



Art Exhibit, p. 12



Golden Age Officers, p. 12

Mayor Emmett Jordan Applies To Fill County Council Seat

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan is among those who will be considered for a seat on Prince George's County Council. The vacancy was announced only last week (see page 8 of the January 15 issue) and an appointment is expected to be made next Tuesday, January 27.

Jordan told the News Review he's given it quite a bit of thought and been approached by residents and elected officials who have urged him over the last week to put his name forward. "I care deeply about city council and my responsibilities as mayor, so I'm not taking this lightly," Jordan told the News Review on Tuesday, when he confirmed his decision to apply.

District 4 Vacancy

The Prince George's County Council seat for District 4, which includes Greenbelt, became vacant on January 16 after Ingrid Watson stepped down to become president and CEO of the Prince



Emmett Jordan

George's County Economic Development Corporation. The one-week application period closed Wednesday, January 21 at 5 p.m. and, since it is within the last year of the term, county councilmembers will vote to fill the position that is scheduled to end December 5, 2026. A public informational briefing is expected to be held after the application window closes and a vote on the appointment is scheduled to take place during the next county council meeting on Tuesday.

See JORDAN, page 6

PHOTO BY ERIC KRUSZEWSKI

City's Annexation Plans Expand To Include BARC and NASA Land

by Diane Oberg

At its January 12 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council took the first steps toward annexing large tracts of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) and Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), approved an ordinance establishing fines for people parked in electric vehicle charging spaces who are not charging their vehicle (electric or otherwise) and approved a contract to replace one of the elevators in the Community Center.

Council introduced for first reading three charter amendments to annex parts of the BARC and GSFC campuses. According to a January 7 memorandum from Terri Hruby, director of Planning and Community Development, annexing the properties will "strengthen the city's ability to partner with BARC and NASA in support of their respective missions, long-term sustainability and land preservation objectives," as well as enhance the city's ability to influence possible future development on these lands.

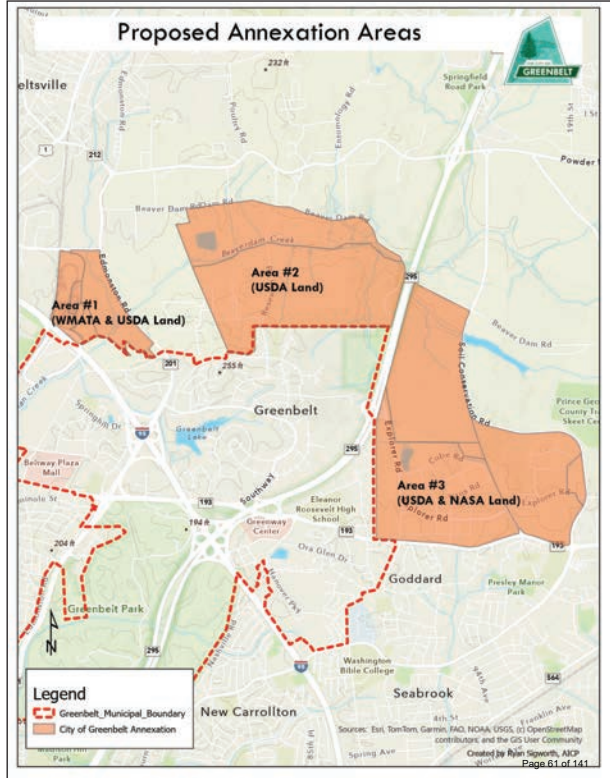
In a September 17, 2025, memorandum, Hruby said that there is case law that affirms that

annexation of tax-exempt properties does not require consent of the property owner.

According to the annexation plan, the identified area will be eligible to receive all applicable city services. However, since the properties to be annexed are currently owned by the federal government and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), Hruby does not anticipate

that annexation will place any immediate burden on city services.

BARC Area 1 is bounded by the CSX tracks, Sunnyside Av-



Greenbelt's proposed areas of annexation, shown here, have been expanded to include Area 3. A public hearing is scheduled for February 23.

enue, Edmonston Road and the city limits. This includes some of the WMATA Greenbelt railroad.

See ANNEXATION, page 8

MAP COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Greenbelt Postpones Legal Case, Hopes for Firefighters This Spring

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

In November career firefighters were anticipated to return to Greenbelt as soon as February. That timeline now looks overly optimistic, but the expectation of their return continues. "I cannot predict exactly when the Department will be able to resume full staffing at Station 835," wrote Prince George's County Fire Chief Thelmetria Michaelides in a letter to City Manager Josué Salmerón dated January 15. Yet, she offered the assurance, "Once appropriate staffing levels are achieved throughout the Department, it is our full intent to return career staffing to Station 835." The pledge to return firefighters is a welcome change since Michaelides took over the role of fire chief on July 1, 2025.

In the meantime, Salmerón told the News Review that the city's hearing in the legal action over the firefighters' removal has been postponed until September 2026, at the city's request and with the county's agreement.

On November 12, 2025, Berwyn Heights celebrated the return of their career firefighters.

The Removal

On June 30, 2024, career firefighters were pulled from Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Bowie-Belair and Bunker Hill.



Prince George's County firefighters respond to a fire in Franklin Park on November 7, 2024.

PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

The county firefighters were reallocated as part of what was initially called a "summer staffing schedule" but looked to be permanent in September that year. Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park jointly pursued legal action against the county over the removal.

Anticipating Recruits

Michaelides reported in her letter to Salmerón that most vacant positions in the fire department have now been filled with new recruits who are completing their training.

See FIREFIGHTERS, page 4

What Goes On

Monday, January 26
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, January 28
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Advisory Board/Committee Interviews, Municipal Building

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

Council Considers Possible Changes to Standing Rules

by Erik Hanson

At its January 7 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council discussed possible changes to its standing rules for the 2025-2027 session. As this was a worksession, no votes were taken but these changes can be voted on at a future meeting.

Meeting Time Limits

Councilmember Kristen Weaver proposed adding a time limit of two-and-a-half hours for a council meeting. After that votes could be held to extend the time of the meeting by a half-hour. Councilmember Jenni Pompei suggested, instead, a two-hour limit for meetings with votes for 15-minute

extensions. City Manager Josué Salmerón noted the fiscal and workload impact on the staff of extended meetings.

Swearing-in Order

Weaver proposed swearing all councilmembers in together, followed by the swearing in of the mayor after selection by council. Processing in this way would officially install councilmembers before they took the official act of selecting the mayor.

Worksession Types

Weaver proposed clarifying what is meant by the various

See RULES, page 11

Mary Lou Williamson shared this photo in 2024 of a pink winter camellia in the snow on Valentine's Day. Significant snow may be headed to Greenbelt this weekend. It might be a good time to write your Valentine ad for this year's paper — to submit an ad, see pages 6 and 7.



PHOTO BY DITTE MCINNIS

Letters to the Editor

Are We Listening Yet?

Greenbelt prides itself on being a “community” – but I’m asking us to look past the slogans and into the lived experience of our young people.

The need is not subtle anymore. It’s loud. It’s visible in behaviors, in tensions and in the moments when kids have nowhere safe to be, no consistent mentor to check them and no structured space to belong.

When new youth programs or resources are proposed, why is the first response so often, “Don’t get discouraged if you aren’t approved,” before the idea is even understood? Why do we default to “We already have that here,” without showing the data – without asking who the current resources actually reach, how often they run, what hours they cover, and whether youth across all of Greenbelt can truly access them?

Do we want to resolve the issues – or do we just want to look like the kind of city that resolves them?

I’ve been a Greenbelt resident for 12 years, and I also lived here back in 1998, when Franklin Park was Springhill Lake. Names have changed. The messaging has improved. But inclusivity and access still feel uneven, and our young people feel it most.

Here’s my call to action: Let’s demand a citywide youth needs-and-access review, by neighborhood/sector and by hours of need. Let’s stop dismissing new ideas and start piloting them with clear safety plans and measurable outcomes. Let’s show up – residents, leaders, organizations – not only after something happens, but before.

Greenbelt’s future is walking our streets right now. The ques-

tion is: are we listening – and will we act like it?

Ameerah Bridges

Cell Service Talk Is Long Overdue

So, council is finally getting around to talking about cell service.

I wrote a letter to the editor on this topic seven-and-a-half years ago (see August 30, 2018, issue). It was in response to a published letter satirically claiming to have to hang out a window to get a cell signal in Old Greenbelt.

The problem with getting a decent, reliable signal here is as old as the cellphone itself. The two towers for this area, shown in the map in last week’s paper, are not sufficient.

Frank Kayser

Kudos on Council Story

Thank you for your article on the county council and the hiring of David Murray. A great piece of investigative journalism. His hiring should never have occurred based on his actions at the end of his school board term.

Michael McLaughlin

County Council Dismay

It is with great dismay that I write to express my anger at the re-appointment of David Murray to any position in Prince George’s County, let alone as a highly paid council administrator. Not to mention that the majority of current council members voted in favor of this action. What a sad statement about the quality of service to the county this council is providing.

Sandra Miller

Corrections

In last week’s article, Absent School Board Member Snags County Council Position, the figure stated in the quotation of OIC findings contained a typo. Elsewhere the figure was correct. That quote from the news release of investigative findings was: “The OIC report concluded the inaction from the Board allowed payroll salary disbursements of PGCPs funds totaling \$9,792.32 to a Board member who abandoned his Board member duties and responsibilities.”

We regret the misspelling of Heleni Pedersoli’s name in Our Neighbors on page 4.



Greenbelt Cinema
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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 23rd - 29th

The Testament of Ann Lee
(R) (CC) (DVS)
(2025) (130 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 4:00 PM (OC)
Tue. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 1:45 PM
Mon. 1:00 PM, 4:00 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

No Other Choice (R) (2025)
(139 mins) in Korean with
English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 4:15 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM
Sun. 4:45 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

Sentimental Value (R) (2025)
(133 mins) in Norwegian
with English subtitles
Special re-release screening
with exclusive bonus content
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:00 PM

In a Lonely Place
(NR) (1950) (94 mins)
Film in Focus w/ guest
speaker Oliver Gaycken
Event Pricing
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 7:00 PM

PETE REPERT

GREENBELT GETS FBI

FUTURE BUILDING INVISIBLE	FATE BLOCKED INDEFINITELY
FINDING BUDGET IMPOSSIBLE	FUNNY BUSINESS IMPLIED
FROZEN BUILDING INITIATIVE	FINANCIAL BOON IDLED
FULLY BROKEN	IMPLEMENTATION
FUNDING BRUTALLY	FORMER BARGAIN
INTERRUPTED	IGNORED
FLOATED	FUGGEDAH
BOND	'BOUT
IMPOLED	IT!



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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.

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.

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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.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Testament of Ann Lee

From award-winning writer-director Mona Fastvold (The World to Come, The Brutalist) comes the extraordinary true legend of Ann Lee, founder of the devotional sect known as the Shakers. Academy Award nominee Amanda Seyfried stars as the Shaker’s irrepressible leader, who preached gender and social equality and was revered by her followers. The film captures the ecstasy and agony of her quest to build a utopia, featuring more than a dozen traditional Shaker hymns reimagined as rapturous movements with choreography by Celia Rowson-Hall and original songs and score by Academy Award winner Daniel Blumberg (The Brutalist).

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.”

Sentimental Value

Sisters Nora and Agnes reunite with their estranged father, the charismatic Gustav, a once-renowned director who offers stage actress Nora a role in what he hopes will be his comeback film. When Nora turns it down, she soon discovers he has given her part to an eager young Hollywood star. Suddenly, the two sisters must navigate their complicated relationship with their father – and deal with an American star dropped right into the middle of their complex family dynamics.

In a Lonely Place

Hollywood screenwriter Dixon Steele (Humphrey Bogart) and his neighbor Laurel (Gloria Grahame) are just getting to know each other romantically when the police begin questioning Dixon about his involvement in the murder of a girl he met once. Certain her new love interest is innocent, Laurel stands by Dixon, but as the police continue pressing him, Dixon begins to act more erratically. The blossoming love affair suffers as Laurel begins to wonder if Dixon really might be a killer.

Community Events

At the Library

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. Real-time updates to the Library’s operating schedule due to inclement weather and other emergencies are posted on [pgcmls.info/alerts](#).

Storytimes

Friday, January 23, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15089318](#).

Wednesday, January 28, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15089276](#).

Thursday, January 29, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15089299](#).

Winter Reading Challenge

Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is once again teaming with the Washington Wizards in their Winter Reading Challenge. The free challenge can be joined online by registering at [pgcmls.info/Wizards](#), which leads to the Beanstack app. Participants log their activities including reading, watching Wizards games, attending library programs (virtual or in person), staying active, and engaging with the Library and Washington Wizards. For each activity completed, participants earn points toward obtaining challenge badges. Readers who complete the challenge by March 14 will have a chance to win a variety of prizes, including game tickets and a Wizards prize pack. All ages welcome.

Washington Wizards Book of the Month is an ongoing regional event in partnership with area libraries. The Wizards highlight books for children in various age groups to read each month. PGCMLS will feature one book for readers to explore at the following grade levels: Grades K to 2, Grades 3 to 5 and Grades 6 to 8.



Ranked Choice Voting Free Film Screening

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland is holding a free event on Friday, January 23 at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Center. There will be a screening of The Choice, a film about Portland, Oregon using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for the first time in 2024. After the screening there will be a discussion about the implementation of RCV in Greenbelt and an interactive demo.

The event is free and open to the public. Visit [rcvmd.org/events/rcv-day-in-greenbelt/](#) to register for the event.

Artful Afternoons Celebrate 100 years of Black History

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to a series of free upcoming workshops with a 1926 Harlem dance party theme. Led by professional dancer D’annccio Grier, each one-hour session includes a guided warm-up, dance instruction featuring dance moves from the past 100 years and a freestyle dance party where participants can show off their new moves. Participants can also enjoy a fun 1920s-inspired art activity featuring flapper headbands and boutonnières. This activity will be offered on Sunday, February 1 in two sessions, from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, and on Sunday, February 8 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. This workshop is open to all ages and abilities. Sign up at [sugeni.us/ejJR](#). Walk-ins are also welcome. For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit [greenbeltnmd.gov/arts](#). Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Librarians Movie And Discussion

Thursday, January 22, 7 p.m., ages 13+ (teen/adults), at the Greenbelt Cinema. The University of Maryland’s College of Information presents a free screening of the award-winning documentary The Librarians (1 hour, 32 minutes in length) followed by a panel discussion. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15347713](#). Registration is for interest only and does not guarantee admission.

The panel moderator is Andrea Lewis of Citizens for Maryland Libraries. Panelists include Lloyd Jansen, librarian from Charles County Public Library and chair of the Maryland Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Panel; Stacey Nunn, library media specialist at Baltimore County Public Schools and past president of the Maryland Association of School Librarians; and Robert Fernandez, assistant professor and collection development/archives librarian at Prince George’s Community College and member, PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees.

Tax Preparation Assistance

For the first time since Covid, AARP’s income tax return preparation assistance will resume this year in Greenbelt, coordinated through GIVES. Details are still being worked out and the News Review will provide more information as it is known.

Museum Virtual Talk On Greenbelt Prehistory

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. This 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 explain how different people made a living off the land, with 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 on the pre-Greenbelt history of the area.

This is a 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. This event is free and is sponsored by the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, the Greenbelt Reparations Commission and the City of Greenbelt.

Writers Group Meets On Monday, Jan. 26

The Greenbelt Writers Group Meetup will take place at the New Deal Café on Monday, January 26 at 7 p.m. Writers of all backgrounds are welcome. Whether one is a storyteller, a poet or a musician, the group offers a space for roundtable readings and discussion. Bring any work or material to share.

Blood Shortage Looms, Give Friday, February 6

A shortage of blood looms, potentially affecting lifesaving treatment at area hospitals. The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at the Community Center on Friday, February 6. Appointments are available from 12:30 to 4:45 p.m. Visit [redcross.org](#) to make an appointment.

Bibliophiles Meet On February 11

The Bibliophiles will meet on Wednesday, February 11 at 11 a.m. at the New Deal Café for their monthly meeting, in which the participants discuss a book that they have all read before attending. The book to be discussed in February is The Last Train: A Holocaust Story by Rona Arato. Related books on the same topic will also be referenced. For more information about Bibliophiles or the titles of the related books to be discussed, email Van Caldwell at [wvcaldwell@gmail.com](#).

Yarn Donations Needed

Gifts from the Heart is a group of knitters and crocheters meeting Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Center, Room 109. Every year they donate hundreds of hats, scarves, shawls, blankets, walker bags and baby items to schools, churches, nursing homes, Project Linus and other organizations. Donations of acrylic yarn are welcome and may be dropped off when the group meets.



Public Speaking Series

Greenbelt Toastmasters will offer a free online series on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m., February 10 through March 17, designed to help non-Toastmasters age 18 and older become more confident and effective public speakers. Space is limited and registration ends February 6. Visit [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org/speechcraft.html](#) for more details.

Chess Club Meets Tuesday

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, January 27. Meetings are held at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, visit [tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m](#) and complete the brief form. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](#).

Astronomical Society Upcoming Events

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will hold a star party at the Greenbelt Observatory at Northway Fields on Saturday, January 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Visitors can come into the observatory dome to watch the telescope operators or bring their own telescopes. The event will be cancelled if it’s clouded over, raining or snowing. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet Thursday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. The speaker will be Dr. Jonathan Mawdsley, who will be speaking on The Galileo Affair. Join us for an exploration of the differing worldviews engaged in the historic conflict between Galileo and the Catholic Church, with a particular focus on Robert Bellarmine, Cardinal, Saint and Doctor of the Church. The meeting is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Favor’s Table Offers Literacy Class

Favor’s Table is offering a financial literacy class on Wealth Creation, Protection and Wealth Transfer on Saturday, January 24 from 3:30 to 4 p.m. at 6215 Greenbelt Road (the tall building beside McDonald’s), 2nd floor, Room 205. This class is for adults and those who have never attended the class. Text 202-468-2049 to sign up by Friday, January 23. Confirm attendance to receive bags of food.

Food, clothes, bras and shoes will be given away at the end of class.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

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Visit [GreenbeltAccessTV.org/Membership](#)
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Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
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***** RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 *****

TH 1/22	FRI 1/23	SAT 1/24	SUN 1/25	
Susan Jones Jazz Quartet 7 - 9pm A violin-led jazz group playing an eclectic mix	The Roustabouts 8 - 11pm Offering roots-music lovers a fresh take and exciting mix on the blues	NDC JAZZ JAM, 2 - 5pm Magical Mystery Four 8 - 11pm An all-female rocking quartet paying tribute to the Beatles	ASL BRUNCH, 10:330a - 12pm Charlie Owen & Pocket Change 6 - 8pm Sweet soul and rhythm and blues	
MON 1/26	TUES 1/27	WED 1/28	TH 1/29	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE W/ MIKE SCOTT AND FRIENDS 7- 9pm	NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 6:30 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm	Kim’s Grand Rounds - A Songwriters’ Circle 7 - 9pm	The Threetles 7 - 9pm A Beatles Tribute band for the Super Fans!	IT’S TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*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.

ICE Escalation Strikes Fear In Schools Here and Beyond

by Imani Manning-Lewis and Aman Girma

At many schools, including Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), students are facing the impact of increased immigration enforcement, which has created fear and uncertainty in classrooms. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions not only target immigrant families but they also affect peers, who see their friends struggling with anxiety and disrupted learning. With new laws and stricter policies, the threat of ICE has become a daily concern, hindering education and leaving many to wonder who might be confronted next.

Anxiety about immigration enforcement spills into classrooms, where families, teachers and students are left to carry the weight of fear. Educators say these assaults – ranging from aggressive enforcement tactics, to the mere rumor of ICE presence – are becoming more common. For schools, that fear leads to lower attendance, disrupted learning and long-lasting emotional harm that students bring with them every day.

Beyond impacting education, ICE activity can cause mental health issues for kids. Allison Bassett Ratto, a child clinical psychologist in Washington, D.C., says that “What is particularly worrisome to me as a child psychologist is that the stress, the anxiety and the trauma that develop in this climate of fear and uncertainty around immigration enforcement can become chronic, leading to both immediate and long-term damage to children’s mental and physical health.” With the already ongoing mental health crisis, the stress from worrying about being taken away by ICE is not helping students. Post Covid-19 math and reading scores across the nation have already hit an all-time low and this will only make things much worse.

At ERHS, teachers see these effects firsthand. Kendrick Trader, a U.S. history teacher, explained that ICE’s presence has reached into his own classroom: “Yes, last year it directly affected” at least one “student’s grades due to anxiousness and fear.” He added that the uncertainty goes beyond one child’s experience: “It creates uncertainty in society within the learning environment because of the large number of students within the community who belong to a targeted group.”

Despite these challenges, Trad-

er emphasized that his classroom remains a place of safety and fairness: “Within my classroom, everyone is treated equally. There are certain inalienable rights all human beings have, and those rights will be protected – especially within my classroom.” Still, he expressed concern that ICE’s policies are not random but rather fueled by a form of discrimination or targeting a certain group: “Yes, due to racial biases that the new administration has, which target certain demographics of our population.”

Elroi Guevera, an 11th grade student, says “I think ICE is a federal organization that detains or harasses people who don’t have documentation. They’re supposed to deal with national security, but instead they’re creating fear for families.” Students have this impression of ICE that shows abusiveness and “harass[ment].”

While not all students have been directly affected, the threat still weighs heavily. “People I know have not been affected directly by ICE, but there definitely is a fear that ICE may target them because of their race and skin complexion,” said an anonymous student in the 11th grade. Others described how classmates avoid school to protect themselves and their families. “My own education is not affected by the increase of ICE activity, but I know many other families are affected because of the fear of being deported and separated from family members and friends, so they end up skipping school, or go to school stressed and worried about their safety and the safety of their close ones.”

Students also expressed concerns about ICE’s motives, suggesting that immigration enforcement has become political. One explained, “ICE’s motive is to deport as many people as they can

to meet Trump’s quota. They do this by targeting people of color and even capturing law-abiding family members.” Another added that international students, particularly those on visas who are active in protests, feel especially vulnerable: “Trump is using ICE to enforce his agenda against education.”

ICE’s enforcement tactics have been described as “illegal” in many cases by the National Immigration Justice Service (NIJC), further fueling criticism. Fear of raids doesn’t just impact immigrant students – it spreads across entire classrooms, making peers anxious and lowering attendance. In 2023, ICE conducted over 142,000 arrests nationwide, many in or near schools and neighborhoods where students live. Studies from the Stanford Report show that in districts with high immigrant populations, attendance can drop by as much as 22 percent in California school districts when rumors of ICE raids spread. While these numbers provide useful context, they still don’t capture the full emotional toll immigrant students face in their daily school lives, affecting the entire school – every student, teacher and administrator.

Imani Manning-Lewis and Aman Girma are students at ERHS, writing for the Raider Review, where this article first appeared.

Ole Hass Remembrance Rescheduled

The Celebration of Life for Ole Hass originally planned for Sunday, January 25, will be rescheduled due to weather. A new date will be announced as soon as possible.



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



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



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



We Are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

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



*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 at patience.robbins@gmail.com.



Congratulations to Greenbelt artists Rachel Ann Cross, Leah Cohen, Racquel Keller and Celestine Ranney-Howes whose creations are featured in the annual Prince George’s County Exhibition in Annapolis.

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




FIREFIGHTERS cont'd from page 1

The county fire department anticipates a new class of recruits to graduate next month. They will then require 30 days of field training. “Even with these graduating firefighters, staffing shortages remain a challenge,” noted Michaelides, who also cited upcoming retirements and pending collective bargaining agreement staffing obligations. “In the future if staffing shortages require the Department to remove staff from Stations 814 [Berwyn Heights]

or 835, the Department will meet and confer with the leadership of the stations as soon as practical, prior to making any staffing changes,” wrote Michaelides. In 2024, the city was notified of the removal of all career staff three weeks in advance.

Salmerón remains hopeful that retirements and staff departures will be reduced and Greenbelt will be able to welcome firefighters back in the spring.

"In the world of existence there is indeed no greater power than the power of love." – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá



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+owneregroups.io](https://cpg1985+owneregroups.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 25, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Faith, Hope, and Love... and Zombies

Kirk Freeman with Worship Associate Anne Hoover

This Sunday, we'll draw on wisdom from sources ranging from ancient Jewish texts to a modern Zen master, and from a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist to the zombie-apocalypse world of The Walking Dead. Together we'll look for the quiet, resilient hope already alive in us-and the faith and love that keep us working for a better future even when it can sometimes feel like all is lost

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





City Information & Events

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

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 26 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge

Petitions and Requests

Consent Agenda

* Reappointment to Advisory Groups

Meetings

Committee Reports

* Advisory Planning Board Report #2026-01 - Draft Prince George's County Master Plan of Transportation

* Advisory Planning Board Report #2026-02 - M-NCPPC, Prince George's County Planning Department, Mandatory Referral for Springhill Lake Elementary School

Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA)

- COG DMVMoves Presentation

- Black History Month Proclamation

Minutes

Administrative Reports

LEGISLATION

- Resolution to endorse the COG DMVMoves Funding Proposal

OTHER BUSINESS

- Authorization for City Manager to Approve of Stop Sign Contract

- Discussion on Legislative Bills to support at the state level

- Discussion and Acceptance of the report from the Council Retreat

- Council Reports

- Council Activities

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 26-30

In the event of inclement weather, Monday's regular meeting will be moved to Wednesday and the work session will be rescheduled.



Tuesday, January 27 at 3:30pm, **SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** On the Agenda: Approval of November Meeting Minutes, Discussion on topic for Not For Seniors Only event

Tuesday, January 27 at 7pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION** On the Agenda: Principals' Meeting, Minutes of December Meeting, Educator Event Planning, AOB

Tuesday, January 27 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** Agenda: TBD

Wednesday, January 28 at 7:30pm, **WORK SESSION - ADVISORY BOARD/ COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS**

Thursday, January 29 at 7pm, **ENVISIONING A NEW PARK AT INDIAN CREEK**

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.

CITY OF GREENBELT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION RESOLUTIONS

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7pm

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

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.

RESCHEDULED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 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](#).

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.



Sunday, 02/01 Artful Afternoon: Harlem Art Party! Go back with us to 1926, Harlem, NYC! 1 PM Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Ground Floor East

Saturday, 02/07 Regina's Black Artifacts Pop-Up Museum: 9 AM-4 PM Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Rooms 201 & 202

Sunday, 02/08 Artful Afternoon: Harlem Art Party! Go back with us to 1926, Harlem, NYC! 1:30 PM Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Game Room

Sunday, 02/08 Art Exhibit Opening Reception: 1-3 PM New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Wednesday, 02/11 Dr. C.R. Gibbs (historian) To Follow The Path of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle of Blacks in England and the Americas During the War for Independence: Golden Age Club 11 AM Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Room 201

Monday, 02/16 Reel & Meal: Black Power Mix Tape 1957-1975: 6:30 PM New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770 and virtually through Zoom

Saturday, 02/21 Interactive Historical Reenactments & Greenbelt Middle School Student Essay Contest Award Ceremony: 2-4 PM Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Room 106 (Gym)

Presented by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, Greenbelt Recreation, and the Greenbelt Rotary Club.

ENVISIONING A NEW PARK AT INDIAN CREEK (II)

Thursday, January 29 at 7pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Please join us on Thursday, January 29 from 7-8 PM for our second community meeting where City staff and the consultant team will present a preferred park plan based on your input from the first community meeting and survey. For more information, contact planninginfo@greenbeltmd.gov or visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/indiancreekpark.

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, & PAINT RECYCLING

Saturday, January 24, 9 am - 12 pm

Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

Electronics Recycling - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords.

NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6. NEW: egg cartons and food trays!

PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$100 service fee. Contact: Yuck Old Paint, LLC 888-509-9825 (YUCK) or www.YuckOldPaint.com. Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004 with any questions or concerns.

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004.

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.

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.

Artful Afternoons - FREE

Sunday 2/1; 1-2pm and 2-3pm Greenbelt Community Center,
Sunday 2/8; 1:30-2:30pm Springhill Lake Recreation Center Travel back to 1926 Harlem for a high-energy dance party celebrating 100 years of Black History Month! Participants can also craft flapper headbands and boutonnieres. Walk-ins welcome. Sign up at sugen.us/ejJR.

Fused Glass Jewelry

Saturday 1/31; 11am - 12:30pm Greenbelt Community Center Fused glass is the art of melting colored glass into art pieces. Register for section 1 to make two pieces of fused glass art or for both sections to make four pieces. Registration required; see page 24 of the winter activity guide for details - www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Friends & Family: Clay Gingerbread Houses** 1/25; 1 - 2:30pm, Greenbelt Community Center
- **Explore the Wonders of Watercolor** 2/5-3/5; 6:30 - 8:30pm Greenbelt Community Center
- **Senior Art Social: Water Painting** 2/10; 2-3:30pm 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.

JORDAN continued from page 1

January 27.

Jordan's Experience

Jordan has worked closely with Watson as well as other county councilmembers in the past, he said. He is unsure of his chances of being appointed and sees his biggest challenge as demonstrating his knowledge of the broader county, of which he's been a resident since 1998. Jordan's concerns and priorities as mayor of Greenbelt include jobs, the local economy, public safety, juvenile justice, housing affordability, education and current Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities, among others. These are concerns he believes are shared by neighbors across District 4, and about which he has many years of experience, Jordan says. "So why am I doing this? Because Greenbelt residents shouldn't have to wait 30 years between opportunities to serve on county council. The last Greenbelter to hold this seat was Richard Castaldi in 1994 - three decades ago," said Jordan.

Though it has been decades since a Greenbelt resident held a county council seat, Castaldi's

experience offers precedent for a transition from Greenbelt mayor to county council. Former Greenbelt mayor Castaldi resigned from city council in December 1982 to take a Prince George's County Council seat (see the December 2, 1982 issue). Castaldi represented District 4 for 12 years and served as chair of county council for part of his tenure.

Jordan's Record in Greenbelt

Jordan was first elected to Greenbelt's City Council in 2009 and was the first African American to serve on council. He first became mayor in 2013 and has served in that role for over 10 nonconsecutive years. He was mayor from 2013 to 2019 before being named mayor again in 2021, 2023 and recently in November 2025. His tenure as mayor was interrupted for two years by Colin Byrd's single term as mayor when Byrd was the highest vote-getter in the 2019 election, which is how the mayor has historically been selected, though council votes on whom to appoint. Jordan enjoys broad support in the city and is regularly in attendance at community

events. During his time as mayor, Jordan says he's built durable partnerships with leaders at the county, state and federal levels. He serves on the Maryland Municipal League and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. In November he finished a two-year term on the the board of directors of the National League of Cities and he is a past president of the Prince George's County Municipal Association. Should Jordan be appointed to the county council seat Greenbelt will hold a special election to fill the city council vacancy. The city council voted last year to amend the city code to specify a special election should be held if a vacancy on council occurs with more than 181 days until the next election. It diverged from the process to appoint Amy Knesel to council in 2024 following the death of Ric Gordon.

Should Jordan resign, Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver would become mayor until the council votes to elect a new mayor.

Speaking to the News Review Tuesday morning, City Manager Josué Salmerón said, "While it would be sad to see the mayor leave the city council, such a move could present a meaningful opportunity for both the city and the mayor. Having representation from Greenbelt on the county council would strengthen advocacy for the interests of Greenbelt

and the surrounding communities. In particular, it is important that any representative understand and champion Greenbelt as a home-rule municipality with distinct values, a strong sense of community and a long tradition of civic engagement."

A Spate of Appointments

The recent spate of county council appointments began after County Councilmember Calvin Hawkins II stepped down and the council appointed one of their own, Wala Blegay, to Hawkins' at-large position. Then, council appointed Danielle Hunter to the District 6 seat vacated by Blegay. Hunter was appointed from over 20 applicants. She had not held elected office but had experience in county government as director of appointments for County Executive Aisha Braveboy.

Jordan noted the council was moving swiftly to fill appointments on a condensed timeline and had strong ideas about what they want. He wasn't sure of his chances Tuesday, but says he has strong knowledge of the entire district and hopes to convince folks he is the best candidate. He will have that opportunity during Friday's public informational briefing at which applicants will likely have just a couple of minutes each to speak.

The appointee should be named before our next issue.

Spellman Overpass Resistance Fridays

Greenbelt protesters and In-divisible Route 1 Corridor invite everyone to join the ongoing Visibility Resistance on Spellman Overpass, every Friday (except in rain, wind or snow) from 3:30 to 5 p.m. or dark.

All progressive concerns (ICE intrusions, affordability, elections, Federal workers, due process, environment, LGBTQIA+, union rights ... the endangered list goes on) are welcome at this friendly, inclusive event.

Signs, costumes and musical instruments are welcome, but not necessary. Flags, big-letter messages and extra signs are provided. Just dress warmly and show up, even for a few minutes.

Express your First Amendment rights by cheerfully encouraging Parkway motorists to consider some resistance of their own in this crucial election year.

Access from Gardenway or from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School crosswalk.

Questions? Email kashla@pm.me.



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.

Another Potential Applicant For County Council Seat

In December the council entered its last year, during which appointments are made to fill empty seats rather than elections being called. Two appointments have already been made. The District 4 application period was still open at the time of this article and applicants not yet announced, but Bowie Mayor Tim Adams is widely expected to be among those applying and would likely be one of the potential top picks. Adams ran for the county council in 2024, in the special election primary for the at-large seat vacated by Mel Franklin (see the July 25, 2024, issue for more, including his bio). In that primary race he was one of eight Democrats and the second-highest vote-getter after Jolene Ivey, who ultimately won the at-large seat, triggering a special election that saw Shayla Adams-Stafford elected to Ivey's previous District 5 seat.

Adams is a longtime supporter of several current county councilmembers and has made financial donations to some, including the campaigns of Ivey, Adams-Stafford, Edward Burroughs and Krystal Oriadha, as well as donating to Ivey's son Maryland State Delegate Julian Ivey. Adams is founder, president and CEO of the company Systems Application and Technologies, Inc. (SA-TECH). SA-TECH has also donated thousands of dollars to Adams-Stafford and Jolene Ivey and to the Progressive Maryland New Era Slate. Progressive Maryland New Era is a political action committee (PAC) of the advocacy group Progressive Maryland, whose CEO is Larry Stafford, husband of Adams-Stafford.

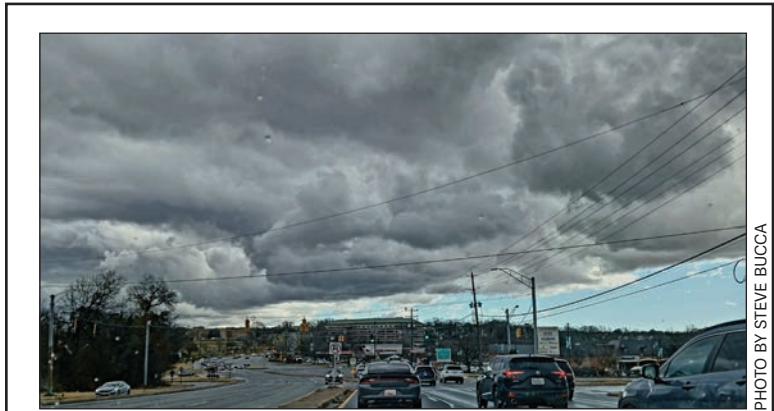
Jordan has no history of financial donations to current Prince George's County Council members, though he's made donations of \$100 or less to a handful of other Democrats.

The News Review reached out to the county council's media office and the office of ethics and accountability to ask about protocol for potential conflicts of interest in the appointment process, such as financial ties, but did not hear back by press time.



Tim Adams

PHOTO COURTESY TIM ADAMS



Storm clouds roll over Greenbelt East on December 19.

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA




Be a Part of the Greenbelt Farmers Market

Join the Board!

Treasurer and tech-savvy members-at-large needed to keep our market thriving!



Email board@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org



Valentine Ad Submission Form

Drop at Co-op office, New Deal Café counter, or Greenbelt News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770

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)



January 30, 31
February 1, 4, 6, 7

Wednesday, Fridays & Saturdays
~ 8 PM
Sunday ~ 2 PM

Facemasks required Sunday February 1st
Pay What You Will Wednesday February 4th





scan QR code for tickets or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org

Council Advances Collective Bargaining Rights for Public Works

by Diane Oberg

The first step for the city’s Department of Public Works employees to obtain collective bargaining rights was taken by the Greenbelt City Council at its January 12 regular meeting. Council unanimously approved a charter amendment that authorizes the city to engage in collective bargaining with a representative of Public Works employees. The amendment will take effect after 50 days unless successfully petitioned to referendum by 20 percent of registered voters. Voters have 45 days to submit such a petition.

In addition to the charter amendment, City Manager Josué Salmerón said council will also need to amend the city code.

Employee Comments

Prior to council considering the charter amendment, it held the required public hearing. Trent Leon-Lierman, Greenbelt resident and community organizer with the union LiUNA, relayed the comments of several Public Works employees regarding why they want collective bargaining including “protect[ing] all workers, supervisors and directors” (Dajuan Stanbuck), getting “representation that we’ve needed for a long time” (Robbie Tripe) and “having recourse to address questions and issues that may come up” (Luisa Robles).

Fellow employee Michael Canavan said collective bargaining would create a better tomorrow, where “we don’t see benefits reduced before our eyes like we have recently,” and where being called in for snow emergencies or being required to carry a commercial driver’s license are appropriately compensated.

Donate Books To Novel Endings

Novel Endings bookstore at the Greenbelt Library gladly accepts donations of gently used books. The bookstore particularly welcomes donations of popular adult fiction, children’s books, sci-fi, fantasy, mystery, classics, non-diet cookbooks, science topics geared to the general public and vintage books.

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.

Books labeled “not for resale” or soft-covered books missing their covers will be thrown away.

To donate books, email 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.

Resident Concerns

Resident Alexander Barnes said it saddened him that employees feel they need collective bargaining to be treated fairly. He called his personal experience with being in a union “not altogether a positive experience.” He called on council to ensure that the actions it takes result in something good and fair for all of the employees.

Resident Brian Ottens told council it was moving too fast on this issue and that the city is not ready. He said that he had not had time to research the issues and requested information such as how many contracts would need to be renegotiated.

Susan Smithers, another resident, supported the charter amendment and called upon council to terminate its agreement with the labor law firm Jackson Lewis, which she said “specializes in union avoidance” and to “select a firm that will help the city negotiate justly with our staff.”

Several speakers urged council not to limit the legislation to Public Works employees but permit all city employees to seek collective bargaining. It was council’s desire not to delay action on the Public Works employees’ request while it considered a broader approach, Salmerón noted.

Next Steps

Council has already scheduled a worksession on January 21 to discuss collective bargaining for all employees. Councilmember Kristen Weaver added that the language that was drafted to provide for collective bargaining for all employees may not have actually covered all employees and that council did not want to delay the public hearing while it worked out those issues. She added that, to date, Public Works employees are the only ones that have requested bargaining, other than the police, for whom a comparable charter amendment was approved in 2005.

Following passage of the amendment, Salmerón stated that the city has very good wages and benefits. He said he has not seen another entity with such robust benefits.

There are still details to be worked out. One, raised by Councilmember Frankie Fritz, is how to determine employee support for collective bargaining. Should the city use the card check approach or hold an election? Fritz argued for using card check, which he said is much cheaper and more effective than the longer election process for which labor lawyers would usually be on-site for the entire process, driving up legal costs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICARDO DENNIS

Greenbelt Police Department Public Information Officer Ricardo Dennis attends the College Football National Championship game at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Fla. on January 19, 2026.



If he takes you to dinner
He may be a winner
But he may be pretending
Which means a bad ending.

21 words = Super Sweetie \$6

See below to get yours!



Play Cribbage, Board Games

On the second Monday of the month, with the next meeting on February 9 at 7 p.m., join Greenbelt Unplugged for cribbage and other games in Room 114 of the Community Center. Optionally, bring a cribbage board or other game to share.



Friday, January 23
1:30 p.m.

Community Center
15 Crescent Rd., Room #114

Join us for a screening of “The Choice” followed by a discussion on implementing ranked choice voting in Greenbelt!



Valentine’s Day is Coming

Send a love note to your cuties.

Sweetie (\$6 up to 20 words)

SuperSweetie (\$9 21-30 words)

MegaSweetie (\$12 31- 40 words)

\$3 per 10 extra words (or part thereof)

Submit by 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb 8

Online 7 p.m. Feb 11 and Feb 12 on paper.

Send/Pay Electronically: Use Valentines link at www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

In Person: Place legibly written Love Note with exact payment (cash or check) either at Co-op Grocery Store checkout, New Deal Café counter, or GNR office door slot

Put your name/phone on all items

Need Help?

Email GNRValentines@gmail.com

or call 301-474-4131 Mon/Tues, 2 to 4.

(See Love Note examples in this issue)

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(See Love Note examples in this issue)

GREENBELT LISTINGS

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2 BD | 1 BA | \$325,000

The owner of this large 2 bedroom brick unit has put their heart and their good design sensibilities into their home, and it shows. Beautifully renovated kitchen, upgraded lighting, screened back porch, and a tankless hot water heater!

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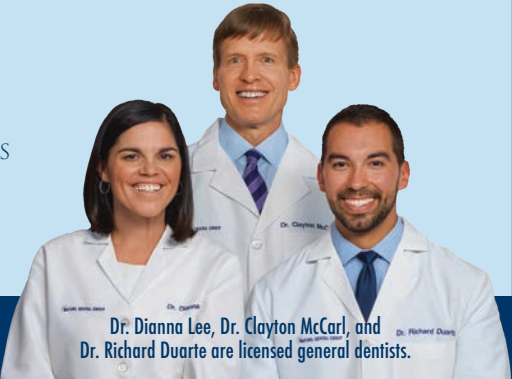


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FIRE SALE and rock-bottom prices asked for household items and assorted quality tools: Nearly new dining table 60" by 42", extendable to 78" four chairs and bench, 3-drawer desk 44" by 20.5", 86" couch 6 months old, single bed and nearly new mattress. SKIL 40 hedge trimmer, EGO portable electric leaf blower. Photos available at shalfisher7@gmail.com or call 240-381-0894.

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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 1937
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 OF NOTE TO URBAN PLANNERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE 888 ORIGINAL HOMES WERE BUILT IN A SERIES OF CLUSTERS, JOINED 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 HOMES BY 1954. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD SOLD ALL DEVELOPED PROPERTY AND MOST 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

Valentines

Perhaps You're a Poet
But You Didn't Know It

by Cupida Van Scansion



When you send a Valentine, you are going out there in print and saying, for all the world to hear, that there's somebody or something you care about. Giving love is an important human statement – a revealing of one's inner self that is at least as crucial to your well-being as receiving love in return. To be able to stand up and declare love for someone or something marks you as a full human. Even if it's love for your dog!

When you also consider that sending a Valentine has an effect on the recipient (if it's not a cat) a few bucks for a Valentine in the News Review may be the emotional bargain of the decade. Even if it's going to the Co-op or the Police Department – think of those who will get a warm feeling that their work, be it checker or policeman, is appreciated.

The newspaper, of course, is also getting the love. The effort made to manage and print these valentines is all volunteer and the revenue, though not huge, does make a small but welcome dent in our financial picture. Penning a Valentine also tells our 64 members and 30 distribution staffers that somebody out there hears us. That you care about the newspaper we strive to produce weekly – or, as we call it, The Weekly Miracle.

So – don't hold back, it's not necessary to be Shakespeare to write a sonnet. It goes like this:

•Each line has five beats and is usually in the much-dreaded iambic pentameter form.

•There are 14 lines – so this is not an el cheapo Valentine. Put your money where your heart is.

•Alternating lines, in groups of four, rhyme (this isn't the only possible scheme).

•Then the remaining two lines usually do rhyme.

•See instructions at blog.udemy.com/how-to-write-a-sonnet-poem.

•Shakespeare was very good at this. You – maybe not so much.

For something less challenging but still implying a trained mind, you might attempt a limerick (especially for those of you with Irish DNA). This poetic form has only five short lines – an easier (and less expensive) alternative. The first two lines have three beats, the next two have two beats and the last goes back to three. If you start off with:

"There was an old lady from Greenbelt," you'll be on the right track.

Lastly, for those with less time, money or poetic inspiration, the old, hackneyed but fervent, Roses are Red, Violets are Blue quatrain is a good standby. It goes like this – just substitute. Upper case shows the emphasis and the last words of lines two and four rhyme – surely that's not TOO demanding:

TAda are tada,
TaDAda are **splat**
Ta DA da, ta DA da
And tum tum tum **drat**

Try it, you'll like it.

Instructions for submitting and paying for your Valentines can be found in this newspaper. They may be submitted and paid for online.

Cupida Van Scansion is also known as Cathie Meetre.



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Send your Valentine message through the News Review: more reliable than training this cormorant, seen at the Lake, to deliver it for you.

Donald V. Borgwardt

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RULES continued from page 1

types of worksessions: standard worksession, public hearing, town hall, listening session, meet and greet, stakeholder meeting and retreats. What these meetings are called impacts public expectations, notice requirements, the role of staff, materials presented and minutes taken.

Scheduling Worksessions

Pompi proposed that worksessions should not be scheduled for times when councilmembers have advisory board or committee meetings. She also proposed that a portion of worksessions on the first and third Monday of each month should be reserved for agenda and schedule review.

Topical Subcommittees

Weaver proposed establishing subcommittees to bring research back to the full council for action, and that a member of the subcommittee would lead worksessions related to that topic. Mayor Emmett Jordan expressed agreement with having subcommittees but believed subcommittees should be ad-hoc to allow for greater flexibility.

Public Comment Policy

Weaver proposed that people desiring to speak at a council meeting sign in first and indicate what items they wish to comment on. Councilmembers discussed what else might be in a future public comment policy. Suggestions included a separate time for public comment, a limit on comments to three minutes (excluding petitions and requests) and a limit on the number of electronic channels the public can use to make comments through (email, Zoom, etc.) to avoid confusion.

Donate Sneakers
For People in Need

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

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

Call for Sports News

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share?

We welcome your photos and stories at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Seating Arrangement

Weaver proposed updating the Standing Rules to reflect the current practice of seating members in order of total votes.

Addressing Misconduct

Weaver offered a process to address councilmember misconduct in a meeting. Actions to address misconduct could escalate from a request for order, through a call to order, a recording of the misconduct in the minutes, censure, expulsion of the offending member, to recessing to another time. Weaver also offered a process to address councilmember misconduct outside meetings. There was also a discussion of to whom the misconduct would be reported and potential conflicts of interest.

Pledges

Weaver proposed formally adding the reading of the Community Pledge to the agenda of all regular meetings. Councilmember Frankie Fritz suggested changing the recitation of the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance to a reading to avoid potentially forcing the public into unwanted displays of patriotism.

Packet Delivery

Weaver proposed specifying that delivery of meeting packets to councilmembers via email should use email certificate procedures.

Weaver proposed creating a list of scenarios (for example, requests for Eagle Scout or Education awards) where certificates of recognition would automatically be created to limit the amount of work for staff.

Limiting Comments

Pompi proposed limiting councilmembers to speaking no more than twice on a single item.

Readings for a Resolution

Pompi proposed having only a single reading of resolutions when lawful.

This Ad Could be Yours
and be praising your
Sweetie

He oughta be flattered to
know that he mattered
Praise him to the skies
Look deep in his eyes
At twelve bucks a shot!
He's worth it. Why not?
MegaSweetie Size \$12

See pages 6&7 to get yours!

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Corner Lot with Garage - 3 BR townhome with large yard and patio. Modern kitchen with extra storage cabinets. Energy-efficient HVAC Mini-split system

Large Corner Lot 2-bedroom home that backs to protected woodlands. Stone patio & large shed. Remodeled throughout & mini-split HVAC system.

3-br on large corner lot, garage available. Completely remodeled throughout.

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Since 1986**

Four Local Artists Featured In Annapolis Juried Art Show

Four of Greenbelt’s visual artists are featured in Re/Generations: The Annual Prince George’s County Exhibition at the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis.

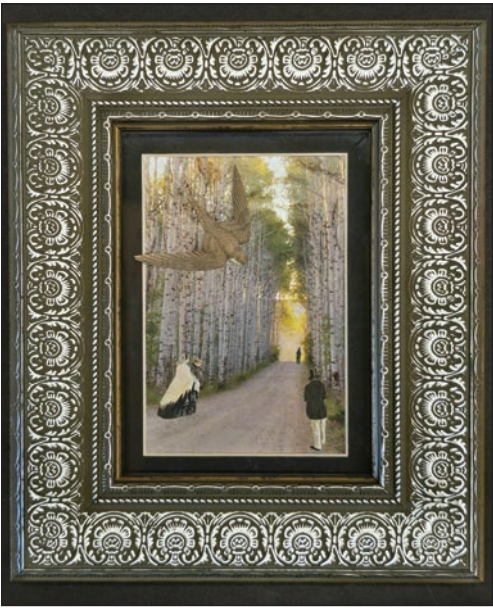
The show, which will run from January 14 to April 14, includes

artwork by Greenbelt Artist-in-Residence Rachel Ann Cross, Greenbelt visual arts instructors Leah Cohen and Racquel Keller, and Greenbelt fabric artist Celestine Ranney-Howes.

A reception will be held on Thursday, March 5 from 6 to 8

p.m., on the second level of the Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis.

This information comes from a press release from Rachel Ann Cross.



Albert was blissfully unaware of his imminent demise, by Racquel Keller



Bonded by Celestine Ranney-Howes



Irene's Pocket Shrine by Leah Cohen

- Photos of Greenbelt artists’ artworks displayed in the exhibition, courtesy Rachel Ann Cross



Spirit Tree by Rachel Ann Cross



Labor Day Festival Will Have New Operator, Rides, Tickets

by Anne Gardner

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee, Inc. (GLDFC), the all-volunteer organization that brings the annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival to the community, will partner with a new carnival operator, Snyder’s Attractions, for the 2026 Festival from September 4 to 7.

Based in Greencastle, Pa., Snyder’s Attractions is a family-owned and -operated traveling carnival. Greenbelt festivalgoers may remember them from several years ago when they filled in for the longtime carnival operator Rose-dale Attractions. Rosedale had been the festival carnival operator for many decades. According to Karen Yoho, the GLDFC president, “We wanted to see a newer variety of carnival rides and also look for a company that is committed to providing a clean, safe and well-maintained fleet.” Yoho added, “In addition to their dedication to safety, Snyder’s offers the latest in electronic ticketing systems that will allow festivalgoers to order their wristbands and load those with ride credits online or at kiosks on the festival grounds. No more worries about lost ticket strips or the need for cash at a ticket booth.” Also new this year, Snyder’s will offer unlimited ride options on all four



days of the festival, whenever the midway is open.

Snyder’s Attractions carnival midway travels to events in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia, working with fair and festival organizers including civic groups, fire departments and churches. “Our high standards of family values and good quality fun [are] brought with us at every event,” said Adam Brotzman, Snyder’s Attractions owner. “Our goal is to improve the overall quality of the customers’ experience.” They expect to bring 14 or more amusement rides, a mix of adult, kiddie and family-type attractions, including a mechanical bull. Snyder’s Attractions will also provide an assortment of midway-style games.

During the winter months, the company works hard giving the attractions a facelift, repairing, cleaning and repainting each ride. In a recent Facebook post, Snyder’s Attractions posted the maintenance and fabricating projects for the 2026 season. “New for this year, we are adding a Cliff Hanger [and] Scooby Doo Mystery Machine train, a new and better-equipped food trailer is being built now, and a few other additions are on their way.”



The ferris wheel operated by Snyder’s Attractions

- Photos courtesy Snyder’s Attractions



♥♥♥♥♥♥

Your love might be real
Or a plot
You may be a Knight or a
Bounder
But whatever your plan
Fer sure, you’re The Man
When you publish your
twelve-dollar flatter

31 words = MegaSweetie \$12

See pages 6&7 to get yours!

Mayor Emmett Jordan administers the oath of office to the officers of the 2026 Greenbelt Golden Age Club. In front is Judy Parker, president; rear from left are Suze Marley, corresponding secretary; Barbara Stevens, recording secretary; and Annie McFarland, 1st vice president. Not pictured are Marti Galvin, 2nd vice president; Ken Mahen, treasurer; and John Henry Jones, honorary vice president.



PHOTO BY JOYCE BAILEY



All festivalgoers will have a wristband for rides.

