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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Issue #445 **GPCA Newsletter** **March 2025**

GPCA General Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 7:00 pm

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

The Granite Natural Gas Pipeline Upgrade - Project Progress on Dogwood Road

Guest Speaker:
Anthony Brown
Outreach Contractor, Remlin Corporation

Representatives from the project will be present to discuss and answer questions about the ongoing pipeline construction in the Granite area. This looks to be a very interesting discussion so we hope to see you there.

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Inside This Issue
(click on the link to go to article)

Articles
President's Note
Last Meeting
2025 Membership Campaign
Zoning
GPCA Cleanup
Newsletter 'News'
Bens Run Bridge Update
Granite Historical Society
Patapsco Heritage Greenway
Woodlawn Precinct Alert
Baltimore County & Beyond
SWCC-Bacteria in MD Waterways

Inside This Issue
(click on the link to go to article)

Around the Neighborhood
GPC Food Truck Events
Nike Site Open House
Randallstown NAACP
Woodlawn Precinct
Mulch Madness

Classifieds
Chesapeake Tree Services
Mathena Septic Service
David Dell Tree Services
Lenny's Automotive

President's Note

Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

Our community is a testament to what dedicated volunteers and engaged members can achieve together. From supporting local businesses to preserving our rural character, GPCA thrives because of you—our members who show up, lend a hand, and make a difference.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all our volunteers, who have

dedicated their time and energy to initiatives such as community clean-ups, historical preservation, and advocating for responsible development. Your efforts ensure that GPCA remains our community's strong, united voice.

Membership is the foundation of our success. If you haven't renewed or joined yet, now is the time! Your membership strengthens our ability to protect our local environment, advocate for smart zoning decisions, and provide valuable resources to residents. Every voice matters, and we need yours to keep GPCA moving forward.

Looking ahead, we have exciting opportunities for community involvement, including upcoming events, advocacy initiatives, and continued efforts to improve our shared spaces. If you're looking for a way to get more involved, we welcome your participation—whether through attending meetings, joining a committee, or volunteering at an event.

Together, we are stronger. Let's continue to build on our momentum and make GPCA an even greater force for our community.

We may be small, but we are mighty!

~ Chris Brock
GPCA President
chris_brock@ymail.com

(back to top)

What You Missed
February 10, 2025 General Meeting
General Forum Discussion

While our meeting was not devoted to a specific speaker or topic there was much to discuss and learn.
MD Legislative Session: State Senator Ben Brooks Legislative Liaison, Kenny Brown updated us on bills Ben is sponsoring this session. Ben's Senate assignment is the Education, Energy and Environmental Rules Committee. Kenny discussed the impact of rising energy costs for school systems which are draining funding for complete implementation of MD's Blueprint for Education and that hard choices will have to be made this

session. On the topic of energy, Senator Brooks recognizes current needs are not being served by our aging technology; MD only produces 60% of our current needs. Nuclear options are becoming a topic of energy conversations.

Commercial campground proposed: Alan Kratz, whose family is proposing the campground at 9043 Old Court Road explained their plans to develop the facility at the end of a 12' wide private drive shared with other property owners. The location is generally behind the solar facility across from the Polly Hill development. The proposed plan is for 10 campsites to serve guests up to one month with reservations to made using the Airbnb model. A hearing for this special exception in an RC2 zone is required and a hearing date is to be announced.

Councilman Julian Jones: The annual county budget process is underway and the state is asking Baltimore County for $18-$20 million in cuts. It will be tough going. Julian also noted the county has about 500 employees whose wages or salaries are funded by federal grants, which are being withheld or terminated by the implementation of new federal policies.

GPCA Welcome Sign: A resident addressed the installation of our new sign at the corner of Davis Avenue and Old Court Roads, noting his family moved here over 20 years ago from Baltimore City to enjoy our countryside, not to see "billboards". He was welcomed and gently reminded how much of the countryside he enjoys is due to decades of commitment by GPCA members to conserve our land and natural resources. We shared that the sign was purchased with a grant provided by Baltimore County, complies with all state and county sign regulations and that the site was provided by a local resident.

~ Cathy Wolfson

(back to top)

2025 Membership Campaign

Memberships have been coming in from all of you who value GPCA's commitment to "preserve and protect our rural character". Thanks to all of you who have endorsed the work of our Small Watershed Conservation, Communications, Clean Up, Zoning and other Committees with your membership. Many of you generously added "something extra" to your dues to help us support our commitment to our residents and

environment. Our campaign lasts throughout the year, so it's never too late to join GPCA. You now have the option of joining online or just click on the QR code at left. We are only a community association because of neighbors like you!

~ Cathy Wolfson
Treasurer/Membership Chair
gpca.treasurer@hotmail.com

(back to top)

Islamic Society of Baltimore Petition

The Islamic Society of Baltimore Petition, Case No. 24-058-XA, Board of Appeals Hearing took place on February 19 in Towson. GPCA (Cathy Wolfson) and the Windsor Mill communities participated. When completed, the Board (3 judges) instructed the parties to file a closing memorandum emphasizing 5 objectives, due March 21. The Board will rule thereafter.

Camp Ground Petition – Kratz Property

The Zoning Hearing for the camp petition has been rescheduled. It will now be held on Monday, March 24th at 1:30 pm.

Case No: 2024-0243-X, 9043 Old Court Road
Owners: Alan & Sandra Kratz Trust
Contract Purchaser: Freedom 40 Farms, LLC

This hearing is hybrid and will be held both in-person and virtually.

Hearing Location: Jefferson Building, 105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Rm. 205, Towson, MD 21204

Join the Webex hearing online

Join the hearing by telephone at 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 230 559 92147

Webinar Password: 4321 (from phones and video systems)

~ Kathy Skullney

(back to top)

~Jim Raistrick
GPCA Cleanup Coordinator
443-838-9887, voxjim@gmail.com

(back to top)

Newsletter 'News'

Hello All! A few things have occurred recently relative to the newsletter that I thought it was worth a note to let you know. First, those that have been looking on the website for some of the past newsletters of 2024 are aware that they were not there. In working with the company that has been helping to update our website, the

Newsletter page on the website has been updated so that all recent newsletters are now available. Second, although the advertising policy for the newsletter had been updated and communicated via previous newsletters, it was never available via the website. A link has now been added to the 'Newsletter' web page that will call up the current GPCA Advertising Policy. Third, in referring to the Advertising Policy, a couple of additions/corrections have been made. One change that may not be too obvious is that the title of the policy has been changed from 'GPCA Newsletter Advertising/Letter/Article Policy' to 'GPCA Newsletter Advertising Policy'. The reason for the change is that if one wishes to submit an article or letter (for example, To the Editor), there is no fee if the article is accepted for publishing. GPCA has previously, and continues, to welcome individual contributors to the newsletter for articles that may be of interest to our subscribers. In addition, we discovered that there was a missing component to the updated policy - that being the so-called 'Personal Ads'. The GPCA paper version of the newsletter had previously offered smaller, personal ads for individuals to submit to the newsletter (for example, For Sale ads of items one wishes to sell). The GPCA Board was interested in continuing to offer this to our readers so the policy now includes requirements for individual personal ads. The updated web page can be found at https://www.gpca.net/newsletters/.

~Bill Skullney
Newsletter Editor

(back to top)

Update on Replacement of Ben's Run Bridge at Dogwood and Hollifield Roads

Baltimore County engineers now anticipate completion of the design approval process for Bridge No. 0072 this year and construction to begin in the fall of 2027. This timeline is contingent upon the completion of all necessary approvals.

One remaining parcel of land has yet to be acquired from the private property owner. Currently the Right-of-Entry agreement with MD Dept. of Natural Resources has been executed, granting access for utility relocation and construction.

~Cathy Wolfson

(back to top)

Granite Historical Society

The Granite Historical Society Annual Meeting with elections of officers and Board Members for the year will be held at 7 pm, Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Granite Presbyterian Church.

A Nominating Committee consisting of Pam Adams and Sue Brantley has proposed the following slate for the 2025-2026 administrative year: (Thank you, Pam and Sue!)

President - Nathan Brantley
Vice President - Roy Danz
Treasurer - John Brantley
Secretary - Emma Lehman
Director - Pam Adams
Director - Reed Hellman

Per the by-laws additional nominations can be accepted, even from the floor during the meeting. If you have any interest in any of the positions, or have any questions about the duties entailed, please feel free to contact:
Pam Adams, pamela.j.adams@comcast.net, 443-802-3734
Sue Brantley, sue@fullduplex.com, 410-922-1908
or myself, royed5@verizon.net, 410-905-2244.

The GHS has established a number of programs to showcase the history of the area, and your continued support is needed to keep the organization fulfill its mission.

Also at the annual meeting on March 18th, as part of the GHS Speaker Series, John Brantley will deliver a presentation entitled “Searching for Granite’s First Settler”. John will talk about 10 different figures with an early presence in the Granite area in an attempt to figure out who was the first. It will be a chance to engage with Granite’s colonial experience, subject matter which has previously been little discussed.

~ Roy Danz
GHS President

(back to top)

Patapsco Heritage Greenway News

Spring is just around the corner which means it is time to get outdoors! Patapsco Heritage Greenway's spring event season kicks off in full swing this March. Join us throughout the month and beyond—for stewardship events in the Patapsco Valley. All of our events and programs are free to the public. Want to learn more about invasive and native plants on our landscape and help remove invasives? We have you covered. Interested in ensuring that our trees continue to flourish. Come on out for a tree maintenance event! Spring is also the one time of year to explore vernal pools. We have several guided hikes that will highlight these unique spring features and the creatures that rely on them. These are just some of the many events you can enjoy across the Patapsco watershed. Learn more at patapsco.org/events and register away!

If you prefer to stay indoors, we are hosting Patapsco Days talks in March. The first one from NPS Park Ranger Matthew Borders on the role of the B&O Railroad during the Civil War is already sold out. But don't worry, we'll have the recording up on our YouTube channel following the event. But please join us on Friday, March 14 at 6 pm when Nicholas Anderson from the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum will discuss the lives and role of free women on the American frontier. This talk takes place in the museum at the Banneker Historical Park and Museum. RSVP here. On

Wednesday, March 26 at 6 pm, hear from Howard County NAACP Chapter President, Willie Flowers, as he provides an overview of the need for civil rights advocacy in the United States reflecting on the resilient leaders of the past as a measure of what will be required in the future. This talk will take place in the Avalon Room at the Miller Branch Library. RSVP here.

We hope to see you out and about in the Patapsco Valley.

~ Aaron Shapiro
PHG Executive Director

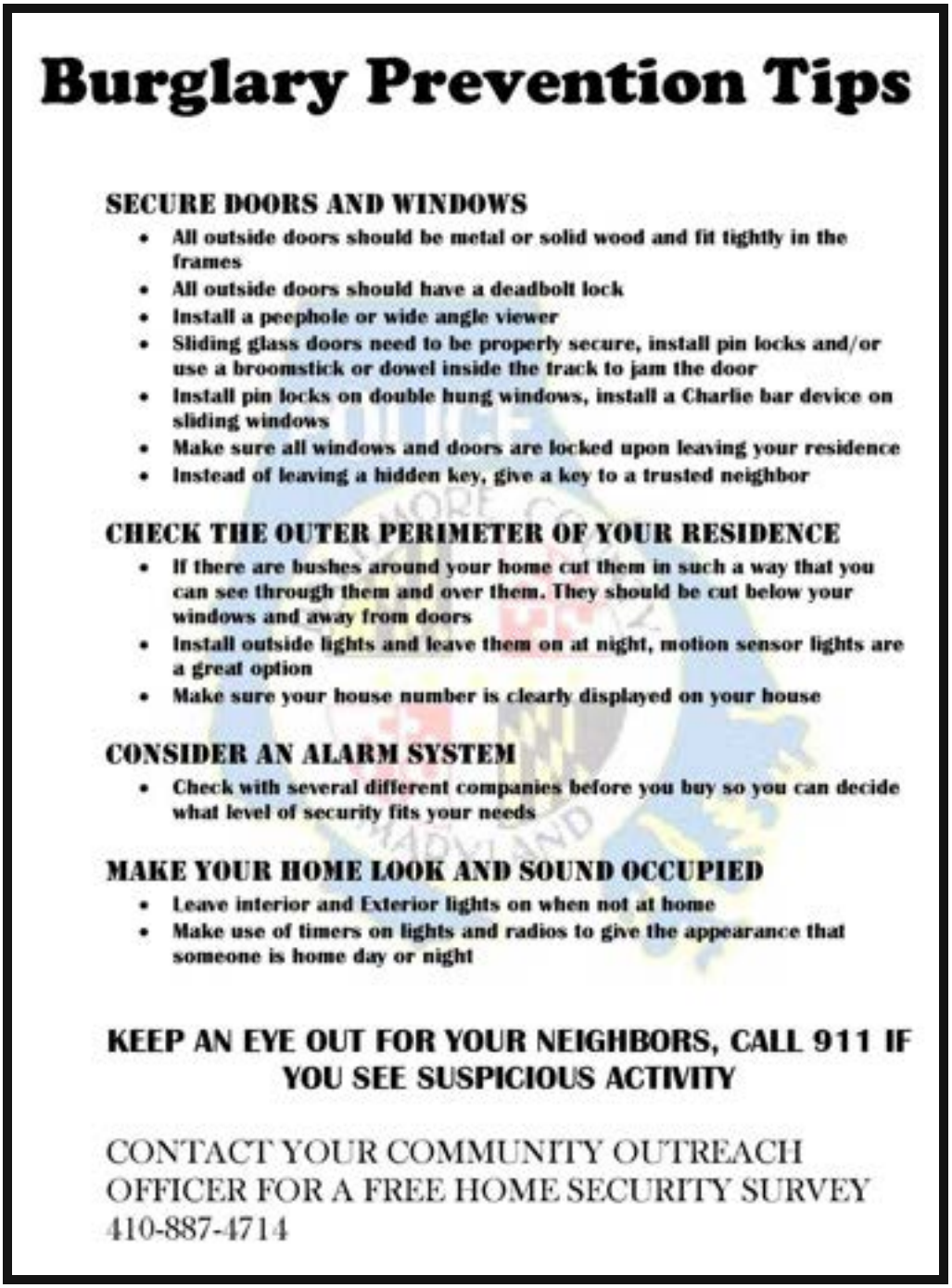
(back to top)

Woodlawn Precinct Alert

Two local burglaries, possibly related, have been reported:

- February17: First-Degree Burglary, 9900 Block of Davis Ave, 21163. At approximately 7 p.m., an unknown suspect attempted to burglarize the location with a weapon.
- February 27: First-Degree Burglary, 9900 Block of Davis Ave, 21163. At approximately 10 a.m., a group of unknown suspects burglarized the location before fleeing.

These reports underscore the need for extra careful attention to securing your property.



Burglary Prevention Tips

SECURE DOORS AND WINDOWS

- All outside doors should be metal or solid wood and fit tightly in the frames
- All outside doors should have a deadbolt lock
- Install a peephole or wide angle viewer
- Sliding glass doors need to be properly secure, install pin locks and/or use a broomstick or dowel inside the track to jam the door
- Install pin locks on double hung windows, install a Charlie bar device on sliding windows
- Make sure all windows and doors are locked upon leaving your residence
- Instead of leaving a hidden key, give a key to a trusted neighbor

CHECK THE OUTER PERIMETER OF YOUR RESIDENCE

- If there are bushes around your home cut them in such a way that you can see through them and over them. They should be cut below your windows and away from doors
- Install outside lights and leave them on at night, motion sensor lights are a great option
- Make sure your house number is clearly displayed on your house

CONSIDER AN ALARM SYSTEM

- Check with several different companies before you buy so you can decide what level of security fits your needs

MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK AND SOUND OCCUPIED

- Leave interior and Exterior lights on when not at home
- Make use of timers on lights and radios to give the appearance that someone is home day or night

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS, CALL 911 IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

CONTACT YOUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICER FOR A FREE HOME SECURITY SURVEY
410-887-4714

~Officer Makowiecki

(*back to* top)

Baltimore County and Beyond

2025 Baltimore County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission

The 2025 Baltimore County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission is

holding its second Public Hearing to gather community input and feedback specifically regarding the east side of the County.

Public Hearing #2 – East Side Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Perry Hall Public Library 9685 Honeygo Boulevard Perry Hall, Maryland 21128.

While video of the hearing will be live streamed, participants who wish to speak must attend the hearing in person. Please visit the Council's "Virtual Meetings" page at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/virtualmeetings.html.

Participants may also register to speak at the hearing from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. To allow all interested individuals to participate, testimony will be limited to 2 or 3 minutes per speaker, at the discretion of the Commission.

The Commission will hold its third Public Hearing at a later date to primarily gather input regarding the west side of the County.

~Kathy Skullney

Free Trees for Arbor Day

In celebration of Arbor Day, Baltimore County is giving away 1,200 free trees to residents. Each household may receive up to two trees while supplies last.

How to Get Your Trees:

- **Preorder** Starting **April 15** – Order online Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., until April 24 or until all trees are claimed. Pickup is April 25 (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) or April 26 (9–11 a.m.).
- First-Come, First-Served – **Any remaining trees** will be available **April 26** (12–3 p.m.)—no appointment needed.

Pickup Location:

Marshy Point Nature Center
7130 Marshy Point Road, Middle River, MD 21102

For more information and preorder details, visit https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/environment/forests-trees/tree-giveaway or contact the Department of Environmental

Protection & Sustainability
at forestmanagement@baltimorecountymd.gov or 410-887-1369.

~Maribeth Diemer

(back to top)

Bacteria in Maryland Waterways

At the 30th Annual Maryland Water Monitoring Conference on November 11, 2024, I attended two presentations concerning E. coli in waterways in order to be aware of what other organizations are seeing concerning E. coli in streams. E. coli is a key indicator for fecal contamination, which can make streams unsafe for residents and their dogs. Fecal material can be introduced into the surrounding streams by sewage overflows, stormwater runoff during heavy rainfall events, and waste of warm-blooded animals.

Currently, advisories warn against recreating in streams for three days following a significant rain event due to increased presence of potentially harmful bacteria and other pollutants.

The first presentation was given by Maureen Mitchell, Anacostia Riverkeeper Program Manager of Water Quality. Her team monitors Montgomery and Prince George's County streams and tributaries, using community-scientists, as GPCA does, to collect bi-weekly water samples from May through September. In 2024 they found bacteria peaks 24 to 72 hours after a heavy rainfall. However, they saw high bacteria in all weather conditions, not just after rainfall - they suspect wastewater contamination. Despite a dry summer, overall bacteria levels were higher than in past years.

The second presentation I attended reported similar results. Jessie Ribera of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center reported seeing higher levels of E. coli after rainfall but also saw unsafe concentrations of E. coli during dry weather. They are looking into better ways to predict E. coli levels, such as streamflow and measurement of dissolved organic matter (DOM). They also are looking into methods for determining the source of the E. coli (human, canine, other animals).

The SWCC has been monitoring bacteria levels in our streams for 2 ½

years and our data agrees with what these other organizations have seen – more E. coli after a heavy rain and also some occasional spikes during a dry period. We have seen E. coli levels fairly frequently above the safe threshold established by Maryland for Class I waters (Water Contact Recreation and Protection of Nontidal Warmwater Aquatic Life). The threshold is 200 E. coli colonies per 100 mL of water. The threshold for drinking water is lower: 70 E. coli colonies per 100 mL.

So far, there has not been a consistent problem with any one of our Granite streams. We'll continue to monitor to look for problems.

~ Laurie Donnelly
SWCC Member

(back to top)

Around the Neighborhood

Granite Presbyterian Church (GPC) Food Truck

GPC will be hosting community food truck events once again this spring and fall. The date are Wednesdays 4/23, 5/21, 6/18, 9/17 & 10/15.

Nike Site Open House

Open House dates for this year are: April 2, May 25, June 22 (in conjunction with Patapsco Heritage Greenway), July 20, August 24, and September 28. More details to follow next month.

Randallstown NAACP

Community Event April 5, 2025, Noon McCormick Auto Body 9339 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD - Randallstown NAACP & Baltimore County Police Airtag Smart Tag Giveaway

Come out, get some donuts and coffee, meet community members, your local police officers and pick up an airtag, or smarttag, or wheel lock. (Preference given to Hyundai and Kia owners) We look to take a bite out of crime ensuring cars will be GPS-equipped to deter theft and making it easier to be found. We look to equip all of the top stolen cars in Randallstown and Pikesville with an airtag or smart tag. Please RSVP if you would like an airtag or smart tag or wheel lock device please rsvp to randallstownnnacp@gmail.com

Woodlawn Police, Woodlawn Precinct

Keep up with what else is happening:
https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/community/precincts/2-woodlawn

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

Let your community know!

(back to top)

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(back to top)

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