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Issue #447

GPCA Newsletter

May 2025



GPCA General Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2025, 7:00 pm



Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

Delegate Jennifer White Holland

Delegate White Holland will share important updates on legislative initiatives and community issues, including information about the future of the Woodstock Job Corps site.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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President's Note



Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

As we turn the corner into May, GPCA is building great momentum thanks to your involvement, energy, and enthusiasm. This spring has already shown what a committed community can accomplish, and even more opportunities to come together are just ahead.

We are also preparing for our May 12th General Meeting, and I am pleased to announce that Delegate Jennifer White Holland will be joining us as our guest speaker. Delegate White Holland will share important updates on legislative initiatives and community issues, including information about the future of the Woodstock Job Corps site. This meeting will offer a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from our elected leadership and stay engaged with the issues that affect our community. I encourage everyone to attend and bring your questions and ideas.

We are also excited to continue strengthening ties with local farms and businesses through our new Local Farms Initiative, and to keep connecting with residents at events like the Food Truck Nights this spring and summer. GPCA's presence at the April 23rd event was just the beginning of how we plan to reach even more of our neighbors in fun, casual ways.

This is also a perfect time for anyone who is new to the community or newly interested in getting involved to reach out. Whether it's attending meetings, volunteering for a project, or sharing ideas about future initiatives, GPCA thrives because of the creativity and commitment of its

members.

Thank you for being part of this growing, vibrant community. I look forward to seeing many of you at our May meeting and continuing the great work we've started together this year.

Together, we are Granite strong — and GPCA proud!

~ Chris Brock

GPCA President

chris_brock@ymail.com

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What You Missed **April 14th General Meeting** **Open Forum Discussion**

The GPCA held its General Meeting on April 14, 2025, at Granite Presbyterian Church, with a strong turnout from community members and guests. Key updates included the approval of corrected March meeting minutes and a Treasurer's Report noting stable membership dues, doubled general fund donations, and the renewal of community CDs. Committee updates covered stream monitoring, zoning developments, and the upcoming newsletter deadline. Notably, the ISB cemetery variance was approved despite opposition, while the Kratz campsite was denied. A successful community clean-up collected over eight tons of waste, and new initiatives were introduced, including a local farms directory and preparations for the April 23rd Food Truck Event. Discussions also addressed Facebook page admin access, speaker coordination, and community concerns over a revised campground proposal. The meeting concluded with local announcements and was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

~ Brenda Strohmer

GHS Secretary

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Membership News



Much gratitude is extended to all of you who have chosen to support your community association with your membership and donations. Remember it is never too late to renew! Did you know GPCA was originally formed in 1965, the purpose of which was “To organize and operate an association exclusively for charitable purposes, no part of the net earnings of which is to inure to the benefit of any member, shareholder or other individual.” Its “powers and purposes” according to those original Articles of Incorporation were:

1. The objects and purposes of the Corporation shall be to promote friendly relations among the various neighboring landowners and to provide for an exchange of ideas and uniformity of action in dealing with various problems that confront the area and effect the future development of the area.
2. To purchase or otherwise acquire, hold, mortgage, pledge, sell, transfer, or in any manner encumber or dispose of goods, wares, merchandise, implement and other personal property or equipment of every kind.
3. To purchase, lease or otherwise acquire, hold, develop, improve, mortgage sell, exchange, let or in any manner encumber or dispose of real property wherever situated.
4. To loan or advance money with or without security without limit as to amount and to borrow or raise money for any of the purposes of the Corporation. The foregoing enumeration of the purposes, objects and business of the Corporation is made in furtherance, and not in limitation of the powers conferred upon the Corporation by law, and is not intended, by the mention of any particular purpose, object or business, in any manner to limit or restrict the generality of any other purpose, object or business mentioned, or to limit or restrict any of the powers of the Corporation. The Corporation is formed upon the conditions and provisions herein expressed, and subject in all particulars to the limitations relative to corporations, which are contained in the general laws of this State.

Quite a statement wouldn't you say? With the exception of paragraph 1 it's a far cry from our current objectives stated in our 1986 Constitution and By-laws:

- “The objectives of the Association are to preserve 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 and citizens to express their concerns and interests and shall attempt to provide informative and interesting programs that will keep members informed and better able to cope with any of their concerns or problems.
- The Association will only become directly involved in matters which threaten the safety and welfare of the community as a whole. This involvement will be directed at actions which violate existing laws or regulations or which will assist in implementing new laws to protect our residents and community.
- The Association's objective is also to sponsor activities and socials that will foster a spirit of community among the residents.”

Thank all of you who have invested in your neighborhood and our revised objectives!!

Questions/Comments? Contact me at gpcatreasurer@hotmail.com.

~ **Cathy Wolfson**

Treasurer/Membership Chair

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Decision: Camp Ground Petition – Kratz Property

The Zoning Hearing for the camp petition was held on Monday, March 24th at 1:30 pm. GPCA participated, taking the position that there is no adequate public access as the only ingress and egress is along a very small, very old (1908), shared private right of way along four properties to Old Court Road. The Administrative Judge issued his decision on April 14, 2025, stating that "Petitioner's application fails on two grounds: 1) Petitioner fails to meet its burden of production; and 2) Protestants successfully rebutted the presumption of validity for special exceptions by presenting competent and credible evidence that site access to the property creates adverse impacts above and beyond those typically

associated with a campground use regardless of its location within the zone, Therefore, the Petition is denied."

~Kathy Skullney

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Job Corps Center - What is its Future Purpose?

This RC2 zoned 64 acre campus located at 10900 Old Court Rd. is part of a 119 acre parcel owned by the MD Board of Public Work for Forest and Parks Use. As described in a 2013 Maryland Historical Trust report, the campus was originally a Jesuit Seminary founded in 1869. Sold to the State of MD in 1971 it was leased by the Dept. of Labor to serve as a vocational training center. The Dept. of Labor cancelled their contract on December 20, 2024 with Management & Training Corporation which operated the center. Currently the campus is vacant with the exception of a security detail. According to highergov.com, an online bidding/contracting service, as of 2018 the center had residential capacity for 366 resident students and 62 commuter students. Lots of ideas are floating around including a training center for Baltimore County youth, a conference center or even a resort. What are your suggestions? How do you think the State of MD should utilize this property in our neighborhood? Please send your comments to gpc21163@gmail.com

~Cathy Wolfson

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The Newsletter ... and GPCA ... Needs Your Help

A couple of years ago when our previous newsletter editor, Ru-ching Hsia, was badly in need of relief from doing the newsletter, I volunteered to serve as "acting" newsletter editor. I indicated I would serve as "acting" editor since I was not sure the extent to which I could continue helping out. I have always been interested in these kinds of computer activities and enjoyed learning about the software and how to use it in developing the newsletter. Thanks to Ru-ching, I had

someone to guide me in the initial stages.

Well, that same time has arrived for me and I need to pass the torch to someone else. The timing is not only good from my perspective but is particularly good given the upcoming schedule. Once the newsletter in June is finished, GPCA and the newsletter, will take a summer break with no publication. The next newsletter will not go out until just before the meeting in September. The only activity that may occur in the June through August timeframe would be any special announcements, should they be needed. These typically require much less effort to complete.

Even though I plan on continuing to support the newsletter/announcement efforts during this time period, these couple of months provide a good opportunity for anyone interested in doing the newsletter to spend some time learning the ropes prior to taking over in September. If, like me, you enjoy the challenges of learning some new computer skills and interacting with the GPCA community, feel free to contact any of the board members, or myself at the email address listed below. Please consider volunteering to help with this vital contribution to our community. Thanks and I hope to hear from someone out there in "GPCA land" about your interest in helping out.!

~Bill Skullney

Current Newsletter Editor

editorgpcnewsletter@gmail.com

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Forest Bathing

Forest bathing, or shinrin-yoku, is a Japanese practice of immersing yourself in nature with all five of your senses. "This is not exercise or hiking or jogging," Qing Li writes in his 2018 book *Forest Bathing: How Trees Can Help You Find Health and Happiness*. "It is simply being in nature, connecting with it through our sense of sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch."

Forest bathing is associated with a variety of health benefits, including:

- Improved immune system function
- Increased levels of anti-cancer proteins

- Reduced stress hormones
- Improved sleep quality and prevention of sleep disorders or insomnia
- Reduced blood pressure and heart rate



Studies have found that spending just 20 minutes a day outdoors can lead to increased well-being and happiness — and less stress. The recommended time for forest bathing is at least 2 hours a week.

While the word “forest” is in the name of this practice, heading out to a heavily wooded area isn’t required. You could take a trip to a nearby park, your favorite local trail, the beach, or any natural setting. Just be sure to turn off or silence your phone or other devices. The key is to be present and fully in the moment.

Once you get to your destination, take a few deep breaths and center yourself. Focus on what your senses are taking in — soak in what you’re seeing and hearing – plants, flowers, birds and more. Notice the fragrance from plants and trees. Reach out and touch the trees to help put your whole body in the forest and natural atmosphere. Research shows that touch stimulates the relaxation response and releases oxytocin. Sit and watch the trees sway in the wind or simply walk around. If you decide to walk, go at an easy pace and without a specific destination. It’s important to let your mind and senses explore and enjoy the environment.

Many of the benefits of forest bathing come when we inhale the chemicals that trees release into the air, called phytoncides. They can reduce our stress hormones and increase our levels of white-blood cells. If you can’t make it to a forest, you could get some of the benefits by diffusing tree-based essential oils at home. In one study from 2009, people who stayed

in hotel rooms where Japanese cypress tree essential oils were diffused saw about 40 to 50% of the health benefits as those who did a forest bathing session.

~ Laurie Donnelly
SWCC Member

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Granite Historical Society

The GHS 2025 Spring Hike of the "Dogwood Surplus Trail" previously planned for Sunday, May 4th was postponed due to rain. The hike has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 18th. We will meet at 1PM in the Granite Church parking lot and then drive to our destination. We will first visit the Marcella Chapel area and graveyard and then hike along Brice's Run on what's known as the "Dogwood Surplus Trail". The hike will be about a mile and a half in length along a mostly flat and well-cleared trail.

Those interested in attending should respond to the GHS website at www.granitehistoricalsociety.org or email John Brantley at treasurer@granitehistoricalsociety.org. As always, a few days ahead of time John will send out some notes about the history of the property we will be visiting to those who respond.

~ Nate Brantley
GHS President

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Enjoy the PVHA in May

Join Patapsco Heritage Greenway in May for Family Day on the Trolley Trail in Oella - along with cleanups, invasive plant removals and tree maintenance events in the Patapsco Valley! Family Day will feature a series of family-friendly stations along the Trolley Trail, a nature story book walk and activities at Banneker Historical Park. For more information and to register for all of our spring events, visit our Eventbrite page.

Every spring, we are excited and pleased to host a diverse range of programs for schools and scouting groups. We have several school programs we're hosting this month after a series of April programs, including our annual Earth Days programs in Patapsco Valley State Park with Catonsville Middle School. On May 1, we'll kick off the month by welcoming sixth graders from Watershed Public Charter School to tour Ellicott City and Oella to learn more about the area's history and



SATURDAY 5/3	Cleanup & Invasive Removal Historic Oella Cemetery
SATURDAY 5/3	Cleanup Deep Run near Elkridge
SATURDAY 5/10	Family Day on the Trolley Trail Trolley Line #9 Trail in Oella
SATURDAY 5/17	Tree Maintenance Milford Mill United Methodist Church
SUNDAY 5/18	Cleanup & Invasive Removal Howard Crossing Apartments, Ellicott City

LEARN MORE AT [PATAPSCO.ORG/EVENTS](https://patapsco.org/events)

current stormwater management practices and plans. Maryland International School students will be joining us along Soapstone Branch for several Thursdays during May to explore chemical and biological water quality monitoring, including macroinvertebrate discovery. We've also partnered with a range of organizations this spring, including Under Armour, Howard EcoWorks Alternative Spring Break, UMD Howard County Alumni, and Anne Arundel County Public Schools, among others, to help increase the impact of our stewardship efforts and expand our volunteer base.

In many of our school programs as well as our public programs, we are highlighting our new short video, A Watershed in Time, to help participants learn more about watersheds and what you can do to help improve watershed health in the Patapsco and beyond. If you visit the video page, you'll also see an announcement about our new Patapsco Heritage Greenway award. Please consider nominating an individual or organization for this new award.

And finally, if you are interested in exploring some new outdoor recreational opportunities in the PVHA, check out our updated outdoor activities page to enjoy spring in the Valley. What better way to close out the month than to participate in our Family Fun Run at Pickall in Patapsco Valley State Park on May 28. It is part of a monthlong running series that

we sponsor, the Johnnycake Jolt. Register for the series of just the Fun Run through our partners at Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park.

~ **Aaron Shapiro**

PHG Executive Director

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Woodlawn Precinct Alert

More daytime burglaries have been reported during April in the precinct - one of which is in our area. Don't forget to take the extra time and care to secure your property, and this includes, of course, your vehicles. For those home during the day, it helps to pay attention to who's around as well.

For the latest Precinct news and information, visit

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/community/precincts/2-woodlawn

~ **Officer Makowiecki**

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Around the Neighborhood

Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company Open House 2025

10010 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, MD 21133

Jul 19, 2025, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Event details including activities can be found

at: www.lrvfc.org/event-details/open-house-2025

Baltimore County is no longer mailing a hard copy of the weekly trash and recycle **collection dates**. A hard copy of the 2025 Collection Dates schedule can be downloaded

at: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste/collection-schedule

Granite Presbyterian Church (GPC) Food Truck

GPC food truck events have started once again. The remaining dates are

Wednesdays 5/21, 6/18, 9/17 & 10/15.

Nike Site Open House

Open House dates remaining for this year are: May 25, June 22 (in conjunction with Patapsco Heritage Greenway), July 20, August 24, and September 28. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please contact Tom Reed, project coordinator. His email is treed@cap.gov.

Randallstown NAACP

For more information, check randallstownnaacp@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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