



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #411

GPCA Newsletter

November 2021

Next Meeting: Ryan Coleman, Pres. Randallstown NAACP

Topics: Redistricting, Security Sq. Mall, Liberty Rd. Revitalization

Monday, November 8th, 7:00 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

Small Watershed Conservation Committee (SWCC):

We hope you can join us for our 4th annual local watershed cleanup. SWCC is looking for an area within GPCA boundaries that could use a bit of tidying and is safe, suggestions are appreciated. The date and time are Sunday November 14th from 8:00 to 11:00. An email blast will be sent as to the location – but please keep the date open.

While I'm inviting you to get out and about for a local cleanup, I'd also like to invite you to join the sampling team on one of the monthly stream sample collection days. We enjoy sharing what we do with the community. Bring a camera and take pictures. Or if stream monitoring is something you might want to participate in, come out to see and meet some of the members. Then decide.

The SWCC has reached a milestone. We have collected and undertaken detailed analysis for each of the 4 watershed for the past 24 months. The evaluation work includes the expected spread sheets and error checking but also involves a lot of scrutiny and interpretation of the data. We are fortunate to have talented members who have the knowledge and skills to do the necessary analysis, they are creative and push through to get the detailed work done. This data is shared with the Patapsco Heritage Greenway and their watershed data map for the Patapsco Valley area.

Finally, the SWCC has applied for a grant. If we are awarded, we will be able to fund a years' worth of supplies and replacement parts needed to continue monitoring. In the coming months we hope to do more than monitor the streams. We are looking at a few ideas – even the possibility of rehabilitating a trout stream.

Email me at gpc21163@gmail.com for more information, dates, or links.

~Bob Teller, SWCC Chairman

What's inside?

General meeting summary, Zoning update ...2 In Our Neighborhood ...3-5 Local Advertisers...5-7

Summary of October General Meeting – Councilman Julian Jones, 4th Councilmanic District Representative

We welcomed Fourth District Councilman and Chairman of the County Council Julian Jones as our guest speaker in October. He presented informational updates about District Four and addressed concerns of attendees at the meeting.

When Baltimore County schools closed due to COVID-19 there had already been an absentee rate of 25%-30%. Maryland counties received a safety net from the federal government relief package approved during the pandemic. With this federal help the County could deliver food and provide help to small businesses. The federal relief also funded testing supplies and vaccine clinics. Although the State discontinued the state of emergency in August Baltimore Co has kept it in place until November 4, 2021. The state of emergency gives flexibility to the Baltimore County government to put in place public health policies. An example is the county mandate for all county government employees to either be vaccinated or be subject to testing.

Redistricting is now in process and must be completed by January of 2022. Redistricting occurs every ten years and ensures that there is one person, one vote. The census shows that in Baltimore County's seven districts there has been an increase of 50,000 citizens, and population changes can affect redistricting. The redistricting commission has done its work and has sent its results to the Baltimore County Council.

Each of Baltimore County's seven districts has been designated as the location of ten solar facilities. The goal is to have 1/3 of our energy sourced from green energy in ten years.

Crimefighting is a concern in Baltimore County. We are approaching 50 murders this year. The count is 43 murders to date.

The Royal Farms Store at Milford Mill Rd. and Liberty Rd. is moving forward.

The recently closed Food Lion was not able to update. This is the reason it closed, and we need another grocery store in our area. Four Giant stores

closed recently, including the store at Milford Mill Rd. and Liberty Road. Giant closed this store and three others that were less than fifty to sixty thousand square feet and opened a new store at Mill Station.

Fifty percent of the ten allowed solar sites for District Four fall within 7% of District Four's area and are within our tiny GPCA area. In addition, the county will use the 57-acre Hernwood abandoned landfill, again within our area, as its own special solar site to provide energy for county buildings. This does not count in the ten allowed solar sites for District Four. Meeting attendees asked Councilman Jones to propose a moratorium, given the disproportionate proliferation of solar sites in our area.

Another concern from the meeting was landscaping for existing and future solar sites to prevent the panels from being seen from the road. Often, trees and other plantings have died and are not replaced. There needs to be enforcement for this issue.

Security Square Mall continues to be a concern. Two properties there are slated to be a Wawa and a Chick-fil-A. Multiple owners continue to disagree on renovations. The redline heading to the mall may be reinstated in the future.

Redesign of Liberty Road is another concern. For twenty years there have been plans for revitalization of Liberty Road and it never happens. Councilman Jones pointed out that he stopped the relocation of Walmart from Liberty Road to Mill Station, with Costco being located at Mill Station instead, and talked about the difficulty of getting developers to help with Liberty Road. Many thanks to Councilman Julian Jones for being our guest speaker and for listening to the concerns from our community.

~ Denise Maranto, Secretary

Land Use/Zoning Update:

As has been regularly covered in the Newsletter, GPCA has participated in these development cases affecting our community, and the status is as follows: Chaberton Energy Solar Facility, 2938 Hernwood Road – No administrative Law Judge decision yet per hearing held on September 13, 2021.

Patapsco Glen II Development on Johnnycake Road – as scheduled, GPCA filed its written argument supporting denial on Appeal with the Board of Appeals, which will hold a public deliberation October 28, and render its decision;

Patapsco Fields PUD on Johnnycake Road - the hearing for GPCA's appeal of the PUD's approval was heard on October 21 as scheduled, written arguments are due November 12. The deliberation date has not yet been set.

Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery – No further update currently.

Redistricting Maps: The Commission has published its report and is recommending eastward changes to the southern boundary by adding some Woodlawn/Security areas and to the northern boundary by adding a slice of western District 3 to our District 4. The Report (with map) can be viewed directly on the county website: baltimorecountymaryland.gov, clicking on the Council picture and selecting it from the highlighted ALERT information which appears first. These recommendations are already being opposed in some of the neighborhoods affected. A Council public meeting on the Report has been scheduled October 26, 6 pm. Call Julian Jones office to find out how to view any additional maps that have been submitted to the Commission. 410-887-0784 or email your question to council4@baltimorecountymd.gov Also, Mr. Jones will be holding a redistricting meeting in person at the Owings Mills library on November 3rd. He is very interested in getting everyone's input on how the final redistricting map will be drawn.

~Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair, Maribeth Diemer

The Master Plan 2030 –

No new local updates but the committee meets regularly. However, the continuing compilation of Master Plan data being gathered by Baltimore County is available at "Master Plan 2030 Hub".

[Master Plan 2030-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com](http://MasterPlan2030-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com)

In Our Neighborhood

In Memorial: It is with great sadness we share the news of the sudden passing on October 13th of Kari Weidner Mezger, a longtime member and supporter of GPCA. Always with willing hands Kari would grab a cart at BJ's and filled it with plates, paper goods and condiments for the GPCA picnics, during the picnic Kari would be the master griller and make burgers to order and keep the grill food coming. Kari would bring a dish to share at our Holiday meeting or drop off a snack for the clean-up on her way to work. Kari stepped up to help, even when husband Bruce volunteered her! She was a force on their stretch of Windsor Mill Road, watching out for senior neighbors and calling out speeders flying by their house. A vigilant animal lover she'd call to report a loose dog on Old Court Road on her way to work and taught her particularly wayward cat to walk on a leash! Bruce and her worlds revolved around each other, and her loss is immeasurable. Kari will be sorely missed but may her lessons on caring and sharing be modeled by all of us.

~Cathy Wolfson

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm Respect for Redundancy

I was taking the mower blades off my lawn mower when I broke my 1-1/4-inch wrench. Fortunately, I had a spare in my garage. Having spare tools is an example of redundancy. Often redundancy is considered as wasteful, as when companies merge and lay off workers because of "redundancy." I like redundancy.

When I worked in my previous job, we had operating processes that had equipment that broke down. When we sent out craftsmen like pipefitters, multi-mechanics, or electricians we found it better to send them out in pairs. Not that it took two of them to lift things or to hold two tools, but for reasoning purposes. The workers used a routine of taking two minutes to analyze the job, evaluate the safety concerns, question if they had the right tools, and discuss the steps in repairing the equipment. The redundancy in this case is the two sets of brains to spend a few minutes planning the job. In my opinion the overall efficiency was much better than just sending one person for each job.

I use voice texting and often my phone mistakes my words. Everyone has a story about this. Similarly, sometimes when you type words spellcheck changes your word and overrules you. When I say "hay", my phone always writes "hair" even when I scream it loudly and

clearly. Likewise, when I say “hens”, it always writes “hands.” One might say that I have a speech impediment, but I have tried it so many times I really think it is my phone. The same things happen with close captioning on live TV. The reason that we do better is that in our normal communication we have redundancy. We have word recognition, but IN ADDITION we use contextual clues. So, if I say I need to move some bales of hay, human redundancy using context will get it right. Dumb AI (artificial intelligence) without contextual redundancy gets it wrong. I saw a closed-captioned news item that spelled out “Mayor Brandon Scott” as “Mare Brandon Scott.”

An irritating thing that drivers do is to not signal. Signal communication in driving really improves safety. What happens when I am in a right turn only lane, do I still need to signal, or is that redundant? The answer is yes, it is redundant, but it helps communication if you do signal. Redundancy in driving is good.

Redundancy in household and home use is very timesaving. For example, having some scissors in every room, every floor, or whatever can save much time. The same with reading glasses if they are needed. Another word for this is spare, like a spare tire.

In the kitchen everyone has favorite critical items. We used the term “having a backup”. For Brenda it was always powdered sugar and mayonnaise. For some reason those were things that whatever else happened in the world she did not want to run out of. My essential items to have backups for are tabasco sauce, barbecue sauce, and garlic chile sauce. No judgement please.

~John Creighton

Finalized Regulation Changes October 22, 2021

The Baltimore Co Depart of Public Works and Transportation today announced several changes to the Bureau of Solid Waste Management’s regulations, including:

Beginning April 1, 2022, the County will require all separate yard material collection setouts to be placed in paper bags. Plastic bags will no longer be accepted for yard materials, unless the material is set out as trash on a scheduled trash collection day. This new rule will allow the County to turn more of the yard waste collected into compost and will allow for a higher quality of compost material. To assist with this transition, the County will provide residents with paper yard material bags at no cost. Paper bags will be available for pick-up at all [County trash and recycling drop-off centers](#), all [Baltimore County Public Library branches](#) and all [County senior centers](#). Paper bags will be limited to five per person and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The County will accept larger weight and capacity limits for trash and recycling containers (up to 45 pounds and 45-gallon cans) as well as the ability to use containers compatible with mechanical cart tipplers.

The County will introduce a new “sliding” schedule for collection holidays. Starting January 1, 2022, scheduled collection days which falls on or after a holiday will generally “slide” to one day later that week. This “slide” will apply to all types of collections (trash, recycling and yard material), meaning that residents will no longer have to hold recyclables for an extra week after a holiday.

The County will introduce a bulk collection program starting in early 2022. More details will be released in the coming months.

Further details about these changes will be available in December, when the County mails the new 2022 program guides to County residents. Specific collection calendars will also be included in this mailing, which will clearly outline the new holiday “slide” collection days. For more information visit baltimorecountymd.gov/solidwaste.

GHS Historical Mementos

In 1997, the GHS initiated a program to capture the historical aspects of several sites and landmarks in our area on special ornament mementos. While some of the years in the series are sold out, we still have a number available for a variety of years between 1999 and 2017. The years available and the sites depicted are:

1999	Mt. Welcome	
2001	St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Church (original church)	
2002	Country House (St. Paul Avenue)	Victorian
2004	Caleb Owings Home	
2005	Granite Church	Presbyterian
2007	Woodstock	B&O



Railroad Station

2008	William Albright House
2010	St. Paul Avenue Church
2011	Mt. Welcome Retreat
2013	Woodstock Seminary
2014	Marcella Methodist Episcopal Church
2015	Jesuit Priest Mortuary Chapel (Woodstock Cemetery)
2016	Locomotive Granite RR Waltersville Quarry
2017	The Little Flower School

These ornaments come in a variety of attractive colors and are available for only \$5 each. While a nice Christmas display item, their appearance and historic reference lends itself to being a display in your house the year round. If interested, to help in your selection, we have posted pictures of those still available on our website at www.granitehistoricalsociety.org. The pictures on these ornaments were captured by the abilities of past local artist Betty Griffith and are a special item that depicts historical aspects of our area. We hope you will find these ornaments of interest and consider getting one. To place an order you can contact any of our current board members or by emailing ghsmd.president@gmail.org or info@granitehistoricalsociety.org. We thank you for your support and look forward to hopefully seeing you at our next meeting.

~Bill Skullney, GHS President

14th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus
Council #13294

At St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Parish,
 10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163

Saturday, November 20, 2021

5:30 pm to 9:30 pm

\$55 per person or 2 for \$110/ table of 8 \$400

Bull Roast PayPal is now live:

http://www.kofc13294.org/fundraiser_BullRoast.html

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We Need Your Voice!

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

NOTE NEW MEETING TIME - 7 pm

Join us November 8 @ 7:00 pm via Zoom

Guest Speaker Ryan Coleman

President Randallstown NAACP

Topics: Security Square Mall, Redistricting

Liberty Road Revitalization, Police

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.

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 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 future publication.

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