



**GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #352

## GPCA Newsletter

January 2015

### Next Meeting: Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

*GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.*

*Check us out on the web- www.gpca.net*

#### **State of the District**

At our general meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Councilman Julian Jones, jr. to provide us with an overview of what's been happening in District 4 in his first year in office. Likewise we hope to get a look at what lies ahead in 2016 as the CZMP proceeds. Come with your questions and concerns for our community, our district and our county.

#### **JANUARY ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

An election will be held at our general meeting on January 11, 2016. Per our GPCA bylaws, January is election month for officers and directors. For 2016 the current board offers the following slate of candidates:

President – Butch Oakman

Vice President – George Jones

Treasurer – Maribeth Diemer

Secretary – Denise Maranto

Director- Marty Kelley – for 3 year term  
expiring January 2019

Current Directors Bruce Mezger and Barb Warnock are serving 3 year terms that expire in January 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Nominations of other candidates will also be taken from the floor on the evening of the election. Candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election.

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#### **From Your Departing Editor**

It has been 6 years exactly since I took over from Brenda Logue as editor of this newsletter. My first issue was for February 2010 (see **Blast from the Past** inside this issue) and a snowstorm slowed the mail delivery so that the newsletter did not arrive before the meeting date. There have been other such hassles but all in all it's been a good experience. I've made lots of friends and I've felt that I made a contribution to this community.

I still plan to remain active and will lend a helping hand to Marie Cignatta, your new editor. I want to thank Marie for stepping up to this challenge. I also want to thank the stalwart team of women who came every month to my home to help assemble the newsletter for delivery. For our last gathering all the regulars were present: Eileen Ciechanowski, Marie Cignatta, Gail Collins, Sandy Fallin, Marty Kelley, Alice Kloetzil, Murf Moorefield, Kathy Skullney, and Jackie Webster.

I also want to thank the printers. Anne Grant printed this newsletter when I first started and though I don't remember when the transition happened, Paul Dorsey took it over and has done a hero's job with it.

For our advertisers, thanks for your support of GPCA. Please refer to the last page for information on how to get your ads and payments to the new editor.

Finally, I was astounded by the generosity of the Board with the parting gift given to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for that and your support throughout my tenure as editor.

Marcia Brown

#### **From the President**

##### **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

I hope your holiday was safe, festive, and full of time spent with family and friends. At the December meeting we discussed the appointment of Cathy Wolfson as Baltimore County 4<sup>th</sup> District Planning Board Member. Congratulations Cathy! We look forward to working with you. With her new appointment, Cathy has stepped down as GPCA Treasurer after 3 years of dedicated work. I hope I can speak for all GPCA members when I say "Thank you, Cathy". Also, at that meeting Cathy Wolfson head of the nominating committee reviewed slate of nominees for the January 2016 Officer and Board of Directors election. If anyone is interested in submitting a nomination, please contact Cathy Wolfson.

2016 CZMP petitions were discussed and at this time only one has been published on the county web site. GPCA expects more petitions for up-zoning to follow. In reference to the "Patapsco Glen Development", some GPCA residents that signed up at the original community input meeting received a packet of material for a Development Plan Conference Hearing. See article inside for more information on that hearing. Also the Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) report was given. Marie Cignatta attended the first of many meetings in my stead. If anyone is interested in improving our streams, expanding (continued on page 2)

**A big thank you to all who brought goodies to the December GPCA Holiday Party.** Please forgive us if we fail to mention all who contributed. These are the ones we know of: Kevin Farmer - apple pie, Murf Moorefield -Jicama & apples, Butch Oakman - chocolate cake, Bruce Mezger - brownies, Marie Cignatta - blondies, Marty Kelley - ginger cookies, plates/napkins, drinks, Gail Collins - candy & vegetable tray, George Jones - chicken, Marcia Brown - pumpkin pie and Jackie Webster – cookies.

### From the President – continued from page 1

forest areas along streams, tree plantings, stream clean-ups and stream restoration, please contact me directly. I will explain details about the project, which is with the county's Dept. of Environmental Protection and Sustainability.

As we bring 2015 to a close I would like to thank a few people for their dedication to GPCA. Marcia Brown is stepping down as our newsletter editor after 6 years. She has done an exceptional job. Marie Cignatta is also stepping down from being secretary to become newsletter editor. Marie was secretary for 5 years. I want to thank Vice-President George Jones, and Board Members Marty Kelley, Bruce Mezger, Barbara Warnock, and publisher Paul Dorsey. Everyone has been dedicated and worked hard to preserve our rural way of life. And lastly I want to thank all the GPCA residents who participated in activities ranging from the community trash clean-up to our annual picnic and parade. Let see if we can continue our great work through 2016. It is important to our community.

Butch Oakman

### GPCA and Night of Peace

By Cathy Wolfson

GPCA's Santa George Jones delighted about a dozen children at the Night of Peace Family shelter on Windsor Mill Road on the evening of December 17th. Assisted by his young resident helper, Robert, Santa distributed many toys and gifts to the residents. The younger children couldn't take their eyes off him, but turned shy and nervous when it was their turn to sit on Santa's lap. The older ones sat readily and relished their one on one time with Mr. Claus. Happy moms snapped photos to treasure and share with their families and all the children joined in to sing Jingle Bells with Santa.

Thank you George for stepping up to make Christmas memorable for the women and children at Night of Peace. And thanks too, to all of you who donated items for the shelter at GPCA's Holiday celebration on December 14th.

Night of Peace personnel were glad to receive so many things that were on their wish list including children and adult socks, gloves, children's pajamas, slippers and a jacket. Cleaning supplies including disinfecting wipes, hand wipes, dish detergent, bleach and Lysol. Household items such as latex gloves, floor wipes, Corelle china, wash cloths, plastic cups, 2 sets of twin sheets, bath mat, 2 sleeping bags, tea towels and flatware. There were also lots of food like canned tuna fish and chicken, beef stew, soups, a variety of fruits and vegetables, pasta, flour, sugar, honey, peanut butter, crackers, coffee, parmesan cheese, hot cocoa, applesauce and syrup. Other items included feminine products, dictionaries, thesaurus, Yahtzee, puzzles, stickers and other toys and games. Thanks to all

of you who helped make the holiday a little better for families in and around our own neighborhood!

### Patapsco Glen Development Plan Hearing

The Hearing for the planned development of 368 townhouses at 7726 Johnnycake Road within the boundaries of the Patapsco Granite Community plan is scheduled for:

Date: Friday, January 22, 2016 10 am to 11 am

Location: Jefferson Building, Room 205, 105 West Chesapeake Ave., Towson, MD 21204

PAI Number: 01-0584

Tracking Number: MAJ-2015-00003

Engineer: Colbert, Matz & Rosenfelt, Inc. Phone: 410-653-3838

Contact: Darryl D. Putty email: DPPutty@baltimorecountymd.gov Phone: 410-887-3321

Please visit Baltimore County's Citizen Access site for more information about this development <https://citizenaccess.baltimorecountymd.gov/CitizenAccess/> and contact a GPCA board member if you're interested in attending the hearing.

### GPCA Newsletter - Blast from the Past

*This article first appeared in the GPCA Newsletter  
in February 2010*

#### JANUARY MEETING RECAPPED

Twenty plus members attended the meeting, greeted each other warmly and proceeded with the agenda, beginning with reading of the minutes (no December minutes due to Woodstock Job Corp holiday party) and the Treasurers report.

President Wright opened the discussion and election of 2010 Officers; the slate was voted upon and approved. New officers are

President: Cathy Wolfson;

Vice President Bruce Mezger;

Treasurer: Marty Kelley;

Secretary: Ralph Wright;

Board Members: Clarence Harrell & Jakob Goodmuth and another to be announced later.

Several attendees offered congratulatory comments to the outgoing and incoming officers.

President Wolfson, assumed leadership of the meeting.

Status was provided on the Restoring Life International Church (Windsor Mill Road south side, of Rolling Road crossways from the Jesus House Church and new housing development) petition to request a special zoning exception to allow impervious surface in excess of the Rural Conservation zoning. It was announced the Baltimore County Zoning Commissioner/Hearing Officer granted the Church's special exception request. Any appeal of this decision must be taken within thirty (30) days from December 29, 2009. A motion was introduced and accepted that authorizes GPCA to appeal the decision.

Other discussion topics included:

Deadline for advertisements and articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

The February issue's deadline is January 20<sup>th</sup>!

Next Meeting Monday, January 11th at 7:30, Granite Presbyterian Church (10637 Old Court Road), lower level.

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Greater-Patapsco-Community-Association/411421142275406](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Greater-Patapsco-Community-Association/411421142275406)

- Soliciting volunteers to assist with community environmental clean-up of streams, roads and parks.
- Randallstown High School partnership with community services hours focus on aiding GPCA with their newsletter distribution.
- Introduction of Marcia Brown, our new newsletter editor. Thank-you Marcia! Huge accolades went to Brenda Logue, our Editor for past three (3) years, who performed extraordinary. Thank-you Brenda!
- Petty crime; cars were recently vandalized on Windsor Mill and Village Green Drive. Encourage all to be vigilant and contact the Police when crimes have been committed.
- Proposed future guest speakers included the County Taxation and Assessment and Department, elected officials both current and potential candidates, Census Bureau, Recycling Department, local school administrators, local entrepreneurs, and Federal spokesperson regarding Hernwood Avenue former NIKE site.
- Kudos to Woodstock Job Corp for hosting the December meeting and providing caroling, refreshments and just a good old time.

Meeting ended with acts of fellowship, refreshments and request to encourage more residents to become involved and attend future meetings.

### **Biography on Secretary Candidate**

Denise Maranto is running for secretary of the GPCA. She has lived in the area for 35 years at the northern border of the GPCA on Rices Lane. Denise is a grandmother with a teenaged grandson. She enjoys the pristine rural character of her neighborhood. She has helped out on many occasions by attending hearings, testifying, writing letters, and looking out for the environment. Recently, she gathered signatures on a petition to bring a law that circumvents the zoning process to referendum so the voters can have a say. She has written articles for the newsletter to let the community know about an issue of concern on Rices Lane. She is civic minded and eager to serve the GPCA by being their secretary.

[*Maribeth Diemer will provide her biography orally at the meeting prior to elections.*]

### **Baltimore County Code of Discharging Firearms**

by Butch Oakman

In the President's article for December, I stated that one of the topics for November's General Meeting was target shooting on private property in Baltimore County. Some GPCA residents over the years have had concerns about the discharging of firearms in their neighborhood. I did some research and found the county code that will clear up some questions as to what is allowed. There are also Maryland Hunting regulations that can be viewed through the Department of Natural Resources web site. You can obtain a printed copy where hunting licenses are sold, titled "Maryland Guide to Hunting & Trapping".

Here are some important hunting prohibitions: 1) Hunting any game bird or mammal under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drug; 2) Hunting or Trapping on private land without written permission of the land owner; 3) Hunting on Sundays w/ exceptions; 4) Having a loaded firearm in, on, or leaning against any vehicle. This includes ammunition in the magazine or muzzleloader ready to fire; 5) Shooting on, from or across any public road; 6) Hunting, trapping or shooting at wildlife within 150 yards of an

occupied building or camp without the permission of the owner or occupant; 7) Discharging a firearm within 300 yards of a public or nonpublic school while hunting. This prohibition only applies during school hours or when the building is occupied. This safety zone does not apply to colleges, universities, or home schools.

**A special thanks** to Paul Dorsey who printed this issue. And to these volunteers who assembled the December issue for mailing: Eileen Ciechanowski, Marie Cignatta, Gail Collins, Sandy Fallin, Marty Kelley, Alice Kloetzil, Murf Moorefield, Kathy Skullney, and Jackie Webster.

### **GHS Attribution Missing**

In the December newsletter issue the Granite Historical Society notice about the 2015 Christmas ornament failed to acknowledge the artwork of Bob Teller of St. Paul Avenue. Ornaments are still available for purchase by calling Jim Farmer 410-655-6428.

### **December in Review**

*We got our tree the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and it sat in the back of the truck a couple of days before we brought it in to the house. Of course the first strand of lights had a problem, not lighting up then lighting only part of the way. It was a few days until we got to finding another strand amid all the old things we own to decorate with. One step at a time is the way things get done around here. A few ornaments are added, and then we just don't get back to it for weeks.*

*But at least we have a lighted tree in our living room. And then John gets the lights around the front porch set to a timer, and hopefully he will get the inflatable penguin up before the holidays are over. As evening chores are finished, I can see lights starting up around the neighborhood. Particularly the house across from the alpaca paddock. It has a blinking display and I see the alpacas sitting in that corner staring up the hill. It is sunset and John is late calling them in for dinner. They remind me of our two little dogs sitting at the end of our bed and "watching" TV with faces on paws or a wad of blanket.*

*Not everyone lights up the front of their house, but enough people do so that a trip to the grocery store after dark is novel in December. Enough of an effort battling the dark of the year to bring a smile. And this year with December being generally so mild and seldom dropping below freezing, outdoor decorations help set the mood for the holidays.*

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I have had ample opportunity to sit with the lighted tree in the living room this December because I had three foster puppies for a couple of weeks. John always gets up way early in the dark of the morning. That usually does not affect me. But once he hits the kitchen, I can hear the whimpering puppies in their overnight crate. They want out, they want breakfast. Many of those mornings, I ease my way down the stairs, fixing their breakfast, setting up the ex-pen and putting a coffee mug under the Keurig drip. It feels like one sweeping movement with eyes half closed. In a rush of eager puppy excitement, they come tumbling out of the crate and go charging to their food bowls in the ex-pen. I close the gate behind their little wiggly, tail wagging bottoms and go to my chair in the living room with the first cup of coffee. It is two hours until sunrise.

I do not wake up fast. In the dimness of the living room with fire in woodstove and tree lit in the corner, I start my first list of the day as the fog clears my brain. This being awake at 5:30 am is an odd thing for me. Some mornings I can do no more than just sit. Others, I finish that one cup and go to the kitchen to organize what we will have for supper, or to make soup, or to bake some sweet thing. I have some gift projects that I work on a little each day. I wrap a few presents in the living room with the mood set by the tree. So much industry before sunrise does wear me out.

But it was the second week of this early rising with puppies that while I sat in the living room, the garbage truck came by. I am grateful that there is waste removal and people who ride around in the dark to take a week's worth of refuse away. I do think it is a tough job, being out in the weather every week of the year. But suddenly I thought it must be nice for them to see all the Christmas lights before the sun comes up in the month of December.

I grew up with Christmas trees and Santa Claus and driving around town at night to see how people had decorated their yards. I questioned getting a live tree in my young married days and so we bought an artificial one that served our family for 25 years. Then we went small, and table top. Then I met Jamie Condon and found my way to Snowball's Chance tree farm. Now our family has a new tradition of going and getting trees for our two local households.

There have been phases in our culture to decry live trees as a waste. That we need to conserve energy and not decorate with outdoor lights. That some sectors are uncomfortable with certain holiday expressions because expressing personal belief publicly somehow infringes on someone else's personal belief. And the constant pessimism about the commercialization of these holidays.

As I sit with my coffee and my Christmas tree in the dark mornings of December, I wonder about "O Tannenbaum" and why those Germans would go out and cut down a tree to bring into their house. They did not have strings of lights back then. How many house fires were caused by lighting candles on an evergreen? But nonetheless, I like it, I like traditions, I like the celebration of light and life in the darkest part of the year.

And then we throw away the wrapping paper and boxes that brought us new stuff. The outdoor lights get unplugged, eventually the tree comes down. We are in the New Year, hopefully refreshed by a tradition that we grew up with, a touchstone. Remembering who we are by how we have celebrated, and carrying forward.

And, of course, thankful that we have the services of the waste removal company.

Brenda Creighton

## Membership News

Thanks for the support of your membership dues received from October 21, 2015 – December 20, 2015. We appreciate the renewals of members Ted and Joanne Imes and Merlowe Henry and Bob Mertes! And we welcome new members Gary and Nichole Plowman.

Memberships received after the 20<sup>th</sup> of December will be posted in the February newsletter. You can also use the form on the back of this newsletter to join. Membership questions? Contact me, Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or [oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net). If you're outside of our bulk mail delivery area and wish to receive the newsletter please mail your name, address and payment of \$6 to cover postage for an annual subscription of 11 issues (no July issue) to GPCA, PO Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163. THANKS!! Cathy Wolfson, Treasurer

## What's Happening in the Area

### At the Howard County Conservancy:

Jan. 9: Wildflowers of Howard Co. (free)

Jan 21: Owls: Souls of the Night 7pm \$

More information? [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org)

Phone: 410-465-8877

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**At the Carrie Murray Nature Center:**

Jan 9: Who Polluted the Potomac  
 Jan 16: Recycle Everything  
 Jan 30: Winter Wild tracks  
 More information? Phone: 410-396-0808  
[www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org](http://www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org)

**At the Patapsco Valley State Parks:**

Jan 1: Sunrise Hike-Soldiers Delight Free  
 Jan 1: First Day Hike-McKeldin Free  
 Jan 9: Stargazing-Soldier's Delight  
 Jan 18: Winter Buffet-Soldier's Delight Free  
 Jan 23: Tracks in the Snow-Soldier's Delight \$  
 Jan 27: Animal Lecture-Crows, Soldier's Delight  
 More information? Phone: 410-461-5005  
 Email: park-patapsco@dnr.state.md.us

**An Observation**

Today was one of those unseasonably warm December days, so immediately after getting home from school, I kicked the kids out of the house to "run off some energy" and enjoy the weather for an hour or so before tackling homework. I went about my indoor chores, throwing a load of laundry in the washing machine, unloading the dishwasher, and picking up the house a little bit. As I walked past the upstairs window, something caught my eye...my 6 year-old son in the middle of the pasture with 5 horses.

Now, my daughter who is 8 years old, has taken riding lessons for a few years, rides the trails with me and my friends, and like many 8 year-old girls, lives and breathes everything pony! So, had this been HER in the pasture, I wouldn't have given it a second thought. But, this is my baby out there, all by himself. As I started to raise the window to holler at him to get out of there, I paused for a moment....and watched. I watched him...his actions and his body movements. Then, I watched the horses in the same fashion. I saw contented horse ears, and rear legs cocked in relaxation, not high alert. I watched this little boy, move around these half-ton animals with respect and gentleness and love. I watched him run his hands along their sides, up over their hindquarters (as high as his little arms could reach), and around their tails as he walked directly behind them, touching them the entire time, like you're supposed to do. Then, he moved to the next horse and did the same thing all over again. The horses all quietly waited their turn, even the nasty old pony who, typically isn't fond of touching/petting/physical contact at all. None of the horses pushed another out of the way, spun and ran, or dominated the situation.

At that moment, I realized that I was not only watching something truly sweet and tender; but I realized that for years, my son has been watching me! This is how I act around the horses! Of course he's

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taken a few riding lessons; but with a 6 year-old boy's attention span he moved onto other sports quickly. So, certainly, from even the first few lessons, he knows cardinal horse care rules like "no running, no yelling, horses kick, etc." But what I was watching was a feeling that he had, an understanding of how to treat an animal. Is it because he sees his sister and I do it daily? Is that much really sinking in?

So now, it has become crystal clear to me that it is a parent's duty to be a proper role model. Though they're in school and in organized sports, kids are still learning fundamentals from their parents, whether they are positive or negative. They're learning how to treat people, how to take care of and value things, and how to enjoy the rewards that come from hard work on the farm, or in the house. So, in a culture and a world where the elders are complaining about the next generation being lazy, ill motivated and ignorant, let's look at who is really at fault—the parents. Parents are turning their kids into nugget eating, video game playing, ignorant little lumps with little personality and less manners. It's easier to "give in" than to put up a fight, whether it be making kids try new foods, or teaching them how to properly speak to someone who asks them a question. "Oh, she's just a teenager," shouldn't be an accepted excuse for a bad attitude. I'm sure that attitude was "smacked" out of me more than a few times.

So, understanding that if my children continue to emulate me, they'll probably get in trouble in school for cussing and cracking jokes; but they'll also learn that you only get out of life what you put into it. They'll learn how to take care of animals, finding and sometimes crossing that fine line between pets, livestock and food. They'll learn that they should ALWAYS go out of their way to help neighbors and friends. And they'll learn that everything can be made better with a smile.....and a glass of wine.

Jamie Condon

**PERSONAL ADS**

**FOR RENT:** 2 bedroom basement apartment in Granite, \$950/month includes utilities, available January 1<sup>st</sup> Call 410-948-0390

**FOR RENT** Single Family Home. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1400 sq. ft., 2-story. Remodeled inside and out. Hardwood floors, washer and dryer, new furnace. Located in Woodstock/Granite in Baltimore County near Patapsco Park. 20 minute commute to Columbia. Dogs okay. \$1475 plus utilities. Please email to schedule a showing. [Mcsansone45@hotmail.com](mailto:Mcsansone45@hotmail.com)



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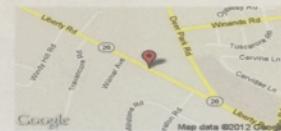
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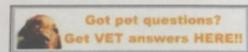
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P.O. Box 31  
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## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Meeting - MONDAY, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>: ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
and STATE OF THE DISTRICT  
Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>: Our Planning Board Rep

Please print                   **GPCA**  
**Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly membership dues:  
Joint - \$30 Individual - \$20

I'm new in the community.

**Mail completed application and check to:**  
**GPCA, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163**

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GPCA reserves the right to accept or refuse advertising.

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**Payments for ads:** Make check payable to GPCA and send to Editor, Marie Cignatta, 5 Morning Mist Court, Woodstock, MD 21163 prior to publication deadline. Checks should indicate ad size and months to be published.

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**For articles and letters:** These submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. Deadline for these is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to publication. GPCA reserves the right to accept, reject, edit, or hold for a subsequent newsletter any submission.