



Women's History concert, p.6



Pet Fair, p.8

Women's History

Longtime Resident Sylvia Lewis Reflects on Her Time in Greenbelt

by Stephen Lotz

For more than six decades, Sylvia Lewis has called Greenbelt home. Now, as she prepares to move closer to family in upstate New York, she is reflecting on the community that shaped much of her life.



Sylvia Lewis in her home

Lewis moved to Greenbelt in the 1960s with her husband, Robert Lewis, who was studying at the Catholic University of America. The couple initially planned to stay only briefly, choosing Greenbelt for its relatively low cost of living and convenient commute into Washington, D.C. Instead, the

city quickly became a permanent home. "We moved to Greenbelt, which we thought would be for a short time," Lewis said. "And I love it. I love Greenbelt. Just love it."

Her story began far from Prince George's County. Lewis grew up in East London and spent her early childhood there during World War II, when German bombing raids targeted the city during the Blitz. Like many London families, hers adapted their daily routines to the constant threat of air raids. "We

See LEWIS, page 6

Greenbelt Celebrates \$1.8 Million In Funding for Youth Recreation

by Laura Charleston



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Along with representatives from the City of Greenbelt and its Recreation Department, Carolyn Lambright-Davis and Bill Davis of CHEARS, State Delegate Nicole Williams, U.S. Senator Angela Alsobrooks, Congressman Glenn Ivey, State Senator Alonzo Washington, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen and County Councilmember Tim Adams celebrate a check for more than \$1.8 million in federal funding for youth recreation projects.

Federal officials joined Maryland and county politicians as well as local leaders in Greenbelt on Monday, March 9 to announce more than \$1.8 million in fed-

eral funding for youth recreation projects, including repairs to the Greenbelt Youth Center and improvements to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

The funding, secured through congressionally directed spending, will support two projects intended

See FUNDING, page 10

What's the Deal with Data Centers?

by Maurice Crawford



PHOTO BY RYAN CRAUN/INCPFC

The September 2025 meeting of the Prince George's County Qualified Data Center Task Force drew a crowd of protesters.

A recently proposed data center in Landover sparked protests and a desire by local communities to learn more about what data centers are, why they are important and the potential effects they can have, including on the communities where they're built. It's a topic currently debated by Prince George's County Council, one that will likely be a subject of political platforms this year and has already been the topic of letters to the editor in the Greenbelt News Review. Strong community opposition to the proposed center in Landover led county officials last year to reconsider support and place a six-month moratorium on permits, which is set to expire this spring.

The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) has fueled a rapid growth in demand for data centers. AI-based computing is expected to dramatically increase

energy use and this, in turn, will drive an unprecedented demand for the electricity that powers it and data centers.

What Are Data Centers?

Data centers are physical facilities that house technology like servers, storage devices and networking systems used to provide digital services and have been part of our landscapes for half a century. These facilities process, manage and distribute documents, images, videos and other information. They are important because much of what we do for work or play is done online. Each time we save an item to Google Drive or iCloud or stream a movie, we are interacting with a data center somewhere.

Many facilities being built today are referred to as hyperscale centers because they are huge. The one proposed for Landover is 800,000 square feet, which is

five times the size of an average Costco store. Data centers usually have water cooling systems designed to keep the equipment cool and can use a lot of water.

See DATA CENTERS, page 7

What Goes On

Monday, March 16
No City Council Meeting; National League of Cities Conference, Washington, D.C.
Wednesday, March 18
7 p.m., ACE Educator Awards, Municipal Building; No Council Meeting; National League of Cities Conference

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

City Council Revisits Collective Bargaining for All City Employees

by Matthew Arbach

On March 2, the Greenbelt City Council continued its deliberations at a worksession on expanding collective bargaining rights to the entirety of its non-managerial and non-classified workforce. Currently, the city has a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). The Public Works department (PW) is in the midst of its selection process for a bargaining unit. The worksession discussion focused on how to approach the remaining employees.

Steven Silvestri and Blaine Taylor represented the city's consultant on these matters, Jackson Lewis P.C. They have been involved in creating draft text, to be voted on at a regular meeting, that would alter the city's charter and code, to codify this new approach to labor relations in the city.

Mayor Emmett Jordan summed up the city's desire for fairness and a cooperative relationship with the city's employees,

See BARGAINING, page 12

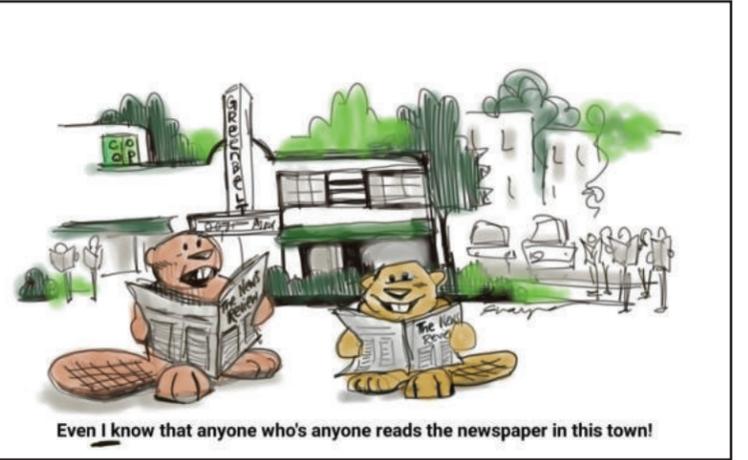


PHOTO BY CHRIS CHERRY

Between a rock and a hard place: The noble hero Ruggiero (Gabriel Crompton, center) contends with warrior damsels Bradamant (Hannah Baker, left) and Marfisa (Kira Wilkinson, right) in this year's Winter Youth Musical at the Community Center. See story, page 16.

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.



- Shayna Skolnik, February 18, 2016



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

Eleanor Roosevelt herself presides over the front office at her namesake school, Eleanor Roosevelt High.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Pillion

A timid man, Colin (Harry Melling), is swept off his feet when Ray (Alexander Skarsgård), an enigmatic, impossibly handsome biker, takes him on as his submissive. Said critic Adam Graham of the Detroit News, "[Director] Lighton's deft touch brings viewers into their story without softening the graphic sex scenes. His strength is in making the specific universal, and he makes Melling's character impossible not to root for."

Midwinter Break

The film, starring Leslie Manville and Ciarán Hinds, is a stirring meditation on faith, commitment and the enduring power of love, as a longtime couple takes a life-changing trip to Amsterdam. "This slow-paced page-to-screen adaptation succeeds thanks to nuanced performances from stars Manville and Hinds," said critic Sandie Angulo Chen of Common Sense Media.

Kokuho

Nagasaki, 1964: After the death of his father, the leader of a yakuza gang, 14-year-old Kikuo is taken under the wing of a famous Kabuki actor. Alongside Shunsuke, the actor's only son, he decides to dedicate himself to this traditional form of theater. For decades, the two young men grow and evolve together - from acting school to the grandest stages - amid scandals and glory, brotherhood and betrayals. One of them will become the greatest Japanese master of the art of Kabuki.

Elio

For centuries, people have called out to the universe looking for answers - in this all-new animated feature film from Disney and Pixar, the universe calls back. The cosmic misadventure introduces Elio, a space fanatic with an active imagination and a huge alien obsession. So, when he's beamed up to the Communiverse, an interplanetary organization with representatives from galaxies far and wide, Elio is all in for the epic undertaking. Mistakenly identified as Earth's leader, Elio must form new bonds with eccentric alien lifeforms, navigate a crisis of intergalactic proportions and somehow discover who and where he is truly meant to be.

The Nutty Professor

Julius Kelp (Jerry Lewis) is a college professor with a problem. Clumsy, awkward, inarticulate and unattractive, Julius is a hopeless case when it comes to women - but he's desperate to impress beautiful student Stella (Stella Stevens). Fortunately, he does know something about chemistry and decides to concoct a potion that will turn him into a whole new man. In this classic comedy, Julius' suave alter ego, Buddy Love, must win Stella's affections before his short-lived potion runs out.

Project Hail Mary

Science teacher Ryland Grace (Ryan Gosling) wakes up on a spaceship light-years from home with no recollection of who he is or how he got there. As his memory returns, he begins to uncover his mission: solve the riddle of the mysterious substance causing the sun to die out. He must call on his scientific knowledge and unorthodox ideas to save everything on Earth from extinction ... but an unexpected friendship means he may not have to do it alone.



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 13th - 19th

Pillion (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (106 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:20 PM, Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC)

Mon. 3:00 PM, Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 4:20 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

Midwinter Break (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (91 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:35 PM (OC)

Tues. 4:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM, Sat. 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:45 PM, 5:30 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM, Thurs. 7:30 PM

Kokuho
(NR) (2025) (174 mins)

In Japanese w/ English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 4:30 PM, Sun. 5:00 PM

Wed. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 4:30 PM, Mon. 5:15 PM

Tue. 6:30 PM, Thurs. 3:45 PM

Elio (PG) (2025) (99 mins)
Free family screening
sponsored by the Greenbelt
Police Department

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 1:00 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM-11:15 AM

The Nutty Professor
(NR) (1963) (107 mins)

Free screening sponsored by
community member J Thompson
in celebration of Jerry Lewis' 100th
birthday

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 8:00 PM

Project Hail Mary (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (156 mins)

Early members-only screening
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 7:00 PM (OC)

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 this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. Real-time updates to the Library's operating schedule due to inclement weather and other emergencies are posted on pgcmls.info/alerts.

Pre-K Story Hour

Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder

Friday, March 13, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15645398.

Storytimes

Friday, March 13, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15668571.

Wednesday, March 18, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15661218.

Thursday, March 19, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15668554.

Come join in for stories, songs, fingerplays and more.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, March 16, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway. Children's author Ruth Forman will read her newest book *Do I Love You? Yes, I Do!* at the love-themed storytime. Greenbelt Cinema and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) are offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15645212.

STEM Fun

Tuesday, March 17, 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities. Explore Plus Plus construction sets through interactive challenges that spark curiosity and creativity. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15649712.

Ride and Read

Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get moving and have fun at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15643581.

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.



Reel and Meal Shows Porcelain War Film

The Reel and Meal program at the New Deal Café will screen *Porcelain War* on Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m.

This inspiring film shows natural beauty and artistic creativity in Ukraine along with resistance to Russian aggression. *Porcelain War* won the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Documentary at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated in 2024 for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Featured in the film are Slava, a ceramic artist who makes whimsical porcelain figurines, and his wife Anya, who paints them with amazing details. Slava is also a soldier who trains mostly volunteers to fight to defend their country.

Slava states that "The opposite of war is not peace. I think the opposite of war is creativity." The beauty of art and nature in Ukraine stands in sharp contrast to the destruction wrought by Russia.

The Q&A afterward will feature Natalia, a Ukrainian English teacher, who will join via Zoom, at 2 a.m. her time, from Cherniv near the Russian border. Her home is very much in the war zone. Cherniv was one of the first cities overrun by the advancing enemy army.

Porcelain War is presented by Greenbelt Refugee Aid and the Greenbelt Potters Group. Homemade ceramics will be offered as thank-you gifts for donations to help Ukrainian orphans.

The event is free. For Zoom viewing and participation register with tinyurl.com/RandM-16March26. Even better: attend in person and have dinner at the Café at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16. Call 301-467-2418 for more information.



More Community Events throughout the paper.

Annual Uke Jam Returns

Join Greenbelt Recreation instructor and Artist-in-Residence Rachel Ann Cross at a ukelele jam on Sunday, April 12 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The event will be held on the Community Center front lawn. Players of all experience levels are welcome. Bring a ukulele and seating of choice. Also bring: music stand and page clips; water; sun protection; friends and family who like to sing; and maybe a picnic. Participants are encouraged to sign up at sugeni.us/enfB.

For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltdm.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Tax Preparation 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 the Greenbelt Fire Department, 125 Crescent Road, by appointment only. Call 301-941-7123 to make an appointment.

Naw-Rúz at Three Sisters Garden

The Greenbelt Bahá'í Community will collaborate with Greenbelt's Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) again this year to celebrate Naw-Rúz on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with breakfast, spring cleanup and planting in the Three Sisters Garden East at Schrom Hills Park. All are invited to join and students can earn service hours.

Every year, on the day of the vernal equinox that begins the spring, Bahá'ís around the world observe Naw-Rúz as a celebration of physical and spiritual renewal, and a time to reflect on the spiritual rejuvenation brought by the founders of the world's great religions to humanity. In Greenbelt, work in the garden serves as an active expression of faith and helps create community spirit.

The Three Sisters Garden East is one of three gardens founded in 2010 by CHEARS to offer educational and enjoyable outdoor spaces that demonstrate sustainable growing practices and healthy food options.

The March 21 event will begin in the Schrom Hills Recreation Center at 6915 Hanover Parkway at 10 a.m. with a light breakfast and orientation before beginning the work under the direction of Jennifer Dudley, the Three Sisters East garden coordinator. Participants should come prepared for work with hat, gloves, water bottle and gardening equipment such as shovels, hand tools, post hole diggers, buckets and sprinkling cans.

Greenbelt Chess Club

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, March 17. The meeting will be held at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Greenbriar Phase I Elects New Board

Greenbriar Phase I held their annual meeting on March 3. The Board of Directors are as follows: Lawrence Noda, president; LaVerne Smith, vice president; Missy Dodd, secretary; Evelyn Kenley, treasurer; Jordan-Xavier Quinones, director.

English, Spanish Story Time, SHL Rec Center

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

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 13 de marzo a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en inglés y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrá libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Golden Age Club

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

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

March 25 - Bingo. The club could use some prizes; give them to Suze.

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

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

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club does not meet when the Prince George's County Public Schools office announces a delay, closure or a Remote Learning Day because of inclement weather.

See Dancing Joy Film, Join Dance Workshops

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program and Greenbelt Cinema will 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 Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*.

Activities will include two dance workshops at the Community Center dance studio, a belly dance workshop (age 15 and up), from 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*, from 11:15 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.



This Week at the New Deal Café

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

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday-Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am - 12midnight;
Sunday, 9am - 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!
*** RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 ***

TH 3/12	FRI 3/13	SAT 3/14	SUN 3/15	
The Lifters 7 - 9pm An infectious blend of original rock 'n soul led by Jon Steinmen	Bad Influence Band 8 - 11pm Four-piece group that breathes new life into blues and roots. Unabashed crowd pleasers.	DRUM CIRCLE W/ KATY GAUGHAN, 3:30 - 5pm The Jill Fulton Band 8 - 11pm Nashville recording artists sings covers and originals	Grateful Sunday W/ Colleen 'n Crew 6 - 8pm Celebrating Phil Lesh's birthday	
MON 3/16	TUES 3/17	WED 3/18	TH 3/19	New Deal Cafe
REEL AND MEAL 6:30 - 9pm A monthly film series on social justice issues.	St. Pat's Celebration w/ The Iron Ring 7 - 9pm Celtic music to get your Irish on!	PUB QUIZ 7 - 9pm Bring your team or form one on the spot!	Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 7 - 9pm Blues jam with all skill levels welcomed	IT'S TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

David Lange

David Lange died on Friday, March 6, 2026. An obituary will follow.

Becky Steele



Becky Steele

Becky Steele, age 79, died unexpectedly on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Becky was born in Port Townsend, Wash. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1969. She enlisted in the Peace Corps to provide healthcare to women in El Salvador, where she became bilingual in Spanish.

After returning, Becky worked at the first women's health clinic in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco and provided mental health care to low-income residents. Becky completed her Master of Science in child psychology at the University of California East Bay.

Becky was determined to become a mother, and gave birth to her only daughter, Amber Steele, in 1980. A fiercely independent single mother, Becky worked full-time as she began her first career as a child psychologist in K-12 schools in San Jose and Hollister school districts. Throughout her career, Becky was known to take on higher caseloads, conduct more home visits and put in more hours than anyone else. She passionately believed in the dignity and worthiness of every child and every family, no matter their background, abilities or documentation status.

Her Atholton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Columbia, Md. provided community and care that inspired Becky to touch the lives of many friends and strangers in

the area. She loved to walk, to enjoy the beauty of nature and to see the best of everyone she met. Her soul was gentle and fierce.

When first joining the Seventh-day Adventist faith, Becky would spend her spare time helping un-housed people with finding housing and support, changing their bandages and connecting them with social services. She moved from San Jose, Calif., to Elkridge, Md., to help care for her longtime best friend, Linda Pate, and her family.

Becky earned her CNA/GNA license and continued caring for others, including her dear friend Roseerin Collins of Greenbelt and her beloved dog, Snickers. By moving in with Roseerin and joining the GHI community, Becky met Bill Orleans, her friend and confidant, and neighbor Liz Tobey, by whom Becky will be sorely missed.

Becky is survived by her oldest sister, Shirley Rice, mother of Vicky, Micheal, Leah and Kate; brothers Harding, Tiger and wife Jeannie, and Kelly; and nephews Troy, Logan and Cooper. Artist Kelly Steele and his wife, Stacy, live in Carmel, not far from the family home where Becky grew up. Becky is also survived by her daughter, Amber Steele, who is a professor of dance and currently pursuing her doctorate of education, Amber's husband, Steev Dinkins, and their daughter, Luna Steele, age 5. Like her grandmother, Luna loves flowers, to express her love in writing and to show kindness to others.

Services for Becky will be held at the Atholton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Columbia, Md., on Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Becky's name to the Atholton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Neighbor Elizabeth Tobey has also created a GoFundMe to assist Becky's family with the expenses related to her death at gofund.me/183263089.

City Notes

Public Safety and Constituent Services attended a Maryland Leaders Statewide call about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence in Maryland. Human Resources delivered pizza to every department for Employee Appreciation Day and Economic Development visited several new and upcoming stores in Beltway Plaza.

Information Technology assisted the Police Department with the installation of a license plate reader system. Code Enforcement inspected 12 commercial suites and 19 rentals and processed three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

Animal Shelter residents are five cats, two kittens and two dogs after one adoption.

Public Works helped Community Center staff set up risers for the Youth Musical. Recreation supervised the ongoing ballfield improvement project at Braden Field, with contractors working on fencing and dugouts.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted a senior social featuring knitting and crocheting. The Museum removed their Valentine's Day collection and began installing a spring display.

CARES counseled 146 clients, including 46 minors. Their education program tutored 23 students, mentored 14 GED and three Workforce Development aspirants and taught 11 ESOL students.

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.

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.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

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

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



Our sympathies to the family of Becky Steele, who died March 7 after being struck by a car while walking in a crosswalk. She touched many lives with her caring for community.

Congratulations to Eleanor Roosevelt High School, which was named to the Advanced Placement School Honor Roll, earning the Bronze distinction. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access, based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness. ERHS offers 24 AP courses, taught by 34 teachers in 84 sections. Of the Raider senior class, 48 percent took at least one AP exam during high school, with 37 percent scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam and 13 percent who took five or more AP exams.

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



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Community Center Room 114

15 Crescent Rd

cathcomgreenbelt.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://ccg1985+owner@groups.io)

"Thou dost wish for gold and I desire thy freedom from it. Thou thinkest thyself rich in its possession, and I recognize thy wealth in thy sanctity therefrom."

— Bahá'u'lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725

Phone: 301-937-3666

www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



March 15, 2026, at 3 p.m.

**Truth-telling Women:
Are We Listening?**

The Diversity AntiRacism Transformation Team's Bookread group will share the powerful voices of women who have made a difference in how we think about and advance democracy and justice. The contributions of Pauli Murray, Mary Annette Pember, and Lillian Smith - women diverse by race, profession, and life experiences - will be featured.

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



Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation. The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then optional sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience Robbins at patience.robbins@gmail.com.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Living Generously in a World that Holds Back

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
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

Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. The March theme is Frogs and Toads.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5772. Visit fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center for more information.

Honk and Resist

The Greenbelt Resistance Network will sponsor another “wave and honk” event on Saturday, March 14, 2 to 4 p.m., at Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive to protest ICE’s presence at Greenbelt Park and its joint operations with Park Police on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Bring signs, banners and a voice for democracy.

For more information, email John Campanile, jbelltower@yahoo.com.



Registration Open For Recreation Classes

Registration is now open for Greenbelt residents for Greenbelt Recreation classes and activities. Registration opens at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 16 for non-residents. Classes begin during or after the week of March 23. Spring and Summer Camp registration is currently open for all. Visit greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide to see the new Greenbelt Recreation Spring Activity Guide and the Camp Guide.

ERHS Mattress Sale

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Music Program is hosting a Mattress Sale Fund-raiser 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.



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. For more information, visit dcd.org.



City Information & Events

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

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



MEETINGS FOR MARCH 16 - 20

Monday, March 16, **NO MEETING - NLC CONFERENCE - WASHINGTON D.C.**

Tuesday, March 17 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**
On the agenda: Discussion on timeline, Recommendations update, Report update, and Spring Town Hall planning

Wednesday, March 18, **NO MEETING - NLC CONFERENCE - WASHINGTON D.C.**

Wednesday, March 18 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**
On the agenda: Council Liaison Updates and Discussion with the Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB): Indian Creek Master Plan - Refined Concept Plan

Wednesday, March 18 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - EDUCATOR AWARDS**

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

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.

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 or (240) 542-2168.

Gardening Get Togethers

Every Wednesday, beginning March 25th - Buddy Attick Lake Park

Join City Staff and Community Members as we work to maintain the Pollinator Gardens at Buddy Attick Park. Activities will include mulching, weeding, and planting native perennial species.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Tuesday, May 5 from 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

This free health screening is for adults 18+. No insurance or ID required. Available screenings: Blood pressure, A1C testing, Glucose testing, and/or Cholesterol screening

Register at <https://forms.gle/v5jabqbbAuL88YcS9>.

Contact: Canela Bascolo at (240) 542-8810 or cbascolo@greenbeltmd.gov

Presented by Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) and Luminis Health



* 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, 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 for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.

Spring Registration Open for Greenbelt Residents

Sign-up for classes, workshops, meet-ups, and special events for all ages. Registration for non-residents begins 3/9 at 10am. See brochure and more information at www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide. Spring session begins 3/23.

Art Share (meet-up)

Friday, 3/20; 7-8pm Greenbelt Community Center. Present and discuss your art in a friendly and supportive environment. FREE. Sign up here for communications about this monthly series: sugeni.us/ekEO. Also on 3/20, attend an artist talk with Ann Margaret Morris, more information and sign up at sugeni.us/el6b.

YOUTH MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

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).

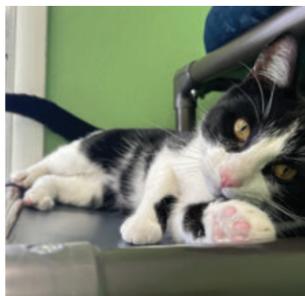
DRAFT CEMETERY PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN

The City of Greenbelt has contracted with JMT to prepare a Preservation Master Plan for the preservation, maintenance and use of three historic cemeteries. View the draft of the Cemetery Preservation Master Plan using the QR code or by [clicking here](#). The project is being funded by a grant received from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority/Maryland Historic Trust. You can learn more and stay updated by visiting the City of Greenbelt website.



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 or call us at (301) 474-6124.

TOO TOXIC TO TRASH

FREE EVENT

E-WASTE and HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Event

March 14, 8 am - 1 pm

Prince George's Stadium, 4101 Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD

Drop off any accepted electronic and household hazardous waste item. A list of accepted items can be viewed at mypgc.us/clearthecurb. Vehicles must be in line by 1 pm to receive service. This event is open to county residents only and ID may be required. Commercial vehicles and commercially generated items are not permitted.

For more information, visit mypgc.us/clearthecurb

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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

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

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

Women's History

Greenbelt Orchestra to Present Works of Women Composers

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Greenbelt Community Orchestra performs in the Community Center gym in November 2025, under the baton of Andrew Samlal.

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will present a Women's History concert featuring Elfrida Andrée's Concert Overture in D, Judith Bailey's *Trencrom*, Amy Beach's *Bal Masqué*, Veronica Maidoh's *The Final Horizon* (world premiere) and Louise Farrenc's *Symphony No. 2*.

The concert will be held on Sunday, March 22 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym, supported in part by a grant from Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council. All orchestra concerts are free and open to the public and early arrival is suggested as seats are limited.

Challenges

Anne Gardner, who founded the Community Orchestra in 2023, explains the challenges of putting together a whole concert of works by women composers. "Women were actively discouraged from composing, especially large-scale works for orchestra. For a long time women were not allowed to enroll in classes at conservatories, and needed wealth and support to study privately with music teachers. Conductors were reluctant to perform music by women, and it was hard to get their music published. Even if they enjoyed success as composers during their lives, their music was largely forgotten after they died."

More music by women has been rediscovered in recent years, but is often held in institutions that are difficult to access. Sheet music published recently is very expensive to rent and to acquire the rights to perform. Sometimes, publishers do not even respond to requests from small community orchestras. Thus, this concert represents a triumph for Greenbelt Community Orchestra.

Featured Composers

Veronica Maidoh (1996-) earned her B.A. in music composition from University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) in 2021. Greenbelt Community

Orchestra presented the world premiere of Maidoh's *Journey to the Unknown* in May, 2025, and this year premieres her new work for full orchestra, *The Final Horizon*. Her previous works have been featured in UMBC Composition Recitals and the UMBC Honors Recital. She has a growing interest in scoring for film and television.

Judith Margaret Bailey (1941-2025) from Cornwall, England, studied at the Royal Academy of Music from 1959 to 1963. Her over 90 compositions include two symphonies, a clarinet concerto and settings of Shelley's poems. *Trencrom* (1978) is a tone poem describing the Cornish landscape. Bailey conducted the Southampton Concert Orchestra, where her partner Isabel Young was cello section leader, among other orchestras.

Amy Beach (1867-1944), a child prodigy, could sing 40 songs accurately by age 1, improvise counter-melody by age 2 and compose waltzes by age 4. Although she agreed to limit her public recitals to two per year, with profits donated to charity, her husband did support her work as a composer with over 300 published works. Her *Gaelic Symphony*, premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1896, was the first symphony composed and published by an American woman. She was invited to the Chicago World's Fair as a featured composer. She wrote her popular *Bal Masqué* in 1894.

Swedish composer Elfrida Andrée (1841-1929) studied composition and organ at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, graduating as an "external" student because women were not admitted as regular students. She and her father worked for four years to overturn a Swedish law that forbade women from being cathedral organists; Andrée then served over 50 years as organist and music director at the Gustavi

Cathedral in Gothenburg and composed over 100 works. Her *Concert-Overture in D* was never published, but was performed in Berlin in 1888, conducted by Andrée herself.

Louise Farrenc (1804-1875) enrolled at the Paris Conservatory through private lessons, since women were then forbidden to enroll in the traditional composition classes. She was successful as a concert pianist, and in 1842 became professor of piano at the Paris Conservatory - the first and only woman to hold a permanent position there during the 19th century. She launched a successful letter-writing campaign demanding equal pay. Her compositions, including chamber music, works for solo piano, two overtures and three symphonies composed in the 1840s, were rediscovered in the 20th century.

Help the Orchestra

Though all Community Orchestra concerts are free and open to the public, expenses include rental of sheet music, securing rights, printing costs and conductor stipends. For more information or to donate, go to greenbeltorchestra.org.

LEWIS continued from page 1

slept in the cellar, in the coal cellar during the Blitz," Lewis recalled.

In Greenbelt, Lewis became active in the community while raising her two children. "It was a perfect, perfect place for children," she said. "They could play in the playground, walk to school, go buy something at the store."

Her professional career also grew out of those early parenting years. When her son started first grade in 1968, Lewis began working with the Prince George's County chapter of the American Red Cross. She would eventually become executive director and help build programs that connected young volunteers with community service opportunities. "I was proud of getting the youth volunteer program started," she said.

After retiring in the late 1990s, Lewis devoted more of her time to organizations and issues within Greenbelt itself. She served as treasurer and later president of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and remained involved in local discussions and initiatives. In recognition of her many contributions, the city named her Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen in 2011. Soon after that Lewis began to volunteer for the Greenbelt News Review, where she oversaw the Ad Desk and served on the paper's board of directors.

Her civic engagement also extended into local politics. At a time when the city's leadership did not reflect its changing demographics, Lewis urged Emmett Jordan to run for office and served as his treasurer. He later became the first Black member of the Greenbelt City Council and eventually mayor.

Lewis said her approach to community involvement has always been simple. Rather than complaining about problems, she believes residents should work to fix them. "I figure if you don't like something, if you can't live with it, then do something about it," she said. "Don't just gripe, don't just grouse, do something."

Lewis said the cooperative structure that defines much of Greenbelt also helped shape her view of community. She believes the system encourages residents to participate actively rather than simply voice opinions. "If you've got an idea, don't just say it," she said. "Help bring it about."

Later this spring, Lewis will move to a senior living facility near her daughter in Penn Yan, N.Y. The decision means leaving behind the place where she spent most of her adult years. She said what she will miss most is the sense of connection that has long defined the city. "Oh, the people, the feeling of community," she said. "That's what I'm going to miss."

Reflecting on more than 60 years in the city, Lewis said Greenbelt gave her opportunities she never expected when she first arrived. "The best thing that happened to me was moving to Greenbelt," she said. "It enabled me to grow and develop abilities I didn't know I had."

For more on Sylvia Lewis, see our September 8, 2011, July 15, 2021, and November 13, 2024 issues.

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

visit
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

The Village Idiots present...

SPRING FEVER:
LORD OF THE EQUINOX
An Improv Show

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 6:30 PM



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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)

GAC

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG



This \$46.00 ad won't get you to Mars but Greenbelt has more shoppers.

www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

DATA CENTERS continued from page 1



PHOTO BY HUGH KENNY, BAY JOURNAL

Generators the size of tractor trailers, like those pictured to the right of this data center, are used for backup power, but they contribute to air pollution concerns.

Electricity Consumption
Data centers need electricity but forecasts for how much electricity they will need vary widely. In 2024, researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory estimated the future energy use by data centers. In 2014 these centers used 1.9 percent of total annual U.S. electricity consumption, which in 2023 increased to 4.4 percent and in 2028 the forecast is for 6.7 to 12.0 percent. A report by the International Energy Agency said that "From 2024 to 2030, data center electricity consumption [globally] grows by around 15 percent per year ... four times faster than the growth of total electricity consumption from all other sectors."

Uncertainties
Uncertainties in these forecasts are due to the rapid growth in data centers and the lack of transparency by their owners about how much electricity or other resources are used. Electricity consumed partially depends upon which AI models are used and the type of query (e.g., generating an image vs. text). New chip technologies and increased efficiencies in how data centers operate could reduce future AI-driven demands for electricity. Nonetheless, most forecasts indicate that the demand for new data centers and their associated electricity consumption will increase, dramatically in some cases.

Rapid Growth
The rapid growth of data centers is pushing utilities to find ways to increase electricity generation quickly and cheaply which may translate into continuing the use of electricity generated by fossil fuels. This threatens the commitments made by states to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

A report by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University projected that electricity costs in 2030 could increase by 25 percent in Northern Virginia due to the growth in data centers. Accurately forecasting electricity demands is critical because building electricity generation plants takes several years. If a utility over-builds, then a power plant may sit idle while the cost of building that plant still gets passed onto its customers.

Effects of Data Centers
Today's data centers are industrial-sized facilities and have a number of impacts including energy use, water use, compatibility effects, noise and air pollution. For example, according to Google's 2025 Environmental Report, its data center in Ashburn, Va., uses about 153,000 gallons of water per day. In comparison in 2025 a U.S. family of four used about 400 gallons per day, according to

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Unfortunately, Google's report did not reveal how much the Ashburn data center consumed in electricity on a daily basis.

Such large facilities are not compatible with residential areas. They need to be connected to the electrical grid, which means transmission lines that run across a wide swath of properties and substations. They also have back-up generators which, when running, will affect air quality and create noise pollution. Some data centers emit a humming noise and although it is low in decibels, its constant presence may be bothersome.

Data centers are approved at the county level on a case-by-case basis. This means one county's approval of a data center could affect the water supply of adjacent counties or the construction of new transmission lines in neighboring counties. There is no state or federal entity considering the cumulative impacts of all these data centers.

Job Creation
A 2024 report by Virginia's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission report to the state's governor and General Assembly found data centers had a positive economic benefit and much of this "... came from capital spending during the construction phase rather than spending during ongoing operations." At the peak of construction there could be as many as 1,500 employees. During operations a 250,000 square foot center could have 50 employees with some earning \$100,000 annually. In comparison, the average Costco store is 147,000 square feet, employs 200 to 300 persons and pays an hourly worker an average of \$64,000 annually.

Data centers can pay taxes into local economies, except where tax exemptions exist. For some counties in Northern Virginia this is an important source of revenue. For example, in Loudoun County the centers account for 31 percent of the local tax revenue because they are so numerous, whereas in Prince William County it is 7 percent.

Proposed Data Centers Locally
Public opposition to the data center proposed for Landover led county officials to impose a six-month moratorium on permits for these buildings. Nearby residents were concerned about potential health and environmental effects as well as the lack of transparency in the process.

The proposed data center would have 800,000 square feet and draw 300 megawatts of
See DATA CENTERS, page 10

Why Electrical Bills Are High

by Maurice Crawford

In Maryland the average residential retail price of electricity (cents per kwh) has increased twice as fast in the past five years as compared to the previous 18 years. According to data provided by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, it went from 12.7 cents in December 2020 to 19.5 cents in December 2025 which is about 10 percent per year. In comparison, from December 2002 to 2020 it went from 6.9 to 12.7 cents which is an increase of 4.8 percent per year.

In response to the rising cost of electricity, Wala Blegay (Prince George's County Council, recently appointed as at-large representative) convened a meeting on February 23 for residents to learn more about the power industry and why electricity rates are increasing. Residents were told that the two main reasons behind the high bills are, first, the cold winter weather and, second, that the demand for electricity is high but the supply is limited. Much of this increase in demand may be attributed to the construction of data centers, according to speakers at the event.

During the meeting residents heard from industry representatives Jason Stanek, executive director for governmental services, PJM Interconnection; Will Ellis, Pepco's director for external affairs; and William Fields, deputy, Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC).

PJM Interconnection
Pennsylvania, Jersey and Maryland (PJM) Interconnection is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity. It acts as the air traffic control system for the electric grid and ensures that power is dispatched from where it is generated to areas where it is needed. Within their grid they move electricity along high-powered transmission across an area that includes 13 states and stretches from Ohio to Virginia and north to New Jersey. Stanek said Maryland is facing an energy challenge. The demand for electricity has increased, with the construction of data centers pushing the capacity of the grid to its limits. He said, "We can either reduce demand or increase the supply of electricity."

OPC
Fields represents the OPC, which is a state entity that protects Maryland residential utility customers from unfair sales practices and unreasonable rates. For instance, when a utility brings a proposal to raise its rates to the Maryland Public Service Commission it is the OPC that will question the rate increase and advocate for the customers.

During his presentation Fields stated the two reasons for the high electric bills are the cold weather and the increasing rates for electricity. He felt that data centers are partly responsible for the increased costs Marylanders are experiencing and that there will be a need to add further generation to the system. However, "the added generation should be the data centers' responsibility and not fall upon residential consumers," said Fields.

Pepco
Pepco is a company that manages poles and wires; it carries electricity to homes but does not

generate it. Ellis, Pepco's representative, also spoke to what is driving the high bills and what can be done about it.

Ellis agreed that one reason bills have been so high is because of the cold weather and emphasized that this winter has been the coldest in 10 years. This cold weather has an effect on customers' bills because customers are using more energy to keep their homes warm. A second reason is because the supply of electricity is barely keeping up with demand which affects the price of electricity, said Ellis.

Electricity Bill
Ellis explained the different parts of a Pepco bill. The bill is divided into two main sections: delivery and supply. The delivery is the charge for transporting the electricity to the home and includes costs of maintaining

power lines, substations and other equipment. The supply charge is the cost of generation but it also includes the cost of transmission lines which move electricity over long distances (as opposed to the electrical lines along the poles on your street).

The other part of the bill that affects the cost of delivery and supply is how much electricity a customer uses. This is the part of the bill that customers can most readily affect, for example, through insulation improvements, using energy efficient products or changing the thermostat.

Ellis ended his presentation with an overview of the different programs Pepco offers that customers can use to manage their bills (e.g., budget billing or usage alerts) or reduce their electricity use (e.g., Home Energy Check-up).

Washington Gas to Increase Rates; Two Hearings Planned

The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold two virtual public hearings to receive public input on Washington Gas Light's proposal to increase its gas distribution rates. The hearings will be held Tuesday, March 24 at 6 p.m. and Tuesday, April 7 at 6 p.m. The utility's customers and other stakeholders are welcome to attend one or both hearings.

To participate, attendees should email kimberly.schock@maryland.gov by noon on Friday, March 20 for the first hearing and by noon on Friday, April 3 for the second hearing. Attendees will receive a link for the virtual meeting. A recording will also be posted to the Commission's YouTube channel: youtube.com/@MarylandPSC.

Washington Gas provides natural gas retail sales and delivery service to nearly 520,000 Maryland customers in Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties. In December 2025, the company applied to increase its annual revenues by \$82.5 million, with an incremental increase of \$67.1 million after the inclusion of the company's Strategic Infra-

structure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) revenue requirements. Washington Gas says its proposed rate design would result in an approximate 5.3 percent increase in the total bill for the average residential customer.

Written comments may be submitted electronically through the Commission's website, in the Public Comments Dropbox at pscmaryland.com/online-services/file-a-public-comment/. First-time users of the portal will need to register and then can submit their comments on Case No. 9849.

Comments may also be sent by mail by June 1, addressed to: Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower,
16th Floor
6 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202.

Evidentiary hearings in this case are scheduled to begin May 18 with a Commission decision by late July.

Information drawn from a press release from the Maryland Public Service Commission.

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Greenbelt Co-op Hosts Community Fireside Chat with Equal Exchange

by Amber Hennessy



PHOTO BY HONORA BANKO

Co-op members hear about Equal Exchange products.

On Monday, March 2, the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy co-hosted a free community Fireside Chat event with representatives from the worker cooperative Equal Exchange.

Rink Dickerson, founder, and Nicole Vitello, vice president, co-hosted the event with Co-op General Manager Dan Gillotte. The event was filmed by John Campanile for viewing on GATe. At the event attendees learned about the inspiring history of the formation of the Equal Exchange cooperative, starting in 1986 with Nicaraguan coffee. They enjoyed free samples of common Equal Exchange products, such as a variety of teas and chocolate from around the world.

Exchange Mission

Equal Exchange's importer experiment combined a private business model with a nonprofit mission. Its mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate the contribution of worker cooperatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world (see tinyurl.com/35xab4ea). As Dickerson described during the event, it was much to the founders' surprise that after three years, they were still operating and beginning to break even. The concept of Fair Trade began to enter the American importer economy and consciousness.

Farming Challenges

Moving forward to today's problems, the talk turned to the challenging economic environment that farmers still face, dealing with wild swings in commodity

prices and tariffs, all while securing sufficient funding to continue innovation. Equal Exchange stepped in when a grant program that had been funded by USAID since 2010 was canceled with no notice to recipients last year. Although they could not replace the full funding amount, Equal Exchange customers began donating directly to the Small Farmer Fund via Equal Exchange. While not a nonprofit, Equal Exchange is able to ensure that all donations reach the farmers directly. They collaborate with farmer co-ops on projects aimed at improving climate resiliency, supporting gender equity, engaging youth, improving crop yields and more.

Available at the Co-op

The Co-op currently stocks Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate products as well as their super high quality dried mango and intends to expand these offerings even further to items such as bananas and avocados. This talk was just one of the ways that the Co-op and Equal Exchange are partnering together more closely going forward. These representatives spent two days in Greenbelt, meeting with Co-op staff and community members to deepen these ties. For Greenbelt Co-op customers who would like to purchase other products directly from the company's website, they currently are offering a profit-sharing program to Greenbelt. For each purchase placed online customers can enter the code GCMEMBER to direct a percentage of the purchase price directly back to Greenbelt Co-op.

Amber Hennessy currently serves as Secretary of the Greenbelt Co-op Board of Directors.



CARES Needs Fund Donations

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be a safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up for credit card or PayPal.

Volunteer to Drive For GIVES

Want to meet fellow Greenbelters and help them out at the same time? The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) always needs volunteers, especially drivers. Choose when and where you will drive (within the 10-mile limit) and if you are also willing and able to help with carrying groceries or other packages.

To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES (membership is free), have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and pass a background check. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

Microchipping and Useful Giveaways In Celebration of Longtime Companion

by Matt Neufeld

For years, Maryland State Sen. Alonzo Washington, Prince George's County Democrat, was often accompanied around the county at events by his trusted, faithful boxer-mixed breed dog Policy - yes, Policy - and Policy became just about as well known in the area as her owner.

Alas, Policy died last year at the age of 14. So Washington decided to do the best thing that he could do to honor his adored, longtime companion: He hosted a free community dog microchipping, education, information and resource event on Saturday, March 7, at Greenbelt's Schrom Hills Park - and March 7 just happened to be Policy's birthday. Policy would have turned 15.

"I'm doing this in her honor," Washington said at the event Saturday morning, as a steady stream of dog owners and curious, excited dogs arrived at the park. "The best thing I thought I could do is to do this in her honor."

Washington adopted Policy from the Prince George's County Animal Shelter in 2011.

At the event on Saturday, which started about 10 a.m., many happy and appreciative dog owners officially registered their dogs in the area's dog microchipping system; had microchips injected in their dogs on the spot; received information about how microchipping works; received some free training and obedience advice; and received free dog collars, dog shampoo, dog educational books, dog food, toys and, yes, dog pajamas.

The free microchipping services and several of the giveaways were provided by and overseen by the Prince George's County Pet Unity Project, an all-volunteer, non-profit pet advocacy organization founded in 2019. The free training and obedience advice was provided by Force Free DC, a dog training and behavior consulting organization.

An array of dogs were brought to the park on Saturday - huge dogs, medium-sized dogs, teeny tiny dogs and nearly-newborn dogs, middle-aged ones and old ones. An equally varied group of dog owners accompanied their pets. During the early portion of the event, the turnout was constant - 18 dogs arrived in the first 45 minutes, said a happy Cait Conroy, executive director and co-founder of Pet Unity Project.

"We love this," Conroy said. "We love any time [community and political] leadership is involved in making our community safer and more connected. Thank you to the senator for telling everybody about it."

Washington and Pet Unity Project sponsored a previous similar dog-oriented event in the summer of 2025 in Hyattsville. That event drew 157 people, Conroy said.

On Saturday, at the start of the event, this reporter followed dog owner Sam Sid, of Hyattsville, his family and their excited, lovable and adorable black Labrador Zuko - who is four months old - as they went through the microchipping process at several stations. At the first station, Sid registered some initial information in the microchipping system. At



PHOTO BY TRACY GANT

State Senator Alonzo Washington with Greenbelt City Councilmember Amy Knesel and her mixed-breed dog Penny at the pet fair

the second station, Zuko received his chip injection, which took just seconds, with no apparent pain or discomfort for the pup. After the injection, a volunteer scanned Zuko and confirmed that the chip was there and operating. Sid will have to follow up later online and complete the registration process with his personal and contact information. At the final station, Sid received a free dog collar, shampoo, book and training advice.

Zuko, an affectionate, loving dog, seemed to be having the time of his life; he approached and sniffed everyone; and he enjoyed all of the attention. He was fitted with a bright new red collar.

"It's wonderful," Sid said. "I think everybody should get one (a microchip for their dog), because it's easy to trace the dog back."

"I think it's a good idea," to have this type of event and free microchipping, especially considering the current difficult economy

and respective high prices for pet care, said April Belt of Capitol Heights, who came with her two sibling dogs, Bruno and Myla, seven-week-old Labrador and German Shepherd mixes. The pair seemed to be enjoying the event.

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan, Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón and Greenbelt City Councilmembers Amy Knesel, Silke Pope and Jenni Pompei all attended the event. Knesel brought her 5-year-old mixed breed Penny, who had been previously microchipped. But Knesel had Penny's chip checked at the event to make sure it had not moved. The chip was okay, Knesel said.

"I'm so thankful to Senator Washington for hosting this wonderful event in Greenbelt," Knesel said. She recommends that all dog owners get their dogs chipped and to keep their registration up to date.

See **DOGS**, page 12

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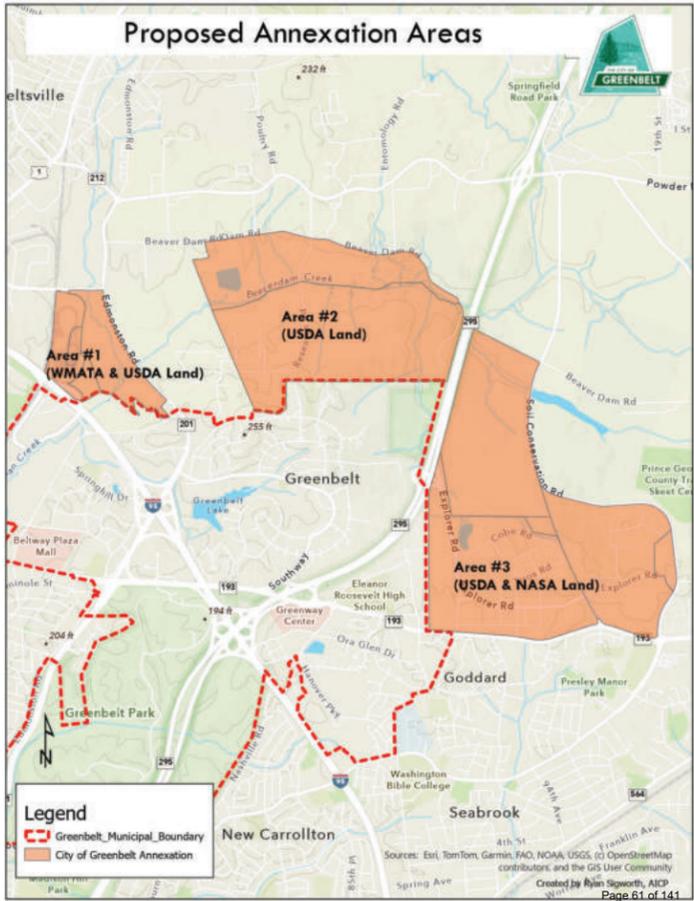
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Residents Raise Environmental Concerns at Annexation Hearing

by Laura Charleston



On Monday, March 9, the city held a public hearing on annexing three large areas of tax-exempt land.

Greenbelt residents questioned environmental protections and future land use during a March 9 public hearing on Greenbelt's proposal to annex federal land from parts of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center as well as some land owned by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) (see article in the January 22, 2026 News Review).

Residents are in support of the annexation but asked city officials how much decision-making power Greenbelt has over the land regarding usage or development.

"We are in agreement that the city should annex the federal property, as shown in those maps, because we need to protect the federal lands," said Jack Patterson, a Greenbelt resident. "But I also feel that you haven't gone far enough."

Patterson would like to see the annexed land extended to the Beaver Dam Creek Watershed to protect the land. Several residents said annexation could help protect open space, but urged the city to clarify its goals.

City officials said annexation would not change federal ownership of the land but would allow Greenbelt to participate in future

discussions about the property if the uses change. "But because it would be incorporated into the City of Greenbelt, if there were ever a change, the city would have a seat at the table to express our views," a city official said.

Officials also said a gap between two proposed annexation areas contains residential property that the city chose not to include in the current proposal to avoid creating service obligations.

The proposed annexation would add three areas of tax-exempt land to the city limits.

Residents said preserving the land's environmental value remains a key concern.

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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Greenbelt's Chasanow Featured In D.C. Blacklisted Exhibit

Blacklisted: An American Story is an exhibit at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., open through September 7. Among the stories shared is that of Abraham Chasanow of Greenbelt, who was a federal employee suspended from his position following accusations of communism and affiliation with left-wing organizations in 1953 at the height of the McCarthy era. Chasanow was a founder of Mishkan Torah, Greenbelt's synagogue, head of the citizens' association, a director of the Lions Club and a Boy Scout leader, as Washington Jewish Week noted in their March 6 article about the exhibit. Chasanow "was called to testify, name names and defend himself" and "marshalled 97 character witnesses" on his behalf (Wash-

ington Jewish Week, tinyurl.com/mrxkrjpv). Chasanow's ordeal and the response in Greenbelt, then a young, mostly federally-employed cooperative community, is documented in Greenbelt News Review articles of the time, and written about again on January 18 and 25, 2024, with a February 1, 2024 article about the effects of the hearings (greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives/).

Blacklisted: An American Story runs through September 7, at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, 575 3rd St. NW, Washington, D.C. The exhibit has a fee, but is free for children age 12 and under. Visit tinyurl.com/5cy3pya8 for more information.



Community Art Weekly Meet-Ups

Enjoy two free weekly meet-ups at the Community Center. Yarn & Darn meets on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a knitting, crocheting, embroidery, cross stitch or other fiber art project to work on in a relaxing environment.

Craft and Create, a new group for ages 18+, meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project in progress, or enjoy a new themed project each week. Bring personal supplies, or use what the group members provide. Both groups meet in the Community Center, Room 113. For more information, email alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov or mcason@greenbeltmd.gov. For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Greenbelt Artist Show At Patuxent Refuge

Throughout March, the featured artist at the Hollingsworth Art Gallery at the Patuxent Research Refuge is Greenbelt fine artist Amanda Spaid. The exhibit, titled Locals, features thought-provoking paintings of local birds.

Through her work, Spaid hopes to inspire people to slow down and better appreciate the natural world. She paints a variety of animals, but her primary focus is birds.

A reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, March 28, 1 to 4 p.m.

The gallery, located within the visitor center and accessed from Powder Mill Road near the intersection with Md. 197, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays.

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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.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

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Nugent & Kash named the 2026 Face of Prince George's County Real Estate by Washingtonian Magazine.

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FUNDING continued from page 1

to expand youth programming and improve recreation facilities across the city.

Mayor Emmett Jordan said the investments will address long-standing needs for recreation infrastructure and secure healthy environments for the youth.

"These dollars did not arrive here by chance," Jordan said. "They arrived because you showed up for Greenbelt and you fought for our community in Washington and delivered."

The funding package includes \$1.5 million to replace the roof at the Youth Center and \$250,000 for programming expansions and improvements at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Jordan said the project's focus is on supporting young residents and strengthening community resources.

U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) said the funding reflects cooperation among Maryland's federal delegation and local leaders and the projects were selected because of their impact on youth programs in the community. "But the theme here, of course, are these young people," Van Hollen said. "And we want to just really thank you all."

U.S. Senator Angela Alsobrooks (D-Md.) said recreation facilities provide essential benefits for children and families.

"A community recreation center is beneficial to the entire community," Alsobrooks said. "Our children, however, do gain the greatest benefits from these investments because they provide outlets also for extracurricular activities." She added that the roof replacement will allow the Youth Center to continue hosting programs such as summer camps, preschool programs and youth clubs.

Local recreation staff said the improvements could also expand services for children with special

needs.

"It means so much because now we're able to pour even more into the kids here," said Madison Telfer, an inclusion assistant manager at the Recreation Center. "We were so limited with the ways that we were able to accommodate some, especially with the kids with autism and ADHD."

Luis Sandoval, an inclusion counselor center leader, has been involved with Springhill Lake Recreation Center since 2007, when he attended it as a child, and is passionate about providing a positive influence on the children. "We get influenced, especially the youth, by social media. With that type of power, you get influenced in a bad way. So, us getting funding like this, and having programs where we can talk about mental health, proper hygiene, and stuff like that," said Sandoval.

Carolyn Lambright-Davis has been volunteering for the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) for about nine years and is the coordinator of the Earth Squad. Earth Squad participants learn about sustainability by designing, planting, harvesting and eating the crops they grow. She mentors "citizen scientists."

Lambright-Davis disagrees with details of the disbursement of funding but is hopeful the money will help fix and maintain the Earth Squad's meeting space at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. "I do not like the equity of the disbursement of [funding]," said Lambright-Davis.

City officials said the improvements are expected to help the recreation system keep pace with population growth in Greenbelt and surrounding neighborhoods.

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



Senator Alonzo Washington speaks at the press conference. Pictured with him are children who use the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, U.S. Senator Angela Alsobrooks, Congressman Glenn Ivey, Mayor Emmett Jordan, City Manager Josué Salmerón and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen.

- Photos by Nick Hall NH



State and county politicians and Greenbelt councilmembers visit the playground at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

DATA CENTERS continued from page 7

electricity. A center of this size would likely consume nearly 2.5 million gallons of water each day. It was estimated that once operational it would employ 100 direct employees and provide nearly \$20 million in tax revenue for Prince George's County each year.

The county council Qualified Data Center Task Force completed a November 2025 report on data center impacts and recommendations and the moratorium is set to expire on April 30. The Maryland General Assembly is currently considering legislation that could strictly regulate data centers. The News Review sent questions about upcoming legislation and the number of data center permits in the queue to newly appointed District 4 Prince George's County Council Member Timothy Adams. The questions were forwarded to



PHOTO BY DAVE HARP BAY JOURNAL

Chilled-water storage tanks are seen on the side of a data center in Loudoun County, Va. Such systems are for backup cooling, according to the company's website.

County Public Information Officer Pete DeLuca, who said, "Legislation surrounding data centers will be shared with the public at a future date ..."



A spectacular sunset seen on the first day of daylight savings time on Sunday, March 8



Trees reflect on springtime at Greenbelt Lake.

- Photos by Christine Doran



PRELIMINARY AGENDA Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on March 19, 2026

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on February 19, 2026
- b) Legal Matters
- c) Contract Matters
- d) Personnel Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on February 19, 2026
- b) Statements of Closed Meetings Held on March 5, 2026 and March 19, 2026
- c) YARDI Inspection Form
- d) Member Handbook Recommendations Task Force
- e) 2026 Employee Handbook Revisions
- f) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on April 2, 2026

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Black History

Documentary Shows Rediscovered Footage of Black Power Movement

by Kurt Stand

Black Power Mix Tape 1967-1975 begins with a white manager of a somewhat rundown roadside beach café in Florida explaining that through hard work he has a good job, that anyone similarly willing to labor without shirking can make it in our country - for the United States is the greatest country in the world. In the next shot, in another, more rundown part of Florida, the camera crew interviews two Black men (one of them a Vietnam veteran) who explain that, no matter how hard they work, they can't get ahead - someone is always pushing them down. That contrast, in experience and perception, between Black and white, sets the stage for the explosion in radical activism of the Black Power movement that emerged into full public view in 1967.

The documentary was screened at the New Deal Café on February 16 in honor of Black History Month as part of the Reel and Meal film series. The film is a compilation of footage shot by Swedish television documentarians during the years 1967 to 1975; rediscovered in 2011, the tapes were put together by Swedish filmmaker Göran Hugo Olsson. Although the documentary proceeds in chronological order, it is not comprehensive and does not have an overarching narrative; rather it is something of a hodge-podge, a collage of speeches, rallies, interviews, and street scenes, with contemporary voiceovers. Perhaps, however, that gives a more accurate picture of how seemingly random events create their own narrative and synergy, expressive of a truth as experienced - in this instance, African American rebellion against an oppressive power structure that, in turn, inspired other liberation movements, a set of uprisings that created change but ultimately failed due to repression and despair, all the while leaving seeds of which continue to take root.

Among those highlighted in the film is Kwame Ture (then known as Stokely Carmichael), a Freedom Rider and leader of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) who in 1966 publicly articulated the slogan "Black Power" in response to the violence directed at the civil rights movement. Explaining the roots of his radicalism, Ture interviews his mother, Mabel, an immigrant from Trinidad. She explains how she raised five chil-



PHOTO BY KURT STAND

Angela Davis in Black Power Mix Tape 1967-1975

dren in a three-room apartment in a rundown section of Brooklyn, in a time when housing segregation meant overcrowded apartments were the norm for black families in New York City. Her husband was a carpenter, but was frequently out of work, since Black workers were, as was often noted, "last hired, first fired," so there was never enough money.

As the 1960s turned into the '70s, as demands for equality were blocked at the door of economic equality, and as police violence continued unabated, militance in the Black community grew as exemplified by the Black Panthers - whose leaders Huey P. Newton, Eldridge Cleaver and Bobby Seale appear in the film. Angela Davis, whose trial for murder after a courtroom shoot-out in 1971 led to a worldwide solidarity movement that contributed to her 1972 acquittal on all charges is interviewed and provides voiceovers. When questioned about the calls for violence in the Black community, Davis, a close supporter of the Panthers and at the time, a member of the Communist Party, responded that the Black community was constantly subjected to racist and police violence and had to defend itself. Having grown up in Birmingham, Ala., she recalled the bombing of a Black church in 1963 which killed four children, all of whom she knew - a bombing that was the Klan's answer to the March on Washington.

Nonetheless, Davis and others make the point that the real goal of the Black liberation movement was community control, education, health and food for the hungry. Such community control was also a means to decentralize democracy, and to emphasize that the issue was a capitalist

system that prioritized greed over people's needs and that forms of cooperation were in the interests of all people, irrespective of their skin color or nationality. The movement, which brought so much hope, was derailed by the arrests of many of its leaders and activists and by the flood of narcotics into Black communities across the country - an epidemic the documentary depicts in all its grimness. Yet hope could not be extinguished. Toward the end of the film, Lewis Michaux of the National Memorial African Bookstore in Harlem expounded on the fundamental need for reading and education, and the encouraging sign of many young African Americans who want to learn about their past to inform their future.

Continuity was evident after the film in a discussion led by Netfa Freeman, events coordinator and analyst for the Institute for Policy Studies. Freeman met Kwame Ture on several occasions as a member of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (Ture's primary organization over the last 30 years of his life) and as a member/organizer of Pan-African Community Action (PACA). Freeman explained that PACA continues the tradition of Black Power activism in its advocacy of community control as the means to achieve self-determination and to overcome poverty and inequality. In the lively discussion following the film and presentation, people noted that Greenbelt's cooperatives and community engagement point to the viability of community as a focal point for social change.

Greenbelters Travel



PHOTO BY TOM SAVAGE

Carol Slatin shares the News Review with her (step-)brother in Albuquerque, N.M.



PHOTO BY MELVIN NORTH

Harry Schomberg and Neshama Solomon catch up on Greenbelt news while waiting for clothes to dry at Mumbai's Mahalaxshmi Dhobi Ghat, thought to be the largest open-air laundry in the world.

Canasta and Mahjong Groups Meet Weekly

The Greenbelt Canasta Group meets on Mondays and the Greenbelt Mahjong Group meets on Wednesdays, both at 1 p.m. in the Senior Game Room in the Community Center.

People of all levels are welcome to drop in to play Canasta. Instructional classes are offered periodically in Mahjong.

Check the Greenbelt Recreation Activity Guide at greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for more information.

Volunteers Needed For Tool Library

The Greenbelt Makerspace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email us at staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt Makerspace is accessed via the exterior stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

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DOGS continued from page 8

Jordan said the Greenbelt community is grateful to Washington for hosting Saturday's event. "We care about pets," Jordan said, noting that the city is currently exploring the creation of another dog park along Indian Creek Trail in the Greenbelt Station neighborhood.

"It's a good event. It's good for the pets, for the people and the community of Greenbelt," said Patricia Fillman, the Greenbelt Supervisor of Animal Services, about having an event focused on microchipping. "It's responsible pet ownership."

Fillman said that Animal Services is working on getting a microchip scanning station installed in the parking lot of the Greenbelt Police Station. That would be a stand-alone, easy-access, public microchip scan-in station, she said, where people can scan stray dogs to find their owner's contact information.

The event on March 7 marked



PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

A seven-week-old Labrador and German shepherd mix puppy takes in all of the excitement at a dog microchipping and education event held on Saturday, March 7 at Schrom Hills Park.

a positive dog day of winter in Greenbelt. Surely, Policy would have been most appreciative about the event's success.

BARGAINING continued from page 1

and the need to find a process that is in the best interest of all parties.

Silvestri laid out two approaches to adopting a bargaining unit (BU). The first was for the city to voluntarily recognize one as appropriate, as was done with the FOP. This option is favored by council.

The second option is to use a labor commissioner to judge any units that are put forward and make a recommendation to the city. This could be helpful if there are multiple options proposed.

It was pointed out by Councilmember Silke Pope and several on council that commissioners are costly and that option requires many paid hours. Thus, limiting the number of choices would be the most tenable and least financially burdensome. Having the union decision process coincide with the budget deliberation process would be highly advisable in order to factor in all costs.

The consensus of the council ended up being that a single bargaining unit encompassing these other workers, alongside PW and FOP, would be the best way forward. An existing union could be used, such as AFSCME, which handles the bulk of the state's employees, or LiUNA, which has been proposed for PW. Silvestri said it is also possible that a completely new union could be formed specifically for Greenbelt's workforce.

There was a discussion concerning whether the city may or shall "voluntarily recognize an employee organization as the exclusive representative without prior review by the labor commissioner ... if an employee organization demonstrates majority support in an appropriate bargaining unit through authorization cards or other reliable evidence dated within 30 days of submission." As pointed out by Councilmember Kristen Weaver in a subsequent interview, using "may" allows the

city flexibility to choose a secret ballot election (which is always available) as well. This option was favored by Jordan.

Silvestri noted that secret ballot elections of a BU are simply done as well as being less costly.

An in-depth discussion will be needed to determine who will be eligible to bargain collectively, beyond the city's full-time staff. The major challenge will be on how to approach the city's part-time and seasonal employees. Establishing a minimum number of hours and whether one receives benefits were put forward as criteria. Many of these seasonal workers return year after year and work long hours, thus making their retention good for the city.

Council is focused on staying within the current salary market for its employees, based on data obtained by regular compensation studies. Having a study at least every three years was agreed on as a good strategy.

Trent Leon-Lierman, a resident and union organizer with LiUNA, said that intimidation and harassment by management are common occurrences in every collective bargaining effort in his experience. Councilmember

Frankie Fritz concurred with this, noting the extraordinary imbalance of power in such situations.

Pope acknowledged that there may have been situations where Leon-Lierman heard of intimidation happening in the city, but that she has heard overwhelming reports to the contrary.

Silvestri said that he has seen harassment perpetrated both by unions and management, but that Greenbelt is not a place where this is likely to occur.

Jordan and City Manager Josué Salmerón repeated this sentiment, saying that the city has zero tolerance for this. Salmerón said that staff have been trained against harassment and that there would be consequences for such actions.

Fritz said a clear process needs to exist for workers to report labor grievances, with Jordan and Salmerón saying that workers can use their chain of command, the Human Resources department and, lastly, the Employee Relations Board.

Silvestri said that an amended draft of the collective bargaining policy can be done quickly, allowing the council to be able to vote on this issue soon.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Yellow crocuses



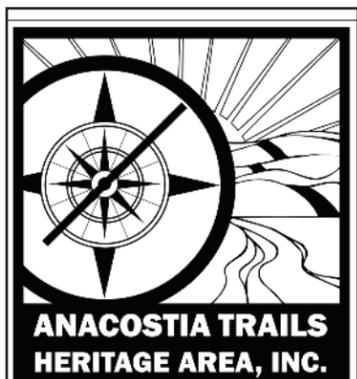
PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Snowdrops

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon.



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Man Sentenced to Three Years For Hitting Officer with ATV

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On February 20, 31-year-old Gerard Stokes of Ridge Road was sentenced to three years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for driving an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) into D.C. Metropolitan Police officers on March 15, 2025. At his trial in December 2025, as a result of a plea bargain, Stokes pled guilty to one count of felony assault on a police officer.

“Today, my office held accountable a criminal who attacked two Metropolitan Police Department officers by driving into them with his ATV. He will now spend three years behind bars,” said U.S. Attorney Jeanine Ferris Pirro. “The assault on any law enforcement officer will absolutely not be tolerated and my office will continue to aggressively pursue criminals who commit these violent, egregious attacks.” According to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), on March 15, 2025, officers were patrolling the area of 1442 U Street NW when they noticed a group of individuals on ATVs loitering outside a gas station. The officers drove toward the group at the gas station and got out of their cruiser to approach the group. Stokes then popped a wheelie and drove his ATV directly at two of the officers, clipping one in the shoulder and striking the other head-on, dragging her under the ATV for approximately 15 feet. As a result of Stokes’s actions, the officer, who was struck head-on, suffered multiple lacerations to the head and face, a concussion and a fractured jaw, the DOJ reported. (See page 8 of our August 21, 2025 issue for reporting on his initial arrest).

Detectives were able to identify Stokes as the driver of the ATV based on his distinctive clothing, helmet and blue ATV, which were captured on CCTV footage of the incident.

However, official reports of the incident differ between that given by the U.S. Marshals Service and DOJ and the account by the Metropolitan Police Department, most notably in the portrayal of intent. Federal reports claim that as uniformed officers approached the group on ATVs, “Stokes accelerated his ATV, raised the front tires in the air and aimed it toward the Officers” (U.S. Marshals Service, August 17, 2025), while Washington, D.C. police report that as officers attempted to stop Stokes he fled the scene, striking two officers as he did so (Metropolitan Police, August 17, 2025). The U.S. Marshals press release also labels Stokes a felon with “a criminal history of Robbery, Aggravated Assault and Carrying a Pistol without a License with a large capacity magazine.”

A month prior to Stokes’ arrest for the ATV incident, on July 15, there was a multiagency operation at his home in the 100 block of Ridge Road, while he was there (see the July 17, 2025 News Review). According to the U.S. Marshals Office, during that operation multiple firearms, including rifles, shotguns and pistols as well as 720 rounds of 5.56 ammunition were recovered. In August charges against Stokes, stemming from his July arrest, were filed in Prince George’s County

Circuit Court for two misdemeanors: possession of a shotgun by a disqualified person and illegal possession of ammunition.

The U.S. Marshals Office linked the arrest of Stokes to a successful surge of law enforcement in D.C. under President Donald Trump. “This apprehension during this public safety surge proves that we are making a difference by getting ruthless

and dangerous criminals off the street,” said Director of the U.S. Marshals Service Gadyaces S. Seralta. “By increasing the number of law enforcement professionals we are able to carry out the orders of the President and make D.C. safe and beautiful again.” However, Stokes was arrested at his home in Greenbelt. Stokes has remained in custody since his arrest on August 16, 2025.

Greenbelt Resident Dies After Being Struck by Car in Lanham

On March 3, at approximately 6:55 p.m., Prince George’s County police officers responded to a collision involving a pedestrian on Annapolis Road at Ellerbie Street in Lanham. The victim was 79-year-old Becky Lynn Steele of Greenbelt. She was taken to a hospital for treatment and later died there on March 7.

The Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit is investigat-

ing. The preliminary investigation revealed a driver struck the victim in the eastbound lanes of Annapolis Road. The driver remained on the scene and was not injured.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit at 301-731-4422.

Information in this report comes from Prince George’s County Police Department.

Police Arrest Man Waving Gun, Friend with Warrant

At approximately 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, Greenbelt Police Department received a call from the Greenbelt Metro Station regarding an armed person waving a handgun near the bus shelter. Responding officers located a male matching the description, who was accompanied by another male.

When officers approached the subjects at the bus shelter, they issued verbal commands to both of them. One complied, while the other, who matched the description of the person wielding the

weapon, refused to cooperate. This individual began reaching for what officers believed to be a firearm and continued to ignore verbal commands. After deploying a taser officers gained compliance.

Both Metro and Greenbelt officers then placed the individual into custody. A handgun was recovered, and a background check revealed that he had prior handgun violations. The second individual, who had complied with the officers, was also arrested due to an outstanding warrant.

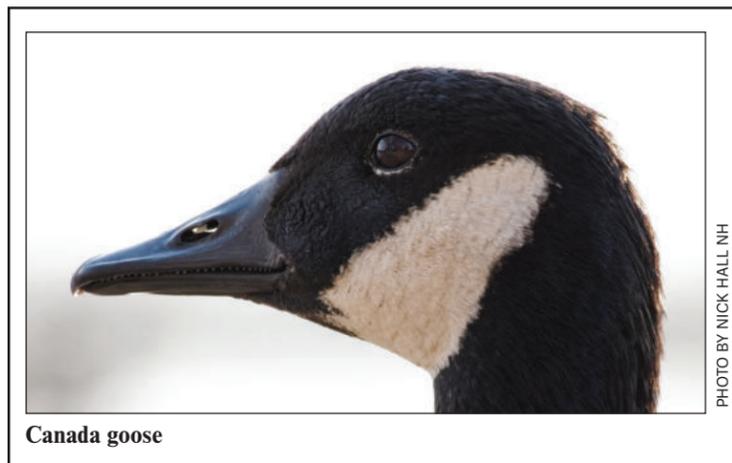
Police Officer Completes Food Delivery When Driver Arrested

On the evening of Tuesday, March 3, a Greenbelt Police officer observed a white Toyota Prius traveling on the wrong side of the roadway and conducted a traffic stop. The driver informed the officer she did not have a valid driver’s license but was working as a DoorDash delivery person.

The officer allowed the driver to safely park the car so it would not create a traffic hazard.

When the driver explained she still had one more delivery to make the officer said he couldn’t let her drive but stepped in and took the food to its destination.

“Sometimes policing means enforcement. Sometimes it means discretion. And sometimes it means making sure someone still gets their dinner,” said the Police Department.



Canada goose

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH



Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 2 to 8, 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. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death and two mental health diversions, one involving attempted suicide.

On March 5, a parent reported his children missing, believed to be with their mother who has shared custody. On March 6, a boy was reported missing and later returned safe.

Gunshots

On March 5 at 10:51 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a caller reported hearing two or three gunshots near Greenbelt Middle School. Investigation located two shell casings in the parking lot of 9100 Springhill Lane. There were no reported injuries but a vehicle was struck which had been reported stolen in November 2025.

Welfare Check

On March 7 at 3:50 p.m. near 5905 Cherrywood Lane, officers received a call that someone was causing a disturbance and found a woman with chains wrapped around her ankles, unable to leave the residence. Prince George’s Police Department took over the investigation.

Disorderly / Disputes

On March 8 at 6:12 p.m. near 6250 Greenbelt Road, a verbal dispute turned physical with only minor injuries; both parties declined pursuing charges.

On March 5 at 5:04 p.m. near 6237 Springhill Drive, a man stopped his vehicle, forcibly removed a woman from the passenger side and drove off.

Threats

On March 4 at 10:40 a.m. near 6023 Springhill Drive, a woman found a note at her front door containing threatening messages.

Fraud

On March 7 near 7716 Hanover Parkway, someone gained unauthorized access to a social media account and defrauded a woman of a large amount of money.

Theft and Shoplifting

On March 4 at 12:35 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter was apprehended after taking items; at 1:22 p.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter took items and fled.

On March 5 at 8:47 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a construction crew reported a Bobcat 262D Skid Steer stolen from this location.

On March 7 at 8:47 p.m. near 7495 Greenbelt Road, two men stole multiple clothing items and fled in a black SUV.

On March 7 at 2:45 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, someone stole merchandise; at 8:56 p.m. near 239 Lastner Lane, a package was taken from a doorstep.

On March 8 at 3:00 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl was detained after she tried to steal items; the store recovered everything and wanted no further police action. She was released to her mother.

Theft from Auto

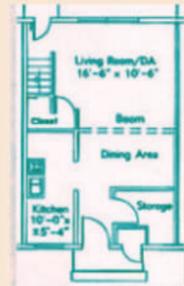
All four wheels were stolen from seven vehicles: on March 2 near 155 Westway from a 2026 Honda CRV; on March 3 near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive from a 2026 Honda Civic; on March 4 near 7200 Hanover Drive from a 2026 Honda Civic, near 9003 Breezewood Terrace from a 2022 Toyota Camry, near 9100 Springhill Lane from a 2009 Toyota Corolla, and near 5803 Cherrywood Terrace from a 2025 Honda Accord; and on March 5 near 5999 Springhill Drive from a 2017 Chevy Cambridge.

Tags were stolen on March 2 near 9226 Edmonston Road, rear (Va. SYT8427); on March 4 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive (Va. TPP4809); and on March 7 near 9168 Edmonston Road, front.

On March 5 near 6926 Hanover Parkway, a 2019 Toyota was broken into and items taken; near 7808 Hanover Parkway, a 2024 Chevy Traverse was broken into, and the owner was unsure what items were taken.



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FOR SALE - Yamaha soundbar ATS-1080 w/remote; black bamboo 4-panel room divider 68.5" high; NAD 4130 AM/FM tuner; pair of Bose speakers w/stand; have photos; Clarke, 301-575-7058, please leave voice message.

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

NOTICE

FREE - movie showing! The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (2005, PG), Saturday 3/28/2026, 1 p.m. Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway.

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NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.
DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).
ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.
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News Review Strikes Gold, Builds Tomorrow's Memories

by Cathie Meetre

It's nothing short of amazing what a determined little newspaper can do. The Greenbelt News Review archive goes back all the way to 1937 with searchable images of the newspapers for every week. A reader can find their family roots or maybe themselves capering as a lion in the Labor Day parade. Maybe uncover the announcement of their graduation from college or their great-grandfather's return from military service in WWII.

Just last week, Joyce Jefferson called us from South Dakota. She had searched our online archive and found a photograph of herself performing a historical presentation and asked whether we could find the high-definition original from March 11, 2004, and we could send it to her urgently. She wanted to be able to include it in a presentation she was giving the next day at the South Dakota Art Museum, sponsored by the South Dakota African American History Museum and the NAACP. "The photograph represents an early stage of my storytelling work presenting historical voices on stage. Those early performances explored how history could be experienced not only through written records, but through living voices, music, and presence," explained Jefferson. That earlier exploration has since grown into a collaborative storytelling project called Dakota Daughters, through which Jefferson and her colleagues bring historical women and community stories to life through performance, song, and narration. "We aim to help audiences encounter history through living voices rather than simply written records," she told the News Review.

The Dream Team of Managing Editor Anna Bedford-Dillow and colleagues Christine Doran and Anne Gardner of the News Review's layout team found the challenge irresistible. In our long-term archive, they dug out the week in question. Every week, after the paper is put to bed, we stash all the files and pictures that went into the issue into a folder, and transfer it to the long-term archive, which lives on our server with a cloud copy as a backup.

The Archive's Archive

This isn't the archive you search online, which only has the PDFs of the issue itself. This one has all the ingredients for that week's paper plus the resulting files the printer used. It has sepa-



PHOTO BY AGNES CONATY

From left, Lilah Pengra, Joyzelle Godfrey and Joyce Jefferson perform a moving story and song interpretation of family and community events surrounding African American, native American Indian and European American matriarchs during an Artful Afternoon in March 2004.

rate files for the MSWord stories, the photos we received and the ads we ran - all gathered into one big bucket. It's not publicly visible.

In 2004, we weren't still keeping photos printed on paper, of course, but, even better because time was tight, there in all its splendor sat the original high-definition digital file for Joyce's photograph. Quick, like a bunny, we emailed it to Joyce with time to spare for her presentation. "It means a great deal to me that your archives preserved this photograph," said Jefferson. "Images like this remind us that creative work evolves over time, and that each stage of the journey helps shape what comes next." High fives all round.

This type of backup doesn't of course exist prior to the newspaper being produced digitally. But since around 2002, there's very little we don't have. Odd as it may seem to some of us, 2002

is already history - but the News Review is Greenbelt's life preserver. It freeze-frames the memories, fears, joys, concerns and laughter of the past and keeps them safe so people can look back. Readers can send us their news for the Our Neighbors column. Free of charge we print family announcements, congratulations to graduates, marriages, babies - your news. We print obituaries for humans free as long as they have a connection to the city (though pet obits must be paid for).

Pity the communities whose pasts have disappeared into the abyss.

Ways to Help Pollinators

The TurfMutt Foundation urges everyone to support vital pollinator populations, such as birds, bees, butterflies and bats, in their yards, parks, community gardens, greenways and other community green areas. These living landscapes can provide essential shelter and food for important pollinators.

Pollinators are the unsung heroes of the natural world, and are essential in growing fruits, vegetables and flowers. Creating and maintaining healthy green spaces directly supports their survival and contributes to a healthier planet.

Ways to Help Pollinators:

1. Plant tree and shrub species that naturally occur in one's region as they are more beneficial to local pollinators than invasive species that can disrupt the ecosystem. Milkweed, for instance, is particularly valuable for monarch butterflies - a fantastic addition to any public green space.

2. Select a variety of nectar-rich, flowering plants and shrubs that bloom at different times during the year to ensure continuous support for pollinators.

3. Foster community engagement to support pollinators through volunteer opportunities and pollinator-specific events. Encourage your community to plan for and protect parks, community gardens, green school yards and other community green spaces. For inspiration, consult the National Recreation & Park Association's Parks & Pollinators resource.

From the TurfMutt Foundation, headquartered in Alexandria

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A Review

Greenbelt Youth Perform Winter Musicals to Packed Houses

by Matt Neufeld

Over the weekend of March 7 and 8, the curtain rose for the opening performances of Greenbelt Recreation Arts' annual Youth Winter Musicals, two separate plays performed in the gymnasium at the Community Center. Both of the sword-and-sorcery musical comedies that were presented - The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant and The School for Super-Heroes Presents Orlando Furioso - played to packed houses. Both will return this coming weekend.

Written and directed by Greenbelt's Chris Cherry, Orlando Furioso recounts the legendary adventures of Charlemagne's knights and their noble adversaries in a rollicking musical presented by a school for super-powered teenagers. On Sunday, March 8, a prequel, The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant, was presented at 1 p.m. and Orlando was performed at 3 p.m. The audiences for both plays ranged from little kids on up to senior citizens. There was an enthusiastic, supportive reaction to the fun, light-hearted plays, which were performed by all-youth casts that also included a range of ages, from pre-teens to older teens.

The plays, while mostly existing in the sword-and-sorcery realm, also managed to include an array of genres and influences, including comedy, romance, musical, drama, history, action and adventure. While mostly bringing to mind classic stories similar to the tales of King Arthur and the knights of Camelot, the plays at times also summoned memories of The Princess Bride, The Lord of the Rings and similar tales of fantasy.

Griffon and Aquilant

Griffon and Aquilant tells the story of the youngest members of the House of Claremont, twin knights Griffon the White and Aquilant the Black. The brothers encounter mystical, supernatural and mysterious events while embarking on a journey by land and sea. The brothers engage in a tournament, get caught up in a riot, battle combatants, succumb to sorcery and trickery, are rescued from a fortress and eventually celebrate victory in a rousing concluding anthem.

The musical has a huge cast, led by Lydia Allen as Griffon and Molly Fitzgerald as Aquilant. The program for the show lists at least 57 characters, with some actors playing several roles.

Griffon's book, music and lyrics are by Cherry, based on the 1500s-era Italian epic poem Orlando Furioso by Ludovico Ariosto. The musical was directed by Cherry, with musical direction by Stefan Brodd and production design by Nicole DeWald. Brodd played piano during the show.

Orlando

Orlando - the longer of the two plays - tells the story of a group of teens with super pow-



Orlando (Nyle Karamat) wields the enchanted sword, Durindana.

Nyle Karamat as Orlando, Mari Loucaides as Griffon and Lucy Bindel as Aquilant. The Orlando program lists a whopping 82 character roles, with again, many actors playing more than one part.

Poem, Book and Music

The inspiration for both musicals, Ariosto's 38,736-line poem, Orlando Furioso, debuted in the year 1516 and was officially published in its complete form in 1532. The poem was hugely popular at the time and influenced many subsequent poets and playwrights through the centuries, including William Shakespeare, Lord Byron, Virginia Woolf, Edmund Spenser and Robert Greene.

The Orlando book, music and lyrics were also written by Cherry, with musical direction by Brodd and production design by DeWald.

The entertaining day of musical comedy/fantasy/romance/action-adventure/sword-and-sorcery productions offered a fun, fanciful and fantastical escape to enchanting lands far, far away from the stark realities of real life just outside the doors of the Community Center. Everyone seemed to share the positive thought that it was great to escape that outside world for a few entertaining hours on a gray winter Sunday in Greenbelt.

Additional Performances

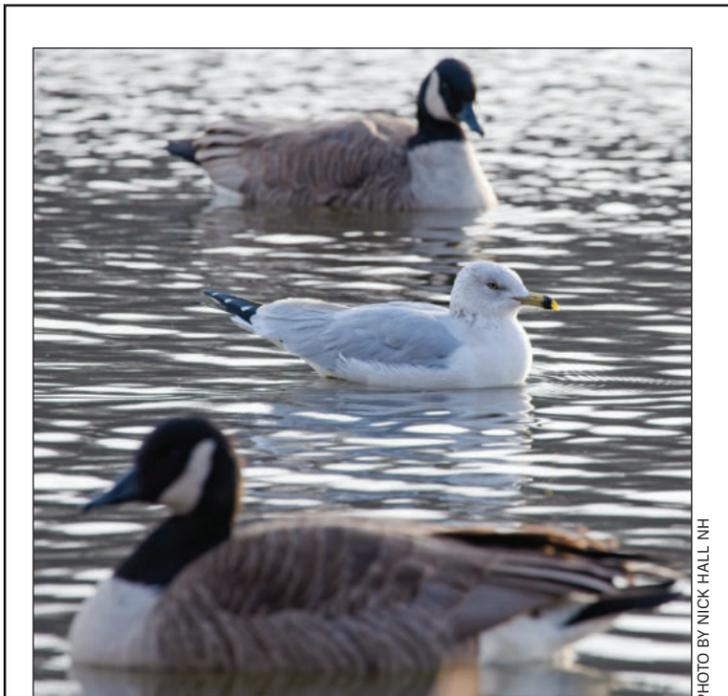
Another presentation of The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, March 13. Another two presentations of The School for Super-Heroes Presents Orlando Furioso are scheduled for 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. All performances will be held in the Community Center gym.

The City of Greenbelt's arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

ers who attend the School for Super-Heroes during a time of world war. The youths decide to produce their own musical, based on the 16th-century epic Orlando Furioso. Thus, the overall musical has several layers, covering a clever stretch of the imagination, as the audience is in essence watching a show within a show, performed by actors who are playing actors - and super heroes.

Orlando, as described by the show's program, is "set against the backdrop of the Saracen invasion of France and the final defense of Paris by Charlemagne and his knights," and the musical "is a sweeping adventure study of chivalry, heroism, magic and romance. King Charlemagne's forces are led by the noble heroes of the House of Claremont, including brave Rinaldo, his valiant sister Bradamant and their mighty cousin Orlando, who wields the enchanted sword, Durindana."

This play also has a cast of dozens, led mainly by Calista Ausema as King Charlemagne, Hannah Baker as Bradamant, Shawford Jackson as Rinaldo,



A ring-billed gull among the geese at Greenbelt Lake

Empty Spaces and Newcomers: Changes at Beltway Plaza

by Matt Neufeld

Visitors to Greenbelt's Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Road in recent weeks may have seen a few noticeable changes. First, the retail store Final Deal has opened at the former location of the TJ Maxx store in the middle section of the mall. Final Deal opened on Friday, February 27, according to a store employee.

On Friday, March 6, the large store was only about a third full of products. Empty spaces, shelves and kiosks filled much of the right side of the store. The products on display, with most appearing to have been untouched, and many still wrapped up tightly, included clothing, furniture, appliances and home goods.

Also in the middle section of the mall, just off the main events square, the Home Pretzel food stand has changed. The owner said she closed down the second part of her food stand and consolidated the operation into the sole remaining food stand. Although the stand is called Home Pretzel, the owner noted she offers a full range of food items, including entrees, sides, ice cream, hot dogs, snacks, sodas and other items. The closed side is locked up, with metal barriers in place that cover the location.

Just down from Home Pretzel, the As Seen on T.V. store, which sells an array of eclectic products noted for being constantly adver-

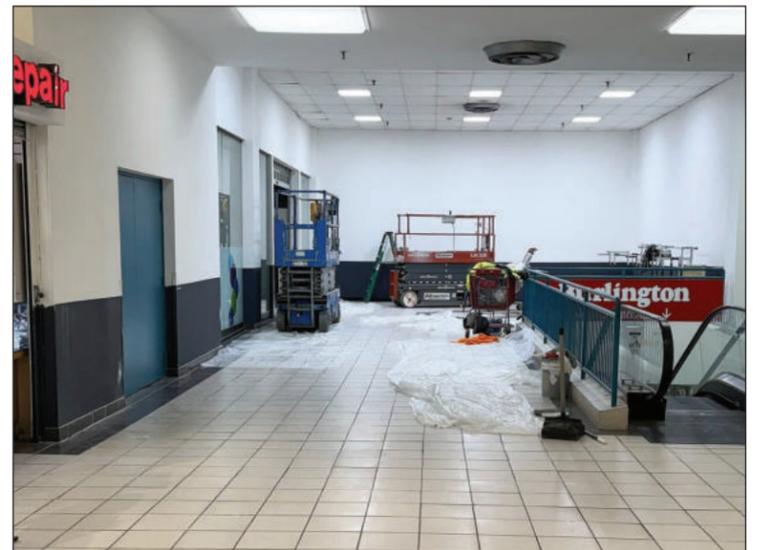
tised on television, has moved. The new As Seen on T.V. location is in the main mall corridor next to the EZ Kabob restaurant.

A sign on the old As Seen on T.V. location is advertising the arrival of a Patience Martial Arts and Fitness business. The sign says Patience is set to offer "traditional and modern taekwondo." No date is given on the sign regarding the planned opening of the martial arts studio.

Just a few stops down the main corridor, the site of the former small tailoring and alterations shop that used to be next to Affordable Worldwide Travel has been cleared out and that location is now empty. The tailor shop closed last fall, but the location was just cleared out over the last few weeks, a nearby retail employee said.

At the far end of the mall, on the side where the Giant supermarket is located, near the old location of the McDonald's, the site where a sporting goods store used to be is still empty and boarded up.

And finally, a sign on a vacant location in the middle of the mall promises that a business called Blue Sunday is "coming soon." Blue Sunday appears to be a bar and restaurant, as the sign promises happy hour drinks and food items.



Work under way in February outside the space long held by Joann Fabrics

- Photos by Daniel Robles



Signage for Jump City Trampoline Park at the former Big Lots space

