



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #375

GPCA Newsletter

February 2018

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

Rashein Gibbs, Business Community Liaison Director, Woodstock Job Corps Center

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 February 12 Meeting

GPCA By-Laws direct us to hold annual elections at our January general meeting., which was cancelled because of difficult weather. We will hold those elections at our February 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

GPCA's Annual Community Cleanup Scheduled for April 7

Join your friends and neighbors on Saturday April 7, from 8:00 a.m. until noon, for our annual community cleanup. Become a part of this positive community event. Meet at the St. Alphonsus Church parking lot; GPCA will provide the necessary safety vests and trash bags for each area team. Baltimore County will provide dumpsters.\

Put together a team of friends or people from your home owners' association or neighborhood and give a couple hours to keeping our hills and valleys beautiful.

Please remember no hazardous or flammable materials; no paints or oils; no electronics (computer equipment, TVs, VCRs, phones, stereos, phones etc.) and no fridges or air conditioners. Place all metal items in a designated container , and tires found on roadsides will be collected separately.

We thank **Keep Maryland Beautiful**, the **Maryland Environmental Trust**, and the **Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development** for their assistance.

Thanks for your support, Carol Link, GPCA Cleanup coordinator, linkgang87@gmail.com

What's Inside?

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From the President:

Have you heard the coyotes? Many of us living between Dogwood and Ridge have heard them howling and yipping over the past year or so. Due to the variety of sounds an individual animal can produce, one or two can sound like a pack of a half dozen or more.

Once known only in the west, DNA evidence indicates that they migrated east as the eastern wolves were displaced. Breeding with that remnant wolf population in the Great Lakes region in the early 1900s, coyotes inherited traits that resulted in bigger and more adaptive offspring. Often referred to as "coywolves", this hybrid is about 20 to 25 percent heavier, ranging from 30 to 45 pounds, has longer legs, smaller ears, and a bushier tail than the true western coyote. According to The Economist, a Stony Brook University study determined through DNA analysis of 437 subjects that our eastern hybrid is 10 percent dog (mostly large breeds like German Shepherds), 25 percent wolf, and 65 percent western coyote.

Breeding season is late January through March, resulting in four to six pups in about 2 months. The pups are born in a den where they are raised until they are about 7 weeks old; they reach adult size in about 9 months. Coyotes typically mate for life, forming family units of a few closely related individuals.

Coyote crosses are found throughout the United States. The last states that they have inhabited are Maryland and Delaware, which gives MD DNR the benefit of hindsight in managing the coyotes' impact on our ecosystem. Unlike western coyotes who prefer open terrain, coyote hybrids have adapted to the wolf's preference for forest edge habitats. A top order predator, they thrive on open woodland and farm areas like ours. Their diet ranges from insects to carrion, such as roadkill; but, their longer legs and greater bulk enable them to take down fawns in the spring and multiple adults can kill full-grown deer. Two coyotes were observed locally attempting to kill wild turkeys.

Eastern coyotes are known to displace red and gray fox populations, and as they become established and deplete other food sources, may feed on dogs and cats. Researchers note a direct relation between

coyotes and a decline in feral cat populations. For our part, we can reduce conflicts with coyotes by feeding pets inside so they are not attracted by leftovers. By nature, coyotes are wary and typically avoid people.

MD DNR has responded to eastern coyotes' presence by classifying them as furbearing, which subjects them to hunting year round in all counties during daylight hours with no limit. Additionally, they may be hunted at night from October 14 through March 15. Visit

<http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/hunting/furbearers> to view the regulations. In conjunction with the USDA Wildlife Service, DNR has established a nuisance animal hotline (877-463-6497) to provide technical guidance from professional Nuisance Wildlife Cooperators.

Give a listen when you're outside. It's a call of the wild you won't soon forget!

Cathy Wolfson, President, 410-245-8708

Membership Renewals

Through January 22

August, Ewald and Shirley

Brantley, John and Sue

Brice, Dale and Jan

Civil Air Patrol

Diemer, Maribeth and Robert Teller

Geisler, Ted

Goodmuth, Steven and Karen Koelbel

Hoggard, Dorsey and Pat

Ivey, West and Anne

Kelley, Marty and Dell, Wayne

Libis, Claude and Anne

Osborne, Scott and Margaret

Raistrick, Jim

Strohmer, Richard

Warfield, Frank

Youngberg, Maynard and Clayton, Dawn M

The board and members of GPCA send our sincere condolences to the family of Leslie C. Pahl, Sr. on the passing of Mrs. Mary Jane Pahl.

Baltimore County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The Department of Planning manages the role of the Planning Board in developing the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This 6-year plan, reviewed annually, covers construction and maintenance of water, sewer, and storm drain improvements; roads; bridges; refuse disposal facilities; government buildings; parks; schools; land preservation; community improvements; and watershed restoration. The Planning Board's involvement began in October with a citizen input meeting. Beginning in February, every county agency requesting capital funds will make a presentation to the Planning Board. The public is welcome to attend, but no public testimony is accepted.

February 1, 2018

- 5:30 pm. Dept. Public Works (Sewer, water, storm drains, roads, bridges, refuse disposal, buildings)
- 6:00 pm. Dept of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (Waterway Improvements)
- 6:15 pm Dept of Planning (Agricultural Preserve)
- 6:30 pm Dept. of Recreation and Parks

February 13, 2018

- 5:30 pm Dept of Education
- 6:00 pm Community Colleges
- 6:30 pm Dept of Library

February 20, 2018 – 5:30 pm Planning Department staff makes recommendations to Planning Board

February 27, 2018 – Planning Board Committee Vote

March 1, 2018 – Planning Board Vote

The Planning Board's CIP recommendations are sent to the Director of the Office of Budget and Finance for review with the County Administrative Officer, and forwarded along with the current budget to County Executive Kamenetz. On or before April 16, the County Executive must submit the operating and capital budgets to the County Council with a budget message detailing the differences between the Planning Board and his CIP budget. The County Council must hold a public hearing within 20 days after receiving the budget. The council can delete or reduce funding but cannot add or increase funding. Finally, the new budget is adopted on or before June 1 each fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) Finding Community through Keeping Bees

My wife and I started trying to keep bees a couple of years ago, though we've not had much success. I know at least one mistake I've made: I haven't been terribly good at reaching out and talking to other beekeepers.

Community is important, whether it's beekeeping or watershed protection. We learn from each other, guide each other, and can do great things together. As with watershed protection, there are resources to help you learn about beekeeping and associated experts who are willing to advise.

Maryland State Beekeepers Association, Inc. - <https://www.mdbeekeepers.org>

Central Maryland Beekeepers Association - <http://www.centralmarylandbees.org>

Baltimore Backyard Beekeepers Network
<https://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreBackyardBeekeepersNetwork/>

Howard County Beekeepers Association
<https://hocoba.com>

Jim Raistrick, voxjim@verizon.net

Special Thanks To:

Paul Dorsey for printing the Newsletter each month.
The Collators of the January issue: Jan Lalomia, Lisa Libowitz, Maribeth Diemer and Bob Teller.
The Folders of the January issue: Sandy Fallin, Sandy Fry, Evalyn Garvin, Karen Koelbel, Murf Moorefield, and Jackie Webster.

Maryland Patriot Ride

Join the Patriot Motorcycle Ride from Frederick's Francis Scott Key Mall to the Antietam National Battle Field, April 28, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to ensure that our disabled veterans and all Maryland Veterans receive the legal help they need for benefits and services they deserve.

Fire Protection Begins with a Clear Driveway

The 12th of this month marks the 5th anniversary of our house fire. Sadly, another Granite family experienced this tragedy on New Years Day. Now is a good time to check the access for emergency vehicles to your residence, particularly those of you with driveways off the main roads. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) provides the following "Guidance for Driveways":

- Driveways should be wide enough to allow simultaneous access for evacuation and emergency vehicles. Minimum width is 12 feet for driveways
- The maximum grade of driveways in general should not exceed a grade of 16 percent.
- Driveways should provide sufficient vertical clearance to allow for large emergency vehicles. The minimum height is 13.6 feet
- Roads should support a minimum of 40,000 pounds to allow for heavy emergency vehicles.
- Gated access from a public roadway should be set back from the roadway at a distance that is sufficient to allow emergency equipment to clear the traffic lane. A distance of 50 feet should be adequate for most equipment
- Turnarounds should be at the end of driveways that are longer than 150 feet. The minimum inside turning radius should not be less than 30 feet, and the outside turning radius for a turnaround should be 45 feet from the centerline of the road.
- Roads and driveways should provide all weather access, which may require asphalt or concrete surfacing.
- Visible property addresses provide critical response and location information for firefighters.

Remember, seconds matter. When an emergency vehicle cannot safely enter your property, it may cause a critical delay in response. For more information, search for FEMA Technical Fact Sheet No. 17, Community Infrastructure.

Cathy Wolfson, President

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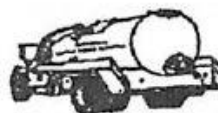
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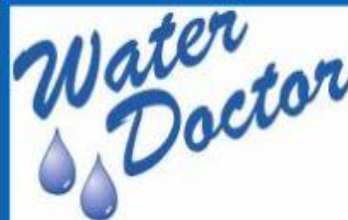
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:
Groundhog Day -- February 2, 2018
GPCA General Meeting – February 12

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

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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.