

## Upcoming Events Calendar

### **GCCA Annual Meeting** *via ZOOM* **Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

#### **Agenda**

- 7:30 pm Election of Officers and Board Meeting  
7:35 pm Speaker: Khalid Afzai & Carrie McCarthy  
Planning Staff, *Thrive Montgomery 2050*  
9:00 pm Adjourn

**For video and computer audio please go to**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88964546479>**

**For phone (audio only), please dial 301-715-8592**  
**and key in the meeting ID 889 6454 6479**

The nominating committee consisted of Pat Corey and Bev Roof. They present the slate of officers below for the fiscal year that begins in June 2021. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

President	Dan Wilhelm*
Vice President	Marguerite Raaen*
Treasurer	Noel Gregos*
Recording Sec'ty (shared)	Pat Corey, Bev Roof, & Bob Peters
Clarion Editor	Nancy Laich*

\* Incumbent

#### **May**

- 11 **GCCA Board Mtg.**, 7:30 pm  
(see telecon instructions below)  
18 **GCCA Annual Meeting**, 7:30 pm  
(see telecon instructions below)

31 **Memorial Day**

#### **June**

- 4 **Paint Branch HS graduation**  
8 **GCCA Board Mtg.**, 7:30 pm  
(see telecon instructions below)  
9 **Springbrook HS graduation**  
11 **JH Blake HS graduation**  
20 **Fathers' Day**  
21 **First day of Summer**

#### **July**

- 13 **GCCA Board Mtg.**, 7:30 pm  
(see telecon instructions below)



Upcoming **GCCA Board meetings** will be held via Zoom. For video and computer audio please go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88964546479> where the **meeting ID is 889 6454 6479**. For phone, please dial 301-715-8592 and enter the **meeting ID 889 6454 6479**. For information contact GCCA President Dan Wilhelm 301-384-2698 or email address [djwilhelm@verizon.net](mailto:djwilhelm@verizon.net)

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# President's Message

It has been a challenging year, and our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19, and to those who have lost jobs or saw a reduction in income.

The GCCA monthly meetings have been held via Zoom and that practice will continue until July (no August meeting). I expect our September meeting will once again be in-person. I encourage you to attend our Zoom meetings, which last about an hour. The Zoom and phone call-in information is at the bottom right of the front page. You can also email or call me.

I had hoped that we could have our annual meeting in person, but we will once again have it via Zoom. I hope you can join us on May 18 to get an update on the proposed new county general plan, called *Thrive Montgomery 2050*. This is the first comprehensive update since 1969, over 50 years ago. The revised plan is a major change from the last one. The last one focused on building in open spaces while the new one focuses on redevelopment and urban living.

GCCA finances have been running in the red for several years. Our revenue comes from dues/donations and ads, nearly all of which goes toward printing and mailing the *Clarion*. Our objective is to have four pages of ads and until this issue we have been running short. I also ask that you, if financially able, voluntarily become a dues-paying member at \$10 per person and to donate something extra. That is much appreciated.

I have missed getting out this last year doing things and meeting people, and I am not that much of a people person. I am a retired senior living at home with my wife. I realize at some point before long that our mobility will decrease to the point where maintaining our house will be too much, and thus we will need to move to an independent senior living facility. The reason for that move is that I keep hearing that social isolation increases the risk of depression and cognitive decline in older adults, which has been a particular problem this last year for everyone. I want to retain both mental and physical activity to help keep me healthy and slow the effects of aging. I also don't want to leave it to my children to clear out our house if we stay here too long. (Something I have had to do three times for family members.)

I encourage other retired seniors to also think about when a senior living facility will be right for

them. There are three basic levels of senior facilities: independent, assisted and nursing. Within each of these there are many alternatives as well as different levels of care for assisted and nursing. Each of us is different, but I think starting with independent living delays and may even eliminate the need for assisted and nursing care. There are many independent living choices such as different-sized one bedroom or two bedroom units. Some have dens or laundry rooms. Nearly all facilities have various meal plans. Independent living makes it easy to socialize with others doing activities of common interest.

We are now in a housing seller's market and I have heard there are many senior units available since people didn't want to move over the last year. There are 13 large senior housing facilities in east County and a good many smaller ones to investigate.

Dan Wilhelm, President, GCCA

## ***Thrive Montgomery 2050***

The Planning Board approved a complete update to the 1969 General Plan that had been partially updated in the early 90s concerning polices. The Plan has been sent to the Council where they will hold hearings, make modifications and then approve it.

The plan is aimed at addressing existing issues related to economic health, environment resilience and equity. The plan addresses those issues by providing solutions in six areas: compact growth; complete communities; transportation and communication networks; affordable and attainable housing; parks and recreation; and design, art and culture.

Growth will be concentrated in 33 listed centers along transit corridors of four sizes: large (e.g., Viva White Oak, Glenmont, Silver Spring, Wheaton), medium (e.g., Burtonsville, White Oak), small (e.g., Hillandale) and village/neighborhood (e.g., Colesville and Cloverly). The transportation improvements will focus on transit, walking, and biking as alternatives to the auto. Connect to the Annual Meeting to learn much more and ask questions. The plan is available at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/>

# State and County Police Reform

Maryland State House Speaker Adrienne Jones formed a work group to address systemic racism and injustice in our law enforcement system. The following bills became law, some after an override of a veto.

- **Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021 (HB 670)** includes:
  - Repealed the Law Enforcement Officer Bill of Rights in order to ensure officers are able to be held fully accountable for their actions while on the job.
  - Places limitations on the instances in which a “No-Knock” warrant may be issued and limits their time of use in order to prevent unnecessary harm to officers and citizens.
  - Provides more procedures dealing with civilian complaints.
  - Provides swift and uniform penalties for police misconduct.
  - Creates civilian police accountability boards and defines their responsibilities; the process to be data-driven.
  - Requires police to inform drivers the reason for stopping them.
  - Requires reports from law enforcement agencies on their use of SWAT.
  - Provides greater monetary award to victims.
- **B 71.** Requires the use of body cameras for all officers by 2025. It also creates a new statewide use-of-force standard and requires officers to intervene when excessive force is used.
- **Anton’s Law (SB 178).** Ensures that Marylanders who file complaints of police abuse can find out how their complaints are handled, and allows for officer misconduct information to be made available to the public.
- **SB 600.** Creates a process to investigate deaths caused by police officers by establishing the Task Force of Independent Investigators.
- **SB 202.** Takes the Governor out of parole decisions in order to make the process non-political.
- **SB 494.** Ends juvenile life sentences without parole.
- **HB 4** (not a police bill but reduces crime). Overrides veto from last session to require background checks for all sales and transfers of rifles and shotguns.

There has been much discussion by the county council and executive over the last year concerning policing. The executive created a Reimagining Public Safety Task Force (RPSTS) last summer. Its February 2021 report detailed 87 recommendations, which for the most part have not yet been translated into legislation for Council action. Extensive discussion at the council has been centered on School Resource Officers. The Board of Education and Superintendent are examining this topic with recommendations expected in May. A comprehensive effectiveness audit of the police department is underway with the consultant’s preliminary results expected early this summer. The Chief of Police is also working on a departmental reorganization that will better align public safety.

The RPSTS provided 87 recommendations in five areas as follows:

- Community Needs – 911 and 311 Data (7 recommendations).
- Budget and Structure (12 recommendations, largely focusing on traffic. This included reducing the number of patrol officers in Districts 3 and 4, which covers Colesville, by 50%. A number of people living in these areas disagree with this recommendation).

(continued on pg. 5)

# State and County Police Reform (continued)

- Police Department Programs (19 recommendations).
- Alternative Programs to Police and Jail (35 recommendations).
- Health, Social Services and Crisis Response System (14 recommendations).

A reduction in MCPD manpower is one of the ongoing debates. The Executive recommended a reduction of 27 sworn positions, from 1306, to cover a budget gap for FY21 which the Council didn't accept. The proposed FY22 budget eliminates the same 27 positions. The council will make its final FY22 budget decisions in May.

## Montgomery County Draft Climate Action Plan

The county has a climate goal to reduce our community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. To achieve that goal, the County Executive published a Draft County Action Plan on December 14. That “plan” (actually a list) contains 87 recommendations in seven categories identified in the January Clarion. We provided eight pages of comments noting that action must be at all levels of government. We suggested that county actions over the next 10 years be the following:

- Include the *Thrive 2050* Plan indicating that new growth be focused in urban communities interconnected by premium transit.
- Include the Growth and Infrastructure Policy, which identifies where to focus near-term growth and makes change to impact taxes to allow development to be economically viable. Steps still need to be taken to substantially stream-line and shorten the regulatory processes for new development.
- E-2/E-3/E-4: Install solar on private and county buildings. (The labels are the county plan action numbers).
- B-3: Improve energy performance in existing commercial and multifamily buildings (voluntary).
- B-5/B-6/B-7: Tighten energy and water conservation code for new buildings.
- T-1/T2: Expand public transit, walking and biking, but transit is the key one.
- T-5/T-6: Electrify county vehicles.
- T-7: Expand the Electric Vehicle Charging Network (the number of electric vehicles is expected to expand substantially over the next decade).
- S-1/S-2/S-3: Retain and increase the number of trees.
- G-1: Train County staff.
- G-5: Establish a group responsible for overseeing climate actions and assign staff from different departments for handling that department's climate actions.
- P-1: Outreach to the public.
- P-9/ P-11/P-12: Outreach to organizations (including businesses and gov't).
- P-13: Integrate climate into MCPS education.

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## Adventist HealthCare Imaging Center to Open

Adventist HealthCare is scheduled to open an outpatient imaging center in May. It will be located in the former Staples store near Target on

Cherry Hill Road. The outpatient imaging center will include x-ray, CT, MRI and ultrasound services.

# They Made a Difference - Honoring Bob Bartol & Fred Pullian

In 2020, GCCA lost two of its active and long-time Executive Board members: Bob Bartol and Fred Pullian. We miss them.



Bob Bartol moved to Springloch Road in 1981 and served as GCCA Area 14 Representative from 2006 where he shared the concerns of that neighborhood with the Board. He served as VP for

two years from June 2010 to May 2012. One of his most active issues was dealing with speeding on Springloch Road and Shaw Ave. That effort led to the installation of speed humps along these two roads.

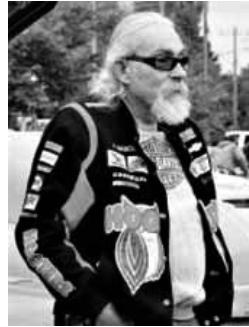
Bob worked for the United States Customs Service (within the Treasury Department), where he served for 36 years. He held major positions including Director of International Passenger Processing, Assistant Regional Commissioner, and Chief Liaison Officer for Cross-Agency Projects. He was known for his warm, supportive nature, his appreciation and encouragement of others, and his ability to bring people together around complex issues. He also loved to cook.

In addition to being involved with GCCA, he twice served as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus Chapter of St. John the Baptist Church in Silver Spring, MD, and supported the Parkinson's Foundation of the National Capital Area.

## White Oak Town Center Update

This is the redevelopment of the 6.9 acre commercial property on the northeast side of the intersection at Industrial Parkway and US29/Old Columbia Pike that has been an empty, neglected building for over a decade.

The plan has a two-story retail building along Industrial Parkway with 20K sq. ft. on each level. On the north side of the property a three section retail building is proposed, consisting of a small grocer; retail; and restaurant/retail space. They indicate construction will start in January 2022 and open for business in the spring of 2023.



Fred Pullian moved to Bonifant Road in 1976 and served as GCCA Area 1 Representative from 1993 where he shared the concerns of that neighborhood with the Board. He served as VP from June 2004-May 2009 and then again from June 2012-May 2015.

He was probably most active when speeding issues on Notley Rd in the 1990's was a major issue that initially led to traffic circles, which after a time were replaced with the existing speed humps. Fred also was involved with the Cloverly Civic Association where he served as a conduit for information between the two groups.

Fred owned his own business out of his home, called Pulliam Engineering, where he specialized in serving Mercedes-Benz cars. Fred was also an avid Harvey Davidson bike rider as the picture depicts.

## Mont. College Educational Ctr.

On April 19 the Board of Trustees approved moving ahead to open a Montgomery College Educational Center in the East County. They authorized the president to locate a site, plan programs and services, develop a budget, and seek revenue sources as appropriate.

The college has been providing some classes at the East County Gov't Center. We expect they will increase the number of classes and use one of several possible nearby White Oak locations on a temporary basis until a permanent location can be built. We would like the permanent location to be in Viva White Oak. The developer of that project has discussed the possibility with several four-year or research universities about also being there to complement Montgomery College and also to support FDA and planned bioscience companies.

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The next issue of the Clarion will be mailed in October 2021. The deadline for submitting news and photographs is Friday, September 24, 2021.

Contact Editor Nancy Laich at 301-412-5301, or [nmkurgan@aol.com](mailto:nmkurgan@aol.com)

For inquiries about advertising in the Clarion, please email Dave Michaels at [emailbits@gmail.com](mailto:emailbits@gmail.com)



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# Transportation Improvement in Hillandale

Over three years ago, The Duffie Companies started looking at traffic improvements they could make in the area of New Hampshire Ave and Powder Mill. They would use the funds they would otherwise need to pay the county under the Local Area Transportation Improvement Program (LATIP) and impact taxes.

A number of improvements were proposed and after a public hearing, improvements on Powder Mill Rd on either side of NH were approved in January 2019. However, MC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) deferred action on a proposed slip ramp from Elton Rd onto the westbound beltway ramp until they could undertake additional study of area residents concerns about long standing cut-through problems from Riggs Rd (in Prince George's County). The slip ramp would for the first time provide a direct route from the shopping center, hotel and employment buildings to access the westbound beltway without using one of four roundabout routes, including cutting through the neighborhood.

The DOT study proposed adding turn-lanes at three locations along New Hampshire Ave between Powder Mill Road and Elton Rd, just before the beltway overpass. We feel that two of the improvements were not justified and wouldn't address problems in that area or provide any benefit. We strongly oppose the other proposal to add a northbound left-turn lane, since it would take a row of parking in the shopping center immediately in front those stores facing NH. That change would severely impact those businesses where parking is already limited.

We realized after the March 4 hearing that the DOT failed to address the issues as promised to the community and which they had included in their own statement of work (SOW). We sent a second letter indicating the hearing officer's report needed to address the slip ramp as indicated in the SOW. The report largely failed to quantify the cut-through problem, which had also been included in the SOW.

## Hillandale Gateway Project Update

The January Clarion reported on the pending plan for the Hillandale Gateway project on New Hampshire Ave at the Beltway. This plan was approved by the Planning Board on February 18.

There will be two 11 story buildings with a 691 car parking structure between them. It will have 155 age-restricted units, 288 non-age restricted market-rate dwelling units, and 20 non-age-restricted Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs). Of the 155 age-restricted units, 96 are replacements for the 52 year-old outdated Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) Holly Hall.

The age-restricted units will be in the building closest to NH and be operated by HOC. There will also be a stand-alone building near Powder

Mill Rd and New Hampshire that we understand will house a Starbucks. The plan calls for a future 59K sq. ft. commercial building near the parking structure.

The buildings will incorporate a number of methodologies that far exceed code requirements to reduce energy consumption, water consumption, and noise. The buildings and parking structure will include solar panels which will hopefully allow the age-restricted building to achieve Zero Net Energy.

The site is adjacent to a Ride On station and future Flash Transit Station. Residents will also be able to walk or bike to the shopping center and nearby employment.

# GCCA Area Representatives

(3 representatives per area)

1 Deborah Pulliam    144 Bonifant Rd.    240-440-1758	20 Chris Naughten    800 Midland Rd    758-3633
2 Open	21 Jay Hagler    1325 Crockett Ln    240-994-8993
3 Marguerite Raaen    14404 Sandy Ridge    240-938-0523	21 Benedict Eng    1205 Crockett Ln    240-388-6263
3 Fred Stichnoth    14105 Cricket Ln    706-6828	22 Open
4 Henry Morrow    13812 Mills Avenue    384-0827	23 Dan Wilhelm    904 Cannon Rd.    384-2698
5 Open	24 Open
6 Bill Backof    13814 Shannon Drive    384-7354	25 Ed Weiler    1008 Mondrian Terr.    236-5956
7 Open	25 Idong Essiet-Gibson    13104 Broadmore Rd.    728-6690
8 Open	25 Heather Phelps    13101 Broadmore Rd.    538-1544
9 Michael Persh    208 Montvale Terr    879-4560	26 Beverly Roof    12928 Allerton Lane    384-7247
10 Open	26 Bob Peters    1010 Cannon Rd.    384-4410
11 Open	27 Open
12 Open	28 Otto E. Lewis    12617 Billington Rd.    384-0567
13 Open	29 Open
14 Open	
15 Open	
16 Sharon Brown	
17 Pat Corey    41 Shaw Ave    622-5339	
18 Ray Rye    12820 Baker Dr.    622-2276	
19 Mark Pankow    908 Hobbs Dr.    703-851-1315	

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