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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 426

GPCA Newsletter

April 2023



GPCA General Meeting

Monday, April 10, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

Family Winemaking

Guest Speaker: Ken Jordan

Do you or someone you know grow too much fruit and don't know what to do with it? Don't let it go to waste! Learn how easily you can turn your excess fruits (and vegetables) into wine with an introduction into principals and equipment of wine making. Some very good samples and examples can be shared. Family winemaking at its best!

.....
Upcoming Programs – Good stuff!

May - Western District and 4th District Planning Department – overview and CZ MP with Daphne Daly, 4th District Lead Planner and Joe Wiley, Ag/Rural Resource Planner (Northern Dist.)

June – Plant Swap, Baltimore Co. Department of Public Works (tentative)

Programs for/by our younger members: 4H, Scouts, Civil Air Patrol Cadets

(Reminder: no general meetings in July or August)

From Last General Meeting

How Baltimore County Code Enforcement works in Our Community

Guest Speaker Code Enforcement Officer and 4th District Lead Inspector **Dave Kirby** covered what Code Enforcement does in the County – ensuring compliance with Baltimore County Code and Zoning Regulations - and how it benefits communities. Enforcement is complaint-driven, but Officer Kirby acknowledged how difficult it can be to file complaints against neighbors which is why complaints can be files anonymously. Enforcement officers can also do driving “sweeps” and act on violations they observe. Officer Kirby heard from some members about specific very difficult situations and committed to further efforts to deal with those. Officer Kirby passed around pamphlets with information and contacts. Call 410-887-3351 or visit the [Code enforcement website](#).

From the Editors' Desk



April is a month to celebrate Spring and Mother Nature. Look out for lots of activities on the weekend of April 22nd celebrating International Earth Day. These include the [rain barrel and compost bin sales](#) hosted by Baltimore County to promote sustainable home composting and rainwater reuse. Thanks to [Marty Kelley](#) who provides us with a simple recipe to make nectar for hummingbirds to attract these fascinating creatures and to [Judy Plaskowitz](#) of the GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee for telling us about the importance of vernal pools in our ecosystem. As the weather becomes warmer, our neighborhood is also teeming with activities. Come out to the [Food Truck Tuesday](#) on April 18th and attend the [CPR course on April 30th](#) in Granite Presbyterian church later this month.

Most importantly, do not miss the GPCA Speaker Series presentation on making your own fruit wine during the [GPCA General Meeting next Monday, April 10th](#). You can find relevant information about all these activities in this issue of the GPCA Newsletter. Just scroll down!

Please forward this newsletter to your neighbors and friends and encourage

them to subscribe to the GPCA Newsletter. Please, [Let us know](#) what's happening in your HOA, along your road, or near you. We always love to hear from you.

Happy Spring to all!

~ Ru-ching Hsia

President's Note



April Greetings fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors. Spring has sprung! And as we do every year, GPCA greeted April with our annual community-wide clean up on April 1st – our **29th**! We hope you were able to participate either by joining a roadside team and helping with pickups, or taking advantage of the dumpsters for your own junk.

We are continuing our efforts to provide a good forum to address the larger community concerns of our members and neighbors. We will be joined by the Baltimore County Planners for our area in May and then the Public Works folks in June to talk about our roads and bridges. But it's never all business – don't miss our **plant swap** in June!

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! Memberships are easy – renewals and new - at the [GPCA website](#). [COME JOIN US](#). Staying informed and engaged is one of our greatest strengths.

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

ksskullney@verizon.net



Membership News

Our membership rolls are growing steadily. As of this March 27th writing we've received 172 memberships which represents 299 voting GPCA members (joint memberships represent 2 voters). These are the membership numbers we use to support our mission when testifying at hearings and advocating for our

community. Thanks to all of you who have chosen to endorse our efforts with your dues. Not sure what we do? Carve out a few hours on the evening of a second Monday in the month and join us for a meeting. We are a friendly group that loves where we live and hope you do too. Let us show you the ways!

Some year to date statistics:

- year to date dues account for 64% of our income and donations 36%
- 30% of income has been paid online and 70% by cash or check

And how about those donations? Many of you have added a little or a lot to your dues to help us cover expenses. This year over **\$2,600!** We appreciate your generosity!

~ Cathy Wolfson, Treasurer

410-245-8708

oakknob@comcast.net

Join or Renew GPCA Membership

Maryland District 10 Meeting

Our state representatives from the 10th District invited community groups from the district to join them in Annapolis on March 6th for a general update meeting and an opportunity to interact. GPCA was represented by Kathy Skullney and Cathy Wolfson and was generally recognized by Senator Brooks and Speaker Jones. The 2023 Session wraps on April 10th.

Reach Senator Brooks at Benjamin.brooks@senate.md.us or give staff a call at 410-841-3606.

~ Kathy Skullney

2023 GPCA Community Clean-Up Report



High winds and heavy rain did not deter the indomitable GPCA team!! Thanks to all for showing up and making a difference.

Command central would have been a total washout if it hadn't been for the foresight of Bill and Kathy Skullney whose canopy intervention saved the day!! There were at least three occasions when we all had to shelter in place under the canopy and hold on to the four corners to keep it from lifting off, but we stayed dry.

Our Adopt-A-Highway commitment is off to a good start thanks to the efforts of:

Team Old Court Road

Jim Raistrick, Bob Teller, Ru-ching Hsia, Barbara Deitz, Bob & Susie Reisdorf, Kurt & Jan LaLomia, Merlowe Henry, Zulma Santiago, Kathy Skullney, Barb Kopicki, Brigitte & Michael Hisky, Dana Weant

Team Hernwood Road was out in force!

Phill Guarino, Steve Libowitz, Laurie Donnelly, Joy & Jay Parson, Ken Jordan

Team Davis Ave

Virginia Gambrell, Mark Twardzik

Team Granite Road

Ralph Wright

Team Offutt Road

Sam Morant

Team Ridge Road

Katrina & Jesse Davies

The Pick-Up Team collected all the bags from the roadside!

Cathy Wolfson, Butch Oakman, Wayne Dell, Patrik Bavoil (in the flower-child April Fool's truck)

Dumpster Team: who did a lot of heavy lifting

Bill Skullney, Dan Ryan, Phil Guarino

Our sincere thanks for the on-going support of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Church in providing the space to run the GPCA Community Clean-Up.

Happy Springtime Everyone!

~ Carol Link,

GPCA Clean Up Coordinator

443-554-0306 linkgang87@gmail.com

About Our Neighborhood



CPR Class

**April 30, 2023, 12:00 PM,
Sunday**

**@ Granite Presbyterian
Church**

**10637 Old Court Rd,
Woodstock**

Community members are invited to attend a training class in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator (CPR/AED). A Stop-the-Bleed first aid module will also be included.

You must pre-register to attend class. Please, no walk-ins.

To register by phone: please contact the GPC Office at **410 461-5746** (if no answer please leave a message with name and contact information so that a confirmation call can be returned)

To register by email: send a to CPR_AED2019@aol.com.

Cost: \$60 per person.

The course is taught by representatives of Baltimore County Fire & Medical Training Inc. American Heart Association Certification cards will be issued upon successful completion of the course. The cards are good for 2 years.

Join us and learn valuable life-saving skills!



Maryland Wing Civil Air Patrol

Did you know that the headquarters of the Maryland Wing Civil Air Patrol was in our community? It is located at 3085 Hernwood Road, in the vicinity of the historic Nike Missile Site and related military installations. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and in Maryland is the Maryland Wing. There are 28 squadrons throughout the state, overseen by the Maryland Wing from the Granite headquarters. There are more than 1,500 volunteer members who perform search and rescue, disaster relief, emergency service, and security missions every year, over 50 of which are US Air Force assigned. Maryland Wing in CAP aircraft keep watch over the Chesapeake Bay, wildlife, and forested areas, and thus are able to provide a rapid response during natural disasters.

The Maryland Wing also offers a comprehensive cadet program, including the local Granite Cadet Squadron, for students ages 12 through 18, focused on leadership skills, aerospace education, and physical fitness. Cadets participate in more than 30 national activities including powered Flight Solo School, National Flight Academy, and Cadet Officer School, and are eligible for a variety of scholarships. There are over 25,000 CAP cadets nationally. More information can be found at mdwg.cap.gov.

We are honored to have such an important and valuable resource in our very own neighborhood!

~ Kathy Skullney



Baltimore County will be holding an online
**COMPOST BIN & RAIN BARREL
PRE-ORDER SALE**

Pre-order deadline: April 12, 2023

All orders will be taken online only via debit or credit card.
There will be no walk up purchases available at the distribution location.

**Orders must be picked up on
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 9.00 AM - 2.00 PM**

**CCBC Essex 7201 Rossville Boulevard
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Order today:



For more information on this event,
visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov/compost

For more information on the products offered, visit www.enviroworld.us

Granite Historical Society

At last month's meeting, the Society voted in the new officers/board members for this year. The officers for 2023 are:

President: Roy Danz

Vice-President: William Skullney

Secretary: Emma Lehman

Treasurer: John H. Brantley

Newly-elected Board members are Erin Guarino and Maureen Boskin.



Remaining on the Board are Wayne Dell, Robert Teller, Sandra Superczynski, and Melanie DeBoer.

This month's meeting will be held on April 18th at 7:00 at the Granite Presbyterian Church. Our meeting will feature guest speaker Shirley Supik. Ms. Supik will speak on the Emmart Pierpont Safe House which was part of the underground railroad network.

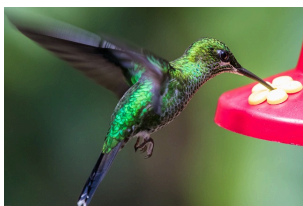
We are also in the planning stages for the Spring hike which will tentatively be held in the first part of June. Stay tuned for further details.

If you are interested in being on GHS mailing list, helping out, or becoming a member send us an email at info@granitehistoricalsociety.org. For more information about the Historical Society, check out our website at www.granitehistoricalsociety.org. Thanks, and we hope to see you at the meeting!

*~ Bill Skullney
GHS Vice President*

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

[Let us know](#) and we will share.



Spring has sprung....The grass has riz....I wonder where the Hummers Iz?

In Granite, our visitors usually arrive by April 18th, so have your feeders clean, filled and hung, as they will be hungry. To prepare the nectar, use 1 part granulated sugar to 4 parts boiling water. Stir to dissolve and let it cool. Store what you do not use in the refrigerator. NEVER use honey as it ferments and can make the birds sick. Wash the feeder in hot water before you refill it, to prevent passing a fungal infection to the birds.

There are 16 species of Hummers, but the Ruby-Throated is the only Hummingbird east of the Great Plains. They migrate 600 miles across the Gulf of Mexico, a journey of 20 hours, during this time they are unable to feed. It must be quite a feeding frenzy once they stop off in Florida!

If you have been thinking of feeding them, or, If you have been feeding them over the years, this is a reminder to prepare for the invasion, and to enjoy their antics.

~ *Marty Kelley*

Small Watershed Conservation Committee



Vernal Pool

One of the signs of spring is heard rather than seen. Spring peepers will soon begin calling in earnest, attracting mates. Other amphibians, the salamanders, will soon join spring peepers in wet temporary pools found in fields and woods. The peepers are likely to be calling from a vernal pool.

Vernal pools are a seasonal feature in the forest or field environment. They cycle in predictable ways throughout the year. They form wet areas that can vary in size from big puddles that seem

to take forever to go away, to large freshwater pools. They often begin forming after trees and grasses go dormant for the year, and slowly increase in size to peak in March and April. The pools dry with warmer weather, active plant growth, and decreased precipitation, and are gone by late summer.

Vernal pools are a unique and fragile habitat that are especially important to breeding amphibians like frogs and salamanders. Since the water in these pools comes from winter rains and snowmelt, the pools are independent of streams. These temporary pools don't support fish. Amphibian eggs laid in these pools can hatch and young develop safe from these predators.

Animals that live in these pools are adapted to the pool drying out at the end of the summer and live on, usually buried underground, or as eggs, waiting for the pool to fill again.

Organisms that depend on vernal pools live close to the pool. Most of these organisms may be found within 1000 feet (about 304.8 m) of the center of the pool. This habitat is essential for the survival of several species of amphibians in our area. Among the organisms that depend on these pools are spring peepers, wood frogs, toads, spotted salamanders, and marbled salamanders. In the northeastern United States, over 700 species rely on the vernal pool habitat. *

For more information please visit:

[National Aquarium "Teeming and Temporary"](#)

[Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program,](#)

[The Vernal Pool Association](#)

~ Judy Plaskowitz

Community Events



Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road
Granite, Maryland 21163

Food Truck Wednesday

April 19, 2023

4 to 7 pm

- Strohmer's Meat Shack 2
 - Capt'n Crabby
- The Ice Bowl -- Snow Cones
- Live Music (Fruit Jar Howlers)
- Indoor & Outdoor Seating Available
 - Baked Goods Table
 - And More!



Dedication Concert of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez'

**New Three-Manual Rodgers Organ,
Model 351D**

7:00 p.m., Friday, May 5, 2023

**@ St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church
10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD**

Russell J. Weismann, D.M.A, will be in concert for the dedication of the newly installed Rodgers organ at St. Alphonsus Rodriguez.

Mr. Weismann is an emerging young artist whose achievements in performance and academic spheres have earned him international acclaim among audiences and intellectuals alike. He has performed recitals across the United States, as well as in Europe, Central America, Asia, and Africa.

"Weismann's performance, sprinkled with engaging comments from the stage and illustrations of some of the instrument's stops, put this clearly fine instrument through its paces..." -The Washington Post

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Bruce Mezger, GPCA Board member and Officer 2003-2017

Bruce joined the GPCA board as director in 2003. He was vice-president from 2007 until 2012 when he was elected president, an office he held until

becoming director from 2014 to January 2017. Always informed Bruce was a fixture at GPCA. He felt passionately that our newsletter was the keystone of our organization. Broadcasting our work to all the residents in the GPCA community through the monthly Newsletter was critical to our transparency and standing with our residents.

Bruce was an outspoken participant and advocate for the Liberty Road Revitalization plan that was formalized in the 1990s but never implemented. Indeed, over 20 years later, the latest round of Liberty Rd “revitalization” is currently underway. Again.

Bruce, always a natty dresser could be seen driving 1990’s Lincoln Town Cars, wearing a Panama hat regardless of the weather, except during the Christmas holidays when he sported his cherry red fedora.

His world revolved around his late wife Kari and the oasis they created around their swimming pool. They enjoyed nothing better than when you stopped in for a cold one, shared a laugh and caught up on local politics at their home on Windsor Mill Rd. And always when the weather warmed there was an open invitation to come over for a swim. Kari passed away in October of 2021 and Bruce has missed her every day. And now we will miss them both.

~ Cathy Wolfson

Join or Renew GPCA Membership



Contact Us

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