



# GPCA

**GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

**Issue #395**

**GPCA Newsletter**

**December 2019**

**Next Meeting: Monday, Dec 9, 7:30 p.m. Holiday Party!**

**Come mingle and bring a snack or beverage to share or,  
just your merry self!**

*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)*

## **Green Burial Cemetery Proposal – 2406 Ridge Rd**

Immediately after the Patapsco State Park presentation at the November general meeting (see page 2) Howard K. Berg, MD discussed the concept of a Lifecycle Park to be located at 2406 Ridge Rd across from the Diamond Ridge Golf Course. Dr. Berg said the project was in the concept stages and was interested in what the GPCA residents thoughts as well as any concerns they have. Meeting attendees voiced concerns about: traffic, zoning compliance with state and county regulations, hours of operation, security/fencing, flooding of gravesites, cleanup of existing dumped materials, vehicle parking, prevention of ATV use, ability to review of schematic drawings before finalized, number of graves per acre and use of space not dedicated to burial grounds.

Dr. Berg sent a letter to the GPCA leadership enumerating the above concerns and how each issue would be addressed. He encouraged the community to find out more about the green burial movement. If you have additional input please contact **newsletter editor: [editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com)** or **Butch Oakman, Acting President: [oakelectric@comcast.net](mailto:oakelectric@comcast.net)**.

*Dear GPCA:*

*Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet with you to present our concept of a Lifecycle Park. We appreciate that there was support for this project while at the same time valid concerns that were raised. We pledge to work with you to address them.*

*1. Everything we do will be in full compliance with Baltimore County and Maryland state laws and regulations This applies to everything from environmental protection to financial responsibility. 2. Traffic. Most green burials are far less elaborate than conventional burials, therefore there will likely be less traffic generated. The typical number is about 10 cars according to Ed Bixby, President, Green Burial Council. 3. Hours- The hours of the Lifecycle Park would be dawn to dusk, and funerals would be scheduled to not occur during commute times. Nor lighting would be required other than in the proposed chapel. 4. ATV use – If this becomes an issue, it will be trespassing and will be dealt with accordingly with all appropriate enforcement. 5. Security/ fences – There will be at least an onsite video surveillance, with fencing on the road frontage and buffers or fencing as needed along other borders. This will be part of the plan that our landscape architecture firm will be tasked with developing. There will be a single entry onto the (continued on page 5)*

### **What's inside?**

SWCC update, Nov meeting recap, CZMP2020...2 In Our Neighborhood ...3,4 Our Advertisers, Blast from the past ... 5-7

**From the Small Watershed Community Committee**  
**SWCC Milestones**

SWCC/GPCA teamed up with Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) for the 3rd Annual Community Cleanup on Saturday, November 16th. There were 21 hardworking volunteers who worked together to remove a total of 2,770 pounds of trash from the Mardella Run tributary off of Marriottsville Road. We found a large amount of trash and litter that included a photo ID, a mailbox, lawn mowers, school supplies, a kids trike, a car bumper, a car battery, a dish rack, 12 car tires, a swing set, a slide, a bird bath, a metal goose decoy, a trash can, bicycles, a wooden pallet, a kids lawn chair, a motor roof antenna, house wiring, a pool slide, a cat scratching post, a patio table, and three industrial shelves.

SWCC showed off its new signage funded from the PHG grant awarded to us last month. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a fun, safe and successful event.

I'm sorry to announce that Murf Moorefield has resigned from the SWCC to better focus on her GPCA board responsibilities as well as her other commitments. Thanks, Murf for helping us get our committee on its way! *-Bob Teller, Chairman SWCC*

### **November General Meeting: A History Lesson about Patapsco State Park**

GPCA welcomed Edward F. Johnson, co-author of [Images of America: Patapsco Valley State Park](#), a book rich in the history of our area and loaded with valuable photographs. Mr. Johnson has been a volunteer ranger in the Park since 2004. He leads history hikes, directs art projects and mans the Avalon Visitor's Center. Mr. Johnson is a valuable resource for the Park and its many visitors often serving as the area historian.

The beautiful Park extends into four counties - Carroll, Baltimore, Howard, and Anne Arundel. It began in 1907 as a 43-acre forest reserve and has grown to over 16,000 acres today. It is a reserve for animals and native vegetation, a retreat into nature from urban and suburban life. There are eight developed recreation areas, over 200 miles of trails, and more than a million visitors annually. Visitors can see the Park's National

Historic Landmark, the Thomas Viaduct, where trains still pass over the first multiple-arch railroad viaduct in the United States. Other historic sights are remains of the many flour mills and mill towns, the Civilian Conservation Corps' (CCC) Camp Tydings, and the very popular swinging bridge.

In the 1930s the CCC built shelters and picnic areas, enhanced roads, created trails, planted trees, and made Patapsco into a functional park with amenities. The Park then became officially Patapsco State Park. At the start of World War II, the camp was converted into the nation's first conscientious objector's camp and the conservation work already begun continued.

The Patapsco River is a significant feature of the Patapsco Valley State Park. The river is 39 miles long and 32 of its miles flow through parkland. The river begins in Carroll County, continues through Howard, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel counties and ends in Baltimore Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. The river affected the development of commerce, transportation, communication, and the Baltimore Harbor. The Patapsco River continues to be enjoyed by waders, swimmers, paddlers, fishers, and hikers, as well as the abundant wildlife that live in this protected area. Patapsco State Park provides a variety of recreational activities and nature programs for people of all ages. Thanks to Mr. Edward Johnson for this informative and picturesque presentation.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of [Images of America: Patapsco Valley State Park](#) by Betsy A. McMillion and Edward F. Johnson the books are available in area bookstores for \$22 or on <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467129565> The authors receive no share of the proceeds. All profits go to The Friends of the Park. *-Denise Maranto*

### **CZMP 2020: GPCA Files Rezoning Petition**

As we all know, the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process of 2020 (CZMP) has been underway since last August. The Baltimore County Planners, Ngone Seye Diop and Wally Lippincott, involved with our area were the guest speakers at the September 9<sup>th</sup> GPCA meeting. As they explained, the CZMP occurs every 4 years and can subject any and all land use in the County (zoning) to review and possible change. The first phase of the Process, until October 15<sup>th</sup>, is open to zoning changes

requested by any member of the public, including community associations and civic groups within the boundaries of their organizations. GPCA boundaries extend to Windsor Mill Road on the east, following the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) down to Fairbrook Road and Johnnycake Road, all the way to the Patapsco River on the south. This area is technically part of Baltimore County Council District 1.

On our side of Johnnycake Road (7726 Johnnycake Road), 65 acres are currently zoned for major business development. This is of significant concern to GPCA and the communities along Johnnycake Road, including the larger residential area there. In particular, now that there will not be any expansion of Social Security nor the Red Line of the Metro, no justifications exist for this heavy and harmful zoning. Thus, based on an affirmative vote of the membership on October 14, GPCA filed a petition to downzone these 65 acres to DR 3.5 – a much more benign residential zone. We informed Councilman Quirk (1<sup>st</sup> Dist.) and then met with some members of the other communities in that area. They very much agree with our petition.

The Petitions are reviewed County Planning and other Agencies from December through February 2020, after which the Planning Board conducts hearings. The District 1 hearing is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Landsdowne HS, and the District 4 hearing is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at New Town HS. We will keep everyone informed as the Process continues. -Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair

## **IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

### **Membership Update:**

Thanks to Renewing and New Members:

Bender, Alice; Connelly, Charles and Roseanne; Costello, Barbara; Hill, Jr, Walter W.; Nixon, Dexter and Tanisha; Ruxton, Beth Anne; Smith, Barry and Patricia; Weber, Emily.

The Association set an ambitious goal of having 40 percent of the 1,600 households within the GPCA boundaries as voting members. The stats to date are: New members more than tripled 27 new members in 2019 compared to just 6 in 2018. Thumbs UP! However, in total there are 10 less voting members in 2019 as compared to 2018. 13% of the GPCA

households are voting members. Please submit your membership today. What do you think about the possibility of a new cemetery on Ridge Rd? Your voice counts! Thank you!

## **Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm**

**Community:** On a mild November afternoon, that first week of November, I looked out my back door at the afternoon glow of sunlight across the farm. Suni and Lianna were in the barnyard with the dogs running around them. Horses were led to the mud lot; chickens had been fed and watered. Lianna was bringing hay to the house for the rabbits in the house cages. I was about to fix the pet dishes for evening meals. I was so glad we were having mild weather for these fill-in helpers. John was away, I was home alone. My worst fear had been that all of a sudden these three days would be cold dark and rainy or even worse, freezing. But as it was, the chores, while time consuming, were not miserable. I felt the gift of friendship and the importance of all things working together for the good. Perhaps I have done enough in my 20 years of living in Granite to deserve this. But it just felt like it was a gift for Jeanie, not just for me or even John. Although John deserves some time off too.

Back in August, Jeanie Quinto went off to Army boot camp. She has been coming to the farm for a decade. But sometime before Easter this year it became a regular Sunday thing, she had moved back to Granite, and came to help us out each week. July 21<sup>st</sup>, I broke out with shingles. Well that is not the icing on the cake, but the straw that broke the camel's back. With all that is wrong with me these days adding that onto it was just more than I could bear. Seriously. No sleep, a lot of pain and meds that just made things worse. But Murf brought me geranium oil and lysine when she came to pick up her duck eggs. Jeanie still came to help but was preparing to leave. Once again I could not leave the house. Joyce picked up some groceries for me, and other weeks Suni took me shopping. Rovera also checked in and if I needed something and she would drop it by.

Fast forward to Jeanie's graduation from boot camp. We had planned to go on some level. I would have to be taken because of my mobility issues or John could go but someone would need to cover the farm. Jeanie had been sent off from Granite Presbyterian with a ceremony that really made her feel special. I think it was both a dedication and a blessing.

In a way, we are trapped by our animals, day in and day out they need care so one cannot just close the doors and go somewhere. If you are a crop farmer, you can work around your commitments by the season. With horses and chickens, there is a daily management issue.

Then there is me, who could at any moment have a problem or a fall. I, too, need care.

In steps the Grosko family. I had asked a few people about availability. John did not want to make reservations until he knew the farm was covered. I asked Mariah if she could take leave and I asked Suni if she had any ideas. They all knew Jeanie and were familiar with the farm. Poof! We had coverage. I would be here to answer questions and handle the house pets. I had the complication of a doctor appointment, but there is hardly a week without one. I focused on not doing much except keep the fire going and get myself to the doctor. Morning and afternoon and evening I had someone here doing stuff.

I will say it is a wonderful feeling to have a few good friends and available, caring neighbors. They were here not just for me or for John, but also for Jeanie who did not have family that would show up to her success. Everyone that helped us also helped Jeanie. It is hard to recognize sometimes just how far a kind act can go. People are busy calculating what they get out of something most of the time. Or they just want to 'pay off' someone who helps them with a gift card or 10 bucks. But the gift of giving actually goes so much farther in the rippling effect of a demonstration love for a neighbor and care for a friend.

We live in a busy, over committed world. It is hard to break out of our routines to simply help someone. I wonder if we need to schedule 'open time' to help. To not so completely book ourselves up so we can look out on a pleasant afternoon and see our friends giving us assistance or to assist our friends. Charity is not a government act but a personal responsibility. Community: When we participate, we are transformed.

*-Brenda Creighton*

## Liberty Road Study

There is a large, focused and important effort underway to "create a vision and identify specific improvements and policies to guide future investment and development" on Liberty Road. The effort has been organized and is being directed by the Baltimore County Department of Planning. There has been an emphasis on community input with two announced meetings: the "Kick-off" meeting held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Randallstown Library and the follow-up meeting held November 21<sup>st</sup> at the BCCC Liberty Center on Offutt Road. More than 200 folks attended the first meeting, which featured County Executive Olszewski and numerous other officials. Staffed tables were set up for interaction with and discussions about the Police Department, economic development, transportation, housing & land use, the environment, quality of life, and

general ideas. The second meeting was equally well attended and included education.

The Planning Department has underscored the value of continuing community input and participation. To do so and add yours, the online survey is available until mid-December, after which a draft plan will be developed.

<http://baltimorecountymd.gov/libertyroadstudy> for more information. *-Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair*

## Party time

GPCA's Annual holiday party will be held at Granite Presbyterian Church December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. No business, just fun times with your neighbors. Please come join us for 30 minutes or an hour or two. You will leave with a smile and a spring in your step! Bring a treat or beverage to share.

## Collection of Donations for Night of Peace Family Shelter

Thanks to all of you who made donations in November for Night of Peace, the family shelter located at Salem Methodist Church on Windsor Mill Rd. GPCA is collecting the requested items below for Night of Peace at our December 9 Holiday Party. Please contact Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or [oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net) if you have any questions. The following items are needed:

- Bus Tokens                      \*Bath Towels
- Non-dairy creamer              \*Toilet Paper
- Zip-lock Sandwich bags       \*Paper Towels
- Comforter/ Blankets         \*45-gal trash bags
- Hand sanitizer, hand soap
- Fabuloso, liquid cleaner
- Laundry detergent (powder)
- Twin bed sheets (cover and fitted)
- Disinfectant wipes

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## Green Burial Cemetery Proposal – 2406 Ridge Rd (continued from page 1)

property which will be both gated heavily and landscaped nicely.

6. Flooded gravesites/water protection - Once we have a consensus for the concept of a green cemetery, our hydrological firm will begin its studies. This will include the protection of ground water on the land as well as identifying flood plains. All cemeteries have to consider these issues, and we intend to keep burials to areas that are not in danger of flooding.

7. Cleanup of dumped materials - Any foreign materials encountered would be removed according to state regulations.

8. Vehicles/backhoe -Green cemeteries vary in how they handle the opening and closing of graves. Many use only hand-dug gravesites, either by cemetery staff or by families when requested. However, if we deem it necessary, we will have a battery operated (green excavator) on site. Similarly, many green cemeteries use an electric golf cart to access gravesites for disabled family and friends.

9. Schematic drawings - Our landscape architect will be providing a schematic for the cemetery site.

9. Number of graves per acre - Conventional cemeteries can have 1,000 to 1500 graves per acre. Green cemeteries have lower densities. We are envisioning 500 - 700 sites per acre, each being 5' x 10' in area.

10. Garden -While we believe a community garden would be an asset to the broader community, making this a true Lifecycle Park, if residents had a problem with this use of the space, we could phase in any activity slowly to make sure that it does not cause increases in traffic or other problems. If problems arise, this part of the proposal can be adjusted accordingly.

We would be happy to arrange meetings with the GPCA leadership and other interested members, so we can go through the issues carefully. Additionally, all members of the GPCA are invited to attend a Natural Burial Seminar being held Monday, November 18 at 7pm at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation 7401 Park Heights Ave. This is being presented by Shelley Morhaim, a member of our group.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present at your monthly meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.

**HOWARD K. BER.G MD, FACS, FASCR.S**

The following is from a 2001 newsletter:

*As a new year approaches I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I'm ready for retirement. The following might be the most logical plan because of all the shady dealings occurring on Wall Street. Here goes: A year ago if you had purchased \$1,000 of Nortel stock it would now be worth \$49; Enron stock -\$16; WorldCom stock -less than \$5. But if you had purchased \$1,000 of Coors beer (the liquid not the stock) drank all of the beer, then turned in the cans for recycling you would have \$214. Therefore, current investment advice is to*

*drink heavily and recycle....It's called the 401-Keg Plan!*

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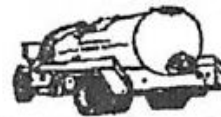
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# GPCA

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## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING MEETINGS SPEAKER TOPICS:

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - Holiday Party! Bring a snack or app to share or just yourself!!

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - 2020 Census

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - Berg Lifecycle Cemetery (to be confirmed)

Mar 9<sup>th</sup> - State Attorney's Office

### 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:** Open

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[oakelectric@comcast.net](mailto:oakelectric@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Butch Oakman

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Murf Morefield [caldron@verizon.net](mailto:caldron@verizon.net) 410 960-3236

**Editor:** Maribeth Diemer [editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Payments for ads:** Make check payable to GPCA and mail 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 for publishing in a future newsletter.