

Recreation summer camps, p.16



Winston Taylor retires, p.7

Left on the Curb: PGCPs Hears From Parents and Bus Drivers

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Director of Transportation Keba Baldwin stepped down following what parents across the district reported as a disastrous first week for school transportation, which also saw the crash of the county's bus tracking app, Chipmunk, on the first day. The backdrop for much reporting on transportation issues were lines of cars and buses at the newly co-located Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) and Robert Goddard Montessori schools, where traffic sometimes stretched along Good Luck Road during the first week. Parents from DKFI also filled the school board meeting last week to share



A bus tries to exit while an SUV and police car drive against the traffic and another car drives on the sidewalk where students are walking, all on the single access road leading to DKFI and Robert Goddard.

PHOTO BY JASON ANDREW

already problematic according to Robert Goddard parents. While in Greenbelt, DKFI split dismissals across a loop on Edmonston for older students and Greenbelt Road for younger ones and traffic still caused lines on surrounding streets around bell times. Since the announcement of co-location, the school communities repeatedly raised concerns about the single in-and-out road serving the two schools and a bus lot. At prior meetings, PGCPS administrators told families an additional entrance or exit at the

See **SCHOOL BUSES**, page 10

their concerns.

DKFI and Goddard Co-location

In preparation for approximately 700 DKFI students, two-story modular classrooms were constructed at the Goddard campus. But no apparent changes were made to accommodate the increase in traffic, which was

City Agenda Moves on Armory, Tenant Rights and Carbon

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council's regular August 10 meeting provided multiple steps forward and some lively moments. Ending with something of a shouting match, it also made progress toward resolving the disposition of the armory and the implementation of a tenant advisory board. Leaf blowers, murals, trucks, compost and the new school year also made appearances in an agenda that didn't quite fit into the two-hour limit on meeting length, with council declining to extend the meeting.

Armory Progress

Earlier this year, after the AMAR Group assessed the armory's state and recommended the building be demolished, and after several public meetings, three options were proposed, of which the municipal mixed-use option was preferred.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver described this consensus on the use of the acquisition in requesting the city to move forward with a feasibility study. Councilmembers Amy Knesel and Frankie Fritz echoed the need for a realistic, practical plan. Mayor Emmett Jordan felt that support was stronger for retail or housing use than for municipal facilities but wanted to initiate an application for a demolition grant given it might take a few tries to succeed. He also felt more consult-

ing assistance might be needed to refine the plan.

Resident Frank Gervasi, who had spoken to the topic earlier, spoke in favor of the study but wanted to use the facility to celebrate the New Deal heritage of the city, pointing out a current glut of office space in the city, with a large percentage of vacancies.

The feasibility study motion passed, with Jordan voting against because he felt the first-listed item (municipal building offices) was not the preferred alternative. The vote was taken against a background of vociferous protests by resident Bill Orleans, whose comments had been declared off topic.

Tenant Advisory Board

Councilmember Jenni Pompei proposed setting up a tenant board of seven members, each for one-year terms, in an advisory capacity to concern themselves with issues relating to rental properties in the city. Pompei stated it was partly a question of civic engagement – tenants are the majority of residents, but they aren't on boards and they vote less often. Councilmembers are frequently contacted by unhappy renters.

She sees the tenant board as connecting council with the renter community to understand what the city can implement to serve them. Its purpose is to strengthen

communications among tenants, landlords and the city. She feels that tenants now feel powerless

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

GDC Purchases 121 Centerway

On Wednesday, August 26, the Board of Directors of the Greenbelt Development Corporation (GDC), a subsidiary of Greenbelt Homes Inc., announced their purchase of 121 Centerway, the building that houses the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (the grocery store and pharmacy) and the Greenbelt Arts Center.

What Goes On

Monday, September 7

Labor Day Holiday: No City Council Meeting, City Offices Closed

Wednesday, September 9

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Discussion, Municipal Building and via Zoom

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

Sunday and Monday Schedule For Greenbelt Labor Day Festival

by Greenbelt News Review Staff



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Snyder's Attractions installs Labor Day Festival carnival rides on September 1.

Greenbelt's beloved Labor Day Festival, running Friday, September 4, through Monday, September 7, offers fun and activities for every age and interest. Carnival rides, bingo, food, sporting events, music performances, the big parade and more will take place over a long weekend forecast to cool from this week's heat to be comfortably in the 80s.

This article focuses on getting the most out of Sunday and Monday offerings at the Festival. (We presented the Friday and Saturday schedule last week. For the full

out program with the full schedule, see the August 27 issue.)

Sunday, September 6

For morning and cycling enthusiasts, the Tour De Greenbelt bike ride has two stages. The first leaves at 9 a.m. from the New Deal Café and heads to Greenbelt Station. The second leg leaves from the New Deal Café around 10 a.m. and finishes at Schrom Hills Park. Make sure to bring a bike and a helmet.

Braden Field hosts events for

See **FESTIVAL**, page 4

County Exec Office Stonewalls School Board Vacancy Questions

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt and other District 2 parents have begun the new school year sharing the system-wide challenges but, additionally, without a Board of Education representative. They don't know when they can expect one. The vacancy and application process do not appear to have been advertised, which raises questions about whether the timing could bestow an incumbent advantage on the person picked by County Executive Aisha Braveboy, just ahead of the election. The process has also raised issues of transparency in the county, particularly from a county executive's office that has not responded to questions from the media nor complied with the Greenbelt News Review's public information act request, which the office was legally required to answer within 30 days.

District 2 Vacancy and Appointment

As we reported in the July 22 issue, former representative Jonathan Briggs, who was also vice chair of the board, resigned suddenly and without explanation. His resignation was effective June 30 according to a letter from Board of Education Chair Brannndon Jackson to the county executive, which was obtained by the Greenbelt News Review

via a Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) request to the school board. Constituents and principals were not informed of his departure until July 20, when the Greenbelt News Review sent queries to Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) about why constituents had not been notified (see the July 22 issue). The only PGCPS announcement came in a chair's report during the July 9 board meeting, which was two days after the county executive's office closed the application period for a replacement. In our reporting in the July 30 issue, we noted that the window for applications for a 2025 school board vacancy was twice the length of the window for applications following Briggs' resignation and that the call for applications in 2025 was advertised, including through social media.

Unanswered Request

The News Review filed an MPIA request with the county executive's office on July 24, which should legally compel a response.

The county executive's office failed to acknowledge the News Review's MPIA request or provide the required 10-day initial response. After 30 days, the legally

See **VACANCY**, page 15

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.

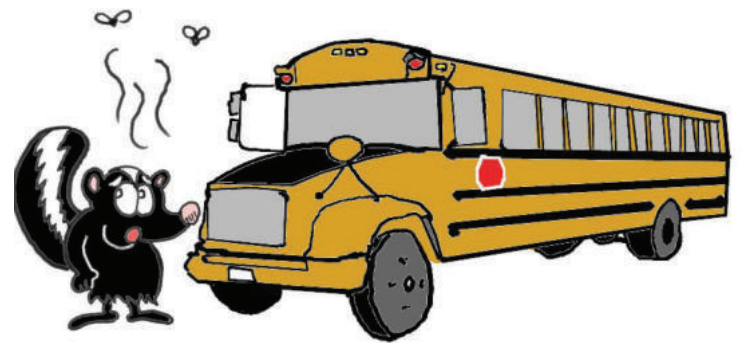
Letters to the Editor

Thoughts on the PGCPSTransportation Situation

The awful Prince George’s County Public Schools transportation situation inspired me to write in verse (probably the worst).
Too bad so many parents were put in a huge funk
By a lousy little app with the name of Chipmunk
Can’t begin to tell you how much that really stunk!
Wouldn’t it be better to rename it “Big Skunk”?
Germaine Timmermans

Make Ballot Choice

Between the unwarranted attacks by elected leaders on vote-by-mail (VBM) and the terrible service we get from the Greenbelt Post Office, I am surely not the only Greenbelt voter who would prefer to vote in person this year instead of through my usual VBM ballot.
Greenbelters can undo their request for a VBM ballot by contacting Prince George’s County Board of Elections at its website (elections.mypgc.us) or by emailing election@co.pg.md.us. They should do it soon if they want to make sure their ballot is counted.
Mary Conley



- Pete Reppert

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Marching Band

A world-famous orchestra conductor discovers the brother he never knew he had – a school cafeteria worker who plays trombone in a local marching band. Detecting his brother’s exceptional musical talent, he takes it upon himself to rectify the injustice of fate. An equally hilarious and affecting crowd-pleaser, the film premiered at Cannes and became a French box office sensation starring Benjamin Lavernhe (My Donkey, My Lover & I) and Pierre Lottin (The Stranger). Said New York Times critic Lisa Kennedy, “The Marching Band builds to a conclusion that is solemn and celebratory, with a flourish that is winkingly martial and unexpectedly tender.”

Minions and Monsters

This is the rambunctious, ridiculous and totally true story of how the Minions conquered Hollywood, became movie stars, lost everything, unleashed monsters onto the world and then banded together to try and save the planet from the mayhem they had just created.

Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma

After years of slapdash sequels and waning fandom, the Camp Miasma slasher franchise is handed over to an enthusiastic young director (Hannah Einbinder, Hacks) for resurrection. But when she visits the original movie’s star (Gillian Anderson, The X-Files), a now-reclusive actress shrouded in mystery, the two women fall into a blood-soaked world of desire, fear and delirium.

Steel Magnolias

Dolly Parton, Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis, Shirley MacLaine and Daryl Hannah star as a group of friends who encounter tragedy and good fortune over the years, growing stronger and closer in the process.

Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan

As Adm. James T. Kirk (William Shatner) and Capt. Spock (Leonard Nimoy) monitor trainees at Starfleet Academy, another vessel from the United Federation of Planets is about to try out the planet-creating Genesis Device in a seemingly deserted portion of space. In the process, two of Kirk’s officers are captured by Khan (Ricardo Montalban), an enemy Kirk thought he’d never see again. Once more, Kirk takes the Enterprise’s helm, where he meets Khan’s ship in an intergalactic showdown.



Corrections

The following are corrections to the Labor Day pullout in last week’s issue:
The American Legion picnic on Monday will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. (not 2 to 4 p.m.)
The Michael D. Maxwell Jr. Foundation for Mental Awareness is also a Patron at the \$500+ level.



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 4th - 10th

Marching Band
(NR) (2024) (103 mins)
French with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 5:00 PM (OC)
Tues. 3:55 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:20 PM
Sat. 5:20 PM
Mon. 5:30 PM
Wed. 4:25 PM
Thurs. 5:20 PM

Minions and Monsters (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (89 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:20 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:20 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC)
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 2:50 PM
Tues. 4:25 PM

Teenage Sex and Death
at Camp Miasma
(R) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (112 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:55 PM
Sat. 7:55 PM
Sun. 3:00 PM, 5:30 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:50 PM

Steel Magnolias
(PG) (CC) (DVS) (1989) (118 mins)
Cinema Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Star Trek II:
The Wrath of Khan
(PG) (1982) (113 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Tues. 7:00 PM



Pete Reppert

- News Review, August 30, 2018

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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- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.
MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year
Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center’s east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

All Prince George’s County libraries will be closed Sunday, September 6 and Monday, September 7 for Labor Day. 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.

Storytimes

Tuesday, September 8, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16918621.

Wednesday, September 9, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16918579.

Thursday, September 10, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16918712.

Come for stories, songs, fingerplays and more. This engaging activity nurtures early literacy and sparks creativity, making it an unforgettable experience for little ones.

Play and Grow

Wednesday, September 9, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the Prince George’s County Public Schools Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community children. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is for interest only and not a guarantee of space. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16911532.

Craft and Create

Thursday, September 10, 2 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Sketching is a great gateway into art as a form of creative expression. Come with a sketchbook or use our materials. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16874676.

Ice Cream Social

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is hosting an end-of-summer ice cream social on Thursday, September 10 from 6 to 7 p.m. on the New Deal Café patio, so come have a sweet frozen treat on them. The club thanks the Café for making their space available. The Café will be open, so feel free to order a meal from the Café and join the Rotarians for dessert. The Greenbelt Rotary Club meets every Thursday at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m.



More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Chess Club September Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, September 8, 15 and 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.



September Is Greenbelt Photography Month

What is so special about Greenbelt in the month of September? Is it the way we celebrate Labor Day with our iconic four-day Festival? Or maybe the way we celebrate Peace Month. Sports. Fall activities. This year we will be gearing up for very important mid-term elections. All this plus everyday life. Family. Friends. Getting the kids back into the school groove. Getting back into the work groove after the hot lazy days of summer.

Help the Greenbelt Photo Club document the Greenbelt in September experience by taking photos and uploading them to their submission site at forms.gle/3KpDYXbj48dQt6VR8. Use any camera that can be digitally uploaded. No AI modified photos, and sign a consent release for identifiable subjects in private spaces. Release forms are available on their site as well where detailed rules and regulations are available.

A curated collection will be published in a book to benefit the Greenbelt Museum in the following year with an expected exhibition in places like the New Deal Café.

Kickoff will be on Saturday’s Information Day at the Labor Day Festival, where the club will have a booth, lots of information and Mayor Emmett Jordan is expected to read a proclamation.

Don’t wait. Start shooting and send the best five shots of September.

Français, s’il Vous Plaît New Fall Locations

Beginning September 3, the French conversation group that meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. will meet the first Thursday of every month at the New Deal Café. The rest of the Thursday meetings will be held in Room 109 of the Community Center.

All ages and all levels of proficiency are welcome.



National Hunger Month: Greenbelt PORCH Responds

Our shared commitment to community-powered hunger relief is invaluable as Greenbelt PORCH continues to grow and deepen its impact. The community’s generosity is helping ensure that our neighbors have access to the food and support they deserve.

The Greenbelt PORCH food collection schedule for September is listed below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Saturday, September 12 – by 4 p.m. at 23 and 24 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, September 13 – by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Sunday, September 20 – by 3 p.m. for Boxwood Village

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.

Sunday, September 20 – by 4 p.m. for 33 Court Ridge

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 6 p.m. for 14 Court Ridge and 10 Court Southway

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

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

Golden Age Club

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

The following is the schedule for the rest of September:

September 9, Speaker: La Vergne Andre, podiatry (foot structure/foot problems)

September 16, Birthday Luncheon (bring a dish to share)

September 23, Bingo

September 30, Speaker: Sharon McCraney (seated exercise and short meditation after)

Playground Plogging Labor Day Weekend

Plogging is a wacky way of saying “picking up litter while you jog or walk,” invented by Swedish outdoorsman and environmentalist Erik Ahlström. The word plogging comes from plocka, the Swedish word for pick up. Plogging is an ecofriendly and healthy exercise. It is an opportunity to take action and help prevent water pollution by cleaning up litter from streams and stormwater ponds.

On Labor (of love) Day Weekend – Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7 – Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) initiative, will be cleaning up the approximately 40 city playgrounds across Greenbelt, making them safe and sparkly. Those interested should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com and let him know where they’ll be plogging or ask where ploggers are needed, so as to coordinate efforts and spread the wealth of community engagement.

Question for GHI Bicycle Owners

The GHI Bicycle Committee has been looking into renting a garage within GHI for members to store their bicycles during the winter months and/or all year. Details to be outlined, pending an indication of residents’ interest.

If this interests you, send an email to bmangum@ghi.coop or jbelltower@yahoo.com.

Storytelling Craft At Artful Afternoon

Guests of all ages are invited to create a storytelling collage at a free Artful Afternoon on Sunday, September 13 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The workshop will be led by artist Melissa Sites.

All supplies will be provided, but visitors should feel free to bring their own photos, paper or other keepsakes to include. Sign up at sugeni.us/eylm. Walk-ins will be welcome as space and supplies permit.

September 13 is National Grandparents Day, so participants may wish to invite a loved one. City of Greenbelt Arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

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.



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

TH 9/03	FRI 9/04	SAT 9/05	SUN 9/06	
Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm A big, bodacious, boogie blues jam hosted by Wolf Crescenze	GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL MauviIN Graye & The Grayeline Band 8 - 11pm Funk-in-Roll and Hip-Hop Soul	GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL Zydeco Zed 8 - 11pm East Coast roots band blending many influences	GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL The Nighthawks 6 - 8pm Mixing blues, R&B, honky tonk and rockabilly into one delicious stew	
MON 9/07	TUES 9/08	WED 9/09	TH 9/10	New Deal Cafe
GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL DC LABOR CHORUS 2 - 4pm	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	Jay Bellamy [FIRST SOLO SHOW] 7 - 9pm A Greenbelt mainstay plays originals and covers	Swampgrass 7 - 9pm Energetic, vibrant & DC-based plays bluegrass to rock to progressive songs	RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

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

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television

+ September 2026 +

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

GATE's Camcorder Essentials Course (3 Hours): Saturday, Sept. 12th from 1pm to 4pm at GATE's Studio (15 Crescent, Suite 204).
The class is now free and open to the public, but seats are limited.
Email greenbeltaccess@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

+ 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!



Call for Festival Art Gallery Volunteers

Greenbelt Recreation Arts invites high school students and adults to volunteer at the Community Center art gallery during the Labor Day Festival. Help greet visitors and provide a welcoming atmosphere. The featured exhibition is an exciting show of large-scale figurative collages by artist James Stephen Terrell. Gallery hours will align with the Festival's Art and Photo Shows happening nearby in the gym. Volunteer time slots are relatively short; stop by before enjoying the Festival or take a break from the heat. No experience necessary, just reliability, a friendly demeanor and enthusiasm for the art. (The exhibition is currently open daily; feel free to stop by for a preview.) Service credit is available for participating students. Sign up to volunteer at sugeni.us/U2bn.

Bring Furry or Scaly Friends To Pet Show

Is your pet special? Girl Scout Troop 23007 invites Greenbelters to bring a pet to the annual Labor Day Festival Pet Show on Saturday, September 5. Dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, lizards, guinea pigs, rats, snakes and more – all types and sizes of pets are welcome. Meet on the Community Center lawn, rain or shine. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Presentations to share what is wonderful about your pet start at 10 a.m., with award certificates for everyone to follow. Give your special friends the recognition they deserve.



Bicyclists Invited to Join Labor Day Parade

The GHI Bicycle Committee invites cyclists of all ages to participate in this year's Greenbelt Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 7, 9 a.m., meet-up location TBA.

In addition to the Parade, on the day before, Sunday, September 6 beginning at 1 p.m., the committee will sponsor a bike decorating party at the GHI building, 1 Hamilton Place. Decorations will be provided or bring your own. Then show off your decorating skills in the Parade.

To get an idea of how many cyclists they'll have, email bmangum@ghi.coop.

This is the first time the GHI Bicycle Committee will participate. Make it a great showing of cyclists, young and young at heart. Sign up today and prepare to saddle up.

Be advised that all participants must wear helmets.



FESTIVAL continued from page 1

all ages: the egg spoon race starts at 10 a.m., the sack race at 10:30 a.m. and the water relay at 11:30 a.m. Over in Roosevelt Center, the renowned Craft Fair begins at 11 a.m. and runs until 7 p.m.

At the Museum House, the Retro Town Fair will accept entries of flowers, vegetables, baked goods, canned goods and needlework/sewing from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and then display the entries with their winning ribbons from 1 to 4 p.m. Tours of the Museum's historic house run from 1 to 5 p.m. on the half hour.

At 11 a.m. on the main stage, a memorial gathering will be held to honor loved ones who died in the past year. Then, join a family-friendly drum circle, sponsored by One True Pole, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Drums and hand-held percussion instruments are provided or participants can bring their own.

At noon, the food trucks, booths, book sale and bingo open for the day, and run until 10 p.m.

From 12:15 to 1 p.m., Katy & the Gongs play classic rock to dance and drum along with.

At 1 p.m., children's bingo in the Youth Center and the cornhole tournament (for 12 and older) at Braden Field begin. Then, at 2 p.m. in the Youth Center, the youth table tennis tournament gets rolling.

From 1:15 to 2:45 p.m., woodwind specialist Seth Kibel performs at the stage.

In the Community Center gym, the Art Show and Photo Show feature local artists and photographers from 1 to 6 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to participate in voting for favorites. A performance by the Greenbelt Orchestra & Concert Band small ensembles will accompany the event.

The Rising Stars Performance Showcase offers local performers a chance to display their talent from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Then Greenbelt Honk! Situation takes the stage from 5:30 to 7 p.m., offering their unique blend of tied-dyed brass and drums musicians playing funk, pop and street band favorites.

To close out the musical evening, The Nowhere Men and their powerhouse horn section offer songs from artists like Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Chicago and more.



Monday, September 7

The annual Labor Day Parade begins at 10 a.m. Led by the Grand Marshal (the 2026 Outstanding Citizen) and the Greenbelt Police Department Color Guard, and including the DuVal High School marching band, a variety of musical groups, all manner of local community organizations and more, the Parade will honor the city's community spirit. The Parade route runs along Crescent Road, from Greenhill Road to the reviewing stand at the intersection with Southway, ending about noon.

At 11 a.m., the booths, rides and bingo open until 6 p.m. From noon to 6 p.m., the Craft Fair continues at Roosevelt Center. The Art and Photo Shows will be open from noon to 4 p.m.

After the Parade, from noon to 2 p.m., Luncheon on the Lawn will be held at Greenbelt Community Church (corner of Hillside and Crescent Roads), with BBQ sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans and more available for purchase. At the other side of Greenbelt Center, the Greenbelt American Legion Family Picnic offers food and activities for children and adults from 1 to 3 p.m. From 2 to 4 p.m., the Arts Advisory Board hosts a mixer with local artists and art supporters in the Community Center Art Gallery.

The stage holds numerous events throughout the evening. At 12:15 p.m., Griefcat, a genre-defying musical comedy duo will make listeners laugh, cry and question their life choices, all in a single chorus. Award presentations for the Art and Photo Shows as well as Parade entries begin at 1:45 p.m. At 2 p.m., Supernational Sound System presents hip-moving rhythms and soul-soothing melodies.

From 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the stage, 11-member musical crew Chopteeth Afrofunk Big Band plays classic highlife, afrobeat and other sounds from Africa's 1970s heyday to close out the Festival.

Story & Photograph Submissions

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



Congratulations to Winston Taylor on his retirement from GHI.

Happy Labor Day to all.

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



Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattummc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattummc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

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



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd

cathcomgreenbelt.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic
Intentional Eucharistic
Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

"Love ye all religions and all races with a love that is true and sincere and show that love through deeds..."

– 'Abdu'l-Bahá

 **Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**
www.greenbeltbahais.org

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

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

JOIN **MISHKAN TORAH**
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HIGH HOLIDAYS
5787/2026

 **Warm, welcoming, inclusive, and familial**
Learn more and register by scanning the QR code or visiting MishkanTorah.org



Mishkan Torah Congregation
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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

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10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770





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

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.





City Information & Events

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

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 7-11

Monday, September 7, **NO MEETING - LABOR DAY**

Tuesday, September 8 at 3 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES - Public Works Facility**

Wednesday, September 9 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION- Council Chambers**

Thursday, September 10 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD - Council Chambers**

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.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NO. 2134
LANHAM BOYS CLUB

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, a municipal corporation, has initiated legislative action to annex into the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt lands contiguous and adjoining to the city's existing corporate boundaries, as described below:

A Charter Amendment Resolution of the City Council of Greenbelt Enlarging the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Greenbelt By Annexing Into The Corporate Limits of the City of Greenbelt Lands Contiguous and Adjoining to the City's Existing Corporate Boundaries Property Commonly Known As Lanham Boys Club, Consisting Of Approximately 10 +/- Acres of Land In Total Located Generally at the Lanham Boys Club.

The annexation resolution was initiated by the City Council pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, Local Government Article, § 4-403.

The exact legal description and annexation plan for the above Annexation Area are available online at www.greenbeltmd.gov/news, or may be reviewed in person at the City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 200, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed annexation on **September 14, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.**, in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing.

Written comments may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in advance to the City Clerk, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

HELP US 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.

RETRO TOWN FAIR

Sunday, September 6, 1-4 pm

Greenbelt Museum, 10A & 10B Crescent Road

Please fill out the Greenbelt Museum's Retro Town Fair Registration Form at www.greenbeltmd.gov/retrotownfair. Drop off all entries on Sunday, September 6 between 10-11:30 am at 10A Crescent Road and pick up all items by 5 pm!

Please check off category/categories you are entering. Only two entries per person per category, please.

Questions? Contact Sheila Maffay-Tuthill via email at education@greenbeltmuseum.org.

GREENBELT STORYWALK COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY

In Collaboration with the Prince George's County Library System and the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) is gathering community feedback to help inform a recommendation to City Council about the future of the StoryWalk. Your responses are anonymous and will help us understand how the community values this resource.

Take the survey at <https://forms.office.com/r/mLfbDhbkPA>.

Greenbelt Recreation Presents

Labor Day Weekend

FREE EVENTS ALL WEEKEND!

Friday September 4

6:00 pm Adult Table Tennis Tournament (18 & over)

Saturday September 5

10:00 am Diaper Derby for Crawlers & Toddlers (3 & under)

10:45 am Balloon Waddle Race (all ages)

11:15 am Water balloon Toss (all ages)

11:45 am Pie Eating Contest (all ages)

1:00 pm Photo Scavenger Hunt (all ages)

2:00 pm Hotshot (12 & under)

3:30 pm 2 Ball Tournament (16 & older)

Sunday September 6

10:00 am Egg Spoon Race (all ages)

10:30 am Sack Race (all ages)

11:00 am 3 Legged Race (all ages)

11:30 am Water Relay (all ages)

1:00 pm Cornhole Tournament (12 & older)

1:00 pm Children's Bingo (12 & under)

2:00 pm Youth Table Tennis Tournament (17 & under)

3:30 pm 3-Point Contest (ages 13-17)

GREENBELT STANDPIPE REHABILITATION PROJECT

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Monday, September 14 at 6:30 pm

WSSC Water invites Greenbelt residents to a virtual community meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026, to receive an update on the Greenbelt Standpipe Rehabilitation Project.

WSSC Water representatives will provide an update on the project's progress and discuss topics including environmental monitoring, construction activities, and upcoming work. Residents will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

Meeting details and access information will be shared by WSSC Water prior to the meeting.



GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Thursday, September 17, 1 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

The Monthly Food Distribution is a community resource here for you, your family, your neighbors - everyone!

ADDITIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, September 8, 11 am - 4 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

Please don't forget to bring your CAFB card! Don't have one? You can sign-up for a free card same-day and receive food. Registration required: <https://forms.gle/YWnhAmdeXsK91HRi6>



EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, September 8, 11 am - 4 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

Helping our community access essential diaper products!

For Greenbelt residents only.

A new registration is required for each monthly distribution: <https://forms.gle/H2KsdhZAPQst7ZKn7>

THE PINK PANTRY

Tuesday, September 8, 11 am - 4 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

Helping our community access essential menstrual products!

For more information or to register contact Cesar Herrera: (202) 891-8071. Registration required.



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

* 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

Call for Volunteer Gallery Greeters 9/5-9/7.

Enjoy the featured exhibit and help facilitate hands-on activities in the Art Gallery at the Greenbelt Community Center during the Labor Day Festival! High school students and adults welcome. Sign up online: sugeni.us/U2bn.

September Artful Afternoon 9/13, 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center.) Create a storytelling collage with artist Melissa Sites. All supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own photos, paper or other keepsakes to include. Sign up at: sugeni.us/eylm.

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
- 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.

Registration required for the below activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details

- Embellished Jeans** 9/16-10/7, 6-8pm (Greenbelt Community Center) pg 29.
- Friends & Family: Felted Fall Garland** 9/18, 5:30-7pm (Greenbelt Community Center) pg 22

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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

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



Roman’s Journey Begins

by Joan Estenson



Three guests at the launch party pose with a cardboard cutout of Nancy Grace Roman.

The weather cooperated and everything checked out, allowing the Nancy Grace Roman telescope to begin its mission right on time at 7:26 a.m. on Sunday, August 30 from the Kennedy Space Center. It was lifted into space by a SpaceX rocket.

There were 147 people in attendance at the launch party at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), the perfect place to watch the event since the telescope was built at Goddard and the mission will be coordinated there for the duration. Some of the attendees had worked on the project at some time.

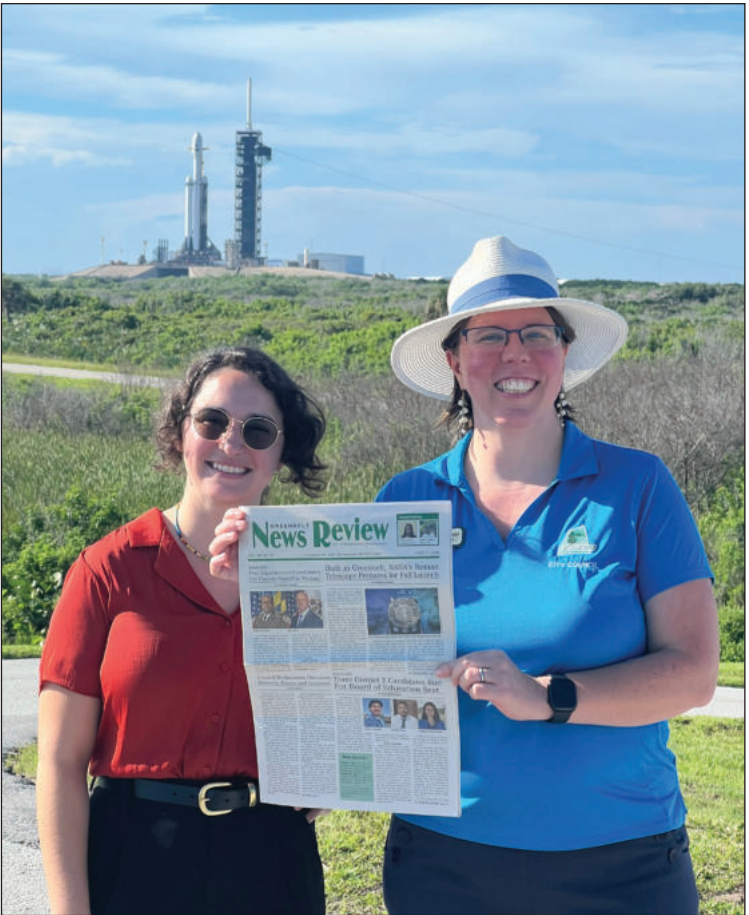
Many children were in the audience, and while they were too young to decide for sure what they want to be when they grow up, perhaps being at the launch party will inspire them.

A bonus sight, which drew gasps and applause from the audience, was watching one of the booster rockets land. It came down vertically, slowly in an assigned spot, and just before touching down three legs lowered. It landed gently without a wobble. This landing was developed within the last decade.

Data transmission from Roman is expected to start in December.



Guests watch the launch in the GSFC auditorium.



Heather Mortimer, left, and Kristen Weaver brought along related reading material to attend the August 30 launch of Goddard’s Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. The telescope is inside the fairing atop a Falcon Heavy rocket at Kennedy Space Center, shown in this photo taken the day before launch.



Dialogue Hones Final Greenbelt Reparations Commission Report

by Lynne Slater

The Greenbelt Reparations Commission met Sunday, August 30, to review its work in preparation for its report to council early next year. In an intense four-hour session, kicked off by Mayor Emmett Jordan and led by Lois Rosado and Denise Nadasen, the commissioners recognized their accomplishments and identified the gaps still to be filled. Established by voter referendum in November 2021, the commission created subcommittees to explore historical discrimination and population data in Greenbelt. They hired a consultant to analyze the contemporary impacts. With the information in hand, they assessed harms done to African Americans and Native Americans, then developed recommendations for reparation remedies.

In a June 27 Town Hall Meeting focused on African American issues, the commission presented draft reparations and remedies primarily concerning housing and education (see the July 2 issue). In the interim, the commissioners have synthesized the feedback they received and sharpened their recommendations to align with the Ogletree Reporative Bar Association (ORBA) guidelines, which are outlined in Designing Constitutionally Durable Reparations Programs. According to ORBA, reparations should be targeted to specifically identified populations where harm has been demonstrated — for example, a Greenbelt population could be descendants of persons who were enslaved on land where the city now exists. In addition, the remedy should match an identified harm. The commission has asked that its draft reparations not be shared at this time and they have not been reviewed by the Greenbelt News Review.

The commissioners opened the floor for a discussion of gaps in the draft report to council. In an orderly brainstorming session, the group identified over 20 issues that still need attention. Most of the items were sent to committees to be worked on. Several of the more difficult topics were flagged for large group discussion:

- The need to be direct about racism in the report
- Is Greenbelt united?
- What is the framework for healing?

These were not easy conversations. There were no conclusions, but groundwork was developed for future discussions in subcommittee. One thing that was readily apparent to this reporter is that the commissioners listened to each other. In their three and a



The Greenbelt Reparations Commission met Sunday, August 30, to review its work in preparation for its report to council early next year.

half years together, they have not only been shaping a consensus on reparations, they are also creating a profound culture of respect and cooperation within a culturally diverse group.



From left: Judyann Glazener, Marilyn Pula, Connie Davis and Becky Rackis visit the Stone Cottage on the Eleanor Roosevelt Homestead in Hyde Park, N.Y., on August 1. Behind the group is a picture of Eleanor and her collaborators preparing the newsletter Women’s Democratic News.



Eleanor, in collaboration with Marion Dickerman, Nancy Cook and Caroline O’Day, published a newsletter, Women’s Democratic News, to chronicle efforts of the Women’s Division of the New York State Democratic Committee. A plaque in the newspaper display case states, “Eleanor believed that women would influence the future from a position of strength and unity.”

Beginner Scottish Country Dance Class

Wear soft-soled shoes.

Sept 15 – Nov 17, 2026

Tuesdays: 7:30 – 9:15 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Dance Studio

15 Crescent Rd; Greenbelt, MD

\$50 for 9 weeks (1st class free)

No partner required.

Email: greenbelt-scd@rscds-greaterdc.org

Website: rscds-greaterdc.org/

Kick Gas

Go Electric



What:

Greenbelt’s 5th Annual Electric Vehicle Event

Free Admission

When:

Sun., 9/13, 12 Noon-3pm

Where:

In the Greenbelt Library parking lot

Talk with local Electric Vehicle (EV) owners

See their cars and ask about their EV experiences, EV costs, driving and charging an EV, types of EV chargers, etc.

* If you are an EV owner, and would like to show your vehicle or talk to visitors, please email John Lippert <ecolivingmag@aol.com>

This Event is sponsored by Greenbelt’s Green Team & the City of Greenbelt.



Green ACES

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

Winston Taylor, Outstanding GHI Horticulturist, Retires

by Carol Griffith

Winston Taylor, a horticulturist and green infrastructure expert, retired from Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) on August 27 after 29 years of service, many as team leader of the grounds crew. Taylor began as a groundskeeper with GHI in August 1997, following a life-altering medical condition that forced him to leave his position with the Washington, D.C. government.

He became interested in the two rain gardens that GHI undertook to construct in 2006 with grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, near 33 Court Ridge Road (across from Hamilton Place) for the purpose of diverting and handling the runoff created by a block of concrete garages. Taylor, then the lead groundskeeper, worked closely with the GHI maintenance department on the design and construction of the rain gardens. He studied in his spare time to increase his knowledge of the types of plants appropriate for each of the rain gardens and designed and oversaw the installations of the plantings.

GHI received a second Chesapeake Bay Trust grant to construct another rain garden to divert and manage runoff from the parking lot at 6 Court Plateau Place in 2007. Taylor, in coordination with the engineering firm designing the parking lot revision, designed and installed the green infrastructure component of the stormwater management system. He undertook the design and installation of 35 native trees and shrubs, 900 wildflower and grass plugs and created the berms that prevent runoff from the garden in heavy rain.

Taylor was joined by GHI member Beth Kuser Olsen, a retired professor and research scientist at the University of Maryland and author of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community Guide to Assessing Non-Tidal Flood Impacts in Maryland, in a GHI-led volunteer-staff collaboration to continue maintenance of the Plateau Place rain garden.

Taylor said his favorite part of his job at GHI was working with members on ways to improve their yards with measures to handle runoff and by adding plantings. His vast knowledge, gentle manner and smile made him popular with GHI members. He is most proud of the rain gardens and that they have drawn international visitors to Greenbelt to study their construction.

He plans to retire to his home in Barbados where he is eagerly anticipating a new garden of fruit trees, vegetables and herbs.

Kuser Olsen stated, “Winston has extensive institutional knowledge of horticultural practices and green-gray stormwater management projects. He has an incredible depth of knowledge in these areas of expertise. In addition, his level of efficiency when completing tasks is truly enviable and his great sense of humor makes working with him a joy. He will be greatly missed here at GHI.”



Winston Taylor cares for one of the GHI rain gardens.



Beth Kuser Olsen and Taylor during their collaboration in the care of the rain garden at 6 Court Plateau Place.



- Photos by Beth Kuser Olsen

Council Moves to Single Legislative Consultant with Biweekly Reports

by Matthew Arbach

On August 12, the Greenbelt City Council convened a worksession where it met with representatives of LA Perez, the city’s legislative consultant, and the Greenbelt Cinema (see article in the August 27 issue) to develop a strategy on how these partnerships will move forward.

Jimmy Tarlow was there for LA Perez in his role as the city’s chief advocate.

LA Perez was contracted to monitor county, state and federal legislation, focusing on the city’s priorities. The consultant analyzes pertinent legislation, updates council on the status of bills as they move through the legislative process, drafts letters to delegates and apprises council of opportunities for testimony.

Previously, the city used a multipartner approach, splitting county and state. Council decided that using a single, all-encompassing consultant was more effective.

City Manager Josué Salmerón shared the city’s legislative priorities: transportation, the environment, housing, revenue fees, immigration, zoning and land use, economic development and public safety.

Salmerón stated that council will receive biweekly reports on legislation.

Council indicated that hiring a consultant would be the best way to stay ahead of bills that would most impact the city, allowing the city to weigh in when the opportunity arises (including providing amendments) and not put effort into any legislation that falls by the wayside.

Tarlow and council all felt that forming a close relationship with

all the city’s delegates would be the ideal strategy, ensuring that they will be aware of the issues most pressing to the city.

During a discussion on home-
stead tax credits, Tarlow advised them that the city might alert its home-owning residents of this financial opportunity, requiring only a one-time evaluation.

Tarlow and council were keen to continue their ongoing relationship with the Maryland State General Assembly, as well as both county and federal governments, as they go through their legislative processes.



Summer Sale!

Enjoy savings while the market is quiet and prices are coming down. Take advantage of these opportunities before everybody returns from their vacations and the market gets busy again!



8D Laurel Hill

\$155,000 now \$148,500

Beautifully maintained and updated upper level unit with its own private front-yard deck!



8419 Greenbelt Rd. #101

\$170,000 now \$165,000

This Chelsea Woods condo is tucked away in the trees, a quiet oasis with a large balcony overlooking the pool and tennis courts.



7950 Lakecrest Drive

\$329,000 now \$319,000

A gem in Charlestowne Village, this townhome has a remodeled kitchen, recessed lighting, replacement windows and sliding glass door, and laundry in the primary en suite bathroom.

Kim Kash & Andrew Nugent

kim.kash@compass.com
m: 301.789.6294
andrew.nugent@compass.com
m: (301) 814-8010

660 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 401
Washington DC 20003
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Small Ad

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Rotary
Club of Greenbelt

Ice Cream Social

All Welcome

Thursday, September 10 6 to 7 pm

New Deal Cafe patio

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



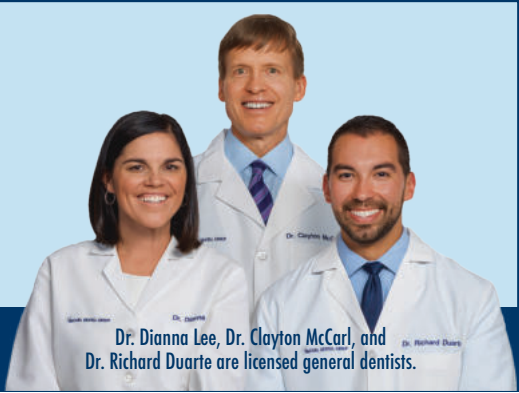
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Eastern Box Turtles Need Protection

Greenbelt Residents Could Help

by Xavier Courouble

Since 1945, the number of eastern box turtles in the Patuxent Research Refuge has declined by 77 percent, according to scientists at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

But eastern box turtles, which face a range of modern hazards, don't just live in places like Patuxent — they also can be found right here in Greenbelt. Since moving to Lakeside five years ago, for example, I have encountered 14 individual turtles for a total of 65 encounters.

In short, if Greenbelt residents, including those who walk around Greenbelt Lake, knew more about this species, they could become the turtles' protectors, not their adversaries. For example, turtle-crossing signs could be put up, similar to signs in Patuxent, not just to protect these reptiles from fatal accidents but also to remind people of the extraordinary field research on the eastern box turtle initiated in 1943 by Dr. Lucille Stickel, who served as director of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center from 1973 until 1981.

In a 1975 survey, Stickel documented a reduction by half in the estimated population of box turtles. Concerned about the dropoff and wanting to record the persistence of individual turtles, the center also did surveys in 1985 and 1995. Unfortunately, in the 1995 survey, the eastern box turtle population appeared to be only 23 percent of its peak in 1945.

Given these turtles are located within a wildlife research refuge and protected from habitat loss, vehicular traffic and commercial harvesting, the reasons for their apparent population collapse have yet to be determined. Today, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists and researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey Eastern Ecological Science Center (formerly the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center) collaborate to assess the status of the box turtle on the refuge and to investigate optimal sites for conservation.

They are currently taking advantage of advances in technology, such as solar-powered cellular transmitters to determine home range, as well as quantitative turtle analysis, including automated programs to analyze digital im-



A turtle crossing sign



A box turtle at Patuxent Research Refuge - Photos by Xavier Courouble

agery. In addition, they employ an incidental-sightings technique, taking advantage of the many personnel and road systems on the refuge.

Finally, it involves a community approach, leveraging the interest of those who spot box turtles on their visits to the refuge, and that's the sort of thing I hope we can do here, not just by putting up crossing signs but by taking other measures as well.

With life spans commonly exceeding 50 years, box turtles often exist in suburban communities such as our Lakeside neighborhood, which was first developed in the mid-1950s in a patch of mature eastern deciduous forest adjacent to Greenbelt Lake. By the mid-'60s, Lakeside entered a second phase of development, resulting in a more pronounced fragmentation of the remaining natural habitat.

Nonetheless, a population of free-living eastern box turtles has continued to persist, and it will continue to exist if we take informed management decisions. But the challenges are many. For example, field studies of eastern box turtles show that greater time spent in suburban habitats tends to reduce survival, particularly among female turtles seeking suitable nesting sites. Survival

estimates also indicate that the average lifespan after attaining adulthood ranged from 14 to 21 years, a decrease compared to turtles living in natural habitats.

Finally, deaths attributable to human activity and habitat modification are more than twice as frequent as those apparently due to natural causes.

These problems include getting trapped in wire fences or under leaf litter during backyard burning by homeowners, being struck by powered lawnmowers or by vehicles, and drowning in ornamental ponds, even though local residents were almost always tolerant of box turtles using their lawns and gardens, enjoyed finding them and reported their activities to researchers.

Likewise, we have come to enjoy watching the native wildlife, including mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles of all sorts. None has been more exciting to observe than the free-living eastern box turtle. Because the typical box turtle home range is between 5 to 15 acres, many may have to cross Lakeside Drive and its abrupt curbs or one of the four cul-de-sac streets and their accumulation of parked vehicles, or again the congested trail around Greenbelt Lake.



Help Protect Eastern Box Turtles

Here are some small recommendations to consider before eastern box turtles become critically endangered:

- Install turtle crossing signs at both ends of Lakeside Drive and on the Lakeside section of Greenbelt Lake trail.
- Protect and preserve our mature deciduous trees and refrain from adding exotic shrubs and perennials.
- Allow leaf litter and branch debris to accumulate in designated areas of our gardens.
- Walk in the neighborhood instead of driving to enjoy wildlife and native ecosystems elsewhere. Finally, do not touch any turtles! Outbreaks of disease and their fatal outcomes have become all too common.

Pet Owners Warned About Cyanobacteria Blooms in Lake



Greenbelt Lake currently contains potentially toxic cyanobacteria, common in summer and fall when the water is warm, stagnant and full of nutrients.

Signs currently around Greenbelt Lake issue an animal safety alert due to cyanobacteria blooms.

Cyanobacteria blooms usually occur during the summer and fall, when the water is warm, stagnant and full of nutrients.

Blooms come in different colors, from green or blue to red or brown. As the bloom dies off, you may smell an odor like rotting plants.

Sometimes, cyanobacteria produce toxins. The toxins can be present in the cyanobacteria cells or in the water.

Swallowing water with cyanobacteria that are producing toxins can cause serious illness.

You cannot tell if a bloom is toxic just by looking at it.

Tips for Pets

Do not let pets drink or swim in water where you see cyanobacteria blooms, foam or scum on the surface. If your animal gets in water with a bloom, immediately wash cyanobacteria off its fur.

Call a veterinarian if your animal shows any of these symptoms of cyanobacteria poisoning: loss of energy, loss of appetite, vomiting, stumbling and falling, foaming at the mouth, diarrhea, convulsions, excessive drooling, tremors and seizures or any unexplained sickness that occurs within a day or so after being in

contact with cyanobacteria.

Visit [cdc.gov/habs/general.html](https://www.cdc.gov/habs/general.html) to learn more about cyanobacteria.

Call the state or local health department to report pets made sick by cyanobacteria.

The Maryland Department of Health Environmental Health Line is 866-703-3266.

Information for this article is drawn from the warnings from the State of Maryland and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Signs at Greenbelt Lake alert pet owners to keep pets out of the water due to potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Emory A. Harman: 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. Video submissions sharing your stories are also welcome and encouraged.

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



LUNCHEON

ON THE LAWN



Adult \$10
Children \$5

Join us for this annual event immediately following the Greenbelt Labor Day Parade. Collecting school supplies for local schools.

7 SEPT | Greenbelt Community Church UCC
One Hillside Road

AFTER PARADE

Barbecue, cole slaw, baked beans, dessert, drinks



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4-hour unlimited rides for just \$20 (\$35 on the weekend) or all-day unlimited rides for \$50 (reg \$70) plus a small fee.



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Reel and Meal Review

Hope Springs Eternal in Sneak Preview of Four Utopia Shorts

by Kurt Stand

Rising prices, war abroad, raids on immigrants, the clock ticking down as global warming continues – take your pick, there are plenty of reasons to look at the future with some trepidation. Thus “Finding Hope in The Midst of Troubled Times” – the name of Reel and Meal’s July 20 program – is all the more important. Four short films were shown as a sneak preview of the 2026 Utopia Film Fest (to be held in October). The movies screened that Monday are a sign that there is a lot to look forward to.

The first short featured was *Barbed Wire*, an eight-minute animated film directed by Iranian filmmaker Sepideh Eghbali. Without dialogue, the film shows loneliness, a search for friendship, and sacrifice. A lonely, rusty barbed wire in an uncleared minefield encounters a lost kite buffeted by the wind. The kite gets caught on the wire and tries to escape; the wire tries to bring the kite closer – but that is an impossible encounter: barbed wire can tear the frightened kite. The conflict emerges along with a desire for freedom, a desire for connection.

Then a car appears on a nearby road, a child emerges – the kite’s owner – who runs toward the barbed wire. Now the wire must free the kite, and do so quickly as the child is nearing an unexploded bomb. Success at last: we see the child run back to the car, kite in hand. Kite and child seem unaware of the barbed wire’s sacrifice but to my eyes, what came through is that in the darkest times, life-affirming kindness still exists, no matter the cost.

Something of that spirit came through in *Rose* – an 11-minute film about an autistic child who doesn’t seem to fit in the world. Turned inward around others, she thrives in nature. Her father, loving and worried, is uncertain what he should do. We see Rose in school the way we often see children; lost in her own world. The teacher calls the father, explains her concerns that Rose doesn’t connect to other children. Rose is tested, diagnosed – and understood. Another teacher explains: autism is a particularity not a disability. The final scene: she is back in a park, her father looks on with an awareness he didn’t have before. There is no hint of what the future will hold, but it will be a future Rose makes, not a future limited by judgment or stigma.

On August 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Ten-year old Hideko Tamura survived the blast, witnessing its horrific effects. Her mother was amongst the over 130,000 people killed instantly by the explosion. The documentary, *Seeds of Peace*, is about her dedication, as a “hibakusha” (Japanese for survivor), to remembrance and hope – and action to prevent nuclear weapons from ever being used again. Directed by David-Paul Hedberg, the film shows scenes of the immense destruction and suffering that followed the bombing – but it also shows the remarkable survival of ginkgo trees, which became a symbol of life prevailing against the winds



Ginkgo leaves from the Japanese film *Seeds of Peace*

of war.

Beginning in 2017, Hideko brought ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima to Oregon and, working with community groups and farmers, began planting “seeds of peace.” Spreading the message of peace and rebirth is a life-giving activity and allows others to express their pain and dreams – the film shows us veterans, prisoners, children and others planting the seeds. *Seeds of Peace* concludes with Hideko returning to Hiroshima with some of the arborists and farmers planting in the United States. Her message to us: “Isn’t it like a miracle that there is this peace tree that came back from an impossible assault on life? This is a messenger of peace, a reborn life coming to you, and it will not grow without your care.”

The final film of the evening, *Ukulele Bliss*, was appropriately filled with joy. It features Sally Davies – a former Greenbelt-er now living in Nova Scotia – teaching her new neighbors

how to play the ukelele and then forming a band: The Bear-ly Royal Uke Gang. Next step, Sally and her neighbors, together with eight other ukelele groups, join together to put on a Ukapolooza. Word spreads and eventually over 100 ukelelists come together in music. Seeing the musicians laugh and hearing the joy in the music, we understand the meaning of *Ukulele Bliss*.

Following the screening Sally spoke about the film over Zoom with some of her neighbors and fellow ukelele players from Greenbelt in the audience. Director Hubert Dendraak was also on Zoom. A former animator, Dendraak explained how he made the film and was able to catch so much music and story in 16 minutes.

The theme of hope in the air was all the more important as the New Deal Café – Reel and Meal’s home – is going through a transition with all the questions and uncertainties that come with change. But the spirit of those who attended showed that hope will prevail.

Registration Open For Recreation Classes

Registration is open for Greenbelt Recreation classes and activities. Classes begin during or after the week of September 7. Visit greenbeltnmd.gov/activityguide to see the Greenbelt Recreation Fall Activity Guide. Class registration remains open for arts classes until the week before the scheduled start date, but many fill quickly, so sign up as soon as possible to reserve a seat.

Greenbelters Travel



Morgan at Baño Grande, a historic New Deal-era pool constructed in El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico

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

Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

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

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!!! THE BOYS!!



Misty, Dusty and Frosty are growing up fast. They need forever homes.



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!!

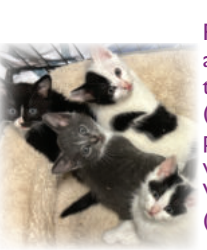


Kimchi (boy) and Pepper (girl with white bib) are looking for forever homes.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

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.

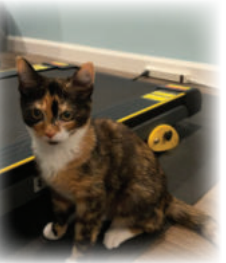


Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

ADOPT US!!



Greenbelt TNR has a pair of the best of the best for their care and adoption. Lisa and Andy are 5 months old. These sweet girls are bonded and ideally should be adopted as a pair.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

SCHOOL BUSES continued from page 1

Goddard campus wouldn't be feasible. Senior Public Information Specialist Lynn McCawley was unable to say by press time what PGCPs had done to prepare for the additional traffic at the site but said, "it's important to note that this past week would not reflect an expected daily traffic pattern, since a large number of students who had missing or incomplete bus assignments were being driven to and from school."

School Board Meeting

The August 27 Board of Education meeting was dominated by calls for accountability and testimony about failures and frustrations that first week. To applause, Board Member and Vice Chair Phelton Moss amended the agenda to add a new business item: a review of the Chipmunk contract. However, drivers and parents weren't placing all the blame on the app.

Bus Driver Perspective

Bus Driver Melissa Bergeron shared her run sheet to show her routes that run concurrently and explain why students are "arriving later than ever this school year." Bergeron's second, third and fourth morning routes are all scheduled to begin before she finishes her first one at 7:12 a.m., she said. "The result: every one of my morning students after my first school is late," Bergeron said. Eleanor Roosevelt High School is her third route and she's 70 minutes late by the time she makes it to her first stop. Students give up waiting so her later routes are empty, she said. This is not an isolated problem, Bergeron testified; similar run sheets that are impossible to execute are being issued at all 12 bus lots. "How are we supposed to fulfil the mission of transportation — to transport students to school safely and on time — when the schedules themselves make that impossible? You have literally set us up to fail," she said.

Another bus driver, Terrie Middleton, complained, "Management is trying to blame tech glitches for a crisis created by leadership."

"Leadership admitted we weren't properly trained on this new routing software before it rolled out," added Middleton. "In fact, some of our buses are not even equipped with the software, and as drivers we have not even seen the software." Middleton said drivers were arriving hours late to face frustrated parents yet have their daily schedules restricted to eight hours, and retention and overtime incentives had ended earlier in the year. "We don't need million-dollar software contracts; we need functional routes and fair compensation," said Middleton.

Another driver shared concerns about students missing the opportunity to eat breakfast as well as instructional time.

A router's statement read at the meeting said they had learned five routing systems in nine years. This one is geared toward data and tracking rather than routing, they said. In addition, the time for completing the routing is shortened every year, and routers are rushed to complete the tasks, often without overtime, they reported. The routers have raised complaints annually, they said.

Parent Testimony

Caroline Decaire-Goldin, PGCPs parent, former PGCPs teacher and District 2 school board candidate, highlighted the two-hour Dora Kennedy and Rob-



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

A large group of Greenbelt students was left waiting at the Library for a bus to Robert Goddard and DKFI on Wednesday, September 2, after the school day had started. As on the day before, schools called for a second bus to collect the students who had been missed along the route after the first bus arrived at school without them.

ert Goddard drop-off lines and unreliable busing in her testimony. "It is a privilege to have a car to go find your child [and] to be able to drop everything when a bus doesn't show to drop them off or pick them up. That is not an education system that works for every child and that's not equity in action," said Decaire-Goldin, calling on PGCPs to include bus drivers' voices in solving the problem.

Parent Theresa Smith told the school board she had lost faith in the department of transportation. She shared problems her children have experienced with school buses back to 2013. This year one of her children has no assigned route. "We express concern about truancy yet the system cannot get scholars to school," said Smith. "I don't need another person telling parents to be patient. Our scholars are being left on the curb and I cannot stand by while families navigate this dysfunction alone. There are gaps in the process, and it's bigger than an app. ... Find the human element and get our children to school and back home on time."

Parent Dominique Lewis, whose children's bus had not arrived two days in a row, called the experience "more than a first week transportation problem; it is a communication and accountability problem." She isn't asking for perfection. "I am asking when something goes wrong why can't anyone tell parents what's going on?" Lewis said and pressed PGCPs why the district faces the same problems "year after year."

DKFI parent Carrie Weletz called the start-of-year transportation plan "a complete and utter failure." She spent two to three hours daily transporting children to a school 8.8 miles away. The day before it took her 45 minutes to move six car lengths on Good Luck Road in traffic to DKFI, she reported. She's also had to arrive two hours before dismissal to try to get her children home earlier. "If a student cannot reliably get to and from school, that student is being denied access to their education," said Weletz. "The first day of school happens every year," she told the board, adding that the school system has months to prepare. Weletz asked what traffic studies PGCPs had done in advance at DKFI/Robert Goddard, whether they had accounted for parents driving when buses proved unreliable, and whether they had considered the safety implications of buses and cars riding on sidewalks on one feeder road in and out of the

school. The problems were not unexpected, she said. "The county wants me to give them grace. ... I would have less of a problem extending this grace if this county did not experience this same problem each and every year ..."

DKFI parent Rebecca Fleeson testified, "What is happening with transportation and the co-location of the Robert Goddard campus is not simply a difficult start to the school year or something that can be fixed with more volunteers or our leadership showing up for one bus-loading time. It is a foreseeable safety, operational crisis that parents warned PGCPs about two years ago." Fleeson also spoke of buses and cars on the sidewalk used by students along the access road. "When there is a bus in the wrong lane and a car line that lasts two-and-a-half hours, the buses drive on the sidewalk that students walk on ... PGCPs does not provide the basics: transportation, parking, safety." Fleeson said two of her four children had no assigned morning bus and the other two had rides of nearly three hours one way, for a 5-year-old to travel eight miles to school. "I am asking PGCPs leadership to seriously reconsider the long-term facility plans for DKFI. The exceptional school deserves a permanent, appropriately-sized home, with a safe road and pedestrian access for its students and staff," said Fleeson.

Parent Lance Escher testified that this is the worst transportation situation he's seen since his children began riding buses to attend DKFI in 2019. Their bus pick-up time is two hours before school starts and his children waited at school until 6:20 p.m. one day when no afternoon bus arrived. Doubling ride durations has meant parents abandoned buses, said Escher, which in turn led to huge traffic jams and two or

more hour waits to drop off and pick up by car. "Things cannot go on this way. Parents are making sacrifices at their jobs: taking leave, working late or literally foregoing wages to drive their kids in when they would much rather have their kids ride the bus. And the kids who stick with the bus are being punished. They're losing time — time with their families, time to attend extracurriculars, time to do homework and time to sleep," said Escher. He called on the administration to shorten bus routes, calling three- and four-hour commute times untenable. "I doubt anyone sitting in front of me would agree to accept a position that would require them to commute for three or four hours every day but you are asking that of children as young as 5 years old. Please fix this," he said.

DKFI parent Courtney Harrah refused to blame failures on an app rather than an entire department of transportation. Like others, she noted, the difficulties at the start of this school year were beyond the regular challenges that unfold every September.

Harrah spoke of a middle schooler offering to stay home from school so her mother could make her radiation treatment the next morning instead of trying to get her to school. Harrah herself had to put her highschooler in an Uber or Lyft to get them to school each morning while taking leave daily as she has spent five hours transporting children. "How many are making decisions between sending their children to school and keeping a job, receiving cancer treatments? Students are missing hours, days of education time simply because they cannot get to school. We are tired," she told the board and administration.

Carolyn Lemm Espinoza, a DKFI parent of three, reiterated the situation was beyond normal first-week transportation woes,

noting problems were clear in advance and PGCPs never delivered the bus routes promised by August 18. She called the outcome — including her child's afternoon route that doesn't arrive until nearly three hours after dismissal — "the plan PGCPs leadership designed," not a first-week glitch.

McCawley told the News Review on Tuesday that "significant progress addressing the traffic and congestion challenges" at DKFI and Robert Goddard has already been made. A team including Safe Passage, safety and security, transportation, school leadership, county police, PTA and parent volunteers have worked to redesign the morning traffic pattern, McCawley said. Immediate changes include allowing students to enter the building 15 minutes earlier and establishing separate traffic patterns for buses and cars, said McCawley. PGCPs is now working with the county government to explore the possibility of crossing guards at the traffic signal at Palomar Drive and Good Luck Road during arrival and dismissal, she said. District 1 school board member Tiffini Andorful, who represents the schools in Seabrook, did not respond to our attempts to reach her by phone and email.

At the board meeting Superintendent Shawn Joseph apologized. He said PGCPs would be adding staff, including in routing and scheduling. Meanwhile, Vice Chair Moss called for an audit of the \$3.2 million Chipmunk app contract, to which the board agreed.

A districtwide transportation townhall was planned for Wednesday, September 2.

In the second week of school, students in Greenbelt navigating the school buses continued to report long waits and missed stops and buses that didn't arrive.

The author has two children who attend DKFI.



PHOTO BY JASON ANDREW

Traffic on Good Luck Road near the DKFI and Robert Goddard schools on the morning of August 31



the

Lion in Winter

by James Goldman

M@GAC

THE LION IN WINTER is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

September 4–19

Fridays & Saturdays 8 PM

Sundays 2 PM

Face masks required Sunday, September 13

Scan QR code for tickets or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org

PGCPS Leads State and Nation For Number of Green Schools

Within Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) 31 schools – including Greenbelt Elementary School – recently renewed their Maryland Green Schools certification and 10 schools earned the designation for the first time. By the end of the last school year the district boasted a record 164 certified Green Schools, the highest total of any district in Maryland, which itself has more Green Schools than any other state in the country.

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) lists all Greenbelt schools in its Green Schools Directory, noting that Greenbelt Elementary, Eleanor Roosevelt High and Magnolia Elementary have been awarded the status three times; Springhill Lake Elementary School has had one such award; and Dora Kennedy French Immersion has had five.

There is no single national designation or ranking system for Green Schools, but Maryland’s nationally recognized program – administered by the MAEOE – includes more participating

schools than any other state. “As the top district within that leading state program, PGCPS stands as the nation’s leader in Green Schools participation,” said PGCPS in a press release.

“Prince George’s County Public Schools’ continued leadership as the #1 district in the nation for Maryland Green Schools reflects more than recognition – it reflects a long-standing commitment to action,” said Interim Superintendent Dr. Shawn Joseph. “For years, we have led Maryland in environmental education, and today that leadership stands on a national stage. Through our Climate Change Action Plan, sustainability is not an add-on in PGCPS, it is embedded in the daily learning experience of our students. From classroom instruction to schoolwide practices, we are ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn in environments that model responsibility, resilience and stewardship. This is how we prepare young people not only to understand the world they inherit, but to lead its transformation.”

The William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center, home to the district’s environmental education program, supports schools and educators with year-round programming and sustainability initiatives.

“PGCPS stands out across Maryland for embedding sustainable practices into school culture,” said James Roberson, supervisor at the Schmidt Center. “Students and teachers go beyond learning about environmental challenges – they actively develop and implement solutions within their schools and communities. The Maryland Green School program provides a powerful framework to support this work.”

Schools were recognized at the MAEOE Annual Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit on Thursday, May 28, at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. The event included award ceremonies, youth leadership activities, a green careers fair and an environmental literacy showcase.

This article was drawn from a PGCPS press release.

Greenbelt Elementary School PTA Book Sale at the Festival



Volunteers at the book sale’s last sorting day on Saturday, August 29, at St. Hugh’s of Grenoble Catholic Church

PHOTO BY LOIS GORMAN / CARRIE PAGNUCCO



Volunteers help sort and box books.

PHOTO BY LOIS GORMAN



Greenbelt friends happy to be reunited in Roosevelt Center after their summer travels. Pictured from left: Shaya Neveu, Mabel Walker, Sylvia Walker and Ilan Neveu

PHOTO BY SVETLANA NEVEU

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 from 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 for a collaborative puppetry project. Sign up at sugeni.us/U2uy. Looking for information about the yearly flash mob dance performance? Sign up at sugeni.us/UYV6. Volunteer opportunities are also available at the event – find out more at sugeni.us/UYV6. Service hour credit is available for students.

Art Studio Open House & Sale

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program will host an 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 and mingle with Greenbelt Recreation arts instructors; several artists will have work available for purchase. Visit the art gallery and participate in free hands-on activities for all ages. See details as they are announced at greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

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LILLY ELECTRIC

Greenbelters Travel

PHOTO BY STEVE MILLIGAN

Beth Milligan took her vacation in her hometown of Wheeling, W. Va., on August 8, where she attended the 25th annual Heritage Music Bluesfest on the Ohio River.

PHOTO BY DERMOT KELLY

From left, Christine Doran, Rowan Kelly and Bernard Kelly take a break to peruse the News Review in the Piazza del Duomo in Florence, Italy.

Greenbelt Youth Baseball and The Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team

are honored to host

Bingo at the Labor Day Festival

Location: Community Center Lawn

Games: 50¢ for 1 card/game, \$1 for 3 cards/game

Memorial Games and Blackout Games

Pull Tabs!

Come join us, have fun, and WIN

All while supporting the league

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Greenbelt LITTLE LEAGUE

EST. 1951

REGISTER NOW!

Fall Baseball

Competitive, development-focused co-ed practices and games.

• Tee Ball/Coach Pitch (4-7yrs)

• Machine Pitch (6-9 yrs)

• Minors Kid Pitch (8-12 yrs)

• Intermediate (11-13 yrs)

• Juniors (12-15 yrs)

Fall Girls Softball

Introduction and skills development clinic-focused training.

• Minors (5-11 yrs)

• Majors (9-12 yrs)

• Juniors (12-15 yrs)

Practices start the week of September 14th

Fall Ball season ends November 7th

WWW.GYBLITTLELEAGUE.ORG

COUNCIL continued from page 1

and she hopes for a wide swath of representation.

City Manager Josué Salmerón stated that a resolution was required to create a new advisory board. Weaver suggested a two-year term for members. Fritz wanted to see it connected to city government as a whole, not just council. He also wanted to educate the tenant community on the services available to them. Pompi thought that seven members was a practical number for effectiveness and agreed on a two-year term.

Council directed the city manager to move forward with recommendations for setting up such a committee. Earlier in the meeting, comments by resident Shaymar Higgs had also supported such a move. Resident Bill Orleans wanted to mandate that rental owners post related city ordinances in every entrance hallway.

School Opening

Jordan complimented Salmerón on the cleanup of the walkways used by students on their way to school. The police department is providing support for school opening as the rebuilding of Springhill Lake Elementary and its temporary relocation to the former Dora Kennedy building results in different walking patterns for students.

There is concern over getting children from that school building to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center’s after-school program. A request to bus Dora Kennedy students from that building to the program was not accepted by Prince George’s County Public Schools in the past

In response to Knesel, Salmerón suggested monitoring the after-school program to see if the extended walk was affecting attendance.

Aquatic Center Fees

With some Roberts Rules juggling involved, council voted unanimously to reset Aquatic Center fees – taking the first and second reading the same evening. The result is an overall five percent increase in pass fees. Assistant Director of Recreation Facilities and Operations Andrew Phelan noted that staff would prefer to make adjustments occur more consistently (it’s three years since the last one), approximately two years apart but in smaller increments. Phelan noted that Greenbelt, compared to other local facilities, offered both pool and exercise areas for one fee whereas other local facilities charge for each. Phelan also confirmed that funds continue to be available for residents who need financial assistance and that there are still

senior citizen rates.

Skate Park Mural

Council passed a motion to spend \$10,000 on a mural on the retaining wall of the skate park (between the Community Center and the Youth Center). Financed by a state bond bill, there is no direct cost to the city.

This mural is expected to reduce graffiti and form a gateway statement for the nearby community facilities. Similar murals are suggested or under way in other parts of the city, including the Greenbelt Cinema.

Vehicles Purchase

Purchase of three vehicles for Public Works sparked a question by Orleans on electric vehicle purchase. City Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll explained that current electric equivalents either did not have the required capability or were prohibitively expensive.

Carpenter-Driscoll assured council that an EV evaluation was part of the process of obtaining any city vehicles and noted (to exclamations of joy from Weaver) that the new refuse collection EV had just arrived. Purchase was approved.

Electrification Project

Council also approved a \$29,800 contract with Steven Winters Associates for a decarbonization roadmap project funded by state grants. The study assesses ways in which the city can reduce its carbon emissions (some city buildings are heated or cooled with natural gas). Salmerón clarified that the study would recommend electrically-powered replacements as the current units reach end of life.

Salmerón added that the Aquatic Center was a major user of power and might be a good candidate for geothermal energy because of its proximity to Braden Field, under which such a project could be installed.

Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles noted that Green Ridge

House was not included in the survey, perhaps because it is managed by a third party.

Leaf Blowers

Prince George’s County has invited comments on a bill to ban gas-powered leaf blowers for implementation in 2027. Pompi submitted for consideration a letter that included a program for rebates and buy-backs of this relatively expensive machinery to help businesses and governments mitigate the loss of existing machinery. The proposed legislation also bans the use of the blowers a year before it bans the sale of them and the letter proposed flipping those two dates. After minor wordsmithing, council voted to submit the letter to the county.

Tennis Court Noise

Resident Julie Miller spoke for residents of Lakeside Drive whose homes back onto the tennis courts. She stated that the tennis court lights are now going off at 11 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. as previously done, resulting in late night disturbances from “yelling, shouting, cursing and loud music,” as the homes are only 70 to 120 feet from the courts. This is in violation of the existing noise ordinance.

The residents requested that the hours for lighting be set back to 10 p.m. and would appreciate specific signage about disturbing the peace. As it stands now, resident complaints go nowhere, with park rangers off duty and the police noting the behavior was not a crime.

Composting

Jordan asked if it was possible to add more composting bins to the enclosure at Greenbelt Lake. Robles said that the bins are not necessarily restricted to the enclosure, so adding more containers is possible if there’s room. Salmerón promised an assessment.



Library Ceases Passport Services

Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has announced that passport services in their libraries will be discontinued effective September 30. An August 31 announcement from PGCMLS said the move is “part of a realignment of services.”

Alternative passport application acceptance locations in Prince George’s County can be found through the U.S. Department of State’s Passport Acceptance Facility Locator at passportfacilitylocator.travel.state.gov. Those closest to Greenbelt are listed here.

• Landover Hills Post Office (3.5 Miles), 7400 Buchanan Street, Landover Hills, 301-731-3423

• Beltsville Main Post Office (3.6 Miles), 10901 Rhode Island Avenue, Beltsville, 301-937-3356

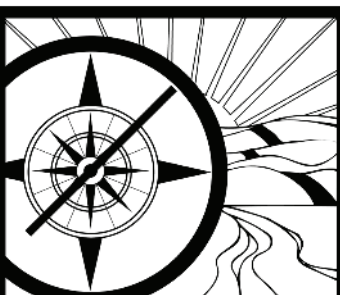
• Bladensburg Post Office (4.4 Miles), 4921 Tilden Road, Bladensburg, 301-864-5985

Appointments at these or other post offices can be made at usps.com/scheduler.



PHOTO BY MARGIE SPLATTSTOESSER

Peter Voitsekhovsky took the News Review with him to the Hoover Dam, the hydrotechnical project of the New Deal. It was dedicated by FDR on September 30, 1935, less than two weeks before federal builders started making Greenbelt Lake, with its own little dam. Voitsekhovsky says about the Hoover Dam, “I was at work there with visiting experts from Ukraine and learned a lot about this project. Sadly, [the] water level in Lake Mead is now at its lowest since the lake was made. As the water level is getting critically low, pressure on the turbines gets weaker and the power plant makes almost 50 percent less energy than it made in the past. The two dams are now closely linked in my mind.”



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred August 24-30, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one mental health incident, one dispute involving child protective services, and five domestic incidents, two resulting in arrest.

Vandalism

On August 28 at 8:15 a.m. near 7316 Morrison Drive, someone used a blunt object to damage the glass patio door leading to the basement of a residence.

Controlled Substances

On August 25 at 9:32 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man acting suspiciously at Beltway Plaza was found to have controlled dangerous substances and paraphernalia on his person; officers issued a criminal citation.

Fight

On August 24 at 3:18 p.m. near 6101 Cherrywood Lane, two men began arguing over the use of a cellphone, and after exchanging words, one man said he would get a gun and be back to see the other man. No weapon was verified on scene.

Disorderly

On August 27 at 11:12 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, while police were making contact with a group of suspicious persons, one became disorderly and was arrested and released.

Threats

On August 26 near 6154 Springhill Terrace, someone received threatening text messages from an unknown sender claiming they can perform spiritual or religious curses. The communications included coercive and threatening statements.

DUI Arrests

On August 28 at 3:44 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, a caller reported a car with a driver unconscious behind the wheel. He was found to be under the influence, and was arrested and charged with DUI.

On August 28 at 11:39 p.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, officers found the driver of a vehicle asleep on the shoulder with the vehicle in gear and running. Officers smelled alcohol, and the driver said that he drank some beer and wine with friends. He agreed to a sobriety test, displayed multiple signs of impairment, and was arrested.

On August 29 at 3:52 a.m. near 6114 Breezewood Drive, officers observed a vehicle driving on the wrong side of the road. The driver agreed to a sobriety test, displayed multiple signs of impairment, and was arrested.

Fraud

On August 24 near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman lost her purse and someone tried to use her credit card at Target.

On August 26 near 7565 Greenbelt Road, a man attempted to open a bank account with fraudulent identification. He was issued a criminal citation and banned from the location.

On August 27 near 5347 Stream Bank Lane, a man sent approximately \$400,000 to people posing as government officials online. The bank was notified.

Theft and Shoplifting

On August 24 at 12:48 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl was apprehended for attempting to flee the store with merchandise. She was identified and

banned, and her guardian was contacted.

On August 28 at 8:51 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone selected merchandise and exited the business without paying.

Property Damage

On August 25 near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, a building engineer called to report vehicles doing donuts in the parking lot, which caused tire marks to be left in the parking lot.

Trespassing Arrests

On August 24 at 5:07 p.m. near 5510 Cherrywood Lane, two known suspects were found after being banned; they were arrested and taken to the station.

On August 28 at 7:53 p.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a man who had been banned was issued a citation for trespassing.

On August 28 at 11:50 a.m. near 6136 Greenbelt Road, Beltway Plaza security reported that a subject was yelling, panhandling, and causing a disturbance inside the mall. Officers arrested him and took him to the Greenbelt Police Department, where he was issued a criminal citation for trespassing.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicle

On August 27 near 227 Lakeside Drive, a 2020 Honda Civic (Md. 4DZ5778) was stolen.

Theft from Auto

On August 29 two vehicles had airbags stolen: one near 7826 Hanover Parkway, and one near 7929 Mandan Road.

Several tags were stolen and some were replaced with other stolen tags. On August 24 near 5901 Cherrywood Lane, a front tag (Md. 3GS1460) was stolen from a Kia. On August 25 near 7732 Hanover Parkway, a rear plate was stolen and replaced with a stolen tag. On August 26 near 6500 Capitol Drive, the registration tab was stolen from a Ford Transit truck. On August 27 near 6404 Ivy Lane, a tag was stolen from a vehicle while the owner was at work, and replaced with a tag from a Honda stolen from Laurel. On August 30 near 6214 Breezewood Court, a front tag (Md. 9GX1410) was stolen from a Honda Accord.

Vandalism to Auto

On August 26 near 9004 Breezewood Terrace, a window was smashed on a 2023 Toyota Highlander.



A car on fire on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, taken from the Spellman Overpass on Friday, August 21

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

ERHS Locked Down as Youths Feared to be Heading for School

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Wednesday, August 26, Maryland Park Police reported suspects from a noncontact shooting incident elsewhere in the county were believed to be heading for Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). Police communication at the time indicated two 15- to 16-year-old youths dressed all in black and wearing black ski masks had left a scene in an Uber and were known to be heading to the Greenbelt school.

At approximately 5:15 p.m., ERHS was placed under a lockdown, according to an email from Principal Portia Barnes. Barnes reported that, with the support of

coaches, the school moved all students and staff inside the school buildings, with no entry or exit, until they were updated by police. That update came at 5:50 p.m., Barnes stated in her email to the community.

Greenbelt Police told the News Review they were not involved in placing the school on lockdown and that there was no known incident occurring in Greenbelt that could have precipitated the lockdown. Greenbelt police did however send a patrol car to look out for the Uber reported to be heading to the area by Maryland State Police. None was sighted.

Greenbelt Man Again Arrested For Greenbelt Station Vandalism

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt Police arrested a man for the second time in August in connection with a series of vandalism incidents involving homes in the Greenbelt Station community.

Investigators determined that Nghia Trong Le targeted residences near Greenbelt Station Parkway by throwing rocks through windows and then fleeing the area on foot (see the August 13 issue).

On August 28, officers responded to another report of vandalism consistent with the previous incidents. Video provided by a resident showed a suspect throwing rocks at a window before fleeing.

Officers identified the suspect as Le, a 50-year-old Greenbelt resident, located him and arrested him. Le was charged with malicious destruction of property over \$1,000 after allegedly vandalizing four homes, including two that were targeted on multiple occasions. The combined damage from the vandalism incidents in August is estimated to be several thousand dollars.

Le was previously arrested on August 6 in connection with similar incidents. Following that arrest, he was released on his own recognizance. On August 30 he was to be committed pending hearing.

In 2024 Le was sentenced to 10 years in jail with all but 18 months suspended and five years probation when he was convicted of second-degree assault.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200. Information may be provided anonymously.

Information for this article was drawn from Greenbelt Police Department press releases and public court documents.

Police Seek to ID Man Wanted for Indecency

Greenbelt police are hoping to identify a man suspected of indecent exposure at Greenbelt Cinema.

On Monday, August 24 at approximately 2 p.m., in a call to police, a caller reported seeing a man at 129 Centerway who had previously been observed masturbating there. When officers arrived, the man had already left. However, while speaking with the employees, a female witness reported she had also seen the man masturbating before the police arrived and that he fled through an emergency exit.

Labor Day Road Closure

On Monday, September 7, Crescent Road between Westway and Ridge Road will be closed to all traffic during the Labor Day Parade. The closure is expected to last from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be no parking along this stretch from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m. Violators will be towed.

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VACANCY continued from page 1

allowed timeframe for a response, the News Review had still received nothing.

The request is for correspondence concerning Briggs' resignation from the District 2 Board of Education seat and the process to fill the resulting vacancy; internal memoranda, briefing documents or communications discussing the timing of the resignation or the appointment process to fill the vacancy; applications, communications or records related to candidates seeking appointment to fill the remainder of the term, including the total number of applications received; and the ways in which the resignation and application window were publicized by the county, including dates of announcements and ways in which they were shared.

On August 9, we followed up by email to confirm receipt of our public information request and status and received no reply. On August 10, we called Associate Director and Custodian of Public Records Leslie Jenkins-Jackson who was able to confirm we had the correct and current email address to submit MPIAs and who gave us the contact information for Terrance Chaney, a paralegal for the MPIA and transparency unit, who she said would be able to advise us of the status. We have been unable to reach Chaney, whose number went straight to voicemail each time we called. He has not returned voicemails left on August 24 and August 27.

On August 28, we emailed the MPIA address for the county executive's office a third time and copied both Chaney and a C. Jones, two people we've been told might have information about our request. There has been no response.

The News Review has reached out to the Maryland Office of the Attorney General Public Access Unit and requested assistance from the state Ombudsperson.

Requests for Information from County Executive
Why was the application period for the District 2 board of education seat closed before PGCPs made a vacancy announcement?

How were the vacancy and application processes publicized by the county? How many applications were received? What is the timeline for the appointment and will there be opportunity for community input? These are the questions the News Review has asked the county executive's office repeatedly since July 20 and to which we've received no answer.

On July 20, when the News Review first asked the above questions of the county executive's office, Director of Communications Thomas Johnson responded to add Brian Fischer to the chain. That would be Johnson's only acknowledgement of our communications. He did not reply to our subsequent emails on July 28, August 3 or August 10. Johnson also has not answered our calls and has a voicemail that is not set up.

Fischer, the person added to the communications by Johnson, was appointed by Braveboy as the county's first chief communications officer earlier this year. In July Prince George's Suite Magazine and Media reported that was "a new executive-level leadership position designed to strengthen transparency, accountability and engage with residents across county government" and that "the newly established role signals a significant step in the Braveboy administration's effort to modernize how government communicates with residents, businesses, community organizations and stakeholders. As chief communications officer, Fischer will serve on the county executive's senior leadership team and oversee public information, media relations, executive communications, digital engagement, critical incident coverage and strategic messaging across county government."

On July 28, Fischer responded to our email saying, "I have received your inquiry and will send

it along to get information needed to respond." He did not reply to any subsequent messages which requested a timeline for information or answers themselves on August 3, August 10 or August 27. Fischer did not include any contact information or email signature in his single communication with us on July 28; however, we left a message for him at the county executive's office on August 28, when we were told he was out of the office. He has not responded.

On August 27, we emailed Braveboy and have so far received no response.

On August 27, we also reached out to Board Chair Jackson, who on June 27 emailed Braveboy to request she initiate the process to fill the seat, as we know from correspondence returned through an MPIA request to PGCPs. (Unlike the county executive's office, PGCPs complied with our MPIA request). We asked Jackson if he had any information about the status of the appointment, timeline or opportunity for public input. Like others we've requested information about this appointment from, Jackson did not respond.

City Notes

The City Manager and Public Information attended the Greenbelt Business Alliance's breakfast meeting. Public Safety/Community attended a quarterly meeting with State's Attorney Tara Jackson and met with the new owners of Charlestowne North Apartments. The Crisis Interdisciplinary Team met, including CARES, Police, Planning and Public Safety/Community.

Code Enforcement inspected Charlestowne North Apartments, seven commercial suites, five complaints and 25 rentals.

After a dog and two kittens were adopted, Animal Shelter residents are five cats, six kittens and a dog. Shelter staff responded to 80 inquiries, including 21 requests for owner surrender.

Public Works and Recreation were busy preparing for the Labor Day Festival. Ballfields/Parks addressed fence issues at the Schrom Hills soccer field and fabricated a memorial tree plaque. Facilities Maintenance installed a gate at the Police Department.

Recreation and Community Center staff registered a large number of nonresidents for fall activities. The indoor pool and hot tub reopened after annual cleaning.



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Kids Enjoy Another Successful Year Of Greenbelt Recreation Summer Camps

by Anne Gardner

Each summer, the rooms and hallways of all the Greenbelt Recreation facilities are filled with excitement, as young people ages 3½ to 17 take advantage of the many summer camp options on offer. Here is a roundup of the summer 2026 camps.

Kindercamp

The youngest campers attend Kindercamp in the classrooms in the Community Center usually occupied by the Nursery School. This year, according to Kindercamp Coordinator Adam Daelemans, about 120 young children enjoyed special guest visits from magician Anthony Ware, circus performer Greg May, the Greenbelt Park Rangers, musician Melissa Sites and Ollie the Greenbelt police dog (accompanied by Officer Erick Alvarez). They also went on field trips, both nearby, to Greenbelt spots such as the Cinema, fire station and Museum, and further afield, to College Park Aviation Museum, Patuxent Research Refuge and Wheaton Regional Park.

Creative Kids

Upstairs in the Community Center, children ages 6 to 12 spent two-week sessions enjoying drama, dance, music and art classes at Creative Kids Camp (CKC), with each session culminating in a performance for family and friends in the gym. This year, the session three afternoon performance featured an all-time record of 120 performers.

The 2026 production was entitled Hercules and Hippolyta. The camp’s talented teachers, counselors and interns played the lead roles, while the campers portrayed the groups of characters that Hercules encounters on his travels with Hippolyta, such as the hydra, a flock of birds and some very sleepy townspeople.

Wearing costume pieces designed and created by Recreation Arts staff including Max Cason and Nicole DeWald, the campers sang and danced and enchanted the audience.

SHL Rec Center

This year for the first time, the CKC afternoon shows also included campers from the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SHLRC) summer program. These campers portrayed Erymanthean townsfolk besieged by the voracious Big Bad Boar, who was played with gusto by SHLRC Coordinator Brian Butler.

“I had long known that Brian would be a standout performer as the Boar,” explained Performing Arts Coordinator Chris Cherry, “but we wanted to involve the Springhill Lake campers as well. When I learned that transportation was already arranged for them to come to central Greenbelt every Friday afternoon to swim at the Aquatic & Fitness Center, I realized that it would be possible to have the campers stop by the Community Center to perform, before heading off to swim.”

Cherry, who wrote the play and the music, visited SHLRC with CKC dance instructor D’annccio Grier (who also played Hercules) to teach the campers their lines, song and dance.

SHLRC runs one long session of camp, from June 22 to August 14. According to Recreation Coordinator Frank Jones, the



Camp Pine Tree participants enjoy a field trip.



Kindercamp visits the Fire Department.



Kindercamp participants enjoy dress-up day.

45 participants enjoyed daily athletic and art activities. Park rangers from Patuxent Research Refuge came to the Rec Center to lead activities like bird watching, and the children also paid two visits to the refuge to participate in kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hiking and wildlife seminars. Two additional field trips were taken to Water Mine Family Swim Park in Reston, Va., and Urban Air indoor trampoline park in Laurel.

Circus

Meanwhile, 93 participants in Circus Camp, ages 8 to 13, spent their days learning how to juggle, ride unicycles, walk on stilts and do other circus arts in the



Molly Turner wears a red nose at Circus Camp.

Community Center gym under the mentorship of camp alumni Sam Collins and Julia May. Former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus performer Greg May made guest appearances throughout the summer and ran a final one-week session.

GATe

Greenbelt Access TV (GATe) was a valuable partner in this year’s summer camps. Executive Director Daniel Thies explained that GATe built on the theme of mythic characters from the CKC show, providing lessons and activities related to the first motion pictures and animations. CKC campers could create animations or record and act in their own silent film productions. George Kochell, GATe’s resident animator, led workshops at SHLRC on how to turn simple everyday items like sticky notes into a canvas for a flipbook animation, and how to convey a character’s emotions through changes in their facial expression. GATe also recorded the performances of Circus Camp and Camp Encore.

Camp Encore

Camp Encore is the camp for budding teen thespians. Mentored by camp alumni Zoe Larsen and Creedence Jackson, they performed Macbeth at the end of the first four-week session, and an original play created by camp staff and campers, entitled Patroklos and Achilles, at the end of the second session. Both plays took place on the stage at Greenbelt Arts Center.

Pine Tree, YOGO

Meanwhile, over at the Youth Center, Camp Pine Tree and Camp YOGO both had a great summer, according to Recreation Coordinator AJ Sesay. Camp Pine Tree is split into two groups, for campers ages 6 to 8 and 9 to 11. They and Camp YOGO, for ages 12 to 14, went on many trips, including to Sky Zone and Clark’s Elioak Farm, as well as Kings Dominion and Hershey Park, which are the campers’ favorites. Eco Adventures provided in-house entertainment, bringing various reptiles and mammals for campers to engage with.

Bake Sale

Another highlight, the annual camp bake sale, with tasty treats prepared by campers and staff, raised \$555 for the Send a Kid to Camp fund.

Sesay sums up the summer: “While campers always look forward to our trips, animal visitors and special camp events, the highlight of each summer is the friendships and bonds campers are able to form in such a short span of time. It never felt like we had a dull day (even with all the rain). Our staff did an amazing job of making what seems ordinary to them the best experience possible for all of our campers.”

Summer camps are now over for 2026 and the children back at school, but no doubt they are counting down the weeks until next summer’s offerings.

Anne Gardner is an arts education specialist for Greenbelt Recreation.



English, Spanish Story Time, SHL Rec Center

On Friday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children’s books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 11 de septiembre a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George’s presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en inglés y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrá libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, “Fue muy bueno!” Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Back-to-School Free Fairs, Clinics for Immunization

Maryland State Law requires all students to receive immunizations by Monday, September 14 or risk being excluded from school. Prince George’s County Public Schools students can get free immunizations at one of the Saturday Back-to-School Immunization Fairs, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 12 at High Point High School or Saturday, September 26 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Immunizations are also available through October 31 at the Cheverly Health Department for families with children who are not insured or underinsured. Clinics at 3003 Hospital Drive, Suite 2082, Cheverly are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Appointments are required for all locations and dates. To schedule an appointment, visit pgcps.org/offices/school-health/immunizations/upcoming-clinics/back-to-school-vaccine-clinics.

New Art Gallery Exhibition

Greenbelt Recreation Arts announces an exhibition at the Community Center art gallery. The show 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.