



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #266

GPCA Newsletter

June 4, 2008

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

Local Topics: Job Corps & Agriculture

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.

What's Inside

Redefining Progress	2
Membership.....	2
Letter.....	2
Honey Locust in Bloom.....	3
Carbon Footprint.....	4
Police Safety Tips.....	4
Chautauqua in July.....	5
Bon Secours Center.....	5
Woodstock Job Corps.....	5
Advertising.....	5-9

June 9th Meeting: Dual Billing: Job Corps & Local Agriculture

On June 9th, the GPCA meeting will feature speakers of local interest: agriculture in the area and the Job Corps Center. The guest speaker on farming will be Ewald August of Moody Blues Farm on Old Court Road. Edward Roberts, the Woodstock Job Corps community liaison, will discuss the Center in our midst.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Granite Presbyterian Church.

RECAP: MINUTES OF May 12th MEETING

Some 26 attendees heard State Senator Delores Kelley, a 25-year representative to Annapolis, speak on the 2008 Legislature. Many jobs and services were cut from state agencies, including \$48 million from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She said that there was a need to expand the State's sales tax base. The legislature discussed expanding taxes to computer services, landscapers, snow removal, legal and accounting services.

Bills were passed on domestic partnership: any two people who share a household, declare themselves to be a family, and sign an affidavit can make medical decisions for their partner.

A law that becomes effective January 1, 2009, states that no insurance contract can force one to go into arbitration. Another bill that passed sets up a task force to examine title insurance in Maryland.

In the fall, all BGE customers will receive a \$170 credit.

Anne Libis asked about the Global Warming Solutions bill. It passed the Senate, but not the House.

Senator Kelley noted that she would write to the Maryland Department of the Environment about the Nike site in Granite, on behalf of GPCA. Claude Libis reported that he had been advised that the site had been released from the federal government and that the Dept. of the Environment now will consider what to do with the facility.

Discussion during the business portion of the meeting included topics on restrictive covenants, that the "Say No to Upzoning" lawn signs had been distributed, and a review of the County Funeral Home Bill (see last month's newsletter).

RECOMMENDATION OUT OF THE MEETING: Residents should sign up for electronic notifications from the County in order to keep informed. Contact: www.baltimorecounty.gov.

IMPORTANT DATE: On June 26 the County Council will hold a public hearing at New Town Senior High School on the zoning matters facing the community. **A strong public presence is requested.** The meeting

begins at 7:00 p.m. Speaker sign in begins at 6:00 p.m. (See article on

“Redefining Progress”).

E.Rasheed's Minutes

Summary by B. Logue of

Redefining Progress

Cathy Wolfson, GPCA zoning committee

Within the lifespan of many of us, progress was defined by more roads, more houses and more infrastructure without consideration of the natural resources which were exploited to meet those ends.

Baltimore County's adoption of the RC-6 zoning classification in 2001 was a victory for the environment spearheaded by GPCA and it has become a model for conservation in Baltimore County. Throughout its battle for this classification GPCA kept all community members informed of the proposal to reclassify area zoning via this newsletter which was mailed to all residents within its boundaries regardless of membership affiliation. RC-6 has been an essential tool for meeting GPCA's objectives "to preserve the tranquility and beauty of our rural environment and to encourage orderly and positive growth of the community within the framework of prescribed regulations and laws." In exchange for the protection afforded by this classification we have effectively become stewards of the natural resources within and near our boundaries. The result has redefined progress.

After hearing the presentations of many of the petitioners in February, the membership of GPCA voted to support maintaining densities at their existing levels. Many of you spoke or came to support our speakers at the Planning Board hearing in March. Your time was well spent. The recommendations of the Planning Board members to preserve zoning at existing levels bear out the effectiveness of your support. Your lawn signs have caught the attention of Councilman Oliver and his office has had to define "upzoning" to inquisitive callers.

Our final opportunity to voice our support of this position is on Thursday, June 26, at New Town Senior High School in Owings Mills. Hearings before the Baltimore County Council begin at 7:00 p.m. For those who wish to present their views to the council, speaker sign-in begins at 6:00 p.m. What distinguishes the Council hearing from the Planning Board hearing is that only the Council can make binding *decisions* on behalf of Baltimore County. The prior recommendations of the Planning Department staff and Planning Board are considered but it is vital to our position that the Council members see and hear us. Opposition to upzoning is enjoying broad support in Baltimore County. We invite you to support GPCA on June 26th and witness progress.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS were received this past month from: Martha Bleidner, Rosemary Dorsey, Casandra Fallin, Roland & Sharon Ford, Beverly Gary, Celia Lange, Alex, Lori & Licinda Mytych, Ronald & Deborah Peters, Rob & Monica Snodgrass, Charles & Joan Snyder, Lewis & Tanya Terry and Mark & Karen Welsko.

Dues received after May 19th will be listed in the next newsletter. If you are moving and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, send us your new address and a check for \$5 to cover postage: GPCA, Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163.

[If there is news we should be sharing, please notify the Editor or any Board members.](#)

MY PET PEEVE: Although the Community Clean-Up was little more than two months ago, bottles, cans and debris dot our roads. If trash is in front of your property, would it hurt to pick it up? Bravo to those members of our community who are often observed doing 'just that.'

Marty Kelley, Treasurer

OOPS! *Sorry, Jackie Webster's name was left out of the Clean-Up List. She not only worked on Dogwood Road with Dwight and Doris Hartman, but also was involved with the Snack Brigade. Thanks, Jackie!*

LETTER FROM ZONING PETITIONERS

Fellow GPCA members,

We wish to address the GPCA's apparent decision to impartially deny all requests for up-zoning in our community. The May newsletter reports that legislation now allows King Memorial Park to add a funeral home on their cemetery property. This, like the advancement of the Bethel project and numerous other zoning requests made by large property owners, will not be something the GPCA can really influence. Any "improvements" to those properties will increase traffic on our already unsafe roads, potentially affect our water supply and have many

other negative changes of which we are all aware.

We regret that the Board did not review each property owners' case individually. As requested, we spoke before the community attendees at several monthly (cont. pg. 3) meetings to explain the minimal nature of our request

We have only a small parcel of land (13 acres) which if up-zoned to RC-5 would only ever allow the addition of a maximum of 2 additional lots.

While we understand the community's desire to keep the zoning map from becoming more of a "patchwork" of multiple zones, we wish they had considered those of us whose development opportunity would be so minor as to not affect our rural community fabric.

When we purchased our parcel the zoning classification would allow minor sub-division. It is our opinion that when the county changed the zoning of our property to RC-6 they de-valued our land.

Disappointed community members,
Stacy and Keiler Brian, CZMP #007

Honey Locust in Bloom

Shortly after the fragrance of the lilac had stopped greeting me as I came in and out the back door early in May, another perfume lingered in the air by the drive. I always think 'mock orange' when I smell it. It may take me a day or two to stop confusing the fragrance with that 'laundry in the air smell' of somebody's fabric softener scent coming out of their dryer vent. I look up and see the tree in bloom, the creamy white clusters hanging from the old honey locust. 'Oh, yeah, honey locust in bloom.' I remember how much I like this tree once again.

I am always concerned with the passing of an old favorite tree, one that provides shade in just the right spot or blooms with a lovely fragrance in a place of greeting, right here by the front of the drive. Sometimes my fear of loss overrides my enjoyment of what it is, a lovely old tree that has obviously survived quite a while in this very spot.

Not many years ago, I looked out my bedroom window and noticed a baby tree sprouting in the yard on this side of the drive, just opposite the old majestic one. The round leaves lining the young branches told me it was a volunteer honey locust. For the thousands of trees John has planted along the stream on the property, he has planted none in the yard. And given his propensity for weed whacking and mowing down everything he deems out of place, I had to protect this baby tree.

That first year, I planted a ring of pink penta and blue ageratum around the baby tree. It had a fern like look with just a few leafy branches, young and tender slightly shading its pink and blue flower bed. I regularly carried water to the young flowers through the hot and dry summer that seemed to extend on to October that year. I

think that was the year I had kidney failure in the spring. The cold wet May had prevented the regular mowing of the yard and allowed the tree a head start, and its survival.

I would wobble out with jugs of water to the few spots I had planted annuals. Everything else around the farm was beyond me, except for teaching a few riding lessons to those who could tack up their own horses. Flower beds, color combinations, and shade and sun kept my mind occupied while my body recovered.

That fall, I ordered a few bulbs for my pink and blue theme under the tree, getting wood hyacinths to start the spring and some pink tulips. Once the spring bulbs had passed, I would again dig in ageratum and penta. Only the next year, the penta came in shades of pink and the ageratum a baby blue and I honestly wasn't quite as faithful with the watering as the body recovered and the cytoxan protocol reduced in frequency, and I had other things to do besides save the tree.

Last fall, I found a pink blooming ground cover with silver leaves. My tree was getting bigger and so my tree circle needed to expand. I was intentionally working on a self-maintaining blooming spot in my yard. From spring bulbs to blooming ground cover perennials, to what next? Iris, day lilies? A pretty place that I could look out of my bedside window and see color each morning. The irony is that I planted this beautiful silver foliage and pink blossoming plant called lamium, a cousin of the red lamium that I pull from the vegetable garden by the handful.

My struggle now was to get out there and remove the tall grass and giant dandelion plants that had made their home close to my ever rising young tree. I would still be planting annuals in the tree's circle this year, the plan just had not formed yet. Now, my baby tree towers over me, growing like a weed I suppose. I may actually have to trim off some of the lower branches to make it easier to work my flower bed.

Yesterday, I was mowing that part of the yard just as a sudden shower came up over the hill. I circled the baby honey locust as close as possible without damage to tulip leaves or that silver-leaved ground cover that had so successfully survived the winter and was spreading (just like its cousin does so well). Right there at eye level from the mower seat were a few of the pendulous clusters of white blossoms on my baby tree. A moment of celebration in my mind as I recognized that my baby graduated to adulthood, offering up its own few fragrant blossoms, just as the rain was about to come along and beat them into snow petals on the ground.

It had not taken that many years to win this battle, to protect the tree until it was now big enough to protect itself. The main trunk was almost two inches in diameter

and the side shoot one inch. It would be hard to accidentally take this baby out with a weed whacker.

Looking back over the years, I don't quite remember the struggle, the sweat and the fatigue, of forcing myself to carry water out to struggling annuals, or to sit out there in the heat and weed and clip the tall grass. I know at the time it was my major effort, but in retrospect it seems like nothing. Planting bulbs on a dark windy day in November, hopefully digging in a ground cover the next year in October. Little investments that eventually generate a pay off. I have rewarded myself with my own spot of beauty. With that, I am satisfied.

But still looking for new missions.

Brenda Creighton



COUNTY POLICE OFFER SOME SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

With the approaching warmer weather home improvement scams seem to flourish, so to keep from being victimized here are some tips to keep in mind:

- 1) Keep doors and windows locked – even if you will be outside for only a short period of time.
- 2) Always request identification from utility representatives – true representatives will "gladly" show their identification to you. Call their company for verification.
- 3) Rarely will legitimate home improvement companies solicit door-to-door they usually distribute fliers or make phone calls--it's more cost effective for them.
- 4) NEVER PAY IN CASH!!! Using a check keeps a record of the transaction and often helps in the identification of the person cashing the check.
- 5) Beware of excuses such as "WE just finished a job around the corner and have materials left over that we can offer you at a discounted price." Something for Nothing always ends up with nothing!!
- 6) Call police immediately if you notice someone unfamiliar to the neighborhood acting suspiciously.
- 7) Beware of various ruses that have been used to gain entry, asking for a drink of water, looking for property that is for sale, selling home improvement services and in past years victims have been working in their yard while suspects entered through unlocked doors.

We want you to have a safe and productive summer by following these crime prevention tips!!!

Have a Great Summer!!

Off. Deb McAulay



WHAT'S YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT???

Our carbon footprint is 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. That gasoline-powered lawn mower certainly puts out carbon emissions while you keep your beautiful lawn ever-so short. Here are some ways to counterbalance some of those emissions this summer:

1. Obviously, cut back on your mowing – maybe \$4/gal. gas will necessitate a retreat on mowing.
2. Think twice before using other gas-powered outdoor tools. Use the broom over the leaf blower to tidy up, and other person-powered equipment.
3. Plant trees as a way to offset the carbon emissions that you create. Those trees, if planted strategically, could also help cool your home in the summer.
4. Collect rain water for watering and reuse grey water – potable water already used.
5. Mulch and compost to help maintain moisture and enrich the soil. Refrain from pesticide use.
6. Plant native plants and those that will attract bees and butterflies for pollinating our food and flowers.
7. Rent-a-goat or borrow one to trim some of those bushes in your yard! But, then, you might argue that in Granite we already have the wild variety of goat – the ever present deer!

Everybody can do something to reduce their carbon footprint -- even buying local produce says you aren't willing to pay for the transportation costs to get those exotic foods to Maryland. Live green – and let the grass grown a little taller this summer.

Brenda Logue

(410) 887-4714/4715
dmcaulay@baltimorecountymd.gov

Tourism has listed the Spiritual Center as something to do in Maryland before the end of one's life.

The Center has a wonderful website, www.BonSecoursSpiritualCenter.org, listing short and weeklong programs. Or just drive over to the Center, located at 1525 Marriottsville Road, to take in the environment and discover what is offered by going into the Center's welcome area.

Brenda Logue

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JULY'S CHAUTAUQUA AT CCBC

Last year many area residents found their way to the campus of Catonsville Community College (CCBC) to participate in the Maryland Humanities Council Chautauqua. It's a free event and close to home. This year's theme is "Taking a Stand" and features actors portraying famous persons from the civil rights movement. Mark your calendar for July 10 through July 13 at 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 10: Martin Luther King Jr., will be played by Bill Grimmette.

Friday, July 11: George Wallace will be portrayed by a very popular Chautauqua actor, Doug Mishler.

Saturday, July 12: Gwendolyn Briley-Strand will represent Rosa Parks.

Sunday, July 13: Malcolm X will inform the audience through the acting of Charles Everett Pace.

All programs are handicap-accessible. Please contact the MHC at 410-685-0095 by June 20 for accommodation.

CCB-Catonsville is located off the Baltimore Beltway at Exit 12. Follow Wilkens Avenue West to Valley Road, make a right on Valley Road to the college entrance. The Chautauqua takes place rain or shine in the tent near Building Q.

You won't forget a Chautauqua evening.. After the actor portrays the historic character, audience members can ask questions of the famous person.

Brenda Logue

ANOTHER NEARBY VENUE

Bon Secours Spiritual Center on Marriottsville Road is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The Sisters of Bon Secours established the Center for prayer, renewal, and learning under the direction of Sister Mary Margaret Burger. She felt that the holy ground could be a place for refuge and spiritual growth.

In addition to many retreats hosted at the Center, individuals can walk the Stations of the Cross along a trail in the woods or walk the labyrinth, a prayer/reflection path based on a 13th century design in the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France. The Maryland Office of

WOODSTOCK JOB CORPS CONTINUES TO CONNECT & TRAIN

Several members of GPCA attended the Job Corps' Community Relations Council on May 15: Bruce Mezger, GPCA Vice President, Curtis Collins, Board Member, and Claude Libis, former GPCA Past President. Center Director Rodney Butler overviewed the performance of the Center over the past year, and Community Liaison Ed Roberts highlighted the Center's community involvement, including GPCA's Clean-Up and projects with Bon Secours Spiritual Center and the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center.

Also noted was the honor of having one of the Job Corps' alums, Edward Jones, studying culinary arts in Italy. Recently, security students participated in Public Service Recognition Week in Washington, DC, and the upcoming competition this month for Culinary Arts students in the Job Corps Iron Chef tournament in Philadelphia.

Center Deputy Director Tanisha Nixon told the Council about the new educational agreement with CCBC to provide instruction in Medical Office Support to Corps students. The five-month program will provide training in such areas as medical terminology, anatomy/physiology, health care, medical office front desk, blood pressure, EKG, computerized billing and medical administration. Student-employees will experience clinical rotations in physicians' offices and hospital settings.

*Excerpted from The Stock
Report, Newsletter of Woodstock Job Corps*

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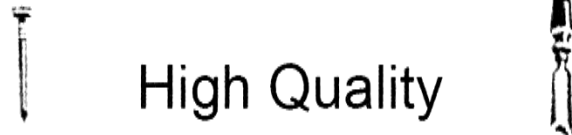
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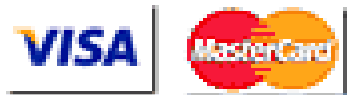
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