



Issue #379

GPCA Newsletter

June 2018

Next Meeting: Monday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a Wonderful Summer in Granite Patapsco. See you on September 10!

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

View our Website at www.gpca.net

June 26 Primary Election

The race is on for all state and local offices, from the Governor to the School Board. Because no incumbent candidate stands for County Executive this year, we face a “changing of the guard” in county government. To find out where to vote or your district, call the Board of Elections at 800-222-8683, or visit voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch. Early voting runs June 14 through 21, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Randallstown Community Center.

District 4 School Board Candidates

With Primary Elections on June 26, and early voting beginning on June 14 through 21, we all have an opportunity to exercise our right to support the candidates of our choice. This election has drawn interest to the seats on the Board of Education; 29 candidates are running for the 7 councilmanic positions on the board, 6 from our district alone. In alphabetical order, they are:

Gaston Horne – Age 28, resident of Owings Mills. Gaston has completed 3 years at Coppin State University and is a purchasing specialist with American Office. He has worked as a sports coach and tutor. Priorities: Financial literacy should be a mandatory graduation requirement. Students should be exposed to vocational and technology-based career options during high school, especially those careers that may not require a college degree. Wants more opportunities for students to explore artistic outlets (especially in his district) and encourages more parental involvement through programs targeting younger students.

Tara Huffman – Age 44, resident of Windsor Mill. Tara holds a B.A. in sociology and earned her J.D. from U of MD School of Law. Tara has more than 17 years’ experience as a litigator, policy advocate, and nonprofit leader. Priorities: Safer schools where students and teachers are safe from human threats as well as bias, discrimination, and failing facilities. A 21st Century approach that offers diverse career paths to students with various needs and interests. An educator workforce whose value is reflected in the way they are paid, trained, and promoted. Oversight and accountability that is public and proactive.

Makeda Scott – Age 45, resident of Owings Mills. Makeda holds a Bachelor’s degree, has been a Congressional staffer, and has a background in public relations and communications. Priorities: School safety,
Continued inside

What’s inside?

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From the President:

Thanks to members Bob Teller and Jim Raistrick who spent many hours (and days) revamping our website www.gpca.net. It is "live" and ready to serve. Check it out for news of events and items of community interest. Good work guys!

Thanks also to Richard and Gail Collins for representing GPCA at the Night of Peace breakfast given to thank donors and volunteers in April. They report attendees received a tour of the shelter and were made to feel greatly appreciated. Thanks too, to the many of you who donated articles during our drive to provide Night of Peace with cleaning and hygiene products in November and December. Night of Peace is the only shelter in the county that accommodates all family members.

With the development of the rental townhouse community on Dogwood Road, ground breaking for townhouses on Johnnycake Road, and the intensive development along MD 99 in Howard County, deer habitat is at a premium, creating a local population explosion. Deer are often held responsible for the spread of Lyme disease, when in fact they are only hosts for the adult deer tick who can lay up to 2,000 eggs at a time. The tick larva feed on small rodents and birds that transmit the bacteria that causes Lyme disease to the tick larva. Transmission to humans occurs when we are bitten by the infected tick larva or nymphs. So, while deer don't transmit the disease directly, reduction in their population reduces hosts for the adult tick and therefore could reduce tick population. Maryland's Department of Natural Resources offers Community Deer Management Assistance. In response to a community request, a DNR wildlife biologist will discuss available deer management techniques and help determine the best strategy. How do you feel about managing deer population in our community?

If you live on any of the "connector" routes, like Ridge, Dogwood, Old Court, and Granite Roads, you know all too well the heavy burden out-of-area commuters place on our community: Trash, speeding, and heavy backups, particularly at Hollifield, Ridge, and Windsor Mill in the afternoon. My fantasy for our rural roads is tolling non-resident drivers using our roads to bypass main

thoroughfares. The fees could support clearing trash from our roads and other community support projects. Another fantasy I have is that Woodlawn, Randallstown, and Granite secede from Baltimore County and become part of Howard County. Then maybe our area schools would flourish, instead of languish. Hey, one can dream!

Wild turkeys are showing up all over Quaker Hill. We hear them gobbling throughout the day and occasionally see them crossing the lawn. Large brown birds with small heads, they can run at impressive speeds, and will fly as a last resort if threatened. A pleasure to see them thriving here.

We do not publish a newsletter in July or hold meetings in July or August. Hope you all enjoy a pleasant summer in Granite.

Cathy Wolfson, President GPCA

Special Thanks To:

Paul Dorsey for **printing** the Newsletter each month. **Collators:** Maribeth Diemer, Evalyn Garvin and Bob Teller. **Folders:** Eileen Ciechanowski, Sandy Fallin, Evalyn Garvin, Marty Kelly, Denise Maranto, Murf Moorefield, Bobbie Stanfield and Jackie Webster.

Extra Special Thanks from the Editor to the folks who stepped-up and produced the May Newsletter.

Membership Renewals

2018 Joint Renewals: Daschbach, Brian and Michele; Geiman, Frank and Michele; Shrad, Anna and Manuel Toscana **2018 Single Renewals:** Collins, Patricia; Lewis, Kenyon and Christina.

Please keep the renewals and new memberships coming. Your neighborhood needs your voice and vote. Only paid members have the right to vote on issues brought to GPCA and the organizations response. Examples include priority of road repairs, reducing speeding, zoning changes etc.

The last 6 months of the year GPCA has a very low cash flow and of course we have to pay the bills from June through December. Help out by joining today. The membership application is located on the last page of newsletter next to the GPCA Officers and Board of Directors. Thank you to all of the renewing and new members for your support of our community.

District 4 School Board Candidates

Continued from the front page

Makeda Scott – Age 45, resident of Owings Mills. Makeda holds a Bachelor's degree and has been a Congressional staffer and has a background in public relations and communications. Priorities: School safety- children and teachers deserve a safe learning environment. College readiness - preparing students to attend college. Career preparation - proper training and certification programs available prior to high school graduation. Disciplinary actions - countywide disciplinary reports that disaggregate data by school, gender, age, race, and disability

Regina Smith -- No response

Autrese Thorton – Age 42, resident of Randallstown. Autrese holds a Bachelor's degree from Coppin State University. She has served as a teacher, librarian, and assistant principal in Baltimore County Public Schools, and is currently working as a caseworker for children in the county. Priorities: Primarily focus on three issues while serving on the board: Increasing student performance and achievement, and consequently opportunities and exposure to practical uses of their schooling skills. Creating incentives for teachers and administrators, such as performance-based salaries and compensation. Incorporating passion, perspective, and pride into our work as facilitators to our students.

Kathleen White – Age 63, resident of Reisterstown. Dr. White holds a Doctorate and Masters of Education degrees. She is a retired Baltimore County Assistant Principal and Baltimore City Schools Special Education Coordinator. Her priorities: First is students and their safety. Assurance that the best teachers are in front of students; teachers who are knowledgeable of content and pedagogy and know how to deliver instruction such that all students are equipped to academically compete globally, and are college and career ready.

Submitted by Cathy Wolfson

Profiles compiled from vote411.org and elections2018.news.baltimoresun.com

May Meeting Review

We were pleased to welcome Don Hamilton, director of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Lodge 57 to our May meeting. Don is a former Grandmaster and provided information about who the Odd Fellows are and the organization's history. Membership is open to anyone, 16 years old or over. The local chapter's meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, except July and August. The lodge is located at 10613 Old Court Rd and welcomes new members.

The Odd Fellows are fraternity dedicated to helping, without fanfare, anyone in need. The IOOF began in 18th Century England. It was considered "odd" to find people organized for the purpose of quietly giving aid to those in need and adopting projects for the benefit of all mankind.

Members of the IOOF are also known as "The Three Link Fraternity", evidenced by the worldwide "Three Link" emblem that stands for Friendship, Love, and Truth. These three links symbolize the chain that binds members together and illustrates that communities, and nations are strongest when inked together. Thomas Wildey founded the first American lodge in 1819 at the Seven Stars Tavern in Baltimore. It was named Washington Lodge Number 1. Today, Maryland has 20 lodges.

The Rebekahs were women that came together as a separate branch of the IOOF that shared the common views of the fraternity. Women are now invited to join the main fraternity of the IOOF.

Lodge 57 donates \$10,000 to selected groups every 6 months. The lodge added the GPCA to their approved list of organizations who are beneficial to the wellbeing of communities. Lodge 57 has committed to making a generous \$250 semiannual donation to the GPCA for as long as it is financially viable.

Each year the elected area Grandmaster chooses a different group to benefit from the Odd Fellows' generosity. This year, the Grandmaster's gift benefits victims of hydrocephalus, an accumulation of cerebral spinal fluid in the brain. Other beneficiaries of Lodge 57 include: a chair at the Wilmer Eye Clinic established with a gift of more than \$2 million; American Cancer Society; Children's Cancer Society; Arthritis Foundation; Susan G. Comen Foundation; Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; Doctors Without Borders; Ronald McDonald House; School for

Continued on next page

May Meeting Review

Continued from previous page

the Deaf; School for the Blind; House of Ruth; Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company; Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; and Meals on Wheels.

The GPCA has already seen the local IOOF in action by their provision of water, snacks, and labor for volunteers at the annual cleanup. Lodge 57 will also join GPCA's annual campaign for the Night of Peace Shelter in December.

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; Doctors Without Borders; Ronald McDonald House; School for the Deaf; School for the Blind; House of Ruth; Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company; Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; and Meals on Wheels. The GPCA has already seen the local IOOF in action, providing water, snacks, and labor for volunteers at the annual cleanup. Lodge 57 will also join GPCA's annual campaign for the Night of Peace Shelter.

Baltimore County School Board Election

Three candidates for the Baltimore County School Board also joined us at our May meeting. Attendees made known our concern about the long standing poor quality of area schools that causes families to leave or not move into this beautiful rural community. All three candidates--Dr. Kathleen White, Makeda Scott, and Autrice Thornton--promised to address this issue. Thanks to these candidates for joining us at our meeting. Don't forget to vote in the June 26 primary.

Denise Maranto

Getting "eStarted" with BCPL Resources

The Baltimore County Public Libraries offer the ability to instantly start: reading with e-books and e-magazines, listening to audiobooks, or watching movies by streaming to your device. The service is free. Most titles are available online and require just an Internet connection and a library card. An e-reader app is required for downloading to your personal device. Need help, visit:

<https://www.bcpl.info/books-and-more/downloadables.html>

Gail Collins

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

Give Snakes a Break

The black rat snake is probably our area's most commonly encountered snake, followed closely by the garter snake. Black racers are native to our area but are quite rare today. Black rat snakes can reach a length of about 7 feet. This constrictor is very docile by nature, but if directly provoked will vibrate its tail rapidly and raise its head. If a calm approach is used, black rat snakes rarely bite. They are the farmer's friend, eating mice, voles, and occasionally young birds. Young rat snakes are light brown with dark brown "saddles" running the length of their bodies and typically turn all black when about 1.5 to 2 feet long. Approximately 3 days before they shed their skins, their eyes will become cloudy as the skin separates from their body. This change can make them agitated as it limits their eyesight. They have a slim head and body, unlike the copperhead; young rat snakes and the less common milk snake are often mistaken for the poisonous snakes and killed.

Garter snakes, another common snake in the area, mainly feed on insects, grubs, small frogs, and toads. Garter snakes are slim, mottled brown and black, with a yellow stripe running the length of its body. You might see one hurrying away when you mow the edge of your lawn. Maximum length is about 3 feet. Like the black rat snake, this is not an aggressive animal.

The northern water snake is native to Maryland streams and rivers and is **not** poisonous and not known to "attack" people in the water. Unlike the black rat or garter snakes, the northern water snake will aggressively bite if attempts are made to catch it.

All snakes use their tongues to catch scent particles in the air. Darting it in and out they can sense the direction of their prey. They are **not** getting ready to bite! Like most animals, snakes just want to go about their business, seeking food and raising their young. They are typically shy and do not have any nefarious hidden agenda. So, consider giving them their space when encountered and exercising a live-and-let-live approach to these harmless creatures.

Carl Wolfson

Proposed Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

June 11: Representative from the Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Department (submit any questions you have to the GPCA Communications email).

September 10th: Greenway Heritage Trust

October 8: Several experienced realtors to discuss what our community lacks that challenges the expedient sales of homes and property in the area.

November 12: Department of Natural Resources Community Deer Management-controlled bow or gun hunting.

What speakers or topics do you suggest? Do you have questions for the proposed speakers? Email your suggestions or concerns to: GPCA Communications: gpc21163@gmail.com or any board member. The email addresses for board members are on the last page of the newsletter under the postal address.



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When: Friday, June 15th from 12-3pm.
Info session begins at 12 or drop in from 1-3p.

Where: The Granite Rose Tea Parlour,
10813 Davis Ave, Granite.

Host: Maggie Alberding and
Young Living Independent Distributor:
Erica Epple 11083925

RSVP: No later than Wed. June 13th.
410-378-5133

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P.O. Box 31
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Flag Day – June 14, 2018

Father's Day – June 17

Summer Solstice – June 21

Primary Election – June 26 (Please Vote!)

GPCA Membership Application We Need Your Voice!

Please Print:

Name

Address

Phone

Email

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

☐ I'm new in the community or ☐ Renewal

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

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Cathy Wolfson 410-245-8708, oakknob@comcast.net

Vice President: George Jones 410-655-8307

Secretary: Denise Maranto 443-695-5409
denise.maranto@gmail.com

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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 Treasurer and Editor by the 20th 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 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 submission for a future newsletter.