



Co-op annual meeting, p.6



Utopia Film Festival reviews, p.7

Residents Battle Mail Delivery Failures as Election Draws Near

by Gabriel Ogunjobi

Many Greenbelt residents have recently expressed a loss of confidence in the U.S. Postal Service's ability to deliver the mail reliably, also raising concerns about privacy and fraud. Problems with the city's mail have been a topic at recent city council meetings, too.

Problems range from delays in routine mail and packages left at the wrong address to the complete loss of valuables. The worries have grown as residents who plan to vote by mail in the upcoming midterm elections look for alterna-

tives outside of Greenbelt.

"It's going to take ... several months, really, of me receiving my mail regularly again for me to trust the post office," said Matt Sickie, a 42-year-old landscape architect who lives in Old Greenbelt. He added that he no longer sends mail from the city's post office. Sickie expressed his concerns on the Greenbelters Facebook page in September. His post garnered over 50 comments from other residents relating to

See MAIL, page 12



PHOTO BY EMMETT JORDAN

Greenbelt Post Office

Mildly Contentious Council Meeting Still Gets Lots Done

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council meeting of October 12 was jam-packed with items from the pro-saic to the weighty, though with mostly good news and promising initiatives. Some surprisingly controversial items fluffed up a few fervent councilmanic feathers on their way to cautious acceptance.

Fire Fighters/EMS

City Manager Josué Salmerón reported that, after months of back and forth with the county, a new group of firefighters had finally joined the station and the new staffing plan has kicked in. There are six career staff, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The city negotiated to keep these staff two hours longer each weekday (3 to 5 p.m.) than originally proposed by the county. This allows more time for volunteers to get to their duties after their daytime activities end; many volunteers work full time. The city continues to advocate for the restoration of full-time fire and EMS coverage.

Mayor Emmett Jordan lauded the improvement and Salmerón praised the News Review for keeping up pressure on the county by publishing statistics on worsening response times.

CARES Working Group

Councilmember Kristen Weaver noted that the first council working group, set up to assist in creating a 501(c)(3) for Greenbelt CARES, has succeeded in establishing the entity and is creating its board and bylaws, thus achieving its purpose. Salmerón reported, in turn, that the application has been made but the IRS determination will not be received for a few months yet. The city, however, is identifying grant sources to fund the staff positions that the city cannot currently support and that will disappear without additional funding. Weaver and the two other working group members, Councilmembers Jenni Pompei and Danielle McKinney, agreed that the group had completed its work and should be dissolved.

Further discussion on proposed working groups, however, became heated and is described in a separate article (See page 11).

Ranked Choice Voting

Also somewhat heated was the debate on Ranked Choice Voting, which council eventually moved one step forward with the acceptance of Weaver's proposed motion on drafting a charter

Election 2026

District 2 School Board Candidates Discuss Issues at Public Forum

by Lillian Gray and Peter Kelly

The two candidates running for the Prince George's County School Board District 2 seat, Terence Clegg and Caroline Decaire-Goldin, came together on the evening of Thursday, October 15 for a packed public forum at Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) and the Greenbelt News Review. It was the first and only forum for the Board of Education candidates to be held in the district.

The candidates are hoping to fill the District 2 spot which has been empty since late June after board member Jonathan Briggs suddenly resigned. The spot is still vacant after the county executive failed to appoint an interim representative (see the October 1 issue).

Clegg, a Greenbelt resident, has spent more than 20 years working with children and families through nonprofit leadership and public service. For the past seven years he has worked in the Maryland Department of Human Services in an operations role, and he is the father of three children in Prince George's County



PHOTOS BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Terence Clegg and Caroline Decaire-Goldin speak at the forum.

Public Schools.

Decaire-Goldin is a Riverdale resident with more than 15 years of experience in education across the region. She is currently the director of teaching and learning at the D.C. State Education Agency, but worked as a teacher

at Thomas S. Stone Elementary in Mount Rainier and later as a STEM instructional coach at Hollywood Elementary in College Park.

(For more on the Board of

See FORUM, page 8

Council Explores Ranked Choice Voting with Board of Elections

by Matthew Arbach

On September 23, the Greenbelt City Council resumed its discussion with the city's Board of Elections (BOE) on the implementation of ranked choice voting (RCV) for city elections. Representing BOE were: Nicole Shyong, chair; Steve Gilbert, co-chair; and members Edith Beauchamp, Katy Collin and Michael Hartman. BOE presented a comprehensive report on their recommendations regarding RCV and how city elections should be done.

According to Shyong, in the last election residents voted overwhelmingly on a referendum in favor of bringing RCV to Green-

belt. In order to fully install RCV, amendments to the city charter and a recodification of the city code will need to be done.

BOE recommends that the ballot should allow for up to seven choices ranked in order of preference. In order to be elected, a candidate must achieve at least a 12.5 percent portion of the electorate.

How It Works

In a subsequent interview, Shyong said the election proceeds in rounds, the first tabulating the ballot's highest rank. In each round, candidates who achieve or

See VOTING, page 10

amendment to include the wording proposed by the elections board, plus language about ranked choice voting.

Councilmember Silke Pope, the sole nay vote, felt it was premature to add ranked choice language before, at the very least, a test run. She was also concerned about the cost, stating she had not seen any cost data.

Jordan and Weaver both emphasized that this was an authorization to write a draft and did not yet change the charter. Weaver agreed that there would

See COUNCIL, page 10

What Goes On

Monday, October 26
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, October 28
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: City Manager's Update (Spotlight: Administration)

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



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE PERSEPHONE HOFFMAN

The second weekend of the annual Pumpkin Festival drew a crowd to Roosevelt Center on Friday evening, October 16, preparing pumpkins to line the paths for the Pumpkin Walk. See page 16.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Tuesday, October 27, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3, Register at pgcmls.info/event/17235549.
Wednesday, October 28, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17137765.
Thursday, October 29, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17137874.

Democratic Club Annual Cookout

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club is hosting a cookout this Sunday, continuing their annual tradition. The club has invited a few candidates and politicians to speak and plans to discuss the upcoming November elections. The event is scheduled for October 25 at 3 p.m. at Schrom Hills Park.

Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. October's theme is Bats. The November theme is Birds: Owls & Woodpeckers.

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



Scholarship Available For Friends School

Friends Community School, the progressive Quaker school at 5901 Westchester Park Drive, is accepting applications for the Determined Spirit Scholarship, a \$5,000-per-year award for one new student entering 6th grade for the 2027 to 2028 school year. The recipient keeps the scholarship through 8th grade. Applications close on January 14, 2027.

The scholarship is merit based and need blind, so a family's finances play no part in the selection. Students may apply from any location, but preference goes to Prince George's County residents.

The award recognizes academic promise, commitment to community and what Quakers call "letting your life speak," the idea of showing what you believe through how you live. School officials say they are looking for students who bring promise, resilience and a determined spirit.

Current students are not eligible; the award is open only to students new to the school.

Families and the counselors and administrators who support them can reach the admissions office at admissions@friendscommunityschool.org or 301-441-2100. More information is available at friendscommunityschool.org.

Golden Age Club

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

The last meeting this month is October 28, a birthday celebration potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share, if possible: a main dish, side dish or dessert. Birthday celebrants, be ready to tell your story.

Bicycle Committee's Fall Social, October 24

Join the GHI Bicycle Committee and Greenbelt's bicycle community to share backpacking by bicycle experiences at the Fall Social on Saturday, October 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the GHI board room, 1 Hamilton Place. To add some audiovisual, share a few photos (up to five) by emailing them to bmangum@ghi.coop.

Refreshments will be served. This is also the semiannual gear swap. Bring in gently used gear and grab some items that are "new to you."

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



Emancipation Day Celebration Nov. 7

On Saturday, November 7, honor the 162nd anniversary of Emancipation in Maryland. Attend a program at 2 p.m. in the Community Center featuring the Washington Revels-Jubilee Voices, the Voices for Peace and a spoken word performance by the Osaze Murray, Prince George's County Youth Poet Laureate for 2026.

Join the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, the Recreation Department, the Greenbelt Museum and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) in this special celebration of Freedom and Peace. Admission is Free. For more information, email blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com.

Fall Campfire Programs, Hikes at Greenbelt Park

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

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

On Saturdays, staff from Greenbelt Park and other area national park sites offer a different program.

Saturday, October 24, 6:30 p.m., learn about the Creepy Cryptids of Maryland. Beware the bleat of the Goat! The Goatman has been sighted in and around Greenbelt Park and Beltsville. Join the Rangers to learn about the things that go bump in the night, and lean around the campfire for protection.

Saturday, October 31, 6:30 p.m., is Halloween Movie Night. The featured film is Hocus Pocus.

Goddard's MAD Brings Little Women to Stage



PHOTO COURTESY MAD

In rehearsal for Little Women are (l-r) Laura Fisher as Meg, Aly Bayens as Amy, Susan Heney as Marmee (reading a letter from Mr. March, who is away serving in the Civil War), Taylor Gleason as Jo, and Emily Letchworth as Beth.

Beginning October 23, Goddard's Music and Drama Club (MAD) is bringing the Broadway musical Little Women to the stage. The production brings Louisa May Alcott's beloved story of the March sisters to life through music and a talented cast of local NASA employees.

Running through November 22 at Goddard's Barney & Bea Recreation Center, 9998 Good Luck Road, Glenn Dale, the show will be offered Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by visiting madtheater.org/tickets. There is a discount for the opening weekend.

Help End Hunger

Greenbelt PORCH's last October food pickups are this weekend. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Saturday, October 24 — by 10 a.m. Greenbelt East, Greenbrook Estates.

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

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Wild Rumpus Takes Over Roosevelt Center

Join the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program for a free Halloween party for kids and kids at heart. The Wild Rumpus takes place on Friday, October 30 starting at 4:30 p.m., rain or shine. Enjoy performers on the plaza, trick-or-treating with the Roosevelt Center merchants and a free screening of Toy Story of Terror at the Greenbelt Cinema at 5:45 p.m. Wear a Halloween or cosplay costume or other fancy dress. (No gore or violent imagery.)

Sign up to participate in a community dance number at sugeni.us/UYjs. Volunteers are also welcome starting at 3:30 p.m.; sign up at sugeni.us/UYV6.

Solar Storms Show Monday, October 26

In place of a regular monthly meeting, the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt has been invited to view NASA's new Solar Storms planetarium show on Monday, October 26 at 5 p.m. at the Howard B. Owens Science Center, 9601 Greenbelt Road. The presentation celebrates 20 years of solar observation by NASA's Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) mission.

This presentation is free and open to the public, but registration is required by close of business October 20. Go to forms.gle/nSQjrbCmVnKCMpru5.



ERHS Fall Music Performances

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

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

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

The public is welcome at all events.

Make Fall Leaf Art At Artful Afternoon

Enjoy free, all-ages art workshops on Sunday, November 1 from 1 to 2 p.m. and 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, and on Sunday, November 8 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Use real leaves, block printing ink and brayers to create beautiful prints with Rachel Cross, artist in residence at the Community Center. Find leaves on the ground or use leaves provided by Artful Afternoon staff. Fresh leaves work better than dry crumbly leaves. Artists of all ages are welcome, and no experience is needed. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at sugeni.us/UemM. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.



Empty Bowls Supper Nov. 1 at St. Hughs

The Empty Bowls Supper, which has supported Greenbelt charities for more than 20 years, will be held on Sunday, November 1 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church. The St. Hugh's Food Pantry is this year's recipient. The Greenbelt Pottery Group works year-round making 200 pieces of pottery to contribute to this project.

The menu features a beautiful hand-crafted bowl, soup/chili, bread, dessert and a drink. There will be musical entertainment during the dinner.

Tickets should be purchased now. For information, contact Mary Ann Tretler at mary_tretler@yahoo.com or 240-517-7559.





This Week at the New Deal Café

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

BECOME A MEMBER!*



NEW DEAL
Café
Greenbelt, MD

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!

TH 10/22	FRI 10/23	SAT 10/24	SUN 10/25
Lulu's Fate 7 - 9pm Talented trio performing a mix of traditional bluegrass	The Bob Band 8 - 11pm Five veteran musicians dedicated to capturing the vibe of Bob Dylan's originals	NDC JAZZ JAM, 2 - 5pm The Good Trouble Troubadours 8 - 11pm Soundtrack of the Resistance - Troubled times call for good music	Open for coffee & pastries, 9am - 1pm NO EVENING EVENTS

MON 10/26	TUES 10/27	WED 10/28	TH 10/29	New Deal Cafe
CAFE CLOSED	NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6:15pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	Kim's Grand Rounds - A Soundwriters' Circle 7 - 9pm Songwriters take turns performing	The Acoustic Chicks Band 7 - 9pm Where genres and generations unite in melodic harmony	NOW OPEN FOR MORNING COFFEE & PASTRIES! Tuesday- Friday 8 - 11am Saturday & Sunday 9am- 1pm

*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.

Greenbelt-raised Researcher Talks Migration to Ancient Polynesia

by Sandy Rodgers

Keolu Fox, who grew up in Greenbelt, is one of two senior authors on a research paper highlighted in an October 8, 2026 article in the Washington Post. The research sheds new light on the migration of humans to Hawaii and other Polynesian islands. The study, published in the journal Science by researchers from the U.S., French Polynesia, Europe and Latin America, “deepens our understanding of this expansion and reveals how its genetic afterlife shapes the health of Polynesians today,” said the Post article.

Fox was interviewed about the research in the Post article. Fox, a Native Hawaiian, is an anthropologist and human geneticist at the University of California San Diego. He was raised in Greenbelt, graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and got his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland.

Hundreds of years before Europeans arrived in the Pacific, Polynesian explorers were sailing the vast ocean with only the stars and birds to guide them, settling on islands thousands of

miles away. Using 1,000 Polynesian genomes, the study indicates that small subsets of populations moved from island to island. The research used a partial dataset including some whole genomes from a study published in The Lancet in 2024, along with newly sequenced genomes.

The hope was that with next-generation genome sequence data Fox and his colleagues could learn more about Polynesian migratory history and understand how it impacted health. The results, Fox said, “were even more compelling than they expected.” They also line up with existing linguistic and archaeological models linking Hawaii and other islands.

One result of the study suggests there should be ancestry-based screening for Polynesians, something routinely done for some who have Amish, Finnish or Ashkenazi Jewish heritage. To read the article, Trove of genetic data reveals how settlement of ancient Hawaii unfolded, go to <https://wapo.st/47dWKt4>.

Letters cont'd from p.2

could interrupt ongoing research and push experienced scientists to resign, because senior researchers rarely just pick up and move across the country. Once that knowledge walks out the door, it is not easily rebuilt.

Invasive pests do not wait for a reorganization. They are already costing farmers and homeowners across our region, and we need scientists in place to fight them. Our Maryland agriculture community has argued that closing Beltsville will not improve efficiency and could jeopardize farmers’ success.

I hope Congress and the USDA reconsider this closure before we lose research that protects our food. I strongly urge citizens to immediately contact their elected representatives to insist that BARC remains open.

Kathy Sciannella

Pumpkin Festival: Full of Magic!

One of the things I love most about Greenbelt is seeing how every community event brings people together through creativity, joy and harmony. The Pumpkin Festival is an example of this spirit, filling our community with glowing pumpkins, imagination and wonderful memories. It’s moments like these that remind me how special Greenbelt truly is. More than just a place to live, it’s a beautiful community where you can feel the warmth, unity and sense of belonging.

Bellen Herrera Coarr

Prince George’s Philharmonic

On October 10, I attended an astonishingly beautiful concert presented by the Prince George’s Philharmonic Orchestra. Their new musical director, Nicholas Bromilow, conducted, and he brought out the very best from this group of very talented musicians. I definitely look forward to

attending more of their performances.

Things to know: Prince George’s Philharmonic performs at different college auditoriums throughout the county, so they are close and parking is never an issue. They are also easily accessible for wheelchairs and people with walkers. Tickets are reasonable. They intentionally play the music of classical composers from different cultures. The musical director gives a brief and, may I add, fascinating talk in advance of each piece.

There are two more concerts before Christmas and after the holidays three more concerts will round out the season. See dates and locations as well as the programs at pgphilharmonic.org.

Hope to see you there.

Linda W. McLinden





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

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

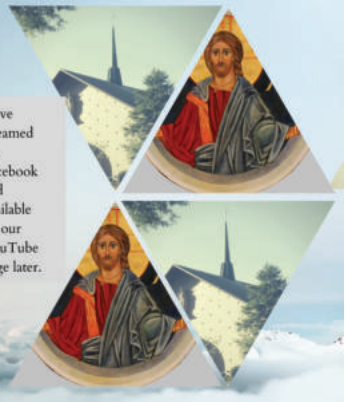


ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

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



Obituaries

Martha Williams



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Martha Williams

Martha Williams died on October 1, 2026, at age 90.

Martha was born June 3, 1936, in Campbell County, Va., to

the late Samuel and Gladys Berkeley. She married the late Howard L. Williams, and from that union two daughters were born.

In 1996, she retired from the federal government where she was employed for 30 years at the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health in the Office of Communications and Media Relations.

Martha moved to Greenbelt in 1998. She was looking for a new home and settled on Greenbriar. She loved the city and the community. She resided there until her death 28 years later.

Martha will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her generous heart and unwavering love she gave others and steadfast faith. Her presence brought warmth, laughter and strength to her family. She leaves behind cherished memories that will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She was deeply loved and will be forever missed.

Martha is survived by her daughters Peggy L. Williams and Rhonda Prillaman and granddaughter Jasmin Hillyer.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Martha Williams, a longtime resident of Greenbriar, who died at the age of 90. Williams retired from the federal government where she had been employed for 30 years at the Department of Health and Human Services. Her generosity and warmth will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to the ERHS varsity volleyball team who hope to cap an undefeated season on Thursday night.

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.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

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

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

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

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

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

"O CHILDREN OF DUST! Tell the rich of the midnight sighing of the poor, lest heedlessness lead them into the path of destruction, and deprive them of the Tree of Wealth. To give and to be generous are attributes of Mine; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues." – Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road

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

We Are an Open and Affirming Church



Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman

A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.

Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom

For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770





City Information & Events

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

MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 26 - 30

Saturday, October 24 at 1 pm, **GREENBELT CINEMA, *Greenbelt Cinema, On the Agenda: Greenbelt Cinema Strategic Plan Presentation and Listening Session***

Tuesday, October 27 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, *Greenbelt Community Center, On the Agenda: Approval of September Meeting Minutes, Discussion of the September Open Forum Feedback***

Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, *Virtual, On the Agenda: TBD***

Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (GREEN ACES), *Virtual, On the Agenda: TBD***

Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE (SPOTLIGHT: ADMINISTRATION) / SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION (PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS)**

Thursday, October 29 at 7 pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING - (CITY OF NEW CARROLLTON**

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

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 26 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
- Petitions and Requests
- Consent Agenda
 - * Meetings
 - * Committee Reports
 - * Appointment to Advisory Board/Committee
 - * Acceptance of Council Legislative Priorities and Bond Bills Projects
 - * Reappointment to Advisory Board/Committee
 - * Resignation from Advisory Board/Committee
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
 - * Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 - * National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Minutes
- Administrative Reports
 - * Update regarding Council Legislative Priorities and Bond Bills Projects

LEGISLATION

- A Resolution to Repeal and Reenact the City Community Pledge
 - 2nd Reading and Adoption
- A Resolution Affirming the City of Greenbelt's Desire to take Ownership of the Building and Property Currently Serving as Springhill Lake Elementary, Previously Dora Kennedy French Immersion School and Greenbelt Middle School, but historically known as Greenbelt High School, once the Building has been Decommissioned by Prince George's County Public Schools
 - 2nd Reading and Adoption
- A Resolution to Repeal and Reenact the City Community Pledge
 - 1st Reading
- An Ordinance Adopting And Enacting A New Code For The City Of Greenbelt; Providing For The Repeal Of Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Providing A Penalty For The Violation Thereof; Providing For The Manner Of Amending Such Code
 - 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS

- City Council Sub-committee Working Group (Community Visioning and Public Development Working Group)
- Council Discussion: Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Dues
- Discussion, Review and Acceptance of DEI Consulting Services RFP
- Council Reports
- Council Activities

In advance, the hearing impaired is 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 agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, & PAINT RECYCLING

Saturday, October 24 from 9 am to 12 pm
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road

Electronics Recycling NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6. NEW: egg cartons and food trays!

NO PAINT RECYCLING IN OCTOBER

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004.

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, immediately following the Work Session – City Manager's Update (Spotlight: Administration) 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to discuss personnel matters; and 2) pending legal matters.

*** The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into closed session on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.**

- Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

THE WILD RUMPUS

Friday, October 30, 4:30 - 6 pm
Roosevelt Center

Wear your Halloween or cosplay costume* or other fancy dress, and join the celebration! Enjoy performers on the plaza followed by trick-or-treating with the Roosevelt Center merchants and a short film at the Greenbelt Cinema. No pre-registration required. All ages welcome! Rain or shine.

*No gore or violent imagery, please; thank you for helping to create a peaceful, playful, and welcoming atmosphere for all participants.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday, October 30 from 7-9 pm

Beltway Plaza Rear Parking Lot, 6000 Greenbelt Road

Join the Greenbelt Police Department for its annual Trunk or Treat, a safe and festive Halloween event for Greenbelt families. Kids can dress up, explore decorated trunks, collect candy, and enjoy an evening of community connection with GPD and event partners.

Come in costume, bring a bag, and enjoy a spooktacular evening with your neighbors. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

FREE MEDICARE PLAN REVIEWS

October 15 – December 7, Monday–Thursday, 10 am – 4 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Get a tailored plan analysis for your prescription needs. 2027 plan rates will be available during this window. All plan choices must be made during this open enrollment window.

WHAT TO BRING: A list of your prescriptions and the dosage for each medication.

CAREGIVER APPRECIATION EVENT

Saturday, November 7, 11 am - 4 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road

Offering haircuts and styling, hair braiding, make up, massages, reflexology, and acupuncture.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

November 2, 11 am - 4 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Birth certificates are required for EVERY child receiving diapers at EVERY pickup, including returning families.

Registration required each month.

To register for CARES programs:

Call: 202-891-8071, Email: cherrera@greenbeltmd.gov

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2026

Please note that this year's collection will include a **LAST CHANCE** collection from December 28 - January 8.

Week	Location	Holiday
November 2-6	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	
November 9-13	Boxwood	Veterans Day November 11
November 16-20	Woodland Hills	
November 23-27	Lakeside	Thanksgiving November 26 & 27
November 30 - December 4	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	
December 7-11	Boxwood	
December 14-18	Woodland Hills	
December 21-25	Lakeside	Christmas December 25
December 28 - January 8	LAST CHANCE ALL NEIGHBORHOODS	New Years Day January 1

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



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

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

November Artful Afternoons

11/1, 1-2pm & 2-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) 11/8, 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center) All ages welcome. Use real leaves, block printing ink, and brayers to create beautiful prints with Artist in Residence Rachel Cross. Walk-ins welcome as space and supplies permit. Sign up: sugeni.us/UemM.

Wild Rumpus Dance Number and Volunteer Call

(Greenbelt Community Center.) Be part of Greenbelt Recreation's annual Halloween celebration in Roosevelt Center (10/30)! Sign up at <https://sugeni.us/UYjs> to participate in a community dance number and at <https://sugeni.us/UYV6> to volunteer at the event!

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

Registration required for the following activity, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide, p.22 for details

- **Fused Glass Jewelry** (Community Center) 10/24, 11am-12:30pm & 12:30-1:30pm (pg 31)
- **Make & Take Miniature Ceramics: Magical Miniatures** (Community Center) 11/1-11/8 1-2:30pm (pg 34)
- **Pet Portrait Painting** (Community Center) 11/7-11/14, 11am-3pm (pg 30)

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/known-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

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

Co-op Plans Future Renovation, Elects Board at Annual Meeting

by Tom Jones, Erica Johns and Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Saturday, October 17, the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy held its annual meeting. Its corporate name is the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (GCC).

One of the first items on the agenda was recognition of the boards of Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) and its subsidiary Greenbelt Development Corporation (GDC) which, in August, purchased the building at 121 Centerway that houses the supermarket and pharmacy and the Greenbelt Arts Center.

Remodeling Plans

General Manager Dan Gillotte presented background information about the current plans. He said the remodeling will involve grocery store design experts and draw on his experience renovating the Wheatsville Co-op grocery store in Austin, Texas, where he was general manager before coming to Greenbelt. There were no dates, technical drawings or specifications yet but he prepared the membership for what's to come, including creating a modern store for the next generation to attract new customers to shop there while retaining current members. The Co-op was bold in building its major 1948 building, said Gillotte, and the Co-op needs to be bold again (see the November 11, 1948 issue for news of that grand opening).

The Co-op will remain open during renovation, said Gillotte. Portions may be closed off, and stock in the remaining areas will move around.

The renovations will require loans but, done well, will increase the customer base and sales, said Gillotte. In addition to loans, the Co-op also plans fundraising efforts, including fundraising from members and seeking grants.

During the meeting attendees broke into small discussion groups concerning the renovation. The groups were asked to imagine what they would want to see when they enter the renovated building, what excited them about their visits and what worried them. Participants generated ideas and discussion that included clear navigation, good signage, natural light, accessible pathways, higher ceilings, seating near the deli, near windows and a quiet space, more organic produce, humanely raised meat and Marine Stewardship Council sustainable seafood.

One need Gillotte highlighted was that the current deli oven is busy all day and the store needs a second one. Another change to look for will be a switch from the house brand Best Yet to Essential Everyday, which is being made for the sake of broader selection, availability and price, said Gillotte.

Gillotte said that currently the five store best sellers are bananas, Canadian salmon, in-house ground beef, deli soup and bagels. The deli is the fastest-growing department, he said.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Amy Drew presented the annual financial report. The GCC had a total income of \$12,468,217 in FY 2026. With a cost of goods sold at \$8,824,683, that created a gross profit of \$3,643,534. Expenses included wages, which were over \$2.2

On The Outside -



—Photo by Paul Kasko
Looking in through the plate glass, were part of the 9,000 visitors waiting to see the interior of the new GCS supermarket.

million, as well as administrative costs, depreciation and loss through disposal, among other categories. After taxes, the Co-op presented a net loss of \$66,887 for the year that ended June 28, 2026.

The GCC balance sheet, which included assets as well as liabilities and equity, showed total assets and member equity had increased 2.97 percent over the prior year to stand at \$2,138,431.

Board Election

The only candidates for two open positions on the GCC board were elected by acclamation. Departing members were Steven Bernheisel, who moved from Greenbelt earlier this year, and Leonard Wallace, who were thanked for their service. The two newly elected members are Fiona (Noni) Lewis and Susan Taylor.

Lewis operated food service businesses in Asia and Afghanistan before moving to Greenbelt. A chef and restaurateur, she owns several Washington, D.C. restaurants including District Fishwife at Union Market. She brings hospitality and food service experience to the board.

Taylor became interested in serving after writing about cooperative grocery stores for a book about helping, healing and collaboration. She said her professional teaching, psychotherapy, group relations and research experiences trained her to listen for and address multiple needs and perspectives.

Returning members of the board of directors are Kim Kash, president; Amy Drew, treasurer; Amber Hennessy, secretary; Joe Timer; and Julie Tharrett.

Round-up Recipients

During the meeting, members were able to vote for the 12

round-up program recipients for the coming year, for which the News Review was one contender. Interest exceeded expectations and there were 25 organizations vying for the 12 monthly slots. The result of that vote is not yet public.

Jim Cassels Community Service Award

The Jim Cassels Community Service Award is an annual \$1,500 grant given by the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy to support new or continuing community projects or activities that benefit the Greenbelt community.

Anne Gardner reported on Greenbelt Recreation Department's use of the 2025 award to convert Springhill Lake Recreation Center's computer lab into an arts space. This included the purchase of a lockable cabinet and arts supplies.

Donna Hoffmeister, Jeff Cassels and Gillotte presented the 2026 award to Greenbelt Rotary Club for their work with Springhill Lake Elementary School. The Rotary plans to use \$1,000 of the award to enable the school to purchase small gifts as positive behavior incentives at the school store. Staff use these to reward students and reinforce behaviors including being ready to learn, paying attention, following directions promptly, walking safely, cleaning up after oneself, using inside voices and taking turns. The remaining \$500 will be used to purchase grocery gift cards for families identified by school staff as food-insecure.

At the close of the meeting, members were treated to goodie bags containing several items including canned beans, bananas, some skincare samples, chocolate, a cereal bar and sparkling water.

And The Inside -



—Photo by Paul Kasko
Packed with future customers, taking in the flowers, the entertainment, and the great array of groceries, meats, and produce displayed for the opening.

The November 11, 1948 issue of the Greenbelt Cooperator featured a report on the opening of the expanded and remodeled co-op supermarket. Thousands of visitors came to the opening of the modern supermarket.

- Photos courtesy GNR Archives

Ian DesJardin poses with the News Review at the Barskoon Valley Yuri Gagarin Monument in Kyrgyzstan. The monument was built to honor a nearby hike that Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin took upon his return to earth in Vostok 1.

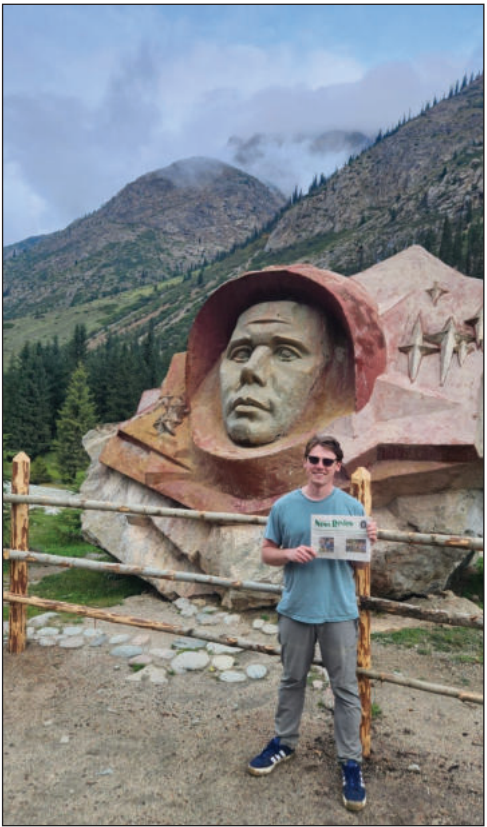


PHOTO BY KURT HENDERSHOTT

Halloween Fun at the Market
Sunday Oct. 25 | 10a - 2p



Cider Pressing - Kids Activities
Trick-or-Treat w/select Vendors
Live Music
Costumes Encouraged!



Greenbelt Community Church
Donation Drive

24 - 25
OCTOBER

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road
Saturday, October 24, 9 AM - 1 PM
Sunday, October 25, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Also collecting non-perishable food for Help by Phone food pantry



Clothing - Shoes - Household Items - Small Appliances - Books - DVDs - No Furniture or Oversized Items



EMPTY BOWLS SUPPER

Sunday, Nov. 1. 4:30-6:30 at
St. Hugh's Church Grenoble Hall
Sponsored by Greenbelt Pottery Group and
St. Hugh's Ladies of Charity
Benefits St. Hugh's food pantry.
Beautiful hand-crafted bowl, soup/chili, bread,
dessert and drink.

Musical entertainment. Eat and enjoy.
\$35 donation. Purchase tickets now.

Contact Mary Ann Tretler
at mary_tretler@yahoo.com
or 240 517-7559.



Utopia Film Festival

Preserving Meaningful, Courageous Art: Susan Gervasi’s Lenore Film

by Rachel Kebler

Susan Gervasi’s independent film *Lenore*, which had a special screening on the final day of the Utopia Film Festival on Monday, tells viewers the story of Greenbelt’s iconic statues and carvings and Lenore Thomas Straus, the artist behind them. Gervasi is also deputy director of the festival, which held events and screenings over the weekend.

Lenore Straus was a self-taught sculptor and author, commissioned by the Public Works of Art Project under the Resettlement Administration to create pieces for Greenbelt as it began developing in the late 1930s. Her work includes the Mother and Child sculpture found in Roosevelt Center, the bas relief U.S. Constitution Preamble panels along the outer wall of the Community Center and more.

The film tells Lenore Straus’ story through photo and video archives and interviews with Greenbelt Museum curators and people in her life, including her son Eric Straus, who was present at the screening.

The film captures Lenore Straus as a person behind her art. She reflected her progressiveness with works like an anti-lynching Establish Justice Preamble panel that she created for Greenbelt. The government rejected its display, choosing an alternative submission by Lenore Straus, yet she remained true to her passion for social justice throughout her life, even while being investigated by the government for Communist-leaning beliefs. As stated in the film, Lenore Straus dropped out of art school because she felt it was too focused on teaching literal design over meaning.

The film also investigates Lenore Straus’ Accokeek home, which looked across the Potomac River to Mount Vernon, her solo travels and her passion for Zen which she dove into later in her life. The film concludes by touching upon the new wave of artists, with hope that they carry on the groundbreaking legacy of Lenore Straus.

After the screening, a Q&A was held with Susan Gervasi, her husband Frank Gervasi, who assisted with the film’s camerawork and was the festival’s manager of operations, and Eric Straus. The three panelists received a plethora of questions from the crowded room, further discussing the production process, Lenore Straus’ life and art in Greenbelt today. Susan revealed that the film took about two years to complete, drawing from her admiration for Lenore Straus and beginning the research process by talking to Eric, who still lives in Accokeek. The showing ended up running almost 10 minutes past the scheduled endtime as viewers had so many questions and appreciative comments for the film.

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



The Greenbelt community gathers in the New Deal Café for special screenings during the final night of the Utopia Film Festival on Oct. 19.

Lenore Thomas Straus’ Mother and Child sculpture.



- Photos by Rachel Kebler



GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

All of these Greenbelt kittens still need homes. Spread the word. We need your support. We'll be at the October 25th Oktoberfest event at the Greenbelt Fire Station. Stop by our table. Check donations can be sent to WAGS, P.O. Box 1672, Greenbelt, MD 20768. Indicate on the check that the donation is "for: Greenbelt TNR."

Thank you for your support.

WE'RE SISTERS!!! ADOPT US!!



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



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

ADOPT US!!! CUDDLY AND SOFT!!



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



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

COMING SOON!!! THE BOYS!!



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



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

Utopia Film Festival

A Review of Three Short Films

by Mary Lou Williamson

The Best Little Tiny Park

The Best Little Tiny Park in Texas is a 10-foot by 6-foot island where three streets come together in Austin, Texas. The filmmaker, a lawyer whose life is telling stories in court, finds a new life for storytelling. The island changes face every so often: bold and colorful, brassy and in your face, funny, unexpectedly sweet, weird to beautiful.

A private group designs and builds and unbuilds.

- 9-minute short
Rose

The small girl featured has a sweet face. She is seen happily lying in the grass or looking at trees and nature but does not appear to connect with the people around her. The exception is the warmth she shows for her father. They walk together hand in hand. At the school the father asks for help and learns his daughter is on the autism spectrum.

A darling film.
- 11-minute narrative short

Lenore

From knowing little about Lenore Thomas Straus beyond her bas reliefs on the Community Center and the Mother and Child statue, Director Susan Gervasi explores the story of Lenore’s life: her difficulty in getting beyond an early recognition that art is the world for her and making that happen. She finds rejection many times before she discovers that working with stone will be her success.

The director has diligently studied Lenore’s life to discover that she is a strong and independent woman whose work in stone complements who she is.

Greenbelt will want to learn this story of the woman who designed and created the bas reliefs on what was originally the Center Elementary School and the Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center which show Lenore’s strength of character to pursue her life as an artist.

- 40-minute documentary



This \$35 ad won't get you to Mars but Greenbelt has more shoppers.

www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

WE'RE READY!!! STAR WARS BABIES!!



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) plus their mom Luminara are ready to go to their forever homes.



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

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



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



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

GREENBELT CUTIES!!



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



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

LET'S PLAY!! ADOPT US!!



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



Contact: GREENBELT.TNR@GMAIL.COM

Election News

FORUM continued from page 1

Education candidates see the June 11 issue.)

The forum, moderated by ACE Chair Janet Mirsky, began with a series of pre-selected questions from the many that had been submitted in advance to ACE and the News Review. There were then questions from members of Greenbelt's Youth Advisory Committee and audience members in the room.

Transportation

One of the most pressing questions of the night was about transportation. After the school year started with approximately 10,000 county students without bus assignments, candidates were quick to articulate their visions.

Decaire-Goldin said that she would like to see more transparent bus routes that are created a month before they start running and made public to the community to receive input from families. Overall, she hopes to see stronger communication between families and the board.

"I would like to actually hear the hard questions being asked because that's what I deal with in my day-to-day work on an education policy side," said Decaire-Goldin.

Clegg said that his current operations role has given him experience working with large fleets of vehicles and has taught him that by the time a problem occurs, it's already a failure. He would like to see more planning ahead, more feedback loops and action items.

"We've got to move the ball forward every month until every kid is routed, until we fix this transportation issue," said Clegg.

Supporting Teachers

Candidates were asked about ways they could better support teachers. Clegg said that Decaire-Goldin is not the only one who has classroom experience; he served as a substitute teacher, something he hadn't previously shared during his campaign, and he had viewed first-hand the environment that teachers work in.

Clegg said that the county needs to hire enough teachers to meet students where they are and prioritize retaining those teachers to keep them in the county.

"You can't know what it means to be a teacher unless you've done it," Decaire-Goldin said after Clegg finished his response.

Decaire-Goldin detailed many of the struggles that she faced as a teacher in Prince George's County, especially with facilities that lack resources like updated HVAC, pest control and modern infrastructure. She said that retaining and developing teachers is about funding and having the money to recruit and sustain them.

She also mentioned things that she said are often overlooked, like awkward credentialing systems that can force teachers out of the county and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on educators' and students' mental health.

"We have to help support, reskill and retool our teachers," Decaire-Goldin said. "[We have to] make sure we have mental health resources and those tools will get us to retain and support them."

School Funding

Another question organizers

posed was how candidates would ensure the district adopts timely, realistic budgets, spends responsibly, issues contracts on time and helps schools secure all eligible funding through effective family outreach and required paperwork. This question came following a belated budget from the superintendent this year which came at the end of January, in violation of board policy requiring it by the end of the prior calendar year (see the February 11 issue) and against the backdrop of Hollywood Elementary's recent loss of Title 1 funding, to which one resident suggested incomplete meal-benefit forms could have contributed.

Having previously worked in a Title 1 school, Decaire-Goldin said that she knows how "devastating" it is to lose funding for certain resources. She said that the budget situation is opaque and that people don't get information in a timely manner. To fix this, she said that board members and administrators need to lean into communication to make sure families know what's coming.

Clegg said that cuts are necessary to manage the budget, but shouldn't be done without community input. He suggested that before cuts are made, the board should discuss them with the county council and state legislature, with the goal of advocating for fully funding education reform. "I will always protect our educators and protect our kids," he said. "Anything that is cut will have to come from above the classroom."

He said that services provided in the classroom should be continued but things like technology services should be reevaluated to ensure schools only have the services that the community needs.

Based on school board candidate interviews conducted by the Local News Network, this week Capital News Service's Mayah Nachman reported that "nearly halfway into the 10-year-long, \$30 billion plan to establish a 'world-class education system' in Maryland [the Blueprint], many candidates are concerned about its feasibility." The University of Maryland-based network reported 62 out of 70 school board candidates surveyed expressed concern about the financial and adminis-



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Paint Branch Elementary School parent Sasha Tyukavina asks a question of candidates at the forum.

trative implications of the plan. However, Decaire-Goldin and Clegg were in agreement as to the importance of the Blueprint, both calling for it to be fully funded.

Audience Questions

The second part of the forum saw the candidates field questions from residents in attendance. Two students jointly representing the Greenbelt Youth Advisory Committee asked two questions. First, they expressed concern about their curriculums not including practical areas to explore.

In response, Clegg noted how his children have participated in walking field trips to learn more about nature in the county, while Decaire-Goldin recalled students she taught participating in a gun violence protest and other experiential offerings.

Second, the youth wanted to understand the candidates' stances on proposed "bell-to-bell" cell-phone bans, saying that with many websites blocked on computers, students often need to use their phones for research projects.

Despite the candidates sharing relatively similar sentiments for most of the night, this issue presented a stark contrast in viewpoints. Decaire-Goldin answered first, suggesting an overall scan of the need for phones in lesson planning. Clegg followed, and he explicitly supported the ban.

"As parents, we have to walk a narrow line," said Clegg. "Make sure that you have the resources that you need, but also make sure that we're keeping you safe at all times. There's so many outside influences on the phone. ... We

want to make sure you guys are focused on learning during the day."

After the youth asked their questions, parents asked how disparities between schools could be improved in materials and infrastructure. Both candidates continued to promote equity, saying that they would make sure everyone had a voice in each issue that was brought up.

Responding to a question about the lack of books in county schools, which followed one about restrictions on technology, Clegg continued to promote equitable and balanced practices to involve more hard copies of materials in learning, and Decaire-Goldin also showed her support for revitalizing books in classrooms, noting experience with books that didn't get used.

"Telling a student you have to have access to technology for everything they need is inequitable," Decaire-Goldin said. "Not all families have access to a computer. Not all families have access to a phone that stays on all the time."

Candidates also discussed infrastructure issues in some schools, such as HVAC malfunctions, electrical fires, and at times, a lack of clean drinking water. Both Decaire-Goldin and Clegg support direct conversation with parents, teachers and students to advocate

for the specific issues they see that may prohibit learning.

The final question both candidates answered requested their top priorities if they were elected. Clegg established his intent to revamp the transportation system, create periodic meetings to stay face to face in the community and make sure every school had a Parent Teacher Association or Organization. Decaire-Goldin distilled her philosophy to three points — transparency, community and rebuilding trust.

For a district that's been without representation since June, the forum served as a chance for residents to inform their upcoming decision, said Denna Lambert, a member of ACE and one of the event's organizers.

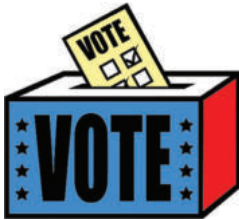
"My hope is that [the forum] sends a signal to the community that we can have dialogue about specific questions," Lambert said. "But it also sends a message to the candidates that we have an engaged and involved community of parents, teachers [and] youth."

Voters will have the chance to choose between Decaire-Goldin and Clegg in the general election. The winner will start their term on December 7 and serve for the next four years.

"Between now and November 3, I would tell people to do their research," said Lambert. "Get out there and vote, bring a friend to go vote and continue the involvement beyond Election Day!"

Residents who were unable to attend the forum in person can view a recording by Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) at youtu.be/f7ASyDaKvQU.

Lillian Gray and Peter Kelly are students at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



ROOSEVELT DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ANNUAL COOKOUT

Join us for our Annual Cookout!
We will break buns with fellow democrats and hear from a few wonderful candidates and electeds.

SUNDAY, OCT 25, 2026
3:00 – 5:00 PM

Schrom Hills Recreation Center
6915 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD

The cookout is scheduled for October 25th at **3:00 PM**. We will be at **Schrom Hills Park**. We'll bring the burgers and hot dogs. Feel free to bring a dish to share with the group.

WWW.ROOSEVELTCLUB.COM

Native Plants and their Pollinators A Story Millions of Years in the Making

Sunday, October 25, noon
The Fireside Room at
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
4512 College Ave, College Park, MD 20740

Join Dr. Anahí Espíndola for a presentation on ways to look at native plants and their pollinators through new (fun!) lenses, understanding their long shared history and dynamics to better support them and our shared environment.



www.SAECCP.org

Election News

Election 2026

Residents Report Inaccurate Link, Sample Ballots Not Yet Received

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

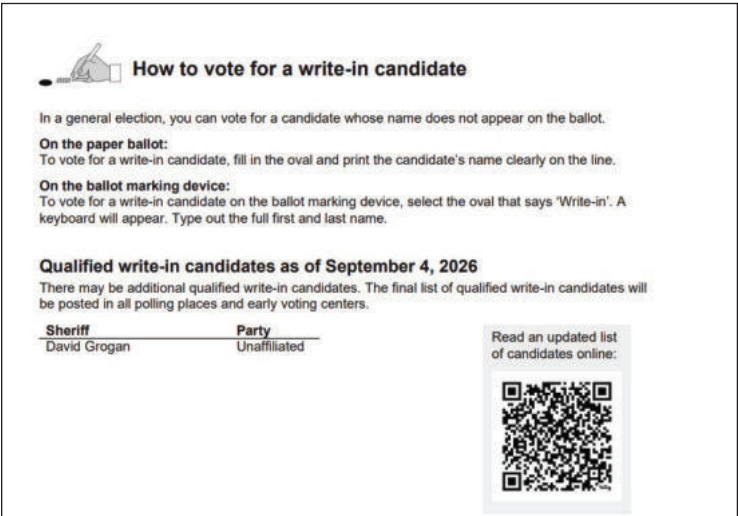


IMAGE COURTESY PG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A QR code in the sample ballot that should lead to a full list of candidates misdirects to an error message.

At press time several residents had reported to the News Review that they had not yet received their official sample ballots for the upcoming general election. Sample ballots are required to be mailed a week before early voting, which begins this Thursday. In the primary, sample ballots arrived after Election Day for much of the city, causing frustration and questions about how voter information impacted the election (see articles in the August 6 and August 20 issues).

Speaking to the News Review on Tuesday, a representative from the Prince George’s County Board of Elections said the sample ballots had been mailed and residents should have received them. However, if a voter requested a mail-in ballot they will not also receive a sample ballot. Nonetheless, Greenbelt residents who had not requested mail-in ballots said they had also not received their sample ballot. This comes on the heels of the concerns about sample ballots from the primary election but also concerns about the reliability of the city’s postal service (see page 1).

Misdirection for Write-in List
Resident Ginger Archibald, who received a sample ballot, reported that in the section for “Qualified write-in candidates,” a

QR code took voters to a broken link and a 404 message. The News Review found the QR code directed users to a web address that mistakenly includes the year 2024 instead of 2026. The correct link to access a list of qualified candidates is elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/General_candidates/index.html.

The only write-in candidate listed in the sample ballot is David Grogan, who is running as an unaffiliated candidate for sheriff.

Write-in Candidate for County Executive

One prominent write-in candidate not listed is Tonya Sweat, who is running for county executive. Sweat launched a write-in campaign after her petition to get on the ballot was rejected in August for insufficient valid signatures. To appear on the ballot, independent candidates are required to submit 6,531 signatures or one percent of registered county voters. Sweat collected and submitted 6,743 signatures but the Board of Elections subsequently rejected 1,316 of them as invalid.



Maryland Witches Book Talk Hosted by Greenbelt Museum

by Matt Neufeld

’Tis October, the season of the witch, and Greenbelters could not have received a better introduction to the spooky Halloween season than a book talk on October 1 by the author of *Maryland Witches*, a book about witchcraft, witches and the dark history of accused witches in Maryland and beyond.

Author Trish Hoffman, a retired federal government worker originally from accused-witch ground zero Massachusetts who now lives in Westminster, offered a lively and educational discussion at the Municipal Building about the shocking, twisted — even for the 1600s — history of witches.

Hoffman’s research found male witches, contrary to popular opinion, are not called warlocks; a witch bottle is a glass bottle usually filled with various odd things, including urine; some people bury their dead near the front door of their house to ward off witches or intruders; Maryland never burned any witches at the stake — but officials in Prince George’s County found a woman guilty of witchcraft and had her hung to death. Officials in Massachusetts, England, Scotland and parts of Europe persecuted people for alleged witchcraft and had them hanged; and, after all of this witch craziness through several centuries, no evidence was ever found of actual supernatural or paranormal activity conjured up by all of those poor women or men accused of practicing witchcraft.

Most accused of witchcraft were women, and their persecution sprang from paranoid suspicions by puritanical colonists about individualistic women who were single, poor, nature-oriented, fans of animals or interested in farming their own herbs and spices. Thus, a single, strong woman taking care of herself and doing a little down-home farming for healing and subsistence might be suspected of witchcraft.

Sometimes, one of the savvy women accused of witchcraft would actually confess, said Hoffman, and promise to be good and not a witch anymore — and they would be set free.

Maryland participated in witch hunts and persecutions on a grand scale in the 1600s. “In 1639, Maryland law specified that sorcery was punishable by death: burning for a woman and being drawn and quartered for a man,” says the book. Evidence that Maryland was complicit in witch hunts the book reports: “Five women in the colonial Chesapeake region were tried for witchcraft or poisoning between 1685 and 1748.”

Perhaps none of these women gained as much infamy in witching history as Moll Dyer, a single senior citizen who was accused of witchcraft by Leonardtown residents, chased from her humble home in the woods by neighbors who burned down her home on a cold February night in 1697. The urban legend goes that poor



PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

Trish Hoffman, author of *Maryland Witches*, speaks at a discussion hosted by the Museum about the book at the Greenbelt City Council chamber on Thursday, October 1.

Moll, whose real name was Mary, fled into the woods, lay down on a flat rock there — and promptly died. It’s believed poor Mary’s hand and knee prints were left on the rock. The legend says that Moll has continued through the centuries to haunt the region.

Today, that rock actually sits under a protective shield set “next to the building housing the St. Mary’s County Historical Society,” *Maryland Witches* tells us.

This disturbing campfire story endures as one of Maryland’s more entertaining folk tales 329 years later.

Dyer was related to the infamous Dr. Samuel Mudd, the Maryland doctor who was accused of medically assisting Abraham Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth after the injured Booth fled Washington, D.C. Hoffman mentioned this during her talk. In a beautiful twist and a nice bit of karma to the October 1 book discussion evening in Greenbelt, one woman in the audience who joined the talk was Kathy Labukas of Greenbelt, an actual descendant of Mudd. Labukas said Mudd is her great-great uncle. Mudd’s mother was a cousin of Mary Dyer and Labukas’s mother was a Mudd, Labukas said. The connection of this famous witch story to Greenbelt was a perfect fit for the evening’s end.

The Greenbelt Museum sponsored Hoffman’s book talk, with Museum Director Megan Searing Young serving as host for the evening.



Open Letter to Greenbelt

As a Greenbelt resident and parent, I’ve had many conversations with neighbors about the questions we all share. Do we trust our local schools? Do we need to consider moving? How do we navigate the school lottery? This year’s transportation failures have only deepened those concerns.

One Board of Education candidate has the experience and the passion to address these issues with the urgency they deserve: Dr. Caroline Decaire-Goldin.

I’ve known Caroline for years. We met when our daughters were at the same daycare here in Greenbelt. After one conversation, you can tell she’s kind, genuine, and incredibly passionate about education. But our friendship is not why I’m voting for her. Caroline belongs on the Board because she has taught in our classrooms, advocated for our students’ needs, and championed District 2 families. She brings over 15 years of experience in education at all levels.

She is already fighting for us while we are without a Board member. After one of the worst back-to-school years in memory, especially for families at Robert Goddard Montessori and Dora Kennedy French Immersion, Caroline gathered community input and brought it to the Board in public testimony.

What stood out to me was that she understands the realities of being a teacher, the toll a crisis like this takes on educators who are too routinely asked to go above and beyond, and that solutions come from those most impacted by decisions. That’s why she brought our community’s concerns to the Board and also told them to listen to the bus drivers and teachers affected by the school system’s failure to prepare. She then hand-delivered a letter to Dr. Joseph on behalf of families who couldn’t attend the Back-to-School ice cream social because their buses weren’t arriving in time.

She is doing all of this without institutional backing, while working full-time as a state education policy leader and raising two young kids. Caroline is an advocate, educator, and mom, and a voice that is desperately needed on the Board.

I am proud to vote for someone who has been quietly and steadily championing a more just education system for over 15 years. Please visit www.carolineforpgcps.com to learn more about Caroline and get involved. I truly believe that after one conversation with her, you’ll agree she should represent District 2.

Sincerely,
John Stephenson

Authorized by Friends of Caroline Decaire-Goldin
Dr. Darin Simmons Jr., Treasurer

PAID AD

Election 2026

Early Voting Begins Oct. 22

by Rachel Kebler

Early voting for the general election begins October 22 and goes until October 29. Here is some other information to note.

Early Voting Centers

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day of early voting week. There are 13 in the county. The two closest to Greenbelt are the Trinity Assembly of God church at 7800 Good Luck Road, Lanham (2.9 miles), and the College Park Community Center at 5051 Pierce Avenue (5.9 miles).

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/hhhwkp3k>.

Voter Registration

Online voter registration ended October 13, but residents can still register in person at the polling places listed above or on Election Day.

To register, you must bring a picture ID and proof of residence. This may be one document, such as an MVA-issued license or permit; or two including a change of address card, bank statement, etc. Visit elections.maryland.gov for more information on this process.

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



Council News

COUNCIL continued from page 1

be some additional cost for voter education but that the current elections vendor could also manage this type of balloting and she didn't expect a considerable increase in cost. No estimates were offered in confirmation. (For more on ranked choice voting see the article on page 1).

City Code Updates

The city code is in the process of being updated to match provisions of the county code that affect it (mostly minor) and any charter changes will also be reflected in it. Salmerón felt that no action was required at this time. Resident Michael Hartman requested the city to move swiftly to pin down any changes to election protocols.

City Manager's Report

Salmerón fulfilled his initial statement that he had "a lot to report on," opening with Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations and the Schrom Hills Park Fall Festival, both well attended. Other highlights were the replacement of the brick crosswalks around Roosevelt Center and the replacement of paving in the center of the plaza.

Though the central paving replacement was not explicitly funded, the city was able to include it. In addition, some crosswalks were painted and the state mowed state highway medians in Greenbelt, though they were unable to get to some hand-work edging of those medians.

Stop Sign Cameras

Stop sign violations have significantly declined (see the October 15 issue). Councilmember Frankie Fritz requested information on how the ticketing has affected Greenbelt residents as opposed to those merely passing through. Salmerón replied that the number of resident violations has declined and that Greenbelters now constitute about 25 percent of the violations. He added that 79 percent of people get ticketed only once (though Fritz admitted to two). The report, with information and examples, is available at tinyurl.com/5xuewy66. Resident Bill Orleans recommended a community meeting to discuss how the citations were determined. Fritz noted that the recipient of a ticket can already view the footage for the citation and protest it and that every ticket is reviewed by a human. The report has examples of ticket videos that show how violations are determined and Weaver was at pains to point out that once a ticket had been issued, no subsequent tickets were issued to the same vehicle at the same location until the recipient had had the opportunity to pay.

Pompi warned drivers to pay attention in other nearby jurisdictions because, comparatively, Greenbelt has only a few cameras: a total of six, compared to (for example) over 30 in Laurel. Jordan emphasized that the goal was to get people to stop, not to punish them or make money.

Right of First Refusal

The city must now register to assert its right of first refusal to purchase county surplus property within Greenbelt's municipal boundaries. A motion was presented for first and second reading by Pompi to allow the city to make the application. This

doesn't commit the city to purchase anything and the motion passed both steps unanimously.

The county may decide to declare as surplus the old Greenbelt High School (subsequently Greenbelt Middle School, Dora Kennedy French Immersion School and currently the temporary home of Springhill Lake Elementary). Later in the meeting, Weaver offered the first reading of a motion that allows the city to enter into negotiations to acquire the building. No financing is authorized by the motion, which passed. These motions combined prepare the city to move quickly if the county precipitously divests itself of the building (as recently happened with a school in Bowie).

Community Pledge

Fritz moved successfully for a first reading of changes to the city's community pledge, read at the start of each council meeting. The motion passed.

Mail-in Ballots

The cost of sending all eligible voters a mail-in ballot for city elections would likely more than double the amount spent on mail-in voting (\$15K last time) and there are also considerations related to how well the post office is functioning in delivering material.

A motion to consider alternative mail-in strategies was suggested by Fritz. He also commented that voters were more likely to vote if the means came to them automatically. He felt the city should do everything possible to ensure the widest voter participation and universal provision of mail-in ballots would ultimately reduce the cost of elections by reducing the amount of onsite provision needed.

Pope was opposed, citing the increased cost and noting the number of alternatives that people already have and how out of date the names and addresses would be for mailing. Weaver and Pompi both spoke in favor noting that the cost was a very small fraction of the city's budget but an important priority, and that Hyattsville had successfully increased its voter turnout with this strategy to the point where most ballots are now submitted by mail and few in person. They agreed with Fritz that the priority was getting out the vote.

Jordan had a different take. He felt it would make running for council more expensive but easier for someone with personal or external funding.

Councilmember Amy Knesel supported the motion, saying that the more people voted, the more she liked feeling that she was really at the dais by the will of the majority. The motion passed.

Leaves Left Behind

In the Petitions and Requests section of the meeting, resident Natalie Kramer detailed her concerns over non-collection of raked leaves in fall 2025, despite signs signaling the dates of collection. She said, as a 20-year resident, that she "remembered when this worked" and cited several negative consequences of uncollected leaves, including blocked drains and sidewalks. She also described incidents of hostility and negative reactions from city officials when she attempted to get action. She left documentation with City

Clerk Bonita Anderson for review and promised to file formal complaints with the state if the problem continued.

LGBTQIA+ History Month

Council unanimously passed a motion to recognize LGBTQIA+ History Month and the role of local residents in supporting and welcoming this community. Resident Charlotte Hoffman spoke in support and thanked Greenbelt, noting that a leading influence in Greenbelt's history, Eleanor Roosevelt, had she been alive today, would have been a member and reminding council of the persecution faced by so many.

Cooperative Month

Members of several co-ops attended the proclamation lauding the cooperative movement so central to Greenbelt. Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket Board President Kim Kash invited Co-op members to the upcoming annual meeting on October 17 (see the article on page 6) and she and Debbie McKinley of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. reaffirmed the two co-ops' relationship. Anthony Case, secretary of the New Deal Café, noted the interdependence of the organizations, while Amber Tollefson of the Greenbelt Nursery School noted how grateful parents are for the school. To well-deserved applause, News Review President Pat Scully pointed out that the News Review is entering its 90th year and was pondering how to best celebrate it.

A second proclamation announced Indigenous People's Day and described the locations in and around the city where members of the Piscataway Nation have lived over the past 10,000 years.

City Notes

City Manager, Planning, Constituent Services and Economic Development met with NASA about shared priorities and events. For the Utopia Film Festival, Public Information and GATe collaborated on tech support and Public Works installed event banners. Public Safety/Community and Constituent Services attended the ceremony for graduates of the CARES GED program.

Code Enforcement inspected 26 rentals and two complaints and issued two permits. Animal Shelter residents are three cats, six kittens and two dogs after four cats were adopted.

Public Works helped with logistics and event furnishings for the Pumpkin Carving and Pumpkin Walk events.

Arts held an Artful Afternoon at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Therapeutic Recreation offered seniors a day trip to Ocean City and a presentation about the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

The Aquatic & Fitness Center welcomed Scouts for merit badge assessments and Greenbelt Littles for their Water Pumpkin Patch activity.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program (GAIL) hosted a flu shot clinic at the Community Center; 45 residents were vaccinated.



VOTING continued from page 1

exceed the threshold are elected and will not receive votes in the next rounds. Gilbert said that as the rounds progress, the elected candidate's excess is transferred into the next round and distributed to the remaining candidates according to the ranked choice of the voters.

In the case where no candidate reaches the election threshold, according to Shyong, the candidate with the lowest value is eliminated and is no longer active. In subsequent rounds, the voter's ballot's active value is transferred to that voter's next-highest active candidate. Gilbert added that a special election is another possibility in this instance.

This process resumes until all seven seats are filled.

Shyong said that the election night preliminary results will encompass early, mail-in and in-person voting. Certification will occur once the provisional ballots are counted.

Incorrectly Done Ballots

There was a lengthy discussion on how to deal with incorrectly done ballots, specifically instances where a rank receives multiple choices. In the case of in-person voting, the scanner will be able to register an error, allowing the voter to make corrections on the spot. Regarding mail-in voting, the ranking will be skipped and counting will resume with the next rank.

All agreed that the residents will require significant education on how to fill in ballots in order to avoid undue confusion and more accurate elections. Currently, the BOE has received

\$7,500 from the city to provide this outreach, with more funds perhaps being earmarked in the next budget.

Mail-in Ballots

Another major issue discussed was whether the city should continue its policy of sending mail-in vote applications to voters or simply send the ballot itself. Cost was a primary factor in this area, as ballots are more expensive and funds will be wasted if ballots end up being unused.

The BOE, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope felt that the present system should be retained, with the BOE citing the cost problem, and Jordan and Pope feeling that the two-step mail-in process is financially preferable and not an inconvenience to voting.

The rest of council felt that simply sending ballots would make the process easier and increase voter turn-out, referring to this approach's high success rate in other jurisdictions across the nation and the area. They felt that ultimately no system is perfect.

Shyong said that out of 15,000 applications sent, 2,230 were returned, mostly due to people having moved away. She also shared that out of 1,000 ballots sent, 846 were received.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver stated that the decision over mail-in ballots can wait until the deliberations of the upcoming budget.

Finance Reports

The BOE said that in the last election, some candidates failed to send in a final report of their

See VOTING, page 11

TONYA SWEAT

★ FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE ★

HOT TOPIC

Let's get into it.

No spin, no script. Tonya shoots straight on the issues facing Prince George's County.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BLACK INK ONLY

● Write-in: TONYA SWEAT

EARLY VOTING

OCT 22-29

ELECTION DAY

TUES, NOV 3

SCAN TO DONATE

@tonyasweatpgc

Facebook Instagram X TikTok

www.tonyasweat.com

Our Community. Our Choice.

#WriteInTonyaSweat #FillTheOval #OurCommunityOurChoice #SweatForPG

By Authority: Friends of Moissette Tonya Sweat, Sandra R. Mason, Treasurer

Council News

Council Grapples with Working Groups and the Balance of Power

by Cathie Meetre

In the Greenbelt City Council meeting of October 12, a portion of the meeting was set aside for the discussion of Council Working Groups, a topic that had been on the end of the agenda for some time but not broached due to meeting-length constraints. The five working groups council is considering are: CARES 501(c) (3) which was set up and approved in April, plus Finance, Legislative, Community Visioning and Public Development, which would be in addition to council's Advisory Boards and Committees.

Working groups would be comprised of two or three council members only (less than four to avoid creating a quorum), focusing on a specific topic. A group may be short term to reach a specific goal, or have a longer-term purpose, for example, year-to-year legislative priorities.

A Smooth Start

The discussion started peacefully enough with an account of the success of a working group set up to obtain 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status for CARES. That group will dissolve, its purpose having been satisfied. (See separate story on page 1.)

Legality in Question

Resident Bill Orleans ignited a simmering debate when he accused council of going against the spirit of Greenbelt and the law by making decisions in "committees", without the benefit of residents' input. He noted that working groups are populated by councilmembers and the meetings are not public. He pointed out that throughout the history of Greenbelt, all decisions have been required to be made with public scrutiny. Orleans later stated that he believed that any time any two or more councilmembers got together and have a conversation on a council-related topic, that conversation should be publicly noted.

Legality Supported

Councilmember Frankie Fritz responded that Orleans was mistaken and that the working groups contravene neither the letter nor the spirit of the law, nor do they run afoul of the Open Meetings Act. Fritz said, "Council does not make a decision unless a majority of council makes a decision." He said that given the amount and complexity of the work to be done, council, as a body, needs to delegate to keep up, and that no working group alone can make a decision. Delegation of work to research and characterize options does not constitute authorizing decisions.

Fritz later clarified that working groups do not qualify as committees; if they were, that would contravene the Open Meetings Act. The role of a working group is to address a specific task but not to make decisions (See the box titled Definitions).

Counterpoint

Councilmember Silke Pope sided, to some extent, with Orleans. She felt that breaking up assignments in this way was forming "little cliques" and felt council should work as an en-

semble. She did note it might be effective where particular councilmembers had expertise in a given area. Later in the meeting, she added that she was not fully for or opposed to either approach, but wanted a reasonable balance and was emphatic that her point should be considered.

Efficient Use of Resources

Councilmember Danielle McKinney took issue with Pope, seeing the proposed working groups as a "tactical thing." She sees council as working together to bring the most up-to-date and comprehensive information to residents and noted that there's a lot of work to be done prior to issues even being placed before council and publicly discussed. She sees working groups as a mechanism that gives an opportunity for council to think through and assemble complex proposals in a way that can then be presented to the public. She felt that not everything will require or benefit from such an approach and that it should be used selectively.

Discord on Council

Mayor Emmett Jordan commented on rules and working groups, saying he saw a "commission form of government" emerging rather than the council-manager format in place in Greenbelt. He said that if council did decide to go forward with the working groups, then the overall charge of the committees needs to be clarified and the relationship of mayor and city manager reassessed.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver countered, with some spirit, that there has been much discussion and numerous meetings on the nature of the working groups and that those that have been proposed have sometimes been time limited (such as CARES) and sometimes longer term. She felt there had been ample opportunity to discuss the point of the groups earlier.

In response, Jordan declared himself "somewhat befuddled" about how to respond. He asked whether he should offer an alternative. Clearly at loggerheads, Weaver said he could have offered an alternative or asked for more discussion at any point, given the material had been available since July.

Best Use of Resources

Councilmember Amy Knesel strongly favored working groups. She explained that all councilmembers were hardworking people with day jobs who couldn't be expert across all the topics council considers. She thought it efficient and also noted that the need to speak judiciously from

Definitions

1. **Commission Government:** According to Wikipedia, a commission system of local government is "where a small, elected group of officials (typically three to seven commissioners) jointly acts as the city's or county's legislative body, while each individual commissioner also heads a specific administrative department." This is in contrast to Greenbelt's council-manager approach which separates lawmaking (the province of council) from executive action (the city manager's role).
2. **Working Groups vs. Advisory Committees:** Greenbelt's Advisory Committees are long-standing consultative resources composed of residents plus councilmember and city staff liaisons. In contrast, the proposed working groups would normally be made up solely of councilmembers.
3. **Council Working Group vs. Council Committee:** A Working Group would be an ad hoc group of councilmembers formed to address a particular issue or tackle a specific problem meeting privately, while a council committee is a formal governance or policy-making body whose meetings are open to the public.

the council dais in a public forum didn't always allow for frank discussions that cut to the heart of the matter.

A Question of Focus

Fritz wanted councilmembers to focus more intently on the concerns, like legislation at state and county levels, and organize themselves to remain cognizant. Having small groups focus on specific areas of concern he thought is critical to keeping council empowered and informed. He stressed that residents should understand that whatever was the debate in the working group, the decision-making step always took place in council session.

City Manager Point of View

Councilmember Jenni Pompi asked City Manager José Salmerón if he felt the working groups were an infringement on his territory. Salmerón stated that he ran the city under the authority granted to him by council. He went through each proposed working group to explain how they related to his job, concluding that he felt working groups were complementary to his role and

See WORKING GROUPS, page 12

VOTING continued from page 10

campaign's finances. This would mean an inability to run again in a subsequent election. Council felt that this was punishment enough, not requiring an additional penalty, such as a fine.

The BOE pointed out the trend that candidates who spent a significant amount of money tended to be elected, while those who didn't failed to be elected. Jordan countered that this was not always the case, citing that the personal touch was a strong factor in getting elected.

Next Steps

The crucial next step in implementing RCV will be an adjustment of the city charter and code. City Manager Josué Salmerón said he will likely have drafts in time for meetings in November. Weaver suggested that the charter could have a general statement, while the code could go into greater detail. Salmerón recommended prioritizing the recodification, as it will allow greater transparency for all, as the changes will be available clearly and in real time on the city website.

Salmerón stated that an RFP can be sent out in order to get bids on a RCV vendor familiar with working with small cities.

ERHS Music Fall Fruit Fundraiser

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Music Department is still taking orders for fresh fruit through Sunday, November 1 at tinyurl.com/ERHSFruits. The distribution date is Friday, November 20 between 5 and 7 p.m. The pick-up area is in the lower parking lot. Drive toward the entrance to the football field at the service road that enters the back of the school building to get to the distribution location. For more information contact the coordinator at Cullen.waller@pgcps.org.

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

The University of Maryland holds a large collection of photographs, documents and memorabilia that belonged 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, might 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@greenbeltmd.gov or ehung124@umd.edu and include "Emory Harman" in the subject line.

The vendor would be providing ballots, vote scanners and software.

Jordan extolled the BOE for their efforts in this area, as it will result in more fair, transparent and inclusive elections.

In an attempt to reduce financial barriers for candidates, the BOE recommended the \$75 fee for campaign sign posting throughout the city-designated sites be eliminated.



Nugent & Kash
OF COMPASS

From a single-family gem on Lakeside to a renovated Honeymoon Cottage, from a Charlestowne Village bargain to a selection of co-ops all over town, we have more and better Greenbelt choices for homebuyers than we've seen in years.

Visit us at **NugentandKash.com** for details.

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 | O: 202.545.6900

COMPASS 
Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. 660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE Suite 300 Washington, DC 20003 | 202.545.6900



WWW.MCCARLDENTAL.COM

Ask About Our Convenient Same Day Crowns

FEATURING HIGH-TECH DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS
COMFORTABLE, FAST AND ACCURATE

OVER 700 5-STAR REVIEWS!
INFECTION CONTROL CERTIFIED

CALL US AT 301-474-4144



Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

MAIL continued from page 1

his struggles.

According to several residents' accounts on Facebook, they first began experiencing issues last December, which they had hoped would be resolved quickly. They were not.

Greenbelt East resident Judith Davis, the city's longest-serving mayor and councilmember before she retired in 2023, told the News Review she has also experienced inconsistencies with the post office, leading her to wonder if it's understaffed.

Mayor Emmett Jordan agreed with the possibility of understaffing, saying he himself has witnessed long lines at the local post office. He has also experienced delays in receiving his own mail.

Jordan said the residents' concerns are valid, especially with an election next month.

"Right now, we have an election coming up," Jordan said, "... and many people have opted to vote by mail, to receive a ballot in the mail that they can use to take to a dropbox or mail back to the board of elections. So, one of my concerns is the length of time that it seems to take to get the information."

Jordan said he has reached out to the post office in Greenbelt as well as U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey (who represents Greenbelt in Maryland's Congressional District 4) about residents' experiences. As mayor, Jordan does not have jurisdiction over the post office's affairs, but the congressman does.

In an October 12 letter to Ivey, Jordan expresses concern about inadequate staffing, unreliable service, missing mail and "inconsistent customer service." He notes that the city sent a letter outlining concerns to Postmaster William French in May yet still continues to receive concerns and complaints from residents today. In fact, Jordan told the News Review complaints have increased over the last month or two and the situation has become "quite the concern."

Jordan said residents depend on reliable postal service for medication, bills and communication and that problems with mail delivery especially impact seniors and those residents who rely on the postal service most heavily.

Other residents said they have received mail that does not belong to them but have similar addresses to their own. Others have reported missing birthday cards, speeding tickets and medical necessities — all lost in the mail.

Julie Marlette, who works for an eye doctor in Laurel and turns 65 in December, said she recently enrolled in Medicare, but has not received the welcome packet in the mail, despite the Department of Human and Health Services



PHOTO BY EMMETT JORDAN

In addition to facing complaints of inadequate staffing, unreliable service and missing mail, the Greenbelt Post office is in a state of some disrepair inside and out. Here, damaged ceiling tiles cause a hazard to customers on October 16.

(HHS) saying it was mailed on September 21.

When she followed up with HHS, officials confirmed the package had been sent to her address and said it could not be re-sent. At best, they only offered to generate another Medicare number for her.

A letter to the editor this week shares yet another similar experience of missing mail, in that case financial documents.

The Greenbelters Facebook page is filled with similar stories.

Piri Powell Jenkins told the News Review her family missed mortgage documents last spring because the company thought they changed their address, but they had not. Her husband also

nearly missed a jury summons.

Just like Jenkins' husband, Sickie said he also almost missed a jury summons and a speeding ticket. "It's not good to miss a jury summons. You could get in trouble for that," Sickie said.

Several calls to the Greenbelt Post Office were not returned.

Mark Lawrence, the U.S. Post Office media contact for Maryland, said the postal service was aware of some disruptions at "one route," and the issue was being addressed.

Gabriel Ogunjobi is a University of Maryland graduate student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

WORKING GROUPS continued from page 11

not an infringement.

Jordan was apprehensive about the proposed finance working group and wanted to split the Community Visioning and Public Development working group into two separate elements. At this point, unusual tension within council became apparent, with Jordan asking Weaver if she was trying to cut him off when she brought up a procedural matter as he was speaking. After some tension and a rapid vote on the legislative working group, the meeting continued with Jordan moving to the next groups in the list under discussion. Weaver, who drafted the Public Development working group charter, clarified that she was specifically concerned with things like annexation and boundaries, not primarily economic development.

With tempers visibly rising, Jordan changed the tempo by inviting public comment. Resident Michael Hartman asked what processes will be established in the management of the 501(c) (3) to include those served by CARES, but he received no specific answers.

With tensions somewhat defused, Jordan proposed McKinney's motion to create

a six-month review period to look at the overall configuration of council advisory committees and working groups to make sure which entities were necessary. McKinney explained that it seemed a review should make sure the mechanism was efficient and effective. Pope seconded the motion, to some general surprise, commenting that she thought it well written and timely. Fritz also spoke strongly in support and the motion passed unanimously.

Finance Working Group

Pompi then moved to establish the finance group. Jordan said he would vote against the motion because he felt council as a whole should deal with financial issues, but he noted that if a group was established, he wanted to be on it, raising some eyebrows among the rank and file. Pompi defended the working group's formation, saying that the next years will be difficult for budgeting and the process will require more specialized attention. Pope wanted to know more about the logistics and expressed a desire to serve on the committee.

To some merriment from council members, Jordan, who had just expressed a desire to serve on the committee, voted against forming it. The motion passed six to one.

With peace restored, council moved on to other matters.



The "If I don't move, you can't see me" strategy failed for this rabbit at Greenbelt Lake this summer.

PHOTO BY GARY BROWN

YOUR TRUSTED ELECTRICIAN!

TROUBLESHOOTING & REPAIRS

- ⚡ Lights Not Working?
- ⚡ No Power?
- ⚡ Flickering or Dimming?

NEW INSTALLATIONS & MAJOR UPGRADES

- ✓ New Outlets & Switches
- ✓ Breaker Panels
- ✓ Surge Protection

GET \$25 OFF YOUR NEXT SERVICE!

(240) 332-0603

LILLY ELECTRIC

Something for Everyone!

121 Centerway, Greenbelt

301-474-0522

Shop Local. Eat Well. Feel Good.

Boo!

Co-op has everything for a fun & cozy fall!

HALLOWEEN SPOOKS

PUMPKIN CARVING KITS

FALL FLAVORS

MUMS & PUMPKINS

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred October 12-18, 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 diversion and four domestic incidents. Two missing juveniles returned safely.

Armed Person

On October 17 at 2:45 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, officers responded to a report involving a weapon. A man was upset that the store didn't have any new food available. A group of men approached and told him to stop swearing at the employees, and one of the men pulled out a gun. The man ran into the employee section, and the group fled in a 2004 silver Lexus RX.

Fight

On October 12 at 8:28 p.m. near 7513 Greenbelt Road, officers responded to a reported incident of juveniles fighting inside a fast-food restaurant. One of them was reported to have a firearm. The juveniles who started the fight fled before police arrived.

Assault

On October 18 at 12:01 a.m. near 167 Westway, a woman was pepper-sprayed in the face by another woman.

On October 15 at 1:13 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man grabbed a woman from behind. She pulled away.

Gunshots

On October 12 at 11:43 p.m. near 9111 Springhill Lane, officers investigated reported gunshots but found no evidence.

DUI Arrest

On October 18 at 5:41 a.m. near Southway and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, a woman was stopped after driving on the wrong side of the road.

Fraud

On October 17 near 7726 Hanover Parkway, a man reported an unauthorized withdrawal from his bank account.

Lost Property

On October 15 at 1:39 a.m. near 550 Crescent Road, during an arrest, the person's cellphone was reported lost. The officer attempted to locate the lost property.

Warrant Arrest

On October 12 at 8:10 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, officers investigating suspicious activity arrested a man with a warrant; a handgun and drugs were found on him.

Theft and Shoplifting

On October 12 at 7:42 a.m. near 5905 Cherrywood Lane, Amazon packages were stolen.

On October 13 at 11:26 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a retail theft was reported; a woman was caught and all items were recovered. At 5:31 p.m. near

6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was stopped after committing retail theft. All items were recovered and he was banned.

On October 13 at 10:20 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a theft was reported, and the store's asset protection staff identified the man from previous interactions.

On October 14 at 12:52 p.m. near 7300 Hanover Drive, a woman reported that she fell asleep in her car with the windows down, and while she slept, someone stole the money and credit cards she had left beside her.

On October 15 at 4:08 p.m. near 7429 Greenbelt Road, a man took clothing from a store without paying.

On October 17 at 8:35 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a woman grabbed household items and fled without paying.

On October 17 at 10:06 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a man stole merchandise and fled.

Vandalism

On October 16 at 5:32 p.m. near 20 Southway, a woman entered the store and began knocking items off the shelves.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

On October 14 near 5913 Cherrywood Lane, a 2019 Kia Optima (Texas TYJ4029) was stolen.

On October 16 near 9136 Edmonston Court, a 2011 Honda Accord was stolen.

On October 17 near 155 Westway, a Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle (Va. temp. 89865N) was stolen.

Theft from Auto

On October 12 near 7007 Megan Lane, a 2014 Ford F-150 had window damage and property stolen.

On October 14, property was stolen near 6025 Springhill Drive from a 2026 Toyota Camry, and near 8150 Lakecrest Drive from a 2026 Honda Civic.

On October 15 near 9112 Edmonston Court, a tag (Md. 5HB1022) was stolen.

On October 17 near 6108 Breezewood Drive, a 2017 Subaru Forester had a temp tag stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On October 18 near 9115 Springhill Lane, the front and rear windshields were damaged on a Mitsubishi Eclipse.

Suspicious Mail Causes Evacuation Of Hoyer's Greenbelt Office

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, October 19, U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer (MD-05) received a potentially hazardous letter at his district office in Greenbelt. In a statement on Monday, Hoyer said the suspicious letter was similar to those recently received by other public officials across the country over the last week. The office was evacuated in response. Hoyer said he and his staff were safe and thanked law enforcement for a "swift and diligent" response. "I will continue to monitor this situation as it develops and remain vigilant for other possible threats," said Hoyer. "My district office staff work hard every day to deliver critical services to Marylanders across the Fifth Congressional District. It is unacceptable that their lives were put in danger," said Hoyer.

Last week the FBI announced it is investigating a series of suspicious letters containing white powder, targeting election and congressional offices. Recipients have included over three dozen members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and election offices in numerous states.

So far the powder tested has not been found to be hazardous.

"Intimidation efforts such as these are un-American and pose an existential threat to our democracy," said Hoyer on Monday. "We must not – and will not – allow them to prevent us from fulfilling our commitment to serving our communities."

This month marks 25 years since the anthrax attacks that killed five and sickened 17 others through letters sent to members of the media and Congress in 2001.

After Months of Evasion, Man Arrested for Firing in Restaurant

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, October 12, Greenbelt Police Department's Special Assignment Team located and apprehended 42-year-old Karim Joshua Thomas of College Park who was wanted in connection with a noncontact shooting inside the Hook & Reel restaurant in Greenbelt on January 5, 2026.

On that day, shortly before 6 p.m., Thomas had been arguing with multiple workers inside the restaurant. During the argument, he allegedly produced a gun and fired. No one was hit. Thomas also reportedly assaulted an employee as she was trying to deescalate the situation and escort him out.

Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Thomas in February, but he avoided capture until last week, according to the Greenbelt Police Department. At the time of his arrest, he was in possession of a loaded handgun and controlled dangerous substances.

Thomas is facing seven charges of first- and second-degree assault, three charges of firearm use in a felony or violent crime, two charges of reckless endangerment

and carrying a loaded handgun, among others.

The October charges include possession of controlled dangerous substances (not cannabis), intent to distribute, using or possessing a firearm while distributing or attempting to distribute controlled dangerous substances, illegal possession of a firearm by a person previously convicted of a crime of violence or a felony, illegal possession of ammunition and resisting or interfering with arrest. The charges range from misdemeanor to felony and Thomas is being held without bond. He has a history of assault, handgun and drug charges and was on supervised probation from a 2024 case.

In a statement, Greenbelt Police Department said, "The safe apprehension of this armed and dangerous individual reflects the teamwork and professionalism of our officers. We're extremely proud of the work they do every day to protect our community."



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Ghosts of pumpkins past, perhaps

Walk For Peace, Run To End Polio

On Saturday, October 24, Rotary District 7620 of Central Maryland and Washington, D.C., is hosting two Greenbelt events for World Polio Day. The events will raise funds for Rotary International's PolioPlus worldwide polio eradication initiative, now focusing on the last two countries where polio is endemic, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Contributions will be matched 2 to 1.

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Peace & Polio 1 to 5K walk/run, Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway. Rain location: Community Center gym

11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

World Polio Day Program & Celebration, Community Center Room 201: A polio survivor's perspective, the link between peace and childhood vaccinations, PolioPlus education, PolioPlus Society recognition, fellowship and opportunities to support Rotary's ongoing effort to eradicate polio worldwide

Register or contribute at tinyurl.com/3twnm9fb. Build Peace. End Polio. Together, let's finish the job.



Scan to register.

Français, s'il Vous Plaît Fall Meetings

The French conversation group meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. They meet the first Thursday of every month at the New Deal Café. The rest of the Thursday meetings are in Room 109 of the Community Center.

All ages and all levels of proficiency are welcome.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

A quite demonic pumpkin

LifeNet Healthcare Services, Inc.

A HOME HEALTHCARE AGENCY

NO MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED

301-798-5678

FOR SENIORS, YOUNG ADULTS & PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

LifeNet's REGISTERED NURSE ON CALL 24/7

OUR CAREGIVERS ARE FINGERPRINTED & BACKGROUND CHECKED

WE ACCEPT

MEDICAID

PRIVATE PAY

& LONG-TERM

INSURANCE

Call today for a FREE

In-home Consultation

WE SPECIALIZE IN PERSONAL & COMPANIONSHIP CARE

FOR PEOPLE WITH STROKE, DEMENTIA, ALZHEIMER'S, MULTIPLE

SCLEROSIS, PARKINSON'S, VISION IMPAIRED-Call Today for Service

WE ASSIST WITH BATHING, LAUNDRY, DRESSING, MEAL PREPARATION, TOILETING,

HOUSEKEEPING, MEDICATION REMINDER, WALKING, RESPITE CARE, ESCORT TO

DR'S APPOINTMENTS, PICK UP MEDICATIONS, INCONTINENT CARE, THERAPEUTIC

EXERCISE, MEMORY STIMULATING ACTIVITIES, 24/7 LIVE IN CARE, & MUCH MORE

We Are Local, & We Serve All Counties in Maryland

NOW ENROLLING

Infants – Preschool

8 Weeks to 5 Years

Greenway Learning Center

Tuition (Bi-Monthly)

Infants: \$912

Toddlers: \$912

Twos: \$655

Preschool: \$612

Address

7501 Greenway Center Drive

Suite 110

Greenbelt Maryland 20770

Hours of operation:

7:30am-6:00pm

Monday - Friday

Email

welovekids.gic@verizon.net

Joy Daramola

Director

301-474-6770

A trusted childcare center with over 30 years of experience.

Our parent-run co-op model creates a nurturing environment

where families feel truly seen, heard, and involved

in every step of their child's development.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

SERVICES

HOUSECLEANING - Over 20 years in Greenbelt area. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

COMPUTERS, WIFI, PRINTERS - Installing, Repairing, Troubleshooting; Documents Printing, Pickup, Dropoff, Training. JBS, 240-601-4163.

BARRERA CONSTRUCTION - Offers painting, kitchen, bathroom remodels, repairs, upgrades, and all remodeling. Serving GHI and Greenbelt for 15+ years. Local references. Call Josue for an estimate. 301-690-6677.

HANDYMAN DAVE - Paint, woodwork, exterior house cleaning, bath, kitchens, floor, more. 443-404-0449.

LEW'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY - Free estimates, fabric samples, local business for over 30 years. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

MISSY'S DECORATING - Serving Greenbelt for over 30 years. Interior painting. Free estimates. MHIC #26409. Insured. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

SOLO ELECTRICAL SERVICES, LLC - Service calls, EV chargers, heavy ups and other electrical needs. 240-704-4993.

FRANK'S VIDEO CONVERSION - Convert VHS tapes/8mm movies, slides to DVD. LP records to CD. DAT tapes to CD. Home 240-295-3994, Cell 703-216-7293. franksvideoconversion@gmail.com.

HEATING AND COOLING - We specialize in installing Mitsubishi ductless heat pump systems in Greenbelt Homes. Call Mike at H & C Heating & Cooling, 301-953-2113. Licensed and insured since 1969.

ANGELA'S HOUSE CLEANING AND PAINTING - Cleaning your home like my own, at reasonable prices. Painting inside and out. References available in Greenbelt. Ten years' professional experience. AngelaLazo1@hotmail.com; 240-645-5140.

KELLAHER MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING, LLC - Junk removal, electrical, painting, drywall, vinyl tile, flooring, backsplashes, leaf removal, landscape design, mulching flower beds, bucket truck services, stump grinding, pruning trees & removal, pole lighting, power washing siding & decks. Mulch & top soil delivery. Dkellaher@hotmail.com, 301-318-5472. Insured. Visa, MasterCard, Discover. www.Kellahermaintenance.com.

HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL - Complete clean out: garages, houses, construction debris, etc. Licensed & insured. Free estimates. Mike Smith, 301-346-0840.

PERSONAL ORGANIZING-Support from a Certified Life Coach. Plan, Clear Clutter, Get it Done. Houkje.ross@gmail.com

YARD/MOVING SALES

YARD SALE - at Mowatt Church, 40 Ridge Road. October 30-31, at 9am-12pm each day.

YARD SALE- Indoor Community Yard Sale Nov 7, 2026, 9am-1pm @ GVFD 125 Crescent Road. Table reservation: One \$15, Two \$25. For further information, please call Kathy 301-351-7496. Food and beverage available for purchase.

YARD SALE - Tools (power/hand), Hardware, Misc. handy person materials. No household items. Saturday, October 24, 8:30-3pm. 2-A Southway (end unit, corner of Southway and Crescent).



**Is your dog bored?
Need exercise?**

We provide
**Mid-day Dog Walking
Cat Sitting**

301-260-TAIL (8245)
www.MaestrosTailPetCare.com



Continental Movers
Free boxes
Local - Long Distance
\$80 x two men
\$100 x three men
301-340-0602
202-438-1489
www.continentalmovers.net



• **Renovations**
• **Flooring**
• **Painting**

**CALL FOR YOUR FREE
ESTIMATE**

**CUSTOM IMPROVEMENTS
301-844-8897**

**S & A Plumbing
Service Inc.**

24/7 plumbing service needs
Garbage disposal, dishwasher
Leak, clog, faucets, etc.
Please call me.
Independent and local.
Prices reasonable.
Give me a call 240 988 8908
Time bank members receive
great discounts!

RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

CROWLEY CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Commercial & Residential
ROOFING SPECIALISTS

NEW ROOFS ♦ REROOFS ♦ REPAIR ♦ MAINTENANCE
EMERGENCY REPAIR SERVICE AVAILABLE 24/7

ASK ABOUT OUR OTHER SERVICES
SKYLIGHTS | GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS | SIDING | WINDOWS
CHIMNEYS | BRICK WORK | HARDSCAPING

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE
(410) 643-3779 OR (301) 345-1349

www.crowleycoroofing.com
M.H.I.C License #90063



TOWNCENTER
Realty & Associates, Inc.

Rare 4 Bedroom GHI

Open House Saturday 10/24 1:00 to 3:00



- Tastfully Updated
- 3 Finished Levels
- 2.5 Baths
- Large Eat-In Kitchen
- Gas Heat
- Central AC
- Beautiful Wooded Setting

65B Ridge Rd.
Price Reduced, now offered at \$409,900

Richard Cantwell | Broker 410.790.5099



1 Greentree Place, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301.441.1071





**ROBLERO'S
Landscaping**

301-213-4068
ROBLEROLANDSCAPINGLLC.COM
ROBLEROSLAWN@GMAIL.COM
LICENSED AND INSURED. MHIC 157555



SUNOCO

GREENBELT SERVICE CENTER

**Auto Repairs &
Road Service**

A.S.E. Certified Technicians
Maryland State Inspections

**161 CENTERWAY
GREENBELT, MD
301-474-8348**

Greenbelt Auto & Truck Repair Inc.



**159 Centerway Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770**
301-982-2582
www.greenbeltautoandtruckrepair.com



**A.S.E.
Master Certified Technicians**

A complete service facility equipped to perform all service requirements that your manufacturer recommends to comply with Preventive Maintenance service schedules & extended warranty programs! Also, routine repairs that keep your vehicles operating safely and reliably.

Auto-body, collision repairs and theft recovery damage
A.S.E. Certified Technicians,
Insurance Claims Welcome.
Free estimates, please call for appointment



GREENBELT 1937

GREENBELT WAS THE FIRST OF THREE PLANNED GARDEN CITY HOMES AND OWNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DURING THE REIGN OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. IT WAS THE FIRST OF THREE PLANNED GARDEN CITY HOMES AND OWNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DURING THE REIGN OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. IT WAS THE FIRST OF THREE PLANNED GARDEN CITY HOMES AND OWNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DURING THE REIGN OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

NCB has been financing at Greenbelt Homes for over 45 years. We offer:

- Fixed Rate Mortgages
- Competitive Financing
- Low Closing Costs
- Cooperative Expertise



ncb
National Cooperative Bank

G. RYAN GREER
Senior Vice President
(202) 349-7455
rgreer@ncb.coop
www.ncb.coop/rgreer
NMLS #507534

Banking products and services provided by National Cooperative Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. NCB NMLS #422343



Sports

ERHS Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls Soccer Continue Streak

by Patrick Gleason

On Monday, October 19, a successful evening ended with a ball on a parabolic pull toward the inside of the post. As Audrey Izon's shot pirouetted through the sky it caressed the inside of the far post and ricocheted into the net, ending an 8-0 Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) junior varsity (JV) girls soccer victory over Laurel in style. The JV dominated from the start with a barrage of early goals, initiated by freshman Margot Sweet. Sophomore Stephanie Aguilar Agustin didn't waste time in adding a beautiful goal to the tally in a flurry of well-placed shots during a game where the Raiders never gave the Spartans a chance.

The JV victory followed an also dominant varsity win, a 4-0 triumph, amid perfect autumn conditions. Emery Gregory, the Raiders' leading scorer, scored on a pass from fellow senior Claire Alolga 17 minutes in after the



Senior Naomi Petralia (photo on the right) and the ERHS Raiders have earned the PG County 4A League championship thanks to their 10-0 county record this season. Seniors Anna Grim and Julia Visnic (photo on the left) have helped Roosevelt win 12 straight games this fall.

Raiders had peppered the Spartan goal with shots. Four minutes later senior captain Ariana Cruz volleyed in a cross from sophomore Mia Moore for a spectacular finish. Another four minutes passed and forward Treasure Wogu laid off a pass under heavy Spartan pressure. Waiting in perfect space was sophomore Greta Wedge who wailed on the pass for an emphatic finish.

Gregory converted a second-half penalty kick for the final goal in a game where senior goal-

keeper Lien Gareri only had to make one save. The victory is the 12th straight for the Raiders — and their 11th straight shutout. Roosevelt completes the regular season on Thursday, October 22 at Bullis before playing the county championship game at C.H. Flowers High School on Tuesday, October 27, where they will meet the Oxon Hill Clippers. A victory there would make three straight autumns where the Raiders hoisted a county championship trophy.



PHOTOS BY GEORGIA GAILE

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

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

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.



Greenbelt VFD Auxiliary Yard Sale November 7

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its popular Indoor Community Yard Sale on Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 125 Crescent Road. Come help support the fire department and ladies' auxiliary. Refreshments as well as homemade baked goods will be available for purchase. Tables are still available to rent. See the classified ad for further details. The social hall has accessible entrances.

Chess Club Meets Tuesdays

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, October 27 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/jcy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially double basses, French horns, keyboard and percussion. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.



Soccer Alliance Dads vs. Kids Match



PHOTO BY CARA POWELL

On Wednesday, October 14, Greenbelt Soccer Alliance held a Dads vs Kids match. The dads won.

RICHARD K. GEHRING, HOME IMPROVEMENT
SPECIALIST IN REMODELING & REPAIRS
CARPENTRY – DRYWALL – PAINTING
KITCHENS – BATHROOMS
SIDING – WINDOWS – DOORS – DECKS
LICENSED – INSURED – LEAD PAINT CERTIFIED
MHIC #84145
PHONE 301-448-8703

GASCH'S
Funeral Home, P.A.
4739 Baltimore Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20781
301-927-6100
www.gaschs.com

Family Owned and Operated since 1858

- Traditional Funerals
- Memorial Services
- Cremations
- Flowers
- Caskets, Vaults, Urns
- Pre-Arrangements
- Large on-site parking

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE
29-B Ridge Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Melanie Cantwell
Realtor
C: 240-470-5911
O: 301-441-9511
Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com

2 BED/1 BATH
FRESHLY PAINTED WITH NEW LVP FLOORS ON MAIN LEVEL.
LARGE YARD!
LIST PRICE: \$229,900

Realty 1, Inc.
Our 40th Year in Greenbelt
301 982-0044
R1MD.com

Leonard Wallace
Broker and President
301-675-9036

The Leader in
Greenbelt Real Estate
Since 1986

Brick Townhome Large Corner Lot. Remodeled and painted. 3rd bedroom converted into laundry room. Oak hardwood flooring.
Coming Soon Brick townhome near the heart of Greenbelt. Large yard that backs to open parkland. Currently being remodeled & will be ready soon.

Need to reach us right away?
Text 'Greenbelt' to 88000 on your cell phone and get an instant response! We can show you any listing in Greenbelt.

Scan here with your cell phone and go directly to our website! Search all of the MLS and more.

One Bedroom upper level GHI Home Corner lot with private entrance. Opened kitchen with breakfast bar. Remodeled bath; oak hardwood floors.

2 Bedroom GHI Home with central air. Wide floorplan with Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. Fenced backyard with large shed and patio.

Lakewood 4BR 2BA Home completely remodeled. Hardwood floors, finished floors & more! Large backyard & shed.

Single Level Living - No Stairs! 1BR Lower Level GHI townhome with fenced backyard. Remodeled kitchen & more!

GRANT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS!
Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center
Since 1986



The second weekend of the annual Pumpkin Festival drew a crowd to Roosevelt Center on Friday evening, October 16, preparing pumpkins to line the paths for the Pumpkin Walk.



Jack Skellington-O'-Lantern

Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival



On Saturday evening the Jack-o'-lanterns lit the walk through the Forest Preserve, where there were also some forest creatures to be found.



The Greenbelt Ukulele Ladies regaled visitors on their way to the Pumpkin Walk with an array of traditional and modern songs of Halloween.



Owl and bat pumpkin



A pumpkin carving scene from Friday evening



This larger pumpkin has a smaller pumpkin inside, behind bars.



The morning after the walk, volunteers retrieve pumpkins from the woods and leave them along Northway for their owners to collect.



Ben Shedlin with his carved pumpkin



A glimpse of the Goatman during the Pumpkin Walk



Children walk the path lined with pumpkins in the Forest Preserve.



A ghost is trapped inside this pumpkin.



The Lady Law pumpkin provided some niche Greenbelt content.



Bats in the belfry of the pumpkin



Recognizing the importance of the Forest Preserve at the Pumpkin Walk