



Bladensburg Race, p.7



Blues Festival, p.12

2026 Fall Pumpkin Festival Is On, with Future Uncertain

by Claudia Stuart



PHOTO COURTESY STACY STEWART

Volunteers unload the carved pumpkins at North Woods in 2023.

Pumpkin Queen Stacy Stewart has spent the past three years coordinating the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival. This year's Pumpkin Festival will be her last as an organizer, and without potential coordinators to take over, the nearly four-decade-old tradition could end sooner than expected.

"We've been looking for someone to take over; so far, no takers," Stewart told the News Review. "There is a real danger that we might not have a Pumpkin

Festival next year if I can't get someone or a group of people to step up and take over."

The festival traces back to 1988, when Greenbelters came together, carved jack-o'-lanterns and set them in the North Woods amid talk that the surrounding property could be sold for development.

"They carved a bunch of pumpkins and invited people to

See PUMPKIN, page 5

Braveboy Won't Respond to Questions; District 2 Still Has No Representation

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

District 2 families, including Greenbelt, began and continue this school year without representation on the Board of Education despite an application period that was concluded even before the vacancy was announced. Board Chair Brannndon Jackson requested that County Executive Aisha Braveboy initiate the process to appoint a replacement in a letter dated June 27. The county executive opened a one-week application period three days later, but no appointment has been made. The county executive and her office have refused to answer any questions from the News Review about the vacancy for months.

Since June, we have addressed questions to the county executive and her office about where the application period was advertised, why it was so briefly advertised and why it closed before Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) announced the vacancy, but have received no response. (For our reporting of the stonewalling see the September 3 issue.)

On September 24, following intervention by the state ombuds office, the county executive's office

responded to the Greenbelt News Review's July 24 Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) request for information relating to the vacancy and application process.

Application Process

Though Braveboy is responsible for making an appointment to the seat, residents must apply for consideration. When District 2 Board of Education Member Jonathan Briggs resigned in June, the county executive's office opened an application period for seven days, from June 30 to July 7 at 5 p.m. It was posted on the county executive's website but was not advertised anywhere else. In fact, members of the District 2 community were unaware their representative had resigned until PGCPS made an announcement on July 20, following inquiries from the Greenbelt News Review

that day (see the July 23 issue). The only other announcement came during the chair's report by Jackson during a July 9 Board of Education meeting, which itself was also after the application period for Briggs' replacement had closed.

Not Advertised

An MPIA request for any and all ways in which the resignation and application window were publicized by the county, including dates of announcements and ways in which they were shared, produced only the singular posting on the county executive's website. This suggests a break with the way in which other application periods were advertised and shared. For example, in January 2025, a vacancy for the District

See BOARD of ED, page 8

What's New at the New Deal? Volunteers, Menus, Hours ...

by Rachel Kebler



PHOTO BY RACHEL KEBLER

Chefs Donald Glover (left) and Derrelle Magee dash through the kitchen to prepare meals.

The beloved New Deal Café is dealing with some changes in funding and hours since the board's decision not to renew the last vendor's contract, which ended in July. However, the community behind it stays strong.

"It's run by the people who actually spend money here," said bar manager Renea, who has been with the Café since November 2024. "The people who want to keep the doors open. They're not just eating here."

Collaborative Efforts

The Café's new menu was created by Chef Derrelle Magee, who has been affiliated with the Café in one way or another for around 15 years and was one of the chefs under the previous vendor. He worked alongside Aaron Mengel of Generous Joe's to craft a menu full of simple and light meals for customers to enjoy. They also worked to incorporate vegetarian and vegan options, Magee said.

See NEW DEAL, page 1

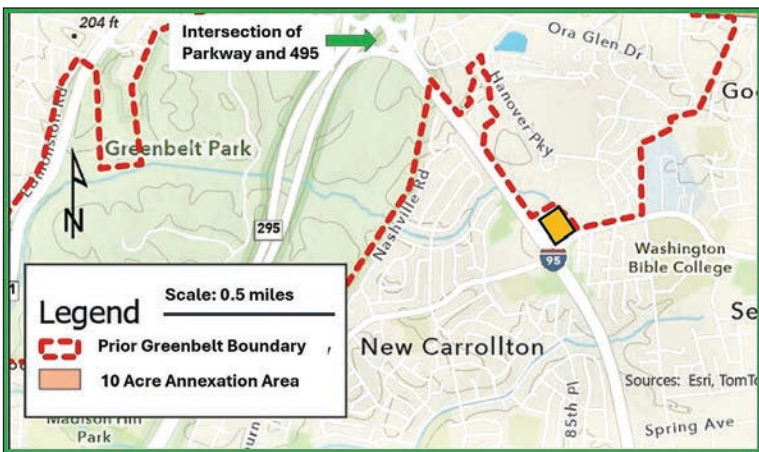
City Mulls Fire/EMS Support, Indian Creek and Annexation

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council meeting of September 14 covered a lot of ground. Extended in two increments of 30 and 5 minutes, respectively, it was still mercifully shorter than many past meetings.

An article in the News Review issue of September 24 covered the topic of unionization of Public Works staff that was raised at the meeting, particularly during the public comment period. A forthcoming article includes additional considerations on city processes, while this article deals mostly with the city manager's report.

City Manager Josué Salmerón



Annexed property at Good Luck Road at 495

welcomed new City Treasurer Mayesha Williams, formerly with the City of New Carrollton. He also reported that the Labor Day Festival set records for attendance with compliments from the public on programming and safety. Attendees were impressed by the new carnival vendor.

Fire and Ambulance

The fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) support hearing went well in appellate court with the city presentation delivered without contradiction (the county did not attend). Salmerón wants the county and the community to be in a partnership, but

that's not happening so far. Salmerón praised the News Review for exceptional reporting of this issue. The News Review obtained response time data via a public information act request (see reporting in the September 10 and September 17 issues) and was in Annapolis for the court hearing (see the September 17 issue).

Salmerón explained that the county is proposing to move away from 24/7 EMS support to Greenbelt, instead proposing a six-person daily team here with four firefighters and two EMS staff,

See COUNCIL, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, October 5

7:30 p.m., City Council Work-session: Economic Development Strategies Discussion and Legislative Priorities, Municipal Building

Wednesday, October 7

No Council Meeting

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

Breaking News

Judge Extends Stay for BARC

On Tuesday, September 29, Judge Vince Chhabria extended the administrative stay on the USDA's reorganization impacting Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The stay was set to end October 2 (see the September 24 issue) and will now last until October 13. Both sides must now submit supplemental briefs, meaning further written arguments. The judge specifically asked them to address legislative and statutory histories relating to the reorganization and the potential need for congressional approval.

Letters to the Editor

Greenbelt TNR Needs Your Help

My Greenbelt TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) group has waded through many challenges in its first year. The problem of unsprayed and unneutered homeless cats within Greenbelt remained unchecked for several years, spiraling out of control. The current situation has at times brought our small group of volunteers to its knees, but I think of how much worse things would be if we did not exist. We have successfully TNR'd 54 cats so far this year, preventing many more unwanted kittens from being born on the streets, as well as fostered and found homes for many rescued kittens. Those kitten ads in the News Review are ours.

I am reaching out to both thank those who have helped and to ask for more support. We need money donations to pay for vet bills and buy supplies. We need donations of kitten food and litter. We need people who know how to write up grant proposals for funding or to help with fundraising events. We need people to adopt the kittens that are the result of the unchecked cat population growth. We need homes that will foster these

kittens to help socialize them. We need community outreach. We appreciate whatever help people can give, and please spread the word as many people still don't know about us. Email us at Greenbelt.TNR@gmail.com and visit our Facebook page.

Lannay Tull
Greenbelt Trap/Neuter/Return

Eat Catfish, Save the Bay

Blue catfish from the Chesapeake Bay: delicious, nutritious and affordable!

Thanks to the Co-op for carrying fresh-caught Chesapeake Bay blue catfish. This invasive species is aggressively dangerous to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

The good news: According to the Maryland Cooperative Extension this fish is very nutritious and buying it helps the bay and Maryland fisherfolk.

I appreciate the low price, delicious flavor, moist texture and ease of preparation.

Suggestion: Just dredge the fillet in cornmeal seasoned with Cajun seasoning, fry in olive oil in a shallow pan. Quick and easy, there's your healthy, affordable, sustainable scrumptious dinner.

Lesley Kash



Drop Us a Line!
Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



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: OCTOBER 2nd - 8th

Digger (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (129 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 7:40 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC)
Mon. 5:00 PM (OC)
Tues. 4:20 PM
Wed. 7:40 PM
Thurs. 7:40 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:40 PM
Sun. 5:20 PM
Tues. 6:50 PM
Thurs. 5:20 PM

Primetime (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (112 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM (OC)
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:10 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 8:00 PM
Mon. 5:20 PM
Wed. 8:00 PM

You Had To Be There (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (98 mins)
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:20 PM
Sat. 5:20 PM
Sun. 2:20 PM
Mon. 1:20 PM
Tues. 4:00 PM
Wed. 5:20 PM
Thurs. 8:20 PM

All That Heaven Allows (NR) (1955) (89 mins)
Cinema Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM



- News Review, October 9, 2025



Letters Policy during Elections

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.

The News Review will not print letters endorsing candidates. The News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.

Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

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

October 13 Deadline for Online Or Mail Voter Registration

Tuesday, October 13 is the last day to register to vote using online registration. Mail-in registrations must be postmarked on or before October 13.

Where to Register

Register to vote through online registration here: voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1
Download an application and find instructions on registering by mail here:

elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/application.html

Not sure if you're registered? Review voter information here: voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch

You can also register to vote during early voting or on Election Day. Residents can go to an early voting center in the county during early voting or their assigned election-day polling place and bring a document proving where they live. Valid proof of residence includes an MVA-issued license, ID card, change of address card or a paycheck, bank statement, utility bill or other government document showing name and address.



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Digger

The most powerful man in the world embarks on a frantic mission to prove he is humanity's savior before the disaster he's unleashed destroys everything. From director Alejandro González Iñárritu, the film stars Tom Cruise, Riz Ahmed, John Goodman and Sandra Hüller.

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."

You Had to Be There

Martin Short, Eugene Levy, Gilda Radner, Victor Garber, Paul Shaffer and other entertainment icons got their start in a 1972 Toronto production of the musical Godspell. Featuring interviews with the surviving cast members, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mike Myers and more, the film recounts a pivotal moment in comedy history in hilarious, moving and inspiring detail. Produced by Judd Apatow.

All That Heaven Allows

An upper class woman falls in love with a much younger, down-to-earth nurseryman, much to the disapproval of her children and criticism of her country club peers.

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.

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System branches will be closed Monday, October 5, for a staff training day. All regularly operating branches will reopen on Tuesday, October 6 at noon.

Storytimes

Tuesday, October 6, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17235546.

Wednesday, October 7, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17137762.

Thursday, October 8, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17137871.

Craft and Create

Wednesday, October 7, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Teens will learn techniques to draw their favorite Pokémon, from the original 151 to the latest additions. This hands-on workshop helps participants build drawing skills while bringing their favorite characters to life on the page. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17144464.

Thursday, October 8, 2 p.m., ages 13+. Whether it's as a job, hobby or a passing exercise, sketching is a great gateway into art as a form of creative expression. Come with a sketchbook or use library materials. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17266981.

Art Gallery Artist Talk On Friday, October 9

The current show in the Community Center art gallery (first floor) features mixed media collages by James Stephen Terrell that evoke quilting, sartorial splendor and a cosmic/Afrofuturist sensibility. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., whenever the space is not reserved. All are welcome to attend a free Artist's Talk on Friday, October 9 at 6 p.m., immediately prior to an Art Share; RSVP at sugeni.us/U2bo. Greenbelt's arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

More Community Events
are located throughout
the paper.

Parkdale High Class Of '76 Reunion

The reunion will begin with a meet and greet on Friday, October 9. The main event will be held Saturday, October 10 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds (cocktail attire). There will be a picnic on Sunday, October 11.

To RSVP and buy tickets, visit ReunionDB.com (click on Find Me) or email parkdalehs76@gmail.com or 760-759-0320. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Miles of Learning On the Allagash

The Greenbelt Rotary Club will host Lucy Murray and Hannah Baker, Venture Crew 746 president and vice president, who will discuss the Crew's 100-mile canoe journey this summer, including adventures and lessons learned along the way. This event is a must-see for anyone aged 14 to 20 interested in outdoor skills and challenges. The event is on Thursday, October 8 at the Community Center, Room 114, with refreshments and conversation at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. talk.

Scouting America Venture Crew 746 is a co-ed youth organization for 14- to 20-year-olds that teaches leadership, service, teamwork and resilience through outdoor activities, including canoeing, backpacking, climbing and more.

The Greenbelt Rotary Club meets every Thursday at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m.

Poetry in the Garden Meets October 11

The public is invited to a poetry reading on Sunday, October 11, in the Community Center, Room 111, from 3 to 5 p.m. The focus will be English poets. Those who have a poem to share with the group are welcome to do so.

Friends and neighbors are invited to join the group to enjoy poetry.

Apply to Be a Youth Vendor at Sparkle Mart

Greenbelt's annual juried art and craft fair will take place on December 5 and 6 at the Community Center. A special section of the event will feature youth vendors 17 and under on Sunday, December 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Applications for youth crafters are open now until October 18. Visit greenbeltdm.gov/482/Sparkle-Mart for more information and the link to the application.

Help End Hunger

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in the month of October as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Monday, October 5 — by 5 p.m. for 18 Court Ridge Road

Sunday, October 11 — by 11 a.m. for 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway; by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village; by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on October 11. He will come to your porch.

Saturday, October 17 — by 9 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, October 18 — by 4 p.m. for 33 Court Ridge Road, by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

Sunday, October 25 — by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive, by 6 p.m. for 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road and 8 and 10 Courts Southway

Saturday, October 31 — by 10 a.m. Greenbelt East, Greenbrook Estates



ERHS Fall Music Events

The annual fruit sale, the major fundraiser for the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) music department, is underway now through November 1. Email Cullen.waller@pgcps.org to learn more and order fruit.

Fall Performances

Friday, October 23, 7 p.m., Best of Coffee House, a showcase of ERHS students performing music of their choice either as solo artists or in groups. There is a fee.

Thursday, October 29, 7 p.m., Band and Choir Concert. Free.

Thursday, November 19, 7 p.m., Orchestra Concert. Free.

The public is welcome at all events.

Board of Ed. District 2 Candidate Forum Oct. 15

On Thursday, October 15 from 7 to 8 p.m., join the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) and the Greenbelt News Review for a forum with Board of Education District 2 candidates Terence Clegg and Caroline Decaire-Goldin at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

There is limited parking on-site but there will be special event parking on Cherrywood Lane (follow event parking signs).

Please RSVP and submit a question for the candidates in advance by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/4k478fdz> or use the QR code. Submit questions by October 9.



Maryland Witches Book Talk and Signing

On Thursday, October 1 at 7 p.m. in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, author Trish Hoffman will discuss and sign her book, Maryland Witches. Learn about famous (or infamous) witches of Maryland, like Rebecca Fowler, Moll Dyer and others accused of witchcraft in the Old Line State. Drawing on stories of ancient witchcraft and shamanism and accounts of European witch trials, Hoffman unfolds the history of Maryland witches from the Colonial era to the present day. The author is fascinated by the subject of witches and has been welcomed into the Maryland witch community. Books will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the Greenbelt Museum Lecture Series, the talk is a free, in-person event, but attendees are asked to pre-register via Eventbrite. Visit greenbeltmuseum.org and click on the Maryland Witches book to register. Free parking is available nearby.



English, Spanish Story Time, SHL Rec Center

On Friday, October 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill a love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 9 de octubre a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en inglés y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos gratis. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Toastmasters Meet

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

This Week at the New Deal Café

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



BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
HOURS OF OPERATION VARY. SEE [NEWDEALCAFE.COM](https://newdealcafe.com) FOR UPDATES.

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

TH 10/01	FRI 10/02	SAT 10/03	SUN 10/04	
Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm A big, bodacious, boogie blues jam hosted by Wolf Crescenze	Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes 8 - 11pm Chicago, west coast, swing and jump blues	Little Red & The Renegades 8 - 11pm This WAMMIE-nominated band plays Zydeco, swamp rock & New Orleans funk	NEW TO THE NDC! Verona's Court 6 - 8 pm A 5-piece band that features soulful vocals, pop/rock energy & some RnB	
MON 10/05	TUES 10/06	WED 10/07	TH 10/08	New Deal Cafe
CAFE CLOSED	S.A.W. Open Mic w/ Lynn Hollyfield 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6:15pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	The Campfire Sessions 7 - 9pm Hosted by Joey Campfire	NEW TO THE NDC! Unka Funk 7 - 9pm Four-piece band that brings the vibe and funky grooves	THE TIME IS NOW! DONATE OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

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

Events & Productions at Greenbelt Access Television

+ October 2026 +

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 4th 1-4 pm | YOU-Topia @ the Art Studio Open House
an arts/craft activity where YOU add your vision of a better Greenbelt!

Saturday, Oct. 10th 1-4pm | GATE's Camcorder Essentials Course (3 Hours):
Reserve your seat to get certified at our free class at GreenbeltAccessTV.org/classes!

Featured Productions

- New, daily episodes of Democracy Now
- Encore broadcasts of the best of Utopia Film Festival's past 21 years!
- Creations from Mister Geo's Homeschool Digital Animation Class

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

Obituaries

Russell Maffay



PHOTO BY JULIE ERICKSON

Russell Andrew Maffay

Russell Andrew Maffay, 67, of Murrells Inlet, S.C., died on September 19 after a long battle with cancer. He was the son of longtime Greenbelt residents Jack and Elizabeth Maffay, and spent his formative years in Greenbelt. He attended St. Hugh's Elementary School before completing his education at DeMatha Catholic High School. After working for the City of Greenbelt for several years, Russ joined the Washington, D.C., Fire Department, retiring after 30 years of active duty both as a fire fighter and EMT. Growing up, Russ was an outstanding athlete, winning the MVP award in Greenbelt Little League baseball and leading St. Hugh's Elementary to the D.C. Catholic Youth Organization

(CYO) city basketball championship before playing basketball at DeMatha. Later in life, Russ became a very competitive and successful pickleball player. In addition to enjoying athletics, he loved roots music and dancing — Russ could tear up a dance floor like few others. A life-of-the-party kind of guy with a great sense of humor, he was very popular and had many friends. Russ was opinionated and outspoken and always kept up with what was going on in the country and the world. He also enjoyed traveling both in the United States and in Europe and Latin America. While remaining a life-long bachelor, Russ was involved in several long-term relationships, which invariably ended on good terms, with Russ remaining a friend over the years. One regret that he had was that he never had any children. Russ was great with kids and enjoyed babysitting his nieces and nephews and, when they grew up, their children too. Uncle Russ was a real firefighting hero for them. Russ is survived by his three sisters, Doris, Julie and Sheila, and his two brothers, Donald and Jonathan. Per his wishes, he will be buried next to his parents in the Greenbelt Cemetery. A mass and celebration of Russ' life for family and friends will take place at St. Hugh's in Greenbelt with date and time to be announced.



City Notes

Public Safety/Community met with Three Cities counterparts and the county fire chief about fire station staffing and, with Constituent Services, attended the Charlestowne Village North Tenants meeting with new management. Economic Development promoted Greenbelt at the Quantum World Congress in College Park. The Public Information Officer and the Communication Specialist networked with counterparts from other municipalities, attending the Maryland Municipal Communicators meeting and a tour of the City of Laurel's communication facilities. Code Enforcement issued one permit, inspected 13 commercial suites and 17 rentals and investigated five complaints. Animal Shelter residents are five cats and seven kittens after one kitten adoption. Environmental/Sustainability and Rangers hosted five participants for a birding event at Greenbelt Lake, identifying 24 bird species. Ballfields/Parks repaired a vandalized bus shelter and did maintenance at the Cinema. At the Aquatic & Fitness Center, outdoor pool winterization began and Public Works repaired the family changing room shower. Therapeutic Recreation took seniors on two field trips.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

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

Golden Age Club Hosts Open House, October 7

In conjunction with Active Aging Week, the Greenbelt Golden Age Club is having an open house on Wednesday, October 7, for residents who are at least 60 years old. The event will be at the Community Center, Room 201 at 11 a.m. There will be three special guests from the Greenbelt police: Private First Class Kendall Graham, who will speak on the Greenbelt Guardian Program, Master Police Officer Erick Alvarez and K9 Ollie. The Club has been active since the 1950s. The open house is especially for those seniors who are new residents of Greenbelt, former club members or those who may not be aware of the club.

A typical monthly schedule of meetings, held every Wednesday, includes a business meeting, bingo and guest speakers on issues such as history, senior finance and taxes, health and science. Once a month the club holds a potluck luncheon for birthday celebrants of that month.

Some club members have lived in Greenbelt for many years; others have moved here recently. Current President Judy Parker moved to Greenbelt about 10 years ago, came to a meeting and decided to join. She commented, "Nine years ago, I saw an article in the News Review about the club and decided to go to a meeting. It was a most welcoming group. This club really makes a positive difference."

Come see what the club is about on October 7. Be sure to sign in to receive free gifts. There will also be snacks for all.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Russ Maffay, firefighter, babysitter and fond uncle. Congratulations to Lynn Dobbin and Kathy Reynolds on their induction into the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association's Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame, and to firefighter/EMS Lisa Ray on receiving the Volunteer EMS Captain George H. Linnell Award for Excellence in EMS. Congratulations to Li'l Dan Celdran, who has graduated from the ICAA Foundation for Well-

ness, a certificate course offered by the International Council on Active Aging (ICAA). She noted that Active Aging Week, October 5 to 11, is an opportunity to discover new ways to move, connect, engage and live life to the fullest. Visit www.icaa.cc. Further congratulations to Holly Leon-Lierman, a new massage therapist at Heavenly Well, on graduating from the Potomac Massage Therapy Institute. Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



PHOTO COURTESY HEAVENLY WELL

Holly Leon-Lierman at Heavenly Well

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owneregroups.io

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

"Woman rears the child and educates the youth to maturity. She will refuse to give her sons for sacrifice upon the field of battle. In truth, she will be the greatest factor in establishing universal peace and international arbitration."
— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

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

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

At the Pollinator Festival at the Patuxent Research Refuge on September 26, a young child holds out her hand with a Monarch butterfly waiting to take off and wing its way to Mexico.

PHOTO BY DAAVIDE BARCLAY

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

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

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

PUMPKIN continued from page 1

come out and see the jack-o'-lanterns," Stewart said. "It was so successful that it kept going even after the woods were safe."

North Woods is now protected by the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, the charter for which includes protection for the Pumpkin Walk itself.

The Pumpkin Festival was a single event until 2018, when organizers expanded it to include Schrom Hills Park and the Springhill Lake community (now Franklin Park). This meant every resident in Greenbelt was within walking distance of the event.

This Year's Festival

The Pumpkin Festival now includes five events over three weekends. The first weekend is Saturday, October 10, at Schrom Hills Park, with pumpkin carving from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and a Pumpkin Walk from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The Schrom Hills route runs

along a paved sidewalk, unlike North Woods, making it more accessible for residents with mobility issues.

There is pumpkin carving on Friday, October 16, in Roosevelt Center from 4 to 8:30 p.m. The pumpkins are put on display be-



A pumpkin and its proud carvers in Schrom Hills in 2023

fore volunteers extinguish the candles and load trucks with jack-o'-lanterns. The next morning, more volunteers help unload about 350 pumpkins into the woods, lining

the path so Greenbelters can enjoy the pumpkin walk later that night. This year the walk through the North Woods is on Saturday, October 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. Stewart said the walk is calm and gentle from 6 to 7 p.m., making it more child-friendly; after 7 p.m., the walk gets spookier.

In past years, former Greenbelt City Councilmember Rodney Roberts has handed out hot chocolate and hot cider at the end of the North Woods walk. Roberts could not be reached to learn if he will continue his tradition this year.

The last night of the festival is Friday, October 30. There will be pumpkin carving behind Beltway Plaza from 5 to 7 p.m. alongside Trunk or Treat, where candy will be handed out by community organizations.

Future of the Festival

About a dozen residents gathered on July 9 at the Community

Center and discussed the festival's future, including new coordinators and new funding ideas.

"Greenbelters really do love the Pumpkin Festival, and we have people who really want to see it continue," Stewart said. "We are just having trouble finding a single person who wants to step up and take responsibility for coordinating."

Coordinating the Pumpkin Festival across three weekends is a lot of work. Stewart hopes to get a committee of three or more to take over the festival, each overseeing one part - carving at Roosevelt Center, the North Woods walk, carving and the walk at Schrom Hills, and the main carving at Beltway Plaza.

"I really want us to make it to 2028, because that will be our 40th anniversary, which is a pretty impressive milestone," Stewart said.

A committee would also be helpful to share the fundraising, which previously hasn't started until September, even though they buy supplies in advance. Historically this has put the burden on the coordinator, who used their own money and was reimbursed once the fundraising was complete.

"I think [having a committee] might make it more accessible to more coordinators," Stewart said.

However, as the search for new leadership continues, Stewart emphasizes that she doesn't want to see much change to the festival itself, which runs entirely on community donations and volunteers, including support from the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket, which helps negotiate favorable prices on the pumpkins.

See PUMPKIN, page 8



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 OCTOBER 5 - 9

Monday, October 5 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY DISCUSSION & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - Municipal Building**

Tuesday, October 6 at 3 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES - Public Works Building**, On the Agenda: Call to Order, Review past Meeting Minutes, Old Business, New Business, Adjourn

Tuesday, October 6 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY - Virtual**, On the Agenda: Approval of August Meeting Minutes, Discussion of the September Open Forum Feedback

Tuesday, October 6 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION - Virtual**, On the Agenda: Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Continue Discussion on Harms and Suggested Remedies, Update on Indigenous Town Hall, Announcements, Public comments

Wednesday, October 7, **NO COUNCIL MEETING - ADVISORY BOARD / COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Thursday, October 8 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD - Council Chambers & Virtual**, 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.

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!

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.



GREENBELT UNIDOS
A Hispanic Heritage Festival
October 3, 2026
12 - 3 pm

Saturday, October 3 from 12 - 3 pm
6220 Springhill Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20705

Celebrate the vibrant cultures, traditions, and contributions of Greenbelt's Hispanic community at Greenbelt Unidos, a Hispanic Heritage Festival bringing neighbors together for an afternoon of food, music, family fun, and community connection!

Food and vendors; live music and entertainment; games and family activities; and community resources and information.

Come celebrate the many cultures and traditions that make Greenbelt such a vibrant and welcoming community. We hope to see you there!

Sponsored by the City of Greenbelt and Franklin Park.



FALL FESTIVAL
OCT 10
2 - 5 PM

Saturday, October 10, 2 - 5 pm
Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway

Visit Schrom Hills Park for fall activities and pumpkin carving during Fall Fest! With games, pumpkin decorating, a hayride, and more, you won't want to miss out on this magic.

One of the three pumpkin walks will begin afterward around 6 pm. Greenbelt's annual Pumpkin Festival continues a community tradition of pumpkin carving followed by a walk to enjoy a brisk fall day and a creative pumpkin trail made by talented carvers.

This event is part of Active Aging Week that celebrates through a week of arts, wellness, history, social connection, and community events for Greenbelt residents and visitors. Learn more and see our full schedule of events on our [Active Aging Week page](#).

* 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

Art Studio Open House & Sale Sunday, October 4, 1-4pm (Greenbelt Community Center)

- Tour the studios of the Artists in Residence
- Shop for fine art and elevated functional wares
- Interactive demonstrations with Greenbelt Recreation Artists, including a pop-up shop featuring their art.
- More hands-on arts for all ages. Sign up at sugeni.us/Ubb7 for a free storytelling collage workshop.
- Free facepainting and scavenger hunt for kids.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- FREE Artist Talk** (Greenbelt Community Center) 10/9, 6-7pm. Sign up: sugeni.us/U2bo.
- Art Share** (Greenbelt Community Center) 10/9; 7-8pm Sign up: sugeni.us/eytm.
- Artful Afternoon** (Springhill Lake Recreation Center) 10/11; 1:30-2:30pm Sign up: sugeni.us/Ucd6.

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

COUNCIL continued from page 1

Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The current 24/7 EMS unit is proposed to move to Calverton. Salmerón has requested it stay in Greenbelt, and if not, in West Lanham, which is closer than Calverton. He advocates that the EMS coverage should be located in Greenbelt 24/7 because the majority of calls here are for medical assistance.

Since the meeting, the county has altered the staffing plan to extend staffing at Greenbelt until 5 p.m. (see update on this page).

Roosevelt Center Work

Salmerón described plans, since completed, for replacing the inner square of the plaza, using heavy equipment to pull out the slabs, a process designed to produce less dust than alternative approaches. It was funded by shifting other project funding and was completed in time for the Blues Festival.

State Road Services

Mayor Emmett Jordan commented that the city looked great for Labor Day but that the median on Greenbelt Road is messy. Salmerón replied that the State Highway Administration was mowing adequately, but not weed-whacking around obstacles or edges.

With a Greek chorus of council chuckling quietly in the background, Councilmember Jenni Pompei chimed in to suggest the city do it and bill the state. “I’m sincere,” she said, grinning mischievously. Salmerón replied that he doubted the state would pay (even if he knew how to bill them) and to smiles, Pompei allowed as how she didn’t want to do it if the city wouldn’t be paid back. Councilmember Silke Pope remembered that a similar strategy had failed before – and Salmerón added that the city routinely clears state road bus stops of snow for resident safety without getting recompense from the state.

Indian Creek Master Plan

Director of Planning and Community Development Jaime Fearer asked council for formal acceptance of the conceptual master plan for the new park at Greenbelt Station. Acceptance allows staff to prepare materials for review by the county’s Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement (DPIE). The conceptual plan remained as discussed in February.

The park site is located just to the east of the Greenbelt Station development and is partly on a flood plain. There are four use zones and an entrance area. The plan includes a dog park, a recreational flex zone,



The view from the boardwalk looking into Indian Creek in 2024

a multisport zone, community garden, fitness equipment and benches. One potential hitch is that a compensatory stormwater facility will be mandated by DPIE, but Fearer was cautiously optimistic this could be avoided.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney, after thanking Fearer for the report, requested a timeline with respect to getting a DPIE response. Fearer said that once the documents go to DPIE (a date not yet specified), response is typically 90 days. McKinney also suggested a comparison with the new park recently completed in the Hollywood area of College Park, which also crams a lot of recreational uses into a restricted space. Fearer agreed it would be “a good field trip.” McKinney raised concerns about risks associated with the fitness equipment if the area actually floods.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver wanted to make sure suggestions by the Advisory Planning Board were taken into consideration. Fearer noted that these were detailed questions of which she continued to be aware and which will come to the fore in the planning phase.

Indian Creek Facilities

Jordan requested that bike facilities be included in park plans. Resident Michael Hartman requested that all table seating should accommodate wheelchairs and that the bleachers should

include a shady area for wheelchairs. He noted that preplanning for people with disabilities was more effective and less costly than retroactive action. In response to these questions, Fearer assured both Jordan and Hartman that their requests were on the drawing board and confirmed there was no plan for using artificial turf.

Annexation

Ten acres in a corner at Good Luck Road, the Beltway and Trinity Assembly of God were unanimously annexed to the city. Jordan observed that this was a logical extension of the city’s boundary. It now includes in the city a parcel of green space that abuts the Beltway. (See map on p. 1.)

Bike Share

Councilmember Frankie Fritz reported that the first new bike share station in several years was installed last year at the Metro station and has seen a lot of use, especially in trips to the west side of the city. The proposed new station is by Eleanor Roosevelt High School and is the first such facility on the eastern side of the city. Installation is expected within the next year.

The current GPS-based range of coverage for the bikes cuts off abruptly in some locations around the city. This map causes the bikes to be disabled if they stray from these zones. Until a recent request by Fritz, the map did not include the Spellman overpass of the Parkway – meaning that the bikes wouldn’t function in that area and couldn’t use the safest route to the east section of the city.

Fritz worked with the bike share organization to include the overpass and other city dead spots so that users could ride more safely around the city.

Fritz told council that those who can demonstrate low income or eligibility for federal programs can qualify for free standard bike access or a \$40 credit on e-bike usage per month.



Rotary
Club of Greenbelt

Paddling the Allagash
100 Miles of Adventure and Learning
Greenbelt Venture Crew 746 youth

Thurs, Oct 8 at 7 pm
Starting with refreshments at 6:30 pm
Community Center Room 114

Monthly Speaker Series - 2nd Thursday of the month - greenbeltrotary.org

Fall Fire Staffing Changes Mean Weekday Coverage to 5 p.m.

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

As we reported in the September 10 issue, Prince George’s County Fire Chief Thelmetria Michaelides announced changes to staffing that would mean Greenbelt Station 835 will receive six career personnel from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The county has since told the city that weekday career coverage at the station will extend through 5 p.m. An August 14 memorandum reviewed by the News Review said the changes would take effect no later than September 30 but the county has subsequently told the city that staffing changes will begin October 4.

At the September 14 Greenbelt City Council meeting, City Manager Josué Salmerón explained four of the six allocated career staff would be dedicated to fire suppression and two would staff an ambulance. Salmerón has expressed concerns that the vast majority of calls are for EMS. Though the city has been fighting for two years for the return of career firefighters, the new staffing plan brings six staff during the day while removing the current 24/7 paramedic ambulance (PA858) that has been providing Advanced Life Support alongside a second 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. paramedic unit. Salmerón told the News Review he was concerned about the loss of round-the-clock medical emergency coverage for Greenbelt, in particular since neighboring municipalities including College Park and Berwyn Heights would also have career staffing during daytime hours. College Park is also losing their 24/7 paramedic ambulance under the latest fall staffing and resource deployment changes.

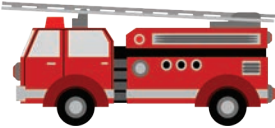
The plan relocates PA858 from Greenbelt to Station 841 in Calverton, where it will be redesignated PA841B. Greenbelt leaders had advocated for the ambulance to

be stationed closer to Greenbelt, at West Lanham Hills if it had to be relocated, and, in a seeming concession, this week learned the ambulance will be relocated to Calverton but based at the West Lanham station. Meanwhile, College Park’s 24/7 ambulance is being relocated to Bunker Hill.

The relocated ambulances will be deployed throughout the county based on call volume, unit availability and countywide coverage needs, according to Michaelides’ memorandum. The chief advocates for this “battalion-based model” for flexibility and responsiveness to changing demands.

For Greenbelt, however, average response times have increased since the removal of career staff from the station in 2024 (see the September 17 issue), suggesting the reason for the city’s concern about the removal of the 24/7 paramedic ambulance that has been based here.

An announcement from the city this week stated, “The City believes the current staffing arrangement, a 24/7 paramedic unit and a second unit during peak hours, provides better emergency medical coverage than the County’s proposed plan, particularly during evenings and weekends. We will continue to advocate for the full restoration of 24/7 fire and EMS staffing at the Greenbelt fire station to serve residents of Greenbelt and surrounding communities.” The statement also said the city and Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad will continue working with the county on reliable fire and EMS coverage for Greenbelt residents.



NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative
Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
Greenbelt Community Center Gym
15 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD 20770

According to the Co-op's bylaws, 25 members constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, those present can schedule another meeting, which can proceed even in the absence of a quorum.

Note: Fully Vested members have \$100 or more in their member capital account.



Help Us Help You Help Greenbelt



Are you a local nonprofit that could use \$500-5000 in seed money for a project or endeavor? If so, the Greenbelt Community Foundation is here for you. Our fall grant cycle is going on right now (deadline October 15), and we’re looking to give out money to worthy causes. Contact us at greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com or visit <https://greenbeltfoundation.org> for information on how to apply.

NEW DEAL continued from page 1

Last weekend, while the 23rd annual Greenbelt Blues Festival came around and the rain poured, the Café hosted originally-planned outdoor acts inside and served customers blues-inspired meals. The menu included specials such as Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom Bean Burger with a blueberry barbecue sauce and blue corn chips served with pico de gallo and elote.

“This is my goal: try and reinvent the New Deal,” said Magee. “It’s on my shoulders, so you know I gotta do it. I’ve got big shoulders, so I can carry it.”

Magee also noted how New Deal Café President Stephanie Rizk makes all the baked goods in-house.

The Volunteer Team

Several Greenbelt residents, whether longtime supporters or newer to the Café, have put their time into volunteering in a multitude of ways. Jeannette Holman, for instance, is both a member of the board of directors and a volunteer. All board members are volunteers, she said.

“Washing dishes, serving, bus-ing,” said Holman when naming some of her volunteer roles on top of putting community feed-back into play.

Holman has been coming to the Café since 2003. She praised the community she has seen in the past few months, not just from fellow volunteers, but also the customers who support in small ways daily, like helping fix a toilet during her shift.

“We are the management,” Holman said. “Running the kitchen, the ... bar, we’ve been successful.”

Theodore “Teddy” Kish is also a board member. He has lived in Greenbelt for 42 years, recently became a Café regular and then a board member during the Café’s last board election. He also works at the Honda dealership in Greenbelt.

Kish mentioned how Rizk works a full-time job, takes care of her family and fosters dogs while also leading the Café.

“You see how much people really care about this place, and

how much they’re willing to rally and just work together, and it’s been a really great experience to be honest,” Kish said.

The Coffee Klatch

These volunteers do not just want to keep the business running; they want to keep the warm culture alive. Peter Teuben is a member of the Café’s audit committee, alongside Teresa Petrovic and Rex Wingerter, going over finances and giving a community report every Sunday. He also started the coffee klatch in August.

Teuben was used to meeting up with friends to play mahjong at the Café over breakfast every week. When the Café had to change its hours, Teuben and others couldn’t fathom an empty Café in the morning and started bringing in their own coffee, meeting up to try out different drinks.

“This guy David [Whiteman] who came has really learned how to operate the espresso machine, and taught a bunch of people how to do it,” Teuben said about one of the club volunteers.

Teuben noted that several volunteers pick up both the register and barista roles, noting the desire to keep coffee as a staple at the Café.

As of this week, the Café will be open every morning of the week aside from Sundays and Mondays.

Volunteering

Those interested in volunteering at the Café can visit its Sign-Up Genius page, <https://tinyurl.com/5fsf9r2x>. Volunteer positions include bartending, dish washing, sound engineering and more.

Also, Rizk says, board members are elected for two-year terms every June. Those interested in serving in that capacity can reach out to boardofdirectors@newdealcafe.com.

The Café also shares updates on its Facebook and Instagram pages.

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

Two Greenbelt Teams Win Again at Bladensburg Race

by Melissa Ehrenreich



PHOTO BY CHARSA REE SLOWKA

20th Anniversary Bladensburg Race. Front row L-R: Michelle Rich, Isabel Martin, Glenn Needham, Gisela Bardossy, Corita Waters, Maria Cecilia Ulrickson and Julia Reardon. Back row L-R: Lei Zong, Zack Draper, Mark Coppock, Jason Needham, Melissa Ann Ehrenreich, Cary Coppock, Annie Bland, Robin Fernkas and Kim Walsh.

Teams anchored by Greenbelt neighbors swept both final heats of the Annual Community Challenge Bladensburg Races hosted by the Washington Rowing School (WRS) on August 29. Founded 20 years ago, WRS welcomes the community every August at Bladensburg Waterfront Park to learn how to row “all eight” — no experience required. Greenbelt organized two winning boats in this year’s regatta.

The Peanuts-themed Greenbelt

Wa-Wahs took first place overall and the National Treasures were the jewel of the river winning the second heat final. The winning team posed quickly with their medals before the medals were summarily collected to be recycled for next year’s regatta.

Learn more about how to protect the Anacostia River by visiting the Anacostia Watershed Society’s website at anacostiawss.org.



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**Address**
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Greenbelt Maryland 20770

**Hours of operation:**
7:30am-6:00pm
Monday - Friday

**Email**
welovekids.gic@verizon.net

**Joy Daramola**
Director
301-474-6770

A trusted childcare center with over 30 years of experience. Our parent-run co-op model creates a nurturing environment where families feel truly seen, heard, and involved in every step of their child's development.



Current New Deal Café Hours*

Tuesday through Thursday
Coffee, Espresso and Pastries — 8 to 11 a.m.
Closed — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Full Menu — 5 to 8:30 p.m.
Late Night Menu — 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Friday
Coffee, Espresso and Pastries — 8 to 11 a.m.
Closed — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Full Menu — 5 to 11 p.m.
Late Night Menu — 11 p.m. to midnight

Saturday
Coffee, Espresso and Pastries — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed — 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Full Menu — 5 to 11 p.m.
Late night menu — 11 p.m. to midnight

Sunday
Full menu — 5 to 8 p.m.
Late night menu — 8 to 9 p.m.



*hours subject to change



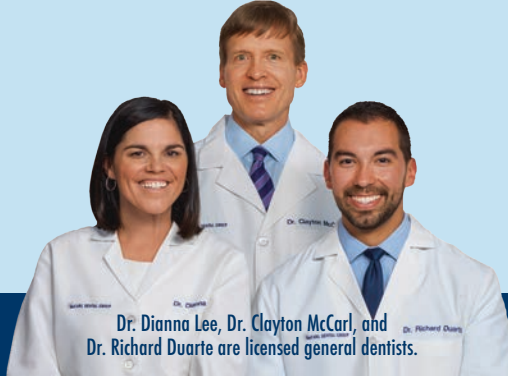


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Greenbelt Listings

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!

7G Research Rd
1-Bed | 1-Bath | \$150,000
Serene UPPER LEVEL end unit for those looking for a quiet, easy home with a great big, landscaped yard!

9H Southway
3-Bed | 1-Bath | \$255,000
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BOARD of ED continued from page 1

4 seat had an application window twice as long and was advertised multiple times by the county on social media alone.

Two Applicants
The News Review's request for correspondence with candidates and any applications for the seat was denied. "Your request is denied for any applications, communications, or records related to candidates seeking appointment to fill the remainder of the District 2 term,

including the total number of applications received are considered personnel files," said the county executive's response to that part of our MPIA request. However, further in the email response, the Office of Law shared that during the application period they "only received two submissions." One of those was from Terence Clegg, candidate for election to the District 2 seat in November, as he confirmed when the News Review asked candidates if they had applied.

No Correspondence
The News Review requested correspondence relating to the vacancy and application, including between the Office of the County Executive and PGCPs and its Board of Education. The office responded that they were "unable to retrieve any records related to the subject of your request." However, a separate MPIA to PGCPs produced correspondence on official letterhead from Board Chair Jackson to Braveboy on June 27 "formally" notifying her of Briggs' resignation and requesting she initiate the process to fill the vacancy for the rest of the term, which ends in December.

The News Review reached out to the County Executive's Office about the existence of documents pursuant to our request that they did not return and received no



The seat for the District 2 member remains empty at the Board of Education business meeting on September 24.

response. The ombudsman's office informed us that we must create a new complaint if we wish for mediation in the matter.

Impact
Questions remain as to why the application period was so brief and why it wasn't advertised, why it wasn't reopened as some community members called for after only discovering the resignation through the July 20 announcements, and why, following the haste, no appointment has been made.
In his June 27 letter, Jackson wrote, "We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining effective representation for the residents of District 2." He, too, has not responded to multiple inquiries from the News Review about the continuing vacancy.

For families navigating a difficult start to the school year, including some who have attended Board of Education meetings to speak about their challenges, not having a representative has made a tough period more frustrating.
Greenbelt parent Alex Barnes told the News Review, "There have been issues that I wanted to bring to the Board of Education's attention by way of my representative, starting with ESY (summer school); so I have felt the lack of

representation." District 2 parent Jessica Carroll, who lives in North College Park, says "the start of this school year has highlighted just how deeply a vacant district seat hurts families." Carroll, whose child attends Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI), noted a lack of advocacy for that community as it dealt with a change in location to the Robert Goddard Montessori School (RGMS) campus and widely predicted transportation problems.

Carroll told the News Review that "North College Park and Greenbelt have traditionally had a large concentration of DKFI families who could previously walk or easily drive to the old location. Shifting the campus to the RGMS site meant an influx of families who now desperately needed reliable bus transportation – yet that operational reality was never properly anticipated or advocated for during the transition and there was no one available once routes were being determined or released over the summer. Because of this representation vacuum, minor-seeming routing decisions became immediate safety crises."

Carroll has had to raise safety concerns about children forced to cross busy Rhode Island Avenue to and from school buses, she told the News Review. "Without a local board member, there was simply no one at the county level who understood the geography, knew the intersection or grasped what those routing decisions actually meant on the ground," Carroll said. She pleaded for help from "anyone who might listen," including College Park City Council members and mayor, county councilmembers, media, Board of Education candidates and neighboring District 4 Board Member

Aimee Olivo. "While Ms. Olivo has been a tremendous champion for our campus during this crisis, she naturally has a primary obligation to her own district," Carroll told the News Review.

When they had representation, District 2 families had someone to write to or call and who could elevate their concerns at the Board of Education. They also received newsletters from their representative and could attend the telephone townhalls he held.

"This administrative chaos and the resulting safety risks could have been avoided or mitigated through a proactive town hall," says Carroll of the start of this school year. "Instead, families were left scrambling with no accountable representative to turn to."

"When a whole district goes unrepresented, it is everyday parents and students who pay the price in lost time, stress and compromised safety," she said.

Braveboy and her office did not respond to numerous calls and emails from the News Review. Jackson has also not responded to multiple requests for information and comment. Tifani Andorful, board member for District 1, which includes DKFI and RGMS, stated at a recent transportation meeting for those schools that she and board member Pamela Boozer-Strother, District 3, had been working to assist impacted District 2 families who are without a representative right now. The News Review asked Andorful and Boozer-Strother for their perspective on the impact of the ongoing vacancy, whether board members had raised the issue with the chair or county executive and whether they had any information about a timeline for the appointment; neither responded. Candidate Clegg told the News Review he had not heard anything further and remains focused on advocating for District 2 residents and the November election.

PUMPKIN continued from page 5

"I think the pumpkin walk is one of the most magical things that happens in Greenbelt," Stewart said. "When you walk into the woods, you've got all these glowing pumpkins that wouldn't have happened without hundreds of members of the community coming together, carving them and coordinating moving them into the woods. It's beautiful in and of itself, but it's even better because it couldn't happen if the community wasn't coming together to make it happen."

Those interested in volunteering can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/2t9ypbnx> and donations can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/43zccnme> for this year's events. Anyone interested in getting involved in the future of the Pumpkin Festival can email GreenbeltPumpkinFestival@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook by visiting [Facebook.com/GreenbeltPumpkinFestival](https://www.facebook.com/GreenbeltPumpkinFestival).

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

St. Hugh's Church Seeks Musicians

Music is an integral part of worship at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church. The choir serves the Sunday 11 a.m. Mass and is seeking new members who are interested in singing on a regular basis. Practice is held on Wednesday evenings and the time commitment is from 10:30 a.m. to about 12:15 p.m. most Sundays. The choir is also part of Christmas and other Holy Day Masses. Anyone who would like to sing should consider joining. Accomplished singers who have limited availability could consider cantoring. Instrumentalists are also welcome. To see how to serve, or for more information, contact Music Director Jennifer Goltz at Jen.Goltz@gmail.com.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred September 21-27, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported three mental health diversions and four domestic incidents, three resulting in arrest. Three missing persons cases, two involving juveniles, were resolved.

Assaults

On September 23 at 11:08 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers investigated a reported assault and made an arrest.

On September 24 at 2:02 p.m. near 9184 Springhill Lane, someone was assaulted; at 4:05 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman approached and then pepper-sprayed a group of men; she was arrested.

Burglary

On September 26 at 3:35 a.m. near 6002 Greenbelt Road, officers found forced entry and damage at a business after an alarm. Surveillance footage will be reviewed for suspect information.

Robbery

On September 24 at 3:35 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, a boy was robbed at the bus stop of his shoes, coat and cell phone. No suspect was immediately identified.

On September 24 at 4:11 p.m. near 9108 Springhill Lane, a middle school student was robbed of his jacket by a group of other middle school students. No suspect was immediately identified and the case was referred for further investigation.

Disorderly

On September 26 at 9:01 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers responded to a disturbance at a business. A person was cited and banned from the property.

DUI Arrest

On September 25 at 8:17 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a traffic stop resulted in a DUI arrest and related traffic charges.

Fraud

On September 22 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone reported a scam.

On September 23 near 9230 Springhill Lane, a suspected fraudulent check transaction was reported.

Theft

On September 21 near 5910 Greenbelt Road, property was stolen.

On September 23 at 10:33 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, merchandise was recovered after a theft from a business. The suspect was cited, arrested and banned from the property.

On September 25 at 12:29 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road,

merchandise was recovered after a theft from a business. The suspect was cited, arrested and banned from the property.

On September 26 at 7:42 a.m. near 6154 Springhill Terrace, a delivered package was stolen from a residence. Video captured two suspects and a lookout was requested.

On September 26 at 10:06 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was observed on camera stealing merchandise from a retail business. He was identified and charges are pending.

On September 26 at 5:21 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, merchandise was stolen from a retail business. The incident was documented and follow-up action was taken.

On September 27 at 2:09 p.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a binder of collectible cards valued at approximately \$1,000 was stolen during an event. Surveillance footage will be examined.

Threats

On September 22 near 7513 Greenbelt Road, someone received threats.

Vandalism

Property damage was reported on September 21 near 135 Crescent Road, and on September 25 near 430 Ridge Road.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Five vehicles were stolen: on September 22 near 7702 Hanover Parkway, a 2018 Toyota Corolla (Md. 1FH0641); on September 23 near 9140 Edmonston Court, a blue 2020 Subaru WRX (Md. 3FM0934); on September 24

near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a Honda Civic (Fla. 89EKIT); on September 25 near 7204 Mathew Street, a black 2024 Chevrolet Equinox (Md. 1GW7141), taken with permission but not returned; and on September 27 near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, a gray 2026 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 3GY6458).

Recovered Stolen Vehicles

On September 25 near 6200 Springhill Drive, officers located a 2015 Mitsubishi Outlander reported stolen in Montgomery County.

On September 26 near 5817 Cherrywood Lane, officers located a 2011 Toyota Camry that had been reported stolen.

Suspicious Autos

On September 21 at 4:35 a.m. near Mandan Road and Mathew Street, officers investigated suspicious activity involving vehicles.

Theft from Auto

On September 23 two vehicles had windows damaged and the airbag stolen, near 5925 Cherrywood Terrace and near 9108 Springhill Lane; additional property was also reported stolen.

Tags were stolen on September 23 near 6968 Hanover Parkway and on September 24 near 6162 Springhill Terrace.

On September 26 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, property was stolen from a vehicle; near 7200 Hanover Drive, all four wheels/tires were removed from a vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

On September 25 near 124 Westway, a 2021 Honda Accord had a broken window and door handle.

Kids vs. Cops Basketball Game A Slam Dunk for Police Outreach

by Peter Kelly



The teams pose together for a picture after the kids took a four-point victory.

Local Greenbelt youth and members of the Greenbelt Police Department took to the hardwood on Thursday, September 24, combining competition and outreach in the 4th annual Kids vs. Cops basketball game.

The team of elementary and middle schoolers pulled out a hard-fought win, 36-32, at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. But children and police officers remained smiling and having fun together long after the game's conclusion, making everyone involved a winner.

The game was a back-and-forth affair. Both teams traded buckets in the first half, and even when the kids stretched their lead to eight in the second period, the officers clawed back and tied things at 32. But two late layups with under 20 seconds to go sealed the win for the kids, their first ever in the event's four-year history.

Justin Taylor-Freeman, 10, said he had a great time playing in the event for the first time after watching the previous three games. "It's fun," Justin said, "but it's hard. It's been three years and now we finally won."

Families and community members came out in droves. Parents filmed their kids and cheered them on, officers not in the game sent friendly jabs at their co-workers and younger children enjoyed ice pops and chips.

"We always have a huge turnout," said Officer Erick Alvarez, the event's organizer. "It helps bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community, building a long-lasting relationship."

Alvarez, who has orchestrated similar police outreach events like dodgeball and soccer games, is in his fifth year with the Greenbelt Police Department. He's part of Greenbelt's Community Action Team, an effort established in 2022 to "dedicate a squad of officers to proactive community policing initiatives within the

city," according to the City of Greenbelt's website.

The event adds to a larger outreach effort by police to engage the community. The game was held in the Franklin Park neighborhood, which has had the most crime of any Greenbelt neighborhood this year, according to monthly crime reports on the city's website, and saw a fatal shooting of a 14-year-old boy last year (see the October 9, 2025 issue). But Andrea Martin, a local woman who's been in Greenbelt for over 30 years, is proud of the direction the city is heading.

"I wish we had this when I was growing up," said Martin. "Even if [the officers] are outside of uniform, the kids know you can actually go to them and have a conversation."

The police department Public Information Officer Rico Dennis pointed out the mindset shift that the program can instill in young children.

"Look, I'm not the boogeyman," said Dennis. "I don't want kids to start seeing police officers and being scared of the police. I'm here to keep you safe."

"The police department enjoys these types of events," Dennis added. "We enjoy having a lot of fun with the young members of our community."

After the game ended, kids flooded the court to receive medals placed on them by the officers. But the game ending didn't mean the fun ended, as the community stayed to enjoy each other's company, with cops sticking around to rebound basketballs for kids or toss a football.

When asked what their favorite part of the event was, everyone interviewed said the same thing: seeing the kids smile. And luckily, there were plenty of smiles to go around.

Peter Kelly is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



Justin Taylor-Freeman, 10, takes a shot during Thursday's game.

- Photos by Peter Kelly



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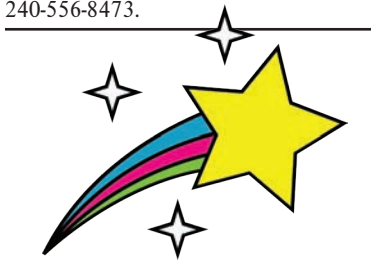
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Sports

It's Raining Goals: Raiders Inundate Parkdale Defense

by Patrick Gleason

The weekend deluge continued on Monday afternoon but instead of rain, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) girls soccer teams provided goals. The contests at Parkdale High School ended in commanding fashion – an 8-0 triumph for the varsity squad followed by a 7-0 win for junior varsity. Junior Morgan Parks highlighted the varsity victory with a hat trick, including the final goal in the last three minutes. However, teammates Camila Motolinia and Emery Gregory tallied the game's prettiest goals. Motolinia one-touched Julia Visnic's pass and the shot followed a perfect parabola into the goal's far left corner. Gregory matched that beauty, ripping a second-half shot over the keeper's arms into the right side-netting. While junior Sofia Holzer started the scoring by capitalizing on a penalty kick in the first half,

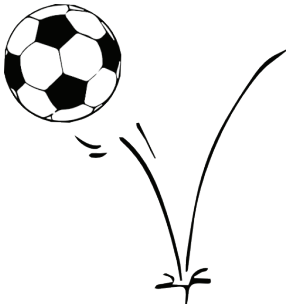
sophomore Mia Moore and senior captain Ariana Cruz also found the net in the second half. Visnic finished the afternoon with two assists, joined by Gregory and fullbacks Naomi Petralia and Kyn-dall Hogans. The victory added to the Raider streak of five straight shutouts, after they dominated their matchup with Wise High School on Thursday, September 24.

Against Parkdale, the junior varsity game followed in similar fashion with freshman Antonia Troncoso-Roldan emulating Motolinia's goal – another distance strike above a goalkeeper's outstretched hands. Freshmen classmates Gwem Ateghang and Solveig Brown added to the scoring fest for the Raiders. As the evening ended, the weekend clouds persisted, despite the Raiders' shine.



Camila Motolinia and Jocelyn Lopez Tirado converse during the Raider victory over Wise on September 24.

- Photos by Ethan James



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Senior Ariana Cruz captains the 6-1 ERHS Raiders, who will host Bladensburg for Senior Night on Thursday, October 1 at 5:30 p.m.

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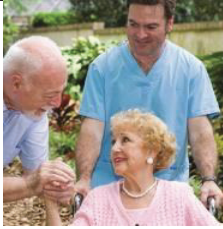
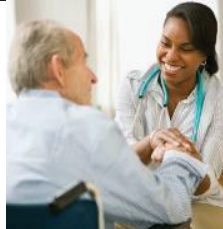
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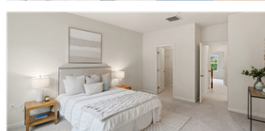
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Greenbelt Blues Festival 2026



Tina’s Blues Fun YogaMix kicked off the 23rd Greenbelt Blues Festival on Saturday, September 26 before rain moved performers inside the New Deal Café.



“The sky is crying,” sang blues artist Elmore James in 1959, and so it was last weekend, forcing the Greenbelt Blues Festival to move inside to the New Deal Café. A few hardy souls bundled up and ate outside anyway.



Lucie and Luna Blues perform at the Greenbelt Blues Festival.



Rained out



Photograph & Story Submissions

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

NR This \$23 ad won't get you to Mars but Greenbelt has more shoppers.

www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com



A Public Works crew hard at work finishing recent work on the pavement in front of the Mother and Child statue in advance of the festival.



WE'RE SISTERS!!! ADOPT US!!



Sweet and affectionate Blippi and Ms Rachel (pink collar) are just waiting to join a loving home.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

ADOPT US!!! CUDDLY AND SOFT!!



Violet (female, gray) and Pearl (female, black torti) love to cuddle and purr. These darling girls need forever homes!



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

WE'RE READY!!! WE NEED HOMES!!



Winken (female-mostly gray), Blinken (male-gray nose), and Nod (male-pink nose) are old enough to be adopted. Nod is sweet and affectionate. He's a purring machine. Blinken is high energy and full of play, Winken is laid back. Each is in need of a forever home. Their mom is also available for adoption.



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.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

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

GREENBELT CUTIES!!



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



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

Greenbelters Travel



Carol Slatin peruses the News Review while waiting for the Monterey Aquarium to open in Monterey, Calif.



Maggi and Gilbert Gray at the Ben Dinh Tunnel in Cu Chi District of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

