



The Mountaineer at GAC, p.6



Cassels grant for SLRC, p.12

Greenbelt Elementary Receives \$10,000 Thanks to Micro Center



Acting Principal of Greenbelt Elementary School Tynetta Dempsey and students hold the check from Intel.

During the annual Score with Intel Core competition, stores compete to win a donation to a local school. This year, one of the winning stores, Micro Center

#85 in Rockville, chose Greenbelt Elementary. Manager of the store, lifelong Greenbelter Marc Siegel, was excited to choose his local elementary school. The donation

amount is \$10,000, in the form of a shopping spree at this store. Teachers were able to choose any items needed for their classrooms.

PHOTO BY CAITLYN MCGILLEN

Council Discusses Cellphone Coverage Gaps in Greenbelt

by Larry Beyna

The Greenbelt City Council's January 5 worksession was devoted to the issue of cellphone coverage gaps. Mayor Emmett Jordan introduced the issue as one of reliability and reach of cellphone coverage in the city, about which residents have complained in the past (see the December 8, 2025, issue). "While carrier maps show near-perfect coverage in Greenbelt," Jordan continued, "our neighbors report dropped calls and dead zones; so, we need to move on beyond these discrepancies and create a roadmap to address the reality of cellphone coverage and begin to look at our city's digital infrastructure more broadly."

Coverage Discrepancy

City Manager Josué Salmerón presented a map of existing cellphone towers in Greenbelt (see below). "Despite an abundance of

towers around Greenbelt," he noted, "the area that lacks coverage is Greenbelt Center." Salmerón also presented the three carrier maps mentioned by Jordan. All three – from Verizon, T-Mobile and AT&T – claim to have 4G or 5G coverage in the entire city, including Greenbelt Center. Salmerón suggested that the lack of coverage is very likely due to a lack of cell towers or antennas. Later in the discussion, two councilmembers reported hearing that staff at Greenbelt Elementary School also lack cellphone service.

Eight years ago, residents successfully opposed putting a cellphone tower near Eleanor Roosevelt High School (see the May 4, 2017, issue). But at present, Salmerón noted, resident

See **CELLPHONE**, page 11

Absent School Board Member Snags County Council Position

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On November 10, 2025, in an executive session of Prince George's County Council, then-councilmember Calvin Hawkins made a motion to extend an offer for the position of council administrator to David Murray. It was seconded by Councilmember Jolene Ivey. Councilmembers Edward Burroughs, Krystal Oriadha, Tom Dernoga, Wanika Fisher, Ingrid Watson, Shayla Adams-Stafford, Wala Blegay, Jolene Ivey and Calvin Hawkins all voted in favor. Councilmember Eric Olson was the lone vote against the appointment. Councilmember Sydney Harrison abstained. David Murray was formerly a member of Prince George's County Board of Education until he stepped down in July 2024 after it was publicized that he was working full-time in another state, for a different school district. (See the July 25, 2024, issue and August 1, 2024, issue.) The Council Administrator is "the principal advisor to the Council," who "helps develop and implement the Council's policies and work program, oversees the Council staff, and represents the Council on several County boards," according to the job description. "The Council Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Council," says the job posting. The position was advertised as a flexible, hybrid position with a salary range of \$140,164 to \$302,349.



PHOTO COURTESY GNR ARCHIVES/PGCPS

David Murray in a 2018 photo from PGCPS

On January 8, Murray was added to the county's directory with the title of Council Administrator. The News Review reached out to the Ferguson-Florissant School District, where Murray had worked since January 2024, and a representative said Murray resigned January 6, 2026, which was also his last day there.

OIC Findings

In November 2024 the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Office of Integrity and Compliance (OIC) "released its official Advisory Summary and Investigative Findings Report on former PGCPS Board of Education member David Murray, after news media reported Murray was working out of state, while still maintaining a seat on the Board" (PGCPS press release, November 4, 2024). The OIC alerted the

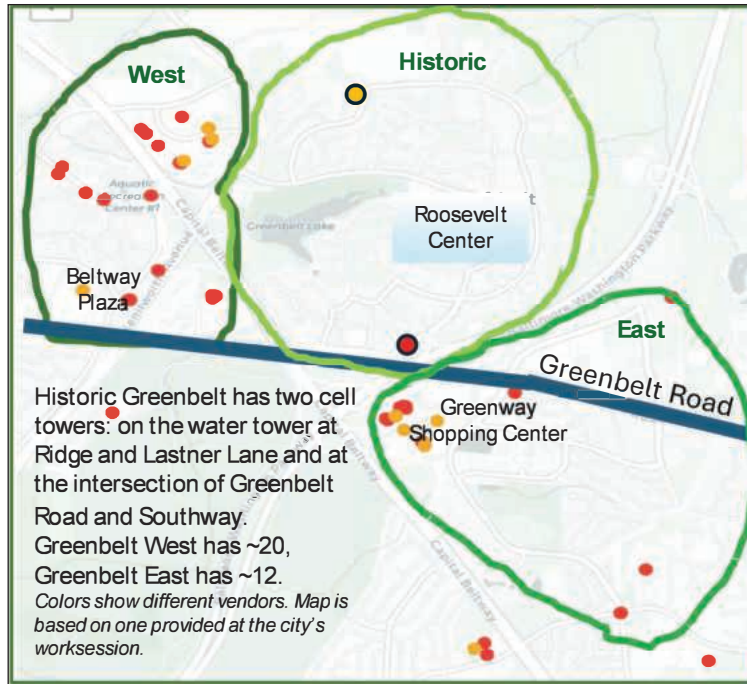
Board of Education as early as March 2024 that absenteeism policy violations needed to be addressed immediately. Among its findings, the OIC determined the Board of Education "failed to promptly address Board attendance violations, hold the former Board member accountable and to request his removal from the PGCPS Board of Education on the basis of willful neglect of duty." (PGCPS OIC Executive Summary, November 2024). A PGCPS press release in November 2024 announcing the OIC investigative findings stated that inaction from the Board, "allowed payroll salary disbursements of PGCPS funds totaling \$9,792.32 to a

See **MURRAY**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King Jr. Day:
City Offices Closed, No City
Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 21
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession:
Discussion on Inclusive
Language for Collective Bargaining
Rights Covering All City Employees,
Municipal Building

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



Cellphone towers in Greenbelt

MAP COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT, EDITED BY CATHIE MEETRE

Our Valentine Extravaganza Strikes Again; Pens Ready?

The weather is bleak. The wind batters the windowpanes. Night comes early and wolves howl across the endless plains. Or not.

But with a little love in our hearts, Greenbelters can reach out to the people and institutions they love and cheer them up to get through what remains of the winter doldrums.

The News Review offers the perfect solution: inexpensive, colorful and celebrated, our Valentine's Extravaganza is the chance to express your feelings.

How about lauding a councilmember – or a Co-op checker? What about your Scout Leader or the nice lady who does your hair? Not to men-



tion, of course, spouses, in-laws, children, faithful dogs and feckless cats. Good neighbors and the staff at the pool?

Prices are the same as in years past – no affordability challenges there. The least expensive is \$6 and if you wish to wax poetic, the prices go up by \$3 for each 10 words. See the explanation of how to submit a heartfelt message (or one full of hearts) on page 11. You can find submission forms in the paper on page 9, in the New Deal Café and at the Co-op. Or, no muss no fuss, you can submit and pay online at GreenbeltNewsReview.com – click on the Valentines link.



Letters to the Editor

Time Is Money

Josué Salmerón doesn't need to spend time sourcing trash cans for the pilot for GHI. GHI management simply rescinds its trash storage rule. GHI owners can buy whatever size cans they want (with wheels) and put them out each week at the designated pick-up zone. Individuals needing assistance can pay a fee to use city resources to do it for them. Those days of having workers come up to each of your trash closets are over. The fact that you've had this free "enhanced service" that's been underwritten with all of our tax dollars needs to stop.

Let's be clear. This trash pilot is not a selling feature for anyone looking to move to Greenbelt.

Which leads me to the city's first attempt at the 2027 city budget. Our city manager thinks a budget that keeps the "status quo" with no cuts and is \$3.29M over any revenue projection the city expects to collect is a good

start! After a year of the current Administration's massive federal layoffs, agency shutdowns and other actions, I think our city leaders are failing to make the hard decisions necessary to plan effectively in the current environment.

Reviewing our current budget, I have not read all 302 pages, I think the city needs to address the amount of debt it has incurred and start reducing it. Allocating \$1,053,400 for debt service is a problem. There are other line items that I question but expect a detailed accounting as the city goes through its 2027 budget process. A realistic approach is to fund the basic services for Greenbelt residents. Everything is on the table for review with the 2027 budget.

While I am one voice, if others share my priorities, you can send your emails to council@greenbeltmd.gov and jsalmeron@greenbeltmd.gov.

Becky Duncan



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:
JANUARY 16th - 22nd

No Other Choice
(R) (2025) (139 mins)
In Korean with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:20 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM
Tue. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM , 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 6:40 PM

The Secret Agent
(R) (2025) (160 mins)
In Portuguese and German
with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 1:45 PM
Wed. 4:00 PM
Thurs. 3:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:10 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM

Marty Supreme (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (149 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:45 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 8:35 PM
Tue. 4:00 PM
Thurs. 3:00 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM-11:15 AM

The Librarians
(2025) (88 mins)
Free documentary screening in
partnership with the UMD College
of Information - No ticket required,
includes post-screening discussion
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 7:00 PM



Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

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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.



LOOKING FOR News Review CARRIERS

Each week, Greenbelt News Review carriers fan out across the city to deliver this paper. We're currently looking for carriers for our waiting list for all parts of the city.

Send an email to circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com for more information.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

No Other Choice

When a man is abruptly laid off by the South Korean paper company where he has worked tirelessly for many years, he grows increasingly desperate in his hunt for another job. "There are winners in No Other Choice," said critic Ty Burr of the Washington Post, "but as [writer, producer and director Park Chan-wook] makes clear in the film's quietly devastating final images, they've won at a cost that hollows the soul. No translation necessary."

The Secret Agent

Brazil, 1977. Marcelo, a technology expert in his early 40s, is on the run. Hoping to reunite with his son, he travels to Recife during Carnival but soon realizes that the city is not the safe haven he was expecting. Winner of Best Director and Best Actor in Cannes and three Golden Globes: Best Screenplay, Best Actor and Best Motion Picture. Said critic Mitchell Beaupre of The Film Stage, "Mixing a sort of arthouse character study with searing socio-political drama and paranoia thriller, The Secret Agent reverberates in the mind for days after watching."

Marty Supreme

Marty Mauser (Timoth   Chalamet), a young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness. Also starring Josh Safdie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Odessa A'zion. Chalamet trained in table tennis for about seven years to prepare for his role in the movie, traveling with a table while he worked on other films. "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.

The Librarians

In this documentary, librarians emerge as first responders in the fight for democracy and our First Amendment Rights. As they well know, controlling the flow of ideas means control over communities. In Texas, the Krause List targets 850 books focused on race and LGBTQia+ stories, triggering sweeping book bans across the United States at an unprecedented rate. As tensions escalate, librarians connect the dots from heated school and library board meetings nationwide to lay bare the underpinnings of White Christian Nationalism fueling the censorship efforts. Despite facing harassment, threats and laws aimed at criminalizing their work, the librarians' rallying cry for freedom to read is a chilling cautionary tale.

Obituaries

Jeffrey Warner



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Jeffrey Warner

Jeffrey “Jeff” Alan Warner, age 64, died surrounded by his beloved wife and children on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Jeff was diagnosed on October 30, 2025, with a rare and aggressive T-cell lymphoma, which he courageously battled.

Jeff was born on April 24, 1961, in Canton, Ohio, to Jim and Ida Warner. From an early age, he was marked by dedication, passion and leadership as a proud Eagle Scout and was an active band member throughout his childhood.

While pursuing his degree in electrical engineering at The Ohio State University, Jeff met a dear friend who introduced him to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This encounter led Jeff to give his life to Jesus, ultimately changing the trajectory of his life forever. Jeff then left his first engineering job at the Hoover company to join a newly established church at Kent State University.

While pursuing his master’s degree in business at Kent State, he met Dawn. The two fell in love and were married in June 1989.

In 1990, Jeff and Dawn moved to Maryland to continue to establish a new church and ministry at the University of Maryland. Jeff faithfully pastored Maryland Christian Fellowship (MCF) Church for 36 years, dedicating his life to serving God and caring for others. His ministry was marked by steady leadership, deep compassion and an unwavering commitment to walking alongside people through both joy and hardship. For decades, he preached, prayed, counseled and showed up.

Family was everything to Jeff. Whether sitting around the dinner room table talking, offering advice or simply enjoying time together, he cherished being present with those he loved most. He delighted in laughter, meaningful conversations and the everyday moments that made family life rich and full. He was especially excited about being “Gramps” to both Mia and Grayson.

Alongside his lifelong devotion to ministry and family, Jeff also developed a deep love for his country. From his connections with a pastor at the Capitol to running for Congress, he understood that freedom isn’t free. He believed this nation needed more men and women willing to step up to serve and protect it, and he did just that by running for Congress and getting involved in local politics.

Jeff will be sorely missed and fondly remembered for his strength, perseverance and deep commitment to the Lord. He leaves behind a legacy of love, faithfulness and steady care that

will not be forgotten. He fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). Those who knew him will always remember his Jeff-isms, and the picture that changed his life. Jeff would want everyone to watch this video: mcfcc.org/hope.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Dawn; his children, Jimmy (Olivia), Danny (Kellie), Katie and Johnny (Bri); and his grandchildren, Mia and Grayson. He is also survived by his mother, Ida Warner; five siblings, Mike (Michelle), Scott (Melissa), Val, Dave (Fataima) and Mark (Kris); and many nieces and nephews.

Jeff’s family invites all who knew him to join them in remembering and celebrating his life. Viewing/Visitation will be held on Friday, January 16 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Donald V. Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 17 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Memorial Chapel, University of Maryland, 7744 Regents Drive, College Park.

In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation to the Alliance Defending Freedom, adflegal.org; College Park Pregnancy Center, 4700 Eric Street, College Park, MD 20740; Seed Company, seedcompany.com; or The Voice of the Martyrs, persecution.com.

Heleni Pedersoli

Heleni Marques Pedersoli died on January 7, 2026, in Lanham at the age of 84 after a brief illness. Heleni was born on April 7, 1941, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, to Aura Marques and Isaias Pinheiro. At the age of 20, Heleni immigrated to the U.S. with her husband Dr. Waldir Pedersoli. They moved to Auburn, Ala., in 1967, where Waldir worked at the Auburn University Department of Veterinary Medicine. Heleni worked at the university’s Ralph Draughon Library for many years. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in comparative literature from Auburn University and her master’s degree in library science from the University of Michigan.

In 1987, Heleni moved to Maryland to begin working at the University of Maryland Library, where she worked for 23 years. Heleni spoke five languages, was a gifted writer and loved to travel. A parishioner of St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church, she was a devout Catholic and a secular Franciscan. She spent her time playing the guitar and singing at church, as well as volunteering with the Missionaries of Charity at their Gift of Peace hospice in Washington, D.C. She was preceded in death by her husband, Waldir M. Pedersoli, and her son, Marcello A. Pedersoli. She is survived by her children, John (Karen) Pedersoli of Odenton; and Miriam (Jordelino) Pinheiro of Lanham; grandchildren, Gianna Pinheiro, Emilia Higgins, Olivia Pinheiro, Julia Pedersoli and Jordan Pinheiro; and great-grandchildren, Emerson and Jack Higgins. A celebration of life was held on Tuesday, January 13 at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church.

— Miriam Pinheiro

Ole Hass Remembrance

There will be a Celebration of Life for Ole Hass on Sunday, January 25 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Episcopal church in College Park. There will be light refreshments afterwards.





Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
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



We Are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

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

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



Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation. The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then optional sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience.Robbins@gmail.com.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

Our Neighbors

It is with deep sadness we report the death of Jeff Warner, longtime and beloved pastor of the Maryland Christian Fellowship Church where he ministered for 36 years. His devotion to the ministry, family and country is irreplaceable.


Condolences also to the family and friends of Heleni Pedersoli, who worked at the University of Maryland Library for many years. She was a devoted member of St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church.

Congratulations to the Greenbelt Recreation Department for receiving the 2025 Jim Cassels grant for use at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Congratulations also to Greenbelt Elementary School as it was selected in the Score with Intel® Core™ competition by Micro Center in Rockville, managed by Greenbelter Marc Siegel. The school received \$10,000 to be used in a shopping spree at the store.

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





"A new life is, in this age, stirring within all the peoples of the earth..." – Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link: [CCG1985-zoomegroups.io](https://ccg1985-zoomegroups.io)


St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM




Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
January 18, 2026, at 3 p.m.
Walk Humbly
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole



One of the mantras most near and dear to Dr. King’s heart was Micah 6:8 – do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. In the spirit of our January theme (Upholding Justice and Unity) and of the MLK holiday, we’ll explore some of the many ways (and places) Dr. King humbly walked his social justice talk.

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



City Information & Events

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

MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 19-23

Monday, January 19, **NO MEETING - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION** *On the Agenda: Reviewing and disseminating reports, Town Hall follow-up, and discussion on subcommittee structure*

Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: TBD*

Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: TBD*

Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30pm, **WORK SESSION - DISCUSSION ON INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS COVERING ALL CITY EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DISPATCHERS AND NON-SWORN STAFF**

Thursday, January 22 at 5:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, *On the Agenda: TBD*

Thursday, January 22 at 7pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Update on Deer Enclosures (presentation by Peter May), Indian Creek Park Planning, Firewise + coordination with GHI Woodlands, and FPAB Outreach Materials Revamp*

Thursday, January 22 at 7pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING (COLLEGE PARK)**

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday January 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the Library of the Municipal Building, to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The public may attend the Special Council Meeting of the City Council immediately before the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION RESOLUTIONS

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:30pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, a municipal corporation, has initiated legislative action to annex three large areas of tax-exempt land, as described below:

- BARC Annexation Area #1 (Resolution # 2125-2026): Consists of approximately 223 acres of tax-exempt land owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the United States Government (Beltsville Agricultural Research Center).
- BARC Annexation Area #2 (Resolution # 2126-2026): Consists of approximately 843 acres of tax-exempt land owned by the United States Government (Beltsville Agricultural Research Center).
- BARC/NASA Annexation Area #3 (Resolution # 2127-2026): Consists of approximately 1,196 acres of tax-exempt land owned by the United States Government (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

The annexation resolutions were initiated by the City Council pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, Local Government Article, § 4-403.

The exact legal descriptions and annexation plans for the above Annexation Areas are available online at www.greenbeltmd.gov/news, or may be reviewed in person at the City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 200, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, between the hours of 9am and 4pm., Monday through Friday.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed annexations on February 23, 2026, at 7pm, in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing.

Written comments may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in advance to the City Clerk, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

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

FEATURED PETS

STORM

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124



She might look like a wild savannah cat, but 1-year-old Storm is perfectly domesticated! We think Storm is a Bengal/mix cat, a breed known for its striking fur coat and playful personality. Storm was found as a stray, so we don't know her true lineage – but she's a 100% good girl! Unfortunately, Storm has FeLV (feline leukemia virus), which affects her immune system but is not contagious to humans or other species of animals. However, she may be contagious to other cats so she will need a home without other cats (or with cats already FeLV+).

If you're interested in adopting Stellar Storm, please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124.

CURRENT GAIL PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, email Katherine Farzin at 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.

FRESH START FAIR

Sunday, January 18 from 12 - 3pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 15 Crescent Road

Fresh Start Fair: Join us for a New Year-themed youth resource fair offering programs, services, and opportunities for youth of all ages in the City of Greenbelt. Explore tutoring and mentoring programs, career pathways, internships and summer jobs, volunteer opportunities, youth wellness and counseling resources, arts, recreation, leadership, and student engagement programs all in one place. Enjoy prizes, a video game truck, and a grocery giveaway while connecting with our community partners and local organizations. We also have a limited number of vendor spots available — if your organization provides services to youth and families in Greenbelt, please email Gizelle Alvarez, Constituent Services Coordinator, for details at galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov or call 240-542-2020.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 10 AM - 1 PM

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive vines at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire caging around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beavers and remove invasive vines.

Email kdricoll@greenbeltmd.gov or visit our [Sign-up Genius page](#).

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of January 19

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, January 23

RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS

Deadline February 3

The City of Greenbelt is currently accepting all Recognition Group Applications for FY2026 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). The deadline is February 3, 2026. Applications can be found at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/465/Clubs-Contacts-and-Recognition-Groups>

For further information, please contact cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION (2025-2026) THROUGH FEBRUARY 6, 2026

Your discarded Christmas Tree can be recycled. The Public Works Department will start picking up trees at the locations listed below on December 29th. The trees will be processed through the woodchipper and can then be used as mulch around trees and flower beds. Please remove all ornaments, lights, and tree stands.

Bring trees to the following areas marked with green tree signs until February 6, 2026.

MAP VIEW

View a GIS Map on the [Christmas Tree collection page](#) for a map of all locations.

GHI

- Ridge Rd - 73 Court (across on playground side)
- Plateau Pl & Ridge Rd (corner on playground side)
- Research Rd & Hillside Rd (corner)
- Ridge Rd - 44 Court (area near playground)
- Eastway & Crescent Rd (corner)
- Ridge Rd - 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)
- Crescent Rd & Ridge Rd (playground at junction)
- Parkway (corner across from Community Church)
- Southway - 7 Court (playground at Little League field)
- Ridge Rd - 11 Court & 13 Court (common area between courts)

BOXWOOD

- Ivy Ln & Lastner Ln (next to playground)

LAKEWOOD

- Greenhill & Crescent (corner by Baptist Church)

UNIVERSITY SQUARE

- Open area in front of swimming pool

LAKESIDE NORTH

- Open area in front of swimming pool

SPRINGHILL LAKE

- Edmonston Rd (down from 9294 near dumpsters)

GREENBRIAR

- Hanover Pkwy (open area between buildings 7708 & 7710)
- Hanover Pkwy & Mandan Rd (corner near building 7824)

GLEN OAKS

- Mandan Rd (open area in front of building 8017)

HUNTING RIDGE

- Hanover Pkwy (open area between buildings 6936 & 6978)

WINDSOR GREEN

- Frankfurt Dr & Morrison Dr (corner across from pool parking lot)

GREENBROOK VILLAGE AND ESTATES

- Ora Glen Dr & Matthew St (corner)

- Hanover Pkwy & Greenbrook Dr (corner)

GREENWOOD VILLAGE

- Mandan Rd (corner at 7516)

GREENSPRING I & GREENSPRING II

- Greenbury Dr (park area between 7926 & 8006)
- Spring Manor Dr & Springshire Way (corner)

BELLE POINT

- Vanity Fair Dr & Prince James Way (corner)

GREENBELT LAKE VILLAGE

- Village Park Dr (open area between 6729 & 6715)

GREENBELT STATION

- Stream Bank Ln (open area across from Central Park)

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



* 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 for more information and many other opportunities!

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

Art Share (meet-up)

Friday, 1/16; 7-8pm Greenbelt Community Center. Present and discuss your art in a friendly and supportive environment. FREE. Sign up here for communications about this monthly series: sugeni.us/eQTD

Make & Take Ceramics

Fridays, 1/16 & 1/23; 6-8pm Greenbelt Community Center. Get a fun intro to our ceramics studio in this lighthearted, two-week workshop, making magical miniatures. No experience needed. All materials provided. Registration required; see page 28 of the winter activity guide for details - www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Pet Portrait Painting** 1/18-2/25; 1 - 3pm, Greenbelt Community Center
- **Friends & Family: Clay Gingerbread Houses** 1/25; 1 - 2:30pm, Greenbelt Community Center
- **Fused Glass Jewelry** 1/31; 11am - 12:30pm Greenbelt Community Center

Registration required for these activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details.

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.

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>.

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.

Ceramic Artists Show Opening



Pottery artists Courtney Koivisto, Donna Hemans, Hemans' sister Calaine Hemans-Henry and Peggy Eskow react to the curator's comments at the opening reception on Saturday, January 10, at the Studio Gallery ceramic show, *In the Spirit of Community: Ceramics in Greenbelt, MD*. There was standing room only for the opening event.



Lola Skolnik poses with her platter on display at the Studio Gallery. The show will run through January 24 at the Studio Gallery in Washington, D.C. See story in last week's issue.



Marc Manheimer and Annie Haber were in Guatemala to escape December's cold weather. In the background is the active volcano Fuego, outside the colonial town of Antigua.

A Review

The Mountaineer Climbs New Heights at Greenbelt Arts Center

by Melissa Sites

The Mountaineer, now on stage at the Greenbelt Arts Center, by Diana Raynes, is a new, original musical about mountaineering, the sport of trying to survive while climbing high-altitude peaks. This unique and gripping musical features Raynes, who wrote the words and music and stars as the main character, the Climber. Raynes is a harpist, and the show's soundtrack features the beautiful tones of the harp accompanying chant-like mantras the Climber is trying to use to survive her descent after she successfully summits an 8000+ meter peak, one of the world's tallest mountains, where death can result from bad choices or simple bad luck.

Raynes labors step by step along a simple, sparse ramp, and each deliberate step ramps up the tension Raynes creates as she struggles with cold, fatigue and lack of oxygen. Hypoxia, hallucinations and accidents assail the Climber, and she responds with imagination, mental stoicism, grit and determination. Will her efforts be enough?

"Why do I do this? Because my brain is trying to kill me!" the Climber repeatedly jokes. Is it "selfish" to attempt to climb high peaks, considering the resources expended, and the often underpaid support staff involved? – especially since climbers often die, sometimes during attempted rescue of other climbers. The musical focuses on life and death questions, about why we choose to do difficult, terrifying or death-defying things. Raynes has read many books about mountaineering, and she strategically invokes her knowledge of real-life climbers and their adventures and misadventures in her play. Some climbers live, some die and some make



Diana Raynes plays the Climber in The Mountaineer.

attempts that result in the deaths of others.

Director Eric Honour brings a stark and evocative set and great props to the production. The actors set a strong pace throughout the show conveying powerful intensity to the challenges faced by the Climber.

Two other actors do great work in the show: Mercury Eadie, as the base camp manager, who tries to keep the Climber alive by advising her over the radio, and Guen Spilsbury, the Climber's partner, whom the Climber left behind as she achieved the summit. The no-nonsense woman at base camp gives good advice, but her reality as a voice over the radio can only offer encouragement, not life-saving aid when things go wrong, as they inevitably do. Spilsbury plays the climbing partner with elegance and joy, offering the Climber a powerful, if evanescent, incentive to try to survive.

See The Mountaineer at Greenbelt Arts Center through January 17. For tickets

or more information, visit greenbeltartscenter.org. This production includes some coarse language.



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See page 9 to get yours!




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The Mountaineer

A High-Altitude Musical
by Diana Raynes

mountaineer-the-musical.com

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

Scan QR code for tickets or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org



This Land Is Your Land Singalong With Woody Guthrie Then and Now

by Kurt Stand

The New Year is upon us and for all too many, holiday celebrations have been mixed with worry after a year of layoffs, deportations, growing hunger and homelessness. Yet those who attended Reel and Meal's December 15 screening of Woody Guthrie: Ain't Got No Home followed by a singalong were reminded that people found a way forward through past hard times, fueled in part by the power of music.

That the program was held at the New Deal Café was wholly appropriate, as Woody embodied the spirit of the New Deal, when popular struggles against the ravages of the Depression brought social programs and collective rights we still enjoy – though under siege. Appropriate, too, was the evening's sponsorship by the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE) as many of Guthrie's songs were about the plight of refugees and migrant workers.

Woody Guthrie: Ain't Got No Home, produced in 2006 as part of the PBS American Masters series, provided an introduction to his life and music. His sister, Mary Jo Guthrie Edgmon, and daughter, Nora Guthrie, are among those featured, providing a portrait of the personal side of his life, while archival footage gave a feel of the times. Pete Seeger and Bruce Springsteen talk about his music and its impact. We see Woody perform alongside blues singers Leadbelly, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, with his closest collaborator Cisco Huston, and with the Almanac Singers, a music group (including Seeger) that sang at Communist Party events and union gatherings.

Born in Oklahoma in 1912, Guthrie lived a life filled with tragedy – one of his sisters died as a child in a house fire, as did, decades later, one of his daughters. His mother, suffering from (undiagnosed) Huntington's disease, had a mental health breakdown, and died in an asylum. He inherited the same illness and was hospitalized from 1956 until his death in 1967, having become completely immobilized.

Guthrie was self-supporting by age 14, working odd jobs before discovering he could make a liv-

ing playing country tunes at bars and fairs. Changing the lyrics as he went along, Woody became a songwriter. A born wanderer, he traveled to Texas, California, New York and elsewhere, hopping freight trains and observing every facet of the country. Those experiences deepened his empathy with those made homeless by the Depression, with Mexican and "Okie" farm workers exploited while working, treated as outlaws once the harvest was in – with workers of all stripes whose labor built this country yet who rarely receive their due.

Woody wrote hundreds of songs including three collections that expressed his values: The Dust Bowl Ballads, which grew out of his life in Oklahoma; the Columbia River Ballads, which emerged out of his work for a New Deal Works Project Administration (WPA) program in Oregon and Washington State, celebrating work and the power of labor; and Songs to Grow On, a collection of playful children's songs.

Watching the film gave impetus to the singalong that followed. Both the New Deal Café audience and some watching on Zoom joined in singing Woody's songs: Dust Bowl Refugee, I Ain't Got No Home in this World Anymore, Deportee (aka Plane Wreck at Los Gatos Canyon) and two songs that reflect Guthrie's influence – Seeger's If I Had a Hammer and Bob Dylan's Blowin' in the Wind.

The evening concluded with Guthrie's This Land is Your Land which continues to inspire 85 years after it was written:

In the shadow of the steeple
I saw my people/By the relief office
I seen my people/As they stood there hungry,
I stood there asking/Is this land made for you and me?

Nobody living can ever stop me/As I go walking that freedom highway/
Nobody living can ever make me turn back/
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land/
From California to the New York island/
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters/
This land was made for you and me.

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.

Volunteers Needed For Tool Library

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

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

Lottery Winner

A winning \$50,000 Gold Bar Bingo 6th Edition ticket was sold for \$5 in Old Greenbelt during the week of January 5 to 11.

New Year Vegan Potluck

Come to a Great Food Transition New Year Vegan Potluck dinner sponsored by the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS). Bring a plant-based dish (with no animal products) ready to share. A list of recipe ingredients is appreciated. During the evening attendees will learn about the impact of food waste and hear about a great freeze-drying technology for preserving food. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, January 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Community Center Dining Room adjacent to the kitchen. The program is free (donations accepted), but registration is required.



Scan to register

Virtual Lecture

Greenbelt before Greenbelt: Histories and Mysteries

by Megan Searing Young

The archeological and historical record documents thousands of years of human presence on the land we now call Greenbelt, most intensely in the past 400 years. A slide talk on Thursday, January 29 at 7 p.m. by historian Alan Virta will present a broad overview of the Black, white and Native American people who lived here before the New Deal green town was built. Virta will discuss how these people made a living off the land, sharing stories about representative individuals and families, including Colonial tobacco planters, the enslaved and those who came after them. The talk will answer some basic questions and raise others about the pre-Greenbelt history of Greenbelt.

A former Greenbelt resident, Virta was one of the original board members of the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum. He also served on the Greenbelt 50th Anniversary Committee. Long active

with the Prince George's County Historical Society, he is the author of the book Prince George's County: A Pictorial History and served as the first chairman of the county's Historic Preservation Commission (1981). Virta grew up in Prince George's County, attended DuVal High School and has degrees in history and library science from the University of Maryland. Now retired and living in Boise, Idaho, he worked as an archivist at the Library of Congress, University of Southern Mississippi and Boise State University.

This is a free virtual event. Register in advance via Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/y2h6vuxs. An email with a Zoom link will be sent prior to the date of the talk. The talk is sponsored by the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, the Greenbelt Reparations Commission and the City of Greenbelt.

A "book staircase" decorates one of the stairwells at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

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COMPASS

Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café
Saturday Jan. 17 from 10 am - 2 pm
at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff (volunteers needed as well). Bring your bikes, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library: Thursdays 6:30 - 8 pm, Saturdays 10 am - noon, Sundays 11 am - 1 pm
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>

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County Council News

County Councilmember Watson Resigns from District 4 Seat

MURRAY continued from page 1

On Tuesday, January 13, District 4 County Councilmember Ingrid Watson, who represents Greenbelt, announced she will resign from the Prince George's County Council effective Friday, January 16 and transition to a new position as President and CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime serving the residents of Prince George's County and District 4 as a member of the county council, and I am deeply grateful for the trust my constituents placed in me," said Watson. "My expansive career in public service has equipped me with invaluable experience in the economic development sector, enabling me to collaborate with developers and landowners to drive impactful new projects and cultivate a business-friendly environment in Prince George's County. Leaving the council is bittersweet, but I'm excited to continue this vital work in my new role."

Watson served more than three years on the council, starting in December 2022. She has also served on the Prince George's County Democratic Central Com-

mittee and as an at-large member of the Bowie City Council.

Watson championed legislation and initiatives for seniors and vulnerable residents, promoted county beautification and trash pickup and strengthened protections and access to care for pets and animals. She also provided much needed funding to nonprofits to support food giveaways, educational programs, scholarships and a host of programs in support of Prince George's County residents. Watson also served as chair of the Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee for the last two years, and as a member of the Education & Workforce Development and Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committees. She also chaired the Accessory Dwelling Unit Task Force.

Her current term was set to expire on December 5, 2026. Since her resignation creates a vacancy during the last year of her term, a majority of the remaining councilmembers will appoint a person to fill the seat. It will be the third such appointment necessitated in little over a month.

Information for this report was drawn from a Prince George's County Council press release.

PG Council Fills Another Seat

On Friday, January 9, the Prince George's County Council unanimously appointed Danielle Hunter to fill the District 6 council vacancy created when Council Member Wala Blegay was sworn in to her current At-Large seat, which she was appointed to after Councilmember Calvin Hawkins resigned. Hunter, currently the Director of Appointments in County Executive Aisha Braveboy's administration, was selected from a list of more than 20 applicants.

"I want to congratulate Danielle Hunter on the unanimous vote, and I look forward to her joining the council to serve with

us," said Council Chair Krystal Oriadha. "Her dedication, vision and commitment to our county is invaluable as we start our new legislative session later this month."

When there is a vacancy in the office of a council member that occurs during the last year of a term, a majority of the remaining council members make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

Information for this report was drawn from a Prince George's County Council press release.

Board member who abandoned his Board member duties and responsibilities." Murray had also registered to run for re-election to the school board, with his address listed as Laurel, after he'd been hired to his new, full-time position in Missouri. Murray did not cooperate with PGCP's OIC investigation, with no response to their multiple attempts to contact him, according to the OIC.

On Tuesday, January 13, Rajesh Kumar, Prince George's County Council's principal counsel to the District Council, told the News Review, "Mr. Murray has been a lifelong resident and taxpayer of Prince George's County, and he has owned his primary residence in the County since 2017." Murray has stated his primary residence continued to be in Prince George's County with his secondary residence out of state, despite holding a full-time position in Missouri. "The Missouri school district's spokeswoman confirmed Murray's position requires living near the district full-time, and she said Murray was a resident of St. Louis and had been '100% here' in terms of attendance at meetings and events he was expected at," reported Maryland Matters in July 2024.

PGCP's Board Policy 0108 states that board members who miss three or more consecutive regularly scheduled Board meeting worksessions, emergency meetings, hearings, appeals or executive sessions or who miss hearings, appeals or executive sessions or who miss 25 percent of the Board's regular meetings in 12 consecutive months will be subject to being charged with willful neglect of duty.

Section Two of the OIC report states, "Based on the most recent attendance record ... Mr. Murray missed more than 8 consecutive meetings in Quarter 4 and 58

percent of the meetings in the previous 12 months" (OIC Executive Summary and Investigative Findings).

Connections on Council

The News Review reached out to numerous Prince George's County Councilmembers about their decision to hire the former school board member and none replied. Murray has connections on council, which seemingly ought to have led to a declaration of a conflict of interest and/or recusal by at least those closely affiliated with him. His closest friend appears to be Burroughs, who was council chair at the time of Murray's appointment. The pair attended the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) together and both ran for seats on Prince George's County Board of Education at the same time, in 2012 (Burroughs was elected and Murray was not). Murray graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from UMBC in 2014 and Burroughs graduated with a bachelor's in education policy and political science in 2015.

In a public social media post on August 11, 2021, Murray posted a happy birthday message to Burroughs and wrote, "They don't understand how far we go back lol. And we're just getting started. Love you bro." It was accompanied by six photos of the pair spending time together, seemingly as teenagers. One photo is dated March 20, 2010, and the others are undated. Oriadha, current chair of Prince George's County Council, who also voted to appoint Murray, responded to Murray's post in 2021 with the message "You two are friendship goals all day." Councilmember Ivey commented under one of the photos, "I remember you two coming to hang out at my office in Annapolis," followed by

an emoji of a face covered with hearts. "Bros" commented someone else. Thus, Burroughs and Murray's longtime friendship is certainly well-known to multiple members of the county council.

"It starts with seats on school boards."

Murray served on the Board of Education from 2016 to 2024. Burroughs served on the same board from 2010 to 2021, before he was elected to county council (he was a student member from 2008 to 2010). Thus, for five years they served together, in addition to attending college together.

Larry Stafford Jr., CEO of Progressive Maryland, which provides significant financial backing to the political candidates it supports through its Political Action Committees (PACs), has made several statements in support of Murray, spanning over a decade. Stafford is the husband of Councilmember Adams-Stafford. In November 2016, Stafford posted congratulations to Murray, Raaheela Ahmed and Burroughs on their election wins. "It starts with seats on School Boards where there is important work to do, then we go to take greater power for our communities. In 2012 I worked in the trenches with this team and I'm so happy to see their success. The old guard is falling in PG and we are the rising tide," wrote Stafford.

Adams-Stafford served on the school board from 2020 until 2025 when she stepped down to run for county council. She served alongside Murray for four years and was a member of the board that the OIC found failed to take prompt action to address his absenteeism. In November 2024, after Murray resigned and abandoned his bid for re-election,

See MURRAY, page 9

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. 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.



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WHAT'S IN MY CO-OP BAG

THIS WEEK'S CO-OP BAG BELONGS TO...

Jaky! It's the time of year for snacking (and football!). Jaky's top snacking picks are Skinny Pop popcorn and Nixie sparkling water. Both on sale this week! Stop by Co-op for healthy & tasty game day snacks this season.

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Tag us on your next Co-op run!
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Happy SHOPPING

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 5-11, 2026. 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@greenbeltnmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary
Greenbelt Police reported one mental health diversion involving sexual assault.

Shooting
On January 5 at 5:59 p.m. near 6002 Greenbelt Road, officers responded to a dispute that involved shots fired. A man was arguing with multiple workers inside the location. During the dispute, the man produced a gun and fired in the direction of the Popeyes. He also assaulted an employee as she was trying to de-escalate and escort him out. A detective assumed the investigation.

Drug Arrest
On January 7 at 7:23 p.m. near 5805 Cherrywood Terrace, officers observed a person known to them for drug use and drug possession. When asked if he had any drugs on him, the man handed the officer suspected crack cocaine and a crack pipe, and was placed into custody.

Trespassing/Disorderly/ Suspicious Activity
On January 6 at 3:05 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, mall security officers asked a previous trespasser to leave the property, but she failed to comply. Police then found her and repeatedly advised her to leave; after failing to comply, she was issued a criminal citation for trespassing and escorted off the premises without further incident.

On January 8 at 8:49 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an officer patrolling the area was flagged down regarding a suspicious man who is known to them; he was arrested and released on a criminal citation.

On January 9 at 8:29 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, Royal Farms requested the removal of a disorderly woman, who was removed and banned from the location.

On January 11 at 12:05 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an officer observed a man loitering and looking into vehicles, who fled when the officer approached; upon his return, he was banned from the property.

Fraud
On January 5 near 119 Rosewood Drive, someone placed a personal check into the mailbox near the Aquatic Center, and later discovered that the check had been altered, including the payee's information and the amount.

On January 8 near 7730 Ora Court, a person was scammed by someone impersonating Pepco.

Theft
On January 5 at 4:42 p.m. near 7423 Greenbelt Road an employee left her cellphone in one of the bathroom stalls and, upon returning, found it missing. Video footage showed two other individuals who used the restroom after her, and both denied having her phone.

On January 7 at 2:25 p.m. near 7455 Greenbelt Road, a retail store investigation manager reported that an employee had stolen items, and explained the evidence from the computer transactions and video surveillance footage. The defendant was issued a criminal citation.

On January 9 at 10:04 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man passed all points of sale with merchandise; he was issued a criminal citation and banned.

Vandalism
On January 11 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, Beltway Plaza Security called about graffiti in the maintenance hall. Photographs were taken.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles
Four vehicles were stolen: on January 5 near 6233 Springhill Drive, a 2013 silver Infiniti (Va. TDF8692); on January 6 near

170 Westway, a 2023 Lexus IS350 (Md. 2FE7399) (officers observed broken glass on the ground where it had been parked); on January 6 near 6229 Springhill Court, a white 2017 Lexus RX350 (Md. G0D1L0V); and on January 9 near 159 Westway, a gray Jeep Gladiator (Md. 7GK9308).

Theft from Auto
On January 6 near 6000 Springhill Drive, someone broke into a Toyota and stole money.

On January 6 near 9006 Breezewood Terrace, a Chevrolet was broken into and items were stolen.

On January 8 near 7815 Mandan Road, tags were stolen.

On January 11 near 9002 Breezewood Terrace, items were taken from a vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto
On January 6 near 167 Westway, a 2019 Lexus RX350 had a broken window.

On January 7 near 6632 Lake Park Drive, someone used a blunt object to vandalize a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee; near 6229 Springhill Court, a 2019 Honda Accord was vandalized.

On January 8 near 5914 Cherrywood Terrace, a Ford Escape had a window damaged.

MURRAY continued from page 8

he transferred \$6,000 out of the Friends for David Murray account and sent it to Friends of Shayla Adams-Stafford before he closed it. In 2021 his campaign account also donated \$6,000 to Friends of Edward Burroughs. In June 2025, Murray was listed in the program for Adams-Stafford's swearing-in ceremony to Prince George's County Council, where he was one of three giving "special tributes." He was identified in the program as "former school board member."

No Comment from Councilmembers
Burroughs did not respond to our questions about Murray's appointment or his apparent friendship with Murray. Adams-Stafford, likewise, did not respond to our request for comment. Principal Counsel Kumar responded to the request for comment we sent to

Murray and wrote that Murray "never relinquished his residence and domicile in Prince George's County" and "Mr. Murray has never been the subject of removal proceedings based on willful neglect of duty pursuant to Board Policy 0108."

Since no members of the county council were willing to speak about why they chose to appoint Murray, we cannot know what recommended him highly enough to overlook his potential violations of county policy and ethics that the OIC investigated and his receipt of taxpayer funds while employed by a school district in another state, which the OIC's 2025 Annual Report flagged as "wasteful receipt of PGCPs funds and/or property by an absent Board member in the amount of \$9,792.32."



Freedom 250 celebrating America's 250th Birthday at the Washington Monument Monday, January 5, 2026

One-day Police Hiring Event on January 29

The Greenbelt Police Department is hosting an accelerated one-day hiring event on Thursday, January 29 at 9 a.m. for entry-level police officer candidates. The process includes a written examination, a physical fitness test and an oral board interview, all completed in one day. The starting salary is \$63,398.40 and paid Police Academy. For those ready to


start a law enforcement career, this is an opportunity to move forward - fast. One City. One Team. One Day. One Career. To apply, search for "recruitingbypaycor Greenbelt" and click the "Police Officer Candidate" link. For questions or more information, email the Recruiting Unit at recruitmentteam@greenbeltnmd.gov.

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Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Text (Please Print Legibly) _____

Count of Words. _____ Amount Included _____
(up to 20 words, \$6; 21-30 words, \$9; 31 to 40 words \$12.. **\$3 per 10 extra words (or part)** Need help? GNRValentines@gmail.com or call 301-474-4131 Mon & Tues, 2 to 4.

No change given. Overpayments become donations.
(See Love Note examples in this issue)



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on January 22, 2026

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

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on December 4, 2025 & December 18, 2025
- b) Contract Matters

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

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on December 4, 2025 & December 18, 2025
- b) Statements of Closed Meetings Held on January 8, 2026 & January 22, 2026
- c) Yardi Task Force Survey Proposal
- d) Woodlands Tree Planting Proposal
- e) Complaint Procedures Revised January 2026
- f) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on February 5, 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-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

MERCHANDISE
AUCTION – 43JP Morgan Court, Waldorf, Md. 20602, 12/25/2025; January 8, 2026; 2014 Harley Davidson 1HD1GZM1XEC3324164, 2012 Ford Escape 1FMCU9GXCKA93174.

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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.

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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CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
BOXED: \$11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.
NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.
DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).
ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.
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GREENBELT WAS THE FIRST OF THREE PLANNED GARDEN TOWNS BUILT AND OWNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. IT WAS A NEW DEAL EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY PLANNING. NOTE TO URBAN PLANNERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: THE BBS JONES BY INTERIOR WALKS AND CIRCLING CENTRAL BUSINESS, CIVIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES. GREENBELT WAS INCORPORATED JUNE 1, 1937 AS THE FIRST MARYLAND CITY WITH COUNCIL – MANAGED GOVERNMENT. IN 1952 THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY FORMED A COOPERATIVE AND PURCHASED MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT BUILT HOUSES BY 1954. AND MUST VACANT LAND WHILE MANY NEW NEIGHBORHOODS ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT CITY. THE ORIGINAL PLANNED COMMUNITY CONTINUES AS A COOPERATIVE.
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELLPHONE continued from page 1

sentiment is largely in favor of towers or other action to improve center city coverage. He said that a government-relations representative from Verizon was invited to attend, but was not present. The Zoom link to the meeting had not been posted prior to the meeting, so some residents missed some if not all of the worksession and there was a problem with sound on part of the video recording of the meeting. Because of these issues, two residents appeared midway through the meeting to comment and add information.

Report Complaints

The worksession benefited from a great deal of information and research from Salmerón and his administration staff, and yielded some ideas and suggestions from Jordan, councilmembers and a few residents. Council did not, however, make any formal decisions as to how to proceed with addressing the problem.

For resident problems with cellphone service, Salmerón suggested that specific complaints should be reported directly to cellphone service providers. Providers can pinpoint the locations of problems and determine how to address them. Jordan asked if the city could survey residents and submit to providers a detailed list of problems, specific addresses, problem location (inside or outside homes), and the types of cellphone they use. A problem, Salmerón answered, is that data collected by the city would become public and pose an invasion of privacy. To avoid this, the data collected by the city should be carefully limited.

It would be better if residents reported the problems themselves, Salmerón explained. The city could distribute a “how-to” instruction sheet to make it easy for them to do so. If a provider does not or cannot resolve a resident’s problem, the resident could switch to another provider. He was confident that, with competition among providers, they should be willing to do what is needed. Greenbelt’s administration has had problems with Verizon, he recalled, but T-Mobile is very responsive, easy to work with and willing to help Greenbelt with Smart City technology.

This problem also applies to broadband – i.e., high-speed internet – service, for which demand has increased in Greenbelt, including Greenbelt Center, according to city administration research. At one time many merchants wanted

Verizon to provide broadband, but Verizon refused because that would have required improving its technology infrastructure. Some businesses currently use Comcast for broadband service.

Potential Sites

To resolve problems, more antennas and/or cell towers might be needed. Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Danielle McKinney discussed the possibility of comparing Greenbelt’s number and distribution of cell towers to those of cities with comparable geographical size and population to determine the extent to which Greenbelt has coverage gaps and why. One available comparison between Greenbelt’s map of cellphone towers with Hyattsville’s map shows that Greenbelt has clusters of towers, whereas Hyattsville’s towers are more evenly distributed throughout the city. The clusters of towers are in areas of high vehicle counts, i.e., near the Capital Beltway and the intersection of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Greenbelt Road.

City Notes

Information Technology set up a laptop computer for Green Ridge House’s new assistant service coordinator and visited the Animal Shelter to assess connectivity options. Public Information launched a video series, Meet the Council.

Code Enforcement inspected six rentals and many commercial suites and processed two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

Public Works installed solar panels on bus shelters, supported College Park’s light pole project and repaired a recumbent bike at Schrom Hills Fitness Pavilion. Horticulture assisted the Parks Crew with leaf blowing and collection.

The Aquatic & Fitness Center began swim lessons and exercise classes. The Community Center hosted a blood drive and a Golden Age Club board meeting. Therapeutic Recreation provided inclusion support for Parents’ Night Out.

Park Rangers discovered and replaced a cut lock at Schrom Hills Park soccer field and dispersed the unauthorized game.

In December, CARES counseled 167 clients, tutored 23 students, taught 11 GED aspirants and seven ESOL English learners and coached three Workforce Development job-seekers.

If Greenbelt needs to explore the possibility of more antennas or cellphone towers, Salmerón recommended, the city should work with a consultant to select the most strategic sites. Once it identifies those sites and makes space available, it will then need the service providers to install the needed infrastructure. If the city announces that it has available sites, it should, in the interest of fairness and competition, include all providers. Competition typically yields better service.

Discussion followed among councilmembers and Salmerón about locations for new antennas; one idea is to attach them to street lamp posts (with Pepco’s approval or transfer of ownership to Greenbelt). All agreed that Greenbelt’s tree canopy might interfere with coverage on the ground. A few options suggested by Salmerón for antennas or small towers on higher ground include Greenbelt Elementary School (if approved by Prince George’s County Public Schools), the water tower, churches, police and

fire stations, and light poles at Braden Field. If many antennas are needed, a single tower might actually be more cost-effective.

Next Steps


Toward the end of the discussion, Councilmember Jenni Pompei said, “We already know there is a problem ... so we should start working toward solving it ... and exploring the paths that are open to us.” Others suggested that council get expert help with siting additional towers or antennas, get providers to help with technical issues and explore grant possibilities for improving phone service and access to broadband.

Salmerón stated that he and staff will work to explore these paths.

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Put your name/phone on all items
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(See Love Note examples in this issue)

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New Deal Café Hosts Second 30th Anniversary Celebration

by Matt Neufeld

Funky funk-rock live music to dance to, wildly diverse karaoke, birthday cake, food, drinks and plenty of community spirit all contributed to a festive celebration of the New Deal Café's 30th anniversary at the venue's main performance room on Monday, December 29.

At least 60 people packed the music room for a celebration that lasted three hours. The live music and karaoke started about 6:30 p.m. and was still going strong about 9:30 p.m. Dancers danced and singers sang to the backing funk-rock sounds of Mike Bennett INFINITE and his Graye Line Band.

In an interesting twist to the karaoke tradition, the parade of karaoke singers took the stage and first sang their songs to taped backing music - then they subsequently sang their songs a second time backed by the band performing the song's music live on stage. This gave the singers a chance to experience the thrill of singing with a real, live band.

In addition to the karaoke, which featured a variety of musical genres, Bennett and the Graye Line Band played an equally varied array of rock, pop, funk, funk-rock, dance, rhythm and blues, and blues between the karaoke performances.

About 8:10 p.m., John Campanile, president of the New Deal Café Board of Directors, and other volunteers lit candles on two brightly colored and decorated birthday cakes and served pieces of cake to happy celebrants. The band appropriately played Happy Birthday and everyone sang along. The universal public opinion at the Café was that the cake was delicious.

After the cake was served, the band played a rousing version of Simple Minds' smash 1985 hit Don't You (Forget About Me) and everyone joined in, with the big collective singalong sound



Mike Bennett INFINITE and his Graye Line Band perform at a New Deal Café celebration of the venue's 30th anniversary on Monday, December 29, 2025.



Two brightly colored and delicious birthday cakes were served free to patrons.

filling the room during the song's infectious la-la-la-la chorus.

One of the cakes had icing lettering that read "Happy 30th Birthday Again!" because this December 29 birthday party was the second such celebration for the Café. As Campanile explained to

winning, nonprofit live music, community event, social event, movie, dining and art exhibition now affectionately known as "Greenbelt's living room," it only seemed fitting that the New Deal Café had not one, but two big birthday celebrations.

- Photos by Matt Neufeld

the News Review: "The New Deal Café's anniversary committee had a 30th celebration for the Café's anniversary last October [2025]. But this evening's [December 29, 2025] celebration reflects the actual date that the Café first opened for business in the Community Center's kitchen, December 29, 1995, with their sights on eventually obtaining the space we're in now at the Roosevelt Center, 113 Centerway."

So, from its quite humble origins as a coffee shop at the Community Center kitchen three decades ago, to a well-known, popular, award-

Jim Cassels Grant Supports The Arts in Greenbelt West

by Max Cason

Each year, the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket & Pharmacy gives a \$1,500 grant to a group, organization or cooperative to initiate and implement a new project or activity in Greenbelt that fits the Jim Cassels service spirit. Throughout his many years in the Greenbelt community, Cassels was an outstanding cooperator. Whether helping local groups, mentoring new cooperatives, guiding the formation and realization of senior housing or getting up at the crack of dawn to deliver newspapers in Green Ridge House, he was tireless in making Greenbelt the place we all love.

The Greenbelt Recreation Department announces that they have received the 2025 Jim Cassels grant to enhance visual arts resources at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SLRC). The funds have been used to purchase and stock a large, moveable art supply cabinet facilitating both structured learning opportunities like the new parent/child preschool art classes, monthly free Artful Afternoon workshops and summer camp activities at the Center, and informal, self-directed art-making among the Center's after-school program participants.

"The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program and SLRC staff are honored to receive this grant," says Nicole DeWald, arts supervisor. "The Co-op has always been a wonderful partner to Greenbelt Recreation, and we are deeply grateful for this investment in affirming arts programming in Greenbelt West." The grant application was written by Anne Gardner, arts education specialist. Additional key personnel helping to implement this resource and support expanded art opportunities include Amanda Larsen, visual arts coordinator; Frank Jones and Brian Butler, recreation



A student in the after-school program at SLRC shows off a mask she made using supplies from the new art cabinet.

coordinators; Maggie Cason, art studio manager; Maria Torres, art instructor; Ana Fernandez-Napp and Amanda Faye Hooker, arts assistants; Madison Telfer, inclusion assistant manager; Raniyah Young, Yennifer Rubio-Mendez and Brittney Nchotaku, SLRC after-care staff; and Leah Cohen, volunteer, with support from additional Recreation colleagues.

For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts and see the Winter Activity Guide at greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.



The first full moon of 2026

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See page 9 to get yours!

ICE Protest January 11



A portion of the crowd protesting ICE actions, at a vigil outside the Municipal Building on Sunday, January 11 organized by the Greenbelt Resistance Network



Canada geese lift off from the water at Greenbelt Lake.



Great blue heron at Buddy Attick Park