



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #391

GPCA Newsletter

August 2019

Next Meeting: Monday, September 9, 7:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Wally Lippencott, Baltimore County Department of Planning Northern Sector Coordinator and the 2020 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process.

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.gpca.net

QUAKER HILL SAFETY DISCUSSION

In response to a member's request for a meeting to discuss combination truck traffic and inadequate signage on the hill, District 44B Delegate Charles Sydnor met with us to discuss those problems on June 14. Also in attendance were Woodlawn Precinct Commander, Captain Wes Fischer, Mike Filsinger, Chief of Baltimore County Division of Traffic Engineering, John Moore, Baltimore County Sign Division and Eugene Clark, Aide to Delegate Sydnor. We made several requests:

- Implementation of right and left turn lanes to improve traffic flow on Johnnycake at Hollifield Rd and on Hollifield at Dogwood. Also requested stop bars to reduce "creeping" into those intersections. A stop bar is a wide white stripe 90 degrees to the roadway which marks where vehicles should stop before turning. To be taken under consideration by Traffic Engineering
- Prohibition of all combination tractor trailers on Quaker Hill as it is impossible for those trucks to navigate the hill without crossing over into the oncoming travel lane. To be taken under consideration by Traffic Engineering but implementation could take up to 8 months. If implemented Captain Fischer committed to police enforcement
- Request for improved signage to alert drivers to severity of curves.
- Parking on Quaker Hill and along Dogwood and Hollifield Roads by Patapsco Park visitors. County has installed No Parking and No Stopping signs along those routes. Captain Fischer advises residents to call 911 to dispatch officers to enforce.
- Improvement of sight lines for vehicles turning left onto Dogwood from Hollifield. Traffic Engineering cited plan to replace Bens Run bridge includes changes to geometry of intersection. We noted that plan is now 15 years old and questioned if the plan was still relevant given the impact of the exponential rise in commuter traffic since 2004. GPCA requested the bridge design be amended to include a traffic circle at the intersection.

Since the meeting we have been documenting incidents on Quaker Hill and along Dogwood Road and sharing them with all the meeting participants. **Please share any incidents with me that you encounter, especially those involving commercial trucks. If it is safe for you to do so, please take a picture that we can share with them. An Email, text or call to me is welcome. Cathy Wolfson, oakknob@comcast.net 410-245-8708**

What's inside?

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President's Message

This summer got off to an unexpected start when I fell getting on my brand-new Quarter Horse Jack and fractured the flat surface at the top of my shin bone, which medically speaking is our tibial plateau. Didn't think it was a big deal until my 7th week of no weight bearing and no driving. Living the ADA life, for this brief instance is eye opening. The wheelchair is both liberating and limiting. Visiting my brother at University of MD Shock Trauma's state of the art facility even posed a challenge when going to the restroom. The door was so heavy it required bracing my good leg against the wall and locking my wheels to pull it open. Once inside it was very accessible, lots of grab bars, easy to transfer to commode, plenty of room under the sink to roll my chair and wash my hands. All done and ready to leave, but...again the door. Now my broken leg was on the side I needed to brace to open the door so had to use the call button for someone to come open it. I realize now this is daily life for people with permanent disabilities. People just like everyone else who expect and are entitled access to basic facilities. There ought to be a law...

Hope you took advantage of Moody Blue's bountiful blueberry harvest. Took some doing in the chair but I made 5 pints of blueberry preserves from 3 gallons of berries. It will taste like summer this winter thanks to local growers Ewald and Shirley August!

Summit Ridge Energy, developers of the 2 solar facilities on Old Court Road and 1 on Dogwood have completed work and are testing in preparation go "live" in the near future, if not by time of this newsletter mailing. If you have questions or concerns regarding the facilities and/or how the plantings are maintained please contact Summit Ridge Representative Kerri Neary at 484-554-3453 or kneary@srenergy.com

Attendees of some funeral processions to King Memorial park continue to hang out of vehicles and verbally harangue residents, cross into oncoming travel lanes and most recently ride untagged dirt bikes and ATVs enroute to the Park. We acknowledge mourning takes many forms but are concerned when a funeral procession becomes a public safety hazard. To date King Memorial Park President, Erich March denies any responsibility for the actions of his funeral attendees on public right of ways Disappointing response from a corporate neighbor who profits from

the burials these young mourners attend. Also, since Mr. March owns several funeral homes in the city and county it would be helpful if he could meet with his fellow funeral directors to brainstorm how to protect the safety of the funeral mourners in the procession as well as the public roads the procession takes to the cemetery.

What can you do? Call 911 immediately each time you see a funeral procession that is proceeding in an unsafe manner. The County and State police cannot act on our public safety concerns unless they know of the public safety hazard and its frequency. GPCA board members were given this advice by King Memorial Park staff. The more calls that are logged by the County will let public officials know of the urgency of the situation.

10th District Delegate Ben Brooks attended our May 13 meeting and allowed me to fume about the absence of the Windsor Mill Post-Office drive-up mailbox since December. A promise by USPS Consumer Affairs to replace the box had not materialized and follow up inquiries were ignored. Low and behold only 2 weeks after my rant to Delegate Brooks those of us in 21244 can now enjoy the same drop off convenience as other Post Offices in the metro area. Thanks Ben!

Enjoy your summer. Look forward to seeing you all at our September 9 meeting.

-Cathy Wolfson, Acting President

June Meeting - Stream Monitoring

At our June meeting we welcomed Kevin Brittingham from the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability. Mr. Brittingham is also our neighbor and lives within the GPCA boundaries. We appreciate the help Mr. Brittingham has given to our Small Watershed Community Committee as they start our own stream monitoring program in the GPCA area. Streams, rivers, lakes and other surface waters in Baltimore County are frequently monitored by the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS). EPS is in charge of assessing and maintaining the water quality in local streams. The waterways are assessed for particular physical, chemical, and biological conditions. By monitoring these factors, the EPS can tell whether a stream is improving, remaining

consistent, or deteriorating. The EPS monitors 40 sites around the county each month.

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a tool to help determine the health of a stream. Maryland defines TMDL as the maximum amount of pollutants a stream can contain and remain healthy. When a stream exceeds the TMDL the EPS locates the source of the pollutants. Additionally, stream monitoring looks for increases in water temperatures, changes in the types of living organisms and the amount of introduced pollutants such as pesticides, metals, and oil. It also monitors elements that occur naturally in streams but can be increased by activities outside the stream. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment run off from industrial or agricultural sites are the usual pollutants in local tributaries. The runoff ultimately affects the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The monitoring work of EPS is successful as bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus levels have decreased over the last eight years in the Patapsco watershed.

Many thanks to Mr. Brittingham for his informative talk and his help in preparing us to do our own stream monitoring. *-Denise Maranto*

In Our Neighborhood

In Memoriam

The Greater Patapsco Community Association extends their deepest sympathy to the Family of Cheryl London on the passing of Husband, Carl Lichtenberg on June 24, 2019. Longtime members of GPCA, Cheryl was a Board Member during 1999 & 2000 & the Secretary of the GPCA from 2001 through 2003.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to the Families of Jean Beal, Cathy and Carl Wolfson and Joe and Carole Beal on the passing of their husband and brother Lanny Beal.

GPCA Community Clean Up Report

This year the annual clean-up was shifted from April to June because Baltimore County was late in approving funding for the program. In fact, at the beginning of 2019 we were told the program would not

run. As a result of that, we set up our own roadside clean-up in April which was enthusiastically supported by many of you.

When the County called to offer us a June date for dumpsters, we took it, why? Because our GPCA residents need a way to dispose of large household items that are not picked up at the curbside and because the program is free. Not only that but we are known by the county as the group that cares about our roads. We have availed ourselves of this program for the past 15 years, plus the years before I took over when it was run by our intrepid friend and neighbor, Anne Libis

What we learned this year is that by June, the spring cleaning is over and everyone is gearing up for summer fun! This year we only filled about 1.5 of the 4 dumpsters provided by Baltimore Co. The generosity of St. Alphonsus church in giving us space to work makes the clean-up possible. Thanks to Mary Jo Mathena who is always at the ready to coordinate dates and approve our request to use the church parking lot.

We focused our attention on Old Court Road, our Adopt-A-Highway responsibility. Thanks to the hard-working volunteers who came out: Bob Teller, Peter Malinovsky, Richard Collins, Carl and Cathy Wolfson, Brigitte Hisky, Karen Koelbel, Ru-ching Hsia and Patrik Bavoil, Kari Mezger and Butch Oakman. I'm ever grateful for this tireless team!
Carol Link

SWCC Update

The Small Watershed Community Committee has been busy this summer. The group chose and purchased testing kits and equipment for GPCA area stream water quality testing. Members are learning about and gathering needed supplies to do the testing. By the time you read this we will have done at least one in the field practice session. As you can imagine there are many details and steps that have to be reviewed and practiced assuring reliable and accurate results. With all the talent on SWCC volunteer team accurate results will be accomplished.

Below is a brief overview of what attributes will be measured and why:

Air & Water Temperature: Temperature affects both the biological and physical character of streams. It

influences the plants and animals that live in the water. It also affects the water chemistry, such as the amount of oxygen available. Finally, it can indicate increased runoff from non-pervious surfaces.

pH: Is a measure of the acidic or alkaline makeup of the water. It affects the availability of nutrients available for stream life. Abnormal pH readings alert stream monitors of pollution.

Salinity: The streams flowing through the GPCA's watershed are fresh water streams, meaning that they should have no detectable salt. But excessive road de-icing and other factors can lead to salt finding its way into our streams.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus: Are essential nutrients for all life forms. Like all nutrients they must be within certain healthy ranges. Low levels are normal.

High levels indicate surface runoff and pollution which lead to oxygen depletion, high algae bloom growth and other negative outcomes.

Please contact the committee if you want to join in the effort or just find out more.

-Bob Teller - Chairman GPCA SWCC

Baltimore County Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) Timeline – It's Starting!

- August 19-30, 2019 Public Pre-Filing Online
The public can file an online application for the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process. The Public Pre-Filing period allows public applicants to get an early start on the application process and early access to scheduling an appointment to map the issue.
- Sept. 3 to Oct. 15, 2019 Public Filing and Mapping
The public can file an online application for CZMP 2020. Mapping appointments will be scheduled by the Planning Department for each application filed.
- Oct. 1-30, 2019 Planning Board and Staff Filing
The Baltimore County Planning Board and the Baltimore County Department of Planning can file an application for CZMP 2020.
- Nov. 1–29, 2019 County Council Filing: The Baltimore County Council can file an application for CZMP 2020.
- Dec.2019–Feb,2020 Planning Staff Review: The Department of Planning reviews each zoning map request.

- **Agency Review:** Each zoning map request is reviewed by the Department of Public Works, the Department of Economic and Workforce Development, the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and Historic Preservation.
- **Notification Letters Sent:** Every property owner impacted or adjacent to a zoning request is notified by mail about the request.
- **Sign Posting:** Notification signs must be posted on properties with a CZMP 2020 zoning request. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact and pay an approved sign poster at least one month in advance of the posting deadline. Signs must be posted 15 days prior to Planning Board public hearing dates. Approved signs will be posted on this page (of Baltimore Co website) when available.

- **February 3-28, 2020 Staff Recommendations:** The Planning Department will make a zoning recommendation for each zoning request taking into account staff review and agency review of each request.
- **March 2020 Planning Board Public Hearings :** Planning Board work sessions will occur to discuss zoning request by council district. These work sessions will be held in Towson.
- **July 2-September 16, 2020 County Council Review:** The County Council will review each zoning request.
- **September 16, 2020: County Council Final Decision:** The County Council must vote on each zoning request by September 16, 2020.
- **November 2020-January 2021: Production of Maps:** The Planning Department maps the new zoning layer.

If you have any questions, please contact the Baltimore County department of Planning located at 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Ste 101; Towson, MD 21204.

Email: czmp2020@baltimorecountymd.gov

Phone: 410-887-3480

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/planning/czmp/index.html>

GPCA Membership News

Renewing Joint Members: Carr, Dick and Kim; Daschbach, Brian and Michele; Redd, Sam and Lydia McCargo; Weber, Bob and Jennifer; Wright, Ralph and Brenda **New Joint Members:** Chesnutt, Greg and Ella B.; Smith, Andrew and Margaret **Renewing Single Members:** Robinson, John; Webster, Jackie

Our 2019 membership goal is to have 40%, or 634, of the 1,585 households within the GPCA boundaries as members. The GPCA community has met 9% or 143 households of that goal. 15 new households of the 40 new household membership goal have submitted dues. The great news is that new memberships are up by 10 households from this time in 2018. It's wonderful that more residents are interested in how to retain the rural character of our community. Many thanks to the renewing and new members for your support of our community.

The disappointing news is that overall membership is down 51 households from this time last year. If you haven't done so please send in your membership dues.

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GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

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Autumn House Play Company in Granite is looking for actors and stage technicians for the upcoming production of **These Shining Lives** by **Melanie Marnich**



Based on the true story of four women who worked in an Ottawa, IL watch factory. **These Shining Lives** "chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, exploring their true story and its continued resonance."

Auditions: Fri, August 9th 6:00pm-8:00p.m.

Sat, August 10th 4:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

Rehearsals start: August 17th

Performances: October 5th and 6th

Email Jamie Kelley at jtokelley@gmail.com for script (sides) and any questions you may have. Please put **Shining Lives** as the email's subject.

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Baltimore Co. Public Library August Events: Randallstown Branch

Our librarians teach **Adult introductory computer classes for beginners** on a First-Come, First-Served Basis; Class sizes are limited to 10 attendees. Basic computer skills required. Call 410 887-0770 for more information on prerequisites.

Word: August 5th Mon 6:00 PM

Excel: August 12th Mon 6:00 PM

PowerPoint: August 19th Mon 6:00 PM

Computers for Beginners: Aug 28th Wed 11:00 AM

Safeguard your Retirement: Take steps to protect your finances as you prepare for retirement. Discover how to protect yourself against identity theft and popular frauds and scams aimed at seniors, and learn about budgeting on a fixed income, expenses to expect during retirement and safe investing.

Presented by: CASH Campaign of Maryland.

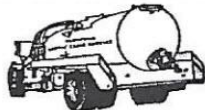
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**YOUR COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER**

**UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:
Full "Sturgeon" Moon – August 15**

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**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
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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.