



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #384

GPCA Newsletter

December 2018

Next Meeting: Monday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate Your Holiday with GPCA

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

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.

We have been fortunate in the past to have members step forward to fill these positions. Would you be willing to fill one of these positions? Please take this under consideration. To volunteer or to inquire what the position entails, call any member of the Nominating Committee: Zulma Santiago at 410.750.7279, Terilynn Murray at 443.426.7063, or Marty Kelley at 410.461.5605. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

GPCA Adopts a Highway

Thanks to Carol Link and Brigitte Hisky for keeping us compliant with the State Highway Administration's requirement of four clean ups each year of the state-owned portion of Old Court Road beginning roughly at Edrich Farm and extending south to the Howard County line. So far, three of the clean ups are completed, including our major clean up last April. The fourth and final clean up will begin at 10:00 AM on Friday, November 30 at Melrose Ave. Please contact Carol at linkgang87@gmail.com to volunteer. Many hands make light the work!

Solar Farm Update

Alder Energy Systems, which received approval for two solar projects, one at 10021 Old Court and the other at 9203 Dogwood Road, confirms they will have those projects operating by August 21, 2019 as required by the Maryland Public Service Commission. Work is expected to start in the spring. Their Community Solar Specialist, Lorraine Bergman, has accepted an invitation for a representative to speak at one of our meetings by June.

ForeFront Power, which has been approved for the project at 9155 Old Court Road, is waiting for that project to be queued for a start time by the utility program. More on that to come.

What's inside?

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President's Message

Three large businesses in our area have been around so long they're part of our rural landscape, Edrich Lumber, Woodstock Job Corps Center, and King Memorial Park. Only recently, the latter came to our attention due to a few exceptional funeral processions on Dogwood Road that involved attendees driving in opposing lanes and heckling residents. In response, MD Delegate Ben Brooks arranged for King Memorial Park President, Erich March, to address attendees at our November meeting. Mr. March explained that some of the processions are comprised of a majority of youth due to the age of the deceased, frequently the victims of violence and that due to their age these mourners are not tempered by the traditions that come with maturity. He asked us to recognize that young people often respond to tragedies by acting out their grief.

Mr. March pointed to the excellent relationship with the community the Park has maintained over 45 years, and past president Kathy Skullney acknowledged that during the 1980s, when GPCA was fighting the "Stump Dump", Mr. March graciously accommodated our protesters on the Park grounds. While there appears to be little he can do to control the processions on the public right of way, we did find that we share much common ground over our concerns.

I know everyone is happy about the opening of Woodstock Road on November 15! The drainage work, guardrail installation, and utility pole relocation is complete and so long as the bridge holds, we should enjoy unrestricted travel to and from Howard County for most of our lifetimes. One can hope!

While on the topic of bridges, the deck has been poured on the Dogwood Run bridge, indicating it is on schedule, nearing completion, and tentatively scheduled to reopen in early 2019. Residents between the bridge and Ridge Road have marveled at how many drivers skirt the barricade at Ridge and proceed to drive ignoring all the warnings until they're faced with the bridge construction. This has included multiple funeral processions causing dozens of vehicles to reverse course and follow the detour!

Another bridge project, not in the neighborhood but close enough to affect many of us, will reconfigure the I-70 / I-695 interchange. The estimated \$100 million project is scheduled to start in 2020. This could mark the end of the iconic triple bridges, but the goal of the project is to eliminate this choke point for traffic flow that has earned our side of the beltway the moniker "the Wild West".

Please come to our December 10 meeting to celebrate your holiday. Rumor is there will be turkey and other good eats and equally good company. No business at this meeting (well almost none, our annual election is in January and we'll have an update on candidates). We will collect donations for Night of Peace. Hope to see you then.

Wishing you all a Peaceful New Year,

Cathy Wolfson, 410-245-8708

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: Blecha, Kevin and Kristi Korwek; Harris, Ronald, and Cherylisa Jennings; Phillips, Scott, and Valerie; Randall, Bill and Dawn; Tuck, Marcia; Phillisha Tuck-Fisher and Derek Fisher

Renewing Single Members: Santiago-Ortiz, Zulma;

Feline Memberships: 2 at the associate level. Thank you for the contributions!

2019 Renewals: Cavero, Kathleen and Yowell, Carl

As of this issue, GPCA has 359 renewing members and 10 new members.

Future GPCA Meetings:

On January 14, 2019, our guest speaker will be Sarah Smith, Manager of the Randallstown Branch Baltimore County Public Library will present "Library Services and Resources". Believe it! This is NOT your grandmother's library!

Thanks, Odd Fellows!

At our November meeting, Don Hamilton presented a donation to GPCA from the Baltimore City Odd Fellows Lodge #57. The donation of \$1,921.06 is the net proceeds from their annual crab feast held in October. This donation enables GPCA to fund stream water monitoring kits and offset costs of newsletter postage, which increases at a near annual rate.

We truly appreciate the Odd Fellows' support of our mission and we've enjoyed learning about their organization, which has been within the heart of Granite at 10613 Old Court Rd. since 1888. Interested in becoming an Odd Fellow? Everyone is welcome to apply for membership. Contact Sandy Schuman at 410-461-8115 or sahuman@comcast.net

Dollars and Cents Challenge Update

Progressing toward our Membership Challenge Goal to have 35 new or renewing memberships by New Year's Eve, Treasurer Marybeth Diemer has received 11 renewing memberships as of this newsletter.

GPCA sends out approximately 1,600 newsletters and as of this issue has 369 paid memberships. Our percentage of contributing neighbors is up 1 percent from last month to 23 percent. Only 19 more memberships to meet our 25 percent participation rate. A membership application is located on the last page of the newsletter next to the GPCA Officers and Board of Directors.

Celebrate Your Holiday with GPCA

Meet your friends and neighbors at the annual GPCA Holiday Party, December 10. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and support Night of Peace with a donation from their needs list. Do you want to join the party and need a ride? Call Maribeth Diemer at 410 320 3588.

Live Nativity

Granite Presbyterian Church and Mount Olive United Methodist church will present a Live Nativity on Friday, December 14 at 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM, with hospitality in the Social Hall between shows. Please join us at Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Road, Granite, Maryland 21163.

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

Aspirational Recycling, or "Wishcycling"

Recycling is a civic duty, so far as your SWCC is concerned. Less waste in the landfill ultimately contributes to water quality. But, what about those items that *seem* recyclable but aren't? These items must be removed from the recycling stream, and, if overlooked, result in rejection of the end product offered to the buyer. The problem of contamination in the recycling stream is so critical that Michael Taylor, director of recycling operations for Waste Management recommends, "when in doubt, throw it out" according to a June 20, 2018 article by Scott Dance in *The Baltimore Sun*. In Baltimore County, nearly 32 percent of recycling collected ends up in the landfill.

It's surprising to realize what can't be added to the "stream":

- Plastics numbered from 3 to 7, including plastic cutlery, straws, and "clam shells", those hinged plastic containers in which we take home salads and baked goods
- Disposable hot coffee cups, any material (and I was guilty of this). Yes, even paper hot cups are lined with polyethylene and are tossed back into the landfill.
- Any item with grease, including pizza boxes, but also unrinsed milk jugs.
- Plastic bags of any size can jam the machinery in the sorting facility. Please recycle these at your grocery store.
- Gift wrap (the holidays are coming); tissues, napkins, and paper towels; the greasy parts of pizza boxes.
- Glass bottles and jars ONLY can be recycled but since new glass is produced from sand, it isn't cost effective to recycle. NO drinking glasses, light bulbs, or any other household glass products.
- Styrofoam products of any kind.

[Continued on next page]

Donations for Night of Peace Family Shelter

GPCA collects items for Night of Peace family shelter 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. Please bring the requested items to our December 10 general meeting. Contact Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net if you have any questions. If you prefer to donate directly, 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
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Bleach
- Pinesol
- 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 to store guests' clothes

Aspirational Recycling [Continued from page 3]

We can also increase the quality of recyclables by:

- Rinsing solids from recyclable containers.
- Choose recyclable plastic or aluminum containers over glass.
- Consider alternatives to items that aren't recyclable.
- Shopping with reusable bags so plastic bags don't enter the recycling stream (or trees).

Awareness of what is acceptable to the recycling buyer can increase the value of these products and help our local governments avoid having to impose fees to dispose unrecyclable and contaminated products. A complete list of acceptable items and other recycling resources can be found on Baltimore County's website at:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/recycling/collectioninformation.html>

Cathy Wolfson

A Special Shout-out of Thanks

To everyone who participated in the Second Annual GPCA SWCC Cleanup. Thanks to committee members, Job Corps volunteers, high school volunteers, and GPCA community members. It was a resounding success. We collected 72 bags of trash and an estimated 2,500+ pounds!



You all worked together to make a difference for the community - and each of you should be proud!

NSA Opportunities at the GPCA November Meeting

GPCA welcomed Clarence Harrell, former GPCA board member and present retiree from the National Security Agency (NSA), and Darnell Lynn, also a retiree from NSA. They presented information about employment and business opportunities with the federal government. People can work directly as employees of the government, or as contractors, either individual contractors, or as employees working for businesses contracting from the private sector. All contractors are expected to have the skill set for which they are hired, not requiring additional training. Besides the chance to keep our country safe, a number of perks go along with government employment, including job security and stability, business opportunities for vendors who are under contract, tuition support, educational and training opportunities, travel overseas, networking, competitive compensation, and a government pension.

The Federal Government agencies are a major employer, with branches throughout the United States and overseas, and opportunities for transfer between agencies for employees. Current hot opportunities are in cyber security and physical security. Contractors are being hired in the areas of law, engineering, and business. There are high school and college student internships available.

Security clearances are required, and there are three levels: confidential, secret, and top secret. Candidates must be of good character and have a sponsor to receive one of the clearances. The government itself can be a sponsor, or a private entity, such as Northrup Grumman, can sponsor someone. The main personality trait to receive a clearance is the ability to handle protected information. Candidates must pass a background check and periodic polygraph tests, usually every 5 years. Candidates must show that they have allegiance to the United States and are not under the influence of a foreign power. They must have moral character and not display alcohol or drug abuse.

Within the intelligence community there is a great chance for careers. Ten and 20 thousand dollar promotions are not unusual. NSA wants to reach out

to young folks looking for careers where they can serve their country by keeping us safe. Many thanks to Clarence Harrell and Darnell Lynn for this helpful and informative presentation.

SWCC Marks Progress on Water Quality Monitoring

At the October 24 SWCC meeting, Bob Teller and Dave Scherer discussed a conference call they had with a representative of the Chesapeake Monitoring Co-op (CMC). Our SWCC needs to determine what we want to monitor (O₂, N, phosphates, etc.) how many locations we will monitor, how large each site team will be, and how often we will monitor each site. CMC is establishing a data collection system that will be open for public access and review. CMC provided an application for review and input from committee members. The application must be submitted before the study design workshop.

CMC gave contact info for three citizen watershed groups that monitor water quality: Anne Arundel Community College, one in Annapolis and one in Cecil County. The SWCC wants to contact to learn about their programs and experience in maintaining an ongoing program.

Training would commence no earlier than January with a CMC study design workshop to develop procedures and select monitoring sites. Monitors need to be certified. We would be expected to begin monitoring in the spring. Also, CMC encouraged us to join other nearby groups that may be interested in monitoring water quality.

There will be a meeting on December 7 of the MD Water Monitoring Council. Bob Teller asked for persons to attend the meeting. If interested please contact him. There are many simultaneous presentations that could be of interest to our committee's efforts. The meeting will be at the Maritime Learning Center near BWI. A conference schedule was provided.

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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

- Hanukkah begins – December 2, 2018
- Winter begins – December 21
- Christmas – December 25
- Kwanzaa begins – December 26
- New Year’s Eve – December 31

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
- Secretary:** Denise Maranto 443-695-5409
denise.maranto@gmail.com
- Treasurer:** Maribeth Diemer 410-461-4988
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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; ¼ page = \$30; ½ 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.