



P.O. Box 31
Granite, MD 21163

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**Unfortunately, There Will be no General
Meetings Until Further Notice**

**However, You can still send in your
membership! We need 68 more paid
memberships to meet our 2020 goal.**

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

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oakelectric@comcast.net

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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.



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #400

GPCA Newsletter

May 2020

Next Meeting: Monday, TBD, 7:30 p.m.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak no GPCA general meetings will be held until the Maryland state order to stay home is lifted.

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.gpcanet.net

The date to vote in the Maryland 2020 Primary Election has been changed to June 2, 2020

By emergency proclamation of the Governor of the State of Maryland (the State), the 2020 Presidential Primary Election and special election to fill the congressional vacancy in the 7th district has been postponed to **June 2, 2020** due to the coronavirus pandemic. This election will be primarily a “vote by mail” election. This means that the State will automatically mail a ballot to all eligible voters. You should receive your mail in ballot early to mid-May. You do not need to ask for a ballot to receive one. Please be aware that the ballots were printed prior to the State stay at home order and has the date to respond as April 28th. The mail in ballot must be post marked or dropped off no later than June 2, 2020. The April 28th date is incorrect. The State will mail your ballot to the address on file. If you want your ballot mailed to another address or download it from the State website, please visit [Absentee Voting page](#). All mailed ballots included a return envelope and prepaid postage.

- To reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus, the State recommends that voters who can vote by mail do so. Voted ballots must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, June 2, 2020.
- Voters who prefer to drop off their ballots can do so at [designated ballot drop off locations](#) from - Thursday, May 21, 2020 through Tuesday, June 2, 2020.
- If you are unable to vote by mail, you may vote in-person on election day, June 2, 2020, at [a vote center in the jurisdiction where you live](#). The location to vote in our area is Martin’s West, 6817 Dogwood Road Windsor Mill, MD 21244.

Stand Up and Be Counted – 2020 Census

At this time the response to the 2020 census is much lower than normal. Please do your part and complete the 2020 census either by mail, phone or online. It’s not too late! Look on page 2 for more information.

What’s inside?

Area news, SWCC ...2,3 CZMP update...3, In Our Neighborhood, Memberships... 4-6 Our Advertisers... 7-9

(continued from page 1)

Stand Up and Be Counted – 2020 Census

For more information go to:

<https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>

Why we need to be counted?

- For every person who is not counted in the 2020 Census, Baltimore County loses roughly \$1800 per person, per year over the next 10 years.
- Baltimore County is growing in population. It has an estimated 847,000 residents which is up nearly 20% from 2010 the last time a census was completed.
- Baltimore Co will forego approximately \$72 million dollars in funding per year for the next 10 years if the growth in population is not counted.

The US government requires states follow up with any addresses that have not responded. Census workers will go door to door to ask for a response.

NEW addition to the BGE Community Solar Pilot Program Application Listing

Many folks in the community were surprised about the two solar farms on Old Court Road despite this newsletter publishing numerous articles about the solar farms and how they were approved. I'm repeating this article from last month in case readers didn't see it and wanted more information.

Another property within GPCA's membership area is subject of an application for a 2 MW solar power facility. This is the second time an application has been submitted for the property, **located across from Diamond Ridge Golf Course at 2316 Ridge Road, Windsor Mill, 21244**. Operation of the facility is projected for April 6, 2022. This application requires a special exception and variance, which have not been scheduled at the time of this writing. The property is zoned RC6 which requires that it be surveyed for Primary and Secondary conservancies before the site for the facility can be determined. To view the entire list of applicants, visit:

https://www.bge.com/SmartEnergy/MyGreenPower/Connection/Documents/BGE_CSEGS_QUEUE_PilotApplicationList.pdf

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

The Granite Community Small Watershed Group continues monthly assessments. However, in conforming to the "social distancing" guidelines, we postponed meetings, isolated the sampling to one family and chemical analysis to one person. Thanks to Cathy / Carl and to Robert for independently continuing the collection and analysis work. Once life returns to normal together again in the Granite community, you are welcome join the Small Watershed Group. Robert Teller will advise when the time comes.

There is a season for everything and a reason for the seasons...

Nature has its seasons. This spring season reminds us with weekly changes in plants blooming and animal movement in our locale. Surely you witnessed these too, maybe more so than other springs as Maryland's 'stay-at-home' order has more of us taking walks in our neighborhoods, doing yard work and 'sprucing up' our home.

Some changes are spectacular, like the blossoming pink flowers on cherry and peach trees earlier in April, followed by the white-pink blossoms of apple trees this last week in April. Other changes are more subtle, but you will hear them. Spring peepers singing on warmer evenings in local wetlands. Only recently have they dug out from their winter-long hibernation in mud-banks; now they started their mating season. Look closely and you will find some frog eggs and tadpoles soon.

Another sign of the season change are the early morning choruses from songbirds migrating back north to Granite, Maryland. Or just passing through Granite for a day or two to feed before migrating even further north. Insects, like moths and flies have emerged and are a natural buffet for the birds and frogs. In addition, the recent nectar-flow and greening vegetation are energizing the awakening moths, flies and bees. The heavy rains and warming earth have awakened the nightcrawlers from hibernation.

Yesterday, a quick movement in my garage startled me; it was a Carolina wren - this annual visitor was right on time. For the last three or four years, a pair of Carolina

wrens have built nests in my garage. Same time every year – the last week of April into May. First two years they built a nest on a high shelf between the motor oil and paint cans. Last year they built on a shelf under my son's grinder cabinet. This year, on a plywood unit he built to store tools. I think they originally found my garage inviting because I leave the garage door open for long periods when home working outside. Now I notice a fist-sized hole in the old garage door and recognize that is their entrance, and escape route. The Carolina wren pair will be disappointed next season, as my wife is ordering a new fiberglass replacement door. We will install it after the current brood fledged-out and vacates.

Ten years ago, a migrating pod of Bobolinks caught my attention; the males had a bright-yellow head, about the same striking color as those highly visible yellow tennis balls. Hard to ignore that. They stayed about two days, flinging about and apparently feeding on the lemon balm seed in our front-yard. First and only time I have seen them, although I eagerly search for them on or about May 4 to 6th each year. According to the Peterson Bird guide Bobolinks migrate through our latitude each year during that period, on their way to northern nesting grounds. Unfortunately, the lemon balm bush is gone. Was it the second factor needed to attract them for a few days in the right season?

Out of time and out of space. Otherwise would have added what to look for in the next month, like the blooming of the fragment black locus flowers and why bees are attracted to time. Alternatively, why farmers selectively breed plants and animals to push / elongate their natural blooming and breeding seasons into a different period. Maybe next time. Better yet, maybe others in our community can pen an article with their viewpoint.

Andy Grosko, SWCC member

CZMP 2020 Update

As has been reported, the Planning Board accepted written public comments on all CZMP issues through April 10th instead of Public Hearings. Comments were submitted by mail, email and online applications. Thereafter, instead of the scheduled public access to the Planning Board's work sessions where all issues would be discussed and voted upon, the Board set up live-stream sessions beginning on April 21st.

GPCA sent out the notice and hopefully some of you were able to join in. The District 1 Work Session was held on April 22 (along with District 2)

and made very clear what we're up against. We heard very little acknowledgment of what communities want or even submitted public comments, and almost exclusively what is "good for business!"in particular from the member supposedly representing the 1st District. It was particularly troubling to hear significant misstatements about housing, traffic, business revitalization, etc., readily contradicted by known data, but used in support of that goal. Nevertheless, the strength of what would be good for the communities as represented by Issues #17 and #35 was not totally lost and the requested zoning supported by 5 of the members while opposed by 7 – a loss of only 2.

Also, we saw and heard much the same thing for District 4 on the following night, with the specific result for Issue #07 of leaving in place the MLR zoning on that much smaller Dogwood Rd property. With same concerns as the big parcels on Johnnycake Road, the difference is that far less damage can be done with the MLR zoning than with the BM IM/OR zoning.

It is more than frustrating to not have a better responsive process, but these sessions emphasize the importance of good communication collectively with Councilman Quirk, Councilman Jones and the County Executive's office. It is crucial that they hear the facts known and expressed by multiple communities and supported by research and plans already in place.

We will be working on arranging that communication, depending on how the next phase is set up, so please stay tuned.

Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair



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Maryland 21163

Come join us. All Welcome!
Sundays at 10 am.

www.granitepresbyterian.com

Church Office: (410)461-5746

In Our Neighborhood

MOODY BLUES FARM: THE BLUEBERRY SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

Ewald and Shirley August are in dire need of blueberry pickers this year. If you know of anyone who is willing to pick for 2-3 weeks late May early June please give them a call at **410-655-3540**. The farm is located at 9038 Old Court Rd, Windsor Mill MD 21244

PAHLS FARM 2730 Melrose Ave, Woodstock MD 21163

<https://www.pahlsfarmmd.com/our-locations/greenhouses/>

Check out the website or email Pfarmgranitecsa@aol.com for info to buy full or half shares of 2020 CSA.

Now through June, the greenhouses are full of herbs, vegetable plants, perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, etc.

Our hours are Friday 2pm-6pm, Saturday 2pm-6pm, Sunday 11am-3pm. **410-461-5445**

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm

April Morning

It was a fooler of a morning. I had looked out the upstairs window as I sat on the edge of the bed, encouraging myself to get moving and get downstairs. I could see blue sky and green grass in the field across the street. I did not hear wind against the house or see any branches waving. We had had a run of pretty days. Although I think a few nights had rain nicely timed after chores and continuing through the night. This particular morning, while sunny and calm, only registered at 40 degrees on the porch thermometer.

I have a new routine these days. I come downstairs and make my way to the sunroom to look out on the farm, letting Griff out on my way there. Checking the progress toward spring outside and then also evaluating my baby plants, tomatoes and peppers, and consider the eggs I need to pack. Mentally organizing my day as I lean on my walker and wait for Griffey to come back to the house. The Squirk is out with John, almost running wild, back and forth, almost hunting. He and Griff make a few passes across the yard together, and then Griff is done and Squirk continues on with John.

Looking out the sunroom windows, I notice the daily changes. The transformation of spring moves forward day by day. Horses are in the field for their two hours of grass time before John will bring them in to their stalls for

the day. Switching from nighttime into daytime in makes stall cleaning so much lighter. At this moment I had that view of my white horses on green grass. I remember almost 20 years ago when I was the one who would let them out of the mud lot and onto to the grass in the morning and think how having my horses at home was a dream come true.

I consider what it would take to move a chair to the sunroom so I can spend more time watching the farm. Years ago, I had a love seat and an oversized chair there, but that was before the sunroom became the plant and egg room. Before the farm had chickens and ducks running across the yard and to the back porch. Eventually my plant shelf will be moved out for the summer. It is too early, yet. As much as the warm days had inspired me, I knew better than to start relocating the over wintering pots to the porch. The chickens would peck them bare and the cold overnight would kill them.

The grass along the front paddock fence was lumpy and almost a foot tall. That happens so fast, from that green glaze of early grass trying to cover the winter's burnt out weeds and mud. These big lumps of grass were punctuated with low growing patches of purple ground covering weeds. I suspect it was the speedwell but could be wood violets. I used to be out patrolling the coming of spring. It was time of learning about the farm. Which flowers had started up out of the earth, what was blooming, which trees had leaves or buds or blooms? A season, so to speak, of life as I introduced myself to our new home. As I passed through time, my life has transitioned and transformed. I took on new things at each stage, getting involved in one thing to the next. Now I stand in the sunroom and take in the view. All the years of activity have passed and now I sit or stand and contemplate where I am now.

Along the edge of the horse pasture, I noticed a tree with baby leaves. Forming its first leaves on branches, while other trees on the farm's horizon remain bare branched. Even the sassafras by the house barely had its yellow buds fully opened. There is always this juxtaposition in times of transition. While the grass is lush and growing, the branches remain bare. We have a few warm and sunny days bring the temperatures up in the 60's by the middle of the day. But horses still carry most of their winter coats. It is too early to put out the plants I have so carefully started in the house. Things are, and are not, at the same time.

Knowing that it was just 40 degrees outside discouraged me from making the effort to get outside to the scooter and travel the drive to look along the edges for the early blooming wildflowers. But that is okay, I am just waiting for a better day.

-Brenda Creighton

Membership Renewals

Thank you renewing and new members!

146 households have renewed or joined the GPCA to date. Just 68 more households needed to meet the 2020 membership goal. **Thank You** in advance for your support.

Below is a **complete listing** of all paid 2020 memberships as of May 7, 2020. Please contact me if you have questions about the listing.

Maribeth Diemer: editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com

Paid 2020 Memberships:

Allen, Patrick and Linda
August, Ewald and Shirley
Baldwin, Richard and Susan
Bavoil, Patrik M & Ru-Ching Hsia
Bayer, Jeffrey and Patty
Beam, Chuck and Sandy
Berghmans, Andre' and Mary
Bonds, J. Kevin and Mauk, Scott
Boskin, Maureen
Bozzuto, John and Evangeline
Brantley, John and Sue
Brice, Dale and Jan
Brown, Jr. ,Otho and Dorothy
Byrd III, Andy and Carol
Cermak II, James & Margaret
Chellis, Charles and Paulette
Chenoweth, George
Chesnutt, Greg and Ella B.
Cohen, Austin
Collins, Richard and Gail
Conaway, Dan and Gail
Conaway, JD and Melissa
Cookson, John and Donna
Cornish, Lee and Jackie
Cotter, Charlotte
Cotter, Keith
Dahl, Ken and Marilyn
Daschbach, Brian and Michele
Diemer, Maribeth and Robert Teller
Dixon, Beth, Margie, Bill
Dixon, Maurice and Evelyn

Dorman, Kathy
Dressler, Charles
Easly, Janet & Jeffrey Shultz
Evans, Meredith and Ellen D.
Fallin, Cassandra
Farmer, Dorothy
Farmer, Jim (George), Jr and Kevin
Follweiler, Jeff and Heather
Freeland, Ron and Betty
French, Fred and Karen Brauch
Friend, Hilton and Margaret
Gary, Beverly D.
Geiman, Sue E and Judy Downing
Geisler, Ted
Goodmuth, Steven and Karen Koelbel
Grill, Randy and Sherrie Sellers
Griscavage, Bob & Sharon Layne
Guidry, Catherine and Phil Leibowitz
Haddaway, Lee and Patricia
Harrison, Morgan
Hartman, Dwight
Heit, William and Joan daSilva
Higgs, Jim and Jean
Hisky, Mike and Brigitte
Hite, Eric and Joan
Hocutt, Bob and Winona
Hoggard, Dorsey and Pat
Ivey, West and Anne
Izydore, Chris and Melissa
Janoskie, Toney and Tammy
Jarvis, Harold & Jeanne
Jefferson, Samuel and Denise
Jenkins, Joe and Kathy
Jones, Adrienne A. Speaker
Jones, Jr., Julian and Sabrina
Jones, Rhoda
Kahler, Bonnie
Kahn, Michael and Cindy
Kelley, Marty Dell, Wayne
King, Tom and Peggy
Klos-Huber, Toni
Kohler, Charlotte and Asen, Richard
Kurnas, Valerie

Libis, Claude and Anne
Libowitz, Steven and Lisa
Lowe, David and Dawna
Malick, Adrien and Patricia
Malinovsky, Peter and Elizabeth Lamping
Maranto, Denise
Maranto, Vincent and Victoria
Marszal, Mark and Dawn
Masemore, Bill
Mathena, Bremen and Doris
Mathena, Jeff and Linda
Mathena, Joan M.
Mathena, Larry (Sr) and Sarah
Mcdermott, Mark and Donna
McGovern, Tom and Maggie
McKnight, Barbara
Meekins, Angus and Betty
Meekins, Steve and Sue
Merkle, Susan and Arthur (Woody)
Mezger, Bruce and Kari Weidner
Miceli, Carl and Patricia
Moorefield, Carol and Barbara Warnock
Moseley, Ray and Elizabeth
Murray, John and Gwen
Nevermore, Evan & Kelly
Nueslein, Kate and Tony
Oakman, Butch and Mary Jean Scheile
Osborne, Scott and Margaret
Pahls Farm, LLC
Parker, Sandy (Eugene) and Melanie
Patrick, Pamela and Marisol
Peles, Paul and Barbara
Peters, Ron and Debbie
Pfeiffer, Bob and Judi
Priest, Melanie
Raistrick, Jim and Andrea Desanti
Ramsey, MD., Harold E.
Randall, Bill and Dawn
Redd, Sam and Lydia McCargo-
Regan, Troy and Kelly
Reisdorf, Bob and Susie
Roach, Patricia
Roche, Michele

Ruxton, Beth Anne
Santiago-Ortiz, Zulma
Sassi, Leggio Joseph (Lee)
Shackelford, Cathlene L.
Shea, Colleen and Gregg Smith
Simmons, James and Carol
Skullney, Bill and Kathy
Smith, Robert and Nicole
Smoot, Ed and Dee Dee
Stengler, Steven
Stesch, Paul and Nanette
Stewart, Owen and Leslie
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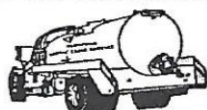
General Meetings

Unfortunately, May's general meeting and all future general meetings have been cancelled until further notice. The GPCA board will keep the community updated about when the next general meeting will be held. Stay tuned, we miss seeing everyone.



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