Monday, December 29, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL WINTER RECESS**

Wednesday, December 31, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL WINTER RECESS**

*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).*

#### CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:30pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution Number 2025-03 – Resolution Number 2124: A Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §3-22 “Powers” of the City Charter to Authorize the City of Greenbelt to Engage in Collective Bargaining with a Representative of Public Works Employees by Following Procedures in Amended Article VIII of Chapter 13 of the City Code.

City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on January 12, 2026, at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk’s office. For more information, please contact the City Manager’s office at (301) 474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk  
City of Greenbelt  
301-474-8000

#### SIGN UP FOR CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

Make composting the easiest resolution to check off of your list in the new year! For just \$10 you can help Greenbelt reduce food waste and create productive compost. Sign up today at [compostcrew.com/greenbelt](http://compostcrew.com/greenbelt).

#### FEATURED PETS BUGS



Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124  
7-month-old Bugs came to the shelter as a stray and was so scared of everything — like loud noises, sudden movements, and meeting new people. But once Bugs warms up to you, she loves a good scratch behind the ears, playing with stuffed toys, and getting crazy zoomies around the yard. Although Bugs has made tremendous strides in her socialization, she can still get easily spooked in new situations, and she may do well with another dog to show her the ropes and help her feel safe. Weighing just 25 pounds, Bugs’ small stature and big heart is sure to win you over!

If you’re interested in adopting bashful Bugs, please reach out to us at [animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov) or call us at (301)474-6124

#### LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2025-2026

Week	Location	Holiday
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.

#### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed  
Thursday, December 25,  
and Thursday, January 1, in observance of the  
Christmas and New Year’s Holidays.

#### REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

**Week of December 22 and December 29**

Monday Route – Collected Monday

Tuesday Route – Collected Tuesday

Wednesday Route – Collected Wednesday

Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on  
Friday, December 26, and Friday, January 2.

#### GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on  
Thursday, December 25; and Thursday, January 1.

#### SAVE AS YOU THROW

Be prepared for the first Save As You Throw pickup on January 5 with either your purple SAYT trash bags or a MaxTrash sticker on your bin.

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

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

MaxTrash stickers 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

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



## 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.

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.



SCHOOLS continued from page 1

the standardized tests could not be given. Comparing the data across recent years shows that of all Greenbelt schools, only Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) has achievement scores that have returned to the pre-pandemic levels indicated by the 2018-19 school year. For all schools except Greenbelt Middle, of the five years recorded, the 2018-19 achievement scores are their highest. Some schools, including Greenbelt Middle and Dora Kennedy French Immersion's middle school grades show a drop for the first post-pandemic measure of achievement score, followed by a continual improvement each subsequent year. Others show more fluctuation post-pandemic. For Magnolia Elementary and Eleanor Roosevelt High School their lowest achievement scores are not immediately following the pandemic but are the most recent 2024-25 figures.

**Greenbelt Elementary School (GES)**  
Greenbelt Elementary's 2024-25 academic achievement score was 8.7. The 2024-25 school year's most notable statistic was that only 22.4 percent of GES students met or exceeded the percentage needed for proficiency in mathematics.

By comparison, in the 2018-19 school year, 33 percent of students met or exceeded the proficiency level for math and 48.7 percent met or exceeded the level for ELA. The change in scores reflects an approximate 14.7 percent decrease from the 2018-19 score, which was 10.2.

**Springhill Lake Elementary (SHLES)**  
During the 2024-25 school year, Springhill Lake scored 5.8 total points with 9.7 percent of its students meeting proficiency in mathematics and 17.3 percent meeting proficiency in ELA.

In 2019, its score was 6.7 total points compared to 5.8 points in 2024-25, a decrease of 13.4 percent. Only 16.6 percent of students scored proficient or above in math and 22.7 percent scored

proficient or above in ELA. The school's academic achievement scores held fairly steady for the last three years (5.8 in 2022-23, 5.9 in 2023-24, and 5.8 in 2024-25), and though it hasn't returned to its pre-pandemic level, it is above the 2021-22 score immediately following those pandemic years.

**Magnolia Elementary**  
Magnolia Elementary achievement scores have wavered since the pandemic but overall have been lower. The school earned an overall 5.9 points for the 2024-25 school year, compared to 7.8 points in 2018-19. The achievement scores following the pandemic were 6.8 in 2021-22, 7.6 in 2022-23, 6.3 in 2023-24 and 5.9 in 2024-25. Only 6.4 percent of its students met proficiency for mathematics in the most recent report.

The difference in points from 2018-19 to the 2024-25 school year reflects a 24.4 percent decrease in proficiency. In 2018-19, 20.8 percent of students met or exceeded math proficiency, and 30.3 percent of students met or exceeded ELA proficiency. The most recent overall achievement score for Magnolia Elementary was the worst of the years in data represented on the MSDE site.

**Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI)**  
DKFI's 2024-25 achievement score was 12.2 for the elementary grades, and 13.3 for the middle school grades. In the middle school grades, 85.9 percent of students were deemed proficient in ELA and 45.1 percent in mathematics. In the elementary grades, 67.4 percent of students were proficient in ELA and 47.4 percent in math.

The percent change between the most recent academic year and 2018-19 represents an overall 8.9 percent decrease in the school score for the elementary grades since the 2018-19 school year (when it scored 13.4), and a 5.7 percent decrease for the middle school grades (which scored 14.1).

DKFI's middle school grades

have been continually improving since their pandemic drop in performance level. The trajectory for the elementary grades is not as clear but their most recent data, like the middle school's, is the best since before the pandemic.

**Greenbelt Middle School (GMS)**  
Greenbelt Middle School was the only school to return to an achievement score equal to its pre-pandemic score, and in fact surpassed it in the most recent year. GMS earned 9.0 points during the 2024-25 school year; 23.2 percent of students met the proficiency threshold for mathematics and 47.5 percent met the threshold for ELA.

In 2018-19, GMS earned 8.5 points; 23.9 percent of students met or exceeded math proficiency, and 37.1 percent of students met or exceeded ELA proficiency. The point difference between these two school years reflects a 5.9 percent increase in students' proficiencies.

**Eleanor Roosevelt High School**  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School earned 17.9 out of 30 possible points for the 2024-25 school year. For mathematics, 44.8 percent of its students met or exceeded the threshold to be considered proficient and 73.9 percent were proficient in ELA.

In 2019, the high school earned 20.3 points. At that time, 60.3 percent of its students met or exceeded proficiency in math, and 70.9 percent met or exceeded proficiency in ELA. The differences between scores from the 2018-19 school year and the 2024-25 school year represent a 11.8 percent decrease in scores.

The most recent year represents the worst achievement score for the school of any years listed online by MSDE.

*Ashna Balroop is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.*



Patuxent Refuge 2026 Calendar on Sale

Patuxent Research Refuge 2026 calendars feature 12 months of stunning nature photography of animals and plants seen at the refuge, as well as a look back through time at the Refuge's 90 years of wildlife conservation.

Award-winning photographers donated use of their photos to support this fundraiser on behalf of Friends of Patuxent's work. All profits help support the Refuge and the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center.

Calendars can be purchased at the Wildlife Images Bookstore and Nature Shop or online at friendsopatuxent.org/shop.

GES	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	10.2	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.7

Greenbelt Elementary School

SHLES	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	6.7	5.2	5.8	5.9	5.8

Springhill Lake Elementary School

MES	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	7.8	6.8	7.6	6.3	5.9

Magnolia Elementary School

DKFI	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Elementary Grades	13.4	12.3	11.4	11.3	12.2
Middle Grades	14.1	11.2	11.8	12.5	13.3

Dora Kennedy French Immersion

GMS	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	8.5	8.1	8.4	8.3	9.0

Greenbelt Middle School

Elementary and middle school scores above are out of a possible total of 20 for the years from 2018 to 2025 (excluding 2020-21).

ERHS	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	20.3	19.1	18.3	18.8	17.9

Eleanor Roosevelt High School scores out of a possible total of 30 for the years 2018 to 2025 (excluding 2020-21)

www.greenbeltnewsreview.com



Earlier this year Fred Edwards and Mary Murchison-Edwards took a road trip to Chicago. Along the way, they stopped at the Hammond, Ind., Welcome Center. Here, Fred stands by a sculpture of the triple-dare scene.

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by Diana Raynes

**January 9-17, 2026**  
Fridays & Saturdays 8pm  
Sunday, January 11, 2pm

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



# New Trash Process Begins Jan. 5; Answers to More Reader Questions

by Erica Johns

The News Review continues to receive questions from readers about the city's Save As You Throw (SAYT) program. Below we answer the most recent. Answers are sourced from SAYT program materials, virtual information sessions and from consulting city staff.

**Q:** It seems there are several options: small, medium, large and max. How do we tell the city which one we want?

**A:** There's no need to tell the city your choice of bag or even whether you are opting for SAYT bags or the Max Trash stickers. If you haven't purchased and displayed a Max Trash sticker, the city will expect you to use SAYT bags. Purchase small, medium or large city SAYT bags at the Co-op Supermarket and use as many as desired in whichever size you like. Beltway Plaza Hardware will carry only medium bags while assessing demand. Your bag purchase includes the price of the trash program (over the flat base fee) and is why SAYT bags cost more than commercial bags. Max Trash sticker users who occasionally have more than 99 gallons worth of trash may also use SAYT bags that week.

**Q:** Will other stores besides the Co-op and Beltway Plaza Hardware stock SAYT bags?

To purchase a Max Trash sticker visit [myflexusa.com/MaxTrash](http://myflexusa.com/MaxTrash) or the Municipal Building. Alternatively, purchase SAYT bags at the Co-op Supermarket or Beltway Plaza Hardware. See [greenbeltmd.gov/SAYT](http://greenbeltmd.gov/SAYT) for details and updates.

**A:** Several other stores are currently coordinating corporate permission.

**Q:** Are we billed for how many bags we're using on our regular trash bill?

**A:** No. Your payment for SAYT bag use occurs when you purchase the bags.

**Q:** Is the \$240 base fee for all city trash users billed quarterly as it was in the past?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Does the program begin January 1 or January 5?

**A:** The new program begins Monday, January 5.

**Q:** When I tried purchasing a Max Trash sticker at [myflexusa.com/MaxTrash](http://myflexusa.com/MaxTrash), it didn't recognize my address.

**A:** Type slowly. A list of addresses will display for your choice. GHI addresses are formatted as "4 Crescent Rd, A." Use Cir, Ct, Dr, Ln, Pl or Rd, not Circle, Court, etc.

**Q:** What form of payment can I use to purchase a Max Trash sticker?

**A:** Online purchases via

WasteZero may use Visa or Mastercard. Purchases at the Municipal Building may use Visa, Mastercard, debit card, check or cash.

**Q:** I heard that the stickers cost differently if purchased at the Municipal Building or online.

**A:** Yes, because credit/debit card processors charge higher fees to the city than to WasteZero. A Municipal Building purchase of the \$70 sticker costs \$75.34 and online purchase costs \$74.88.

**Q:** Can I purchase my Max Trash sticker in person to avoid shipping and handling fees?

**A:** No. Though you can order the sticker in person at the Municipal Building, it still comes with a fee. The "shipping and handling" fee covers WasteZero's costs for production, shipping and handling and also credit/debit card fees if paying with a card.



## Joy Installed at Braden Field

by Margaret Cason



PHOTO BY HOWARD CONNELLY

From left, Duffy and Ali Mirsky of Impact Art and Nicole DeWald, arts supervisor and art commission project manager, pose with Joy.

A new public artwork, a seven-foot-tall cartwheeling sculpture called Joy, was installed on December 10 at the entrance to Braden Field by the tennis courts. The sculpture was commissioned as part of a major, ongoing renovation supported by funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. Joy, named by the community, was designed and constructed by Impact Art. Over 250 community members of all ages participated in mosaic workshops and Artful Afternoons, contributing to the mosaic surface of the piece, which features glass tiles and ceramic elements. Joy is designed to be cleanable, repairable, climbable

and safe to touch, said the city during planning in April, and "is intended to reflect community diversity and a joyful spirit of play." The City of Greenbelt extends special thanks to Greenbelters LaShel Baravechia, Chris Corson, Robert Goldberg-Strassler and Bill Wilkerson who served on the Project Advisory Committee guiding this commission. Thanks also to Public Works for casting the footer. Grading will be done around the sculpture, a plaque will be added and a dedication event is envisioned for the spring. Margaret Cason is art studio manager for the City of Greenbelt.

### Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

### CARES Needs Fund Donations

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be a safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to [GreenbeltMD.gov](http://GreenbeltMD.gov), click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

## Lions Club Members Wrap Gifts



PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

At the table in Beltway Plaza from left to right, are Greg Salers, president of the College Park Lions Club; Trenda Rusher, president of the Greenbelt Lions Club; and Laura Salers, a member of the College Park Lions Club.

Members of several local Lions Clubs manned their annual holiday season gift-wrapping table at a busy, festive Beltway Plaza on Sunday, December 21, continuing a Lions Club tradition at the mall that's been going on for at least 20 years. Members of the Greenbelt, College Park, University Park and

Mount Rainier-Brentwood Lions Clubs helped out at the table, where they wrapped presents for a donation. One hundred percent of those donations go to community programs. The Lions Clubs members staffed the table at the mall from December 19 to 23.



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A Review

# Happiness Happened at the GAC

by Michael Hartman and Lore Rosenthal



Pictured, left to right, are Peter Reppert, composer, keyboard; Mike Bennet, producer, guitar, vocals, songwriter; Dejando Smith, bass; Max Pinales, saxophone; Pierre Messala, drums; Sam Prather, synthesizer; Katy Gaughan, percussion, spoken word; Robert Ax, guitar. (Not shown is Darrell Dunning, drums in the first set.)

On Saturday night, December 13 at the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC), Peter Reppert (who is also a contributing cartoonist for the News Review) and Mike “MauvIn Gra Ye” Bennett put together a multimedia production, “Happiness Happening,” that was designed to envision an optimistic future through music, visual and tactile art. It was an evening that promised “Anything can happen” that involved “audience participation and random chance” in an immersive experience where the audience response was a part of the artwork.

The first set featured original works by Reppert in a multi-piece sonata in eight movements, of contemplative compositions about happiness. The second set, featuring music and commentary by MauvIn Gra Ye and the Graye Line Band, took that happiness to the next level that, at times, had members of the audience up and dancing in the aisles.



The backdrops for the production were by the artist Tanglewood Sue.

During the extended intermission, audience members were encouraged to create happiness by drawing their thoughts about what happiness means on a doodle board, taking their pictures

in front of a giant photo of a snowy scene, creating different combinations of pictures using a “painting randomizer” and bidding in a silent auction for one of the paintings by GAC’s December artist, Frankie Alika, that adorned the lobby wall.



Holding court at the center court of a busy and festive Beltway Plaza on Sunday, December 21, was jolly old Saint Nicholas himself, Santa Claus. Ho, ho, ho!

## Spellman Overpass Sign-waving Fridays

Everyone is invited by Indivisible of the Route 1 Corridor and by other Greenbelters to do the following.

Show up at the Spellman Overpass on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway every Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. (Walk east on Gardenway from Ridge Road.)

Assert the importance of U.S. democracy, the rule of law and our belief that NO kings are welcome. Bring generous goodwill, noisemakers, signs and banners.

Email [k2e9u09mj@mozmail.com](mailto:k2e9u09mj@mozmail.com) for questions.



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

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

on outcomes, understanding how to behave productively in goal setting and beginning to establish priorities and common ground. He covered individual interaction styles – inherently reminding each individual of their style of interaction and priorities and reinforcing the principles of mutual respect.

### Challenges

After working with the group to set rules for participation in terms of mutual respect, honesty, positivity and openness to new ideas, Reynolds asked councilmembers to name the greatest challenges council faces today and, unsurprisingly, most centered on budget.

They were expressed variously as growing the tax base, the impact of local federal job losses and dealing with the effects of rising prices. In the mix there also emerged the interesting concept of Greenbelt proactively growing its own economy – one relying less on federal employment. Concerns centered around working with local and state jurisdictions to care for residents who face food and housing insecurity.

There was consensus that the city’s current budget was unsustainable and that there would need to be cuts in services unless the city’s tax base grew – a tough proposition in the current climate. Councilmembers Fritz and Knesel were curious to see how other places and countries have coped with similar hard times.

### Community Input

City residents would have been pleased to hear that councilmembers’ first and unanimous priority was to do right by them: to foster a collaborative and engaged city with support for those in need.

Councilmembers were keen to take the feedback they had received on city activities during their door-knocking efforts when canvassing for the election and to integrate that information with the results of the community survey in setting goals for the future.

McKinney offered the intriguing prospect of a community focus meeting in which a big dollar bill representing the budget could be cut into segments proportional in area to the budget allocations for city functions like public safety, recreation and public works, graphically representing the hard decisions that must be made with capped resources.

### Goal Setting Prep

These exercises were the introduction to the ultimate purpose of the retreat, scheduled for realization in the second session: to determine council’s goals for the next two years. This meeting was to ready its members to tackle the task most effectively.

After some discussion, the group decided on a homework exercise where each would go through the 10 areas and 43 goals listed in the 2023 City Council Planning Framework to note which they thought had been accomplished, which were in progress and which were no longer relevant. Fritz suggested using a single online collaborative document put together by McKinney from tables she’d constructed in 2023.

The annotated list would then be the current status starting point and the second session on Monday, December 15 would update the remaining goals and add new ones for the next two years.

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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 15 - 21, 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 two mental health diversions involving suicide, one domestic incident resulting in arrest and two incidents requiring child protective services.  
On December 19 near 6200 Breezewood Drive, someone found a heavily rusted 16-gauge shotgun firearm near their building.  
**Carjacking**  
On December 16 at 12:05 a.m. near 9164 Edmonston Road, a silver Toyota RAV4 (Md. 7GD2276) was taken at gun point. The suspect is a man who was wearing a ski mask.

**Fight**  
On December 19 at 5:21 p.m. near 6420 Cherrywood Lane, a woman and her coworker got into a verbal argument that led to both women fighting and throwing items at each other. Only one employee was on scene, and no injuries were observed, but the office was in disarray. Warrants were advised.

**Theft**  
On December 18 near 8316 Miner Street, a delivered package was stolen.

On December 19 at 1:11 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man chose a cellphone and, at the time of payment, fled without paying for the item.

**Fraud**  
On December 15 near 15 Crescent Road, a woman deposited a check made payable to The Washington Post. She later received notification that the check

had been altered and deposited by an unknown individual. A fraud report was completed.

On December 16 near 10 Southway, a checking account was compromised.

On December 17 near 414 Ridge Road, a woman was contacted by a company she had no involvement with, who were attempting to collect a debt.

**Suspicious Persons**  
On December 16 at 1:20 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, an officer observed a man smoking controlled dangerous substances. Officers stopped the man and identified him. He was in possession of drug paraphernalia, which were placed into property for destruction.

**Trespassing**  
On December 16 at 3:54 p.m. near 5801 Cherrywood Lane, during proactive patrolling, an officer noticed a man at the location and knew that he was previously banned. He was arrested and released from the station.

On December 19 at 6:24 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an officer observed a man on the property who had been previously banned and recently arrested for a similar incident. He was arrested, transported back to the station and released with a criminal citation.

**Vehicle Crimes**  
**Theft from Auto**  
Rear tags were stolen from vehicles on December 18 near 7907 Mandan Road, and on December

21 near 6702 Lake Park Drive.  
On December 16 near 9156 Springhill Court, a Honda CRV was broken into and a vacuum was stolen.

**Vandalism to Auto**  
On December 18 near 5809 Cherrywood Terrace, all four tires on a Ford Escape were slashed. The owner could not think of anyone who would want to do this.

On December 18 near 9108 Springhill Lane, all four tires were punctured on a 2025 Toyota Tacoma.

**Man Shot Friday In Greenbelt West**  
On Friday, December 19, shortly before noon, a 24-year-old man was shot near 6003 Springhill Drive. A man was found on the ground outside the entrance with a gunshot wound to his lower back. Officers rendered immediate medical aid until EMS arrived.

Based on witness statements, two men in masks, dressed in all black clothing entered the building and shot the victim before fleeing the scene. The shooting is believed to be targeted. The victim was taken to a nearby hospital. Anyone with information about this incident can contact police at 301-474-7200.



## Police Deliver Holiday Joy to New Media Center at ERHS



From left, Principal Portia Barnes, Officer Raki Rahman and Assistant Principal Rachelle Jamall

The Greenbelt Police donated a PlayStation 5 to the newly opened Make a Space Media and Creation Center at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, presented

by Officer Raki Rahman. The donation was accepted by Principal Portia Barnes, Assistant Principal Rachelle Jamall and Media Center Specialist Tammi Tatro.

**Free Tech Support**  
Marylanders Online is currently offering free one-on-one tech support in English and Spanish for Maryland residents. Technicians can help with devices, including software and hardware, internet service and digital skill classes. Anyone can sign up for an online or in-person session online at [marylandersonline.umd.edu/get-help/schedule-appointment](http://marylandersonline.umd.edu/get-help/schedule-appointment) or call 301-405-9810 or toll-free 1-866-206-9467. In-person meetings are held at 8400 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 104, College Park. Online appointments are held on Google Meet.

**Volunteer to Drive For GIVES**  
Want to meet fellow Greenbelters and help them out at the same time? The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) always needs volunteers, especially drivers. Choose when and where you will drive (within the 10-mile limit) and if you are also willing and able to help with carrying groceries or other packages.

To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES (membership is free), have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and pass a background check. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit [givesgreenbelt.org](http://givesgreenbelt.org).

## 14-Year-Old Student Stabbed At Parkdale on December 18

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On the morning of Thursday, December 18, a stabbing took place at Parkdale High School in Riverdale. A 14-year-old male student was stabbed inside the school in an assault that involved a pocket knife. The school was placed on a temporary lockdown shortly before 10 a.m. and the injured student was transported to a local hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.  
A 14-year-old male student has been charged in the incident.

Parkdale is home to an International Baccalaureate magnet program that draws students from Greenbelt and other areas of the county beyond Riverdale.  
Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph said the district is reviewing footage and investigating how the weapon was brought into the school, which like all PGCPS high schools, is equipped with weapons detectors.

## Police Warn of Check Theft From Greenhill Road Mailbox

On Wednesday, December 17, the Greenbelt Police Department issued a warning to the community about an increase in check thefts, specifically from the mailbox located at the intersection of Greenhill Road and Greendale Place.

Mail theft is a federal crime and can result in up to five years in prison. Cases are reported to law enforcement officers at the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for investigation.  
To contact postal inspectors, call 877-876-2455.

**Crisis Hotline's Number is 988**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988 and it's available for phone calls and text messages.  
Calls and text messages are confidential and free.  
"No matter what problems you're dealing with, whether or not you're thinking about suicide, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the Lifeline," the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline says on its website at [samhsa.gov/find-help/988](http://samhsa.gov/find-help/988).

## Shoppers Rewarded with Hot Cocoa



Janubi Devendra and a helpful elf give hot chocolate to shoppers.

Janubi Devendra, the director of marketing for Beltway Plaza, and one of Santa's elf helpers, joyfully handed out free cups of delicious hot chocolate to happily surprised holiday shoppers at the center court of a busy Beltway Plaza on Sunday afternoon, December 21. The hot chocolate was

courtesy of the mall, which also provided an array of tasty toppings - marshmallows, chocolate chips, caramel syrup, chocolate syrup and whipped cream. The line at the hot chocolate table at times could be a little long, but no one really minded.

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HAIRSTYLIST – Tired of paying rent, your own supplies, taxes, business licenses? Come back to a commission shop! I supply all color, most supplies except for your own personal supplies. Call Dominick at 301-980-9200. Greenbelt area hiring. Have three spaces open.

MERCHANDISE

NEW CRAFTSMAN 18" electric lawnmower for sale. Not currently working. May be relatively simple to fix. Will consider all offers. Maureen 301-383-7266

REAL ESTATE RENTAL

ROOM FOR RENT – Montpelier, Laurel (off Laurel-Bowie Road also back entrance Muirkirk). House situated on corner, wooded lot. UPSTAIRS, female non-smoker. Fully furnished, 16' 6" x 12', King, a/c. Spacious vanity-bathroom w/window. Access: extra sitting room across from you. Victorian LR, bright spacious kitchen, w/refrigerator and cabinets for you! Laundry room off kitchen. Patio. \$850 includes utilities. Must be full-time employed outside house. Nancy 301-676-3996.

SERVICES

MATURE WOMAN available for elderly. Driver's License. \$25/ hour. References, #301-558- 7865

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

CUSTOM FLOORING, LLC – Installing all flooring products. Specializing in refinishing hardwood. Starting \$3.50 per sq. ft. Call Now 301-844-8897, www.customflooringllc.net.

HANDYMAN DAVE – Paint, woodwork, exterior house cleaning, bath, kitchens, floor, more. 443-404-0449.

MISSY'S DECORATING – Serving Greenbelt for over 30 years. Interior painting. Free estimates. MHIC #26409. Insured. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

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.

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HEATING AND COOLING – We specialize in installing Mitsubishi ductless heat pump systems in Greenbelt Homes. Call Mike at H & C Heating & Cooling, 301-953-2113. Licensed and insured since 1969.

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; 240-645-5140.

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

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Holiday Deadlines

January 1 is a Thursday this year. 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 29. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 26. There will be no office hours on Tuesday, December 30 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. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Send Your  
Holiday Greetings  
Far and Wide!!

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

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VOTERS continued from page 1

information on how to vote. I placed the flyers around the city. I partnered with Robert Goldberg-Strassler and the Greenbelt News Review to spread the word. Over several days, Goldberg-Strassler and other Greenbelt residents distributed handouts at the Spellman Overpass to students heading home from ERHS. The handouts had QR codes with information in English and Spanish on how to register. The News Review provided a table for voter registration at its October 9 Candidate Forum and printed an article about teen voting. On October 3, Greenbelt hosted Salsa y Salsa, a Hispanic Heritage and voter engagement event at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. At the event, there was a table to register Greenbelt citizen and noncitizen residents to vote in the city council election.

These actions helped. City Manager Josué Salmerón said that several residents registered to vote at the Salsa y Salsa event, including teens under 18. City Clerk Bonita Anderson said that students walked to the Municipal Building after school to register to vote.

The Greenbelt 2025 city election showed a dramatic increase in teen voting compared to the last city election, with 32 teens under 18 who participated. Voting reports show that 16- and 17-year-old Greenbelt residents voted at all five precincts, participated in early voting and even registered to vote on Election Day. Poll workers said that it was a celebration for

many of these new voters. They would applaud and recognize these teens for taking part.

Seventeen-year-old Cecilia Hass voted in this year's election by early voting at the Community Center. Hass said that she found her voting experience very easy. "Teen voting is a great way to do our part, and have a voice," she said. ERHS 11th grader and Greenbelt resident Danzson Celdran-Taylor also had a very good experience voting in this year's election. He said that he felt that his views were being heard and that he would vote in the next city election. He said, "It's important that more young people get into local politics because it's the stuff that affects them the most."

Due to the results of this year's teen voter registration, there has been a 15-fold increase in under-18s voting. These results are very encouraging. However, the work toward increasing voter turnout has not stopped. I, and others in the community, will continue to get the word out and work toward increasing teen voting in our city. The young people of Greenbelt are so affected by the decisions of our city government that it's important that they have a voice. Once you are 16, you can register online to vote by visiting [voterservices.elections.maryland.gov](http://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov).



**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](http://signup.com/go/UNkLnqk) or email us at [staff@make125.org](mailto: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.

**Call for Sports News**

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share? We welcome your photos and stories at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

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Popular magazines and hobby magazines, especially those published within the past two years, are accepted. Vintage magazines are also welcome.

Books must be clean and pages not browned with age, torn or heavily marked or underlined with comments. Do not bring books that are moldy, sticky, smelly or missing pages or covers. Missing dust-jackets are not a problem.

The bookstore cannot use books or magazines that are diet-themed, encyclopedias, technical, academic or professional. Audio CDs are not accepted.

Soft-covered books missing their covers will be thrown away.

To donate books, email [friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com). Please do not bring book donations to either the circulation front desk or Novel Endings. Cash and check donations are accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk. Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

**City Notes**

The city manager submitted bond bill requests to District 22 legislators and Constituent Services attended State Senator Alonzo Washington's Holiday Gift Giveaway. Code Enforcement inspected several commercial suites and seven rentals and issued one building permit.

After two adoptions, Animal Shelter residents are six cats, four kittens and five dogs, with three wait-listed owner-surrenders. Santa Paws welcomed 21 pets for photographs at the Police Station.

Public Works provided tables for food distribution and the Community Center hosted a blood drive. Mechanics rebuilt the rear differential on one vehicle and refinished doors on another.

Environmental/Sustainability attended the Solid Waste Advisory Commission meeting and a Greenbelt Homes, Inc. sustainability meeting. Streets crews salted and plowed snow-covered streets and Horticulture/Parks cleared sidewalks.

For Braden Field, Recreation received four dugout benches and new LED lights. At the Aquatic & Fitness Center, Public Works worked on the Fitness Wing HVAC system.

Park Rangers supported Winter Solstice celebrations at Schrom Hills Park and the Firefly Sanctuary.

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3 Bedroom townhome in Greenbelt. Modern kitchen with top-shelf appliances. Remodeled baths, laminate flooring on main level, carpet upstairs.

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# Season's Greetings from the City of Greenbelt

Each year at this time we come together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. As 2025 draws to a close, the City Council, City employees, and members of Council's Advisory Boards and Committees wish all citizens a safe and joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year.

## CITY COUNCIL

Kristen L.K. Weaver, *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Jenni Pompei

Emmett V. Jordan, *Mayor*  
Frankie Santos Fritz  
Amy Knesel

Danielle McKinney  
Silke I. Pope

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Arnette Davis  
Troi Dixon  
Denna Lambert  
Gulnura Rakhyshova  
Robert Snyder

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Bob Trumbule (25 Years)

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Judith Davis  
Jim Drake  
Isabelle Gournay  
Matthew Inzeo (5 Years)  
Adriaan Passchier

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Tatiana Ausema (20 Years)  
John Drago (15 Years)  
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Adriene Lim  
Vijay Parameshwaran  
Kristen Stenson  
Barbara Stevens

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Susan Gregersen  
Donna Hoffmeister  
Beth Novick  
Damien Ossi (15 Years)  
Katherine Ross

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Halchyon Ahearn  
Rhema Bjorkland  
Ronald Bjorkland  
Matt Dirkson  
Erica Hernandez  
Lawrence Hilliard  
Elissa Woodbury  
Jane Young

### The Green Team (Sub Group of GreenACES)

Susan Barnett  
Margaret Cahalan  
Michael Hartman  
Steve Skolnik  
Xochitl Zamora-Thompson

### GREENBELT ETHICS COMMISSION

Isiah Horton, *Chair*  
David Benack (5 Years)  
David Shapiro (5 Years)  
Robert Zugby

### PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Matthew Sickle, *Chair*  
Carol Malveaux  
Anne Marigza  
Bukola Pinheiro  
Marc Siegel  
Lola J.P. Skolnik

### PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Peggy Higgins, *Chair (5 Years)*  
Steven Mirsky  
Laura Kressler  
Eunice Pierre  
Kathy Reynolds  
Mary Thomas  
Stanley Zirkin

### REPARATIONS COMMISSION

Tom Adams  
Chelsea Barnes  
Rhema Bjorkland  
Gail Crichlow  
Francis DeBernardo  
Lorena Ferdinand  
Yahshuah Ford  
Adriane Harris  
Konrad Herling  
Chiquita Jackson  
London McCloud  
Mark Miller  
Shabnam Mojtajedi  
Denise Nadasen  
Robert Rand  
Dr. Lois Rosado  
Jonathan Taylor  
Sarah Wampler  
James Williams Jr.  
Mark Wilson

### SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carol Shaw, *Chair*  
Abel Aworbi  
Martha Galvin  
Monica Huber  
Cynthia Jefferson  
Elisabeth Kevorkian  
Iona King  
Patricia Rogers  
Leon Schachter  
Betty Timer  
Mary Wade (35 Years)

### YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Koko Josey  
Abigail Taylor  
Jackson Tuthill

\*BOLD DENOTES MILESTONE

## CITY EMPLOYEES

### ADMINISTRATION

#### City Manager's Office

Josué Salmerón, *City Manager*  
Tim George, *Asst. City Manager*

#### City Clerk's Office

Bonita Anderson, *City Clerk*  
Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

#### Constituent Services

Gizelle Alvarez, *Constituent Services Coordinator*

#### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Tyra Smith, *DEI Officer*

#### Economic Development

John A. Mason, *Economic Development Manager*  
Zihan Chen

#### Grants

Cary Eure, *Grant Coordinator*

### FINANCE

Ronald Covington, *Treasurer*  
Dee Allen  
Julissa Ramos-Rivera  
Anahi Ramos  
Mariou Whaples

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Dawane Martinez, *Director*  
Julie Diez-Canseco  
Virmarie Rivera (5 Years)

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Sanjoy Chakraborty, *Director*  
Brian Kennell, *Asst. Director*  
Tyrone Barnes  
Clay Harman Jr.  
Bryce Haines

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

Bryce Rusk  
Jamarie Spencer  
James Wisniewski

### CARES

Dr. Liz Park, *Director*  
Christal Batey, *Asst. Director*  
Deji (Olawale) Ayoku  
Mary Barnabie  
Adrian Cortez  
Katherine Farzin  
Natalie Garcia  
Sierra Gholson  
Sharon Johnson  
Orelia Lesh  
Flora Li  
Sonia Ramos  
Darren Stephenson  
Paige Sweeney  
Glenda Willis  
Rishanda Winchester

### POLICE

Richard Bowers, *Chief*  
Tim White, *Deputy Chief*  
Jermaine Gulleedge, *Captain*  
Michael Apgar, *Lieutenant*  
Michael Parsley, *Lieutenant*  
Irelisse Fernandez, *Lieutenant*  
Khadijah Ameen  
Maria Auchter  
Erick Alvarez  
Troy Arnold  
Carolina Aviles  
James Bowne  
Neshia Cabrera-Pearson  
Alexis Carranza  
Nayely Ceballos-Baldayal  
Jeal-Paul Dang  
Dylan Davis  
Rico Dennis  
Daniel Dessalines  
Tyler Fahey  
Patricia Fillman  
Joshua Forney  
Sarah Gignac  
Kendall Graham  
Ryan Godish  
Johnnie Guy  
Sharnise Hawkins-Graham  
Dayanira Hough  
Jessica Houle  
DaShaun Jackson  
Abbey Kipke  
Isaiah Law  
Arran Leathery  
Jae Lee  
Terra Magnotto  
Richard Millien Rondon  
Michelle Moo-Young  
Terri Pineda Avila  
Andrew Ordaz  
James Parker  
Gerald Potts III  
Nicholas Powell  
Ashleigh Proctor  
Rakibur Rahman  
Malachi Randall  
KingBowe Ritson  
Carl Roberson  
Oscar Rodas Flores  
Yomayra Rodriguez Skibicki  
Paula Ross  
Emily Salazar  
Daniel Sandoval  
Isabella Scribner  
Jovon Shorter  
Phillip Skibicki  
Aidan Sims  
Glenn Smith  
Amy Sosa  
Eric Thomas Jr.  
Michael Thomas Jr.  
Rachel Tobin  
Carlos Torres  
Lawrence Upson III  
Felix Vargish  
Michael Watkins  
Alicia Williams  
Joshua Williams  
Robert Wilttrout  
Charles Wooten

### PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Gilberto Cabrera, *Asst. Director*  
Jaime Fearer, *Asst. Director*  
Anthony Crump  
Michael Day  
Mildred Debord  
Talia Hewan  
Charles Reading  
Ryan Sigworth

### PUBLIC WORKS

Brian Kim, *Interim Director*  
Brian Townsend, *Asst. Director*  
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Brian Allen  
Gabriel Almiraz  
Michael Alston  
Brian Bailey Jr.  
Michael Barnes  
Leticia Benitez  
Maria Blanco  
Jeff Calebaugh  
Michael Canavan  
Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll  
Donald Davis  
Othon Emmanouil  
Gustavo Escamilla-Marin  
Mike Fox  
Clive Frazer  
Karen Galvez Contreras  
Brendy Garcia  
Kristi Gardner  
Fredy Herrera  
Matt Houchens  
Michael Jawer  
Daluan Johnson  
Frank Kellaheer  
Diana Lara Zavala  
Alexa Lauber  
Denis Lopez  
Brian Lovelock  
Edward Martinez  
Desmond McAlmont  
Jaime Mena  
Herris Moo-Young  
Joe Mulhare  
Zack Patton  
Chuck Rall  
Mayra Ramirez  
Rafael Ramirez-Aviles  
Dr. Luisa Robles  
Jaime Rojas  
Nate Rozier  
Humberto Saavedra-Ortega  
Alexa Salas  
Richard Sorzano  
Lori Thiele  
Robbie Tripe

### RECREATION

Greg Varda, *Director*  
Anne Oudemans, *Asst. Director Programs*  
Andrew Phelan, *Asst. Director Facilities*  
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Bill Agbodjobe  
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Kamal Ali  
Daniel Aloys  
Kimberly Alvarez  
Sofia Anaya-Martinez  
Elisabeth Anderson  
Kara Andrews  
Isaiah Aneiva  
Karen Arrington  
Nnaemeka Ariwaado  
Doriann Asch  
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Heather Babin  
Thomas Baker  
Maeeve Ballantine  
Naomi Barnett  
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Leia Barton  
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Lincoln Beasley  
Logan Beasley  
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Andrew Bender  
Nadette Boughton  
Alexandra Bowman  
Caci Bradley  
Edward Brennan  
Camryn Briscoe  
Henry Brittan-Powell  
Jack Brittan-Powell  
Thomas Brittan-Powell  
Stefan Brodd  
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Kenneth Brown  
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Ian Brown-Gorrell  
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Ruth Campbell  
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Jordan Carter  
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Priya Gardner  
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Kimberly Gary  
Melanie Gaschick  
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Iris Gaycken  
TaIlyuana General  
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Marsha Gielen  
Olivia Gills  
Patrick Gleason  
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Judy Goldberg-Strassler  
Aeryn Goldstein  
Wisdom Golphin  
Bernie Gormally  
Trevin Green  
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Jared Hamlin  
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Kathy Harvey  
Karen Haseley  
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Alaska Heintzelman

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Devlin Hodge  
Peter Holden  
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Margaret Holland  
Abbey Holmes  
Christian Horchler  
Gaye Houchens  
Nikki Huff  
Lauren Hutchison  
Chinedu Ijohmoh  
Bryston Ingram  
Marilyn Irving  
Samantha Iseli  
Coreitta Isreal  
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Creedence Jackson  
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Snowden Jackson  
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Rayhanna Mani  
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Ruby Maul  
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Emmaly Thompson  
Sheila Tiltet  
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Khaleel Todd  
Cheryl Townsend  
Teresa Trozzo  
Quinn Valentich  
Tina VanPelt  
Juliana Venegas  
Chloe Verdin-Fittrell  
Angie Vinson  
Marsha Voigt  
Isabel Walder  
Adrian Walker  
Ashley Walker  
Cameron Walls  
Christian Webb  
Felicia Wheeler  
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Emily White  
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Ottilie Wilcox  
Naomi Williams  
Isaiah Willis  
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Xiodan Yan  
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Vanessa Zanin  
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