



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #360 GPCA Newsletter November 2016
Next Meeting: Monday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.
GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.
Check us out on the Web at www.gpca.net

PATAPSCO GLEN UPDATE

The Patapsco Glen townhouse community’s Development Plan requires multiple variances for every unit. Variances are exceptions to development regulations that apply only in the most exceptional circumstances. After the initial hearing, the Administrative Law Judge denied the variances but approved the Development Plan if the variances are granted OR if the plan is resubmitted without variances per his Order on Motion for Reconsideration. Cathy Wolfson and Kathy Skullney filed an appeal on behalf of GPCA opposing this conditional approval as it presents a legal impossibility. When the developer indicated his willingness to work out a compromise, Cathy and Kathy met with his attorneys in June to express our primary concerns about the proximity of some units to the RC6 zone. As a result, the Development Plan has been changed to increase the distance between buildings and our RC6 border, which also changed the positioning of some buildings and slightly decreased the number of units. The parties will meet again to finalize how to properly handle the approval process, after which GPCA will withdraw its appeal.

DAYCARE COVENANT FINALIZED

Thanks to Maribeth Diemer for representing GPCA at a meeting with Neil Lanzi, the attorney helping Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jackson and GPCA to finalize a daycare covenant for the property at the corner of Old Court and Dogwood roads. Thanks to our neighbors, the Jacksons, for working with the community to arrange a covenant helps preserve Granite’s rural character. Following a July 21 hearing, the Jacksons received a Class B daycare upgrade and permission to use the daycare as a residence. Although the Class B license allows the facility to care for up to 45 children per day, the Jacksons agreed to reduce the number to 25, with no more than 16 playing outside. The maximum number of is subject to approval by the health department. The covenant states that the daycare must stay in the Jackson’s immediate family, and, if the property is sold to a third party, the license may not be transferred.

REFERENDUM ON BILL 53-15: REGIONAL OUTLET SHOPPING CENTER

To repeal Bill 53-15, 26,414 registered Baltimore County voters needed to sign a petition asking that citizens get to vote on whether this law may stand. More than 33,000 signed, and Question K (about Bill 53-15) is on the November ballot. Question K is not just about a regional outlet shopping center in White Marsh; rather, it is about whether the zoning can be abruptly changed by the County Council, allowing development to proceed and ending citizen input for the zoning process required for a mall of this kind. Bill 53-15 allows development of the shopping center to proceed “by right.” Bypassing the normal land use and zoning processes sets a dangerous precedent. Murf Moorefield and Denise Maranto from the GPCA helped gather signatures for this referendum. On November 8 you will have a chance to vote AGAINST the referred law.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to everyone. It looks and feels like summer has given way to fall. It's time to pick pumpkins, apples, and enjoy all the colors of the turning leaves. Several places within a short driving distance offer pick your own fruits and vegetables. Most of these places also have other items for sale, and autumn family activities.

The GPCA had a great turn out for the community picnic, despite the weather. Everyone enjoyed eating, and socializing with community neighbors. Keeping with tradition, the younger kids enjoyed the moon bounce, while the cakewalk was fun for all. On behalf of GPCA and myself, we give special thanks to the Pahl family once again, for hosting the picnic on their farm. Thanks also to Mathena Toilet Rentals for supplying the portable toilet; the young men from Job Corp for setting up the tables and chairs; Kevin Farmer for being the DJ; Cathy Wolfson for the grill and other duties she undertook; and last, but certainly not least, to all officers and board members and their families, who helped put everything together to make the picnic a success.

I want to welcome our new newsletter editor, Reed Hellman to the GPCA staff. Thank you, Reed, for taking on this difficult duty. It will be a pleasure for GPCA to work with you. The new email address for articles or advertisements: editorgpcanewsletter@yahoo.com.

GPCA now has T-Shirts for sale. Get them while supplies last. Purchase them at any of our general meetings for \$12 each. The T-shirts are a nice "Kelly green" with our logo on the front left side.

Happy Autumn to All!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE!

Are you looking for a chance to make a contribution to the mission of GPCA? GPCA is looking for a person to collate, work with the newsletter folding crew, and deliver the newsletters to the Ellicott City Post Office on the first Tuesday of each month. If you have any questions about the tasks that are involved, or if you are ready to volunteer contact any officer or board member.

Follow GPCA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Greater-Patapsco-Community-Association/411421142275406

THE MESSAGE OF FALL

I am outside early these days because I have to take the new dog out on a leash. I do not want him taking off down Offutt Rd. He has already done this twice. He wants to be a car chaser. So, in these recently cool mornings I am out in my robe and slippers, walking him toward the barn and back to the house before I can sit down with that first cup of coffee. It is light outside, but just light; it is cool, some mornings are damp, some are crisp, but it all speaks of the coming winter.

My day starts later with the longer nights. I know we will fall back soon, and there will be early daylight for a while again. But, eventually there will just be about 8 hours of daylight no matter when it starts. As we make this transition from summer to winter, the days go from cool to hot to cool again and night falls. I see the leaves starting to drift down from the trees as I stand in the driveway with the new dog. The yard is quiet because the chicken barn has not been opened yet. Benny and Minty are in their special pen, and at least one of them nickers to me indicating they think it is time to be let out on the grass. Their chubby little bodies have thickening coats in preparation for colder weather.

This year, I think I get it. I am ready, have been ready, for the garden to be done. I pulled the broccoli plants and fed them to the chickens in the barn. Pulled up the dying zucchini plant and gave it to the birds in the big kennel. I have stripped off the green tomatoes, ready for the first frost, and made green tomato salsa and let the pink ones ripen in a cardboard flat. I have blanched and frozen jalapenos for pot after pot of chili all winter long, watching the bell peppers turn red before I pluck them. Just so ready to be done, even though I was quite happy with some of the beautiful bell peppers that grew this year. I really did not get the plants in until Memorial Day, and thought I would never get anything grown.

Last year, I pushed on at this time, having planted some kale and cabbage at the end of the season for fall crops. This year, that long cold wet spring delayed getting the garden in, so I have had enough "garden" this year. As I watch the leaves drift off the ash and sumac trees, I feel the same way: "I am done. Time to fold up and rest for a while."

We had an excellent year with the horses. But, it was exhausting and challenging to gear up and go to yet one more show. We had an excellent year with the horses. But, it was exhausting and challenging to (continued on page 3)

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(The Message of Fall, continued from page 2)

gear up and go to yet one more show. I do not know how people do it weekend after weekend. I felt that we did enough, had enough people involved and everyone did well at something. For me, there is a certain sense of satisfaction in getting the horses off the farm and giving people some good experiences to broaden their perception of horses and riding.

I think after 16 years here at this farm, I finally get a pattern for my life. The exhaustingly busy summer with more to do in any day than I ever feel like getting done, the cooling down of fall, a time to sort and part with things, putting things up for the winter. When winter gets here, then, it will be okay, although I certainly did not enjoy the last one. I am going into winter this year with lots of plastic containers so the chickens will always be able to have water, twice a day. John will get wood for the woodstove; I have craft after craft to work through. The holidays will quietly come and go, and January will get here. Finally, the days will lengthen once again and we can look at spring and make new plans.

I am no longer pushing against the seasons. I am not going to try to overcome the changing daylight or the meaning of seasonality by using more energy to get things done. I just accept that there are times to just yield, and to find rest in those longer nights. **Brenda Creighton**

SPECIAL THANKS

to Paul Dorsey for printing the newsletter and to Gail Collins, Sandy Fallin, Kathy Skullney, Eileen Ciechanowski, Jackie Webster, Marty Kelly, and Alice Kloetzli for volunteering to fold the September newsletter.

Jazz Vespers at Granite Presbyterian

Granite Presbyterian Church will host a jazz vespers on Sunday, November 20 at 5 PM. This event will feature the John Lamkin Sacred Jazz Quintet. Dr. Lamkin's quintet will perform a mix of sacred and traditional jazz. This event is free of charge. Food will be available for sale during intermission. For more information please contact Frank Owens at fjowens@hotmail.com.

January 9 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 this Executive Board candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election. 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. The lapse period applies to no other Executive Board members. Nominations of candidates are being taken at this time and will continue up to the evening of the election when nominations will be taken from the floor. Please let me know if you're interested in serving or have any questions about the process.

Cathy Wolfson, Nominating Committee 410-245-8708

NOVEMBER MEETING FOCUS ON IDENTITY**THEFT**

Our next general meeting on November 14 will feature Rose Bianca, a Senior Investigator with the Motor Vehicle Administration. Ms. Bianca has worked for that agency for nearly 40 years and has an extensive background in identity theft investigations and regularly trains law enforcement in this subject matter. In 2006, she received the Governor's award for outstanding assistance to the victims of identity theft. She will provide informative handouts with her presentation. Join us at 7:30 at the Granite Presbyterian Church.

Membership is Vital

Our December newsletter will turn the focus onto you, our GPCA members. So many new members and continuing members need recognition. Our December issue will name names and give credit where it's due.

GPCA needs your help. Please take a moment to ensure that you have sent in your annual dues. The newsletters are GPCA's largest expense and go out to more than 1,500 households. We need everyone to share in the effort. **Thank you!**

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Meals with a Mission

Most folks know what a carnivore eats, and an herbivore and an omnivore. And, most foodies can discourse on locavore. One of the newest terms to figuratively and literally cross our palates is invasivore, eating invasive species because it's good for the environment and because many exotics actually taste good.

Humans have displayed a remarkable facility for picking up hitchhikers from around the world and bringing them home. Witness starlings, kudzu, or the northern snakehead currently munching its way down the Potomac River.

We have also shown incredible ingenuity and thoroughness in consuming entire species, such as the passenger pigeon, dodo, bison, and sturgeon (although the last two are making well-assisted comebacks). The idea of eating invasives seems to use one of our bad habits to counteract another.

The Urban Dictionary defines invasivore as "... someone who eats invasive species...both for culinary enjoyment and to help control outbreaks of invasive species in native environments." This idea becomes more palatable (Ouch!) when you consider that the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) claims that the United States alone pays approximately \$120 billion annually on efforts to manage more than 800 invasive species populations. Worldwide, that spending increases to \$1.4 trillion.

Proponents of dining on exotics point to the lionfish, a highly predacious environmental homewrecker that invaded the Gulf of Mexico and East Coast a dozen years ago and began eating the reefs bare. Beneath an array of venomous spines, lionfish carry fillets of buttery, flaky meat perfect for ceviche or sushi. As chefs began serving lionfish, often as an alternative to lobster, populations of the fish dropped. With lionfish selling for more than \$16/pound, demand often outruns the supply.

Locally, Congressional Seafood Company, housed in the Maryland Food Center, has mounted a campaign to promote eating flathead catfish and blue catfish. The fish are meaty, abundant, delicious...and thoroughly disastrous, highly predacious invasive species, currently decimating native aquatic life throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

"If you study the numbers, it's hard to grasp just how big the blue cat problem is," said Tim Shugrue, head of Congressional Seafood and a research biologist. "The blue cats live 20 years, grow to 100 pounds, and have no predators. They now make up almost 80 percent of

What's Happening in the Area

At the Howard County Conservancy:

Nov. 10- Animal Stories: From Heroic Pups to Imperiled Pandas and Macaques with National Geographic author [Jennifer Holland](#). 5pm \$10/person; \$20/fam More Information? Call 410-465-8877 www.hcconservancy.org

At the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park & Museum

Nov. 5 Going Batty for Bats Sat 11:00 AM

Nov. 12 Happy Birthday Mr. Banneker and Cooking in the Cabin Sat 12 PM

Nov 19 So, Sew Simple: Quilted Squares Sat 1:00 PM

Nov 26 Moss Workshop Sat 10:00 AM

Nov 26 Backcountry Hike Sat 1:00 PM

Located at 300 Oella Ave, Catonsville, the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; the park is open daily sunrise to sunset. More information? 410-887-1081

At the Randallstown Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library:

Nov 1 thru 30 Sisters, Soldiers: Black Women and the Modern Military. Traveling banner display from the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

Nov 10 Family Movie Night featuring 2016's **Jungle Book**, 6:00 PM.

Nov 11 **Mad Hatter Tea Party**, enjoy snacks, crafts, games and nonsense. 1:00 PM

Nov 15 **Reptile Wonders**, hands-on interactive and interpretive program featuring live reptiles, including turtles, giant tortoises, and pythons! 6:30 PM

More information? Call 410-887-0770 or visit www.bcpl.info.

At the Patapsco Valley State Park and Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area

Every Wednesday Story Hour, Hilton Nature Center 11 AM. - 12 PM. Call 410-461-5005 to register.

Every Sunday Feathered Friends, Soldiers Delight Visitor Center 12 PM - 1 PM. Call 410-922-3044 to register.

the volume of fish just in [Virginia's] James River."

Congressional Seafood's Executive Chef David Fye developed a recipe for "Blue Cat Cakes", using filets from the exotics. The crisp flavor is tasty and the texture and presentation are similar to crab cakes.

*The invasivores' rallying cry--"If ya' can't beat 'em, eat 'em!"—is indeed very seductive. But, at best, it offers just one tactic, not a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the invaders. Though not a "silver bullet", promoting invasivory can encourage people to get engaged in the efforts. And, judging by the blue catfish cakes and lionfish ceviche, we just might get a good meal in the bargain. **Reed Hellman***

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GPCA PICNIC WRAP UP

THANK YOU WOODSTOCK JOB CORPS STUDENTS
 We are grateful for the help provided by the Job Corps students setting up tables and chairs for the GPCA picnic. **Reginald Whitaker, Atlanta, GA; A J Robinson, Brooklyn, NY; Marvin Lockett, Farmville, VA; Anthony Branh, Gaithersburg, MD; John Dise, Hampton, VA, and Malcom Collins, Charleston, SC.** all enrolled in Security and Protective Services training showed up ready for work and eager to pitch in. Thanks to Director **Tanisha Nixon** for arranging the transportation and making the students available. They reflect so well on the mission of the Job Corps Center!

PICNIC ITEM FOUND

Not many strays this year, but if you're missing your red Hydro Flask, please call Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708.

COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR NIGHT OF PEACE FAMILY SHELTER

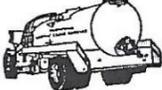
Night of Peace, located at Salem Methodist Church on Windsor Mill Road, provides overnight housing, meals, showers, and a laundry facility for homeless families with children throughout the year. GPCA will collect the requested new items at our November 14 and December 12 general meetings and donate them to the shelter. Please give Cathy Wolfson a call if you have any questions. The shelter needs:

- Children's slippers, robes, night gowns, pajamas – Ages 2 to 10
- Socks and gloves for women and children
- Bathmats, bath towels, and wash cloths
- Feminine sanitary products
- Twin sized washable blankets and sheets
- Reusable plastic drinking cups, 12 ounce
- Cleaning supplies: Pine-Sol, bleach, Dawn dish detergent, dish towels, dish cloths, laundry pods
- Bus tokens
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- Large cans of tuna and/or chicken
- Stamps, business size envelopes, paper, heavy duty trash bags



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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:
General Meeting – Monday, Nov. 14, 2016
Subject- Avoiding Identity Theft

SPECIAL DATES
Election Day Nov. 8
Veterans Day Nov. 11
Full Moon, Nov. 14
Thanksgiving Nov. 24

Please print

GPCA
Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Yearly membership dues:
Joint - \$30 Individual - \$20

___ I'm new in the community.

**Mail completed application and check to:
GPCA, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163**

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Butch Oakman 443-314-6415 oakelectric@comcast.net
Vice President: George Jones 410-655-8307 tessier100@hotmail.com
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denise.maranto@gmail.com
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GPCA ADVERTISING/ARTICLE/LETTER POLICY

GPCA reserves the right to accept or refuse advertising.
To place an ad: Send the ad copy by email as a pdf attachment where possible to the Editor by the 20th of the month prior to publishing. Include information on the size desired.
Payments for ads: Make check payable to GPCA and send to GPCA, P.O. Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163 **prior to publication deadline.** Checks should indicate ad size and months to be published. **No payment received = no ad placement.**
Rates and ad sizes: 1/8 page = \$15; 1/4 page = \$30; 1/2 page = \$50; full page = \$80. Personal ads up to one column inch: \$3 for GPCA members and \$5 for non-members. Ads should avoid excessive dark areas that do not copy well.
For articles and letters: These submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. Deadline for these is the 20th of the month previous to publication. GPCA reserves the right to accept, reject, edit, or hold for a subsequent newsletter any submission.