



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #372

GPCA Newsletter

November 2017

Next Meeting: Monday, November 13, 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.

Visit us on the Web at www.GPCA.net

2018 Election of Officers and Directors at January 8 Meeting

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 1-year term and directors for 3-year terms. The president may serve for two consecutive 1-year terms and may again become eligible after a 1-year lapse. There are no term limits for other officers. 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. Please consider serving on the Nominating Committee, we need three volunteers.

Contact Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net for more information and/or to nominate a candidate.

APEX Ground Properties Zoning Case

Good news! Apex Ground Properties, LLC, located on Dogwood Road, has withdrawn its petitions for variances and an amended plan that would further increase the impervious surface area and further reduce the required setback of loading activities from the property line. Apex petitioned for and was granted variances for enlarged impervious surface and reduced setback requirements in 2013. Citing reduction in the county right of way on Dogwood Road and its "evolved" business activities, Apex sought greater variances in its 2017 petitions. The petitions were granted this past August over GPCA's vigorous opposition. GPCA then appealed that decision in September to the County Board of Appeals. The withdrawal of the petitions by Apex means that it is no longer seeking the greater variances.

Kathleen Skullney

What's Inside?

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From the President:

October first broke sunny and fine for our first GPCA picnic at the McKeldin Area of Patapsco State Park. We were apprehensive about the turnout at a new venue; we'd so long enjoyed the hospitality of the Pahl's that we worried no one would come. But come you did and spent a pleasant afternoon with your neighboring GPCA members. We extend thanks to Marty Kelley and Wayne Dell for doing the shopping, dedicating their dining room to the picnic staging area, hauling all the "stuff" to and from the picnic and storing at their home until next year. To LiLi Evans for sweeping every leaf clean from the shelter before the guests arrived. To Bob Teller for getting the charcoal going in the grills and making sure my husband got his hammer back! To Kevin Farmer, GPCA's official deejay and emcee. Good music all afternoon! To Bruce Mezger thanks for bringing the ice and the cooler and Kari Mezger, not only winner of the 50-50 but also a terrific grill master. Also on hand were 2 Guys and a Truck. Owners Bremen Mathena and Justin Snyder and Bremen's wife JoAnn spent the afternoon treating us all to piping hot French fries and deep fried Oreos! Oh they were good. In addition to the change of venue we also transitioned from providing adult beverages to BYOB and instead provided the hot dogs and hamburgers. It worked out great and no one went thirsty or hungry. Thanks to all of you who provided cakes and side dishes and desserts to share with all of us. Thanks to the three generations of Councilman Julian Jones' family who came out as well. And to Delegate Jay Jalesi and aide Nina who made time for us too.

Your GPCA board has reviewed and approved amending our bylaws which were drafted in 1986. Thirty-one years isn't a bad run and we were pleased to find that few changes were proposed. They are:

- *Article II Term of Office Section 3: Term of director amended to 3 years with eligibility restored after 1 year lapse. Purpose, to promote turnover of participation on GPCA board.*
- *Article VI Funds Section 2: The President shall be allowed to expend up to \$150.00 without Board approval. Purpose, to increase from \$50 to current pricing levels for*

organizational expenses required from time to time

- *Article VII Committees Section 2f. Change Newsletter to Communication and adapt for electronic communication. Purpose, to adapt to current conventions of communication.*

We will ask the general membership (you) to vote on accepting the amended by-laws in November. The existing and proposed amended bylaws will be posted on the GPCA website www.gpca.net for your review.

In September, GPCA filed an appeal opposing the county's decision to permit the expansion of a special exception and variance granted in 2013 to APEX Ground Properties located on Dogwood Road just east of Diamond Ridge Golf Course. The property owner has withdrawn their request and the relief granted in 2013 will stand.

*Hope you're having a great autumn in Granite.
Be safe, Cathy Wolfson, President*

GPCA Membership Renewals and New Members

Joint Memberships

Cunningham, Arthur and Barbara

Wright, Ralph and Brenda

Daschbach, Brian and Michele

Brooks, Benjamin and Irene

Collins, Curtis and Patricia

Ned Tillman at October Meeting

At our October meeting, we welcomed nationally known environmentalist Ned Tillman, author of *The Chesapeake Watershed* and *Saving the Places We Love*. Tillman spoke about worldwide issues of climate change and its consequences, as well as things we can do locally to save the places we love. He is a scientist on an environmental task force that reports directly to the chief executive in Howard County, where there has been significant initial progress with improvements to the environment. Tillman advised us to stay in contact with elected officials about our concerns for the earth and the health of our local surroundings. He began his environmental

successes by writing letters. Just recently, GPCA formed a very active Small Watershed Action Committee (SWAC), which has proposed 30 things we can do to make an impact.

Leaders of the past made great efforts to preserve land and the environment for us, designating national forests and park grounds, and planting billions of trees. The Patapsco watershed was a site of mass plantings that benefit us today. It's our job to take care of the land and the earth for future generations, just as past generations did for us.

Serious challenges to the environment today include overpopulation, burning of fossil fuels, loss of species, threats from water and air quality, global climate change, and a culture of impervious surfaces. We need more green infrastructure. Tillman advises that we identify places that we love, perhaps in our backyard, and take care of those spaces. We could spend thirty minutes a day outside, working on that special space. We need less lawn and more gardens. Planting trees is helpful, also growing meadowlands with low lying native plants. Raingardens are a real bonus, just a sunken space in the yard, filled with deep rooted native plants. Raingardens allow water to sift down through the earth and recharge our groundwater and streams, rather than flowing right off.

One project that Ned Tillman's Commission of Sustainability worked on in Howard County was a raingarden committee project. A youth corps coming from different churches joined with committee members, planted raingardens, then went back to the churches to present education. Environmental committees need to be at the cabinet level and accessible to the county executive. Task forces need to drive legislation. Each of us can promote a cleaner environment by what we buy, what we drive, what we eat, how we manage our home, what we invest in, and what issues we support.

For more information, find out how you can help, or take a nature walk with Ned, who lives in Columbia, visit www.SavingthePlaces.com. We hope our Small Watershed Action Committee, which is in keeping with Tillman's policies about citizens communicating with government and acting to improve the environment, will take us far. Many thanks to Ned Tillman, award winning author and steward of the environment, for coming to speak to us.

Donations for Night of Peace Family Shelter

Once again, we are collecting items for the Night of Peace family shelter located at Salem Methodist Church on Windsor Mill Rd. The shelter provides overnight housing including meals, showers, and a laundry facility for homeless families with children throughout the year. GPCA is collecting the requested items below at our November 13 and December 11 general meetings. Please contact Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net if you have any questions.

- Cleaning supplies
 - Pine-Sol
 - Bleach
 - Dawn dish detergent
 - Dish towels
 - Dish cloths
 - Laundry pods / detergent
 - Disinfectant wipes
 - Heavy duty trash bags
- Bus tokens
- Food
 - Canned fruits and vegetables (low sodium)
 - Large cans of tuna and/or chicken
- Health and hygiene products
 - Feminine sanitary products
 - Disposable Diapers
 - Baby wipes
 - Toothbrushes
 - Toothpaste
 - Shampoo/conditioner
- Office supplies
 - Stamps
 - Business size envelopes
 - Paper

The following items may be used – but clean and in good condition:

- Bathmats
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Twin sized washable blankets and sheets
- Pillow cases

From the Randallstown Library

The Randallstown Library is offering some amazing opportunities for adults in November. Trying to figure out health insurance? Attend the **Smart Choice Health Insurance Literacy** on Monday, November 6 at 7:00 PM to learn how to purchase health insurance based on your needs and budget; registration is required. Need some legal advice? Talk to an attorney at no charge at the **Lawyers in the Library** session on Thursday, November 9 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM; first come, first served. Readers, on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 PM, don't miss **Book Buzz** where our librarians present the hottest upcoming books you don't want to miss! One of our job seekers' events takes place on Thursday, November 16 at 2:00 PM with the **Maryland Tech Connection Information Session** to find out about job opportunities and certifications in the IT, bioscience and cybersecurity.

Bring your children to our **Family Reading and Technology Night** on Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00 PM and learn about our library services, explore tech in our CoLab and more! Get slimy in **Time For Slime: Playing with Polymers** Saturday, November 4 at 11:00 AM (registration required), or program with Arduino and Raspberry Pi, presented by **Towson Makerspace** on Thursday, November 2 at 3:30 PM. For all programs, children under 8 must attend with an adult.

For more information and a complete listing of events, contact the library at 410-887-0770.

Programs at Patapsco Valley State Park

Every Wednesday: Story Hour 11 a.m.-noon at Hilton Nature Center. Join us for nature-themed stories read by one of our naturalists. These events are geared toward children six years and younger, but all ages are welcome. Occasionally there is an optional craft afterward for \$2.

Every Sunday: Scales & Tales Noon-1 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center. Are you curious about birds of prey? Join us as we discuss one of our fascinating avian educators. Come with lots of questions and be prepared to learn. Fun for the whole family!

Please call 410-461-5005 for additional information or to register

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) *Baby It's Cold Outside*

As the weather gets colder, your hot water heater has to work harder to maintain the same hot water temperature. You can reduce your energy use and save money by lowering the temperature on your hot water heater. The heater may be preset to 140 degF, but you likely only need it set to 120 degF. At this temperature, corrosion and mineral build-up will be reduced along with energy use and the risk of scalding.

Lowering the hot water tank's temperature by 20 degF will save 6 to 10 percent on your water heating costs. Your hot water heater is continually working to maintain the water at 120 to 140 degF compared to its surroundings. You can reduce your energy use by insulating the hot water tank and the first few feet of water pipes connected to the tank, and by reducing your hot water use. Use only cold water for laundry (it will keep your colors brighter), take showers instead of baths, take shorter showers, and install low-flow fixtures.

When it comes time to replace your hot water heater or appliances that use hot water, look into ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances. Many options may fit your budget and lifestyle. By reducing energy use, we reduce the amount of pollution in the air and our waterways.

Special Note: If you have a suppressed immune system or chronic respiratory disease, consider keeping the hot water tank at 140 degF.

Visit this Website for step-by-step instructions, notes, and safety precautions:

<https://energy.gov/energysaver/projects/savings-project-lower-water-heating-temperature>

And this Website for more ways to save energy:

<https://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/15-ways-save-your-water-heating-bill>

Please look for this column each month to learn how you can help reduce stormwater runoff. Everyone is welcome to join SWCC.

Anna Schrad, SWCC Member

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Test Your Rural Words Knowledge

An archived article from March 6, 1998, Issue #144, by Tom DeMay

*I recently read an interesting book called *Speaking of Our Past A Narrative History of Owings Mills, Maryland, 1640-1988*, by Marie Forbes. It was written not too long after the Owings Mills area was selected as the location for a new "town-center". The thought that the area would drastically change was the impetus for many folks to collect historical information before it was lost forever.*

The book is divided into two parts, the first is based on research and the second on verbal accounts by older residents. The text is flavored throughout with colorful and interesting stories that will bring back memories for many residents of the Granite area.

While learning more history of the area, I re-discovered many words that I had not heard for some time. See if you remember them. Hopefully, some of you will share your memories as they are revived by this list. Look for the answers in the December issue.

Hay mow (pronounced like how); Sheaves; Cinders; Hames; Hill boys; Single-tree; Mill race; Felloes; Slop.

One of the most interesting parts of the book describes the Solders Delight area. Did you know that once, the Soldiers Delight area was the largest single source of chrome in the world? Chrome was dug from strip mines, mine shafts and extracted from the bottom of stream-beds. Because it is the dome of an extinct volcano surrounded by rocks just under the sparse topsoil, it was an unfriendly environment for farming. However a few hardy folks did make homes there. As some people tell the story, the Soldiers Delight folks only came out of the barrens to vote once a year, and it took most of them until Christmas to find their way home again.

I recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about the area and how things were before the development took over.



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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

GPCA Stream Cleanup – November 5, 2017
Election Day – November 7
General Meeting – November 13
Thanksgiving – November 23

GPCA Membership Application

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

Vice President: George Jones 410-655-8307

tessier100@hotmail.com

Secretary: Denise Maranto 443-695-5409

denise.maranto@gmail.com

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Editor: Reed Hellman editorgpcanewsletter@yahoo.com

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. 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.