



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #362

GPCA Newsletter

January 2017

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 9, 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](http://www.gpca.net)*

## **News of the Neighborhood**

### **Patapsco Glen Update**

When the Patapsco Glen developer indicated his willingness to work out a compromise with the GPCA, Cathy Wolfson and Kathy Skullney 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. The parties met again to finalize how to properly handle the approval process, after which GPCA withdrew its appeal on December 12, 2016.

### **Holiday Social Gathering**

After a short business meeting on December 12, GPCA members and guests enjoyed another great holiday party. Refreshments included delicious family recipes and a variety of special desserts. Councilman Julian Jones and Delegate Jay Jalisi joined us for this festive occasion. At the party, we also received lots of donations for the Night of Peace family shelter. Thanks to all who contributed refreshments and music. Thanks also go out to all those who donated items for the shelter in November and December.

### **Update on Dogwood Road Bridge Over Dogwood Run**

Baltimore County must replace Bridge No. B-0347, the Dogwood Road Bridge over Dogwood Run, east of Hollifield Rd. The \$1.6 million project is expected to begin July, 2017 and be completed in January, 2018. The proposed project begins east of Hollifield Road and continues 100 feet beyond the location of the existing bridge. The project will require a 6-month bridge closure and permanent use of a small area of Patapsco Valley State Park.

The project will eliminate structural deficiencies and improve motorist safety. The scope involves a bridge replacement with minor approach roadway work and minor stream stabilization. The proposed bridge will be 34 feet wide, including two 12-foot travel lanes with 3-foot shoulders and 2 2-foot parapets on either side. The current alignment of the bridge forces Dogwood Run to make a right angle turn immediately before passing under the bridge, which has created scour conditions along the bridge abutment. The proposed bridge abutments will be angled to provide a better alignment for the stream and reduce impacts to the abutments. Minor grading and re-alignment of the existing side-ditch in this area will be necessary. Stream bank protection in the form of rock walls will be installed to limit migration of the stream channel.

### **What's Inside?**

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### GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great turnout at December's GPCA meeting for our annual holiday party. Everyone enjoyed the good food and great conversation. So, if you missed out for any reason, think about coming next year. As you may know, my term as GPCA president is coming to an end, effective January 2017.

This will be my last article "From the President". I have enjoyed being the president for last 2 years, and want to thank everyone who has supported me along the way. It was a great learning process, I met a lot of fine people, and it gave me the ability to enjoy public speaking. I want to personally thank the other officers and board members; they are a great group of people and I enjoyed working alongside of every one of them.

I will still be around at the meetings and I will be glad to help out anyway I can. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year. From your now-former GPCA President, Butch Oakman.

*hang ornaments on it. But I am stopped by the idea of having to undo it in just another week or 10 days.*

*On these dark mornings with twinkle lights and fire's hum, I feel another year close down around me. As we start the New Year, the days will ease into just a tad-bit longer. The hardest part of winter with animals will come with snow and ice on the ground, with John plowing out paths from barn to barn. It is a period of isolation here on the farm, when people stop coming, and there are times I like the lone-ness of it. Because that is offset by the busy days where we can barely get through chores or fix something to eat without someone coming for something.*

*As we close out this year, we had to put our little dog Casey down. He was, after all, 16 years old. It was an epic morning with slush on the ground and a panting trembling dog that started a cluster of seizures. I guess I am always the one that says it is "time" for an animal, as John considers the overnight hospital stay and the valium as needed. I will say it is much easier to decide with a horse, because there are criteria, at least in my mind, when they are done, when they cannot be a horse anymore. But for small animals like dogs or cats, you watch them age; you know they have "issues"; you develop management strategies to care for them. But live with the denial that the end is coming. I would like to say I am the compassionate one, not the hard hearted one. I feel the pain, I understand the struggle with infirmity, and I know death is rest. But, I guess I just look mean and hard hearted. The vet said I was the practical one. Hah, if he only knew.*

*And as we drove home from the vet with our little dog in a cardboard coffin, John said, "Well, it is the end of the Casey era."*

*Yes, it is the end of an era, closing out the year. The question then becomes what to do with the New Year? How do we proceed? I have confidence that it is a question that will answer itself. No drama with plans or resolutions, just the daily taking the next step. Since walking is more and more of a challenge for me, I take steps carefully and slowly. I consider my path and take the long way if it is smoother, straighter, or more level. Because like the dogs, my crazy days have vanished, no more running wild.*

**Brenda Creighton**

### THE END OF AN ERA

*It is 5:00 A.M., the week before Christmas. We are all sitting in the dark living room with the lights on the tree and the glow from the wood stove. Sandy is on the couch, Mouse on the floor in front of the glowing woodstove, and Griff is in the Lazy Boy with me. This is my family, as we sit here silently. I am slow to wake up, I have my first cup of coffee in front of me. I plan the next 3 hours, the things I can get done before going out and facing the 12 degree morning. It won't get above freezing today. There are going to be problems. The horse water tank had been shifted too far over for the tank deicer to reach last night and it was still 3/4 full, therefore unmovable. The chicken waterers will freeze before they get emptied by thirsty birds.*

*In these winter mornings, I have an hour here in the dark. Reflection and projection. I like my little tree sitting up on the table with just its lights on; although I do feel I should attempt to*

**Deadline for advertisements and articles is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Next deadline is Jan. 20th!**

### Special Thanks

To Paul Dorsey for printing the Newsletter and to all of the volunteers who helped to fold and prepare the November Newsletter. Their efforts are critical to Newsletter production. To volunteer to help, contact any Board member.

### GPCA NEEDS YOUR HELP

The newsletters are GPCA's largest expense and go out to more than 1,500 households. We need everyone to share in the effort. Please take a moment to ensure that you have sent in your annual dues. Use the membership form on the address page of this newsletter.



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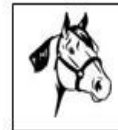
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## Don't Let the Winter Keep You Inside

### At Our Local State Parks

Looking for fun programs at Patapsco Valley State Park and Soldiers Delight NEA this Winter?

Every Wednesday *Story Hour* at Hilton Nature Center — 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!\*

Join us every Wednesday to hear a nature-themed story read by one of our naturalists. \* *Geared toward children under 10.*

Every Sunday — *Feathered Friends* — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!

Spend the afternoon learning about birds up close

### At Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum

Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum is a 142-acre site in Oella, MD., dedicated to telling the inspiring story of the life and times of Benjamin Banneker, often considered the first African American man of science. The museum's exhibits chronicle Banneker's contributions as a largely self-taught mathematician, astronomer, almanac writer, surveyor, abolition advocate, and naturalist during the late 1700s.

The park's exhibits, programs, and activities have something for everyone whether your interest is history, historical foodways, astronomy, cultural activities, hiking, nature programs, or conservation. The Banneker Historical Park and Museum preserves the cultural and natural history of the colonial era by offering special programs in colonial history and cuisine, and environmental conservation.

Visit the park at 300 Oella Avenue, Baltimore, 21228; call 410-887-1081 for more information.

## Events at the Randallstown Library

Another year for the books! Here in the Randallstown library, we are ready to welcome in 2017. You can view our calendar of events at <http://www.bcpl.info/events/datelines-Randallstown>.

Available for viewing now through January 31 is **The Who Said What Art Show at Randallstown** which is an inspiring exhibition of Baltimore's own graphic designer and visual artist Benjamin Jancewicz' portraits on canvas.

Get ready for the IRS with **Preparing for Tax Time** on Tuesday, January 31 at 6:30 PM, hosted by Making Change; participants will learn to minimize taxes and maximize refunds by understanding deductions and credits.

Have a day off school? Bring in the kids of all ages to check out our Makernoon programs. On Friday, January 13 at 1:00 PM, kids can design and create interactive robots using LEGOs and Cubelets in **Makernoon: Cubelets & LEGOs**. On Tuesday, January 17 at 1:00 PM, **Makernoon: Kinetic Sculptures**, kids will create and keep works of art that come to life with movement. The whole family will enjoy watching *This Secret Life of Pets* at our **Family Movie Night** on Thursday, January 12 at 6:00 PM.

Lori Hench, Baltimore County Public Library  
410-887-0770

## At the Howard County Conservancy at Mount Pleasant

The Howard County Conservancy is a local nonprofit whose mission is to educate children and adults about the natural world, preserve the land and its legacy for future generations, and model responsible stewardship of our environment.

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10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, 21163  
410-465-8877

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# GPCA

P.O. Box 31  
Granite, MD 21163

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:**  
General Meeting – January 9, 2017

**SPECIAL DATES**  
New Year’s Day, Jan. 1  
Full Moon, Jan. 12  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan 16

Please print **GPCA**  
**Membership Application**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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 [oalectric@comcast.net](mailto:oalectric@comcast.net)  
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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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**  
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**For articles and letters:** These submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. Deadline for these is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to publication. GPCA reserves the right to accept, reject, edit, or hold for a subsequent newsletter any submission.