GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



Girl scout silver award, p.11



Halloween in Greenbelt, p.6-7

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38th Annual Public Safety Awards Recognize Three Public Servants

by Butch Hicks

On Friday, October 30, Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 held the 38th Annual Public Safety Awards Program. The Post's Hofberg Hall was again filled with residents from Greenbelt and surrounding communities to recognize the individual achievements of public servants to become either Police Officer, Firefighter or Civilian Employee of the Year.

Mayor Emmett Jordan opened the evening's laudatory remarks expressing unbounded community appreciation for police officers, firefighters and civilian staff. "For 38 years, American Legion Post 136 has made sure our first responders hear the words 'thank you,' and tonight's honorees from our Police Department, and the Berwyn Heights volunteer fire and rescue companies show why," said Jordan. "On behalf of the City Council, I thank them and their families for sharing the long shifts and late-night calls."



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

From left, Mayor Emmett Jordan poses with Civilian Employee of the Year Carolina Aviles and Deputy Police Chief Tim White.

County Councilmember Tim Adam's Chief of Staff Shevaun Culmer-Reid was present to represent Adams. Adams represents District 4, which includes Greenbelt, on the County Council. Culmer-Reid presented proclamations recognizing the outstanding service and dedication of this year's honorees and congratulated the award recipients. "We are incredibly grateful for your unwavering commitment, sacrifice and dedication to serving and protecting the Greenbelt community," said Culmer-Reid, who also thanked American Legion Post 136 for inviting them.

"Every day, our firefighters, police officers and first responders put the safety and well-being of others before their own, often making personal sacrifices to ensure that our residents and families are safe. We must never take such selflessness and dedication for granted.

See **PUBLIC SAFETY**, page 13

Clegg to be School Board Rep; All Questions on Ballot Pass

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Voting at Greenbelt Community Center on Tuesday, November 3

With our county council and many other representatives unchallenged in this election, the outcome of the non-partisan District 2 school board race was one of the most important and one of few contested positions on the ballot for Greenbelters Tuesday. On Wednesday morning, though provisional ballots had not been counted, unofficial results showed Terence Clegg with over 58 percent of the vote and Caroline Decaire-Goldin with just over 40 percent.

There were no upsets in other seats, in an area where the primary tends to be decisive.

See **ELECTION**, page 9

Empty Bowls Supper Collects Over $7,000 for Food Pantry

by Lynne Slater

On Sunday November 1, nearly 200 people gathered at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church for the Empty Bowls Supper in support of the St. Hugh's Food Pantry. Ticket holders chose a bowl crafted by a member of the Greenbelt Pottery Group, selected soup from among a dozen varieties, then bread and dessert, sat among neighbors and friends for conversation and to listen to music provided by members of the Greenbelt Orchestra and the Zookulele Collective and Dave. Additional pottery items were also available for sale. The bowls, food and entertainment were donated, so all of the money collected from ticket and pottery sales went to the food pantry. The event earned $7,080 to help mitigate food insufficiency in Greenbelt.

According to coordinator Mary Ann Tretler, the food pantry currently provides food for 60 Greenbelt families a week. Many sources throughout the community, including the Co-op, PORCH and Mishkan Torah, contribute food donations to the pantry. Despite these donations, the staff has to purchase additional food to meet the need, for which the Empty Bowls Supper is a significant source of monetary income. St. Hugh's Ladies of Charity, of which Tretler is president, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the pantry which is housed in the basement of the church. Two years ago, the Ladies of Charity partnered with the Greenbelt Pottery Group to sponsor the long-standing Empty Bowls event. Its success prompted this year's supper. Tretler told the News Review that she enjoys "the sense of community at the supper. Even councilmembers and members of Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association linger over dinner. Everyone shares a common goal."



PHOTO BY LYNNE SLATER

Mary Wade and her husband Stephen, a native Greenbelter, look for compatible bowls.

See **EMPTY BOWLS**, page 4

What Goes On

Monday, November 9
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, November 11
Veterans Day Holiday: No City Council Meeting, City Offices Closed

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

Council Takes Step Toward Owning Old Greenbelt High

by Diane Oberg

At its October 26 meeting the Greenbelt City Council fought the clock and, at times, picked at each other but managed to complete most of its agenda. Council approved legislation regarding the historic Greenbelt High School, considered a request for proposals to move its equity and inclusion work forward, briefly touched on Save as You Throw (SAYT) options and listened to City Manager Josué Salmerón discuss new artificial intelligence options for city employees.

Legislation

On a 5 to 2 vote with Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope opposed, council approved legislation reaffirming the city's desire to acquire ownership of the building originally known as Greenbelt High School if the Board of Education decides to decommission the school. This is the building at the corner of Greenbelt Road and Edmonston Road that was home to Dora Kennedy French Immersion School for the past decade, Greenbelt Middle before that, and is currently serving temporarily as Springhill Lake Elementary School. The issue is complicated by the fact that in 2024, at council's request, the Prince George's

See **COUNCIL**, page 12



PHOTO BY KATE MCELHENNY

The ERHS Girls Cross Country Team won the County Championship. Back row, from left: Clark Ridge (assistant coach), Violet Ridge, Nala Kichwen, Zarah Jones, Tes Schooley, Mariella McElhenny, Izadora Morris, Angel Earnest, Elgin Gordon (head coach). Crouching in front: Nalia Kee-Martin and Tabitha Melin. Not pictured: Meghana Noojipady and Lyla Wold. See story on p. 15.

Letters to the Editor

Will Stop Sign Ticketing Cost Greenbelt or Save?

The city stop sign ticket program could generate vast revenue and expenses, extrapolating from Claudia Stuart's article. But the budget brief mailed to residents does not show this, even though the council endorsed the automated enforcement program while developing the budget.

Observed violations have leveled off at around 14,000 per week. At $40 per citation, that's $560,000 worth of citations issued per week, or over $29 million per year.

Per the contract, Greenbelt will owe Obvio Inc. over $6 million per year, (the city pays Obvio $8.50 for each citation) issued. This far exceeds spending on public works. It should be considered a "tax expenditure."

City staff will have to evaluate almost three quarters of a million citations per year — 250 per work hour, or more than four per minute — even while there are real services that need to be provided.

Still, Greenbelt can anticipate revenue well over $5.5 million per year. This is equivalent to around 13 percent of current total revenue, or 460 percent of current revenue from fines.

How will the money be spent? Where will the money go? A jurisdiction can become dangerously dependent on "balancing its budget on traffic fines," as the Washington Informer's Stacy Brown recently quoted a congressperson as stating.

Dan Plattner

Thanks for Ballot Info

Thanks so much for this article, Election 2026: Five County Charter Amendments Among Ten Questions on Ballot October 7, 2026. The information provided critical context for this year's ballot that I could not find elsewhere.

Stephanie Spragg

Thank You, Co-op Members

A huge thank you to the Greenbelt Co-op and members from Well-Wishers for the Animals of Greenbelt Shelter (WAGS) and Greenbelt Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR).

We are incredibly honored and grateful for being selected for the Greenbelt Co-op Round Up Program in 2027 and cannot thank the Co-op and everyone who voted for us enough.

These much-needed funds will help with our mission of working with and augmenting the services provided by the City of Greenbelt Animal Shelter (GAS), and supporting the GAS TNR volunteers. This group responds to requests from all parts of Greenbelt to catch, neuter, spay and vaccinate homeless cats and, when possible, rescue, foster and find adoptive homes for kittens and adoptable cats. In addition, the funds will help provide veterinary care for disadvantaged cats and dogs.

Round Up your Co-op purchases to support us in April 2027 and support many other worthy causes! Stop by the firehouse this Saturday, November 7 for the GVFDRS&LA Yard Sale where we will have an information table and adoptable kittens.

We appreciate being able to help the community and animals who are in need and are most appreciative for all who have contributed in large and small

See **LETTERS**, page 10



Drop Us a Line!

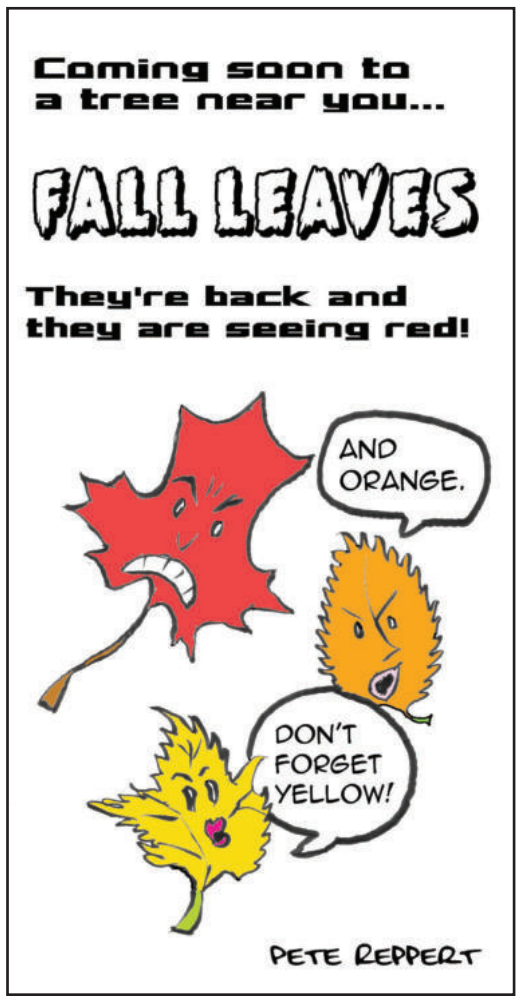
Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Story & Photograph Submissions

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





- News Review, October 2, 2025

Letters Policy

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

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



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

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

La Bola Negra

The film tells the story of three men whose lives are intimately connected through desire, pain and inheritance, across three different eras: 1932, 1937 and 2017. Said critic Micco Caporale of the Chicago Reader, "The narrative works because of arresting performances and artful segues between meaningful details and images; when the credits rolled, many shuffled out of the theater wiping their eyes."

Once Upon a Time in Harlem

In Harlem in 1972, filmmaker William Greaves assembles the living members of the Harlem Renaissance for a cocktail party at Duke Ellington's townhouse after decades apart. Over the course of two days, they reminisce, debate and discuss their lives, work and the cultural movement that shaped them. Said critic Sarah-Tai Black of the Globe and Mail, "What the Greaves family gives life to in this extraordinary film is a history still animated by the people who made it, with all the pleasure and difficulty of finding room for one another within it."

You Can See Everything

Thirty-four days before she's sent to prison, notorious Silicon Valley founder Elizabeth Holmes invites a skeptical film crew to document her every move. What begins as an intimate portrait of an enigmatic felon becomes a mind-bending three-year journey into the abyss. "You Can See Everything stands apart by refusing to provide closure or certitude. It's a film about the characters we create for ourselves, the stories we tell about those characters and the impossibility of ever truly knowing another person," said critic Jim Laczkowski of the Director's Club.

Two Lives, One Legacy

The evening presents an opportunity to better understand why addictions are so prevalent and how hope and recovery are available for so many people and families through a film, Bill W.: Conscious Contact, about the man instrumental in founding Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) and the Twelve Step program.

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM:
general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
NOVEMBER 6th - 12th

La Bola Negra
(R) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (155 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 4:20 PM, 8:05 PM
Sat. 6:00 PM
Sun. 1:00 PM (OC), 4:40 PM
Mon. 4:40 PM (OC)
Tues. 2:45 PM
Wed. 6:00 PM
Thurs. 6:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 1:20 PM

Once Upon A Time In Harlem (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (100 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 10:30 AM (OC)
Mon. 1:00 PM

You Can See Everything (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (174 mins)
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 4:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sat. 4:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 1:20 PM, 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 4:40 PM
Wed. 5:40 PM
Thurs. 5:40 PM

Two Lives, One Legacy
(NR) (2026) (58 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Tues. 6:00 PM

Greenbelt News Review

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

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

Community Events

At the Library

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

Real-time updates to the operating schedule resulting from inclement weather and other emergencies are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

Storytimes

Tuesday, November 10, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17436253.

Thursday, November 12, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Stories, songs, fingerplays and more. This engaging activity nurtures early literacy and sparks creativity. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17436428.

Craft and Create: Sketching

Thursday, November 12, 2 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Unleash creativity while learning new skills. With step-by-step guidance, create something unique and have fun along the way. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17486936.

Cooler Days, Warm Hearts: More Food for Neighbors

Every contribution of time, resources and energy helps PORCH reach more hungry neighbors.

As food and gas prices continue to rise, many families are facing increasingly tight budgets, while already worrying about where their next meal will come from. Support from those who are able is especially important during this time. Donations are needed to help Greenbelt PORCH continue providing nutritious food to local families.

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

Saturday, November 7 — by 11 a.m. at 23 and 24 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, November 8 — by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Sunday, November 15 — by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and 33 Court Ridge; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive; and by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to your porch.

Saturday, November 21 — by 9 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill; by 10 a.m. from Mathew Street to Megan Lane, including Brett Place

Sunday, November 22 — by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive; after 6 p.m. for 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road and 1 and 8 Courts Southway

Scouting for Food

Pack 202's Cub Scouts will be busy sticking flyers on doors this weekend ahead of their annual Scouting for Food community service project. On the morning of Saturday, November 14, they'll be back to pick up any non-perishable and unexpired donations of food left on your doorstep.

This year, you can also leave your donations at the Pack 202 Scouting for Food bin that will be available Saturday morning, November 14, at the Co-op Grocery Store. Look for more details about the donation bin in next week's issue.

Scouting for Food is the Cub Scout's biggest community service event of the year. Young scouts, who range from kindergarten to 5th grade, learn about the importance of helping their community and get to witness their community come together to provide for others.

In past years the scouts have been able to collect and sort hundreds of bags and over 1,500 pounds of food thanks to Greenbelt's generosity. Donations will support St. Hugh's Food Pantry.



Greenbelt Concert Band Announces Winter Events

On Friday, December 4 at 7 p.m., the Greenbelt Concert Band's Brass Choir will perform at the tree lighting in the Roosevelt Center.

Winter Concerts include the Festival of Lights Holiday Spectacular on Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mormon Visitors' Center, 9900 Stoneybrook Drive, Kensington, as well as a Holiday Lights concert on Saturday, December 19 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center.



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 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.

Chess Club Nights

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, November 10 and November 17 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.



Three Sisters Harvest Celebration, Nov. 18

CHEARS invites the community to a Three Sisters Harvest Celebration on Wednesday, November 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Community Center dining room adjacent to the kitchen. Supper will include delicious 100 percent plant-based dishes like butternut squash soup, homemade cornbread, Rancho Gordo heirloom beans and a pumpkin surprise dessert.

Attendees will hear about how the CHEARS Three Sisters Gardens are evolving (East, West and Center) and discover how they might want to get involved.

Use the QR code to reserve a seat. The program is free but donations will be accepted.

Scan to register for Three Sisters supper.

Golden Age Club November Schedule

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

Below is the schedule for the rest of November:

November 11, Fall Ticket Auction.

November 18, Birthday/Potluck Luncheon. Bring a dish to share.

November 25, No Golden Age Club meeting. Happy Thanksgiving!

English, Spanish Story Time, SHL Rec Center

On Friday, November 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 13 de noviembre a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en ingles y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos gratis. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.



More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

New Exhibition And Artist's Talk

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program announces a new exhibition featuring paintings by Teresa Oaxaca at the Community Center Art Gallery. Oaxaca's work draws upon the visual language of European painting while constructing a distinctly contemporary and personal world. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., whenever the space is not reserved.

An Artist's Talk will take place on Friday, November 20 at 6 p.m., immediately prior to an Art Share; RSVP at sugeni.us/Uhk8. The talk is free but space is limited, so advance registration is highly recommended.



Greenbelt Housing Market Talk Nov. 12

The Greenbelt Rotary Club will host member and local realtor Kim Kash to discuss real estate market trends, what is different and special about Greenbelt real estate, what today's buyers are struggling to find and how reframing expectations can make a difference. The event will take place on Thursday, November 12 at the Community Center, Room 114, with refreshments and conversation at 6:30 p.m. followed by the 7 p.m. talk. The Greenbelt Rotary Club meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Greenway Center IHOP.

The Greenbelt Rotary Club's first Holiday House Tour on Saturday, November 28 from 4 to 7 p.m. will feature four private homes, plus the Greenbelt Museum, all decked out for the holidays. The tour is a fundraiser for the Greenbelt Rotary Club's community service activities. Learn about those activities and purchase tax-deductible tickets at tinyurl.com/yrbyusej.

NASA's MAD Theater Presents:

LITTLE WOMEN

www.madtheater.org

Book by Alan Knee | Music by Jason Howland | Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

A musical directed by James Pildis and produced by Emily Letchworth

5 weekends: Oct. 23- Nov. 22 Tickets $26/$24/$14, $4 discount 10/23-10/25

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI)
All authorized materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

This Week at the New Deal Café

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

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
HOURS OF OPERATION VARY. SEE NEWDEALCAFE.COM FOR UPDATES.

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

verssliE Spruce

TH 11/05	FRI 11/06	SAT 11/07	SUN 11/08
Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm Big, bodacious boogie blues jam hosted by Wolf Crescenze	Friends of Pluto 8 - 11pm One of DC's hottest cover bands with tunes from the past five decades	Proverbs Reggae Band 8 - 11pm A positive, unique rootz reggae band with strong lyrical content and musical expression	Grateful Sunday w/ Great Northern [different week this month] 6 - 8pm Capturing the creativity and energy of the Grateful

MON 11/09	TUES 11/10	WED 11/11	TH 11/12	New Deal Cafe
CAFE CLOSED	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	VETERANS' DAY Blue Spruce 7 - 9pm Delivers bluegrass that's traditional at heart and modern by design	The Rhythm Doctors w/ Valentina Maria 7 - 9pm Swing to Latin to jazz to neo-soul and RnB to spark joy	NOW OPEN FOR MORNING COFFEE & PASTRIES! Tuesday- Friday 8 - 11am Saturday & Sunday 9am- 1pm

*Join NDC! Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

EMPTY BOWLS continued from page 1



From left, Jerome Smallwood, Deacon Michael Brooks and David Pitts heat up the soups.

- Photos by Lynne Slater



From left, Marcie Lissauer, Janice Wolf and Ellen Weiss display their bowls.

The Empty Bowls Supper took a village. Greenbelt Recreation Arts donated studio facilities, clay, glaze and kiln time. Beginning in February, some 40-50 members of the potters group contributed their skill and time to make 200 bowls. RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) provided food for all-day potters' workday events. Greenbelt Access Television filmed and produced a public service announcement which the Greenbelt Cinema ran. The Greenbelt News Review published an article about the potters. Musicians entertained at the dinner. St. Hugh of Grenoble and the Ladies of Charity helped publicize the event, sold tickets and hosted the supper. The Greenbelt community came together to create an evening where people could gather, enjoy their friends, meet others and help their neighbors.

Knights of Columbus members David Pitts, Jerome Smallwood and Deacon Michael Brooks were the men behind the scenes. They set up the tables and chairs and worked in the kitchen heating up the soup. The trio also work together every year to cook an open Thanksgiving dinner at the church. "Reaching out to the community through food events is a way of putting our faith into action," said Brooks.

"I wanted a bowl I could use for candy – one that is long and shallow," Bernadette Onuorah told the News Review. Not surprisingly, she found one. Onuorah lived in Greenbelt for 25 years, but now lives in Bowie. However, she is still a member of St. Hugh's and contributes regularly to the food pantry. She says that it is important to support the pantry "because there's so much hunger."

Daniel Warfield and his mother Louise Spangle, both residents of Greenbelt for about four years, attended the Empty Bowls Supper two years ago and returned this year because donating to the pantry is a good cause. Warfield said that it is a chance to have dinner with his mom, and "there are nice bowls, good soup and a great sense of community." Spangle echoed that the supper is "a great community event."

Ellen Weiss, Janice Wolf and Marcie Lissauer came to the supper together. Weiss and Lissauer are veterans of multiple Empty Bowls suppers at various locations both in Greenbelt and throughout the country. This was Wolf's first experience. All three women were impressed by the selection of bowls and variety of soups available (including gluten free). Wolf told the News Review that she enjoyed the sense of community and "the chance to see people from the other activities in her life." She also liked the music. Lissauer spoke for all three of the women: "We're glad to participate and support the charity."

Rabbi Saul Oresky of Mishkan Torah Synagogue and his wife Phyllis attended the supper to support a great cause and participate in the Greenbelt community. Mishkan Torah holds periodic food drives during the year in support of the food pantry, the largest of which is the Blue Bag drive which takes place during the High Holidays in September. Rabbi Oresky described the Empty Bowls Supper as an example of "tzedakah: a blend of charity and justice – reaching beyond the self to the community in need."

Obituaries

Rhea L. Cohen



PHOTO BY YAEL KONOWE

Rhea Cohen

Former longtime Greenbelt resident, Rhea L. Cohen, died on October 14, 2026. Born on May 1, 1937, in Toledo, Ohio, she was the oldest of five children born to Ruby Teitlebaum Singer and Arthur Singer. Growing up, she helped take care of her younger siblings, Howard, Marilyn, Dorothy and Harold.

In her first year of college at Northwestern University, where she showed an interest in journalism, she met her future husband, Leonard (Len) Cohen, whom she married on August 12, 1956.

They spent several years in Israel, where Len was working on his Ph.D. at Hebrew University and she studied archeology. They then returned to the U.S., where Len got a physicist position at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, where they lived from 1965 to 2006.

After their three children (Jonathan, Jesse and Yael) started school, Rhea became passionate about environmental concerns and began volunteering with the Prince George's County Planning Commission, where she learned about community growth, land use review and proposal development. The work that she did there led to her interest in water pollution, and she became a paid lobbyist for the Sierra Club from 1973 to 1980. In Greenbelt, at the same time, she was the leader of the Save Our Community Committee, where she addressed the concerns of environmental activists in Prince George's County, and she represented the residents of the city as a member of the city council.

Following her time at the Sierra Club, Rhea spent the next 20-plus years at the Environmental Protection Agency (at two different times) and at the Army Corps of Engineers, where she worked in the areas of water pollution and pollution cleanup.

While Rhea's days were spent working in Washington, D.C., her evenings and weekends became a haven for expressing herself through poetry. Two poetry booklets were published – Message from Mid-River, in 1980, and Time of Two Lights, in 1989 – and several individual poems published in various publications.

In 2006 Len and Rhea moved to Riderwood Village retirement community in Silver Spring. Len died in 2012; Rhea lived there until her death.

Rhea is survived by her younger brother Howard Singer and her younger sister Dorothy Hirshfield; daughter-in-law Diane Cohen (widow of Jonathan Cohen) and their daughters Tori and Justine; son Jesse Cohen (Christine) and their children Cody and Cheyenne; and daughter Yael Konowe (Adam) and their daughter Celia.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rhea's memory may be made to the Sierra Club at giving.sierraclub.org/page/98217/donate/1 or by mail at Sierra Club, 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612. Make checks payable to Sierra Club and indicate "In Memory of Rhea L. Cohen" in the memo.

- Yael Konowe

Our Neighbors

Our condolences to the family and friends of Rhea Cohen, as well as all those who remember her service as a City Council member and a worker for environmental causes.

Congratulations to both the boys and girls Eleanor Roosevelt High School Raiders cross-country teams, who won their PGCPS County Championships.

Congratulations to Girl Scout Cadette Lillian Soll on earning her Silver Award.

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

Join Choir for Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

All are welcome to join the choir for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 at Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road. Rehearsals will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, November 16; Thursday, November 19; and Monday, November 23 at the church. For more information, email Susan Breon at sbreon99@verizon.net.

"The light of men is Justice. Quench it not with the contrary winds of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men." – Bahá'u'lláh
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

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

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Core Values from Romans chapter 8.

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
• Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
• Sunday Mass:
◦ Sat vigil 5pm*
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
• Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is its diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate the humanity of all people. By sharing together and supporting each other, all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is inclusive, accessible, equitable and safe.

MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 9 - 13

Tuesday, November 10 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY,** ***Virtual,*** *On the Agenda: Planning of teen focus groups as part of Invest in Our Youth Summit, Review of Police Dept submitted updated General Orders, Review of Greenbelt Resistant Network inquiries/concerns re: License Plate Readers*

Wednesday, November 11, **NO COUNCIL MEETING - VETERANS DAY**

Thursday, November 12 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD,** ***Municipal Building & Zoom,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

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

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 9 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
  * Minutes of Council Meetings
  * Committee Reports
  * Meetings
  * Reappointment to Advisory Board/Committee
  * Resignation from Advisory Board/Committee
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
- Presentations
  * Municipal Government Month Proclamation
  * America Recycles Month Proclamation
- Minutes
  * Statement of Record — October 28, 2026
- Administrative Reports
  * Recognition of the City's Receipt of the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Special Recognition Awards
  * Update on Municipal Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations and Stations at Buddy Attick
  * Upcoming Council Agenda Item: FY2027 Supplemental Budget Appropriations for Grant Funding

LEGISLATION
- 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

- A Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend Sections 28 and 31 of the City Charter Relating to the Conduct of Elections and the Election of Council Members to Facilitate the Implementation of Ranked-Choice Voting as Provided in Chapter 8 of the City Code
  - 1st Reading

- A Resolution Authorizing Extension of the Save-As-You-Throw (SAYT) Solid Waste Collection Pilot Program Through June 30, 2027
  - 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS
- Presentation and Update on ARPA Funded Projects
- Council Discussion: Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Dues
- Discussion and Consideration of Offer to Purchase the City-Owned Greenbelt.com Domain Name
- 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.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.
THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE / RECYCLING SCHEDULE
Week of November 9
Monday Route - No Change
Tuesday Route - No Change
Wednesday Route - Refuse & Recycling Collected Thursday
Thursday Route - Refuse & Recycling Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, November 13

If you have questions, contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004 or publicworks@greenbeltmd.gov.

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.

EMANCIPATION DAY JUBILEE & PEACE CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 7 at 2 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Come celebrate Emancipation Day through music, poetry, and community. This special afternoon will feature performances by The Voice for Peace, The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices, and Osaze Murray - Prince George's County's 2026 Youth Poet Laureate!

Help support the food pantry! Attendees are encouraged to support the food pantry by bringing non-perishable food items. Thank you.

Presented by the Black History and Culture Committee

CELL PHONE TOWER TOWN HALL MEETING

Tuesday, November 10 from 7 - 9 pm
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

The City of Greenbelt invites residents to attend a Town Hall on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to discuss ongoing cell phone service challenges and a potential new cell tower partnership with Diamond Communications. The meeting will provide information on the proposed tower development process, anticipated coverage impacts, and next steps, while offering residents an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback that will help inform the City's decision-making process.



Residents are encouraged to submit questions in advance via the meeting QR code or weblink: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/RqLeuMb202

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.

HOLIDAY FOOD BOX (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
Thursday, November 19, 1 - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road

CARES provides a free box of nutritious, whole foods for Greenbelt families during the holidays. Boxes must be picked up by 3pm.

SCAN ME

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

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

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, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, 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, 1-2 & 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.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

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

- **Pet Portrait Painting** (Community Center) 11/7-11/14, 11am-3pm (pg 30)
- **Friends & Family Workshop: Cornhusk People** (Community Center) 11/6, 5:30pm-7:30pm (bit.ly/4zeFoIP)

WILD RUMPUS THANKS!
Greenbelt Recreation thanks participating merchants and community organizations for their support of the Wild Rumpus Halloween celebration in Roosevelt Center, including: Cedars of Lebanon, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Generous Joe's, Greenbelt Access Television, Greenbelt Arts Center, Friends of the Greenbelt Library, Greenbelt Cinema, Greenbelt Coop Supermarket and Pharmacy, Greenbelt Makerspace/Tool Library, Maria's Beauty Shop, Mini Mart, New Deal Cafe, Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, Realty 1, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK), Solar Nail, and Sunoco! Thanks also to all the builders, performers, mentors, event volunteers and revelers for contributing to a joyful community gathering!

STAY SHARP AT THE LIBRARY

Kits are available to check out now!
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

Stay Sharp at the Library Reminiscence and Engagement Kit, a new resource designed to help caregivers connect with individuals living with dementia or cognitive impairments.

Scan the QR code to reserve a kit:

Halloween in Greenbelt

St. Hugh's Haunted House Puts on One Last Scare Tour

by Pepper Young

The St. Hugh of Grenoble Haunted House, located at 145 Crescent Road in Greenbelt, has been a staple of the Greenbelt community for the past 19 years. The St. Hugh's youth group has designed, written and acted in this scripted scare tour as a yearly fundraiser. However, this year marked their final scare performance before the St. Hugh's school building is leased by a small Washington, D.C., Catholic private school. The weekend of October 23 and 24 held the very last haunted house tours. The final year of this event brings back happy memories of scares from years past.



The haunted house cast gathers before the start of tours.



PHOTO BY PEPPER YOUNG

Kids and families wait in line for this year's haunted house.

From Woods to Malls to Zombies

Becky Bailey, the youth minister for St. Hugh's, has been running the haunted house since 2007. The haunted house has had a tour every year but 2020, when Covid forced cancellation of the event. Every year the haunted house chose a theme to center their story and rooms around. Bailey said that they "have always done a different theme," making each year a unique story with unique sets and characters. Bailey said that her personal favorite was based on a character called "the old man of the woods," from a little further back. "It stands out because the kids got really invested," she explained. This final year's theme was Zombie Invasion.

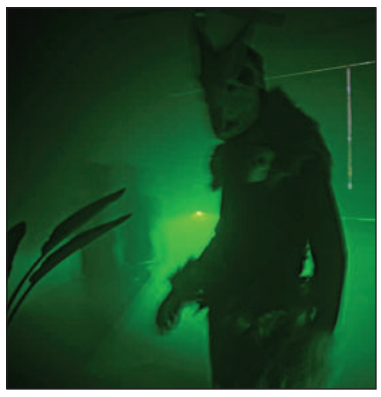
Lana Shapiro, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), has been an actor in the St. Hugh's haunted house three times. She said that her favorite part about helping to run the haunted house was "setting up everything." She recalls "being really scared [her] first year" as she had to "start in a closet in the strobe light room" where everything appeared to move in slow motion. When it came to the themes, Shapiro concluded that the theme of her first ever year, "the haunted mall" was her favorite. "It was really cool having each room be a different store, which made a lot of sense" considering the use of the building's classrooms. She notes that the more years she participated, the "less scary it got," but that, as a quieter person, it was fun to have to "scream really loud as [her] job."

Autumn Karafa-Sartin, another senior at ERHS, has been attending the St. Hugh's haunted house since middle school. She has more humorous stories of her times, saying that her favorite memory of the haunted house was "running into a cardboard cutout of Pope Francis while running from the scare actors." Karafa-Sartin concluded that the haunted house was a "perfect place to go with a big group of friends."

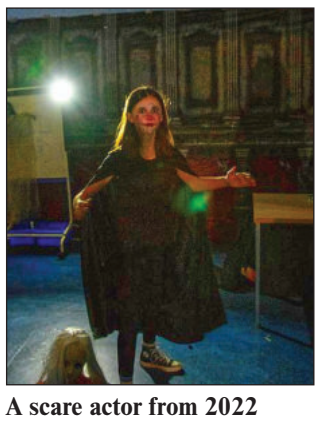
Lines for the final scare tours were longer than usual, and groups of 20 were allowed in at a time. With the longer wait and October's colder air, St. Hugh's church had hot chocolate for sale in Grenoble Hall on Saturday night.

What's Next

The haunted house took place in St. Hugh's school building, separate from the church building. Bailey explained that "the school building was actually built first," as early Greenbelt residents believed in education as a top priority. The K-8 school closed in June 2010, but the building has continued to house many of the youth group's events over the years. Now, the building is set to be leased by the St. Jerome Institute. Currently, St. Jerome operates in Washington, D.C., leasing one floor of a building, with two other schools on the other floors. Bailey explained that St. Jerome "fell in love with the green spaces in Greenbelt, especially with Braden Field and Buddy Attick Park so nearby," and that they have "put in a lot of effort" to lease the building. While it is unfortunate to lose such a fun local Halloween activity, it is exciting to look forward to the new life that a new school may bring to the St. Hugh's school building.



A scare actor is dressed as the Goatman in the swamp-themed room.



A scare actor from 2022



Bloody set from 2022

- Photos by Becky Bailey



Murderous scare actor from 2023

Halloween on Laurel Hill



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE

Neighbors at 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road await the trickers with treats to hand out.

Rotary Club of Greenbelt
Local Real Estate:
Trends, What's Unique in Greenbelt, and Meeting Buyers' Needs
A conversation with local agent Kim Kash
Thurs, Nov 12 at 7 pm
Starting with refreshments at 6.30 pm
Community Center Room 114
Monthly Speaker Series - 2nd Thursday of the month - greenbeltrotary.org

Please join us for
Holy Redeemer's 54th Annual
HARVEST BAZAAR
- FREE ADMISSION -
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026 & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026
Opens at 12 noon Each Day!
Shopping, Games, Food, & Fun for All Ages!
YARD SALE at Fealy Hall
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14th & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th from 8 a.m. to Dark!
Holy Redeemer Church, 4902 Berwyn Road, College Park, MD
https://parish.holy-redeemer.org/

Sunday, November 8
Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Rd
Annual Concert & Spaghetti Dinner
3:30 - 5 pm Concert
5 - 6:30 pm Dinner
Free-will donation

Halloween in Greenbelt

Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Carving Events Bring Many with Costumes

by Erica Johns

Hundreds of people of all ages turned out Friday evening, October 30 for the Trunk or Treat and Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival pumpkin carving behind Beltway Plaza. The line to enter the 5 to 7 p.m. event extended from the parking lot entrance along the Nueva Vida Pentecostal Church facade (the former Laugh Out Loud Stations location) with a consistent length constantly refilled by new arrivals. The event was accompanied by appropriate music, including the Ghostbusters theme and Michael Jackson's Thriller.

Halloween costumes were everywhere and not limited to the juvenile set. Many costumes were based on the Minecraft and Fortnite video games, Toy Story, Wednesday Addams and Monsters Inc. There were also appearances by Minions, Power Rangers, the Incredibles, Spider-Man, butterflies, Michael Jackson, cows, dinosaurs, dragons and a chicken.

The Trunk or Treat had 10 to 15 vehicles from various organizations, including Franklin Park and Beltway Plaza (the event sponsors), Evolution Dance Studio, Lafayette Federal Credit Union, Mission BBQ, Wendy's and the Greenbelt Police Department. The police department brought multiple decorated vehicles stocked with candy and staffed with police officers. These included Batman, aka Sgt. Torres with his wife and their Batmobile — their Polaris Slingshot three-wheel roadster outfitted with purple undercarriage lights. Investigative reporting with police sources confirmed the rumor that the police ran out of candy and made a resupply run to Target.

The pumpkin carving was similarly well attended: participants claimed all 150 pumpkins by 5:49 p.m. Children, youth and adults tackled the pumpkins with intent concentration and carving tools provided by Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival organizers. They took home their creations and tea lights to light and decorate porches, walks and balconies.

Reviews were positive. This reporter heard one child exclaim, "This was the best trick or treat ever!"



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Franklin Park staff at the Trunk or Treat event



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Toy Story Trunk-or-Treaters



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

A family of pumpkins



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

The princess oversees operations at the pumpkin carving event behind Beltway Plaza.

Lots to Enjoy at Wild Rumpus

by Emmeline Bedford-Dillow

On Friday, October 30, there was a Wild Rumpus in Roosevelt Center. Adults and kids dressed up and children walked around the stalls getting candy and other goodies the businesses offered. At one stall they gave out free books! At the Rumpus there were musicians playing spooky music. There were also dancers and an acrobat who performed. At the back, near the street, members of the Greenbelt circus camp performed and taught tricks to audience members. At the end of the Wild Rumpus the Greenbelt Cinema screened a free Halloween movie for everyone who wanted. There was a lot to see and enjoy.

Emmeline Bedford-Dillow is a 10-year-old resident writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

The Wild Rumpus flash mob dances to Stand By Me led by Lisa Pellittiere.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Circus camp performer Callum Bedford-Dillow balances on a rola bola and hands a spinning plate to his younger brother, the dinosaur. In the background another circus performer, Tomas Tillard, prepares to perform some juggling.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

A colorful performer at the Wild Rumpus



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

A young Wild Rumpus participant dances to the music of Mark Cheater, right, and Greenbelt Orchestra musicians Beth Leamond, left, and Oscar Velasco.



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE PERSEPHONE HOFFMAN

An aerialist performs at the Wild Rumpus.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

A giant snake plays ball with the crowd at the Wild Rumpus.

Arts & Entertainment

Cinema Hosts Documentary On Bill W., A.A. and Recovery

by Tom Adams

On Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m., Greenbelt Cinema is hosting Two Lives, One Legacy, an opportunity to better understand why addictions are so prevalent and that hope and recovery are available for so many more people and families. Addiction is sometimes described as a family disease that affects more than the individual.

The evening presents the new award-winning documentary Bill W.: Conscious Contact, which tells the story of Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.), and his partnership with Dr. Bob Smith (Dr. Bob) from Akron, Ohio. There will be an introduction and Q&A with the producer, Jay Stinnett.

Seven months before meeting Dr. Bob and the birth of A.A., Bill Wilson (Bill W.) was near death from his inability to control his drinking. The film details how Bill W.'s spiritual awakening and acceptance of a "power greater than himself" saved his life and the lives of the millions who have embraced A.A.'s Twelve Step program and other recovery programs. The documentary includes an interview with Lincoln Norton, the man who taught Bill W. Transcendental Meditation in 1969.

Bill W. survived 17 years of out-of-control drinking in part because of the love and devotion of his wife, Lois. Their love story and decision to devote their lives to helping people with alcohol problems and their families became the story of the founding of both A.A. and Al-Anon Family Groups (Al-Anon), a Twelve Step program for families and friends affected by someone else's drinking.

Author Talk

Following the film, there will be an opportunity to hear Joy Jones and Tom Adams, authors of A Marriage That Changed the World: Lois and Bill Wilson and the Addiction Recovery Movement, and to learn more about addiction and recovery.

Their talk will complement the film by sharing facts not well known about Lois Wilson, her life and leadership, and her 53-year marriage to Bill W. To understand how problems with alcohol, drugs and other addictions harm families, it helps to understand the Wilsons' marriage and Lois' role in supporting the birth and growth of A.A. and in co-founding Al-Anon.

The film and book talk offer people the opportunity to learn about the co-founders and the principles that launched a worldwide recovery movement. For those in recovery or who work in mental health, ministry, human services, education and other fields that encounter the effects of alcoholism every day, the evening is an invitation to deepen understanding.

This film will also be screened at the Washington, D.C. Public Library on November 9 and at the Senator Theater in Baltimore on November 11.

Tom Adams is a Greenbelt resident.

Local Quilters Featured At Patuxent Refuge

For the month of November, the Southern Comforters of Bowie Quilt Guild, whose members include many Greenbelt residents, will be the featured artist at the Patuxent Research Refuge Visitor Center's Hollingsworth Gallery. These fiber artworks all incorporate a theme of wildlife – some whimsical, some poignant.

The Visitor Center is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

GCC Offers Festive, Tasty Evening

On Sunday, November 8, join neighbors for a concert and spaghetti dinner at Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road. The event starts with a concert from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Entertainers include the rock band The Relics as well as other world-class musicians. The spaghetti dinner runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. A free-will donation to support the church's missions will be accepted at the door.

Greenbelt Orchestra to Perform Holst's The Planets with Imagery

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

New conductor Caleb O'Neill rehearses Holst's Planets Suite with Greenbelt Community Orchestra.

The stars are aligned for a celestial concert in November with Greenbelt Community Orchestra, featuring Gustav Holst's The Planets, the first movement of Mozart's Symphony #41 (Jupiter) and Constellations by Viet Cuong.

Goddard astronomers Padi Boyd and Jon Gardner will give commentary alongside out-of-this-world imagery. For the Holst piece, NASA has provided celestial images calibrated to the length of each song. For Constellations, Gardner has selected stellar images to complement the score.

Caleb O'Neill, a new conductor for the Orchestra, will lead The Planets. O'Neill is a recent graduate of Indiana University in tuba performance, currently pursuing a master's in conducting at the University of Maryland. According to orchestra organizer Anne Gardner, O'Neill "is very talented and we are very excited to have him work with us on this concert." Women singers from the College Park Chorale will join the orchestra offstage for Neptune, at the end of The Planets. Associate conductor Seth Glabman will conduct the other two pieces.

Viet Cuong, a living composer, used the star signs of some of his relatives and mapped these constellations on a seating layout of an orchestra, featuring those combinations of instruments in each section. NASA imagery will show the stars in each of the constellations. Cuong's music has been performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center, and he has had music commissioned by many orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic.

There will be two performances in the Community Center gym, on Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 15 at 3 p.m. The concert will be free, but donations are encouraged to help the orchestra pay for music. If the orchestra is able to raise enough funds to pay for rights and music rental, they plan to perform Carmina Burana with the College Park Chorale in March 2027. See greenbeltorchestra.org for more info.

A Review

Heart-warming and Wrenching: MAD's Musical of Little Women

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO COURTESY MAD THEATER

From left, Amy (Aly Bayens), Meg (Laura Fisher), Jo (Taylor Gleason), Laurie (Taylor Cairns), and Beth (Emily Letchworth) in Little Women

Excellent staging and engaged movement between the characters showcase a wide range of heart-warming and heart-wrenching moments in the musical version of Little Women, directed at Goddard's Music & Drama Club (MAD) by James Pildis. Exciting stories from Jo March's imagination are acted out with verve and gusto. Set design led by Millie Tansill allows for quick and elegant transformation between locations – from Jo's attic writing room to an imaginary moor, or from Concord, Mass., to a New York boarding house.

Louisa May Alcott's 1869 semiautobiographical novel is a beloved classic about four sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, who face the challenges of genteel poverty during the American Civil War. Jo, a writer, has a vivid imagination and a belief that her stories will carry her family toward the fulfillment of their dreams. Jo is fierce and impatient with the constraints of 19th-century social expectations, especially compared with her sweet sisters Meg and Beth. Amy, the youngest, is tempestuous and irritable over their family's reduced means, and her artistic temperament and similarity to Jo is perhaps the reason for some of their clashes.

In real life, Alcott (1832-1888) knew many important writers of her day, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, who were close family friends. She never married, but the musical, like the novel, follows her characters through several romances with neighbor Laurie, tutor John Brooke and German professor Fritz Bhaer. As a feminist, Alcott did not believe that marriage was a woman's highest destiny, but she and her character Jo were passionate about preserving family bonds, a primary theme of the musical.

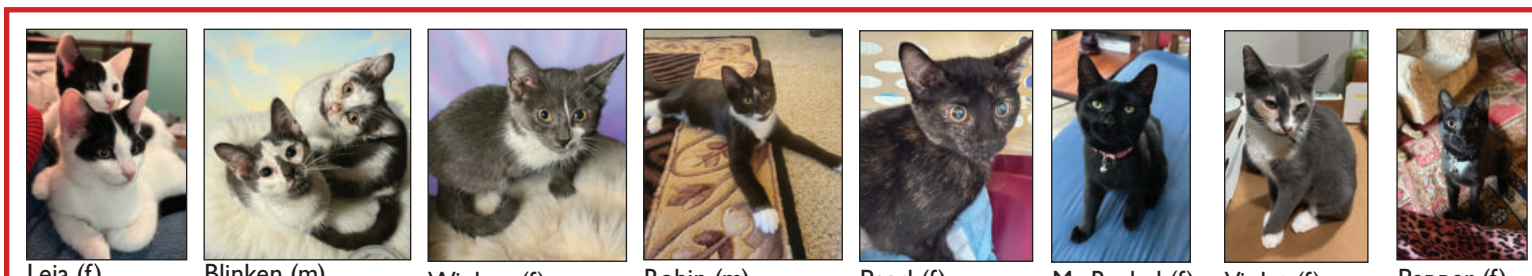
As Jo, Maura Campbell is a terrific singer with a captivating and energetic presence. Other standout singers included Keshav Swaminathan as Laurie, Giannina Guzman Caloca as Clarissa and Emily Letchworth as Beth. Hags and trolls bring surprising, lively fun to the stage. The production is double-cast, so audiences might see different actors playing these parts. Visit the website to see who is playing each night.

Little Women is at the Barney & Bea Recreation Center until November 22, with Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. See madtheater.org for tickets and more information.



PHOTO COURTESY MAD THEATER

From left, Amy (Aly Bayens), Meg (Laura Fisher), Jo (Taylor Gleason), and Beth (Emily Letchworth) in Little Women



Leia (f)
Rey (f)
Blinken (m)
Nod (m)
Winken (f)
Robin (m)
Pearl (f)
Ms Rachel (f)
Violet (f)
Pepper (f)

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Cats and kittens available for adoption from Greenbelt Trap Neuter Release (TNR)

Election 2026

Though Not on the Ballot, Data Centers Are on Voters' Minds

by Cassie Whyte

As the leaves were in freefall around Greenbelt Elementary School, locals popped in and out of the voting location early Tuesday. Election Day was in full swing, and one issue seemed to be on everybody's minds, even if it wasn't on the ballot itself: data centers.

Megan Plyler, 55, was smiling warmly on her way out.

"If you care about the democratic process, this is our one really huge opportunity," she said of the midterm election.

Now a student pursuing her master's in social work, Plyler has been an avid voter most of her life.

Among concerns on her mind is the possibility of more data centers in the area. "I feel like they're sneaking by, trying to get the ability to have ... data centers," said Plyler.

"There's a lot of potential environmental and health risk for people who are living in the vicinity as well."

Plyler was not the only Greenbelt resident to express concerns about data center construction in the area. "I'm afraid of them," said 88-year-old Ann Dunne. She was excited to vote for the Green Party representative for Congress. One of the issues she emphasized is the need to reduce military spending.

Dunne was accompanied by her friend, Jan Goedeke, a 70-year-old teacher. Though both of them expressed concern over data centers, they were very supportive of the FBI potentially relocating to Greenbelt. "I think it would really help bring more commerce to the area. Better restaurants and services," said Goedeke.

David Gonzalez, a 41-year-old analyst, worries that the construction of data centers might be rushed.

"There's a big push from, like, the private industries," he said. "They're just going to want to build stuff and then think about what's going to happen later." Gonzalez himself works with AI.

Another teacher, 24-year-old Regan Farrar, came focused on school-board elections. But when asked about local issues, she too brought up data centers. "I'm definitely worried more about the data centers coming. Those affecting us here in Greenbelt, with them being so close," she said.

Plyler said of data centers that "It's ecological racism for the most part". She weighed potential economic outcomes, but ultimately asserted that any benefits that may accrue are "for billionaires and their AI."

Cassie Whyte is a University of Maryland graduate student in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



Friends Ann Dunne, 88, and Jan Goedeke, 70, after voting Tuesday morning



Regan Farrar, 24, after voting at Greenbelt Elementary School



David Gonzalez, 41, after voting at Greenbelt Elementary School



Election signage



Megan Plyler, 55, after voting in the 2026 midterms at Greenbelt Elementary

- Photos by Cassie Whyte



PHOTO BY VERA PEREIRA

A camera positioned outside the cinema provides an interesting juxtaposition with the advertised movie title.

ELECTION continued from page 1

Meanwhile there were several ballot questions that were decided in this election - ten county and three state.

All State Questions Pass

In the state questions, voters were overwhelmingly in favor of the constitutional amendment concerning arbitration reform in Question 1. Not all precincts had reported by Wednesday morning but over 89 percent of votes counted were in favor.

The second state question, a constitutional amendment to allow temporary appointments in the Commission for Judicial Disabilities was gathering over 81 percent in support as of Wednesday morning.

The third state question, which would allow redistricting, in response to Republican measures to do so in other states, was ready to pass with over 83 percent support tallied at time of press.

All 10 County Questions Pass

Among the county questions, all five charter amendments and all five bond bills would pass. One of the most significant was the elimination of at-large council members from the County Council. This will reduce the body from 11 to 9 and eliminate the seats in 2030, after Jolene Ivey and Sydney Harrison serve the four-year terms to which they were just elected.

Other county charter amendments included allowing "harmful business" taxes and fees without putting them on the ballot as required of most other taxes. Another change will require a bill and public hearing, rather than just a resolution from county council for redistricting. One gives the county purchasing agent the power to sign all purchasing documents and another approved an Independent Arbitration Service for certain employees.

No Suprises in Other Seats Representing Greenbelt at County and State Levels

Unofficial results on Wednesday morning showed County Executive Aisha Braveboy had 83 percent of the vote. Preliminary results showed approximately 16.7 percent of writers had opted to write-in. Unaffiliated candidate Tonya Sweat had launched a write-in campaign after failing to get her name on the ballot.

As determined in the primary, At-Large County Council representatives will be Democrats Jolene Ivey and Sydney Harrison. District 4's County Council Representative will be Democrat Tim Adams, who was appointed in January but elected to the seat for the first time in this election. All three were unchallenged in the general election.

Wes Moore was approaching 89 percent of the vote over Republican challenger Dan Cox's 7.12 in the Governor's race.

Incumbent Democrat Brooke Lierman had over 90 percent of the vote for Comptroller against Republican Challenger Sonya Dunn.

Anthony Brown beat his Republican challenger to continue as Attorney General with over 90 percent backing.

Democrat Glenn Ivey was returned as District 4's representative in Congress with over 89 percent of the vote by Wednesday morning.

District 22 returned State Senator Alonzo Washington with over 92 percent of the vote at time of press.

The Democrats were unchallenged for the three House of Delegates seats in District 22. At time of press Tracy Gant was the top vote-getter with 36 percent, followed by Ashanti Martinez and Molly Mckee-Seabrook. All three will be the district's representatives in Congress.





Letters continued from page 2

ways and always welcome any donations of time, talents and treasures.

Lannay Tull, WAGS VP
Liz Tobey, WAGS President
WAGS and Greenbelt TNR

Food Pantry Economics

As food insecurity increases across the region, it makes a stronger financial impact to donate money to the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) than to buy groceries at retail prices and donate them directly to a local food pantry. This is an instance when the larger nonprofit can be more effective than individual purchases because CAFB can buy food at wholesale prices, and also gets food donated by large corporations. According to their website, $1 donated to the CAFB provides one nutritious meal to one needy person while, $1 spent at the Co-op or Safeway or Giant, on the other hand, is definitely not enough for a meal.

Another economic consideration is that the most food-insecure people in Greenbelt don't have cars. Why are the food pantry and the monthly food distributions (which are supported by the CAFB and Greenbelt CARES) in the neighborhood that needs those resources the least? What would it take to bring food security within walking distance of the neighborhoods with the highest needs?

Leah Cohen

Editor's Note: Greenbelt CARES provided clarification that, although the city's food distribution program does occur at the Community Center, it also provides a program for 50 families living in Greenbelt West (Franklin Park Apartments area). Families can sign up and food is distributed to them at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center on the same day as the drive-up event. In coordination with this, CARES also offers families the opportunity to sign up for free diaper distribution, in partnership with the DC Diaper Bank. In addition, Springhill Lake Elementary School also offers food distribution to their families.

Concern for Safety Behind My Home

Dear Members of the Greenbelt City Council,

I am writing to bring to your attention a concerning incident that occurred while I was walking my dog in the area behind my home. I live at 6812 Green Crescent Court. During my walk, I encountered a homeless man who was hiding in the woods behind my property. His presence and behavior made me feel uneasy and concerned about the safety of my neighborhood.

I did not contact the police at the time because I was able to scare him away. However, the encounter left me feeling unsettled, particularly because I do not know how long he had been in the woods, why he was there, or whether he had been staying in the area. I am concerned that someone may be spending time in the woods close to residential properties without the knowledge of nearby homeowners.

My concern extends beyond my own personal safety. I worry about my neighbors, their families, children playing outside, and other residents who walk their dogs or use the surrounding areas. Everyone deserves to feel safe in and around their own home.

I understand that homelessness is a serious issue and that individuals experiencing homelessness deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion. At the same time, residents should not have to feel frightened or uncertain about the safety of the wooded areas directly behind their homes.

I respectfully ask the City Council to look into this situation and consider whether additional monitoring, appropriate inspections of the wooded area, improved lighting where feasible, or outreach by the appropriate city personnel would be beneficial. I would also appreciate guidance on whom residents should contact if they encounter similar situations in the future.

I am bringing this matter to your attention because I believe it is important to address potential safety concerns before a more serious incident occurs. I hope the City Council will take these concerns seriously and work toward a solution that protects neighborhood residents while also responding humanely to individuals who may be experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing what steps the city may be able to take to address these concerns and help residents feel safe in their neighborhood.

Matthew Inzeo

Look for Flying Question Mark

by Susan Cahill

Seeing butterflies airborne in October and in winter might seem surprising, but it's normal for this smallish species called the "question mark." This one was seen in the woods near the Hillside Road tunnel recently. Some are now entering a hibernation-like state, hiding in logs or cracks in bark, etc., with their version of antifreeze keeping them from icing up and dying over the winter — but you still might get to see one in the cold months. They can be hard to spot when they're not flying, because their closed wings are a dull brown that makes them look just like a dead leaf clinging to a tree or twig, fooling predators. But on unusually warm winter days, they may rouse to look for tree sap, rotted fruit and animal poop to eat, and then the orange color of their open wings can be seen as they fly, or flutter while perched, as in this photo (in which only the left forewing and hindwing are open, showing their orange side; the wings on the right are in a closed position). A second brood that lives only a few weeks in summer looks much the same, but has black hindwings.



PHOTO BY SUSAN CAHILL

Question mark butterfly

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Art 4 All, Girl Scout Lillian's Silver Award Project for Seniors

by Lisa Ealley



PHOTO BY LISA EALLEY

Girl Scout Cadette Lillian Soll of Girl Scout Troop 542 presents her Girl Scout Silver Award Project.

Girl Scout Cadette Lillian Soll of Girl Scout Troop 542 earned her Girl Scout Silver Award by creating Art 4 All art kits for seniors in the Greenbelt area. On November 2, in coordination with Flora Li, Green Ridge House service coordinator, Lillian presented her kits to residents of Green Ridge House. In order to earn a Girl Scout Silver Award, a scout must devote 50 hours to their project with a stipulation that the project be sustainable in nature.

Prior to beginning preparations for the project which must be submitted to the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital for approval, a scout must complete a Bronze award or One Leadership Award or One Journey. These awards lay the foundational skills needed to complete a Girl Scout Silver Award project.

With the kits, the excited residents will be creating artwork that they can share with others. The kits included a tote bag designed by Lillian, sketch pads, markers, crayons and coloring pages, watercolor paints, pencils, pencil cases, erasers, markers and other art supplies. Lillian also shared with the residents the different things she does in scouting including community service, camping and earning awards. She also baked cookies to distribute to the residents in attendance.

Greenbelt CARES will distribute any remaining kits to other area residents who may benefit from creating artwork.

The Green Ridge House residents were delighted to speak with Lillian and two residents reminisced about their time as girl scouts.



PHOTO BY LISA EALLEY

Lillian Soll's Silver Award project

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 Consumer Co-op Announces 2027 Community Round-Up Partners

by Amber Hennessy

The Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (Co-op) is happy to announce the results of the Community Round-Up membership voting, based entirely on member nominations followed by in-person-only voting at the Annual Member Gathering held on October 17 at the Community Center.

For the second consecutive year, Co-op members nominated and voted for organizations serving Greenbelt residents to receive the monthly Round-Up donations — small contributions made when shoppers choose to round up their purchases at checkout to the next whole dollar. So far in 2026, shoppers have donated over $32,000. The program began in April 2025. Combining the 2025 and early 2026 totals, Co-op shoppers exceeded the milestone of $50,000 given by July 2026.

This year, groups brought a community engagement component to the annual meeting. Nominated organizations were invited to represent their groups and answer member questions prior to the start of the meeting. An info fair popped up, with so many groups representing their spots on the ballot that additional tables were generously loaned at the last minute by the Makerspace Tool Library. These groups included the Eleanor Roosevelt High School VEX Robotics Team, the Greenbelt Farmers Market, Friends of Greenbelt Museum, Greenbelt Community Orchestra and Concert Band, Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, Greenbelt Makerspace and Tool Library, Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team, Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival, Greenbelt Rotary Club, the Michael D. Maxwell Foundation, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK), the Send a Kid to Camp Fund from Greenbelt Recreation, Utopia Film Festival and Well-Wishers for the Animals of the Greenbelt Shelter (WAGS).

The voting results were more competitive than at last year's meeting. Total votes earned ranged from 106 down to 20 per group. To earn one of the top 12 spots this year required a minimum of 60 votes. Spots 3 through 12 ranged from 77 to 60 votes. The cut-off this year was extremely tight, with places 13 to 16 each receiving from 58 to 51 votes. By comparison, at the 2025 Annual Meeting, the total vote range spanned from 63 to 32 votes total per group.

Anyone can join the Co-op, and anyone with over $100 in their Co-op member account is vested and can vote in next year's process. The Board and Co-op staff are thrilled to support the 12 top-voted organizations which will be featured throughout 2027, starting in December 2026.

2027 Community Round-Up Schedule

- December 2026: Meals on Wheels and more
- January 2027: Greenbelt Farmers Market
- February: Friends of Greenbelt Cinema
- March: Friends of Greenbelt Library
- April: Well-Wishers for the Animals of the Greenbelt Shelter (WAGS)
- May: Greenbelt Makerspace and Tool Library
- June: Send a Kid to Camp Fund - City of Greenbelt Recreation Department
- July: Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK)
- August: Greenbelt Labor Day Festival
- September: Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival
- October: Greenbelt News Review
- November: Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund

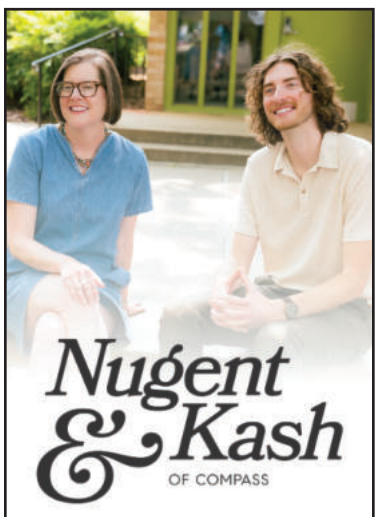
Congratulations to all of these very worthy causes.

This November, the Co-op is rounding up for Greenbelt Access Television (GATe). Their mission is to encourage the community to actively participate in creative expression, sharing viewpoints and information through video by providing affordable access to equipment and training.

For more information, contact Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative Board of Directors, board@greenbelt.coop.

Amber Hennessy is currently serving as secretary of the Co-op Board of Directors.





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COUNCIL continued from page 1

County Historical Preservation Commission deemed the original 1938 Greenbelt High School as a Prince George's County Historic Site (see the May 30, 2024 issue).

The legislation directs the city manager to initiate and coordinate discussions with various entities including county officials, the school board and the preservation commission to communicate the city's interest and identify the legal, administrative and financial steps necessary to pursue ownership. The legislation states that it constitutes an expression of the city's intent to pursue acquisition and does not authorize the expenditure of funds, execution of a purchase agreement or acceptance of ownership. It qualifies that provision by saying that any proposed acquisition shall be subject to further review and approval by council, including consideration of financial obligations, facility conditions, historic preservation requirements and potential public benefits.

Jordan questioned the timeliness of the legislation since council had already asserted its right of first refusal, the school system has not yet decided to decommission the school and the city has not yet reviewed the recommendations of a prior citizen task force review.

Councilmember Silke Pope, a teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary School, said that while she was interested in the land, the building comes with extreme challenges. She sees it as "almost a second armory" with so many issues the city would have to demolish the building, which it might not be able to do given its historic status. She cautioned that obtaining this building would be very expensive and it is not clear what the city would be allowed to do with it.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver disagreed, saying that she could not imagine any scenario where the city didn't want the building. She argued that the legislation is timely as there is just a year and a half until the school is scheduled to close.

Salmerón noted that the city is land-locked, with no room to grow. He called the school site strategic and said that the legislation does not commit the city to acquire the building.

SAYT

As there was only a minute or two left in the extended meeting, there was virtually no discussion of the Save As You Throw (SAYT) program. Weaver alerted council to expect a resolution at the next meeting, as council needs to make a decision.

There is a chart of budget options in the agenda packet that showed three options for next year's rates. (See chart.) The proposal discussed at the earlier October 19 worksession called for increasing the base rate to $260 to reflect the landfill fee increase. The options in the packet for this meeting all show a base rate of $240. Councilmember Amy Knesel said this proposal put the entire burden on Greenbelt families. One option increases the Max Trash fee by $30, another does not and the third option is to drop SAYT and go back to a fixed rate. The Waste Zero presentation said a flat fee would mean 72 percent of homes would pay more. Salmerón said that he had fleshed out four models. Knesel argued that this additional information was not in the packet and needs to be publicized before the next discussion.

Budget Gap is Closing: Options for 2027/ 28 Budget Year

	Baseline	Pilot (6 months of Fiscal Year)	Proposal Continue Program (No Max Trash Increase)	Proposal Continue Program Max Trash Increase (full year)	Proposal to Discontinue Program
Budget Year	**2024/25**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2026/27**
Assumptions:					
Annual Base Fee	$280	$240	$240	$240	$364
Max Trash		$140	$140	$170	
Bags (Large)		$2.00	$2.00	$2.00	
Bags (Medium)		$1.25	$1.25	$1.25	
Bags (Small)		$0.85	$0.85	$0.85	
Analysis					
Total Expense	$1,001,089	$1,062,015	$1,051,817	$1,051,817	$1,074,189
80% Target Revenue	$800,871	$849,612	$841,453	$841,453	$859,351
Total Revenue	$668,000	$728,987	$795,910	$815,735	$859,351
Shortfall	$132,871	$120,625	$45,543	$25,719	$0
Revenue % of Budget	**67%**	**69%**	**76%**	**78%**	**80%**

CHART COURTESY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA PACKET

Waste disposal budget options for the coming year

The city is dipping its toe a little deeper into using artificial intelligence (AI). Salmerón said that the city is rolling out a new AI policy. While the city manager cannot establish policy for the council, Salmerón said he was hopeful that council would adopt the staff policy. City employees will now have access to Microsoft CoPilot in Outlook, SharePoint and other systems. Employees will be restricted from copying information into other AI systems because of concerns about how those systems are using the information submitted to them. During the recent International City/ County Management Association conference, Salmerón spoke with a vendor who has now loaded the city's entire agenda management system into its AI system to facilitate searches. He will be arranging a demonstration of the system at a later date.

Administration Reports



PHOTO BY KEN LOO

A turtle spits out water at Greenbelt Lake.

City Notes

The Wild Rumpus (hosted by Arts) and Trunk or Treat Halloween events were supported by Recreation, Public Works, Public Information and other city staff. Legislative attended the Four Cities meeting in New Carrollton.

Code Enforcement issued nine permits and inspected one apartment building, 11 commercial suites, two complaints and 12 rentals. Planning attended training about fire safety for solar panels.

Animal Shelter residents are six cats, four kittens and five dogs, and 11 Dog Park permits are in use. Under the Spay/Neuter Feral Cat Grant Program, 69 cats have been trapped, neutered, vaccinated and released.

Recycling/Sustainability hosted an electronics recycling event serving 214 households. Horticulture began a new phase of invasive Bradford pear tree removal and installed memorial trees around Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Streets crews responded to several deer-related emergencies.

The Community Center hosted an election polling place and, with Recreation, developed a new youth basketball program.

Therapeutic Recreation took seniors on a trip to Arena Stage.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred October 26 - November 1. 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 a welfare check; four mental health diversions, two involving suicide and six domestic incidents. Two persons reported missing were safely found. Officers also helped a mother find a child. On October 31 near 7201 Hanover Parkway, officers completed a crash investigation after a motor vehicle collision.

Assault

On October 30 at 11:26 a.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, a girl reported that another student grabbed her around the waist and chin and repeatedly pressured her for a kiss despite her refusal. The incident was reported to the school resource officer. On October 31 at 9:19 a.m. near 15001 S. Center Drive, after a verbal argument a woman was struck in the face by a man.

Controlled Dangerous Substances Arrest

On October 29 at 9:21 p.m. near 5803 Cherrywood Lane, officers were investigating suspicious activity and arrested a man previously banned from the location.

Disorderly

On October 27 at 5:38 p.m. near 9220 Springhill Lane, an individual caused a disruption; at 5:46 p.m. near 9322 Edmonston Road, officers responded to an ongoing neighbor dispute over not cleaning up after dogs.

Shooting

On November 1 at 1:31 a.m. near 5807 Cherrywood Terrace, a man was found with a gunshot wound to his leg. Officers provided medical assistance. The man stated that he had been drinking with several acquaintances; one of them produced a firearm and accidentally shot him in the leg.

Theft and Shoplifting

On October 26 at 4:05 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a woman reportedly took two drinks valued at $7 from a convenience store without paying and left in a work vehicle. The store was contacted about pursuing charges.

On October 27 at 2:35 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, officers arrested a woman who took merchandise without paying; all merchandise was recovered.

On October 27 at 12:42 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man left without paying for merchandise. Officers documented the missing property.

On October 28 at 4:02 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl took merchandise without paying and was stopped; all merchandise was recovered.

On October 28 at 1:53 p.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, two men grabbed several food items they did not pay for, and left in a black Tesla with no tags.

On October 29 at 1:15 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman took merchandise and fled without paying; at 1:16 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman took merchandise without paying; the store has video of the incident.

On October 29 at 7:10 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, police detained a girl who tried to steal merchandise. She was banned from the location, and all merchandise was recovered.

On October 29 at 1:16 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was captured on camera taking merchandise without paying; at 1:17 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman took merchandise without paying; at 3:10 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was arrested after he took merchandise without paying.

On October 31 at 2:50 p.m. near 5999 Springhill Drive, a box was stolen while people were moving out; officers documented the missing property.

On October 31 at 11:34 a.m. near 20 Southway, a man took a rack of candy and left without paying.

Trespassing

On October 27 at 12:24 p.m. near 5906 Cherrywood Terrace, officers arrested a person who refused to leave the property.

Vandalism

On October 29 near 6021 Springhill Drive, officers documented damage to property.

Warrant Arrest

On October 27 at 6:22 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers were investigating suspicious activity involving an individual in the area; he had a warrant, and officers made an arrest.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Three cars were stolen: on October 26 near 6160 Springhill Terrace, a silver 2013 Hyundai Sonata; on October 29 near 9146 Edmonston Court, a white 2015 Kia Optima (Md. 9HC9780); and on November 1 near 6005 Springhill Drive, a 2016 Chrysler 300 (Md. 9GH6847).

On October 30 near 7714 Hanover Parkway, a black 2021 Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle (Md. AFGZX6) was stolen.

Stolen Vehicle Located

On October 26 near 6154 Springhill Terrace, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra was found.

Theft from Auto

All four wheels were stolen from five vehicles: on October 28 near 7810 Walker Drive from a 2026 Honda; on October 30 near 7728 Hanover Parkway from a 2026 Honda Civic and near 6150 Springhill Terrace from a 2026 Honda HR-V (nearby surveillance recorded a person dressed in black); on October 31 near 7714 Lakecrest Drive from a 2026 Honda Accord; and near 6219 Springhill Court from a 2023 Toyota Camry.

On October 27 near 7013 Mathew Street, a 2017 Ford Transit cargo van had a broken window and was rummaged through.

On October 31 near 7822 Hanover Parkway, a rear tag (Md. 8GW9642) was stolen from a Toyota Tacoma.

Vandalism to Auto

On October 30 near 9332 Edmonston Road, a 2026 Honda Pilot had a window damaged.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

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

PUBLIC SAFETY continued from page 1

Occasions like this give us an opportunity to honor those who answer the call to serve. One of tonight's firefighter honorees is absent because he is responding to a call. Some may see irony in that, but I see a fitting reminder of why he deserves this honor. Even as we celebrate his service, he is carrying out the work we recognize," said Culmer-Reid. Culmer-Reid congratulated the honorees on behalf of Adams and the District 4 office, and thanked them for all they do to keep the community safe. "We appreciate your service, your sacrifices and your continued commitment to the people of Greenbelt," she said.



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

From left, Mayor Emmett Jordan with Master Police Officer Jean-Paul Dang and Deputy Police Chief Tim White

Officer of the Year: Jean-Paul Dang

Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers said Master Police Officer Jean-Paul Dang was selected as the Greenbelt Police Department's 2026 Officer of the Year for his exceptional dedication, professionalism and outstanding contributions to the Department and the City of Greenbelt. Dang's citation showed that throughout the year, he demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to service while balancing numerous specialized assignments, including crime scene technician, firearms instructor, field training officer and investigator on the Special Assignment Team. His contributions to major criminal investigations, officer training and operational readiness have strengthened the Department and supported his fellow officers' professional development, noted Bowers.

Despite these additional responsibilities, Dang also maintained an exceptional level of patrol activity, handling approximately 1,851 calls for service and self-initiated incidents, conducting 198 traffic stops and making 31 arrests, including 22 DUI arrests, the highest number in the Department. Dang consistently demonstrates initiative, leadership and a willingness to take on additional responsibilities wherever needed, said Bowers. His strong work ethic, teamwork and commitment to public safety were said to reflect the highest standards of the law enforcement profession.

Most years the Public Safety Awards have associated stories relating activities supporting community safety while thwarting criminal activities, extinguishing fires and providing emergency medical transport. For the police department, this year's safety awards program highlighted an example of the potential danger involved in police work. According to Deputy Police Chief Tim White, on Monday, October 12, the Special Assignment Team located and apprehended Karim Joshua Thomas who was wanted in connection with a non-contact shooting inside the Hook & Reel restaurant on January 5, 2026. Dang and his team observed the individual at the Shell Food Mart. When they approached him, he tried to flee and then fought with the officers. He was subdued without injury to him or the officers. His arrest revealed he was carrying a loaded handgun and drugs.

"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," White said.

Civilian of the Year: Carolina Aviles

Bowers said Carolina Aviles was selected as the Greenbelt Police Department's 2026 Civilian Employee of the Year in recognition of her outstanding dedication, professionalism and exceptional contributions to the Animal Services Unit. Her award citation showed that over the past year, Aviles consistently demonstrated initiative and leadership by taking on responsibilities beyond her regular duties. In her supervisor's absence she assisted with daily operations, scheduled staff and addressed residents' concerns. She also managed the unit's internship program and coordinated community events: Pooch Plunge, Trunk or Treat and the Labor Day booth. Along with recognizing her support qualities such as her commitment to personal development through crisis intervention team training, she was praised for expanding her knowledge of supervisory responsibilities to better serve the Department. Bowers said, "What distinguishes Carolina is her reliability, sound judgment, compassion and willingness to go above and beyond. She consistently ensures the shelter's needs are met, supports her coworkers and treats residents with professionalism and understanding. Her genuine concern for animal welfare and her dedication to providing quality service reflect the highest standards of the Department. Her outstanding performance and dedication to the City of Greenbelt make her highly deserve this recognition."

Berwyn Heights Firefighter of the Year: Landen Morgan

Berwyn Heights Fire Chief B. Ross named Firefighter/EMT Landen Morgan as Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) 2026 Firefighter of the Year. Morgan joined Berwyn Heights in May 2025 and worked tirelessly to complete the required certification classes and in-house training necessary to finish the probation process, said Ross. Since then, he has provided countless hours of staffing as a live-in member greatly assisting with maintaining service delivery to local communities. Morgan has taken the initiative to drive the ambulance as well as tiller the ladder truck (steer the ladder truck's rear wheels.) Both positions require additional training and skills. He is always willing to take on assignments to assist officers and seldom complains about anything. His dedication to the Department is an example to all our members, Ross said.

Morgan's citation indicates why he is Berwyn Heights 2026 Firefighter of the Year.

Yet, he did not hear accolades about his Berwyn Heights VFD support – nor did he stand with his Department's leadership, the mayor of Greenbelt and American Legion representatives to receive his plaque along with photo – all to embellish his recognition and provide memories for years to come. But Morgan, ready as he was to join his organization's leadership, families and friends at American Legion Post 136's 38th Annual Public Safety Awards Program, was called out to fight a fire. It can be safely assumed this firefighter responded without rancor or hesitation to do his duty, said Ross.

Jordan later encapsulated how important the safety awards program is. "Community recognition is not simply a ceremony," he said. "It is a public expression of trust, gratitude and partnership that strengthens both our public safety professionals and the communities they serve."

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CRAFT SALE, QUILTERS – Yard sale, and Challenge Quilt Showcase by the Southern Comforters of Bowie. Saturday, November 14, 10-3, at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church, 3120 Belair Drive, Bowie. Quilts, quilted items, jewelry, pottery, Christmas ornaments and more. Raffle quilt, raffle baskets, refreshments.

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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.

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Sports

ERHS Girls Cross Country Team Wins County Championship

by Rachel Kebler



PHOTO BY KATE MCELHENNY

ERHS cross country runners make finger hearts. Pictured from left: Violet Ridge, Lyla Wold, Therese Schooley, Meghana Noojipady, Angel Earnest, Tabitha Melin, Nalia Keemartin, Zarah Jones, Nala Kichwen, Mariella McElhenny and Izadora Morris

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Raiders swept this year's Prince George's County Public Schools Cross Country County Championship. Both the boys and girls brought home championship titles (another article will focus on the boys' win). Among the fastest girl runners, placing second in the county overall, was Greenbelt's Mariella McElhenny, who finished the Girls 5000 meter with a time of 22:21.03.

Also competing for ERHS Girls Varsity A team in the Girls 5000 meter at the championship were Violet Ridge, who placed third; Meghana Noojipady, who came in sixth; Therese Schooley, who was seventh; Lyla Wold, eleventh; Tabitha Melin, fourteenth; and Izadora Morris, nineteenth. In the girls 5000 meter Varsity B team, ERHS Angel Earnest placed fifth and Nalia Keemartin 11th. In overall county rankings the girls placed in five of the top six positions.

"I felt pretty confident, " McElhenny said on how she felt going into the championship competition. An 11th grader at ERHS, she had competed in the championships before. "I knew my competition, I knew my pacing was okay."

McElhenny had an injured knee for a year prior and noted she is proud of her achievement during the healing process. "What makes me so fast is liking the sport," she said.

McElhenny began running track and field in fourth grade for the Berwyn Heights Boys and Girls Club, but did not enjoy the running aspect of it that much. She began cross country her freshman year of high school. Outside of practice, McElhenny does not run much, but often bikes to school and takes walks through neighborhood hills. She said her favorite place to run is Buddy Attick Park.

She appreciated her teammates throughout the process. "It's not cutthroat and mean. Everyone's looking out for each other," McElhenny said.

She has been trained by the team's assistant coach, Clark Ridge, since her track and field days. She commented on his thorough experience in running. Ridge said he has been running for over 30 years and coaching for 10.

"She has made a lot of progress," Ridge said about McElhenny. "She's done really well in managing her overall running and life load."

This is Ridge's fourth year coaching at ERHS. He began working with the school when his daughter, Violet, who is now a senior on the team, enrolled as a freshman four years ago.

Team members commented on Ridge's help throughout their training, including Tabitha Melin, a freshman in her first season with the team.

"He prioritizes our health instead of winning, which I really like," Melin said about Ridge.

She is also in dance, but highlighted the sense of community she felt from a group sport like cross country. "It's been difficult balancing everything, but it's been worth it," Melin said regarding having to manage both school and the sport.

"It felt really good," Ridge said about the number of girls from his team being in the top placements. He commented that he thinks this is the best the team has been since the pandemic. "It's not only a complete team, but a good team."

Ridge's children, who attend ERHS, were also involved in the championship. Violet placed sixth in the Girls 5000 meter Varsity and his son, Calvin, placed first in the Boys 5000 meter Varsity.

"My hope is not just that they get faster and do their best but that they also develop a healthy relationship with running and community that will stay with them through adulthood," Ridge said about the team. "I feel that Violet has helped me do that by getting me involved with the ERHS cross country and track programs."

McElhenny is looking forward to the rest of the season and hopes more girls join cross country in the future. She'd like to see more women in the sport. Ridge also mentioned the upcoming regional championship next Saturday, November 14, for which the Raiders are now preparing.

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



ERHS Girls Soccer Team Wins Third County Championship

by Patrick Gleason



PHOTO BY ETHAN JAMES

Ariana Cruz (#10) and teammates celebrate after the victory over CMIT North.

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Raiders clinched their third straight county championship in a game much closer than the previous two. The 2-1 victory over Chesapeake Math and IT (CMIT) North Tigers on Tuesday, October 27 started with a scoreless first half despite heavy possession by the Raiders. Leading scorer Emery Gregory and Morgan Parks continued to threaten the Tigers backline but couldn't find the back of the net. The Tigers had a handful of chances thanks to long balls to their speedy forward, but Roosevelt keeper Lien Gareri rose to each challenge.

In the second half the Raiders continued to threaten despite heightened attempts from CMIT. Sophomore Mia Moore catalyzed the Raiders by putting herself in prime scoring position. After Parks accessed the endline and cut a pass back to the center of the six-yard box, Moore beat the challenging defender to the ball and redirected it with her left foot. The shot slowly curved around the keeper into the net for a 1-0 Roosevelt lead. Only a few minutes later, senior captain Ariana Cruz struck the same corner of the net. After Claire Alolga held up play and passed to Parks, Cruz received the next pass and unleashed her shot, resulting in her sixth goal of the season.

The final 20 minutes provided frantic back and forth play with the Tigers halving the deficit with about 15 minutes left. Gareri ended the night with five saves, securing the fourth county championship in five years.

State

Then, Roosevelt began their state playoff journey on Friday, October 30, with an emphatic 7-0 victory over Montgomery County's Paint Branch Panthers. Less than two minutes into the first half, Gregory continued her perpetual forays into opposing territory. After an aggressive cut toward goal, the trailing Paint Branch defender tackled her from behind, leading to a penalty kick conversion for Gregory and a 1-0 Roosevelt lead. Then Parks usurped the afternoon with three goals in eight minutes. She added a fourth goal in the second half, along with teammates Brishty Gomes and Camila Motolinia, for the impressive victory allowing the team to advance to the region semifinal against the Montgomery Blair Blazers.

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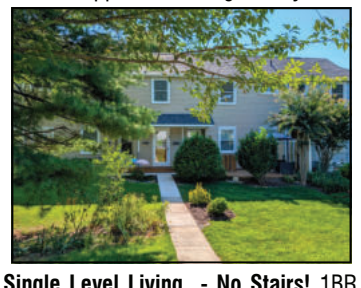
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News Review Holds Annual Meeting, Celebrates Its Editor and Emerita

by Pat Scully



Members of the Greenbelt News Review pose for a picture after the business meeting. Front row, from left: Anne Marizga, Rebecca Rackis, Erica Johns, Mary Lou Williamson, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Joan Estenson, Jeff Jones, Mary Moien and Lois Rosado. Back row: Peggy Higgins, Janice Wolfe, Christopher Stark, Mary Sies, Rasheeda Childress, Deanna Dawson, Michael Hartman, Tom Jones, Pat Scully, Sandy Rodgers, Diane Oberg, Mary Kokumo, Christine Doran, Lynne Slater, Carol Griffith, Lola Skolnik, Maurice Crawford and David Shapiro.

The members of the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc., the worker cooperative that publishes the Greenbelt News Review (GNR), celebrated its newly appointed editor Anna Bedford-Dillow and editor emerita Mary Lou Williamson at the annual membership meeting on Sunday, October 25 in the Community Center. There were flowers, accolades and a cake, as well as a business meeting.

Williamson reflected on another successful year, the paper's 89th, of publishing every week without fail. She announced the paper's plans for a year-long celebration of its 90th anniversary, with special events and publications planned throughout the year.

Bedford-Dillow spoke of the widened scope of the news coverage as county, state and national events affect the lives of Greenbelt residents. She stressed the need for more reporters not just to cover events but to research and write stories on critical issues.

Vice President Diane Oberg gave the financial report, acknowledging the successful donation drive, the support of Co-op shoppers who rounded up and the generous grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation. The paper was only partially successful in achieving the goal of the grant to expand the roster of advertisers, but expressed gratitude to the Foundation for allowing the paper to pivot and use grant funds to improve the ad portion of the website, which is now more interactive and easier to use.

President Pat Scully also reflected on wide-ranging reporting the paper has undertaken while continuing to cover the events, meetings, festivals and organizations that are so important to the Greenbelt community.

The serving members of the board of directors were reelected without opposition and then elected the officers for the coming year: Pat Scully, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; and members Carol Griffith, Erica Johns and Sandy Rodgers.

Following a group photo session, the members, who work different shifts or remotely so are seldom gathered together, enjoyed a meal catered by Greenbelt restaurant Three Brothers, giving them time to mingle and socialize.



Editor Emerita Mary Lou Wiliamson, left, and incoming editor Anna Bedford-Dillow cut the cake at the annual meeting.



The members of the 2027 Greenbelt News Review Board of Directors. Front row, from left: Pat Scully, Mary Lou Williamson, Anna Bedford-Dillow and Tom Jones. Back row: Erica Johns, Diane Oberg, Deanna Dawson, Carol Griffith and Sandy Rodgers.

- Photos by Peggy Higgins

Fall in Greenbelt



PHOTO BY STEVE MIRSKY

Fall colors on display at Buddy Attick Park.



PHOTO BY KEN LOO

This double-crested cormorant may be just a visitor or a new resident of Greenbelt Lake.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

This critter has been hanging out on the Lake Trail in Buddy Attick Park, seemingly oblivious to walkers and runners stopping to gawk.



PHOTO BY BETH BOWDEN

Isabelle Gournay shows off her fall flowers.