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Issue #450

GPCA Newsletter

October 2025



GPCA General Meeting
Monday October 13, 2025, 7:00 pm



Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

Guest Speaker:

Betty R Stewart
President
Diggs-Johnson Museum

Please come join us

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President's Note



President's Note – October 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the leaves begin to change and cooler air settles into our community, I'm reminded of how much there is to appreciate — not just in the beauty around us, but in the people and history that have shaped Granite and Woodstock into what they are today.

At our October General Meeting, we are honored to welcome **Betty Stewart from the Diggs-Johnson Museum**. Betty will share the rich legacy of the African American community that once thrived in Granite and the surrounding areas. Her knowledge and dedication to preserving this important history are truly inspiring, and I encourage everyone to attend and learn more about the stories and individuals who helped shape our local heritage.

Fall is also a time of reflection and renewal. It's a great moment to think about how we continue building on the work of those who came before us — not just through words, but through action. Whether it's attending a meeting, volunteering for a project, or simply staying informed, your involvement helps keep GPCA strong, inclusive, and forward-moving. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our community. I look forward to seeing many of you at the October meeting as we honor

our past and keep growing together.

We may be small, but we are mighty.

Warmly,

Chris Brock

President, Greater Patapsco Community Association (GPCA)

~ Chris Brock

GPCA President

chris_brock@ymail.com

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A Very Nice Day at the GPCA Picnic!



We hope you were able to join us at the GPCA Annual Picnic. It was a great time. Approximately 70 people showed up to enjoy the beautiful day and comradery at the CAP Nike Missile Site on Hernwood Road. Delicious food was supplied by the SawMill Cafe' along with the many other dishes and desserts supplied by the attendees. Thanks to all who attended, and we will look forward to seeing you at next year's event!

~ Bob Reisdorf

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ELECTION

Election of GPCA Officers and Directors

The next election of GPCA Officers and Directors will be held on January 12, 2026, please mark your calendar now!

GPCA By-Laws direct us to hold annual elections at our January general meeting. General meetings are on the second Monday of the month.

To be eligible to serve on the Executive Board, candidates must be members of GPCA in good standing for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election.

Officers:

Officers are elected for a one-year term.

The president may serve for 2 consecutive one-year terms and may again become eligible after a one-year lapse.

Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer have no limit on serving consecutive years, but they need to get re-elected each year.

Please put your nomination in now for the following offices

President – 1 year term

Vice President – 1 year term

Secretary – 1 year term

Treasurer – 1 year term

Directors:

All directors are elected for three years with staggered terms and can again become eligible after a one-year lapse.

Current directors:

Gabriela Summerer-Herndon, term expires January 2028, no opening

Patrik Bavoil, term expires January 2027, would like to step back

opening - please put your name in now

Ralph Wright, term expires January 2026, not eligible to run again for one

year.

opening - please put your name in now

Nominations for candidates are being taken at this time and will continue until the election; at that time, nominations will also be taken from the floor.

All Officers and Directors shall contribute impartially to decisions of the board and support the objectives of GPCA which per our By-Laws are:

“To preserve and enhance 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. The Association shall provide a forum for all residents to express their concerns and interests and shall attempt to provide informative and interesting programs that will keep members informed and better able to address any of their concerns or problems. The Association's objective is also to foster a spirit of community among the residents.”

What's the commitment?

In addition to attending GPCA's General Meetings on the 2nd Monday of September, the Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Not ready to serve on our Board but want to be involved?

Consider serving on the Nominating Committee, we need 2 volunteers! If you're interested in serving on the Board, would like to nominate a candidate or have any questions about the process please contact me, Gabriela Summerer-Herndon, Nominating Committee Chair at gpcagsh@gmail.com - use subject "GPCA Nomination".

Thank you!

~ Gabriela Summerer-Herndon

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Baltimore County Council Redistricting Map Adopted

Finally, on September 15, a new Councilmanic District map proposed by Councilmen Patoka and Ertel was adopted by a majority of the council. The new map defines the boundaries of 9 districts as adopted by referendum in 2024. Districts 2 and 3 are majority African American and district 4 is majority BIPOC (Black Indigenous and People of Color). While it better reflects the county's 52% white and 48% BIPOC population, the new map however confines much of the BIPOC voting influence to the county's west side. The new map does keep the entirety of GPCA's boundaries within a single district, District 2, however Districts 2, 3 and 4 converge at Liberty and Rolling Roads effectively splitting the communities of Randallstown in three and Woodlawn into two. The council, with the exceptions of our District 4 Councilman Jones and District 1 Councilman Young voted in favor of the map. An interactive map of the adopted districts can be found here:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/407bf795e1274be996f0066531cb78c3/page/Commission-Iteration-2>

Board of Appeals Decision on Campground Special Exception at 9043 Old Court Rd.

On September 18, the Baltimore County Board of Appeals convened to review the appeal regarding the denial of a Special Exception for establishing a commercial campground at 9043 Old Court Rd. The original request was considered at a hearing held on July 30, during which the petitioner amended their proposal. The revised request sought permission for up to four dual axle trailers and/or recreational vehicles to be placed on the property, with water and electricity provided via a garden hose and extension cord from the owner's residence. Occupancy would be limited to family and friends staying in the RVs.

After careful consideration, the Board of Appeals upheld the denial of the Special Exception. Several reasons were cited for this decision. Firstly, the property's access was deemed inadequate, as it is situated on a single lane right of way shared with other residents. Secondly, the Board found

the revised request to be vague, lacking specifics regarding the length of stay or the frequency of occupancy by family and friends. Thirdly, the provision of utilities to the RVs was considered insufficient for the proposed use.

Additionally, the Board raised concerns about enforcement. They noted that any limitations imposed would require neighboring property owners to bear the responsibility for enforcement, a situation the Board deemed untenable. The GPCA supported the Board's denial, primarily out of concern that granting the Special Exception could set a precedent for similar commercial requests on private rights of way within the GPCA's approximately 12,000 acres. Furthermore, the enforcement burden placed on neighboring property owners was seen as an unacceptable outcome.

~ Cathy Wolfson

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Know Someone New to the Community?

Please share this newsletter and let them know they can sign up for their own free subscription at gpca.net No membership required!

GPCA Membership

Thanks to all of you who have joined GPCA this year. Membership is open year-round and you can join anytime at gpca.net or just use this QR code



Not sure if you joined, or if your membership is up to date? Just contact me, Cathy Wolfson Treasurer / Membership Chair at gpca.treasurer@gmail.com and I'll be glad to let you know!

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Helping Pollinators Thrive in Your Neighborhood

Metapopulations and Pollinator Species

Think of a population as a group of the same animals or plants living together in one area. Once upon a time, 95% of the Chesapeake Bay region was forested, allowing for populations of different species to exist in large areas of unbroken habitat. Today, less than 60% of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is forested. As forested areas and agricultural areas were broken up to house the current population of 18 million people, available habitat too, became broken up, supporting smaller populations that were isolated from one another.

A “metapopulation” is just a piece of the bigger puzzle—a smaller group living in a patch of habitat that suits them. Sometimes, these groups do just fine on their own if there’s enough food and space. But if a patch is too tiny or isolated, the animals living there might dwindle or even disappear from that spot. This doesn’t just happen with big critters like mammals and reptiles; it also affects smaller ones like butterflies, moths, and bumblebees. Lately, lots of these important pollinators have been facing steep declines in their numbers.

Metapopulations are important to preserve the genetic diversity of a population of species in the larger area. When one group is thriving, it can send out new members to boost another group that might be struggling (that’s called “recruitment”). Crucial to the success of the general population is the ability of individual members of a species to be able to travel from a successful self-sustaining metapopulation to another, which is not self-sustaining.

Pollinators, in particular, really need our help. When bees, butterflies, and birds move from one patch to another, they search for food, water, and a place to rest. You can help out by planting native flowers, leaving a corner of your yard a little “wild,” skipping pesticides and herbicides, and keeping up bird feeders and bird baths. Small actions like these make a big difference for pollinators on the move.

Wasps serve a dual role as both pollinator and predator.



Butterfly milkweed is one of the foods for the monarch butterfly. The butterfly is classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and is under consideration for classification as endangered by US Fish and Wildlife.



Need help deciding what to plant in your yard to support pollinators and other native species? The US Fish and Wildlife Service has published an extensive guide listing plants appropriate to different types of habitats. The digital version can be found at this link:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea/Documents/chesapeake natives.pdf>.

~ Judy Plaskowitz

GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee

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PHG's Fall Season!



Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) is pleased to work in partnership with the Small Watershed Conservation Committee of the GPCA. By sharing notes, resources and data, we build the monitoring capacity of the region and bring awareness of the rigor of community science in central Maryland. In late August, Mandy DeLeo from PHG worked alongside the SWCC to observe protocols and share information. Several members of the SWCC are also loyal volunteers at PHG.

PHG is proud to announce the release of our third Non-tidal Patapsco River Report Card. This [2024 Report Card](#), in conjunction with data collected by other quality assured groups like the SWCC, reflects the water quality in our region. Consistently across years of data, we are seeing high conductivity at many of our stream sites which is likely due to high chloride from winter salting of roadways and walk ways. In the beginning of October, we will be collecting data about baseline levels of chloride levels in waterways. In January 2026, we will do a winter Salt Watch Snapshot event. To participate in either event, please reach out to Mandy at wqm@patapsco.org. For more results and details about our report card, to learn more about our other environmental programming or to see our [Environmental Portfolio](#), please visit www.patapsco.org.

~ Aaron Shapiro

PHG Executive Director

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Do-It-Yourself Cake Mixes by Joyce Utmar

I am a confirmed Do-It-Yourselfer. Did you know you can make your own Cake Mixes, and, I guess, muffins , cupcakes, and other baked goods? You can use this technique for most cake recipes. Just measure and store the dry ingredients. When ready to use, add the wet ingredients, and bake as usual. Here are two recipes.

Basic Mix

This basic mix can be made up in advance and stored:

Basic Mix (Dry) Ingredients

- 2 cups cake flour
- 1 T baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ tsp salt

Wet Ingredients

- ½ cup softened butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs (or egg whites only for white cake)

Instructions: Preheat oven to 375°. Add butter, vanilla, 2/3 cup milk to dry mix. Beat 2½ minutes at medium speed. Add rest of milk and eggs beat 3 minutes. Mix in any optional ingredients. Pour into greased floured 8" cake pans. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes.

This basic mix can be used to create many different cakes

For chocolate cake: add ½ cup cocoa powder to the dry ingredients.

For fruit nut cake add:

- ½ cup walnuts
- ½ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup chopped apricots
- 1 cup grated carrot
- 1 additional egg

Banana Bread

(from Better Homes Cookbook)

I often make this in advance for bake sales. I make individual dry ingredient bags. Flour, baking powder, baking soda, and sugar are placed in a Zip Loc bag. Then I can easily mix and bake 4 loaves in the oven at once.



Dry Ingredients:

- 1¾ cups flour
- 1¼ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 2/3 cup sugar

Wet Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup bananas (approx. 2)
- 2 T milk

- ¼ cup chopped nuts (optional)
- dash cinnamon (optional)

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a loaf pan. Blend shortening and sugar until fluffy. Stir in eggs one at a time, then milk, blending well. Blend in flour, baking soda, baking powder alternating with bananas. Fold in nuts. Pour into pan. Bake at 350° for 60-65 minutes.

-- Joyce Utmar jautmar@gmail.com

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Around the Neighborhood

Granite Presbyterian Church (GPC) Food Truck

Wednesday October 15th, 4 – 7 pm

Food Trucks Include: Meat Shack II, Capt'n Crabby, and Once Upon A Potato, Plus the Bluegrass Sounds of the Fruit Jar Howlers.

Woodlawn Police, Woodlawn Precinct

Keep up with what's happening:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/precinct-news/precinct2>

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Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

November 10 – GPCA Guest Speaker, Topic--Daniels Dam Feasibility Study

December 8 – GPCA Holiday Party

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Knights of Columbus



18th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #13294
St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Parish, 10800 Old Court Rd, 21163



November 15, 2025
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Catered by Monaghan's

\$65 per person or Table of 8 for \$480

Purchase tickets:
Go to <http://www.kofc13294.org/handraiser.html>
Or contact Ed Pelsinsky (410) 313-8808 or epelsinsky1@verizon.net
Or Chris Jermann cjermann@verizon.net

Music & Dancing

Games of Chance & Door Prizes

Menu includes Top Round of Beef, Turkey Breast, and Ham from the Pit; Oysters from the Raw Bar; Hand-breaded Fried Oysters, Maryland Crab Soup, Pulled-pork BBQ, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Fresh Green Beans, Coleslaw, Garden Salad, Macaroni with Shrimp Salad, Potato Salad from the Buffet, with Sheet Cake for Dessert. Drinks include Ice Cold Draft Beer, Non-Alcoholic Beer, Wine, Soda, and Coffee.

Proceeds benefit St. Alphonsus Parish, Lazarus Homeless Shelter, Fr. Kongari's Missions and Scholarships, Columbia Pregnancy Center, as well as our many other charities.

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