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Issue #449

GPCA Newsletter

September 2025



ANNUAL GPCA COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday, October 4, 2025 – Rain or Shine

Civil Air Patrol / Historic NIKE Site

3085 Hernwood Rd / Woodstock

See [Mark Your Calendar](#) for Details!



GPCA General Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025, 7:00 pm



Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

Guest Speaker:

Senator Benjamin T. Brooks, Sr.

Please come join us

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President's Note



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer! As we step into a new season, I'm excited to welcome everyone back for another year of community engagement, shared progress, and continued connection here at GPCA.

We're thrilled to kick off our fall meeting season with a special guest — **Senator Benjamin T. Brooks, Sr.**, who will join us at our **September 8th General Meeting**. Senator Brooks has long been a friend to GPCA and our surrounding communities, and we look forward to hearing his insights and updates on state-level initiatives that impact us locally.

This month also marks a meaningful transition for GPCA communications. After his dedicated service as our Newsletter Editor, Bill Skullney is stepping back from the role. Bill has been the steady hand behind so many of our newsletters, and his thoughtful attention to detail has helped keep our members informed and connected. Bill — on behalf of the entire community, thank you for your countless hours, creativity, and leadership.

I'm equally excited to welcome Bob Reisdorf as our new Newsletter Editor. Bob brings a fresh perspective and a strong commitment to continuing the

high standards that Bill set. I know we're in excellent hands as we move forward, and I appreciate everyone's support as Bob gets settled into this important role.

As always, thank you for being part of GPCA. Your presence, participation, and passion for this community make all the difference. I look forward to seeing many of you on **September 8th** as we begin this next chapter together.

We may be small, but we are mighty.

Warmly,

~ **Chris Brock**

GPCA President

chris_brock@ymail.com

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Redistricting Baltimore County to add 2 Councilmanic Districts

At the County Council meeting on August 4, the Council ignored their appointed [Redistricting Committee's Recommendation](#) which proposes 2 majority Black districts here on the west side, five majority White districts and 2 BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) districts, one on the west side and one on the east side after hearing the testimony of over 111 members of the public. Instead, the Council introduced [Bill 55-25](#) which creates 2 majority Black districts on the west side, 7 majority White districts and **ZERO** BIPOC districts. On the county level, it packs the majority of Black votes into only two districts and totally ignores our BIPOC populations. The Council claims their intention is to "keep communities whole"; yet their map divides Randallstown and Granite/Woodstock on the west side in two, Old Court Road being the boundary between their proposed districts 2 and 3 from the Patapsco River to Winands Rd, further showing their indifference to keep communities on the west side "whole". **GPCA supports the Redistricting Commission's recommendation and opposes the Council's Bill 55-25.** The Council is required to hear public testimony at its August 26 and September 9 Work Sessions which begin at 4:00pm. Final adoption is scheduled for September 15. For more information

regarding the redistricting process, visit <https://countycouncil.baltimorecountymd.gov/redistricting/>. For any other information, please visit the Council's website or contact the County Council at 410-887-3196.

Submitted by Cathy Wolfson on behalf of the GPCA Executive

Board gpc21163@gmail.com

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Know Someone New to the Community?

Please share this newsletter and let them know they can sign up for their own free subscription at gpc21163.net No membership required!

GPCA Membership

Thanks to all of you who have joined GPCA this year. Membership is open year-round and you can join anytime at gpc21163.net or just use this qr code



Not sure if you joined, or if your membership is up to date? Just contact me, Cathy Wolfson Treasurer / Membership Chair at gpc21163.treasurer@gmail.com and I'll be glad to let you know!

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Message From The Board...

**Gratitude to our Past and New
Communication Chairmen and Chairwoman**

It is a tough job creating this newsletter and insuring you are kept up to speed with issues and events in our community. Outgoing Communications Chairman, Bill Skullney continued the work started by past Chairwoman, Ru-ching Hsia to transition GPCA from a hard copy newsletter mailed out 10 times a year to this streamlined digital copy you are reading today. It takes TIME for our editors to create this newsletter. Lots and lots of it. Bill has a 40-year history with GPCA and was our first editor and won't be our last, now that he's trained our new Editor and Communications Chairman Bob Reisdorf on the ins and outs of digital editing. So, building on Ru-ching and Bill's work, Bob takes the reins. Communicating with our members is the keystone of a community association and we truly appreciate the dedication and commitment you all have made and are making to keep our GPCA community informed. THANK YOU!

Sincerely, your GPCA Executive Board

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GPCA Newsletter News

Note From The New Editor...

My name is Bob Reisdorf, and I have been a proud member of GPCA since 2003, ever since I first made this small, beautiful area my home. Over the years, I have watched our association grow, adapt, and thrive, and I am delighted to contribute to its ongoing story in this new capacity. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and hard work of those who came before me.

As we look ahead, I invite all members to take part in shaping the newsletter. Do you have a story to share, an idea for a feature, or news that could benefit fellow residents? Please reach out—I welcome your contributions and suggestions.

~ Bob Reisdorf

Communications Chair

[*editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com*](mailto:editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com)

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Granite Historical Society

On Tuesday, September 16th at 7PM at the Granite Presbyterian Church social hall, the Granite Historical Society will feature a presentation by Lisa Woolfson on "Entertainment in Granite." The lecture will present aspects of entertaining in the 19th and early 20th Centuries as well as insights into various functions and events (weddings, funerals, etc.) culled from newspapers she found while researching her ancestors (the Nelsons and Hamiltons)

~ **Nate Brantley**
GHS President

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Message From The Small Watershed Conservation Committee...

Rain Gardens Can Help Manage Water Runoff

Members of GPCA's SWCC went on a short trip to an event held by the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy on Saturday, 14 June. This event is part of a series of the GVC's Clear Creeks Project. Originally, we thought we were going to participate in the construction of a rain garden and get hands-on experience with how they are constructed. Luckily, the rain garden was already prepared, and we got the PowerPoint presentation via an old-fashioned easel delivery.

A rain garden is an aesthetic way to manage water runoff on a property. It collects rainwater from a roof, driveway or street, disrupting the flow of water along areas with heavy flow and holding water until it soaks into the soil.

The design is a bowl-shaped depression with layered components of a sandy loam with a compost mix of soil about 18 inches deep with a mulch topping. Water will pool in the depression, then slowly seep into the ground to the water table. The soil and plants help filter out pollutants, including road salt, before the water recharges the groundwater.

This design prevents property flooding and wet basements, reduces erosion, and removes pollutants from entering streams, rivers, and the Bay. It serves as a garden planted with native plants - water-loving native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and/or trees - providing a wildlife habitat attracting birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. All choices of plants are deer-resistant (yes, if hungry enough deer might eat the plants) and will

have beneficial uses as food for insects. From swamp milkweed and butterfly milkweed, to iris, bluestem grasses, purple love grass, and amsonia - all native and all grow deep roots to hold soil in place.

A great source for more information on plants for a rain garden can be found at the University of Maryland Extension

site <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/introduction-rain-gardens/>



*~ Laurie Donnelly and Phil Herndon
GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee*

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PHG's Fall Season!



Patapsco Heritage Greenway's Fall season is here, filled with a range of stewardship events and programs listed below. We require online advance registration. Be sure to stay up to date with our events by checking our Eventbrite [page](#), our social media pages, and our website [Current Activities page](#). We look forward to seeing you out and about in the Patapsco Valley.

- Sunday, September 7, 10am-1pm: PHG & CRTT Invasive Plant Removal: Short Line Trail. Register [HERE](#)

- Friday, September 12, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM, PaSNAPsco Reception, Catonsville Clubhouse Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, September 13, 9am-12pm: Friends of Oella Cemetery: Fall Kickoff Cleanup. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, September 13, 10am-12pm: PHG & CRTT Tree Maintenance: Short Line Trail. Register [HERE](#)
- Sunday, September 14, 11am-PHG Family Hike at Trailfest, PVSP McKeldin, Register with FPVSP [HERE](#).
- Tuesday, September 16, 10am-1pm: PHG Cleanup: Save-a-lot Parking Lot. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, September 20, 9am-12pm: PHG Tree Maintenance: Serenity Ridge. Register [HERE](#)
- Sunday, Sep 21, 1-4pm: PHG Cleanup and Invasive Removal: Howard Crossing Apartments. Register [HERE](#)
- Wednesday, September 24, PHG Annual Meeting, Elkridge Branch Library, Register [HERE](#)
- Sunday, October 5, 9am-12pm: PHG Cleanup & Invasive Removal: Daniels Dam. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, October 11, 9am-12pm: Friends of Oella Cemetery: October Cleanup. Register [HERE](#)
- Sunday, October 19, 10am-1pm: PHG & CRTT Tree Planting: Short Line Trail-Prospect Ave. Register [HERE](#)
- Tuesday, October 21, 9am-12pm: PHG Cleanup: SoccerDome. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, October 25, 10am-12pm: PHG & MMUMC Tree Maintenance: MMUMC. Register [HERE](#)
- Sunday, November 2, 10am-1pm: PHG Fall Family Day on the Trolley Trail. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, November 8, 9am-12pm: Friends of Oella Cemetery: Fall Wrap-up Cleanup. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, November 8, 10am-1pm: PHG Cleanup: Lansdowne Middle School. Register [HERE](#)
- Sunday, Nov 9, 10am-1pm: PHG & CRTT Invasive Removal: Short Line Trail-Shady Nook. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, Nov 15, 10am-1pm: PHG & CRTT Tree Planting: Short Line Trail- Shady Nook Ave. Register [HERE](#)
- Tuesday, Nov 18, 10am-1pm: PHG Cleanup & Invasive Removal: Normandy Wine & Spirits. Register [HERE](#)

Of special note, Patapsco Heritage Greenway will be leading a Family

Hike as a part of Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park's 2025 TrailFest! On Sunday, September 14, starting at **11 am**, we will be hitting the Poplar Trail of the McKeldin Area for a 1 hour out and back hike. This hike is appropriate for all ages and abilities, and will include elements of nature education and the ability for Spanish conversation with one of our bilingual staff members. Registration is \$10 per 4-person family and include pizza, beer, and other non-alcoholic drink options. TrailFest fun continues after our hike with activities through the afternoon! Read more and register [HERE](#). We can't wait to hike with you!

Additionally, PHG's annual meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 24 at 6:00 PM at Howard County's Elkridge Branch Library, 6540 Washington Blvd, Elkridge, MD 21075. RSVP [HERE](#) (Requested but not required). Our partners from American Rivers will be hosting a pre-meeting open house starting at 5:00 PM for those interested in learning more about and providing input on the ongoing Daniels Dam [feasibility study](#). Additionally, the meeting will feature presentations from two mini-grantees, including GPCA's very own Small Watershed Conservation Committee.

~ Aaron Shapiro
PHG Executive Director

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Nike Missile Base and CAP's Last Open House for This Year!

The next open house (and the last one for this year) for BA-79, a Cold War era Anti-aircraft Missile Battery located at 3085 Hernwood Rd, will be on 28 September from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter the new attractions include a 1/2 scale mock-up of the Hercules missile and an actual Hercules booster.

Learn the history of the site and take a tour. Tours will include: the launch area, radar system, and a visit to the underground bunker.

We hope you can join us on the 28th of September.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please contact Dave Zuchero, his email address is:

<ba79nikebuildproject@gmail.com>

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
ANNUAL GPCA COMMUNITY PICNIC
Saturday, October 4, 2025 – Rain or Shine

Civil Air Patrol / Historic NIKE Site

3085 Hernwood Rd / Woodstock

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Join your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of food and fun.

ALL ARE WELCOME

GPCA will provide:

Chicken / Tuna / Egg Salad Wraps

Turkey / Ham / Roast Beef Sandwiches

Hamburgers / Hot Dogs and Rolls

Pasta Salad

Cowboy Baked Beans

Cole Slaw

Ice

Iced Tea / Lemonade / Coffee

Condiments / Paper Products and Utensils

You bring:

A potluck dish or a dessert or something else to share

Need more information? Contact us at gpc21163@gmail.com

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GPCA Instagram Account

GPCA now has an Instagram account for those who use this platform as a method of sharing social media information. The account link for a web browser is "<https://www.instagram.com/gpca1985/>". A little bit of tweaking might be in order, but the community would be able to share timely information such as road closures.

Instagram



gpca1985

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@gpca1985

www.gpca.net



~ Phil Herndon

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Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

September 8 – MD District 10 State Senator [Benjamin Brooks](#)

October 13 – Diggs-Johnson Museum President and Historian, Miss Betty Stewart

November 10 – Certified Drone Operator, Phil Herndon

December 8 – GPCA Holiday Party

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Around the Neighborhood

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

After a summer break GPC will be hosting community food truck events once again. The remaining dates are Wednesdays **9/17 & 10/15**.

Nike Site Open House

Open House at the Nike Site is on: **September 28**. The hours are from one to four.

Come out to the open house to explore the grounds and learn history of Nike Missile Site BA-79

Randallstown NAACP

For more information, check randallstownnnacp@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!

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