



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #274

GPCA Newsletter

February 3, 2009

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

## February 9: 2009 Goals & Objectives (see pg. 2)

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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### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of GPCA officers was held at the general meeting on January 12, 2009. As there were no nominations from the floor the following officers and board members were installed:

- President – Ralph Wright
- Vice President – Bruce Mezger
- Treasurer – Marty Kelley
- Secretary – Cathy Wolfson
- Board Members – Clarence Harrell, Curtis Collins, and Elaine Rasheed.

President Ralph Wright extended the membership's appreciation for the service to the community provided by retiring board member, Dr. Harold Ramsey and to Elaine Rasheed for serving as Secretary in 2008.

### OTHER HAPPENINGS at JANUARY MEETING

After the election of officers, President Wright summarized some of the issues recently before the Board: a proposal for senior housing on Windsor Mill Road, the dumping of deer carcasses on Wrights Mill Road, the tar problem on cars from work on Old Court Road in October, and the continued work on the GPCA website by Elaine and Gerald Rasheed.

Former GPCA President Claude Libis presented two reports: on the Job Corps and the Nike Base. (See articles on the Job Corps on page 2). On the Nike Base he reported that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed an extensive 20-year study of the site which he has carefully reviewed and stated the following conclusions:

There is contamination 5+ feet below the surface. The prime source is three 2500 gallon fuel oil tanks. Other contaminants are asbestos, piping and electrical wire. The report concludes that there is no danger to the community in its present use, which the USACE describes as "trespassers and visitors." If the

ground were to be disturbed by activities such as development it would require provision of full details of government discovery to the purchaser. On the western side of the site an increased occurrence of carcinogens were found. Two test wells are on site @ 200 feet deep and are being monitored for pollution. These wells are dedicated to testing and are not intended for use as a drinking source. The report states that there is no danger to any existing wells within a specific radius of the site which extends as far as St. Alphonsus Church at Old Court and Davis Ave. The report lists these wells, and data includes well depths. So long as the land is undisturbed the Maryland Dept. of Environment has accepted the USACE findings.

*Summarized from January Minutes*

#### Inclement Weather Policy for GPCA Meetings

The GPCA Board confirmed at its November meeting that cancellation of meetings for weather concerns would follow the lead of Baltimore County Public Schools. If the County schools are closed on the day of a meeting, the meeting will not be held. The organization would resume its business at the next month's meeting.

## '09 GPCA GOALS, IDEAS, SPEAKERS

### *Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting on goals & objectives*

The February 9<sup>th</sup> GPCA general meeting will focus on 2009 goals and objectives from the Board and input from members. At the January meeting, it was suggested that community members should be solicited for ideas, goals for the community association, and speakers for the meetings. If you are unable to make the meeting, **PLEASE FORWARD YOUR THOUGHTS TO PRESIDENT RALPH WRIGHT**, [wright261@verizon.net](mailto:wright261@verizon.net).

At last month's meeting, several members brought forth suggestions:

Debra Baker, member and personal fitness trainer, offered to provide an informational program to members regarding their health and the importance of fitness and nutrition. Mrs. Baker may be reached at [www.debrabakerfitness.com](http://www.debrabakerfitness.com) or 410-922-2098.

Mr. Baker suggested a speaker to address the effect of the BRACC plan on local infrastructure and the impact on already congested highways and local roads.

Bonnie Kahler suggested Rob Dyke of Patapsco State Park as speaker given the length of our border with the park.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In January, we welcomed Jamie Condon of Marriottsville Road in Randallstown as a new member.

**RENEWING MEMBERS** this past month: Dale & Jan Brice, Curtis & Patricia Collins, Charles Dressler, Ted Geisler, Gloe & Catherine Gnagey, Bob & Beverly Griffith, Bob & Winona Hocutt, West & Anne Ivey, Sharon Layne, Tom & Margaret McGovern, Bruce Mezger & Kari Weidner, Carl & Patricia Miceli, Claude & Alexis Parker, Jim & Judy Plaskowitz, Dr. Harold & Elizabeth Ramsey, Gregg Smith & Colleen Shea, and Frank & Bernadette Warfield.

*Marty Kelley & Cathy Wolfson*

Dues received after the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 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

**New Membership Chair:** With the promise of a lot of guidance from the remarkable Marty Kelley I am taking on the duties of membership. Marty has maintained the membership records faithfully and meticulously for something on the order of **20 years** and GPCA owes her an enormous debt of gratitude. Hopefully the transition will be seamless, but I'm sure to make mistakes. Should you

detect any errors, don't hesitate to contact me, Cathy Wolfson, with your corrections. I may be reached at 410-944-1040 or by email at [oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net).

**EMAIL ADDRESSES UPDATED:** We are making an effort to keep our email addresses current. If your email address has changed since your membership renewal kindly notify Cathy at [oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net). This list is used by GPCA board members only!

*Cathy Wolfson*

## DIGGS TO SPEAK AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FEB. 17; ELECTION OF OFFICERS



The Annual Meeting of the Granite Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. The meeting will take place in the Granite Presbyterian Church Social Hall and begin at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker for the evening will be noted African-American author, Louis S. Diggs. Mr. Diggs and members of the "Friends of Cherry Hill, AUMP," will update their project plans for renovating the historic Cherry Hill Church located on Offutt Road. Members of the community with an interest or concerns about the project are invited to attend. During the meeting, an election of Officers for 2009 will be held.

*Lee Haddaway, President, GHS*

## NEW DIRECTOR AT JOB CORPS

Woodstock Job Corps Career Development Center would like to announce that Tanisha Nixon is the new Center Director. Tanisha, who assumed the role of Center Director on December 29, 2008, succeeds Mr. Rodney Butler, who served as Center Director at Woodstock Job Corps Center for two years. Mr. Butler accepted an opportunity to join the corporate staff in Columbia as Executive Director for the Job Corps centers operated by Adams & Associates on behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Tanisha has served as Deputy Center Director at Woodstock since February 2007. She began her career at Woodstock as a Counselor and continued to assume leadership roles with the Business-Services Career Technical Training Programs.

Tanisha was also a member of the corporate staff in Columbia as Technical Assistance Manager for the Job Corps centers. Her role focused on training of staff at each of the ten Job Corps centers operated by Adams (pg. 3)

and Associates. After spending several years traveling to those centers, Tanisha took the opportunity to return to Woodstock as Deputy Center Director.

Tanisha is a Maryland native and resides in the Pikesville area. Tanisha holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland – Baltimore County and plans to continue to help young people succeed both professionally and personally through the Woodstock Job Corps Center program.

*Tammi Bush, Business  
Community Liaison Manager,  
Woodstock Job Corps Center*

## EARLY JANUARY FIRE AT JOB CORPS

On or about January 6, as the young people, who had just returned from the holidays, were getting ready for lunch, there was an alarm. A fire had broken out in the basement level of the administration building. The cause was believed to be electrical. No structural damage was done to the building; however utilities are in that area. Telephone service and computer services were knocked out. It is expected to take until the end of January to get these restored.. In the meantime they are with only perhaps one telephone and one computer in the office. of the new director. At Community Relations Council on January 15, we were told that ten fire engines quickly responded to the fire.

On behalf of GPCA, I have offered any help the community might be able to give. This is appreciated.

*Claude Libis  
GPCA Representative,  
Community Relations Council*

## COUNTY COUNCILMAN KEN OLIVER INDICTED ON FELONY THEFT

The following are excerpts from area papers on the grand jury indictment of Baltimore County Councilman Ken Oliver, D-Randallstown, on two counts of felony theft (amounts exceeding \$500) and several election-law violations:

The Afro-American reported (Jan. 6, 2009) that Oliver wrote two checks for \$2,000 each, one to himself and one to his wife Thelma from his campaign account. According to a statement from the state prosecutor's office, "By law, funds raised by a candidate for an election campaign belong to the campaign finance committee and not the candidate." Although Oliver was not the Treasurer of his campaign finance committee, he had control of the committee's checking account and petty cash fund. But Maryland law states that funds raised by a candidate for

an election belong to his or her campaign finance committee, not to the candidate.

Oliver had admitted last year that he had borrowed the money from his campaign account for a "family emergency." After Oliver reported the loan on a campaign finance report, State Prosecutor Robert Rohrbaugh began investigating him (Daily Record, Jan. 5, 2009). The Baltimore Sun (Jan. 9, 2009) reported that he had repaid the \$4,000 loan.

Oliver also allegedly wrote smaller checks to himself to reimburse himself for campaign expenses, but did not have supporting receipts. The Sun (Jan. 9, 2009) specified that in addition to the felony theft indictment, Oliver was indicted on six accounts of campaign law violations requiring submission of receipts and keeping separate account books for petty cash.

Although a criminal summons was issued for Oliver, no court date has been set. The Daily Record quoted Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Shelly Glenn saying that Oliver's indictment should serve as a warning to other Maryland elected officials.

*Brenda Logue*

## LETTER TO EDITOR

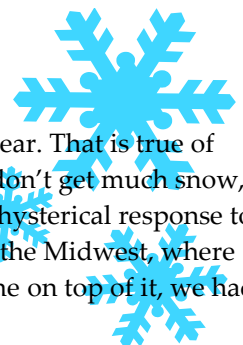
We continue to pick up the trash along a portion of Wrights Mill Road. Could the person(s) who continually throws Michelob Ultra Lite beer cans out along the road please stop! The other day we picked up seven. Chances are that if you are throwing trash out of your car, you are not concerned about the community and do not read this newsletter. However, I am hoping that a friend, family member or neighbor knows who you are. The really scary part of this is that you are driving while drinking and obviously by the amount of beer cans we pick up daily you are probably drunk. Someone must have an idea who this person(s) is and would be willing to speak to them. Also the speeding along Wrights Mill is very dangerous. Maybe if your car tag number were printed in the newsletter it would help protect those who walk/jog. We live in a wonderful area and would like to keep it clean and safe. Please become a concerned, involved and responsible community member.

*Thank you. Gail Collins*

## Snow Day

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

We haven't had much snow this year. That is true of many winters in Maryland. We just don't get much snow, thus the craziness of drivers and the hysterical response to snow forecasts. Having grown up in the Midwest, where snow came and stayed and more came on top of it, we had



a management strategy, a preparedness, and a more of an 'oh well' attitude about the snow.

Snow here on the farm presents both more work, and some fun. The horses love to go out and roll in the snow, making their sticky dried mud coats shiny and leaving dark patches behind in the white field. The bichons are a little too regal to wade in deep snow, but Pooh will go out and roll and snort and sneeze about it.

Funniest to me, though, is the variety of chicken responses to snow. Some won't move, they get their feet 'stuck' in the snow and they have to fly out of it or just stand 'frozen' until rescued. Others, some of my older birds, walk around outside the barn and peck at it. I don't know if it curiosity or thirst. Because on snow days, all the waterers freeze and my day is filled with solving water problems.

Yesterday, though, I was tickled to watch 'Gallo Sapo' (rooster toad) and his girls strut up the driveway through the powdery snow. He is a blue cochin bantam and one of the girls is also feather-footed, but the two Wyandotte's are not. Perhaps the feathered feet work like snow shoes, but they all traveled along in a collective.. This group of four are the 'garden flock' and live in a remodeled doghouse by the garage where our tiny vegetable garden struggles every summer. In past snow events, I have witnessed mostly snow avoiding behavior in my chickens, to see them strolling along and talking about it brought a moment of entertainment in an otherwise long cold work day. If I had thought the bichons were too regal, perhaps the term is dainty, because Gallo Sapo led his ladies along making little snow puffs with his steps like a king leading his ladies. However, when I went over to the Welssummer coop, I told them I did not think they wanted to come out of their run for their free ranging time in the yard, now covered in snow. Sure enough the second hen out stepped out and then flew up to the top of the run, pacing back and forth on the chicken wire to get back in from above. Snow wading was not an option. (The first hen had stepped out and turned in place and went back in.)

To each his own. Some Marylanders were out screaming down hillsides on toboggans in the light powdery snow. Others were toasting toes in front of fireplaces with a good book and hot tea. The inch or so of snow that covered the frozen mud gave us a picture perfect day. And now we go through the progression of melting and freezing, from snow to ice to mud to hard mud. Roadways and driveways and sidewalks reappear first. The margins around buildings melt away on the sunny side. And soon, only the snow hidden in the shade of a building will be left. The shadow of the memory of the snow day.

And we go back to the way things were, until the next snow.

*Brenda Creighton*

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### 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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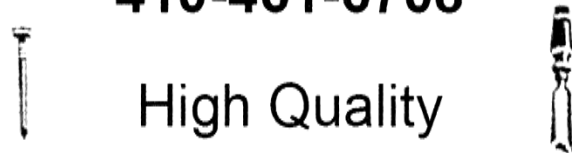
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**Shrove Pancake Dinner**

**Tuesday, February 24**

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

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Statistics from CBS News, "Are you paying too much property tax?", October 20th 2007, story by Ray Martin.

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