

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



Black History Month, p.6

Snow and ice photos, p.12

VOL. 89, No. 11

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Schools to Open After Seven Snow Days; Calendar Impacted

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The start of the week was tumultuous for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) teachers, parents and children. After five snow days the previous week, PGCPS planned to open Monday with a two-hour delay, only to reverse course by announcing shortly before 5 a.m. Monday that schools would remain closed and conditions would be reassessed for Tuesday. By Monday evening, a message on the school district's website announced not only the closure of

schools for Tuesday but also that PGCPS was "finalizing a formal virtual learning plan" that would be presented publicly, as state law requires, at an emergency Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, February 4. This move, which would not have allowed virtual learning to commence until at least Thursday, coupled with language about beginning "bridging to virtual learning" on Tuesday, February 3, signaled that the district was preparing for

See SNOW DAYS, page 8



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

The roads and sidewalks at Greenbelt Elementary School are clear and well salted before the delayed opening on Wednesday, February 4. However, in some directions the clear sidewalks stop abruptly after a block or so, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road.

Skaters Take to Fields to Enjoy Ice; Lake Remains Off Limits

by Laura Charleston and Stephen Lotz

While skating on Greenbelt Lake is prohibited, Greenbelter Jessica Blacksten and others have taken to the fields. "The fields are skateable right now, but the lake would be better!" said Blacksten, who had hoped someone might be able to drill into the ice to measure its thickness and enable the city to open it for skating. She has been skating at both Braden and Northway Fields recently and even tried to skate the route of the Pumpkin Walk, though the latter was not very successful, she told the News Review.

Fond Memories

Greenbelt News Review Editor Mary Lou Williamson recalls when her children were little, the police would determine how thick the ice was. Once deemed

safe, a good day of skating and even bonfires ensued on the lake. Greenbelter Marc Siegel also has fond childhood memories of skating on the lake and explained that fires were built on a metal pit and children could roast things on them and warm their hands. A News Review article from December 29, 1977, advised residents that "No fires will be allowed at the lake except those provided by the city, because of the scarcity of firewood and danger from brush fires." That year, the Recreation Department provided assistance at the lake during weekdays from 4 p.m. until dark and on holidays,

See SKATERS, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, February 9

7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, February 11

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: City Manager Quarterly Update (Public Works), Municipal Building

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



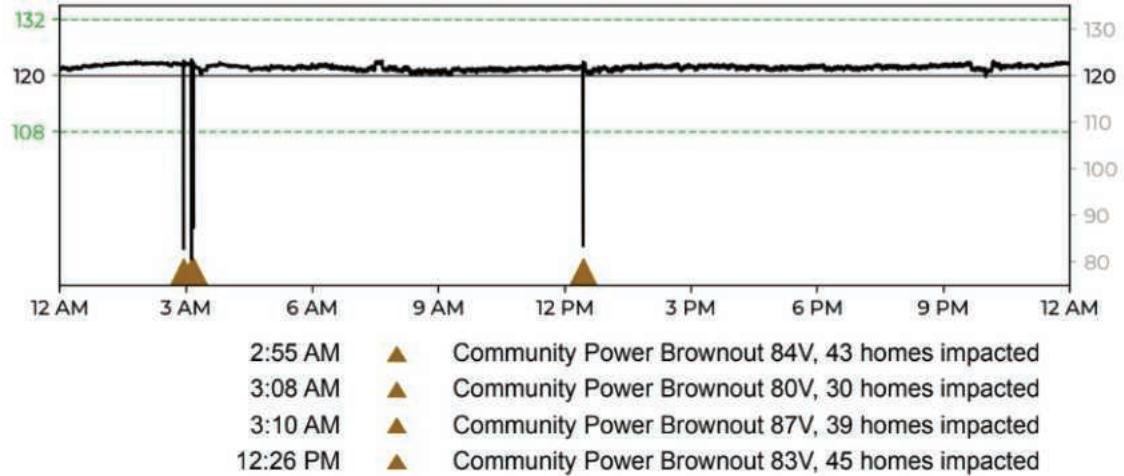
PHOTO BY JESSICA BLACKSTEN

Lei Zong and Annie Bland ice skate on Braden Field.

Pepco Resolves Power Line Issues That Impacted Greenbelt for Weeks

by Laura Charleston

Tuesday, December 23, 2025



Readings from a resident's Ting electrical sensor show power fluctuations on December 23.

Pepco located and, on January 12, repaired a local power line issue that caused weeks of electrical abnormalities reported by Greenbelt residents beginning in December 2025.

The City of Greenbelt experienced various electrical disturbances, including the loss of a controller at the Community Center, which regulates the heat

in the building. There were also elevator issues at Charlestowne North that resulted in people trapped on January 10. At the Co-op Supermarket a battery back-up was "fried" during the height of the rolling fluctuations, reported General Manager Dan Gillotte. They also experienced several instances of dimming lights, but all their critical sys-

tems have battery back-up, explained Gillotte, so they could continue functioning. However, power fluctuations aren't good for sensitive electronics, he noted. Across the city others reported flickering lights and damaged LED bulbs, and raised concerns about the stability and safety of the power lines.

See PEPCO, page 11

PGCPS Plans to Cut Immersion Programs at Middle, High Schools

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) previously touted its immersion programs as rigorous academic programs developing global perspectives and marketable language proficiency, with students performing "as well or better than their peers" on standardized tests (in English). However, amid struggles to balance the budget, the county now plans to cut its middle and high school language immersion programs and two immersion programs at boundary elementary schools. Students who planned to move on to middle or high school immersion programs next year

learned just last month that won't be possible.

Cuts

PGCPS administration cites declining enrollment, a shrinking fund balance and increasing costs of doing business as factors leading to a \$150 million deficit in the "tough budget year ahead" for 2027. The school administration is looking to cut \$100 million from its budget and request an additional \$50 million in funding from the county to make up the difference. Programs on the chopping block are two elementary

See IMMERSION, page 8



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Public Works employees use heavy machinery to move the frozen snow and ice.

Letters to the Editor

An Update from NDC

The New Deal Café (NDC) Board had a productive meeting with our food and beverage manager, Kenny Hilliard, on February 2. There have been some miscommunications which contributed to the current challenges. This has been a learning process for both the board and Mr. Hilliard. For us, learning how to work with a new vendor; for Mr. Hilliard, running a venue involving a cooperative arrangement.

Mr. Hilliard has paid the board what was requested to date. Both parties are gaining a better understanding of what is needed going forward.

The next step will take us to mediation to clarify understanding of our shared goals and plans to achieve them.

There will be a special membership meeting with all parties present next week, likely to take place on Tuesday, February 10, in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, room to be announced in an email to our members and those on our mailing list.

The NDC Board and vendor wish to thank our members and patrons for their ongoing support and commitment to the Café.

*John Campanile, president,
New Deal Café Board*

Business Model Not Viable

As a resident of Greenbelt and a member of GHI, I have visited the New Deal Café (NDC) on site multiple times and recognize that it has an interesting and valuable concept for the community.

I am a restaurant and food and beverage consultant, currently working for Aimbridge Hospitality, the largest hotel management company in the world. We operate more than 1,800 hotels globally, including over 1,000 with full

food and beverage operations.

Following the Covid period, I expressed interest in becoming involved with the NDC to potentially operate the food business and to better understand the organization's leadership structure. Through several meetings with the board, it became clear that the NDC does not function as a traditional governing board, but rather more as a group of investors.

During those discussions, I clearly communicated that the proposed business structure was not sustainable for any food operator. Under the current model, there are effectively two operators: one group (the board/investors) controlling music programming and beverage sales, and a separate operator responsible for the kitchen and food sales only, without participation in beverage revenue. From a technical and operational standpoint, this model cannot succeed.

The article in the January 29, 2026, News Review accurately reflects the ongoing challenges but does not explain the underlying operational reality. Simply put, two independent operators cannot successfully coexist within a single food and beverage business. Without shared revenue streams – particularly beverages, which are critical to profitability – no professional food operator can sustain long-term operations.

Unless this operating model is fundamentally reviewed and revised, no operator will last. If the current approach continues, it risks the future of what should be an iconic live music venue for the region. It is unfortunate that the board has been unwilling to either assume responsibility for the food operation or adjust the structure in a way that supports long-term viability.

Javier Angeles Beron



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Voice of Hind Rajab

Volunteers at the Palestine Red Crescent Society stay on the phone with a 6-year-old girl who gets trapped in a car in war-torn Gaza. Said critic John Nugent of Empire Magazine, "About as powerful as cinema gets. Its hybrid blend of documentary audio and devastating dramatization is heart-wrenchingly, shatteringly effective."

Arco

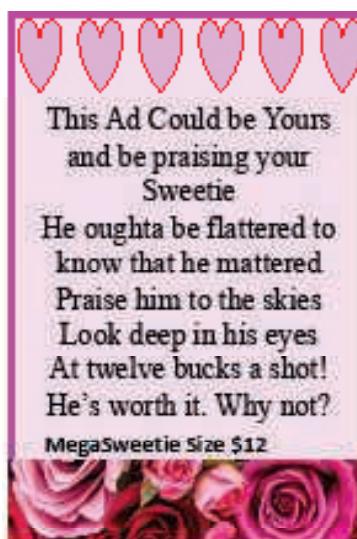
In this animated feature, in 2075, a 10-year-old girl, Iris, sees a mysterious boy wearing a rainbow jumpsuit falling from the sky. It's Arco. He comes from a distant, idyllic future where time travel is possible. Iris takes him in and will do whatever it takes to help him return home.

A Private Life

When renowned psychiatrist Lilian Steiner (Jodie Foster) learns of the death of one of her patients she is deeply troubled. Convinced that it was murder, she decides to investigate. Said critic Odie Henderson of the Boston Globe, "Foster and the rest of the cast are so good, I almost want to recommend that you go just for their performances. After all, it's the journey, not the destination, that counts."

Wuthering Heights

Tragedy strikes when Heathcliff (Jacob Elordi) falls in love with Catherine Earnshaw (Margot Robbie), a woman from a wealthy family in 18th-century England. Directed by Emerald Fennell.



See page 11 to get yours!



SHOWTIMES: FEBRUARY 6th - 12th

The Voice of Hind Rajab (NR) (2025) (89 mins)

In Arabic with English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 7:35 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 5:15 PM
Mon. 6:00 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 4:45 PM

Arco (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2025) (89 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 5:35 PM
Sun. 3:00 PM (OC)

Mon. 5:45 PM
Tue. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 7:30 PM
Mon. 3:40 PM
Wed. 7:25 PM

A Private Life (R) (CC) (DVS) (2025) (105 mins)

In French with English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 7:45 PM
Mon. 3:15 PM
Tue. 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:10 PM
Thurs. 7:20 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 7:20 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM, 5:15 PM
Mon. 6:30 PM

Wuthering Heights (R) (2026) (136 mins)

Early Members-Only Screening

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Thurs. 7:00 PM



SURE YOUR CAR WILL THAW OUT.
SEE THAT SHADOW? BEST I CAN
DO IS SIX WEEKS FROM NOW.

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library'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, February 6, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15417923.

Wednesday, February 11, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15417896.

Thursday, February 12, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15418158.

Movie and a Craft

Tuesday, February 10, 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12, Library auditorium. Make Valentine's Day crafts and enjoy light refreshments while watching a free screening of The Peanuts Movie (88 minutes). "Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus and friends embark on an epic adventure while Snoopy tracks down the Red Baron, his nemesis," said Swank.com. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15380755.

Play and Grow

Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPS Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is for interest only and not a guarantee of space. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15421577.



Golden Age Club

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

The following is the schedule for the rest of February.

February 11, Speaker: C.R. Gibbs (historian, author, lecturer, griot (storyteller)) will be speaking on To Follow the Path of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle of Blacks in England and the Americas.

February 18, BINGO (Annie McFarland will be the caller).

February 25, Birthday Potluck (bring a dish to share).

The Membership Committee is collecting 2026 dues. Pay with a check made out to Greenbelt Golden Age Club. If paying with cash, have the exact amount.

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes the Prince George's County schools.

Preschool Open House

Greenbelt Nursery School will hold its annual Open House on Saturday, February 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the start of registration for the school year beginning September 2026.

Greenbelt Nursery School is a not-for-profit parent co-operative in its 80th year of operation. The school is certified by the Maryland State Department of Education. The school offers classes for children ages 2, 3 and 4. Full-day educational programs are available.

Families seeking pre-school programs are invited to attend the Open House, meet the director, teachers and parents, view the classrooms, and get information about the classes.

The school is located at 15 Crescent Road in the Community Center. Parking is available in the lot behind the Greenbelt Library. For more information, visit the school's website at greenbeltnurseryschool.org or call the school at 301-474-5570.

Garden Club Annual Plot Assignment

The Greenbelt Community Garden Club will host its annual Plot Assignment and Membership Meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom and an email will be sent to returning gardeners with a link to join. Anyone who would like more information about the Garden Club can visit the website at greenbeltnardenclub.com or contact the Club President Ellen Bastio at ggcpcres@gmail.com.



GAC Presents Miller's A View from the Bridge

From March 6 through 21, Arthur Miller's classic play, A View from the Bridge, will be on stage at the Greenbelt Arts Center. Set in 1955 Brooklyn, the play explores themes both timeless and current.

This tale of personal struggle and societal pressures is being directed by Stephen Cox, who has directed classics like The Importance of Being Earnest, Ghosts, Les Liaisons Dangereuses and Private Lives, among others.

Performances will be held Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with audience-masked matinees on Sundays at 2 p.m.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Art Reception At New Deal

The New Deal Café will host a reception for the current Black History Month Art Show on Sunday, February 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. Stop by to view the exhibit and meet the artists. There will be a program of speakers starting at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Harlem Dance Party At Artful Afternoon

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to a free upcoming workshop with a 1926 Harlem dance party theme. Led by professional dancer D'annuccio Grier, the 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 boutonnieres. The activity will be offered 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 greenbeltdmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

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.

Rotary Club Hosts CARES, GAIL Talk

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is sponsoring a talk about the services offered by Greenbelt CARES, an agency of the City of Greenbelt. CARES is a community-based family agency providing services such as counseling, educational supports and workforce development for families, adults, adolescents and children. The city also provides services through the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program. GAIL provides information and support to seniors and the disabled who want to remain living in their homes.

CARES Assistant Director Christal Batey will speak about the CARES and GAIL programs. Deji Ayoku will speak about the education and workforce development services that he coordinates and CARES staff members will speak about the counseling and mental health and anger management services.

The event is Thursday, February 12, in the Community Center, Room 114. Refreshments and conversation are at 6:30 p.m. followed by the 7 p.m. talk. The Rotary Club meets every Thursday at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m., except the second Thursday of the month when club members host this evening speaker series.



Favor's Table Offers Financial Literacy

On Saturday, February 7 from 3:30 to 4 p.m., Favor's Table presents a Financial Literacy Class: Wealth Creation, Protection and Wealth Transfer at 6215 Greenbelt Road (the tall building next to McDonald's), 2nd floor, Room 205.

This class is for adults and those who have not attended the class before. Text 202-468-2049 to sign up by Friday, February 6. Confirmed attendees will receive bags of food, clothes and shoes at the end of class.

Chess Club Meets

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, February 10, 17 and 24 at the Greenbelt Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:55 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to our mailing list, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m> and complete the brief form. Please direct questions to greenbelchessclub@gmail.com.



Hunger Relief: Greenbelt PORCH Initiative

Greenbelt PORCH's shared commitment to community-powered hunger relief will be invaluable as it continues to grow and deepen its impact.

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in February as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Saturday, February 7 - by 11 a.m. at 23 and 24 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, February 8 - by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Sunday, February 15 - by 4 p.m. for 33 Court Ridge, Eastway, Boxwood Village and P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on February 15 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to your porch.

Saturday, February 21 - by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, February 22 - by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive and 18 Court Ridge Road; after 6 p.m. for 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road; 8 and 10 Courts Southway

Saturday, February 28 - by 10 a.m. for Matthew Street to Megan Court including Brett Place.



This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

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

Sunday, 9am – 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!

*** RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 ***

TH 2/05	FRI 2/06	SAT 2/07	SUN 2/08
Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm A big, bodacious boogie blues jam. Come on out and jam!	Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes 8 - 11pm A blend of Chicago, west coast, swing & jump blues	49 Cent Dress 8 - 11pm With lead singer Liz Springer, a tasty mix of rock with a dash of blues and soul	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30am - 12pm ART RECEPTION, 1 - 3pm The Phraseology Quartet 6 - 8pm Indian classical & folk themes

MON 2/09	TUES 2/10	WED 2/11	TH 2/12	New Deal Café
LIVE BAND KARAOKE 7 - 9:30pm With Mike Scott & Friends SHOW US YOUR STUFF!	NDC Open Mic W/ Tom Gleason 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm	BOOK CLUB, 11a - 12pm Coyote Trail 7 - 9pm Unique alt-country Americana	The Nighthawks 7 - 9pm Legendary DC-based band brings blues, R&B, honky tonk and rockabilly to the NDC	IT'S TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television
February 2026
 Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast Channel 77 • Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

Featured Productions

In light of Black History Month: a curated selection of lovely, poignant films from the 2025 Utopia Film Festival; highlighting uplifting documentaries and narratives on racial and social justice, family, and looking back in order to look ahead.

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now!

Coverage of this year's Black American History Month events

All-new creations from Mister Geo's Homeschool Digital Animation Class

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As

Obituaries

David Pacel-Sellers



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

David Pacel-Sellers

David (Dave) Pacel-Sellers, age 69, of Sun City Center, Fla., died on Monday, January 12, 2026, due to complications of pneumonia. He was surrounded by his loving family. He will be deeply missed.

Dave was born on July 3, 1956, in Washington, D.C., to Thomas and Mildred Pacl and grew up in Greenbelt, where he attended Parkdale High School. From a young age, he enjoyed taking things apart to discover how they worked. His curious mind led him to a lifelong passion for fixing, modifying and improving everything he touched, from electronics to cars. He also enjoyed camping and hiking with his little sister Karen and his Pacl cousins.

He went on to attend McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, and the University of Maryland, College Park, earning his bachelor's degree in 1981.

Dave founded PSI Information Technology Consulting in 1998 and served as its president and CEO until his retirement. During his 28-year career, he worked on the forerunner of the internet (DARPA-Net), as well as several versions of the TCP/IP protocol. He was senior program manager at Telecommunication Systems, Inc. in Annapolis and technical director for Kestrel Associates in Falls Church, Va. He also worked for CSI, Compuware and Litton/Aecom.

Outside of work, Dave coached the Boys & Girls Club baseball team in Upper Marlboro from 1989 to 1994. In addition, he advocated for the civil and human rights of adults adopted as children. For several years prior to retirement, he poured his energy into revitalizing neglected properties, turning them into sturdy, hopeful starter homes for families beginning their journeys.

Friends and family remember him for his lively personality, his sense of humor and his unique perspective. His vast, inventive vocabulary and gift for storytelling made every conversation memorable. He brought warmth and wit to every room he entered, leaving people feeling seen, heard and always laughing. He adored his children and his spouse, Darlene, and he cherished time spent with friends, the water, boats, beaches, music, the arts and travel.

He is survived by his partner of 24 years, Darlene Kavanaugh; and his son, James Pacel, and daughter, Elizabeth Allen, as well as their significant others, Angelina Allerton and Ryan Allen. He also leaves behind his cousins Jeff Pacl, Dennis Pacl, Tim Pacl, Peggy Sisson and Michael Patrick McIntyre and their families. He was preceded in death by his cousin Michael Pacl; his parents,

Tom and Millie; and his younger sister, Karen.

A private Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, February 15.

For more information, visit legacy.com/obituaries/name/david-pachel-sellers-obituary?pid=210784858.

Irwin "Irv" Wartell



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Irvin Wartell

Irwin "Irv" Wartell, a Greenbelt resident for nearly 45 years, died January 4, 2026, after a short illness. He was 87 years old.

Active in the community, Irv was a member of Mishkan Torah Synagogue, where he served for a while as president of the Men's Club. He also volunteered at St. Hugh's Church and helped with the annual Greenbelt Elementary PTA book sale at the Labor Day Festival.

He served for a time as a docent at the Radio and TV Museum in Bowie and formerly served on the board of Greenbelt Homes, Inc., (GHI) and was a member of GHI's Companion Animal Committee.

Irv was born in Philadelphia on December 14, 1938, to Martin and Ruth Wartell. After graduating from Temple University, he worked in the Philadelphia area as a social worker. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve. He loved dancing, and for a short while was a dance teacher at Arthur

Murray.

Irv later earned a degree from the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism.

He worked for many years at RCA prior to relocating to this area to serve as advertising manager for Ginn's Office Supplies. He then joined - and later retired from - the American Chemical Society (ACS), serving as its exhibit manager and representing the ACS at conferences and exhibitions around the world.

A longtime kidney dialysis patient, on March 11, 2020, Irv received a kidney transplant. He was then 81 years old and had the distinction of being the oldest person ever to receive a kidney at the George Washington University Hospital Transplant Institute.

The story of his extraordinary transplant was featured in a May 21, 2020, Greenbelt News Review article. At the time, Irv said he agreed to be featured in the article "to give hope to those waiting for a kidney and encourage others to consider becoming donors."

Irv was known for his love of animals. All of his pets over the years were either rescues or adopted from shelters or elderly and in need of a home. He was also a generous donor to many animal-related charities.

He loved musical theater, good food, watching old Perry Mason episodes on television and collecting cookbooks, records and CDs. His most important collection, however, were friends. He loved people and having them around him. He enjoyed socializing and celebrating holidays with as many people as could fit into his home.

He was passionate about (and enjoyed debating) politics and was a strong supporter of Israel.

Irv loved his Jewish faith and the prayers and rituals associated with Judaism.

"He was a Jew who took his obligations to God and to community seriously," Mishkan Torah Rabbi Saul Oresky said in eulogiz-

ing Irv at his January 7 funeral.

"Irv was a pleasure to be around and was in so many ways an important member of our Mishkan Torah community and of the greater Greenbelt community."

Irv was a generous and loving partner, brother, uncle and friend. He loved the people in his life, and he will be greatly missed.



Ole Hass Remembrance Rescheduled for Feb. 28

The Celebration of Life for Ole Hass has been rescheduled for February 28 at 2:30 p.m., at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4512 College Avenue, College Park.

Aisha Braveboy In Conversation

Join Mishkan Torah for a conversation with County Executive Aisha Braveboy on issues affecting the Jewish and wider Greenbelt communities. The free event will be on Sunday, February 8 at 11 a.m. Email RSVP@MishkanTorah.org to register.



Our condolences to the family, friends and fellow congregants of Irv Wartell, a mainstay of Mishkan Torah and the Greenbelt community for many decades.

We send our sympathies to the family and friends of David Pacel-Sellers, who died January 12 in Sun City Center, Fla. He grew up in Greenbelt and attended Parkdale High School and the University of Maryland. He was known for his warmth, sense of humor and community service.

Congratulations to Alisa Plaza, owner of Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant, on being an honoree in SEA The Difference's 2026 Caribbean and African Women of Impact (CAWI) Honors, part of their Women's History Month celebration "recognizing women of Caribbean and African descent whose leadership and service continue to shape culture and community locally and globally."

Thank you to all the staff and helpers around the city who have continued to dig us out of the "snowcrete."

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



"Love them all with your whole heart; no one is a stranger to the other, all are friends." — '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+owner@groups.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

February 8, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Present Perfect Progressive

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Sue Bollens

In the spirit of our February theme (Centering Love) and the launch of this year's Stewardship Campaign (Loving Paint Branch into the Future), we'll share a service all about living into future-focused giving.

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

 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.greenbeltcmmunitychurch.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.



City Information & Events

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

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 9 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

* Resignation from Advisory Board/Committee

Committee Reports

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

* Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Report - Senior Citizens Open Forum September 2025

* Board of Elections Report #2026-01: Post-Election Report to City Council

* Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Report #2026-01 - Recommendation that Council Modernizes the Name of the City of Greenbelt Public Safety Committee to the Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety (ACAPS)

Meetings

Minutes

* Axon Contract Renewal

Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

Administrative Reports

LEGISLATION

- Resolution to endorse the COG DMVmoves Funding Proposal 2nd Reading and Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- Discussion on Legislative Bills to support at the state level

- 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@greenbeltdmd.gov.

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) and (8) 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, February 11, 2026, immediately following the Council Work Session - City Manager's Quarterly Update, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; 3) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction.

2) to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

3) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The public may attend the Council Work Session prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, February 2, 2026.

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

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.greenbeltdmd.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

MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 9-13

Wednesday, February 11 at 7:30pm, WORK SESSION - CITY MANAGER QUARTERLY UPDATE (PUBLIC WORKS)

Thursday, February 12 at 7pm, COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD On the Agenda: TBD

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@greenbeltdmd.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.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

CURRENT GAIL PROGRAMS

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



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.

BILINGUAL PRE-K STORY HOUR HORA DE CUENTOS DE PREKÍNDER

Friday, February 13 | 10:30 - 11:30 am

Springhill Lake Recreation, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us on the second Friday of every month!

Children Ages 0-5

Come and enjoy the wonderful work of storytelling and free healthy snacks. Friends & family are all welcome to attend.



Niños de 0-5 años
Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos y bocadillos saludables por gratis. ¡Amigos y familiares bienvenidos!

This series is sponsored by RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness); Prince George's County Memorial Library System; Greenbelt Recreation, American Legion Auxiliary, and Greenbelt COOP.

Contact joseph.vincent@gpcmls.info or spreadruak@gmail.com.

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.greenbeltdmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

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@greenbeltdmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124.



SPRING & SUMMER CAMP GUIDE 2026

www.greenbeltdmd.gov/camps

We are excited to share our plans for Spring and Summer Camps in Greenbelt with you! Full-day camp options are available for youth ages 3 1/2 - 17 years. Before care and after care options are available as well.

- Resident registration begins Monday, February 9 at 10 am
- Non-resident registration begins Tuesday, February 17 at 10 am

We can't wait to welcome you to our camps! Please call (301) 397-2200 or (301) 397-2208 for more information.

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.

SKATERS continued from page 1

Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to dark. No skating was allowed on the lake after dark.

Safety Concerns

Greenbelt Lake has not been immune to safety concerns and accidents, however. An article in the News Review from January 28, 1965, details a harrowing rescue of two children from the lake after the ice broke underneath their feet. The children remained in the water for nearly 45 minutes before rescuers came to their aid.

Another article recounts James W. Burke breaking his arm two inches above the wrist on November 14, 1937, while trying to

break his fall on the ice at the lake (see Greenbelt Cooperator, December 22, 1937, issue).

If residents are tempted to break out their skates, they should follow Blacksten's example and head to the fields rather than the lake. "We understand the appeal given the cold weather, but the risks - from unpredictable ice conditions to liability concerns - are simply too great," said Salmerón.

Laura Charleston and Stephen Lotz are University of Maryland students in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



Corita Waters, left, ice skates on Northway Fields, and Jessica Blacksten tries skating on the pumpkin walk trail off Northway, without much success.

- Photos courtesy Jessica Blacksten



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH OSBORNE

Greenbelters gather in Indian Rocks Beach in Florida to surprise former Greenbelter Joe Knight on his birthday. Enjoying the Greenbelt News Review and the sunshine are, from left: Joe Knight, Bridget and Beth Osborne, Mike McAndrew, Barb Sampogna, Jeff and Cindy Donn, Larry and Barb Wildoner, Kevin Foster and Jaden Osborne.



Winter is for Knitting
Yarn, Hat Kits, Fleece
Greenbelt pickup
www.AWoOLfarm.com
awoolfarm@gmail.com

Greenbelt CARES Services: Counseling, Education, Workforce Development

with CARES staff
Thurs, Feb 12 at 7 pm
Refreshments at 6:30 pm
Community Center Room 114

Monthly Speaker Series - 2nd Thursday of the month - greenbeltrotary.org



Black History Month

Black History Month Kicks Off By Kicking Up Some Heels

On Sunday, February 1, the Greenbelt Recreation Department kicked off Black History Month with a 1926 Harlem dance party, led by staff member and professional dancer D'annccio Grier. In celebration of the 100th an-

niversary of Black History Month, participants also enjoyed a fun 1920s-inspired art activity featuring flapper headbands and boutonnieres.

Another chance to join the dance party and partake in the

art activity will take place this weekend on Sunday, February 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Register in advance at sugeni.us/ejJR.



D'annccio Grier teaches dance moves to participants at the February 1 Artful Afternoon in celebration of Black History Month.



Children make flapper headbands and boutonnieres.



- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

FINAL WEEKEND!!!
Friday & Saturday
February 6-7
8 PM

scan QR code for tickets or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org

GAC

WIFEEY UNKNOWN
Written & Directed by Abhishek Bhattacharya

FEBRUARY 13-21 | FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8 PM | SUNDAY 2 PM

scan QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

Giant Icicles, Falling 'Snowcrete' Pose Risks as Temperatures Rise

On Monday, Greenbelter Germaine Timmerman submitted a photo of a "gigantic icicle" in Belle Point. The icicle appeared to span more than one story of the building.

Meanwhile, the Capital Weather Gang warned area residents that with temperatures finally rising above freezing Tuesday and potentially on some other upcoming days, people should be especially alert for snow and ice shedding from roofs which can pose a serious hazard.

To protect yourself from falling "snowcrete" the Capital Weather Gang offers the following advice:

Avoid walking directly beneath slanted roofs bearing significant snow/ice when temperatures climb above freezing.

Look for warning signs like icicles, roof overhangs or prior snow slides.

Do not park close to buildings



A giant icicle hangs from the corner of a townhouse in Belle Point.

PHOTO BY GERMAINE TIMMERMAN

with pitched roofs.

Property owners should consider roping off danger zones and posting warnings.

"As thawing begins, this is a risk that often flies under the radar - but it's real," said the Weather Gang in a statement on social media.

Wildlife is out foraging for whatever it can find in the snow and ice.



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

CTTT: Discussion Of Courage, Dinner

The local affiliate group of Coming To The Table (CTTT) hosts dinner and discussion at the Community Center on the second Tuesday of every month. The next gathering is on February 10 from 6:15 to 8 p.m. in Room 105. There will be free food from Sunrise Caribbean. Donations are not necessary but will be accepted.

The topic of discussion is: Courage (both spiritual and physical). To attend, register by emailing Nancy Joy Alchin at njallchin@gmail.com.

The purpose of CTTT gatherings is to provide a supportive environment for facing life's challenges, including those that stem from prejudice, misunderstandings and unresolved racial injustices, and in this way to foster and strengthen the Beloved Community.



PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

We are looking for middle aged and older (>40 y/o) participants with normal hearing or up to a moderate hearing loss. Those with a conductive hearing loss are not eligible.

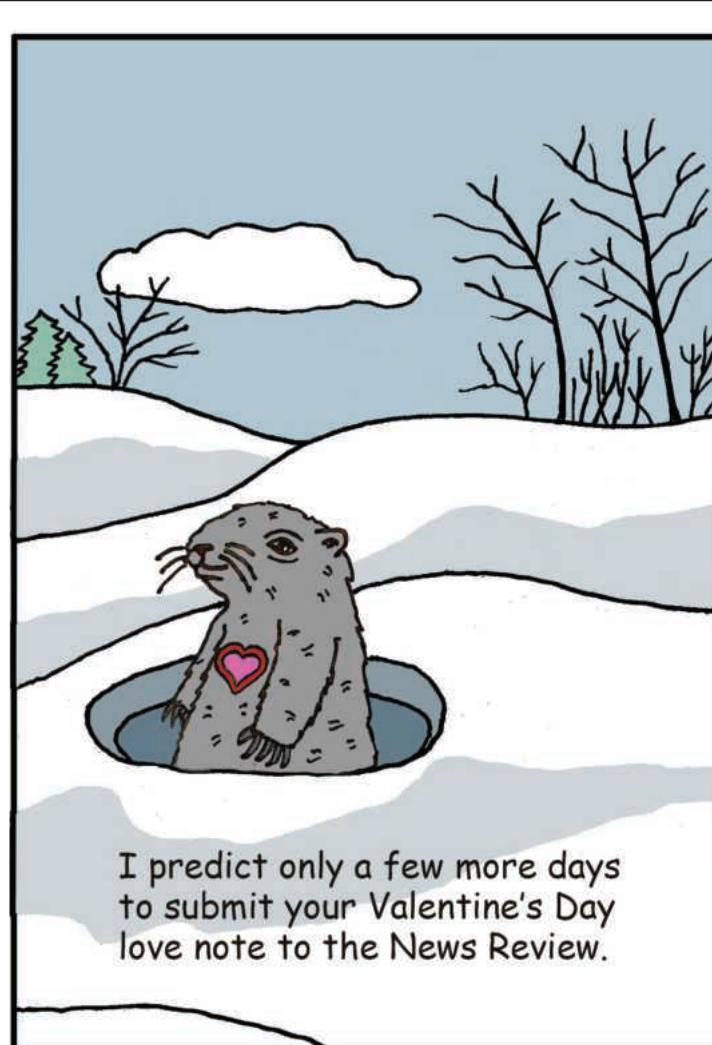
You will participate in hearing tests, cognitive screenings, and listening tasks.

You will receive \$15/hour for two 3-hour sessions.

This study takes place at UMD, College Park.

CONTACT BEAM.UMD@UMD.EDU OR CALL 301-405-7715 FOR DETAILS.

Auditory Perception and Modeling Lab



English and Spanish Story Time at SLRC

On Friday, February 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SLRC), Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Como dijo un parent al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

GREENBELT LISTINGS

1F Northway



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!

11B SOUTHWAY



2 BD | 2 BA | \$180,000

Need an entry level half-bath on a tight budget? Here's a smart, thrifty Greenbelt home for you. Centrally located near the center of town.

Kim Kash

Realtor®
m 301.789.6294
kim.kash@compass.com

COMPASS

Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Maryland and Maryland, MD, 1000 19th Street, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20003 | 202.545.6900

Greenbelt News Review Seeks Paid Advertising Representative

Duties: Identify, contact, visit and follow up with area businesses to secure new advertising for our historic, vibrant and essential weekly community newspaper.

Qualifications: Maturity and excellent social skills plus understanding of business imperatives and advertising concepts. Willingness to learn about the newspaper and the initiative to seek advertisers citywide and beyond in a variety of business types. Excellent listening skills and tenacity. Previous sales experience a plus.

Compensation: Modest! Paid as a contractor on completion of the contact sequence described above. Not commission sales. Hours flexible.

Contact: Admin@greenbeltnewsreview.com
Website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

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.

GriefShare®

Grief Support Group

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Contact Us Today

Tuesdays 7 - 9 p.m.
February 24-May 19
Greenbelt Baptist Church
101 Greenhill Rd (301-474-4212)
griefshare.org/findagroup
Look under "Greenbelt, MD"

griefshare.org

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\$75 EMERGENCY DENTAL EXAM

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INFECTION CONTROL CERTIFIED



IMMERSION continued from page 1

language immersion programs, a middle school immersion program at Greenbelt Middle School and the county's only high school language immersion. PGCPS will also cut International Baccalaureate programs at the elementary and middle school levels, though continue the high school program; and middle school Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) elective courses, which were optional classes designed to improve college and career readiness and academic success.

Elementary School Cuts

The proposed cuts to language immersion include closing the elementary boundary school immersion programs at Paint Branch Elementary, which has a 50/50 Chinese immersion program currently serving 547 students, and the boundary school 50/50 Spanish immersion program at Capitol Heights Elementary, which currently serves 139 students. Chinese and Spanish, respectively, will be offered as a world language class at those schools instead. Boundary schools are the local neighborhood schools for which students are zoned based on where they live.

Middle School Cut

The district is also proposing to cut its "immersion continuation pathway," accepting no new students to its program and transitioning it out of Greenbelt Middle School, which currently has 58 students enrolled in Chinese immersion. Rising grades 7 and 8 students currently at Greenbelt Middle will be able to continue as the final cohorts of the program.

High School Cut

In addition, the county's high school immersion program, which currently has 120 students enrolled, will also be discontinued. That program had offered the continuation of Chinese, Spanish and French at the high school level at Largo High School. Currently enrolled students will be able to continue in the program but no new students will be accepted. World language classes will be offered at boundary high schools, according to a presentation by the Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph on January 22.

A Tentative Budget

Senior Public Information Specialist Lynn McCawley told the News Review that the interim superintendent's proposed budget "will move on to become the board's budget before it is presented to the county - so changes could be made to his proposal for immersion programs during the budget development process." However, parents who had applied to the impacted immersion programs for the fall had already received notice that their

students would not be admitted. One Greenbelt family with a child attending Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI), who had applied to the immersion high school when applications were due in the fall, received a notice from PGCPS' Chief Academic Officer Judith White on January 23 stating that "after a careful review of enrollment trends over multiple years, we propose transitioning from the Immersion High School Program due to its low enrollment."

High School Options Reopened

On February 2, PGCPS reopened the high school specialty program applications exclusively to current grade 8 immersion students so that they have the opportunity to apply to other specialty schools. "Due to recent district-level budget decisions, the Immersion High School Program will not enroll new students beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Because this update occurred after the initial specialty program application window closed, PGCPS has reopened the application window exclusively for current grade 8 immersion students," said DKFI Principal James Spence in a message to the school's grade 8 families on February 2.

PGCPS said the decision to discontinue the programs was due to low enrollment and budget concerns. It "in no way reflects the quality, impact or value of the program," said White of the high school immersion program. The district hopes to reduce the budget by \$2.5 million through cuts in language immersion programs, according to their website's FAQ on the FY27 budget.

The author has two children who currently attend a PGCPS immersion school that is not directly impacted by these cuts.



Something for Everyone!

121 Centerway, Greenbelt
301-474-0522



**SHOP LOCAL.
EAT WELL.
FEEL GOOD.**

Open House Sat., Feb. 21, 10 am.—1 pm.

REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2026

Classes for children 2, 3, & 4

WWW.GREENBELTNURSERY SCHOOL.ORG

LOVE IS IN THE AIR...AND THE BIG GAME IS ON!

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

Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrails.org

glasses & shirts

co-op merch

fresh flowers

pair with wine for the perfect V-Day present!

co-op wine shop bag

chocolates & sweets

check out our Co-op Crafted & seasoned meats

Party wings

fresh picks

look for our local brews!

cheers-worthy beers

dips & spreads

SNOW DAYS continued from page 1

a longer closure. Then on Tuesday afternoon, PGCPS again surprised students and families by announcing they would open Wednesday, February 4, with a two-hour delay.

Adjusting the School Calendar

With schools opening Wednesday, February 4, PGCPS will have had a total of eight days of closures due to weather this school year. The current school calendar planned five make-up days to be converted if needed. Those are likely to be added to the calendar as instructional days now and are: Friday, March 20, which was scheduled to be a professional development day for teachers; Wednesday, May 27, Eid-al-Adha, which had been scheduled as a day off; and Monday, June 15, Tuesday, June 16, and Wednesday, June 17, which would extend the school year past the planned last day of Friday, June 12. At the Wednesday emergency virtual meeting, the school administration also planned to present an adjusted school calendar that would include the addition of three more potential instructional days on Monday, February 16, which is Presidents' Day and a federal holiday; Monday, April 6, which is Easter Monday and was scheduled to be the final day of spring break; and Thursday, June 18, which would extend the school year another day into June, for a total of four days past the original last day. If approved, this would allow PGCPS to use those days to make up missed days of school. However, PGCPS may also apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver to the requirement to hold 180 days of instruction each year.

The pending potential school calendar change comes just days before Greenbelt's summer camp registration opens to residents on Monday, February 9. Camps are scheduled to begin June 15. A representative from Greenbelt Recreation Department told the News Review that camps would likely still begin as planned, even

if the school year was extended, noting some children attend private schools or are homeschooled and some send their children to camp even if school has not finished for the year. The Recreation Department is closely monitoring the situation with the county schools and would likely make adjustments to pricing for children who can't attend all of the first session due to an extended school year, they told the News Review on Tuesday.

No Virtual Learning

PGCPS could not implement virtual learning during the snow closures as some schools did in neighboring districts. This is because they did not plan to use virtual learning and did not submit a virtual learning plan for Maryland State Department of Education approval at the start of the year. In a message on November 21, 2025, PGCPS stated that virtual learning would not be used during

weather events this year, noting Maryland requires each day of virtual instruction to include at least four hours of live instruction (vs. asynchronous learning activities at the students' own pace or timing), "which is not feasible for our school district." The reasons given for finding virtual learning was not feasible included staff with children at home during closures, power outages that can disrupt internet access, no longer having widespread hotspots for internet access and K to 8 students no longer travelling back and forth with school devices.

Now, PGCPS says it will present a virtual learning plan that would meet state requirements and address their technology access at the emergency meeting on Wednesday, February 4, the day schools reopen. On Monday they created a mechanism for parents or guardians to request a device

See SNOW DAYS, page 9



GREENBELT NURSERY SCHOOL

Open House Sat., Feb. 21, 10 am.—1 pm.

REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2026

Classes for children 2, 3, & 4

WWW.GREENBELTNURSERY SCHOOL.ORG

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 26 - February 1, 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@greenbeltdmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two domestic incidents resulting in arrest and one mental health diversion. On January 28 near 9244 Edmonston Road, a parent reported a boy missing after a verbal dispute.

Assault

On January 31 at 8:56 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a verbal argument in the lobby between two individuals escalated into a second-degree assault.

Traffic Complaint

On January 29 at 12:03 p.m. near Breezewood Drive and Edmonston Road, another motorist threw a water bottle at a man's vehicle following a traffic dispute; no damage was found.

Fraud

On January 28 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a man used a fraudulent credit card to book a hotel room.

On January 30 near 7565 Greenbelt Road, a bank employee said that their fraud department had filed a report about fraudulent checks.

Theft and Shoplifting

On January 27 at 12:35 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a boy was stopped by loss prevention staff for theft.

On January 29 at 6:23 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman left without paying for her merchandise.

On January 31 at 11:37 a.m. near 7415 Greenbelt Road, a

bag containing a man's clothing, shoes, and U.S. passport was stolen while he was at the gym; at 1:56 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, someone stole merchandise; at 2:09 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone selected merchandise and exited through a fire exit without paying.

Vandalism

On January 30 near 6114 Breezewood Drive, someone damaged a front door handle.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on January 27 near 9009 Edmonston Road, a red 2021 Jeep Wrangler (Md. 2GB9006); on January 30 near 8015 Mandan Road, a Honda Pilot (Md. 6GU2709); and on January 31 near 6118 Breezewood Court, a 2023 Audi Q5 (Md. 3GC7338).

Theft From Auto

Wheels were stolen from two vehicles: on January 29 near 7500 Greenway Center Drive between 2 p.m. and 3:20 p.m., and near 7400 Greenway Center Drive from a 2023 Toyota Corolla. On February 1 at 4:36 p.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a woman saw thieves attempting to steal the rims from her vehicle but they were not successful; another vehicle was broken into and rummaged through at the same time, and the suspects fled in a Mitsubishi SUV with stolen tags.

SNOW DAYS continued from page 8

to use for virtual learning through ParentVue.

"This unprecedented weather event requires us to consider virtual instruction to maintain instructional continuity," stated the message on PGCPS' website on Monday. "Under Maryland regulations, formal virtual learning requires a minimum of four hours of daily synchronous (live) instruction. We are currently finalizing a formal virtual learning plan that meets all state requirements and addresses technology access for all students. State law requires this plan to be presented publicly, and we will do so at an Emergency Board of Education Meeting on Wednesday, February 4." The message sounded like a plan for more days at home, speaking of "bridging to virtual learning" by providing grade-level instructional materials for students to use at home beginning Tuesday, February 3, though 24 hours later they'd announce the Wednesday opening.

Frigid Temperatures

Though winter storm Fern lasted just over 24 hours in the area, it left behind six or so inches of snow and then added inches of ice. A message from Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph on Monday morning noted "severe and persistent icing," particularly on sidewalks and walking paths used by students and stated, "we are intentionally allowing time for snow and ice to melt and for county and school-based teams to continue clearing, repairing and evaluating facilities." Prior to Tuesday, there had not been

a chance for snow and ice to melt since temperatures remained below freezing. The result was persistent frozen snow and ice that proved difficult to move and was dubbed "snowcrete." With the exception of Tuesday, highs this week were not expected to reach much above freezing; the threat of thawing and refreezing when temperatures briefly rise presents another hazard to consider.

Other Challenges

Joseph's Monday morning email also stated that multiple buildings and communities were affected by water main breaks and other "facility-level issues" that needed to be resolved before schools could safely reopen. There had been an essential water use only request from WSSC Water from Tuesday, January 27 to Monday, February 2 throughout Prince George's and Montgomery counties due to a high number of water main breaks and leaks caused by the extreme cold temperatures. PGCPS was also monitoring anticipated staff and bus driver attendance, Joseph wrote.

Reopening

Following an aerial assessment of conditions across the region on Monday, Joseph stated that morning, "it is not feasible to clear every sidewalk across our more than 500-square-mile district." On Tuesday, Joseph said schools would reopen with "flexibility, caution and care, while centering safety above all else." Yet, he wrote, they believed it was in the best interest of students to return. "The most significant challenge to reopen-

ing remains conditions in some neighborhoods," wrote Joseph on Tuesday. "These factors are largely beyond the direct control of the school system, yet they have real and uneven implications for student safety, especially for our youngest learners and those with additional needs." Joseph warned families bus delays may occur in some neighborhoods due to road conditions, buses may not be able to access narrow or heavily iced streets and some sidewalks may remain uncleared. Absences due to safety concerns will be excused.

In the same message, Joseph said the administration's thinking had evolved on virtual learning. "Virtual learning was not planned to be used as an option this year, as extended closures were not anticipated. Our thinking has evolved. We believe preparedness for worst-case scenarios is essential, and a well-planned virtual learning option strengthens our ability to provide continuity, access, and equity during future disruptions. The Board and community will have the opportunity to review this plan, provide feedback, and consider approval."

In partnership with Greenbelt Recreation, Greenbelt Cinema again opened its doors to children and their caregivers on Tuesday for a free snow day movie. Should a virtual learning plan be approved on Wednesday it might be their last traditional snow day for the year.

The author is a parent with two children who attend PGCPS.



PHOTO BY AMY KNESEL



PHOTO COURTESY AILEEN KROLL

Greenbelters of all ages play in the snow. Aileen Kroll sleds behind Greenbelt Elementary School.

Corita Waters demonstrates how parents are barely hanging on, after seven consecutive canceled days of school.



With Love, We Rise
A Free Valentine's Day Tribute to Federal Workers
One year since the first RIF actions

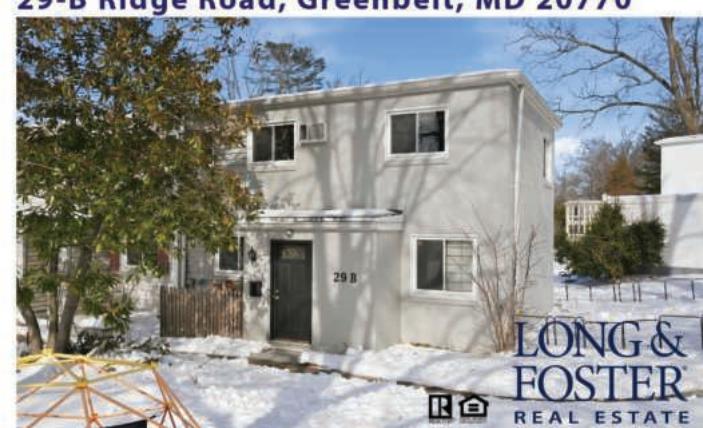
This gathering on Feb 14 is non-partisan and focused entirely on well-being, healing, and community care for:
• Former federal workers and contractors affected by the RIF
• Current federal workers and contractors
• Family members, friends, and community allies who want to show support

*Participate in the Kindness Valentines Project - drop off card making at Greenbelt Library on Saturday, Feb 7, 1-3 pm.

More info: rif2rise.org

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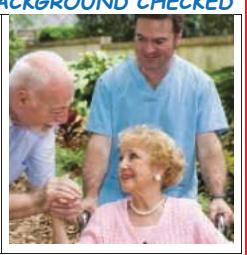
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FOR SALE - LG 75-in. OLED EVO AI TV, C4 Series w/remote, was store display (not in box), is wrapped; LG 65-in. QNED AI TV in box; and 2-seater pale green-beige couch, have photos if needed. Call 301-575-7058 and leave voice.

NOTICE

JOIN MISHKAN TORAH in Greenbelt, MD for a conversation with County Executive Aisha Braveboy on issues affecting the Jewish and wider Greenbelt communities. The event will be on February 8 at 11am. Email RSVP@MishkanTorah.org to register.

SERVICES

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

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RATES

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

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

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

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

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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

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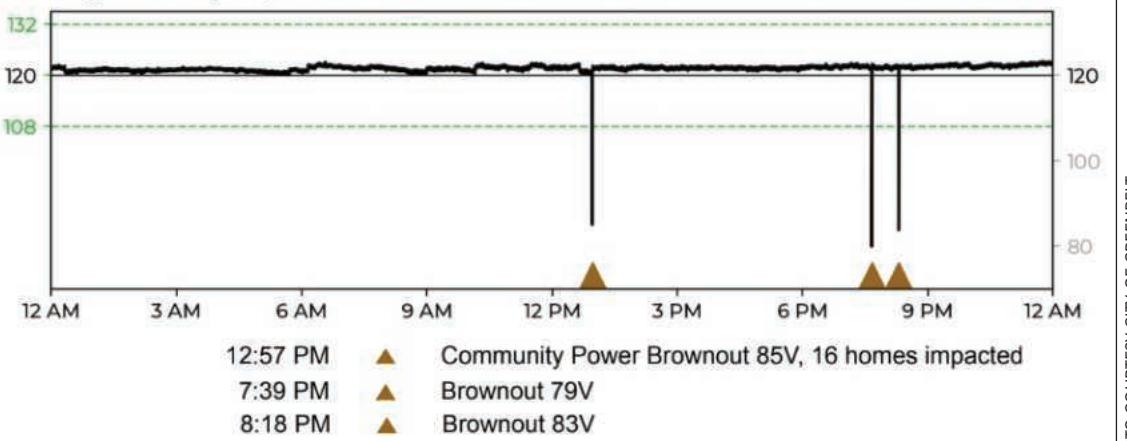
4313 Hamilton Street Hyattsville, MD 20781 301.441.1071

A Tradition of Trust



PEPCO continued from page 1

Saturday | January 10, 2026



Readings from a resident's Ting electrical sensor show power fluctuations on January 10.

Mary Halbe said she first noticed the issue sometime before Christmas, with several incidents occurring during the holiday period. Halbe lives in a Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) unit, where multiple homes share electrical infrastructure, increasing her concerns that the problem might extend beyond a single residence.

"They were happening pretty frequently, and they killed a few of my LED light bulbs, which were fairly new," she told the News Review. Halbe's power never went completely out but repeatedly dipped and surged, causing lights to dim and brighten. "The lights would flicker and go brown, like the power wouldn't go all the way out," she said. "And then sometimes they get really bright, and then they go brown again."

She estimated that the disturbances occurred daily or every

few days from December into January. "These ongoing brownouts and little power surges, it just seemed to be hitting a wide swath of people."

A Laurel Hill resident with a Ting electrical sensor recorded numerous brownouts and power surges. The recordings show December 23 had the most brownout alerts and January 10 was the latest alert.

According to Pepco, the disturbances were not brownouts but the result of an infrastructure problem.

"Some customers may have noticed brief instances of light flickering earlier this month, which was caused by a minor issue on a local power line," said Rodney Wilson, Pepco's senior communications specialist. "Our crews mobilized quickly to identify the source and completed repairs in early January."



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Ice sculptures spotted across from Greenbelt Elementary School

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City Notes

Responding to the recent extended snow emergency, Public Works' efforts to keep streets and byways cleared involved all hands on deck, including mechanics whose timely repairs got five different damaged vehicles back into service. Public Safety coordinated snow operations in consultation with city, county and regional emergency management counterparts. Public Information pushed information to the public through many media and the CARES program remotely provided resources and referrals. Constituent Services addressed residents' concerns about safety and Save As You Throw issues and coordinated Greenbelt Connection support for county school meals distribution.

Code Enforcement inspected 20+ commercial properties and 10 rentals and approved six building permits. Animal Shelter residents are five cats, five kittens and a dog.

Recreation collaborated with the Greenbelt Cinema to provide two snow day movies, attended by around 400 people. The Community Center welcomed Greenbelt Police for new-candidate testing and Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted Learn-2-Earn. Winter session dance, art and performance programs began, with schedule adjustments during the snowstorm.

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)

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 for inclusion in the Feb 12 issue.

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 (Room 100) in the Community Center

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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Digging out from the snow and ice in Greenbelt



Margot Wolford-Waite helps to clear ice from the driveways of Orange Court, photographed by her mom.



PHOTO BY KRISTEN WOLFORD



Kudos to Community Center office staff Carrie Hannigan (administrative assistant) and Adam Daelemans (Community Center coordinator), who shoveled out a handicap parking spot that hadn't yet been cleared on Tuesday, February 3. Not in their job description, but much appreciated.

PHOTO BY AILEEN KROLL



PHOTO BY CARLA GORDON

Unplowed sidewalks in Franklin Park on Tuesday, February 3



PHOTO BY MARK HANYOK



“Snowcrete” on Hillside Road



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Several cars are trapped by plowed snow and ice.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

An ice fort spotted on the corner of Research Road and Greenhill Road



PHOTO BY MARK SHERMAN

The icy coating lends a sheen to the snow beside the Braden Field tennis courts.