



Goddard Visitor Center, p.6

Springhill Lake Career Day, p.7

2026 ACE Student Achievement Awards Celebrate Greenbelt Youth

by Joseph Ralbovsky



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Pictured from left are: (back row) State Delegate Nicole Williams, PGCPD District 2 Board of Education Member Jonathan Briggs, City Councilmembers Silke Pope, Frankie Fritz, Danielle McKinney, Kristen Weaver and Mayor Emmett Jordan, (in front) District 4 County Councilmember Tim Adams, City Councilmember Amy Knesel, Naima Eastman of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Shane Fleshman of Magnolia Elementary School, Favour Sunny-Akowe of Greenbelt Middle School, Gloryette Abolle of Magnolia Elementary School, Jacob Gbesso of Greenbelt Elementary, Fotabong Emefuerte of Springhill Lake Elementary School, Michelle Philippeaux of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, City Councilmember Jenni Pompei, Stephen Bongwele of Greenbelt Middle School, Santiago Gallardo-Espinoza of Springhill Lake Elementary, Zaara Ahmed of Greenbelt Elementary School, Carissa Nwabueze of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and Antonia Troncoso-Roldan of Dora Kennedy French Immersion.

On May 20, Greenbelt's Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) recognized Greenbelt students who honor the city's traditions of citizenship, leadership and academic achievement. This recognition of students, nominated by the educators and administrators of their schools, complements the Educator Awards, presented to teachers and staff members from Greenbelt's schools

in March (see the March 25 issue).

Greenbelt Elementary School Jacob Gbesso

Jacob is a kind and dependable student who consistently sets a positive example for those around him. His peers know they can look up to him and rely on him for support and encouragement. In the classroom, Jacob is always willing to lend a helping

hand and can be counted on to contribute in meaningful ways and his hard work is reflected in his continued achievement on the honor roll.

Zaara Ahmed

Zaara consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, approaching every task with focus and perseverance. Zaara, who

See AWARDS, page 10

Goddard Loses Management Of Wallops after 45 Years

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On May 8, NASA announced the appointment of Brian Hughes as the agency's senior director of launch operations, based at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. "Hughes will have direct responsibility for launch operations at NASA Kennedy, as well as the agency's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) in Virginia," said the

announcement. WFF has been managed by Greenbelt's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) for more than four decades. Some speculated that Hughes might oversee it while it remained under the umbrella of GSFC, but on Friday, May 22, NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman announced a major reorganization plan that

places WFF under KSC. While this might seem to be part of the recent shrinking of GSFC, in further changes, on May 5 the GSFC acting center director announced plans to increase hiring (see article page 7).

What Is Wallops?

NASA describes the origins See WALLOPS page 6

What Goes On

- Monday, June 1**
7:30 p.m., City Council Work-session: DEI Office Restructuring, Municipal Building
- Wednesday, June 3**
7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Board of Elections 2025 Election Update, Municipal Building

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



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

The Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia was consolidated with the Goddard Space Flight Center in 1981. It became NASA's primary facility for suborbital programs.

Budget 2027

Final Worksession Considers Benefits, Cinema, RCV Costs

by Erik Hanson

On May 18 the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession for a final review of the FY 2027 budget. The budget was presented by City Manager Josué Salmerón and retired City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon, who is providing interim support. Salmerón noted that former treasurer Ron Covington is no longer working for the city. The vote on the budget will take place on Tuesday, May 26.

Salmerón presented five potential changes to expenditures in the budget presented on March 23 that would increase expenditures by \$199,746 and would be drawn

from reserves. These changes were increases in health and prescription coverage costs (\$92,615), an increase to the Board of Elections to inform voters about ranked choice voting (RCV) (\$6,500) and three items totaling \$100,632 for the Greenbelt Cinema. These three items were \$15,632 to cover utilities and related operating costs, \$60,000 for their Cinema Business Stabilization and Development Plan and a \$25,000 increase in the subsidy to Greenbelt Cinema to help cover inflation

See WORKSESSION, page 4

Greenbelt Little League Continues Tradition of Community, Growth

by Cam Crossett



PHOTO BY RICHARD WILLIAMSON

Greenbelt Tides (Minors) show off their pitching skills from the mound at McDonald Field.

For generations of young baseball players in Greenbelt, spring and summer evenings at the ballpark have meant much more than wins and losses. At Greenbelt Little League, the focus remains centered on development, teamwork, sportsmanship and giving every child an opportunity to grow both on and off the field.

Founded in 1951, Greenbelt Little League recently celebrated

its 75th anniversary, and continues a long-standing tradition of youth baseball in the community. The league serves players ages 3 to 15 and currently features 20 teams across four official divisions: Tee Ball, Minors (subdivided by skill into coach-pitch, machine-pitch, and kid-pitch), Majors, Intermediate and Juniors.

See LITTLE LEAGUE, page 12

Election 2026

Register to Vote by June 2

- Deadline to register to vote or change party affiliation: Tuesday, June 2
- Primary Election Day: Tuesday, June 23

Maryland has a closed primary system, meaning voters registered with a political party may vote only in that party's primary election. Voters who wish to participate in either the Democratic or Republican primary must update their party registration by the June 2 deadline. Register online through the Maryland State Board of Elections website using a Maryland ID or last four digits of a Social Security number. To register to vote in Maryland, individuals must be U.S. citizens and at least 16 years old. However, teens must be at least 18 years old by Election Day in November to vote.

Maryland also offers same-day voter registration during early voting, Thursday, June 11 to Thursday, June 18, and on Election Day for those who provide proof of address.



Letters to the Editor

Does New System Reduce Trash?

After imposing a bunch of new administrative burdens on residents and forking over more than 21 percent of residents' bag money to a private contractor, the city recently announced a mere 12 percent reduction in trash volume. This is far short of the 44 percent reduction that we were promised back in November.

Now, the city's contractor is switching from Max Trash stickers to RFID tags and paying folks to walk around town to place the RFID tags on cans. In response to criticism that this would further increase residents' costs, a representative of the city told me that we weren't paying for this service because our contractor was. WasteZero is a for-profit corporation founded and funded by private equity, so I doubt that they are spending money with no expectation of making it back.

Additionally, with stickers, the city could switch from WasteZero to another contractor roughly every six months without difficulty. However, with RFID tags that

are controlled by WasteZero, our freedom to switch contractors is gone. No one appears to have considered this added cost.
Alexander Zajac

Watch Closely, Ask Questions

County Executive Aisha Braveboy promised Prince George's County families a transparent superintendent search process. On May 21, I logged into the webinar wanting to believe those words still meant something. I waited for direct answers about the community forums parents were promised, the unresolved governance concerns surrounding the process, and why so many families have spent months feeling shut out of decisions impacting our children. The answers never came.

Instead, the meeting kept moving while the real questions stayed sitting in the same place they started. Parents who continued pressing for accountability appeared to be removed from the webinar altogether.

See LETTERS, page 4



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:
MAY 29th - JUNE 4th

Pressure (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (100 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM (OC), 8:00 PM
Wed. 7:40 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 2:40 PM, 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

Tuner (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (109 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Mon. 4:50 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:40 PM
Thurs. 5:20 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Mon. 12:00 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

The Sheep Detectives (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (110 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 2:20 PM
Sat. 2:20 PM
Sun. 11:00 AM (OC)
Mon. 10:20 AM

Waking Life
(R) (2001) (97 mins)
Cult Classic in 35mm
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 2:00 PM

Out of Africa
(PG) (1985) (161 mins)
Cinema Classic, free - no
ticket/registration required
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Seven Wonders of Greenbelt
(ACCORDING TO PETE)

#4 Goddard Visitor Center

Has educated and inspired countless students - hopefully it doesn't suffer the same fate as the GSFC library!

- Pete Reppert

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.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Pressure
In the tense 72 hours before D-Day, and with the fate of the free world hanging in the balance, the film follows General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Captain James Stagg as they face an impossible choice: launch the largest and most dangerous seaborne invasion in history or risk losing the war altogether.

Tuner
In Academy Award-winning director Daniel Roher's first narrative feature, Leo Woodall stars as Niki, a gifted young piano tuner whose heightened sense of hearing draws the attention of criminals, who see his talents as useful for opening safes as well as for tuning Steinways. With his once-promising musical career over, he works across New York with his mentor Harry Horowitz (Dustin Hoffman), encountering a range of characters, including composition student Ruthie (Havana Rose Liu), with whom he forges an unexpected connection. Niki's safecracking work threatens his budding romance with Ruthie and pulls him into increasingly dangerous territory.

The Sheep Detectives
In this witty, new breed of mystery, George (Hugh Jackman) is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

Waking Life
This American adult animated surrealist drama film, a cult classic written and directed by Richard Linklater, explores a wide range of philosophical issues, including the nature of reality, dreams and lucid dreams, consciousness, the meaning of life, free will and existentialism. The series of philosophical discussions at the film's core are processed by a young man who wanders through a succession of dreamlike realities wherein he encounters a series of characters playing themselves.

Out of Africa
Initially set on being a dairy farmer, the aristocratic Karen Blixen travels to Africa to join her husband, Bror, who instead spends their money on a coffee plantation. After discovering Bror is unfaithful, Karen develops feelings for hunter Denys, but realizes he prefers a simplistic lifestyle compared to her upper-class background. The two continue on until a series of events force Karen to choose between her love and personal growth.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published). Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary. All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

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

Community Events

At the Library

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. For more information, call the Library, 301-345-5800; for Spanish, call Biblio Consulta, 301-358-6862.

Storytimes

Friday, May 29, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16130237.

Wednesday, June 3, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16335166.

Thursday, June 4, 10:15 a.m., newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16335268.

Build with Legos

Monday, June 1, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16281687.

Ride and Read

Thursday, June 4, 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 such as 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/16294039.

Registration Open For Recreation Classes

Registration is now open for Greenbelt residents as well as nonresidents for Greenbelt Recreation classes and activities. Classes begin during or after the week of June 15. Visit greenbeltnmd.gov/activityguide to see the Greenbelt Recreation Summer Activity Guide. Class registration remains open until the week before the scheduled start date, but many fill quickly, so sign up quickly to reserve your seat.

Play Mahjongg Sat. Afternoons

Familiar with American mahjongg? Have a 2026 card? Come play on Saturday afternoons starting at 2:15 p.m. in Room 109 of the Community Center. While many games can be played in the Active Aging Game Room at that time, there usually is a table or two of mahjongg. Register in the Recreation Department office. The next two class sessions will be held during the fall and winter terms. Check the catalog for more information.

Tie-dye Afternoons

Guests of all ages are invited to attend any of three free Artful Afternoon workshops in June: Sunday, June 7 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, or Sunday, June 14 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Just in time for Pride Month, use tie-dye to make fun and colorful designs on provided bandanas, or bring a T-shirt, tote bag or other pre-washed cotton item from home. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at sugeni.us/etqV. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. For information about more Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltnmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



New Deal Café Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the New Deal Café will take place on Sunday, June 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the back room of the Café. Sign-in and payment of annual dues begins at 12:30 p.m. If a member cannot attend the meeting in person for any reason, an absentee ballot for election for vacant seats on the board of directors can be requested by emailing the board secretary at boardofdirectors@newdealcafe.com prior to the meeting. The full agenda will be emailed to members 48 hours in advance. Come early to enjoy breakfast or lunch before or during the meeting.

Golden Age Club June Meetings

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

Schedule for the month of June:

June 3 – Business meeting.

June 10 – Annual book exchange, from 11 a.m. to noon. Requested items: Books in good condition, magazines for the past year. Bookmarks will be available and perhaps some door prizes.

June 17 – Birthday pot luck (bring a dish to share).

June 24 – Bingo.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Français, s'il Vous Plaît New Summer Location

The French conversation group that meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. must change its meeting location for the summer. For the months of June, July and August, the group will meet in Room 109 (Senior Activity Room) at the Community Center.

All ages and all levels of proficiency are welcome.

Utopia Film Festival Screeners Wanted

Screening of submissions will happen at the GATe studio on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204 of the Community Center. Go to the orange beaver by the elevators, up one flight of stairs and it's the first room on the right. The festival will happen for the 22nd consecutive year here in Greenbelt starting October 17. Right now, screeners are evaluating submissions, a fun process with a diverse group. Some films are wonderful and some not so good. The screeners' task is to decide which belong in the festival and which don't. The group reviews films from all over the world. One year they watched offerings from 29 different countries. Some are two minutes long and some three hours (the maximum length they consider is about half that). Good or bad, all are interesting to watch – for a few minutes or in their entirety. Come and join the screening. Call Frank at 301-467-2418 for more information.

Relics Concert June 7 Supports Food Bank

Local oldies rock band, The Relics, will hold a concert on Sunday, June 7 at 1 p.m. on the Greenbelt Community Church lawn. Bring a lawn chair. In the event of bad weather, the concert will be moved to the sanctuary.

Donations in the form of canned and dry food goods, cash, check and cash apps will all be accepted to support Help By Phone, a local food pantry.

The church is located at 1 Hillside Road.

Favor's Table Community Giveaway on Saturday

Favor's Table will be outdoors in the parking lot behind the Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church building on Saturday, May 30 at 4 p.m. giving away food, new shoes, clothes, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, cosmetics, sanitary pads and household items. There will be new and gently used items. A child must be present to receive shoes. no exceptions. To receive diapers, bring baby's birth certificate or health insurance card. Bring bags. First-come, first-served. No ID required. The church is located at 40 Ridge Road.

For food assistance resources, go to pgcfec.org/resources/find-food-food-pantry-listings or auntbertha.com.

Orchestra Concert On Sunday, May 31

Greenbelt Community Orchestra's next concert will take place on Sunday, May 31 at 4 p.m. in the Community Center gym. The program will feature American music in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, including Ferde Grofé's Mississippi Suite, the 4th movement of Dvorak's New World Symphony, Florence Price's Adoration, Leroy Anderson's The Typewriter and Gould's American Salute.

The concert is free and all are welcome. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. For more information about the orchestra, visit greenbeltorchestra.org.

Postponed Yard Sale Now May 30

Due to rain, the Greenbelt Nursery School's yard sale was postponed to Saturday, May 30. It will be held on the Community Center Lawn from 8 a.m. to noon.

Donations of items are welcome at the school on Friday, May 29 from 1 to 6 p.m.

Focus on Caregivers At Not for Seniors Only

The Greenbelt Senior Citizens Advisory Committee will present its annual Not for Seniors Only event on Saturday, June 6 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. This year's topic is Caregivers: You Are Not Alone, featuring Sharon Johnson, GAIL (Greenbelt Assistance in Living) geriatric case manager and certified dementia care practitioner.

Johnson has worked with the City of Greenbelt for the past 18 years, helping seniors and adult residents with disabilities to identify, locate and acquire the services and supports necessary to safely age in place. She will provide practical advice on issues that challenge caregivers and their loved ones. Attendees are invited to bring questions and concerns about caregiving to find the resources that they will need as their situation changes.



Girl Scout Troop 23035 To Host Diaper Drive

Members of Greenbelt Girl Scout Troop 23035 of 11 fifth graders will be collecting diapers of any size in packages opened or unopened as well as baby wipes. From Wednesday, May 20 to Wednesday, June 3, the troop will place donation boxes at the Co-op Supermarket, the Community Center and other locations around the city. They will also set up a booth at the Co-op on Saturday, May 30 from noon to 4 p.m. All donations will go to the D.C. Diaper Bank.

The troop appreciates support for this effort to assist families who need but can't afford diapers and wipes. The drive will also help Troop 23035 work toward their Bronze Award. For more information or questions, send an email to troop23035@gmail.com.

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 5/28	FRI 5/29	SAT 5/30	SUN 5/31	
Swampgrass 7-9pm Energetic, vibrant & DC-based plays classic bluegrass to rock and progressive	IlyAIMY 8 - 11pm Mixing genres from folk to soul to bluegrass with a humorous stage show	*** NEW TO THE NDC *** Tom Blood & Late As Usual 8 - 11pm A lively band featuring a equally lively horn section	Scotch & Soda 6 - 8pm Jazz, Latin, and swing with a deep groove. A cool listening room experience	
MON 6/01	TUES 6/02	WED 6/03	TH 6/04	New Deal Cafe
MONDAY MAUENEKE KARAOKE w/ Mike Bennett INFINITE 6 - 9pm	S.A.W. Open Mic 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	The Campfire Sessions 7 - 9pm A monthly listening room hosted by Joseph P. Swelterpants	Wolf's Blues Show and Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm Big, bodacious boogie blues jam hosted by Wolf Crescenze	RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

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

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television

+ May 2026 +

Verizon FiOS Channel 19 · Comcast Channel 77 · Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

+ Featured Productions +

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now

Coverage of local events, performances and productions, including:

- Election debates for the local candidates
- The "Voices of Resistance" musical series

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

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As always, thank you for tuning in!

Letters ctd from p.2

What unsettled me most that night was not frustration. It was recognition.

I recognized the careful language. The controlled environment. The movement around questions instead of through them. That recognition came from watching closely, asking questions, requesting records, reviewing timelines and allowing room for leadership to do what was publicly promised.

This is why many parents continue questioning this process.

This concern did not begin last week. For many of us, the superintendent selection has increasingly appeared politically aligned since June 2025, when Braveboy first became publicly involved while still serving as state's attorney. That history matters, because when transparency is promised while the process feels

orchestrated toward a preferred outcome, trust begins to fracture.

For years, parents have been expected to clap, volunteer, trust the messaging and stay far enough away from governance that we never fully see how decisions are shaped.

Parents can survive difficult truths. What destroys confidence is the feeling that truth itself is being carefully managed.

Braveboy asked this community to trust the process. But trust cannot survive where transparency feels controlled.

The biggest mistake they made was believing parents would never connect the dots.

Now we have.

*Delores Millhouse
Prince George's County resident, parent and grassroots education advocate*

Chess Club Event



The Greenbelt Community Chess Club holds an outdoor chess playing event at Roosevelt Center on Saturday, May 16. From left are Clay and Lawrence Winters.



From left are Matt Elliott, guest, Leann Irwin and Alicia Deligianis.

- Photos courtesy Effie Levner and Lawrence Winters

We are proud of the winners of Greenbelt's ACE awards, which recognized Greenbelt students who honor the city's traditions of citizenship, leadership and academic achievement. Special congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) award winners who received a \$2,500 scholarship, Michelle Philippeaux and Naima Eastman, and the winner of the State Delegate Anne Healey Scholarship, Carissa Nwabueze.

Congratulations also to ERHS student Ryleigh Butler who received the Award for Excellence in White House History for her performance at Maryland History Day.

Congratulations also to Prisha Shah of ERHS, who has been selected as president of the national Student Leadership Council of Students Against Destructive Decisions for 2026-2027.

Heartfelt congratulations to Matthew Inzeo who received the Prince George's County Chief's Award for exceptional courage and dedication while off-duty during the rapidly evolving shooting and carjacking spree on May 15.

Our congratulations to Bob Rudd who was awarded The Excellence Award for Faculty by Prince George's Community College for demonstrating outstanding service to students and the College and exceptional achievement in his discipline, modern American history.

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



WORKSESSION cont'd from page 1

and operating cost pressures.

Greenbelt Cinema Executive Director Caitlin McGrath said that the Cinema would not be requesting funds unless it was absolutely necessary and that she would not want to repeat this ask. Fourth-grade residents McKenna Lynch and Emmeline Bedford-Dillow also spoke in support of the Cinema, offering their appreciation for showings of the Great Pumpkin on Halloween, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas after the tree-lighting and movies on snow days.

Salmerón also proposed eight changes that would not have a monetary effect on the budget: (1) eliminate the existing environmental coordinator position and create a new operations manager position, (2) eliminate an existing human resources (HR) generalist position and create two part-time positions, (3) fund the CARES nursing program for a year, (4) reclassify the CARES geriatric case manager to a senior case management supervisor, (5) reclassify police records specialist II from grade 8 to 9, (6) reclassify HR generalist II from grade 11 to 12, (7) eliminate the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) officer role and create an employee engagement specialist position in HR and (8) reclassify a grants coordinator to grants administrator.

Residents Bill Orleans, Michael Hartman and Bob Rand each spoke about their disappointment about eliminating the DEI officer role. Rand described it as a "retreat" on DEI issues in the city. Mayor Emmett Jordan and Salmerón countered that the change was not a retreat as it was not a change in policy and that there are investments in DEI throughout the budget.

Councilmember Jenni Pompei presented her proposal for funding the CARES Nursing Program. Due to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, CARES was able to expand its reach to seniors and non-English speakers. But as ARPA funds have expired, CARES needs funding for a year to cover the gap until they can

form a 501(c)3 to fund these programs in the future. Pompei proposed giving \$132,000 to CARES to fund (1) a part-time community health coordinator, (2) a part-time community case manager and (3) a bilingual community health caseworker. This would be funded by removing the Greenbelt East recycling center (\$50,000), delaying the hiring of the new Employee Engagement specialist (formerly DEI) position (\$58,500) and reducing professional services and special programs (\$23,500). Councilmembers expressed concern about budgeting in a delay for hiring the new DEI position.

A worksession was scheduled for June 1 to further discuss the DEI reorganization.

Celebrate the Life Of David W. Lange

May 30, 11 a.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
Reception to follow service.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Let's party! Celebrations from the Bible.

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We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org
Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

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
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www.sthughofgrenoble.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link: CCG1985+owneregroups.io

"The purpose for which mortal men have, from utter nothingness, stepped into the realm of being, is that they may work for the betterment of the world and live together in concord and harmony." – 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.saintjohnsbeltville.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 Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770
www.mishkantorah.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 JUNE 1 - 5

Monday, June 1 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - DEI OFFICE RESTRUCTURING**

Tuesday, June 2 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY - Zoom**, On the Agenda: Finalizing of Teen Talk focus group, Review of written update of ACAPS March 6 2024 submission to Council of ACAPS 19 recommendations to Council regarding Police Department Updated General Orders

Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - BOARD OF ELECTIONS 2025 ELECTION UPDATE**

Thursday, June 4 at 7 pm, **CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE - Council Chambers**, On the Agenda: TBD

Friday, June 5 at 11:30 am, **ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING**

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.

GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND Friday, June 5 - Sunday June 7

GREENBELT PRIDE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY
Friday, June 5 at 3 pm
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Rd

Join the City of Greenbelt for our 4th Annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony.

CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK: KAYAK CLEANUP
Saturday, June 6 at 10 am
Buddy Attick Lake Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to improve the environment and celebrate the Chesapeake Bay! Volunteers will work with the Greenbelt Park Rangers to remove litter from the lake by kayak at Buddy Attick Park. There are ten kayaks available for use with pre-registration on a first-come first-serve basis (kayaks limited to volunteers aged 16+). Participants are welcome to bring their own watercraft.

Register online via our [Sign-Up Genius](#) page: Questions? Contact Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov.



NOT FOR SENIORS ONLY

Presented by Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

Caregivers: You Are Not Alone

Saturday, June 6 from 1 - 2:30 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Room 201, 15 Crescent Road

Join us for a discussion that will focus on answers to issues that challenge caregivers. Led by Sharon Johnson CMC, CDP, MAgS-C, GAIL Community Case Manager, Certified Dementia Care Practitioner For more information, contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2056.

GREENBELT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 6 from 1 - 7 pm

Roosevelt Center, Centerway

Enjoy outdoor live music with your friends and neighbors! Experience performances by The Brother Bill Quintet, Marianna & The DC Jumpers, Scotch & Soda, The Rhythm Doctors featuring Valentina Maria, The UpBeats & The Seth Kibel Quartet Featuring Flo Anito.

GREENBELT MUSEUM TOURS

Sunday, June 7 from 1 - 5 pm

Greenbelt Museum, 10B Crescent Rd

In honor of Greenbelt Day and the nation's 250th anniversary, the Museum will open a temporary exhibition, Spirit of '76: Greenbelt at the Bicentennial. Visit the Museum house to explore what's changed (and what hasn't) in the fifty years since 1976.

GREENBELT CONCERT BAND PERFORMANCE

Sunday, June 7 at 3 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Auditorium, 15 Crescent Road

Come celebrate Greenbelt's birthday with music by the Greenbelt Concert Band.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL HISTORY PRESENTATION

Sunday, June 7 at 4 pm

Greenbelt Community Center

Learn about the history of Greenbelt's City Council.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a public hearing to be held during the Regular Meeting of Council **Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

Concerning the Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §3-22 "Powers" of the City Charter to Authorize the City of Greenbelt to Engage in Collective Bargaining with Certain Eligible, Non-Exempt, Non-Managerial, and Non-Confidential City Employees as Provided in Article VIII of Chapter 13 of the City Code.

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtually via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged.

All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the proposed charter amendment.

The proposed charter amendment is enclosed on Regular Council Meeting June 8, 2026, agenda packet posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

COMMUNITY MEETING: HANOVER PARKWAY BICYCLE PROJECT

The City of Greenbelt is hosting a community meeting to present and receive feedback on the 60% design plans to construct a shared use path for pedestrians and bicyclists along Hanover Parkway from Good Luck Road to Mandan Road. This community meeting is intended to review the interim 60% design plans to receive feedback from stakeholders on modifications or areas of concern as the 90% plans are developed.

Community Meeting

June 4, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Greenbriar Community Building, 7600 Hanover Parkway, #101

Advisory Planning Board

June 17, 2026 at 6:30 pm

15 Crescent Road, Room #201

City Council Worksession

July 6, 2026 at 7 pm

25 Crescent Road, City Council Chambers

Learn more at www.greenbeltmd.gov/hanoverproject.

SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE 2026

Register for summer programs, classes, and more!

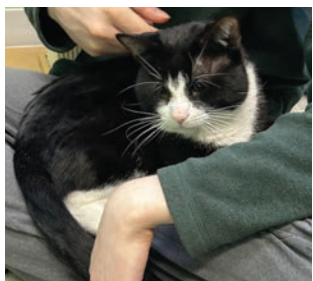
The 2026 Summer Activity Guide is now available, and registration is officially open for both residents and non-residents.

Explore a full season of classes, aquatic and fitness opportunities, arts activities, special events, and more for all ages. Whether you're planning a summer packed with activities or looking to try something new, the guide is your go-to resource for everything happening in Greenbelt this season.

View the Summer Activity Guide and register today: <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/ActivityGuide>.

FEATURED PETS

OREO



Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

7-year-old Oreo is a former tomcat who loves all the perks that come with being an indoor cat: cozy beds, warm laps, window sills for napping and birdwatching, and all the toys he can play with. This gentle, laidback boy has been at the shelter for 4 months now, so we're really hoping he can finally live the comfy life he deserves in a forever home.

If you're interested in adopting obliging Oreo, please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124 for more information.

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

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

HOME SAFETY CHECKUPS

Mondays June 15, July 20 and August 17 from 10 am to 2 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

The City of Greenbelt's GAIL Program is hosting Home Safety Checkups for adults ages 60 and over at the Greenbelt Community Center on June 15, July 20, and August 17 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Participants can receive a self-guided home safety assessment, fall prevention tips, and information on resources and services to help make their home safer for aging in place.

MEMORY CAFE - LEMONS INTO LEMONADE

Wednesday June 3 at 1:30 pm Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Explore how we adapt and change with life's experiences with Arts for the Aging Teaching Artist Joy Jones. Joy uses theater, poetry, and visual art to demonstrate how to navigate some of life's curveballs by creating art. Designed for aging adults and individuals experiencing changes in cognition.

Register with Natalie: ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-244-6010

Local Food Pantries:

- Labor of Love** - 4719 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, MD: Mon - Fri: 9 am - 5 pm
- Central Union Mission** - 65 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC: Thursdays 10 am - 12 pm
- Ebenezer Food Distribution at New Carrollton Municipal Building** - 6016 Princess Garden Pkwy., New Carrollton, MD: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 am - 12 pm
- Gethsemane United Methodist** - 910 Addison Rd. S. Capitol Heights, MD: Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm
- Craig Memorial Community Church** - 305 Farmingdale Place, Capitol Heights, MD: 4th Saturday of each month starting at 9 am
- Walker Mill Baptist Church** - 6801 Walker Mill Rd., Capitol Heights, MD:
- St. Bernard Catholic Church** - 700 St. Bernard Dr., Riverdale, MD 20737: Tuesdays, 11 am - 1 pm

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

Friends & Family Workshop: Microquilting 6/5; 5:30-7:30pm

(Greenbelt Community Center) Simply stitched, a micro quilt is a short time commitment and travels easily so you can work anywhere. No experience needed and all ages are welcome. Registration required - see page 13 of the Spring Activity Guide. Residents: \$5, Non-residents: \$10.

Summer Registration Now Open

Sign-up for classes, workshops, meet-ups, and special events for all ages. Registration is now open for Greenbelt residents and non-residents. See brochure and more information at www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide. Summer session begins June 15.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- June Artful Afternoons** 6/7, 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center). 6/14; 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center). Sign up here: sugeni.us/etqV. FREE!
- June Art Share** 6/14; 2-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center)

GREENBELT POLICE WELLNESS WALK

May 30 from 9 am - 12 pm

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Join us this May in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month for a friendly walk dedicated to raising awareness and showing support for those in our community who need it most.



GREENBELT FARMER'S MARKET

Every Sunday, 10 am - 2pm
Municipal Building & Roosevelt Center Parking Lot, 25 Crescent Road

The Greenbelt Farmers Market is back and proud to bring a fantastic mix of local vendors to Roosevelt Center in Old Greenbelt each year. Vendors offer produce, pasture-raised meats, sustainable seafood, and prepared entrees and sides, both frozen and hot.

For up-to-date information sign up for our the Greenbelt Farmers Market weekly customer newsletter on their website at <https://greenbeltfarmersmarket.org/>.

Goddard's Visitor Center Still Celebrating 50 Years

by Joan Estenson

Where on earth can you go to smell outer space? If you answered Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Visitor Center, you are right. You can also smell Venus and you have a chance to identify an earthly smell (no spoilers here).

The Visitor Center opened in 1976 and recently celebrated 50 years with special events during its Saturday hours. In the same year, NASA's Viking Project produced an orbiter and a lander. On July 20, 1976, Viking was the first U.S. spacecraft to land on Mars and collect samples from its surface. In addition, that year NASA unveiled its first space shuttle, the Enterprise, which cost \$10 million and was a decade in the making.

Just before the Visitor Center opened it was a maintenance storage building. Since its inception it has been renovated to include multimedia experiences, replicas of spacecraft and art created from orbiting observatories like the Hubble Space Telescope.

The celebration included many activities for children, but even without those there is a lot to see at the Visitor Center, and a lot to learn about Goddard. The man narrating the introduction to the Center had to talk fast to try to fit everything into the overview and answer questions. It would be worth hearing more than once.

One activity available every Saturday is creating a cloud in a pop bottle. Shining a light through a cloud shows what kinds of precipitation are in the cloud, making for better weather forecasts. Stone Purvis, a student at



Laurie Olson (left) helps Natalie Detrow (center) make a cloud in a pop bottle. Stone Purvis, a volunteer from ERHS, looks on to offer help if needed.

questions in the areas of dark energy, exoplanets and infrared astrophysics, according to Goddard's website. The clean room where it is being built is 1,000 times cleaner than a hospital surgical suite, since even a hair or skin cell could wreak havoc with the equipment, with no way to repair it in space.

The Roman Telescope is scheduled to launch in September, ahead of schedule.

Hired in 1958, Nancy Grace Roman served as NASA's first chief of astronomy and was its first female executive. Despite being dissuaded from the subject during high school, she earned her bachelor's and Ph.D. in astronomy. She is regarded as the Mother of the Hubble telescope. Roman's namesake telescope's field of view is 200 times larger than the Hubble's infrared view. (For more about Roman and the Greenbelters working at Goddard that she inspired, see the January 10, 2019, News Review.)

Regular hours for the Visitor Center and gift shop are Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. It is located at 9432 Greenbelt Road.

For more information on the Visitor Center see nasa.gov/goddard/visitor-center/.



Greenbelt Concert Band Celebrates on June 7

The Greenbelt Concert Band will perform a special musical celebration as part of Greenbelt Day weekend, June 6 and 7. On Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center, enjoy a dynamic performance featuring a variety of musical styles as the band celebrates the spirit of Greenbelt with a free concert.

The Greenbelt Concert Band is grateful to the City of Greenbelt for its continued support in helping them bring music and joy to the community. Celebrate Community. Celebrate Music. Celebrate Greenbelt. Learn more at greenbeltconcertband.org.

WALLOPS continued from page 1

of Wallops, which predates the agency, as follows: "In April 1945, NASA's predecessor the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics or NACA decided to set up a launch range on the small barrier island on Virginia's Eastern Shore. ... The facilities were sparse for these first launches. The launch area consisted of a 50- x 50-foot concrete slab as the launching platform; an 8- x 10-foot observation station covered with sandbags; a rocket motor storage igloo and a final loading building. ... The work area consisted of five wooden shacks: an operations office; assembly shed; general warehouse shed; radio, dispensary and dark room shed; and a power generator house with a 15kw generator. Also, the living area consisted of tents with wooden floors. From these humble beginnings facilities have expanded to include government and commercial facilities with a value over \$1 billion." (See nasa.gov/wallops-history.)

In 1981 the Wallops facility was consolidated with GSFC. NASA described WFF as its primary facility for suborbital programs, supporting projects using scientific aircraft, balloons and sounding rockets.

Impact of Removal from GSFC

Keith Cowing of NASA Watch described the move of WFF supervision to Florida as "continuing the deliberate shrinkage of Goddard," and a move to place management within "red" (Republican) states. Isaacman responded to Cowing on the social media platform X saying, "It just makes sense to have launch complexes, like KSC and Wallops, managed by a launch center instead of a science center." However, most of the launches taking place from Wallops are for science and not human space flight for which KSC is known and is the hub for. In addition, Wallops is not the only other launch center in the U.S. that NASA uses, or even in Florida, for there are more in Cape Canaveral, as well as further afield like Vandenberg Space Force Base on the West Coast.

A civil servant at GSFC expressed concern to the News Review that the consolidation of launch services and moving the supervision of Wallops to Florida will present difficulty in securing infrastructure funds and future work priorities for the facility. He believes KSC has been trying to dismantle Wallops for decades. A NASA contractor told the News Review dismantling WFF would not surprise him due to the potential rivalry, with the KSC being the primary launch facility on the East Coast, where the space shuttle and all other U.S. human

space flight launches have taken place.

Though WFF focuses on sub-orbital flight it is also home to Rocket Lab, which has used it for orbital satellite launches since 2023, and it has been a launch site for space station resupply since 2013, using the Antares rocket for orbital cargo missions there, the contractor noted. WFF will also be the primary launch facility for the larger Neutron rocket from Rocket Lab as early as 2027, which is a commercial, non-crew rocket, so there's a growing commercial space flight component of WFF unrelated to human flight, said one aerospace engineer, who pointed to ways WFF didn't fit into the human flight mission of KSC. He also noted the ease and affordability of getting to WFF from GSFC as opposed to KSC. The lack of compelling rationale for moving control of WFF and burying the news inside the Hughes appointment announcement supports the argument that this might be more deliberate shrinking of GSFC that aerospace engineer told the News Review a week ago. However, with Friday's news of a large overall reorganization, he now hopes the Wallops decision is part of general reshuffling rather than targeting GSFC for reduction.

Another NASA source was more optimistic about what the reorganization signified for GSFC's future. He told the News Review he heard the change was not about GSFC in particular, and believed it was more likely about consolidating launch services and Hughes' domain.

GSFC is acting upon this month's directive from Isaacman to restore and sustain NASA's "core competencies" through a rapid hiring initiative to bring in a greater number of civil servants. So, the center may not be continuing its trajectory of dramatic reductions. However, following over a year of cuts and incentivized resignations and retirements, Goddard workers we spoke with expressed sadness at the loss of their connection to WFF and ongoing uncertainty about what the seemingly conflicting messages they've been receiving mean. For now, the constant remains change.

GREENBELT News Review
Ad revenue is what keeps us alive.
Help us at the ad desk.
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Springtime at the Lake



Proud parents guard a brood of goslings by Greenbelt Lake.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

JUNE 5 - 20, 2026 | FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS AT 8PM | SUNDAYS AT 2PM*

AS PRODUCED BY STARKID PRODUCTIONS

THE GUY WHO DIDN'T LIKE MUSICALS

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JEFF BLIM
BOOK BY NICK & MATT LANG



***AUDIENCE MASKS REQUIRED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 14 MATINEE PERFORMANCE.**

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

Changes for Goddard: New Director and Rapid Hiring

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

In seeming juxtaposition to the year of “rightsizing” and “consolidating” at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) that has shrunk its workforce and emptied buildings (see 2025 issues of July 17, September 25, November 6 and November 20), the center’s leadership recently announced an imminent hiring initiative. In addition, on Friday, May 22, a new director of GSFC was announced.



PHOTO BY DERMOT KELLY

NASA Goddard

As part of the announcement of new leadership and reorganization, NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman stressed that no reductions in force (RIFs), program cancellations or facility closures are being considered. However, he said he was interested in “freeing up resources” and the restructuring included some consolidations and combining of directorates.

New Leadership

Jamie Dunn is the new GSFC director, taking over from Cynthia Simmons who has been acting director since Makenzie Lystrup left the agency in August 2025. Simmons will continue at the center in her former role as deputy director.

Dunn was the project manager for the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, which is departing from GSFC imminently and will launch in August or September this year. That project has been highlighted as a major success for its completion ahead of schedule and within budget and was the subject of press conferences and invitations at Goddard last week. Dunn was also a manager for the earlier James Webb Space Telescope project at Goddard, and prior to that worked on the Hubble Space Telescope. He has a bachelor of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree in system engineering from Johns Hopkins.

One of the scientists we spoke with who works at Goddard said though he hadn’t worked with Dunn, he found Dunn’s technical background promising. A source at NASA headquarters said they didn’t know the rationale for his selection but that he seemed a competent manager.

Increasing Civil Workforce

On February 6, Isaacman announced that “restoring and sustaining ... core competencies is essential to ensure mission success and maintain U.S. leadership in space exploration.” On May 5, an internal email from then GSFC Acting Center Director Simmons told employees that, in line with Isaacman’s workforce directive, the agency is taking steps to “solidify core capabilities,” including GSFC. “In the near future, you will see multiple civil servant vacancy announcements released as we intend to quickly advertise and hire for those positions. The hiring actions will be completed through an accelerated Direct Hire Authority process,” (that bypasses many traditional competitive hiring steps), read the internal memo.

Response to Hiring

For one Goddard civil servant, whose work group has lost more than half the staff over the last year, the announcement brings more frustration and confusion. His team is all overtasked but not allowed to hire, he told the News Review. “They are hiring civil servants for core capabilities only,” he noted, “and the general workforce has no idea how the assessment of core capability is made.”

Another NASA employee agreed that things seemed “rushed and disorganized,” but other centers have already placed job postings on USAJOBS (help.usajobs.gov), the repository for federal positions. He found the sudden desire to hire “intensely weird” in the context of the last year but also saw great benefit to bringing mission-critical jobs into civil servant positions rather than contractors. Some contractors work mission-critical jobs for decades and should have been civil servants rather than creating profit for contractor executives and management from taxpayer money, he said. He agrees with the idea and would argue contracting should be reserved for temporary positions with an end date and/or non-mission services (travel and meeting planning, dining services, landscaping and so forth). He also noted that the move has the potential to upset some big contractors.

However, another Greenbelter working on NASA contracts disagreed that it was in the best interests of the taxpayer to bring positions into the civil service. When missions get cancelled, contractors just get cut, while civil servants have to be retained and repurposed, he told the News Review.

Job Appeal

Many contractors may not find the offer of a civil service position as appealing as it was prior to last year. While contractors tend to earn higher base salaries than civil servants, they usually lack leave, vacation, health insurance and retirement benefits comparable to those offered to federal workers, and far less job security. However,

See **GODDARD**, page 9

School News

Superintendent Search Listening Session Frustrates Attendees

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On May 8, the Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) Superintendent Search Committee sent the names of three finalists to Prince George’s County Executive Aisha Braveboy for review and final appointment. Despite promises in a January announcement of forums and stakeholder listening sessions, the first public session was not held until Thursday, May 21. (See page 9 of the May 21 issue for more on the search). That meeting, billed as a listening session, was a tightly controlled online webinar at which no members of the public were able to speak directly.

Survey and Process

For the first half hour of the meeting, Kenyatta Uzzell, founder of the search firm Polihire, which is conducting the search, Braveboy and Chauka Kan Reid, the county executive’s deputy chief of staff of public engagement, spoke as panelists. They detailed the response to the stakeholder survey they had shared with the community, which asked respondents to rank qualities in order of importance, for example. It had 4,269 responses, with the highest engagement from residents of Upper Marlboro and Bowie. From that survey they found the five qualities prioritized by the community are student achievement and success; equity, access and opportunity; communication and community engagement; people leadership and talent development; and operational excellence and fiscal responsibility. They also outlined the process in which they reported 26 candidate applications were received and reviewed, five advanced from the initial stage to be interviewed by the search committee and three nominees were sent to the selection phase to be interviewed by three community panel groups and the county executive. The county executive invited interview questions from the listening session participants while acknowledging that two of the three had already been interviewed at that point but saying she planned to send follow-up questions. From this stage, one person is expected to be selected as the next superintendent by the county executive, though they will still have to also be appointed by the county’s Board of Education, to whom she must send the name by June 1. They must then make an appointment by June 30 and it must further be affirmed in writing with the final approval of State Superintendent Carey Wright. The four-year appointment begins July 1.

Questions, Answers

During the second part of the meeting, for a little over 30 minutes, questions said to be from the chat, which was hidden from participants, were read aloud without attribution and answered by the panelists. The News Review polled readers online and found the majority did not attend the meeting, which was announced just days in advance and poorly advertised. Of our 55 non-anonymous respondents, 31 did not attend, 11 did not ask a question, 11 did not have their question or comment answered or acknowledged and two did have their question or comment read. Several expressed frustration that the listening session did not enable them to voice their opinions or to see other people’s comments

or questions.

Confidential for Now

The names of the candidates for superintendent have been kept confidential during the search process. However, once the name is selected to be sent to the Board of Education it will become public because their vote to appoint will take place in open session.

Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph is widely expected to be chosen, though he has not confirmed his candidacy and several community members have expressed concerns about how he has handled the budget over the last year and decisions to cut some programs in his proposed budget for FY 2027.

The author has two children who attend Prince George’s County Public Schools.

Springhill Lake Elementary School Career Day

Students are interested to see the ways their school has been featured in the News Review over the years, including, in our archives, news of the school’s delayed opening in the fall of 1966 when the building was new and students had to be bused to Center School to start the year.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW



PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGHILL LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Teenage lifeguards from the Aquatic & Fitness Center share information about their work with the students.

Greenbriar Summer Yard Sale

June 6, 2026
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Greenbriar Condominiums
7600 Hanover Parkway,
Greenbelt, MD 20770

*Discover great bargains, hidden treasures, and unique finds for the whole family!
Come Shop Till You Drop*

Greenbelt Garden Tour
Saturday, June 6 10am - 2pm
12 food and ornamental gardens
Benefits Greenbelt Rotary Club community service activities

Purchase tickets
Learn about Rotary

Election 2026

Late Submissions

The following candidates submitted statements after deadline in races we have already covered. To see the candidates running for the At-Large County Council seat see the May 14 issue and to see the candidates running for the District 22 seats see the April 9 issue. You can also see all our political coverage for 2026 so far at: <https://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/elections2026/>.

Tracy Gant



PHOTO COURTESY THE CANDIDATE

Tracy Gant

Tracy Gant is mayor of Edmonston and has served in local government since 1992, when she was first appointed to the town council. Elected mayor in 2014, she is the first Black woman to hold the position and has been re-elected multiple times. Gant has held leadership roles in the Maryland Municipal League, including serving as its president, and has also led several county and statewide municipal organizations. She is a military veteran and has more than two decades of experience as a property manager.

Gant is one of four candidates running for three seats in the 2026 Maryland House of Delegates District 22 election.

Candidate Statement

I'd like to build a more responsive, equitable and opportunity-driven community. I believe that government should actively listen to residents, foster transparency and create meaningful opportunities for public engagement.

Human Rights

I am committed to advancing human rights and equity by addressing systemic inequalities, supporting criminal justice reform and ensuring every resident is treated with dignity and fairness.

Education

I will prioritize strengthening education by addressing absenteeism, expanding student resources and preparing young people with practical life skills in safe, inclusive environments. I will also focus on supporting working families by addressing childcare to include expanded after-school programs and access to essential services. Above all, I am dedicated to investing in youth by increasing mentorship, workforce training, mental health options and leadership opportunities, ensuring the next generation has the tools, support and safe spaces needed to thrive and succeed.



NR This \$23 ad prints 7000 times. That's \$0.0033 per paper. www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

Sydney Harrison



PHOTO COURTESY THE CANDIDATE

Sydney Harrison

Sydney Harrison has served as county councilmember for District 9 for eight years. He is prevented from running again for that seat in this election by term limits. Harrison was previously elected to serve as the Clerk of the Circuit Court and as District 27 at-large representative for the Democratic Central Committee. He was also a real estate professional, small business owner and plumber.

Harrison is one of eight candidates running for the at-large county council seat.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

As a proud, homegrown Prince Georgian, I have a deep desire to serve the residents of this great county. I am committed to improving the quality of life for our citizens through balanced and creative solutions. Over the past seven years, I have had the privilege of serving as the Prince George's County Council representative for District 9. This experience has given me the unique opportunity to develop extensive knowledge in government, budgeting, finance, capacity building, zoning & land use and community service. I will continue using my experience and leadership skills to help move Prince George's County forward. As an at-large council representative, I will proudly serve the entire Prince George's County community with distinction and honor. As I have shown while serving as the Council District 9 representative, I am fully committed to serving my entire at-large council term.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council member, specifically, should plan to address?

The two most important issues I must address as an at-large council member are the county's

See **HARRISON**, page 11

Jennifer Rios



PHOTO COURTESY THE CANDIDATE

Jennifer Rios

Jennifer Rios served in the U.S. Army for 13 years, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. Rios reports she owns three small businesses. She currently serves on Governor Wes Moore's Commission on Hispanic Affairs Committee and is president and founder of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Prince George's County. Rios also serves on the Latino Advisory Board for County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks. She was crowned Ms. International World Petite/Mexico 2024, a specialized title within the Ms. World International Pageant system.

Rios holds a doctorate in business administration from Capella University, a private, for-profit online university. She also holds a master of business administration in digital entrepreneurship from Strayer University, an online, for-profit institution.

Rios is one of eight candidates running for the at-large county council seat.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

I am running because Prince George's County deserves a leader who has lived the challenges our residents face, not merely studied them. As a 13-year Army combat veteran, a doctoral-level leader and a small business owner who built three companies in this county, I bring substantive, real-world experience to every issue before the council. I have devoted my career to advocating for minority entrepreneurs, underserved families, veterans and communities that remain underrepresented at

See **RIOS**, page 11

Three Incumbents Will Run For Re-election to Orphan's Court

by Cam Crossett

The Orphan's Court of Maryland is a probate court that handles matters involving estates, wills, guardianships and the protection of vulnerable individuals after someone dies. The court's primary role is overseeing the administration of estates to ensure assets are distributed legally and fairly according to a will or Maryland law.

This year, there are three candidates running for the three seats as Judge on the Orphan's Court bench, all running for re-election. Since the number of candidates does not exceed the number of seats, this is not a contested election. All three candidates are Democrats. Judges of the Orphan's court are elected to four-year terms and the longest-serving member is Chief Judge Wendy Cartwright.

Wendy Cartwright

Wendy Alise Cartwright is the current Chief Judge of the Orphan's Court, a position she has held since 2003. She previously served as an Associate Judge from 2001-2003 by appointment of Governor Parris Glendening. She began her legal career clerking for Greenbelt Attorney Howard S. Chasanow (son of Abraham Chasanow) in both the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and the Court of Appeals of Maryland. Her professional service includes leadership roles with the Conference of Orphan's Court Judges, the Judicial Education Subcommittee for Orphan's Court Curriculum and the Judicial Ethics Committee.

Jason Deloach

Jason A. Deloach is a current Judge of the Orphan's Court, elected in 2022, with more than two decades of legal and public service experience. A graduate of the University of Maryland at

College Park and the University of Baltimore School of Law, Deloach has served as mediator for the District Court of Maryland's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program.

Deloach says his extensive background in municipal law, mediation and professional legal leadership reflects his commitment to fairness, professionalism and effective service for families navigating probate and estate matters in Prince George's County

Athena Groves

Athena Malloy Groves is a current Judge of the Orphan's Court, a position she has held since 2006. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Juris Doctorate from North Carolina Central University School of Law. Before joining the bench, she practiced law as an associate and managing partner in private firms and served on multiple public boards, including the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the Revenue Authority Board of Prince George's County.

Since becoming a judge, Groves has held leadership roles in judicial administration, including serving as chair of the Conference of Orphan's Court Judges. She says her work reflects a longstanding commitment to improving probate and estate processes while ensuring fairness, accountability and accessibility for families in Prince George's County.

Greenbelters can vote for up to three of the three candidates in the coming election.

Cam Crossett is a graduate student at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



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Election 2026

Eleven Democratic Candidates Running for Register of Wills

by Cam Crossett

The Register of Wills is a local government office responsible for supervising the verification process after a person dies. Its duties include validating wills, opening estates, appointing personal representatives, issuing legal documents such as Letters of Administration and ensuring that debts, taxes and assets are properly handled or distributed according to the law.

The Prince George's County office assists in collecting inheritance taxes, audits estate accounts and provides secure storage for wills. The position carries a salary of up to \$172,463. This year, there are 11 candidates running for the office. The following information comes from their campaign materials.

Antwan C. Brown

Brown describes himself as an administrator and educator, and that his work centers on mentorship, advocacy and strengthening communities. He served in the United States Army, and earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in, respectively, computer information systems, management and leadership, and social work. He has served in leadership roles in the Oxon Hill Civic Association and the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee.

He currently serves as the administrative director for African Affairs and Middle Eastern American Affairs in the Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. Brown says he is running for office because he believes leadership requires action, accountability and a commitment to serving others.

Kayla D. Bryant

Bryant is a Prince George's County native and legal professional who says she is dedicated to serving families during some of life's most difficult moments. She wrote that while working in the Prince George's County Register of Wills office from 2022 to 2023, she saw how the probate process can affect grieving families. She's continued working in estate administration and legal support roles while pursuing her law degree to strengthen her knowledge and ability to serve the community.

Bryant says she is running for Register of Wills because she believes the office should operate with compassion, transparency and accessibility for every resident, and she hopes to bring fresh leadership and a people-centered approach to the role.

Belinda Queen Cunningham

Cunningham says she has served as a community advocate, nonprofit leader and elected official in Prince George's County. She earned an associate degree in accounting. Her experience includes serving on the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee from 2014 to 2018 and as secretary of the county's Park and Recreation Advisory Board during the same period. From 2018 to 2022, she was the elected Board of Education representative for District 6. She feels her leadership reflects a strong commitment to civic

engagement, community empowerment and improving quality of life for Prince George's County residents.

David Jack

Jack says he is committed to serving Prince George's County residents, and that he has focused much of his effort on grassroots community involvement and outreach to support local families and youth. He describes himself as having actively organized and participated in community service initiatives across the county, including school supply drives, youth engagement activities and neighborhood giveback programs, through which he worked to address residents' everyday needs while encouraging stronger community connections and civic participation.

Januari McKay

McKay has served vulnerable communities across Washington, D.C., Prince George's County and Baltimore. She began public service as an instructional aide for students with emotional and intellectual disabilities before joining Advocates for Youth, an advocacy organization for sexual health and reproductive rights, where she led HIV and AIDS educational workshops in D.C. public schools. She later worked as a Prince George's County Department of Social Services case manager, helping young adults transitioning from foster care to obtain housing and employment training. She currently works as a chief of staff in the Maryland General Assembly. She writes that her experiences working with youth, families and underserved residents inspired her to pursue public office and advocate for policies that better support working-class communities.

Rosalyn E. Pugh

Pugh is an attorney in Prince George's County. She earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Bowie State University and a juris doctor from the University of Baltimore.

Pugh served as clerk of the Prince George's County Circuit Court from 2001 to 2006, where she managed court operations, provided court services to the public and safeguarded official records. She says she is committed to improving customer service and accessibility, timely and accurate estate administration and modernizing processes to better serve residents.

Stephanie V. Overton Stanard

Stanard has a background in federal and county administration, human capital management and organizational leadership. She operates her own consulting firm focused on workforce development

and organizational strategy and currently serves as acting chair of the Prince George's County Revenue Authority Board.

Stanard holds a Ph.D. in human development from Virginia Tech and a bachelor's in journalism from Bowie State University. She has held senior roles at federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, the CIA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, U.S. Postal Service and FDIC, focusing on operations, compliance and large-scale personnel systems. She said the Register of Wills needs greater automation to address manual processes that create unnecessary delays for families.

Jocelyn Route

Route is a former Bladensburg City Councilmember and is a mental health advocate and social worker with over 15 years of behavioral health experience. She is a Howard University graduate with a master's in social work. She currently serves as a senior advisor and wellness integrator for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Department of Parks and Recreation, responsible for applying holistic wellness frameworks across employee and community initiatives. She was formerly a public health advisor for the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, where she oversaw mental health awareness grant programs to promote wellness and recovery nationwide.

See WILLS, page 11

GODDARD continued from page 7

after over a year of firings, cuts and "forks in the road," as the current administration attempted to shrink the federal workforce, such positions are not deemed as desirable or secure as they once were.

A civil servant at GSFC told the News Review that new civil servants are being hired as "term" employees, without the guarantee that their position will be converted to a permanent one at the end of the term. "Given that Goddard has discontinued employment for all term employees who hit the end of their term for the last few years and similarly not converted their Pathways interns into civil servant positions, I'm surprised anyone would consider applying." Under the management of Center Director Makenzie Lystrup, which began April 2023, and continuing after her resignation last year (see the July 24, 2025 issue), GSFC's management repeatedly insisted they wouldn't be building spacecraft in-house any longer and have been striving to outsource as

many core capabilities as possible, said the aerospace engineer. They have also recently closed the on-site gym, cafeteria and library, as well as the on-site health unit, "which provided emergency care to workers injured in the sometimes-dangerous lab and spacecraft test facilities," he said.

No one we spoke to was certain the attempt to recruit more civil servants would be successful and all shared an ongoing sense of uncertainty. Thus, as GSFC employees mourn the loss of colleagues, library, cafeteria, gym and other resources, and now the longstanding management of the Wallops Flight Facility (see page 1), they wait to see what the new hiring directive and new leadership will mean for the center.



Spellman Overpass Resistance Fridays

Join the weekly protest on Spellman Overpass, Fridays (except in rain, wind or snow) from 3:30 until 5:30ish. Flags and big-letter messages are provided to cheerfully encourage Parkway motorists' awareness. To minimize driver distraction, extra signage is discouraged.

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

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AWARDS continued from page 1

has aspirations of becoming a neuroscientist, is always willing to lend a helping hand, serving as a dependable teacher's assistant and supporting both her teacher and classmates. Her positive attitude, responsibility and kindness inspire those around her to strive for their best.

Springhill Lake Elementary Fotabong Emeffuete

Fotabong has earned a 3.93 cumulative GPA while actively participating in the Advanced Writing Academy, demonstrating both academic excellence and a deep commitment to intellectual growth. Beyond the classroom, she is a dedicated member of the Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars Jump Rope Team, where she competes at events and helps train and support her teammates, showcasing her leadership and teamwork.

In class, Fotabong is responsible, engaged and consistently asks thoughtful questions that reflect her genuine curiosity and thirst for learning. Her role as a school ambassador highlights her poise, responsibility and ability to represent her school with pride.

Santiago Gallardo-Espinoza

Santiago has maintained a 4.0 GPA this year, demonstrating exceptional dedication to his academic growth. As a member of the Advanced Writing Academy and a Talented and Gifted student, he consistently challenges himself and produces high-quality work. Santiago serves as the elected 5th grade president in student government, participates in The WARP Speed Ahead! STEM Club and earned second place in this

year's Literacy Fair. Beyond his achievements, Santiago is kind, respectful, a supportive friend to his peers and a positive role model in his school community.

Magnolia Elementary School Gloryette Abolle

An Honor Roll student, Gloryette approaches tasks with an impressive level of seriousness and resolve. At school, she willingly supports others during learning tasks without being asked. As a new member of the school community from Cameroon, she is both well respected and liked by her peers, exhibiting daily positivity and inspiring those around her to do the same. Gloryette's actions reflect integrity and responsibility, making her a positive and steady presence in the classroom.

Shane Fleshman

Shane is a hardworking student who daily demonstrates focus, perseverance and a strong commitment to learning. As a member of the school's Safety Patrol, Shane models responsibility and dependability for his peers. An Honor Roll student, he brings great enthusiasm and energy to his work and takes pride in his interests outside of school as well which include gaming, health/wellness and comics. With aspirations of playing football in middle school, Shane exemplifies discipline, character and what it means to be a positive influence on others.

Dora Kennedy

French Immersion School Antonia Troncoso-Roldan

Antonia is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, participates on the school soc-

cer team and is a member of the school band. Outside of school, Antonia pursues her passion for soccer through a competitive soccer club, enabling her to further develop her discipline, teamwork and leadership skills. She aspires to attend either the University of California, Los Angeles or New York University and pursue a career as a psychologist.

Tabitha Melin

Tabitha has served as an editor for the Middle School Magazine, where she contributed to elevating student voice and expression, and is an active member of the symphony orchestra. Outside of school, she has performed in the Greenbelt Youth Musical for three consecutive years, participated in ballet, Circus Camp (where she learned to ride a unicycle) and currently serves in Girl Scouts as a cadette. Tabitha plans to attend Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Science and Technology program, where she'll continue to apply herself academically and explore her interests in STEM.

Greenbelt Middle School Favour Sunny-Akowe

Favour demonstrates both excellent citizenship and respect at Greenbelt Middle School. She is highly admired by her peers and considered a leader in her class, where she maintains an honor roll status and has been on the GMS basketball team since the 6th grade. Her basketball coach has said she is a great person with a supportive, encouraging family. She is a model citizen of the GMS community.

Stephen Bongwele

Stephen, currently maintaining a 4.0 GPA, is fierce in the classroom. Even though his family's heritage is French speaking (and he is a native English speaker), Stephen plans to earn a seal of literacy by completing Russian 3 before entering high school. A lover of soccer and a member of the GMS soccer team, he is a true representation of what a model student is to Greenbelt Middle School.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Awards (\$2,500 scholarships) Michelle Philippeaux

Michelle, a senior, maintains a 3.57 weighted GPA and demonstrates consistent achievement across a range of subjects, including English, chemistry, psychology, dance, mathematics and social sciences. Michelle participates in student government and has contributed over 126 service hours.

Michelle uniquely blends her passion for science and the arts, approaching each new endeavor with creativity, focus and purpose. After ERHS, she intends to study kinesiology.

Naima Eastman

Naima maintains a 3.958 weighted GPA while applying herself across multiple disciplines. Her analytical and reflective nature allows her to approach learning with depth and purpose, as she seeks to understand the "why" behind each concept, which aligns with her intended major in behavioral neuroscience.

Beyond academics, Naima is a valued member of the Eleanor Roosevelt community. Her

participation in the Lady Raider Step Squad, Do Something Club and American Sign Language Club highlights her collaboration and leadership. Through her Greenbelt CARES internship and Learn2Earn Youth Program, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to service and personal growth.

State Delegate Anne Healey Scholarship Carissa Nwabueze

Carissa is a senior at ERHS where she has distinguished herself as an exceptional scholar, leader and advocate for equity.

Carissa earned a 4.0 unweighted GPA and a 4.31 weighted GPA while completing AP courses including chemistry, English language, world history, seminar and psychology. She is pursuing the AP Capstone Research course and will graduate with an ASL Bilingual Certificate, reflecting her passion for communication across communities. As president of the Cards-4-Kindness Club and co-vice president of the ASL Club, Carissa demonstrates strong leadership, initiative and inclusivity. With over 170 service hours, she actively mentors peers and contributes to programs supporting underrepresented students. Inspired by her grandmother's work, Carissa plans to pursue ASL interpreting to bridge gaps between deaf and hearing communities.

The awards were presented by members of ACE, who are Chair Janet Mirsky, Annette Davis, Troi Dixon, Denna Lambert, Gulnura Rakhyshova and Robert Snyder. Jenni Pompei is their council liaison, Liz Park the city staff liaison.

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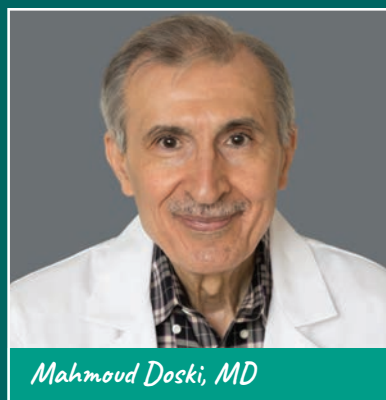
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Greenbelt Orchestra Announces New Season, New Conductors

by Anne Gardner

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give its final concert of the 2025-26 season (their third season) on Sunday, May 31 at 4 p.m. in the Community Center gym. This will be an American History themed concert, in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The program will include music by Ferde Grofé (Mississippi Suite), Florence Price (Adoration) and Leroy Anderson (The Typewriter), among other favorites.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Andrew Samlal conducts Greenbelt Community Orchestra in a Women's History Concert in March.

After this concert, the orchestra will sadly bid farewell to their principal conductor, Andrew Samlal, who will be moving on to the next stage of his conducting career. The orchestra recently auditioned four new conductor candidates, all associated with the University of Maryland (UMD), and were so impressed that they selected three of them, to conduct one concert each during the 2026-27 season.

First, they are excited to welcome Caleb O'Neill, who is starting a master's in orchestral conducting at UMD in the fall. He

will conduct Holst's The Planets suite, with two performances on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15. There will be NASA imagery and commentary from a Goddard scientist to enhance the experience of the music. Continuing Associate Conductor Seth Glabman will conduct Constellations by Viet Cuong to open the program.

will conduct Holst's The Planets suite, with two performances on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15. There will be NASA imagery and commentary from a Goddard scientist to enhance the experience of the music. Continuing Associate Conductor Seth Glabman will conduct Constellations by Viet Cuong to open the program.

After Thanksgiving, Julie Huang Tucker will take over the principal conductor position, leading to a concert in March that will potentially be a collaboration with a local choir to perform a requiem. Tucker, who is pursuing a doctorate in

symphonic tale for children, Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev. Baker is director of the Maryland Opera Studio at UMD, principal coach of the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, N.Y., and co-founding executive and music director of Music On Site in Kansas.

For more information about the orchestra and the conductors, visit greenbeltorchestra.org.

Anne Gardner is founder and president of the board of directors of Greenbelt Community Orchestra.



RIOS continued from page 8

the very tables where consequential decisions about their lives are made. I am not running for a steppingstone. I am running to serve with purpose, integrity and unwavering commitment. I pledge without reservation to serve the entirety of my term as at-large councilmember. Prince George's County will have my full presence, my full voice and my absolute dedication to transparency and accountability for four years.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council member, specifically, should plan to address?

As an at-large member representing the entirety of Prince George's County rather than a single district, I am committed to addressing two fundamental cross-cutting priorities. The first is housing affordability and the prevention of resident displacement. Longtime residents are being

systematically priced out of the communities they built and sustained for generations. An at-large councilmember must champion evidence-based, countywide policies that protect existing residents while responsibly expanding the supply of affordable and workforce housing. The second priority is economic equity and small business access. Far too many minority, veteran and immigrant-owned businesses in this county are unable to access county procurement opportunities, capital resources or institutional support. An at-large seat carries a unique obligation to advocate equitably for every resident across every district, and that obligation demands the deliberate dismantling of systemic barriers that prevent our most industrious entrepreneurs from competing on a level and just playing field.

Community Center Hosts Blood Drive June 5

As summer approaches, the Red Cross is bracing for an annual seasonal shortage of blood, as regular donors go on vacation and miss blood drives. This shortage can affect lifesaving treatment at area hospitals. The Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Community Center on Friday, June 5, with appointments available from 12:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Donors of all blood types - especially type O - are urged to make an appointment to give now to help meet the needs of patients. Visit redcross.org to make an appointment; walk-ins can probably not be accommodated.

The Greenbelt American Legion Post also hosts a blood drive every other month, with the next one scheduled for Monday, July 6.

The American Red Cross operates a Lanham Blood Donation Center, only three miles from Greenbelt on Annapolis Road. The Center is open Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

WILLS continued from page 9

Route is running because the Register of Wills "should do more to simplify information, improve communication and ensure residents understand what documents are needed and what steps to expect."

Starsha Sewell

Sewell's background includes cybersecurity and risk management for federal agencies and Maryland state government, and she describes herself as a chaplain supporting individuals and families through grief and life transitions.

Sewell is CEO of the Cyberdemics cybersecurity training and consulting firm. Her platform emphasizes transparency, accountability and public access within the probate system, with a focus on modernizing office operations while keeping the human impact of probate at the center of service delivery.

Desdemona B. Smith

Smith currently serves in the Register of Wills as the assistant chief deputy and supervisor of the New Estates Division, where she oversees estate administration operations.

Smith's platform emphasizes improving accessibility, transparency and operational effectiveness within the office, providing guidance to families and protecting the integrity of estate records.

If elected Smith says she

would bring continued leadership focused on fairness, efficiency and compassionate service in probate administration. She is committed to ensuring families receive clear guidance while protecting the integrity of estate records and the legacy of loved ones.

Linda Thornton Thomas

Thomas' experience includes working as a school principal, a U.S. Labor Department administrative law judge, an education program specialist in the Department of Education, and an elected member of the Prince George's County Board of Education. Thomas also founded a consulting firm that collaborated with organizations focused on underserved communities.

Thomas believes the Register of Wills office plays a critical role in protecting families, preserving legacies and ensuring estates are managed fairly and efficiently. Her platform emphasizes democracy, equity, civility and strong community outreach, and bringing transparency, accountability and compassionate public service to the probate process while helping residents navigate estate matters with confidence and dignity.

Cam Crossett is a University of Maryland graduate student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



HARRISON continued from page 8

overdependence on residential property taxes and the county's looming budget shortfall. Currently, Prince George's County homeowners contribute approximately 70 percent of the county's tax revenue, while commercial businesses contribute approximately 30 percent. This imbalance is largely due to outdated master plans/zoning and a lack of commercial business investments. Over the past three years, I have worked with Maryland-National

Capital Park and Planning Commission to update District 9's subregion 5 and 6 master plans. Updated master plans and zoning will provide the county the opportunity to establish optimum commercial uses and development to help increase our commercial tax base, while lessening the tax burden on residential home owners. As an at-large council member, I will be committed to working to update the county's 38 outdated master plans and 43 zoning types.

Sports

LITTLE LEAGUE continued from page 1

Games and practices are played across five fields in Greenbelt: McDonald Field, Braden 1 (Juniors) and Braden 2 (Intermediate, Majors and Minors), Braden 3 (Coach Pitch and Machine Pitch), McDonald (Majors and Minors) and Schrom (Coach Pitch and Tee Ball) along with Driskell Park in Hyattsville (Machine Pitch). All these fields have become gathering places for local families throughout the baseball season.

For many seasons, the league operated independently and then in 2018 voted to join the Little League International organization. Little League offered more structure and allowed for a focus on player development over the prior focus on competition, said Ben Friedman, the league's information officer and head coach of the Greenbelt Cubs Juniors team. Today, each division uses a player draft system that allows coaches to build balanced rosters while ensuring every player receives opportunities to contribute throughout the season.

"Every player is given opportunities to bat and play in the field," said Friedman. "The goal is to keep kids engaged in baseball while creating fair opportunities for everyone involved." Teams typically consist of 12 to 14 players, allowing coaches to balance instruction, development and playing time. The league's structure also introduces players to progressively more advanced levels of baseball as they get older.

The Divisions

The Minors Division focuses on players under 10 years old and uses machine pitch to help athletes develop hitting and fielding skills before transitioning into full kid-pitch competition. The Majors Division, for players ages 10 to 12, continues player development with increased competition. Intermediate Division players, generally ages 11 to 13, compete on fields featuring 70-foot basepaths and a 50-foot pitching distance, while the Juniors Division introduces players ages 13- to 15 to full-size baseball fields.

The Postseason

As the regular season wrapped up on May 19, teams have now shifted their focus toward postseason play. According to Friedman, Greenbelt Little League will send one team from each division into district tournament competition with hopes of advancing through states and regionals, and eventually the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

Greenbelt will also host post-



PHOTO BY BEN FRIEDMAN

Little League players enjoy the renovated Braden Field baseball complex, including the brand-new dugout.

season baseball this summer. Friedman confirmed that Braden 2 will host the 10U (10 and under) tournament beginning June 27, with up to five teams expected to participate.

"Depending on the number of teams, the tournament could run four days," Friedman said. "Hosting events like that is important because it brings the community together and gives our players a chance to experience tournament baseball close to home."

The Lessons

For Chris Hurst, head coach of the Yard Goats Intermediate team, youth baseball teaches lessons that extend well beyond the game itself. Hurst, who has coached Little League baseball for four years, believes the sport teaches accountability, resilience and confidence. "The players who work really hard are the players who are going to be the most successful," Hurst said. That's something that's applicable wherever they are in life.

A teacher by profession, Hurst said coaching allows him to combine his love for baseball with his passion for education. "There's

really nothing better than the opportunity to teach baseball," Hurst said. "You've got a bunch of energetic kids who want to compete and be a part of a team. It's fun to see them get better every day."

He also emphasizes the importance of outdoor activity in a generation increasingly surrounded by screens and technology. "It's important that they get outside, play hard, get sweaty, feel the sun and breathe fresh air," Hurst said. "That experience matters."

Improved Facilities

The league has also benefited from major facility improvements in recent years. In 2024, the City of Greenbelt invested millions of dollars into upgrades at Braden 1 and Braden 2, including new stadium lights, upgraded fencing, covered dugouts and turf grass installations.

Hurst praised the city's commitment to supporting youth baseball and said the upgrades have dramatically improved practice and game opportunities.

"The support from the City of Greenbelt has been enormous," he said. "The new fields make the

Babe Ruth Baseball Season Begins for Teen Players

by Ben Friedman



PHOTO BY CURRY ROSE HOSKEY

Two teams shake hands after a game last fall.

As the high school baseball season ends, so begins Babe Ruth Baseball. As many as 40 teens ages 13 to 18 have picked up their bats and gloves and taken to Braden Field to practice for countywide competition against teams from Laurel, Upper Marlboro, Beltsville and beyond. The Babe Ruth League is a longstanding national youth baseball program affiliated with Cal Ripken Baseball that provides opportunities for teens to extend the school

baseball season into the summer, with a regional tournament in mid-July in Pennsylvania. Teams are divided by age, with Greenbelt fielding one 16- to 18-year-old team and two 13- to 16-year-old teams. Home games will be played weeknights between 6 and 11 p.m. at Braden Field 1, from now until the first week in July.

Ben Friedman coaches one of the age 13 to 16 teams in the Babe Ruth League.

kids feel respected and excited to wear Greenbelt across their chest. From a coaching perspective, we've had more opportunities for practices and games, and the players have improved because of it."

As Greenbelt Little League continues its decades-long tradition, league officials and coaches remain focused on creating an

environment where young athletes can develop skills, build friendships and create lasting memories through baseball.

Cam Crossett is a graduate student at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 18-24, 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 two domestic incidents, a sexual assault and a mental health diversion. Two missing children returned safe and officers located a juvenile missing from Riverdale Park. Some residents encountered a dog near 6023 Springhill Drive.

Residential Burglary and Theft of Auto

On May 24 at 2:13 p.m. near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, thieves entered an apartment and stole two sets of car keys, then stole the 2020 Honda Accord (Md. 4FP7748) parked nearby.

DUI Arrests

On May 22 at 10:19 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and 62nd Avenue, officers stopped a vehicle that was swerving in and out of lanes and arrested the driver for DUI.

On May 24 at 11:40 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, an accident was caused by an impaired driver who was subsequently arrested.

Theft and Shoplifting

On May 18 at 11:46 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman detained for shoplifting was banned from the store.

On May 20 at 11:19 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man with an active warrant from Prince George's County was arrested and taken to the Prince George's County Department of Corrections; at 3:57 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone stole 33 bottles of allergy medicine and fled.

On May 21 at 4:26 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was apprehended for shoplifting and banned from the property.

On May 22 at 11:18 a.m. near 6150 Springhill Terrace, property left outside of a residence was taken; at 12:40 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone stole merchandise; at 2:25 p.m. near 7475 Greenbelt Road, people stole merchandise and fled in a Dodge van (Md. 4GL2337).

On May 24 at 12:41 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man wearing black sweats, a white shirt and a black jacket stole merchandise and fled; at 4:14 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was caught by loss prevention staff and banned.

Trespassing and Public Disturbance Arrest

On May 18 at 9:06 p.m. near 6040 Greenbelt Road, officers were flagged down by citizens stating that a man known to officers was bothering patrons at Beltway Plaza. He had been banned from the mall and was showing signs of intoxication. He was arrested and charged with trespassing and public disturbance while intoxicated.

Vandalism

On May 19 near 6242 Greenbelt Road, a trashcan had spray paint on the side.

On May 22 at 1:02 p.m. near 6213 Springhill Court, a man threw a rock and shattered the back bedroom window.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

On May 20 at 9:37 p.m. near 5510 Cherrywood Lane, a woman went to purchase a drink and left her engine running; when she returned, her 2020 Toyota Highlander (Md. 8ES8079) was gone.

On May 24 near 6001 Springhill Drive, a 2015 Dodge Charger was stolen (Va. THP8543).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On May 18 near 9170 Edmonston Road, officers found a 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee with a window broken. It had tags belonging to another vehicle and had been reported stolen in Prince George's County.

On May 21 near 7503 Mandan Road, an officer found a stolen vehicle.

Theft from Auto

Tires and rims were stolen on May 21 from a 2026 Honda Civic near 6148 Springhill Terrace, and from a 2026 Honda Accord on May 24 near 6320 Golden Triangle Drive.

On May 21 near 6110 Breezewood Court, a license plate was stolen from a 2006 Ford F-150.

Vandalism to Auto

On May 21 near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, an officer was flagged down by someone whose car was damaged by an attempt to break in.

On May 24 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2015 Chrysler 300 had a window broken.



The Greenbelt Police Bike Patrol Unit and the Community Action Team at Bike to Work Day on May 15

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Events Honor National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 5

National Gun Violence Awareness Day is Friday, June 5, corresponding with Wear Orange Weekend from June 5 to 7. Wearing orange honors victims and survivors of gun violence. The weekend focuses on demanding gun control action and promoting gun safety. This year there will be two demonstrations in Prince George's County where Greenbelters can participate in person.

The first activity will be on June 5 at 4 p.m. on the Brooklyn Bridge Road overpass over I-95 in Laurel. Moms Demand Action will join others to wear orange to send a message to those driving under the I-95 overpass. In the second activity, the group will be sharing information related to gun violence awareness at an activity celebrating graduates at Foxhill Park, 5001 Collington Road (Md. Route 197), Bowie, on Saturday, June 6 from noon to 4 p.m. For additional information contact Maryland@momschapterleaders.org.

The Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood and the Social Action Committee have long been committed to help reduce gun violence. In late 2025, they sponsored an educational webinar that involved presentations and testimony from Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions; Maryland Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense; and the Interfaith Gun Violence Preven-



tion Network, of which Mishkan Torah is a member. (See the January 8, 2026 News Review.)

There is some good news from the Maryland General Assembly, which this year passed a bill to prohibit the sale of DIY (Do it yourself) machine guns. DIY pistols can be easily converted into machine guns at home. The converted weapons are capable of firing up to 20 rounds per second. This bill is expected to be signed into law by Governor Wes Moore this week.

National Gun Violence Awareness Day originated on June 2, 2015, which would have been the 18th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, who was shot and killed in 2013, just one week after she marched in President Barack Obama's second inaugural parade. She lived in Chicago, and her friends wore orange to commemorate her life, as orange is the color hunters wear to protect themselves and others.

Sadly, gun violence is not abating. An average of 130 people a day are killed by firearms in the United States. Many more are injured or impacted by firearm violence. Marylanders can contact their county, state and federal legislators to remind them of the importance of legislation to control gun violence. Additional information can be obtained through Moms Demand Action at momsdemandaction.org.

City Notes

Public Safety/Community and CARES attended Springhill Lake Elementary School's Career Day. Legislative/Council Engagements hosted a Four Cities meeting. Several departments attended County Councilmember Tim Adams' luncheon event at the Community Center. Public Information worked with Greenbelt Police to improve communications about new stop sign cameras.

Code Enforcement inspected Franklin Park apartments, three Hanover Parkway commercial suites, 16 rentals and six complaints. Animal Shelter residents are six cats, nine kittens and six dogs.

Environmental gave a presentation about native pollinators at the Youth Center and, with Rangers, welcomed 10 participants for a birding event at the Lake. Public Works prepared for Memorial Day events and Parks mowed around the community gardens and delivered mulch. Recreation and Facilities responded to an air conditioning outage at the Community Center, deploying many portable fans. Therapeutic Recreation took seniors on a field trip and provided inclusion support for Parents' Night Out. The first Walk with a Ranger event welcomed 12 participants.



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Greenbelt Garden Tour Scheduled for June 6

The Greenbelt Garden Tour is Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring 12 home gardens and community garden plots, including ornamental and food gardens, in Greenbelt East, Center and West. Gardeners will be present to answer questions and share insights. The tour is a fundraiser for Greenbelt Rotary Club community service activities. Learn about those activities and purchase tax-deductible tickets at tinyurl.com/ucyf2n7a.

If Saturday has light rain, the tour will proceed; otherwise, the rain date is Sunday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The website will provide garden descriptions, addresses and a map as the tour date approaches, as well as rain status if needed.



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Sports

Greenbelt Little League Fights Off Rain and District Opponents

by Ben Friedman

Teams from Greenbelt have seen great success on the field this season, when the weather permits. The month of May is notorious for rain and sloppy field conditions, and 2026 is no different than past years. Subscribe to your favorite teams on GameChanger at gamechanger.

com and watch this space for schedule updates as they come. For more information about Greenbelt Little League, visit the website at gyblittleleague.org.

Ben Friedman is the league's information officer and head coach of the Greenbelt Cubs Juniors team.



PHOTO BY RICHARD WILLIAMSON

A Little League player dramatically slides home.

Two-week Game Schedule: May 25 – June 7, 2026 (Kid-pitch only)

Division: Minors	Time	Home	Away	Location
Tue., May 26	6:00 PM	Space Cowboys	Tides	McDonald
Thu., May 28	6:00 PM	Orioles	Yankees	Braden 2
Sat., May 30	9:00 AM	Space Cowboys	Laurel 2	McDonald
Sat., May 30	10:00 AM	Laurel 1	Tides	Legion
Sat., May 30	12:00 PM	Arbutus 1	Orioles	Arbutus - TC
Sat., May 30	3:00 PM	Yankees	Arbutus 2	McDonald
Tue., June 2	6:00 PM	Tides	Orioles	McDonald
Thu., June 4	6:00 PM	Yankees	Space Cowboys	Braden 2
Sat., June 6	9:00 AM	Orioles	Space Cowboys	McDonald
Sat., June 6	12:00 PM	Tides	Yankees	McDonald
Division: Majors	Time	Home	Away	Location
Wed., May 27	6:00 PM	Greenbelt Bulls	Greenbelt Rangers	McDonald
Sat., May 30	3:00 PM	Greenbelt Bulls	Laurel Orioles	Braden 2
Wed., June 3	6:00 PM	Greenbelt Rangers	Greenbelt Bulls	Braden 2
Sat., June 6	3:00 PM	Greenbelt Bulls	Annapolis A2	Braden 2
Sat., June 6	2:30 PM	Annapolis A1	Greenbelt Rangers	Davidsonville
Division: Intermediate	Time	Home	Away	Location
Wed., May 27	6:00 PM	Yard Goats	Seeds	Braden 2
Sat., May 30	9:00 AM	Seeds	Yard Goats	Braden 2
Sat., May 30	12:00 PM	Goldeyes	Phillies	Braden 2
Mon., June 1	6:00 PM	Yard Goats	Seeds	Braden 2
Mon., June 1	6:00 PM	Phillies	Goldeyes	Turney
Division: Juniors	Time	Home	Away	Location
Tue., May 26	6:00 PM	Arbutus Camacho	Greenbelt Juniors	Arbutus
Sat., May 30	1:00 PM	Greenbelt Juniors	Arbutus Young	Braden 1
Sat., May 30	4:30 PM	Arbutus Camacho	Greenbelt Juniors	Braden 1
Mon., June 1	6:00 PM	Greenbelt Juniors	Laurel Ross	Braden 1
Sat., June 6	10:00 AM	Greenbelt Juniors	Arbutus Young	Braden 1
Sat., June 6	1:00 PM	Greenbelt Juniors	Arbutus Young	Braden 1

Teams are Greenbelt LL unless otherwise indicated. Times, locations, and opponents are subject to change without notice.

Recent Games: May 11 – May 24, 2026 (Kid-pitch only)

Division: Minors	Home	Away	Location	Result
Tue., May 12	Tides	Space Cowboys	McDonald	Space Cowboys 17-16
Thu., May 14	Yankees	Orioles	Braden 2	Orioles 14-11
Sat., May 16	Laurel Rough Riders	Orioles	Legion	Laurel 17-16
Sat., May 16	Tides	Arbutus Guardians	McDonald	Tides 18-10
Sat., May 16	Arbutus 1	Space Cowboys	Arbutus PL	Arbutus 11-5
Sat., May 16	Yankees	Laurel 1	McDonald	Yankees 21-12
Tue., May 19	Space Cowboys	Orioles	McDonald	Tied 8-8
Thu., May 21	Yankees	Tides	Braden 2	Yankees 10-3
Division: Majors	Home	Away	Location	Result
Wed., May 13	Greenbelt Rangers	Greenbelt Bulls	Braden 2	Rangers 13-10
Sat., May 16	Arbutus Tides	Greenbelt Bulls	Arbutus	Arbutus 12-2
Sat., May 16	Greenbelt Rangers	Arbutus Wildfire	Braden 2	Arbutus 6-5
Mon., May 18	Laurel Yankees	Greenbelt Rangers	Turney (Laurel)	Rangers 13-8
Division: Intermediate	Home	Away	Location	Result
Mon., May 11	Phillies	Goldeyes	Turney	Goldeyes 20-15
Sat., May 16	Yard Goats	Phillies	Braden 2	Yard Goats 16-14
Sat., May 16	Goldeyes	Seeds	Braden 2	Seeds 11-10
Mon., May 18	Yard Goats	Goldeyes	Braden 2	Yard Goats 8-5
Mon., May 18	Phillies	Seeds	Turney	Seeds 16-12
Wed., May 20	Seeds	Goldeyes	Schrom	Goldeyes 16-7
Division: Juniors	Home	Away	Location	Result
Mon., May 11	Arbutus Young	Greenbelt Cubs	Arbutus	Cubs 11-7

Teams are Greenbelt LL unless otherwise indicated. Times, locations, and opponents are subject to change without notice.



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Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share? We welcome your photos and stories at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Memorial Day 2026 in Greenbelt

by Butch Hicks



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

The Memorial Day ceremony included city and American Legion Post 136 members placing wreaths honoring those who died in service to America. Pictured from left: Greenbelt Police Officer Arran Leatherly, Sons of the American Legion members Jerry Darnell and Jim Harbaugh, Patty Rousseau of Post 136 Auxiliary, and Greenbelt City Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Jenni Pompi

Greenbelt's Memorial Day ceremony, usually held at Greenbelt's War Memorial Park, dodged rainy weather this year and relocated to American Legion Post 136's Hofberg Hall. More than 80 attendees heard American Legion, city, county and state leaders' presentations remembering those who died in service to their country.

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan offered appreciation to the Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 family for its leadership and for coordinating the Memorial Day Ceremony year after year. "Thank you for ensuring that we never forget," he said. Prince George's County Councilmember for District 4 Tim Adams, in his Memorial Day proclamation, acknowledged Post 136 for its longstanding tradition of commemorating the lives of fallen heroes at the Greenbelt Veterans Memorial and bringing together residents, veterans, families and community leaders "in solemn gratitude and patriotic remembrance."

Jordan acknowledged the veterans among city staff, first responders, the Greenbelt Police Department led by Chief Richard Bowers and the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Engine Company 35 led by Chief Tommy Ray. "We are grateful for your service," he said. All city councilmembers were present to continue their annual Memorial Day participation.

Jordan acknowledged and thanked other leaders at the ceremony: Adams, State Senator Alonzo Washington, State Delegate Nicole Williams and State Delegate Ashanti Martinez.

In his county council proclamation, Adams said Greenbelt joined communities throughout the county and nation "in honoring the memory of American soldiers who sacrificed their lives at home and abroad to preserve liberty, justice and peace for future generations." "Memorial Day serves as a reminder of the tremendous cost of freedom and calls upon all citizens to reflect upon the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces and their families in service to the United States of America," he read.

Post Adjutant's Remarks

The event host, Mike Moore, Post 136 Adjutant, thanked the community leaders and county and state representatives who supported the day's ceremonies.

"Since the founding of the United States, it is estimated that 558 million Americans and immigrants have lived in this country," he said. "More than 1.1 million of them have died defending the United States in wars and combat actions since the American Revolution. They each have stories to tell. The crosses at Normandy,

The graves at Arlington. The markers at Punchbowl. The fallen heroes who rest in unknown places. We are here for them," said Moore.

Personal Sacrifices

Moore's comments brought soldiers' personal sacrifice defending our country closer to home. He spoke of heroes like West Virginia National Guard Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, who was mortally wounded while patrolling Washington, D.C., on November 26 and Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe, seriously wounded in the same attack.

We could all be lifted by the breathtaking sacrifices that veterans have made and continue to make on our behalf, said Moore. We are here for Specialist Beckstrom's grieving family members and friends and to support Staff Sergeant Wolfe and his challenging road to recovery, he said. "We do not forget."

"We are here for the 2,341 American servicemembers who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor 85 years ago. We are here for the 3,100 combat deaths and thousands more who succumbed to the elements at Korea's 'frozen' Chosin Reservoir. We are here for the men and women who continue to lose their lives during operations in the Middle East.

"From Bunker Hill to Baghdad, Americans from communities throughout the United States have answered their nation's call and made the ultimate sacrifice."

Remembering a Hero

Moore told the story of Air Force Staff Sergeant William Pitsenbarger, who 60 years ago, in a thick jungle near Saigon, was part of a company of soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division that was surrounded and outnumbered by Viet Cong. "Pitsenbarger, a pararescue jumper, voluntarily entered the danger area through a helicopter drop, so he could administer aid and evacuate the wounded," recounted Moore. "Armed with a rifle, pistol and medical bag, Pitsenbarger refused evacuation nine times while he helped others get to safety. He repeatedly collected and distributed ammunition to soldiers under fire. He continued assisting others, while fighting the enemy even after being wounded three times."

Pitsenbarger's body was later found with his rifle in one hand, and his medical bag in the other, said Moore. He was 21.

For his actions taken on April 11, 1966, Pitsenbarger of Piqua, Ohio, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted to staff sergeant.

"Staff Sergeant Pitsenbarger's legacy is that he did what he did

so others may live. It is an ethos shared by so many of America's fallen heroes," said Moore. "From those who absorbed the blast of a grenade while saving their friends, to those who died rescuing crew from a sinking ship, we take this day to reflect on ordinary Americans exhibiting extraordinary valor."

Never Forget

"To honor the legacy of the fallen, we should all commit to the freedom offered by the greatest nation on earth. A land where patriotism eclipses politics, where the American flag is displayed proudly and frequently and where military veterans are society's true celebrities," said Moore.

"We must never forget the families of our fallen. Long after the battlefield guns have been silenced and the bombs stop exploding, the children of our fallen warriors will still be missing a parent. Spouses will be without their life partners. Parents will continue to grieve for their heroic sons and daughters that died way too early. We need to be present for them, not just as members of The American Legion Family, but as American citizens. Nobody can replace these fallen heroes, especially in the eyes of their families, but we can offer shoulders to cry on, assistance with educational expenses and assurances that their loved one's sacrifice will not be forgotten.

"There are many ways to honor the fallen. ... We take this moment to remember the price that was paid for us to enjoy our American way of life. Remembering and honoring the legacies of those who didn't make it back is the true meaning of Memorial Day.

"Let us remember that tyrannical regimes have been toppled and genocides stopped because Americans sacrificed life and limb. Let us remember that terrorist plots were foiled and killers brought to justice because Americans were willing to pay a high price. Let us remember that without a U.S. military, the world would be a far more oppressive and darker place. Let us remember that freedom has no greater friend than the American soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, Coast Guardsman and Space Force Guardian.

"The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion charges our organization to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in all wars. The true way to honor the fallen is to live in a way worthy of their sacrifice. That means strengthening our communities, helping our fellow veterans, supporting military families, and teaching the next



PHOTO BY JEFF THORNE

From left, Mayor Emmett Jordan, joined by American Legion Auxiliary past national president and Post 136 member Sandi Dutton and Councilmembers Kristen Weaver, Silke Pope and Frankie Santos Fritz, honored American Legion Auxiliary National President Pam Ray (center) during a special reception at Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 by presenting a proclamation recognizing her outstanding leadership and service to veterans, military families and communities nationwide.



PHOTO BY JAMARIE SPENCER, CITY OF GREENBELT

The Memorial Day ceremony included city and American Legion Post 136 members placing wreaths honoring those who died in service to America.



PHOTO BY JAMARIE SPENCER, CITY OF GREENBELT



generation what this day truly means. We must tell their stories. We must speak their names. We must ensure that our children and grandchildren understand that the freedoms they inherit were paid for with courage, service and sacrifice," Moore said.

Jordan added special recognition of those warriors who gave all defending America's democracy, right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. This July 4th is America's 250th birthday.

The years passed, the wars were fought, thousands of soldiers died supporting America's freedoms. Jordan said Maryland Governor Wes Moore reminds us that "remembrance is not about how our heroes died; it is about how they lived. They lived in service. They lived love of country. And as we cross into America's 251st year, their legacy lives on in every Greenbelter and those across our country, who wear the uniform today."