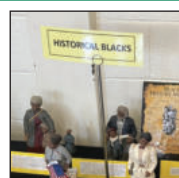




GAC play review, p.12



Black Artifacts, p.12

## 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 Pompei 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



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 greenbeltnmd.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



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.

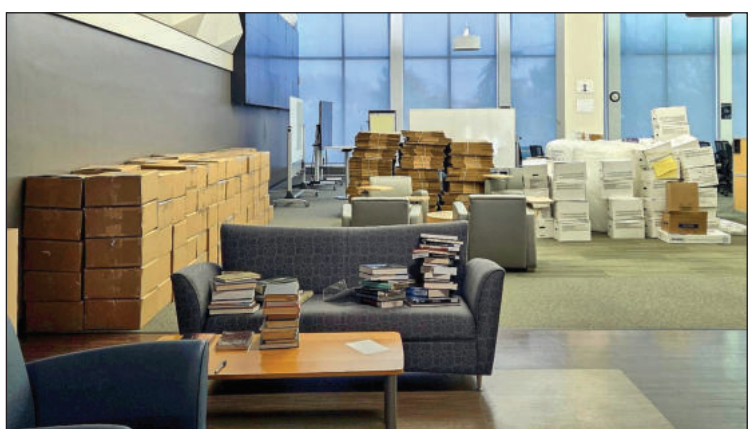
See NEW DEAL, page 6

## 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-



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



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  
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

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.

## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### “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 Fennel.

### Live Action Oscar Shorts

Butcher's Stain; A Friend of Dorothy; Jane Austen's Period Drama; The Singers; and Two People Exchanging Saliva

### Documentary Oscar Shorts

All the Empty Rooms; Armed Only with a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud; Children No More: "Were and Are Gone"; The Devil Is Busy; and Perfectly a Strangeness

### Animated Oscar Shorts

Papillon (Butterfly); Forevergreen; La jeune fille qui pleurait des perles (The Girl Who Cried Pearls); Retirement Plan; and The Three Sisters

### Summer of Soul

In his acclaimed debut as a filmmaker, Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson presents a powerful and transporting documentary – part music film, part historical record created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture and fashion. Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 1969, just one hundred miles south of Woodstock, The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park). The footage was never seen and largely forgotten – until now. 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, both past and present. The feature includes never-before-seen concert performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly & the Family Stone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Ray Baretto, Abbey Lincoln & Max Roach and more.

### Sugarcane

A stunning tribute to the resilience of Native people and their way of life, the debut feature documentary from Julian Brave Noise-Cat and Emily Kassie, is an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning. In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves was discovered on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities. Set amidst a groundbreaking investigation, the film illuminates the beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding the strength to persevere.



# 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](http://pgcmls.info/alerts).

### Storytimes

Friday, February 20, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15417925](http://pgcmls.info/event/15417925).

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

Thursday, February 26, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15418160](http://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](http://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 [dcdd.org](http://dcdd.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](http://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.

## 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](mailto: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](http://tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m) and complete the brief form. Direct questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## 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](http://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. Carolivia 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.

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television

+ February 2026 +

Verizon FiOS Channel 19 • Comcast Channel 77 • Streaming Online at [GreenbeltAccessTV.org](http://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!

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	
MON 2/23	TUES 2/24	WED 2/25	TH 2/26	New Deal Cafe
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	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.



# Obituaries

## Suzanne Krofchik



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Sue Krofchik

Suzanne (Sue) J. Krofchik 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 Krofchik.

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 Krofchik.

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



## Hatsumi Whitehead

Hatsumi Whitehead died peacefully on February 15, 2026, at the age of 91. She was born on December 7, 1934, in Kyoto, Japan, to Kenji and Yuki Takenaka. Hatsumi attended Kyoto Prefectural College before winning a highly competitive international scholarship from the Philanthropic and Educational Organization based in Rochester, N.Y., that allowed her to come to the United States in 1957 to attend Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio. There she received a Bachelor of Arts in political science international studies in June 1959.

During her time in college, she met John Whitehead whom she subsequently married in Kyoto in December 1960. They traveled extensively, due to John's and later Hatsumi's work in the Foreign Service, also living in the Soviet Union, Japan, Thailand, Turkey, Belgium and Bulgaria. In the United States, Hatsumi lived in Washington, D.C.; Greenbelt; Chantilly, Va.; Camas, Wash.; Ithaca, N.Y.; and Syracuse, N.Y.

The family lived in Greenbelt from the early 1960s until 1972, when John was transferred to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. They returned to Greenbelt and lived here again in the late 1980s in between foreign postings. Both John and Hatsumi were involved in their sons' school activities and the local Boy Scouts (John was a troop leader). For a time, Hatsumi was a member of the News Review staff, distributing the newspapers to the delivery carriers every week.

Hatsumi's career included work as a simultaneous English-Japanese translator, translating for U.S. government officials in Japan, such as President Jimmy Carter, his wife and Amy Carter as well as U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield and his wife. She was also the president of the Ikebana

See OBITUARIES, page 8



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) Krofchik, 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 Kokumo, 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](http://cathcomgreenbelt.org)  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**  
**OR - Join us on ZOOM!**  
For ZOOM link:  
[CCGI985+owner@groups.io](https://ccgi985+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](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

February 22, 2026, at 3 p.m.

**Troubled Waters**

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Carol Boston

In the spirit of our February theme (Centering Love) and African-American History Month, we'll center ourselves in a service contemplating the lived experience of the Middle Passage.

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](https://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

**We Are an Open and Affirming Church**

**Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship**  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)


**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.

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

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





# City Information & Events

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

### MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 23-27

Tuesday, February 24 at 3:30pm, **SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** *On the Agenda: Approval of August Meeting Minutes, Discussion of the Not For Seniors Only Open Forum*

Tuesday, February 24 at 7pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION** *On the Agenda: Student Council Representatives Meeting, Educator Awards Preparations - March 18, 2026, Proposed FY26 Budget for City Budget*

Tuesday, February 24 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** *On the Agenda: TBD*

Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30pm, **WORK SESSION - BOARD OF ELECTIONS 2025 ELECTION UPDATE**

Thursday, February 26 at 7pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** *On the Agenda: Update on Deer Exclosures (presentation by Peter May), FPAB Planning Document, Review Indian Creek Park Planning, FPAB Recruitment - student / youth member*

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

### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 23 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
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
  - \* National Heart Health Month
  - \* Greenbelt Middle School Student Essay Contest Winners Recognition
- Minutes
- Administrative Reports
- Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- Resolution to change the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) name to the Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety (ACAPS)
- 2nd Reading and Adoption


OTHER BUSINESS

- LimnoTech Update
- Mandatory Referral MRF-2023-012, Springhill Lake Elementary School, 6060 Springhill Drive
- Go! Prince George's Countywide Master Plan of Transportation, City of Greenbelt Comments
- Council Policy Discussion on Collective Bargaining Decisions for Code and Charter Amendments
- Legislative Review: State and County Bill
- Council Reports
- Council Activities
- Meetings

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

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

### FEATURED PETS



#### STORM

Ready for Adoption?  
**Call (301) 474-6124**

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

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

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.

### CURRENT GAIL PROGRAMS


CARES is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, email Katherine Farzin at [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 542-2019.

- **OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ADULTS** 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required.
- **FREE MONTHLY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION** Greenbelt Residents Only. First time participants must provide proof of residency, state-issued ID, birth certificate (or copy) for each child.

### MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

**February 19, March 19, and April 16 at 1 pm**  
*Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road*

The Monthly Food Distribution is a community resource here for you, your family, your neighbors - everyone! The dates are February 19, March 19, and April 16 located at Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 at 1:00pm while supplies last. Please don't forget to bring your CAFB card! Don't have one? You can sign-up for a free card same-day and receive food.



### GREENBELT BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

**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.*

### CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION RESOLUTIONS

**Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7pm**  
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

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

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

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

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


The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed annexations on March 9, 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

### GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



\* VOLUNTEER \* VACANCIES \*  
**APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!**

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

### ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts) for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx).

**Spring and Summer Camp Registration**  
Registration is now open to both Greenbelt residents and non-residents! Find the full camp guide, including information on how to register on the City of Greenbelt's camp homepage: [www.greenbeltmd.gov/676/Camps](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/676/Camps). A variety of programs are offered - from outdoor adventures to theater and art camps. Programs are open to youth ages 3 ½ - 17 years.

**March Artful Afternoons**  
3/1, 1-2pm & 2-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) and 3/8, 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center). Enjoy a FREE painting activity inspired by the current exhibition of work by Amy Sherald at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Please sign up here: [sugeni.us/ePWG](http://sugeni.us/ePWG). Walk-ins also welcome as space and supplies allow.

**YOUTH MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**  
*Greenbelt Community Center gym*

- **"The School For Super-Heroes Presents 'Orlando Furioso', The Musical."** 3/7 at 7pm, 3/8 at 3pm, 3/14 at 2pm & 7pm. (Tickets: \$5).
- **"The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant"**, a prologue to "Orlando Furioso" suitable for young audiences. 3/8 at 1pm and 3/13 at 7pm. (Tickets: free).

Tickets required for both shows; contact the Community Center business office: 301-397-2208.

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.



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 micromanaged 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

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 sign-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, Pompei 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,

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GAC

HATTI MARIM TEAM

WIFEY UNKNOWN

Written & Directed by Abhisek Bhattacharya

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

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

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. Short term and part time.

**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](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)



# City Council Considers Removing Pledge of Allegiance at Meetings

by Larry Beyna

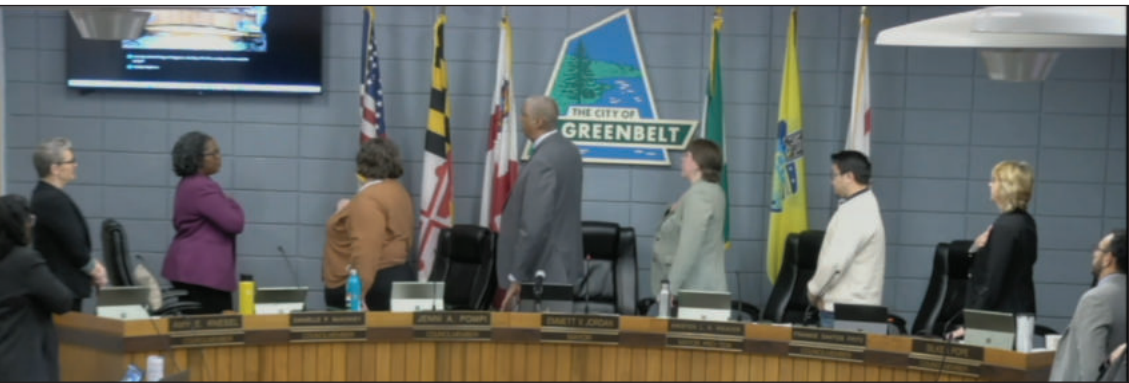


PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT/ZOOM

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 longstanding 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.

### City Notes

The City Manager and Public Safety/Community attended a contractor roundtable meeting. Code Enforcement inspected four commercial suites, 10 Greenway Center stores and 22 rentals; issued two building permits; and assessed snow and ice in several neighborhoods. Public Works continued snow and ice removal and equipment repairs.

Park Rangers and the Public Information Officer worked on audiovisual problems in the Council Chamber.

Animal Shelter residents are six cats, six kittens and two dogs. Fourteen dog park permits are active and 104 spay/neuter vouchers have been issued, with 62 redeemed.

The Community Center hosted a Black History event and a blood drive. Arts held an Artful Afternoon at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and continued rehearsals for the Winter Youth Musical.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted an art social for seniors and provided inclusion support for Parents’ Night Out.

CARES welcomed two Public Health interns from the University of Maryland. The Community Education/Workforce Development Coordinator attended Greenbelt Middle School’s annual career fair.



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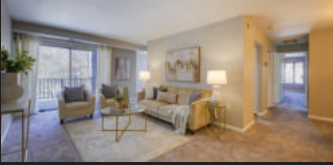
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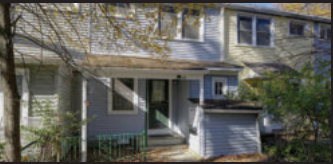
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# Obituaries continued from page 4

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



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 Ednie). 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-pgcp-language-immersion-programs](https://change.org/p/save-pgcp-language-immersion-programs). Another petition supports the IB programs: [change.org/p/stop-pgcp-from-eliminating-ib-pyp-myp-programs](https://change.org/p/stop-pgcp-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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PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

An eastern bluebird couple examines their birdhouse at Greenbelt Lake.



PHOTO BY MARC MANHEIMER

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

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.



PHOTO BY GNR SOURCE AT NASA GSFC

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

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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](http://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](http://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 Pompi

