



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #388

GPCA Newsletter

April 2019

Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker Kerri Neary of Summit Ridge Energy Discusses Development of Local Solar Facilities

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Rd., Woodstock, MD 21163. Everyone is invited to attend.

View our Website at www.gpcanet.net

Insurance the Focus at March Meeting

At our March meeting, we welcomed James Mobley from the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) who spoke about homeowner's insurance. The MIA regulates the business of insurance in Maryland. If you have a question about insurance or experience a problem, contact MIA at 410-468-2000, www.insurance.maryland.gov. Natural disasters like fires, floods, and tornadoes have been in the news more often in recent days and it is important for homeowners to be prepared in case they are affected.

Inventory your home's contents. Record items in a list and/or on a video. Antiques, jewelry, or other extremely valuable items should be formally appraised and certificated. You may need extra coverage for these valuable items. Safeguard your records and read your insurance policy to determine what is covered and what is not. These expenses may or may not be covered or may have limits on their coverage: water and windstorm damage, debris or tree removal, sewer and drain backup, sump pump failure, and additional living expenses if disaster forces you from your home.

Check the type of insurance coverage you have for the structure of your home. Notify your agent or insurance company and increase the limits of your policy if you make any improvements or additions to your home. Also, due to inflation, the cost of necessary materials to rebuild your home may have increased. Ensure that your coverage limits are adequate by consulting with your insurance company or agent. Private companies can help with estimates on rebuilding and you can find information about this subject on the MIA Website.

If your home could be damaged by rising water that covers a 2-acre area, consider buying federal flood insurance. Standard homeowners, farm and ranch owners, renters, and condominium policies DO NOT cover damage caused by rising waters. Flood insurance is an optional coverage offered by the Federal Government, and may also be available through other sources.

After a loss, contact your insurance company immediately. Take photographs or videos of the damaged areas. Make only those repairs necessary to prevent further damage to your home. This includes covering roofs, walls, or windows with plywood, canvas, or other waterproof material. Do not make permanent repairs without consulting your agent or company. Unauthorized repairs may not be reimbursed. Before you remove any damaged property, be sure an insurance adjuster or your agent has seen the damage so that a damage and loss assessment can be prepared.

Many thanks to James Mobley for this informative and helpful presentation.

Denise Maranto

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President's Message

Finally, the weather favored our general meeting, and GPCA held our election on March 11. We extend an enthusiastic welcome to new board member Maurice Dixon of Edrich Manor who will serve out the remaining year of the 3-year term vacated in 2018. We hope he'll consider a 3-year term in 2020.

GPCA representatives have attended four meetings since January coordinated by Margaret Stokes, aide to 1st District Councilman Tom Quirk, to discuss the proposals for two Planned Unit Developments (PUDS) on Johnnycake Rd bordering the RC6 zoned lands within the boundaries of the Patapsco Granite Community Plan adopted by the County Council in 1998 and developed with significant input from GPCA. We discussed the meetings about the Patapsco Fields development in last month's letter. The second proposal is for a 291-unit townhouse PUD proposed by the owner/developer of the 368-unit townhouse development of Patapsco Glen, which is currently under construction. Combined with the existing multi-family developments, housing units in the area number in excess of 3,000! Using a conservative estimate of 6 trips per day per household (each round-trip counts as 2), that generates at least 18,000 trips by residents alone. Combined with the 2 each trips generated by commuters from I-70 and US 29 going to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other urban job centers via Johnnycake Road, the total numbers are astounding. *Did you know* a Security Boulevard extension to Fairbrook Road was planned before Fairbrook Apartments were built in the late 1960s west of Chadwick Manor? The Bureau of Traffic Engineering's Oct. 24, 1967 review of that development petition stated:

"Fairbrook Road is the only logical access to subject property until such time as Security Boulevard is completed east to Rolling Road. With this and another RA-A zoned tract, total traffic on Fairbrook Road could be expected to reach 11,000 vehicles per day. With the existing vacant land adjacent to this road, the total could be expected to exceed 15,000

vehicles per day. Fairbrook Road is a single family residential collector designed to carry from 5,000 to 9,000 vehicles per day."

This 1967 projection was made when a single-income household was the norm, WAZE did not exist, and Johnnycake Road was not a connector route to I-70 and US 29. Security Boulevard is a 4-lane road with turn lanes designed to accommodate about 40,000 vehicles per day and now extends to CMS. The extension to Johnnycake would funnel traffic safely to and from surrounding high capacity corridors such as the beltway. PUDS are legislated bills that must be submitted to the council for passage by the councilperson in whose district it is proposed and must state a community benefit. So far, Patapsco Field proposes the dubious benefit of more housing where school and traffic capacities exceed their limits. Patapsco Glen 2 asks us to consider the open space provided by the steep slopes between the BGE Gas Pipeline and its border, which are costly to develop, with RC6 their benefit. Which begs the question. What's OUR benefit?

Best regards, Cathy Wolfson

Election of Officers Held

The slate of Officers and Directors was submitted by the nominating committee consisting of Marty Kelley, chair; Zulma Ortiz; and Terilynn Murray (abstained), and confirmed at our March 11 General Meeting. GPCA Officers and Directors are:

President - Vacant; Acting President: Cathy Wolfson
Vice President: Butch Oakman; Treasurer: Maribeth Diemer; Secretary: Denise Maranto; Director: Maurice Dixon: Remainder of vacated term ends January 2020; Director: George Jones - 3 -year term ends 2022; Director: Carol (Murf) Moorefield - 3-year term ends 2021. Because there were no candidates for president, past President Cathy Wolfson has agreed to serve through 2019, or until that office is filled.

Need immediately: short term 6-12 month 1 bedroom rental in Granite. References available. Call 540-314-7977. Jackie Webster

A Reminder: April 18—Time to fill those hummingbird feeders!

From the Small Watershed Community Committee

Summer and the Return of the Fireflies

One of my favorite things about living in the woods is the fireflies that light up our yard in the summer. Seeing them led me to look up some facts:

Fireflies, or lightening bugs, are actually beetles. There are about 2,000 species of fireflies worldwide, with more than 150 species in the U.S. and Canada.

Like all beetles, fireflies undergo complete metamorphosis with four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. In mid-summer, mated females deposit about 100 spherical eggs, singly or in clusters, in the soil or near the soil surface. Fireflies prefer moist soils and will often choose to place their eggs under mulch or leaf litter, where the soil is less likely to dry out. Eggs of some lightning bugs are bioluminescent, and you may see them glowing dimly if you're lucky enough to find them in the soil.

The eggs hatch in 3 to 4 weeks, producing larvae that look like little glowworms. Larvae emerge from their eggs in late summer, live through the winter, and pupate in the spring. They usually live in the soil, where at night they hunt slugs, snails, worms, and other insects. When the larva is ready to pupate, usually in late spring, it constructs a mud chamber in the soil and settles inside it. In some species, the larva attaches itself to a tree's bark, hanging upside down by the hind end, and pupates while suspended (similar to a caterpillar).

When the adult firefly finally emerges, it has only one real purpose, to reproduce. Fireflies flash to find a mate, using a species-specific pattern to locate compatible individuals of the opposite sex. This is the flickering orgy that attracts our attention. In my yard, it's Christmas in the summer with trees lit by flashing lights. Fireflies produce light through a chemical reaction called *chemiluminescence* that allows them to glow without wasting heat energy.

How do we protect this beetle from disappearing? Turn off outside lights at night. Leave leaves and forest litter alone; it provides habitat for the glow worms. Here is one we do not have to work hard to do: Create water features in your yard.

Fireflies like moist areas. Avoid pesticides, especially lawn chemicals. Do not over mow your lawn, and plant native trees

Murf Moorefield

In the Neighborhood

Edrich Farms, Inc. is petitioning for a special exception for a landscaping business to be located on the former site on Old Court Road where they operated a retail landscape and produce operation several years ago. No date for the hearing has been set as of this March 20 newsletter deadline, but the case has been assigned no. 2019-263-X. The property will be posted as required by zoning regulations and the date and location of the hearing will be provided there. You may also call the Office of Administrative Hearings at 410-887-3868 or email administrativehearings@baltimorecountymd.gov

Annual Cleanup Set for April 27

Many of you shared considerable disappointment with the report that Baltimore County suspended providing dumpsters for community cleanups. But, we have found another way. Our district's county maintenance crews will pick up bagged trash and other debris collected from our roadsides on Monday, April 29, as part of the county's Clean Green County initiative. **Only roadside trash will be accepted or collected. Do not leave household trash at the meeting place.**

As always, we will meet at the St. Alphonsus Church parking lot at 8:00 A.M. Please sign in, and GPCA will provide safety vests and trash bags for each area team. Refreshments will be provided. Teams in trucks will collect the bagged debris for pick up by the county's crew. Tires found on roadsides will be collected separately. To date, we have met one of four required annual clean-ups along Old Court Road to satisfy the requirements of our Adopt-A-Highway agreement with Maryland State Highway Administration. This cleanup will take us to the half way point!

Your safety most important. Observe these Adopt-A-Highway safety measures:

[Continued next page]

Annual Cleanup [Continued]

1. Park all vehicles clear of the roadway; carpool to the parking area.
2. Wear a safety vest at all times; wear the vest to the work site.
3. Wear proper clothing for the weather and hard-soled shoes. Avoid exposure to the sun, poisonous plants, and insect nests; long sleeve shirts and long pants are recommended.
4. Work as a group, always facing oncoming traffic.
5. Provide mature supervision for youth with at least one adult at least 18 years old per 5 youth ages 12 to 17. Do not allow anyone under 12 to participate.
6. Provide at least one spotter for all groups for safety and to provide warnings for oncoming safety hazards.
7. Only work during favorable weather conditions.
8. Stop work in inclement weather, for all emergency vehicles until they have passed and cleared the area, or in the event of a vehicle accident in your section of highway.
9. Do not remove dead animal carcasses or hazardous substances; report them to the Shop RME with your pick-up report. SHA will remove these dangerous items. Report illegal items to the police; leave them where they were found.
10. Stay clear of any construction sites and obey public officials.
11. Do not enter the travel portion of the roadway, tunnels, or clean on bridges/overpasses. Use crosswalks when necessary.
12. NEVER participate or allow participation by someone who is under the influence of alcohol, recreational drugs, or new medications.
13. Do not distract motorists

Thanks to all of you who make and take the time on behalf of our community. If you have questions or can provide snacks for volunteers please contact Carol Link, GPCA Cleanup coordinator, linkgang87@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

May 13 GPCA General Meeting: Baltimore County Public Library and what's new in digital and print media, downloadable books, and summer activities. Speaker -- Sarah Smith, Randallstown branch of BCPL.

June 10 GPCA General Meeting: Baltimore County Stream Water Monitoring. Speaker to be announced

Federal Real ID Requirements:

If you haven't visited the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle

Administration (MDOT MVA) recently, you may be required to bring additional documentation on your next visit. The federal Real ID Act, created post 9/11, requires customers to provide proof of identity, Social Security, and Maryland residency documents when completing a transaction, if you do not already have those documents on file with MDOT MVA.

Starting October 1, 2020, a Real ID will be necessary to board commercial airplanes and enter federal facilities. If you're unsure if your license is Real ID compliant, visit the REAL ID Lookup Tool, www.mva.maryland.gov/realidlookup. The Lookup Tool will ask for a driver's license number and advise whether you need to bring the required REAL ID documents. If you are required to bring in documents, the REAL ID Online Document Guide www.mva.maryland.gov/odg walks you through the required documentation, including one proof of age and identity, one proof of Social Security, and two proofs of Maryland residence. To expedite your visit, the online document guide has an option to make an appointment with a guarantee to be seen within 15 minutes of check-in. Learn more about Real ID at www.maryland.gov/realid.

Membership: We need your voice and vote to bring new initiatives to the community as well as Baltimore County. Only paid members have the right to vote for Board Members and GPCA's position on community issues such as re-zoning. **The 2019 goal is to have 40% membership of the 1600 households within the GPCA boundaries:** The GPCA community has met 7% of the 40% goal.

2019 Goal new members: So far 14 new households of the 40 new household membership goal have submitted dues. The 2019 membership form is on pg. 8 in this issue. Many thanks to the renewing and new members for your interest in our community.

As of March 21, 2019 GPCA, has 49 renewing members and 9 new members. Memberships since Jan 20th:

Renewing Joint Members: Bavoil, Patrik & Ru-Ching Hsia; Bonds, Kevin & Mauk, Scott; Bozzuto, John & Evangeline; Burkhardt, Todd & Cynthia; Butler, Rodney & Melody;

Chellis, Charles & Paulette; Collins, Richard & Gail; Conaway, Dan & Gail; Danz, Roy & Deborah; Dixon, Maurice & Evelyn; France, Thomas & Denise; Freeland, Ron & Betty; Geiman, Sue and Judy Downing; Goodmuth, Steven & Karen Koelbel; Guidry, Catherine and Phil Leibowitz; Hisky, Mike & Brigitte; Hoggard, Dorsey & Pat; Mackey, John & Marge; Malick Adrien & Patricia; Kelley, Marty & Dell, Wayne; Marzal, Mark & Dawn; Marszal, Mark & Dawn; Meekins, Angus & Bety; Moorefield, Carol & Barbara Warnock ; Morsberger, Chris & Wanda; Moseley, Ray & Elizabeth; Nueslein, Kate & Tony; Oakman, Butch & Mary Jean Scheile; Parker, Sandy & Melanie; Peles, Paul & Barbara; Redd, Sam & Lydie; Reed, Russell & Margaret; Schaefer, Wayne & Bethany; Scheurer, David & Ann Marie Galloway ; Shea, Colleen & Gregg Smith; Robert & Nicole; Smoot, Ed & Dee Dee; Strong, John & Barbara; Tersiguel, Fernand & Odette; Traylor, Pat & Gianforte, Charlotte; Wade, Robert & Carolyn; Warden, John & Marjorie

New Joint Members: Bonardi, Jason & Sharonne; Boyce, Constance D; Butler, Damon & Tena

Renewing Single Members: Boskin, Maureen; Charyszyn, Lisa; Chenoweth, George; Cignatta, Marie; Fallin, Sandy; Farmer, Dorothy; Gary Beverly; Germain, Pam; Hartman, Dwight; Kahler, Bonnie; McKnight, Barbara; Murray, Terilynn; Roche, Michele; Santiago-Ortiz, Zulma; Sassi, Lee; Stanfield, Bobbie; Wilder, Arlene

New Single Members: O'Banner, Cliffe; Stanfield, Sally

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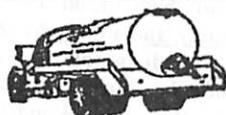
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

April Fools' Day – April 1, 2019
Palm Sunday – April 14
Good Friday and Passover begins – April 19
Easter – April 21
Earth Day – April 22
GPCA Cleanup – April 27
Eastern Orthodox Easter – April 28

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: Open

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

Vice President: Butch Oakman 443-314-6415
oakelectric@comcast.net

Secretary: Denise Maranto 410-790-7131
denise.maranto@gmail.com

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maribeth-13@att.net

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Maurice Dixon, 410-395-4025, mauricedixon714@gmail.com

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.

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