

Hello:

We hope you received the GPCA Postcard. We sent it to remind you that the monthly community newsletter is now distributed via email and available on our website, along with past issues.

To subscribe send your email address to: gpc21163@gmail.com

Two corrections to dates given in the postcard:

1. The in person November meeting is Monday, **11/14/2022** at 7pm at the Granite Presbyterian Church.
2. The date for the January meeting is **01/09/2023**

[View this email in your browser](#)



GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 421.

GPCA Newsletter

November 2022



GPCA General Meeting
Monday, November 14, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road



Special Guests: Legislative District 10 State
Senator and Delegates

What issues would you like our District Representatives to address in the 2023 Legislative Session? Education, infrastructure, crime? Share your concerns; they are ready to listen.

From the Editors' Desk



We lost a couple of chickens recently when a fox found his/her way through our fence and made a killing ground in our chicken yard. Our brave rooster must have put up a good fight. We found him shivering by the corner of the chicken coop, head down, missing several of his proud tail feathers. Poor fellow. I knew just who was the culprit: the beautiful red fox with a bushy tail that I admired from afar several times. Just like I know who was the one that chomped up my zucchini and cucumber in my vegetable garden: that plump woodchuck that made me laugh every time I saw him clumsily running across our yard. We complain about these creatures living off our property but they may look at us as invaders of their Kingdom. All creatures, small or big are all part of Nature and our lives are mysteriously intermingled and balanced in some way. The invaders turn into victims, the victims become the aggressors. I am still learning how to play my role in Nature carefully. I am grateful that members of our community are helping us to keep our streams and roadside clean so that all the creatures can enjoy the beauty of mother Nature. We regret that we had to cancel the GPCA annual picnic in October. COVID-19 got in the way! But do come to the general meetings on November 14, we will have a chance to discuss the issues that concern us most directly with our representatives and legislators. Hope to see you there.

~ Your Editorial Team

President's Note



Picking up trash along the 3500 block of Granite Road during our Small Watershed Conservation Committee's 6th Annual Cleanup on Oct. 22, a profile of litterbugs began to emerge. In the few hundred-foot stretch between the last speed bump from Marriottsville Road and the little bridge over the Mardella Run tributary, I picked up no fewer than 3 empty packs of Newports, dozens of tall boy beer cans, multiple liquor miniatures, scores of Dunkin Donut and Big Gulp cups, lids and straws and at least 4 decomposing, dozen capacity Dunkin Donut boxes among a plethora of other garbage including two 750 ml VSOP Cognac bottles, high-end stuff. Evidently, lots of drivers and passengers subscribe to the "when in doubt, throw it out" policy. On the plus side, I think single-use water bottles were down from past clean-ups. Gratefully several of the more considerate litterers' granny knotted their plastic bags of trash before tossing them out the window. Those remained intact, simplifying their pick-up significantly. Thanks for that! And where

was the biggest concentration of cups, cans, and plastic bottles found? On either side of the speed bump! My mind's eye envisions trash erupting from the back of pick-up trucks as they take on the bump at full speed. And here's an appeal to those folks who ditch entire commercial-size bags of trash on the side of the road, presumably under the cover of darkness. Please distribute it in fewer bags, those full 55-gallon bags are REALLY heavy for our volunteers! So as of this writing that stretch, a great deal of Old Court Rd and of Diamond Ridge Park on Dogwood Rd are relatively trash-free thanks to a dedicated core of hardy volunteers. There are other unsung cleanup heroes who patrol routinely all along Wrights Mill Rd. All who do it, know it won't last. Still it's refreshing to see how it could look if the smokers, sophisticated drinkers, donut eaters and speed bump bouncers enjoyed seeing our community appear at least as clean as the inside of their vehicles. With their cooperation, Granite viewed from the comfort of a car could be a beautiful place all year round!

Stay well and stay engaged.

~ Cathy Wolfson, President

Festival of Lessons and Carols

An Advent & Christmas Concert with Reflections and Caroling

Presented by the Vocal and Instrumental Musicians of
St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church & Granite Presbyterian Church

With special guests:

The Embassy String Quartet

Friday, December 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Light refreshments will
follow the concert.

Adult Choir
Children's Choir
Handbell Choir
String Quartet
Audience Caroling
Instrumental &
Vocal Solos

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church, 10800 Old Court Road, Woodstock, MD 21163

A free-will offering will be taken to offset the costs of this and future concerts.

For more information call: 443-973-5477, or email: Lyle@stalchurch.org

Festival of Lessons and Carols
7:00 p.m., Friday, December 2, 2022
St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church
10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD

An Advent/Christmas Concert with Reflections. The Musicians of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church and Granite Presbyterian Church will perform Advent and Christmas carols and special music with musical guests: the Embassy String Quartet. The audience will be invited to join in with Christmas carols at various times in the concert. Reflective readings concerning the Advent and Christmas seasons add to a joyful

consideration of the real reason for the season. Light refreshments will follow the concert.

About Our Neighborhood



Security Square Mall News

The Security Square Mall Area Setting the Vision Workshop was hosted at the O.W.E. center at the mall on October 13. The Sears location was purchased with state and county funds this year and the Workshop is designed to determine how the mall can be redeveloped. Currently, it may be the only shopping center on earth with a Macy's AND a tractor-trailer driving school. Overall feedback from attendees was NO truck driving school and lots of support for youth sports facility, upscale shopping, and dining. Final results of the Community Survey conducted Sept 12 – Oct 16 can be found [here](#). An in-person / virtual Design Refinement Meeting will be hosted on November 2 at the O.W.E. center from 6:30-8:00 pm. Virtual Meeting information was not available at the time of this writing but check [Here](#) for information to join the meeting.

~ *Cathy Wolfson*



New Grocery Store Coming to Randallstown

Success!! Councilman Jones and County Executive Johnny O. have announced that the full-service grocery store **Grocery Outlet Bargain Market** will be established at the **Milford Mill Shopping Center**, finally providing the much-needed and long-awaited full grocery service to central Randallstown.

~ *Kathy Skullney*



Have you seen this magnificent creature in your neighborhood?

The bald eagles are coming back. Watch out for your chihuahuas!
Thanks, Pam for sharing these pictures with us.

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Small Watershed Conservation Committee – 6th Cleanup

On the morning of Saturday, October 22, 2022, over a dozen community members volunteered to do stream and roadside cleanup. Areas that we concentrated on were Diamond Ridge Park and Dogwood Run at that location. Other teams focused on sections of Old Court Rd and Granite Road. Approximately 25 trash bags were collected along with other junk dumped on our roadsides.



Although our banner says 3rd cleanup it was actually our 6th. We'll do another cleanup in the spring of 2023.



~Bob Teller, Small Watershed Conservation Committee

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What is a cold water stream and why

should we care?

Have you ever stepped barefoot into a stream on a hot summer day and been pleasantly surprised by how cool that water felt? Have you ever seen water trickling out of the ground or rock formation even during a dry spell? If so, you recognize just how rare a cold-water stream is in this area. A cold water stream is a scarce resource in Maryland; it is defined by law and evidenced by the aquatic organisms dependent upon it to thrive and reproduce. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act requires "designed use" classifications and appropriate protection for quality water bodies. Cold water, such as spring heads and small streams in heavily forested areas may meet the criteria as cold water bodies. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has responsibility for assigning those designations. "Use Class III" is "Nontidal Cold Water" by MDE criteria ([Learn more about Use Classes](#))

Why should we care about a stream being classified Use Class III? Will a Use Class III benefit us in any way over a Use Class I, II, or IV classification? Well yes! A Use Class III body of water can support the propagation and growth of trouts. This is an indicator of excellent water quality.

And this is extremely rare in Maryland, especially east of I-81. So much so that Class III waters may be eligible for special protection and funding to restore their buffer zones. In Baltimore County, the Jones Falls is one example of a Use Class III cold water stream that sustains a naturalized brown trout population. The watershed landowners receive funding for the restoration of the riparian (meaning river or stream) buffer. The buffer (trees and shrubs planted to protect the stream banks for about 75' on each side) stabilizes the streambed, reduces erosion, enhances trout habitat, and will develop a tree canopy to shade the stream.

The State requires one of three forms of evidence for a cold water stream classification:

1. A naturally reproducing trout population, demonstrated by multiple-year classes of trout. The brook trout is native to Maryland, but the brown trout (originated from Europe) and rainbow trout (originated from Western states) may have naturalized populations here.
2. Populations of cold water macroinvertebrates (animals with no backbone i.e. crayfish, clams and snails), specifically two stonefly taxa that are only found in cold water. These (benthic) animals live at the bottom of streams among rocks, rubble, and leaves.
3. Water temperatures recorded during June, July and August at 20 minute or less intervals that do not exceed 20 degree C (68 degrees F) more than 10% of the time and never exceed 24 degrees C (75 degrees F).

Our GPCA Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) has been collecting data from instream temperature recorders for over two years to determine the seasonal and daily temperature profiles of four local streams. We started surveying aquatic macroinvertebrates in Spring and Fall 2022 to better assess stream water quality (refer to previous SWCC article on this topic for more detail). We hope to determine the suitability of our monitored streams to sustain cold-water fish, such as trout. Our SWCC surveys follow the standard sampling protocol taught by the Izaak Walton League nationwide for rocky bottom streams. At least three of our SWCC members are trained and certified to use this protocol.



SWCC team volunteers (Dave Scheurer, Penny Troutner, and Judy Plaskowitz), at the survey table.

Temperature is a key factor in aquatic habitat sustainability according to scientists. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources conducted a 10-year study (2000-2009) on twenty-seven high-quality streams throughout the state and analyzed macroinvertebrate collections from over 1,000 Maryland Biological Survey samples to determine which species / taxa are “Cold-water obligates”. They found two taxa of stoneflies, *Sweltsa* and *Tallaperla* that only exist in high-quality, well-oxygenated cold water. If you want to see what these stoneflies look like, go to <https://bugguide.net/index.php?q=search&keys=Sweltsa>. Keep in mind they are small, a little over ¼ inch long.

Did our SWCC team ever find the cold water type of stoneflies? No, at least not yet. But we are trying.



The macroinvertebrates SWCC sampled at Brice Run and Granite Branch.

~ Andy Grosko, Small Watershed Conservation Committee

[Read this article online](#)





Granite Historical Society

This month the Granite Historical Society (GHS) General Meetings will resume on November 15. We will continue our Speaker Series presentations with Granite resident **Merlowe Henry** speaking to us on **Maryland beekeeping**. We will also be discussing our upcoming elections and are looking for others who may be interested in

either becoming a member or serving on the Board. The meeting will be held via Zoom, so, if interested, please [send us an email](#). For more information about the Historical Society, check out our [website](#). Thanks, and we hope to see you at the meeting!

~ Bill Skullney



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