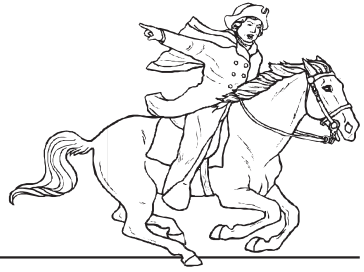


# The VILLAGE CRIER



Volume 60, Number 3

March 2007



**in Loch Raven Village**

## *Features*

**Easter Egg Hunt on March 31st 10:00 A.M.  
Pleasant Plains Elementary School, page 8**

**Annual Board Meeting, April 10th - please try to  
attend, more info in President's message, page 5**

*The Village Crier is now available on-line at  
[www.lochravenvillage.com](http://www.lochravenvillage.com)*

*Published by the Associates of Loch Raven Village, Inc. since 1947*

**Copy Deadline: Mar 23 · Next Delivery: Apr 14, 2007**

## *Helpful Phone Numbers*

**Here are some helpful phone numbers for Baltimore County Services that you should keep handy.**

*These will help you resolve many issues mentioned as on-going concerns in most neighborhoods.*

<b>Abandoned vehicles on street . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-5804</b>
<b>Barking dogs . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-5961</b>
<b>Commercial vehicles on street . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-1344</b>
<b>Commercial vehicles on property . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-3351</b>
<b>Garbage collection info/complaints . . .</b>	<b>410-887-2000</b>
<b>Garbage collection disposal complaints.</b>	<b>410-887-7136</b>
<b>Grass, bushes obstructing view at intersection . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-3554</b>
<b>Grass, tall &amp; weeds . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-3352</b>
<b>Noise, domestic . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-0872</b>
<b>Pot holes . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-3560</b>
<b>Rodents . . . . .</b>	<b>410-887-7136</b>
<b>Zoning complaints &amp; code enforcement.</b>	<b>410-887-3351</b>
<b>Handicap Parking . . . . .</b>	<b>410-768-7646</b>
<b>Maryland Sex Offender. . . . .</b>	<b>www.dpscs.state.md.us</b>

A more complete listing can be found on the Baltimore County site, [www.baltimorecountyonline.info](http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info)

For specific zoning complaints regarding the condition of a neighbor's property you can call 410-887-3391 or email them at [pdmenforce@co.ba.md.us](mailto:pdmenforce@co.ba.md.us), or to use their online form you may email them at [www.baltimorecountyonline.info/contact/codecomplaint](http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info/contact/codecomplaint).

# *Associates Of Loch Raven Village, Inc.*

ASSOCIATES OF LOCH RAVEN VILLAGE, INC.  
P.O. Box 9721 • Baltimore, Maryland 21284-1221  
www.lochravenvillage.com

The Associates of Loch Raven Village, Inc. publish The VILLAGE CRIER monthly (except August). We also have a web site, block captains, and monthly meetings where you can find out what is happening in your community.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 102 of the former Loch Raven Elementary School on Glen Keith Boulevard. They are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend, and to help in our ongoing work “to protect, maintain, and enhance the property values of Loch Raven Village homes, and the quality of life of Loch Raven Village residents.”

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Francis Cullen . . . . .	410-337-2838 (president@lochravenvillage.com)
Vice President	Gretchen Sarkin . . . . .	410-828-8952
Secretary	Cindy Mavrophilipos . . . .	410-339-7718
Treasurer	Jack Carroll . . . . .	410-825-5305

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Jerry Heilman . . . . .	410-823-3427

### East

Gary Herwig . . . . .	410-665-1771
Lori Cullinan . . . . .	410-828-4507



## *President's Message*

The Board members and I have gotten many calls, letters and emails from our residents about their concerns and problems. The one most often brought up is about rentals in the neighborhood, and we are not alone with this problem. Knettishall and Rodgers Forge have the same problem. I have contacted Councilman's Vince Gardina's office to help us with this; I have asked if they can get a representative from Baltimore code enforcement and Towson University to attend our annual meeting in April so we can nip this in the bud. I will also be calling the Commander of the Towson Police Precinct and other Government offices to attend. So, this is your time to voice your concerns and problems. Mark your calendars for April 10th at 7:00 P.M. at Babcock Church for the meeting. This will be a very important meeting and we will need a good turn out to make an impression on the Officials who show up. This can only happen if you make it happen; it is all up to us, so let's show them how we care about our neighborhood. I would like to let you know that we the Board members are just like you; we are your neighbors with the same problems. We try to do the best we can to help you our neighbors but we are running thin, WE NEED HELP, we are only 12 people who do the work for many. To make this work we need you, so make the April meeting with your complaints in hand and bring a neighbor. Remember, on April 10th you can make a difference.

Spring is just around the corner, so that means the trees and flowers will be blooming and we will be doing all our annual spring cleaning. Look for the time and date of our spring clean up day in future issues of the Crier. Also, please mark March 31st on your calendar for the Easter egg hunt to be held at Pleasant Plains Elementary School at 10:00 A.M. bring the kids and have some fun.

May the roof above us never fall in and may the friends gathered below it never fall out.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all my friends and neighbors.  
See you in April.

Sincerely,

Francis Cullen  
*President*

## ***Letter From The Board***

The Letter to the Editor from the Citizens of Loch Ness Road-Christopher Zysk (February 2007 issue) is a good rallying cry about solving many problems in our neighborhood: un-enforced or unobserved laws concerning rental properties; the continuing issues with parking and traffic; litter in our streets, alleys, and yards; noise from parties and who-knows-what-else at 3 a.m.; and other trouble caused by inconsiderate or unlawful behavior. Maybe the most important point in the letter was about the lack of a sense of community in the Village, because that's the deficit that causes most of these problems.

And that's why it's up to the residents of the community to help change Loch Raven Village for the better. Many residents are already doing their part. There are the parents who pick up trash while taking their kids out in the stroller, there are the guys who trim the shrubbery around the old Loch Raven Elementary School free of charge, there are the neighbors who shovel snow off the porches of residents who can't do it themselves. There are lots of unsung heroes in the Village.

But apparently, it's going to take more. We need everyone contributing. We need everyone asking not what their community can do for them, but what they can do for their community.

If you're concerned and interested, then come to the old Loch Raven Elementary School on Glen Keith at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.\* Walk in the front door, and in the first classroom on the left, you'll find the 12 volunteer members of the Associates of Loch Raven Village, your board, sitting around a table at the monthly meeting trying to figure out what do about all the issues in Mr. Zysk's letter, and more. Those 12 people are half what the total board should be: 24 members. They are also 12 people out of a community of 1,475 townhomes, or 0.8 percent of the Village (note the decimal point). And even that paltry percentage is a gross overestimate because those 1,475 townhomes house far more than 1,475 adult residents.

This is why we need you there. We sincerely welcome your ideas and any contribution you'd like to make, no matter how small. We hope to see you at a meeting soon.

The Associates of Loch Raven Village

*\*The annual meeting held in April of each year is an exception: it is typically held at the Babcock Presbyterian Church and will be there this year as well.*

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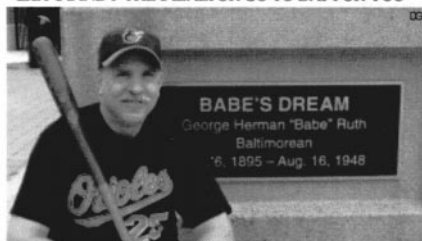
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## Community News



**Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on March 31st 10:00 A.M. at Pleasant Plains Elementary School, sponsored by the Loch Raven Optimists, Loch Raven Rec. and Loch Raven Village.

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### Loch Raven Village Book Club

The February meeting was cancelled due to the weather. We will discuss the February book ("**The Echo Maker**" by **Richard Powers**) at the March 15th meeting. There was no book selection for March so we will move ahead at the next meeting and select a book for April. The Book Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm in the LRV at the old Loch Raven Elementary School. Since the April CRIER comes out less than a week before the April Book Club meeting, email me at [lesleak@aol.com](mailto:lesleak@aol.com) or leave a message at 410-667-3733 to request the title of the April book.



Don't forget that we are reading "**Benjamin Franklin: An American Life**" by **Walter Isaacson** for either May or June. I have started reading it and it is well written and entertaining.

Several people have mentioned that they like the idea of a book club but are not free in the evenings. If anyone is interested in starting a daytime book club, please contact me via my email or leave a message at the number above. I would be happy to help set one up.—Leslea Knauff

---

### Spring Clean-Up Day on May 12, 2007

Loch Raven Village Association will hold a neighborhood clean up day on Saturday, May 12, 2007 at the Pleasant Plains Elementary School parking lot. Dumpsters will be provided for Loch Raven residents ONLY. Residents will be instructed as to which dumpsters to dispose of their household discards between 8am and 12 noon on that date. Start setting aside your unwanted items now.



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## Letters to the Editor



### Editor's Note:

In many ways I agree with Mr. Zysk's letter in last month's Crier, there are issues that need to be addressed within LRV. My experiences in LRV have been overwhelmingly positive. We were welcomed by almost everyone, we know all our neighbors, and our block held a very successful block party this past summer. Yet, I too heard the firecrackers and wondered if it was gunfire. As the editor, my role is not to censor what is submitted to the Crier but I do have space constraints. You have seen recipes when no one has submitted any of the pleasant happenings in the Village. Below, I have edited 2 Letters to the Editor with opposing views edited for space but you may read them in their entirety on the website.

---

This is in response to Mr. Zysk's letter in last month's Crier, regarding not wanting recipes and news from the Boy Scouts and wanting more regarding crime in the neighborhood added to the Crier. True, you need a solution to crime and trash in your area, but there are people in your Crier delivery area that do enjoy those recipes and also want to know the Positive Happenings with the Boy Scouts as well as items about Calvert Hall. Sir, if you don't like certain responses you've received, then go higher up and be the squeaky wheel that gets attention. Have you, Mr. Zysk, brought your positive ideas up to the Board of Directors; if so, what have they or you done about these ideas? There are phone numbers listed in the Crier to be helpful in possibly solving your community concerns. Again, I implore you to use these phone numbers. As long as the Boy Scouts and Calvert Hall are in the area, you will continue to hear from us! I'll end this rebuttal with this question—as a Block Captain, don't you have any influence with the people in your block so that they and others may help you in your plight?

~ A.S.M Walter C. Schmidt, Troop 740

---

I just finished reading the Letter to the Editor written by Christopher Zysk and I could not help but run to the computer and applaud his views. I have expressed almost identical views



## Troop News



### **A Salute to Safety & Respect**

One of our Troop's camping trips was cancelled due to ice on the roads and a lack of water in the immediate area of our cabin. Another trip of a Boy Scout nature was cancelled out of respect to the passing away of Mrs. Marietta Gross, the wife of our Troop Committee Chairman, Mr. Pete Gross. I salute Scoutmaster Mr. Pete for canceling these trips, out respect and for the safety of the troop. These were tough but admirable decisions.

### **Merit Badge Midway- Feb 17, 2007**

In lieu of our cancelled trip, the Troop got some Merit Badge counselors together and some of the scouts possible earned a merit badge or two on this day. Then we attended the Merit Badge Midway, were treated to a delicious spaghetti & meatball lunch prepared by Scoutmaster Mr. Pete and a few assisting cooks and prep people. Thank you goes out to the Clean Up crew, you did a great job, thanks for showing up at the midway.

### **Congrats to New Eagle!**

On Feb. 24, 2007, Troop 740 announced it's newest Eagle Scout-to-be, Frank McGough. Another name is proudly added to the respected list of Troop 740 Eagle Scouts. Congrats to his family for raising such a fine young man, way to go Tim, Linda & Alex.

### **8th Annual Boy Scout Family Picnic!**

On June 16th 2007, Troop 740 will celebrate it's 8th annual Scout Family picnic at Double Rock Park. If anyone wants to contribute anything to this event, please contact the Shearman family and let them know what you can do to help make this event successful.

*All articles submitted by: ASM Walter C. Schmidt, Ralph the Roving Reporter, and Cub Reporter Jenn- the Jazz Schmidt.*

## Upcoming Village Crier Deadline & Delivery Dates

	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Delivery</u>
▶ April	03/23/07	04/14/07
▶ May	04/27/07	05/12/07

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## ***Community News Continued***

Further news will be published in coming issues of the Crier. As always, we are seeking volunteers to assist in the operation. Call Jerry Heilman at 410-823-3427 for info or to volunteer.

---

### **Household hazardous materials:**

Household hazardous waste materials include paint thinner, car batteries, polishes, insecticides, mercury thermometers and glues. These materials are too dangerous to be simply poured down the drain or placed into a garbage can. Some, such as gasoline, thinners, lighter fluid or glues and adhesives can catch fire. Others, such as pool chemicals and bleaches, can react violently with other materials to explode or produce toxic gases. Many, such as lawn and garden or agricultural chemicals, can be toxic if inhaled or ingested, and can cause serious medical problems. HHW is accepted at the Eastern Sanitary landfill Solid Waste Management Facility (ESL) in White Marsh April through October, Monday through Saturday.

*Household hazardous materials may be disposed of at the Timonium Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 7 from 8am -12pm.*

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## ***Letter to Editor continued:***

in letters to the President of the LRVA, but no one has seen fit to either print them or address the issues raised in the letters. The fact of the matter is LRV is a neighborhood on the cusp and if the residents don't wake up and start paying attention; we are going to be a neighborhood of gunfire and the other issues which occur when a neighborhood decays. The fire-works may sound like real gunfire but I fear we are going to allow ourselves to turn into the surrounding areas and have to deal with actual gunfire if we do not begin turning things around.

Mr. Zysk raises some great points and I would like to echo his views. We are allowing renters (not just college students either), Section 8, kids who go to school at Loch Raven Academy who are not county residents, trash, untended yards and inconsiderate folks ruin our beautiful homes. Our home values will plummet and young, successful caring people who take care of their own yards, and those of the elderly who cannot, will flee the area and allow more renters and more people who will not pick up trash, cut their grass and keep their houses in good repair.

My neighbors and I clear our walks and then the walks of those who are unable (elderly) or unwilling (renters) to do so.

I bought my house and moved into this neighborhood in 1997. I did so because I work in Towson and it was a beautiful neighborhood. My immediate neighbors were very welcoming and we have become friends. However, the beginning stages of decay have begun and I fear I may have to leave the area due to the decay and disrespect displayed by others. I tend to be fearless (or stupid) but am fairly certain none of my elderly neighbors go to the Giant shopping center after dark and the creep of crime and disrespect is beginning. We need to band together and keep LRV a strong and vital community. So, hats off to Mr. Zysk for starting the debate.

*Note: some portions of the letters in The Letters to the Editor have been edited for space, go to Loch Raven website to read full text.*

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## **A SAFETY TIP:**

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator.

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Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around....after a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there....***This is something that should really be shared with everyone.***

### ***Do You Need More Information?***

**University of Maryland Cooperative Extension  
Service Home and Garden Information Center  
1-800-342-2507**

**Baltimore County Department of Environmental  
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## Classified Ads

Classified Ads must be submitted in writing and mailed to The Village Crier, 8208 Pleasant Plains Rd, Loch Raven, MD 21286 or emailed to [criereditor@lochravenvillage.com](mailto:criereditor@lochravenvillage.com). No ads will be taken by phone. Payment must accompany ad. Rates are \$3.50 per each 25 words, 50 word maximum. Deadline for April issue: March 23, 2007. Next delivery date: April 14, 2007. Make Checks Payable to: Associates of Loch Raven Village.

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Atmospheric Friendly Refrigerant*

**Bryant 70,000 BTU's  
78% A.F.U.E.**

*"Chimney Friendly" Gas Furnace  
20 Year Furnace Heat  
Exchanger Warranty*

**\* No Obligation Survey \***



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*Over 35 Years Experience At Your Service*

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