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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 432

GPCA Newsletter

December 2023



'TIS THE SEASON!



Annual Holiday Celebration

**Monday, December 11
7:00-9:00 PM All are invited!**

@

**Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road**

There will be a brief necessary business meeting, including nominees for the slate of officers for the January election and an overview of the 2024 budget.

We will then swing into a lovely Holiday party as we have done for many years. There will be great dishes and special goodies to share (please feel free to bring your favorite!), music, and lots of just plain socializing. We look forward to seeing everyone.

.....
IMPORTANT NOTE!: See Night of Peace article below for donations you can bring!
.....

Upcoming Meetings:

January 8 – GPCA Officers Election, Plans for 2024

February 12 - Liberty Road Volunteer Firefighters
.....

• **From November General Meeting**

Civil Air Patrol, Maryland Wing Youth Cadet Program

Guest Speaker: CAP Lt. Col. Brenda Reed

Youth Cadet Commander



Lt. Col. Reed brought 3 cadets with her to talk about the Civil Air Patrol Granite Cadet Squadron. CAP was founded in 1941 as an ancillary of the USAF with 3 primary missions;

Emergency Services – which includes search and rescue, disaster relief, and working with state and federal agencies.

The CAP provides aerial photography, local bay patrols, and flying drones to these agencies.

Aero Space Education – The U.S. Air Force (USAF) pays for cadets to have 10 flights.

Cadet Programs – GCS was founded in 2020. They meet once per week on Thursday morning. It's a cadet led program based on academics, leadership, and the 3 CAP missions with an emphasis on STEM projects. There are over 80 cadets between the ages of 11 - 20 currently in the program, mostly from home-schooled households. While in the program, cadets have the opportunity to receive a pilot's license, paid for by the program! Adults are encouraged to join CAP as well. GCS will now be offering evening meetings for individuals

that attend school during the day. Visit CAP on Hernwood Road or at <https://mdwg.cap.gov/> if interested in joining,

~ Kathy Skullney



President's Note



December Greetings fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

Every year, we hope to extend the warmth and togetherness of Thanksgiving into the December holidays and include all our members, friends and community. As the cold settles in and we are a little stuck inside, it becomes even more important to look forward to 2024 as another good year. And we are concluding with a pretty good one! We have been able to focus and emphasize our place in Baltimore County by sharing all of the remarkable and unique features we have – including our members! – with various important departments, while having fun with local bee keeping, wine making and special local activities. In the coming year, we have the very important CZMP process, continuing efforts to improve traffic issues, and issues brought forward by our members and neighbors.

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! Staying informed and engaged is one of our greatest strengths.

Please join with us on December 11th!

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

ksskullney@verizon.net



January 8, 2024 Election of Officers and Directors

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.

Nominations for Officers and Directors

President – Vacant (or this could be YOU)

Vice President – Butch Oakman

Secretary – Vacant (or this could be YOU)

Treasurer – Cathy Wolfson

Director – Zulma Santiago, 3 year term expires January 2025

Director – Ralph Wright, 3 year term expires January 2026

Director – Chris Brock, 3 year term expires January 2027

What's the commitment? In addition to attending GPCA's General Meetings on the 2nds Monday September to June the Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. 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 the 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. Not ready to make the commitment but want to be involved? Consider serving on the Nominating Committee, we need 2 volunteers!

**~ Cathy Wolfson
Chair, Nominating Committee**



2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP)

Every 4 years Baltimore County accepts applications for zoning changes by anyone on any property within the county regardless of ownership.

Nov. 30 marks the end of the filing period for 2024 petitions. As of Nov. 21 a single application has been filed within GPCA's boundaries. Located at 10519 Marriottsville the [Braglio Farms](#) event venue and farm store is requesting upzoning of 3.6 acres from RC 2 to BL. In English that's changing from Rural Conservation permitting one dwelling per 50 acres to Business Local. Typical Uses Permitted by Right are Retail Sales, Personal Services, Restaurant, Bank, Office, Tavern, Food Store, And Medical Clinic. Other uses are permitted by special exception which requires a hearing by an Administrative Law Judge.

When the filing period closes the county agencies will review the requests and submit their comments to the Department of Planning for review, whose staff will create a report for each issue. Throughout the month of February the Planning Board will hold hearings in each of the 7 Council Districts where citizens may comment on the issues. There are 15 members on the Planning Board, 8 appointed by the County Executive and 1 appointed by each of the 7 district council members. I serve as Councilman Jones' appointee. Dept. of Planning Staff will submit their recommendations to the Planning Board in March and the Board will submit their own in April to the County Council. The Council then holds their own Public Hearings in each district and must make their decisions by September 16, 2024.

To learn more about the process and see the hearing schedules visit <https://comprehensive-zoning-map-process-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/> There you can sign up to receive notifications and view a map of the issues in each district.



Special THANK YOU to GPCA Contributors

General Meeting Social-time Refreshments:

As the self-appointed guardian of the Sign-Up Sheet, I would be very remiss if I did not convey a message of Thanks to those who prepared or purchased special goodies during 2023. Many of you randomly contributed and I was not always aware of your contribution. Therefore, I'm apologizing if I have not listed your name.

Thank You ... Cathy Wolfson, Maurice Dixon, Lisa Charyszyn, Zulma Santiago, Pam Germain, Pam Brock, Ru-Ching Hsia, Andy Grosko, Jim Raistrick, Anne-Eliese Jordan, Ken Jordan, Maribeth Diemer, Robert Teller, Richard & Gail Collins, Chris Brock, Kathy & Bill Skullney, Nadine Merkle, Joyce Utmar, The Granite Rose Tea Parlour, myself, and the Deacons's of the Granite Church, who contributed a tray of goodies, following an event at Church.



The 2024 Sign-Up sheet will be available at all future meetings. Please consider adding your name to this list, so the same folks are not always the ones to help out. When you sign-up, remember you are only asked to supply a goodie. GPCA supplies the paper goods, cutlery, and beverages. In closing, there are folks who are unable to partake of sweets....let's keep that in mind, so all can join in.

~ Marty Kelley



Newsletter Note

A little over a year ago GPCA decided to part its way with the paper route of the newsletter and go digital. We hope that our readers have enjoyed the new format and we look forward to continuing our newsletter in the upcoming year. We always strive to reach out to the community by obtaining addresses of others who would like to receive our monthly digital letter.

Switching to the new method, using Mailchimp, has certainly had its challenges and involved a number of changes in how the newsletter is produced. Most recently the Board has realized that the method by which we deal with the ads in our newsletter is outdated. This involves not only the pricing but size and format guidelines. GPCA Advertisement Policies and Fees are currently under revision and will be updated for 2024. In advance of this update we feel it is important to highlight some of the details involved in how the newsletter is produced in Mailchimp.

- 1) Advertisements must be received by the **25th of the month** to be published in the following month.
- 2) Ads should be submitted in JPEG or PNG format. Please DO NOT submit your ads in pdf format as this format is not readily used in Mailchimp. Additionally, it is recommended the advertisers limit the wording in the ads as sometimes multi-worded ads are difficult to read. We encourage advertisers to take advantage of the [GPCA local business page](#) on the GPCA website to convey more detailed business information.
- 3) The previous concept of '1/8 page, 1/4 page, 1/2 page, and full page' does not really apply for how the ads are currently produced. In Mailchimp format the ad sizes are better defined as 'half width' or 'whole width'. Half width ad sizing is 3.75 in. wide x 5 inch height; full width ad sizing is 7.5 in. wide x 5 in. height. This sizing will be used to determine the new fee structure for 2024.
- 4) Questions regarding the newsletter or submission of articles or ads should be addressed to editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com to ensure they are properly received and captured.

We thank all for their patience in the somewhat recent transition of the newsletter to the digital format and hope you will continue to enjoy our upcoming issues. Comments are certainly always welcome and should you like to help out with the digital production of the newsletter we will gladly accept whatever you may be able to do. Feel free to [contact the editor](#) or any of the GPCA Board members with your comments or interests. Thanks and Happy Holidays!

~ Ru-ching Hsia

~ Bill Skullney

Night of Peace



Wish List Collection December 11

Night of Peace, family shelter located at Salem Methodist Church on Windsor Mill Rd. provides overnight housing including meals, showers and a laundry facility for families throughout the year to help them transition to permanent housing and self-

sufficiency. GPCA will be collecting the requested items below for Night of Peace at our November 13 and December 11 general meetings. Please contact [Cathy Wolfson](mailto:Cathy.Wolfson@comcast.net) at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net if you have any questions. If you would prefer to donate directly contact the shelter at 410-200-9351 info@nightofpeace.org For more information about Night of Peace, the services they offer and donation options visit <https://www.nightofpeace.org/>.

Night of Peace Wish List:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Disinfectant wipes
- 45 and 55 gallon trash bags
- Lysol Spray
- Fabuloso Cleaner
- Hand Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Plastic utensils (forks, spoons, knives)
- Paper plates, cups, bowls, napkins
- Non-dairy creamer, tea bags, sugar & sugar substitute packets
- Pancake Mix, Syrup, Oatmeal packets
- Bus tokens

~ *Cathy Wolfson*



Final Community Cleanups

The two final GPCA clean-ups required for the Adopt-a-Highway grant are scheduled for December 12 and December 19 @10 am. Teams will meet at the turn-around along Old Court Rd just past Edrich on the opposite side, vests and equipment provided. We welcome any and all help.

Contact Carol at (443) 554-0306 or email linkgang@gmail.com

What's happening in your HOA, along your roads or near you?

Let your community know!



Maryland Water Monitoring Conference 2023

On November 17th, members of the SWCC attended the 29th all day Maryland Water Monitoring Conference organized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Andy Grosko, Laurie Donnelly, Judy Plaskowitz and Bob Teller attended this well organized and highly respected event. It is attended by over 400 people, representing academia, government, non-profit organizations as well as, engineering and equipment businesses. It opens with a general welcome in the auditorium followed by a lecture. Then there are concurrent breakout sessions in numerous classrooms on specific topics. Even with four attendees its not possible to have someone sit in on every presentation. It's not only an excellent learning opportunity but a chance to network and see what new equipment is available or being developed. It can be a bit overwhelming but having attended several before we have figured out how to get what is most relevant to the SWCC mission. Each of our attendees will write an article for the GPCA newsletter to share a bit of what was learned. One of the articles is presented in this newsletter.

~ Bob Teller

GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee

“Applying Floating Wetland Technology to Post-Industrial Waterfronts”.

~~A presentation by Charmaine Dahlenburg, National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Did you realize that the water quality in Baltimore Harbor was sufficiently good to allow swimming for several days during the summer of 2023? That the quality of the water in the Harbor is sufficiently good that a “Harbor Splash”

event is planned for some time June or July of 2024? If you are not searching for water wings planning to join in, your wariness is understandable. Thirteen years ago, the Waterfront Partnership set a goal to make the Baltimore Harbor fishable and swimmable by 2020. Now the water quality in the harbor is swimmable most days. According to the Healthy Harbor report card, 90% of samples collected at the harbor met Maryland standard for full body contact. The wisdom is that the harbor should be avoided within 48 hours (about 2 days) after rainfall.

Wildlife returning to the harbor is another aspect of improved water quality. Terrapin turtles, dolphins, and menhaden have been spotted in the harbor waters. The problem is that the harbor is full of hard edges on the shoreline that cannot be used by animals trying to reestablish a foothold in the habitat. For the past eleven years the National Aquarium in Baltimore has been experimenting with floatable wetland habitats to encourage native wildlife to use the harbor. The first design, Prototype 1 was launched in 2010. This prototype was 200 square feet (about twice the area of an apartment bedroom) in area, and experienced overuse by Canada geese and was nearly sunk by the weight of invasive dark false mussels. This prototype was retired in 2013. Another prototype was floated in 2012 and soon retired after experiencing the same issues as prototype 1. Prototype 3 was installed in 2015 and is still in use today but will soon be retired.



Prototype 4 is by far the most ambitious wetland habitat. It will have an area of 10,000 square feet (about twice the area of a basketball court). The National Aquarium will employ several lessons learned from the first three prototypes.

- The wetland will have elevation changes to provide habitat for more wetland grasses and shrubs. This will provide a more diverse habitat for animals to occupy.
- The wetland will have a channel to allow shallow water to flow through the wetland providing necessary habitat for wetland animals.
- The wetland will be supplied with supplemental aeration from the National Aquarium systems to support the habitat through periods of low oxygen, usually the summer when water temperatures are warm.

- The wetland will have a dynamic buoyancy system. The wetland will be supported by floats. The amount of air in the floats can be adjusted to keep the wetland sitting in the water at the correct level, to counter the weight of organisms such as mussels.

This wetland is scheduled to open in 2024. There will be walking paths through the wetland. The wetland will be open free to the public during the hours the Aquarium is open.

Additional Resources:

[Healthy Harbor Report Card 2023.](#)

[Swimming in the Baltimore Harbor in 2020, No but Maybe 2030 Waterfront Partnership says](#)

[Floating Wetland, Five lessons over Eleven Years.](#)

~Judy Plaskowitz

Community Events

Around the Neighborhood

We are always excited this time of year to be treated to firetruck drive-by visits throughout our community by Santa riding high on a brilliant Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company firetruck, with a terrific firefighter escort of members and vehicles. It is a seasonal treat not to be missed! The dates generally fall in the second and third weeks of December. This year they are December 8th and December 15th. Be sure to check <https://www.lrvfc.org/> for the specific routes through our neighborhoods.

Happy Holidays!



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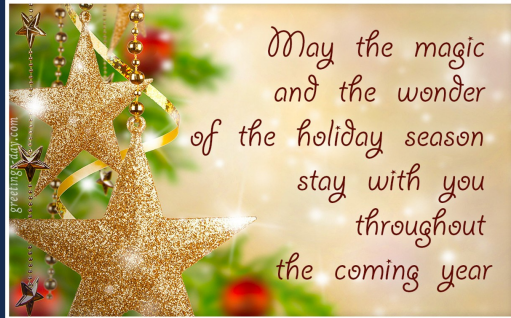
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*May the magic
and the wonder
of the holiday season
stay with you
throughout
the coming year*

*Peace and best wishes
to all our friends &
neighbors in the
Granite community*

~ The GPCA Board

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