

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



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VOL. 89, No. 13

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

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Council's Standing Rules Change, Public Participation Hotly Debated

by Larry Beyna

The Greenbelt City Council's Standing Rules are adopted by a simple majority vote and govern council operations. At its regular meeting on February 9, council reviewed proposed changes to its Standing Rules. Possible changes were first identified and discussed at council's December 10 retreat and January 7 worksession. Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Jenni Pompi then refined them and later added a few more that had been proposed by individual councilmembers. The result was a set of 21 proposed changes for consideration on February 9. Council's objective was to develop a list of new and revised Standing Rules that would undergo first and second readings and final adoption at one or more subsequent meetings.

Many Changes

Introducing the Standing Rules discussion, Mayor Emmett Jordan said, "For a body like the council

... modifications from year to year tend to be incremental, (but) the proposals this year are quite a bit more substantial than we've seen in my time on council."

In response, Weaver stated, "Maybe there haven't been changes in the Standing Rules, but the council is substantially different than it has been in prior years. There are a lot of new voices here with a lot of new ideas."

Seventeen of the 21 proposed Standing Rules deal with minor adjustments to routine procedures, formalization of procedures already in practice, scheduling and other matters regarding worksessions, management of council committees and working groups, and councilmember behavior in meetings and outside of meetings. Council voted to include 15 of these proposed rules in the package for later readings and adoption and tabled two for more

See COUNCIL, page 6

PGCPS Proposed Budget Cuts That Impact Greenbelt Students

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO COURTESY PGCPS

A STEM Summer Bridge event at the University of Maryland College Park

Among the proposed \$150 million in cuts for the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget are programs that impact Greenbelt. The proposed cuts would include an assistant principal position and a professional school counselor position at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program at middle schools, the Chinese language immersion program at Greenbelt Middle School, high school language immersion options that might have served students from the Chinese program at Greenbelt Middle or French immersion students graduating from Dora Kennedy French Immersion school in Greenbelt and the Summer Bridge program for students entering the Science and Technology program at ERHS.

Science and Tech Positions

The FY 2027 Operating Budget Snapshot on the PGCPS website highlights a proposed cut of a professional school counselor position and a program assistant principal position at each of three schools: ERHS, Charles Herbert

See PGCPS, page 9

What Goes On

Monday, February 23

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

Wednesday, February 25

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Board of Elections 2025 Election Update, Municipal Building

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

New Deal Board, Vendor Clash As Tax Deadline Approaches

by Stephen Lotz

The New Deal Café is facing what its audit committee called a "major financial crisis," as board members and vendor Kenny Hilliard publicly disputed responsibility for unpaid sales taxes and other overdue obligations during a tense membership meeting on February 10.

"No decision will be made at this meeting," John Campanile, president of the Board of Directors for New Deal Café, said at the outset. "We expect a respectful dialogue. Our goal is to share information as clearly as possible."

Campanile outlined a timeline dating back to September, when a performance review was conducted under contract stipulations. In October 2025, the Café's entertainment permit renewal was denied "due to unpaid sales taxes



PHOTO BY STEPHEN LOTZ

New Deal Café board members and vendor Kenny Hilliard meet with New Deal Café members on Tuesday, February 10.

totaling \$44,934.14." As a result, the music program was suspended for a few days in December after the existing permit expired No

vember 30 and a new permit was delayed.

See NEW DEAL, page 6

Sources Say Materials Removed From NASA Goddard Library

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Multiple Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) sources told the News Review that over the weekend of February 14 and 15 trucks arrived at GSFC's library to remove materials. According to one of our sources, they believe hundreds of boxes of journals were removed from the library Saturday evening. The library is housed in Building 21, where photos taken two weeks earlier show boxed-up materials and piles of books.

The GSFC Office of Communications no longer answers the phone and has not returned voice-mail messages. Routing to media inquiries through the phone directory system leads to an error message on the line. Emails also went unanswered and their news chief is currently on leave. Therefore, we've been unable to obtain offi

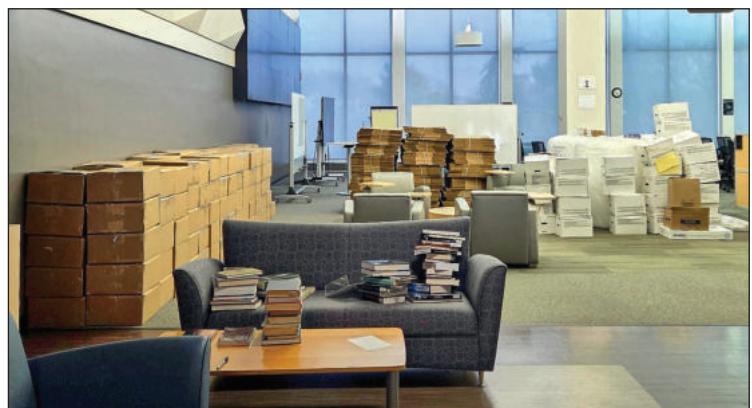


PHOTO BY SOURCE AT NASA GSFC

A view from the window into the Goddard Space Flight Center Library as it looked on February 4 and 5

cial comment from NASA on why the materials are being removed, reportedly on a weekend.

The library at GSFC was NASA's largest research library (for more see our article

on its closure and responses to the closure in the January 8, 2026, issue). The NASA activist group NASA Needs Help alleges

See NASA, page 11



PHOTO BY ERHS STUDENT FOR THE NEWS REVIEW

Students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School participate in an organized walkout on Friday, February 13, in protest against ICE activities. Similar events took place at high schools all over the region.

Letters to the Editor

Commends Students For Article on ICE

ICE strikes fear among all students and their families. The January 22 article by Imani Manning-Lewis and Aman Girma was a testament to what is happening to our youth in our schools and beyond.

I am grateful that the News Review reprinted this article from the ERHS Raider Review. One seldom hears the voices of young people. Their fears and concerns are extremely important for adults, parents and all of us if we are to provide support and protection.

How can a child concentrate in school if they fear just getting there and returning home safely or if they are concerned with ICE entering the school? The draconian behavior of current ICE officers must be a major detriment to learning and positive engagement, as Manning-Lewis and Girma so eloquently described.

It is hoped that the News Review can encourage more youth to contribute to the paper, either with articles or their spoken word poems. It can be informative for Greenbelt residents to hear from our young people about their concerns, fears, joys and achievements. Let's encourage them to contribute more to our local paper.

Lois Rosado

Petition for Language Immersion Budget Now

The entire Chinese Immersion Program and all high school-level language immersion programs (French, Spanish, Chinese) are being eliminated in the FY 2027 PGCPS budget proposal, along with other specialty academic programs, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB). These are not extracurricular programs, but core multiyear academic programs many families invested in by foregoing other educational opportunities or choosing to move into a certain part of the county or not to move elsewhere.

The proposed cut to the Chinese Immersion program at Paint Branch Elementary alone affects 500 students mostly from low-income backgrounds (it's a Title I school), and the cuts to other Language Immersion and IB programs affect another several hundred students across the county.

Affected families and other stakeholders (teachers, prospective parents) were excluded from the budget process prior to the publication of the proposed FY 2027 budget. The Board of Education held budget public hearing sessions (February 5, 12 and 19), but during the February 5 hearing parents at most affected schools were not yet even aware of the situation due to the lack

See LETTERS, page 8



greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!
After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9

Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES: FEBRUARY 20th - 26th

"Wuthering Heights" (R)

(CC) (DVS) (2026) (136 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 7:45 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)

Wed. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 8:00 PM, Sun. 6:00 PM

Tue. 4:15 PM, Thurs. 7:45 PM

Live Action Oscar Shorts

(2026) (119 mins)

Some films in this program contain adult language, adult themes and sensual images. Recommended for persons 17 and up.

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:00 PM, Sun. 6:20 PM

Mon. 5:00 PM, Wed. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 5:15 PM

Thurs. 5:10 PM

Documentary Oscar Shorts

(2026) (157 mins)

Some films in this program contain graphic war imagery, adult themes and language. Recommended for persons 17 and up.

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 7:30 PM

Tue. 3:30 PM

Thurs. 4:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 7:30 PM, Sun. 2:30 PM

Mon. 2:15 PM, Wed. 7:30 PM

Animated Oscar Shorts

(2026) (83 mins)

Some films in this program include some disturbing and mature content and may not be suitable for very young children.

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 5:00 PM

Sun. 4:15 PM

Thurs. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:15 PM, Mon. 5:30 PM

Tue. 7:30 PM, Wed. 5:15 PM

Summer of Soul (PG-13)

(CC) (DVS) (2021) (118 mins)

Free - no ticket required | Sponsored by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sun. 1:00 PM

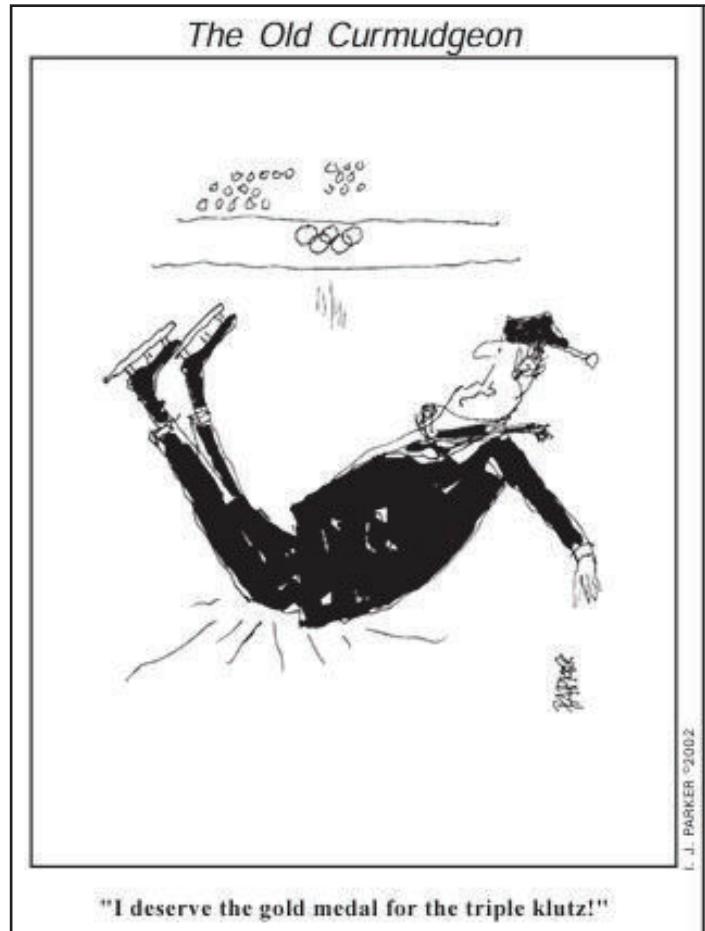
Sugarcane

(R) (CC) (2024) (107 mins)

Free - no ticket required
In collaboration w/ the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
Registration recommended
bit.ly/sugarcaneevent

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Tues. 7:00 PM



- News Review, February 21, 2002

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

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

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 20, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15417925.

Wednesday, February 25, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15417898.

Thursday, February 26, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15418160.

Jump Legacy

Saturday, February 21, 1 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Honor the spirit and endurance of Black history through rhythm and motion. Enjoy a powerful, expressive jump rope showcase celebrating storytelling through coordinated movement. Participants will be invited to jump. Presented by Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15290301.

Free Baroque Concerts By The Relic Ensemble

The Relic Ensemble, a baroque chamber orchestra, is excited to return to Greenbelt to present a new program, The Odyssey. The musicians will accompany Odysseus on his dangerous trek homeward, with works by Handel, Monteverdi, Rameau and others. There will be two performances in Greenbelt: on Thursday, February 26, 1:30 p.m. at the New Deal Café, and on Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. at Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road. Admission is free; donations welcome. These concerts are supported by a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation.



Golden Age Club

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

Next week's meeting is the last in February:

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.

Honk! Situation Keeps The Good Times Rolling

Not ready to let go of that Carnival and Mardi Gras spirit, Greenbelt Honk! Situation hosts a Carnival Parade and Party on Sunday, February 22 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Roosevelt Center.



Different Drummers Show at Roosevelt

DC's Different Drummers presents a community performance Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). Voices Lifted features works by Frank Duarte, Adrian Sims, Michele Fernández, Omar Thomas and Duke Ellington.

Admission is free; a donation to the ERHS Band is welcome.

DC's Different Drummers is an LGBTQ community band and performing arts organization welcoming all musicians to foster pride, inclusivity and engagement with the greater Washington, D.C., region through music. For more information, visit dcd.org.

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 cooperative 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.



Mahjong Group Meets Weekly on Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Mahjong Group meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Senior Game Room in the Community Center. Instructional classes are offered periodically. Check the Winter Recreation Guide for details.



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 always, thank you for tuning in!

Artists Featured In Juried Art Show

Four of Greenbelt's visual artists are featured in Re/Generations: The Annual Prince George's County Exhibition. There will be a reception on Thursday, March 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the 2nd level of the Lowe House Office Building. The four artists are: Rachel Ann Cross, Greenbelt artist in residence; Celestine Ranney-Howes, Greenbelt fabric artist; Leah Cohen, Greenbelt visual arts instructor; and Racquel Keller, Greenbelt visual arts instructor. The show is running now through April 14 at the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis. For more information, contact the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council at info@pgahc.org or 301-772-8943.

See Summer of Soul At Greenbelt Cinema

Greenbelt Cinema presents a free showing of the Summer of Soul on Sunday, February 22 at 1 p.m. Admission is free. The film, "... shines a light on the importance of history to our spiritual well-being and stands as a testament to the healing power of music during times of unrest.

"Concert performances include Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly and the Family Stone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Mahalia Jackson, B.B. King and much more," says the Searchlight Pictures website. This documentary of the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival was directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson from rediscovered videotapes.

Tax Preparation Assistance

AARP's income tax return preparation assistance will resume this year in Greenbelt, coordinated through GIVES. It will take place on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Greenbelt Fire Department, 125 Crescent Road, by appointment only. Call 301-941-7123 to make an appointment.

Chess Club Meets

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, February 24 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 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. Direct questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Greenbelt PhotoClub To Meet Thursday

The newly formed Greenbelt PhotoClub will meet on Thursday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Greenbelt Access Television (Room 204 in the Community Center). There will likely be a presentation about lightroom and masking. Topics for discussion will include upcoming meetings and potential photowalks. Those who cannot make it can contact teuben@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.



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 such classics as 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.

Registration Now Open For Peace Camp

Little Friends for Peace (LFFP) is excited to announce its fifth Peace Camp at Greenbelt Community Church this July 20 to 24. Peace Camp is a week-long summer camp for children ages 5 to 14 to learn skills for cooperation, nonviolent communication, empathy and problem solving through Peace Circles, art, music, cooperative games, a Peace Museum and other peace tools. LFFP Co-Directors MJ and Jerry Park have led Peace Camps in Minnesota and the Washington, D.C. area annually since 1981.

In the past 10 years, LFFP has reached 3,700 children through more than 83 Peace Camps and have found a 40 percent increase in camper ability to resolve conflicts peacefully from post-camp surveys.

Information on registration, as well as applications for Peace Camp counselor and junior counselor positions (ages 15+), can be found at LFFP.org/peacecamp.

Black History Essays And Reenactment

On Saturday, February 21, the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee will feature the first winners of the Black History Month Essay Contest from Greenbelt Middle School, who will share their essays and receive their prizes from the Greenbelt Rotary Club. Also, Dr. Carolvia Herron will reenact the story of her ancestor Mary Ann Lumpkin, who helped create one of the nation's oldest Historically Black Colleges in Virginia. Marquett Milton from the African American Civil War Memorial Museum will share the experiences of the Colored Troops who fought in the Civil War and helped to free enslaved people nationwide.

The free event open to the public will be held at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, at 2 p.m. Bring a non-perishable item for the food pantry.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

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 2/19	FRI 2/20	SAT 2/21	SUN 2/22
Classic Jam w/ the Low Rent Quartet 7 - 9pm Long-running jam; all skill levels welcome.	D'Vibe & Conga 8 - 11pm A blues, funk and rock group from Bowie, Md playing classic rock, reggae, Motown and more	POETRY OPEN MIC, 11a - 1pm Dave Chappell Band 8 - 11pm Multiple WAMMIE-award winning roots rock and blues band	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12p Potecasi Slade & The Slade Band 6 - 8pm Funky blues band with deep DC roots
LIVE BAND KARAOKE W/ Mike Scott and Friends 7 - 9:30pm	NDC Open Mic W/ Carla Monardes 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm	Kim's Grand Rounds 7 - 9pm Songwriters take turns performing their songs	LUNCHTIME WITH RELIC (Baroque), 1:30 - 2:30pm Charlie Owen & Pocket Change 7 - 9pm Sweet soul & R'n'B
*Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot)com , click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW".		FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.	

Obituaries

Suzanne Krocchik



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Sue Krocchik

Suzanne (Sue) J. Krocchik died peacefully at an assisted living facility in Laurel on February 8, 2026.

Sue was born on May 7, 1947, in Tarentum, Pa., to Michael and Martha Krocchik.

Sue graduated from Bladensburg High School in 1965 and attended the University of Maryland, where she played basketball, graduating in 1970 with a B.S. in physical education. She moved to Greenbelt in 1976.

Sue was very active in her church, St. Gregory of Nyssa Byzantine Catholic Church, where she participated in the annual Slavic Food Festival among other activities. She was a long-time member of the Greenbelt News Review, where she served as makeup editor for many years, overseeing the proofreading and updating the style manual, maintained the annual list of obituaries and wrote occasional stories. She baked great brownies, enjoyed gardening and loved her cats Pumpkin and Mr. Stripes, whom she memorialized in these pages.

Sue will be remembered for her kindness and the impact she had on those around her.

Sue is survived by two brothers, Michael Jr. and Walter, niece Kimberly Ernst, and nephews Anthony and Neil Krocchik.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to St. Gregory of Nyssa Byzantine Catholic Church, 12420 Old Gunpowder Spur Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705.

Linda Holien



PHOTO COURTESY AMANDA BEAVERS

Linda Lee Holien

Linda Lee Harris Holien, age 76, died on February 6, 2026, at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital with her sons by her side.

Linda was raised in Lanham and came from a family of seven siblings. She moved to Greenbelt in her young adult years with her husband, Eric Holien, where she resided until her death. Linda loved the small-town charm and walkability of the city and took almost daily walks to the Co-op Supermarket.

Linda was an outgoing and friendly person with a heart of pure gold who loved her family

and friends more than anything else.

Compassion was her biggest strength and she was a trusted confidant, advisor and listener to all she was close to.

Linda always offered empathy, strength and forgiveness to all those she loved. She went out of her way to lift up everyone around her, even in the moment when she was the one who could use a little lifting.

She touched many lives with her overwhelming compassion for others and her faith in God.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and pets, singing in the choir, attending Holy Cross Lutheran Church and sightseeing. She was a woman of faith who always put God above all else.

Linda was an avid animal lover who had numerous animals throughout her lifetime ranging from lizards to birds to cats and dogs. She leaves behind two cats, Falkour and Cali, and one dog, Gizzy.

She is survived by her three children, Adriane Harris, Joshua Holien and Matthew Holien; her four grandchildren, Amanda Beavers, Alexis Beavers, Eric Harris-Beckham and Hailey O'Dell Holien; her three brothers and three sisters, William (Bill) Harris, Janet Lanning, Carol Wykle, Mark Harris, Philip Harris and Gloria Hoy.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eric Holien; her parents, William Edgar Harris and Florence Catherine Harris (Williams); her younger sister, Cindy D'Angona; and her beloved in-laws, Wayne and Maryanne Holien.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on March 3 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Road, followed by a reception at The American Legion, 6900 Greenbelt Road.

—Amanda Beavers



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



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.



Condolences to the family, friends, former students and scientific colleagues of Beth Norden, who died earlier this month. A noted field researcher and educator, she brought her insatiable curiosity to bear on the natural world.

Our sympathies also to the family of Hatsumi Whitehead, an accomplished translator with the U.S. Foreign Service who made Greenbelt her home in between worldwide assignments. She was a member of the News Review staff for a time and kept close ties with the community.

And our condolences to the wide family, many friends and fellow parishioners of Linda Lee Holien, an almost lifelong resident of Greenbelt noted for her compassion, piety and love of animals.

Condolences to the family and

friends of Suzanne (Sue) Krocchik, and also to the members of the News Review staff with whom Sue shared work in getting the paper ready for publication for many decades.

Congratulations to Mary Koku-mo, a 20-year Greenbelt resident and current News Review volunteer. She retired in October 2025, after 26 years as a church office administrator and office manager from a large denomination religious organization – Jesus House, DC located in Silver Spring. She is an author of *Managing the Church Office with Purpose – Memoir of a Worthy Experience*. She is also a registered/certified Notary Public of the State of Maryland.

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

Obituaries

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

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

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

"Let all associate, therefore, in this great human garden even as flowers grow and blend together side by side without discord or disagreement between them."

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

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

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NEW DEAL continued from page 1

The board also identified additional past-due obligations, including utilities and rent. Payments to WSSC Water, Pepco and trash pickup are all overdue, according to the board. The Café's sales tax payment plan with the Maryland Comptroller is now three months behind, said Campanile, who outlined fiscal concerns at the start of the meeting.

"We're here because we have a letter from the State Comptroller on December 22 that says we're going to have our liquor license pulled if we don't have our taxes paid," said Alan Parker, the Café board treasurer.

Rex Wingerter, speaking on behalf of the audit committee, said the committee's review revealed deeper structural concerns. "We've got a major financial crisis," Wingerter said. "The four percent surcharge just doesn't work with the demands of revenue, the demands that we face. The vendor needs to generate more income. We don't have the money."

Wingerter said the board must now decide whether to continue working with Hilliard, seek a new vendor or consider ending the cooperative model altogether.

Financial Concerns

On February 9, the Café's audit committee, chaired by Wingerter and including Ray Zammuto and Teresa Petrovic, issued a memorandum to the board and membership outlining what it described as "historic, structural financial deficits."

The memo states that the Café generated \$69,459 in total revenue in 2025 but incurred \$95,861 in expenses, resulting in a net loss of \$29,821. Music and entertainment accounted for 60 percent of expenses, while the 4 percent surcharge represented 43 percent of revenue.

The draft 2026 budget projects a loss of \$47,900 once previously omitted expenses and loan obligations are included.

As of February 7, 2026, the Café reported \$25,245 in current assets against \$148,353 in liabilities, including approximately \$50,000 in member loans and a \$98,000 Small Business Administration loan.

The audit committee memo concludes that the current business model "does not work," stating that the 4 percent surcharge alone cannot sustain the music program and that consecutive operating losses and shrinking reserves limit the Café's options.

The audit committee presented three policy options: negotiate a new cooperation agreement with Hilliard and potentially renew his contract; seek a new vendor, though the committee expressed



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

On Tuesday, February 10, the New Deal Café held a Member Meeting to discuss the financial status of the Café. The board, seated from left, Stephanie Rizk, Lisa Milani (secretary), John Campanile (president), Anthony Case, Alan Parker (treasurer) and, standing, Audit Committee Chair Rex Wingerter (shown at the front) addressed the members. Food and Beverage Manager Kenny Hilliard (not shown) and the members of the board both spoke and answered questions from the members.

skepticism about the feasibility of that path; or dissolve the cooperative, pay member debts, declare bankruptcy and seek a new operating entity to take over the space and music program.

"We believe that if the doors close at the end of the board's relationship with Mr. Hilliard, they will not reopen," the memo states.

Hilliard Disputes Claims

Hilliard rejected the characterization that he chose not to pay bills. "That's not the case. That's not true. Taxes have been paid," he said.

He said the sales tax issue stemmed from how the point-of-sale system was configured. He believed the system would automatically collect and remit sales taxes to the state, as it does at his other restaurants, and said he was unaware taxes were not being transmitted after the Café switched to Square, a payment processing service. "As soon as we found out about the tax thing, we figured out what happened. I did exactly what I needed to do. I took \$22,000 and went straight up here to the comptroller's office and paid the money," Hilliard said, referencing a lump sum paid toward the owed taxes when the remainder was made part of the payment plan.

Hilliard acknowledged the Café has struggled financially and said he has been subsidizing New Deal Café through his other businesses, including Kenny's Kale. "We're not making enough money or generating enough income at New Deal currently to handle a lot of things," he said. "Kenny's Kale is carrying the weight of New Deal Café."

He argued that he needs greater operational autonomy to make the business profitable. "The board has to take their hands off

what I know I'm doing," Hilliard said. "I need to run a restaurant."

Board member Stephanie Rizk disputed that the board has micro-managed him. "We absolutely do not dictate the menu. We do not dictate the prices," Rizk said. She did acknowledge that the contract signed by Hilliard and Campanile in July of last year does stipulate certain things, like requiring vegan and vegetarian options.

Tax Payment Plan

The most urgent issue is the state tax payment plan. According to the board, approximately \$26,000 remains owed to the state, and a payment must be made by February 15 to avoid further consequences.

Tensions rose during an exchange over what payments had been made and how they were applied. Under the Café's structure, the cooperative holds the sales tax account with the state and submits payments, while Hilliard is responsible for providing the funds. Hilliard said he had directed money toward the payment plan. "I said, please make the payment for the payment arrangement," he said. Hilliard said he provided money toward the tax payment plan that hasn't been applied to it.

Parker responded that, regardless of how funds were earmarked toward which debt, the debt still exceeded payments and the state still shows months unpaid. "As of February 15, the State of Maryland is owed three months on the payment plan," Parker said.

Several members urged both sides to work together and avoid escalation. "We hire Kenny to provide the food and beverage, and that's what he's doing and we support him," one member said.

See NEW DEAL, page 8

GAC

WIFEY UNKNOWN
Written & Directed by Abhisek Bhattacharya

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COUNCIL continued from page 1

clarification and discussion.

Public Participation

The other four proposed Standing Rules, if eventually finalized and adopted, would have an impact on public participation at council meetings. They are:

Limit regular council meetings to two hours, with council-approved half-hour extensions if needed;

Residents are limited to speaking only once on a given subject and for a maximum of three minutes at each meeting;

Use standardized resident signs in sheets and comment cards at council meetings; and

Eliminate recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of council meetings.

Council voted to include the first two listed above into the final package of proposed Standing Rules for later first and second readings and adoption. It "tabled" - delaying action on - the third, and no action was taken on the fourth.

Both the potential impact of these four proposed rules on public participation and council's process for reviewing and acting on all 21 proposed rules provoked several rounds of public opposition and council reaction at the meeting.

At several points during the presentation and discussion, Weaver, Pompi and Jordan stressed that the February 9 decisions on all the recommended changes were not final but were only on whether to include them for formal readings and adoption at a later meeting.

Public Comments Held

After council had voted to approve the two-hour limit on regular meetings and was considering a rule related to worksessions, resident Bill Orleans asked to speak. He claimed to have raised his hand during the earlier discussion of the two-hour limit on regular meetings but had not been recognized at the time. He then proceeded to express his opposition to that already approved-for-inclusion rule. The mayor declared him out of order, but he continued to speak. In a confused chorus of voices from the resident and councilmembers, council voted to "call the question," stopping discussion on the rule about worksessions and immediately voting on it. However, Orleans persisted in speaking and

would not sit down.

While the mayor was trying to hold a vote on the rule about worksessions, Councilmember Frankie Fritz suggested that allowing public comments during consideration of every one of the 21 possible changes would be difficult and he moved to allow comments from the public only after council has considered (and voted on) all the recommended standing rules. Orleans reluctantly accepted Fritz's proposal and returned to his seat.

At this point, resident and former mayor J Davis, stated, "I was here only for a few parts of

the Standing Rules and to have to wait until the very, very end so that I could speak - and you have already made up your minds - is ridiculous ... So, I agree with Mr. Orleans/my fellow resident on this ... Most of these changes are good ones ... but some are radical, radical changes ... When you're going to take a vote, that's when people want to have some comments. I certainly had some. Perhaps, council, you need to ask the question, do you really want public participation?"

Despite Davis' and Orleans' admonitions, council voted to approve Fritz's motion to restrict public comments until the end.

Jordan returned to the rule about scheduling worksessions and council voted to accept it.

After council had voted on three more proposed rules and council was on the seventh rule on its list, Councilmember Danielle McKinney raised again the issue of public participation. She asked if, at the end, after council has voted on including all the proposed changes in the package, "is there a way we can go through and review all the changes we have in the document, presenting what we have put through, so that we're clear about what we're voting on and then allow the public to respond to everything that is in here at the end? ... I do think there is merit in allowing the public to comment on all (i.e., every one) of the changes before we actually take a final vote."

Councilmember Silke Pope stated that if council listens to public comments only at the end, it could but probably would not make changes. Fritz noted that,

See COUNCIL, page 7

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City Council Considers Removing Pledge of Allegiance at Meetings

by Larry Beyna



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT/ZOOM

Council stands for the Pledge of Allegiance at a November, 2025 meeting.

At its February 9 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council considered a proposed change to its standing rules to stop reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of council meetings. The rule was proposed by Councilmember Frankie Fritz, who stated that "as a matter of conscience," he didn't support asking residents to do a pledge before each meeting. He argued that the Pledge of Allegiance is fine for private organizations, but not for Greenbelt. Also invoking the principle of separation of church and state, Fritz argued that a pledge of allegiance under God is not a neutral act.

In opposing the proposed rule, Councilmember Silke Pope made an impassioned response. "Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance before council meetings is a long-standing tradition deeply rooted in the history of our nation and in our shared civic life as a community. As a naturalized citizen, as an immigrant, I am proud to stand and say the pledge alongside everyone who wishes to do so," said Pope. "At the same time, I respect individual choice and anyone who does not wish to participate can remain seated."

Councilmember Amy Knesel offered her opinion, saying, "I really appreciate adding the (Greenbelt) community pledge (which council had voted to accept mo-

ments earlier). Then there are issues I have with the United States of America. I do not pledge allegiance to the flag. I will stand here; I do not cover my heart and I do not say the words nor will I ever ... I don't think it's a necessary way to start our meetings."

Councilmember Kristen Weaver added her view, "I do appreciate Councilmember Fritz bringing this forward, because I have very mixed feelings about many of these symbols (like the Pledge)

as well ... and to be perfectly honest, I usually skip the "under God" part because I don't like that that's in our Pledge of Allegiance," she said. "I understand the discomfort, but at the same time, some of this should be aspirational and I wish what the flag represents were not in such a mess with all the things that are happening. I'm not sure I'm in support of removing the pledge."

When it was time for public comment, residents expressed strong opposition to the rule to eliminate the Pledge of Allegiance. Resident and former mayor J Davis pointedly said this is "a very emotional thing that you are asking ... and maybe

you should put this on the ballot and have people vote. Otherwise, you're being very hypocritical. If you don't want to say the pledge, then take those flags away and just have the Greenbelt flag there." She went on to say that the pledge represents what the American Revolution was about and for what people had died.

Davis also suggested that if people knew about this proposed rule, there would be many more of the public at the meeting than the few who attended.

A resident wrote online, "I agree with Councilmember Pope that if somebody doesn't want to say the pledge, that's fine ... I don't think it should be removed because those who want to say it should not have their right removed."

When it came time to vote on Fritz's proposed rule about the Pledge, he said, "I understand this is a very emotional topic for members of the public, and that's why I brought it up. People can say the pledge (in other venues) ... but if you are coming to this meeting, are we intentionally going to ask every single person to make a decision? The same argument was made for school prayer: oh, you don't have to pray, but we know it influences people, and we know that neighbors, especially neighbors who might not look like their other neighbors, feel pressured to perform patriotism." Fritz concluded, "I'm not going to make a motion now, but I think the discussion needs to be had."

No action was taken on the proposed rule change to eliminate the Pledge - it was neither voted on nor tabled. Nineteen other changes to council's standing rules were voted on, all passing, and will go on for first and second readings. One was tabled (see article on page 1).

COUNCIL continued from page 6

given the trouble that had erupted during the earlier discussion on one of the proposed rules, his motion to hold off public comments until the end - which was accepted - was a way to order the debate so that people could have a chance to comment but also "so that we can get through this in a timely manner."

Finally, Weaver offered a compromise. She moved that council discuss four proposed rules at a time, then allow public comment on only those four, take rapid-fire votes on each with amendments, if any, and then proceed to address the next four. Fritz seconded Weaver's motion. The motion passed, and council resumed its discussion of the seventh rule on its list and addressed all the remaining proposed standing rules in batches of four until they were finished with all 21.

Resident Opposition

When it was time for public comments on a batch of four rules that included two regarding public participation - (a) the one allowing a person to comment only once on a given subject and allowing only three minutes per comment and (b) using sign-in sheets and comment cards at council meetings - several residents expressed strong opposition to the two proposed rules.

Davis said, "What I've always appreciated in Greenbelt is that the public was always listened to and given respect and other towns didn't ... I think most people in Greenbelt would agree that what you're trying to do is to restrict public participation. As far as meetings go, what happens if you're coming in on Zoom? You can't sign in. Is it going to be a sign-in sheet ahead of time ... and what if you have a question in the middle of a discussion?

"I appreciate that you're trying to make meetings efficient, brief, and maybe that's for convenience of the councilmembers ... but not at the expense of we the people!"

"Do you really want public participation? You say you do, but are you really encouraging that?"

Resident Michael Hartman, who was barely audible on the videotape of the meeting, appeared to agree with Davis. He

also had problems with the proposed sign-in sheet process and expressed concern about limiting the time people can speak.

Via Zoom resident Bob Rudd stated, "I'm aghast at the attempt to minimize the democratic process, inhibiting the public for the convenience or methodology or whatever of council. You're elected to do your job; you're elected to attend meetings. You knew ... what public input historically means in Greenbelt."

Council voted to accept the proposed rule allowing people to comment only once on a subject and to limit comments to no more than three minutes. It tabled the proposed rule on sign-in sheets and comment cards.

There was no motion to accept, reject or table the proposed rule on the Pledge of Allegiance (see separate story on this page), and council moved on to finish work on the remaining few proposed rules.

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Obituaries continued from page 4

International Tokyo Founding Chapter from 1978 to 1979.

Hatsumi is survived by her two sons, Charles Whitehead (Deborah) of Ithaca, a professor of law at Cornell University, and William Whitehead (Janet) of League City, Texas, a professor of anesthesiology at University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston; her grandchildren Alex, Brad, Jimmy, Jill and John Whitehead; and her brother Chujiro and sister Hiroko. She was preceded in death by her husband John and her brothers Marehiro and Kozo. Services will be private.

Beth Norden



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Beth Norden

Beth Mary Ball Norden, 74, of Greenbelt, died peacefully on February 10, 2026, while surrounded by her family at Georgetown University Hospital, after an eight-year battle with metastatic breast cancer, a fight that echoes the strength and determination that defined her life.

Beth was born on January 31, 1952, in Milwaukee, Wisc., to Thomas and Betty Ball (née Eddie). She was the oldest of three children, followed by Timothy Ball and Thomas Ball. From an early age, Beth displayed an independent spirit and an insatiable curiosity about the natural world. Although living with undiagnosed dyslexia, and at a time when girls were not encouraged to pursue science, Beth followed her passion and excelled. Rejecting family and social pressure to pursue more "traditional" interests, Beth preferred collecting insects in old

cigar boxes and reconstructing anatomically accurate skeletons from animal bones she found in the northern woods.

Despite her learning disabilities, Beth earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental education from Towson University in 1974 (a major she helped to create at the school) and went on to earn a Master of Science degree in biology in 1979. While working part-time at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bioenvironmental Bee Lab, and later as a Smithsonian pre-doctoral fellow in entomology conducting melon pollination research (and having two babies along the way), she completed her doctorate at the University of Maryland in 1985.

After briefly teaching at North Point Junior High in Arbutus, she accepted a position as a museum specialist at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum's Department of Entomology, where she built a distinguished career spanning almost 20 years. During this time, Beth conducted extensive field research in Sri Lanka, India, Brazil and locations throughout the United States, studying the biology and nesting behaviors of bees and wasps with her mentor, Karl Krombein. In addition to many scientific breakthroughs in the field of entomology, she helped discover a new wasp species, Krombeinictus nordenae Leclercq, 1996, named in their honor.

In 1996, she was awarded a Fulbright Senior Research Grant, which allowed her to conduct research in Sri Lanka. That same year, she was elected to the Washington Biologists' Field Club, where she and her husband, Butch, became the first husband-and-wife members.

Beth authored and coauthored numerous scientific papers and publications. She also had a gift for sharing science with children, writing two award-winning children's books: *The Bee* (1991),

which received a Gold Design Award, and *Magnification* (1993), a Children's Book Choice Award winner. Her creativity bridged science, theology and art. Using scanning electron microscopy, she transformed highly magnified images of insects and natural objects into striking works of art, which were featured in an installation at the Community Center and inspired her innovative pop-up book *Magnification*.

Two of Beth's great passions were science education and faith, two things that to some may seem contradictory. She was deeply devoted to education and found joy in making science accessible and exciting. She briefly returned to teaching for three years in 1989 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School to be more present for her young children. Although she loved teaching and creating curriculum for her high school research practicum and AP biology students, she found that she could not ignore her passion for conducting scientific research and returned to the Smithsonian. Still, she found ways to connect to her love of education and inspiring children including finding opportunities to lead lessons for scouts and elementary school classes, especially on insects and bees.

Her greatest joy has been her grandson, Will, the center of her world, and she delighted in nurturing his curiosity. Beth was an active and faithful member of Greenbelt Community Church from her move to Greenbelt in 1985, and at one time had been actively pursuing seminary studies until this dream was cut short by her initial cancer diagnosis.

Beth will be remembered for her kindness, brilliance, perseverance and boundless curiosity about the natural world. Everyone who met her was touched by her warmth and strength. Her legacy lives on in her family, her students and the countless lives she

inspired to look more closely at the wonders of creation.

Beth is survived by her husband of 51 years, Arnold "Butch" Norden, whom she met at Towson University and married on graduation day, June 1, 1974; her daughter, Heather Norden (Archibald "Bill" Wertz IV); her son, John Norden (Justin Norden); her cherished grandson, Archibald "Will" Wertz V; and her brother, Timothy Ball (Christy Holz). She was predeceased by her parents, Thomas and Betty Ball, and her brother, Thomas Ball.

No service is planned at this time, as Beth requested that a

joint celebration of life be held in the future with her husband.



Ole Hass Remembrance To be Held February 28

The Celebration of Life for Ole Hass will be held on Saturday, February 28 at 2:30 p.m., at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4512 College Avenue, College Park. There will be light refreshments afterward.

Letters cont'd from p.2

of information from PGCPS. At the February 12 public hearing, numerous families testified in support of the programs, but parents are concerned that their voices won't be considered in further decision-making.

The Board of Education votes on the budget proposal on February 26, and if they send the budget proposal in its present form (excluding the specialty programs) to the county level for approval, it will be much harder for the parents to advocate at the county level for funding these programs. It's like the Board of

Education is surrendering in advance, not asking the county for more money for these programs, instead cutting them preemptively.

The parents started a petition in support of the Language Immersion programs, which gathered 1,450 signatures from county residents in a week: change.org/p/save-pgcps-language-immersion-programs. Another petition supports the IB programs: change.org/p/stop-pgcps-from-eliminating-ib-pyp-myp-programs.

Alexandra Tyukavina

NEW DEAL continued from page 6

Hilliard closed by pledging to resolve the immediate crisis. "We're not going to lose the liquor license," he said. "I'm not going to allow New Deal to close on my behalf."

Campanile said mediation, required under the contract, is being pursued and urged continued patronage. "The best thing you can

do to help out right now is your continued support and patronage of the Café," Campanile said.

As of February 16, no decision has been made pertaining to the future of the New Deal Café.

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

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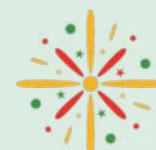


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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 9-15, 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 mental health diversions, one involving overdose; two sexual assaults; and one domestic incident. On February 14 children were found unsupervised, resulting in a report to Child Protective Services. On February 13 near 6510 Lake Park Drive, a woman was reported missing by a family member.

Shooting

On February 13 at 9:20 a.m. near 9113 Springhill Lane, a witness saw a man, wearing a ski mask and all black clothing, remove a firearm from his waistband and fire a shot at a dark-colored sedan that was leaving the area. Officers found a shell casing on the sidewalk, but no victims or suspects.

Fight

On February 13 at 1:25 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, there was a fight involving two girls.

Suspicious Person/Arrest

On February 9 at 7:39 p.m. near 7603 Mandan Road, officers encountered a man known to them from the previous day; he was arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Fraud

On February 9 near 8100 Bird Lane, a woman applied for unemployment and found out someone had opened an account without her knowledge.

On February 10 near 5801 Cherrywood Terrace, a woman applied for unemployment and found someone had already opened an account.

On February 10 near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, bank accounts were found to be opened in someone's name.

On February 10 near 42 Ridge Road, a stolen credit card was used to make a purchase before the account was frozen; near 9135 Edmonston Terrace, someone hacked a WhatsApp account and demanded money to unlock it.

On February 11 near 5813 Cherrywood Lane, someone saw a house for rent on social media and contacted the "realtor" to look at the house. After a few days of communication, they sent the suspect their personal information and a small amount of money.

Shoplifting and Theft

On February 9 at 7:46 p.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, two men took merchandise, walked past all points of sale, and fled on foot.

On February 10 at 6:30 p.m. near 6120 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a cellphone from the display and fled on foot.

On February 11 at 3:35 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man tried to steal property from the store; all items were recovered.

On February 13 at 4:12 p.m. near 7551 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise and fled.

On February 15 at 2:52 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman tried to steal merchandise and was banned from the store; at 6:24 p.m. near 9140 Edmonston Court, a man tried to sell an iPhone via Facebook marketplace and met with someone; he handed the unlocked phone to the person who then fled on foot.

Trespassing

On February 10 at 7:12 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a police officer was flagged down by security about a woman on the property who refused to leave; she was arrested and released on a criminal citation.

On February 13 at 8:37 p.m. near 7714 Hanover Parkway, a man was seen entering an apartment; officers determined no one was inside and re-secured the unit.

Vandalism

On February 13 at 11:04 p.m. near 227 Lakeside Drive, officers

observed a man banging on a door to gain entry; maintenance was contacted to repair the door.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on February 12 near 8018 Lakecrest Drive, a white Honda CRV (Md. 3GL5671), and near 151 Westway, a gray 2017 Acura MDX (Md. 8EY8608); and on February 14 near 6154 Springhill Terrace, a Honda Civic (Md. 8GV3640).

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On February 15 near 19 Ridge Road, a vehicle's door and steering column were damaged.

Vehicle Located

On February 11 near 7800 Good Luck Road, a vehicle thought to be stolen had been repossessed.

Theft from Auto

Tags were stolen: temporary tags on February 9 near 22 Crescent Road; rear tags February 14 near 7807 Mandan Road; and February 15 near 161 Westway.

On February 10 near 7600 Hanover Parkway, a Ford Escape had headlights stolen.

On February 11 near 7808 Greenbrook Drive, a Honda Civic had airbags stolen.

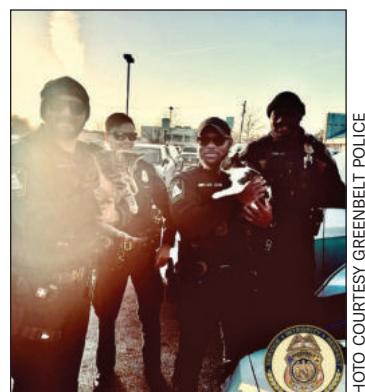
On February 13 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a 2025 Mazda CX-5 had all four tires stolen; nearby, a 2026 GMC Acadia had a window smashed and paperwork stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On February 13 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a 2021 Mercedes-Benz R63 AMG had the rear window smashed.

Kindness to Animals

On February 10, the Greenbelt Police Department received a call for help after a caller accidentally



Police officers hold the rescued kittens.

locked her keys inside her vehicle - with two kittens still inside. Officers responded quickly and were able to safely get the kittens out and make sure they were OK.

This is a great reminder that, in winter, vehicles can hold freezing temperatures and on other days - even mild ones - they can heat up fast. Our furry friends rely on us to keep them safe.



PGCPS continued from page 1

Flowers High School and Oxon Hill High School, all listed incorrectly under the subheading of aeronautics at time of press. Meanwhile cuts at DuVal, which has an aeronautics program were listed under science and tech. The snapshot projects \$1 million savings under science and tech and \$0.3 million under aeronautics.

The reduction of an assistant principal and professional school counselor at ERHS aligns with the information Principal Dr. Portia Barnes has received, she told the News Review. However, District 2 Board Member Jonathan Briggs told the News Review that the PGCPS administration had committed to no layoffs and Briggs also said Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph stated that staff will, at most, be moved to other roles if they are impacted.

Summer Bridge

The Summer Bridge program is a mandatory three-week course for students entering the county's rigorous STEM-focused high school programs. According to a 2025 PGCPS press release they served nearly 700 incoming ninth graders in aerospace, engineering and aviation technology, and in science and technology. "The program blends academic preparation with peer connections and real-world STEM exposure, laying the groundwork for a confident transition into high school," said a PGCPS description in August 2025. The programs emphasize hands-on experience and high school readiness, with guest speakers from the fields.

Last year's Summer Bridge program culminated in the Innovators of Tomorrow Competition at the University of Maryland (UM), "where students pitched prototypes and took on engineering challenges amid a backdrop of school spirit," with "real-world problems in challenges designed and judged by UM engineering students. Their solutions showcased the collaboration, creativity and critical thinking sharpened during Summer Bridge," according to the PGCPS website. ERHS took home the top honors at last year's competition.

"The Summer Bridge program continues to show strong outcomes, with attendance rates

nearing 96 percent, measurable academic growth from pre- to post-assessment, and a notable boost in student confidence," reported PGCPS last year, quoting one participant who said, "Without it, I would've been lost my freshman year."

AVID

AVID is a college preparatory elective course offered to selected students to reinforce organizational and study skills, critical thinking, inquiry and collaboration. Students receive academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college access possible.

Immersion Program

The budget proposes a transition out of Chinese Immersion at Greenbelt Middle School. Rising grades 7 and 8 students will be able to continue as the final cohorts of the program. The high school immersion programs at Largo will accept no new students this fall so immersion students from other PGCPS schools will be unable to continue their program at the high school level. For more on the proposed cuts to immersion programs see the February 4 issue.

Remaining Timeline

The budget timeline has violated PGCPS policies that state it should have been presented in December (see the February 11 issue). The final public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for February 19, in a meeting combined with a board worksession, and the board is set to vote on the budget on February 26.

Hunger Relief: Greenbelt PORCH Initiative

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food as scheduled below.

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 Mathew Street to Megan Court including Brett Place.

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Member of the Greenbelt Reparations Commission

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An eastern bluebird couple examines their birdhouse at Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH



A bird lover set out an array of artistically crafted seed cakes around Greenbelt Lake in January.

PHOTO BY MARC MANHEIMER



A view from the window into the Goddard Space Flight Center Library on February 4 and 5

PHOTO BY GNR SOURCE AT NASA GSFC

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NASA continued from page 1

irreplaceable historical documents are being illegally purged. GSFC's administration is claiming subject matter experts were consulted to determine which materials to keep, says a News Review source at GSFC, but the source alleges the librarians have not been able to consult anyone. A second source said their request that subject matter experts be consulted for materials in their area was denied. That source said librarians themselves were tasked with preserving approximately 10 percent of the collection.

The site NASA Watch also reports that trucks were scheduled to begin removing boxes from Goddard over the weekend and was also unable to get official comment on the latest developments with the library. However, NASA Watch reported a source says materials are being moved to the library at NASA's Glenn Research Center (GRC) in Ohio. A News Review source at Goddard said that any materials relocated to GRC would be a very small

percentage of what NASA's largest library once held, noting the GRC library is not very large.

Democrats in Congress have criticized cuts at NASA and building closures at Goddard, in particular, as following a White House budget proposal that faced bipartisan opposition in Congress. NASA leaders have denied this, saying they are following long-planned reductions that are part of a 20-year masterplan now being implemented on an accelerated schedule over months instead of years (see the November 6, 2025, issue). The library is not mentioned in that masterplan, nor is it housed in one of the buildings slated for closure. Under a union agreement, NASA was required to maintain the library at GSFC (see the January 8, 2026, issue) but recognition of the union was revoked through an executive order (EO 14343) by President Trump in August 2025 and its status is currently the subject of a legal dispute.

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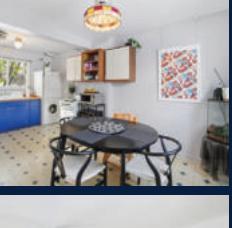


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A Review

Wifey Unknown Explores Range Of Emotions that Characters Feel

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY GREG YOUNG

From left, Abhisek Bhattacharya, Didhiti Mukherjee, Sumanta Banerjee and Lexi Kay perform in *Wifey Unknown* at the Greenbelt Arts Center.

Emotions run high in *Wifey Unknown*, an original play presented by the visiting Hattimatim-Team in association with Greenbelt Arts Center. The sufferings of an injured wife and her distracted husband come to a head over the course of this engaging two-act play, which grapples with deep philosophical questions. Can a young person set a new trajectory toward fulfilling her potential after the crushing loss of one life goal? Is being safe and secure worth the cost of being stifled? Does working hard to achieve wealth solve every problem, or create as many as it solves? Rita (Didhiti Mukherjee) had great potential as a young high jumper, but suffered a debilitating fall. She now feels trapped in a stagnating marriage. The playwright and director, Abhisek Bhattacharya, plays her husband, Yardley, who loves her, but is savaged by guilt from his role in the accident. A friend, Alice (Lexi Kay), steps in with a full emotional range from supportive friendship to clever glee to frustrated accusation, to mediate between the two grieving partners. Bhattacharya and Mukherjee excel at portraying their characters' grief, guilt, anger, regret and smidgens of hope based on the love they trust could still bloom between them. Each person in the play battles personal challenges and setbacks. While only Rita

uses a cane to walk, each person is hobbled by mental attitudes that hinder their full development.

Rita's father (Sumanta Banerjee) appears in nightmare form to curse and berate her. Dressed as a monster in a Dracula cape, he shouts that Rita is worthless and that she should jump from the window, portrayed on set as grated and inaccessible. Rita perceives her father as creating a prison for her as a young person, but is her home with four maids and a Michelin-starred chef any less of a prison?

The play harbors surprising and satisfying twists and turns, while moving between multiple timeframes: Yardley and Rita as teenagers before the accident, as a married couple and navigating their difficulties in the present day. Costuming and sets convey key details of each timeframe to help orient the viewer.

Born and raised in India, playwright Bhattacharya now lives in Bethesda. His plays have been widely produced both locally and abroad. *Wifey Unknown* explores relationship issues, lightly inflected by Bhattacharya's background, and certainly common across many cultures.

Wifey Unknown runs through Saturday, February 21 at Greenbelt Arts Center. Schedule and tickets are available online at greenbeltartscenter.org.



PHOTO COURTESY HILARY HOWES

Hilary Howes poses with the News Review at a beach resort at Pirates Bight on Norman Island in the British Virgin Islands where she is leading a group of adult sailing students for Annapolis Sailing School.

GCF Receives, Gives Grants

by Wayne Williams and Kevin W. Parker

They say it is better to give than to receive, but a nonprofit like the Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) needs to receive in order to give.

Accordingly, the GCF board of directors would like to thank the Prince George's County Council for its grant of \$8,500. The board would also like to express its gratitude toward those who donated a total of \$2,743 as part of its end-of-year campaign centered around Giving Tuesday. Last but not least, the board would like to thank both the Co-op Supermarket for making GCF their Round-Up charity for January 2026 and all those who contributed that way. The effort raised \$2,906.59.

On the giving end, the GCF has completed awarding grants as part of its fall 2025 cycle. The following three awards were funded by the grant from the county.

Higher Achievement

Higher Achievement received \$5,000 to support a program entitled Bridging the Opportunity Gap for Middle School Scholars in Greenbelt, Md. Higher Achievement has a well-established program to support development of students at under-resourced schools. The program is specifically designed to work with economically disadvantaged students, which is the largest demographic group at Greenbelt Middle School.

Higher Achievement offers out-of-school academic enrichment and social-emotional support to scholars in Greenbelt during the pivotal stage of middle school. Through targeted academic assistance, small-group mentoring and high school readiness programming, their staff partners with scholars and their families to achieve both immediate and long-term goals. By boosting academic performance and strengthening social-emotional skills for those in middle school, they prepare them for success in high school and beyond.

Regina's Popup Museum

Regina's Black Artifacts Popup Museum (RBAPM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to sponsoring pop-up museum activities for the Greenbelt community that are transformative for all. The \$3,000 grant supports RBAPM Themed Activities, a project to add storytellers, puppeteers, historians or character enactments at events for Black History Month, Juneteenth celebrations and other special events. These highlight and enhance different eras. The addition of themed activities and new artifacts gives the museum a fresh new look.

Greenbelt Concert Band

The Greenbelt Concert Band secured a \$503 grant for Engaging Young Audiences Through Music Participation. They plan to encourage children to participate in their annual Disney concert by dancing and playing small rhythm instruments. They will use the grant money to purchase items to be used in the activity. It will be interesting to see if and how the children join the presentation in a collaborative way.

The remaining awards were funded from GCF's reserves.

Fountain Club Swim Team

The Fountain Club Swim Team will use their \$5,000 grant in support of their land-based Youth Strength and Conditioning pro-

gram. This is a free, community-based initiative to help youth ages 10 to 14 build physical fitness, confidence and readiness for aquatic sports. Led by certified coaches and supported by local volunteers, the program offers weekly training sessions focused on strength, coordination and injury prevention. Integrated yoga, showcase events and family engagement create a holistic experience that promotes wellness, celebrates progress and fosters lasting connections among Greenbelt residents.

Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership

The Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA) Reparations Education Taskforce (GRET) was given \$1,440 to support its project titled Make Coming to the Table Greenbelt Sustainable. In 2021, Greenbelt voters passed a referendum that directed the city council to create a commission to review and discuss the issue of reparations for African Americans and Native Americans in the City of Greenbelt and make recommendations. GILA identified ways to support this Commission.

First on the list was providing educational opportunities for city residents to better understand the need for reparations and what they might accomplish. GRET was formed to provide further assistance and began to sponsor a successful series of group meetings for the public to engage in dialogue about race and racism through documentary films and readings.

GRET then discovered the Coming to the Table method of dialogue circles and began to experiment by holding small monthly discussions on selected topics, using the procedure developed by the Coming to the Table national organization. By the fall of 2025 a couple dozen people

were attending meetings. Each Coming to the Table meeting begins with a meal. Then a focus topic is introduced, followed by 45 minutes of facilitated discussion. Although there is a request for a free will offering, receipts have not been enough to make it a sustainable activity. With the help of the GCF grant, GRET hopes to increase attendance at the Greenbelt events to make the program sustainable and to increase the impact on the city.

The SPACE

The SPACE Free Art for All and Playtime Project received a \$500 grant to support a project they called Souper Friendsgiving on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025. This was planned to be a night full of activities, including a warm and delicious dinner, a DJ, hands-on art making and a clothing swap. They are hoping to make this a monthly event for people to meet, break bread and create opportunities for mutual aid and assistance within the community.

About GCF

GCF seeks to support a thriving, engaged community that is socially responsible, environmentally conscious and supports education, the arts and sciences. GCF does this by helping to fund community projects that build upon the ideals of collaboration, cooperation and engagement through the generous participation of individuals and organizations.

GCF welcomes grant applications at any time and reviews proposals twice each year. The deadline for the spring 2026 cycle is April 15. For more information or to make a donation, visit greenbeltfoundation.org.

Wayne Williams is chair of the Greenbelt Community Foundation communications committee and Kevin W. Parker is the foundation's president.



On February 7, Regina's Black Artifacts Popup Museum at the Community Center featured historical Black figures and Black inventions.

- Photos by Jenni Pompeo

