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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 422.

GPCA Newsletter

December 2022



GPCA Holiday Party
Monday, December 12, 7:00 PM
@
Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road



Please join with your neighbors for a time of Holiday Cheer. Bring your special cookie or dessert to share and join in the fellowship.

From the Editors' Desk



The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is a time for reflection and rituals for many families. It is the time for retrieving dusty boxes of Christmas decorations out from the attic or basement and the time for digging out the Christmas cookie recipes. While we are performing the seemingly same tasks year after year, we can also reflect on the changes each new year brings in our lives, the addition of a new baby or new family member through marriage or the loss of a loved one. I know that, this New Years' Eve, I will not be able to make that call to my mother at midnight wishing her a happy new year. But I also started a new ritual this year: making a donation to charity in her memory. It comforted me a little that her compassion and kindness will carry on living year after year, particularly at the time of year when I miss her most. We will be collecting donations for the [Night of Peace Family Shelter](#) @ Windsor Mill during the GPCA holiday gathering on December

12th. Please extend your holiday cheers to some less fortunate families by donating some goods they so desperately need at the shelter. Alternatively, become a sustainable donor. Please also consider [volunteering some of your time to help out promoting the cause of our community](#). If you cannot commit to be the Vice President, Treasurer or one of the Board of Directors, small efforts, just one or two hours every now and then working with the Board of Directors or Committee Chairs will help a lot too. We love to hear from you. On behalf of the GPCA Newsletter Editorial team, I wish you a safe and festive holiday and Happy New Year.

~ Ru-ching Hsia

President's Note



Writing today, the day after Thanksgiving and gratitude is on my mind as we approach the Holidays.

We have to thank several members who are leaving the GPCA board to support other passions after years of helping with our mission. Zulma Santiago who has served as our Vice-President since 2021, Maribeth Diemer, Treasurer and Membership Chair since 2016 and Maurice Dixon, Director since 2019. They oversaw our transition to a digital format newsletter and online meetings necessitated by covid. And together with the tireless efforts of Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair helped us achieve outcomes that support our mission during the [2020 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process](#) and legislation that supported the establishment of [Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery](#) on Ridge Road. Their pursuit of other opportunities opens the door for new members to discover the meaningful work that supports GPCA's objectives which are: "To preserve and enhance the tranquility and beauty of our rural environment and to encourage orderly and positive growth of the community within the framework of prescribed regulations and laws. The Association shall provide a forum for all residents to express their concerns and interests and shall attempt to provide informative and interesting programs that will keep members informed and better able to address any of their concerns or problems. The Association's objective is also to foster a spirit of community among the residents."

Thanks also go out to our newsletter editors Ru-Ching Hsia and Patrik Bavoil for their terrific work modernizing our newsletter and formatting it

for online viewing. Ru-Ching has devoted tremendous energy and expertise to our website creating a far more intuitive platform.

And we can all sleep better at night knowing our streams are being monitored for harmful contaminants and bacteria due to the dedication of our Small Watershed Conservation Committee chaired by Bob Teller.

Our annual cleanup would never happen without the leadership of chairperson, Carol Link.

To all of you who take pride in our community and express it by reporting tractor trailers running our 2 lane roads, picking up trash, even when their isn't a cleanup, attending code enforcement hearings and do all the other meaningful activities that make Granite a great place to live THANK YOU!

We hope you will join us at our annual Holiday meeting on Monday December 12. All are welcome, members or not, just come to share some cheer and accept our gratitude.

Wishing you and yours a peaceful Holiday Season,

~Cathy Wolfson, President

410-245-8708

oakknob@comcast.net

Greater Patapsco Community Association 2022 Slate of Officers and Directors Election January 19, 2023

- President – Cathy Wolfson
- Vice President – **Vacant**
- Treasurer – **Vacant**
- Secretary – **Vacant**
- Director – Ralph Wright 3 term ends 2026
- Unexpired Terms of Directors
- Director Lisa Charyszn 3 year term ends January 2024
- Butch Oakman 3 year term ending January 2025

There are opportunities for you to serve on the GPCA Board. Please contact us at gpc21163@gmail.com for more information or nominate a candidate.

Nominations of other candidates will be taken from the floor on the evening of the election. Candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election. Per the GCPA bylaws officers are elected for a 1-year term and directors for 3-year terms. The President may serve for 2 consecutive 1-year terms and may again become eligible after a 1-year lapse.

About Our Neighborhood



Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery - Ridge Road

Serenity Ridge expects to open by the first of December and in anticipation, a gathering of related professionals was held on 11/28/2022, to which GPCA was invited and attended. Some of the important amenities already being planned are multiple areas devoted to pollinators which will include bee hives, and the re-introduction of native species. There will be simple “greenhouse” structures as well, which can foster appropriate flowers and other plants available to families to enhance their areas. These areas are in addition to the conservation areas already dedicated to Baltimore County. There is a new entry off Ridge Road now being enhanced for greater access as well as greater protections, and there will be further work along the entry way. The Baltimore Sun recently published an extensive article about Serenity Ridge which can be viewed [HERE](#).

~ Kathy Skullney



Liberty Road Update

Baltimore County is initiating a Community Development Organization to address the significant community and local business needs along the core of the Liberty Road communities. A virtual meeting for this effort is scheduled for December 6 at 6:30 pm. Check [HERE](#) for more information.

The Western Sector, including GPCA area, has a new “Lead Planner” – **Daphne Daly**. She will be helping with the Master Plan and updating the GPCA Community Plan.

Both the Pikesville and Woodlawn County Police Precincts have increased their enforcement actions regarding traffic, especially tractor-trailers through residential areas. Captains Bylen and Hartman both have warned of increasing car thefts in the greater community areas related to starting cars for warm-up but then leaving them unattended and for catalytic converters.

Speaker Jones’ Annual Toy Drive will be Dec. 13 at Randallstown Community Center, 6-8pm.

~ **Kathy Skullney**



Zoning

As previously reported, the property at 3001 Ridge Road has been the subject of a Maryland Department of the Environment formal investigation into the streambed excavation and damage at the rear of the property in addition to the violations already processed. The report hopefully will be available by 12/06/22.

As for County Code Enforcement, none of the cited and fined violations had been corrected as, and another inspection citation was issued, with another \$10,000 fine and an expected hearing date of 11/15/2022. It has not yet been confirmed that the hearing took place or if so, what decision was rendered. The information will be posted as soon as it is known.

Both the Pikesville and Woodlawn County Police Precincts have increased their enforcement actions regarding traffic, especially.

~ **Kathy Skullney**



Louis S, Diggs (1932-1922)



Mr. Louis Diggs, Baltimore County Historian and African American scholar passed away on October 24. Locally he was critical to the preservation of the Cherry Hill African Union Methodist Protestant Church on Offutt Road which houses the [Diggs Johnson Museum](#). Named for

Mr. Diggs and his close friend Lenwood Johnson who was entrusted with the property on their promise to the last surviving trustee that they would save the church. Thanks to then Delegate Adrienne Jones who secured a \$300,000 grant from the state of MD and a subsequent increase to \$400,000 the church was renovated and converted to the mini-museum which, since 2014 has complemented Offutt Road. In recognition of his contributions to the preservation of Baltimore County's African American history the county established the Louis S. Diggs Award in 2016. The award is presented annually "to individuals whose life work represents a commitment to the celebration of the African-American experience in Baltimore County, and whose efforts inspire others to strive for success and to celebrate the diversity and achievement that is our strength." And that truly reflects his life's work. Thanks Mr. Diggs.

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Mrs. Ford's Fruit Cake

Preheat oven to 350°F

- 1/3 C butter
- 1 C sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 C buttermilk
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 C flour
- 1 C chopped dates
- Grated rinds of 1 lemon and 1 orange
- 1 C pecans



Mix in order given plus rind of 1 orange and 1 lemon.

Bake in loaf pan 1 hr 15 min. Cracks should appear on top of cake.

Make glaze:

- Juice from 1 orange and 1 lemon.
- 1 C sugar

While baking, mix juices and sugar and set on top of the stove, stirring occasionally to dissolve.

Remove cake from pan and while still warm spoon glaze over top, in small amounts, waiting for a few minutes in between so the glaze hardens.

~ Shared by Cathy Wolfson

ENJOY!



Live Nativity
Friday December 16
7:00 & 8:00 PM

**Granite Presbyterian Church and Mount
Paran Presbyterian Church will present a
Live Nativity at 7:00 pm and 8:00pm**

Featuring live animals, songs and the beloved story
of the first Christmas.
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at the Granite Presbyterian Church
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Season's Greetings



Once Again, GPCA is collecting donations for the [Night of Peace Family Shelter](#) on 7509 Windsor Mill Road. Night of Peace provides emergency shelter, case management, meals, shower and laundry space, and other necessities to help homeless families with children in their transition to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Donations can be dropped off at the Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church on December 12 during the GPCA holiday gathering. Recommended donation items are listed below:

1. Toilet paper
2. Paper towels
3. Laundry detergent
4. Disinfectant wipes
5. 45-gallon trash bags
6. Lysol Spray
7. Fabuloso Cleaner
8. Hand Soap
9. Hand sanitizer
10. Plastic utensils (forks, spoons, knives)
11. Paper plates, cups, bowls, napkins

12. Non-dairy creamer, tea bags, sugar & sugar substitute packets
13. Pancake Mix, Syrup, Oatmeal packets
14. Bottled water
15. Bus tokens
16. 100 Sustaining Donors



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