



**GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

**Issue #402**

**GPCA Newsletter**

**December 2020**

**Next Meeting: Guest Speaker Baltimore Co. Police Officer Kristie Makowiecki**

**Topic: Precinct 2 Update and Community Safety**

**Monday, January 11, 7:30 p.m. – Virtually via Zoom**

*GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July and August*

*Everyone is invited to attend. During the pandemic meetings will be held virtually. Details to join the meetings will be communicated using email. Contact [gpc21163@gmail.com](mailto:gpc21163@gmail.com) to add your email address to the GPCA group.*

## **Please “Step Up” and Volunteer for Board of Directors.**

### **Annual Election of Board of Directors – Average Time commitment is 5 hours spread over a month**

GPCA By-Laws direct us to hold annual elections at our January general meeting. To be eligible to serve on the Executive Board candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election.

Officers are elected for a one year term. The president may serve for 2 consecutive one year terms and may again become eligible after a one year lapse. Directors serve for 3 year terms and may again become eligible after a one year lapse. This election cycle Director Carol “Murf” Moorefield’s 3 year term expires creating a vacancy for that office. There are no term limits for other officers.

What’s the commitment? Approximately 5 hours a month. In addition to attending GPCA’s General Meetings the Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Pre-Covid meetings were held in the Granite Presbyterian Social Hall. Since March the Board has met virtually on Zoom making the ability to attend by video / audio equipped and internet connected device necessary. All Officers and Directors shall contribute impartially to decisions of the board and support the objectives of GPCA which per our By-Laws are:

“To preserve and enhance the tranquility and beauty of our rural environment and to encourage orderly and positive growth of the community within the framework of prescribed regulations and laws. The Association shall provide a forum for all residents to express their concerns and interests and shall attempt to provide informative and interesting programs that will keep members informed and better able to address any of their concerns or problems. The Association's objective is also to foster a spirit of community among residents.” Nominations of candidates are being taken at this time and will continue until the election when nominations will be taken from the floor (even the virtual floor). **If you’re interested in serving on the board, would like to nominate a candidate or have any questions about the process please contact me, Cathy Wolfson, Nominating Committee Chair at 410-245-8708 or [oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net).** Not ready to make the commitment but want to be involved? Consider serving on the Nominating Committee, we need 2 volunteers!

~ Cathy Wolfson

### **What’s inside?**

Nov meeting recap ...2 SWCC news, In Our Neighborhood ...3,4 Membership roll call, ads...5-7

## November Virtual General Meeting Recap

### The Trails in Patapsco State Park

At the November GPCA virtual meeting we welcomed Rob Dyke, Park Manager of Patapsco Valley State Park who talked to us about the development and maintenance of healthy and sustainable park trails. Patapsco Valley State Park extends over 32 miles of the Patapsco River and encompasses 16,043 acres with eight developed recreation areas. Recreational activities include hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing, picnicking, and horseback and mountain bike riding. The park is nationally known for its wonderful scenic nature trails, some for hiking and some for multi-use. The bike trails are quite popular and are the home to several national competitive rides. There are over 200 miles of trails and 70 miles of trails are maintained. Because the park encompasses many developed areas, there are multiple entrances for access to the nationally acclaimed park. One of its trails goes from Sykesville to the Inner Harbor.

Trail maintenance consists of removing downed trees, trimming brush, and clearing drainages. In some instances, erosion management is required. The goal is to have recreational, self-sustaining trails that have minimal impact to the environment. Water and erosion are enemies to trails. Trails on flat ground cause water to pool and cause an unpleasant experience for hikers and also damage the environment. A trail going down a steep descent on a hill causes erosion, so park personnel avoid constructing these trails. The best configurations for trails are rolling contours which climb and descend, allowing water to flow across them and preserve drainage qualities. Grant money is used to maintain and repair trails. There are federal funds for a recreational trail program. For more information call 410-461-5005 or e-mail Patapsco Valley State Park. You may also contact Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park at [Info@fpvsp.org](mailto:Info@fpvsp.org).

~Denise Maranto

### Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

Saturday morning November 14, 2020 the SWCC completed a cleanup along the Patapsco State

Park riverside near the Old Court Road bridge and CSX railway. Thanks to the Woodstock Inn for providing areas to park, setup registration tables, distribute supplies to the volunteers, as well as using their dumpsters for the trash and junk collected. Twenty members of SWCC and GPCA participated. Areas in the Park and along Old Court Rd were cleaned. The “haul” was 47 large trash bags, 3 plastic buckets, a complete basketball backboard with steel stand, and 24 tires. This is estimated to be over 1000 lbs. of trash not counting the tires. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> cleanup completed by SWCC. It's always fun and inspiring to get outside and work on something for the community with fellow community members.

**Other news:** SWCC has now been collecting water quality data for four streams for a little over a year. So, it is past time to start widely sharing the data with GPCA members, the County and other interested parties. Efforts are being made to provide a general presentation and share the specific data points. The goal is to have all the data that has been collected available for review on the website. This will be in the form of Excel sheets and graphs. We are also working on a method of publishing “report cards” on a regular basis for each stream. The report card will give a general overview of the stream health and noted trends. Having worked on this for several years now there has been a lot to investigate and learn. Fortunately, we have a number of hardworking, dedicated people in the community who have the skills and knowledge to undertake this complex endeavor. It has been a steep learning curve with lots of tumbles down various rabbit holes at every stage. Whenever working with a living system such as a stream there are so many dynamic factors at play it can quickly get overwhelming sorting out what it all means. Then add all the learning and doing lab testing you can appreciate the size of the task that has been undertaken. Thanks for your support, understanding and patience.

~ Bob Teller, Chairman

If you would like more information about the SWCC and its volunteer opportunities please contact Bob Teller, Chairman. He can be reached by calling 410 461-4988 or email him: [gpc21163@gmail.com](mailto:gpc21163@gmail.com). The committee meets about once a month.

## In Our Neighborhood

It is with great sadness to note that Brenda Creighton passed away on November 4, 2020. Brenda was a regular contributor to the GPCA newsletter for many years. Readers have referred to Brenda as the scribe of rural Granite and they lived their "inner farmer" through her essays. Brenda is survived by her husband John Creighton who was often mentioned in her essays, mother of Katherine Creighton Crook and husband Mark, Jessica Creighton, Lydia Byers and husband Russell, sister of Von Richards and Karen Pruitt and grandmother to Eli, Noah, Cyrus and Evander Memorial services to be held at a future date.

## Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm That Old Horse (Thank you John)

This morning Rosie, our senior Arabian mare, refused to go out to the pasture with the other horses. I had to put a lead rope around her neck and lead her out. Rosie was basically hanging around the barn and waiting to get into her stall to eat. Going out to the pasture just seemed like a waste of time.

I was reminded that a few weeks ago a woman and her daughter were here picking up pullets, and the daughter asked, "do you still have that horse that goes where it wants and does what it wants." I explained to the daughter that our geriatric quarter horse, Tango, was put down last year before winter. Although Tango wandered around the farm and was not restricted by gates or fences, he also was not interested in going out the driveway to get on Offutt Road, or getting into trouble in any of the barns. Tango was kind of a free ranging lawn ornament. Rosie is now vying for that type of free wandering status.

When Brenda and I migrated to Maryland from California in our 1954 Chevrolet we made a stop in Flippin (yes, there really is such a place) Arkansas to visit her Grandma Marie. For some reason Marie had decided to retire to the heart of Li'l Abner and Dogpatch country. Most homes will have a plaque with a scripture verse or some warm family statement. Not Grandma Marie. Grandma Marie had a big cutting board that said, "this is the home of the Richards, we do as we damn well please."

At some point horses do not care about being with the herd but are more concerned about eating grass and waiting nearby for their dinner to be served. Likewise, as we advance chronologically, we tend to not be concerned about what people think of us, what

our children or grandchildren expect us to do or be, or how the world sees us. Although we do not want to be restricted by gates or fences, we probably will not wander out onto Offutt Road or get into other trouble. We just want to "go where we want and do as we damn well please."

-John Creighton

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It is also with regret to announce the passing of Charles "Charlie" W. Calp, age 92 of Woodstock, MD, on November 4, 2020. He was the beloved husband of the late Rettagert Calp (nee Wilhelm). He was born on June 4, 1928 in Hampstead, MD the son of the late Marion Leroy Calp and the late Florence Calp (nee Phillips). Devoted father of Sylvia Croker and Shelley Calp and husband the late Robert Calp.

It should be noted that in 1957 Mr. Calp purchased the vacant 1 room PS 22 African-American schoolhouse located on the NW corner of Old Court Rd and Hernwood Rd. At the time of purchase the former school was in use as a pool hall. Mr. Calp converted the schoolhouse into a lovely home for his family. Mr. Calp was a plasterer by trade and he worked on many of the historical homes in Roland Park and the greater Baltimore area.

## A Brief Neighborhood History Lesson: Schools within Granite

The first Granite School #3 was built in circa 1860 at what is now 10700 Old Court Rd. The school first functioned as a one-room school for all children in Granite. The structure was a one story, wood frame construction and rested on a solid random-rubble stone foundation. Rising above the side gable roof is one exterior end brick chimney. The building was later converted to an all African-American public school (PS# 22 colored schoolhouse) when a second Granite #3 public school was built in 1878. The second Granite School #3 was designated an all-white schoolhouse and located further east at 10602 Old Court Rd. The name of the original schoolhouse at the NW corner of Hernwood and Old Court Roads was changed to PS 22 because at the time all African American public schools were denoted with a "2" in front of their number. Beginning in 1856, African-American children were sent to a one room schoolhouse in Randallstown called the St. Thomas Negro School. The school was located behind the Union Bethel AME Church on Liberty Road. (The information for this article comes from the Maryland Historical Trust archives Inventory No. BA-3095.)

Do you know interesting historical facts to share with the community? Do you have a question about the history of the area? Please email the editor at EditorGPCAnewsletter@gmail.com.

## Serenity Ridge Project for Berg Property - Natural Burial as Proposed County Council Bill

The Natural Burial concept was introduced to GPCA in November 2019 as a proposed use by the Berg Family Trust for the property at 2406 Ridge Road. It includes designated burial areas, conservation areas, trails, parking and modest facilities. Since then, GPCA has developed much more thorough understanding of this alternative kind of burial.

Natural Burial is one form of Green Burial, an alternative, environmentally based method of burying our deceased. This approach to burial is based on the concept of allowing the body to decompose and recycle naturally by using burial materials and containers that are biodegradable. These burials happen in special cemeteries or designated areas of traditional cemeteries and are subject to very specific requirements to ensure safety. Such a use has a very limited recognition for RC 8 property enacted in Baltimore County in 2015.

Since its introduction, GPCA has been involved in extensive communication with the owners to develop a form and to agree on proposed County Council legislation to define it and allow it in RC 6 zones. GPCA represents the largest area of RC 6 zoning in the County. As a result of these discussions, GPCA has become aware of the Green Burial Council, a national organization that strictly defines and adheres to standards that assure the overall safety of this burial form. As a result, Natural Burial and Natural Burial Ground in the proposed bill will be defined as it is by the Green Burial Council and subject to those strict standards. These include limitations to 100 acre or more parcels and on grave density, as well as topography and extensive water testing and impact determinations. The cemetery must be certified by the Green Burial Council.

GPCA has made its position clear as being subject to the proposed legislation being disseminated to our general membership and any resulting input. How to get the information to everyone in the community is still being worked out. The proposed County Council bill and letter sent to our Councilman, Julian Jones, along with FAQ about Green Burial are available on the GPCA website at [gpca.net](http://gpca.net). More extensive information about Green Burial can be found at [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org).

The specifics of the proposal for 2406 Ridge Road are still being processed. Look for continuing updates.

~K. Skullney, Zoning Chair

## GPCA Communications Update:

Our website has moved to a new more user friendly platform. The switch makes it easier to post monthly newsletters, articles of interest and update GPCA changes to links if interest to our readers. Our email server has switched from Gmail to Mail Chimp which enables members to unsubscribe from the email group at any time. If you see changes that need to be made please contact the Communications Chair at [gpca21163@gmail.com](mailto:gpca21163@gmail.com).

## Membership Renewals

### Thank you renewing and new members!

Below is a **complete listing** of all paid 2020 memberships as of November 29, 2020. You guys made me grin every day when I opened the mailbox to find renewals and new memberships. Please take a moment to renew or join the GPCA. A membership form is on page 7 and 8. GPCA follows the calendar year. Annual memberships are current in the year in which they are paid no matter what calendar month the payment is received. Please contact me if you have questions about membership. Maribeth Diemer: [Maribeth-13@att.net](mailto:Maribeth-13@att.net); 410 461- 4988

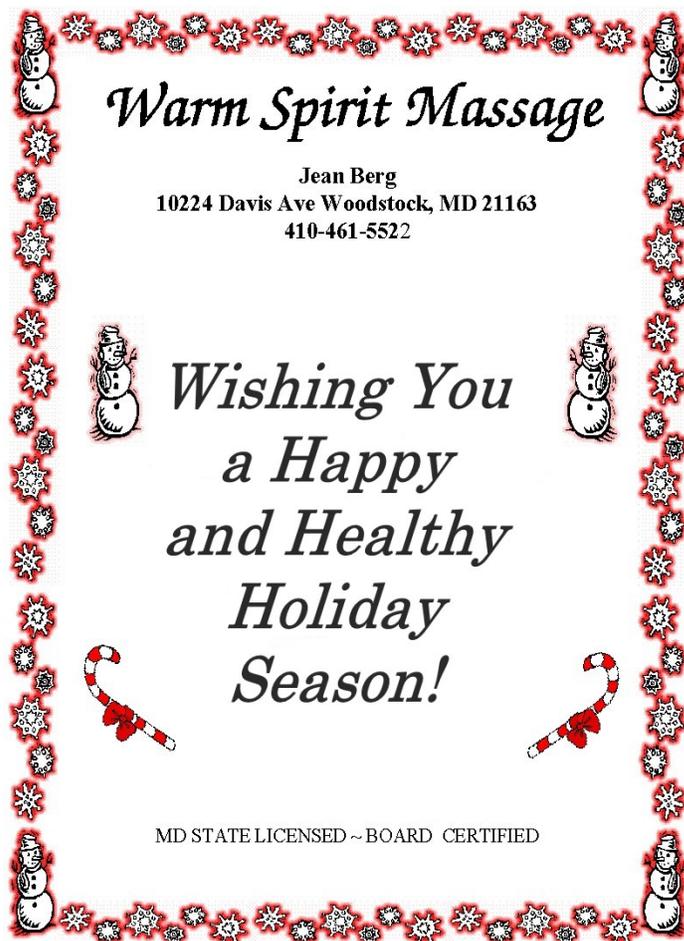
I apologize to the folks whose names I inadvertently hid behind an ad in the November issue. Thank you for contacting me. Your names are bolded in this list.

**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; Berg, Kel and Sarah; Berghmans, Andre' and Mary; Boehm, Susan M.; 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; Butler, John and Rosa; Byrd III, Andy and Carol; Caverro, Kathleen; Cermak II, James & Margaret; Charyszyn, Lisa; Chellis, Charles and Paulette; Chenoweth, George; Cherry, Ron and Barb; Chesnutt, Greg and Ella B.; Cohen, Austin; Collins, Patricia; Collins, Richard and Gail; Conaway, Dan and Gail; Conaway, JD and Melissa; Cookson, John and Donna; Cornish, Lee**

and Jackie; Costello, Barbara; 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; Donnelly, Laurie; Dorman, Kathy; Dressler, Charles; Easley, 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; Harris, Ronald and Jennings, Cherylisa; 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, Dave and Susan; Jones, Jr., Julian and Sabrina; Jones, Rhoda; Jones, Royce and Abrams-Jones, Shelia; 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; Link, Bill and Carol; Lowe, David and Dawna; Malick, Adrien and Patricia; Malinovsky, Peter and Elizabeth Lamping; Mallory, T.J. and Irvina; 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; McAllister, Bob and Amy; 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; Murray, Terilynn; Myster, Jackie and Joyce; 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; Robinson, John; 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; Stanfield, Sally; Stengler, Steven; Stesch, Paul and Nanette; Stewart, Owen and Leslie; Tatarewicz, MD Joseph & Joyce Bedi; Terry, Tanya & Lewis, Jr; Tersiguel, Odette; Traylor, Pat and Gianforte, Charlotte; Tuzynski, John and Laurie; Wade, Robert and Carolyn; Walden, Frank and Devi; Walker, Cecilia H; Warden, Marjorie; Warfield, Frank; Weber, Bob and Jennifer; Webster, Jackie (Dennis); Welsko, Mark and Karen; Wilder, Arlene; Wilking, Lisa; Wolfson, Cathy and Carl; Wolinski, Doug and Stacy; Wright, Ralph and Brenda; Young, Charles and Jennette.

**2021 Prepaids:** *Jordan, Fred & Ann-Elise; Pfeiffer, Bob and Judi; Thomas, Deborah; Wade, Robert & Caroline; Wilder, Arlene*



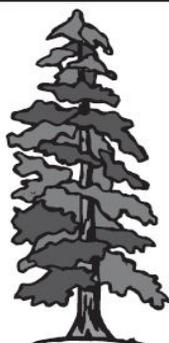
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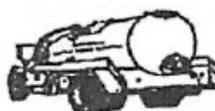
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**GPCA Membership Form**  
**We Need Your Voice!**

Please Print:

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly membership dues:

Family - \$30    Individual - \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm new in the community or,    \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Please make checks payable to GPCA and note the year of membership in the memo line

**Mail completed application form and check to:**

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

**drop off/mail to Maribeth Diemer, 10625 St Paul Ave, Woodstock MD 21163**



P.O. Box 31 Granite, MD 21163

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

*Happy & Healthy Holidays to All*  
**\*No December Meeting.\***

### UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS SPEAKERS:

**January 11 @ 7:30** Officer Kristie Makowiecki  
Topic: Precinct 2 Update and Community Safety  
Details about how to join the call will be sent to the  
GPCA email group. To be added to the group  
Email: [gpc21163@gmail.com](mailto:gpc21163@gmail.com)  
You can unsubscribe at any time.

### **GPCA Membership Application** **We Need Your Voice!**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:oakelectric@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Open Position

**Secretary:** Denise Maranto 410-790-7131  
[denise.maranto@gmail.com](mailto:denise.maranto@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Maribeth Diemer 410-461-4988  
[maribeth-13@att.net](mailto:maribeth-13@att.net)

#### **Directors:**

Rhoda Jones, [jonesrhoda@ymail.com](mailto:jonesrhoda@ymail.com)

Maurice Dixon, 410-393-4025, [mauricedixon714@gmail.com](mailto:mauricedixon714@gmail.com)

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

**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 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.