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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 436

GPCA Newsletter

April 2024



Monday, April 8, 2024, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

**LIBERTY ROAD
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

Guest Speaker:

Capt. Bernard Jones

Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company was founded in 1947. The 27 square mile radius communities served include Randallstown, Harrisonville, Owings Mills, New Town, Granite, Woodstock & Marriottsville. The LRVFC goal is to minimize the loss of life and damage to property from the effects of fire, medical emergencies and hazardous conditions with passion and commitment, with the service of quality people who personally give so much to do so.

Be sure to join us to learn more about this essential service to our community.

Upcoming Meetings:

May 13 – Protecting Yourself Online, Mike Burke

June 10 – Caliber Carving with Evelyn Mogren

July and August – No general meeting



President's Note



Blooms Abound!

April Greetings Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

Well, we certainly are getting the spring showers, even as it remains a bit cool. And what the water brings, which we haven't heard in a while, are the little spring peepers! Be sure to see the SWCC article below about our very special amphibians at this time of the year. We can never fail to appreciate what a beautiful, natural community we are so fortunate to have.

Nevertheless, we face significant issues related to our terrain and this much rainfall. Serious drainage problems continue throughout the area – Dogwood Road, Granite Road, Ridge Road, Davis Avenue and Wrights Mill Road. Water rushes, accumulations, and pooling then impact already worrisome road surfaces, banks and supports. That, in turn, exacerbates the already existing – and frustrating! - traffic problems. We have emphasized our concerns directly with Randy Shifflett, DPW Director of Highways who was the guest speaker at our last June meeting, and will do so again.

Never doubt that we are small, but together we are mighty: our guiding belief is that we are all part of the same community and the more ways we can all get together, the more voices we have, the better! Staying informed and engaged is one of our greatest strengths. We remain committed to providing a good forum to address the larger community concerns of our members and neighbors to gain consensus and make our voices heard. That is the importance of joining us and sharing your priorities as part of the GPCA community.

Meanwhile, we need our local firefighters no matter the season, so.....don't miss the meeting April 8th!

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

Last Month
March General Meeting
Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

In a very timely presentation by Master Gardener Paul Beares, members and attendees learned many of the basics for a great growing season, whether for flower gardens, vegetable gardens, lawns or trees. Of primary importance are timing, quality, and certain techniques. Timing varies for clearing and pruning – not too early! Accumulated leaves help, and pruning depends on blooming – if in spring, prune after and if later prune before. Quality applies most importantly to soil – “get it right!” Soil can readily be tested by mail to the University of Delaware, and if enrichment is needed, go organic by compost, leaf humus or even composted manure. Care is needed every step of the way as well: don't walk on garden beds, use "too many" seeds on thin or bare spots and maintain cleanliness against disease and insects. Other helpful tips included how to choose plants, shrubs, grasses and trees – the best is the white oak. There were very helpful listings of invasive species, sometimes a surprise for popular items, e.g. the butterfly bush. So time spent matching plants to specific locations, soils and desirable layering is well worth it. For more information go to <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic> or check out Bringing Home Nature by D. Tallamy or Perennial Gardening by Tracy Dietz.

~ Kathy Skullney

CZMP
GPCA area Zoning Petition
Issue #4-011



As previously reported, the Planning Department was present at all the Planning Board hearings to include public comment in its assessments of the issues filed in all 7 districts. On March 28, the Department filed those recommendations to the Planning Board, and for Issue #4-011/Braglio property, has recommended no change in the RC 2 zoning. The Planning Board work session for District 4 and 7 will take place on April 18th.

~ Kathy Skullney



Western Sector
Redevelopment

Following the passage of enabling legislation from the Maryland General Assembly, Baltimore County Council passed local legislation last year to create the West Baltimore County Redevelopment Authority. The Council is being formed now and will consist of 20 individuals: 11 members of the public and nine ex-officio members, including state and local legislative leaders, the County Administrative Officer, and a member appointed by the County Executive. These members will convene to make recommendations to the County regarding opportunities to acquire, develop, redevelop, or dispose of certain land or property area between Liberty Road, Baltimore National Pike, Rolling Road, and along the Baltimore City-Baltimore County boundary. GPCA anticipates being part of this effort.

~Baltimore County Annoucement



CAP/ PHG Open House
@Historic Nike Site - March
23rd cancelled, May 26th still
on!

The Open House at the Granite Nike Missile Site to be hosted by PHG

and Maryland Civil Air Patrol on Saturday, March 23rd was cancelled due to multiple storms that day. The good news is that a second, larger Open House was already scheduled for May 26th, and will include all the activities that had been anticipated for the March event, and many more. So stay tuned.

~ per Kyla Cools
PHG Heritage Coordinator

P.S. And don't forget, GPCA held its Annual Picnic at the Site last year and got a wonderful preview – truly an amazing piece of history to have in our very own neighborhood. We look forward to learning and seeing even more.



GPCA's Annual Community Clean-Up **Saturday April 13th, 2024**

8 am to 12 noon

St. Alphonsus Church

Lower parking lot

Fun:

- Join friends and neighbors to keep our country roads beautiful
- GPCA will provide safety vests to borrow as well as trash bags
- Bring your own work gloves

Free:

- 4 large containers will be on site for your household “spring cleaning” use
(please understand that you are responsible for unloading your own vehicles)

Remember:

- no hazardous or flammable materials

- no paints or oil
- no fridges or air conditioners
- no electronics (computer equipment, TVs, phones etc.)
- no brush/yard waste (recycled separately by the county)
- tires will be collected at the pull out on Old Court Road

(Let me know in advance if Certificates are needed for student service hours)

Thank you for your support!

, ~ *Carol Link*

GPCA Clean Up Coordinator

443-554-0306 or email linkgang87@gmail.com



Job Corps – Community Relations Council

On March 19, the Woodstock Job Corps held the first of its 2024 Quarterly Meetings with members and businesses in the larger community area. GPCA liaison Carol Link and SWCC member Bob Teller attended, as well as at least one GPCA member as a tutoring volunteer. The Center Director, Jason Memmer was introduced, along with other key members of the staff. The discussion covered the programs, both educational and job trainings, financial literacy, social and extra-curricular activities, residential arrangements, and the volunteer tutoring efforts. There's even help for students to learn about "dressing for success". Continuing community interaction with the Job Corps by regular meetings is an excellent avenue for future success.

(From the notes taken by)

~ *Carol Link*



Mark Your Calendar! Historic Home Tour Open House

The Granite Historical Society is pleased to announce an Open House on Sunday, May, 19th 2024, from 12:00 - 4:00

pm at the farmhouse and former laundry for Woodstock College. The home, located at 10820 Old Court Road in Granite, MD, is currently occupied by Brigitte and Michael Hisky under the Maryland Resident Curatorship Program. The history of the home, historic photographs, and the challenges of living as a Curator for a home registered in the Maryland Historic Trust will be discussed by the Hiskys during this time. Ample parking at the site will be available. NOTE: The home is located between the Woodstock Job Corps and St. Alphonsus Church and may not be shown correctly in some of the Map Apps. For questions regarding the tour, feel free to contact any of the board members or at info@granitehistoricalsociety.org.

~ Roy Danz
GHS President

Singing Forests Are Healthy Forests

You have probably recently been hearing some of the inhabitants of vernal pools near you, as the frogs become active in the early spring. Vernal means spring and vernal pools are temporary bodies of water that appear in the spring, and thus, being temporary, have no permanent fish populations. They have a unique and important role in the forest, acting as breeding grounds for amphibians, whose eggs would be eaten by fish in a larger permanent body of water. These pools are perfect breeding grounds for wood frogs and salamanders, where their young can safely develop.

Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) has started a program to document the location of vernal pools in the Patapsco River watershed. Diana Devers of PHG leads educational hikes to inform interested people about the nature of vernal pools and to enlist help in documenting the locations. On a recent hike, she explained that in addition to supporting aquatic and terrestrial food webs, vernal pools provide services for people: pollution removal, groundwater replenishment, and natural mosquito control. See their website for more information on their activities: <https://www.patapsco.org/stewardship/environmental-programs/>.

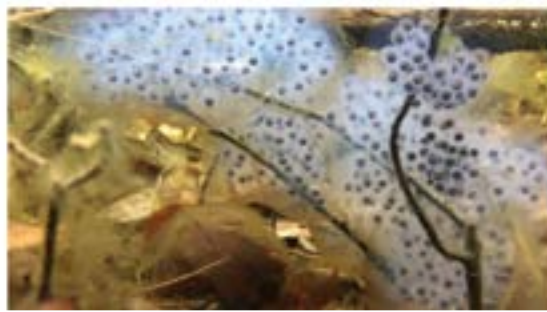
WOOD FROG

Wood Frogs are the most common frog found in Vernal Pools and the earliest caller. There are 500 to 1,000 eggs per mass. The eggs have no outer jelly matrix, so you can see the individual shape of each egg.



SPOTTED SALAMANDER

Spotted Salamanders are part of the mole salamander family, meaning they spend most of their time underground. Most people have never seen them, but they come above ground to breed in the late winter or early spring.



~ Laurie Donnelly

GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee

Around the Neighborhood

What's happening in your HOA? What's going on around the neighborhood, along the roads or near you?

Let your community know!



Nike Site Work Day

The next Nike Site workday will be May 18 with a rain date of May 19. Projects include painting, mowing and weed-whacking. For more info regarding Nike Site workdays contact Tom Reed at treed@cap.gov.



Francis Scott Key Bridge Incident Updates

For information regarding the Francis Scott Key Bridge response, please visit: www.keybridgeresponse2024.com.

Baltimore County Government FSK Resource Page:
<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/FSK>



Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road
Granite, Maryland 21163

Food Truck Wednesday

April 17, 2024

4 to 8 pm

- Strohmer's Meat Shack II
 - Capt'n Crabby
 - The Little Red Café &
- Home Baked Goods by Diana
- Live Music (Fruit Jar Howlers)
- Indoor & Outdoor Seating Available
 - Baked Goods Table
 - And More!



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