



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #383

GPCA Newsletter

November 2018

Next Meeting: Monday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.

Supporting US Government Retiree's Perspective, 7:30 to 8:15

Erich March, President, March Funeral Home, 8:30

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

View our Website at www.gpca.net

County Executive Candidates Address October Meeting

At our last meeting, we welcomed candidates for the office of Baltimore County Executive, Al Redmer (Republican) and John Olszewski (Democrat), who explained their views on issues we asked about in questions submitted to them ahead of time. Both candidates believe we need a standalone department of transportation and roads to address the issue of inadequate, obsolete, crowded, and unsafe roads. Issues about infrastructure and storm water management need to be searchable and accessible online so people know about needs and forecasting. Redmer brought up that Baltimore County has not invested in infrastructure, and he would go district by district, using a businesslike approach to identify needs and develop a long-term plan to address them. Citizen's concerns would be addressed using a customer service model. Redmer believes the county needs to provide data about infrastructure to community associations and must coordinate roads issues with the state. He plans to have a person on his staff to be in charge of infrastructure issues and be a liaison for citizens.

We asked about views on the Master Plan, our Patapsco/Granite Community Plan, and developers' abuse of variances since these are legal entities that need to be upheld. According to Redmer, all laws must be enforced. The rules must be clear. There must be expectations of accountability. If laws need to be changed, then he will approach the legislature to do it. The zoning change process must be open and transparent. The development process needs to be changed so there is citizen input at the beginning and into the middle.

[Candidates continued on Page 4]

GPCA Elections Scheduled for January Meeting

Unless someone like YOU cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get done. No, it's not.!

The election of GPCA Officers and Board Members will take place at the January 14, 2019 meeting. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director will be filled. Cathy Wolfson's term as President will expire, as will as Director Butch Oakman's.

GPCA By-Laws require that an Officer or Board Member be a dues-paying member for 6 months immediately preceding election. Officers are elected for a 1-year term and Directors for a 3-year term. The President may serve for two consecutive 1-year terms, and may again become eligible after a 1-year lapse.

The Nominating Committee includes chairperson Marty Kelley, Terilyn Murray, and Zulma Santiago. Anyone interested in placing their name for nomination of any of the above positions should contact Marty Kelley at martyingranite@live.com. or 410-461-5605. or any board member.

What's inside?

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Community Resources...6 Our Advertisers...6 through 7

President's Message

I regret a misstatement made in last month's issue. A board member did not request a specific religious holiday to be omitted from the newsletter calendar, but simply inquired why it was posted. I apologize.

Thanks to everyone who attended our October 6 picnic at Patapsco State Park, to everyone who made a dish, manned the grill, and set up and packed up. Attendance was down, whether because so many events were rescheduled due to the threat of Hurricane Florence in September, distance to the park, or lack of interest is hard to say. If you have suggestions that would make the picnic appealing to more folks, please share. On the other hand, the hall was packed at the Odd Fellows Crab Feast the following day. The crabs were plentiful as were all the other dishes (those baked beans were over the top!). Thanks Odd Fellows for selecting GPCA as your beneficiary of the day's proceeds.

The Dogwood Run bridge is coming along. So far, both piers have been poured and the rebar for the parapets is in place. The deck slab still has to be set and the stream returned to its course between the piers before paving and reopening the road, hopefully by February.

Replacement of two retaining walls and installation of a pipe culvert on Woodstock Road is complete. The last phase, which requires relocation of a utility pole, is expected to be complete by late November. If you have questions about this project, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service at 410-313-3440, or email publicworks@howardcountymd.gov. A recorded message at 410-313-3639 provides the most recent project information.

Once again, GPCA will collect donations at our November 12 and December 10 general meetings for Night of Peace family shelter on Windsor Mill Road. We urge your support of their mission as the only shelter in the county for families. Look for details in this issue.

We've made several requests for the project status of the 3 solar facilities granted special exceptions in District 4, two on Old Court Rd and one on Dogwood Rd. To date, neither Alder Energy

nor Forefront Power have responded. So far, they aren't impressing us as good corporate neighbors.

Thanksgiving is just weeks away and I'm looking forward to our daughter and son-in-law coming in from Austin, TX for the holiday. It's one of my favorite dinners to host; no need to wonder what to make! It's also a chance to reflect on gratitude and a time to say thanks so...thanks to Reed Hellman, for taking all the puzzle pieces of articles and ads submitted to you each month and formatting them into a viable publication. Thanks Maribeth Diemer, Bob Teller, and crew for collating the pages for Marty Kelley and her loyal team of newsletter folders. Thanks too, to Paul Dorsey our indefatigable printer. To Denise Maranto who records the minutes of our meetings. To Kathy Skullney who always takes my calls when I have zoning questions. To Jackie Webster, who has resigned as director and will be missed. To all our board members and committees who make the safety and well-being of our community a priority. And, thanks to all of you who ARE our community!

Best regards, Cathy Wolfson, 410-245-8708

Special Thanks To:

Many thanks to the folks responsible for the October Newsletter:

Printing: Paul Dorsey

Collators/Folders: Bob Teller, Bobbie Stanfield, Cassandra Fallin, Eileen Ciechanowski, Evalyn Garvin, Gail Collins, Lisa Libowitz, and Maribeth Diemer.

Past helpers have included: Kathryn Dorman, Denise Maranto, Murf Moorefield, Kathy Skullney and Jackie Webster.

A big 'Thank You' goes out to these dedicated volunteers.
Marty Kelley

Future GPCA Meetings:

December 10: GPCA Holiday Party – support Night of Peace

What speakers or topics would you like to see addressed at the GPCA meetings? Email your suggestions or concerns to: GPCA Communications: gpc21163@gmail.com or any board member.

GPCA Dollar\$ and Cent\$

On average, GPCA's monthly cash outlay is \$732. We have 2 more months in 2018, and need to fund \$1,464 of operating expenses. As of mid-October, gross income is \$8,703, less cash expenses of \$7,322, for net income of \$1,381. However, the cash received in November and December is minimal; 95 percent of the cash income has been collected prior to November 1. How will we "keep the lights glowing"? Read on my friends...

\$ Facts: *GPCA's year-to-date income includes donations of \$925: \$500 from the Oddfellows and \$425 from GPCA members. These generous donations equal approximately 31 memberships. *GPCA sends out approximately 1,600 newsletters, and as of this issue, has 353 paid memberships. That means 22 percent of our neighbors are funding the full load of the organization. Yikes! We need those "78 percenters" to jump in.

We propose a challenge to the 78 percenters. We challenge 47 of you to join GPCA as new or renewing members by December 31, 2018, and increase community participation to 25 percent. The additional memberships will pay for the 2018 operating costs and also provide the cash to pay the January, February, and March costs until we receive the 2019 membership payments.

A membership application is located on left hand side of the last page of this newsletter.

Neighborhood Notes

Collecting Donations for

Night of Peace Family Shelter

Again this holiday season, we are collecting items for Night of Peace family shelter located at Salem Methodist Church on Windsor Mill Rd. Throughout the year, the shelter provides overnight housing including meals, showers, and a laundry facility for homeless families with children. GPCA is collecting the listed items, requested by Night of Peace, at our November 12 and December 10 general meetings.

Please contact Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net if you have any questions. If you would prefer to donate directly,

please call Night of Peace at 410-922-4357 for hours when they can accept donations.

- Paper plates and towels
- Toilet paper
- Cups, bowls, forks, spoons, knives
- Large cans of vegetables or fruit
- Hot chocolate
- Snacks—graham crackers, popcorn, oatmeal cookies
- Cereal and oatmeal packs
- Milk, sugar, juice (100 percent)
- Salad
- Hand sanitizer, hand soap
- Deodorant
- Combs, brushes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Bleach
- Pinesol and wash cloths
- Laundry detergent (powder)
- Gloves (vinyl)
- Pens
- Charm Cards (rechargeable public transportation cards)
www.mtacharmcard.com
- Diapers (especially size 4/5), baby wipes
- Kids' pajamas (with feet)
- Gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, Science Center, movies, Aquarium)
- Air mattresses (twin)
- Comforters
- Wash clothes
- Plastic totes/tubs for guests to store their clothes

A Turtle Alert

The wet weather has resulted in many box turtle casualties along our country roads. These animals are extremely long lived. The average turtle lives to be 50 years old, while a significant number live for over 100 years. Please watch out for box turtles. If you see one in the road and if it is safe to do so, move the turtle to the side of the road it is heading toward.

Thank you, Carol Link

Membership Renewals:

Please keep the renewals and new memberships coming. GPCA needs your voice and your vote! Only paid members have the right to vote on Board Members (2019 elections are around the corner) and GPCA's position on Baltimore County issues such as zoning. Many thanks to the renewing and new members for your support!

Renewing Joint Members: Byrd, Andy and Carol; Kohler, Charlotte and Ansen, Richard; Mezger, Bruce and Kari Weidner.

Renewing Single Members: Mathena, Joan

Candidates [Continued from First Page]

Olszewski seeks to encourage collaboration between county government, citizens and developers. and believes that the use of variances needs to be cut down. He also believes that each community should have a plan. The Urban/Rural Demarcation Line should remain untouched, and there should be more investment in land preservation. He would have the government be open and transparent, would send representatives out to community associations to explain zoning and variances, would use technology for transparency, with more information online, and the ability to submit testimony online. He believes in campaign reform to remove outside interests.

We asked about our failing area schools, which are a major concern and a cause of young families not settling in beautiful, rural Granite. Olszewski has experience as a teacher and understands the issues of homelessness and mobility faced by school populations in our area. He wants voluntary universal pre-k, meals for kids, building services like air conditioning, more support services like social workers, and schools that will meet the needs of parents as well, with programs such as job training. Teachers don't want to go into schools that don't have good leadership and support personnel.

During his 13 years in the House of Delegates, Redmer regularly visited the 20 schools in his district. He viewed his role as an advocate for teachers. He found that teachers too often are not supported in discipline, making it difficult to

maintain control of their classrooms. Teacher safety is another concern since teachers are physically and verbally assaulted in county schools. Teachers need to have this basic support for discipline as a foundation for everything else; therefore, strong leadership and support services in schools are needed. As county executive, he would be visible in schools and would advocate for change. Like Olszewski, Redmer believes in community schools that meet the needs of students, parents, and others, and address issues like homelessness in the school population. He feels that we need to keep expectations high because too many students need remedial work in college.

Regarding the former Bethel Property, Redmer said that since the property was bought with Program Open Space money, it should be honored as community open space and planned as a community decision. Olszewski agreed and told us he has been endorsed by the Sierra Club and the Maryland League of Conservation.

On another serious issue for us--revitalization of Liberty Road--Olszewski wants a standalone department of economic development and a dedicated team that will interface with the community to help decide what is needed to bring businesses and amenities to the corridor. This new economic development department would work for greater engagement with businesses. While Redmer has been Insurance Commissioner, 40 new insurance companies have been added to the state. He believes we need to grow our economy, but we must take care of violent crime in Baltimore County and reverse the decline of education. He would bring back the economic commission and expand the role of the Baltimore County Department of Economic Development beyond job training. This plan would help businesses grow. An ombudsman would help businesses grow by leading them through the bureaucracy. Redmer would also bring job training back to schools and focus on bringing manufacturing and tech jobs to Baltimore County in partnerships with Towson University and University of Maryland. Redmer believes revitalization, like that in Catonsville, can be brought about by strategies, such as infill, for aging communities. Development on large swaths of land should be curtailed in favor of

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

building in and sprucing up places that are already developed.

Our Goals and Benefits

The Small Watershed Action Plan was released by Baltimore County in 2017. The GPCA SWCC was formed in response. The committee has developed a working relationship with Baltimore County Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) staff and with the Patapsco Heritage Greenway. to support and enhance each other's goals and efforts. These partnerships have helped us prepare for and plan the October 28 Stream Cleanup.

The committee plans to start a local water monitoring program. To assist this, we will apply to the Chesapeake Monitoring Committee (CMC), whose goal is to integrate volunteer-based water quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Bay's watershed.

If GPCA is accepted into the CMC program, the program will provide workshops and classes to set up our local water monitoring project. They will guide us in designing our program, executing water monitoring, and ensuring that our program follows standards to ensure quality data. These workshops are free. CMC also provides a tool to assist data management, enabling us to upload our data to CMC for their studies of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

By partnering with CMC and meeting their standards, state and federal agencies can use our data. We will assess our local water quality, share the results with the GPCA community, and contribute to monitoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

After we establish a partnership with the CMC, we will have several milestones to reach and we will require a fair number of committed people to learn how and to do the monthly testing at several sites. This is an exciting opportunity, but also a

commitment. Stay tuned for more information on how you and your family can get involved. Sources:

<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/our-work/key-program-focuses/building-stewardship/chesapeake-monitoring-cooperative/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6qMpjtZSmqHR3pDdE9MWVND0Ek/view> Laurie Donnelly

SWCC Tackles Ambitious Agenda

At its last meeting on September 26, GPCA's SWCC tackled a full agenda of environmental issues that directly affect our community. Attendees included Austin Cohen, Cathy Wolfson, Murf Moorefield, Pam Germain, Bob Teller, Dave Scheurer, Bob Reisdorf, and Laurie Donnelly.

The Dogwood Road and Dogwood Run Cleanup, scheduled for October 28, received considerable discussion and planning. Trash pickup after the event was a major consideration requiring coordination with Haley Amini at Baltimore County Environmental Protection and Sustainability. EPS also provided disposable gloves and trash bags. SWCC members also contacted the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, local schools, and the Job Corps for possible participation in the event. Additional help was promised by City Ranch, located in the 7300 block of Dogwood Road.

From last year's "lessons learned" it was highly recommended that the planned cleanup "paths" be evaluated before the actual cleanup. Benefits of doing this include the ability to assign sectors and locate hotspots that need attention.

Stream water quality testing is also a committee project. The needed resource gathering, planning, scope, complexity, and rationale of such an undertaking was discussed. Reaction and feedback was sought.

Dave Scheurer suggested that one of the first steps should be to contact other groups that are currently and actively doing water monitoring. Such a group could share their successes and roadblocks in establishing and maintaining a program and give us an accounting of what commitments are required.

The resources and support potentially available from the Chesapeake Monitoring Coop (CMC) were reviewed, including the assistance

application form and process. A Water Monitoring Sub-Committee was proposed to fully investigate development of a program and process report. Bob Teller asked for and got offers of help to start the CMC application process.

Bob Teller and Dave Scheurer discussed the resources that are available from CMC, for learning

At the Randallstown Library

more about water quality monitoring.

Weekly COLAB Topics

Mondays: Open Hours, 10AM-11AM, 7PM-8PM.

Tech Tuesdays: Morning (10AM-11AM) and evening (7PM -8PM) instruction on social media platforms, email, creating resumes, filling out job applications, navigating and accessing online Baltimore County Public Library resources and services.

Wednesdays: Open Hours, 10AM-11AM, 7PM-8PM.

Tech Exploration Thursdays: Morning (10AM-11AM) and evening (7PM-8PM) hands-on experience learning exciting emerging technologies.

Fridays: Open Hours, 10AM-11AM.

Senior Hour Saturdays: An hour (10AM-11AM) devoted especially for seniors to have tech questions answered and learning emerging technologies.

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A split log, period-correct cabin is furnished with reproduced artifacts and historical interpreters cook vintage meals on an open hearth and cob oven.

Visit the colonial herb garden, vegetable garden, and orchard. The site also has many trails, including conservation paths and the historic Number 9 Trolley Line Trail.

The museum is located at 300 Oella Avenue, Catonsville. For more information, call the park at 410-887-1081.

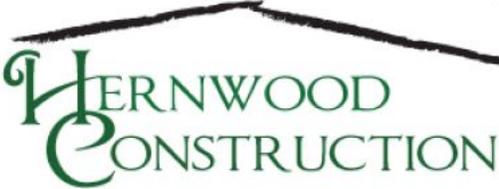
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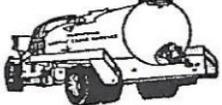
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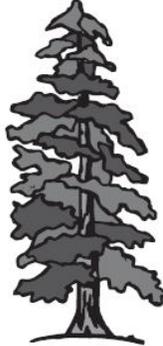


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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

All Saints Day – November 1, 2018
Daylight Savings Time ends – November 4
Diwali – November 6, 7
Veterans Day – November 11, 12
Thanksgiving – November 22

GPCA Membership Application We Need Your Voice!

Please Print:

Name

Address

Phone

Email

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

I'm new in the community or Renewal

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

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Cathy Wolfson 410-245-8708, oakknob@comcast.net

Vice President: George Jones 410-655-8307

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denise.maranto@gmail.com

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Director position open

Editor: Reed Hellman editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com

GPCA ADVERTISING/ARTICLE/LETTER POLICY

GPCA reserves the right to accept, edit or refuse advertising.

To place an ad: Send the ad copy by email as a **pdf attachment to the Treasurer and 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 must 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. Hard copy ads appear in black and white.

For articles and letters: 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. The submission of any ad or article to the GPCA means you agree GPCA reserves the rights to accept, reject, edit, or hold submission for a future newsletter.

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 6!