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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 427 GPCA Newsletter May 2023

GPCA General Meeting

Monday, May 8, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

Planning Overview - Western District and 4th District, Rural Planning

Guest Speakers:

Daphne Daly, 4th District Lead planner
Joe Wiley, Ag/Rural Resource Planner & Land Preservation Specialist

The Baltimore County Planning Department covers policies, development, and preservation actions and processes throughout the County. GPCA is in District 4, which is part of the Western Sector but is outside the urban demarcation line (URDL) thus involving both urban impacts and rural preservation. Our guests will share their professional expertise as it applies to the essential planning overview for our area.

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Upcoming Programs – Not to be missed

June – Community Plant Swap, and Baltimore Co. Department of Public

Works and Transportation

(Reminder: no general meetings in July or August)

October 7th - Annual Community Picnic. Stay Tuned!!

From Last General Meeting

– Family Winemaking

Our Guest Speaker for our April meeting was local winemaker and neighbor Ken Jordan.

As summer approaches with lots of good fruits and vegetables (we hope!) there is always the dilemma of what to do with too much. Ken shared with us the perfect answer for how not to let it go to waste, as well as a really great reuse for empty wine bottles. He makes wine with nearly every fruit you can think of and with all sorts of combinations of those fruits. He has used such abundant plants as rhubarb, and many kinds of vegetables. Ken showed us the equipment he uses and illustrated the general process. Home or family winemaking is produced by the gallon generally in three phases: primary fermentation for two weeks, followed by secondary fermentation lasting three to six months, after which your wine is bottled.

Some very good samples and examples were shared. It was a fascinating and delightful topic!

Good Sources of: The Joy of Home Winemaking – Terry A. Garey (printed guide)

University of Maryland, Agriculture and Food – Enology & Winemaking

University of Pennsylvania – Winemaking as a Hobby

Maryland Homebrew store for equipment

~ Kathy Skullney

President's Note

May Greetings, fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors. Despite the struggles to stay warm and the shivers of our seedlings, the azaleas and bridal wreaths are beautiful. We are looking seriously at our future as well as we engage in the Master Plan 2030 process, the updating of our official Granite Patapsco Community Plan, and preparing for the four-year zoning process (CZMP) which starts in September 2023. We also are engaged particularly in the current conditions of our existing infrastructure, as well as what the future holds for that critical community element. That will be the topic of our June meeting, so be sure to weigh in then.

As always, we are committed to providing a good forum to address the larger community concerns of our members and neighbors; and we can never say it enough: our guiding belief is that we are all part of the same community, and the more ways we can all get together, the more voices we have, the better! Come join us…especially to swap our favorite plant at the June meeting!

Staying informed and engaged is one of our greatest strengths.

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

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From the Editor's Desk

Spring is the season for planting and … planning. Planning what to grow in the garden this year, planning first BBQ party on the Memorial Day weekend and planning where to go on vacation this summer. Somehow this year the weather is never in agreement with my planning. Luckily, our good neighbors at the Granite Presbyterian Church (GPC) seem to have much better luck than me planning events. GPC held a very successful Food Truck Wednesday with great food and music on a gorgeous afternoon filled with warm sun, as well as a productive Sunday afternoon spent indoors (while rain poured outside) learning CPR, AED and other emergency medical interventions critical to save lives. We should all be grateful when members of our community organize events and activities allowing us to meet and enjoy our environment together. There is no better way to show our appreciation than to participate and support their efforts. Please, don't miss the Organ concert on May 5th at the St Alphonsus Church, the next Food Truck Wednesday on May 17th, and the Spring Hike organized by Granite Historical Society on June 4th. Also, start putting aside the extra plants and seedlings you can share during the plant swap on June 12 at the last GPCA General Meeting before summer. You can find details of all these events in this issue of the Newsletter and on the Event Calendar on the GPCA website. And please let us know if you know of any other local events in the future. I look forward to having more opportunities to meet you during these community activities.

~ Ru-ching Hsia

Editor, GPCA Newsletter

2023 GPCA Membership Drive

We have had a terrific response to our membership drive and appreciate everyone who has chosen to support your community association this year. Many of you are saving time and postage by joining online while others appreciate the ability to join by mail. Whatever works for you is best for us! The membership drive is open year round so it's never too late to join GPCA! And thank you thank you to everyone who has added something extra to their dues. We truly appreciate your acknowledgment of our efforts!

~ Cathy Wolfson, Treasurer

410-245-8708

oakknob@comcast.net

Join or Renew GPCA Membership

Final Legislative Report – District 10

For a summary of the General Assembly 2023 Session, and in particular for District 10, request the constituent report from Senator Benjamin Brooks at Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us via Kimberly Shiloh, Chief of Staff at 410-841-3606..

~ Kathy Skullney

Patapsco-Granite Area Rural Roads Update

Traffic Calming

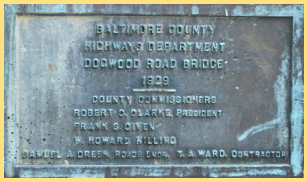
Most of us who live on our connecting roads such as Ridge, Dogwood and Granite have been frustrated by heavy commuter traffic speeding through our neighborhoods. It's a frustration we share with urban residents, who have long been able to petition the county for traffic calming installations. That remedy is now available on all residential streets throughout the county that meet certain criteria. The Neighborhood Traffic

Management Program starts with an application that is evaluated to determine if it meets 4 basic requirements:

- The road segment to be studied must be at least 1000' long.
- Dead-end streets and cul-de-sacs will not be considered.
- The street must be within the urban rural demarcation boundary HOWEVER consideration will be given to residential neighborhoods outside of the URDL that have an average lot size of 2 acres or less.
- Streets that do not meet the minimum traffic volume requirements will only be re-evaluated every three (3) years

Want to learn more? Join us for the GPCA General Meeting on June 12th with **Department of Public Works and Transportation** Deputy Director, Anthony Russell, Jr. Also check our website to view the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program for the community link.

~ Cathy Wolfson



Update on Bridge #72 Dogwood Road over Ben's Run

A team member at Baltimore County Structural Design and Approval has reported that preliminary engineering studies are ongoing for the development of a new bridge design for the Ben's Run bridge. The current bridge was built in 1929 and replaced the existing covered bridge. The new bridge will be two lanes wide and include a pedestrian walkway. Plans are expected to be complete in 2024 when the Baltimore County project will go to bid. They say there will be a meeting for public comment, but not until plans are complete. Keep in mind the original plans for the bridge replacement were dated 2004. There are NO plans to change the geometry of Quaker Hill; a natural feature that discourages heavy truck traffic from Rolling Road and MD 99 connecting to Old Court Road.

~ Cathy Wolfson

DogwoodRoad Concrete bridge sign mdcoveredbridges@comcast.net

Baltimore County DPW Annual Rural Roads Meeting

Community members and residents met at Oregon Ridge on April 25th to discuss rural roads, bridges, repaving and traffic issues related to preserving Baltimore County's rural Character. The meeting was chaired by

DPWT Deputy Director Lauren Buckler and attended by the managers of traffic engineering, major structures, highway management and road repair/repaving. The good news is that funding for road repair, and especially for bridges, has been significantly increased in the new annual budget awaiting County Council passage. This funding is intended to address the backlog of needed repair work. GPCA joined community members from Glyndon, Kingsville, Upperco and Cockeysville areas. Speed and volume of through-traffic was one of the most mentioned issues, as well as needed repairs.

-Just a reminder that DPWT will be our featured topic at the June General Meeting.

~ Kathy Skullney

Around the GPCA Neighborhood….

Baltimore County MASTER PLAN 2030 – Next Phase

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO Planning Board FOR DRAFT MASTER PLAN 2030

Baltimore County has released the draft of Master Plan 2030 for public review and comment. The draft plan follows a two-year planning process that included extensive community engagement through April 14th. The revised Draft is then forwarded to the Planning Board in May. Comments can be submitted to the Baltimore County Planning Board by noon on Wednesday, May 17, one of two ways:

By mail: Attn: Baltimore County Planning Board, Department of Planning, Jefferson Building,
105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 101, Towson, Maryland 21204 or
By email: masterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov

Your input is critical to ensuring the Master Plan 2030 reflects the vision and needs of everyone who lives, works, and visits Baltimore County.

~ Kathy Skullney

Sharing Good Food and Music on a Great Evening

Granite Presbyterian Church held their first food truck event on Wednesday, April 19th, and what a fun, successful, and well-attended event it was! Good food, fellowship, and music by **The Fruit Jar Howlers** was enjoyed by all. The picture-perfect weather was just the icing on the cake! We are most thankful for the support of our awesome community and vendors (Meat Shack II, Capt'n Crabby, ICE Bowl and Home Baked Goods by Diana). **Mark your calendars for May 17 for the next one**. Y'all come back now, ya hear?

~ Joyce Peugh

Unfortunate, but Important Note - The Granite Presbyterian Church put out a dozen signs throughout our community for their Food Truck event, with enough time to let everyone know. Surprisingly, most of the signs were taken/stolen well before the event itself. It is most unfortunate that something like that would occur in our community, as we all (done properly!) use signs to communicate important activities.

Learning Critical Skills on a Raining Sunday

Approximately 20 people from our community learned life-saving skills at the CPR/AED/First Aid class held at the Granite Presbyterian Church social hall on April 30. The class was presented by experienced instructors (EMT's and paramedics) from Baltimore County Fire and Medical Training Inc. (BCFMT).

Class participants learned critical skills needed to respond to and manage emergencies until emergency medical services arrive. Hands-on practice focused on developing several important skills:

- Performing CPR chest compressions. Note to all, mouth-to-mouth assisted breathing is no longer part of the current CPR regimen
- Using an automatic external defibrillator (AED)
- Controlling bleeding—through the use of bandages, applying pressure to wounds, and correctly applying a tourniquet when needed
- Providing choking relief in adults, children and infants

The instructors also provided valuable information on responding to: asthma attacks, various allergic response emergencies, opioid overdoses (e.g., use of the now currently-available opioid reversal medicines), cardiac arrest, thermal burns, and venomous snake and insect bites.

The instructors imparted invaluable knowledge and participants learned relevant skills that could help save a life at home or wherever they might be when an emergency occurs.

~ Bob Reisdorf

Small Watershed Conservation Committee

Eel Ladder

"*Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got til its gone…*".

This lyric from Joni Mitchell's 1970 song applies to many relationships between "civilization" and nature. On seemly rare occasions, we see nature starting to recover from the encroachments of civilization. One example is in our Patapsco River above Daniels Dam; there the American eels have dramatically increased the last couple of years. How do we know this? Why is it occurring? Why would we care? Read on to find out.

Some species of mussels are totally dependent on eels to transport them upstream. Young female eels become unwitting hosts to our native Eastern elliptio mussel larvae. This freshwater mussel's larvae attach to the eel's gills for transportation to headwaters. Once upstream, the mussels drop off from the eels into the stream-bed to begin their life filtering the water. A single mussel can filter up to 15 gallons of water daily, improving water quality.

Eels are effective apex predators in headwaters. Maryland DNR biologist compared headwater survey data of those containing eels to those that no longer contain eels (because of dams). They found lower fish density and higher aquatic insect density in water that contained eels.

Historically eels comprised about 50% of the fish in Maryland rivers. Dams and overfishing have dramatically reduced their presence. Commercial fishermen sell adult American eels for food to Asia and Europe, mid-sized eels for bait, and glass eels to Chinese fish hatcheries.

There is hope. Maryland environmental agencies removed 3 dams on the lower Patapsco River. In 2014 they installed an eel ladder at Daniels Dam. For the first several years, their monitoring counted about 30 eels annually, then jumped to over 300 after the last downstream dam was removed. In 2022,

over 36,000 eels ascended the Daniels ladder. Paradise is being restored!

~ Andy Grosko

Watch a video about an eel ladder at Roanoke Rapids Power Station

Read all the GPCA SWCC reports/articles on the GPCA website

Community Events

Dedication Concert of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez'

New Three-Manual Rodgers Organ, Model 351D

7:00 p.m., Friday, May 5, 2023
@ St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church
10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD

Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will follow the concert.

Russell J. Weismann, D.M.A, will be in concert for the dedication of the newly installed Rodgers organ at St. Alphonsus Rodriguez.
Mr. Weismann is an emerging young artist whose achievements in performance and academic spheres have earned him international acclaim among audiences and intellectuals alike. He has performed recitals across the United States, as well as in Europe, Central America, Asia, and Africa.

"Weismann's performance, sprinkled with engaging comments from the stage and illustrations of some of the instrument's stops, put this clearly fine instrument through its paces..." -The Washington Post

Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road
Granite, Maryland, 21163

Food Truck Wednesday

May 17, 2023
4 to 7 pm

- Strohmer's Meat Shack 2
- Capt'n Crabby
- The Ice Bowl -- Snow Cones
- Live Music (Fruit Jar Howlers)
- Indoor & Outdoor Seating Available
- Baked Goods Table
- And More!

Image by Jill Wellington from Pixabay

Community Plant Swap

June 12, Monday, 6:30 PM
30 min before the GPCA General Meeting
Parking lot @ Granite Presbyterian Church

Come share your extra seeds, seedlings, houseplants or perennials with your neighbors. Plants/seeds must be healthy, pest free and labeled. Please bring pots that you are willing to part with and bags or cardboard boxes to carry your new green friends home.

Granite Historical Society Spring Hlke

The Granite Historical Society would like to invite you to our spring hike for 2023.

This time, the hike will traverse some vistas, landmarks, and building sites along the banks of the Patapsco, up river from the bridge at Old Court Road. Sites to be visited include the site of the original St. Alphonsus Rodriquez Church, Theologian's Rock, an outcropping into the river so named by Jesuits at Woodstock College, and the remnants of "Chatham House", used by the Jesuits as a retreat house. Further upriver,(if time and our legs are willing!) we will visit an overlook called Brady Bluff. The hike is scheduled for S**unday, June 4th**. Interested hikers should plan to meet promptly at the Granite Presbyterian Church at 1 pm, from which we can then carpool to a private parking area. If you would like to join us, please email john.ghs@fullduplex.com, and participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

~ Roy Danz
GHS President

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