



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #261

GPCA Newsletter

January 8, 2008

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

January 14: GPCA Election & Zoning

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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NEXT MEETING: JAN. 14 ELECTION & ZONING

The first GPCA meeting of the new year will be Monday, January 14th. It will take place in the Social Hall of the Granite Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. The new zoning change requests will be discussed, as well as election of officers for 2008. The slate is as follows:
President: Ralph Wright
Vice-President: Bruce Mezger
Secretary: Elaine Rasheed
Treasurer: Marty Kelley
Board Member: Clarence Harrell

Continuing board members are Curtis Collins and Harold Ramsey.

A detailed listing of the new zoning changes was printed in the October GPCA Newsletter. The list is repeated here for your information:

1. I# 4-005 – Eric Hite, east side of Dogwood Road, 975 ft. south of Old Court Road. 15.1 acres of RC 2 to 15.1 acres of RC 6.
2. I# 4-006 – Mr. Randy C. Sparkman, West side of Wrights Mill Road, 1,075 feet south of Davis Avenue. 10 acres of RC 6 to RC 5.
3. I# 4-007 – Mrs. Stacy L. Brian, east side of Dogwood Road, 3,450 ft. south of Wrights Mill Road, 13.1 acres of RC 6 to RC 5.
4. I# 4-010 – Gerald Berg, East and west sides of Ridge Road, 3,425 ft. north of Dogwood Road, 179.3 acres of RC 6 to RC 5.
5. I# 4-013 -- Hebrew Construction Co. (identified at meeting as Mr. Michael Bagley, opposite King Memorial Park).

- West side of Dogwood Road, 1,550 ft. north of Wrights Mill Rd. 16.2 acres of RC 2 to RC 5.
6. I# 4-024 – Christian Life Church. South side of Windsor Mill Road, 925 ft. west of Ridgeway Place. RC 5 (0 acres), RC 6 (19.6 acres) to DR 3.5 (19.6 acres) and RC 5 (0.00 acres).
7. I# 4-027-- Bethel AME Church. South side of Old Court Road, 2,900 ft. east of Dogwood Road. RC 2 (8.4 acres), RC 3 (94 acres), RC 6 (157.2 acres) to RC 5 or RC 3 (259.4 acres). It was noted at the meeting that by virtue of the public works improvements on the entry way into the church property, the church was vested and had the right to build a church on that site.
8. I# 4-030 – Polakoff Family LLC. Davis Avenue, near the power Lines. 26.9 acres now in RC 6 to RC 5.

PLEASE KEEP THIS LIST FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

Brenda Logue

Membership News

Welcome new members: Juliette Holmes Carter and Jamieson T. Norris of Davis Avenue.

Membership Renewals for the Year 2008 have been received from: Richard & Hilda Anderson, Maureen Boskin, Claude & Meredith Braxton, Georgeanne Grant, Eric & Joan Hite, Michael & Cindy Kahn, Jack & Rubye Kosko, Bob & Mary Jo Mathena and Loretta Mytych.

When paying annual dues, please PRINT CLEARLY your email and phone numbers, so that your information can be entered into our records correctly.

Membership renewal checks received after the 20th of December will be posted in the February newsletter.

Note: If you are moving and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, send us your new address and a check @ \$5.00 to cover postage: GPCA, P.O. Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163.

May You Welcome 2008 With Cheerful Confidence!

Marty Kelley

RECAP:

December's Holiday Affair

Some two dozen folks enjoyed festive music and wonderful holiday treats at the GPCA Holiday gathering, December 10. Beginning the musical performances was the Woodstock Choral Group. The five student-employees of the Woodstock Job Corps were beautifully harmonious: Aisha Wellington, Ashley Burton, Kayla Ashford, Allen Ross-Robinson were led by maestro Raymond Aiken. Ed Roberts, Job Corps' Community-Business Liaison, accompanied the group.

A special cultural treat was provided by Keiko Murphy. A native of Japan, Keiko played a medley of seasonal piano arrangements and then demonstrated the koto, a Japanese harp of

12th century origin. She uses her music as therapy to help clients relax.

The final performer was soprano Susie Reisdorf of Old Court Road. Although Susie was invited to sing "O Holy Night," she was convinced to sing a Christmas gospel number.

Scrumptious holiday goodies were enjoyed at the end of the evening. Several people commented that this December gathering was one of the best ever held.

Brenda Logue

LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

Friday, December 21 was a busy day for Granite being in the media spotlight. First, **Pam Pahl** of Melrose Avenue and gracious host to GPCA picnics was interviewed on WYPR (local public radio). The story featured local farmers who take their produce to farmers' markets and the difficulties of today's life on a small farm.

Secondly, Channel 13 news ran two clips of the Live Nativity of the **Granite Presbyterian Church**. The 11 p.m. news showed two segments of the Nativity, one in the middle of the newscast and then ended the news with the manger scene of animals, angels, wisemen, shepherds and the holy family as a duet is heard singing, "let there be peace on earth"

WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING – WE LOST A SCENIC BYWAY

Perhaps everyone else in the GPCA area knows that we lost our Scenic Byway, but I just found out in December. Tucked away in an article in the *Baltimore Sun*, December 16, was the fact that the Patapsco Heritage Tour – our very own scenic byway – was dropped from the State Highways' List of Scenic Byways. The Patapsco Heritage Tour was a 30-mile circle that started in Granite at Hernwood Road, passed the Job Corps to Route 99, right on 99 to Route 32 to Sandusky Road in Sykesville. Then the tour snaked through the Patapsco (cont. pg. 3)

SCENIC BYWAY LOST (from pg. 2)

Valley State Park on Henryton Road to Marriottsville and back to Hernwood.

During Governor Parris Glendening's Administration a wonderful little book was published by the State Highway Administration, describing all 31 routes designated as Maryland Scenic Byways. I received my copy from Betty Uebel (who helps with editing the GPCA Newsletter). The Baltimore County segment of the Patapsco Heritage Tour is described in the book: *"You will enjoy a glimpse into early American history as you travel through the Patapsco River Valley, which cradled some of the country's earliest industrial enterprises.... Along the way, you will come to the tiny crossroads town of Granite, a National Register Historic District. Whereas many area villages grew up on the banks of the Patapsco River to house the workers who labored in the flour, textile, and paper mills, the village of Granite was built for workers in nearby quarries. In the historic district, the old Granite Public School and several other buildings were built with locally quarried Woodstock granite. Many in the region's farming community have worshiped in the Granite Presbyterian Church since 1895 when it was built. West of Granite, the road will take you to the Woodstock College, founded in 1866 by the Roman Catholic order commonly known as the Jesuits....In 1968, the Jesuits moved the college to New York and sold the property to the state, which uses the campus as a Job Corps Center."*

The Scenic Byways program was developed to designate roads rich in heritage. These off-the-beaten paths also were to provide the traveler with scenic beauty not found on faster paced superhighways.

The Sun's article, "Houses go up; scenic road signs come down," reported that early in 2007 the Byways program was reconfigured into 19 byways, and roads were removed from the list that had "lost their scenic qualities' because of development." One of those "dropped" roads runs through Granite!

Brenda Logue

GOODBYES TO 3 LONGTIME NEIGHBORS

On Sunday, December 9, Bob and Winona Hocutt were treated to a Farewell Party at the Woodstock Inn by many friends who have known them in the GPCA community. They have sold their home on Ridge Road and retiring (if that is possible) to a new domicile on the Eastern Shore.

Previously on Wednesday, November 28, Anna Rose Anderson, formerly of Acme Avenue, said official goodbyes to friends and parishioners of the Granite Presbyterian Church family. She has moved to Shepherdstown, WV, to be with her son George and his family.

Thanks for the Memories...

After talking about it for several years, we've finally sold the house on Ridge Road and moved to the Eastern Shore. We are looking forward to such activities as kayaking and photography on Schumaker Pond in Salisbury as well as hiking, beachcombing and birding at Assateague and Chincoteague and other places on the Shore. Of course, we take with us the memories of life in Granite and our participation in the work and play of GPCA and the Granite Historical Society.

It would take several newsletters prepared in tiny fonts to recap the adventures, failures, successes, fieldwork, meetings, hearings, judicial proceedings, the annual GHS meetings at the pavilion, the picnic and hayrides at Pahl's farm, stapling and folding, planning, arguing, stump-smoke inhaling, socializing and other activities we have shared over the past 20 years.

Through it all, we have loved spending time in the company of all of you wonderful people who have shared with us your dedication to the preservation of the history, values and vision of the Granite community. The memory of those we have come to know and love but who have passed away will remain in our hearts.

Our special thanks go to Marty Kelley and Kathy Skullney and others who arranged the wonderful goodbye party (cont. on pg. 4)

Thanks for the Memories (from pg. 3)

at the Woodstock Inn. We could not have had a better send-off and we appreciate the presence of all who attended and the intent of others who could not be there. Kathy prepared such a great-tasting and perfectly-themed cake. (Fortunately, Bob discovered that the granite wasn't marzipan before the Black and White Russians started appearing at the table. Otherwise, broken teeth may have happened!) We were pleased that Scott Henderson, who is the new resident of 2615 Ridge Road, was warmly welcomed into the community on this occasion.

We promise to remain in touch and to visit when we can and to attend meetings occasionally. You are invited to come see us at 1006 Schumaker Woods Road, Salisbury, MD 21804. Our email address is winonahocutt@comcast.net. For the near future, we'll be using cell phones: his, 410-868-7036; hers, 410-476-7665.

*Bless you all,
Bob and Winona Hocutt*

OUTGROWING THE MAGIC OF SNOW

There was a time when waking up on Christmas morning to find a frost-covered world out my window 'counted' as a white Christmas. Having sung along with Bing for weeks preceding the big day, part of the Christmas miracle was waking up to a white world. That time was when I was young, a child in Illinois.

Illinois is a place far more likely to have snow by Christmas than here in Maryland. When we had our first snow a few weeks ago, it was early, and a surprise, and beautiful for one day. But the second day of wading through snow in tennis shoes (had not gotten the winter boots out yet), snow lost a little of its magic. It is fun for a moment. Then the reality of frozen stuff everywhere making chores a bit harder and walking a bit slower sets in. Frozen precipitation means frozen water everywhere—in hoses,

water tubs, buckets, and chicken waterers. I wonder why anyone chooses to live in a place with a snow-covered winter. But a lot of people do. And they love it, or at least grin and bear it as I see them interviewed morning after morning on the Weather Channel after each new snowfall somewhere North.

When I woke up on Christmas this year, here in Maryland, I looked out my window and saw frost. Good enough. It counted. The frost melted off in a couple of hours and we had a mild 46 degree weather day. This should be Christmas in Maryland. I went out to the horses and John went to the chicken barn. No frozen water buckets or ice in the rims of the chicken waterers. Chores were easy and we came back into the house to a fire in the fireplace and presents to open with coffee and breakfast casserole.

So now I know I have grown up, or maybe even gotten old. When I see only frost on Christmas morning and feel relief instead of disappointment. Relieved that we are not living the Vermont fairy tale of snow drifts and sleigh rides in a winter wonderland. Not that I don't think it is beautiful when it comes, it is just that I am extremely familiar with the practical reality of doing my chores in a snow covered landscape. I prefer doing them 'unfrozen.'

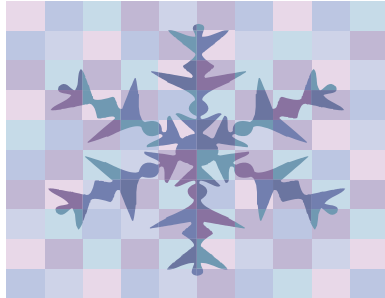
I am reminded of the scripture that says 'when I was a child, I thought as a child, spoke as a child, understood as a child, but now I have put away childish things...'

A childlike view is not all bad. Now that I see the challenge of life in a fairy tale (it is not easy climbing up a braided pony tail to get into a tower, you know), I may have to work a little harder to hold on to my fascination with the mysteries of life. The sprouting seed on pavement, the broody hen in November, and the purity of the world under a fresh snowfall. Before I begrudgingly complain about how that shouldn't be. Or that it just makes my life more difficult. I will watch with wonder (cont. pg. 5)

OUTGROWING THE MAGIC (from pg. 4)

how the world works out its own difficulties. Things that shouldn't happen do, and sometimes to good result. And use that as fuel for hope for the coming days.

Brenda Creighton



HOUSE APARTMENT FOR RENT: In Granite, a house apartment with 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath. Smoke free. Heat included. Available as of 1/1/08. Security deposit and references required. Contact Sue Meekins @ 410-461-0518.

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