



GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

<https://www.gpca.net>

GPCA General Meeting
September 12, 2022 7 PM
IN PERSON

Granite Presbyterian Church Social Hall
10637 Old Court Road, Granite, MD 21163

Speaker: Sean WillChene, Shared Solar Advisors, USA and Jim Delong, Clean
choice Project Manager

Topic: Community Shared Solar Power

AGENDA

Call to Order:

Introductions: All attendees, please state your name, street of residence and
whether you are a member or non-member

Speaker Presentation:

Reading of the Minutes:

Financial Report: Maribeth Diemer, Treasurer

Land Use/Zoning Updates: Kathy Skullney

- 3001 Ridge Road, Code enforcement and Building Code Violations
- Patapsco Granite Community Plan for 2030 Master Plan Cycle Update

SWCC Update:

Search for Communications Chair / Secretary / Director / Nominating Chair

Update on Security Square Mall:

New Business:

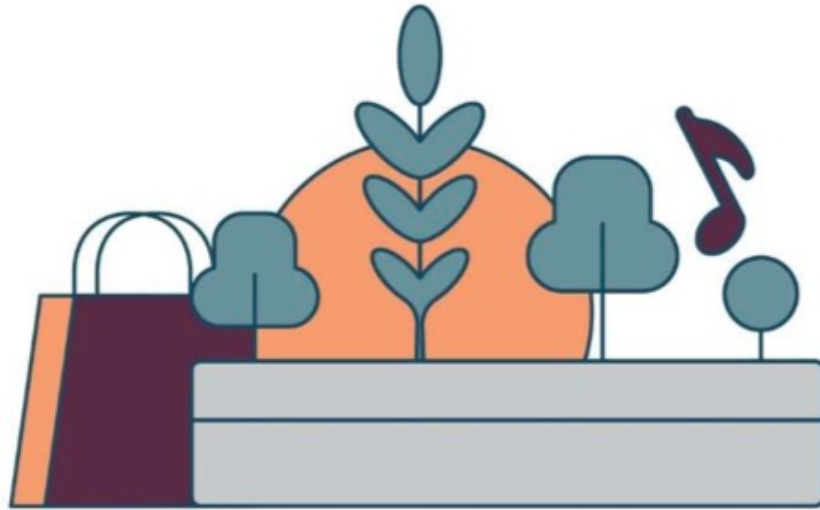
GPCA Picnic October 15, 2022 2-6 PM

10813 Davis Avenue

Closing Remarks:

Next Board Meeting Monday September 19, 2022 7pm – via Zoom

Next General Meeting Monday October 10, 2022 7pm: LIVE / Speaker to be announced



REIMAGINE

Security Square

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The success of Security Square Mall is vital to the overall health and wellbeing of the Woodlawn community. The County has contracted with JMT, Ayers Saint Gross and Landwise to lead a charrette process, which will involve extensive community participation in a visioning and design process for the entire mall property. The charrette will provide opportunities for you to share your ideas to reimagine the mall.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

KICK-OFF MEETING (VIRTUAL)

OCTOBER 13-22, 2022

OPEN DESIGN STUDIO (IN-PERSON)

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

DESIGN PRESENTATION (HYBRID)

SEE THE FULL SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS ON ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE.

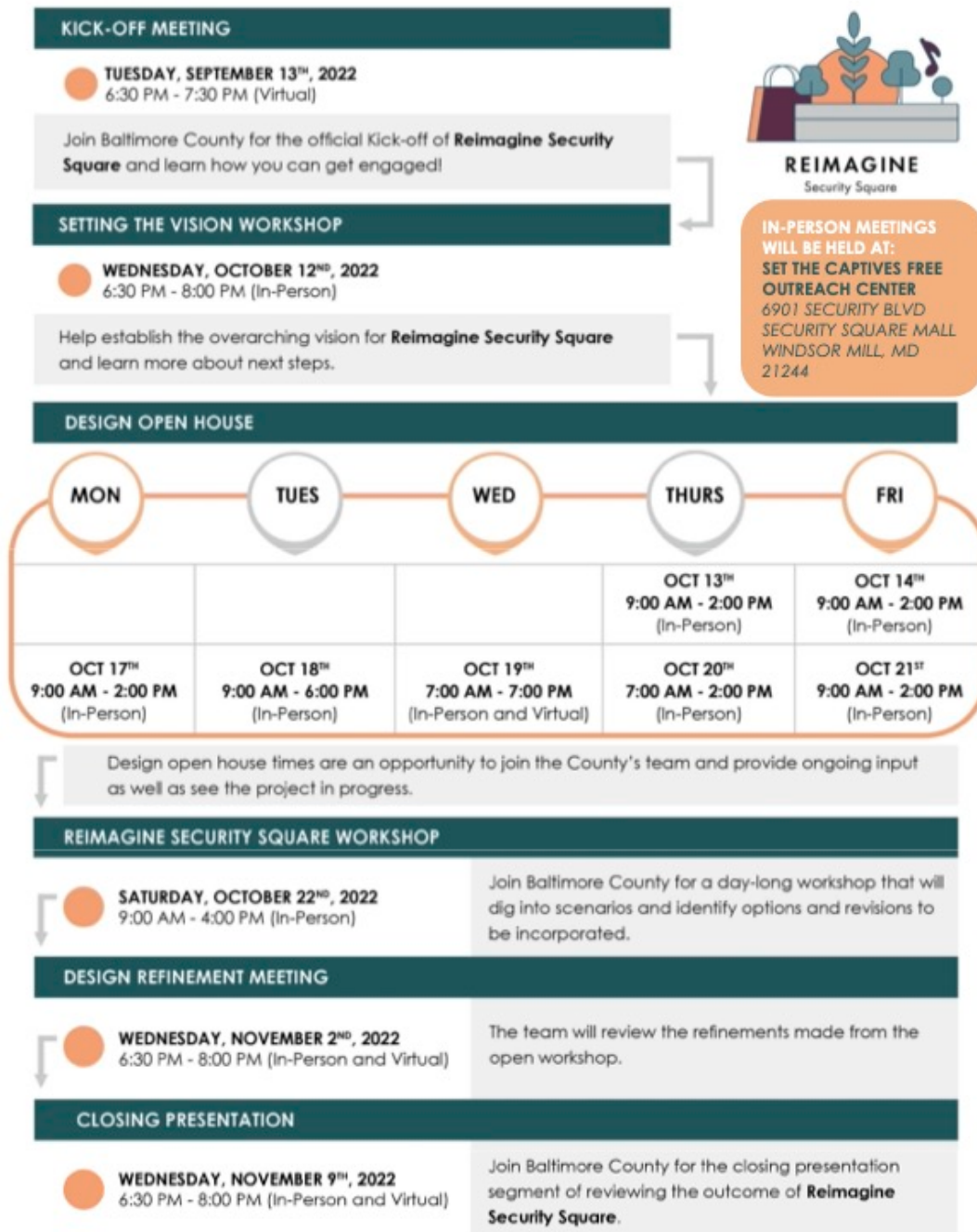


ONLINE

Coming soon!

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securitysquaremall@baltimorecountymd.gov



[View this email in your browser](#)



GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC



Monthly Meeting Information

GPCA General Meeting
Monday, September 12, 7:00 PM
@
Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

Topic: **Community Shared Solar Power**

Speakers: Sean WillChene, Shared Solar Advisors, USA
 Jim DeLong, Clean Choice Project Manager

The Maryland Public Service Commission has implemented a seven-year community solar pilot program to provide access to solar-generated electricity in a manner similar to rooftop solar and net metering for all Maryland customers – and directly from the solar facilities in the Granite area. Our guest speakers will explain the program and how to participate.



GPCA Picnic

October 15, 2022, 2 – 6 PM
@ the Skullneys, 10813 Davis Ave.
Look for details in the October newsletter.

From the Editors' Desk



Swooshh.... Was that the sound of summer flying by? Or are the cicadas back for an encore? Nope, summer 2022 has indeed come, and, before you know it, it will be entirely gone (officially on September 22). “And the seasons, they go round and round, and the painted ponies go up and down, we’re captive on the carousel of time” goes the song by Joni Mitchell, and she continues with “We can’t return, we can only look behind from where we came and go round and round and round in the circle game”. We hope that you all had a great summer, so that when you look behind, you can only conclude that summer 2022 was a vintage year and that the circle game is well worth playing. Summer being almost over also means that the GPCA Newsletter is back and in this issue, you will read an update of [what’s happening](#) in our neighborhood, activities of the [Small Watershed Conservation Committee](#), [Granite Historical Society](#), and [Patapsco Heritage Greenway](#). Thanks for Eileen Ciechanowski sharing one of her [recipes](#). We hope someone will give it a try and bring it to the GPCA picnic on October 15th.

Meanwhile, please enjoy what's left of the summer, look forward to beautiful fall colors, and please give us some feedback. We love to hear from you!

~ Your Editorial Team

President's Note



Hope you're enjoying our new newsletter format. Many thanks go to Editors Ru-Ching Hsia and Patrik Bavoil who've put a great deal of time and effort into making it easy to access and interesting to read.

It sure was a great season for tomatoes, zucchini and just about anything else in our garden this summer. Due to the heavy infestation of squash beetles last year we gave up mulching to keep down the weeds and went old school, hoeing and pulling. Haven't seen a squash beetle all summer and yielded more produce than we or any of our friends could use. What is it about thick slices of fresh tomato and mayo on Wonder Bread that just makes summer a little more special?

Well, there's no way to sugarcoat this. Your GPCA board desperately needs nominees for officers and directors. Heck, we need a nominating committee! We haven't had a secretary since January and Director Maurice Dixon's term expires in January. I'm on my third round as president and Director Butch Oakman just completed his second two-year term. It's the old *story of Everybody blaming Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have*. We anticipate there will be

upzoning requests during the county's 2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process on multiple "investment" properties within our boundaries. Today there are 140 acres zoned RC2 for sale on Davis Ave. That zoning permits 2 residences by right, not exactly the type of yield an investor is looking for. In July, 3.3 acres zoned RC6 on Dogwood Rd. which back up to the mega-townhouse development on Johnnycake Rd. were purchased by SVMP Properties. There are literally hundreds of acres within our boundaries owned by non-resident speculators. **Are YOU concerned about traffic or your drinking water? GPCA needs to have an informed board by the start of the CZMP which begins next fall 2023.** No experience is necessary, only a willingness to take a seat at the table and address issues that impact the community we love. Contact me, Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net or any other board member if you'll consider setting aside a few hours a month to take a seat at GPCA's table. Hope we see you live and in person at our monthly meetings this fall on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 in Granite Presbyterian Church's lower-level social hall. All are welcome!

~ Cathy Wolfson, President

Have you missed it?

Dr. [Philip Piccoli](#)'s talk on "[Woodstock Granite: Rare in Significance, Small in Location, with a Very Large History](#)" is available for download as a PDF. Click the button below

[Download Piccoli's presentation](#)

About Our Neighborhood



Ben's Run Bridge at Hollifield and Dogwood Roads (County Bridge #0072)



This summer Baltimore County traffic engineers have been conducting engineering field studies to record the stream's conditions, flow dynamics and other existing factors required to determine what modifications may be required to modify the design plans that were created in 2004. The replacement of the existing bridge which was completed in 1928 has been planned for nearly 20 years, but to date, the County has not yet completed the

acquisition of required land from DNR on the Quaker Hill side of the bridge. According to county Traffic Engineer Hiwotie Wondem the new bridge will be wider on the south (downstream) side to accommodate a 6' pedestrian walkway. A public hearing will be held in advance of the estimated fall 2023 bid date. The public hearing is required and is a condition for the county to receive funding for the project from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

~ **Cathy Wolfson**



As many neighbors and members know, the property at **3001 Ridge Road** has had significant unpermitted activities occurring on site since being purchased in February 2022. These activities included junk vehicles, open dumping and burning, construction storage, and the like. Baltimore County issued a Correction Notice in April enumerating 5 categories of violations to be corrected by May 21, 2022. When the violations were not corrected, the County issued a Citation for enforcement with a \$10,000 fine, subject to a public hearing on August 26.

GPCA and numerous neighbors/members attended the hearing and testified, as did the property owner. The administrative judge found no mitigating circumstances for failure to cease and correct the unpermitted activities and uses, and imposed the full fine to be paid within 30 days of the official order.

Other pending investigations by both the county and Maryland state inspectors include building without permits, extensive unpermitted excavation, and resulting stream damage at the rear of the property.

~ **Kathy Skullney, Zoning Chair**



Update: Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery and Arboretum

[Serenity Ridge](#) is now certified with the Green Burial Council, and has an [official website](#). The formal dedication and opening is now expected in October. The Green Burial Association of Maryland will be having their quarterly meeting at the cemetery the first or second week in October as well. Significant improvements are planned to the entrance, including the

planting of a number of new trees and shrubs. Look for the official date in the October newsletter If the October timeframe becomes definite.

~ **Kathy Skullney, Zoning Chair**



What's cooking in your kitchen?



Dreamy Lemon Delight

- *by Eileen Ciechanowski*

A perfect refreshing dessert for a hot day. It's both delicious for the eyes and your taste buds. Definitely a crowd pleaser!

Crust:

1. Sift together: 2 cups flour, ½ cup powdered sugar, and ½ cup finely chopped walnuts or pecans.
2. Cut in 1 cup butter.
3. Press into 13"x9" pan and bake at 350° for 25 minutes.

Filling:

1½ cup sugar
4½ Tbsp. cornstarch
1½ cup milk
3 oz. lemon juice
4 egg yolks, slightly beaten
6 Tbsp. butter
1½ Tbsp. grated lemon peel
1½ c. sour cream
Whipped cream or Cool Whip

1. In a medium saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch; mix well.
2. Stir in milk, lemon juice, and egg yolks. Cook over medium heat until thick, stirring constantly.
3. Remove from heat. Stir in butter and lemon peel.
4. Cool mixture to room temperature and fold in sour cream.

5. Spoon over cooled crust. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours or until set.
6. Top dessert with whipped cream or Cool Whip. Garnish with fresh berries and additional lemon zest, if desired.

[Download Printable Recipe](#)



Too many tomatoes from this year's harvest?
Try some new tomato recipes below!
Click on the image to access the recipe. Enjoy!



Tomato Basil Quiche



Tomato & Basil Frittata



Fresh Tomato Tart



Spinach Stuffed Tomatoes



Tomato Zucchini au Gratin



Tomato Herb Bread

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Save our Streams

Small Watershed Conservation Committee (SWCC) Activity Update

Back in March of 2022, three SWCC volunteers became certified in (take a deep breath) Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification (Macro ID) through the Izaak Walton League of America. To those who completely glossed over that title, think of it as searching and identifying bugs, or larvae, living under rocks in streams and rivers.

The SWCC has already been monitoring water quality at four sites for the past 2 years, so why add another monitoring protocol? Identifying river bugs may unlock the key to understanding a stream's long-term history. You see, years of water quality monitoring give a good picture of how the stream is affected by human-related impacts (i.e. runoff, road salt, land-use changes, etc.) over time. Many aquatic macroinvertebrates are sensitive to changes in water quality so their presence or absence in a particular stream can serve as an indicator of the stream's long-term environmental conditions. You're probably asking yourself, how can larva show long-term effects of anything, since their lifespan is so short?

Picture visiting a stream surrounded by a healthy and diverse forest. There may be a few roads and houses, but otherwise the stream's physical characteristics appear mostly healthy (e.g. there is a stream buffer, the water is clear as it flows along the rock riffles, and you can see aquatic wildlife such as fish). But the Macro ID data may change your perception of the river's true health status. Just as birds, deer, and other wildlife tend to migrate to specific nesting areas given the habitat and seasons remain steady, aquatic larvae tend to lay their eggs in the same areas of a stream year after year. (See GPCA SWCC volunteers performing water sampling and identification in the pictures below)



Andy Grosko (Left) performing riffle sampling during the Save Our Stream Certification Course with Patapsco Heritage Greenway, March 2022

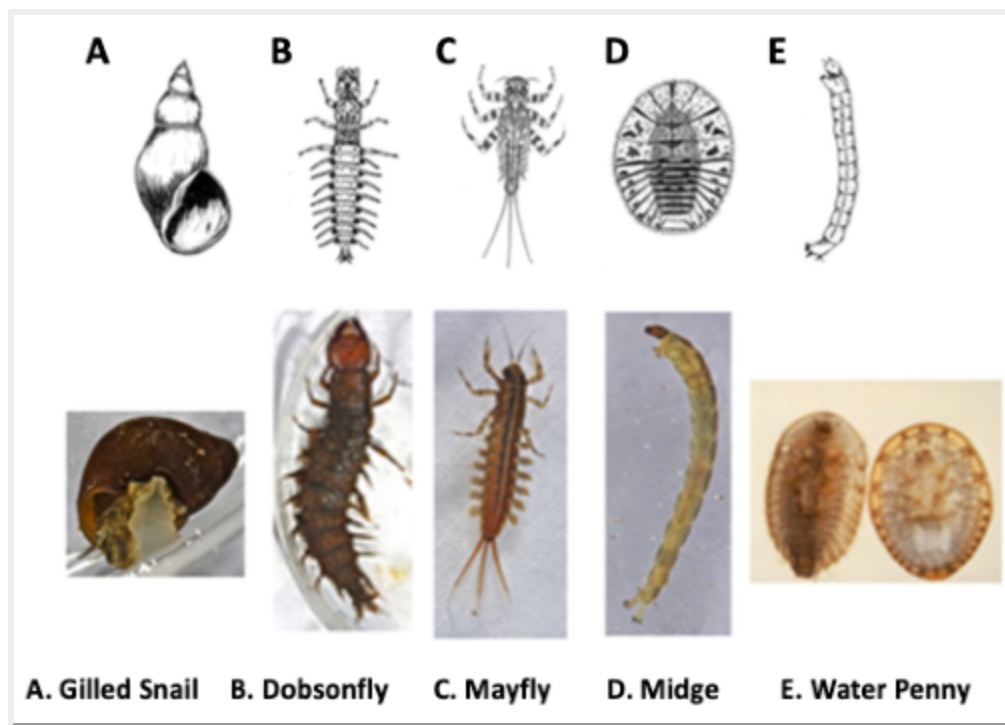


Laurie Donnelly (left) Identifying Macro-invertebrates with SOS Coordinator, Kira Carney (right), March 2022

So far, SWCC has only performed Macro ID sampling in our four stream sites from March to May (testing once a month) and have found mostly pollution-tolerant bugs (see some examples of the critters in our stream below). This means our sites are on the Good-to-Poor health range. Sampling has paused for the summer, as the bugs fly away in the end of May and don't lay their larvae until late-August. Sampling will pick back up in September through to November. The pencil drawings and photos of some of the critters we found in the streams are shown in the figure below.

SWCC is motivated to use this data to dig deeper into our community ecosystem's health. After monitoring this site for many years, we may find the stream quality diminishes, improves, or stays the same based on the number of bugs we find, and what kind of bugs are collected. This data will help determine where to focus local and state government's stream and watershed restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

If you're interested in learning more about Save Our Streams, our data, becoming certified, or other information, please visit: <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring>



Download PDF of SWCC activity update



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Check It Out – A New PHG Website!



[The Patapsco Heritage Greenway \(PHG\)](#) has recently launched a new and updated website. The new [PHG website](#) has a greater aesthetic appeal while also providing a streamlined approach in presenting tons of information as well as many links to other relevant websites. (Note that given the extent of the new design and amount of information transferred and

developed, the new website will continue to be ‘tweaked’ and new information added and updated.)

The new website, developed by Redstart Creative, provides a wealth of information about the heritage, environment, recreation, and arts and culture for the areas within the PVHA (Patapsco Valley Heritage Area) Boundary. Of particular note to our readers is the inclusion of information relative to our Granite area: the [Granite community](#); [the Granite Historical Society](#), and the [Granite Historic District](#).

~ **Bill Skullney**



The Granite Historical Society (GHS) held its annual picnic on August 16th at 6:00. Thanks to Stacy and Doug Wolinski we were once again able to gather at the Stanfield Pavilion. Their generous hospitality also extended to providing the 'meats' for our special event. A special thanks goes out to Marty Kelley and Kathy Skullney for coordinating the remaining menu items and general attendance. In addition to the tasty shared dishes provided by the attendees, the approximate 50 people that attended were also treated, thanks to Emma Lehman, to the music of local artist Chris Garriott. Two special items made and donated by members Bob Teller (bird house and suet holder) and Murph Moorefield (handcrafted stone pendant) were auctioned off with proceeds going to the GHS. Several items were offered for purchase including a lovely afghan made by Pam Adams. Member Lisa Woolfson and family members also displayed considerable information relative to the history of Granite and families of the area. Thanks again to all who made this picnic possible and to all who attended.

We look forward to seeing you again next year! On another note, after a short summer hiatus, **the GHS will resume its monthly meetings on Sept. 20 at 7:00 pm. Granite resident Jason Tanner will speak about his metal detecting adventures in Granite and show some pieces of local history he has found.** We will have a short business meeting after Jason's presentation to bring all up to date on the current GHS activities. All are welcome to attend!

~ Bill Skullney

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