



# GPCA

**GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #367

GPCA Newsletter

June 2017

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.**

*GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.*

*September 11 Meeting Baltimore County Police Officer Kristie Makowiecki*

**Visit us on the Web at [www.GPCA.net](http://www.GPCA.net)**

## **GPCA May Meeting Opens Discussions**

Our May 8 meeting was an open discussion meeting where members caught up on the latest information and presented a variety of topics of interest or concern.

Tractor Supply is moving to King's Point Shopping Center. Councilman Julian Jones tried to get several grocery stores to move to the King's Point site without success. Tractor Supply is moving to the location formerly occupied by Food Lion. Jesus House has added extensive impervious surfaces for a parking lot and road widening near Ben's Run. The retaining wall on Woodstock Road is a good stabilizer.

People on ATV's are riding illegally on properties and on Old Court Road. This may be a group that used to ride on Davis Avenue. Anyone knowing these illegal riders, please contact the police.

There is a safety concern about the intersection of Old Court and Dogwood Roads because of the hill there and many drivers' excessive speed. Traffic is very heavy at this location, often because of funerals. We will contact the County about this issue. Some residents, including some on parts of Old Court Road near Windsor Mill Road, have trouble getting to their mailboxes because the mailboxes are across the road from their homes. The mailboxes need to be moved. We continue to investigate why the Post Office is not delivering the newsletter to some residents.

The GPCA Small Watershed Community Committee, chaired by Bob Teller, is the county contact group for the Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) in our Upper Patapsco Watershed. Bob sent out an e-mail asking for interested people to join the committee that can address concerns about flooding, erosion, and pollution. More members are needed for this committee, which will present our local concerns and the projects we want to do. The SWAP plan for our watershed is still being developed and this GPCA committee is helping in the development. This is a chance to have a say in findings and recommendations for quality of life in our area. The SWAP can be a factor in the next zoning cycle, since up-zoning and development impact the watershed.

State Delegate Jay Jalisi from District 10 dropped in to the meeting. He talked about some of the major bills he sponsored that were passed: the Juvenile Services Bill, the Fracking Ban bill, and the Sick Pay bill. He worked on a bill to give seniors over age 70 a property tax discount because some of them are losing their homes for unpaid taxes. The bill did not pass, but will be reintroduced. Dr. Jalisi has scholarship money available. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 31. Thanks to Delegate Jay Jalisi for his surprise visit and his update on current legislation.

### **What's Inside?**

SWAP Follow-Up and Update.....2 From the President.....3 We Will Remember.....3 Transcontinental Pipeline.....3  
Community Notices.....4 Our Advertisers.....4 through 7

## Follow-Up to Baltimore County's Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP)

At our April 10 GPCA meeting, Haley Amini, a Natural Resource Specialist with Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) Watershed Management, presented an informative and detailed presentation about SWAP. During and after the presentation, a number of members raised questions and stated concerns. Many were addressed at the meeting, but others required follow-up by email. Ms. Amini encourages you to contact her directly if you have watershed questions or concerns. Even if she cannot directly address your inquiry, she can properly direct you. Her contact information is: [hamini@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:hamini@baltimorecountymd.gov)

SWAP involves 23 watersheds in the county. The Upper Patapsco Small Watershed includes Powells Run, Falls Run, East and West Patapsco River, Mardella Run, Granite Branch, Brice Run, and Ben's Run. The process has been underway for several years and is very detailed; much too detailed to be fleshed-out in an email or two. See the file (<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/watersheds/patapmain.html>) for a brief introduction: "*WAPFactSheet.pdf*"

For a complete review of the process and action plan, go to the County's Website, which has the reports and addendum in full. However, as of this writing, the report files for our Upper Patapsco watershed are under revision and not immediately available. Keep checking, or receive .pdf files of the reports by email request from [gpc21163@gmail.com](mailto:gpc21163@gmail.com).

Several weeks before the GPCA meeting on SWAP, a number of community residents got together informally, discussed the program, and generated at least three sets of comments for Ms. Amini. Due to a compressed timeline, sending a general email to the community was not possible. However, a period open for submission of public comments via the Web should become available in the next month or so. All GPCA community members will have a chance to comment. After I receive the dates, I will email them to the membership along with the Web address.

As part of SWAP implementation, the County encourages creation of a Small Watershed Community Committee. This group will act as a point of contact and coordination with the County and directly assist with education and implementation efforts. I hope to set up a meeting with Ms. Amini and a number of interested GPCA members to learn more. Please contact me at [gpc21163@gmail.com](mailto:gpc21163@gmail.com), if you might be interested in learning more; this will be for information about the function of the committee and not your commitment to joining the committee.

Bob Teller, Email Communication Chair

### **SWAP Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is a SWAP?**

A SWAP is a strategy for cleaning up our local streams and rivers, and contribute healthier water to the Chesapeake Bay. A SWAP is created through partnerships between community members and Baltimore County EPS. Development of the SWAP begins with an assessment of the current condition of the watershed, identifying sources of pollution, and the degree of pollution in the watershed. The SWAP report will include recommendations for watershed restoration, a description of management strategies for each of the four subwatersheds comprising the Upper Patapsco, identification of priority projects for implementation, and a schedule for implementation with cost estimates for proposed actions.

Historically, SWAPs have helped Baltimore County identify strategies for bringing a small watershed into compliance with water quality criteria through a combination of government capital projects, actions in partnership with local watershed associations, and citizen awareness campaigns and volunteer activities.

#### **Who participates in the SWAP?**

Residents, farmers, businesses, institutions, community groups, local watershed associations, and government agencies are all necessary to build a successful plan. A diverse steering committee guides the process, and two public meetings generate community groups to help implement the actions on their own land or a nearby site.

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### How will we improve our streams?

Restoration actions may include:

- Expanding forest areas along streams
- Tree plantings in open areas, along streets, in yards
- Best management practices such as rain barrels and rain gardens
- Pet waste management awareness
- Proper lawn care education
- New or upgraded stormwater management
- Stream cleanups and restoration projects

### **SWAP Update:**

Baltimore County EPS has issued the final SWAP Report for our area, posting the **Upper Patapsco SWAP** for final public comment. The public comment period ends on June 19.

The report is in pdf format; available for viewing or download. At about 350 pages, it is a bit daunting to read all the way through. However, reviewing the table of contents and Appendix A: Volume 1 will give you a good idea of what all is involved. Please follow the link below to navigate to the document. There are also instructions for submitting comments on the page.

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/watersheds/swappubliccomments.html>

We are now forming a "Small Watershed Community Committee" to raise awareness of Baltimore County's Northern Patapsco SWAP within the GPCA community. The SWAP can help to improve the water quality of tributaries to the Northern Patapsco River within or near its boundaries, through education and implementation of best remediation and conservation practices. The committee will be the best forum for communication and coordination with the County.

### **GPCA Earns Clean-Up Safety Grant**

MD Environmental Trust has awarded a Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant of \$3,500 to GPCA through the Keep Maryland Beautiful program to eliminate litter. We will use the funds to hire a traffic control company to provide flagging operations to keep our volunteers safe while they remove trash from county roads. The funds must be used by year-end; look for more information about this in the next issue. Thanks to Butch Oakman who applied for the grant.

### From the President:

Hope we'll see you on the 12<sup>th</sup> for our last general meeting until September. Our own resident master blueberry farmers, Ewald and Shirley August, will share their extensive knowledge about this healthy, delicious, and versatile fruit they grow at Moody Blues Farm on Old Court Road.

In response to local incidences over the past few years that required the police to ask residents to stay indoors during criminal investigations we were asked to feature a speaker who could address what to expect if we're told to "shelter in place". At our September 11 meeting, Baltimore County Police Officer Kristie Makowiecki will provide a presentation on this topic. She will also address procedures to follow in the event of public evacuations.

Unfortunately, summer does not always bring out the best in people. Statistically shed and car break-ins trend higher in these warmer months. Our Baltimore County Police Department urges us to call 911 to report any incidents, even though there may not be sufficient evidence to apprehend the perpetrators. Multiple reports aid the police in establishing patterns that justify increasing patrols in high frequency areas to deter offenders. Crime prevention can be as easy as making sure your home, sheds, and cars are locked. If you are awakened in the middle of the night by suspicious activity outside your home, consider keeping your phone and an extra set of car keys by the bed. Without putting yourself in jeopardy, you can hit the key's panic button to set off your car's alarm and lights, which can make a criminal think twice **AFTER** you have called 911!

The Randallstown Islamic Center is working again on Rices Lane, hopefully to bring the center into compliance with the County's Administrative Law Judges order of July 6, 2015 which ordered that "*no activities other than that required for continuing maintenance of the subject property, take place thereupon until a new use permit is granted, with the exception of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Center.*" As of this writing grading operations are occurring on the site, but we haven't confirmed if the use permit has been granted.

*(Continued next page)*

## From the President (*Continued from previous page*)

Trucks associated with the work have blocked the roadway frustrating neighbors. Sadly, there has been no apparent effort on the part of the Center's Executive Committee to demonstrate their intent to be good corporate neighbors by communicating their plans to Rice's Lane's residents in advance of this work.

A little farther afield, word on the street is Lowe's and Dick's Sporting Goods may be coming to the former Owings Mills Mall site. There are also indications Costco may be interested in the location but negotiations are ongoing. Thanks to our Councilman, Julian Jones for working diligently to meet our expectations for the site.

So be safe and enjoy what has always been for me the best place ever to spend summer, Granite!

Cathy Wolfson

410-245-8708

[oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net)

## We Will Remember:

The GPCA Board and members extend their deepest sympathy to the Family of longtime resident and member Michael "Jack" Kosko, Jr., of St. Paul Avenue in Granite. 07/24/1925 to 05/08/2017

Jack Kosko is survived by his wife of 67 years, Frances Rubye Kosko, and four children: Michael, David, Kathy Rohrbaugh, and Christopher. A WWII veteran, he enlisted in the US Navy and served in the South Pacific. His boyhood hobby of amateur radio found him flying as radioman on a TBM Avenger off the *USS Langley*. At 19 years of age, he completed 19 bombing raids over Japan. The Navy awarded him numerous commendations, among them, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Gold Medals in lieu of the Distinguished Flying Cross. Jack found a taste for flying and after WWII took private flying lessons. His love of flying and aircraft led him to later restore two 1945 TBM Avengers and other warbirds. Mr. Kosko eventually donated these to the MidAtlantic Air Museum in Reading, PA.

Mr. Kosko's other passion, antique cars, led him to restore and maintain a collection that at one time grew to 18 cars.

## Transcontinental Pipeline Maintenance

GPCA's Website & Email Communications Chair, Bob Teller, received a letter from Timothy M. Chastain, Land Agent for *Mustang HSE*, WGM Central Office in Houston, TX.

*"I am the land agent representing Transco Pipeline which traverses through a portion of your neighborhood. It is my understanding that one of your HOA members called the police regarding noise associated with our current maintenance project taking place next to the old Nike site. We are currently working on reducing the pressure on one of our lines to accommodate a planned hydro test that is to take place during the month of June. Our current operation will be completed on our "C" line by the end of this weekend. There will be a couple of weeks' interval and we will begin work on our "B" line the first half of June that will last for approximately 5 days. Toward the second half of June we will be involved in maintenance of our "A" line and it will last for approximately 5 days. These activities require us to run our recompression units on a 24-hour basis during these 5-day intervals.*

*"I want to apologize on behalf of Transco for failing to notify the HOA of our planned activities and thank Ms. Boskin for bringing this to our attention and providing the appropriate avenue for notification. Should anyone have any questions, they should feel free to contact me at the number or email address below and I will be glad to address their questions or concerns. Please notify the members of your HOA of these activities so that all homeowners near our work site know what is going on to prevent the need for further contact with the local police. I will contact the local police and advise them of our activities, as well, so that they too will be aware of this should anyone else feel the need to call them. Thank you and Ms. Boskin for helping us with this community notification."*

*Regards, Tim*

## Community Notices

**GPCA Needs Your Help:** The newsletters are GPCA's largest expense and go out to more than 1,500 households. We need everyone to share in the effort. Please take a moment to ensure that you have sent in your annual dues. Use the membership form on the address page of this newsletter.

**End of Spring Craft Sale & Flea Market:** Saturday June 3, 2017 8 AM to 2 PM (Rain Date June 10. Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Road, Granite.

**Woodstock Music Fest:** Saturday, June 24, 10800 Old Court Road. A Charity Concert featuring Maryland Artists Shelby Blondell, 19th Street Band, and Misspent Youth with special guest Dave DeMarco! Come, join the fun and help care for the homeless and disadvantaged children. Tickets \$30, FREE \$5 food voucher for tickets purchased prior to June 10, 2017. Food, Beer, Wine and Beverages available at Kiosks. Coolers, food and beverages not allowed beyond the gate. For more information, call 410-707-1564 or 410-952-7929

**Helping Patapsco Valley State Park:** Sunday, June 11, from 9:00 AM until Noon, Pulling and cutting invasive species, McKeldin Area, A-System Parking Lot, for ages 10 and up (Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian). Bring long pants, long sleeves, work gloves, sturdy boots/shoes, water, sun-screen, bug spray, good work ethic. Please join park staff and other motivated volunteers for a fun, informative morning removing invasive plants. The event will begin with a short talk from a ranger on why these species are such a threat to our ecosystem, how to identify three very common and aggressive plants, and a short hike to the work area. We will then pull, bag, seal, and remove the species discussed earlier. This event is weather-dependent.

### ***The Best Party in Granite Patapsco!***

Join the team that produces the GPCA Newsletter. Rumor has it that the Folding Party is a social event not to be missed. Become a Volunteer on the Newsletter Team, either monthly or every now and again. Call Marty Kelley at 410-461-5605 to join the party.

### ***Look Good and Do Good In Your GPCA T-Shirt***

Show your support for the GPCA and your community. Wear your official **GPCA T-Shirt**.

Shirts come in Kelly green with the GPCA logo, and are all cotton, in sizes small through 3xxx. Minimal shrinkage.

Shirts are for sale at every general meeting, or contact any member of the Board to coordinate a purchase. Cost is \$12 each, 2 for \$22, or 3 for \$30. Get a group together to purchase in volume!

### ***Guidelines for Advertisers:***

GPCA Newsletter advertisement sizes:

1/4 page: 3 1/4 inches wide by 4 1/4 inches high

1/2 page horizontal: 7 1/2 inches wide by 4 1/4 inches high

1/2 page vertical: 3 1/4 inches wide by 8 1/2 inches high

Full page (3 consecutive month limit) 7 1/2 inches wide by 8 1/2 inches high

Avoid large areas of color or black ink.

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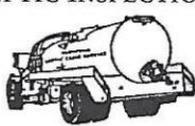
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# GPCA

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## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:**  
General Meeting June 12, 2017

**SPECIAL DATES**  
Flag Day, June 14  
Fathers' Day, June 18  
First Day of Summer, June 21

Please print

### GPCA Membership Application

Name

Address

Phone

Email

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

I'm new in the community.

**Mail completed application and check to:**  
GPCA, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Contact Bob Teller, GPCA Communications  
Chairperson at [gpc21163@gmail.com](mailto:gpc21163@gmail.com) to have  
your email address added or deleted from our  
email list.

### GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

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### GPCA ADVERTISING/ARTICLE/LETTER POLICY

GPCA reserves the right to accept or refuse advertising.

**To place an ad:** Send the ad copy by email as a pdf attachment where possible to the Editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publishing. Include information on the size desired.

**Payments for ads:** Make check payable to GPCA and send to GPCA, P.O. Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163 **prior to publication deadline.** Checks should 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.

**For articles and letters:** These submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. Deadline for these is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to publication. GPCA reserves the right to accept, reject, edit, or hold for a subsequent newsletter any submission.