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Issue #443

GPCA Newsletter

January 2025



Happy New Year!!!



GPCA General Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2024, 7:00 pm



Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

GPCA Elections - 2025

**Setting 2025 Agenda and Priorities – including those of
Members**

This is one of the most important meetings of the year so be sure to join us on January 13th! (See the Election Committee report below, and including nominations from the floor)

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Upcoming Meetings:

February 10 – To be announced

March 10 – To be announced

.....

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President's Note



Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

It has been a truly great run! And now I leave GPCA in our community's very worthy hands. Since sitting in the Skullney living room in 1985, helping revive the inactive, original incorporated entity and forming the revised, enlarged entity of the Greater Patapsco Community Association, Inc., I have seen us grow and evolve into the significant, important organization of today. This is what the commitment of many hands and voices can do, and what it means - **Community!** And no, we have not always prevailed, but we are seen, heard and respected, no matter what the issue or how tough the opposition. It is nearly impossible to fully express what it means to me to have been part of this living testimonial to the importance of our GPCA community.

We may be small, but we are mighty.....and we continue!!

~ Kathy Skullney

GPCA President

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Last Month's Meeting

December 9, 2024

A Great Holiday Party!

The holiday gathering December 9th was terrific. Many members, neighbors and friends came together with great food, company and live music. We are very grateful to Dominique Johnson, of Devine Sounds, for the wonderful holiday sounds he brought us on his saxophone – generated humming along and even dancing! A great way to share true holiday spirit.

Good Company!



Good Food!



Good Entertainment!



Good Fun!



~ Kathy & Bill Skullney

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ELECTION

January 13, 2025

Election of Officers

and Directors

GPCA By-Laws direct us to hold annual elections at our January general meeting. To be eligible to serve on the Executive Board candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election.

Officers are elected for a one year term. The president may serve for 2 consecutive one year terms and may again become eligible after a one year

lapse. This month marks the end of our our current President, Kathy Skullney's second year term. Chris Brock, currently Director whose term expires in 2027 has accepted our nomination for President. We welcome any eligible member to consider serving the remaining two years of Chris' term as Director. Directors serve for 3 year terms and can again become eligible after a one year lapse.

2025 Nominations for Officers and Directors

President – Chris Brock

Vice President – Butch Oakman

Secretary – Vacant (or this could be YOU)

Treasurer – Cathy Wolfson

Director – Gabriela Summerer, 3 year term expires January 2028

Director – Vacant / Remaining 2 year term currently held by Chris Brock expires in January 2027

Note: Ralph Wright's 3 year term expires in January 2026 and is not subject to nomination

Nominations of candidates are being taken at this time and will continue until the election when nominations will be taken from the floor.

All Officers and Directors shall contribute impartially to decisions of the board and support the objectives of GPCA which per our By-Laws 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.”

What's the commitment? In addition to attending GPCA's General Meetings on the 2nd Monday of September to June the Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Not ready to serve on our Board but want to be involved? Consider serving on the Nominating Committee, we need 2 volunteers! If you're interested in serving on the Board, would like to nominate a candidate or have any questions about the

process please contact me, Cathy Wolfson, Nominating Committee Chair at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net.

~ **Cathy Wolfson**

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Thank You to Outgoing President Kathy Skullney

A big heartfelt thank you goes out to our departing President Kathy Skullney, whose second one-year term ends this month. Kathy's commitment to our mission and her passion for advocacy for our community's well being are a model for all of our residents. Beginning with her revival of Greater Patapsco Community Association, Inc. in 1985 with fellow members, Joanne Deitz, Bev Griffith and Suzanne Barrett to address the threat of the Dogwood Road stump dump to the health of our residents to most recently steering us through the unique rezoning of the 177 acre Berg property on Ridge Road to the Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery, Kathy has for 40 years been guided by the best land uses that reflect our mission. All of us who enjoy living in Granite/Woodstock owe Kathy our deepest gratitude for her dedication to our community.

~ **Cathy Wolfson**

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Job Corps Temporary Closure Published December 19th

U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR ANNOUNCES LATEST ACTIONS TO SECURE SUSTAINABILITY OF JOB CORPS PROGRAM

Calls on next administration, incoming Congress to continue focus on student success, program longevity

WASHINGTON – The Department of Labor today announced new actions to secure the long-term stability of the Job Corps program and ensure this critical program operates within Congressionally appropriated funding levels. Specifically, the department will enter into negotiations with contractors who operate the non-federally operated Job Corps Centers nationwide in order to achieve savings that minimally impact services to students at those centers. The department will also temporarily pause operations at the Woodstock Job Corps Center in Woodstock, Maryland,

and the Whitney M. Young Jr. Job Corps Center in Simpsonville, Kentucky.

For students at the two temporarily paused Job Corps Centers in Woodstock and Simpsonville, transfers will be arranged to nearby centers so they may complete their training. The department will also provide assistance to potentially impacted staff at these centers.

“The Department of Labor is committed to ensuring the long-term success and stability of Job Corps, which has operated for years in the face of increasing costs,” said Job Corps Administrator John E. Hall. “The department’s analysis indicates the strategies we have used to cut costs will not be enough in the coming year; so we must take further actions – including renegotiating contracts with all non-federal center operators and temporarily pausing operations at two centers – to ensure the Job Corps program remains viable into the future.”

(Ed. Note: The Woodstock Job Corps Center has been in operation since 1971.)

~ Kathy Skullney

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GPCA Community Sign Fabrication is Complete!

Good News! Thanks to the quick turn-around from Fast Signs, the fabrication of the community sign is complete. We are currently looking to schedule an installation date and believe we will be able to get it installed over the next 1-2 weeks, barring any further weather issues. As previously mentioned, the sign will be installed at the corner of Old Court and Davis Avenues. So keep your eyes out the next time you're passing this location!

~Bill Skullney

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Proposed Camping Facility on Kratz Property at 9043 Old Court Road

As a reminder, the owners of this 22 acre parcel, which sits behind the five residential properties along the small shared common right-of-way (across from Pollyhill), have filed a Petition for Special Exception to establish a camping site. The administrative hearing was originally set for December 18th, but has been postponed per request of the adjoining residents. The new date is expected to be later in February, but has not yet been set.

~ Kathy Skullney

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Granite Historical Society

Approximately 45 people took time away from their holiday preparations and braved the cooler weather to attend the second house tour sponsored by the Granite Historical Society on Sunday December 22nd. The tour featured the 'Granite Schoolhouse' located on Old Court Road at the intersection with St. Paul Avenue. A huge thanks and appreciation goes out to owner Melanie deBoer for allowing us to tour the first floor of this beautiful historic place. A special thanks also goes out to Emma Lehmann who did a fabulous job of research and preparation of the tour brochure, and to those who helped Melanie prepare for the open house.

For those who were unable to attend, a glimpse of some parts of the tour are shown here:



Side Rooms

Main Entry View



Kitchen



Main Hallway



Holiday

Decorations

Happy New Year to all and hope to see you at one of our events in 2025!

~ **Bill Skullney**
GHS Vice President

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Evaluating and Mitigating the Thermal Impact of Small Ponds in Maryland Trout Watersheds

**Presented by: Jason Cessna & Adam Eshleman, Maryland
Department of Natural Resources**

I joined 3 other SWCC members in attending the 30th Annual Maryland Water Monitoring Conference November 11, 2024. Those of us who attend try and cover topics that relate to our community's watersheds and our efforts. I attended the above-named presentation. A bit of a mouth full for a title.

I chose this presentation because every one of the four watersheds we monitor consistently reach too high a temperature in summer and fail to support many types of desirable fish and other creatures. We know many of the factors that cause this seasonal unhealthy rise in temperature: reduced tree canopy, runoff from cleared/cultivated land, impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, roofs, but I never considered ponds as being a warm water source.

This was somewhat new "territory" for the DNR members/authors of this study. They discovered that there is no central database or maps of ponds for the state. Cataloging has begun. But back to ponds as a source of water heating streams: Most ponds are fed by an underground spring or a meander of a surface stream. But if there is not a fair amount of inflow and outflow the water in the pond is not "churning" and becomes temperature stratified. Much warmer surface temperature is discharged than the cooler

water from the depths. Which in turn heats the stream. What to do?

The best option for many of these ponds would be to eliminate them and let the spring or stream flow freely. But such work would be expensive and probably not desired by landowners. The authors tried several experiments to see if they could disrupt the temperature stratification of ponds by other means.

Several different attempts/experiments were made at about four ponds with the owner's cooperation and support. One design that has been successfully trialed is called a "Subsurface Withdrawal Device". The device is not a siphon but acts like one to lift the deep water out of the pond. This device uses inexpensive corrugated plastic pipe to capture the cooler subsurface water. As water flows into the pond the cooler subsurface water is pushed out through the subsurface discharge device. The downstream water is now a bit cooler and the pond's water temperature is not negatively impacted.

The researchers are excited by their work and discoveries. They know it is not the end all be all solution, but it is promising, and at a cost of about \$250 in supplies and piping it can get the job done in many situations. I'll be looking for continuing efforts and hope to hear about more successes.

~ Bob Teller
SWCC Chair

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Baltimore County and Beyond

Community Connect Pop-Up with District 4 Planner

Join Yolanda Gregory, your District 4 Community Planner from Baltimore County Department of Planning, during her office hours on Thursday, January 16, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM at Randallstown Library located at 8604 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, MD 21133 for an exciting opportunity to Pop-In and connect, discuss, and share your ideas about the future of our district. Whether you're curious about urban planning, want to learn more about upcoming projects, or have feedback to share, this is your chance to get involved and shape the development of your community.

Come with questions, leave with insights, and be part of a collaborative effort to build a brighter future for District 4.

DNR Note – Maryland Department of Natural Resources will open the winter firearm deer hunting season on Jan. 10, 2025 in Deer Management Region B, which includes all of the state except the westernmost counties. Hunters with a valid hunting license may use firearms to harvest sika and white-tailed deer during this season. The season is open Jan. 10-11 in all of Region B. During firearms season, Maryland requires deer hunters and their companions to wear daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink in one of the following manners: a cap of solid fluorescent daylight orange or pink, a vest or jacket containing back and front panels of at least 250 square inches of fluorescent daylight orange or pink, or an outer garment of camouflage daylight fluorescent orange or pink worn above the waist and containing at least 50 percent daylight fluorescent color.

UMD LITC & MSBA Presents TAX COMPLIANCE DAYS

Tax Compliance Days are designed to allow taxpayers to speak directly to representatives with the IRS and MD Comptroller with the assistance of the Tax Advocate Service or Clinic representatives. They will also be given the opportunity to have their taxes prepared for free by Cash Campaign and TerpTax. Tax Compliance Days will be held on the following day in our area. Please register using the link below. Walk-ins will be allowed if time permits.

February 1st, 1pm-4pm

Randallstown Library 8604 Liberty Rd. Randallstown, MD 21133

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/MWZTW6pNdHjWJC1v6>

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Around the Neighborhood

Serenity Ridge – Serenity Ridge Cemetery now has a separate non-profit entity, Serenity Ridge Nature Preserve and Arboretum, to operate its nature and environmental conservation activities.

Randallstown NAACP (passing along a BGE message) – Beware of Scammers! The Randallstown NAACP is passing on a

message on behalf of BGE. BGE is warning customers about a rise in scams where imposters threaten to disconnect service unless immediate payment is made. These scammers may demand payment through prepaid cards or mobile apps and use “spoofing” to fake BGE’s Caller ID. BGE Representatives will never demand instant payment methods. To verify account details or worker identity, call BGE directly at 1-800-685-0123. Report any suspicious activity to the police and stay alert to protect your personal information. Stay alert and stay safe from scams. Be sure to see randnaacp.org for latest updates.

Woodlawn Police, Woodlawn Precinct – Officer Makowiecki notes the importance of not driving in inclement weather unless absolutely necessary. There were several reports of cars stuck along the roads in the GPCA area during the storm. The rural nature of the roads in the GPCA area can be especially treacherous. Keep up with what else is happening:

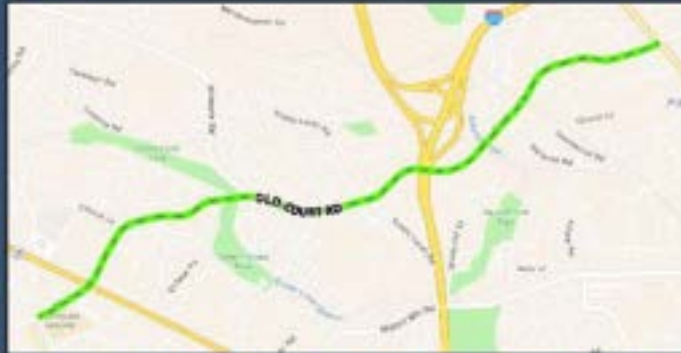
<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/community/precincts/2-woodlawn>

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

Let your community know!

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Old Court Road Complete Streets Corridor



Pikesville / Milford Mill / Randallstown

Baltimore County is conducting a Complete Streets design project for the 3.28-mile segment of Old Court Road from Liberty Road to Reisterstown Road. Complete Streets design projects prioritize safe street access for all users and modes of transportation. This open house will share our conceptual designs and gather your feedback. The format will allow attendees to explore the concepts at their own pace.

You can expect:

- Large roll maps displaying various design concepts along different portions of the corridor.
- 3D renderings to help visualize potential changes to the streetscape.
- An opportunity to provide feedback in person or through a digital survey form.
- Our project team will be available throughout the meeting to answer questions and discuss the designs with you.

For more information contact Mitchell Phillips at mphillips3@baltimorecountymd.gov or (410) 887-3554.

Northwest Academy of Health Sciences (Cafeteria)
4627 Old Court Rd, Pikesville, MD 21208

DATE: 2/5/25, TIME: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM



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