



GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #382

GPCA Newsletter

October 2018

Next Meeting: Monday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.

Meet the Baltimore County Executive Candidates

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

View our Website at www.gpca.net

Stream Watcher Training at September Meeting

At our September meeting, we welcomed Hannah Zinnert from the Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG). She presented an abbreviated training on becoming a stream watcher and the importance of regularly monitoring our waterways and documenting the findings. PHG has a proven record and rallies thousands of volunteers each year to cleanup trash, remove invasive species, and plant trees to support its mission to preserve and protect the natural resources of the Patapsco River Valley. Bob Teller and members of the Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) have taken the full training and will work with GPCA volunteers to monitor Ben's Run, Brice Run, and Daniel's Run. SWCC and volunteers plan to protect our streams in this flood-prone, environmentally sensitive area, and provide hard data about the effect of zoning and development on our waterways, all of which flow into the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay. SWCC plans to fund the program with PHG and state grants for water monitoring kits, native plants, and other necessary supplies.

Unfiltered storm water from impervious surfaces runs directly into local waterways. The resulting runoff causes bank erosion and deposits trash, toxins, and sediments in once healthy waterways. The two main nutrients flushed into local streams, rivers, and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay--nitrogen and phosphorus--are a natural part of an ecosystem in moderation. However, excesses cause algae blooms that decompose, use up oxygen in the water, and kill the native aquatic animals and plant life. These areas become "dead zones".

Stream watchers look for concerns along our streams and document the findings. The first report is detailed and establishes a baseline of the health of the waterway. Future reports are easily completed and given to PHG to act upon as necessary. The reports identify areas suited to alleviate threats by cleanups, tree plantings, and removal of invasive species. PHG provides the trees. Recent tree plantings included cherry trees, river birch, elm, and red maple. Planted trees are watched and monitored for 3 years.

Common concerns include illegal dumping, human or pet waste, lack of bank vegetation, bank erosion, and invasive plants. Stream watchers should not contact biological hazardous waste (dirty diapers, dead animals, or animal droppings). Lack of bank vegetation is an issue because fish need cool water to reproduce, and stream banks need shade. Invasive plants take over and disrupt the ecosystem. They can prevent needed shade or keep native aquatic plants from thriving.

PHG emphasizes safety first. Stream monitors must wear gloves, carry a first aid kit, and be vigilant at all times. Be aware of property lines and do not trespass. [Stream Watcher continued on Page 5]

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President's Message

September has been a month of reflection for your GPCA board. At the request of a board member to eliminate a specific religious holiday from the Newsletter calendar on the back of each edition, the board passed a motion in August to eliminate all religious holidays from the calendar and adopt the Federal calendar. Fortunately, GPCA is NOT a government; we are members of a community with residents representing a broad spectrum of beliefs and faiths. And so, we rescinded the motion and you can look forward to our recognition of major religious as well as national holidays in future Newsletter issues.

All that's left to do to enjoy this Saturday's GPCA picnic is your attendance. Many state and county representatives and candidates have accepted our invitation and look forward to meeting you. This is your chance to socialize with them in a casual atmosphere and let them know what issues mean the most to you. Regrettably, I have a commitment I can't break that day, but know our best laid plans have been set and we invite you to enjoy a pleasant afternoon in McKeldin State Park with your friends, families and neighbors.

Past GPCA presidents, Kathy Skullney, Butch Oakman and I met with Arthur Adler of Security Ventures, LLC, and developer David Thaler on September 14 to discuss their proposal for using the property on Johnnycake Road, east of the Patapsco Glen townhouse development being built by Lennar. This 57.4 acre site, zoned IMBM, is split about 50/50 on either side of the BGE, now Excelon, gas pipeline. The proposal is for Lennar to build 262 additional townhouses for sale on the portion bordering Johnnycake. The remaining portion would continue unimproved open space and provide about a 27-acre buffer to the RC6 zoned properties it borders on Dogwood Road. If the site is developed, it would prohibit the extension of Security Boulevard from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to and beyond this site on Johnnycake Road, which has been proposed for some time. The suggested residential development also addresses a primary concern of ours that high impact commercial development would border our membership area. Currently, site

development has started on Patapsco Glen, to access public water and sewage and establish stormwater management for what will be a tremendous amount of runoff from impervious surfaces. We were told that construction of those residences could be as far as 2 years out. We will see.

On another front, regarding concerns about unsafe driving practices during some funeral processions witnessed on Dogwood Road, GPCA member Terilynn Murray relates that young people often respond differently to the loss of their peers and may understandably react in unconventional ways to reflect their grief. Unfortunately, that has included practices that can jeopardize public safety on our roadways. Terilynn has volunteered to act as GPCA liaison to King Memorial Park and will share some of her reasonable and constructive suggestions with their administrators in the months ahead. Thanks Terilynn!

It will be interesting to see what fall colors this summer's record rainfalls produces. No matter what, autumn in Granite, with our extensive hardwood forests always impresses.

Best regards, Cathy Wolfson, 410-245-8708

Neighborhood Notes

Keeping Alert:

A first degree burglary was reported in the 3000 block of Edrich Way on September 16. A dark blue older model van (extremely loud) was seen pulling into the driveway of the home. A black male suspect (20 to 30 years old, 6-0, 150 pounds) exited the van and began trying doors at the home. The suspect eventually entered the home through an open garage door. Three people home in the house hid in the upstairs, and the suspect exited the home within approximately 30 seconds with no items observed in his hands.

Officer Kristie Makowiecki of the Baltimore County Police Department urges all GPCA residents to take precautions. "Please be careful, and keep the doors and windows of your homes locked at all times, for the sake of safety. If you notice any suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, please call 911."

[More Neighborhood Notes]

Special Thanks To:

Paul Dorsey for printing the Newsletter each month.

Collators: Maribeth Diemer, Evalyn Garvin, and Bob Teller

Folders: Eileen Ciechanowski, Sandy Fallin, Evalyn Garvin, Marty Kelley, Murf Moorefield, and Bobbie Stanfield

Membership Renewals:

Please keep the renewals and new memberships coming. We need your voice and vote. Only paid members have the right to vote on issues brought to GPCA and the organization's response. Many thanks to the renewing and new members for your support!

2018 New Joint Membership: Randallstown Islamic Center

Renewing Joint Members: Brooks, Benjamin & Theresa; Morsberger, Chris & Wanda

Renewing Single Members: Cavero, Kathleen; Germain, Pamela

As of this issue, GPCA has 336 renewing members and 10 new members

Future GPCA Meetings:

October 8: Baltimore County Executive Candidates John Olszewski (D) and Al Redmer (R)

November 12: Supporting US Government Retiree's Perspective (to be confirmed)

December 10: GPCA Holiday Party – support Night of Peace

What speakers or topics would you like to see addressed at the GPCA meetings? Email your suggestions or concerns to: GPCA Communications: gpc21163@gmail.com or any board member.

Newsletter's New Editorial Address:

Please note that the *GPCA Newsletter* has a new editorial address. To contact the Newsletter editor, please use this email address:

EditorGPCANewsletter@gmail.com

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

Let the Leaves Lay

After you have put in your native plants, provided bee habitat, and done all sorts of good things to help the environment, what is next? I ask you to NOT rake or shred your leaves this year, and every year.

Downed leaves are food and shelter for butterflies, bees, moths, and more. The majority of butterflies and moths do not migrate, they overwinter right here in our yards. Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalis as dried leaves, blending in with the real leaves. Wooly bear caterpillars crawl into a pile of leaves for protection from cold and predators. Red banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the food for the caterpillars as they emerge in the spring. Mated queen bumblebees burrow an inch or two into the earth at the end of summer to hibernate and the leaves help to protect them over the winter. Other creatures living in the leaves include spiders, snails, worms, beetles, and others; all of whom provide food for chipmunks, turtles, birds, and amphibians.

Shredded leaves do not provide the same benefits as leaving the leaves whole. Shredding may destroy eggs, chrysalis, and caterpillars. If you feel you must clear your yard of leaves, rake them into a pile, or use them as free mulch. They provide valuable organic matter for healthy soil as well as keeping in moisture and providing protection for your plants. If you feel you need to remove the leaves in the spring, be sure to wait until things warm up to protect those small lives that are awakening in the Spring.

Murf Morefield

CLEANUP - DOGWOOD RD & DOGWOOD RUN STREAM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018
10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Organized by GPCA, with cooperation from Patapsco Heritage Greenway & Baltimore County Government, the CLEANUP includes two main efforts. Choose the one in which you want to participate:

Roadside cleanup, or-

Stream and bank cleanup along an Active Stream!

It is best to decide before so you have the proper clothing, footwear, etc.

WE ALWAYS KEEP SAFETY FIRST!!!

You'll need the following equipment:

- Sturdy Boots – waterproof suggested – **must** have for stream cleanup
- Eye protection – twigs, vines, brambles are everywhere
- Long Pants, & Long Sleeve Shirt
- Work Gloves

Things you might also like to have:

- Hat
- Insect Repent
- Water bottle

We will supply:

- Safety Vest
- Trash bags
- Latex gloves
- Some light snacks and beverages

MEET AND PARK:

7919 Dogwood Rd, Windsor Mill, MD 21244

- Access from Ridge Rd. /Rolling Rd. side of the Dogwood Run Bridge Closure/Detour
- Orange cones will mark the site
- Sign In and bring service learning forms

Thanks for Joining In. Let's have a fun and safe event!

Stream Watcher Training [Continued from Page 1]

Prior to inspecting any stream, know who owns the property. If on government land, get permission from the local federal, state, or county office. If on private property, the owner must sign a waiver giving permission to be there.

These stream concerns are emergencies and must be reported immediately: open sewer lids, sewage overflow, water main breaks, exposed utilities, massive debris jams, clogged or damaged outfall pipes, illicit discharge, and sediment control failure from construction sites. PHG contacts the appropriate government agencies to resolve the emergency. For more information or questions about our stream monitoring program or local watershed, visit www.patapsco.org.

We need your help with the clean stream initiative. Write to g pca21163@gmail.com, or contact any GPCA officer or director for the next steps. Many thanks to Ms. Hannah Zinnert for a great presentation! Hannah Zinnert's email is hzinnert@patapsco.org.

Denise Maranto

GPCA Nominating Committee

"Unless someone like YOU...cares a whole awful lot...nothing is going to get done...No, it's not."

The Autumn leaves are beginning to turn their lovely hues and already the GPCA Nominating Committee has an eye on the January 14, 2019 election of officers and directors. President, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and director are the positions to be filled. Terms expiring include President Cathy Wolfson and Director Butch Oakman.

Anyone interested in placing their name in nomination for any of the above positions should contact the Nominating Committee or any Board member. Please note that the GPCA by-laws require that an officer or board member has to be a dues-paying member for 6-months immediately preceding election. Officers are elected for a 1-year term and directors for 3-year terms. The president may serve for two consecutive 1-year terms, and may again become eligible after a 1-year lapse. This lapse period applies to no other Executive Board members.

Our GPCA Nominating Committee includes Terilynn Murray, Zulma Santiago, and Marty Kelley.

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7th Annual

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CRAB FEAST
FUNDRAISER**

Sunday, October 7 1-4 pm

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Tickets purchased at the door are \$50 each. Please make checks payable to IOOF and mail to:
Laurel or Sandy Shuman, 5648 Jacobs Court, Mt Airy, MD, 21771.

The costs of publishing the GPCA Newsletter are partially funded
by the IOOF lodge #57's donations, totaling \$250 year to date.



P.O. Box 31
Granite, MD 21163

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

GPCA Picnic – October 6, 2018
Columbus Day – October 8
Halloween – October 31

GPCA Membership Application We Need Your Voice!

Please Print:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

I'm new in the community or Renewal

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

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Cathy Wolfson 410-245-8708, oakknob@comcast.net

Vice President: George Jones 410-655-8307

Secretary: Denise Maranto 443-695-5409
denise.maranto@gmail.com

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GPCA ADVERTISING/ARTICLE/LETTER POLICY

GPCA reserves the right to accept, edit or refuse advertising.

To place an ad: Send the ad copy by email as a **pdf attachment to the Treasurer and Editor by the 20th of the month prior to publishing. Include information on the size desired.**

Payments for ads: Make check payable to GPCA and send to GPCA, P.O. Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163 **prior to publication deadline.** Checks must indicate ad size and months to be published. **No payment received = no ad placement.**

Rates and ad sizes: 1/8 page = \$15; 1/4 page = \$30; 1/2 page = \$50; full page = \$80. Personal ads up to one column inch: \$3 for GPCA members and \$5 for non-members. Ads should avoid excessive dark areas that do not copy well. Hard copy ads appear in black and white.

For articles and letters: Submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. Deadline for these is the 20th of the month previous to publication. The submission of any ad or article to the GPCA means you agree GPCA reserves the rights to accept, reject, edit, or hold submission for a future newsletter.