

Greenbelters Run Marathon, Savor Satisfaction of Success

by Jamal Williams

There are many reasons a person would choose to participate in a marathon: exercise, personal achievement and happiness are a few. It also takes a lot of preparation, practice and mental determination to complete the 26.2 mile race. But the best part about it is simple: the race is open to anyone who wants to give it a try.

Raj Bhanot, who coordinates the annual George Washington's Birthday Marathon, described the event as an opportunity for growth and giving back. "I've been running marathons for more than 10 years and it is a way to give back to the running community," he said. Bhanot reminded runners to not put so much pressure on themselves and to live in the moment during the race. "Enjoy yourself, be in the zone and don't try and compete with others."

Aileen Kroll, co-director at the Center for Dynamic Community Governance, is an experienced runner who has competed in many 5k, 10k, half- and full-marathons over the years. With each race, a new memory is made. "It takes a lot of courage to be out there that long. They are all very special to me, each race has a different feel," she said.

Kroll participated in the George Washington's Birthday Marathon, which started near the Greenbelt Youth Center on Sunday, February 17, and continued onto roads on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. While this was not her first time running in a marathon, Kroll made her first appearance in this marathon with her team, the Sprintsteens. It was also her first time running the race as a relay event.

The relay run consisted of three loops with each runner responsible for completing their own part of the marathon. The first two runners made a relay exchange after completing their portion of the marathon, leaving the last runner responsible for finishing the race. "All times are compiled, sent online and are done in comradery," Kroll explained. Running alongside Kroll were teammates Linsey Malig-Mayhew and Marina Goldgisser, who would be competing in the first and third legs of the race, respectively. Both are teachers at Springbook High School in Silver Spring; Malig-Mayhew teaches special education and Goldgisser teaches science. Having prepared for the race for a while, they were determined to do their part.

Kroll was more than prepared to complete her second leg of



Runners prepare for the start of the annual George Washington's Birthday Marathon on Northway, on Sunday, February 17.

- Photos by Jamal Williams



Linsey Malig-Mayhew, Aileen Kroll and Marina Goldgisser show their excitement after finishing the marathon.

the race as well. Though she had much experience running, Kroll recalled a time when racing wasn't always open for everyone to join. "It used to only be geared to the elite runners, particularly white men. Women weren't allowed to participate at first, but now there's equal opportunity," she explained. Kroll was happy to see that men and women of all ages, sizes and backgrounds are able to participate in the event. "What I love about running is that it is available to anyone in any condition. You don't need any specific skills to join and it brings people together because it is not exclusive to one kind of person," she said. "Whether you're walking or running, all you need is a pair of sneakers and you're good to go."

After more than four hours, the Sprintsteens crossed the finish line. In the aftermath of the race, Kroll and her teammates glowed

with the satisfaction of meeting a tough challenge. Though they did not cross the finish line first, Kroll said completing the race was an accomplishment in itself. "Some people run unprepared, some people even run barefoot, just show up and do whatever it is that you do," she said.

Jamal Williams is a graduate student in journalism at the University of Maryland and a reporter for the News Review.

UMD Poets Open Mic At MilkBoy ArtHouse

Milk x Honey Spoken Word Open Mic will take place on Tuesday, February 26 at 9 p.m. at the MilkBoy ArtHouse in College Park.

Milk x Honey is a free open mic hosted by UMD's Terpoets.



Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Stun Gun

February 13, 5:35 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Drive. A 17-year-old nonresident youth was arrested for possession of an electronic control device (stun gun) during the investigation of a suspicious and occupied vehicle. He was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

Assault

February 8, 6:48 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A loss prevention officer at Giant observed a shoplifter take merchandise and leave the store. He attempted to detain the man, at which time the man struck him multiple times and then fled. The officer refused treatment for minor injuries.

Theft

February 7, 4:53 p.m., 8100 block Lakeside Drive. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

February 10, 11 a.m., 6900 block Hanover Parkway. A package was removed from the front stoop of a residence.

February 12, 5 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. Money was taken from an unattended purse at Safeway.

Disorderly Conduct

February 7, 7:48 p.m., 7400 block Greenbelt Road. A 24-year-old resident man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct by officers responding to a report of a man threatening an employee at Ross Dress for Less. He was released on citation pending trial.

Vandalism

February 9, 3:38 p.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway. A traffic cone was thrown through the patio window of a vacant residence.

Vehicle Crime

One vehicle was stolen from the 9100 block Edmonston Court, a white 2005 Ford F-250 pickup truck with Md. tags 1DG8604.

There were multiple thefts and

attempted thefts from vehicles and widespread vehicular vandalism. Among other incidents were the following:

A wheel lock key was taken in the 200 block Lakeside Drive after a window was broken to gain access. The following items were taken from possibly unlocked vehicles: money and a metro card (6800 block Damsel Court); sneakers, notebook and money (7800 Lakecrest Drive) and a notebook computer (also in the 7800 block Lakecrest Drive).

A set of four tires and rims was taken in the 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace and in the 8200 block Greenbelt Station Parkway, a window was broken out and the owner's manual and a first aid kit were taken. In the 6000 block Springhill Drive four tires on one vehicle were punctured. In a third incident in the 7800 block Lakecrest Drive a window was broken out and a wheel lock key was taken, along with several lug nuts from the tires.

Power tools were removed from two work vans in the 9100 block Edmonston Road after a door was forced open in one van and a window was broken out in another.

Paint was scratched in the 7800 block Hanover Parkway. Windows were broken out on vehicles in the 7900 block Lakecrest Drive, 6800 Damsel Court, and in the 100 block Westway.

A purse was removed in the 7500 block Hanover Parkway after a window was broken and a pocketknife was taken from a possibly unlocked vehicle in the 200 block Lakeside Drive. Finally, in the 6000 block Greenbelt Road, the person advised that surveillance footage showed a man get out of a red Nissan Pathfinder and hit his windshield, cracking it.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

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Greenbelt Nursery School Open House

Registration for Fall 2019
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Two, three, and five days a week. Low child to staff ratio.
Full day educational programs available.

Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road
301-474-5570 www.greenbeltnurseryschool.org



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