



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #264

GPCA Newsletter

April 2, 2008

Check us out at our website - <http://www.gpca.net/>

## April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting: County Guest

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month, except July and August, at 7:30PM at the Granite Presbyterian Church  
10637 Old Court Road (Just north of Hernwood Road)  
Non-members are encouraged to attend.

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### APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Guest from County

The Constituent Affairs Representative for the 4<sup>th</sup> District for Baltimore County – Julia Lynton-Brown – will be stopping by to introduce herself and her functions. This would be a good time to raise those questions that you have hesitated asking. **GET INVOLVED. IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY.**

The April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Road.

### RECAP: MINUTES OF MAR. 10<sup>th</sup> MEETING

There were some 28 members in attendance at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vice President Bruce Mezger chaired the meeting in the absence of President Ralph Wright. The usual business opened the meeting. Topping new business was a presentation by Carol Link who organizes the **Community Clean Up, to be held April 5**. Volunteers are always needed and should bring their own heavy duty gloves. Six dumpsters will be available during the day at the usual location, St. Alphonsus Church.

Other items included: The Refreshment Committee needs volunteers to bring desserts to the April and May meetings. Ideas for the general meeting programs were solicited. Anne Libis highlighted her visit to the State Reception on Feb. 18. Information was presented on the work on the Dogwood Road bridge over Ben's Run which will probably begin no sooner than Spring 2009. The smaller bridge to the east along Dogwood which crosses Dogwood Run will not begin until completion of the Ben's Run bridge. Work on

that bridge will probably be delayed until 2010.

The remainder of the meeting dealt with the upcoming Zoning meeting on March 13. Vice President Mezger fielded questions. He explained the differences between RC2 and RC6. The concept of "upzoning" was defined as increasing the density of housing development. When asked if different criteria would be used for approval of the different projects, it was indicated that all would be handled consistently. When asked if County Councilman Ken Oliver had a position on the zoning issues, the answer was that Oliver's position is tempered by his constituents. The GPCA Board's position is to stay neutral, but not support any upzoning. The answer to why churches were upzoning was that such a move would enhance the value of their property. An interesting comment was made that the County should partner with GPCA over RC6: the County created the RC6 designation, and GPCA appears to be enforcing it!

At the March 13<sup>th</sup> zoning meeting, approximately eight area residents will be speaking on behalf of the  
(cont. pg. 2)

**MEETING RECAP** (from pg. 1)

organization's position. A motion was made and seconded to oppose all upzoning of RC2 designation. The motion was unanimously passed.

Cathy Wolfson presented a sign as an example of what could be posted on community lawns, calling for opposition to upzoning. (SEE MOMENTUM ARTICLE). In the GPCA area and its nearby border, there are approximately 600 acres that can be upzoned.

*Summarized by Brenda Logue from minutes by Elaine Rasheed*

## MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM ZONING 2008

GPCA had a good turnout at the March 13<sup>th</sup> District 4 CZMP Hearing before the Planning Board. In addition to GPCA members who testified on our behalf, there was a great deal of positive testimony from other community groups in our district. There was also a lot of audience support for our positions opposing up-zoning of current Rural Conservation classifications, and those requests which would breach the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL).

The next public hearing will be held in three months before the County Council, on June 26<sup>th</sup>, at New Town Senior High School in Owings Mills at 7:00 p.m.

Our Councilman, Kenneth N. Oliver, will be offering constituents an opportunity to informally meet with him regarding zoning issues. Please take the time to make your opinion known. The dates and location are:

- Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30p.m. – 8:30p.m., at New Town High School Library
- Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p.m. – 8:30p.m., at Woodlawn Library
- Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30p.m. – 8:30p.m., at Randallstown Library

The zoning petitioners have requested 600 acres for up-zoning within and near the boundaries of our Association. The largest up-zoning requests in Baltimore County are in District 4, our district!

As Councilman Oliver said in a recent letter to community leaders:

*"Please know that the County Council will vote on and adopt the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process Maps on Tuesday, August 26, 2008. Rest assured that I will keep every concern in mind before making the final zoning decision."*

We can continue to be heard and keep our message on the minds of the decision makers.

Signs have been used effectively by other local organizations to raise awareness and keep the issue on the everyone's mind. Note how aware we've become of the petitioners' signs requesting zoning changes!

Please consider placing the following sign in your yard, on private property:



GPCA will purchase 50 signs for distribution. A donation of \$5 per sign would help defray some of the cost. We can arrange for more of the signs as it becomes necessary.

Please support this effort and help make Councilman Oliver aware of our position so that our silence is not mistaken for apathy.

For a sign, please contact Cathy Wolfson at 410-944-1040 or [oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net) for more information.

*GPCA Board*

## GPCA BOARD MEMBERS TO MEET COUNTY COUNCILMAN KEN OLIVER

At the time of writing of the GPCA Newsletter, several GPCA Board members were to meet with County Councilman Ken Oliver to hear from him about current zoning matters and to discuss GPCA's position on upzoning. The meeting was to take place on Wednesday, March 26, at 3 p.m. at the Liberty Family Resource Center, Resource Drive.

*Brenda Logue*

**LIBERTY ROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**  
**INVITES ALL TO ITS OPEN HOUSE:**

**Engine Rides, Clowns, Kids' Amusement Rides,  
 Demonstrations, Food, and More**

The Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Department (LRVFD) is the first company "on call" when there is an emergency call to our neighborhood. The company supports our community in other ways such as participating in the Edrich Christmas party and the Granite Historical Society picnic. Several members of LRVFD live in our community.

On Saturday, April 26, **LRVFD is having an Open House.** The community is invited from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.. Deer Park Road will be closed behind the Station that day. There will be children's activities which include amusement rides and clowns. All ages can have rides on the Fire Engine and see emergency and live rescue demonstrations. Of course, there will be food including barbequed pit beef.

**LIBERTY ROAD VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT US;  
 SUPPORT THEIR OPEN HOUSE, APRIL 26.**

*Input from Bob Reisdorf*

**2008 MARYLAND GLOBAL WARMING  
 SOLUTIONS BILL -- INFORM YOURSELF**

The Maryland General Assembly comes to an end on April 7, 2008. By the time this Newsletter reaches you, the status of the 2008 MD Global Warming Solutions Bill may already be decided. This bill is considered landmark legislation, mirroring the State of California in seeking to reduce carbon emissions. Its goal is to reduce carbon emissions in Maryland by 25% by 2020 and 90% by 2050. The Dept. of the Environment is called upon to develop plans, adopt regulations, and implement programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As of March 25, 2008, the Senate side of the bill had been approved with an amendment that would require the Dept. of Environment to seek legislative approval for any steps it wants to take to reduce carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions. The bill was sent to the House for consideration. An early version of the bill had had the support of Governor Martin O'Malley.

On March 24, environmentalists drew a blue chalk line across Main Street in Annapolis to demonstrate where high water marks might rise in Annapolis, if melting ice sheets around Greenland continue. The point was to demonstrate that dozens of shops and

restaurants in the Annapolis harbor area would be flooded.

Inform yourself of Maryland's attempt to cope with greenhouse gases and global warming by checking the status of SB309 at [www.mlis.state.md.us](http://www.mlis.state.md.us). If it is not too late to make your voice known this year, contact Sen. Delores Kelley, one of the bill's sponsors, at 410-841-3606, or one of our delegates, Adrienne A. Jones at 410-841-3391.

*Article idea from Constance Boyce  
 Brenda Logue*

**Membership News**

WELCOME....New Members: Mike & Laura Espey of Dogwood Road, James Mikles of Granite Road, Joe & Patti Neuhoof of Harvest Fields Road, John & Chantel Paire, and Fil Sibley & Barbara Thompson of Hernwood Road, Delegate Adrienne Jones of Peddicot Court, Mark & Linda Young of Persimmon Tree Court, Robert Johnson, Jr. of Ridge Road, Greg Vetter of St. Paul Avenue, Jayaseelan & Saramma Sigamoney of Slalom Run Drive, Mark & Linda Butler of Spring Heath Court and Anthony & Beverly Scroggins of Windsor Mill Road. Membership Renewals received this past month: Richard Asen & Charlotte Kohler, Richard & Susan Baldwin, Jeff & Patty Bayer, Chuck & Sandy Beam, Mike & Jean Berg, Susan Boehm, John & Susan Brantley, Otho & Dorothy Brown, Rodney & Melody Butler, Walter & Joan Caton, John & Marie Cignatta, Peter & Amy Cohn, Richard & Gail Collins, Dan & Gail Conaway, David & Kristen Conord, Barbara Costello, Thomas Cox, Jr., William & Cynthia Cox, Joe & Chris Culotta, Wayne & Suzanne Deitz, Bill Deitz, Maurice & Evelyn Dixon, Ron & Kathy Dorman, Paul & Shirley Dorsey, Mac & Linda Ensor, Ernest & Dorothy Farmer, Mike Filipczak & L.A. Brickner, Victor & Elizabeth Fiorino, Dot Ford, Ron & Betty Freeland, Hilton & Margaret Friend, Carl & Wendy Geppert, Gloe & Catherine Gnagey, Evelyn Golden, Marco & Judy Grados, Tim Green & Judith Hippert, Randy Grill & Sherri Sellers, Dick & Jackie Hall, Michael & Jane Hargadon, Barbara Harris, Bill & Joan Heit, Mike & Brigitte Hisky, Eric & Joan Hite, Dorsey & Patricia Hoggard, James & Ruth Holmes, Chris & Melissa Izydore, Arthur & Sharon Jackson, John & Mary Jacob, Joe & Kathy Jenkins, George & Diana Jones, Kevin & Nicole Jones, Norman & Gloria Karolenko, Tom & Peggy King, Mike Kosko, The Rev. Joseph P. Lacey, SJ, Kim Landsman, Stephen & Nichole Lee, Kenyon & Christina Lewis, John & Marge Mackey, Peter Malinovsky, T.J. & Irvina Mallory, Buss Marr, Mark & Dawn Marszal, William Masemore, Larry & Sarah Mathena, Drew & Becky McCarriar, Cornelius & Rosa McCoy, Mark & Donna McDermott, Barbara McKnight, James & Carol McNamara, (cont. pg. 4)

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS** (cont. pg. 3)

Joe & Helen McNeal, Carl & Patricia Miceli, Gwen Miller, James & Linda Miller, Craig & Zada Mullins, Jackie & Joyce Myster, Pat Newell & Wendy Keller, Mel & Sandy Parker, Paul & Barbara Peles, James & Pamela Peters, Alan & Lisa Postell, Jim Raistrick & Andrea DeSanti, Aston & Gretel Ramsay, Bill & Dawn Randall, George & Marie Rayburn, Troy & Kelly Regan, Dennis Reitz, Pamela Rhodes, Steve & Lauren Rifkin, Roz Roddy, Anna Ruark, Troy & Linda Samuels, Ortiz & Zulma Santiago, Lee & Iris Sassi, George & Donna Sauter, Steven Shade, Howard & Catherine Shanklin, Bill & Kathy Skullney, Bill & Dotty Shoemaker, James & Carol Simmons, Mark & Diana Smith, Sydney Smith, Thomas Smith, Ed & Dee Dee Smoot, Mark & Terri Stafford, Dick & Bobbie Stanfield, Edward & Brantley Stanfield, Steven & Mary Anne Stengler, Paul & Nanette Stesch, John & Barbara Strong, Dale & Sarah Swan, Bob Teller & Maribeth Diemer, Fernand & Odette Tersiguel, Charles & Evora Thomas, Pat Traylor, & Charlotte Gianforte, Bill & Jean Turner, Dr. Emerson & Nancy Walden, Jim & Marguerite Walker, Ronald & Nancy Wallace, Greg Welsh & Marian Iannuzzi, David & Arlene Wilder, Jack & Mildred Wilson, Rodney & Carol Wyndham and.....Jeffrey & Cathy Yochelson. Thank you ALL.....several sent a little extra for our budget.....Thank You!

***Congratulations: To Romy and Jason Ludwig on the birth of Jonah (8 lbs 4 oz) and (8 lbs 7 oz) on March 17, 2008.***

*Marty Kelley, Treasurer*

***Spring Planting***

Having been either fooled or inspired the mild weather this winter and the early time change (spring forward), this was the year I was going to be the one to get those spring crops into the garden. The snap peas, the lettuce, the onion sets, and the greens. Although planting potatoes failed us the other time we tried it here, I bought my seed potatoes and cut them up, hoping for a Good Friday planting.

I turned the dirt, finding worms, smoothed out the lumps and let it set while I did other things around the farm, coming back to planting several times. Once the onion sets, another the lettuce seeds. A day later I drew rows in the dirt and pushed in pea seeds in pairs, thinking how I do things the way I was taught when I was young. An instinctive return to early training. And I wonder how the Pahls did it, our local 'professional' vegetable growers.

Amazingly, I had a flat of lettuce sets, something I had come across at the auction and could not resist. My Midwestern roots scoff at the idea of not direct seeding lettuce, but my Maryland experience has taught me that hot weather comes too soon and lettuce goes bitter and bolts way before I am done with it.

Planting a garden is a hopeful activity. One where you expect seeds to sprout and weather to cooperate. That a frost doesn't burn early plantings. That rain will come, but not wash the seeds out of the ground. That the sun will shine in between so seeds don't rot or leaves don't mildew. It is all given up to chance in recognition of the number of things you can't control. But you can put the seeds into the ground and create an opportunity for produce.

The next step is either a cold frame or frost guard row covers. Accepting technology in order to be a little more successful at a traditional practice, producing food.

Everyone eats. Everyone eats everyday. Yet very few of my neighbors with their expansive lawns grow any food. In fact, some of the Homeowners Associations have "outlawed" gardens, or at least made them very difficult to place in the best spot for growing. And for all the meat eaters that live in Granite, very few people can raise their own. It is fortunate that we have the Sauters, the Mathenas, and the Strohmers nearby. We don't have to worry where our beef comes from if we use our local resources. I don't expect to get a call from Mt. Airy Meat Locker telling me to bring my half a cow back because the SPCA was filming slaughter up there.

While my little garden may not be so successful in actually feeding me, it does remind me of the difficulty of production, and how long it takes from seed to table. And the necessity of hope.

*Brenda Creighton*

***Hummingbirds Alert from Marty Kelley:***

Hummingbird Feeders can be hung as early as April 15th.

**EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22****38 years young!**

There are nationwide events planned for Earth Day 2008. One of the largest and nearest us will be April 18-20 on the National Mall in Washington, DC. This will be the third annual Green Apple Festival which features a weekend of music and environmental activities culminating on Sunday, April 20. Eight free festival will be held simultaneously across the US at landmark locations: Central Park in NYC, Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Fair Park in Dallas, TX, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles, and Bicentennial Park in Miami, FL. The festivals are produced by the Earth Day Network (EDN) and presented by Chase. EDN is the non-profit organization created by the founders of Earth Day in 1970.

Other activities by the EDN include a school project with Hands on Network to encourage "green" projects in all schools. Lobbying efforts will also occur on the Hill, and churches, synagogues and other places of worship are asked to focus on the Earth's stewardship at this time.

Earth Day was started in 1970, but was in the incubation stage since 1962, as an idea of Sen. Gaylord Nelson. He recognized that the environment was not an issue in US politics. He convinced President John Kennedy to take an eleven state conservation tour, but the environment still didn't make the national agenda. Nelson continued to speak about environmental degradation and it was in 1969 he conceived of the idea of Earth Day, to be a grassroots protest over what was happening in the environment. With college students protesting the Vietnam War, they easily gravitated into the environmental causes as well. Nelson wrote, "Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level . . . . It organized itself."

Brenda Logue

Material from Earthday.net and earthday.envirolink.org.

**BEFORE EARTH DAY THERE WAS RACHEL**

As environmentalist writer Peter Mathiessen wrote, "before there was an environmental movement, there was one brave woman and her very brave book." That, of course, was Rachel Carson – who has deep roots in Maryland. Her famed book, Silent Spring (1962) challenged both the agricultural scientists and the government over the use of pesticides.

If you haven't read about Rachel Carson or her works, make that a project for this Spring Season as we celebrate a healthier environment. We owe her much! She was named

by Time magazine as one of the Top 100 most influential people of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She did her MA at Johns Hopkins University in zoology and died at her home in Silver Spring, MD.

Brenda Logue

Information from rachelcarson.org.



on the

**WHAT'S YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT???**

In future issues of the GPCA Newsletter, we'll talk about our carbon footprint: the measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in terms of units of carbon dioxide.

**GPCA Advertising/Article/Letter Policy**

GPCA reserves the right to accept and refuse advertising. Ad copy must be submitted to the Editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publishing. Payment for advertisements must be made to Treasurer Marty Kelley, 3138 Hernwood Road, Granite, MD 21163 prior to publication. The check should indicate the ad size and month(s) to be published.

Rates and Sizes for ads:

1/8 page -- \$10; 1/4 page -- \$20; 1/2 page -- \$35; full page -- \$55.

Personal ads (up to one column inch -- \$3 for GPCA members; \$5 for non-members; for each additional inch an additional \$3). **ADS SHOULD AVOID EXCESSIVE DARK AREAS; they do not copy well.**

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

Submissions intended for publication must be signed by the author.

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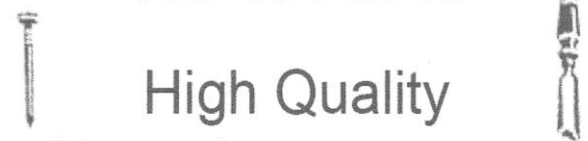


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## GPCA Annual Community Clean-Up

Saturday April 5th, 2008  
8 a.m. to Noon  
Meet at St. Alphonsus Church parking lot

### ***Be part of this positive Community Event***

Join friends and neighbors for our annual clean-up! Your community association provides the necessary safety vests, gloves and trash bags for each area team.

Dumpsters will be provided by the county. Remember  
no hazardous stuff; no flammable material, no paints or oil;  
tires found on roadside will be collected separately  
recyclables and compost material will be assigned a dumpster  
metal items will be loaded into a designated container

Call or email to volunteer. Carol Link (410) 465-4369 or email [linkgang@juno.com](mailto:linkgang@juno.com)



**Would you like an opportunity to enjoy a  
season of fresh produce?**

**Pahl's Farm CSA**



We are accepting new members into our CSA (community supported agriculture). In a CSA, you buy a share (or half share) of fresh vegetables, fruit and flowers grown on our farm in Granite. Weekly distribution is picked up at our farm, off Old Court Rd.

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The Department of Environmental Protection & Resource  
Management  
In cooperation with The Department of Public Works

**SPRING 2008**  
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS**  
**WASTE COLLECTION EVENT**



**Sunday April 13, 2008**  
**10:00AM – 2:00 PM**  
**Texas Landfill Drop Off Center**  
**Warren Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030**

Baltimore County Residents may drop off unwanted household chemicals, paints, pesticides, mercury thermometers, fluorescent bulbs, re-chargeable batteries, ammunition and automotive fluids for recycling or proper disposal. No trash will be accepted at this event

For those residents unable to attend this event, DEPRM also operates a collection facility, in cooperation with the Department of Public Works, at the Eastern Landfill, located at 6257 Days Cove Rd in White Marsh. The hours of operation for the facility at Eastern Landfill are Monday - Saturday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm from April through November

For additional information contact DEPRM at 410 887-3745 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday

Baltimore County Executive James T. Smith Jr. and the Baltimore County Council