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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue #438

GPCA Newsletter

June 2024



**GPCA Annual Plant Swap & General Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024**

**Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road**

Pre-Meeting PLANT SWAP! 6:30 pm

Tables set up outside (weather permitting, otherwise inside), bring a plant, take a plant – all are welcome.

General Meeting 7:00 pm

Caliber Carvings

Guest Speaker:

Evelyn Mogren

Ms. Mogren is a professional carver living in Columbia, MD and operating as Caliber Carvings. She engages in a full range of carving, from small hand carvings to larger chainsaw carvings and will share examples of those. She has taught children grades 3 and up to carve for over 20 years

using wooden knives on soap and carving knives on vegetables and wood. She also teaches adults how to teach children how to carve. She will bring knives and sample projects to share. In addition, she has chainsaw carved for 15 years, and will pull out her chainsaws for comparison of what they do, and demonstrate the use of one of the battery operated saws.

Wow! Don't miss this!

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Upcoming Meetings:

July and August – No general meeting

September 9 – ???

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President's Note



Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

Summer has arrived! All we have to do is look at every bloomin' thing, and all the delightful young plants to share for the June meeting "plant swap."

Meanwhile, the community has continued to come together as seen at our meetings and great activities related to our area. The historic tours and continuing stream monitoring and care are excellent examples. We also have revived our LRVFC contact through Capt. Jones, and more frequent Woodlawn Precinct contact – see Ofr. Makoweicki alert below. That's why everyone's involvement is important. Reports of problems are always taken seriously, and followed up however necessary, including being raised and

discussed at general meetings. Relevant officials are contacted and, if necessary, more formal actions are taken by membership vote.

It can't be said too many times.....We may be small in very large county, 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. And we never underestimate the how great it is to meet, greet, and get to know all our neighbors, near and far! Join us and see for yourself.

We'll look for you on June 10th.

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

ksskullney@verizon.net

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Last Month

May General Meeting

Mike Burke on Protecting Yourself Online

Guest speaker and fellow GPCA member Mike Burke presented us with the most common and dangerous online threats and how to deal with them. Everyone got a very helpful list of "4 Ways to Improve Cybersecurity at Home, each of which Mike then explained, using examples almost everyone began to recognize. The four ways are: 1) Limit the Information You Divulge, meaning don't use your most personal information, use made-up address, birthdate, etc. and carefully abbreviate what you do use because all personal identification information is sold off. 2) Set up a Firewall and VPN, which is a security system with access only by permission and a virtual private network which encrypts your data. Screensavers protect only the keyboard. 3) Use Antivirus Software, which is essential to regularly check for virus activity and malware, and which is much more common now. 4) Use Strong Passwords and Authentication Systems, as weak or repetitive passwords are among the most common avenues to access your systems. Use strong, different passwords with a mix of letters, numbers and special characters for each device, and change

them regularly. One very interesting suggestion for creating passwords is to pick a favorite book, pick three chapters and then pick the third word in each. Using a two factor authentication system as well is even better! The message is we call all protect ourselves with relatively simple and available safeguards, and we should!

~ Kathy Skullney

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CZMP Update GPCA Area Zoning Petition Issue #4-011



As reported it would, the Planning Board officially voted on all the CZMP issues on May 16th. They are officially supporting the Department's position that the zoning requested for the Braglio property is incompatible with existing zoning, the surrounding area and the Master Plan. By the time the newsletter is out, the process will have moved to the County Council which will hear public testimonies in person throughout the month of June. The 4th District hearing is scheduled for June 6th at the New Town High School in Owings Mills, starting at 6:00. GPCA has joined with the immediate Marriottsville and Hernwood Rds. Neighbors, and with the Combined Communities Advocacy Council of Randallstown to oppose the petition. It will be reported on at the General Meeting, June 10th.

The Council's ultimate zoning decisions will be made on August 27, 2024.

~ Kathy Skullney

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Baltimore County Police Alert for Infiniti Cars

The Baltimore County Police Department is issuing an auto theft advisory following a recent increase in Infiniti car thefts across Baltimore County. This increase calls for heightened vigilance among Infiniti owners.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES:



1. Secure Vehicle: Always lock your vehicle and close all windows, even if the vehicle is parked in your driveway.
2. Use Anti-Theft Devices: Consider using a steering wheel lock, alarm system, and immobilizers to deter thieves.
3. Parking Tips: Park in well-lit areas and, if possible, in a garage. Avoid leaving your vehicle in an isolated or dimly lit location.
4. Remove Valuables: Remove all valuables from being seen in plain sight.
5. Situational Awareness: If you notice any suspicious behavior around your neighborhood, report it to police.

~ Officer Kristie Makowiecki

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2024 Legislative Update Senator Benjamin Brooks

Senator Brooks joined the May General Meeting, as did 10th District delegate Scott Phillips. The Senator reported on a number of important 2024 legislative acts regarding health care, education, the environment, housing, and many more. And, of course, the budget. Del. Phillips shared a comprehensive hardcopy list of all the areas worked on and bills passed. Notably included for the GPCA area was a \$200,000 bond issue for the City Ranch Riding facility on Dogwood Rd. and a \$25,000 bond issue for the benefit of the Nike Missile Site Restoration on Hernwood Rd. Please visit the Maryland General Assembly website for greater details on the 2024 Session. Contact for Sen. Brooks is benjamin.brooks@senate.state.md.us and for Del Phillips, n.scott.phillips@house.state.md.us.



~ Kathy Skullney

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GPCA Community Sign Proposal

The \$3,500 community grant applied for by GPCA to erect a large, semi-

permanent community association sign at the corner of Davis Avenue and Old Court Road was submitted, with the expected award to be by the end of May. It has been reported that the decision date most likely now will be toward the middle of June. However, the application was deemed “very good”, hopefully indicating a positive result. Once again, stay tuned!

~Bill Skullney

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CAP/PHG Open House at Nike Site June 23rd!



The Maryland Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), along with Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) is hosting an Open House on Sunday June 23rd from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the former site of BA-79, a Cold War era Anti-aircraft Missile Battery. In addition to CAP and PHG, several other organizations will be manning display tables and holding talks and demonstrations.

Below is the tentative schedule:

- 12:45pm - Gates open for visitors
- 1:00pm - Flag raising ceremony by the Granite Squadron cadets
- 1:15pm - First tour of the Nike site (limit 30 people)
- 2:00pm - Ethan Bean talk on the History of the Army's Nike program and its significance to the local area
- 2:45pm - Granite Squadron cadet demonstration
- 3:00pm - Model rocket launch (weather permitting)
- 3:30pm - Final tour of the Nike site (limit 30 people)
- 4:00pm - Gates close

We will be running guided tours of the site every 15 minutes, with a max of 30 people per tour. Please be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. RSVP for this event at <https://www.patapsco.org/event/nike-missile-site-open-house/>.

Registration is encouraged, but not required.

CAP is an affiliate of the United States Air Force and, as one of its missions,

provides aerospace education to its members and the public. Since the Maryland Wing CAP leases the Nike site from the state of Maryland to use as its headquarters, opening the site to the public is a great way to support this mission of educating the public on aerospace topics.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please contact Tom Reed, project coordinator. His email is treed@cap.gov.

~ Tom Reed

Maryland Wing Facilities Manager

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Granite Historical Society Diggs-Johnson Museum Visit

In lieu of the Spring hike, the GHS is sponsoring a curated tour of the Diggs-Johnson Museum, known by most of you as the Cherry Hill Church, on Offut Road. After falling into disrepair at the end of the last century, the church has been restored and now houses the Diggs-Johnson Museum. Ms. Betty Steward, site historian, will lead a curated tour on Sunday, June 23 at 1 pm. Ms. Stewart will discuss how the Cherry Hill Church came to be, how it was saved, and why it now houses the Diggs-Johnson Museum. If interested in attending, participants should meet promptly at the Granite Presbyterian Church at 1 pm from which we will car pool to the Museum. Parking at the Museum is extremely limited, so carpooling will be a must. If you like to learn more about this often overlooked piece of Granite history, email president@granitehistoricalsociety.org or check it out at www.diggsjohnsonmuseum.com. Participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability

~ Roy Danz

GHS President

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Native Grass Garden

Most of us within the GPCA boundaries are fortunate enough to have gardens and other landscaping features. It's beautiful, beneficial to pollinators, birds and other wildlife not to mention our own sense of well-



being. However, taking care of traditional gardens is time consuming. We decided to experiment with planting native (N) and ornamental(O) grasses in portions of our flower and shrubbery beds. This is different from creating a meadow. Which can be a multiyear undertaking.

Our plan is to plant native, and ornamental grasses recommended by the University of Maryland extension for residential gardens. The ongoing maintenance should be limited to cutting back the grasses in the late fall or early spring and thinning the grasses as necessary to prevent unwanted spread. We also looked at several grass books with color photos to decide what combinations of grasses and flowers will be showy in the spring and summer and provide interest in the fall and winter.

Here are the grasses we purchased this year: 'Karl Foerster' Feather Reed Grass -*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* (O); Big Bluestem – *Andropogon gerardii* (N); Blue Fescue – *Festuca glauca* (O); Little bluestem – *Schizachyrium scoparium* (N); Purple Love Grass *Eragrostis spectabilis* (N). Echinacea (coneflower) and *Perovskia* (Russian sage) will be planted among the groups of grasses to add color.

There are several on-line resources that describe grasses native to Maryland as well as recommended ornamental grasses. The first stop for Maryland residents should be the University of Maryland Extension. There is a wealth of information and problem-solving advice available for free on gardens, plants, trees, etc. The site is updated regularly and can be fun to just browse. <https://extension.umd.edu/home/>. A direct link on the site to Native Plants is:

<https://extension.umd.edu/resources/#!/category/3/subcategory/866>

To get started it is recommended to use potted plants or plugs. Starting from seed is much more challenging. We urge folks to pay attention that the plants you choose are not an invasive species in Maryland. The area parks and greenspaces are overrun with invasives which also invite invasive pest to our area. Think lantern fly and tree of heaven or stink bugs and fruit trees.

Two sources of native/ornamental plants and grasses we have personally

used are listed below. I'm sure a web search would yield more – this is not an endorsement. Wherever you decide to buy your grasses give a call first to make sure what you want is in stock.

Kollar Nursery: 5200 W Heaps Rd, Pylesville, MD 21132
<https://www.kollarnursery.com/>

Sun Nurseries, Inc: 14790 Bushy Park Rd, Woodbine, MD 21797
<https://sunnurseries.com/>

~ **Bob Teller**

GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee

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Chrome City Classic Fundraiser Event



Ride a motorcycle or like to take a ride in your classic car? Well read on to hear about a special day full of beautiful bikes, classic cars, community and giving.

The Chrome City Classic Fundraiser event of 2024 marks the 22nd anniversary of this event held by the Benedictine Foundation. Benediction's mission is to support children and adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can achieve their greatest potential. Funds raised by this event helps support the children and adults they serve and those dedicated staff members who support them.

The event will be held on July 27, 2024, at the Benedictine Campus in Ridgely, MD. There will be live music, food trucks, raffles, and door prices. The individual registration fee for the event is \$35 and typically there are a number of locations where you can register. The details of these locations have not been provided yet but if anyone in the area is interested in participating we can collectively ride as a group to the registration locations. For more information contact Bill Skullney at [weskite1873@verizon.net](mailto:weskate1873@verizon.net).

~ **Bill Skullney**

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Around the Neighborhood

Granite Historical Society Picnic – July 16th, 6:30 pm, Stanfield Pavilion. Bring a dish to share - contact Kathy Skullney (ksskullney@verizon.net) to indicate your choice. For general questions regarding the picnic contact President Roy Danz (president@granitehistoricalsociety.org).

Woodlawn Police - Officer Appreciation Day – June 14th, 11 – 4 pm, Woodlawn Precinct

Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company Motorcycle Show – June 15th

Job Corps – Community Relations Council meeting – June 28, 2024, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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

Let your community know!

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Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road
Granite, Maryland 21163

Food Truck Wednesday

June 19, 2024

4 to 8 pm

- Capt'n Crabby
- Meat Shack II
- The Little Red Cafe
- Once Upon a Potato
- Home Baked Goods by Diana
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