



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #269

GPCA Newsletter

September 2, 2008

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

Councilman Oliver @ Sept. 8th GPCA Meeting

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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MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**OCTOBER 18 - 3 p.m. -
GPCA COMMUNITY PICNIC
@ the Pahl Farm
on Melrose Ave.**

SEN. KELLEY FOLLOWS UP ON NIKE BASE

At the May GPCA meeting, State Senator Delores Kelley said she would write to the Maryland Dept. of the Environment on behalf of GPCA. In July Sen. Kelley received the following letter from MDE:

Dear Senator Kelley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the former federal NIKE missile site in Baltimore County. The Maryland Department of the Environment appreciates your interest in the productive reuse of former military sites.

A site assessment of the former Granite NIKE Control site located on Hernwood Road, off Old Court Road in Granite MD was conducted in 2007. The assessment found petroleum contamination in subsurface soils, and naturally occurring elevated levels of metals exist in the groundwater. The petroleum

contaminant source has been removed and the impacted soils will naturally biodegrade with time. The Department of the Army's recommendation in the assessment was that no further remedial action was required to address the environmental impacts associated with the Department of Army's use of the site. The Department concurred with this assessment in a letter dated August 10, 2007. The property is acceptable for recreational use if excavation in the areas of known petroleum contamination is avoided and potable water from a municipal source or an acceptable on site source of potable water is developed.

The property continues to belong to the federal government and is controlled by Fort George G. Meade . . .

GPCA President Ralph Wright received this letter from Senator Kelley.

COUNTY COUNCIL VOTE ON AUGUST 26 on CZMP

County Council was to vote on the Comprehensive Zoning Master Plan on Tuesday, August 26. The GPCA Newsletter went to press before this vote. Zoning issues will be published in the October Newsletter or you can (cont. p.2)

Co. Councilman Oliver to Address GPCA, Sept. 8

At its first meeting of the Fall, County Councilman Ken Oliver will speak to citizens of the GPCA community. Come out to find out what is happening in the County and how our area might be impacted.

Councilman Oliver has been asked to consider addressing topics on the Comprehensive Zoning Master Plan and economic development along the Liberty Road corridor. He will also take questions and answers from the audience.

Start the Fall off by being informed and involved. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Road.

Brenda Logue

Co. Council & Zoning "Thank You" (from p. 1)

view the decisions specific to District 4 on Baltimore County's Planning Dept. website at: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/zoning/2008czmp/2008czmpissuelogs.html> – and click on Log of CZMP Issues in 4th Council District.

The Zoning Committee wishes to thank everyone who has displayed and maintained their "NO UPZONING" signs since March. What a great effort! The signs can now be retired. Thanks for your support.

Cathy Wolfson, Zoning Committee

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Debra & Wilson Baker of Pink Azalea Court in Windsor Mill.

RENEWING MEMBERS this past month: John & Chris Aitken and Tom & Sharon Punte.

Dues received after the 20th of August 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 member.

EMAIL ADDRESSES UPDATED: We are making an effort to keep our list of email addresses updated. Should your email address change, kindly notify Marty at 410-461-5605. This list is used by the GPCA Board members only!

The GPCA wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the family of Vernon Mathena, Jr., of Davis Ave. who passed away in August.

Here I go Again! I purchased several 5-year compact fluorescent light bulbs and installed four (4) into my bathroom fixture on 12/01/07. I wrote the date on the bottom of the bulb to see if they do indeed last 5 years. Sunday evening, 07/27/08, I was preparing for bed, hearing a hissing-sound I looked up and saw black vapors coming from one of the bulbs, then a very strange odor. Immediately, I turned the lights off and left the room. Within an hour the odor had gone into other rooms. So, I now have a bulb that burned out within 7 months and I have to drive it to Home Depot to dispose of it?

Marty Kelley, Treasurer

ACADEMIC OLYMPICS FOR JOB CORPS

The Academic Olympics Regional Contest was hosted by Woodstock Job Corps, Thursday, August 21, at the Columbia Sheraton. To attend and to officiate as one of three judges was a memorable experience and reinforces our conviction that Job Corps is doing an almost superhuman job with and for youth. Over a five-hour period 36 representatives from six Job Corps centers from our region were grilled with questions covering Language skills, Science, Mathematics, Spelling, Current Events and History.

Questions, which cannot be repeated here, (they draw heavily from GED exam material) were anything but easy and reflect the quality of material students are expected to master prior to high school graduation.

It was a real privilege to represent GPCA at this event.

Claude Libis

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, Sept. 11 @ Woodstock Job Corps, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

If you are interested in donating this vital gift of life, contact Barbara Stinchcomb, LPN, at 410-696-9335, to sign up to give blood on Sept. 11. The drive will take place in the newly renovated Student Lounge at the Woodstock Job Corps from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The date of Sept. 11 was purposefully chosen to honor and remember those who died or were injured in the terrorist attack of 2001.

Missing Mary

Back when the grass was green and needed regular mowing, say June, I was out in the front paddock with the John Deere and the bichons mowing the weeds so the grass could grow for the alpacas. We had included a picture of the bichons on the lawn tractor in our calendar two years ago because Mary had walked by and said, "Now there's a picture."

Back when we first moved in, Lydia and I were working on one of the many fences we had to put up to contain our animals. Using a rechargeable drill to start the holes, our drill was getting slower and slower. Mary walked by and said, "You're using the wrong tool for the job." After chatting with her for a few minutes, we figured we could pull out a couple of the huge extension cords we had and get another drill and work with some power.

Many mornings I would be out in the equipment shed and Mary would come down Peddicoat. We would either exchange greetings, or have a chat over the fence. Neighbor after neighbor would drive by and wave. She knew them all.

Early one morning, the horses had gone visiting up through the neighborhood, a neighbor called Mary and

Missing Mary (cont. p. 2)

Mary called me. With a bucket of grain and a couple of halters and lead ropes, we were up Peddiccoat bringing the wayward ponies and the young Arab home.

When we got the first chickens, she was among the first people to buy eggs. Mary's little white car would pull up the driveway returning egg cartons and buying eggs. Always a wealth of information or opinion, I loved Mary's visits.

Then there was the Fair, the Howard County Fair. Mary was the assistant Superintendent in the Vegetable Department. She was also a very committed gardener. Until this year, when the illness struck and the doctors forbade outdoor activity and contact with dirt and sunshine and a lot of people. The medicines they were infusing her with made her too sensitive to sunlight and immunologically weakened to defend herself from microorganisms. The drugs also challenged her organs to the point of creating disability. Mary was not walking Peddiccoat anymore.

She was missed at the Fair. The vegetable building was just a little too quiet. No Mary laugh, no chatter, no opinions or advice. We all know she is sick, and we are all missing Mary.

Two simple things brought Mary into our lives, all of our lives. Walking the street (being a 'street walker' is a term Mary would enjoy) and volunteerism, being a mainstay at the Fair. But Mary would also volunteer her opinion and her knowledge and her wisdom given any chance to do so. Generous and demanding. She gives freely of her resources and expects the most out of you.

If we all spent just a little more time engaging with our neighbors, like when we are all outside digging out after a snowstorm, the casual chat, the unprogrammed interaction, like Mary stopping by the fence on any morning to exchange a few words. Or giving up some of our time to make things happen, like taking on a role at the Fair, or in a community association, or wherever your inclinations are. But to give generously and then expect the most out of the people around you.

Mary is still struggling with her illness and the effects of the medications. We can expect the best, but can we give anything? Perhaps taking up her example is the best thing to give.

Brenda Creighton

SCAM ARTISTS -- ATTENTION EVERYONE: THIS JUST IN FROM TOWSON

Stacy Wolinski sent this notice from Towson, saying it might not be relevant to us in Granite. Nonetheless, it just goes to illustrate how inventive scam artists can be & we should always be "on the alert."

Baltimore County's Department of Public Works is alerting homeowners to an illegal and unnecessary house number painting service which is being advertised door-to-door through official looking green notices!!

For a fee of \$20 Community Curb Painters (a company of no known address and reachable only through a toll free, leave a message-after-the-beep) promises to paint a resident's address on the front curbing ostensibly to help

police and fire personnel locate the property if summoned in an emergency. The advertising implies that Community Curb Painters is working in cooperation with local police and fire departments. IT IS NOT.

SUCH CURB PAINTING IS ILLEGAL. CURBS ARE PUBLIC PROPERTY, IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND UNAUTHORIZED PAINTING IS PROHIBITED UNDER THE COUNTY CODE. Moreover, this house number "service" does not satisfy the code requirement for posting addresses required for police and fire protection in Baltimore County. On logical grounds alone, note officials, the painting makes little sense since parked cars frequently block the view of curbs.

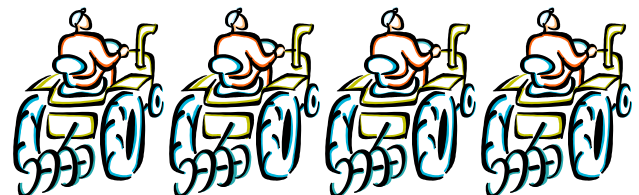
COMMUNITY IN THE NEWS – Food Crisis?

The July 20, 2008, Sunpapers ran an interesting article by Tom Pelton about the crisis facing American agriculture due to the price of oil. The featured farm family was Edward E. Stanfield and his son Edward B. Stanfield who continue to cultivate crops on their 600-acre parcel in the middle of our community. Agriculture in today's economy is dependent on oil: from the use of petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides to the diesel-fueled farm equipment and transporting vehicles. Scholars are beginning to focus and write about the potential impact to the world's food supply due to agricultural oil dependence. One author, Dale Allen Pfeiffer, author of *Fossil Fuels: Oil, Food and the Coming Crisis in Agriculture*, is quoted as speculating that the decline in oil and gas production would continue to push these prices higher making food production more costly and problematic. He claims the food system could collapse causing worldwide hunger. Edward B. Stanfield said in the article that increased fertilizer and diesel costs have forced them to grow less corn this year. During a week of harvest the two Stanfields can expend an average of 1,400 gallons of diesel in their equipment. The alternative to diesel would be scores of field laborers, as in an earlier era.

Of course, other economists, farmers and petroleum producers disagree with the doom and gloom starvation forecast, arguing that the oil supply will not decline in the foreseeable future.

Nonetheless, we all are experiencing the reality of ever increasing prices at the supermarket and roadside stands.

Summarized by Brenda Logue





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.

PLASTIC BAGS

The infamous plastic bag is a petroleum product that more and more communities have had their fill of! In the U.S. alone an estimated 12 million barrels of oil annually are turned into bags which Americans use for a few minutes and then recycle or worse, throw in the garbage. Environmentalists have for years claimed that plastic bags harm wildlife and marine life. Planet Ark, an international environmental group, tallied over 100,000 whales, seals, turtles, and other marine animals killed by plastic bags each year.

Worldwide every year the estimate that 500 billion to one trillion such bags are used. Already complete or partial bans on plastic bags have been approved in China, Australia, South Africa, parts of India, Italy, Bangladesh, and Taiwan (www.alternet.org). San Francisco and Los Angeles, CA, are moving in that direction as well. L.A.'s ban goes into effect July 1, 2010. Whole Foods stopped using plastic bags on Earth Day (April 22) this year. USA Today reported that the Whole Foods' move will eliminate 100 million plastic bags from that date through the end of 2008.

On an individual level, we can all do something to reduce plastic bag use right now. Of course, recycling is preferable to throwing the bags in the garbage. The bags themselves can be used as garbage bags rather than buying special wastebasket sized trash bags. When you go to the grocery store or any other store for that matter, take your shopping list and plastic bags to reuse. If you really want to be "fashionable," you can buy those eco-friendly shopping bags and use them all the time. (I've tried to do this, but can never remember to take the darn thing with me to the store – any advice here would be appreciated).

REMEMBER: Reduce, reuse, recycle, & reward yourself for decreasing your carbon count & helping the environment.

Brenda Logue

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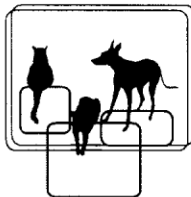
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GPCA Advertising/Article/Letter Policy

GPCA reserves the right to accept and refuse advertising.
Ad copy must be submitted to the Editor by the 20th of the
month prior to publishing.

Checks for the ads must be made to payable to GPCA and sent
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; ¼ page -- \$20; ½ 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 20th 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
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