



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #397

GPCA Newsletter

February 2020

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

A Surprise! Come Out And Find Out.

(The February presentation had been tentatively held for the Berg Trust. The Berg trust will present their plan for a green burial site at the April 13th meeting)

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.

The GP_A Something Is Missing!

Somebody left the “C” out and that’s the most important letter because it stands for “**Community**” which is you and the rest of us. It seems to me that the most important function ~~which~~ the GPCA can serve is to help develop a sense of community among all of us. That’s what GPCA should constantly be striving to do. We try to do that in many ways. One of these is through the mailing of more than 850 (1,584 letters in 2020) copies of our newsletter. Another is by getting to know each other better by seeing each other at our meetings and chatting together over a cup of coffee and refreshments. We offer programs to inform you of many subjects. We always welcome your suggestions and your questions.

Not the least of our activities is to keep the various departments of our state and county governments aware that there are people in the Granite (and Woodstock) area – people who care about their community and who will be heard from. We fight battles. We win some of them. We lose some of them. But the one battle we always win is the one of making friends of strangers – that’s what a community is.

Now some news which may surprise some of us. Contrary to the belief of some that a troop of elves – those little green guys with pointed shoes- magically make GPCA what it is, never existed! When you read the newsletter, posts on Facebook, activate the links on GPCA.net or come to hear a speaker – real live people have been at work to make all of that happen. Communities are at work. People are getting know each other and to feel the satisfaction of contributing to building and preserving their community. If you do not participate by attending a meeting and sharing your talents – you are the loser because you are cheating yourself out the most important thing we all have to offer – ourselves. There is no better way to integrate into the community than to become part of the GPCA. We need you and you need us.

Please take a moment and send your renewing or new membership dues in the enclosed envelope.

-Abe Granek (with some edits by M. Diemer)

This year’s membership drive letter is a reprint of the 1995 letter by Abe Granek an early and active member of the GPCA. Abe was well known and loved in the community up to his death in 2005. Abe’s many contributions to the community was not only his many submission of articles to the newsletter but also being the initial liaison between GPCA and the Job Corp. He was the prime reason the relationship between the Job Corp and GPCA moved forward in a tumultuous transition to the former Jesuit College. We will be reprinting some of Abe’s popular constellation articles in future issues.

What’s inside?

SWCC update, Jan meeting recap...2 In Our Neighborhood ...3,4 Our Advertisers, 5 -7

Results of GPCA Election of Officers and Directors

- President – Butch Oakman
- Vice President – Vacant
- Treasurer – Maribeth Diemer
- Secretary – Denise Maranto
- Director – Maurice Dixon - 3 year term ending January 2023
- Director – Rhoda Jones - Remainder of 3 year term ending January 2022 served by our late Director, her husband George Jones
- Director “Murf” Moorfield’s 3 year term expires January 2021

The board welcomes new member Rhoda Jones. Thanks for stepping up Rhoda and to all of you who willingly serve our community! The office of Vice-President was not filled. If you might consider serving GPCA in that capacity contact me, Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708/oakknob@comcast.net or any board member as shown on the address page of this newsletter. The rewards greatly outweigh the responsibilities! Special thanks to Kathy Skullney and Marty Kelley for serving with me on the nominating committee.

– Cathy Wolfson

Recap of January’s Meeting

Stand Up and Be Counted – 2020 Census

At our January meeting we welcomed Stacey L. Rodgers from the Baltimore County Administrative Office who spoke about the importance of the 2020 Census which is taken every ten years. The Census is mandated by the Constitution. The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790. The Census determines how many Congressional seats a state will have. The Census count also helps determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities like ours. Federal funding helps our community in many areas including education, medical research, addiction treatment, job training, housing assistance, business loans, disability services, children’s health insurance, food and nutrition services, programs for the aging, transportation, and water and waste disposal. There will be outreach to non-English speaking residents and

to residents who are not citizens. Information given by you in the Census is private and secure, cannot by law (Title 13 of the U.S. Code) be disclosed even to law enforcement agencies, and is only gathered to provide statistics. The goal is to determine how many people need valuable services. For every person not counted our community loses \$1,800. This includes babies and small children.

Everyone counts! Here’s the money math: If 20% of our County’s population goes uncounted in the 2020 Census, Baltimore County will lose \$305 million each year in funding. Our population is projected to be 847,000 in 2020, up 12% from 2000, ten years ago. By 2020, 25% of County residents will be 60 or older. This is just one segment of the County population that relies on federally funded programs. There are many others. A complete count is more important than ever. Census Day is April 1 (no fooling!). Your invitation to participate in the 2020 Census will be mailed on or between March 12-20, 2020. Responding to the Census is easy. You may respond online, by phone, or by mail. Visit 2020Census.gov for more information.

– Denise Maranto, Secretary

CZMP Moves to Hearings Phase

The Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) occurs every 4 years and can subject any and all land use (zoning) in the County to review and possible change. The first phase began in August 2019 with Petitions for zoning changes requested by the public being filed until October 15, 2019. GPCA is participating in the process by having filed a Petition to downzone 65 acres along GPCA’s southern boundary along Johnnycake Road (which is Council District 1) from major business development to much lower residential development – far more compatible with the residential communities and rural areas around these parcels. In addition, District 1 Councilman Tom Quirk included 36 adjoining acres to be similarly reviewed. The Petitions are numbered as Issue 1-017 and 1-035 respectively.

GPCA is mostly in District 4, and although the Association is not directly involved with any District 4 Issues, there are a number of requests to upzone along upper Liberty Road that are of interest to our community and may relate to the concerns we share with the Liberty Road communities. The complete

logs of issues for all Districts can be found at <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/czmp/issuelog.html>.

The CZMP is about to begin the second phase of its year long process. This involves public hearings held by the Planning Board in each of the County's seven Council Districts. The hearings provide a critical forum for members of the communities impacted by the proposed changes to speak out for or against them, which then becomes an important consideration in the Planning Board's review and recommendations. What the Planning Board decides is intended to be an important consideration for the final zoning decisions made by the County Council.

The District 1 hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2020 at Lansdowne High School, 3800 Hollins Ferry Road. Public sign-in begins at 5 pm, with the hearing itself beginning at 6 pm. Each participant gets two minutes and must provide twenty copies of any materials he/she may want included. The District 4 meeting is scheduled for March 19th and will be covered next month.

GPCA is advocating the changes listed in issues 1-017 and 034 as essential to environmental protection consistent with the Master Plan and being in close proximity to the Patapsco Heritage Greenway. It serves the equally proximate Northwest Gateways Sustainable Community program by the redirection of commercial activity into the revitalization of Security Mall areas, including the Maryland State designated Opportunity Zones and the Woodlawn Commercial Revitalization District.

The details of this advocacy will be covered at the February meeting on Feb. 9th. Please join us – we all know the more voices we have, the greater the strength of our position.

-Kathy Skullney, Zoning Chair

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

Where Does It All Go?

“Do you hear things moving?” Odd question, I thought when the Park Ranger at Yellowstone National Park asked our group as we sat quietly, eyes closed. Hundreds of feet below us flowed the park's

namesake river, and a steady breeze swept up the steep, yellow rock canyon wall and over us.

Yes, we could hear things moving: the call of a raven above, the grunts of bison challenging each other below, the rustle of low vegetation and tree branches swept by the wind, sometimes a crash of a distant branch. The more we listened, the more we heard. Sometimes, it was the voices of other park visitors taking in the spectacular beauty from a nearby overlook. Now and again, the occasional bang of a lone rock being dislodged from its hold and slipping down the canyon or the low rumble of the whitewater rapids on the river below.

The lesson: natural forces move things on a massive scale, constantly, whether our senses detect it or not. South winds bring moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to water our land and replenish our reservoirs. West winds blow across coal-burning, electric generating power plants and deposit mercury from those smokestacks onto our fields and water supplies. Rainstorms cleanse our mall parking lots and local roads of snow-salt, oils, and trash and wash them into our streams, rivers and Chesapeake Bay. Chemicals in our shampoos, toothpaste and antibacterial soaps, our homes and flow through water treatment plants, unscathed. Once back in the river, those chemicals, including medications, have adverse effects on the river's wildlife. For example, Maryland biologists have reported intersexed smallmouth bass and are trying to determine whether chemicals in shampoos are similar enough to this fish's reproductive hormones to cause this.

So, where does it all go? It goes with the flow. Nature's gravity and osmosis are also powerful “movers”. While rivers and winds move things horizontally and downhill into river systems, gravity moves things the ground water supply, vertically. That is a big concern with nitrates from fertilized agricultural fields and road salts from highways seeping into underground water.

Our Granite Community Small Watershed Group has started a monthly assessment for our local streams, to detect ‘what is in the flow’. As we progress in our knowledge and assessments, we hope to provide monthly feedback on what we learn. If you would like to get involved, come to one of our

monthly meetings; contact Robert Teller for information on time and location.

Andy Grosko, SWCC member

Good News: The Patapsco Valley Heritage Area (PVHA) is requesting the expansion of their boundaries to include areas within the GPCA boundary area and other nearby areas from the state of Maryland. A map of the areas in the current and proposed expansion can be found at: <https://patapsco.org/pvha-boundary-map/> The Small Watershed Community Committee and Granite Historical Society have written letters in support of the proposed boundaries.

The PVHA, better known by the administrative arm as the Patapsco Heritage Green (PHG) is one of 13 heritage areas throughout the state. More information about Maryland heritage areas and programs can be found at the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Program website:

<https://mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas.shtml>

The state established heritage areas to preserve and protect the area's historical and environmental attributes while promoting those unique qualities through education and promotion of tourism. It does this in cooperation with other governmental entities state and local as well as community associations and others.

Bob Teller, SWCC Chair

In Our Neighborhood

We extend our sincere condolences to the family of William Lee Shoemaker, 8/8/1995 to 1/13/2020, I, among many others, will miss seeing his "Bill's Lawn Service" truck on the road.

Membership Renewals

Thank you renewing and new* members!

Bonds, Kevin & Mauk, Scott; Bozzuto, John & Evangeline; Brantley, John & Sue; Chenoweth, George; Chesnutt, Greg & Ella; Collins, Richard & Gail; Conaway, JD & Melissa; Daschbach, Brian & Michele; Diemer, Maribeth & Teller, Robert; Dixon, Beth, Margie & Bill; Dressler, Charles; **Easley, Janet & Jeffrey Shultz**; Fallin, Cassandra; Gary, Beverly

D.; Farmer, Jim & Kevin; Harrison, Morgan; Ivey, West & Anne; Janoskie, Toney & Tammy; Klos-Huber, Toni; Kurnas, Valerie; Libis, Claude & Anne; Malinovsky, Peter & Elizabeth Lamping; Maranto, Denise; Maranto, Vincent & Victoria; Meekins, Steve & Sue; Mathena, Jeff & Linda; **Moseley, Ray & Elizabeth**; **Nevermore, Evan & Kelly**; Patrick, Pamela & Marisol; Peles, Paul & Barbara; Peles, Paul & Barbara; Redd, Sam & Lydia Mc Cargo; Ruxton, Beth Anne; Santiago-Ortiz, Zulma; **Shackelford, Cathlene L.**; Skullney, Bill and Kathy; Warden, Marjorie; Warfield, Frank; Young, Charles and Jennette. *new members are in bold font and include folks that just moved into the area or a longtime resident that hasn't renewed in a while.

Aggressive Driving and Illegal Truck Traffic - Dial #77

County Executive Olszewski is proposing that MD pass legislation this session for the installation of traffic cameras to monitor streets for unauthorized truck traffic like that plaguing the 2 lane ditched roads throughout our community. In the meantime, if you witness through tractor trailers traveling our roads call **#77 to file a complaint** with MD State Highway which is charged with Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. You may also **call Baltimore County Traffic / Truck Enforcement at 410-887-1340.**

#77 may also be used to file complaints against any unsafe and or aggressive drivers. Pull over to call and if possible provide a vehicle description, location, license plate number, and direction of travel. Be careful out there!
-Cathy Wolfson

Liberty Road Study Continues...

Baltimore County has undertaken a significant effort to revive and expand the revitalization of the Liberty Road corridor as part of reviving the larger Northwest Gateways Sustainable Community program which includes Randallstown, parts of Pikesville, and Woodlawn. The third in a series of public meetings was held on January 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Randallstown Community Center, including representatives from all the pertinent County departments were there, as they have been in the previous two meetings. This meeting was for the

purpose of reporting on community responses received from the first two meetings – about 900 in all, and how to prioritize the concerns that emerged.

The data was presented in Power Point slides categorized as ranked topics: the highest ranking concern of local residents was Quality of Life (about 24%) and the Economy (23%), then Transportation (20%), Environment (16%), Housing (10%) and Local Planning/Land Use (about 7%). The topics then were broken down into smaller categories within each topic of “projects” to address the concerns, and copies were given out. Everyone (seated around more than a dozen large tables) was asked to prioritize the projects collectively. Once the priority of the projects was agreed upon, the top three projects from each table were shared with everyone. The results of this exercise will be compiled and posted, along with a beginning draft of revival plan on the Liberty Road Study website.

For these reports and all information, as well as the next meeting at: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/communityplanning/currentinitiatives/libertyroad/index.html>

-Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair

Night of Peace in need of Volunteers

Thanks to all of you who donated needed items to Night of Peace Family Shelter in December which were greatly appreciated. If you'd like to do more Night of Peace is sorely in need of volunteers willing to help with meals and stocking various items in the pantry. If you have a few hours a week to spare during their hours of operation of 4 pm and 8 pm your time will be put to good use. Please contact them at 410-922-4357 or info@nightofpeace.org or <http://www.nightofpeace.org/volunteer> for more information.

-Cathy Wolfson

Blasts from the Past, from time to time, as space permits articles from past GPCA newsletters will be reprinted. Hope you enjoy.

Celestial Zoo reprint from issue 107 Feb 10, 1995

Are you aware that among the constellations there exists a group of creatures which would do any terrestrial zoo proud? You may already be aware of some of these creatures since the zodiac contains some of them – such as Taurus, the bull; Aries, the ram; Cancer, the crab; Leo, the

lion; Scorpio, the scorpion; Sagittarius, half horse and half man; Capricorn, the goat; and Pisces, the fish.

But- they are only the beginning. Here are more of them. Ursa Minor, the big bear which actually contains the big dipper; Ursa Minor, companion to the big bear; Aquilla, the eagle, Draco, the dragon; Cetus, the sea monster: Lepus, the hare; Canis Major, the great dog; Canis Minor, the lesser dog; and Serpens, the sea serpent. Also, Delphinus, the dolphin; Cygnus, the swan within which we find the Northern Cross, Hydra, the sea monster; Corvus, the crow; Pegasus, the flying horse; Cetus, the sea monster like a whale, and Monoceros, the unicorn.

One must admit that this is quite a collection and there are many legends connected with them. We might mention some of them in future issues. In all of this, there is one great consolation. Despite the overhead presence of these critters, it is quite safe to look up and by all means do so!

-Abe Granek

Ask Uncle Arthur? Reprint from issue 41 Aug 11, 1989

When I was little, there was this old man that lived at the end of the dirt road near the abandoned church. We all called him Uncle Arthur, but he wasn't anyone's blood uncle. He lived alone and enjoyed having us kids come around. We thought he was just about the smartest person we knew. He always knew the answers to our questions. If something puzzling came up, we would all go ask Uncle Arthur.

Living in this community for such a short time, I find many unanswered questions that I'm sure Uncle Arthur would be able to answer if he lived around here. Questions like: What happened to the old St. Alphonsos Catholic Church? Where was the Granite School? How many cemeteries are there in the Granite area? Were there whiskey stills nearby? What was it like living here before electricity and telephone service was installed? But the question that has been bothering me since I first came to this area is: Why does the railroad crossing sign on the roadway at the Patapsco River Bridge have 2 P's instead of the customary R's?

I'm sure someone knows the answers to these questions. If you have any questions for Uncle Arthur or think you can help Uncle Arthur answer some of these questions, write to me in care of Uncle Arthur, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163.

-Tom DeMay

So, what questions would you have today? Who is the person behind “the boot” on Old Court Rd??!

Send any questions you have via snail mail to the P.O. Box 31 or email Editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com

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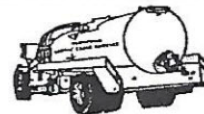
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING MEETINGS SPEAKER TOPICS:

Feb 10th 7:30 – To Be Announced
Mar 9th 7:30 – Current Consumer Scams, Jeannine Robinson-Hurley, MPS Consumer Protection Division, MD Office of the Attorney General
April 13th 7:30 – Green Burial proposal on Ridge Rd presentation by Berg Family Trust
May 11th 7:30 – Recycling update (to be confirmed)
June 8th 7:30 – MD Wine Growers Assoc (to be confirmed)

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

Vice President: Open Position

Secretary: Denise Maranto 410-790-7131

denise.maranto@gmail.com

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Editor: Maribeth Diemer 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.**

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 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 for publishing in a future newsletter.