



GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #373

GPCA Newsletter

December 2017

Next Meeting: Monday, December 11, 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 at least 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. 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 one more volunteer. Contact committee chair Murf Moorefield at caldron@verizon.net or 443-200-3353 for more information or to nominate a candidate.

Proposed slate of officers: President-Cathy Wolfson; Vice President-George Jones; Treasurer-Maribeth Diemer; Secretary-Denise Maranto; Directors: Vacant - for 3 year term expiring in January 2021

BGE Community Solar Pilot Program

The Baltimore County Council passed Bill No. 37-17 in June 2017, permitting special exceptions for commercial solar facilities in Rural Conservation (RC) and commercial zones. Landowners must apply for the exception to lease their property to applicants that construct and maintain the facilities and, in turn, sell the energy produced to BGE. Production by these facilities cannot exceed 2 megawatts of capacity and are limited to 10 facilities in each of the 7 councilmanic districts. At this time, four facilities have been proposed for our District 4:

9155 Old Court Road (across from Polly Hill development) – 1.98 megawatt capacity – fenced in area 9.81 acres, zoned RC2. Hearing date Dec. 4, 2017, 10 am. All hearings held at Jefferson Building, 105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Rm. 205, Towson 21204.

2316 Ridge Road (across from Diamond Ridge Golf Course) – 1.98 megawatt capacity – fenced in area 8.68 acres, zoned RC6. Hearing date Dec. 4, 2017, 1:30 pm .

9203 Dogwood Rd. near Old Court - .9 megawatts capacity– fenced in area @ 3.07 acres, zoned RC2. Hearing date TBD.

10021 Old Court Road south side between Dogwood and Granite Rds. – 1.98 megawatt capacity – fenced in area @ 7.06 acres, zoned RC2. Hearing date TBD.

For more information about this program go to <https://www.bge.com/SmartEnergy/InnovationTechnology/Pages/BGECCommunitySolarPilotProgram.aspx> or call BGE at 410-470-6900.

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From the President:

I hope you will make time to join us at our annual Holiday party following our (brief) general meeting on December 11. We've got the hall all evening, so just bring your holiday cheer and a donation for Night of Peace shelter if you like (but certainly not required), and we'll provide the food, drink, and music. We finally found the 50-50 raffle tickets which went AWOL after the picnic so we will have a drawing at the end of the evening too.

It has been a great year and there are so many to thank. Like Marty Kelley and her crew of "folders" who gather every month to assemble the 1,600+ newsletters we get into mailboxes each month (except July!). Editor Reed Hellman keeps the issues coming and Paul Dorsey, our diligent copier, churns them out. Thanks to our advertisers for understanding the need to stick to our deadlines and who make the newsletter possible. We appreciate Maribeth Diemer for keeping the books and working with our advertisers, and Denise Maranto who duly records our meeting minutes. Kathy Skullney shares her legal expertise and long perspective on GPCA land use issues to help us meet the GPCA mission. Bob Teller, chair of our Small Watershed Action Committee, takes responsibility for stewardship of our streams. Bob actually wears another hat, as communications chair, sending out email notifications of our events. I also want to thank Jim Raistrick for working closely with Bob to improve the GPCA website. Thanks to Murf Moorefield for finding interesting speakers for our meetings. Thanks to our directors Butch Oakman and Jackie Webster who monitor road safety issues.

If you have been thinking about putting your spare time to use in a meaningful way, we can surely use your help. Contact me or any board member, or just show up at a meeting. All are welcome whether you are a member or not.

A special thank you goes out to Barb Warnock who has served as a GPCA director since 2015. Barb has provided well-reasoned and rational viewpoints to our board and we truly appreciate her service. Barb's term ends in January, creating a vacancy for director. This is a 3-year term. If you or someone you know is interested in making a commitment to GPCA's mission please contact our Nominating Committee chair, Murf

Moorefield. Find her contact information in the election notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

Looking toward 2018, the county has scheduled replacement of the small bridge on Dogwood Road east of Hollifield. Work should begin by July and take about 6 months. Also, the county's traffic engineering division will be performing a traffic study at Hollifield and Dogwood. I do not travel through there at rush hour but have heard traffic can back up nearly to Rt. 99 in the evenings. If the Ben's Run Bridge on Dogwood is ever replaced, the current plans call for right and left hand turn lanes from Hollifield onto Dogwood. The study will help determine if there is sufficient traffic to justify a traffic circle that would greatly relieve congestion at that location. Stay tuned!

Happy holidays and best wishes for a peaceful and healthy New Year! Be safe,

Cathy Wolfson, President, 410-245-8708

November's Meeting Focuses On Security at Northwest Hospital

At our November 13 meeting, we welcomed four representatives from Northwest Hospital. They detailed the hospital's extensive security system and listened to comments and concerns from the audience. The representatives sought to discover the community's perception of Northwest Hospital's security, and to learn our needs. The gathering was very relevant because of topics in the news recently, as well as a robbery/assault on a parking lot at Northwest. The hospital employees making the presentation included James Roberge, Vice President, LifeBridge Health; Rick Handshoe, Director, Security Department; Sharon Hendrick, Director, Patient Experience; and Sharon Boston, Director, Public Relations.

The Director of Security is aware of only two robberies outside at Northwest Hospital since 2009, although four other altercations, three of them domestic, have spilled onto the parking lot from the emergency room. The hospital has 200 cameras inside and out, including sweeping cameras on the roof to scan all 2,000 spaces on its parking lots. The cameras are checked every day by a technician who is alerted by the words "loss of signal" if a camera is not

working. There are blue phones placed outside in strategic locations and more are planned for installation. The blue phones are identified by blue lights. Each phone has a red button that, when pushed, immediately contacts a dispatcher for help. A security force of 35 guards, full- and part-time, patrol inside the hospital and outside, including 1 or 2 on the parking lots, with a minimum of 8 security guards on duty on a shift, patrolling floors and the parking lots. Three security personnel, one in front, and two in the back guard the emergency room. Security guards are carefully screened and highly trained, with 1 to 3 years of military, law enforcement, or similar background required just to get an interview. New hires then pass through the hospital's own extensive training program. The security force carries the same collapsible batons used by the police, and the supervisors carry pepper gel. Firearms are under discussion.

Northwest Hospital has an escort service available from the parking lot to the building, and back. At our suggestion, the hospital plans to post more signs about the escort service. Other updates will include at least one more stationary camera outside and a change from vapor lights outside to LED lights. LED lights are planned inside as well, as some areas are dimly lit. We suggested adding additional stationary cameras for vulnerable areas (such as handicapped) on the parking lots, and signs saying that the parking lots are being videotaped. Northwest has been in touch with camera vendors about stationary cameras. The hospital had the police do a recent comprehensive security overview, and, as a result, trees are being trimmed and blue phones and cameras are being added, most in the front of the hospital, side lots, and exits. Lights are being added and upgraded. More officers may be posted on the lots. Northwest maintains a dialogue with the Baltimore County Police and keeps apprised about trends in the surrounding neighborhood. Northwest Hospital is looking to improve their security system and encourage comments from the community. Of course, we all need to be aware of our surroundings wherever we go, and practice caution.

The four guest speakers welcome questions or comments from the community. Contact Maribeth Diemer, our GPCA/NWH liaison with comments for the hospital (maribeth-13@att.net), or contact the

hospital Public Relations Department. Rick Handshoe, Director of Security invites everyone to stop in with questions or for a tour of the security system. The phone number for the hospital is 410-521-2200. Many thanks to the panel of representatives from Northwest Hospital, especially Rick Handshoe, for being guest speakers at our fact-finding meeting on security.

Donations for Night of Peace Shelter

Thanks to those who donated items at our November meeting 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 items requested below for Night of Peace at our December 11 general meeting. We will deliver the items to the shelter on December 14. If you prefer to make a tax deductible donation please click on the Donate link at www.nightofpeace.org, or mail your check payable to

Night of Peace Family Shelter, Inc.,
c/o Salem United Methodist Church
7509 Windsor Mill Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244

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

(Continued on next page)

(Night of Peace Donations Continued)

- 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

Test Your Rural Words Knowledge

In our last issue, we presented an archived story by Tom DeMay from our March 1998 issue. In that story, we introduced several words that used to be common in Granite Patapsco. They are:

- *Hay mows (pronounced like how) – A place for storing hay or grain.
- *Sheaves -Bundles of cut stalks of grain bound together with straw or twine.
- *Cinders -The part of a coal fire that remains after the combustible material has burned.
- *Hames -The pair of wooden or metal pieces that fit on each side of a horse collar.
- *Hill boys -Young boys stationed along the roads with extra horses used to help teams of horses pull heavy loads up hills.
- *Single-tree -Also known as a whiffle-tree, the pivoted horizontal cross-bar to which the harness traces of a draft animal are attached.
- *Mill race -The channel for the water that drives a mill wheel.
- *Felloes -The wood rims for the outside of wagon wheels.
- *Slop -The by-product of distilling whiskey. Because it contained high fiber and high protein, farmers fed it to their hogs and cattle.

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Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

'Tis the *Holly* Jolly Season

In a previous article, we highlighted the value of native plants, trees, and shrubs. This month's article focuses on a specific native tree commonly found in decorations this time of year: the American Holly (*Ilex opaca*). The American holly is a native evergreen tree that has glossy, sharp leaves and beautiful, bright red berries. Not only is it a wonderful Christmas decoration, hence one of its common names, "Christmas holly", but it is also a wonderful source of protection and food for wildlife in the winter. However, the berries are not edible for humans. Holly grows slowly but can reach heights of 25 to 60 feet tall and 18 to 40 feet wide, and make a great option as a specimen (focal) tree for their ornamental value or as a privacy screen that maintains very sharp, pointy leaves year round. Plus, if you desire a privacy screen along the road, American hollies tolerate salt well. They grow well in a variety of soil types with normal to moist soil moisture, and prefer full sun or partial shade. In the summer, their flowers provide food for bees. There are many cultivars of American holly to fit your needs and wants.

Note: To get berries, plant a male and a female tree to enable cross-pollination.

If their size intimidates you, winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is a relative of the American holly that is also native but is a deciduous shrub. The female shrubs also produce red berries, but its leaves are not sharp and they fall off in the fall. However, the berries persist through the winter, hence its name. It is partial to wet sites.

Sources:

<https://www.arborday.org/trees/treeguide/treedetail.cfm?itemID=1071>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ILOP

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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**P.O. Box 31
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:
GPCA General Meeting – December 11, 2017
Hanukah begins at Sunset – December 12
Winter Begins – December 21
Christmas Day – December 25
New Year’s Eve – December 31

**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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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; ¼ page = \$30; ½ 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.