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Editor Anna Bedford-Dillow Brings New Level of Reporting

by Erica Johns

Our September 10 issue announced the appointment of Anna Bedford-Dillow as the Greenbelt News Review’s Editor in a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors, following a motion by retiring editor Mary Lou Williamson, who remains as editor emerita. This article profiles Bedford-Dillow, who joined the paper in September 2022 as managing editor.

As managing editor, she has been responsible for overseeing the paper’s day-to-day operation, tying together the many persons and activities throughout the week to make the News Review happen. Her promotion to editor doesn’t reflect a change in her role, but instead reflects how her role has grown.

Previous Experience

Bedford-Dillow was born in the United Kingdom and educated there, at the University of Edinburgh, and at the University of Maryland College Park, where she received a Ph.D. in comparative literature, and a graduate certificate in women’s studies and university teaching. Her career previous to the News Review



PHOTO BY BARRETT BEDFORD-DILLOW

Anna Bedford-Dillow

was primarily academic, involving teaching, writing and teaching writing at College Park, St. Mary’s College of Maryland and the College of Southern Maryland, as well as serving as founding editor of a St. Mary’s County online newspaper.

In these roles, she wrote, and taught others to write diverse content (literature, fiction, teacher training, professional workplace writing, journalism and organizations’ online and print content), and taught research skills, media literacy and evaluating sources.

While academic writing differs from journalism, she sees teaching and guiding writers as a “through line” between academia and the News Review.

Investigative Reporting

Under Bedford-Dillow’s leadership, the newspaper has greatly expanded its investigative reporting into local and national news stories and their impact on Greenbelt. They range from federal decisions regarding BARC, Goddard, workforce reductions, FBI headquarters, and ICE and immigration news, to Prince George’s County public schools (PGCPS), school board and fire department, holding officials accountable for transparency and public interest. She has been responsible for almost all of this reporting.

Bedford-Dillow began investigative reporting in 2023 when, as a PGCPS parent, she observed Board of Education meetings, learned about board members suing each other, ethics investigations and other board acrimony. She could find little reporting on these issues affecting

See EDITOR, page 4

Greenbelt Has Day in Court Over Firefighters, with No Rebuttal

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Thursday, September 10, Sue-Ellen Ferguson, a lawyer for Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park, was in the Appellate Court of Maryland in Annapolis to present the municipalities’ grievance over the removal of Prince George’s County Fire Department (PGFD) career firefighters (see the September 10 issue). The hearing had been delayed as Greenbelt hoped to see their career staff return in the spring, which might have remedied the case. Ahead of the hearing, City Manager Josué Salmerón had been measured and not overly optimistic about going up against the county’s lawyers. In the end, though, Greenbelt couldn’t have hoped for a better day in court, in which they were



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón and Berwyn Heights Town Manager Kyle Snyder outside the Maryland Appellate Court following the hearing regarding Prince George’s County Fire Department staffing on September 10

able to present their case without rebuttal when the county’s lawyers failed to appear.

See FIREFIGHTERS, page 12

Structure and Culture Are Focus of City DEI Program

by Lynne Slater

City Manager Josué Salmerón, accompanied by the city’s program directors, met with the Greenbelt City Council on September 9 in a worksession to discuss the actions taken in response to the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) audit presented in April 2025 and to assess the next steps for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program. The JEDI report, generated by Tribes Consulting, identified organizational structural

and cultural barriers to DEI. It also made recommendations to help the city become more inclusive, to build trust among employees and with the community, and to generate accountability. The two volumes of the report are available at tinyurl.com/4234f8va.

Inclusive Values

The JEDI audit identified organizational structure issues that inhibit DEI under the purview of

See DEI, page 13

Historic Parkdale Class of ’77 Prepares for 50-year Reunion

by Claudia Stuart

For the Parkdale High School class of 1977, a reunion tradition started with a joking comment on a Facebook post. Mark Felsher saw a picture of some classmates getting together, posted by a friend on Facebook. “Hey, you guys had a reunion and didn’t invite me,” he commented. This little joke turned serious, and in 1995 classmates who attended Greenbelt Center Elementary School together through sixth grade held a 25-year reunion for their graduation from Parkdale High School in Riverdale. Felsher estimates roughly 75 percent of that class went to Parkdale and graduated together in 1977. Now they’re planning a larger, 50-year reunion for the Parkdale class of ’77 in September 2027.

Class of ’77 History

Parkdale’s class of ’77 went through multiple challenges and school changes to get to where they were their senior year: from Greenbelt Junior High to schools they were bused to as part of a desegregation effort, and finally to Parkdale, where they would remain for their final year when the other grades moved out to attend Greenbelt’s new high school, Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). A disjointed and disrupted high school experience created



PHOTO COURTESY PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Mark Felsher with classmate the late Margaret Lewis

a tight-knit group of classmates who found their way back together as the final class of Greenbelt seniors to graduate from Parkdale.

Busing for Desegregation

In 1973, the cohort of students who had graduated from Center School were eighth graders attending Greenbelt Junior High School in the large white building at the intersection of Greenbelt Road and Edmonston Road that would later become Greenbelt Middle School, then Dora Kennedy French Immersion, and is

See PARKDALE, page 10

What Goes On

Monday, September 21

Yom Kippur, No City Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 23

7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Board of Elections Council Referral Follow-up Review, Municipal Building

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



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Dogs enjoy the Pooch Plunge at the pool on Saturday, September 12. See story and more photos on page 9.

Letters to the Editor

More on Helping Turtles

I was delighted to read Xavier Courouble’s September 3 article Eastern Box Turtles Need Protection: Greenbelt Residents Could Help. Regarding “do not touch any turtles!” I gained perspective from local professionals on how to help a turtle in the street.

Park rangers at both Greenbelt Park and the city’s Recreation and Parks provided insight and best practices. Greenbelt Park referred me to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) website: Tips for helping a turtle cross the road.

I asked one Greenbelt Recreation Ranger what he would do to help a turtle in this situation. He said he would “pick it up” and place it in a safer spot in the direction it had been going. He added that he would wash his hands after handling the turtle. (Neither ranger could think of any disease people would likely impart to a free-ranging box

turtle. Hand-washing is standard advice for after handling any reptile or amphibian.) The Greenbelt Park ranger offered further detail: He first moves his car to a position to alert any oncoming traffic. He suggested tapping the turtle with a stick to get it moving, or placing cardboard under it to move it along. He added to be careful, if the turtle is wiggly, not to drop it.

The FWS website advises: “Always keep your own safety in mind ... move [the turtle] to the other side of the road in the same direction it was going. Using a car mat can be a good way of helping turtles across without actually picking them up.” But on Greenbelt’s busy residential streets, one may have to respond swiftly.

In encounters between people and popular wildlife, the animal may require and welcome the assistance that only we people can provide. Box turtles are on the move, in some cases in the roads, into November.

Caleb Kriesberg

Clarification

The tiny URL for applying to Greenbelt WON (With Our Neighbors) for microgrants will work either with or without a space: Bit.ly/GreenbeltWON or bit. ly/Greenbelt WON. But if using the Google search engine, enter the URL directly rather than into the search field. Google Search’s AI will block efforts to reach the page.



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:
SEPTEMBER 18th - 24th

Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (89 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:20 PM, 7:40 PM
Sat. 5:20 PM, 7:40 PM
Sun. 2:50 PM (OC), 5:00 PM (OC)
Mon. 2:50 PM, 5:00 PM (OC)
Tues. 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM
Thurs. 4:40 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Wed. 4:00 PM

Coyote vs. Acme (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (103 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 7:20 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM
Mon. 5:20 PM
Tues. 5:20 PM
Thurs. 7:20 PM

Practical Magic 2 (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (130 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 4:20 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 5:20 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM
Tues. 7:50 PM
Thurs. 4:20 PM

Primetime (R) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (112 mins)
Early Members-only Screening
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 7:00 PM

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

Voter Registration Deadline is Oct. 13

Tuesday, October 13 is the deadline for registering to vote in the 2026 mid-term election.

For information about registering to vote online, by mail or in person, visit vote.gov/register/Maryland.

Registrations must be received by the Prince George’s County Board of Elections at 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, in Largo, no later than 4:30 p.m.

Changes to a name or address on an existing registration have the same deadline.

Call 301-341-7300 with questions.



Story & Photograph Submissions

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

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

Round Up in September For the News Review!

September is the News Review’s turn to participate in the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy’s Round-Up campaign. During September when the cashier asks if you would like to round up your purchase to the next whole dollar, please do. Your contribution will help us continue providing you superior local news coverage.



Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom

All is well at Mossy Bottom Farm, except for the fact that the animals will do anything to get out of work. So, Shaun the sheep and his scheming friends devise a plan to put their master to sleep. However, the ruse backfires when the poor farmer finds himself transported to the big city, having lost his memory. Now, it’s up to Shaun, Timmy the lamb, Shirley the ewe and the rest of the gang to travel to the metropolis and get him back, while not landing in even more trouble themselves.

Coyote vs. Acme

After decades of being blown to bits by bombs, demolished by dynamite, mangled by magnets, battered by boulders, trampled by trains, tricked by tunnels, sprung by springs, steamrolled by steamrollers, maligned by misfires, bedeviled by bungees, rattled by rockets, backstabbed by bat suits, rocked by rocket skates, upended by unicycles, quaked by quake pills, rubberized by rogue bands and hurled headlong off every cliff in the Southwest, Wile E. Coyote (Genius) finally fights back. Teaming up with billboard accident lawyer Kevin Avery (Will Forte), he takes on slick corporate counsel Buddy Crane (John Cena) and ACME, Inc., the profit-obsessed conglomerate behind every one of the Coyote’s chaotic catastrophes.

Practical Magic 2

This sequel to Practical Magic returns to a world steeped in moonlit mischief and powerful ancestral magic, as the Owens sisters must confront the dark curse that threatens to unravel their family in a must-see cinematic event of fun, magic and mayhem.

Primetime

In 2006, To Catch a Predator host Chris Hansen sets out to make television history. Said critic Raphael Abraham of the Financial Times, “A headline draw is the presence of Robert Pattinson, who duly delivers with a darkly mesmerizing performance as the host of the hit mid-2000s NBC show To Catch a Predator.”

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.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, September 21, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway. Greenbelt Cinema and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System are offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16920458.

Build with Legos

Monday, September 21, 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/16760447.

Storytimes

Tuesday, September 22, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16918623.

Wednesday, September 23, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16918581.

Thursday, September 24, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16918714.

Craft and Create

Thursday, September 24, 2 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Sketching is a great gateway into art as a form of creative expression. Bring a sketchbook or use the Library's materials. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16874677.

Passport Services

The Greenbelt Library serves as a Passport Acceptance Facility through Wednesday, September 30. After September 30, county libraries will discontinue passport services systemwide as part of a realignment to focus on core library priorities.

Submit Photos for Photography Club

The Greenbelt Photography Club is accepting photographs for a publication project, A Month in the Life of Greenbelt. All submissions will be considered, and any proceeds will go to historic preservation in Greenbelt. Anyone can submit up to five photos through the link: tinyurl.com/gb26photo. All photos must be taken this September in Greenbelt and submitted no later than Saturday, October 3.



CHEARS Presents Food For Life Cooking Class

In recognition of October as Breast Cancer Month, come learn about steps one can take to reduce the risk of cancer and improve survival at a Food for Life Cooking Class on Wednesday, September 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. Adopting a healthy plant-based diet can reduce the risk for breast cancer, other cancers and chronic illnesses. Every plant-based meal also helps make the environment healthier. This class is open not only to cancer survivors and their family and friends, but to anyone who wants to learn to cook healthy delicious plant-based recipes. Cooking demos and three plant-based dishes will be prepared and shared. Note that the class is not intended for individuals currently in active cancer treatment.

The class will be held at the Community Center, Room 109. Registration is required using the QR code. The program is free, but donations are accepted.



Scan to register for the CHEARS cooking class.



Free Homeschool Sessions at Goddard

Registration for the following two free in-person homeschool sessions at the NASA Goddard Visitor Center opens on Tuesday, September 22 at 9 a.m. Each session will have an interactive presentation and will last approximately 45 minutes. Staff will share content to watch beforehand and activities to continue exploration afterward.

Living and Working in Space (ages 5 to 10), October 22 at 11 a.m. or October 23 at 1 p.m.

Engineering Satellites (ages 11 to 14), October 28 at 11 a.m. or October 30 at 1 p.m.

Registration is required at tinyurl.com/y68yju9m. A parent or guardian must be on site during the programs. For more information email gsf-visitorcenter@mail.nasa.gov or call 301-286-8981.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace is Monday, September 21. To mark this day, the Contemplative Prayer group of Greenbelt is hosting a peace meditation on Tuesday, September 22 from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road. Focusing on the desire for peace, the event will include readings, prayers, singing and 20 minutes of silence. All are welcome to join this prayer for peace in their hearts, their cities, the country and the world. For questions, email Patience.Robbins@gmail.com



Greenbelt House Tour Seeks Festive Homes

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is hosting its first Greenbelt House Tour on Saturday, November 28. The tour is a fundraiser for the club's community activities. Two participants have already committed, and the club is seeking a few more, with plans to include five or six homes. The club will select homes based on interesting renovations and upgrades and/or festive holiday decor for whatever seasonal holiday is celebrated in the home. Apartments are welcome! The club expects to finalize the home selection by October 15.

Homeowners or renters in Greenbelt East, Center or West who would like to be considered should respond at tinyurl.com/y5zp2rze. To learn more about the tour and Greenbelt Rotary's community service activities, see greenbeltrotary.org.



Candidates Sought For Co-op Board

Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (GCC) is seeking candidates willing to run for election to its board of directors. The Co-op will conduct its election at the annual meeting on Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Center gym. Two board members will be elected to serve three-year terms.

Members interested in serving as directors can pick up nomination forms in the Co-op at the customer service office. To be considered, members must (1) have a minimum of \$100 in their member capital account and (2) submit both a brief biography and a completed nomination form that includes five signatures from other voting-eligible members by Monday, September 28.

Return the completed form with biography to the Co-op's customer service office or email them to board@greenbelt.coop. GCC does not accept nominations at the annual meeting.

Art Studio Open House and Sale

Art fans of all ages are invited to save the date for Greenbelt Recreation's fall Art Studio Open House and Sale on Sunday, October 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Tour the studios of the center's eight artists in residence on the third floor and see their latest creations. Several participating artists will have fine art and "elevated" functional wares available for purchase. See the current exhibition in the art gallery, where James Stephen Terrell's vibrant collages evoke quilting, sartorial splendor and a cosmic consciousness.

Guests can reserve a seat in advance for a free collage workshop inspired by Terrell's art, with seatings at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Sign up at sugeni.us/Ubb7. See more details as they are announced at greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Art Share Sept. 18

Artists of all experience levels are invited to participate in a free Art Share from 7 to 8 p.m. on Friday, September 18 at the Community Center, Room 113. Bring one to three pieces in any medium for discussion at this monthly meetup. This activity is intended for teens and adults. Registration is not required, but participants are encouraged to sign up at sugeni.us/eE4I to receive communications about this series. City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.



Wild Rumpus Art, Dance Activities

Mark your calendar for Greenbelt Recreation's Halloween celebration in Roosevelt Center and sign up for free, fun, pre-Rumpus activities throughout October. The Wild Rumpus will take place 4:30 to 6 p.m., rain or shine, on Friday, October 30, with entertainment, trick or treating with Roosevelt Center merchants and a movie at the Greenbelt Cinema.

On Thursdays in October, participate in art builds; sign up at sugeni.us/U2uy. Looking for information about the yearly flash mob dance performance? Sign up at sugeni.us/UYjs. Volunteer opportunities are also available at the event — find out more at sugeni.us/UYV6. Service hour credit is available for students.

Astronomical Society Meeting September 24

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet Thursday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. Glenn Bock will speak on Venus Cycles. This lecture is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television

September 2026

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

GATE's Monthly Board Meeting : Tuesday, Sept. 22nd 6-7 PM at our Studio (15 Crescent, Suite 204), and Zoom (tinyurl.com/GATEBoardMTG). Anyone from the community is welcome to attend!

Featured Productions

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now

Encore broadcasts of the best of Utopia Film Festival's past 21 years!

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

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

This Week at the New Deal Café

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

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

HOURS OF OPERATION VARY. SEE NEWDEALCAFE.COM FOR UPDATES.

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!

*** RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 ***

TH 9/17	FRI 9/18	SAT 9/19	SUN 9/20	
The Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30pm If you dream of jamming, this is your chance!	The Roustabouts 8 - 11pm Offering roots-music lovers a fresh take on the blues	POETRY OPEN MIC, 11a-1pm NDC JAZZ JAM, 3 - 5pm Connor Filicko & Kingpin 8 - 11pm Dynamic blues, soul and rock group	CLOTHING SWAP w/ music by Dan Hovey, 11am - 2pm Grateful Sunday 6 - 8pm Celebrating the music of the Grateful Dead	
MON 9/21	TUES 9/22	WED 9/23	TH 9/24	New Deal Café
REEL AND MEAL 6:30 - 9pm A monthly film series exploring social justice issues	NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	Kim's Grand Rounds: A Songwriters' Circle 7 - 9pm	Shannon Leigh and The Good Byones 7 - 9pm Maryland bluegrass band playing whatever sounds good	THE TIME IS NOW! DONATE 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.

EDITOR continued from page 1

Greenbelt and Prince George’s County families. She noted this as the start of News Review reporting on broader issues that affect Greenbelt, because Greenbelters deserve to understand how they are affected. Since then, her reporting has covered the county schools and school board, fire department staffing, the county executive and the Board of Elections.

Public Accountability

Bedford-Dillow persistently represents Greenbelters and Prince Georgians to hold public officials accountable for transparency and public interest by using Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) requests (similar to federal Freedom of Information Act requests) to uncover information residents can use when asking their own questions and when voting. She reports the facts and information gaps revealed by MPIA results. When officials violate deadlines by which they are legally required to answer MPIAs and don’t answer follow-up inquiries, she reports those facts. She uses other mechanisms including engaging Maryland’s State Ombudsperson to mediate with county officials, but definitive means do not exist to enforce the statutory requirements for officials to respond. She recalled a past in which it was considered shameful if officials refused to answer questions.

Within Greenbelt, she has built productive relationships with city officials, whom she describes as very cooperative in sharing information.

Human Connections

When the federal government began reducing workforces and dismantling programs at NASA Goddard, BARC and USAID, she reported the facts, including the fiscal impacts and the human impacts, becoming known and trusted for identifying, vetting and protecting her sources. The most meaningful reporting in this regard may have been the 2025 experiences of Greenbelters working for Goddard and USAID.

Noting the human connection provided by local reporting in a community newspaper, Bedford-Dillow said, “You can only vilify people if you don’t know them. The more we can read people’s stories, the more we can empathize with them and where people are coming from. It’s very hard to make these dichotomies of good and evil, and to believe these really polarizing narratives, when we can see the different people in our society that are relatable neighbors.”

Readers have expressed appreciation for her reporting in multiple letters to the editor.

Goals

When asked about her goals for the paper, Bedford-Dillow said she’s already pleased with how well it represents Greenbelt, continues to be read and has become even more relevant amid fewer local news sources. Having said that, she perennially hopes for more writers for the newspaper, who would bring more news to readers, along with more varied perspectives. Current writers can’t cover all the issues and community happenings that residents deserve to hear about and that readers suggest be covered. It would be especially useful to gain Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West writers.

Learning from Others

When talking of the people of



The Bedford-Dillow family

PHOTO COURTESY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

the News Review, Bedford-Dillow said, “I’ve had the privilege of sitting next to Mary Lou [Williamson, editor emerita] for four years, with her amazing historical wealth of knowledge and doing the job for decades, knowing what’s important and modeling how to respond to concerns, criticism and requests. She’s been a fantastic mentor.”

Mentoring in the other direction, Bedford-Dillow enjoys guiding writers, providing them with contacts and context for their stories and giving them feedback. She said, “The dedication of the volunteers is hard to overstate,” including the volunteers who report on Greenbelt City Council, listening to meetings “that are sometimes dry, sometimes entertaining and write about them in a way that sifts through everything to let the public understand what happened and what’s important.”

She talked of interns from the University of Maryland College Park’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism, of whom the News Review usually has two per semester, and for whom she provides supervision and formal performance assessments. Beside their being a link to her academic career, she said, “We’ve had really incredible interns who contributed wonderful stories and coverage. We learn from them every semester and appreciate the enthusiasm and knowledge they bring from the latest things they’re learning in school.”

Energy, Enthusiasm

Bedford-Dillow finds her role endlessly interesting, with new issues and people every week

to learn about, meet and write about, and feels lucky to work with an organization that people choose to volunteer with, because they find it interesting and vital for the community. And she values learning of the variety of paths through which her colleagues acquired their editing, writing, research and other skills — their differences contribute to the whole, which demonstrates the non-hierarchical, communal ecology of the News Review, which respects and honors each person’s contributions and institutional legacy.

When asked what the job is like, Bedford-Dillow laughed, “I think about it all the time!” saying it doesn’t stop after Monday and Tuesday editing and Wednesday proofing for that week’s issue, because she and other writers are already reporting, interviewing and writing for the following week’s issue.

Outside the news, Bedford-Dillow also helps the News Review actively and directly engage the community, through hosting Girl Scout troops and summer Creative Kids Campers, speaking at school career days and the Golden Age Club, participating in local journalism panels and hosting a city council candidate forum for the first time in 2025.

News Review volunteer Lola Skolnik wrote, “Anna has elevated our local paper to a breaking news source through her investigative journalism. I am impressed not only with her writing skills, but with her kind and caring management style. With Anna as editor, we can look forward to a

continuation of great leadership at the Greenbelt News Review.”

Personal Life

Bedford-Dillow and her husband Barrett Bedford-Dillow met while pursuing their Ph.D.s at the University of Maryland and have lived for about 15 years in Greenbelt, where they are raising three children who compete on the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team and other youth swim organizations, belong to Scouts, soccer and more. Their household also includes two dogs. Over the years, she has served as a GHI Audit Committee member, Greenbelt Nursery School board member and president during the pandemic, Cub Scout leader, PTA leader and swim team volunteer, among other positions. She continues her academic pursuits and publishing and is currently creating an anthology of women science fiction writers from the pulp era and writing her own fiction.

Building the Legacy

The News Review is an “incredible testament to community, said Bedford-Dillow; “Its mission is in part to build community, because that’s what news does. But in addition, it’s really the community who builds the News Review, because we have so many volunteers doing so many different

See EDITOR, page 5



Congratulations to all the winners of the 2026 Labor Day Festival Art Show.

Congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School varsity boys soccer team for their victory over longtime rival Bowie High School. The team had gone 0-9 against Bowie over their previous nine meetings.

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

Golden Age Club

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

Upcoming Meetings

September 23, Bingo
September 30, Speaker: Sharon McCraney (seated exercise and short meditation after)
October 7, Open House: Active Aging Week is October 5-11, celebrating the positive aspects of aging and promoting healthy, active lifestyles for older adults, like being in the Greenbelt Golden Age Club. Therefore, the Club’s October 7 meeting will be an Open House for seniors, to recruit more Club members. Greenbelt seniors aged 60 or older who are not yet a member are encouraged to come to learn more about the club activities.

"Hatred does not cease by hatred; hatred ceases by love.
This is an eternal commandment."
— The Buddha



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.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:
[CCGI985+owner@groups.io](https://ccgi985+owner@groups.io)

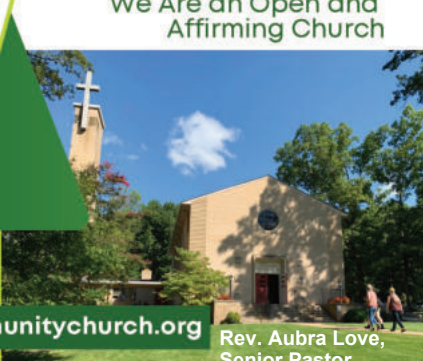
St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

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

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road

**Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship**
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

**We Are an Open and Affirming Church**
Rev. Aubra Love,
Senior Pastor

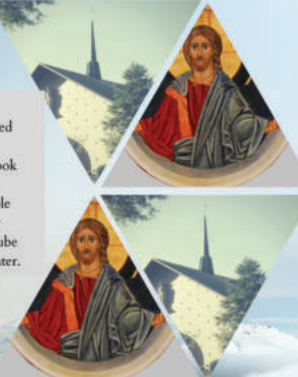
**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero



Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Core Values from Romans chapter 8.

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.



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

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

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



Mishkan Torah
10 Ridge Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4223
www.mishkantorah.org

EDITOR continued from page 4

jobs every week,” as well as other Greenbelters contributing by suggesting stories or sending photos, which means they and their families see themselves in the paper.

Bedford-Dillow mused on there being a local newspaper in Greenbelt since its 1937 start. She believes that’s not due to luck but to Greenbelt’s nature as a cooperative city. “Greenbelt has made this happen,” she says. “I’m very honored to be selected by the board to this role. I know it is a position of trust. It is a great legacy to continue.”



Anna, aged 5, multitasking with pencil and roller skates.

PHOTO BY JO MAYOR

Attendees talk about one of the electric cars at the city EV event in the Library parking lot on Sunday, September 13.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER



City Information & Events

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

MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 21 - 25

Monday, September 21, **NO COUNCIL MEETING - YOM KIPPUR**

Tuesday, September 22 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - Virtual**, On the Agenda: Labor Day Parade Review, Grants Proposals Due 9/14 or 10/12, Preparation for PTA Presidents Meeting 10/27

Tuesday, September 22 at 7:30 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (GREEN ACES) - Virtual**, On the Agenda: TBD

Wednesday, September 23 at 7:30 pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION - BOARD OF ELECTIONS COUNCIL REFERRAL FOLLOW-UP REVIEW - Municipal Building**

Thursday, September 24 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD - Public Works Facility**, On the Agenda: TBD

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP): PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE GREENBELT VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN, HEALTH ANALYSIS, AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The City of Greenbelt requests proposals from qualified transportation planning and engineering professionals to develop a comprehensive, citywide Vision Zero Action Plan; conduct a supplemental health analysis; and design and evaluate up to three quick-build demonstration projects. The project is funded by the City of Greenbelt and a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grant administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Submit one (1) original, two (2) copies, and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format of the proposal in a sealed envelope clearly labeled “Proposal - Contract No. 2026-09-R, Greenbelt Vision Zero Action Plan” to:

Jaime Fearer
Acting Director of Planning & Community Development
15 Crescent Road, Ste. 200
Greenbelt, MD 20770
jfearer@greenbeltmd.gov

Questions related to this RFP must be submitted via email to Jaime Fearer by September 17, 2026, at jfearer@greenbeltmd.gov. All answers will be posted on the City’s website on or before September 24, 2026.

View the RFP at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/bids.aspx?bidID=5>.

FEATURED PETS KENZO



Ready for Adoption?
Call (301) 474-6124

8-year-old Kenzo was previously an outdoor cat that was brought to the shelter with extreme injuries to his front leg, which ultimately had to be amputated. Kenzo has had a long road to recovery, but is living his best life now! Kenzo does not let his disability slow him down; he zooms after toys, climbs our cat trees with ease, and is a fiend for treats. But more than anything, Kenzo loves affection and making friends with everyone.

If you’re interested in adopting our beloved tripod, Kenzo, please email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call 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.

KIDS VS COPS BASKETBALL GAME

Thursday, September 24 from 5-8 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Greenbelt Police and Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station are teaming up with the City of Greenbelt for a Kids vs. Cops Basketball Game on Thursday, September 24! Come out for an evening of basketball, music, free food, and community fun.

Hosted by City of Greenbelt, Greenbelt Police Department, Franklin Park.



UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS

Birding 101
Saturday, September 19 from 7:30 - 9:30 am
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Join Public Works Operations Manager, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, and the Greenbelt Park Rangers for an introductory birding tour around Greenbelt Lake.

National Public Lands Day Kayaking
Saturday, September 26 from 8 am - 2 pm
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Celebrate Greenbelt’s incredible public lands with kayaking and cleanup efforts around Greenbelt Lake. All are welcome to participate in this environmental stewardship that will benefit the entire Chesapeake watershed.



GREENBELT CARES

ADULT FLU CLINICS
Tuesday, October 6, 1 - 4 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Tuesday, October 13, 1 - 4 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

Adult flu clinic (ages 18+) Standard dose & senior dose (65+) available.
First come, first serve. No insurance or ID required!

AI CLASSES
September 15, September 22, September 29, and October 5
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd, Ground Floor East

Senior Planet from AARP is offering a series of free AI classes for adults ages 50+, designed to make today’s digital world a little easier to navigate.

Questions? Contact Cesar Herrera at 202-891-8071 or cherrera@greenbeltmd.gov.



HELP MOVE FRESH FOOD FROM HARVEST TO HOME Volunteers Needed for the Greenbelt Grows Harvest Hub

Greenbelt Grows is looking for volunteers to help collect and distribute fresh food to Greenbelt families. Through the Harvest Hub, locally grown and donated produce is collected from the Greenbelt Farmers Market, Greenbelt Co-op, community gardeners, and partners to be distributed to residents in our community.

We need volunteers for two important teams:

- Food Collection Team (Sundays)**
Help collect donated produce from the Farmers Market and Co-op, bring food to the Harvest Hub, and prepare food for distribution.
- Food Distribution Team (Tuesdays)**
Help organize and distribute fresh produce from the Harvest Hub to Greenbelt residents and families.

No gardening experience is needed. Just bring a willingness to help your neighbors and strengthen food access in Greenbelt. Give a few hours. Help feed a neighbor. Strengthen our community.

Sign up to volunteer at www.greenbeltmd.gov/GreenbeltGrows
Learn more at GreenbeltGrows.org.

Greenbelt Grows | Harvest Hub
Growing food. Sharing abundance. Feeding community.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



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

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

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

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

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

FREE Artist Talk (Greenbelt Community Center) 10/9; 6-7pm. Join artist James Stephen Terrell for an informal artist’s talk in conjunction with his exhibition (on view through October 18 - room 112) sign up: sugeni.us/U2bo.

Wild Rumpus Art Build and Dance Number (Greenbelt Community Center) Participate in fun, free art activities leading up to our annual Halloween celebration in Roosevelt Center (10/30)! Sign up at sugeni.us/U2uy; use the tabs at the top to navigate between activities.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

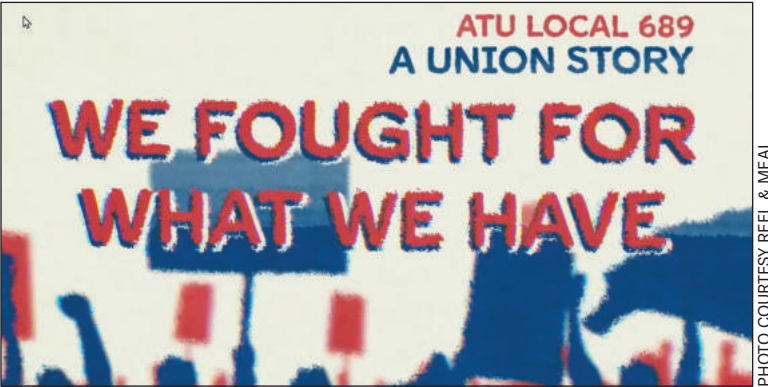
- Art Studio Open House & Sale (Greenbelt Community Center)** Part of the Artful Afternoon on 10/4, 1-4pm. Sign up to participate in a hands-on art workshop: sugeni.us/Ubb7
 - September Art Share 9/18; 7-8pm (Greenbelt Community Center)** Sign up: sugeni.us/eytm
- Registration required for this activity, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details.
- Make and Take Ceramics: Magical Miniatures 9/18 - 9/25; 6-8pm** see pg 34 for more dates.

Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook and Twitter @cityofgreenbelt! For City information and events, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

Reel and Meal

When Public Transit Was Privatized, Workers Fought Back and Won

by Donna Hoffmeister



Title card of film

We Fought For What We Have: A Union Story focuses on the 2019 Cinder Bed strike by Washington-area transit workers, which sparked a wave of successful labor actions across the region. Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 represents many Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) employees: bus and rail operators, station managers, bus and rail-car maintenance workers, track and wayside workers, physical-plant maintenance workers and clerical staff, including Metro workers and bus operators in Prince George’s County. The film will be shown at the New Deal Café on Sunday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. Note that this month’s Reel and Meal screening is on Sunday, a new day for the program. The Labor Heritage Foundation and ATU 689 co-sponsor the film and ATU 689 rank-and-file members will join the discussion following the film.

In an attempt to reduce labor costs, WMATA awarded the new Cinder Bed Road Metrobus garage in Lorton, Va., to a private contractor, Transdev, instead of operating it with regular WMATA employees. Those 120 Transdev workers joined ATU 689 and asked for the same wages, benefits, retirement protections and workplace rights enjoyed by regular Metro employees. Transdev refused. Workers struck for 85 days — and won.

Their victory became a blueprint. Transit workers at DC Circulator, MetroAccess, Loudoun

County Transit and Fairfax Connector followed, launching strikes against private contractors over low wages, inadequate benefits and unfair work rules.

The largest post-Cinder Bed labor action came in February 2024, when more than 650 Fairfax County public bus drivers and maintenance workers struck at Transdev. After 15 days on the picket line, they won a contract providing competitive wages, stronger benefits, retirement security and a more secure 40-hour workweek guarantee.

That strike was part of a larger regional labor movement. In all, ATU Local 689 organized 10 strikes involving transit systems operated by private contractors, including Transdev, RATP Dev, Keolis and Martz. Together, these workers demonstrated that privatization does not have to mean accepting lower wages, weaker benefits or diminished job security. The film shows how one courageous strike inspired further strikes for economic security among transit workers throughout the Washington region.

Reel and Meal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. Generous Joe’s is catering the evening’s meal, while the Café undergoes a transition. The screenings are hybrid: in person at the Café and via Zoom. Those unable to attend in person can register to watch via Zoom at tinyurl.com/ReelMeal2026.



A shot from the movie We Fought For What We Have



Nonprofit?
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message here for
\$24.30
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

LiUNA Files Unfair Labor Practices Complaint vs. City

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On August 31, the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LiUNA)’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Organizing Coalition (MAROC) filed an Unfair Labor Practices complaint against the City of Greenbelt. The complaint alleges that since city employees requested representation by LiUNA in 2025 (see September 11, 2025 issue) they have faced intimidation, coercion and interference from the city’s managerial staff. The complaint alleges those incidents have increased in frequency and severity since the Greenbelt City Council passed 2026 legislation establishing collective bargaining rights for its employees (see the July 23 issue). The city denies systemic interference with unionization and says it is committed to following the process to investigate complaints.

Key Allegations

The complaint names two supervisors within Public Works. (The News Review is not naming those individuals, at least one of whom is a resident, due to the fact that there have been reports of personal attacks following the complaint and that an investigation has not yet been conducted.) Key allegations are that one supervisor told employees not to join the union or discuss it and told employees the union lies. The complaint alleges that the supervisor also warned employees that unionizing would mean an end to task-based work schedules and require eight-hour days instead, as well as drug testing and firings. That manager allegedly drove employees to their cars, something he doesn’t usually do, to prevent them from talking with Trent Leon-Lierman, who is lead organizer for MAROC’s unionization campaign with Greenbelt’s Public Works Department.

According to the complaint a second manager also warned of the end of task-based work schedules if the workers unionize and told at least one employee the union makes false promises. It further alleges supervisors in Public Works used one employee’s termination to warn others against unionizing.

City’s Response

Speaking to the Greenbelt News Review, City Manager Josué Salmerón described it as a sad situation. Salmerón said he could not get into the politics, though, and he couldn’t speak publicly about the case. However, he objected to the idea that there was systemic discouragement of unionization. “We’ve been working to make sure no one interferes with the process,” said Salmerón. “I’ve been very clear, provided counseling and training to management ... legal teams met with them. This is not a systemic issue and not coming from city management,” he said.

Though he couldn’t speak about the specifics of the complaint, Salmerón said the city was committed to protecting workers’ rights, including fair pay, robust benefits and a safe work environment.

Call for Negotiation

Organizer Leon-Lierman said he could only speculate as to whether or not the interference with and discouragement of unionization was widespread or

systemic but the complaint names two Publics Works managers, he noted, and multiple managers allegedly told staff they would have to change from a task completion work schedule system to working eight-hour days. Leon-Lierman also says one manager attributed the potential firing of a worker to unionization. “A lot of the workers are scared,” he told the News Review. Leon-Lierman said he was disappointed the city has turned to the firm Jackson-Lewis, a labor and employment law firm with a reputation of union-busting; he had hoped the city manager would sit down to talk with him rather than going through the lawyer.

City “Following Process”

Salmerón says Jackson-Lewis has been the city’s labor attorney for at least 20 years and has overseen their collective bargaining process for the police department. Salmerón says he needs to turn to the city’s lawyers because the process requires it when they’ve received two demand letters from attorneys. Those letters demand a response and he doesn’t have the flexibility to sit down to negotiate the matter without a legal response, says Salmerón. He also told the News Review he welcomes an impartial process and a third party investigating com-

plaints. He said there have been personal attacks against him and employees, and he doesn’t want this to have an impact on relationships between employees.

The complaint calls for the city to acknowledge it has broken the law, cease and desist any interference with unionization, post a notice to workers about their right to unionize and that the city will not retaliate and to pay LiUNA’s legal fees. The complaint will now head to a neutral arbitrator who will investigate and come to a conclusion.

Emory A. Harman Sr.: Help Us Tell His Story

The University of Maryland holds a large collection of photographs, documents and memorabilia belonging to Emory A. Harman Sr. This fall, a UMD class is working to organize and catalog the collection, and they need help understanding what’s in it.

If you knew Harman, recognize anyone in his photographs, or have stories or context about his life and his role in the Greenbelt community, they would love to hear from you.

Email charman@greenbeltnmd.gov or ehung124@umd.edu and include “Emory Harman” in the subject line.

PARKDALE
1977 50TH REUNION
SEPT 10-12, 2027

— For more info, email us at Parkdale77reunion@gmail.com

ROOSEVELT DEMOCRATIC CLUB

SEPTEMBER GENERAL BODY MEETING

Guest Speaker: Kenneth Bell
Regional Organizing Director for the Maryland Democratic Party

FRIDAY, SEPT 18, 2026
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Greenbriar Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD

- Guest Keynote Speaker:** Kenneth will lay out strategic priorities for Prince George’s County and detail key canvassing and phone banking opportunities, ensuring we are able to make a direct impact in the final weeks before Election Day.
- October Cookout Update:** Please join us at our annual cookout, which is scheduled for October 25th at **2:30 PM**. We will be at **Schrom Hills Park**. We’ll bring the burgers and hot dogs, just bring a dish to share with the group.

WWW.ROOSEVELTCLUB.COM

Festival Art Show Features 100+ Works From Artists of All Ages

by Lisa Stand

The 2026 Labor Day Festival Art Show displayed 115 works by community artists working in a wide range of media and subject matter, from watercolor, oil/acrylic and drawing to ceramics, bead-work and even Etch A Sketch. In the judged portion of the show, artists were recognized with 1st to 4th place ribbons. Judges also gave special recognition with the annual Cipriano Award, which was given this year to Connie Roy-Fisher for her painting Working to Feed Us All. The Cipriano Award is the Art Show’s way of observing Labor Day in Greenbelt, highlighting one work among several portraying people at work in America.

This year, the Art Show inaugurated a new category, Digital Art, based on interest expressed in past years. Contributors in this category acknowledge digital creation as an emerging medium, prompting discussion and exploration.

Hundreds of visitors to the art and photo shows enthusiastically cast their ballots for Community Favorites.



Connie Roy-Fisher stands in front of her painting, "Working to Feed Us All," which won the Cipriano Award for Portraying People Working.

Community Favorites Winners

1st Place — Katarina Russell, This Is Not a Toy, Painting (Oil/Acrylic)

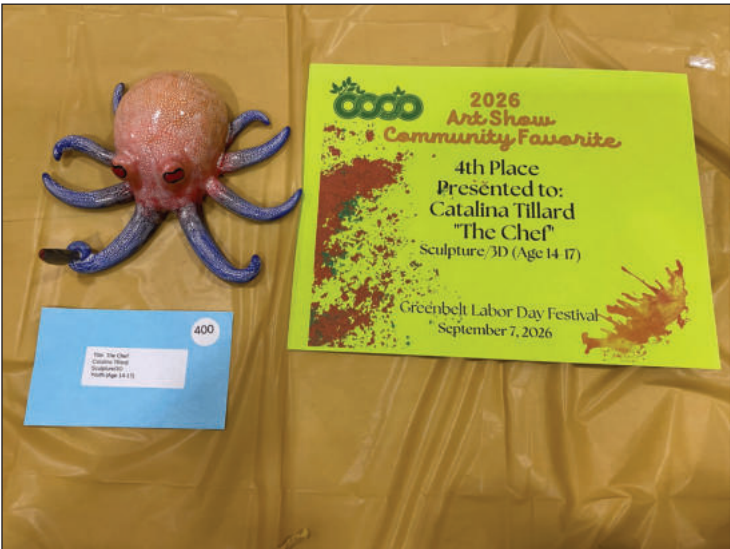
2nd Place — Gary Prue, Mountain Reflections, Painting (Oil/Acrylic)

3rd Place — Jonathan Rytting, Jim Moray-Lord Bateman, Drawing (youth age 14-17)

4th Place — Catalina Tillard, The Chef, Sculpture/3D (youth age 14-17)



The Art Show and Photo Show displayed sculptures, photography and all sorts of other artwork in the Community Center gym from Saturday to Monday.



One of the Community Favorites

Art Show Winners, Youth

Pre-school to Age 7

- Drawing
- 1st Place — Christopher Kim, Toucan

2nd Place — Molly McGillen, The Enchanted Night

3rd Place — Christopher Kim, Last Day of Summer

4th Place — Saiorse Sanders, Master Bread, Milk, Cheese
- Painting
- 1st Place — Molly McGillen, A Good Camping Spot

2nd Place — Evelyn Spaid, Cuttlefish and Cat

3rd Place — Evelyn Spaid, Butterfly

4th Place — Abel Weir, Red Ocean
- Sculpture/3D
- 1st Place — Elizabeth Archibald, Rainbow Heart

2nd Place — Darren Rytting, Mechacrow

Ages 8 to 13

- Collage
- 1st Place — Theo McElhenny, Firework Bash
- Digital
- 1st Place — Evelyn Sage, SeaFire’s Past
- Drawing
- 1st Place — Maya Kenny, Pawing

2nd Place — Maren O’Roark, Mushroom

3rd Place — Lisette Sanders, Koi

4th Place — Lisette Sanders, Humming Bird
- Fine Craft
- 1st Place — Vi Yashinski, brainbow cuffs
- Painting
- 1st Place — Audrey Walters, Highland Cow by Numbers

2nd Place — Anna Gottschalk, Egg

3rd Place — Mia Campbell, Cattail Lake

4th Place — Maya Kenny, Icelandic Horse
- Sculpture/3D
- 1st Place — Maren O’Roark, Sectioned Dragon Plate

2nd Place — Tam Sanders, the early bird gets breakfast

3rd Place — Tam Sanders, Froggy on a Lilypad

4th Place — Mabel Appiah-Duffell, Mama, Papa and Me

Ages 14 to 17

- Drawing
- 1st Place — Jonathan Rytting, Hearing the Legends

2nd Place — Catalina Tillard, The Serpent

3rd Place — Jonathan Rytting, Jim Moray-Lord Bateman

4th Place — Thomas Sage, Pitcher Plant Progress
- Painting
- 1st Place — Genesis Gomez Gamez, Whispers in the Water

2nd Place — Genesis Gomez Gamez, The Eternal Glow
- Sculpture/3D
- 1st Place — Catalina Tillard, The Chef

Art Show Winners, Adult

- Drawing
- 1st Place — Matthew Payne, A Philip Randolph

2nd Place — Wenona Johnson, Flowers Flowers Everywhere
- Painting (Oil/Acrylic)
- 1st Place — Connie Roy Fisher, Morning Light

2nd Place — Gary Prue, Mountain Reflections

3rd Place — Tom Baker, Scots Isle

4th Place — David Campbell, Working in the Sun
- Painting (Watercolor)
- 1st Place — Millie Tansill, View from My Art Studio

2nd Place — Ivanka Stajner, Bouquet With Sunflowers

3rd Place — Ivanka Stajner, Rose

4th Place — Sarah Lawler, Noncommittal
- Prints
- 1st Place — Michael Stewart, C&O Hudson

2nd Place — Robert Birkenes, CCC Breaking Ground in Beltsville

3rd Place — Michael Stewart, Hand to Hand

4th Place — Robert Birkenes, Planting for the Future
- Collage
- 1st Place — Mathhew Payne, Kitty

2nd Place — Effie Levner, Mongolian Fantasy

3rd Place — Gina Oliva, Ocean Grove Collage

4th Place — Sherill Gross, Cats & Sunshine
- Digital
- 1st Place — Vanessa Daelmans, Arboretum

2nd Place — Vanessa Daelmans, Port City

3rd Place — Anthony Holmes, Portrait of Rene Auberjonois as Odo

4th Place — Gerard Daelmans, Off to College
- Sculpture/3D
- 1st Place — Shaine Siegel, Pangolin

2nd Place — Franziska McGuire, Wisteria Carpenter

3rd Place — Melanie Cantwell, Country House

4th Place — Sean Kendall, Watchful Step
- Fine Crafts
- 1st Place — Effie Levner, Devine Valley

2nd Place — Beverly Conner, Not Today Cat

3rd Place — Colette Zanin, Egyptian Revival?

4th Place — Beverly Conner, Parrot in Paradise
- Cipriano Award for Portraying People Working
- Connie Roy-Fisher, Working to Feed Us All, Painting (Oil/Acrylic)



Poetry In The Garden Meets in the Center

The public is invited to Poetry in the Garden’s next poetry reading on Sunday, September 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. in their new location: Community Center, Room 111.

Attendees can bring their favorite poem to read or just come listen and enjoy the power of poetry. As always, friends, family and neighbors are invited to join.

Fall Campfire Programs, Hikes at Greenbelt Park

Every Friday night through November 13, Greenbelt Park hosts a Campfire Program: Welcome to Washington. Join Greenbelt Park staff for a program focused on how to visit Washington, D.C., and the special events happening throughout the city.

Every Sunday at 1 p.m., join the Rangers for a nature hike on the Dogwood Trail. They’ll discuss the important flora and fauna present throughout Greenbelt Park. Bring appropriate clothing and footwear depending on the weather.

Every Saturday, staff from Greenbelt Park and other area National Park sites offer a different program.

On Saturday, September 19 at 7 p.m., join Ranger Alex for a talk on the American Indian Movement and its connection to Greenbelt Park through the Longest Walk. This important event in American history helped to cement the importance of our National Parks to all visitors and individuals.

On September 26 at 7 p.m., join Ranger Jodi for a program on animal and plant bioluminescence. See what animals and plants reflect and glow in the forest, and why.



Humming Bird by Lisette Sanders, 4th place winner in Drawing for ages 8 to 13.



PHOTO BY LISA STAND



Blues Festival Returns to Greenbelt For Its 23rd Year: A Sneak Peek

by Rachel Kebl

Saturday, September 26 marks the 23rd Annual Greenbelt Blues Festival, a day of free music, dancing and vendors at Roosevelt Center and the New Deal Café. Put together by Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA), the festival brings together an intimate atmosphere with local musicians for the community to enjoy. Roosevelt Center gives visitors lots of room to dance, while the New Deal Café provides a sit-down setting to end the day.

"It's good stuff happening with great blues," said Jazs Web from the DC Blues Society. She has been with the festival for 12 years now, handling its vendors and outreach.

Web comes up to the festival from Florida every year, enjoying Greenbelt's historic blues community. She introduced a blues yoga class to this year's festival and assisted with the Archie Edwards Blues Foundation's instrument workshops at previous festivals.

She hopes to continue the legacy of Richard McMullin, the founder of the festival who died in 2022.

McMullin was music director at the New Deal Café for 10 years and one of the founders of FONDCA. He also founded and organized other favorite Greenbelt festivals, including the Green Man Festival and the Crazy Quilt Music Festival. The performance stage in the back room of the Café is dedicated to him.

For the 20th Greenbelt Blues Festival in 2023, the festival committee included a photo of McMullin on that year's annual T-shirt, as well as a photo of founding producer Waverly Milor.

Web hopes that this year's Greenbelt Blues Festival will not only keep the blues genre alive, but also reinforce the tight-knit, welcoming environment established by McMullin and others in the area. "Greenbelt is a very strong community," Web said. "It's not touristy."

This year's lineup contains eight bands, ranging from one-piece acoustic groups to full electric powerhouses. The bands are selected by the festival committee; acts and vendors can pitch themselves by emailing the festival at greenbeltbluesfestival@gmail.com or on their Facebook page.

The Line-up

Guy Bouchie & GXB kicks off music for the weekend at the New Deal Café at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 25.

On Saturday, September 26, the festival begins at 11 a.m. in Roosevelt Center with Tina's Blues Fun YogaMix. Led by Virginia's Got Yoga? the class will provide a combination of breathing and laughter yoga. Throughout the day until 11 p.m., there will be several vendor tables.

At noon, performances begin for the day with Lucie and Luna Blues. The tribute duo won the DC Blues Society solo/duo competition and subsequently participated in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tenn., in January.

The Miles Spicer Group (M.S.G.) Acoustic Blues Trio goes on at 1 p.m. playing traditional Piedmont blues. The group takes inspiration from Piedmont blues masters Archie Edwards, Etta

Blues Festival Schedule

- 11 a.m. Got Yoga? Tina's Blues Fun YogaMix
- Noon Lucie and Luna Blues
- 1 p.m. The Miles Spicer Group Acoustic Blues Trio
- 2 p.m. Sami Flava & Bobby's Blues Band
- 3:15 p.m. Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark
- 4:15 p.m. Greenbelt Honk! Situation
- 4:45 p.m. Lower Case Blues
- 6:15 p.m. Bad Influence with Special Guest Mary Shaver
- 8 p.m. Built 4 Comfort with Liz Springer

Baker and Cephas & Wiggins.

At 2 p.m., the stage goes electric with Sami Flava & Bobby's Blues Band. The Baltimore group brings a Delta, Chicago and old classic blues sound.

Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark, the 2016 Winner of the Central Delaware Blues Contest, performs at 3:15 p.m. Local to Greenbelt, Clark has performed at the festival previously, according to Web.

Then, at 4:15 p.m. the Greenbelt Honk! Situation returns for their second Greenbelt festival of the month for an inclusive, vibrant performance.

Blues trio Lower Case Blues goes on stage at 4:45 p.m. Formed in 2003 and often touring

on the Eastern Shore, the band brings a unique, improvisational sound to the festival.

At 6:15 p.m., Bad Influence headlines the festival with their heavy sound and is joined by special guest Mary Shaver as the last outdoor show of the day. They will appear on this year's festival T-shirt.

At 8 p.m., the festival moves indoors to the New Deal Café where Liz Springer joins Built 4 Comfort to close the festival.

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



PHOTO BY HERSCHEL SANDERS

From left, Saoirse (4), Normandy (7), Tarn (8) and Lisette (10) went to Leon, Spain, and hiked up a hill to watch the total solar eclipse on August 12.

Kohn Scholarship Fund Mini-Golf Event

On Sunday, September 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Dena Kohn Theatre Lab Scholarship Fund will hold a miniature golf event as a fundraiser and celebration of the life of lifelong Greenbelter Dena Kohn, who died just before her 23rd birthday. Each year, her life and spirit of giving are celebrated and commemorated by a fundraiser for the Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship, which provides scholarships each summer to teenagers in financial need to participate in the Theatre Lab's Musical Theatre Institute for Teens. The event will be held at a new location: Columbia SportsPark, 5434 Harpers Farm Road, Columbia. Attendees can buy baked goods from Greenbelt baker Robert Goldberg-Strassler and original pottery by Greenbelt potter Judy Goldberg-Strassler at the event. Those wishing to sponsor a hole, play a round, make a donation or ask questions can call Niki Kohn at 301-474-8423 or email nikiekohn@gmail.com.

SCAC Annual Open Forum September 19

The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC) is hosting its annual Open Forum on Saturday, September 19 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 201. The committee invites Greenbelt residents of all ages to share what they like best about the city and their issues and concerns.

The mayor and city council have been invited, as have the city manager and city department leaders. They may be able to answer questions on site. The SCAC collects the information shared at this open forum and provides a report to council.

Those who need transportation should call the Greenbelt Connection bus at 301-474-4100 with at least 24-hours notice. The bus is accessible and costs \$1 each way for seniors, people with disabilities and children. All others are charged \$2.

For more information call 240-542-2189. No registration is required.



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS MARTIN

Cousins Chris Martin and Ronda Ansted in the woods of Olympia, Wash., while visiting family

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT POLLINATOR FESTIVAL



Saturday, September 26, 2026
10 am to 2:30 pm

National Wildlife Visitor Center
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

An educational and fun day of pollinator festivities:

FREE activities for the public and families.

Weather permitting:
Monarch butterfly-tagging and release

FREE movie:

The Extraordinary Caterpillar"

Free native plants and seeds

Rain or Shine



Family arts and crafts • Artisan and native-plant vendors • Nature walks
USGS EESC scientists and local experts on site for: pollinators, bees, native plants, birds, amphibians, conservation, and gardening
Wild Bird Meet & Greet, Maryland Raptor Conservancy • Shade-grown organic
Bird Friendly® coffees • Food available for purchase • Live music



43 Pooches Plunge in Outdoor Pool’s Last Hurrah of 2026

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The final outdoor swim of the year was reserved for Greenbelt’s pups, who closed down the season at the annual Pooch Plunge on Saturday, September 12.

The event was a fundraiser for the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. Entrance required rabies vaccine verification and a fee of \$10 per dog. This year 43 dogs attended, and together with an additional donation, the event raised \$475 for the animal shelter. The funds were added to the shelter’s donation account and will be used for

any needed items, Supervisor P. Fillman told the News Review.

No doubt 43 Greenbelt dogs spent Saturday afternoon napping hard.

The outdoor pool had closed to humans on Labor Day, as has been tradition. Last year was an exception, when the outdoor pool remained open longer as repairs were completed to the indoor pool deck, a project that closed the indoor pool for several months.



Got it!



Hey, that's my ball!



Got the ball and enjoying the swim



I'll take another.



Dog Fest



- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Participants Wanted For Oktoberfest Event

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Inc., is seeking additional local vendors and businesses, especially local crafters and artists, interested in showcasing products or services at its Oktoberfest event. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fire Department. There are five open slots remaining. Contact the Auxiliary on Facebook at Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary or email gvfdrsla@gmail.com.

Patuxent Pollinator Festival

The Friends of Patuxent will hold a Pollinator Festival on Saturday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the National Wildlife Visitor Center located at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop off Powder Mill Road. This will be a free educational and fun day of pollinator festivities for families. Weather permitting, there will be monarch butterfly tagging and release, a free movie: “The Extraordinary Caterpillar,” family arts and crafts, artisan and native-plant vendors, the University of Maryland Insect Zoo and nature walks. Scientists and local experts will be on site for help with pollinators, bees, native plants, birds, amphibians, conservation and gardening. The Maryland Raptor Conservancy will hold a Wild Bird Meet & Greet. Food will be available for purchase. Help the vendors by bringing cash for purchases. For more information go to friendsofpatuxent.org/page-18095 or contact helometz@friendsofpatuxent.org to volunteer and for more information. Rain or shine.



ADOPT US!!! SOFT AND CUDDLY!!



Violet (female, gray) and Ivy (female, calico) love to cuddle and purr. They need forever homes!



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

COMING SOON!!! STAR WARS BABIES!!



Rescued in early August. Kittens are still nursing but we wanted to show them off! Princess Leia (female-white w/2 black eye patches), Rey Skywalker (female-white w/1 black eye patch), Darth Vader (male-black), and Wookiee (male-gray). Luminara (mom) will be available for adoption too.



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BEAUTIFUL GIRLS!!! ADOPT US!!



Pearl (black torti) and Moon (gold face) are captivating! They need forever homes!



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LET'S PLAY!! ADOPT US!!



Robin (male w/white dot) the mustache makes him look so mature but he's just a curious kitten looking for cuddles. Ruby (female) is sweet and gentle. A little shy, she wants to be your precious girl.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

COMING SOON!!! THE BOYS!!



Misty (gray w/white face) and his twin brothers Dusty and Frosty are all handsome devils. They need forever homes!



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

ADOPT US, WE'RE STARS!!



Sheila E knows she's special and Apollonia will rock your world! These two ladies will make you a fan. They just need your love and a forever home.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

COMING SOON!!! WE NEED HOMES!!



Winken (female-mostly gray), Blinken (male-gray nose), and Nod (male-pink nose) are still with their mom but are going to be ready for adoption very soon. Nod is sweet and affectionate. He's a purring machine. Blinken is high energy and full of play, Winken is laid back. Their mom will also be available for adoption.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

GREENBELT CUTIES!!



Kimchi (boy) and Pepper (girl with white bib) are looking for forever homes.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

School News

PARKDALE continued from page 1

temporarily housing Springhill Lake Elementary School students as a swing space this year. “We went to Greenbelt Junior High, started making new friends, and very quickly in the middle of eighth grade, we got sent to Mary McLeod Bethune,” Felsher said.

Mary McLeod Bethune Junior High was located in Capitol Heights, about 10 miles away. The students from Greenbelt Center were bused together to Mary McLeod Bethune as part of the court-ordered desegregation effort. Students from other communities remained at Greenbelt Junior High. (See the December 28, 1972 and the January 11, 1973 issues for reporting on the busing decision when it was announced.)

“We weren’t around our new friends anymore, so we were back together in a strange place again,” Felsher said of the group who had attended Center School together and found themselves bused to a new school. Felsher says the group began making friends at Mary McLeod Bethune, but the Greenbelt students left their Mary McLeod Bethune classmates behind when they started at Parkdale in the fall of 1974. “Again, we were separated from our new friends we had made,” said Felsher. Mary McLeod Bethune classmates went on to Fairmont Heights High School instead.

Two years later, in 1976, ERHS opened in Greenbelt. That year the school district sent all Greenbelt’s sophomores and juniors to the city’s new high school, leaving the class of ’77 as the only students still attending Parkdale. They would be the final cohort of Greenbelt students to graduate from Parkdale. (Today some Greenbelt students continue to attend Parkdale for its International Baccalaureate program but ERHS is the city’s boundary school.)

Among the students sent to ERHS when it opened were Felsher’s younger siblings. He stayed at Parkdale, which removed them from his day-to-day routine. He knew little about what was going on at his siblings’ new school, since he estimated he spent around 10 hours a day on Parkdale-related activities. “It became easier to talk with my classmates than with my own siblings about school things,” Felsher said.

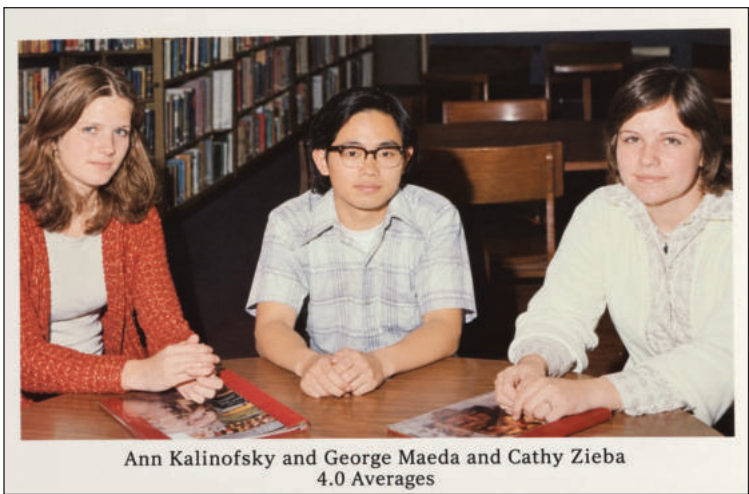
“We were seniors when they opened up Eleanor Roosevelt,” Felsher said. Yet again they were separated from the friends they had made outside the class that had stayed together since Center School. “Friends I had made at Parkdale who were younger than me went to Eleanor Roosevelt, so it was a very, I’ll say, isolating time for the Greenbelt class of 1977.”

The Greenbelt seniors grew unusually close. “It really gave us more time to focus on one another,” Felsher said.

This proved true when 74 of the 77 classmates who attended Greenbelt Center Elementary School showed up to the 25-year reunion.

Finding the Class of ’77

After the class’ 25-year reunion, they made it a mission to have a 50-year reunion, which will be held on September 11, 2027,



Ann Kalinofsky and George Maeda and Cathy Zieba
4.0 Averages

at Martin’s Crosswinds.

Ann Baer, the reunion’s database manager, said that she had a happy time at Parkdale. “For me it’s the friendships I made. I love reconnecting with some people, and when I look back, there was a wide variety of students at Parkdale.”

Baer and Felsher alternate reaching out to classmates they find. Together, they have reduced the number of unaccounted-for classmates from the overall graduating class from 335 to about 230 over the past three months, finding about one classmate a day.

That earlier reunion of the sixth-grade class of Center School was a smaller gathering, specifically for the classmates who attended Center Elementary School together. It was lively and exciting, while the upcoming reunion will be a more intimate reunion, believes Felsher. Classmates have aged, had children, grandchildren and retired. The most upsetting part of planning the reunion is finding out who has died.

The emotional toll weighs heavily on them. “Emotionally, finding people who’ve died, people that you’re fond of,” Baer said, is the hardest part of the process. “Someone that had once meant something to me, and then just people that you lose touch with, but were very fond of in high school that you would have loved to see again but find out that they’re gone. That’s one of the hardest things.”

This reunion could be the last time some of the class of ’77 are all together, Felsher said. “It’s a much deeper reunion.” The 25th reunion of the Center School group was a lot of fun, he told the News Review. “This one will have some fun, but there’s going to be a much deeper meaning as well,” Felsher said.

There have been happy surprises, too. While searching for classmates, Felsher has found unexpected connections, including one of his classmates who lived on the other side of Raleigh, N.C., from him.

The reunion’s success depends on how many classmates show up, say organizers.

Looking Forward

Planning for the 50-year reunion is far from fully complete. Ticket links are expected to go out next month for those Parkdale ’77 classmates who are planning to attend. Classmates who would like more information, are asked to reach out to parkdale77reunion@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

As the date approaches, Felsh-

er finds himself looking back as well as forward. “The reunion is a reminder of a more energetic and innocent time. It is nice to revisit those days with one another — but we don’t want to go back. We have learned too much to want to go back to the naive confidence of youth,” Felsher said.

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

Timeline of Class Moves
From 6th Grade to Graduation
June 1971 - Graduated from sixth grade at Greenbelt’s Center School
September 1971 - Began Greenbelt Junior High (traditionally grades 7-9)
September 1972 - Began 8th grade at Greenbelt Junior High
January 1973 - Moved to Mary McLeod Bethune Junior High
September 1974 - Began high school at Parkdale High for 10th grade
September 1976 - ERHS opened and only seniors remained at Parkdale High
June 1977 - Graduated high school as final Greenbelt class at Parkdale High

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Greenbelt Schools Largely Lag Behind the State in Testing

by Hannah Frasure

This article is part 1 of a two-part series about the results of standardized testing in Greenbelt’s schools.

The News Review’s analysis of Maryland standardized test results — which were published at the end of this summer — reveals that Greenbelt’s schools largely lag behind the already-low state-wide and district-wide results. Average* proficiency rates for math, science and English, for almost every class in Greenbelt’s public schools, were lower than 50 percent.

Occasionally, however, Greenbelt schools outperform those in the surrounding school district — and in a few categories even surpass the state. Those exceptions include the 66.3 percent of sophomores at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) who were proficient in English and 55.2 percent proficient in science. Also, 55.2 percent of Greenbelt Elementary third graders were proficient in English, and 73.5 percent of Greenbelt Middle school students were proficient in Algebra 1.

However, “no one was popping champagne bottles at the release of Maryland’s spring test score results,” reporters at the Baltimore Banner wrote last month.

About the MCAP

Most results of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP), were released on July 28 by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

English language arts and math are assessed every year for third through eighth graders, as well as once for tenth graders; science is assessed once each in fifth grade and eighth grade and once in high school — usually around the first year, or whenever students complete their state-mandated life science course.

Certain middle schoolers enrolled in Algebra 1 or geometry only take an assessment for those subjects.

Maryland has yet to release results from the standardized social studies test given to all eighth graders or the American government test given to all tenth graders. A MSDE press release from July said results from the American government testing were slated for a September release while the social studies results were expected last month.

Greenbelt Schools

There are five public schools for which Greenbelt students are zoned: Greenbelt Elementary (GES), Magnolia Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary (SHLES), Greenbelt Middle (GMS) and ERHS.

Below, the News Review explores trends at these schools and how they compare with schools in Maryland and Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) at large.

Generally Low Proficiency Across Schools

Test results for Maryland and PGCPS indicate that usually no more than half the students in each grade reached proficiency on any given test, yet Greenbelt schools still typically fell behind.

For instance, in both English and math no more than a third of a given grade at any public school in Greenbelt achieved proficiency.

Elementary Students

The poorest results were for science: on average, only one out of 10 Greenbelt fifth graders tested reached proficiency.

SHLES and Magnolia Elementary both have a considerable number of second language learners and economically disadvantaged students, factors that are widely known to likely impact test scores. At SHLES, almost half — 47.6 percent — of students from the 2025-2026 school year are reported by MSDE to be “multilingual learners”, meaning English is not their first language. At Magnolia Elementary, this number was 22.7 percent. At both schools, almost all students come from economically disadvantaged homes. 95 percent of students at each school are Title 1 students, meaning their household income level entitles them to free or reduced-price lunches.

At GES, 17.3 percent of fifth graders achieved a proficient score versus eight percent at Magnolia and seven percent at SHLES.

As the graphs show, GES students generally performed far better in English than math, following a trend in the county, although the numbers are still poor — typically less than one third of students were proficient.

According to the Baltimore Banner’s July analysis of state-wide MCAP results, PGCPS had the third worst math proficiency

See TESTING, page 11

by James Goldman

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School News

TESTING continued from page 10

scores of all Maryland counties – with less than 14 percent of students being proficient at their grade level in math – ranking only above Baltimore City and Somerset County.

Despite showing greater proficiency in English than math, PGCPs has the fourth worst English proficiency scores in the state – surpassing only Dorchester and Somerset counties and Baltimore City. Less than 40 percent of PGCPs students are proficient at their grade level in English compared to 51.7 percent of the state.

As The Baltimore Banner reported in July, the results show that 51.7 percent of all Maryland students were proficient in English language arts and 27.1 percent were proficient in math; these results improved less than one percentage point from the previous year.

Middle School Performance

Overall proficiency rates of Greenbelt middle schoolers remain low, like those of Maryland middle schoolers at large, but they generally surpass – by a small margin – those of the district.

This is true for English and math. In English, Greenbelt’s seventh and eighth graders slightly outperformed the PGCPs rate for those grades; sixth graders were just slightly under the number.

For math, however, GMS seventh and eighth graders marginally surpassed state rates.

Algebra 1 students more than tripled the statewide proficiency (73.5 percent compared to 21.3 percent) and will be discussed further in part two.

ERHS: Low Scores, Mixed Performance

Proficiency rates for Greenbelt high schoolers at ERHS were generally low, like those of Greenbelt middle and elementary schoolers, however, ERHS tenth graders

assessed for English and science performed marginally better than the state rates. Two thirds (66.3 percent) of ERHS tenth graders were proficient in English compared to 59.7 percent state-wide.

In science, 55.2 percent of ERHS students – including both students in the science magnet program and those who are not – reached proficiency or above, compared to 44.2 percent of all Maryland students.

However, for math only, 11.8 percent of ERHS students reached proficiency, which was only marginally better than PGCPs in general (11.1 percent), and under the already-low Maryland rate (21.3 percent.).

Proficiency Criteria

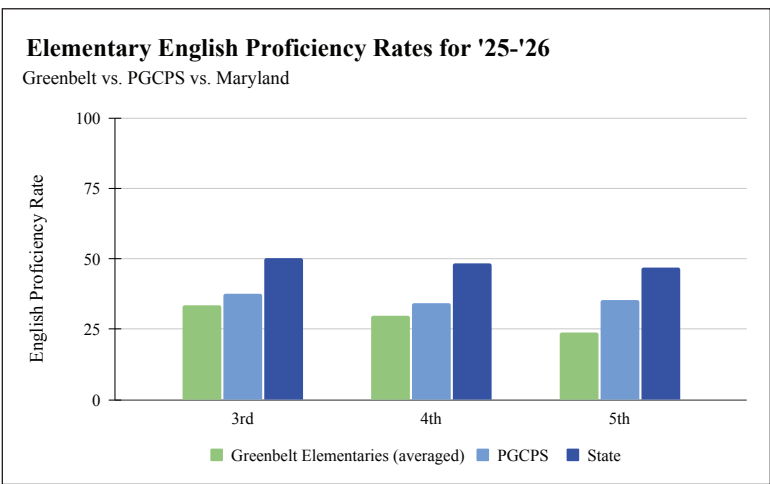
According to the most recent scoring guide published on Maryland’s Department of Education website, dated September 2022, proficiency in these tests is defined as a minimum of 750 out of 850 points, or roughly 88 percent.

So a student may score 85 percent correctly on a test and still not reach proficiency.

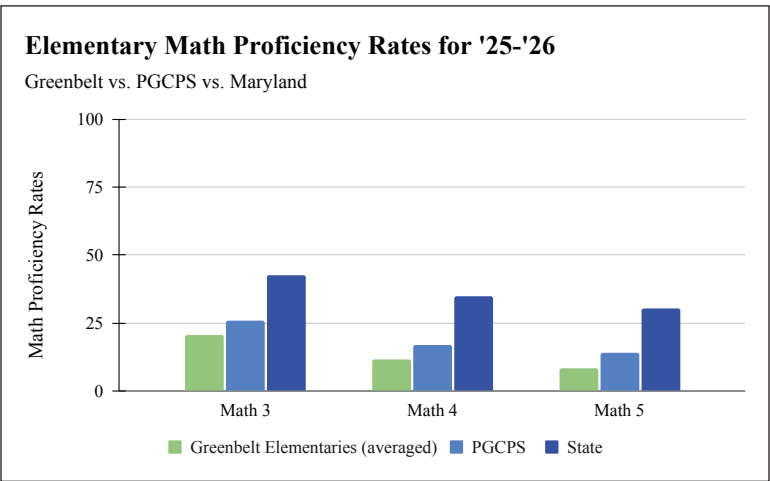
From the August 2026 Banner article on MCAP results, an individual purporting to be a Maryland teacher who has taught students in preparation on the American government MCAP, left the following comment online: “If you don’t know the difference [between the scoring cut-offs] ... you might think 80 percent of kids can’t even pass. Tests are designed to produce bell curves in results and so the idea that everyone can be proficient doesn’t really feel possible. That’s been my experience after teaching MCAP tested Government [sic] for 12 years.”

Look for a future article with more on the trends in Greenbelt’s MCAP results.

* Scores for Greenbelt elementary schools are unweighted averages.



MCAP rates for elementary school English



MCAP rates for elementary school math

- Charts by Hannah Frasure for Greenbelt News Review

ages. MDSE’s publicly available data for the 2025 MCAP results does not contain information on the total number of students assessed in each school, only the participation rates. So in order to compare Greenbelt schools, weighted averages were used.



Greenbelt Chess Club September Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, September 22. The meetings take place at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Direct questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.



GIVES Election Results And Quarterly Meeting

Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Services (GIVES) will hold its next quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, September 19 at 10 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. There will be a meeting of the volunteer drivers directly following the regular membership meeting. All members are welcome to attend to meet and greet new members and learn about changes being made in training and retaining volunteers and leadership.



Two Greenbelt Schools Among America’s Healthiest Schools

Springhill Lake Elementary School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School were among the 28 Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPs) named as the 2026 America’s Healthiest Schools by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. The national recognition celebrates schools that are creating healthier, more supportive learning environments through comprehensive approaches to student and staff well-being.

Springhill Lake was one of four PGCPs elementary schools (and one of six statewide) that earned the Alliance’s prestigious All-Star Award by achieving recognition across all nine health and wellness categories. The All-Star

designation represents the highest level of recognition from the Alliance and recognizes schools demonstrating comprehensive commitment across nine areas: nutrition and food access, physical education and physical activity, school health services, social-emotional health and well-being, staff well-being, family and community engagement and additional areas supporting healthy school environments.

“This recognition is a reflection of the work happening every day in our schools,” said Superintendent Shawn Joseph. “Our schools are not simply talking about wellness, they are building it into the student experience,

from what students eat and how they move to the relationships, supports and opportunities that help them feel connected and ready to learn.”

PGCPs leads all districts in Maryland for the number of schools recognized on the 2026 America’s Healthiest Schools list.

This article was drawn from a Prince George’s County Public School press release.

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Greenbelt Listings

59-C Ridge Road

2-Bed | 1-Bath | \$199,000

Charming, freshly painted co-op featuring a beautiful low-maintenance perennial garden, bright open kitchen, laminate flooring, mini-splits, and a spacious (mostly) fenced backyard with deck overlooking community green space.

8D Laurel Hill

1-Bed | 1-Bath | \$148,500

Beautifully maintained and updated upper level unit with the most charming, private deck ever, plus carefully designed and beautifully maintained perennial landscaping.

7950 Lakecrest Drive

3-Bed | 3-Bath | \$319,000

You may think you know Greenbelt, but do you know about Charlestowne Village Condominiums? This charming neighborhood next to Greenbelt Lake is a well-run and beautifully maintained condo community. 7950 Lakeside has all the big updates done--just move in!

53P Ridge Road

2-Bed | 1-Bath | \$205,000

Completely renovated co-op unit with expanded kitchen and bath, hardwood floors, and acres of forest out the back gate!

62D Ridge Road

2-Bed | 1-Bath | \$230,000

Freshly renovated end unit co-op home with an addition that adds square footage to the living room and also to the primary bedroom upstairs. Backing to the forest preserve, this one is a rare find.

Kim Kash & Andrew Nugent

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FIREFIGHTERS continued from page 1

The case was scheduled as one of several at 9 a.m. on September 10. When it was called at 10:25 a.m., the county’s team was not present and the judges called for a brief recess. Resuming hearings at 10:40 a.m. the judges moved Greenbelt’s case to the end of the docket as the court attempted to reach the county’s legal team. Shortly after 11 a.m. a court officer reported that the county had filed a substitution of counsel notice in December but nothing for this particular case. The court had called the county’s office but had been disconnected, court staff reported. Ferguson noted that the county had been in talks with the municipalities earlier in the year, involving at least three attorneys, and all were aware of the continuance.

Noting there had been no substitution of counsel filed in this case, the Presiding Judge Rosalyn Tang called for the case to proceed.

“It’s regrettable when three municipalities feel the need to sue the county over providing vital services,” said Ferguson. The lawyer went on to note the municipalities were given only three weeks’ notice that the career firefighters would be pulled. The career firefighters had provided coverage so that the stations had 24/7 coverage for years, she said. The volunteers were usually unavailable during the day, when they had to be at work, and provided supplemental support in the evenings and weekends, explained Ferguson.

The county said the cities had gone from receiving special or extra services to the general service provided throughout the rest of the county, Ferguson said, summarizing past arguments. However, she argued, the services had not complied with the goals for coverage and it was the municipalities who had provided the “extra” or additional support. For example, Greenbelt’s firehouse is owned by the city and supported by public funds, she argued; Berwyn Heights’ equipment is [also] owned by the city and supported by public funds. “The municipalities have invested in equipment, firehouse, recruiting,” argued Ferguson. In addition, said Ferguson, the volunteers give their time to help reduce response times in the area. The county has handed off additional responsibilities to the municipalities and volunteers, she said. Since removing career firefighters from the area, response times have grown, said Ferguson, though that data was held

by PGFD and not shared freely with the municipalities. When the county was struggling with staffing initially, they were filling gaps with overtime, which was expensive and exhausting, argued Ferguson, and so they “offloaded it.”

Judge James Kenney III noted that the removal of career staff from the area began as a summer staffing program. “It’s been years now and summer’s not over,” said the judge. Judge Stuart Berger similarly noted that the removal of career staff had been presented as temporary.

On the temporary nature of the change, Ferguson said, “The county made decisions based on something that was not true ... the number of recruits was not there.”

The municipalities have not been damaged because they lost some special benefit, argued Ferguson, countering what the county has said in the past with, “what we said was going to happen has happened — response times have gone up.”

When asked what the municipalities would like the court to declare, Ferguson said they would like the county to recognize that the volunteers exist and should be worked with cooperatively. The municipalities are looking for a partnership, rather than governance by fiat, she said. No judgement or decision was reached that day.

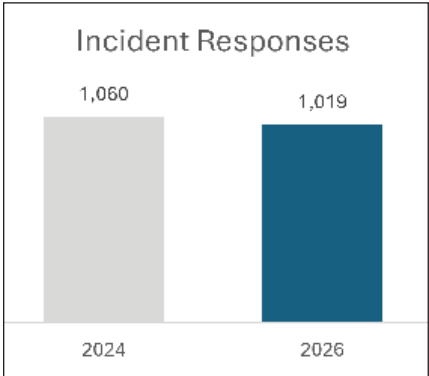
Salmerón told the News Review the case is a “sad situation.” The county is struggling to sustain sufficient firefighters. Recruiting needs to improve, said Salmerón, noting the city over-recruits for their police department to ensure staffing and has waitlists. “If we can do it as a city our size the county should be able to,” he said.

Speaking after the hearing, Salmerón said they were excited that they finally had their day in court. Two years into the “temporary staffing plan,” Greenbelt still doesn’t have its career firefighters

back and continues to suffer from longer response times, he said. Town Manager for Berwyn Heights Kyle Snyder was also in court, although their firefighters have been returned. “While Berwyn Heights did see return of daywork staffing and were made whole, and we’re able to operate as 100 percent in-service station now, the need for Greenbelt to have 24/7 staffing is still there, I think call data shows that, and right now Berwyn Heights is working with other companies to come in and help the City of Greenbelt and cover it and we’re happy to do so,” said Snyder, who expressed thanks to the volunteers and career personnel who have been working hard to cover the municipalities during the heavy staffing shortfall. Snyder noted that the firefighters and resources in the municipalities are not only a local asset but a regional asset, responding to calls outside their home municipalities.

Salmerón says they now eagerly await a decision; he feels confident and hopes they prevail.

“What prevailing for us means is a partnership. We understand the challenges that the county is experiencing, the challenges that our volunteer firefighters are experiencing, so we are hoping for a partnership. We’re asking for a partnership to better serve our residents,” Salmerón told the News Review.



Incident Responses, 2024 vs. 2026
-Charts by Jim Thompson

Key Takeaways in Greenbelt Fire, EMS Response Time Increases

by Jim Thompson

Category	Avg. Response Time (2024)	Avg. Response Time (2026)	Change
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	7:03	7:59	+59 s
Basic Life Support (BLS)	8:37	9:40	+63 s
Fire incidents	5:22	5:44	+23 s
Non-emergency incidents	6:48	7:41	+53 s
Rescue incidents	6:30	6:23	-7 s

Data is for January – June for each year.

Response Time by Category, 2024 vs. 2026

Prince George’s County Fire Department (PGFD) responses to calls from the Greenbelt area are slower than they were two years earlier, when Greenbelt’s Fire Department was staffed with career firefighters, new data shows. Data showing response times during the first six months of this year compared to the first six months of 2024, prior to the career firefighters’ removal, was provided to the Greenbelt News Review on September 8, in response to our Maryland Public Information Act request filed July 2.

Response Times Increased

Response times increased despite lower call volume. PGFD responded to 41 fewer incidents during January-June 2026 than during the same period in 2024, but the response time was 34 seconds slower on average. Even after excluding Basic Life Support (BLS), which have the longest response times, and non-emergency calls, average responses times were still 22 seconds slower than in 2024.

Average response times trended slightly downward during the first half of 2026. The average response time was 8:21 minutes in January and February of this year, above PGFD’s stated goal of eight minutes or less for urban areas. By May and June, the average response time improved to 7:58 minutes, just under this threshold.

Changes in call mix do not explain the increase in response times. BLS calls, which have the longest average response times (9:40 in 2026), declined by 37 total incidents, the greatest change within any category, and represented a smaller percentage of total calls in 2026 (29.5 percent in 2026 compared to 31.9 percent in 2024). Despite that shift, average response times increased in four of five categories.

ALS, BLS Times Significant

The increased response times for Advanced Life Support (ALS) incidents may be the most significant public safety finding. The close-to-one-minute increase in response time is particularly noteworthy, because ALS calls generally involve paramedic-level care.

BLS incidents also warrant attention. Despite the decrease in volume, this is still the largest category in 2026, accounting for 29.5 percent of total incidents, and its average response time increased by over one minute.

The upcoming staffing changes make the EMS trends especially relevant. The increased response times for ALS and BLS in 2026 happened when Greenbelt still had locally based 24/7 EMS coverage. The planned removal of that coverage (see the September 10 issue) may result in further increases over these baselines.

Greenbelt, along with Berwyn Heights and College Park, is currently engaged in litigation against the county over the removal of the career firefighters. For more information, see the article on page 1.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred September 7-13. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death, one sexual assault and two domestic incidents, both resulting in arrest. Two missing juvenile cases were resolved.

On September 13 near 6021 Springhill Drive, police found an unresponsive, intoxicated person lying on the ground and requested medical assistance.

On September 13 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, police responded to a report of a young child seen running unattended, but didn't find anything.

Armed Person

On September 10 at 7:34 p.m. near 145 Westway, a caller reported someone making a threat to shoot someone inside a building; officers responded and took the person into custody.

On September 12 at 7:52 p.m. near 6460 Capitol Drive, after a domestic dispute, officers responded and took an armed person into custody.

Assault

On September 10 at 3:29 p.m. near 6224 Greenbelt Road, someone struck another person in the face, then left.

Robbery

On September 12 at 4:38 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone was robbed at knifepoint near a bus stop.

Disorderly

On September 10 at 3:41 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a customer was arrested after refusing to pay for a completed phone repair.

Suspected DUI

On September 7 at 3:00 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Frankfort Drive, a three-vehicle crash caused multiple injuries. A driver going the wrong way was suspected of impairment; blood testing was requested and traffic charges are pending.

Suspicious Person

On September 9 at 4:19 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, someone was arrested for urinating on a dumpster.

Fraud

On September 13 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone paid around \$500 for a phone that was misrepresented.

Theft and Shoplifting

On September 9 at 1:10 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, several people entered a business and left with merchandise without paying. Management planned to provide additional information and suspect descriptions.

On September 7 at 6:28 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman took around \$10 in cash tips from a restaurant. Surveillance footage was reviewed, but she was not located.

On September 8 at 10:42 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a person concealed merchandise and left the store without paying. The person was identified, and the stolen items were recovered.

On September 9 at 8:08 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, two people were reported stealing merchandise from a store. Officers located them and investigated the theft.

On September 11 at 8:50 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, someone was arrested for taking merchandise from a store without

paying.

On September 12 at 5:52 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman with two young children walked out of the store with merchandise she did not pay for. An officer found her and issued a criminal citation.

Vandalism

On September 13 near 7903 Mandan Road, a residential door lock was damaged in an apparent attempted break-in.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Four vehicles were stolen: on September 9 near 6220 Breezewood Drive, a 2014 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 4GL3644); on September 10 near 9161 Springhill Lane, a vehicle (Md. SYS8895); on September 12 near 6110 Breezewood Court, a 2019 Kia Sportage (Md. 2HD8355); and on September 13 near 151 Westway, a 2019 Infiniti QX50 (Md. RN3376) with specialized tags.

Attempted Theft of Auto

On September 9 near 9146 Edmonston Road, a vehicle was damaged during an attempted theft, including a broken window.

Abandoned Vehicle

On September 8 near 5807 Cherrywood Lane, a vehicle was reported stolen but was later found abandoned after an accident.

Theft from Auto

Three tags were stolen: on September 8 near 9170 Edmonston Road; on September 9 near 5233 Stream Bank Lane (rear), and near 9134 Edmonston Court (front).

On September 9 near 9005 Breezewood Terrace, a vehicle window was shattered; near 9104 Edmonston Court, items were stolen from a parked vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

On September 7 near 6101 Cherrywood Lane, a vehicle was scratched with a sharp object causing damage of approximately \$100; surveillance footage provided no suspect.

On September 8 near 9110 Springhill Lane, a vehicle had damage to the driver's door handle and sunroof.

On September 9 near 7708 Hanover Parkway, a vehicle was vandalized.

PORCH Pickups

Place food donations on porches by the time listed and they will be picked up after that time.

Sunday, September 20 — by 3 p.m. for Boxwood Village, by 4 p.m. for 33 Court Ridge Road

Sunday, September 20 — by 4 p.m. for PAL (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hills donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on September 20 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to your porch.

Saturday, September 26 — by 10 a.m. for Greenbelt East: Greenbrook Estates

Saturday, September 26 — by 9 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, September 27 — by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

Sunday, September 27 — by 6 p.m. for 14 Court Ridge, 16 Court Ridge, 8 Court Southway and 10 Court Southway

DEI continued from page 1

the council as well as the city administration. Following the recommendation of the auditors, council rewrote the city code to reflect inclusive values. The JEDI team, made up of employee volunteers, developed a JEDI vision and generated operational definitions for justice, equity, diversity and inclusion which are being infused into city practices. Human Resources has reviewed and is revamping its policies and procedures. The former DEI coordinator instituted a leadership training program which features flexible on-demand modules. The city is currently developing an inclusive decision-making tool.

The cultural barriers to DEI cited in the audit are a function of both limited collaboration across departments and employee-reported fear of speaking out about issues or offering new ideas. The city focused on interdepartmental collaboration by initiating Lunch and Learn sessions across departments as well as cross-departmental training. The Lunch and Learn sessions spotlighted specific topics, including new technologies and immigration issues. The city has also attempted to introduce safe spaces for intentional dialogue and encourage employees to express innovative ideas. Salmerón pointed to the success of the Labor Day Festival as evidence of enhanced synergy across the departments.

DEI Practices

As a specific example of DEI practices in an operational setting, Police Chief Richard Bowers said that the Police Department, because of its complex interactions with the public, is diverse and multilingual. It has an extensive recruitment base and offers a bonus to new hires with additional language skills. To creatively solve problems, the department forms issue-based working groups. It also holds mentoring meetings. Director Greg Varda spoke of the core values shared by employees in Greenbelt Recreation. Varda also offered the department's training programs for new hires as an example of staff involvement in day-to-day operations.

Still Needed

While commending the departments for their "good work," Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Danielle McKinney highlighted the need for a common language and citywide goals as necessary for both DEI and more effective community impact. McKinney described an "ecosystem of culture building" wherein over time a sense of unity and belonging develop. Led by Weaver and Councilmember Jenni Pompei, council emphasized the JEDI recommendation for an Alignment Tool, a



PHOTO BY LYNNE SLATER

The city council and city staff members gather in the Council Chambers for a worksession on DEI.

5-year JEDI plan for Systemic Change. Councilmembers were concerned that there is currently no vehicle for measuring either internal progress or program impact in the community. Councilmember Frankie Fritz reminded council that a key element of a JEDI plan was for council and the city to work in tandem. He noted that council needed to focus more on expanding the recruitment base for staffing advisory committees.

During questions from the public, resident Michael Hartman noted that in the proposed 2027 budget, the city DEI coordinator position has been downgraded and subsumed by the HR office. Hartman requested, as does the city manager's report, that council form a resident advisory committee on DEI. The mayor agreed that council should consider the advisory committee.

Council then shifted its attention to a September 3 letter from

Salmerón. The letter outlines the scope of work for a consultant contract that will provide advice on the next steps for the DEI program. It covers specific areas of activity and expectations, including designing a citywide infrastructure for DEI, recruiting, enhancing employee engagement, reporting and accountability, and human resources. Weaver added that the scope of work should also include a tool to assess external outcomes — the impact on the city and the effectiveness of events. Council also reiterated the need for an alignment tool.

Jordan thanked the administration for its accomplishments in implementing the DEI program thus far and recognized that cultural change was a long process. His goal is to see DEI fully integrated into city practices and processes, including the budget, within the next four to five years.

Peace Month Proclamation



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

Accepting the National Peace Month Proclamation at the City Council meeting on Monday, September 14, are members of Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition. Standing in front of the City Council are, from left, Robert Goldberg-Strassler, Kathy Bartolomeo, Daniel Thies, Alexander Barnes Sr. and Donna Hoffmeister.

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Sports

Raiders Boys Soccer Team Starts Season with a Win

by Teresa Ostrowski

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School varsity boys soccer team earned a big 4-2 victory over longtime rival Bowie High School on Thursday, September 10. The win ended a long drought for the Raiders against Bowie. According to MaxPreps records, Roosevelt had gone 0-9 against Bowie over their previous nine meetings spanning seven seasons.

Senior Nicolas Troncoso-Roldan (Nico) scored a hat trick with three goals for the Raiders, while fellow senior Javier Reyes (Javi) added another goal to help secure the win.

It was a tight game from the start. Bowie scored within the first five minutes, but Nico answered immediately after kickoff to make it 1-1. Ten minutes into the second half, Javi sent a defender to the ground and then smashed the ball into the top corner to put Roosevelt ahead.

Things got even crazier when Roosevelt's Coach Kallas received a red card for arguing with the referee. Bowie scored right after, but instead of slowing Roosevelt down, it pushed them to fight even harder for the win.

Later, Bowie committed a foul in the box, and Nico stepped up to take the penalty. He sent the goalkeeper the wrong way, putting Roosevelt back in the lead. Five minutes later, Nico scored a free kick from 60 yards out. Roosevelt held on to beat Bowie and finally defeat them for the first time in years. It was a game that Roosevelt will definitely remember and a great start to the season for the Raiders.



Nicolas Troncoso-Roldan celebrates after scoring his third goal of the game.

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School varsity boys soccer team huddles before the game.

- Photos by Elvis Ventura



City Notes

After attending the Chesapeake Gateways regional conference, Public Information hosted Economic Development, Public Works/Sustainability, Constituent Services and Grants Administrator for a meeting on Destination Greenbelt opportunities.

Code Enforcement responded to two complaints and inspected six commercial suites, two commercial building sites and 22 rentals.

After one cat and one dog adoption, Animal Shelter residents are five cats and seven kittens.

All of Public Works pitched in on the many tasks needed to take down and store Labor Day Festival equipment and furnishings. At Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Facilities Maintenance replaced relays for gym lighting and assisted Pepco in repairing underground power supply lines.

Fall classes began at the Community Center and the pool hosted the Pooch Plunge and kayak roll training.

In August, CARES welcomed an intern social worker and counseled 162 residents, including 46 minors. Also they tutored seven students, prepared 13 for GED, taught English to eight adults and mentored six Workforce Development aspirants.

Spellman Overpass Resistance Fridays

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

Access from Gardenway or from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School crosswalk. Questions? Email kashla@pm.me.



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Greenbelt Labor Day Festival 2026

Reflections on Labor Day

by Karen Yoho

Labor Day is a time for rest and recreation, but I spent a few moments recently to reflect on this holiday that brings such excitement to Greenbelt. Did you know that Labor Day originated from the 19th-century labor movement during the Industrial Revolution? At that time, workers fought for better conditions and shorter hours, “eight hours of labor, eight hours of recreation, eight hours of rest.” The first Labor Day Parade was in 1882, when the Central Labor Union organized a parade in New York City with about 10,000 workers taking unpaid leave to march. It wasn’t until the violent Pullman Strike in Illinois that President Grover Cleveland signed legislation on June 28, 1894, making the first Monday in September a legal federal holiday. And as any card-carrying member of the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will tell you, it was during FDR’s administration that then-Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins helped create the minimum wage, the 40-hour work week and the first tough child labor laws.

All of this trivia to say, Labor Day is a big deal. And in Greenbelt it’s the biggest of deals! The big deal makers start with about a dozen volunteer committee members. Add to that the efforts of our city Public Works crews, our carnival provider, police department, student volunteers and

the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival comes to life over the span of about a week on the Community Center lawn and Roosevelt Center.

On behalf of the Labor Day Festival committee, I want to thank our Greenbelt neighbors who made time to join us and contribute to its success. Whether you suited up your 6-month old for the diaper derby or entered your creations in the art or photo show or rounded-up when checking out at the Greenbelt Co-op, your engagement did not go unnoticed. This 72nd annual Festival was the biggest and best ever, featuring live music, strolling entertainment, food from every corner of the globe, and your Festival favorites like the parade, craft fair, bingo and the Greenbelt Elementary PTA used book sale. This year we welcomed new community booths to the Festival grounds and hope more community groups will join in the fun for 2027.

After a couple months off, we will be back at the planning table for 2027. Did someone say dunk tank? Consider showing your appreciation for this Greenbelt tradition. Join us as we prepare for the 73rd annual. We need your labor to make 2027 even better.

See you in September.

Karen Yoho is the President of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee.



The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival opening ceremonies featured the national anthem in voice by Melissa Sites, left, and in American Sign Language by Gina Oliva. State Delegate Ashanti Martinez is pictured to the right. To our knowledge, Gina is the first person who is Deaf to sign the National Anthem at a Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Opening Ceremony.



Time for a selfie on the Round Up ride



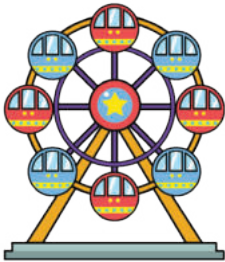
Noa and Emmeline enjoy some thrilling 360-degree turns on a ride.



A family watches as one member slides.



The Rainbow delights riders with its gravity-defying sensations.



Bingo is always popular at the Festival.



Greg May of Greenbelt Circus Camps greets a small festivalgoer while walking on stilts at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival on September 7.



The lights of the rides illuminate the night.



A view of the midway



Dancers enjoy music from the stage on Saturday afternoon, September 5.