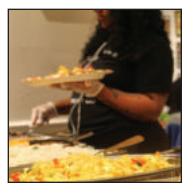
GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



Star Trek brunch, p.6



Diwali in Greenbelt, p.16

VOL. 89, No. 51 | 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 | NOVEMBER 12, 2026

Greenbelt Wins Appeal in Case Over Removal of Firefighters

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On November 6, the Appellate Court of Maryland ruled in favor of the City of Greenbelt, the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFD), the Town of Berwyn Heights, the City of College Park and a Berwyn Heights resident in their challenge to Prince George's County's removal of career firefighters from Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights. The court heard the appeal on September 10 (see the September 17 issue) and on Friday ruled the Circuit Court had erred in dismissing the case, finding Greenbelt and the other plaintiffs have legal grounds to proceed.

Back to Circuit Court

The case will now return to the Circuit Court for further proceedings, though Greenbelt hopes they might reach an agreement with the Prince George's County Fire Department's legal team. "This favorable appellate decision is welcome news," said City Manager Josué Salmerón on Monday. "It validates the position we have maintained from the beginning: we had legal standing to challenge this decision, and the county's actions caused specific and substantial harm to our communities. The court has now recognized that our claims deserve to be heard."



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

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

The three municipalities have argued that they have been harmed by the county's removal of 24 career firefighters from GVFD and six from Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department (BHVFD) on June 30, 2024.

See **APPEAL**, page 13

Camille Butler Settles into Role As Middle School Principal

by Lillian Gray

Walking through the hallways of Greenbelt Middle School one may notice that the school bell heard around campus sounds a little different this year. The bell, which used to sound like an alarm, is now a softer tone, meant to create a warmer environment for students and teachers.



PHOTO COURTESY CAMILLE BUTLER

Principal Camille Butler, left, poses with 6th grader Violet Yashinski, right, who made orange bracelets for both of them.

Carlos Pugh, the parent engagement assistant, has noticed that the bell has not only changed a big part of the school's environment, but also reflects the person who created it, the new Principal, Camille Butler.

"It's subtle and softer, but it gets the message across, just like her," Pugh said.

From changes to the bell, to speaking positive words of encouragement over the announcements at the end of each school day and checking in on teachers

See **BUTLER**, page 8

ERHS Boys Are Cross Country Regional Champs, Head to State

by Claudia Stuart

The boys cross country team at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) won gold at the Prince George's County championships and, a week later, at regionals. Sophomore Calvin Ridge took first overall in both races. They will go on to compete in the state championships this weekend.

Many of the team's current top runners are sophomores, making the team young. Despite this the Raiders still approached their races with confidence. "We were able to do it pretty easily with such a young team," said 16-year-old Greenbelter Max Leisnham, who placed sixth overall at the county meet.

The team skipped their typical taper before the county championship meet because they felt confident enough. Yet, their confidence to win also came with some pressure. "We were pretty confident we could win, but that added a bit more pressure than we had in previous years," said Calvin Ridge. The boys cross country team last won the county championship in 2024 (see the October 24, 2024 News Review).

Volunteer Coach Clark Ridge, who also happens to be Calvin's father, emphasized that the regional meet was a tougher test. "It's a more competitive meet," he said. "We performed well enough to win that one as well."



PHOTO BY CLARK RIDGE

The ERHS boys cross county team is both the regional and the county champion, adding to the banner year for Roosevelt sports teams. The team members at the start of the regional meet on Thursday, November 5 are, from left to right, Liam Murphy, Calvin Ridge, Shawford Jackson, Segel Nkeng, Caspaen Jackson, Max Leisnham and Louis Riggs.

The training that goes into practices for the runners is a traditional plan, starting with longer but slower mileage in the summer, and adding intervals during the season. They alternate between easy six-mile workouts and mile repeats at a roughly 10K pace during their weekday practices.

Coach Ridge is in his 4th year coaching. He grew up running and ran cross country and track himself at the University of

See **ERHS BOYS**, page 15

What Goes On

Monday, November 16
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Pre-Budget Planning and Process Overview, Municipal Building
Wednesday, November 18
No Council Meeting

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

Emancipation Day Memorial Highlights Black Influence

by Gabriel Ogunjobi

The results of the midterm elections and the blue wave that ushered in a record number of Black governors loomed large during this year's Emancipation Day celebration in Greenbelt on Saturday, November 7 at the Community Center. Since 2018, Greenbelt has hosted the event commemorating November 1, 1864, the date when Maryland approved a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery in the state.

The event featured poems and songs that remembered the struggles of enslaved Black people. It also included a libation ceremony, led by Dr. Lois Rosado, retired educator and founding chair of Greenbelt's Black History and Culture Committee. The libation was a tradition that honored the memories of Black people from the times of slavery through the recent times of council meetings. As a practice of the tradition, Rosado read out the morals instilled by Black ancestors while attendees chorused "ashé" as a sign of agreement.

Rosado emphasized the need to preserve and teach African traditions, especially to the younger generation. "We must work hard to instill positive notions of the diaspora in today's Black youth, because most, unfortunately, don't know their history or their greatness," Rosado said in an address delivered during the event.

From the youngest performer at the event, Sarae Payne, 17, a

See **EMANCIPATION**, page 4



PHOTO BY GABRIEL OGUNJOBI

The a cappella music of the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices choir epitomizes Black history and its stories of resilience.

Letters to the Editor

Phone Trade-in Lost at Local P.O.

The article Residents Battle Mail Delivery Failures as Election Draws Near by Gabriel Ogunjobi in the October 22 News Review is excellent and timely. My Apple iPhone 14 Pro Max trade-in was lost at the post office building, never found and Apple rescinded the $360 due me through the trade-in program as they never received the iPhone14.

When I hadn't heard from Apple in about five days, I called them and was told they hadn't received the iPhone 14 Pro Max. They encouraged me to speak to people at the local post office from which my phone was sent, which I did.

The post office said they usually send packages to the next stop, and no longer have control, although they could not assure me that the package ever left the post office in the first place.

Clarence Gillis

Editor's Note: The City's Facebook page suggests that residents having trouble with mail delivery in Greenbelt should report the problem to help bring attention to the issue.

"If you've experienced delayed mail, missing letters or packages, deliveries to the wrong address, repeated service interruptions, or other problems with USPS service, you can report them directly to the Postal Service through its online Postal Facility Issue form. Submit a report: https://emailus.usps.com/s/postal-facility-inquiry. Sharing your experience directly with USPS is one way to help make sure local mail service concerns are heard."



PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK

Petra Sanchez, who is undergoing treatment for cancer, poses with her chayotes. Despite the little she's been able to do in her garden this year, she's proud to finally have been able to produce chayotes, a vegetable which you should not be able to grow in Maryland, due to the extremely long growing season it requires. Here Petra is showing off one large and one small chayote.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Wild Horse Nine

Shortly before the 1973 Chilean coup, CIA agents Chris (John Malkovich) and Lee (Sam Rockwell) are dispatched from Santiago to Easter Island by their bureau chief, MJ (Steve Buscemi). Set among the Island's iconic statues, the longtime partners wrestle with their dark pasts and present conspiracies, while Chris' newfound bond with a pair of rebellious students (Mariana di Girolamo and Ailín Salas) threatens to send everyone's trip to this remote paradise sideways. "Wild Horse Nine is a powerful work of cinematic intelligence, McDonagh having given us a period piece that feels all too much of the present," said critic Annie Berke of The New Republic.

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."

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.

Storytime on Screen

A free program of stories, songs and a short film is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com





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

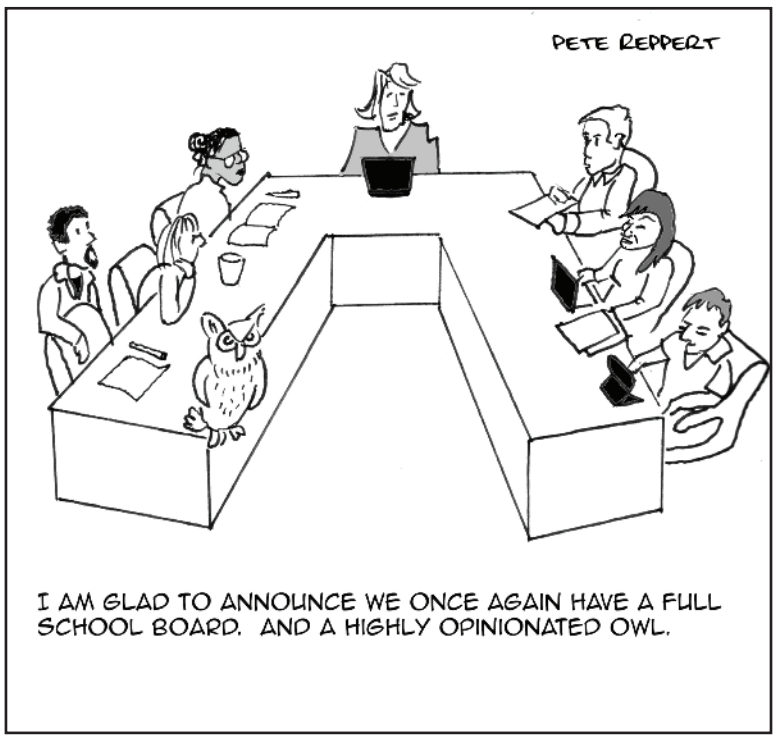
SHOWTIMES:
NOVEMBER 13th - 19th

Wild Horse Nine (R) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (118 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 1:00 PM
Mon. 1:00 PM, 4:05 PM
Tues. 5:00 PM
Wed. 8:20 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

La Bola Negra (R) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (155 mins) Spanish with English Subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 7:45 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 4:40 PM
Sun. 12:40 PM
Mon. 4:25 PM
Tues. 2:15 PM

You Can See Everything (R) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (174 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Tues. 7:45 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:05 PM
Sat. 5:20 PM
Sun. 4:05 PM
Mon. 12:40 PM
Wed. 5:20 PM
Thurs. 5:20 PM

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



Story & Photograph Submissions

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

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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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 17, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17436254.

Wednesday, November 18, 12:15 p.m., ages newborn to 5. Native American Heritage Month. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17481709.

Thursday, November 19, 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/17436429.

Ride and Read

Thursday, November 19, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17479930.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, November 16, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema. Greenbelt Cinema and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System are offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17409420.

Build with Legos

Monday, November 16, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17431719.

Lecture on Spacecraft Leaving Solar System

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will meet Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ground Floor East of the Community Center. ASG member Sue Bassett will present Far Out: Spacecraft Leaving the Solar System. The lecture is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Volunteers Needed For Sparkle Mart

High school students and adults are invited to volunteer at Sparkle Mart, Greenbelt's annual juried art and craft fair, a cornerstone of Greenbelt Recreation's Winter Lights Festival. This show takes place at the Community Center on Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with setup starting on December 4. Sign up online for shifts at sugeni.us/UhkO.

American Discovery 250 Bicycle Relay



MAP COURTESY PETER TEUBEN

College Park to Annapolis route

The GHI Bicycle Committee (GHI BC) invites all Greenbelt residents to welcome the American Discovery 250 bicycle team (ADT250) at the New Deal Café when they ride through Greenbelt on Sunday, November 22 between 8:45 and 10 a.m. This 6,800-mile relay from California to Delaware will carry a copy of the Declaration of Independence from coast to coast, having crossed the Golden Gate Bridge on the 4th of July and ending on Thanksgiving at the Atlantic Ocean.

This 4.5-mile section of the ADT250 will start at 8:30 a.m. at Calvert Road Park in College Park, ride through Greenbelt and end that day in Annapolis. GHI BC member Peter Teuben has invited the ADT250 team to make a slight detour for a pit stop at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center to meet residents and Greenbelt luminaries.

Teuben plans to join the riders that morning at the Calvert Road Park starting point. Residents are invited to join him and the relay team on their ride to Greenbelt. See map for locations and route. Or join the team for breakfast at the Café.

Questions? Email John Campanile, jbelltower@yahoo.com.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Ruby Bridges Walk To School Day Nov. 18

Springhill Lake Elementary School will participate in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on Wednesday, November 18. The school staff will meet at Beltway Plaza and walk from Breezewood Drive to the school's new location at 8950 Edmonston Road. Walkers will meet at 6:55 a.m. and head to school at 7 a.m. Come and join in.

Grow with Goddard: The ABCs of Space

Grow with Goddard is an hour of activities and demonstrations for ages 3 to 5 from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 19 at the Visitor Center. This month's program will focus on The ABCs of Space. Registration is required for each child participant. At least one parent or guardian must be on site for the program. Registration information can be found at eventbrite.com/cc/nasa-goddard-visitor-center-3091729.

Final Fall Campfire Programs, Greenbelt Park

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

Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m., features The Revolution, Memorialization and the National Mall. Join Ranger Anthony from the National Mall who will discuss the mall and its connection to the American Revolution and the memorialization of the National Mall itself.

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

Visit nps.gov/gree/planyourvisit/calendar.htm for more information.

Art Share Sunday

Artists of all experience levels are invited to participate in a free Art Share from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 15 at the Community Center, Room 113. Bring one to three pieces in any medium for discussion at this monthly meetup. This activity is intended for teens and adults. Registration is not required, but participants are encouraged to sign up to receive communications about this series at sugeni.us/eytm. City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Indigenous Heritage Month Celebration

Indigenous Heritage Month will be celebrated in Greenbelt with dancing and presentations on Saturday, November 14 at 11 a.m. at the Greenbelt Library Auditorium. Lunch will be served.

The program is sponsored by the Greenbelt Reparations Commission. For additional information, email Megan Searing Young at myoung@greenbeltmd.gov.

Repair Café At Makerspace

The next free Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café is on Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. to noon (note shorter hours) at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. The Repair Café will be held on the third Saturday of each month. Come learn how to repair tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring clothing, bicycles, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Borrow tools and other things at the Tool Library on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit tools.greenbeltmakers.org for more information.

Library Happenings

Pre-K Story Hour/ Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder

Friday, November 13, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Enjoy vibrant stories, fingerplays and songs led by Greenbelt Library staff. After the storytime, enjoy playtime in the gym, a healthy snack and a free book from Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK).

Disfruta cuentos vibrantes, juego de dedos, y canciones dirigidas por el equipo de la Biblioteca de Greenbelt. Después de los cuentos, disfruta de juegos en el gimnasio, una merienda saludable, y un libro gratis de RUAK. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17409433.

Special Event: Greenbelt Through the Eyes of Emory Harman Sr.

Thursday, November 19, 3 p.m., ages 18+. University of Maryland Community Archives students invite the Greenbelt community to Greenbelt Library to reminisce about their Greenbelt experiences between the 1960s and 1990s. This program will include a brief presentation and displays about the life and community experiences of Emory Harman Sr. It is presented in collaboration with University of Maryland College of Information and Center for Archival Futures. Register at pgcmls.info/event/17852327.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The following is the schedule for the rest of November.

November 18, Birthday celebration pot luck luncheon. Bring a dish, if possible, to share. It can be a main dish, side dish or dessert. If you are a birthday celebrant, be ready to tell your story.

November 25, No Golden Age Club meeting.

GATE GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Community-Driven Storytelling

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television
✦ November 2026 ✦
Verizon FiOS Channel 19 · Comcast Channel 77 · Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

GATe's Camcorder Essentials Course (3 Hours): Saturday Nov 14th from 1pm to 4pm at GATe's Studio (15 Crescent, Suite 204). Email greenbeltaccess@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

✦ Featured Productions ✦

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now

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

✦ ✦ ✦

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

This Week at the New Deal Café
Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*
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HOURS OF OPERATION VARY. SEE NEWDEALCAFE.COM FOR UPDATES.
REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!

TH 11/12	FRI 11/13	SAT 11/14	SUN 11/15
The Rhythm Doctors w/ Valentina Maria 7 - 9pm Swing to Latin to jazz to neo-soul and RnB to spark joy	The GroovaDelics 8 - 11pm Reggae blues rock with a funky soul vibe backdrop	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE w/ Katy Gaughan, 3:30 - 5p 49 Cent Dress 8 - 11pm A tasty mix of rock & roll with a dash of blues and soul	DIFFERENT DAY REEL AND MEAL 6 :30 - 8:30pm A monthly film series exploring vital social justice issues

MON 11/16	TUES 11/17	WED 11/18	TH 11/19	New Deal Cafe
CAFE CLOSED	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	PUB QUIZ 7 - 9pm Compete with other teams to test your knowledge on topics from A to Z	The Classic Jam with The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30pm Leans towards the blues, but other styles are fine	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."
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Obituaries

Steven Markowich

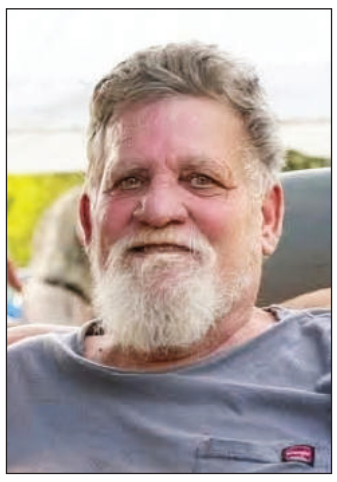


PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Steven G. Markowich

Steven Gregory Markowich died of natural causes on September 28, 2026, at his home in St. Leonard, Md. Steve was the youngest of seven children born to Marjorie and Walter Markowich. He loved Greenbelt and never missed an opportunity to attend get-togethers with childhood friends at the American Legion, the Jazz Festival or the Labor Day Festival. He treasured his memories of growing up in Greenbelt and his lifelong friendships with Tommy Ogden and Johnny Dobbin.

After graduating from Parkdale High School, Steven worked with companies that built commercial buildings and learned many trades. He enjoyed working with his hands and working outside.

He finally settled on a farm in St. Leonard in Calvert County. His home had the most beautiful view of the Chesapeake Bay from his front porch. He was surrounded by family, neighbors and friends that supported each other in times of need.

It was often said that Steven had the biggest heart, loved children and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He is described as survivor, problem solver and a person filled with gratitude for all God's blessings.

A celebration of Steven's life will be held at St. Hugh's Catholic Church on Monday, November 30 at 11 a.m.



EMANCIPATION continued from page 1

senior at Crossland High School, to the oldest, labor lawyer James M. Harkless, 95, a Harvard University graduate, the message centered around the role of the Black community in the peace and freedom enjoyed in the United States.

Payne electrified the crowd of about 50 with her poem titled Black History, including the lines "You better go do your research because the world runs on the Black influence."

Payne said she drew her inspiration for the poem from the results of the recent midterm elections, which she saw as a sign of how the Black community is taking the reins of political leadership.

For the first time in U.S. history, five Black governors will hold the highest office in their states. Maryland's Governor Wes Moore (D), who was elected to a second term, will be joined by the first-time governors elect: Byron Donalds (R), Florida; Keisha Lance Bottoms (D), Georgia; David Crowley (D), Wisconsin; and Aaron Ford (D), Nevada. "My inspiration for all of my poems is to spark a change in my community, in America," Payne said.

Harkless, who sang with other choristers of the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices, said the belief in a Black community bound by love fuels his energy to continue singing, a hobby he has been showcasing since he was 10. He has been with the Jubilee Voices choir since they were formed out of the Revels arts community in 2010. Their a cappella music epitomized Black history and its stories of resilience, especially during times like the American Civil War.

This sort of legacy of freedom is the same that Jubilee Voices vocalist Matt Pearson, 43, an architectural designer, hopes the younger generation will continue to preserve. "America is still an experiment, and we shape the outcome," Pearson said. "If anyone claims that America's not for you, they're wrong."

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



The Emancipation Day program audience



- Photos by Gabriel Ogunjobi

Sarae Payne reads her poem Black History.

Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held this year at Greenbelt Community Church on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Last year, speakers representing eight faith communities helped to lead the event with more than 98 attending in person and on Zoom. The Greenbelt Combined Choir, under the direction of Susan Breon, will lead participants in music. A freewill offering will be collected for the benefit of the Greenbelt Emergency Relief Fund. Checks should be made out to City of Greenbelt with the memo line saying Emergency Relief Fund.

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.

Our Neighbors

Our condolences to the family of Steven Markowich, and his many friends from Parkdale, the Legion, our festivals and the Greenbelt community.

Congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School boys cross country team on winning the regional championship. Good luck at the state competition.

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



Obituaries

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

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

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

"Detachment does not consist in setting fire to one's house, or becoming bankrupt or throwing one's fortune out of the window, or even giving away all of one's possessions. Detachment consists in refraining from letting our possessions possess us." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.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.

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

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

Chess Club Meets Once This Month

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

Scouting for Food

On Saturday, November 14, Pack 202 Cub Scouts will pick up any non-perishable and unexpired donations of food left on your doorstep. This year, residents can also drop off donations in the bin at the Co-op Supermarket from November 7 through the morning of November 14.



Donations will support St. Hugh's Food Pantry.

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. Supper will include delicious 100 percent plant-based dishes. Free; donations accepted. Use the QR code to reserve a seat.

Greenbelt Housing Market Talk Nov. 12

The Greenbelt Rotary Club will host member and local realtor Kim Kash to discuss the real estate market 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.

Holiday House Tour, Sat. November 28

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.

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.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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

MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 16 - 20

Monday, November 16 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - PRE-BUDGET PLANNING AND PROCESS OVERVIEW,** ***Council Chambers***

Monday, November 16, following the Work Session, **SPECIAL MEETING / CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL MATTERS,** ***Council Chambers***

Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD,** ***Virtual,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

Wednesday, November 18, **NO COUNCIL MEETING - NLC CONFERENCE**

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, November 16, 2026, immediately following the Work Session – Pre-Budget Planning and Process Overview, in the Council Chambers to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to discuss personnel matters.

**** The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into closed session on Monday, November 16, 2026.***

- Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

A CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTIONS 28 AND 31 OF THE CITY CHARTER

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.

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtually via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged.

The proposed charter amendment is enclosed on Regular Council Meeting **December 14, 2026**, agenda packet posted on the City website at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the proposed charter amendment. Written comments may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in advance to the City Clerk, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

- Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

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:

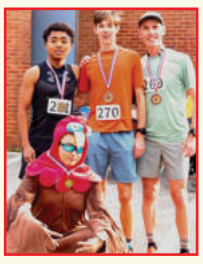
A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective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

THANKSGIVING GOBBLE WOBBLE

Thursday, November 26, 9 am

Greenbelt Youth Center

Spend Thanksgiving morning with Greenbelt Recreation as we host the 19th annual Gobble Wobble. The Gobble Wobble is roughly a 5K race (2 laps) and a 1.5-mile fun run/walk (1 lap) around Buddy Attick Park lake path. All registrants will receive a Gobble Wobble shirt.



Registration will begin on Monday, November 16.

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE PROGRAM

Saturday, November 14 from 11 am to 1 pm

Greenbelt Library, Ground Floor Auditorium, 11 Crescent Road



An event in celebration of Native American Heritage Month!

Join us for storytellers, speakers, tribal dance performers, and more! Lunch will be served.

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.

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.

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

VOLUNTEER AT SPARKLE MART!

December 4 - 6

Greenbelt Community Center

Join the crew running Greenbelt Recreation's annual juried art and craft fair! Choose your own shift(s) at: https://sugeni.us/UhkO

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

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

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, 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

FREE Artist Talk Friday 11/20, 6-7pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Join artist Teresa Oaxaca for an informal artist's talk in conjunction with her current exhibition, on view through December 13 in the Art Gallery (room 112). Space is limited; sign up to reserve your seat at sugeni.us/Uhk8.

Artists: stay for an Art Share following the talk, from 7-8pm in room 113.

Fused Glass Ornament Sunday 11/29, 11am-12:30pm & 12:30-1:30pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Fused glass is the art of melting colored glass into art pieces. Register for section 1 to make two fused glass ornaments or for both sections to make four ornaments. Registration required: see page 23 of the Fall Activity Guide for details - www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Additional Art Share (meet-up)** Su 11/15; 2-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Sign up: sugeni.us/eytm.

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

- **Woodworking Workshop: Magic Wands** 11/14, 9:30am-1pm (Greenbelt Community Center) pg 30.
- **Felting Workshop: Gnomes** Su 11/15-11/29, 2-4pm and W 11/18-12/9, 6-8pm (Greenbelt Community Center) pg 23.

Star Trek Memorial Brunch Unites Starfleet, Non-Federation Personnel

by Erica Johns

- Photos by Erica Johns



Local Starfleet RADM Dean Rogers felt deeply connected to Sir Patrick Stewart, first encountering him at 6 years old as Captain Jean-Luc Picard and later looking to Stewart for inspiration as an actor.

Fans of actors Walter Koenig and Sir Patrick Stewart and their performances in Star Trek, Babylon 5, the X-Men and other universes gathered on Saturday, November 7 at the New Deal Café for a Star Trek Memorial Brunch, in memory of the actors who died October 25 and October 28. Many attendees wore Starfleet uniforms to the event, during which they shared memories and watched episodes from Star Trek: The Original Series (TOS) and Star Trek: The Next Generation (TNG). Non-Federation personnel also attended.



Several attendees wore Star Trek uniforms and memorabilia (and at least one set of Vulcan ears).

Chekov and Picard

Koenig played navigator Pavel Chekov in TOS television and movies and later Babylon 5's ruthless telepathic Psi Cop Alfred Bester. Stewart was known as a Shakespearean stage and screen actor before playing TNG Captain Jean-Luc Picard. With his distinctive voice and bald pate, he also played the X-Men's telepathic Professor Charles Xavier, who advocates for peaceful coexistence between humans and mutants – humans who use their superhuman abilities against supervillains and extraterrestrial threats, with implicit commentary on justice, bigotry and other social issues.

Memories

Dorian Winterfeld counted himself as part of the original TOS cohort, remembering being allowed to stay up to watch past his bedtime at 6 years old. When he asked if anyone else was in that cohort with him, Steve Johns proudly stood, displaying his jacket covered in character pins.

Peter May watched TOS in 1970s reruns with his father, who he said put everything in context for him. May said, "One of the most important things I took away from it was [Star Trek creator] Gene Roddenberry's vision for a more peaceful future with humankind and other species." He said that when TNG premiered in 1987 it was "destination viewing" with his friends on Parkway.

May said he taught a University of Maryland ecosystem ecology class for 15 years, and on its final exam he always included a take-home extra credit question asking students what kind of future they foresaw for humanity in 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 years. Were they optimistic, pessimistic or a realist? Did they foresee a Mad Max road warrior future or a United Federation of Planets Star Trek future? He said students answered the question with more written pages than the rest of the exam, and "They all desperately wanted that Star Trek future." He also appreciated their saying that if a Star Trek future were to happen, it would be up to them to make it so.

Dean Rogers (aka Starfleet RADM Rogers, in a red command uniform), said of Koenig's and Stewart's deaths, "That was a rough week – now there were just two [TOS actors William Shatner and George Takei]. Rogers remembered Koenig was "a very nice man to talk to" when he met him at a 2001 Star Trek convention in Virginia. He said that sitting in Chekov's chair when filming the fan-fiction television series Starship Farragut gave depth to his character.

Rogers described a deeper connection to Stewart, despite never meeting him. TNG was his first Star Trek at the age of 6 and Stewart was his first captain, whom he looked up to, "knowing this future was excellent." An even deeper connection followed during high school, when he had to acquire three English accents for three roles in a production of A Christmas Carol, turning for inspiration to Stewart's one-man show of The Christmas Carol.

Rogers ended with, "When we put on this uniform, we represent his spirit, we represent his heart, we represent the soul. Humanity is in the stars but humanity starts right here on earth."

Anthony Case, wearing a uniform he made, told of watching TNG at 8 years old with his father, who told him how much he had loved TOS and that he wanted them to watch TNG together. His mother urged his dad to "tell him the story!", ending up telling him herself. When his father took his then-girlfriend home after a date shortly before leaving for the Air Force, her father invited him in. "No, thanks, sir, I need to get home to watch Star Trek." His father responded, "We can watch it here." Looking at the black-and-white TV, Case's dad said, "No, thank you, sir, we have a color TV at home.", provoking a wave of laughter across the brunch audience.

Case described Sir Patrick as a "father figure to so many people. My dad taught me how to be an engineer and how to solve almost any problem. Patrick taught me how to be a good man. Both captains did that for a lot of people. Sir Patrick will be missed, and Shatner is still around. Who knew that he was going to be the one that outlived [Stewart]!"

Must Watch TV, Resources

Attendees watched the TOS episode Spectre of the Gun, in which Kirk and his crew unexpectedly found themselves facing the shootout at the OK Corral, with mental fortitude as key to their survival. This was followed by the TNG episode Tapestry, in which Picard's recurring nemesis Q gives Picard an opportunity to revisit his life choices after a near-death experience.

The Café provided a special brunch menu referencing Star Trek characters and their favored beverages with an Earl Grey scone Make It Scone, Worf's Waffles, Q's Quiche, Romulan Pie and a Samarian Tart, through coordination with local Lieutenant DZ, a proud Vulcan wearing her blue science officer uniform.

Rogers discussed Star Trek fandom resources, including Starfleet International (sfi.org) and its local chapters. New StarFleet International members have Petty Officer Third Class rank, with promotion through earning points by attending events, supporting service activities and taking online Starfleet Academy courses (over 4,000 free classes on many topics about and beyond sci-fi.) Rogers is president and commanding officer of the local chapter ussmaejemison.org, named for the first African American woman in space. Starfleet uniforms and other costumes are available from online retailers.

A Continuing Mission

Some of Saturday's attendees coordinated and attended the Greenbelt Cinema's September showing of the movie Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan to mark the 60th anniversary of TOS. A question about the next event prompted discussion of next month's Avengers: Doomsday movie, in which Avengers, Wakandans, New Avengers, the Fantastic Four and X-Men will face supervillain Doctor Doom. For Saturday's brunch crew, it will be most notable as Sir Patrick Stewart's final role.

This reporter's first in-depth Star Trek experiences were Star Trek: The Next Generation and Captain Picard. Tea was consumed while this article was written: Earl Grey, hot.



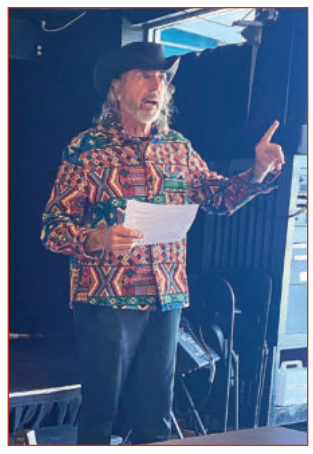
Steve Johns (wearing a jacket with Star Trek character pins) stood when Dorian Winterfeld queried for attendees who watched Star Trek: The Original Series during its 1966-1969 original broadcast. Johns was 8 years old in 1966.



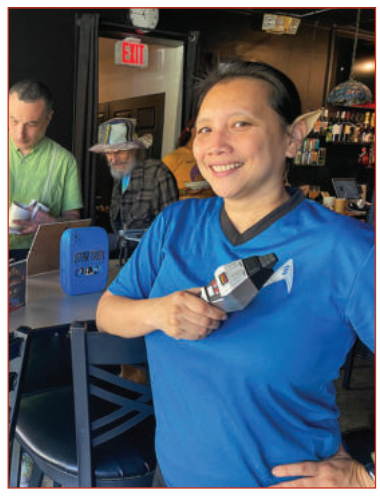
Anthony Case (wearing a uniform he made) watched Star Trek: The Next Generation at 8 years old with his father, who had his own Star Trek: The Original Series experiences.



Greenbelt Councilmember Kristen Weaver at the event



Dorian Winterfeld stayed up after bedtime at 6 years old to watch Star Trek: The Original Series.



Lieutenant DZ (in her blue science officer uniform) helped organize the event.



Arts & Entertainment

November Special Screenings, Events at Greenbelt Cinema

by B'Jion Wright



PHOTO BY CAITLIN MCGRATH

Greenbelt Cinema

Greenbelt Cinema's November programming includes a variety of screenings and events for every movie lover in Prince George's County and beyond. Alongside recurring series including Film in Focus and Storytime on Screen in partnership with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, Greenbelt Cinema presents La Bola Negra; Two Lives, One Legacy; Wild Horse Nine; The Man Who Knew Too Much and more.

La Bola Negra (dir. Javier Calvo & Javier Ambrossi)

In Spanish with English subtitles, La Bola Negra tells the story of three men whose lives are intimately connected, through desire, pain and inheritance, across three different eras — 1932, 1937 and 2017. Rich with Federico García Lorca's poetry and suffused with desire, grief and hope, it is an intimate love story and a sweeping exploration of memory, inheritance and queer history, honoring those whose lives and loves were too often forced into silence. Continues through Thursday, November 19.

Wild Horse Nine (dir. Martin McDonagh)

Shortly before the 1973 Chilean coup, CIA agents Chris (John Malkovich) and Lee (Sam Rockwell) are dispatched from Santiago to Easter Island by their bureau chief, MJ (Steve Buscemi). Set among the Island's iconic statues, the longtime partners wrestle with their dark pasts and present conspiracies, while Chris' newfound bond with a pair of rebellious students (Mariana di Girolamo and Ailín Salas) threatens to send everyone's trip to this remote paradise sideways. Starts Friday, November 13.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, November 16, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. On the third Monday of each month (including holidays), this free, fun and educational story time is complete with read-alongs, songs and a short film. It is presented in conjunction with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

The Man Who Knew Too Much (dir. Alfred Hitchcock)

Sunday, November 22, 7 p.m. An ordinary British couple vacationing in Switzerland suddenly find themselves embroiled in a case of international intrigue when their daughter is kidnapped by spies plotting a political assassination. This is part of Greenbelt Cinema's Film in Focus series. Event registration includes an academic introduction, full-length screening and post-film discussion, as well as complimentary popcorn and fountain drink. Presented in the Screening Room. Registration is capped at 25.

Tickets and information for all showings at the Greenbelt Cinema can be found at: greenbeltcinema.org.

Looking ahead to December, Greenbelt Cinema kicks off its annual Reel Magic holiday specials and more featuring free programming and fun events for the whole family.

B'Jion Wright is an apprentice at Greenbelt Cinema.

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.

Semiquincentennial: A Concert Covering 250 Years through Song

by Carol Shaw

The Greenbelt Arts Center presents a special one-night show that celebrates America's 250th anniversary. Those of us who were around for the nation's bicentennial might recall a simpler, less polarized time and a sense of celebration, even excitement at turning the big 200. Musician Pete Reppert has pulled together the story of our country through song.

The concert covers progressive struggles including the Revolutionary War, the abolition movement, labor, war, class struggles, the Great Depression, civil rights, all the way to the present, illustrating our gradual evolution toward a "more perfect union." This is the story of the whaler, the miner, hardscrabble pioneer, escaping slaves, women gaining a voice, soldiers serving their country under harsh conditions, the environment — it turns out every major turning point has been commemorated in, if not rallied by, songs.

This musical "time machine" will pair brief historical context with folk, popular and patriotic songs — some familiar, others less so. The journey begins with Thomas Paine's Revolutionary-era Liberty Tree, continues through Marvin Gaye's What's Going On? and extends beyond. With some exceptions, the songs will be performed chronologically. Although the concert can offer only a sketch of 250 years of history, it aims to reveal the American sensibility in all its optimism, irreverence, grit, defiance and eclecticism.

Folk songs often exist in multiple versions, and Reppert has occasionally combined them for narrative consistency. For example, Bullgine Run appears to refer to both a whaling ship and a steam locomotive. Here, the singer — an itinerant laborer — chooses to ride the train south rather than return to sea to "catch the whale" during a Greenland winter. Sweet Betsy from Pike has also been altered over time. In some versions, Ike wants to turn back, but Betsy tells him, "You'll go alone." She even helps repel an attack, gets drunk and "puts on a show" for the wagon train. Betsy was a rootin'-tootin' cowgirl — more spicy than sweet.

Performers will include Greenbelters Melissa Sites, Michael Bennett and Pete Reppert, along with Mike Hummel and members of the Graye Line band. Reppert has played the keyboards at GAC's production of The Patchwork Girl of Oz (2023), produced his own interactive show Happiness Happening (2025) and two Monday Mauveness Theatrical Karaoke shows this fall.

Prepare for a musical journey unlike anything previously experienced, a journey through time and events via deeply rooted songs that touch emotions, a journey whose destination is a greater sense of unity with fellow citizens.

The show will be at the Greenbelt Arts Center Saturday, November 21 at 6 p.m. Tickets are required. Go to greenbeltartscenter.org for more information.



Greenbelt Orchestra To Perform The Planets

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give two free performances of Gustav Holst's The Planets suite with NASA imagery and commentary by Padi Boyd in the Community Center gym on Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, November 15 at 3 p.m. The program will also include Constellations by Viet Cuong with imagery compiled by Jon Gardner and the first movement of Mozart's Jupiter Symphony No. 41. Find out more at greenbeltorchestra.org.

Goddard's MAD Brings Little Women to Stage

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

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

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 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.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on November 19, 2026

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on October 15, 2026
b) Contract Matters
c) Member Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:30 p.m. - open to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on October 15, 2026
b) Statements of Closed Meetings Held on November 5, 2026 and November 19, 2026
c) 2027 GHI Budget – 2nd Reading
d) Pipe Replacement Project Closeout Report Phase 2
e) Mosquito Control Program
f) 2027 Board Meeting Schedule for January – May
g) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on December 3, 2026

GDC Open Meeting – starts after GHI Open Meeting - open to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GDC Open Meeting Held on November 5, 2026
b) 2027 GDC Operating Budget
c) 2027 Management Agreement

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

School News

BUTLER continued from page 1

throughout the day, Butler has begun to add her own touch around the school.

Butler first started at the school in 2017 as a reading teacher. Eventually she became the department chair, then the instructional lead teacher for reading and social studies and then the assistant principal working alongside former Principal Marcellus Clement who led the school for five years. This August, after a series of interviews following Clement's resignation in July, she became the school's principal.

"It has been like watching someone simply fulfill their destiny," Pugh said. "She was born to lead Greenbelt Middle School."

Pugh began as a science and health teacher 13 years ago and for the past seven years he has been the "parent arm" to the principal. He first met Butler when her son was a student in one of his classes and he eventually got to know her more while working alongside her through the years. Pugh said he has seen firsthand the uniqueness that Butler brings to this job.

Having watched the way Butler interacts with the school community on a daily basis, Pugh has noticed her ability to talk to parents in an empathetic manner that immediately disarms them because they realize they're talking to someone who's been in their shoes.



PHOTO COURTESY CAMILLE BUTLER

Principal Camille Butler, left, poses with siblings Ciel and Cy'eed Gatling and their grandparents.

"Her love for this community is so authentic and pure that she brings a caring to this position that virtually no one else can bring," Pugh said.

For Butler, the road to principal has been a gradual journey and for a while she didn't think she would ever want the job. As she began to work alongside Clement and with neighboring schools and mentors in the district, she began to see the impact she could have as assistant principal and glimpsed the possibility of someday leading a school, with support, she said. "It's not something you do alone. I'm not standing by myself, but I'm on the shoulders of everyone else that has helped me in this position," Butler said.

"I'm still pinching myself because although I was in the principal pool, I didn't know that this position would become available at the time," Butler said. "I really care a lot about the community," said Butler, who told the News Review she has been part of the community long before she started working at the school almost a decade ago. She also raised her children in the area. "They've been in summer camps in Greenbelt," she noted. "There's just been a lot of things where I have been supported by the community." Butler's husband has worked for the City of Greenbelt for almost 30 years. "It's just a dream come true, like a perfect situation," she says of becoming principal at Greenbelt Middle.

Just like Pugh, Creative Arts Department Chair and Family Consumer Science Teacher Joan Hynes has watched Butler grow to where she is today. She said that it gives her and other teachers hope that they too can achieve their goals.

"She has been in the trenches with us," Hynes said. "She knows what it's like to be a teacher, she knows what it's like to be an assistant principal, so she's able to meet the students where they are."

Hynes has noticed Butler's ability to support teachers and regularly recognize them whether it's through small gestures or praising them for their hard work.

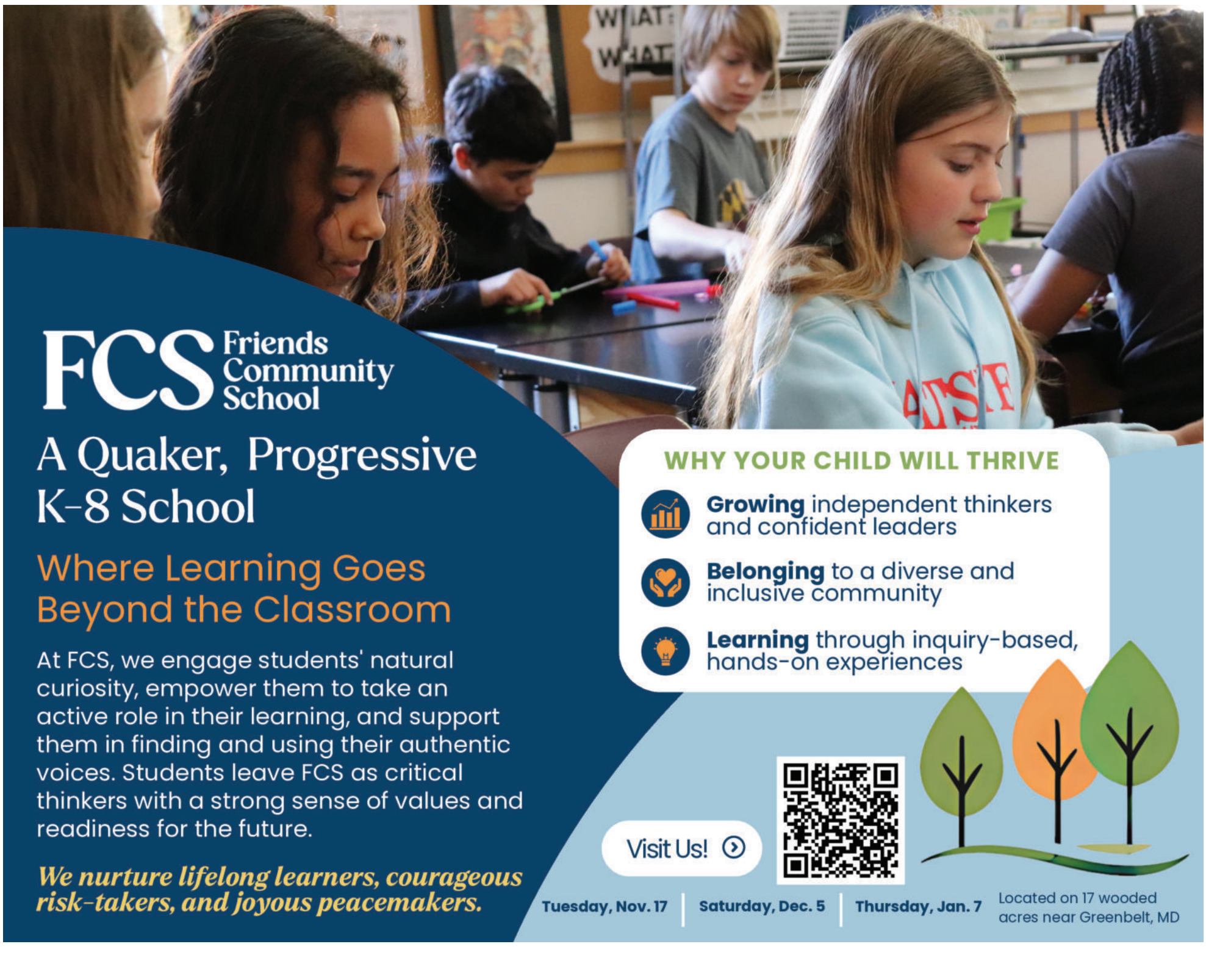
Hynes said that she has always been amazed by Butler's attitude and that even though she may be under pressure or in a difficult situation, she is always able to keep calm and smile. Hynes said that Butler also has a way of reminding her and other faculty members what to do without making them feel incompetent or like they are doing something wrong.

"One thing I have learned from Ms. Butler is that even the most difficult conversations can be handled with calmness, grace and a smile," Hynes said. "I've realized that it's not always about what you say, but how you say it. When you approach conversations this way, your message is often better received."

As Butler has begun to settle in and find support from her colleagues, she has created new goals for this school year. The theme this year is "journey to excellence," and Butler said that the school has a very strong focus on math, supporting students with learning disabilities, multilingual students and addressing chronic absenteeism.

"The biggest thing is just knowing that parents are a part of it," she said. "We want them here, we want them to be a part

See **BUTLER**, page 9



School News

Transportation Failures Addressed By PGCPS at Four Cities Meeting

by Cassie Whyte

At the Four Cities meeting on October 29, three senior-level transportation executives at Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) addressed their shortcomings and presented plans for the rest of the 2026-2027 school year.

Chief Operating Officer Charoscar Coleman, Acting Transportation Director Mark Fossett and Transportation Supervisor Carl Schuettler presented on behalf of PGCPS.

The presentation was titled Transportation Services: Getting Students to School Safely. It included an audit overview, evidence of growth and plans for further improvement.

On the first day of the school year, nearly 10,000 Prince George's County students did not have an assigned bus route, which Coleman described as "a very challenging school opening."

Families in each of the four area jurisdictions represented at the meeting — Greenbelt, College Park, New Carrollton and Berwyn Heights — were impacted.

Progress

The presentation cited some statistical evidence of progress since then. The department now has 979 active drivers, 56 more than this time last year, said Fossett. He also said there are 70 more vehicles operating since the beginning of the school year. "We recognize our initial progress does not mean our challenges are finished," said Fossett.

Coleman provided recommendations for improvement, such as a public data dashboard that "tracks the progress of key performance indicators." But the key to success, he acknowledged, is on-time bus arrivals. "That's the graduation rate, right?" he said.

After the presentation, some city councilmembers voiced their thoughts.

Crowded Buses

Greenbelt Councilmember Danielle McKinney said the bus that goes through Franklin Park is often severely overcrowded. "Kids are standing or they're sitting on the floor on that bus," she said.

Fossett said that buses do loop back, but McKinney said that this is not sufficiently communicated to parents. As a consequence, kids often resort to getting on public transportation. During the pandemic, kids were not being charged for taking public buses in the county. Many kids are still taking buses without paying fares, especially when their assigned buses are consistently late.

Communication Problems

Schuettler said that bus drivers should be communicating with parents "anytime they are running at least 20 to 25 minutes late."

But the channels through which bus drivers communicate with parents have been subject to technological difficulty. The Chipmunk application experienced substantial failure on the first day of school, and was not fully operational until later in the afternoon.

Coleman conceded that Chipmunk is not the most reliable application. "There are too many failure points," he said of the app. "It's death by a thousand cuts."



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

School buses line up outside Dora Kennedy French Immersion during the first week of school in 2024.

Driver Challenges

The county employees spoke of some of the difficulties they experience on their end. Fossett described bus drivers having to travel all the way to Baltimore to pick up students who were staying at family members' houses. "By law we had to go pick them up every day," he said.

Coleman said it is hard to gauge how many students will actually be taking the bus, especially at the beginning of the school year. "We did ask families — continue to ask families — to opt out," he said.

Because of the unreliable nature of the applications employed, families often have to directly call the PGCPS department and speak with a representative to opt out.

Safety Issues

Regarding safety, College Park Councilmember Denise Mitchell said that in her jurisdiction some bus drivers are doing three point turns and hitting residents' car mirrors. "In my community, we've had six different incidents," she said.

She expressed frustration with the lack of transparency and accountability on the county's part.

"Parents come to us, and we don't have the answers," said Mitchell.

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

If Buses Don't Show, PGCPS Says Parents Should Email

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday morning Greenbelt children on at least one bus route were left waiting when their bus didn't arrive. To their surprise, parents were able to track a bus on Chipmunk that was heading in their direction, approximately 25 minutes behind schedule. It was surprising because usually the app shows the bus is "not reporting" on that route. But on Monday, several parents tracked one bus as it drove through the city, came close but did not visit their stops, then headed back out and on to a different school. They discovered then that the app had been tracking the wrong vehicle.

The Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) transportation hotline no longer takes calls and communication should instead be emailed to bushelp@pgcps.org. PGCPS has said it aims to respond to messages sent to that email within 24 hours. However, PGCPS Senior Public Information Specialist Lynn McCawley says the bushelp email is continuously monitored from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on days when students are in school. "Urgent/critical issues are immediately prioritized for a response," McCawley told the News Review.

On Monday morning, some parents were skeptical about sending an email when they were waiting for the bus. One was able to reach a staff member at the school, who called for a replacement bus to pick up the waiting children.

The author has two children attending Prince George's County Public Schools.

BUTLER continued from page 8

of the process, and it can't be done without them."

Butler called the school "a little New York City" because of how much it has to offer for students. The school has an array of different programs including the Talented and Gifted program, the English language department and a growing performing arts department.

She is hoping to see improvements in the school culture, which she said is very strong but can always grow. She recently helped create a Parent Teacher Student Association to encourage more student involvement around the school and bring more student voices to the table. While the school has had a PTA in the past, this year they added the student voice.

Outside of work, Butler said she loves nature and regularly walks at Buddy Attick Park. She has recently had the idea of inviting parents to come walk and talk with her at the park about any issues or topics they want to discuss.

She also loves spending time with her family and enjoys having her nieces and nephews over to have game nights and catch up. She is also a big fan of comedy and she and her husband try to get out to see a comedy show every once in a while.

Butler acknowledged the fact that she is still learning in this new role and doesn't want to say the transition has been seamless. However, she is grateful for how smooth it has been and for the support that she has received from the community.

"The connection and the bond that she has with this community and the love that she brings to her job is just wonderful to see, and she's just getting started," Pugh said.

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



PHOTO COURTESY CAMILLE BUTLER

Principal Camille Butler, left, and social studies teacher Myesha Fair pose for a picture together at Greenbelt Middle School.

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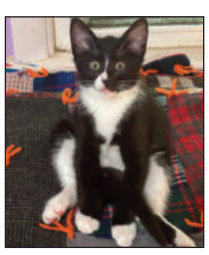
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School News

New ERHS Marching Band Brings Fresh Energy to School

by Marjani Washington and Samantha Cruz

In 2001, Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Marching Band was canceled on what was supposed to be a temporary basis, due to the D.C. sniper attacks that year, but the program ended. Now, Band Director Cullen Waller and students are working to build it again. Students from 9th through 12th grade are participating, and many of them are completely new to their instruments.

Since the return of the band at the end of last school year, many students have shown interest in joining. The band gives students the chance to perform, work together and represent their school at games and other events. For students who may not know many people at school, joining the band can also be a way to make friends.

"Being a part of the band kind of feels like being a part of a family, especially because it's my freshman year. I didn't know anybody till I started band camp, and that's where I made all my friends," said band member Nora Molock.

In addition to performing at football games, the group may also continue performing during the basketball season. "I think the band is mostly stressing about the fact we are smaller than most bands, but a lot of the band kids are excited," Molock said.



PHOTO COURTESY RAIDER REVIEW

The new marching band at Eleanor Roosevelt High School

About half of the students in the band are beginners so practices focus on building basic skills before moving on to more advanced parts of the program.

Waller is instructing students on it all. "I enjoy teaching the band; the further we get into things, the more we all start to enjoy it," he said.

They always start each practice session with breathing exercises and other physical activities. Currently the band is working on half a dozen songs. The marching band program is hard for some students because they have to get used to many things, for example, moving around while playing and memorizing music.

As the school year continues, the band is building its numbers. It has improved its performances and has become a bigger part of Roosevelt's spirit by performing at the pep rally and homecoming game. As the band performs at more events, students will have more opportunities to perform and show the progress they have made.

The return of the marching band is giving Roosevelt students another way to participate in school activities, meet new people and represent their school. While the program is still growing, its increasing participation shows that students are interested in keeping the band going and making it a lasting part of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Marjani Washington and Samantha Cruz are Eleanor Roosevelt High School students writing for the Raider Review, where this article first appeared.

Friends Community School Offers New Spirit Scholarship

by LaWanda Toney

A new $15,000 merit-based, need-blind award will provide a $5,000 per year scholarship for one new student entering 6th grade at Friends Community School (FCS).

The recipient will receive the award for 6th, 7th and 8th grades, provided they remain eligible under the scholarship terms. The scholarship is open to applicants from any location, with preference given to Prince George's County residents.

The award was created by an FCS alumni family to honor their child's three years at the school and the transformational power of its middle school program after they entered in 6th grade. The family has asked not to be named.

The scholarship will be awarded separately from financial aid, supplementing any assistance the student may receive from FCS.

"Middle school is an incredibly important moment in a child's development, and Friends Community School meets the moment by creating a supportive environment in which they can take risks and explore who they truly are as learners and people," said Rachel Kane, head of school at FCS. "This scholarship exists because one of our families felt so compelled by their child's positive experience in the middle school at FCS that they wanted to pay it forward to future students. Here, we help students grow academically, socially and emotionally, and we see every child for who they authentically are. In our 40th year, we are deeply grateful for this gift."

"At FCS, I learned that I'm not just part of a community; I helped shape it as much as it shaped me. Every kid deserves a school like that," said the former FCS student whose family established the scholarship.

A student is eligible if they are applying to FCS for the first time to enter 6th grade in 2027–28. Current FCS students are not eligible. The scholarship looks for academic promise, a commitment to community and the capacity to let their life speak, a Quaker phrase for showing what you believe through how you live.

To apply, indicate interest on the FCS application for 6th grade by checking the box for the Determined Spirit Scholarship. The deadline is January 14, 2027. Families can learn more at friendscommunityschool.org/admissions/the-determined-spirit-scholarship or contact admissions at admissions@friendscommunityschool.org.

About FCS

FCS is a Quaker progressive school for students in kindergarten through 8th grade, located on 17 wooded acres adjacent to Greenbelt Park in College Park.

LaWanda Toney is a strategic communications consultant with the Friends Community School.

ERHS Students and Families Enjoy an Evening of Music

by Li'l Dan Celdran

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) students, families and community members gathered on Thursday, October 29 for an evening of Music and Community in the Dr. Gerald L. Boarman Auditorium. The auditorium was nearly filled, with just about every seat in the lower section occupied.

The evening featured an impressive variety of performances by the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, piano students, Women's Choir, Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir and Combined Choirs. Under the direction of Band Director Cullen Waller and Choral Director Janna Ryon, students shared their musical talents, hard work and passion for music, with some performing live for the first time.

The Symphonic Band kicked off the evening with Music for a Darkened Theater by Danny Elfman, arranged by Michael Brown, followed by Thriller by Rod Temperton, arranged by Erik Morales. Complete with dramatic onstage "fireworks" and an energetic dance performance by the Thee Black and Bluezz Majorette and Dance Team, the performance brought excitement to the auditorium, with audience members tapping their feet and singing along. The Concert Band performed Sailing Raiders, the ERHS fight song, composed by ERHS alumna Dr. Becky Phillips (class of 1990). As ERHS celebrates its 50th anniversary, the performance offered a wonderful connection between the school's musical past and present.

Next, the Percussion Ensemble performed two selections: Gymnopédie No. 1 by Erik Satie and Water Plant Road by David Ratliff. These talented students had the opportunity to explore and play different percussion instruments throughout both pieces.

Ryon's piano students showcased their talents with Victor's Piano Solo from the movie Corpse Bride and Thanksgiving Theme, a timely musical tribute to the upcoming holiday season. The Women's Choir performed Echoes of Freedom, a selection exploring the values of democracy. The Chamber Choir followed with Battle Hymn of the Republic by Julia Ward Howe. The choir also performed The Seal Lullaby, a contemporary choral work by Eric Whitacre, featuring lyrics from the opening poem of Rudyard Kipling's short story The White Seal.

The Gospel Choir brought energy and spirit to the auditorium with Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory, and My Help (Cometh from the Lord), featuring soloists Gia Stuart and Ashley Tubilia. Bringing the evening to a powerful close, the Combined Choirs performed The Storm Is Passing Over, a classic gospel hymn composed by Charles Albert Tindley in 1905. Using imagery of storms and turbulent waters, the hymn offers a message of faith, perseverance and the reassurance that difficult times do not last forever. Perhaps a fitting message for these times, the song reminded everyone of the power of music to bring people together, encourage one another, and offer hope.

Upcoming concerts include the Orchestra concert on Thursday, November 19 and the Band and Orchestra Winter Concert on Thursday, December 10, both at 7 p.m. Concerts are free and open to the community.

Li'l Dan Celdran is an Eleanor Roosevelt High School parent.



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Council News

Council Hears from New Economic Development Office and Future Ideas

by Maurice Crawford

On October 5 the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession on economic development and legislative priorities. The city's Economic Development Team was introduced by Assistant City Manager Timothy George. Two key figures on the team are Jessica Mailander, the new economic development manager, and Virginia-Marie Roure, an economic development specialist, who began a few weeks ago. Mailander provided council with an overview of recent accomplishments, upcoming activities and the team's plan for economic development.

Accomplishments

Mailander has been working on building the capacity of the office, including strengthening communication, enhancing the website and continuing support for businesses. The office is transitioning to MailChimp for its newsletter and providing more information via its website to showcase what Greenbelt has to offer. Recent successes include the B2B (business to business) Expo that had 75 attendees, sold out vendor space and received positive feedback, especially regarding the breakout sessions. The office awarded $150K in façade grants for businesses in Roosevelt Center to improve their visibility and held grand openings for Blue Sunday Bar & Grill and Playtime Project at Beltway Plaza.

Upcoming Efforts

Mailander discussed applying to Main Street Maryland for Connected Main Street status next spring. Main Street Maryland is a program designed to help communities strengthen local economies, preserve historic character and create vibrant spaces. Such a designation would improve Greenbelt's access to Department of Housing and Community Development programs, gain points in grant applications and increase the city's visibility.

Redevelopment of the Armory site is another large project that presents Greenbelt with great opportunities, said Mailander. The city has applied for funds to assist with demolition of the Armory, one of many steps needed to bring the project to fruition. The city has also received another $150K for a second round of Roosevelt Center façade improvements.

Council's Thoughts

Councilmember Frankie Fritz raised the topic of Bozzuto (a real estate services company headquartered on Ivy Lane) leaving Greenbelt for Howard County and that one reason given for the move was the lack of amenities. Mailander responded that one issue with Greenbelt's office parks is that they are of an older design centered on workspace whereas newer developments are mixed-use and offer a more live-work-play setting. The office parks in Greenbelt are what the city has to offer unless they are redeveloped. This is why the Armory project is so important because it presents an opportunity to create a mixed-use space, she said.

Mayor Emmett Jordan pointed out that Greenbelt doesn't have many vacant retail properties. Mailander agreed that the city is fortunate to have low retail vacancy (~10 percent); however, office vacancies are different, she said, and that market is soft not only in Greenbelt but throughout the DMV area. In addition, there is not much investment for office space, which is partly why Mailander's team is focused on business retention and expansion.

Jordan asked what types of incentives could be offered to encourage growth in Greenbelt. Mailander said she needed more time to think about specific legislative actions. City Manager Josué Salmerón felt that there has not been a conversation around incentives the city could offer but that developers are used to two types of incentives, money upfront or tax abatements; he wanted to know if council was open to these.

Fritz was not opposed to tax incentives but said he would like them to be part of a comprehensive vision. He has been following Montgomery County's first Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project, Viva White Oak, which is a $2.8 billion mixed-use project of 5,000 units with commercial and retail spaces that is capitalizing on its proximity to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Fritz said Greenbelt has Goddard, Beltsville Agriculture Research Center, a U.S. District Court and other assets that could be leveraged into a comprehensive plan. Councilmember Danielle McKinney agreed and added that council would need to know the costs/benefits of any strategy around tax incentives the city might offer.

Salmerón said it was good to know that council would be open to TIF and it is something the city has used in the past, for example, with Greenbelt Station. Obviously, it needs to work for the city and its timing has to be right. The current high interest rates are holding back projects like the Beltway Plaza redevelopment, which would add 2,500 residential units.

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

City Council Revises Pledge, Looks At Robotics Center Appeal, More

by Diane Oberg

At its October 26 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council adopted a revised city pledge, received multiple petitions and learned the next steps in the plan to replace the city's aging Bradford pear trees.

Council unanimously passed a resolution revising the Greenbelt Community Pledge to read:

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.

Petitions

Eleanor Roosevelt High School 9th grade engineering teacher Karen Bogoski represented a team of five high schools including Parkdale and DuVal that are seeking space for a robotics center in Greenbelt. The team's ultimate goal is to create a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Innovation Hub for Prince George's County. Bogoski called the robotics center a baby step toward that goal. Initially it would support the high schools and their robotics programs. Once fully open, it would be opened to lower grades and community members interested in robotics. Bogoski has been working with Beltway Plaza to find space and has obtained approval to use the space previously used by the Laugh Out Loud daycare program. They are currently seeking to obtain permits.

When asked what she wants council to do to support her efforts, she said down the road they may ask for funding such as grants and discretionary funding and to connect with other potential sponsors. She also asked for consideration as potential users of the space in Beltway Plaza that will be designated as public space when apartments behind the mall are constructed. Bogoski said that she has applied to have the robotics team become a city recognition group, which Councilmember Amy Knesel advised is the first step to obtaining funding.

Noting that the Greenbelt Cinema recently presented their strategic plan to council, resident Michael Hartman asked council to revisit the issue of the additional $25,000 that the Cinema had requested but not received during the last budget cycle.

Robert Jenner of the Riverdale Heights neighborhood suggested that trees be planted down the median strip of Greenbelt Road west of Kenilworth Avenue. Recognizing that this is a State Highway Administration responsibility, he suggested the city could pressure them or take over the responsibility itself. He also shared the experience of Riverdale Heights.

Bradford Pears

The city recently began implementation of Phase 4 of the Bradford Pear Replacement Plan, previously accepted by council. This fall the city is removing 10 trees along Southway and the ramp's path at the Greenbelt Road interchange and 12 trees in the western section of Ivy Lane. The invasive non-native trees will be replaced with a diverse mix of native species. Next spring, the city will remove and replace the 11 trees in the eastern section of Ivy Lane.

Legislative Priorities

As part of a larger process, staff has identified the city's top legislative and bond bill priorities based upon the councilmembers' rankings. The top legislative priorities from that process are: data center guardrail legislation, enabling legislation for municipal government zoning authority, legislation to strengthen and expand municipal fiscal capacity and restoring improvements to Greenbelt Road to the state transportation plan.

The top bond bill priorities are Pepco streetlight LED upgrades ($300,000), City Wayfinding Implementation ($400,000), Indian Creek Park construction ($500,000) and Armory main building demolition ($1 million).



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Woodlands Workday Sunday, November 15

Volunteers are invited for a Woodlands Workday from 9 a.m. to noon (OK to arrive and leave anytime), Sunday, November 15 at 11 Court Southway for GHI Parcel I (Eye). Additional visitor parking is available across the street in 10 Court Southway. Habitat regeneration activities may include removing wisteria and other invasive species, mulching seedlings, collecting old discarded items for disposal and possibly moving logs and brush or fence repair. The GHI Woodlands Committee will provide gloves and tools. For questions, email Bryan Bruns at EyeReWild@gmail.com.

Foundation Fundraiser

The annual Michael D. Maxwell, Jr. Foundation for Mental Awareness Fundraiser takes place Sunday, November 22 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge on Kenilworth Avenue in Riverdale. The Foundation was formed to raise funds for mental health awareness programs focusing on youth. The foundation has worked with Eleanor Roosevelt High School for several years and is now working with University of Maryland freshmen. In addition, the foundation works with area schools on anti-bullying programs. To find out more about the foundation and their commitment to assist individuals suffering from mental illness in obtaining treatment, visit mdmaxwellfoundation.com/. The annual fundraiser will feature live music by Greenbelt's own The Relics, food, silent auction and the Face Paint Lady. Reservations are available on the website or by calling 240-620-9514.

Cooler Days, Warm Hearts: More Food for Neighbors

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

Sunday, November 22 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and 33 Court Ridge Road and 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.

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.

Rotary Club Donates $1,000 To Springhill Lake Elementary

by Erica Johns



PHOTO BY JENNIFER DUDLEY

Shana Sterkin, left, literacy instructional lead teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary School, receives a check from Greenbelt Rotary Club secretary Erica Johns. The photo was taken at the Greenway Center IHOP, where the club meets Thursdays at 8 a.m.

On Thursday, October 29, the Greenbelt Rotary Club presented a $1,000 check to Springhill Lake Elementary School (SHLES) Literacy Instructional Lead Teacher Shana Sterkin. The Rotary Club was awarded the Greenbelt Co-op's $1,500 2026 Jim Cassels Community Service Award for the purposes of rewarding positive student behaviors at SHLES, and supporting SHLES families experiencing food insecurity. The $1,000 will support students with positive behavior incentives (small gifts) that school staff use to reward SHLES students for being ready to learn, paying attention, following directions promptly, walking safely, cleaning up after oneself, using inside voices and taking turns. The club will use the remaining $500 of the award to purchase grocery gift cards for families that school staff identify as experiencing food insecurity.

Sterkin said students leave the school store excited with their small stuffed animal or similar prize, and that SHLES students really appreciate Greenbelters' support for their school.

Erica Johns is the secretary of the Greenbelt Rotary Club.

COUNCIL continued from page 11

Legislative Priorities

Council talked about its legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Salmerón began the discussion by summarizing last year's issues and categorizing the priorities into potential new priorities; shared priorities with other Maryland Legislative District 22 cities; bond bills; and earmarks.

Regarding last year's priorities, Jordan felt that pushing for zoning authority and juvenile justice reform should continue. Two priorities from the previous year that could be dropped but remain on council's radar are opposing the widening of 495 and the maglev project.

Salmerón pointed out that improved information flow from the state regarding property tax abatement has been achieved. He also said that the state allows property owners to request abatements for up to three previous years, which has led to the city incurring about $1M in abatements in one year, which is not sustainable. Council also discussed removing the homeowner tax credit extension from their priorities.

Several new priorities were suggested which included just-cause eviction/tenant rights, opposition to data center locations, opportunity zone designations, affordable housing, environmental sustainability and urban agriculture.

Council agreed that as a next step, a survey should be circulated among them in which they could rank their priorities for the city, District 22 and bond bills. (The council article on page 11 covers the results of that survey.)

City Notes

Various departments supported, publicized or attended Emancipation Day, Caregiver Appreciation Day and American Legion Public Safety Awards events.

Code Enforcement issued 11 permits and inspected 12 commercial suites and 20 rentals. Planning processed four Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. After one cat adoption, Animal Shelter residents are six cats, four kittens and five dogs.

Horticulture continued removing hazardous trees including Bradford pears, replacing them with better quality trees including 11 black gum trees. Facilities Maintenance cleaned, sanded and resurfaced gym floors at the Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Mechanics welcomed a new team member.

CARES counseled 184 clients (including 39 minors), tutored 24 students, coached 15 GED aspirants, taught nine English learners and mentored five job seekers in workforce development skills. CARES senior staff exhibited at the Caregiver Health Fair at FBI Headquarters. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program food distribution served 188 clients in 56 households; the Emergency Diaper Distribution provided 2,350 diapers to 47 children in 37 households.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred November 2 - 8, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two mental health diversions, one involving suicide, and three domestic incidents, one involving a weapon and resulting in arrest.

On November 6 near 13 Hillside Road, officers assisted with a property-related civil matter and located an occupant inside the residence.

Missing Persons

On November 6, a girl was reported missing after leaving her residence overnight; officers entered the missing-person information into law enforcement databases.

On November 7, officers began a missing-person investigation after a man left home unexpectedly.

Fight

On November 4 at 4:18 a.m. near 7828 Hanover Parkway, officers responded to a complaint involving intoxicated men having a verbal argument that turned physical. All parties declined medical aid.

Indecent Exposure

On November 3 at 11:51 a.m. near 101 Centerway, a man exposed himself and engaged in inappropriate behavior in a recreation center locker room. Officers investigated the complaint.

Drug Arrest

On November 4 at 10:08 p.m. near Edmonston Road and Breezewood Drive, officers arrested a man for possession of controlled dangerous substances and paraphernalia.

Fraud

On November 5 near 7455 Greenbelt Road, a business employee reported that a caller posing as a fire safety inspector attempted to obtain payment through a fraudulent scheme.

On November 7 near 42 Ridge Road, someone reported approximately $1,500 in unauthorized purchases using bank card information, and disputed the charges with the bank.

Theft and Shoplifting

On November 3 at 10:30 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers arrested a man who was caught shoplifting after he had previously been banned from the store; at 2:29 p.m. near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a package was missing from an apartment building's package room.

On November 6 at 5:29 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman left a store without paying for merchandise; the items were recovered and she was banned.

On November 7 at 9:11 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a man stole candy from a convenience store and fled in a black Honda Accord (Md. 4GL2134); at 11:53 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a woman stole food items from a convenience store and fled in a gray Mitsubishi SUV.

On November 8 at 11:41 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise. Officers recovered the items and arrested him after discovering an outstanding warrant.

Trespassing

On November 3 at 8:11 p.m. near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, a man previously banned from mall property was located inside a restaurant. He was arrested for trespassing and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On November 3 at 8:24 p.m. near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, police found another man previously banned from mall property outside a restaurant and arrested him for trespassing.

On November 5 at 5:41 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man previously banned from mall property was found there and arrested for trespassing.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on November 5 near 32 Crescent Road, a black 2016 Honda Civic (Md. 9FP9957); on November 6 near 7902 Spring Manor Drive, a 2017 Honda Civic (Md. 8EY7710), and on November 6 near 113 Rosewood Drive, a brown 1978 Ford F-250 (Md. 78PNCH0).

Theft from Auto

On November 4, four Hondas were broken into and had the steering wheel airbag (valued around $300 each) stolen: near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a 2018 Accord; near 6814 Springshire Way, a 2013 Civic; near 6603 Springcrest Drive, a 2016 Pilot; and near 7708 Hanover Parkway, an HR-V. Also, near 7726 Hanover Parkway, a 2024 Civic had property stolen.

On November 5, all four wheels were stolen from a 2024 Honda near 6204 Springhill Drive, and from a parked vehicle near 8150 Lakecrest Drive.

Vandalism to Auto

On November 7 near 7715 Ora Court, a 2018 BMW 530e was scratched along the door, causing estimated damages of $500.

On November 8 near 7713 Ora Court, a 1999 Toyota Camry was scratched on the hood, causing estimated damages of $500.



PHOTO BY FRED KIBLER

Geese in silhouette in the fading November light at Greenbelt Lake

APPEAL continued from page 1

Though College Park did not lose firefighters in the 2024 staffing plan, it joined the suit because it was impacted by the Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights losses, including facing additional strain on its services. The municipalities were not consulted in the decision and were given less than a month's notice (see the June 13, 2024 issue). Prior to this, GVFD had been staffed around the clock by career personnel since 2013.

When the Circuit Court dismissed the case in October 2024, it agreed with the county that Greenbelt, College Park and Berwyn Heights had no claim to harm from the plan and thus no grounds for relief. The county had argued, instead, that the municipalities had previously enjoyed special benefits from the prior staffing and, rather than harm, would be treated as the rest of the county from that point forward. In the appeal hearing, the plaintiffs argued they had invested in equipment, firehouse, recruiting and more, while the county sought to offload responsibilities to volunteers (see the October 16, 2026 issue).

Court Opinion

The summary in Friday's court opinion notes that, "Not only did the County not consult with GVFD or BHVFD before the reallocation decision, it did not verify its assumptions of volunteer availability. The reallocation plan assumed 109 fit-tested volunteers at BHVFD when there were only 45 active members, of which only 25 to 30 were available during daytime hours. GVFD had only 15 fit-tested volunteers, which are too few to maintain full-time operations."

The plaintiffs also alleged the county has not freely shared data about response times in the area since the staffing changes, something they had initially agreed to do under former Fire Chief Tiffany Green. Data obtained by the Greenbelt News Review, including via public information act requests, supports Greenbelt's claims of increased response times to calls for service, which raises public safety concerns (for reporting of response times, see the October 10, 2024; October 24, 2024; January 9, 2025; May 15, 2025; September 10, 2026 and September 17, 2026 issues). The most recent data obtained by the News Review in September was shared during the court case.

The appellate judges found the allegations of "doubled response times, periods without coverage due to inadequate volunteer availability, other county stations with 24/7 career firefighter coverage, and the loss of all career firefighter coverage for the surrounding stations that as a result 'routinely do not answer calls for service'" are specific allegations that must be "accepted as true" and "for which relief could be granted," so that it was an error for the Circuit Court to dismiss the complaint.

Current Staffing

Currently, Greenbelt has had six career staff assigned to the station for daytime weekday shifts, a development that came in September, but at the same time lost a round-the-clock Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit (see the September 10, 2026 issue). College Park also had its ALS ambulance relocated. Given most area calls are for emergency medical service rather than fire suppression, Salmerón and leaders from surrounding communities have expressed concern about a lack of ALS and paramedic services in Greenbelt and surrounding communities in the evenings, overnight and on weekends.

Greenbelt is set to meet for discussions with the Prince George's County Fire Department's legal team this week.











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Reel and Meal

Dismantling the Federal Government: Human Loss

by Donna Hoffmeister

The film Heist chronicles the 40 days of mass firings and the dismantling of federal agencies that began in February 2025. The film will be shown at the New Deal Café on Sunday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m. Note that the Reel and Meal screenings are now on Sundays – a new day for the program.

Under Elon Musk's DOGE, federal workers were branded wasteful, expendable or enemies of the public. But the film reveals that the consequences of gutting government extend far beyond lost jobs – they threaten the services, protections and scientific knowledge on which we depend.

At the U.S. Agency for International Development, the cuts disrupted humanitarian assistance abroad and hurt American farmers whose crops supplied overseas food programs. The weakened Consumer Financial Protection Bureau became less able to shield consumers from scams and predatory lending. The loss of 3,000 National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration employees undermined tornado preparedness across parts of the Great Plains and hampered flood warnings in rural Alaska, where flooding displaced more than 1,500 people. At the Internal Revenue Service, staffing fell from approximately 104,000 to 74,000 full-time employees, with many experienced workers among those dismissed.

These sweeping cuts jeopardized scientific research, weather forecasting, veterans' services and essential public benefits. Heist follows federal workers as they organized rallies, filed lawsuits and appealed to their senators and representatives for intervention – often with little success. The film hits especially close to home in Maryland, where 229,000 civilian federal jobs have been lost, many in Greenbelt.

Reel and Meal is a monthly film series at the New Deal focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. While the film is free, the Café offers a dinner menu. Those unable to attend the film in person can register to watch via Zoom at tinyurl.com/ReelMeal2026. There will be a discussion following the film about how these cuts affect those in Greenbelt and what we can do to protect the public institutions we depend on.



PHOTO BY MARK SHERMAN

Leaves cover a sidewalk in the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. community.

Sports

Fall Ball



PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

Greenbelt Babe Ruth baseball players and their families were out on Saturday, October 31.

ERHS BOYS continued from page 1

Delaware. He creates the workouts for distance runners, while head Coach Elgin Gordon works mainly with sprinters.

With the win at regionals, the boys have qualified for the state championship on November 14. Coach Ridge says that the team will take it easy with practices going into state. "There's very little that you can do to make yourself faster in the last week, but you can make yourself slower by working too hard or getting injured," he said.

With only one senior and a roster full of underclassmen, the Raiders expect their talent to last. "The team's good because it's young," Leisnham said. "We should be able to be good in the next year or two."

Watching the team develop is something Coach Ridge looks forward to as well. "That's the fun thing about coaching: the most rewarding part is seeing people develop a love for running and develop their ability to be their best," he said.

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

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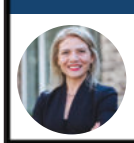
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Celebrating Diwali in Greenbelt: Rangoli, Community and Light

by Rachel Kebler

Greenbelters gathered on Saturday, November 7, to celebrate the holiday of Diwali and Indian culture both inside and outside of the Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant in Roosevelt Center.

Diwali, a festival of lights, is a five-day celebration of spirituality in Hindu culture. The get-together was coordinated by Vijay Parameshwaran, a Greenbelt chalk artist known for the elaborate drawings he does for holidays. For Diwali again this year, he drew a rangoli outside the restaurant. A rangoli is a form of Indian art, typically done as colorful patterns on floors. Parameshwaran surrounded it with plastic candles to preserve light amidst the wind.

Parameshwaran has been holding events for Greenbelt to celebrate Diwali since around 2018, he said.

"I was just doing it outside my apartment building and then one day I thought 'You know, why not invite other members of the apartment community?'" Parameshwaran said. He then put an announcement on the Greenbelt Facebook group, encouraging others in the city to join him in celebration.

This is the second year the event has been held at Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant. Parameshwaran mentioned that there is an Indo-Trinidadian basis in the restaurant's cuisine and they create a special menu for Diwali each year. The restaurant typically serves traditional Caribbean food, but its proprietor, Alisa Plaza, is Trinidadian, and the menu particularly reflects food from Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago has a large Indo-Trinidadian population who celebrate Diwali.

Greenbelters were invited to hang out outside the restaurant in the early evening, then encouraged to go inside to enjoy the Diwali-themed dinner. To those who wanted to celebrate the holiday but may not know where to start, Parameshwaran said, "Even just chilling here for a few minutes is good enough."

Parameshwaran maintains a welcoming community in Greenbelt. Visitors to the event ranged from his childhood friends, to apartment neighbors, to Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Jenni Pompi, to others that saw his invitation online.

"I've learned a lot from Vijay about all of the Indian celebrations and holidays, which I probably wouldn't get otherwise," said Judy Kendall, who has been a neighbor of Parameshwaran's for about 10 years.

Parameshwaran noted that while Diwali ending on Monday brings a new moon, there is still "light amidst the darkness." Other ways he suggests celebrating Diwali include lighting a candle at home or enjoying a sweet treat.

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



Greenbelters mingled outside Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant for a celebration of Diwali. Pictured here, from left, are Councilmember Jenni Pompi Robert Goldberg-Strassler, Councilmember Kristen Weaver, Lucy Duff and Lore Rosenthall. Vijay Parameshwaran's rangoli artwork is on the sidewalk.

- Photos by Rachel Kebler



Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant provides visitors with a special menu for Diwali.



PHOTO BY KEN LOO

The two double-crested cormorants at Greenbelt Lake



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

On November 8, the Greenbelt Concert Band, led by Music Director Joan Rackey, enthralled their audience at the Greenbelt American Legion with their Veteran's Day concert. The concert opened with The Star Spangled Banner and included favorites from military themed movies, a tribute to Frank Sinatra, Soulful Sixties, an Armed Services Salute featuring the official songs of the United States military branches, and other inspiring pieces. The concert ended with Il Silencio, a lyrical adaptation of the traditional Italian cavalry bugle call used in 19th-century military barracks in the Kingdom of Sardinia to signal "lights out" or the end of the day.

Greenbelters Travel

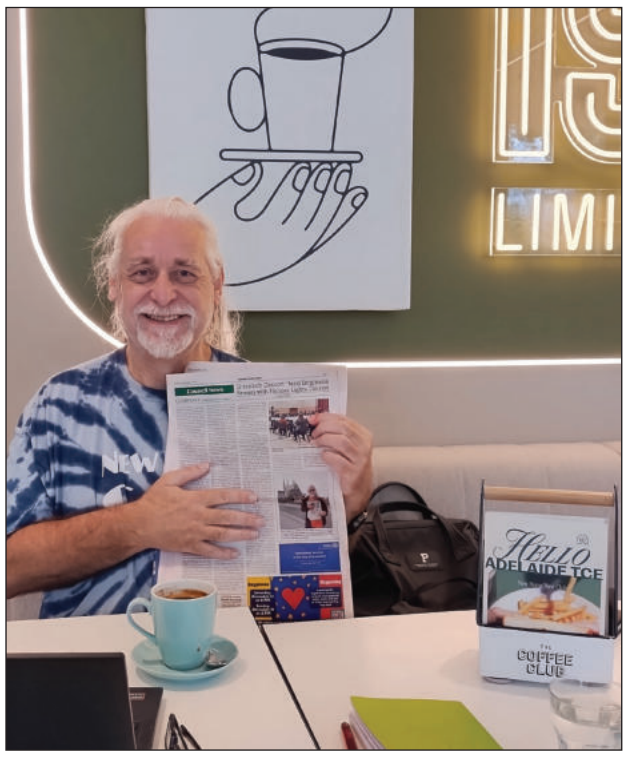


PHOTO BY PETER TEUBEN

Peter Teuben eats breakfast at The Coffee Club in Perth, Australia, holding up the newspaper from Dec. 4, 2025, where he was showing himself in Germany, holding a picture of himself in Fiji, which in itself was showing him in Groningen, Netherlands.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Emmeline and Euan Bedford-Dillow with the News Review at Little Bennett campground in Clarksburg. They were camping there with Greenbelt Cub Scouts Pack 202 over the weekend of October 24.



PHOTO COURESTY JOAN ESTENSON

Joan Estenson brought the News Review with her when she attended the Weston A. Price Wise Traditions conference, held this year in Washington, D.C. The theme of the conference was For a Butter World and attendees were invited to wear yellow to the Saturday night banquet. "I got by with a little help from my friends, who loaned me yellow clothing and accessories," she said.