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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 434

GPCA Newsletter

February 2024



Monday, February 12, 2024, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

Guest Speaker:

David Scheurer

Small Watershed and Conservation Committee (SWCC)

STREAM HEALTH and

WATER QUALITY REPORT CARD: 2019 – 2023

The SWCC has achieved excellent water quality monthly data from watersheds in the GPCA area for the last 4 years and will share this very important report with GPCA. This data gives SWCC a critical baseline from which to monitor changes in our streambeds and identify problems throughout the GPCA area. Local water quality affects all properties directly, the Patapsco River indirectly, and the Chesapeake Bay more broadly. Don't miss this extremely important presentation!

Please note: the business portion of the general meeting will include a **Special Election** (nominations from the floor are welcome):

President: Kathleen Skullney, nominee

Secretary: still vacant

Upcoming Meetings:

March 11 – Early Spring Planting & Preparations

April 8 – Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company

May or June – hoping for "Chainsaw Carving: - Old Trees Preserved as Monuments



President's Note



Winter Greetings!

Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

And it really has been winter for the last 4-5 weeks, with a bit of a weather roller coaster tucked in, and nearly 14 inches of precipitation in December and January which we have not had since 1937! That refocuses attention on matters of concern throughout the community such as roads and infrastructure. At our January meeting, we had an excellent discussion among our members and attendees about these topics, among others, as community priorities.

As always, and in the coming year particularly, we will pursue issues brought forward by our members and neighbors. And as always, we continue to use our well known place and voice in the County to promote what we all believe is good for our community and to oppose official actions and processes that undermine it...by consensus. We remain committed to providing a good forum to address the larger community concerns of our members and neighbors to gain that consensus.

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. Since 1985, this community has grown and come together as a strong community voice, an effective advocate for the importance of what matters to community, a voice known and respected in Baltimore County....with so much more to come!

The work of our very own GPCA Small Watershed Committee is an impressive demonstration of the critical skill and dedication of every committee member, and of importance of greater community priorities and support.

Be sure to join us February 12th!

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

ksskullney@verizon.net

Last Month January General Meeting GPCA Elections and Priorities

The General Meeting came to order for the usual business reports and related matters. This was followed by the General Elections. See article below regarding the results.

There was no featured speaker or program; rather the members focused discussions on current concerns and then on what should be the **GPCA 2024 Priorities**.

Current matters included:

- GPCA testimony to the Baltimore County Council on January 20th about the 2030 Master Plan. It was agreed it would be the same already presented to the Planning Board.
- GPCA participation in the CZMP 4 year rezoning process. Only one change in GPCA area has been requested: from agriculture to local business on the Braglio property at Hernwood and Marriottsville Rds. The Planning Board hearing will be on February 20th at Newtown High School.
- Code enforcement
 - Solar facility/Old Court- neglected and failed foliage to cover the facility from street view. A letter from GPCA indicating enforcement steps to be taken seems to have resulted in new plantings.
 - Big truck businesses clearly not allowed
 - Members issues related to traffic control
 - Serenity Ridge-Dirt bikes continue to invade the grounds
- Future actionable topic suggestions

- Multiple Community Grant Opportunities-
 - Baltimore County has funds available until April.
 - SWCC, GHS, and PHG have community grants available
 - Need for a sub-committee of grant writer
 - Acquiring property for GPCA
- Planting foliage
- Obtaining electronic speed signs and GPCA signs.
- Commercial zoning concerns

All agreed that sending out a newsletter survey to discover community concerns would be of great benefit.

So.....Please share your concerns and priorities as part of the GPCA community.

~ Kathy Skullney



2024 GPCA Election Results and 2024 Officers and Directors

President	Vacant
Vice President	Butch Oakman – elected for 1 year term
Treasurer	Cathy Wolfson – elected for 1 year term
Secretary	Vacant
Director	Chris Brock elected for 3 year term ends January 2027
Director	Ralph Wright - 3 year term ends January 2026
Director	Zulma Santiago – 3 year term ends January 2025

Following the election 2023 immediate past-President Kathy Skullney offered her nomination for President. A special election will be held at our February 12th meeting. Per our by-laws nominations will also be taken from the floor at that time. Anyone who has been a GPCA member for the 6 months preceding the election is eligible. Also the office of Secretary remains vacant and nominations for that office will also be taken.

Many thanks to outgoing Director Lisa Charyzyn who served from January 2021 to 2024. Living within close proximity to what is now Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery and Arboretum Lisa provided valuable insight to

our consideration of that land use.

*~ Cathy Wolfson
Nominating Committee*



2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP)

The county Planning Board will hear testimony on zoning petitions in our District 4 on Tuesday February 20 beginning at 6:00 pm. Online speaker registration is required and will open 2 business days prior to the hearing, in our case Friday February 16 at 8:30 am. Please visit the county's CZMP 2024 Planning Board Hearings webpage to sign up

<https://comprehensive-zoning-map-process-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/planning-board-public-hearings>

The log of issues for District 4 and all other districts can be found at <https://comprehensive-zoning-map-process-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/log-of-issues>. There you can also find an interactive map showing the location and other details about each issue throughout the county.

*~ Cathy Wolfson
4th District Planning Board Appointee*



Diamond Ridge Family Park Update

On Dogwood Road just east of Ridge languishes the Diamond Ridge Family Park. No benches, no bridge, no steps to the Diamond Ridge Pond for nearly 3 years. Just an unmonitored parking lot, a sign and a trash can.

Drew Emmer, Capital Planning and Development Chief for the county's Dept. of Recreation and Parks provides this recent update on plans for the park:

Design work for the project commenced on 2/14/22, and unfortunately, we encountered significant delays during the environmental reviews for the stream crossing. Despite these challenges, I am pleased to announce that we have successfully concluded the year with 100% completion of design documents and the approval of all necessary permits. Currently, we are in the process of reviewing the final drawings and cost estimates. It's important to note that, as per the Maryland Department of the Environment, stream closures are prohibited between March 1st and June 30th. Consequently, our target is to commence construction in the summer of 2024. Outlined below is our tentative schedule for the upcoming milestones:

- *Advertise Project for Bid: Early 2024*
- *Construction Start: July 2024*
- *Construction Completion: January 2025*

...And speaking of parks

In May of 2023 Baltimore County purchased 109 acres of undeveloped land on the north side of Dogwood Road between Ridge Road and the Excelon Gas Pipeline. The property lies roughly between the Ridge Road solar facility and Serenity Ridge Cemetery. The county is currently exploring creation of a mountain bike park on property. At this time the county has no regulations regarding a use of this type or considered the design or specifications for developing this proposed recreational use. There are multiple springs and steep slopes on this property so realization may be challenging.

~ Cathy Wolfson



Important Woodstock Job Corps Note - Tutoring

The Woodstock Job Corps is officially opening its local/community tutoring program. Along with the job and technical skills the students learn, many work on completing their GEDs as well as other academic

endeavors. They can greatly benefit from individual assistance in the entire range of subjects they are tackling. Anyone willing to spend some time tutoring these students is very welcome. Sessions can be daytime or evening, and for whatever time period is desired, as well as choice of subject.

If interested, please contact Yolanda Diop, Business Community Liaison at diop.yolanda@jobcorps.org with name, preferred contact info, tutoring subject matter and when you are available.

This is yet another way to show how much community matters.

~ Kathy Skullney



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



Granite's Nike Missile Site Set to Open This Spring!

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) plans to open the Nike site, BA-79, to the public with the first open house scheduled for Sunday, May 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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.

To get the site ready for opening day, volunteers are needed to help spruce up the site and prepare displays for visitors to learn more about BA-79 and the community's response to having an anti-aircraft missile battery with nuclear-tipped missiles located in their midst. Volunteer workdays will be scheduled as the weather warms up (probably starting in March) to work on repainting the above-ground structures, lawn work (mowing, weeding, etc.), and repairing the asphalt around the magazines. Volunteers are also needed to help research the history of the Nike program and BA-79 as well as help make displays based on this research.

During the actual open houses, volunteers are needed to help set up the displays and signs before opening, greet visitors as they enter the site, and become docents who can help answer visitor questions. A docent handbook

is being created which will provide would-be docents with the material they need to have a firm foundation on the history and operation of the Nike program.

To make all this happen costs money and publicity. Donations to pay for paint or material to create displays would be helpful. Volunteers to help get the word out about the site and our open house would also be greatly appreciated.

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

~ Tom Reed
CAP Project Coordinator



Newsletter Note

The 'Newsletter Committee' has had several discussions regarding an updated Newsletter Policy and Charging Guidelines. We are in the process of finalizing the details and will have the updated policy available for the next newsletter. In the interim if you have any questions, contact Cathy Wolfson (oakknob@comcast.net) or send a note to the Newsletter Editor editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com to ensure they are properly received and captured.

We thank all for their patience in the somewhat recent transition of the newsletter to the digital format and hope you will continue to enjoy our upcoming issues. Comments are certainly always welcome and should you like to help out with the digital production of the newsletter we will gladly accept whatever you may be able to do. Feel free to [contact the editor](#) or any of the GPCA Board members with your comments or interests.

~ Ru-ching Hsia
~ Bill Skullney

Reducing Window Bird Strikes

Before the 29th Maryland Water Monitoring Conference, this past November, I was trying to decide from the dozens of presentations offered which ones I was going to attend. Many caught my eye and I attended.



One that seemed I'd get a lot from was "Saving Birds from Window Collisions". It was to be presented by Mark Southerland who I knew from his position as President of the BOD for Patapsco Heritage Greenway.

Being a supporting member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology I knew there was a loss of approximately 30% of all native birds in the US since the 1970's. And that approximately 1 billion birds die from window strikes each year in the US. FYI: The number two killer of our native birds is outdoor domestic cats. Our cats are never allowed out of the house, better for them and the birds.

I'm sure we've all picked up a dead bird that flew into our window. It's always so sad. I want to greatly reduce if not eliminate window strikes at my house. Birds see reflected in the glass what is behind them. So, they see it as a continuation of their flight path. Until they collide and if lucky only get stunned. I knew that silhouettes of hawks and owls in windows do not work. Nor does keeping shades lowered. What to do?



Mr. Southerland discussed the best working solution. It is called Acopian Birdsavers. Named by the developers, the Acopian family in the 1990's. It consists of a series loose vertical lengths of cord, that are the height of the window at an interval of 2.5 to 4" hanging from the top. This allows you to get sunlight and see outside. Nor does it interfere with window washing. Birds flying toward the window see the cord and know it's not an open path. Preventing a strike. These systems can be purchased premade or can be made DIY.

This is a link to the brochure Mr. Southerland distributed with his presentation, it includes links for available commercial products and DIY options to prevent bird strikes. And advice on safe placement of feeders.



<https://mdbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-4-SSMD-ASCMD-Brochure.pdf>

Good single reference article from Cornell Lab of Ornithology on bird strikes and prevention:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/why-birds-hit-windows-and-how-you-can-help-prevent-it/>

**What's happening in your HOA, along your roads
or near you?**

Let your community know!

Around the Neighborhood

What's going on around the neighborhood?



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Back by popular demand is the annual Shrove
Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Menu: Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Milk, Juice, Coffee & Tea

When: **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (in case of inclement weather, we will follow the Baltimore County School Closing reports)

Where: Granite Presbyterian Church Social Hall

Cost: Adults \$10.00, Children ages 6-12 \$6.00, children under 6 are free

Proceeds benefit food pantries local to our community,



Saturday, March 16, 2024

5:30pm—8:30pm

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Church
Hall

10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD

Cost: \$25 per Adult or \$60 per Family with children under 18

Tickets: <http://www.kofc13294.org/StPatsPage.html> or

Walt Chahanovich wbchahanovich@yahoo.com 410-

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The Hidden Impact of Oral Health on Our Lives (virtual)

Wednesday, January 24, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Diabetes and Weight Loss Medications: What to Know (virtual)

Monday, February 19, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ladies Night Out: Getting To The Heart Of Cardiovascular Health (in-person/Gordon Lobby)

Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at The Gordon Center for Performing Arts

\$5 cash only - collected at the door.

The Colonoscopy and Demystifying What Comes Next (virtual)

Wednesday, February 28, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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