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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 423

GPCA Newsletter

January 2023



GPCA General Meeting

Monday, January 9, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

SPEAKER: Ashliegh Knox, Co-owner of Hexed Honey

Election of GPCA Officers will follow after Ms. Knox's presentation

Ashliegh Knox is a local beekeeper and co-owner of [Hexed Honey](#). Hexed Honey is a humble apiary located off Ridge Road in Milford Mill with a focus on balanced beekeeping and education. Hexed views the honeybee as the world's most important organism, and our greatest teacher. Please come to learn more about the hive adoption programs, sponsorship, fair, and sustainable beekeeping practices at Hexed Honey.

**Greater Patapsco Community Association
2023 Slate of Officers and Directors**

Election to be held during General meeting on January 9, 2023

- President – Kathy Skullney
- Vice President – Butch Oakman
- Treasurer – Cathy Wolfson
- Secretary – **Vacant**
- Director – Ralph Wright 3 term ends 2026
- Director - Zulma Santiago to serve the remaining 2 years of the term vacated by Butch Oakman ending January 2025

Note: Director Lisa Charyszn 3 year term ends January 2024 – Not on slate

There are opportunities for you to serve on the GPCA Board. Please email gpc21163@gmail.com for more information or nominate a candidate.

Nominations of other candidates will be taken from the floor on the evening of the election. Candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election. Per the GPCA bylaws officers are elected for a 1-year term and directors for 3-year terms. The President may serve for 2 consecutive 1-year terms and may again become eligible after a 1-year lapse.

From the Editors' Desk



Year 2023 has finally waltzed in unceremoniously, right on time but without the predicted snow flurries or ice rain in the backdrop. I do not make a new year resolution this year as I am still trying to accomplish the one I made in 2016: **“to be more earth-friendly”**. This resolution has now become my every-year and everyday resolution. I am proud to report that I managed to host all our gatherings without using a single disposable plate or utensil this holiday season. However, being earth-friendly also comes with the risk of becoming a “hoarder”. My family continuously complains about all the bottles, boxes, and cans that I save to reuse or upcycle later on. Our kitchen counter is permanently cluttered with buckets of kitchen scraps I save for the compost pile or the worm farm. My children have learned to duck and dodge in our laundry room to avoid the socks or pants hanging from the ceiling airing rack. Being earth-friendly indeed means embracing new ways of consuming less and compromising on some everyday

convenience.

In past years, the GPCA membership drive has involved sending out a special envelope along with the 4-page printed GPCA Newsletter. This year, I am hoping we can run a digital --and more earth-friendly-- membership campaign. If you [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code below, you will be able to complete the membership form and online payment in less than ten minutes, ...without consuming a piece of paper, a check, or a stamp. After you finish, could you kindly find out if your neighbors are receiving the GPCA Digital Newsletter? If they are not, please spend a few minutes to help them complete their subscription if needed, and if they wish, their GPCA membership registration. If you do all this, you will have not only supported our community's commitment to preserving our environment, but you will also have my everlasting gratitude for helping me accomplish my every day, every-year resolution. There are in fact many ways to be more friendly to Mother Earth with a little compromise and adaptation. I hope 2023 will bring me closer to accomplishing my resolution. Happy New Year!

~ Ru-ching Hsia



President's Note



2022 was a progressive year for GPCA. Many of our hard copy newsletter recipients saw a conflict between our conservation mission and our monthly distribution of an 8 page hardcopy newsletter. So, after much consideration we transitioned to an online format accessible to anyone with internet access. Also in response to many requests we've expanded our dues paying options allowing new and

renewing members to pay online. And the early results are in. The newsletter is reaching about 300 email recipients vs 1,600 postal route households and membership is down 27%. Still all transitions take time and we need your participation to remain a viable resource for our community. Subscribe to the newsletter online using our [GPCA Newsletter Subscription Form](#) We'd also appreciate it if you'd encourage others to [join online](#) and forward these links to a friend or neighbor. We do lack a presence on facebook and Instagram and welcome a facilitator for those platforms. Could YOU be the one that helps us make that happen? [Volunteer here.](#) There is a lot of good work to share such as outcomes of code enforcement hearings, the testing results of our monthly stream sampling and other development and land use related issues we monitor. If you have suggestions for how GPCA can remain a relevant community association you support with your membership please email our communications director at gpc21163@gmail.com Or, contact me directly and share your thoughts. Better yet, attend our January 9 meeting and participate in our annual election. Past President Kathy Skullney is our candidate for President this year, and if elected I'll serve as Treasurer/Membership Chair. Thanks to all of our candidates for stepping up to serve GPCA including Past President, Ralph Wright. And a debt of gratitude to outgoing Treasurer/Membership Chair, Maribeth Diemer who has served so competently since 2016. Well done, MB!!!

Wishing you and yours a peaceful New Year.

Cathy Wolfson, President

410-245-8708

oakknob@comcast.net

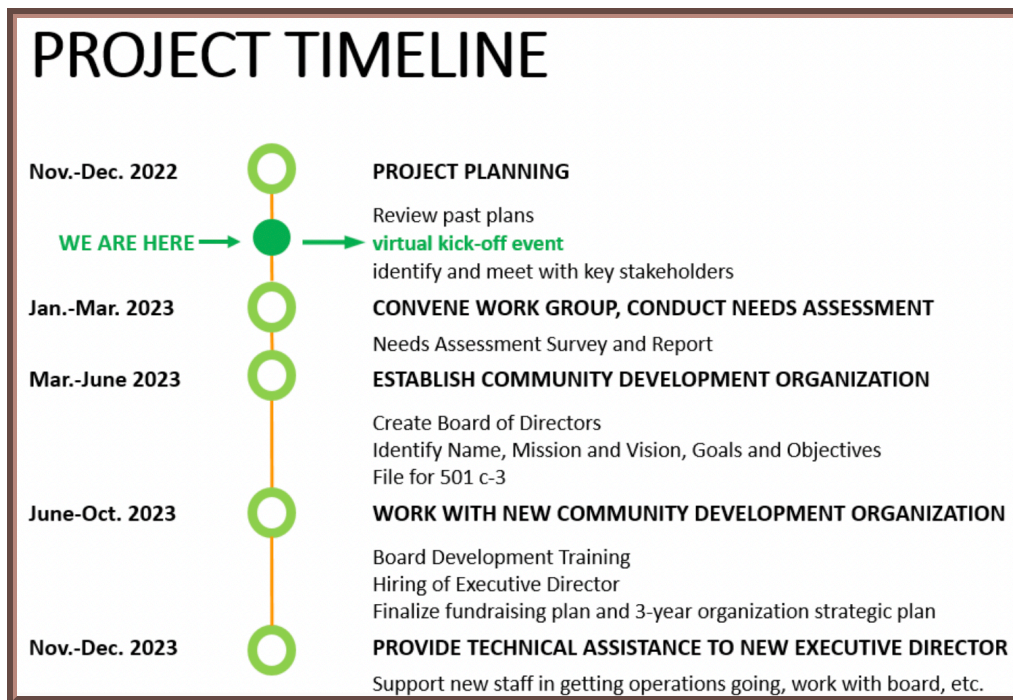
About Our Neighborhood



Liberty Road Update

As previously reported, Baltimore County introduced the formation of a Community Development Organization (CDO) at a virtual public meeting held on December 6 at 6:30 pm. The CDO will be a non-profit LLC whose

purpose is the implementation of all the necessary reinvestment, redevelopment and enhancement of Liberty Road, Randallstown core, and related communities as has been repeatedly recognized and promised for many years. A description of this organization and effort can be found [HERE](#). GPCA will follow the progress of this project in 2023.



Ridge Road Update

The property at 3001 Ridge Road is the subject of a formal complaint by Baltimore County. Sediment and Erosion Control which required a proper silt fence along the stream and the stabilization and correction of all the excavation and disturbed areas of the property in addition to the violations already processed. Inspections as of 11/23/2022.

As for the two existing County Code Enforcement cases, none of the cited and fined violations had been corrected as of follow-up inspection in September, with another \$10,000 fine imposed as a result of the hearing on 11/15/2022, with a correction deadline of 12/12/2022. The full additional fine became final as of 12/19/2022 when an inspection on that date determined that corrections had not been made. Information on the construction violations has not been available.



Stay tuned

Baltimore County Master Plan 2030

2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process – begins September 2023



~ Kathy Skullney



What Are You Drinking? Protecting the Source”



On December 15, 2022, four members of the GPCA's Small Watershed Conservation Committee attended the 28th Annual Conference of the Maryland Water Monitoring Council (MWMC).

This conference brings together, government departments, academics, nonprofit organizations, engineering firms, students, instrument manufacturers, equipment and supply vendors and interested citizens. In all, there are well over 250 attendees. It's an excellent opportunity to renew and develop contacts, related to our committee's work.

It is an all-day conference covering a variety of focused topics. The theme

of this years' conference was "*What Are You Drinking? Protecting the Source*". This covered the source of the tap factors affecting drinking water quality and quantity. After the morning auditorium lectures, there are special topic breakout sessions running concurrently for the rest of the day. Having 4 SWCC members attending allowed us to cover more topics than in the past. Each of the attendees is going to write an article for the newsletter in the coming months.

I was interested in learning more about **microplastics** (see the image



below). This is an emerging concern and early in understanding the prevalence, uptake, and health effects. Microplastics are fragments of any type of plastic less than 5 mm in length, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration. They cause pollution by entering natural ecosystems from a variety of sources, including cosmetics, clothing, food packaging, and industrial processes. (Definition source: Wikipedia) Microplastics are found throughout the world in the air, in our water, in soil, in the food we eat, and even in our bloodstreams.

Since this is a new and developing field of study there is still so much to learn. One example, there are many sources and types of plastics. The effects of each type are unknown and even identifying each type has proven extremely difficult and expensive. Currently, collected samples must be studied using several different processes and methods. I'm sure we will be hearing and learning a lot more about microplastics in the future.

A great resource to learn everything about Maryland waterbodies is the [Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\) website](#). It is a bit overwhelming at first view. Take a look, and browse a bit for a topic that might be interesting. I guarantee you'll learn something new!

~ **Bob Teller**
Chair of SWCC

Join or Renew GPCA Membership



GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee (SWCC) welcomes high school or middle school students to participate in the stream monitoring program. Please contact the SWCC Chair, [Bob Teller](#) if you are interested.

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Salmon Mousse

If you missed the delicious salmon mousse served at the GPCA holiday gathering on December 12th, here is the recipe:

Dissolve:

- 1 envelope gelatin
- 1/2 C boiling water



Blend in food processor with:

- 1 lb can salmon, drained (I've used cooked salmon, just add 1 t salt)
- 2 t dried dill
- 2 T lemon juice
- 1/2 C mayonnaise
- 1/2 med onion chopped

Makes 4 cups. Recipe can be halved.

Blend and pour into mold until set. Easy peasy.

~ Shared by Cathy Wolfson

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Join or Renew GPCA Membership

Granite Historical Society (GHS) *Bi-Monthly Speaker Series*,



February 21st, 7 PM at Granite Presbyterian Church.

John Brantley will speak on the "Civil War in Granite".

This talk will focus on the Union Army occupation of the Patapsco River Valley, JEB Stuart's cavalry operations in the valley, the war's consequence for Granite's slaveholding families, and pay tribute to the 30 young men from Granite and Woodstock who fought on both the blue and the gray sides. You might also be surprised to learn that two of Granite's most prominent residents were held as "political prisoners" during the war.

Everyone is invited to attend. Please contact the GHS ahead of time at john.ghs@fullduplex.com in order to receive a pdf file of background material for the event.

Howard Conservancy Education Center suffered a flood during the bitter cold snaps around Christmas time. A lot of furnishing and educational materials are lost and not covered by insurance. The conservancy is



seeking donations to help them recover the loss. Click [HERE](#) if you are interested to help.



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