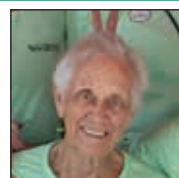




ERHS soccer, p.11



GNR Info Day booth, p.12

Tragic Ending to the Search For Mariame Toure Sylla

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The month-long search for Mariame Toure Sylla, a long-time Greenbelt teacher who went missing on an evening walk at Schrom Hills Park on July 29, drew to a tragic close on Friday when police announced they had identified her remains.

During a press conference on Friday, September 1, Prince George's County Police Chief Malik Aziz announced remains found in a park on Old Alexandria Ferry Road in Clinton have been identified as Sylla's. The remains were found on August 1 on some rocks by a pond. DNA is still being processed but provided enough preliminary results to positively identify the remains as Sylla's, they announced Friday. Police reported she had been decapitated and dismembered. An autopsy to determine cause of death is still being conducted.

James Spence, principal of Dora Kennedy French Immersion School where Sylla taught,



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The PGCEA marches in memory of Mariame Toure Sylla in Greenbelt's Labor Day Parade.

and Sylla's sister from the Ivory Coast, Fatma Toure, were present for the press conference.

Landon Charged

Harold Francis Landon III, 33, of University Park, has been charged with Sylla's murder, police also announced at the same

press conference. He's been in custody on domestic violence charges since August 1, arrested the day after they believe he dumped Sylla's remains. Police do not believe he and Sylla knew each other.

See SYLLA, page 8

Another Amazing Labor Day Festival Enjoyed in Greenbelt

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Last weekend residents and visitors enjoyed yet another spectacular Labor Day celebration spread over four days in Greenbelt. It marked the 69th Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, one of the largest all-volunteer organized events in the state. The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival was started in 1955 as a way of raising funds to build a Youth Center. It had been held every year since until 2020 when it was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. In 2021 a smaller-scale Festival was held, without the usual accompanying carnival. Last year, 2022, was the first year back to a full Festival and this year organizers described it as a "banner year."

One of the many highlights is the vibrant Parade. This year's Parade winners reflect the diversity of those marching, from the theatrical musical performances of the Greenbelt Honk! Situation, which encompassed dancing, puppetry, unicycling and plenty of brass to the sweet flowers of Greenbelt Elementary School, "where students grow," the Barbie Dream Home of Town Center Realty, the cheers, pool noodles, barracudas and decorated car of the Greenbelt Swim Team and the fantastic athletic choreography of the Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars and Lady Raiders.

Though they didn't win prizes, many politicians gave an enthusiastic appearance, including Steny



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars jump rope team wins Best Performing Group at the Labor Day Parade.

Hoyer, who no longer represents Greenbelt due to redistricting but continues to join the Parade each year, Delegate Nicole Williams and Prince George's County Councilmember Ingrid Watson, among others. This election year Parade participants also included Greenbelt City Council challengers Matthew Inzeo and Jenni Pompei.

Parade Winners 2023 Best In Parade

First Place: The New Deal Café/Greenbelt Honk! Situation won a trophy and top monetary award of \$400.

Best in Parade - Fire and Emergency

First Place: Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (trophy and

\$100 check)

First Runner-up: Prince George's County Community

See FESTIVAL, page 12

What Goes On

Monday, September 11
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, September 13
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Parke Crest Apartment Complex, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Greenbelt Station HOA Talks Crime, Recreation and Rentals

by Maurice Crawford

The Greenbelt City Council held a stakeholder worksession with the Greenbelt Station Homeowners Association (HOA) on Monday, August 28. Greenbelt Station was represented by Roseana Gilmore of the Greenbelt Station Master Association and Cornell Lynch of the Greenbelt Station HOA. Greenbelt Station is a nine-year-old community composed of 505 units, including townhouses and condominiums. During the meeting several topics were covered, ranging from public safety to recreation and the arts.

Public Safety

Concerns expressed by community representatives included

crimes related to vehicles and the stealing of packages. However, Gilmore said there was good communication with the Police Department, which was very responsive to calls. Because of the limited access to the community, a single ramp from Greenbelt Road, Councilmember Judith Davis and Mayor Emmett Jordan suggested that cameras may be useful to record autos entering and leaving the area.

Speeding is another concern even though the roundabouts help to slow traffic. Greenbelt's Department of Planning and Community Development is currently

See COUNCIL, page 6

In the Same Boat: Greenbelt Gliders, a Cooperative Team

by Torrence Banks



PHOTO BY TORRENCE BANKS

The Greenbelt Gliders rowing team leaves the dock. From left to right: Maria Roldan, Jessica Blacksten, Piri Jenkins, Amy Knesel, Pat Jackson – a kind substitute, Melissa Ehrenreich, Stephanie O'Brien, Corita Waters and coxswain, Amanda, also a substitute.

On a sunny Saturday morning, nine women from Greenbelt traveled to Bladensburg Waterfront Park to partake in a less common form of exercise. Instead of going on a morning run, they hopped in a boat to participate in

a regatta – or boat race – on the Anacostia River against six other teams from the DMV area.

Crew is a sport that allows eight rowers to paddle

See GLIDERS, page 6



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Outstanding Citizen 2023 Linda Ivy speaks at the Opening Ceremony after being introduced by Bob Zugby, left. More in next week's issue.



To observe the original purpose of Labor Day at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the DC Labor Chorus conducted a sing-along to a packed house at the New Deal Café on Labor Day. The Chorus, made up of both active and retired singers from various unions, sang and led the audience in songs, some in Spanish, focusing on fair livable wages and working conditions, as well as peace, justice, equity and inclusion.

Point of View

Troubles of the New Deal Café: Clarification of Some Points

by Michael Hartman

As president of the New Deal Café, I am writing to clarify some of the points that were highlighted in the News Review article about the Café’s open board meeting on August 28.

The New Deal Café is in financial peril and without a steady revenue stream, we are at risk of having to close. We have been fortunate in the past to have such a generous community response, but without a new business plan in place that responds to our current situation, we are at risk of being back where we are today in 6 to 12 months.

The board is proposing multiple actions to generate direct and fixed revenue to support the Café’s current operations. Some of these ideas may go against the way the “Café’s always done it” but the way we’ve been doing it just isn’t working anymore.

Covid changed everything, from labor, food, logistics, etc. Those changes come with increased costs. Other costs include rent, utilities, equipment maintenance and replacement. These must be borne by “someone.” In the past, that “someone” has always been the Café. In the current contract with the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (Co-op), they have borne those expenses.

The Café has borne the costs of operating our music and arts programming. These costs now include the rent, as well as salary for our music coordinator, licensing that allows our bands to perform copyrighted songs and long-term debt that was incurred to keep the Café from permanently shutting down during the worst of the pandemic and allowing us to reopen when it was safe to do so.

However, to continue to serve the community and act as the “living room,” we are going to need to look toward our guests to help keep this model alive. After all, to enjoy a living room, one has to pay rent or a mortgage and pay utilities.

The Café does have three key “assets” that we own and need to leverage properly. 1) We have our awesome community, whom we know we can count on. 2) We have our name, which just won first place in Washington City Paper’s 2023 Best of DC for Best Place to Experience Local Music and Best Place to Have Dinner with Live Music, plus additional recognition for Best Jazz/Blues Venue, Best Neighborhood Music Series and more. 3) The

most important is our music. Where else can you go see a live music show in the D.C. area for free? Well, it is #3 that we need to build upon. Whether that is tickets for events, a cover charge or a nominal fee charged on transactions, we need to at bare minimum allow the music to support itself.

It is our goal to provide a sustainable business model that will carry us through until we can successfully hire a new food vendor.

These changes may come as a shock to our community but as with anything different, we feel that our community will adjust with the change and find it beneficial.

The Café will work through the options on the table during September and aim to announce and implement a change on October 1.

We will then use October 1 to January 31 to evaluate the effectiveness of the new revenue model, the community impact and its sustainability moving forward.

This also buys us some much-needed relief while we and the Co-op consider the evolving financial situation.

It also allows the Café, if the board finds it is preferable, to search, negotiate and award a contract with a new food vendor moving forward.

The Café will not survive without a fixed income business plan, and reactionary community fundraising is not a business plan. We do want to continue to raise funds, offer galas and community festivals, but these funds should be used for “improving” the Café and its offerings to the community, not just to keep the lights on.

As an example of the Café’s current efforts, we are planning a first-time ticketed “Masquerade the Café” Ball on October 14 and offering sponsorships as well as tickets on our website at newdealcafe.com/cafeball.

Michael Hartman is president of the New Deal Café.

Musician Eli Lev to Perform At the New Deal Café Sept. 13

by Ruby Roane

Eli Lev, born Justin Lev, hails from Boonsboro, Md. He’s a unique musician, captivating audiences far and wide. On Wednesday, September 13 he’ll bring his soulful melodies and passionate lyrics to the New Deal Café. Lev last performed at the New Deal in 2019 and is looking forward to returning for what will be the release show for his upcoming single That Universal Song, which will be released the same day.

As an independent artist, Lev has had the opportunity to shape his career on his own terms. “I don’t feel like I’m in the music industry,” he said. “As an independent artist, I am doing my own thing on my own timing.” Lev does not have a manager or a record label. But like musicians who sign to record labels, Lev still has a strong fanbase. “I have a community called the ‘Levitate’ and we are our own feedback system,” he said. The community inspires and supports him as he continues to create and connect with his audience.

Lev’s music goes beyond the stage, with participatory music videos that invite listeners to become part of the storytelling. His next EP, Present Journey, reflects his deep introspection and observation of how the world interacts and reacts to itself, according to Lev, hinting at the depth and

thoughtfulness that fans can expect.

As a musician, Lev cherishes the interactions with his audience and the personal impact of his songs. “I like the interactions and to see the songs affect them personally,” he said. His songwriting process is deeply rooted in everyday life, as he explained. “I’m listening to everything around me and am connected to how people are responding.”

Pandemic Impact

The Covid pandemic brought challenges for musicians worldwide and Lev was no exception. “It had a lot of impact on my career, my shows were canceled,” said Lev. Like many artists, he had to find ways to adapt. “In shifting my business, I started live streaming,” he said. “People needed to feel connected and that’s how we could.”

Live streaming not only became a way for Lev to share his music but became a way for him to engage with his audience on a personal level. “It’s been a way for me to connect with people and to see how their week is going,” he said. He believes in the power of music to unite and uplift others.

Looking toward the future, Lev said, “My long-term goals are to just keep going.” His inspiration for music often comes from unexpected places like the

vast valleys of New Mexico or the bustling cities of Spain.

“What I am about is acceptance and that there is a place for you,” he emphasized. Lev’s journey as a musician is about fostering connections and sharing meaningful stories with the world.



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DEADLINE EXTENDED

CALL for POETS and VISUAL ARTISTS:

Ekphrastic Fantastic Art Show

FONDCA (Friends of New Deal Café Arts) is seeking submissions for the show Ekphrastic Fantastic, which is scheduled to be displayed from October 30, 2023, to January 8, 2024, at New Deal Café!

Have you written a poem that lends itself to interpretation in a painting or drawing? Have you created a painting or drawing that would inspire a poet to write a companion piece? This might be the show for you!

We are seeking 15 artists and 15 poets to create pieces for this show.

Here’s how it works: poets and artists interested in participating submit a poem or a drawing or painting. We’ll select 15 poems and 15 paintings or drawings from the submissions. Each poem will be assigned to a visual artist and each piece of visual art will be assigned to a poet for creation of a new piece in response. Identities of the poets and artists will be secret until the show is hung.

Please send submissions to julieawinters@verizon.net by Saturday, September 9. Poems should be sent as Word documents. For visual art, please send a good-quality photograph of the piece, along with title, dimensions, and description (mixed media, watercolor, pencil, etc.). Participants will receive confirmation of selection and assignment of pieces for creation of new art/poetry by September 11; the deadline for the new pieces is October 23.

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