



Issue #385

GPCA Newsletter

January 2019

Next Meeting: Monday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.

Sara Smith, Randallstown Public Library Branch Manager presents "Not your Grandmother's Library"

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

December Meeting Mixes Business and Holiday Cheer

At the December meeting, GPCA president Cathy Wolfson announced that the Nominating Committee identified 30 members who might like to serve on the board. Congratulations to the Nominating Committee, and thanks to members interested in serving on the board. Our election of officers and directors will take place at the January meeting. Cathy also gave us details for a meeting about the Planned Urban Development for 182 townhouses on nearby Johnnycake Road, which is within the Patapsco/Granite area. One downside of the proposed development is future overcrowding of local elementary schools. The meeting was held on December 11, and was one of two required community meetings before 1st District Councilman Tom Quirk introduces a bill proposing the development.

Our holiday party followed this brief business meeting. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish, and thanks to all who brought donated items for the Night of Peace Shelter. We had roast turkey, petite sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, jicama, snap peas, soft pretzel nuggets, chips, assorted drinks, desserts, and side dishes, along with a really good crowd. Delegate Ben Brooks, from the 10th Legislative District cooked and carved the turkey for us, and County Council Chairman Julian Jones was in attendance. Wayne Dell left the party and returned with an extra table due to the large amount of food we needed to serve. It was a very special evening in the holiday spirit!

Denise Maranto

GPCA Elections Scheduled for January Meeting

Election of a new slate of GPCA Officers and Board Members will take place at the January 14, 2019 meeting. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director will be filled. GPCA by-laws require that an Officer or Board Member be a dues-paying member for 6 months immediately prior to election. Officers are elected for a 1-year term and Directors for a 3-year term. The President may serve for two consecutive 1-year terms, and may again become eligible after a 1-year lapse.

Special thanks go to the members of the Nominating Committee: Zulma Santiago, Terilynn Murray, and Marty Kelley. They did their job admirably. Now, it is time for GPCA members to do our job as well by coming to the January General Meeting and casting our votes.

Also at the meeting, guest speaker Sara Smith, Branch Manager at the Randallstown Public Library, will present "Not your Grandmother's Library", and discuss the active role the library plays in our community through programs and events and the range of print and digital materials they offer. Sara will walk us through one of their training databases and show us how to access the library's digital content.

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President's Message

Your GPCA nominating committee cast a wide net and shook many bushes to deliver a slate of candidates dedicated to GPCA's 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. Thanks Marty Kelley, Zulma Ortiz, and Terilynn Murray for your diligence in delivering a slate of competent candidates. Now, we count on all of you to cast your vote at our January 14 meeting.

Many GPCA members and residents of the Fairbrook, Chadwick, and Johnnycake Road communities attended the December 11 Community Input Meeting (CIM) for the Patapsco Fields Planned Unit Development (PUD) of 182 townhouses proposed for the north side of Johnnycake Road just west of Fairbrook Road. This property is within the Patapsco Granite Area Community Plan adopted by the Baltimore County Council in 1998. About 23 acres of this 35.6 acre property was upzoned from RC6 to OT, Office Technology, during the 2012 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) cycle. OT permits hotel, college, small warehouse, and similar commercial uses, but does not permit residential use regardless of density.

The remaining 12+ acres was upzoned to DR 3.5 (3.5 residential units per acre) which would yield 42 single-family residences. The new zoning classification was expected to take advantage of the economic opportunity presented by the proposed Red Line mass transit system terminating at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services nearby on Security Boulevard. Governor Hogan defunded the Red Line early in 2013, rendering the upzoning, particularly that portion zoned OT, unmarketable. The developer, Patapsco Fields Investments, LLC, asserts this out of zoning cycle change of land use will satisfy a shortage of housing in the area. The object is to win approval of the development plan which will enhance the value of the property for sale, currently offered at \$4,800,000.

One of the key elements of a PUD is that it must provide a benefit to the community in which it is proposed and the developer's spokesmen solicited

suggestions for that benefit from the community. While no single benefit was identified, everyone unified on a single detriment. Traffic, traffic, traffic. The initial proposal indicates additional housing inventory would be the community benefit. One GPCA member countered that when he argued that a nuclear power plant could be a community benefit by providing low cost energy to residents, but you wouldn't want it in your neighborhood!

The next step in the process is submitting a bill for considering the PUD to the County Council by the Council member representing the affected district, in this case 1st District Councilman Tom Quirk. If passed, a second CIM must be scheduled by the County's Planning Department, with formal plans presented and attendees' comments recorded for the public record. Councilman Quirk's legislative aide, Margaret Stokes, did a tremendous job of informing surrounding community members of this meeting. No doubt she will advise Mr. Quirk of our unified position. We will keep you up to date on this process.

I hope you will continue to support GPCA in 2019 with your membership and participation. My 2-year term as president ends with this election and I have you all to thank for enabling my passion, advocating for the interests of our community. It's been my pleasure working with so many of you, answering questions and addressing concerns as they arise. I remain at your service and welcome you to contact me if there's some way I can help you.

Have a very happy New Year in Granite.

Cathy Wolfson

The Night of Peace Family Shelter greatly appreciated all items donated by GPCA members and delivered on the evening of December 19. Our members were generous with donations of cleaning products, personal hygiene items, diapers and other baby supplies, food, and even a great big stainless steel pot! We delivered full cases of paper towels and toilet tissue, laundry detergent, and almost every other thing on the Night of Peace "wish list". Thanks to all who pitched in to support this organization that is so critical to local families. For information on how you can help NOP year round please visit www.nightofpeace.org. They welcome sustaining donors!

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

The Power of Networking

The GPCA SWCC has been active for about 18 months. Although we have accomplishments to be proud of, there is more we want to do to protect, maintain, and improve our watersheds. We're all volunteers with limited time and resources, and because we must be prudent how we invest our time and energy. We have actively investigated water quality and watershed monitoring programs.

It was of great interest when the committee learned about the Maryland Water Monitoring Council's 24th Annual Conference "Science, Stewardship, and Citizen Involvement – Working Together for Clean Water" on December 7, 2018.

Happily, two committee members were able to attend. The all-day event included 24 multipart presentations, close to 50 scientific poster presentations, vendors, and organization booths. Nonprofit and volunteer organizations; local, state, and national government agencies; academic departments; and business were all represented.

We focused on attending volunteer citizen scientist related presentations. Finding out what monitoring others have done, how they organized their people and efforts, trained volunteers, managed funding, overcame road blocks, acquired needed equipment, and most of all, regularly produced data that was accurate, reliable, and worthy of action. The Series Topics we were able to closely follow included "Watershed Stewardship", "Citizen Scientists Get the Job Done!", and "So Much Trash, So Little Time".

We heard repeatedly how critical community cleanups prevent trash, especially plastic, from entering our waterways. We also heard about important actions individuals can take, such as picking up dog waste, tree planting, rain gardens, rain barrels, not putting oil or medicines down drains, and not using pesticides and herbicides.

We now hope to network and use other resources to develop a functioning water monitoring program for the GPCA watersheds.

Bob Teller and Laurie Donnelly

At the February GPCA General Meeting

Plan now to attend the GPCA General Meeting on February 11, to hear guest speaker Kevin Brittingham, Watershed Monitoring and Planning Manager for Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability discuss water quality monitoring.

Membership News

Please keep the renewals and new memberships coming. We need your voice and vote. Only paid members can vote on Board Members or GPCA's position on Baltimore County issues such as zoning. Many thanks to the renewing and new members for your support!

Renewing Joint Members: Griscavage, Bob and Sharon Layne; Hellman, Reed and Wendy; Klein, Chuck and Joyce; Link, Bill and Carol; Mackey, John and Marge; Tuzynski, John and Laurie

Renewing Single Members: Cohen, Austin; Boehm, Susan M.

2019 Renewals: Brice, Dale and Jan; Libis, Claude and Anne

As of this issue, GPCA has **375 renewing members** and **10 new members**.

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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:
New Year's Day – January 1, 2019
M. L. King, Jr. Day -- January 21

GPCA Membership Application We Need Your Voice!

Please Print:

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Yearly membership dues:
Joint - \$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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Director position open

Editor: Reed Hellman editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com

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.