



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #403

GPCA Newsletter

January 2021

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 to add your email address to the GPCA group.

Annual Election of Board of Directors

GPCA By-Laws direct the Association 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.

The 2021 slate of candidates for the GPCA Board are: President-Butch Oakman; Vice President, open; Secretary, Denise Maranto; Treasurer, Maribeth Diemer; Director; Lisa Charysyn. The vote will take place after Officer Makowiecki’s presentation. Nominees for any of the above positions will be accepted from the (virtual) floor on January 11th. There needs to be a quorum of at least 15 paid members for a proper vote so be sure to join the zoom call

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 2020 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.**

~ Cathy Wolfson

What’s inside?

Thank you, Vaccine volunteer experience...2 Tree Recycling, In Our Neighborhood, Finances, Memberships...3-5 ads...5-7

A Great Big Thank You

To Paul Dorsey who relinquished the “joy” of having the newsletter duplicator in his dining room for many, many years. Thank you Paul for your unsung efforts to duplicate 11 months of newsletters for over 13 years. **Thank you Cathy Wolfson** for taking over the process for the next 13 plus years...

To Murf Moorefield for her 3 years of service on the GPCA Board of Directors. Murf has tirelessly worked to increase interest in the GPCA by posting GPCA events to local websites and introducing Patapsco Heritage Greenway to GPCA and thus the Small Watershed Committee was born.

To Marty Kelley and her merry band of folders who gathered the first Tuesday of each month to fold and sticker 1,584 newsletters.

To Evalyn Garvin, Lisa Libowitz, Erin Guarino and Jan Lalomia who have been collating and folding in the safety of their homes individual zip codes of the “pandemic” issues of the newsletter.

To members of the Small Watershed Committee: Bob Teller, Cathy Wolfson, Carl Wolfson, Austin Cohen, Laurie Donnelly, Andy Grosko, Jim Raistrick, Dave Scheurer, Robert Reisdorf, Carol Link and Pam Germaine. The group has participated in monthly sampling, testing and analyzing the waters of four local streams that flow into the Patapsco Watershed. The team has applied for and been awarded two grants to fund their work. Another grant has been submitted for a 2021 award.

To Kathy Skullney who served as our zoning Chair in the 2020 CZMP process as well as tracking other zoning issues that affect GPCA.

To our loyal advertisers: Chesapeake Tree and Outdoor Service, David Dell Tree Service, Hernwood Construction, Lenny’s Automotive, Mathena Septic Tank Service and Warm Spirit Massage. These local businesses advertise in every issue.

To Christina Bolton Facebook Administrator

To new volunteers that have stepped forward to serve in 2021 Lisa Charysyzn, John Creighton, Jenn Gast and Jan Lalomia.

I know I haven’t captured everyone. Email the editor if you know of someone I’ve missed or if you are interested in helping the GPCA community in a

volunteer capacity. Three hours a month is a big help to GPCA. For example: following websites (Friends of Patapsco State Park, MD of Natural Resources, local online newspapers) for stories of interest to see if there are initiatives of interest to GPCA; calls to Baltimore Co agencies for status updates; review the County calendar for upcoming meetings of interest to GPCA; write an article about a local historical landmark or something else of interest such as the next article. Give the editor support on using Microsoft Word to place pictures into the newsletter. The community (and definitely your editor) needs your talent. Thank you in advance.

My Experience Participating in A COVID-19 Vaccine Trial

The risk of exposure to the coronavirus has never been greater today in America and worldwide, and this is likely to continue to increase and last well into 2021. This is the story of my experience as a volunteer in the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine trials.

In late April of this year, an e-mail message made the rounds at the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB, where my wife, Ru-ching and I work) that the UMB Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) was conducting COVID-19 vaccine trials and was seeking individuals to participate in these trials. I signed up and was soon enrolled in the trial. On June 17, I received the first injection and on July 8, a second injection. The trial was double-blind meaning that neither I nor the CVD scientists knew what was being injected: the actual vaccine or a placebo. In mid-December, upon approval of the vaccine by the FDA, I learned that I had received the real thing: 20 mcg of BNT162b1, the scientific name of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

For both injections, I felt the usual pinch in my arm which lasted a fraction of a second for the first injection accompanied with a mild soreness in my arm that lasted an hour or so for the second injection. The shot was nothing different from my annual flu shot. Twenty-four hours after the second injection, I developed a low-grade fever and fatigue that lasted a few hours. I later learned that about 10% of the people who received the vaccine in the study had similar side effects, most had none. I went for multiple follow-up

visits at CVD for batteries of tests. My last visit is scheduled for early January, when I will receive a certificate attesting that I have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

The decision to enroll in the trial was easy. As a 68-years old, I was in the high-risk group, so the first thought that entered my mind was that if there is a chance that the vaccine is effective, I better enroll so that I have a 50-50 chance at being protected if I am ever exposed. It also helped that as a microbiologist with over 40 years of experience, I knew that the chance of having an adverse reaction was negligible. The messenger RNA molecule (mRNA) that is the basis of the vaccine is something our cells make plenty of on a regular basis. The difference between the vaccine mRNA (BNT162b1) and that our cells normally make, is that BNT162b1 encodes the spike protein of the coronavirus, a protein my immune system has never seen, while our own mRNA molecules encode proteins that are essential to human life, and as such are recognized as self and are not attacked by our immune system. The mild side effects I experienced were evidence that my immune system did not particularly like the viral spike protein and it showed its displeasure by giving me a little fever. My body's immune system was doing its job to protect me.

World-renowned vaccinologist Myron Levine, the founding director of the UMB Center for Vaccine development (CVD) refers to vaccines as "weapons of mass protection". Indeed, the world has been at war against the coronavirus for the better part of 2020 and it is predicted to continue into 2021. The Pfizer vaccine as well as other vaccines that are being developed are likely to be the most potent weapons humans have developed to fight this war and necessary to win it. As a child, I remember my mum being very worried about her scrawny child getting polio. Several children had contracted the disease in the village where I grew up in my native Burgundy. The polio vaccine eventually came and eradicated the disease to the point where the fear of polio is now a faint memory. My mother is 88 years-old and is on oxygen with limited respiratory capacity. It is now my turn to worry about her. France is starting to get the Pfizer

vaccine but the first immunizations will be going to front-line workers, as they should.

Lastly, for those of you who fear potential unwanted side effects of vaccines more serious than those I experienced, you are right to fear anything foreign that is delivered directly into your blood stream. However, there are times when the benefit of getting a vaccine far outweigh the potential risks associated with getting the disease. The polio era was such a time and COVID-19 is another. I repeat that the risk of exposure to the coronavirus has never been greater today in America and beyond, and it is likely to last well into 2021. In contrast, the potential benefits of the vaccine(s) are clear from large trials such as that conducted by the UMB Center for Vaccine Development. It was a no-brainer for me to enter this trial and I would do it again tomorrow without hesitation. **Please get vaccinated when it is your turn!** You can contact me at patrik10745@gmail.com if you have any question.

~Patrik Bovil, GPCA Member

Christmas Tree Recycling

The collection of live Christmas trees for recycling in Baltimore County will take place over a two-week period, beginning Monday, January 11. Because Christmas tree collection dates will vary from place to place, **residents must have trees set out no later than Saturday, January 16, to ensure collection.** Residents should place trees out for pick-up at the same location where they would normally place trash and recycling for collection. In addition, residents must follow these rules when placing their Christmas trees out to be recycled:

- Only set out live (not artificial) trees.
- Set out the tree only (no lights, decorations, tinsel, bags, tree stands, etc.).

Baltimore County collectors will pick up Christmas trees in standard trash and recycling trucks and deliver them to County facilities to be chipped and later used as mulch. County residents who live in an apartment or condominium should follow their property manager's rules when setting out Christmas trees for recycling. Residents who wish to drop off Christmas trees themselves may do so starting Saturday,

December 26. Christmas trees (no lights, decorations, tinsel, bags, tree stands, etc.) may be taken to any one of the County's three drop-off locations. For directions to the County's drop-off centers, residents may visit the [Bureau of Solid Waste Management website](#) or call 410-887-2000.

In Our Neighborhood

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm

Interracial Adoptions

In general, poultry have their young in the spring. This consists of laying fertilized eggs and then sitting on them for about a month. The hen that does this is referred to as a "broody hen." Certain birds like guineas and pheasants only lay eggs in the spring. It makes sense to have babies in the spring when the weather is warming up and it is easier for the tiny babies to survive. Deer coordinate their breeding/birth timing to have fawns toward the spring of the year.

Occasionally poultry defy these norms. Chickens or ducks will "go broody" or sit on eggs to hatch them in the late fall going into winter. Who knows why? This year we had two such ducks do this. The first duck had a couple of ducklings which I worked to keep protected. The second hatching was a few days later. Protecting consists of keeping the mother and babies within a pet carrier so they are not exposed to the general population or to nighttime varmints. Later we enclose the whole pet carrier area with an exercise pen to keep other birds out and protect the infants. The second hatchling duck had about 5 babies. We captured the babies and locked them in with the mother for a few days.

A few days after that, our neighbor, Liana was in the barn. When we looked at the second mother's babies, Liana pointed out that these were not ducklings, but baby chicks. The astute teenage eyes are better than the astigmatized eyes of a senior citizen. I should have noticed this, but in my defense I had expected that a duck would hatch out ducklings, and besides it is kind of dark in the barn.

This does happen, where a duck will hatch out chicks or a chicken will hatch out ducks. Usually, the

babies reach an age much later where they figure it out. "Birds of a feather roost together."

Animals have multiple babies because the attrition rate tends to be high. Right now, the first duck has one baby and the second duck has one baby left. Mothers are protective. When I grew up in northern Minnesota there were plenty of black bears around. We were told that if we ever saw a cub we should run the other way. Mother bears are super protective of their cubs. However, I tend to think that all mothers protect their young. When Brenda was staying in Illinois one spring, her redneck neighbor was arrested for assaulting her daughter's teacher. Apparently, the teacher had suggested that the daughter would never be "honor society material." This resulted in the mother trying to pound the teacher's head into a computer keyboard. True story! Point is that our mother duck is protecting her baby chicken like nobody's business. Anything comes near it, the mama duck spreads its wings, opens its mouth, and hisses like a giant snake. Enough to scare anything away.

I have seen this mother duck take water in its bill from a high water bucket and drip it down to its baby so it can drink. I have also seen mother chickens throw a worm up in the air repeatedly to teach its baby to eat foraged food. Mothers are instinctively teachers.

The truth is that there is nothing like a mother's love for her babies. There are exceptions, but I have seen many tough, manly men who tear up when they recount the way that their mother sacrificed and loved them. God bless motherhood.

~John Creighton

2020 - How Did GPCA Do Financially?

Total Cash in Bank including restricted cash: \$14,714

Operating Cash: \$3,443

Liabilities: \$690

Program Income: \$6,335 (\$2,330) less than 2019

2020 Memberships: 177 33 less members from 2019

Operating Expenses: \$6,003 (\$3,168) less than 2019

Net Income: \$444 \$928 increase from 2019

Grant Income: \$2,000 \$1,100 increase from 2019

Member Contributions: \$940 \$99 less than 2019

Grant Expenditures: \$535 \$582 less than 2019

Financial Notes: There were only 5 months in 2020 in which a newsletter was mailed which is why memberships are down and there was a substantial decrease in the 2020 postage expense. The \$2,000 grant will be used for a flagger crew at the 2021 annual cleanup. The GPCA member contributions funded new testing equipment and supplies for the Small Watershed Committee's monthly water sampling and analysis. Please contact me if you have questions about GPCA's finances. Maribeth Diemer: Maribeth-13@att.net; 410 461- 4988

Check Out the New GPCA.net :

Our website has been updated to a new platform. Find links to community resources; older editions of the GPCA newsletter; upcoming events, and ways to become involved. <https://www.gpca.net>

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 to the website please contact the Communications Chair at gpca21163@gmail.com.

Membership Renewals

It's a Brand New Year....Time to Renew or Join

I check the GPCA P.O. Box once a week and throughout December I felt as though every trip was Christmas morning when I opened up my stocking. I'd reach up and into the box and come out with a fistful of envelopes! It may sound corny but I feel the community spirit just as I do when I drive by the "Old Court Road Boot" decked out for the current season.

Annual memberships are current in the year in which they are paid no matter what calendar month the payment is received. If a membership is paid twice I will email you to apply it to a future year or see if you would like to make the additional payment a contribution. Memberships can be sent to the Woodstock PO Box or mailed to my home. Membership forms are on pages 7 and 8. If you want

to be included in the GPCA email "blasts" with virtual meeting information or general updates please fill in the email address line.

Please contact me if you have questions about membership. Maribeth Diemer: Maribeth-13@att.net; 410 461- 4988 **The 2021 February or March newsletter will include our annual membership drive.**

2021 Renewing or New Memberships:

August, Ewald & Shirley; Brooks, Benjamin & Theresa; Chesnutt, Greg & Ella B.; Ewell, Craig & Patrice; Farmer, Jim & Kevin; France, Thomas & Denise; Jordan, Fred & Ann-Eliese; Kahler, Bonnie; Linsenmeyer, Joe & Meghan; Murray, Terilynn; Nueslein, Kate & Tony; Patterson, Judith Anne; Ruxton, Beth Anne; Slomski, Skip & Linda; Thomas, Deborah; Wade Robert & Carolyn; Wilder, Arlene; Wright, Ralph and Brenda; Wynegar, Jr, David & Roni Marie Rinehart

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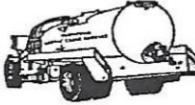
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GPCA Membership Form
We Need Your Voice!

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Phone: _____

Email: _____

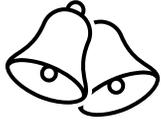
Yearly membership dues:
Family - \$30 Individual - \$20

_____ 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**



*Here's To A Healthy, Happy,
Peaceful and Prosperous 2021!!*



New Beginnings
New Accomplishments
New Friendships

New Appreciation of Ourselves

The Return Of No-Distanced Gatherings