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Issue #448

GPCA Newsletter

June 2025



SAVE THE DATE!

GPCA Annual PICNIC!!

Saturday October 4th 1pm til 5pm

Historic Nike Missile Site & Civil Air Patrol Headquarters

3085 Hernwood Road



PLANT SWAP

Prior to JUNE 9 Meeting

6:30 -7:00 pm



Its that time again, GPCA's annual plant swap starts ½ hour before our June General Meeting. Bring your “extras” to share and / or feel free to rehome whatever you like.

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GPCA General Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2025, 7:00 pm



Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

Guest Speakers:
Phyllis Cherry
Baltimore County Dept. of Aging
and
Dan Law
Serenity Ridge Nature Preserve and Arboretum



Phyllis Cherry from the Baltimore County Dept. of Aging will fill us in on a Senior Box Office program that provides reduced price and/or complimentary tickets to seniors 55 and up. This program is supported by Baltimore County Department of Aging, Learn more at <https://seniorboxoffice.org>

Dan Law from Serenity Ridge Nature Preserve and Arboretum will be joining us to tell us about significant development of the preserve and arboretum. Nature preserves are protected landscapes set aside to conserve wild life, native plants, and natural ecosystems. These vital areas serve as sanctuaries for endangered species and support biodiversity. Beyond conservation, nature preserves offer people the opportunity to connect with the natural world by walking the trails and visiting the arboretum. More information can be found at <https://www.serenityridgenaturepreserve.org/>.



Come join us for these couple of interesting topics and to close out our meetings for the summer!

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President's Note



Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

As we head into the summer season, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the energy, ideas, and support you've brought to GPCA this spring. Our meetings have been full of great conversations, meaningful updates, and thoughtful community engagement.

At our May meeting, we were honored to welcome both Delegate Jennifer White-Holland and District 4 Community Planner Yolanda Gregory, who shared important updates on healthcare legislation, redistricting, local development, and the future of the Woodstock Job Corps site. Their presence and insight reflect the strong partnership we continue to build between our community and local leadership.

As we prepare for our final meeting before the summer break, we're excited to keep the momentum going. Our June General Meeting will include a plant giveaway, so come early and take home something green to enjoy this season! We also encourage you to stop by the Strohmer Farms Open House on June 8 — a great opportunity to support local agriculture and connect with our rural roots.

We'll take a short pause from meetings in July and August, but GPCA will

return in September with fresh ideas and new opportunities to get involved. Until then, be sure to stay connected through our new Facebook page and keep an eye out for local events and announcements.

Thank you again for your commitment to GPCA. Whether you attend meetings, volunteer, or simply help keep your neighbors informed — you are what makes this community strong, welcoming, and engaged.

We may be small, but we are mighty!

~ Chris Brock

GPCA President

chris_brock@ymail.com

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What You Missed

May 12 General Meeting

Delegate Jennifer White Holland

The May GPCA General Meeting began with a presentation from Delegate Jennifer White-Holland, who shared updates on state healthcare legislation, prescription drug affordability efforts, redistricting proposals, and concerns regarding the former Woodstock Job Corps site. She emphasized community participation in public hearings and pledged to follow up on property maintenance and security issues at the site.

We also welcomed Yolanda Gregory, Baltimore County's District 4 Community Planner, who provided insight on local planning initiatives and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting GPCA efforts.

During the business portion of the meeting, the Treasurer's Report was approved, committee updates were shared, and announcements included a new GPCA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066644855331>), a plant giveaway scheduled for the June meeting, and the Strohmer Farms Open House on June 8.

The meeting concluded with zoning updates and plans to continue community engagement over the summer.

~ Chris Brock
GPCA President

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Camp Ground Petition – Kratz Property

The ruling by Administrative Judge Baumgartner denying the Petition has been appealed to the Board of Appeals, which will hear the case “de novo” (in its entirety as if not heard before). The hearing date has not yet been set.

~ Kathy Skullney

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The Newsletter ... and GPCA ... Needs Your Help!

A couple of years ago when our previous newsletter editor, Ru-ching Hsia, was badly in need of relief from doing the newsletter, I volunteered to serve as "acting" newsletter editor. I indicated I would serve as "acting" editor since I was not sure the extent to which I could continue helping out. I have always been interested in these kinds of computer activities and enjoyed learning about the software and how to use it in developing the newsletter. Thanks to Ru-ching, I had someone to guide me in the initial stages.

Well, that same time has arrived for me and I need to pass the torch to someone else. The timing is not only good from my perspective but is particularly good given the upcoming schedule. After this issue of the newsletter, GPCA and the newsletter, will take a summer break with no publication. The next newsletter will not go out until just before the meeting in September. The only activity that may occur in the June through August timeframe would be any special announcements, should they be needed.

These typically require much less effort to complete.

Even though I plan on continuing to support the newsletter/announcement efforts during this time period, these couple of months provide a good opportunity for anyone interested in doing the newsletter to spend some time learning the ropes prior to taking over in September. If, like me, you have an interest in learning some new computer skills and interacting with the GPCA community, being the GPCA editor might just be the ticket for you! If interested or would like to know a little more about what is involved, feel free to contact myself at the email address listed below, if interested. Please consider volunteering to help with this vital contribution to our community. Thanks and I hope to hear from someone out there in "GPCA land" about your interest in helping out.!

~ **Bill Skullney**

editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com

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Granite Historical Society

The Granite Historical Society (GHS) invites you to join us at our **GHS annual picnic**, a long-standing event since the 1990's, on **Tuesday, July 8th at 6:00 pm**. Thanks again to the hospitality of Stacy and Doug Wolinski we will be gathering at the Stanfield Pavilion located at 9512 Old Court Road. As in the past, we will ask all to bring a dish to share; the meats will be provided by GHS for the event.

If you are interested in attending the picnic, please RSVP no later than June 30th to email vicepresident@granitehistoricalsociety.org. Once we receive RSVPs, someone will be in touch with you to coordinate your dish for sharing. Thanks and hope to see you at the picnic!

~ **Nate Brantley**

GHS President

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Join PHG at the Nike Missile Site BA-79 for



our Second Annual Open House on Sunday, June 22

We are excited to be hosting our second collaborative Open House event with Nike Missile Site BA-79. Self-guided tours (above-ground) and guided tours (below-ground in magazines) will be available throughout the day. Register for the event and your timed tours [here](#). Guided tours will run every half hour. A variety of local groups will have tables with information about their programs and events located inside the Civil Air Patrol Headquarters building. Also inside, we will be showing a running historical video about the Nike Missile Base BA-79.

Come out to the open house to:

- Learn more about the activities of local history, preservation, and conservation organizations
- Explore the grounds and history of Nike Missile Site BA-79
- To see a historical video about the Nike Missile Site BA-79 restoration efforts
- See model rocket launches (weather pending)!
- And more!

Gates will open to the public at Noon.

The schedule for this event is as follows:

- 12:00 pm – Event begins
- 12:15 pm – Flag raising demonstration
- 12:30 pm – First guided tour of site begins
- 1:00 pm – Model Rocket Launch Demonstration
- 2:00pm – Drone Demonstration
- 3:00 pm – Model Rocket Launch Demonstration
- 3:30 pm – Final guided tour of site begins
- 4:00 – Event ends

There will be food from R&D Eats for purchase and on-site restroom facilities. Aside from below-ground, the site is ADA-compliant.

~ Aaron Shapiro

PHG Executive Director

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CAP's June Open House with Patapsco Heritage Greenway

The next open house for BA-79, a Cold War era Anti-aircraft Missile Battery located at 3085 Hernwood Rd, will be on 22 June from 12:00 to 4:00pm. This Open House will be held with the assistance of Patapsco Heritage Greenway and we are hoping for a large turnout (last year we had almost 250 visitors). There will be several local organizations setting up tables, the local CAP cadets will hold a flag-raising ceremony at 12:15 and may also conduct other activities throughout the day (they are still working this out). We will also have a drone demonstration and a food truck.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter our new attractions include a 1/2 scale mock-up of the Hercules missile and an actual Hercules booster. We are also opening up one of the magazines that we pumped out but don't work on so you can see what 40 years of water can do to metal structures.

Tours will run every half hour. We hope you can join us on the 22nd of June.

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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Woodlawn Precinct Alert

The latest report for our area:

SECOND-DEGREE BURGLARY, 10300 BLOCK OF DAVIS AVE, 21163

At approximately 5 p.m. on May 24, an unknown suspect burglarized the location and stole property.

For latest Precinct news and information, visit
www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/community/precincts/2-woodlawn

~Officer Makowiecki

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Butterfly Season is Back!

So far this year, there have been 166 butterfly reports, with a total of 34 species reported and over 50 photos.



The first day that a butterfly was seen this year was March 10th. That was a warm day and a total of 11 butterflies were reported.

It is often asked what does the temperature have to be before you start seeing butterflies. The answer is low-60s or above. On April 8th, a Tiger Swallowtail was reported flying when the temperature was 43 degrees and it was windy and cold. Experts say: "Even when temps are low there are warm areas where butterflies can go – most surprising might be close to the ground which can be 20+ degrees warmer than the air. Early Monarchs were reported each on April 26th, April 27th, and two on April 28th. The early date for Monarch in the county area is April 15th.

For the full butterfly survey and pictures, visit:

<https://howardbirds.website/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/hocobutterflies-2025.pdf>

~Howard County Conservancy

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The Trials and Tribulations of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)

Please close your eyes and imagine for a moment that you have shrunk to about 1 micrometer in size... Your name is now *E. coli* and you find yourself in a dark, smelly place with millions others like you wondering where the hell they are. There is movement,

quite slow, but picking up just about now. And all at once, a speck of light appears, and you and all your companions are thrown out violently in full daylight onto a grassy field. It's spring, so there are fragrant flowers that are a welcome relief from the smell, and now it is raining! You get washed into a small stream. You are swimming happily in the stream when a man called Bob comes by, picks you up in a cup and you are now in a sealed container in Bob's backpack.

Later on, Bob, who leads the GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee (SWCC), throws you in a dish with some food, and you are happy to finally get some rest. In fact, you are so happy that you start to replicate and since you can do so every 20 min, there are soon millions of your daughters, and daughters of your daughters of your daughters, around you. What a trip this has been! You are now a bacterial colony.

Please open your eyes now and temporarily rejoin the real world of humans. What I just described is the journey a run-of-the-mill (pun intended) E. coli bacterium makes routinely and there are not enough zeroes in my high school education to enumerate how many more E. coli bacteria make the same journey from the gastrointestinal tract of an animal to the environment. Once there, it often finds its way to a watershed, for instance one that is regularly monitored by the GPCA SWCC. Indeed, enumeration of coliform colonies are a standard measure of fecal contamination, meaning that the more coliforms in the water, the unhealthier the water is, for example, to swim in, let alone to drink. That's the bad news. The good news is not all E. coli are bad for your health. The vast majority of E. coli bacteria including those in a healthy person's GI tract are totally harmless and are in fact a welcome gut resident without which our health would greatly suffer..

Check out the Last Month's Meeting article in the [March 2024](#) Newsletter for last year's summary of their efforts and support the volunteer work of the GPCA SWCC to monitor and safeguard the GPCA and Granite environment.

~Patrik Bavoil
GPCA Board Member

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Around the Neighborhood

Granite Historical Society (GHS) Annual Picnic

Tuesday, **July 8th** at 6:00 pm

Stanfield Pavilion - 9512 Old Court Road

GPCA Annual Picnic

Saturday **October 4th** 1pm til 5pm

Nike Missile Site & Civil Air Patrol Headquarters - 3085 Hernwood Road

Granite Presbyterian Church (GPC) Food Truck

GPC will be hosting community food truck events once again this spring and fall. The dates are Wednesdays **6/18, 9/17 & 10/15**.

Nike Site Open House

Open House dates for this year are: **June 22** (in conjunction with Patapsco Heritage Greenway), **July 20, August 24, and September 28**. More details to follow next month.

Randallstown NAACP

For more information, check randallstownnaacp@gmail.com.

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

Let your community know!



Second Annual Collaborative

NIKE MISSILE SITE BA-79 **OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, June 22, 2025 | 12-4 PM

MARYLAND WING HEADQUARTERS, CIVIL AIR PATROL
3085 Hernwood Road, Woodstock, MD 21163

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