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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 428

GPCA Newsletter

June 2023



GPCA General Meeting

Monday, June 12, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

Come early for PLANT SWAP at 6:30 pm!

Bring your extra seedlings and plants - non-invasive! - to share with neighbors and friends. We will set up outside and labeling your donations will be helpful.

Then

Roads! Bridges! and Traffic!

**Baltimore County Department of Public Works
and Transportation**

Guest Speakers:

Randy Shifflett, Highways Chief

Keith Link, Traffic Calming Program Manager

GPCA has asked DPWT to bring us up to date on **road conditions** and work status (if any) for Old Court Rd. (non-state portion), Dogwood Rd. , Ridge Rd, Wrights Mill Rd., Davis Ave., Granite Rd., Offutt Rd., Hernwood Rd., Furman Lane, **Bridges** on Dogwood Rd, Wrights Mill Rd, Offutt Rd, Ridge Rd, Davis Ave., Mowing & **roadside** maintenance challenges. **Traffic calming** for rural areas experiencing heavy through-traffic (note traffic calming approaching Marriottsville Rd).

We all see and experience what happens on our roads every day. Be sure to join us and bring what you know to this important meeting!

.....
Reminder: no general meetings in July or August

October 7th - Annual Community Picnic. Stay Tuned!!
.....

From Last General Meeting

– Baltimore County Department of Planning, CZMP

Our Guest Speakers for the May meeting were Daphne Daly, Western District Planner and Joe Wiley, Northern District Planner and Rural Area Advisor. They explained that Daphne was responsible for the area of District 4 inside the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) and Joe for the area outside the line in our district. Megan Benjamin is Lead Planner for the Northern Sector and Abigail Rogers is also a planner for that sector.

Daphne gave a presentation focused on the 2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) which starts on August 2023. The presentation included costs of filing and timelines for filing issues and hearings by the planning board and county council. Signage is required 2 weeks in advance of the planning board hearing and adjacent property owners are notified by mail of filed issues. County Code requires decisions on issues by the County Council must be made by September 16. Daphne directed the group to the county's [2024 CZMP Hub](#) for complete information and encouraged us to use the interactive map to check for filed issues.

Joe Wiley, who also monitors compliance with the county's Land Preservation program explained his use of drone technology to survey properties, which are

often large and sometimes inaccessible. He is certified by the FCC for use of the drone and is required to keep the device in sight at all times.

~ Kathy Skullney

From the Editor's Desk



June is the month to celebrate Father's Day (June 18) and Juneteenth Day (June 19th). One of the things I have learned to appreciate after we moved to Granite, is the diversity of our community. I am proud to see that our general meetings have representation from varied cultural backgrounds, different religious beliefs and/or political affiliations. We embrace our differences with respect and focus on our common concern – to preserve the rural setting and tranquility of our environment. That said, I would love to see more representation of young professionals and families with young children at our meetings and events. The President and Officers of the GPCA are dedicated to pay more attention to the interests and concerns of this specific demographic group. Perhaps we need playgrounds and safe playing fields or more sporting activities for young kids and physically active folks. Please tell us! It was so lovely to see kids jumping and playing on the Granite Presbyterian Church playground during the Food Truck Tuesday. Now please do not miss the [picnic organized by the Granite Historical Society on July 18](#) and the [Annual Fun fair on August 12 & 13 at St Alphonsus Church](#). I look forward to meeting more neighbors in these events and on the Patapsco Park trails this summer.



Have a great summer, stay active and enjoy the nature all around us.

~ Ru-ching Hsia

Editor, GPCA Newsletter

President's Note



June Greetings, fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors. Well, summer may finally be here! Hopefully all our favorite plants are thriving, and particularly so for our farming neighbors, who need the

sun and the rain! We've had some excellent meetings heading into this season on bees, pollinator gardens, and home winemaking. It will be fun to share some of our successes in the Fall. We also have been able to focus on our place in Baltimore County, and how to protect and enhance our community through the programs and services the County provides. So be sure to join us for the June meeting.

As always, we are committed to providing a good forum to address the larger community concerns of our members and neighbors; and we can never say it enough: 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.

Have a great July and August, see you in September!

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

ksskullney@verizon.net



Membership News

Our 2023 membership drive continues to receive renewals and new memberships. Six months in the pace has slowed of course but memberships are welcomed and encouraged throughout the year. GPCA monitors zoning and code enforcement issues that impact land use and our Small Watershed Conservation Committee (SWCC) tests the water quality of our streams year-round. And what would our roads look like without the dozens of volunteers who regularly remove the trash from our roadsides? That's the value of your membership! Won't you add joining GPCA to your "to do" list? Whether you choose to join online or by mail every membership is evidence of your dedication to land and stream conservation in our own backyard. Membership levels are:

- Joint \$30 for 2 voting members in the same household residing within the GPCA membership area
- Single \$20 for a single voting member residing within the GPCA membership area
- Associate \$10 available for businesses and those living outside the GPCA membership area, no voting privileges

What are the boundaries? Click [here](#)

There are many options to join:

Scan this QR Code

or by Mail: GPCA Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 31,

Woodstock, MD 21163

or online www.gpca.net/membership-renewal-sign-up/



Questions and suggestions are welcome anytime. Hope you enjoy a pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you at one of our informative meetings!

~ **Cathy Wolfson, Treasurer**

410-245-8708

oakknob@comcast.net

Join or Renew GPCA Membership

Around the GPCA Neighborhood....

Some Other Local Concerns

Concerns have been raised by a number of activities reported throughout the GPCA area. These include intense gun firing, dirt bikes and off-road vehicles across properties, questionable heavy truck traffic, and late night high speed car activity. In an effort to address these kinds of problems, GPCA has reached out to the Woodlawn Precinct to meet with officers, bringing them community-wide attention, and increase our understanding of the best ways to deal with our concerns. We may be setting up a special meeting to deal with this topic sooner than later, rather than waiting until September. Please watch for an email announcement.

~ **Kathy Skullney**

Community Plan Update

The GPCA Community Update Resolution was introduced by Chairman Julian Jones at the May 25, 2023 Council meeting, and is scheduled for a vote at the June 5th meeting. Once approved, the Community Plan can be updated officially, approved by the Council and incorporated into the 2030 Master.

~ **Kathy Skullney**



Baltimore County MASTER PLAN 2030 – Planning Board Phase

As was announced, the Planning Board sent the draft Master Plan to the Planning Board for public comments and review in early May.

GPCA shared comments both in person and in writing on May 18, urging the Board to specifically list the six Master Plan development principles as requirements to be met before development or redevelopment can be approved, and more importantly, to make those principles requirements for any zoning changes proposed in the upcoming CZMP. These principles also should be included as requirements in the updated comprehensive manuals.

GPCA also supports changing the CZMP cycle from 4 years to 10 years in coordination with the master planning process.

The Planning Board will be deliberating the Master Plan 2030 at its meeting on June 8th, with a final vote being held on June 15th. The Planning Department then submits the plan to the County Council for review/amending and finally adoption.

~ Kathy Skullney

What's happening in your HOA, along your roads or near you? Let your community know!

Did you know...? Baltimore County has a [Reuse Directory](#) providing a terrific alternative for simply throwing things away. If you have unwanted items at home, consider donating them to be recycled or reused by others before you dispose of them. The [Reuse Directory](#) provides information on organizations, nonprofits and businesses around the Baltimore region that accept various items for reuse or certain types of recycling. It also describes the end use of donations, such as supplying people with resources they might not otherwise be able to obtain. [Take A look!](#)



~ Kathy Skullney

Small Watershed Conservation Committee

SWCC organized a spot clean up on May 14th. Thanks to Bob Teller, Cathy Wolfson, Dave Scheurer, Anne Scheurer, David Hutchins, Ben Stomblor and Jim Raistrick spending Mother's Day morning picking up trash along Dogwood Road and Willow Run Road. Traffic cones were set out at either end of the work area to ensure safety. Special thanks for Cathy Wolfson to take most of the trash bags for disposal and to Nick Foley, the owner of EML Landscape Management who allowed us to dispose of all the trash in his dumpster. Overall, it was a very satisfying event. Now, I no longer see trash along that stretch of the street every time I drive by.



~ Jim Raistrick



Community Plant Swap

June 12, Monday, 6:30 PM

30 min before the GPCA General Meeting

Parking Lot @ Granite Presbyterian Church

Come share your extra seeds, seedlings, houseplants or perennials with your neighbors. Plants/seeds must be healthy, pest free and labeled. Please bring pots that you are willing to part with and bags or cardboard boxes to carry your new green friends home.

Newsletter Note From the Past

Looking Skyward June 2003

The planet Mars will be receiving increasing attention during the weeks ahead. During this month it will double in brightness as it and the Earth pass each other in their orbits and the distance between them will decrease from 70 million miles to 52 million miles. Mars is half again as far from the Sun (141,500,000 miles) and will pass the Earth once every two years, requiring 686 days for its "year". The Earth which orbits around the Sun (93,000,000 miles away) in 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days moves more rapidly than Mars and when it catches up they are said to be in "opposition".

An interesting phenomenon takes place at that time because the planet will seem to go backwards among the stars for a period of some days. The same effect is felt when we might be in an automobile at a high speed and passing an automobile moving at a slower speed. The slower one seems to be going backwards. A careful observer who would take the time to plot the movement of Mars among the stars during its "retrograde" motion would find this an interesting exercise. One problem! Mars is a morning star at this time and will be rising in the southeast about an hour before dawn.

Mars has been the subject of much fascination and speculation. Many stories have been written about it, the best-known one being H. G. Wells' "War of the Worlds" in which the Earth is invaded by fantastic creatures. I remember reading it during my teen years (that was a very long time ago) and a half-

century ago. Orson Wells' radio drama based upon this tale was done so realistically that many millions of people reacted strongly to it. Sci-fi literature abounds in Martian fables.

There has been serious speculation as to whether Mars is inhabited but this has long been discounted. Early observers thought that they could observe "canals" - long straight lines, attributed to human construction but modern observations have discounted that theory. The surface of the planet has been mapped and many of us will live to see a visit by a space vehicle containing "earthlings". It will be a long voyage but there is little doubt that it will happen.

In the meantime, let us cut loose our earthly bindings and travel to the stars instantaneously! How fortunate that we, probably alone among all creatures, have imaginations which can take us wherever we wish to go. One caution! Be sure to return!! There are hazards in not returning.

Jupiter is high in the west but slowly getting lower as it makes its way in its 12-year orbit. Try to get into the habit of taking a quick glance at it as you get out of the car at night. Notice it. Tune in on this universe which surrounds us. Take a look at the Big Dipper, now vertical high in the north. See how it makes its way around the Pole Star, Polaris. Remember to follow the curve of the handle to find the bright orange Arcturus. Continue that curve and find Spica in the constellation Virgo, The Virgin, in south-southwest.

Watch the Sun. Have you noticed how each day it rises and sets a little farther north? That shadows change position from day to day? That on June 21, at the Summer Solstice, it will reach its farthest point north, giving us our longest day? And that it then heads southward and the seasons begin to change? Have you thought about the fact that the stars we look at are the same ones gazed at by mankind since time immemorial and that people all over the world have imagined that groupings of stars suggest various creatures or mythological beings? That these constellations have histories dating back thousands of years?

You might well say, "Why care?" You must supply your own answers.

~ Abe Granek

Community Events

Granite Historical Society Picnic

The Granite Historical Society (GHS) invites you to join us at our annual picnic, a long-standing event since the 1990's, on **Tuesday, July 18th at 6:00 pm.**



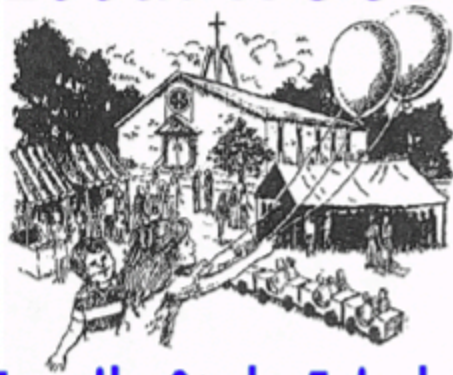
Thanks again to the hospitality of Stacy and Doug Wolinski we will be gathering at the Stanfield Pavilion located at 9512 Old Court Road. As in the past, we will ask all to bring a dish to share; the meats will be provided by GHS for the event. If you are interested in attending the picnic, please RSVP no later than July

10th 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!

Bill Skullney
GHS Vice President

106th WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL



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Catholic Church
10800 Old Court Road
Woodstock, Maryland 21163
5 miles from Liberty Road
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Family Style Fried Chicken & Ham Dinner

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Sunday August 13, 1-5 PM Mass at Noon

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