

Fair Housing, Part 2, p.9



New community dog, p.13

## Collective Bargaining, Flooding And a New School Occupy Council

by Diane Oberg

The focus of the February 23 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council appeared to be on communicating as council gave guidance to the lawyers working on the changes needed to expand collective bargaining rights to all city employees, heard a status report on development of a flood resiliency plan for parts of the city and provided comments on the plans for a new Springhill Lake Elementary School and the countywide transportation master plan.

### Collective Bargaining

Council briefly discussed several questions raised by City Manager Josué Salmerón so that he can give appropriate guidance to the lawyers working to extend bargaining rights beyond the police. Council has already made changes to the law to grant Public Works employees collective bargaining rights and is working on how best to extend that right more broadly.

Most councilmembers agreed that there should be a neutral third party to designate bargaining units (BU). Four councilmembers

avored permitting part-time employees to be included in BU, with Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope opposed.

There was more diversity about how many non-police BU there should be. Pope favored a single BU; Fritz said that Public Works should have its own as the nature of the work is much different; Councilmembers Jenni Pompei, Danielle McKinney and Amy Knesel were in favor of multiple BU. Jordan and Pope expressed concern about the difficulties of negotiating with multiple BU. Pope said, "I don't know how we can do for three what we do for one." (Councilmember Kristen Weaver was absent on travel.)

### Flood Resiliency

Project Manager Anouk Savineau and Brad Udvardy of LimnoTech reported on their work on developing a flood resiliency plan. Based upon community input at an August 2025 public meeting and the results of an

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

## City Master Plan for Indian Creek Park Nearly Final; Multi-use in Small Space

by Erica Johns

The city held a community meeting for public review and input for the Indian Creek Park concept plan at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Tuesday, February 17. The city-contracted Mahan Rykiel Associates landscape architecture firm reviewed the plan they updated based on community feedback from a November 2025 meeting and resident emails since then. Greenbelt's Assistant Director of Planning Jaime Fearer expected the February 17 plan to likely go forward, with only minor revisions.

### Park Location

The park is in Greenbelt West, bounded on the west by Indian Creek, the Greenbelt Station neighborhood and the Concrete Institute property; on the east by Cherrywood Lane and the Prince George's Scrap facility; on the south by Branchville Road; and on the north by woodlands south of Greenbelt Metro station. It currently consists of an open field with the paved Indian Creek trail

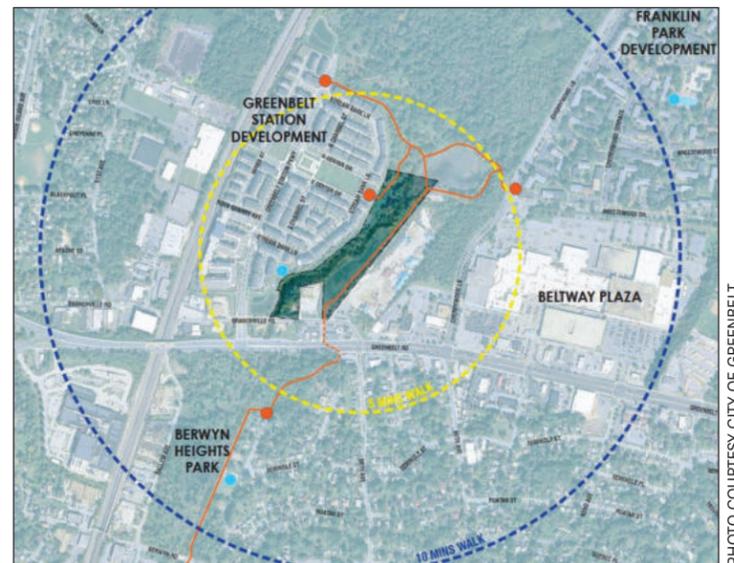


PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The planned Indian Creek Park will replace the open field next to Indian Creek Trail in Greenbelt West, between Cherrywood Lane and the Greenbelt Station neighborhood. Orange lines indicate the Indian Creek trail (in the dark green area) and other trails. The yellow and blue circles indicate five and ten minute walk radii.

on its eastern side, connecting to trails at Greenbelt Station's north end and to Cherrywood Lane. The narrow site is constrained by the surrounding properties and

Indian Creek and its floodplain, making it challenging to fit community members' requested features into the design.

See **INDIAN CREEK**, page 10

## March 10 Town Hall on Cell Service Follows 8 Years of Cell Tower Debate

by Stephen Lotz

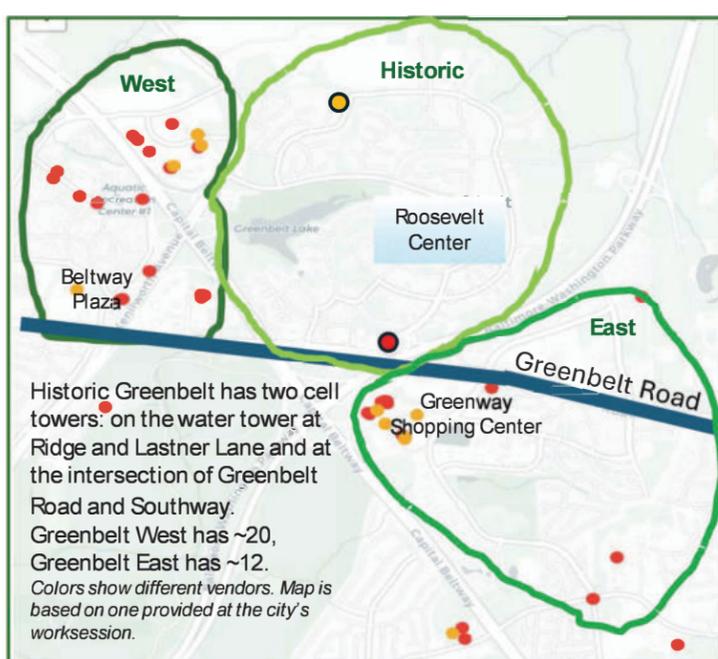
In Greenbelt, the debate over cellphone infrastructure has shifted over the past eight years. What began in 2017 with opposition to a proposed cell tower near Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) has evolved into broader concerns about service reliability and coverage gaps across the city.

### 2017: ERHS Tower Proposal

The modern debate intensified in spring 2017, when Milestone Communications proposed constructing a 105-foot "marquee" cell tower on the grounds of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

At the April 24, 2017 Greenbelt City Council meeting, the proposal dominated discussion and drew substantial resident opposition (see the May 3, 2017, News Review). The tower would have been located near Greenbelt Road on elevated ground, increasing its visibility across surrounding neighborhoods. Councilmembers raised concerns about the tower's height, its proximity to nearby homes in Greenwood Village and whether residents had been properly notified.

Because the property belonged to Prince George's County Public Schools under a broader agreement with Milestone, the city's authority to block the installation was limited. Council voted to send letters expressing concerns to county officials and the company. In May 2017, following



MAP COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT, EDITED BY CATHIE MEITRE

### Cell phone towers in Greenbelt

criticism from local officials and the Board of Education representative for the district, Milestone withdrew its application (see the May 11, 2017, issue).

Looking back, Mayor Emmett Jordan said public attitudes have shifted. "It's just a different time than it was in 2017," he said, noting that concerns about radiation were more prominent during the earlier debate.

### 2020: Small Cell Facilities

The issue resurfaced in a See **CELL TOWERS**, page 7

### What Goes On

**Monday, March 9**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, March 11**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Advisory Board/Committee Interviews, virtual

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for more information.

## For the First Time in 30 Years Greenbelters Can Adopt Pit Bulls

by Stephen Lotz

When Doreen Clower comes home and calls out "puppy love," Milo races down from the top of the steps to greet her. Other times he climbs onto the edge of her bed, lifts his paws around her neck and rests his head on her shoulder. "That just makes me feel like he knows that I'm Mommy," Clower said.

For the first time in nearly three decades, a dog like Milo, classified as a pit bull, can legally live in Greenbelt. Prince George's County's pit bull ban, in place since the late 1990s, prevented pit bulls from being adopted by county residents, including those in Greenbelt. Volunteers could walk and care for the dogs at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter, but residents could not adopt them.

That changed when the county overturned the ban in November 2025, creating a pilot program that allows local adoption with additional training and licensing re-

quirements. "I think it's just really amazing now that we can actually adopt out the dogs that come to our shelter in Greenbelt to actual Greenbelt residents," said Claire Morse, a Greenbelt animal shelter volunteer.

### A Stray Named Nemo

Milo, originally named Nemo,

See **PIT BULLS**, page 11

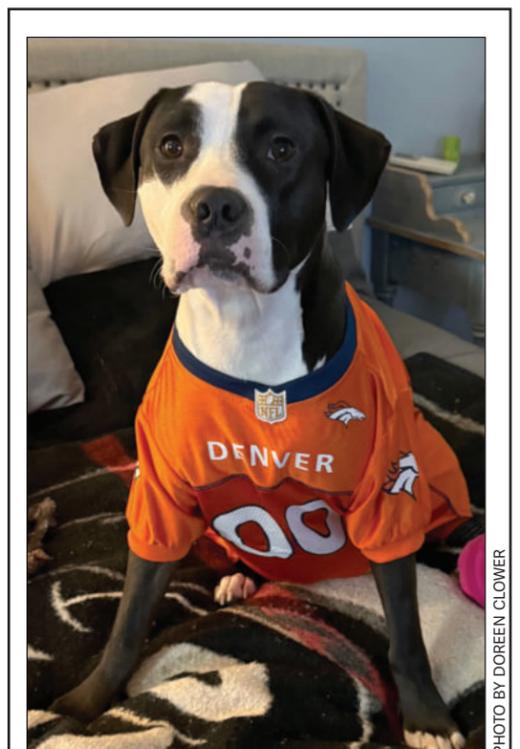


PHOTO BY DOREEN CLOWER

Milo in his Denver Broncos jersey

## Thanks for All the News

The Greenbelt News Review is a grateful recipient of a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation, one purpose of which is to allow us to print more pages than ad revenue supports. This week, thanks to that grant we are able to provide our readers with 16 pages of news, events and photos. Our thanks to the Foundation.

## Letters to the Editor

### Have You No Sense Of Decency, Sir?

In a recent council meeting, Mayor Emmett Jordan shouted down a resident who attempted to claim their right to speak (guaranteed under council's rules) after his raised hand was deliberately ignored. Longtime residents like myself will recall that this was not the first time Jordan has shouted down a resident. Moreover, he has shouted down fellow councilmembers in the past as well.

Now, anger can be a powerful tool when deployed correctly. For example, justified anger at higher layers of government or other sources of power is one way to advocate for oneself and others. However, I can't recall a single time Jordan has lost his temper at a corporation who is defrauding residents, county officials who are hurting Greenbelters (e.g., by removing our full-time firefighters), state officials who are exacerbating problems in our area (e.g., by failing to investigate utilities for rate hikes) or federal officials who are ignoring our problems (e.g., by allowing our post office to get worse and worse). Instead, Jordan always seems to lose his temper at constituents and fellow councilmembers.

Anyone who selectively deploys anger at those who are less pow-

erful (or are seen as below that person) is demonstrating abuse of power rather than leadership. And yet, council appears to be lining up behind Jordan to further limit the ability of residents to speak at meetings, all while refusing to hold anyone with a modicum of power to account. Greenbelt deserves better.

Alexander Zajac

### Retain the Pledge Of Allegiance

I wanted to thank Greg Gigliotti for his inspiring message in the February 26 Greenbelt News Review (page 6) regarding The Pledge of Allegiance. I agree with his well stated reasons for retaining The Pledge for the opening of council meetings. My father served in the United States Navy, and I learned a lot from him about the sacrifices of the men and women who served our country in WWII. I believe it must mean something to be an American. The Pledge gives us that meaning in its words "liberty and justice for all."

Those words stand for something. Something special, something uniquely American. The Pledge of Allegiance is a unifier. Like Mr. Gigliotti, I also urge

See **LETTERS**, page 4

### On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

#### Sirat

A father (Sergi López) and his son arrive at a rave deep in the mountains of southern Morocco. They are searching for Mar - daughter and sister - who vanished months ago at one of these endless, sleepless parties. Surrounded by electronic music and a raw, unfamiliar sense of freedom, they hand out her photo again and again. Hope is fading, but they push through and follow a group of ravers heading to one last party in the desert. As they venture deeper into the burning wilderness, the journey forces them to confront their own limits.

#### EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert

Elvis sings and tells his story like never before in a new cinematic experience from visionary filmmaker Baz Luhrmann. Said critic Adam Graham of the Detroit News, "The film is a work of deep reverence and affection; Luhrmann wants audiences to feel what he feels from Elvis, and it comes bursting through the screen."

#### 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

#### Alien

In deep space, the crew of the commercial starship Nostromo is awakened from their cryo-sleep capsules halfway through their journey home to investigate a distress call from an alien vessel. The terror begins when the crew encounters a nest of eggs inside the alien ship. An organism from inside an egg leaps out and attaches itself to one of the crew, causing him to fall into a coma.



## 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:  
MARCH 6th - 12th

#### Sirat (R)

(CC) (DVS) (2025) (120 mins)

Spanish with English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 7:45 PM, Sat. 5:15 PM

Sun. 2:30 PM (OC)

Tues. 5:20 PM, Thurs. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Mon. 4:15 PM

Wed. 8:00 PM

#### EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13)

(CC) (DVS) (2025) (96 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:15 PM

Sat. 8:00 PM, Sun. 5:10 PM

Tues. 8:00 PM, Thurs. 5:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Mon. 2:00 PM

Wed. 5:40 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

Mon. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 7:45 PM

Tues. 5:40 PM, Thurs. 7:50 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

Mon. 1:40 PM, Wed. 6:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:00 PM, Sun. 2:00 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 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 8:15 PM, Sat. 5:30 PM

Sun. 5:30 PM, Tues. 8:15 PM

Thurs. 5:45 PM

#### Alien (R) (1979) (117 mins)

Film in Focus

Led by Caetlin Benson-Allott

Capped at 25 - Event pricing

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Mon. 7:00 PM

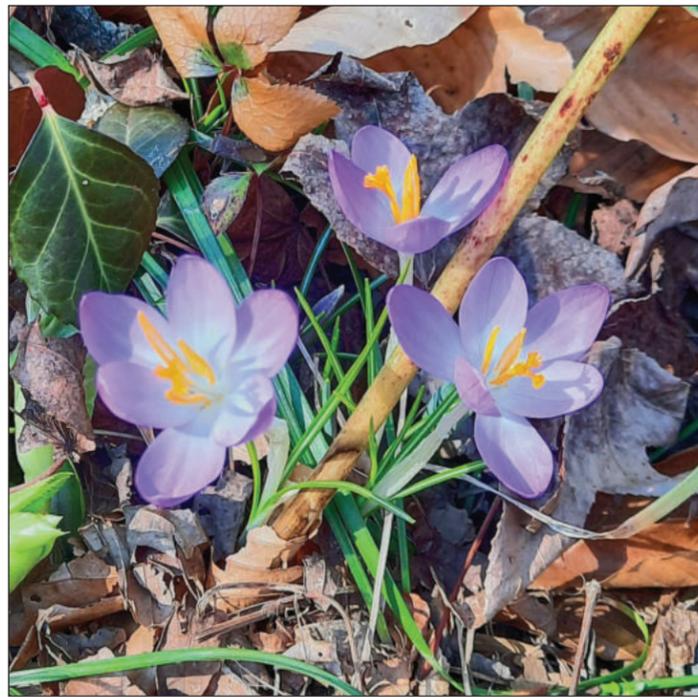


PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Crocuses are beginning to bloom, a little later this year because of the snow.

### Corrections

The February 26 article about Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing misattributed two items. The correct information follows.

- Marie Unger remembered their window being shot. "My mother Pat was at the window doing dishes and heard a noise. She found a tiny hole in the window and assumed it was because of [GCFH]."

- Hopi Auerbach said her mother Mary told her one reason it was difficult to convince Blacks to move into GHI was because "if you're going to be the first person in your family to own a home, that's not what you want it to look like, because it looked like government housing; they wanted single family homes."

visit [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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

### Storytimes

Friday, March 6, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15668570](http://pgcmls.info/event/15668570).

Wednesday, March 11, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15661316](http://pgcmls.info/event/15661316).

Thursday, March 12, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15668553](http://pgcmls.info/event/15668553).

### Lego Build

Monday, March 9, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12 (elementary). Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15622909](http://pgcmls.info/event/15622909).

### Play and Grow

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPs Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is for interest only and not a guarantee of space. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/15645207](http://pgcmls.info/event/15645207).

## Bibliophiles Meet On March 11

The Bibliophiles will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 11 a.m. at the New Deal Café for their monthly meeting, in which the participants discuss a book that they have all read before attending.

The book to be discussed in March is *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, an exploration of the social and cultural tensions inherent in European colonization of Africa, through the lens of Nigeria's colonial history. Following the abolition of slavery in the U.S., European powers sought colonial footholds in Africa as a source of cheap raw materials. At the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, countries reached lateral agreements to invade, partition and colonize Africa; the area of Africa under European control rose from 10 percent in 1870 to 90 percent in 1914.

For more information about Bibliophiles or the book to be discussed, email Van Caldwell at [vwaldwell@gmail.com](mailto:vwaldwell@gmail.com).

## Greenbelt Concert Band Pays Tribute to Cherrix

Join the Greenbelt Concert Band on Saturday, March 21 at 3 p.m. for a special tribute concert honoring former director and longtime member Tom Cherrix. Celebrate his legacy and dedication to community music with an afternoon of meaningful and inspiring performance.

This event at the Community Center is free and open to the public. Learn more at [greenbeltconcertband.org](http://greenbeltconcertband.org).

The Greenbelt Concert Band is seeking volunteers to help make this special concert a success.

Volunteer tasks include moving percussion equipment at 2 p.m. (meet in Room 201); setting up chairs for musicians and audience at 2 p.m. (meet in the gym); staffing the welcome table and greeting attendees; and returning percussion equipment, chairs and other materials after the concert. Student service-learning hours provided. Email L'I Dan Celdran, general manager, at [gcb-manager@greenbeltconcertband.org](mailto:gcb-manager@greenbeltconcertband.org) to sign up or request more information.



## Women's History Concert By Greenbelt Orchestra

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give a free concert on Sunday, March 22 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym. The concert will celebrate Women's History Month with an entire program of women composers, including an overture by Swedish composer Elfrida Andrée and a symphony by French composer Louise Farrenc, both written in the 1800s, as well as short pieces from the 20th century by Judith Bailey and Amy Beach, and the world premiere of a new work by local composer Veronica Maidoh.

For more information about the orchestra, visit [greenbeltorchestra.org](http://greenbeltorchestra.org).

## Tax Prep. Assistance

AARP's income tax return preparation assistance resumed this year in Greenbelt, coordinated through GIVES. It takes 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.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## March Is the Month Of Francophonie



PHOTO BY XAVIER COURBOULE

### A little free library celebrates Francophonie Month.

All month long, "la boîte à mots," a little free library at 5 Lakeview Circle, is offering free illustrated children's books in French and Creole as well as a collection of French literary books to enjoy.

## Français, s'il Vous Plaît: At the Youth Center

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the Youth Center every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages and all levels of fluency are welcome.

## GIVES Quarterly Membership Meeting

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will hold its next quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 202. All members are invited to attend. Come hear the news firsthand and enjoy socializing with other members.

Not a member? GIVES is a 501 (c)(3) organization of neighbors helping neighbors. The only requirements for membership are that one must be a resident of Greenbelt and 18 years old or older. Curious? Come as a guest and find out if membership is a good match for you, a neighbor or a loved one.

## Senator Washington's Dog and Pet Event

State Senator Alonzo Washington is sponsoring a dog and pet show on Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway. Bring your pooch or porcupine, rabbit or guinea pig to join in the fun.

## Yarn Donations Needed

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

## ERHS Mattress Sale

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Music Program is hosting a Mattress Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the cafeteria at ERHS, 7601 Hanover Parkway. Shop brand-name mattresses (Purple, Helix and more) at discounted prices, with financing and delivery available. All purchases support the ERHS Music Program. Open to the public. For more information or questions, call 301-351-0205.

## Labor Day Festival Annual Meeting

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival is organized by an all-volunteer committee. They will hold their annual membership meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. The meeting will include the election of the board of directors, approval of proposed changes to the bylaws and approval of the 2026 proposed budget. All are welcome to attend, and new volunteers are always needed. For more information about the Festival, visit [greenbeltlaborday.com](http://greenbeltlaborday.com).

## Rotary Hosts Pumpkin Festival Queen

The Greenbelt Rotary Club's monthly speaker series returns Thursday, March 12, with a special presentation by Stacy Stewart, the current Pumpkin Queen. Stacy will share the history of the beloved Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival, reflect on how it has evolved over the years and offer a glimpse into its future. As this is Stacy's final year as Pumpkin Queen, she is seeking a passionate community member to step into the role for 2027, so if you've ever wanted to be part of this cherished local tradition, this is the chance to learn more.

There are also many roles for supporting volunteers. Who will be the next Pumpkin Monarch and their team? The event will be at the Community Center, with refreshments and conversation at 6:30 p.m. before the 7 p.m. presentation.

The Rotary Club meets every Thursday morning at 8 a.m. at the Greenway Center IHOP, except the second Thursday when the club hosts this speaker series.



## Community Town Hall: Let's Talk Cell Service

Have thoughts about cellphone coverage in Greenbelt? Come to a town hall with city administration and cellphone providers on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the City of Greenbelt Council Chambers in the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road. Discussions will include coverage concerns, infrastructure and ways to work together to improve connectivity for city residents. All voices matter - come join the conversation.

For questions or more information, email Constituent Services Coordinator Gizelle Alvarez at [galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov).

## This Week at the New Deal Café

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

BECOME A MEMBER!\*

**NEW DEAL CAFE**  
Greenbelt, MD

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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**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 3/05  | FRI 3/06  | SAT 3/07   | SUN 3/08  |
|--|---|--|---|
| Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam<br>6:30 - 10pm<br>Big, bodacious, boogie blues jam with veteran musicians | Moxie Blues Band<br>8 - 11pm<br>Very unique song list covering a wide range of blues and soul | Still Standing w/ Big Boy Little and Linwood Taylor<br>8 - 11pm<br>Hot Rockin' Blues, Roots and Rockabilly | ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12pm<br>Corned Beef Hash<br>6 - 8pm<br>Get Your Green on Early and Celebrate Purim!<br>Irish jigs and reels, and Yiddish music |
| MON 3/09   | TUES 3/10   | WED 3/11   | TH 3/12   |
| LIVE BAND KARAOKE<br>w/ Mike Scott and Friends<br>7 - 9:30pm   | NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason<br>6 - 9:30pm<br>Sign ups begin at 6pm                            | BIBLIOPHILES BOOK CLUB, 11a - 12p<br>NDC Quarterly Meeting<br>6:30 - 8:30pm<br>Members & visitors welcome  | The Lifters 7 - 9pm<br>An infectious blend of original rock 'n soul led by Jon Steinmen   |
|  |   |  | <b>New Deal Cafe</b><br>IT'S TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC!<br>See link below*  |

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

+ March 2026 +

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

Annual Member Meeting: **Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 5pm** at GATE's Studio (15 Crescent, Suite 204) we shall recap pivotal moments from last year, discuss future goals, eat and be merry!

+ Featured Productions +

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now

Coverage of local events, performances and productions

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!

# Obituaries

## Ann Louise Quirante



Ann Louise (McCord) Quirante

PHOTO BY JUDY MCCORD

It is with great sadness that the family of Ann Louise (McCord) Quirante announces her death on February 19, 2026, at the age of 78, following a year-long illness. Born on April 24, 1947, Ann Louise was a devoted wife, mother, daughter and sister whose kindness and faith touched many lives.

Ann Louise retired after more than 33 years of federal service, including 10 years as a dedicated Navy spouse. She spent her early years in Greenbelt, where she was raised and educated, and later lived in the Norfolk and Virginia Beach areas after marrying in her 20s. Despite moving away, she maintained lifelong ties to Greenbelt, returning often for family gatherings and cherished traditions.

As a young woman, she worked at the Greenbelt Theatre and remained deeply connected to the community throughout her life. She never missed the annual Labor Day Festival, especially enjoying the local bands and Elvis impersonator alongside her mother and sisters. A familiar face at Maria's Beauty Salon, Ann Louise treasured her many friendships and had a remarkable memory for the details of people's lives.

Known for her warmth, generosity and strong faith, she took

special joy in accompanying her mother to St. Hugh's Church during her visits. Ann Louise will be remembered for her loving heart, enduring friendships and deep devotion to family and community.

Ann Louise is survived by her husband, Thomas Quirante; her children, Kimberly and Paul; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her mother, Ann McCord; and her sisters, Colleen (McCord) Washburn, Joan McCord and Judy McCord. She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph McCord, and her parents-in-law, Betty and Paul Quirante. She will be deeply missed and forever loved by her family.

A Funeral Mass will be held on March 24, 2026, at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church in Virginia Beach, Va., followed by inurnment at Albert G. Horton Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, Va. Flowers may be sent to HD Oliver Funeral Apartments, 2002 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Those who wish may make a memorial contribution in Ann Louise's honor to the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation. Family and friends are also welcome to share memories and messages of remembrance through Ann Louise's online Tribute Wall at <https://tinyurl.com/t3cnswt9>.

— Judy McCord

## Letters cont'd from p.2

council to retain the Pledge of Allegiance.

Donna Almquist

### Council's Standing Rule Changes

Council voted to restrict public comments until the end of the possible 21 changes. Councilmember Frankie Fritz moved to "allow comments from the public only after council had considered (and voted on) all the recommended standing rules."

According to the February 19, 2026, News Review, "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."

I believe the current and newly elected council has become bureaucratic and dictatorial. It thinks public participation is not needed and time consuming. Council listened to the public comments, but paid little attention.

Council will vote on the proposed rules on sign-in sheets and comment cards in a later meeting. Approving these two rules would further restrict public comments. Making public comments would then become very difficult.

Greenbelt is a planned community born out of the Great Depression of the 1930s. At the 2020 census, the population was 24,921. In the 2025 election 3,344 ballots were cast. It seems that council is making decisions based on its election by a small percentage.

Dennis Griffin

### Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on page 2 for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

## City Notes

Human Resources hosted a leadership training on Conflict Management, attended by most department supervisors. Public Information continued the upgrade of the city's studio, including a new soundboard.

Code Enforcement inspected 15 commercial suites and eight rentals and observed a WSSC/county health department inspection of a food service establishment.

After two adoptions, Animal Shelter residents are five cats, five kittens and two dogs.

Public Works filled potholes and, between snow events, cleaned and repaired snow and salting equipment. Parks conducted an annual evaluation of bus stops, assessing condition, accessibility and maintenance needs. Recycling/Sustainability responded to and resolved an illegal dumping incident.

Recreation oversaw continuing work on the ballpark improvement project: contractors began demolishing steel fencing to be replaced with vinyl. The Community Center hosted the Black History and Culture Committee Essay and Reenactment event and Center staff have processed over 500 camp applications.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted Senior Tech Café with help from Information Technology and an estate planning presentation.

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
 Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors  
 Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc) or [www.mowattumc.com](https://www.mowattumc.com)  
 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**  
 We Are an Open and Affirming Church  
**GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 One Hillside Road  
 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)

## Lenten Agape Meals

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, will be hosting its annual series of Agape Meals on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through Wednesday, March 25. The event is free and open to the public.

Agape meals are a Lenten tradition for the church and named using the Greek word for the unconditional, unearned love that God has for all. Each simple meal of soup, bread and salad is preceded by a short devotional lesson. A free-will offering will be donated to the missions of the church.

The church is at 1 Hillside Road and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming to all.



Our condolences to the family of Ann Louise (McCord) Quirante, who died on February 19, as well as to her friends from the greater Greenbelt community.

Congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School basketball teams! The girls team is the one seed in their region, while the boys are the three seed in their newly aligned region.

Congratulations to Doreen Clower on the adoption of her dog Milo, the first pit bull adopted in Greenbelt in 30 years.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto: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.

**NR Nonprofit?**  
 Get your message here for \$16.20.  
[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

**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:  
[CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://www.zoom.us/j/98519851985)

"Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression."  
 — Bahá'u'lláh  
**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  
 March 8, 2026, at 3 p.m.  
**Help Wanted**  
 Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole  
 In the spirit of our March theme (Help), we'll consider the differences between the help we each want to give others, the help they want to receive, and the help they are actually ready for.  
 Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



# City Information & Events

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

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 9 at 7:30 pm

### ORGANIZATION

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
- Petitions and Requests
- Consent Agenda
- \* Resignation from Advisory Board/Committee
- Minutes of Council Meetings
- Committee Reports
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
- \* Women's History Month Proclamation
- Administrative Reports

### LEGISLATION

- Resolution for Annexation Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC) Area 1 - 2nd Reading and Adoption
- Resolution for Annexation Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC) Area 2 - 2nd Reading and Adoption
- Resolution for Annexation Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC)/NASA Area 3 - 2nd Reading and Adoption

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Discussion and Modification of the Council's Standing Rules
- Legislative Review: State and County Bill
- Council Reports
- Council Activities
- Meetings
- \* Closed Session

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.

## MEETINGS FOR MARCH 6 - 13

Friday, March 6 at 5:30 pm, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION – REAL ESTATE AND LEGAL MATTERS**

Monday, March 9 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC HEARING - ANNEXATION**

Monday, March 9, Immediately following Regular Meeting, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY TOWN HALL - LET'S TALK CELL COVERAGE**

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS (VIRTUAL)**

Wednesday, March 11, Immediately following ABC Interviews, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

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

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

Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7 pm

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

## CELL COVERAGE TOWN HALL

Tuesday, March 10 from 7 - 8:30 pm  
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

### Let's Talk Cell Phone Coverage in Greenbelt!

Have your say and help improve cell service in our community. All residents are welcome. If you would like to submit questions beforehand, please send them to [galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov)

## UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS



### Birding 101

Saturday, March 14, 7:30 - 9:30 am - Buddy Attick Lake Park

Have you ever wanted to try birding but don't know where to begin? Join Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll and the Greenbelt Park Rangers for an introductory birding tour around Greenbelt Lake. We will go over keys to bird identification, choosing and using binoculars, as well as using different mobile apps in the field. [Sign-up](#) here.

Questions & comments to [kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 542-2168.

## FEATURED PETS

### Prince

Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124



1-year-old Prince has been at the shelter for a few months, and we can't fathom why he's been overlooked by adopters! This Prince Charming has really got it all – a handsome tuxedo coat, captivating eyes, and a charming personality. Prince has been housed in the kitten room and has gotten along so great with all of them, and we think he'd do really great with another playful cat like himself. In addition to his fun personality, he also loves to cuddle and be held.

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

## COFFEE WITH A COUNCIL MEMBER

Friday, March 6, 7:30 - 10 am  
Starbucks, 7541 Greenbelt Rd.

Join District 4 Council Member Timothy J. Adams for his very first Coffee and Chat event in Greenbelt!

This is a great opportunity to meet your Council Member, ask questions, share ideas, and talk about the issues that matter most to you and your family.



## OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(3)(7) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 5:30 pm, virtually on Zoom: 1) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; 2) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and 3) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is: 1) To discuss Real Estate; 2) To obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and 3) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

**The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Friday, March 6, 2026**

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026 immediately following the Council's Regular Meeting: 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

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

**The public may attend the Council's Regular Meeting prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, March 9, 2026**

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 immediately following the Advisory Board/Committee Interviews: 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

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

**The public may attend the Advisory Board/Committee Interviews prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

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.

## 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, Charter Review Task Force, Community Relations Advisory Board, 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 Registration Opens Soon!

Sign-up for classes, workshops, meet-ups, and special events for all ages. Registration for Greenbelt residents starts at 10am on 3/9. Registration for non-residents begins at 10am on 3/16. Spring session begins 3/23.

## Friends & Family Workshop:

**Make Your Own Mask-ot**  
3/8; 2pm *Greenbelt Community Center* In The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant, the twin knights each have their own bird mascot. Come and make a your own "mask-ot" by decorating a mask to wear. This workshop takes place between the two shows scheduled for that day.

## YOUTH MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

*Greenbelt Community Center gym*

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

- "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).

## MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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 March 19 and April 16 located at Greenbelt Community Center 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.

## 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>.

# Council News

## City Manager Posts Successes, Council Lauds Public Works

by Cathie Meetre

Wednesday, February 11 was the Greenbelt City Council's quarterly worksession with City Manager Josué Salmerón. To applause, Mayor Emmett Jordan welcomed Public Works Director Brian Kim and the department's nine senior management staff.

The meeting first received an overall report from Salmerón, who noted that the city's storm response team was always ready and opined that Greenbelt's response was as good or better than its neighbors. Council and attendees applauded.

### Voter Turnout

Salmerón reported that a major city goal of improving voter turnout was met with increased focus on early and often communications. Turnouts had been at 17 percent - typical for municipalities, with a goal of 20 percent. In November 2025, participation rose to 21 percent. Councilmember Jenni Pompei suggested showcasing this to other municipalities. Salmerón agreed, saying the city had useful information to share, noting particularly the synergy among city departments and the use of texts.

### Economic Development

Jordan announced that Economic Development Officer John Mason had resigned to take up a position with Prince George's County Development Corporation. Salmerón felt that Mason would be a force friendly to the city in his new role.

### Initiatives

Salmerón reported that advances included the Agenda Management System in which council and other meeting minutes (historically a couple of years out of date) were caught up. Council meeting packet generation had been upgraded. The city's code rework is nearly complete and will be ready for council action shortly. City staff also completed and implemented standard operating procedures for advisory boards and a constituent concerns tracker.

### Public Works

The meeting was an opportunity for the Public Works Department to showcase its services to the community (a future article will summarize this aspect of the meeting). Though scheduled prior to the storm, the presentations were an opportunity to show how the department pulls together for residents - with snow clearing personnel drafted from every department trained and ready to respond.

In a dramatic gesture, Salmerón had the nine supervisors and the head of Public Works raise their hands unanimously in assent when, in response to a demand from resident Bill Orleans, he was challenged on whether staff had been made aware that any pressure by them to oppose unionization was out of line.

### Save As You Throw (SAYT)

Salmerón reported that the SAYT initiative has now reached 98 percent compliance. Of the participants, 25 percent use the "max sticker" option. Jordan not-



Students stand at a bus stop on Greenbelt Road hemmed in by snow and ice. This is the photo from Councilmember McKinney that sparked action.



Shovels out! After initial mechanical clearing, city crews resort to muscle to clear the bus stop.

ed that local stores, including convenience stores, were being encouraged to stock the bags. Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles confirmed the improvements and noted that the compost program continues to thrive after the end of the grant from the USDA, helped by a small subsidy from council.

### Electricity

Procurement is complete for the city's first EV trash truck and police vehicle and they are in preparation. Grants subsidized the EV trash truck's cost over fossil fuel units.

Four EV charging points will be in the library parking lot and open to city and public vehicles. The public will be charged through the city's payment program. In response to a question from Jordan about the slow progress on these, Salmerón explained that the county's Department of Planning, Inspection and Enforcement took six months to approve.

Robles noted that the city's solar farm now contributes about 60 percent of the city's power.

A continuing sore point is street lighting. City staff are actively engaged with Pepco and monitoring its actions.

### Community Support

The city hosted multiple public outreach efforts, including several town halls and a resource fair. It provided food distribution, educational support, health and welfare tools and other essential services to residents during the quarter. Staff involvement in Diversity,

Equity and Inclusion programs has continued to grow.

### Funding

The city has submitted 2026 state bond bill requests, launched the Charter Review Task Force, completed the Economic Development Strategic Plan and finalized legislative services contracts. So far, six grant applications have been submitted in FY 2026 and five awarded.

Spending and income are on track with the budget and the expectation is that the city will be within 2 to 4 percent of target and still has time to absorb and adjust to storm costs.

In response to Councilmember Danielle McKinney, Salmerón reported that the city had exceeded the goal of 5 percent of its annual

See PUBLIC WORKS, page 7

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

online survey/mapping exercise, they are focusing on central Greenbelt, which has the most frequent and severe reports of flooding. Savineau told council that the ultimate goal of a resiliency plan is rarely to eliminate flooding but to mitigate risk.

They have modeled and assessed inland flooding in central Greenbelt. They are focusing on two areas: the intersection of Lakeside Drive and Westway, and the Youth Center area.

In the first area, while the stormwater pipes have the capacity to handle the volume of water of major storms, the catch basins are not able to get that stormwater into the pipes. He said that their models indicate that higher capacity drains with grates are needed.

The Youth Center area has a lot of impervious surfaces, Urdy said, such as roofs and parking lots. In this area, the stormwater pipes are at or near full capacity. Their models show that increasing pipe size is effective. He cautioned, however, that in each area addressing the problems could push the flooding issue downstream.

The study also looks at riverine flooding near Indian Creek. Savineau said that a 100-year flood could affect apartments near Edmonston Road. A 500-year flood could flood 14 buildings. The approach here could be to add topography such as berms and flood walls. The idea is to focus mitigation efforts on the areas that could suffer the most damage and examine how to increase resiliency.

The company's next step is to develop a flood resiliency plan, which they expect to finish mid-March or April.

Listening to the LimnoTech presentation, Salmerón said he was hearing millions of dollars in expenses but that the city had neither the expertise nor the funds to make such extensive improvements.

### SHL Elementary

Council unanimously approved a letter to be sent to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

regarding construction of the new Springhill Lake Elementary School. This was in response to a referral focusing on the exterior of the project. City of Greenbelt Community Planner Ryan Sigworth said the main concern is that the building is too small to accommodate the estimated 350 additional students who will live in the 2,500 approved units on the redeveloped Beltway Plaza area. The school's capacity will be further pressed if residential housing is built on the Greenbelt Metro site.

Another concern is that there is now less queueing space in the bus loop, which could cause buses to back up onto Springhill Drive, blocking traffic. Other concerns include locations of crosswalks and the city's desire for all school crosswalks to be raised. The County Council/Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the plan on April 16.

### Other Matters

Council approved a draft letter to M-NCPPC containing detailed comments on the countywide transportation master plan. There will be a planning board public hearing on the plan on March 24.

Salmerón reported that the city had received \$1.8 million in federal funds. Of that, \$1.5 million was for replacing the roof of the Youth Center and \$250,000 is for an addition at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Salmerón and staff are nearing completion of their proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2026 (FY 2027). He promised delivery of a balanced budget.

Council gave final approval to a resolution changing the name of the Public Safety Advisory Committee to the Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety (ACAPS).

Council voted to support House Bill (HB) 950 which would allow municipalities to purchase streetlights and convert them to LED, and HB 1127 which would authorize a five-year pilot of automated camera systems in school zones with the issuance of a \$40 ticket for failure to yield to pedestrians.



**Nobody Knows Your Name? Yet!**  
\$34.50 puts it here.

[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)



**A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**  
BY ARTHUR MILLER  
A GREENBELT ARTS CENTER PRODUCTION

**MARCH 6-21**

**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8PM**  
**SUNDAYS 2PM**

(BOTH SUNDAY MATINEES REQUIRE AUDIENCES TO WEAR MEDICAL FACEMASKS)



SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT  
[GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG](http://GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG)



# Council News

## Transportation, Traffic, ICE Were on City Council Agenda

by Oliver Gaycken

The Greenbelt City Council meeting held on January 28 was devoted primarily to a presentation by Tom Harrington from the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) on the DMVMoves plan. The meeting also included a vote on a measure to install a stop sign enforcement system and a report on the state's current legislative session.

### COG Presentation

COG is a regional nonprofit organization that brings together area leaders from 24 local governments to address issues and future plans. It is the home to the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Transportation Planning Board. Harrington, COG's multimodal program planning director, appeared via Zoom to give a presentation entitled Building Bridges for a Stronger DMV Region. The presentation outlined the work of DMVMoves, a task force with officials appointed from the COG and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) boards. The aim of the joint initiative is to develop a unified vision for the region's 14 transit operators and 12 bus services as well as to advocate for a sustainable funding model for public transit. WMATA faces a longstanding structural funding crisis. Under the current funding structure, debt capacity will be exhausted by 2029, which will result in the reduction of capital investments. The plan calls for a boost in yearly funding of \$460 million, with Washington, D.C. contributing \$173 million, Maryland \$152 million and Virginia \$136 million. This sum is proposed to grow at 3 percent annually.

A key idea set out in the presentation was the regional bus priority plan, which would design, fund and construct seven regional bus priority lanes over the next six to eight years. These corridors would consist of bus-only travel lanes, and buses would have signal priority and the ability to "jump the queue" in congested areas.

Greenbelt is not in one of the seven priority corridors. The closest proposed corridors would operate between Annapolis Road to Rhode Island Avenue to the east and from White Oak to New Hampshire Avenue in the west. When asked by Mayor Emmett Jordan what the plan would do for Greenbelters, Harrington maintained that bus priority lanes would increase transit speed not only along these corridors but also across the system as a whole. Other ideas outlined were fare integration, which would provide transfer credits across modes; more consistent training standards for transit employees; standardized bus stop design and cleaner, clearer wayfinding; and common regional service guidelines to ensure consistent service quality and transparent regional accountability. In the discussion period, Councilmember Frankie Fritz called for progressive approaches to public transit issues, noting that "fares are not the equitable way to fund our way out of our

transit problems." Council voted to approve a first reading of the COG proposal, which will be taken up at the next meeting.

### City Manager's Report

City Manager Josué Salmerón's administrative report highlighted the extraordinary efforts the city had undertaken to respond to the snow and ice emergency following the January 25 storm. He praised the streets team, which put in a 20-hour shift during the initial phase of the storm. Councilmember Jenni Pompei expressed her appreciation for Public Works' communication via various channels (internet and social media) during and after the storm, noting a significant improvement in this area.

### Stop Sign Enforcement

The city issued an RFP for a stop sign enforcement system in November 2025. Five bids were submitted, and city staff recommended the proposal submitted by Obvio, Inc. Under the proposal, Obvio will install four portable stop sign enforcement systems

whose locations will rotate over time. The primary aim of the system is to reduce the large number of drivers who pass through stop signs at speeds higher than eight miles per hour. The safety program is likely to be revenue neutral. After a brief discussion, council unanimously approved the contract, which is for one year with one-year renewals for up to five years.

### Other Business

Carrington and Associates submitted its first legislative summary for 2026, summarizing key Maryland General Assembly bills. The summary noted that SB 245, a law to prohibit state and local police from being deputized by ICE, was moving quickly through the legislature (and, indeed, became a state law in mid-February). Councilmember Kristen Weaver proposed a vote to reaffirm council's support for SB 342, a bottle deposit bill; the proposal passed unanimously. The meeting concluded with a summary of council's report on its retreat.

## PUBLIC WORKS continued from page 6

budget in grants.

McKinney asked about the Community Center elevators. Salmerón responded that some grant money is in hand which requires city matching but overall replacement is unfunded. He said the project is already scoped, so replacement can be expedited if there's a failure.

Salmerón confirmed in response to Jordan that all American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) programs except one (in progress) are complete. ARPA money must be spent this year or returned.

### Ongoing Concerns

Salmerón remains hopeful of county fire department staffing at Greenbelt returning after 2025's cuts and is maintaining pressure on the county. He anticipates Greenbelt staffing in the next few months as a graduating class of firefighters deploys.

Annexation activities for two tracts of land north of the city continue (see the October 1, 2025, issue) and once ratified by council will become part of

## Quilts Across Maryland Display at Courthouse

Maryland Quilts 2026 is the 23rd exhibition of quilts on display at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse. Three floors of the atrium are alive with vibrant color, as the works of Maryland quilters demonstrate a wide range of styles and techniques, illustrating the versatility of the quilt artists and the capabilities of the medium. The quilters come from all across Maryland, including local artists from Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park.

The Courthouse is open to the public Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., except for federal holidays. The quilts will be on display through the end of March.



## CELL TOWERS continued from page 1

different form in March 2020, when council turned its attention to small cell wireless facilities. These installations are typically mounted on poles or other existing structures and are intended to strengthen wireless networks in targeted areas.

At the March 11, 2020, meeting, council received an update on efforts to deploy small cell facilities in Greenbelt (see the March 26, 2020, issue). The city had adopted a small cell ordinance in December 2018 (see the December 6, 2018, and December 20, 2018, issues), and the discussion focused on how applications would be reviewed and what standards would apply to placement and design.

### 2024-2026: Coverage Gaps, Reliability

By 2024, the conversation had shifted from debates about tower placement to questions about service quality. At a September 4, 2024, worksession between council and Greenbelt Homes Inc., officials acknowledged that portions of the city experienced cellphone dead spots (see the September 11, 2024, issue). Concerns were raised that in some areas residents were unable to reliably place 911 calls via cellphone.

"It's a life and death thing, and they need to pick up their cellphone and call 911; they want to be able to do that," Jordan said.

On December 8, 2025, council revisited the issue during a council meeting, citing complaints from residents about dropped calls and weak reception in parts of the city (see the December 18, 2025, issue).

At the January 5, 2026, worksession, which focused on the problem, city staff presented maps showing clusters of towers near major highways (see the January 15 issue). Other areas, particularly Greenbelt Center, appear to experience less consistent coverage. Although carrier maps indicate near-complete 4G and 5G service, residents reported dead zones and unreliable calls.

In January, council discussed possible next steps, including encouraging residents to report service issues directly to their providers and examining whether additional antennas or other infrastructure might be needed in areas with weaker reception.

Councilmembers acknowledged that while the city can convene providers and residents, it cannot require companies to install new towers. "It's a business. So, if they want subscribers in Greenbelt, they need to provide the service," Jordan said. "The city is not in the cellphone tower business."

### Looking Ahead

Residents will have another opportunity to weigh in at a community town hall on cellphone service scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber in the Municipal Building. City administration and cellphone providers are expected to attend and discuss coverage concerns, infrastructure and potential solutions.

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



Crocus springs up.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

## GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL 2026

The School For Super-Heroes Presents  
**Orlando Furioso**  
 Written and Directed by Chris Cherry



*The legendary adventures of Charlemagne's knights and their noble adversaries are recounted in a rollicking musical presented by a school for super-powered teenagers!*

Saturday, March 7 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 pm

Saturday, March 14 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Greenbelt Community Center

Tickets: \$5

Call 301-397-2208

## A Bright Light for Ukraine

by Frank Gervasi



PHOTO COURTESY FRANK GERVASI

Tetiana Orlova, front left, with members of five families in her home town of Mykolaiv, Ukraine. They received an Award for Endurance from Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee.

Tetiana Orlova, a Ukrainian previously residing in Greenbelt on Parkway, returned to her war-torn country last fall. She had a good job here and legal residency but missed her family and wanted to help her fellow Ukrainians. She worked hard here and donated part of her earnings to build defensive drones to help save lives in Ukraine.

A true patriot, she is shown in this photograph at the far left with members of five families in her home town of Mykolaiv, Ukraine. Those families all lost their homes and possessions to the daily Russian bombardments and have found refuge in shelters. Pictured in front are some needed supplies that Tetiana and her daughter Kateryna (far right) have purchased for them.

Each of the five families are displaying their Award for Endurance certificate they received along with the gifts of food and other necessities. Kateryna and grandma Xenia have been consistently providing many more refugees with supplies and support in other shelters over the past year.

The award, issued by the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE), acknowledges their "courage and steadfast resolve" to persist and even thrive despite the hardships inflicted upon them. It displays both the Greenbelt flag and their city flag.

It also congratulates them, in both our languages, stating, "Your friends from Greenbelt, Md., USA."

Government support for refugees is very limited. Ukrainian infrastructure and the economy are hurt badly. The need to defend the country from this war that started in 2014 eats up resources. The war accelerated four years ago with a full-scale Russian invasion leading to 10 million Ukrainians fleeing the attacks.

The current stalemate has led to a state of siege for Ukraine. Drone and missile strikes are a daily occurrence throughout Ukraine. Nowhere is safe. Power outages are a daily reality and especially difficult in winter.

Greenbelt donations to help these refugees are both vital and much appreciated. With the destruction of USAID our efforts, and those of other similar organizations, are needed more than ever.

Former President George H.W. Bush, (who pushed to cut foreign aid), called grassroots efforts like ours part of 1000 Points of Light. With Tetiana and family, a few other similar volunteers in other cities and all the GRACE donors here who make this possible, collectively we are one of these points of light, shining brightly.

## Black History

# Meaningful Celebrations Of Black History and Culture

by Joe Parks

This year the Black History Month commemorations held a special significance. In these times, when the value of diversity is hotly contested, the Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee provided meaningful programs that helped deepen the roots of cultural understanding and bring forth fresh cultural growth in our community.

Some of the events included: An Artful Afternoon - Harlem Art Party, with dances from 1926 Harlem, New York City; Regina's Black Artifacts Popup Museum; a presentation by the historian Dr. C.R. Gibbs on The Forgotten Struggle of Blacks in England and the Americas during the War for Independence; Reel & Meal: Black Power Mix Tape 1967-1975 at the New Deal Café; and interactive historical reenactments.

Greenbelt Middle School students made perhaps the most poignant contribution to these commemorations by researching, writing and presenting their essays on the significant improvements to American life made possible

by Black scientists and inventors. The Greenbelt City Council honored the essay contest winners with a proclamation on Monday, February 23. The young people showed growing confidence in the value of their contributions and the happiness and pride of their families was obvious.

Joe Parks is co-chair of the Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee.

## Coming to the Table Offers Meal, Thoughtful Discussion

by Joe Parks

The Local Affiliate Group of Coming To The Table (CTTT) is hosting dinner and discussion on the second Tuesday of every month.

The next gathering is on Tuesday, March 10 from 6:15 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 105, with food from Sunrise Caribbean. There is no charge, but donations are accepted.

The theme for the meeting, continuing from February, is Courage and the question for discussion is How Do We Define Spiritual Courage.

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

### CTTT History

CTTT began in the spirit of an astounding family reunion. In 2006, in Harrisonburg, Va., two dozen descendants from both sides of the system of enslavement gathered at a table. Through sharing stories and building relationships, both the descendants of enslaved people and the descendants of enslavers were able to embrace and to embody the dream of Martin Luther King Jr.

Today, the local CTTT affiliate group strives to be as inclusive as possible. The group aims to create an environment where anyone can

## GAC Presents Miller's A View from the Bridge

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

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

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

## Artwork Display At the New Deal Café

On display now through Saturday, May 2, the New Deal Café has an exhibit titled Viewpoint in a Circle featuring entirely new work from artist Eileen Murray-Kraft.

Over the past two years, Murray-Kraft has created a wide array of collages using a unique medium: 6-inch circular watercolor card stock. Her artistic process evolved to fit the compact space of her GHI "cottage," demonstrating adaptability and creativity. Her creations draw inspiration from the natural world, everyday items and the dynamic relationships between colors and textures found in her environment. Murray-Kraft's passion for trying out different materials and techniques keeps her art vibrant and ever-changing.

The public is invited to a reception with the artist on Sunday, April 12 from 1 to 3 p.m.

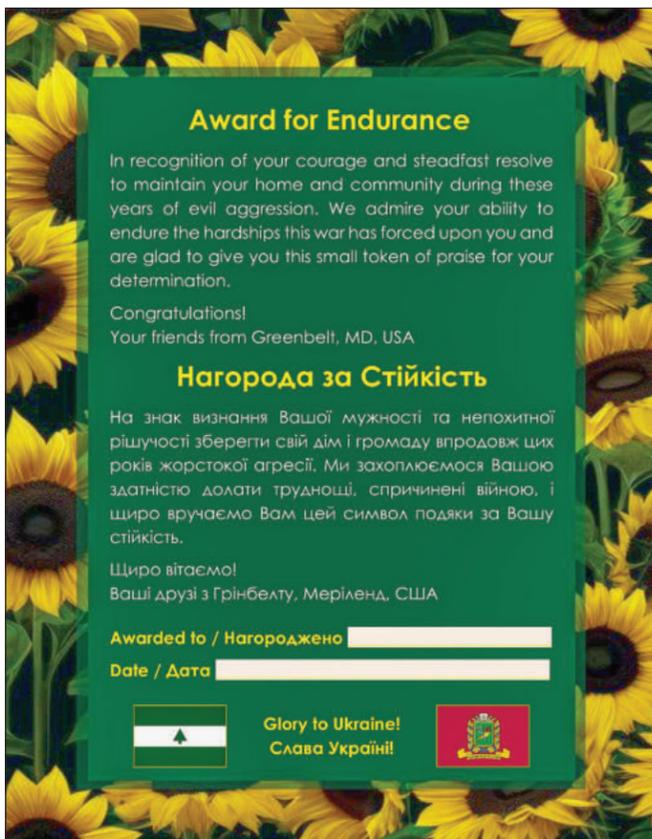


PHOTO BY MARIYA TSYBULNYK

The Award for Endurance certificate issued by the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE) acknowledges "courage and steadfast resolve" to persist despite the hardships inflicted upon the families.

## Greenbelt News Review Seeks Paid Advertising Representative

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Black History

# Remembering the Greenbelt Fair Housing Struggle During the 1960s

by Erica Johns

Part two of a two-part story. Part one of this story (February 26 issue) told the beginning of the fair housing struggle - how difficult it was for Dr. Leo Walder, a University of Maryland professor, to find an apartment for his Black university student in 1963. An ad in the News Review engaged residents with the newly founded organization Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing (GCFH). At the time, several Greenbelt neighborhoods, apartments and GHI did not accept Black residents. GCFH members picketed Greenbelt Realty,

owned by Abraham Chasanow; nearby Bowie's new Belair neighborhood was also picketed. After over a year of discussion, in 1965 the Greenbelt City Council established the Community Relations Advisory Board to address housing discrimination incidents. More activity followed at the local, county, state and national levels.

**City Apartment Legislation**

In August 1966, the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) recommended council pass a fair housing ordinance for apartments and properties handled by realtors. In August 1967, Jan Turkiewicz petitioned council to adopt the ordinance, claiming that all Greenbelt apartments except Charlestowne Village practiced discrimination. Council referred the request to CRAB. Discussion at a September 1967 council meeting included diverse opinions: demonstrating Greenbelt's seriousness about integration; voluntary compliance would make a compulsory ordinance unnecessary; and not acting before county fair housing legislation. Council approved a voluntary ordinance, which Leo Walder of GCFH said was "a substitute for action."

The October 19 and November 9, 1967, issues of the News Review reported that City Manager Jim Giese wrote to local apartments to ask them to voluntarily adopt integrated rental policies and to query their current policies. Responses included an open housing policy and willingness to do whatever other property owners were doing; basing rentals on ability to pay and favoring legislation covering all housing; and a manager "representing one of the larger apartment complexes in the area said his firm does not rent to Negroes because of economic reasons," but would favor a countywide ordinance putting all apartments on the same footing.

**County Legislation**

On October 2, 1967, council passed a resolution supporting Prince George's County's proposed fair housing ordinance. On October 16, CRAB recommended adopting an ordinance similar to a Montgomery County ordinance. By November, Councilmember Gerald Gough had read the draft Prince George County's ordi-



Bob and Mary Auerbach with daughter Hopi in April 1960



Newlyweds Angie and Rivers Williams were among the first Blacks to live in Greenbelt, first in GHI and then in Boxwood, as Pastor Angie Williams (pictured here) described in 2021.

nance and reported that, unlike Montgomery County's, it would exempt realtors in the event of written homeowner instructions. Other councilmembers advised waiting for the county ordinance and noted council had already supported the county ordinance including the written instruction exemption. In November 1967, the county approved its fair housing law banning discrimination in sale or rental of virtually all housing, with the News Review describing it as almost identical to the draft bill. The next three months of the News Review indicate no further action on a city fair housing ordinance.

**State, Federal Legislation**

In June 1967, Maryland had passed a law banning discrimination in housing rentals or sales, which courts invalidated on a technicality in late 1967. In April 1968 the federal Fair Housing Act passed four days after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, making housing discrimination illegal nationwide. Bowie's Belair dropped its non-integration policy "as a tribute to the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr."

**Pioneers**

Newlyweds Angie and Rivers

Williams were among the first Black people to live in Greenbelt. Emmett Jordan interviewed Pastor Angie Williams in February 2021 for the Greenbelt Museum. She said they were referred to GCFH, which led to their purchasing 7-H Southway in February 1966. Williams remembered being welcomed by Greenbelt's Twin Pines Savings and Loan to finance the purchase, and meeting "a whole string of people" on moving day, including the Auerbachs, John Unger, Walder's daughter Amy and later becoming lifelong friends with Marj and Bert Donn.

The Williamses lived on Southway until November 1968, when they purchased a Periwinkle Court home in Boxwood, where she said there were already a few families of color. Despite some uncomfortable experiences, one of which was struggling to find a babysitter who still wanted the job after learning they were Black, Williams said they felt safe and welcome during their time in Greenbelt.

They moved away in the early 1970s and returned in the late 1980s "because we loved Greenbelt!"

Judy Walder believes Boxwood (begun in 1964) was easier to integrate because it was new. GCFH member Bernice Kastner wrote in 2025 that "integration came about because the developers of Boxwood wanted to take advantage of funding that came with the requirement that there should be no racial barriers." She may have been referring to President Kennedy's 1964 Executive Order 11063 prohibiting racial and religious discrimination in new housing that received federal financing, including FHA and VA

See FAIR HOUSING, page 12

## March Recreation Arts Programs

**Youth Musical**

The Greenbelt Recreation Youth Musical Program is pleased to present a lively mini-musical suitable for all ages. Twin knights, Griffon the White and Aquilant the Black, encounter sorcery and betrayal on an eventful journey by land and sea. Enjoy a free performance on Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are required; contact the Community Center business office at 301-397-2208. Tickets are also available for performances of the full-length musical, The School for Super-Heroes Presents Orlando Furioso, The Musical on March 14. For more information, see greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

**Artful Afternoon (New Date)**

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to enjoy a painting activity with Amanda Demos Larsen, inspired by the current exhibition of work by Amy Sherald at the Baltimore Museum of Art. This workshop will be offered on Sunday, March 15 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The project is suitable for participants of any experience level. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at sugeni.us/ePwG. Walk-ins are also welcome as space permits. For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

**Dancing Joy Programs**

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program and Greenbelt Cinema offer a suite of free programs on Sunday, March 22 related to the film Dancing Joy. This film features dancers from 21 cultures around the world interpreting the Ode to Joy.

Activities will include two dance workshops at the Community Center dance studio: a belly dance workshop (ages 15 and up), 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; and an all-ages dance party in which participants can learn a swing dance number from the New Deal Nut, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At 1 p.m., enjoy a free screening of the film at the Greenbelt Cinema followed by a panel discussion with the director, producer and editor of the film. Sign up for any or all of these activities online at sugeni.us/emk7.



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**Rotary Club of Greenbelt**  
**Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival: A Visit from the Pumpkin Monarch**  
A Conversation with Stacy Stewart on **Thurs, March 12 at 7 pm**  
Starting with refreshments at 6.30 pm  
Community Center Room 114  
Monthly Speaker Series - 2nd Thursday of the month - greenbeltrotary.org

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# ICE Protest



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE

The Greenbelt Resistance Network sponsored an ICE Melt event on Saturday, February 28 at the corner of Greenbelt Road and Walker Lane. About 24 residents came out to protest ICE presence in Greenbelt Park and call for change in the administration's policies and practices against immigrants.



PHOTO BY KATRINA BOVERMAN

Greenbelt Resistance Network made signs in preparation for the rally across from Greenbelt Park on Saturday, February 28.

# Standpipe Renovation



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

Steel grit recycling machine

Contract Manager Christopher DeHerde of Titan Industrial Services confirmed that the enormous mobile facility pictured here cleans and recycles the steel grit abrasive medium required by WSSC to remove the existing finish from the standpipe at Lastner Lane and Ridge Road. Some

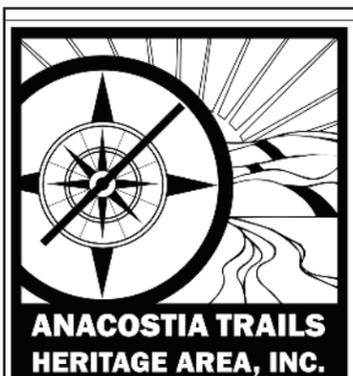
landscaping has been performed at the front edge of the site and a temporary surface installed to support equipment and contractor staff in a non-muddy environment. He expects that as the weather improves, work will ramp up on readying the standpipe and implementing the restoration.

## Chess Club Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays March 10, March 17, and March 24 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to their mailing list, visit [tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m](http://tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m) and complete the brief form. Direct questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com).

## Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.



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

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# INDIAN CREEK continued from page 1

Attendees included 10 residents of Greenbelt Station and other Greenbelt neighborhoods; Fearer; Scott Scarfone and Anthony Dye of Mahan Rykiel; Assistant Recreation Director Andrew Phelan; City Manager Josué Salmerón; Mayor Emmett Jordan; City Councilmembers Frankie Fritz, Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompei and Kristen Weaver; and Planning and Recreation Advisory Board Chair Matt Sickle.

## Park Elements

The two entrances will be from the north via the existing Indian Creek trail and from the south at Branchville Road. The south entrance will have nine standard parking spaces, two accessible spaces and stormwater management features.

Immediately north of the parking lot will be a fenced community garden to the west and fenced dog park on the east. The gardens will have raised beds with imported soil, due to poor soil stemming from the park previously being a rubble site. The plan has 35 2x20-foot beds and four 4x10-foot accessible beds, a water source, tool shed, compost area and driveway access from the parking lot to deliver materials.

The dog park will have two spaces: one 7,000 square foot space for large dogs and one 4,700 square foot space for small dogs, with a double-gated entry for leashing/unleashing, a water fountain and shaded seating. The small dog space is closest to the park entrance, with the large dog space north of it. Whether the spaces will be open lawns or also have some dog play/exercise equipment is not yet decided.

To the north will be a 20-foot-wide round or octagonal pavilion, and sports courts, including two pickleball courts eastward and a multi-sport court westward, with specific sports to be determined, such as basketball or volleyball. There will be shaded seating.

## Benches, Paths, Trees

The northernmost section will be an open grassy area with a proposed bench swing. Benches will be located throughout the park. The existing Indian Creek trail on the east will remain as is, with a slight southern realignment to the new entrance. Secondary paths will connect park features to each other and the Indian Creek trail. The dawn-to-dusk park will not have lights, nor restrooms, which Scarfone said can't be built in the floodplain that covers much of the park. Path and parking lot surfaces are not yet determined and will dictate stormwater management features.



The planned Indian Creek Park in Greenbelt West between the Greenbelt Station neighborhood and Beltway Plaza and Franklin Park will contain a community garden, dog park, sports courts and an open grassy area, with the Indian Creek Trail connecting to other trails and neighborhoods.



The Indian Creek dog park is expected to have spaces of 7,000 sq. ft. for large dogs and 4,700 sq. ft. for small dogs, with a double gated entry for leashing/unleashing, a water fountain and shaded seating.



The Indian Creek community garden is expected to have 35 2x20-foot beds and four 4x10-foot accessible beds, a water source, tool shed, compost area and a driveway to deliver materials.

- Images courtesy City of Greenbelt

Some trees or shrubs may be added, but not many because of the site's poor soil.

## Discussion, Suggestions

Hanover Parkway Dog Park user Joe Lomax suggested switching the large and small dog spaces to place large dogs closest to the park entrance, believing that large dog spaces are used more than small dog spaces.

Jordan suggested adding bike parking, which Scarfone enthusiastically accepted and then sug-

gested a bike repair station.

Attendees discussed whether or not to include outdoor fitness equipment in the small park. Greenbelt Station resident McKinney said residents there haven't identified such equipment as a priority. Nearby Lake Artemesia has such equipment; opinions differed on how much it is used and whether high use there argues for or against it at Indian Creek.

See INDIAN CREEK, page 11



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## PIT BULLS continued from page 1

arrived at the shelter as a stray on August 5 and was adopted on December 19. About 2 years old and severely underweight, he caught Clower's attention through photos a volunteer sent her. During their first meeting, he came straight over and sat beside her. "I truly feel that we were meant for each other," she said.

Clower credits him with helping her heal after multiple losses in her family. "I think that we saved each other," she said.

### Shelter Impact

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter is small, with only six kennels. Volunteers say many of the dogs that pass through are pit bulls or pit-type dogs, often surrendered or found as strays.

During the ban, that created a practical problem. "It's really hard to advertise these dogs to people who live elsewhere when we're in Greenbelt, we're in this community and the whole population of the city isn't even eligible to adopt these dogs," Morse said.

Morse said dogs often struggle in kennel environments the longer they stay. Milo, she said, was initially relaxed and easygoing, but after months inside, he became anxious in his kennel. "He hated being inside," Morse said. "He would go nuts ... jump off the walls and show a lot of anxiety. And then as soon as you take him outside, he'd be totally fine."

Volunteers continued walking and interacting with pit bulls even during the ban. "It was always just kind of funny that these were banned animals, but yet we still interacted with them in the community," Morse said. "They just weren't allowed to live here."

### The Safety Debate

The repeal followed debate

## PORCH Hunger Relief More Important Now

Greenbelt's shared commitment to community-powered hunger relief is invaluable as Greenbelt PORCH continues to grow and deepen its impact. Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in the month of March as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Saturday, March 7 - by 9 a.m. for 23-26 Courts Ridge Road.

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

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

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

Sunday, March 22 - by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Sunday, March 22 - by 6 p.m. for 11S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road and 8 and 10 Courts Southway.

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

Sunday, March 29 - by 5 p.m. for 18 Court Ridge.



Milo plays with his owner, Doreen Clower.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN LOTZ

### Adjusting to Home

Milo still shows signs of past trauma. He hesitates at the front door but is comfortable using the back. He sometimes covers near certain vehicles. He barks mostly for attention, not aggression.

Clower said she refused to crate him because kennels had stressed him at the shelter. Instead, she followed the "3-3-3 rule" - three days to decompress, three weeks to settle in, three months to fully adjust - and took time off work to help him acclimate.

Within 20 minutes of arriving home, she said, he began following her everywhere. He now sleeps pressed against her and sometimes uses his paw to tap her for attention.

### A New Era

For volunteers like Morse, the policy shift means more dogs can stay in the community where they were found. "We love when they get adopted in Greenbelt because we love seeing them around," she said. "You get very attached."

While it is too early to measure the long-term impact of the policy change, shelter volunteers say they expect shorter stays for pit-type dogs and more successful placements.

For Clower, the change is already tangible. Milo is no longer a stray named Nemo waiting in a kennel. He is a dog with jerseys for game days, a raincoat by the door and a place where he belongs.

"He's my heart," she said.

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

## Enjoy Painting Activity In Artful Afternoons

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to enjoy a painting activity with Amanda Demos Larsen, inspired by the current exhibition of work by Amy Sherald at the Baltimore Museum of Art. This workshop will be offered on Sunday, March 15 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The project is suitable for participants at any experience level. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at sugeni.us/ePwG. Walk-ins are also welcome as space permits. For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

## Golden Age Club Upcoming Meetings

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

The following is the schedule for the next March meetings.

March 11 - Speaker: Toren Grant returns for a discussion about physical therapy.

March 18 - Birthday potluck for March. (Bring a dish to share.)

March 25 - Bingo. (Prizes needed; give them to Suze.)

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

The Anniversary Luncheon will be on Wednesday, April 15 at the Holiday Inn, Baltimore Avenue, College Park. The Anniversary Luncheon committee is collecting for reservations. Pay with checks to Greenbelt Golden Age Club.

The Club does not meet when the Prince George's County Public Schools office announces a delay, closure or remote learning day because of inclement weather.

## Relic at the New Deal Café



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

In a return engagement to the New Deal Café on February 26, a standing-room-only multigenerational audience was enthralled by the intimate and dramatic performance of Relic, a period instrument chamber orchestra. The production utilized the spoken word and works of Handel, Monteverdi, Rameau and others to chronicle the dangerous decade-long homeward journey of Homer's Odysseus.

The ensemble also performed a free concert at the Community Church on February 27, visited Greenbelt Middle School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School during the week, and gave concerts in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria. Their Greenbelt performances were supported by a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation. This week they are touring Texas and Louisiana to further their goal of taking baroque music to all 50 states.

## INDIAN CREEK continued from page 10

Greenbelt Station resident Adriene Lim asked about environmental studies, given the proximity of Prince George's Scrap. Scarfone said the city didn't task Mahan Rykiel with such studies. Weaver answered a question about city testing by noting that the city can't test the scrap site without owner permission. Regarding Indian Creek water quality, Scarfone said the city sends no runoff to the higher park terrain. Salmerón believed water testing occurs within the city's Indian Creek stream restoration project with the Army Corps of Engineers. There were no conclusions about whether the facility affects air quality.

### Next Steps

Mahan Rykiel will update the concept plan with February 17 feedback. Residents may continue to provide feedback by email to planninginfo@greenbeltmd.gov. A joint Advisory Planning Board and Park & Recreation Advisory Board meeting in March or April will review the updated plan, followed by a June council worksession and formal council approval expected in summer 2026. After council approval, the Planning Department will determine funding sources, including grants, and plan and schedule engineering and construction. The presentation and project updates are at tinyurl.com/6v4ujncb.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The Indian Creek sports area is expected to have a multi-sport court, pavilion, fitness equipment, two pickleball courts and a shaded seating area.

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# PGCPS Superintendent Search Committee Members Announced

On March 2, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Carey Wright announced the appointment of James C. Bell Jr. to chair the superintendent search committee for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). The search committee consists of one member of the state board appointed by the state superintendent and two residents of Prince George's County appointed by the governor. Bell, a member of the state Board of Education, will serve alongside search committee members Jennifer Avelar and Gordon L. Sampson, who were appointed by Governor Wes Moore. The state superintendent selects the chair from the three members of the search committee.

Shawn Joseph is currently serving as PGCPS interim superintendent through June 30 of this year. He was appointed in June 2025 by Prince George's County Executive Aisha Braveboy after the ousting of Superintendent Millard House II (see the June 19, 2025, News Review).

By state law, the county executive must select a new superintendent from a list of three nominees recommended by the search committee by June 1 and the Prince George's County Board of Education must complete the appointment on or before June 30. The state superintendent must then approve the appointment.

### Biographies

Bell began his education career as a math teacher and was promoted to assistant principal in Talbot County Public Schools after just two years in the district. He later became a principal and then supervisor of student services in Dorchester County Public Schools, and later director of student services and secondary leadership for the Seaford School District in Delaware. He was appointed to the Maryland State Board of Education in 2025 and serves on the state board's Education Policy Committee. Bell is director of instruction, academic support and community well-being for Building African American

Minds where he leads his team to provide opportunities through community programming. He holds an undergraduate degree from Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, La., and advanced degrees from Wilmington University in Georgetown, Del.

Avelar serves as a Creating Opportunities for Academic Success and Transfer (COAST) advisor at Prince George's Community College, managing pre-enrollment advising for recruitment and dual enrollment. Her previous roles include parent engagement assistant for PGCPS and community resource advocate for the Prince George's County Department of Social Services. She holds an undergraduate degree and multiple certificates from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she is currently pursuing a graduate degree in public policy, specializing in education policy.

Sampson held multiple principal positions in PGCPS, including John Eager Howard Elementary School (1981-1984), Francis Scott Key Middle School (1984-1989) and Largo High School (1989-2000). He also served as Kent County High School principal, Bowie State University (BSU) adjunct professor and National Guard Youth Academy director. His leadership roles extend to serving as chairman of the BSU Foundation and president of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals. Sampson's honors include 2002 Kent County Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year and 2006 MetLife Principal of the Year in 2006. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from BSU, with additional graduate studies at various institutions, including Howard University and The George Washington University.

Information for this article was drawn from a Maryland State Department of Education press release.

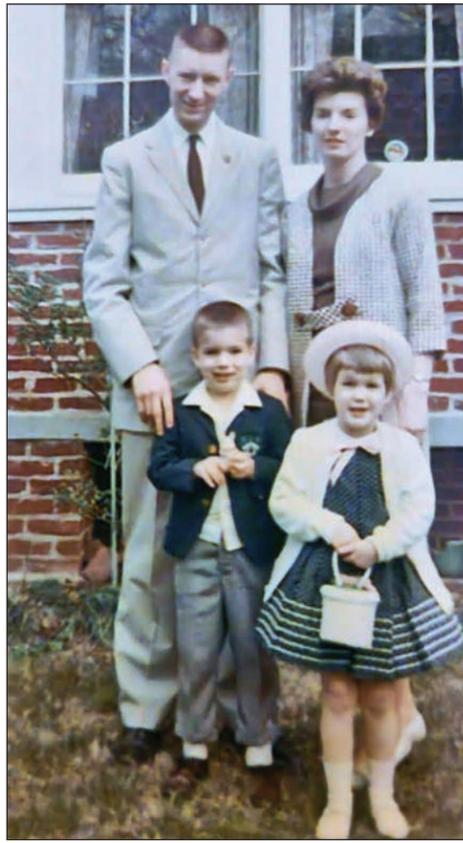
# FAIR HOUSING continued from page 9

loans. (Belair was not affected, having begun before the order.)

### Reflections

Judy Walder reflected in April 2025 on the effect of Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing. "It probably took them longer than they had hoped. But it was talked about, it was in the newspaper. I read some of the old meetings and letters to the editor - a lot of strong opinions. I think that just standing up and saying, 'These are my thoughts' - I think that's huge, what the group achieved. They wanted an exchange of views and they wanted the city to address it."

Kastner recalled in 2025 a Greenbelter whose perspective on integration changed. She reminded her daughter Judy Kastner Skillman of Judy's art lessons with a neighbor who lived near their home, before the neighbor moved to Boxwood. "That meant I had to come and pick you up after the lesson. So, one day when I was waiting for you, I was chatting with [the teacher's] husband, who was going on and on about his wonderful (Black) neighbors across the street. I refrained from pointing out that before the family moved, when there was a lot of talk



John and Pat Unger, with children Patrick and Marie Unger, 1965

Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed to change or eliminate several HUD regulations that stem from the 1968 Fair Housing Act. The regulations ban discrimination based on housing policies even if the policies were not intended to discriminate, and establish liability for those discriminatory effects. On February 11, 2026, Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown joined 23 other Attorneys General to comment against the proposed rule change. Brown's press release asserted that housing discrimination continues to harm people in marginalized groups, and urged retaining the rules to support equal housing opportunity.

Note about this story, parts one and two: Both Black and white workers built Greenbelt in the 1930s, but only white families were accepted to live in the new town. This article does not discuss all persons, activities and letters related to 1960s Greenbelt fair housing efforts, instead providing a representative sampling. When speaking of that time, this article uses the terms "Negro" or "colored" if a person wrote or was quoted using those words in a contemporaneous source.

about racial integration coming to Greenbelt, he had said that if N\_\_\_ came to live in Greenbelt he was going to get himself a gun. So, I guess sometimes you can legislate morality."

### Discrimination in 2026

On January 14, 2026, the U.S.

### Sources for This Article, Parts One and Two

Greenbelt Museum, Interview with Marjorie Donn, Barbara Havekost, Cynthia Newcomer, Lowell and Marjory Owens and Jean Turkiewicz, 2019. Greenbelt News Review (greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives). Interview of Marjorie Donn, Jean Turkiewicz and Marcie Walder, and adult children Rachel Turkiewicz Alexander, Hopi Auerbach, Marie Unger and David and Judy Walder, 2025. Greenbelt Reparations Commission, Restorative Justice for Greenbelt: A Report of Historical Harms and Contemporary Impacts, 2025, tinyurl.com/zfb88a96. Kaye Sizer Noe, The Fair Housing Movement: An Overview and a Case Study, University of Maryland College Park Master's Thesis, 1965, tinyurl.com/4fxpkpmm. Pastor Angie Williams, interview by Emmett Jordan, 2021, tinyurl.com/48rbfnfyd.

## PGCPS Talented and Gifted Specialty Lottery Extended

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has extended the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Center specialty program lottery deadline to March 20 for school year 2026-2027.

Parents and guardians interested in possible placement in the full-day TAG Center program are encouraged to apply during this extended window.

Note: Only students who meet PGCPS TAG identification criteria and are coded in Synergy for TAG services will be eligible for placement.

Families may submit a lottery application while the TAG screening process is still underway.

To apply visit [pgcpsmdc.scriborder.com](http://pgcpsmdc.scriborder.com).

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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 23 - March 1, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

## Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one domestic incident involving assault and two mental health diversions, one involving attempted suicide.

## Men with Firearm Arrested

On March 1 at 12:56 a.m. near 7810 Walker Drive, four people were sitting inside a car behind the hotel. Police approached and one officer observed a handgun in a bookbag one of the people was holding. They were ordered out and detained, and another occupant admitted that there was another firearm in his bookbag. The two people holding firearms were arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections. The other two were released after they were identified and photos were taken.

## Handgun Arrest

On February 26 at 5:56 p.m. near 9230 Springhill Lane, officers on patrol observed a group of youths who kept avoiding them, some wearing ski masks; some of them were recognized from previous involvement in violent crime. When an officer approached, they ran and displayed characteristics of an armed person (one hand tucked while running). Officers gave chase and called other units to corner one person, who was caught and sent by the Department of Juvenile Services to the Cheltenham Youth Facility. An officer retraced the foot pursuit and located a loaded handgun with a bullet in the chamber.

## Robbery

On February 27 at 5:17 p.m. near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a Greenbelt police officer noticed three men speed-walking up a ramp near the Metro station toward I-495 traffic. The officer sent a broadcast about the men on the unauthorized area of highway and moments later Metro Police said that a possible robbery had occurred on the train platform. Officers found a man in the area who was confirmed as involved in the robbery. He was arrested by Metro Police who also detained a second man near the bus lot area.

## Assault

On February 23 at 9:44 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two adult roommates got into a physical altercation. One fled prior to police arrival. No injuries were observed.

On February 23 at 11:38 a.m. near 11 Parkway, a man hugged a woman from behind and fled. An investigation revealed the man's name; the woman wanted no further police action.

On February 23 at 1:22 a.m. near 7901 Mandan Road, a man was assaulted by a man who knocked on his door; a Ring doorbell camera recorded the incident.

On February 24 at 8:03 p.m. near 6002 Greenbelt Road, a patron physically assaulted the bartender and was arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On February 25 at 9:02 a.m. near 6160 Springhill Terrace, two residents of Franklin Park engaged in an argument at Greenbelt Station and one person grabbed the other by the neck.

## Attempted Break-in

On February 24 at 4:08 p.m. near 7824 Lakecrest Drive, someone tried to break into a house

but was not successful.

## Drug Arrest

On February 26 at 10:01 a.m. 9111 Springhill Lane, a man was arrested after being repeatedly banned from Franklin Park; controlled dangerous substances and paraphernalia were found on him. He was taken to the Department of Corrections.

## DUI Arrests

During proactive traffic enforcement, officers stopped two vehicles whose drivers were under the influence and were arrested and charged with DUI: the first at 9:32 p.m. on February 27 near 5801 Cherrywood Terrace, and the second at 8:13 p.m. on February 28 near Cherrywood Lane and Breezewood Drive.

## Fraud

On February 24 near 7701 Greenbelt Road, a woman put an envelope containing a check into the mailbox and later received notification that the check had been cashed, but the payee information had been altered.

## Theft/Shoplifting

On February 23 at 12:14 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole phones from a store and fled on foot.

On February 24 at 11:45 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone went into the back room of a store and rummaged through an employee's purse, stealing her driver's license and two debit cards.

On February 27 at 5:15 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items, was detained and was banned from the location; at 11:05 a.m. near 6102 Greenbelt Road, a business reported that someone stole a key from their building.

On March 1 at 4:09 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two people were caught stealing; they were charged with criminal citations and banned.

On March 1 at 2:14 p.m. near

6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was caught shoplifting and the store asked for him to be banned.

## Threats

On February 23 at 12:30 p.m. near 9123 Springhill Lane, a woman threatened someone's children.

## Trespassing

On February 24 at 3:39 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman was arrested for trespassing on the property and refusing to leave.

## Vehicle Crimes

### Stolen Vehicle

On February 24 near 6104 Breezewood Drive, a white 2013 Infiniti G37 (Md. 1GC2665) was stolen.

### Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On February 24 at 4:39 p.m. near 6021 Springhill Drive, a man delivering food stepped away from his vehicle and left it unlocked and running; when he returned it was gone. Officers found the vehicle on Market Lane, and the owner retrieved it.

### Theft From Auto

On February 23 near 9102 Springhill Lane, a Ford van was broken into and items were stolen.

Tags were stolen on February 23 near 39 Ridge Road (rear), and on February 28 near 9336 Edmonston Road (front).

On February 27 all four wheels were stolen from a 2026 Honda Civic near 7810 Walker Drive, and from a 2026 Toyota Corolla near 6522 Lake Park Drive.

### Vandalism

On February 24 near 8011 Mandan Road, someone damaged a window and pulled off the front right bumper/fender of a 2019 Toyota Camry causing damage estimated at \$1,000.

On February 24 near 6005 Cherrywood Court, a 2010 Honda CRV had all four tires slashed and all glass windows broken.



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# S'mores With Ollie Introduces New Community Comfort Dog

by Laura Charleston



Ollie with his handler Master Police Officer Erick Alvarez

PHOTO BY LAURA CHARLESTON

The Greenbelt Police Department's Community Action Team (CAT) introduced Ollie, their newly assigned facility dog trained to bring smiles and comfort, at S'mores with Ollie on Saturday, February 28.

The event marked the first major public gathering centered on the 3-year-old Labrador retriever. Families gathered in Buddy At-tick Park to roast marshmallows and meet Ollie, who joined the department a few months ago as part of a growing effort to expand community engagement beyond traditional enforcement roles.

He was obtained through Hero Dogs Inc., a nonprofit that provides trained service and facility dogs to law enforcement and military partners. Unlike patrol or detection K-9s, Ollie's job is to reduce stress and build relationships.

"He is trained to see certain anxiety signs such as the tapping of the foot, nervous hands, moving back and forth, shaking the legs," Erick Alvarez, master police officer and Ollie's handler, said.

If someone begins shaking their leg, Alvarez explained, "he'll put his paw on your leg and kind of tell you to stop, in a gentle manner."

Officer Rakibur Rahman, who supervises the CAT, said Ollie's addition reflects a broader shift toward wellness-focused outreach. "[We are] trying to do a meet and greet so the community knows that we do have a dog if they want us to bring him to the schools or anywhere," Rahman said.

Alvarez said the idea for the

event came from a desire to offer something more interactive than traditional forums. "It kind of became my idea, similar to Coffee With A Cop, it would be something a little unique in the wintertime, something kids can enjoy," he said.

Ollie begins his mornings early, arriving at the station at 6 a.m. and making rounds before settling into offices. "He wakes us up at 5 in the morning, ready for breakfast," Alvarez said.

Friends of Ollie who regularly see him at Franklin Park said the dog has already made an impression. "He's very friendly. He'll come see you, run up to you, let you pat him for a second, then he's gone about his business," said Marleda Miller, events coordinator at Franklin Park.

Yadira Lemus, another friend of Ollie, sees his impact on the community as crucial. "He's just a very caring dog. I've seen him help people when they needed it, like when they're crying. That's something I think a lot of people need is just vulnerability and having a dog by their side, while you're so vulnerable, that helps so much," said Lemus.

Ollie has already visited Greenbelt Elementary School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School and is expected to expand his visits to additional schools and community sites. For the Greenbelt Police Department, Ollie represents more than a friendly face.

Laura Charleston is a University of Maryland Student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



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# Sports

## ERHS Raiders Weather Winter, Opponents on Playoff Journey

by Patrick Gleason

Amid a season where winter has posed more obstacles than opponents, Monday's afternoon snow showers delayed the Eleanor Roosevelt High School basketball teams yet again. The weather postponed both the boys and girls region semifinal playoff games against Paint Branch High School a day. With victories, they would advance to the region finals where both teams will look to secure their first region trophy in several years. The girls are the one seed in their region, while the boys are the three seed in the newly aligned region that now includes Paint Branch and Montgomery Blair High Schools, a change from the formerly all-Prince George's County region.

### Girls Team

The girls ended the regular season with a 7-6 record. They suffered two losses to Bowie and Wise each, while splitting the season series with Parkdale. The only other loss came at the hands of longtime county foe C.H. Flowers. The Lady Raiders coasted to victories in their remaining county schedule and hope to head to Saturday's state quarterfinal game under Coach Delton Fuller.



Senior Donte Whitaker, taking flight against Bladensburg, has been a leading Roosevelt contributor during a successful regular season campaign.

### Boys Team

The boys have completed a challenging schedule with a 12-7 regular season record. In-county, they dropped both games with Bowie, while also falling to Gwynn Park and Flowers. Despite early season defeats outside their county schedule to Riverdale Baptist, Virginia's Hayfield and Southern Maryland's Lackey, the Raiders bested Florida's Montverde Academy. The Raiders ended the season on a four-game winning streak, including the February 17 game that celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the 2016 state championship team. The majority of that team attended the 63-20 victory, including Naji Marshall who currently plays for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. Coach Chaun Miller has the Raiders poised for a deep playoff run as they hunt for their first state title since 2022, on the heels of Laurel High School's championship a year ago.

- Photos by Ethan James



Senior DeKare Tyler, grabbing a rebound in a January victory over Suitland, heads a Raider senior class looking for playoff success.



## Resistance Protests Coming Up Soon

Mark your calendars and invite friends. The Greenbelt Resistance Network is gearing up for a rally this weekend to get Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) out of Greenbelt. On Saturday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in Roosevelt Center, there will be a Ring a Bell event. Join the protest by ringing a bell at 7 p.m. for seven minutes to protest the current administration's divisive policies and actions. This will be repeated at 7 p.m. on the 7th of every month until this administration is out.

The group will sponsor a second ICE Melt Costume and Dance Party from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. The location is Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive, across from Greenbelt Park, where ICE has been conducting operations. The group demands that (1) Greenbelt Park no longer be used for ICE detentions and (2) U.S. Park Police stop targeting immigrants on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

## Different Drummers Perform 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.

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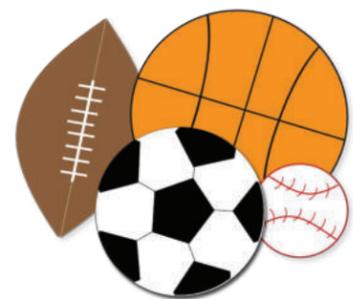
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Women's History

# Now for Something Light: A History of Shorts in Greenbelt

by Joan Estenson

*This article, a light-hearted look at a fiercely fought city issue, is intended to distract readers, for a moment, from the serious issues facing the country today. In addition, temperatures are forecast to rise above 70 degrees over the coming week, so perhaps some readers are planning to dig out their summer clothing.*

The story begins in 1939, when the Greenbelt town council passed an ordinance forbidding persons over the age of 14 from wearing several types of garments in the mercantile center now known as Roosevelt Center, but what rankled most was being prevented from wearing shorts. Persons convicted of this misdemeanor could be fined not less than \$2 nor more than \$25.

Today's chapter of the story happened in 1954.

The June 3, 1954, Greenbelt Cooperator (now the Greenbelt News Review) published a letter to the editor from Mrs. Muriel Burrows and Mrs. Vivian Greenbaum complaining about not having the freedom to wear shorts in the Center, considered perfectly acceptable attire anywhere else, and what an inconvenience it was to have to change clothes just to run an errand. The women urged anyone interested in repealing the law to contact them or write to the Cooperator.

In the June 17 issue, the Cooperator reported on the city council meeting in which Mrs. Burrows discussed how the ordinance was "an abrogation of personal freedom." All councilmembers were male. Mayor Frank Lastner said the issue had been controversial for years and might need a referendum to resolve the problem.

The July 1 issue contained a letter to the editor signed by 45 people outlining the pros and cons of the prohibition, which in addition to the issues mentioned above included that people shopped in places that didn't restrict apparel instead of shopping in Greenbelt. The main argument in favor of the ordinance was that some women didn't look "presentable" in shorts. Another argument was that if women began to wear shorts in the Center, men would also. The letter urged readers to discuss the issue and vote in the upcoming referendum to be sponsored by the Cooperator.

In the July 8 issue, the Cooperator announced the poll they were sponsoring to see how Greenbelters felt about the issue, allowing residents to vote in person in the Center on Friday evening and all day Saturday, or by mailing in the ballot printed in that issue. Voting instructions said, "A husband and wife, if unanimous in their vote, may use the same ballot." Voters were to put their name(s) on the ballot to ensure that the ballots were cast by Greenbelters.

The only thing certain about the poll results was that more people were in favor of wearing shorts than keeping the prohibition.

The July 15 issue published the results of the poll and the July 12 council meeting. The council minutes say 327 were in favor of shorts and 269 against.



PHOTO BY PAUL KASKO, COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The well-dressed women of the Navy Wives Club hold a bake sale in the city center, with Center School (now the Community Center) in the background. The photo is undated in the book *Greenbelt: History of a New Town* by Mary Lou Williamson, but the sign saying "Open the door for Richard to a happy and healthy life" suggests it was 1947, the year the blues song *Open the Door, Richard* was a major hit and became a catchphrase.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT MUSEUM

Dirce Ronchi with daughter Diane wears appropriate attire, circa 1949-50, for what is now known as Roosevelt Center.

The Cooperator reported that poll results showed that with 605 ballots cast there were 440 in favor and 275 opposed, a difference of 55 votes. However, simple arithmetic shows that there were 715 votes cast (440 + 275) which meant that 165 more people wanted to permit shorts in the Center than didn't (275+165=440), three times the 55-vote majority the Cooperator reported. Would properly reported results of the poll have changed the outcome?

At the council meeting Mrs. Burrows pointed out that those wishing to repeal the law outnumbered those who wanted to keep the status quo and that the Greenbelt Citizens Association

and Greenbelt Consumer Services also supported repeal. Lastner declared he was against the removal campaign and stated that opponents who favored maintaining the ordinance had not had a chance to organize a campaign, as those seeking to abolish the ordinance had. He also said he knew of many citizens who did not vote who would have voted against changing the ordinance.

A motion was made to conduct a citywide poll by mail on the issue and another motion was made to put the matter on the ballot in the 1955 municipal election, but both failed for lack of a second. Lastner's motion to table the matter passed.

An editorial in the July 22 issue said that "the shorts campaigners have not yet accepted defeat at the hands of the city council but have countered with a strategic maneuver," which was to make wrap-around skirts just long enough to cover shorts underneath, fulfilling the spirit if not the letter of the law.

The final salvo in this go-round was a report in the August 12, 1954, issue of the Cooperator reporting on a picnic of Cooperator members and others held outside of Greenbelt at which "a torrid volleyball game, participated in by countless women in shorts (permitted by ordinance) was the feature of the day."

Were shorts an issue in the 1955 municipal elections? Was this ordinance ever repealed, or does it still exist but without enforcement? An upcoming issue will tell the story.



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Don't scare the wildlife! This person moved too fast, got too close and "flushed" this bird.

## Preschool Storytime

Young readers and their families enjoy Pre-K Bilingual Story Time on Friday, February 13 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, hosted by the Greenbelt Library and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness.

- Photos by Robert Goldberg-Strassler



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Patty walks Jude in the brief snow on February 23, which melted the next day.