



**GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163**

**Issue #386**

**GPCA Newsletter**

**February 2019**

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker Kevin Brittingham, Supervisor Baltimore County Dept. of Environmental Protection and Sustainability**

*GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Rd., Woodstock, MD 21163. Everyone is invited to attend.*

*View our Website at [www.gpca.net](http://www.gpca.net)*

## **Election of Officers at February Meeting**

The slate of Officers and Directors submitted by the nominating committee--Marty Kelley, chair, Zulma Ortiz, and Terilynn Murray (abstained) includes:

- President – Vacant
- Vice President – Butch Oakman
- Treasurer – Maribeth Diemer
- Secretary – Denise Maranto
- Director - Maurice Dixon - Remainder of vacated term ending January 2020
- Director – George Jones - 3 year term ending 2022

Nomination of other candidates will be taken from the floor. 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 two consecutive terms and may again be eligible after a 1 year lapse.

Also mark your calendar for these events

- February 11 General Meeting: Election of Officers; Guest Speaker Kevin Brittingham, Supervisor Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability.
- March 11 General Meeting: Guest Speaker Kejuana Walton, MD Insurance Administration, Consumer Education and Advocacy Unit.
- March 19 Annual Granite Historical Society Meeting at Granite Presbyterian Church lower level 7:00 PM. John Brantley presents a history of Woodstock Jesuit College (current site of Woodstock Job Corps Center).
- May 13 General Meeting: Guest Speaker Sarah Smith, Baltimore County Public Library Randallstown Branch Manager Topic: Digital and print media and instruction on using and accessing digital content.

## **GPCA Dollar\$ and Cent\$:**

Update on the November Membership Goal Challenge: We needed 6 more memberships to meet the challenge goal of a 25 percent participation rate. I'm happy to report that GPCA received 7 new or renewing memberships by December 31, 2018. Thank you all! The 2019 challenge ups the ante: Our 2019 goal is to enroll 40 percent of the 1,600 households within the GPCA boundaries and at least 40 new members!

A 2019 membership form and return envelope will be in the March newsletter. We hope to have PayPal up and running on our Website at that time to simplify the payment process.

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## President's Message

Snow in January postponed our annual election of officers and directors until our February 11 meeting (weather permitting!). Fortunately, guest speaker Sarah Smith, Randallstown Library Branch Manager, will reschedule for our April 11 meeting.

ForeFront Power, applicant for the solar facility at 9155 Old Court Road, has withdrawn their application to develop that project as well as the one proposed on Ridge Road. Construction of Alder Energy's facilities slated for Dogwood and Old Court Roads is expected to start in the spring for operation by August. Implementation of BGEs Community Solar Pilot Program in some of the rural areas is facing fierce opposition. District 3 Councilman Wade Kach introduced a bill proposing a 90-day moratorium on special exceptions for solar projects to allow time for consideration of recommendations from the Planning Board that include:

- Solar facilities should not be permitted on prime and productive soils.
- Solar facilities should be directed into business and manufacturing zones, brownfields, rooftops, and parking lots where financially feasible.
- Further indepth study of how other similar jurisdictions have responded to the use should be considered in a review of the current law.
- The feasibility of establishing locational criteria to determine appropriate siting of solar facilities should be investigated.
- Solar facilities should not be detrimental to scenic views or routes.
- Participation in future studies should be broadened to include stakeholders from each Councilmanic District.

More than 50 people testified at the County Council's January 15 public hearing, mostly in support of Councilman Kach's Solar Bill. Objections to the bill include delay of projects whose property owners have received special exceptions allowing the facilities, including the three in our community. The Council will vote on the bill at their January 22 session, just after this newsletter goes to print.

Immense gratitude goes to the gentleman and possibly others who have picked up hundreds of pounds of fast food containers, bottles, cans, cheap cigar boxes, car parts, tires, furniture, and just plain junk since Christmas from Johnnycake, Hollifield, and Old Frederick Roads. What motivates people to use the roadsides as a trashcan and dump is incomprehensible to me, but we deeply appreciate those who take up the challenge to pick it up and vastly improve our scenic views!

What are the GPCA boundaries anyway? GPCA's bylaws define them as:

- Patapsco River Marriottsville Road to Bens Run
- Old Court Road and side roads from Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) to the Patapsco
- Hernwood Road and side roads
- Granite Road and side roads
- Offutt Road and side roads from Granite to Chapman Roads
- Davis Avenue and side roads
- Wrights Mill Road and side roads
- Dogwood Road from Old Court to Ridge
- All of Ridge Road and side roads
- Outside of URDL Windsor Mill Road east from Old Court to Ben's Run
- Outside of URDL from Windsor Mill Road west to Marriottsville Road

And did you know there are two levels of GPCA membership determined by the boundaries? A regular membership is extended to those residing within the boundaries and an associate membership is available to anyone living outside these boundaries. Only regular members can vote at meetings.

Whether you're in or outside of our boundaries, I hope you'll attend our February 11 meeting to learn about stream monitoring from Baltimore County's water monitoring supervisor, Dr. Kevin Brittingham. Thanks GPCA's Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) chair, Bob Teller for scheduling this presentation.

Best regards, Cathy Wolfson



## SWCC Builds Water Monitoring Program

GPCA's Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) hosted Tammy Domanski, Associate Professor of Biology at Anne Arundel Community College at our January meeting, to discuss establishing a volunteer water quality monitoring program, a SWCC goal. Tammy addressed two primary considerations when establishing a program:

- Administration of the program to report data collected
- Logistics of collecting the data.

What to test for, where to test, frequency of testing, and how to test must be addressed to insure meaningful results. SWCC's initial goal for testing is to establish a baseline assessment for our local watersheds. Determining what to test for may be influenced by known impacts on our streams, the golf courses on Ridge Road are within the Dogwood Run and Ben's Run watersheds, storm water runoff from storm drains inside the URDL especially in Ben's Run, the lumber mill and cemetery in the Brice's Run watershed, and farms, mainly in the Brice's Run and Mardella Run watersheds.

Given those features within the community, Tammy suggested testing for nitrogen, phosphorus, and ammonia. She also recommends using the parameters of Baltimore County's Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) so results can be compared. She advises that testing must be consistent. If we're testing in all four of these streams, testing should occur on the same day, as close to the same time as possible to reduce the impact of variable conditions, such as temperature and rainfall on our results. Testing should be performed at the same location in the streams each time. Tammy recommends testing a minimum of monthly, but twice a month is preferred. She described various tools for testing ranging from relatively inexpensive kits requiring chemicals which have to be replenished, to higher end, more reliable test equipment using a probe that records data electronically and can be uploaded to a computer, greatly simplifying recording and reporting results.

Cathy Wolfson

## Special Thanks to:

Paul Dorsey for printing the GPCA newsletter. Collators Maribeth Diemer, Evalyn Garvin, Bob Teller.

Folders Sandy Fallin, Evalyn Garvin, Karen Koebel, Carol Link, Bill and Kathy Skullney, Bobbie Stanfield.

Marty Kelley

## Membership News

It's a brand-new year! As of January 20, 2019 GPCA, has 21 renewing members and 3 new members.

**Renewing Joint Members:** Brantley, John and Sue; Brice, Dale and Jan; Ivy, West and Anne; Libis, Claude and Anne; Mathena, Jeff and Linda; McGovern, Tom and Maggie; Osborne, Scott and Margaret

**New Joint Members:** Slomski, Skip and Linda

**Renewing Single Members:** Cavero, Kathleen; Cotter, Charlotte, Cotter Keith; Geisler, Ted; Kernas, Alice V.; Patterson, Judith Anne; Yowell, Carl

**New Single Members:** Shanklin, Maureen (Moe);

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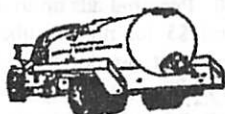
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## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Groundhog Day – February 2, 2019

Valentine's Day – February 14

President's Day – February 18

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*R-006

**Box Holder**

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Autumn, Spring Heath, Dogwood only]**

**Windsor Mill, MD 21244**

### 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

maribeth-13@att.net

**Directors:**

Butch Oakman 443-314-6415 oakelectric@comcast.net

Murf Morefield caldron@verizon.net

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 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 must 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; 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.

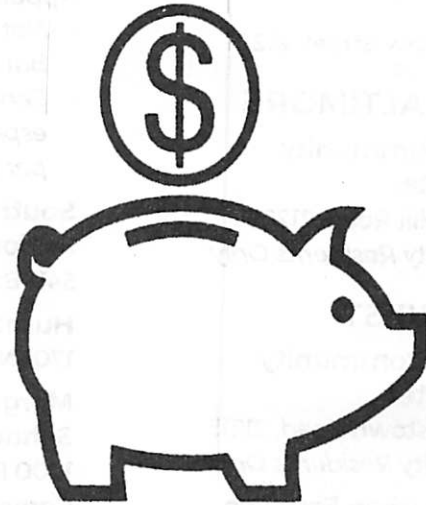
**For articles and letters:** Submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. Deadline for these is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to publication. The submission of any ad or article to the GPCA means you agree GPCA reserves the rights to accept, reject, edit, or hold submission for a future newsletter.

# Randallstown Library

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**Library Tax Prep Hours:**  
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**1199 SEIU**  
611 North Eutaw Street, 21201

### SOUTH BALTIMORE

**Southern Community Action Center**  
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### NORTH WEST

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3939 Reisterstown Road, 21215  
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2201 North Monroe Street, 21217  
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- ☒ All banking account information (voided check and/or savings deposit slip) to direct deposit your refund (up to three separate accounts!)
- ☒ A copy of last year's tax return
- ☒ Any document or information about money from the IRS or Maryland
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