



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #408

GPCA Newsletter

June 2021

Next Meeting: Hernwood Landfill Solar Plant

**Topic: Q & A with Solar Developer SunPower and Energy
Sustainability Coordinator for Johnny O**

Monday, June 14, 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.
View our Website at www.gpca.net*

June General Meeting Topic - Hernwood Landfill Solar Plant

Baltimore County has contracted with solar energy developer SolarPower to utilize the county's former Hernwood and Parkton Landfill sites to produce up to 36% of the county's buildings and facilities electrical supply on completion. SunPower Corp. and its financiers will install and maintain the facilities and in exchange the county will pay a fixed rate per kilowatt-hour over 25 years. What will the generation of 43,000,000 kilowatts generated annually by the two projects mean for Granite/Woodstock residents? How will timing and implementation of construction impact us? How many acres will not be reforested for the foreseeable future? Will additional infrastructure be required to transfer the power to "the grid". Seth Blumen, Energy a Sustainability Coordinator for County Executive Johnny O and a representative from SunPower will outline the plan and answer questions at our June 14 General Meeting on Zoom. Consider sharing your questions with me in advance to be forwarded to Mr. Blumen and the SolarPower rep who will answer them at the meeting. Cathy Wolfson oakknob@comcast.net 410-245-8708.

Membership Drive Results as of May 31st, 2021:

Thank you one and all! Since May's membership drive issue GPCA's paid memberships have jumped by 60 to a total of 190 members. It is wonderful to see folks who haven't renewed in a few years back in the fold. The GPCA board and committee members appreciate the notes of support from the community. It is energizing to know you are listening and aware of the work behind the scenes. We need 37 more households to join or renew their membership to meet our 227 paid membership 2021 program revenue goals. The application is on page 7. I know we can do it.

GPCA will be on summer break come July and August and no general meetings will be held. Hopefully, in September we can meet in person at Granite Presbyterian or perhaps a hybrid approach of Zoom and in person meetings. As always, the board and the committees will continue to work through August to keep the GPCA voice front and center in the Baltimore County government offices.

May each of you have a healthy, relaxing but playful summer! Take care.

What's inside?

Meeting summary 2030 Masterplan, SWCC ...2 In Our Neighborhood ...3-5 Local Advertisers...5-7

May 10th General Meeting Baltimore County Master Plan 2030

GPCA hosted Baltimore County Dept. of Planning Deputy Director and Master Plan Coordinator Amy Trexler Mantay who reviewed the history of our County's Master Plan and current review process. Maryland requires that each county and Baltimore City develop a comprehensive plan (AKA Master Plan) that serves as a guide to "ensure the development of public and private property in appropriate relationships." Baltimore County's plan was adopted by the County Council in 1975 and has been subject to a 10 year review cycle since 1980. Accordingly, the 2030 Master Plan succeeds the 2020 Plan. Baltimore County Code states the plan "*Shall be made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the county and its environs which will, in accordance with present and future needs, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development and maintenance of property values previously established.*" In short it is intended to guide the County Executive, the County Council, and County departments in promoting responsible development in an equitable and environmentally sensitive manner that promotes adequate open space to help secure a sustainable future for the residents of Baltimore County.

Principles guiding this year's cycle are inclusivity in decision making, sustainability of county infrastructure, safeguarding our ecology and climate and insuring access to all residents of high quality affordable and accessible housing. Amy emphasized the importance of citizen input to the process and encourages us to provide our feedback on the newly launched Master Plan site at <https://masterplan2030-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/> in addition to testifying at planning board and county council public hearings to be scheduled for each councilmanic district at a future time. Guiding us through the process will be planners Ngone Seye Diop in District 4, Josephine Selvakumar in District 1 and Joe Wiley for the rural areas of the county including Granite. The plan also incorporates community visions through the adoption of

community plans by the County Council and then incorporated into the Master Plan. These plans include our own Patapsco Granite Community Plan which GPCA's PGCP Committee is reviewing for revisions that will insure its relevance in the coming decade. Stay tuned for updates from GPCA throughout this process. As your 4th district planning board member, I'm happy to answer any questions you have regarding this process or refer you to someone who can.

Cathy Wolfson oakknob@comcast.net 410 245-8708

Small Watershed Community Committee Climate Change and Agriculture

Non-profit [Forever Maryland](#) hosted the 3rd in a series of conservation themed free webinars on May 19 featuring Elizabeth Marks, biologist for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Dr. Dennis Timlin a research soil scientist at USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Resource Center who discussed effects of climate change on agriculture that have been accelerating since the 1880s. The USDA has identified 8 climate hubs in the US and MD is in the Northeast hub. Since 1895 average temperatures in MD have increased by 1.5°F extending our growing season by 20 days annually. Longer growing seasons may make it possible to harvest two crops per year and crops typical of warmer climates such as peanuts and cotton may become practical to grow in MD. Rainfall has also increased, though primarily in the fall when it has little impact on the growing season. Since 1950 extreme rain events (2" or more in a 24-hour period) have increased 15% and since 1980 a whopping 236%!! Sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay have risen approximately 12-14" since 1880, 50-75% greater than the global average. In Somerset County 1400 acres of farmland were absorbed by tidal marsh between 2009-2017 and coastal woodlands are becoming "ghost forests" due to salt water intrusion resulting from sea level rise. It damages infrastructure, closes roads and overwhelms storm drains as well.

Transportation, industry and generation of electricity are the most frequently cited sectors that produce greenhouse gasses but surprisingly agriculture generates 10% of total emissions. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) accounts for 80% of the total emissions

from all sectors and negatively effects plant production decreasing the nutritional value of food as high CO₂ levels result in faster growth rates and reductions of the plants' nutrient uptake and consequent output. The good news is the US hit peak greenhouse gas emissions in 2007 and since 2000 electric generation from coal and petroleum has steadily declined as renewable energy sources come online. Innovative growing practices such as utilizing high tunnel growing structures, like those at [Pahl's Farm](#) in Granite are a costly investment for farmers but prolong the growing season, shield crops from excessive wind and rain, prevent blemishing of produce from sun scald and pests and reduce nutrient use. Adaptive farming techniques like this maximize soil cover and biodiversity and minimize soil disturbance that will help farms produce adequate food supply. This webinar was the 3rd of 5 in a series hosted by Forever Maryland. Upcoming free webinars are Urban Conservation and Urban Agriculture, Sept. 15 and New Partnerships, New Successes: Regional Conservation Partnerships in MD, October 20th. For more information or to register search [forevermaryland.org webinar series](https://forevermaryland.org/webinar-series).

Cathy Wolfson

In Our Neighborhood

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm Relentless Procreation

In the book and movie "Jurassic Park," the scientists who developed the dinosaurs for the island had two safeguards against the animals reproducing. The first was that all of the creatures were female, and the second was that they treated each animal with radiation so that they could not reproduce. Somehow the dinosaurs overcame those obstacles and managed to start laying and hatching eggs. Dr. Ian Malcolm, played by Jeff Goldblum in the movie, was a mathematician who worked in chaos theory. He predicted that the park would fail because of the many uncontrolled variables. I believe that Malcom was modeled after the author of "Jurassic", Michael Crichton, since Crichton was active in speaking about the narcissist overconfidence of modern science. In the

Jurassic story, Malcolm was very cynical about the lack of respect that the scientists on the island had for nature. His most important quote was, "just because you CAN, it does not mean that you SHOULD."

All of our birds and poultry at Offutt Ridge Farm do not need to be taught how to make a nest, lay eggs, and then sit them out to hatch them. The guineas and Eastern turkeys have always refused to make nests in the barn, but do it outside, which usually leads them to being killed by the foxes. One guinea had a well-hidden nest outside with more than 20 eggs in it. She faithfully sat it out, even through rainstorms, to hatch the eggs. In the morning she would come back to the barn to get food. After about 30 days every egg in her nest hatched at the same time.

Every year our barn swallows fly here to hatch out two sets of baby birds. Not only do they lay and hatch them, but they are very protective of their nests. Any predator or perceived predator has them dive bombing and making their familiar cries of anger.

One of the first signs of life in the spring is the chirping chorus of the peeper frogs in the wetland areas. This, along with robins arriving and daffodils blooming are some of the first signs of spring that occur in mid-March. The inch size frogs live in groups called "armies" and can supposedly freeze when hibernating over winter and still revive in spring. The peeping is done by the males in order to attract females.

Familiar sights outside in the summer are fireflies or lantern bugs. These beetles use chemiluminescence, which is 100% efficient in terms of all light and no heat. Their light warns off predators, attracts prey, and serves to signal back and forth between males and females. There seems to be a wide time period over which they can appear. I have guessed that it is due to the wetness or temperature variations in the summer.

I have hardly ever seen a place that is so densely populated that deer and foxes are not thriving. I visited my daughter in East London and saw a fox pulling her kits through a hole in the fence in the small yard in their flat. I have been in the densely populated Bay Area of California and seen deer wandering around eating from the suburban gardens. Foxes and

deer manage to reproduce and thrive no matter how much mankind encroaches on their domain.

The power of nature to keep reproducing is always impressive, and although humans think we can control and/or impact their existence usually we end up with unintended consequences when we try. The onward march of nature reproducing is relentless.

John Creighton



Granite Historic Society History Hike

This past COVID-19 year has been a challenging one for the Granite Historical Society as well as many others. Our public meeting and oral history presentation last March were both canceled as was our history hike last May. Our work to create an archive room at Granite Church stopped almost before it started. On top of that, our board and members had to get along on Zoom for monthly meetings, a heavy life for some of us as well as our GPCA friends. Nevertheless, we're now moving forward for rest of 2021 and our first, in-person activity since last March will take place on Saturday, June 26th, a history hike to either the Worthington Estate property off of Dogwood Road or to the Davis Railroad Tunnel located between Daniels and Woodstock. If you'd like to join the hike, please email us at info@granitehistoricalsociety.org or use the Contact Form on our website, www.granitehistoricalsociety.org. Feel free also to contact one of our officers shown on the website and if you're not already a member and would like to join talk to them about how you can join.

- *John Brantley*

GI Joes For Sale

Over 70 figures, from all different years are available for sale. A helicopter is also available. Each item is \$30.

Please message 443-518-8765 for more information. Thank you!

Blast from the Past, May 13, 2001, Issue #181

The Saga of the GPCA by Abe Granek

Life in GPCA is never, ever dull,

Many issues arise to keep our plates quite full,

*For example, more than thirty years have passed
since a junkyard came in view,*

Everybody rallied 'round to see what we could do.

*That issue finally went away and on it we shut the
door,*

*but then the Seminary closed up, and the Jesuits were
no more.*

*Out of left field, we heard of the Job Corps. The Center
came, the panic died, no need to go to war.*

*Next for many long years, we got to know Jimmy Jett.
He dealt a hand to Granite, which we can't forget.*

*He posed as quite a simple guy, who didn't plan to
harm.*

*He wanted just to plant some trees and make his
place a farm.*

*Soon he found that dumping stumps can earn a lot
more dough.*

*The stump dump started out quite slowly but it began
to grow.*

*Eighteen wheeler dump trucks made quite a long
parade*

Despite the law, our Jamie Jett, just was not afraid.

*GPCA stalwarts fought him hard, took him to court, but
all this he ignored, Again in court we testified and
Judge Smith gave Jim what for.*

Jimmy was a devious guy of little prin-ci-ple

*It became, quite clear to us, he knew which strings to
pull.*

His arrogance, defiance, raised all of Granite's ire.

*And then there came the day of the well-known stump
dump fire,*

*Granite got quite famous, we were in the public's eye
The fire went deep, quite hard to treat, the smoke
darkened our sky.*

*Despite the firemen's efforts and all their ingenuity,
The fire seemed 't would stay put, in all of perpetuity.*

*A guy came in from Saint Louis with his magic brew.
He had no luck, he soon gave up, the fire blazed
anew.*

*Fire folk ran out of ideas but then they had another,
Dump huge amounts of dirt upon the heat hoping it
would smother,*

*The last idea seemed to work; we think the fire's out.
Now we'll sit back to see what new things come about.*

*Jimmy Jett is long gone; none here will shed a tear.
With Jimmy out of sight we like it better here.
Unfortunately, we cannot just relax
There's another issue afoot which will our efforts tax.
The Bethel AME Church, is in desperate need of
space.*

*"God sent them here", soothsayers proclaim, to settle
in this place.*

*Hmm, me thinks the god who sent them here
resembles very much,*

*Our coun-ty; exec-u-tive who goes by the name of
Dutch!*

*Fourteen thousand members, swing a lot of votes
With hopes to be our governor, on voters Dutch just
dotes.*

*The impact on our roads here aren't really Dutch's
concern.*

*Of gridlock and of problems, they'll all too quickly
learn.*

*The traffic experts numbers are really quite far out.
They simply crunched their numbers until eliminating
any doubt that*

*The traffic church will generate will be much too
voluminous*

*And the goings and the comings will be too
multitudinous.*

Our sole objection to Bethel is just its massive size.

*We don't know how to find a way for sides to
compromise.*

*So, we find ourselves with horns locked going to those
hearings*

*Hoping court will understand what it is we're afearing.
GPCA is just not sure how this case will finally play
out.*

*Our folks are quite tenacious of this there is no doubt.
GPCA will keep on trying, on this you can depend;
however, those courtroom benches can get you in the
end.*

*The glu-teus maximus, really takes a beating
Callouses are forming from all that hardwood seating.*

Abe's note: Not the end, more later ... maybe.

This article was edited from the original for clarity and space.

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Yearly membership dues:

Family - \$30 Individual - \$20

(Associate memberships are available for folks outside the GPCA boundaries and organizations)

_____ 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



GPCA

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS TOPIC:

June 14 @ 7:30 Hernwood Landfill designated site of solar plant to provide power to Baltimore County's buildings and facilities by 2023. Speaker Seth Balto. Co. Energy and Sustainability Coordinator with representative from SunPower, solar developer

NOTE: No general meetings in July or August. And the newsletter team takes a much deserved break in July. Have a GREAT summer and enjoy the company of others!!!

Details about how to join the virtual calls will be sent to the GPCA email group. To be added to the group and receive the agenda and zoom call in link Email: gpc21163@gmail.com You can unsubscribe at any time.

GPCA Objectives: 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 the residents. The Association will only become directly involved in matters which affect the safety and welfare of the community as a whole. This involvement will be directed at actions which violate existing laws or regulations or which will assist in implementing new laws or regulations to further and achieve our objectives.

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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 20th of the month prior to publishing.

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