



## The Lutherville Community Association

www.luthervillecommunityassociation.org

December, 2007

# Luthervillian

Dear LCA Volunteers,

Luminary season is upon us – so it is time to make plans for bag distribution. Sometime between one to two weeks prior to Christmas I will be delivering packets of bags to volunteers who will then do the house-to-house distribution. Please let me know if you can assist with this Lutherville tradition. I will get the luminaries to your house if this works for you. The packets come in groups of five and ten. I will distribute some of each and you and any of your neighbors delivering door-to-door can decide how to distribute them to your participating homes.



Please let me know how much of an area or number of houses and/or blocks you are willing to handle. [Note: This is also a good opportunity for your teen to gain volunteer hours!]

Thanks so much for your interest and effort in volunteering.  
Kelley Mackesey  
410-560-3504

### Sharing a Merry Luminary

Please expect your luminary bags and instructions sometime the week before Christmas. As always LCA will be delivering bags and instructions. Perhaps plan to share supplies with your neighbors. i.e. sand or cat litter and candles.

Thank you to “**Dine Easy Dine**” for contributing the bags for our LCA luminaries.

## House Decorating Contest Returns

On Saturday evening, December 22, the LCA “Christmas House Decorating” judges will tour Lutherville to determine the “best seasonally decorated houses.” Prizes will be awarded for Victorian Elegance, Kitschiest Kitsch, Quintessentially Quaint, Simply Charming, and “Best of Show.”



## January LCA General Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, at 7:45 pm at Lutherville Laboratory Elementary.

## President's Corner

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and I know we're all looking forward to a wonderful holiday season.

Briefly, there are several neighborhood issues to mention. At our October General Meeting we heard a description of College Manor's plans to develop into senior independent housing and elaboration by John Horine, one of the owners. LCA has assembled a subcommittee and retained the services of attorney Michael McCann to help us respond. Mr. McCann has directed efforts to gather information related to the proposal and will be present at our January meeting to update us.

The issue of the flea market at Lutherville Lab Elementary was considered, first by the Traffic Committee and then the Board of Directors. Neighbors expressed their concerns including noise, traffic and parking, security, and damage to school grounds. Lutherville Timonium Recreation Council representatives responded with a plan to address a number of the concerns. However, our Board of Directors voted to urge County officials to end the flea market. Key factors in the decision included the tremendous expansion of the market over the years, the fact that the event appears to be the only one of its kind at a County public school, and the impact on the school and its grounds.

Thanks to Mel Timmons, chair of our Public Facilities Committee, we are sending a comprehensive letter to County officials regarding flooding at Roland Run with photos about prior flood events. We are urging the performance of a hydraulic and hydrologic study, the development of an updated floodplain and collaboration between the Departments of Public Works and Environmental Protection and Resource Management.

At our next general meeting we will hear from our committee chairs. Our Traffic Committee under Mark Gedney meets regularly to address traffic calming and other issues. Eric Rockel, does a super job of staying on top of multiple zoning issues. There will be a report from our Charles Street Subcommittee on a recent meeting with State officials regarding development plans at Charles Street and the Beltway. We're pleased that Marcia Hettinger and Gloria Edel are working on the organization of our files at the firehouse. Finally, we're proud to announce that our attendance has climbed to over 282 members, from 240 last year!



**Santa is Coming** to Lutherville on a Warm-up Visit, December 22, at 10:00 a.m. He will be arriving on one of the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Department trucks and will be visiting all of the neighborhoods within the LCA's territory.

## House Tour 2008

HOUSE TOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Next meeting: Thursday, January 17, 7:00 p.m. in Spangler Hall (St. Paul's)

Lutherville is planning an historic house tour for October 4, 2008 to benefit the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company expansion project. Co-chairs Cindy Piazza and Karen Morrissey need your help in order to make this event a success. Please consider volunteering your house for the tour or your expertise on a committee.

**Houses:** The house tour committee is seeking 12 to 15 historic homes (potentially including out buildings, gardens, or art studios) to celebrate as examples of Lutherville's historic past. If you have house history to share, or are interested in learning more about your home, please contact us.

**Committees:** We need committee chairs and members for publicity, logistics, and more. We can use as much help or as little as you are able to offer; there are tasks for every commitment level.

Please attend the meeting on January 12, or contact Karen Morrissey ([morrispecht@verizon.net](mailto:morrispecht@verizon.net)) or Cindy Piazza ([ichiquita@comcast.net](mailto:ichiquita@comcast.net)) to volunteer in any capacity.

Look for upcoming events in the Lutherville Community Association's website. Community and church events are welcome. Please send them to [newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org](mailto:newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org)

Bookmark the LCA site:  
[www.luthervillecommunityassociation.org](http://www.luthervillecommunityassociation.org)

*Social history is pieced together from multiple sources and multiple points of view. Please contact Karen Morrissey at [morrispecht@verizon.net](mailto:morrispecht@verizon.net) or 410.321.5442 if you have stories of the early years of Lutherville, particularly prior to 1950.*

## **Growing up in Lutherville: Railroad Avenue**

Karen Morrissey, History Committee

Note: *The following history of Lutherville contains no mention of Morris or Kurtz, Levering or Reese. Unlike political history, which focuses on prominent names and dates (who, what, where, when, why), social history is a 'grass roots' history that focuses on life as it was actually lived. The stories of W.W. Boyce's coal yard workers are just as integral to Lutherville's past as the record of the year that John Morris built Oak Grove.*

Along the light rail tracks off Seminary Avenue, past Royal Farms and a row of simple, two-story houses – some well-kept, some propped and dilapidated – sit the yard and buildings of Bond Lumber. In the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, the same ground was the coal and lumberyard of W.W. Boyce. In 1916 Boyce's coal yard was already enough of a landmark that the Maryland state legislature used it as a reference point to define the boundaries of the village of Lutherville: west from York Road “until it strikes the east side of the Northern Central Railway, thence southerly, binding on the east side of the said railway to a bridge crossing a stream near Creighton Sanitarium and Boyce's coal yard” (1916 Session Laws, volume 534, page 259).

On the grounds of Boyce's coal yard, off by itself past the coal yard buildings and the long row of coal bins, was a modest six-room house belonging to W.W. Boyce, which he rented to his workers. Mary Bell lived in this house from her birth in 1935 until she left home in 1957. As the youngest of 19 children, 13 of whom lived past childhood, Mary lived with her parents, six brothers, and another brother's wife and daughter in three bedrooms. The boys slept two-by-two, head-to-foot in three beds.

There was no indoor plumbing, no running water, and no telephone until 1948, when her father began working for the B&O Railroad and needed to communicate with work. These living conditions were typical for the street in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. None of the other houses on Railroad Avenue – built in 1906 and inhabited exclusively by African-American families with names like Brown, Owens, Holmes, and King – had baths or showers or toilets or running water, either. Mary and her brothers used a two-hole outhouse, fetched water from the well, and took daily sponge baths in a basin or tub in the kitchen, since the wood-burning stove her

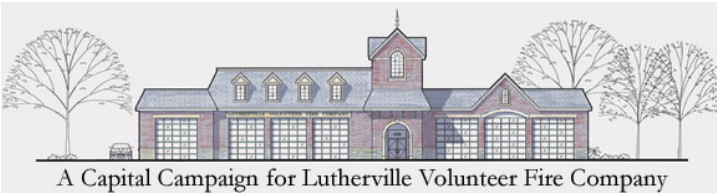
mother used for cooking made it the warmest room in the house.

The tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad ran past the front of the house, so close that Mary waved from the house windows to her brothers and eight or nine packed railroad cars of newly-minted soldiers as they left by train to fight in World War II. More typically, engines of the Pennsylvania railroad would trundle by once daily towing coal cars, stopping in a siding alongside the yard to empty coal into the bins.

Mary had no toys that she recalls, save a doll fashioned by her part-Cherokee grandmother from a corncob and cornhusks. Still, the Railroad Avenue kids would wad up paper for baseball, or play hopscotch or kickball, either on their street, or in the yard of the “Colored” school one block over. For a treat when running errands for her mother, Mary would sneak across the tracks to the Pollyette (now A Little Taste of Italy), which had a larger and more varied selection of penny candy than Enders store across the street (now Lutherville Animal Hospital). Since the Towson movie theater was too far away and too expensive, Mary and her school friends would risk parental wrath to walk along the train tracks to Falls Road and back, taking care to climb completely down the embankment when a train passed, to avoid being sucked under.

Other local events Mary looked forward to included family picnics at Loch Raven every spring and summer Sunday, Flag Day celebrations in Hampden, and Lutherville fire department fundraisers: the summer oyster roast, fall ham dinner, and the annual carnival with Ferris wheel, loop-de-loop (roller coaster), and kiddie rides held behind the firehouse. In the 1950s, there were two-week summer church retreats in the Poconos, paid for by an anonymous benefactor.

Mary's father died in 1956, and in 1957 she left Lutherville for Baltimore City. One by one, her brothers had already done the same – most following their wives to Hampden – except for George, and Wheeler, the eldest, who eventually became prominent in the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company. When she returned years later, “everything” was different: the house was gone; the plaque commemorating those Lutherville residents who served in World War II and bearing the names of her brothers had disappeared; and the portion of Railroad Avenue east of Seminary Avenue had been renamed Riderwood-Lutherville Drive.



See <http://www.lvfc.com/campaign.php> for details.

## Lutherville Trivia Quiz

We have an ongoing “quiz” of Lutherville trivia questions. For the 15 questions and answers published at this point, see [www.luthervillecommunityassociation.org](http://www.luthervillecommunityassociation.org).



## LutherVilla Variance Case Returns to Circuit Court

In a not unexpected turn of events, the developer of LutherVilla appealed the latest County Board of Appeals ruling back to the Circuit Court of Baltimore County. Originally, the County Board of Appeals had ruled for the developer that Baltimore County’s Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management was correct in granting a forest buffer variance for the eight home development known as LutherVilla. Feeling that the development as planned would exacerbate flooding problems along Roland Run, the LCA and neighbors appealed the County Board of Appeals ruling to the Circuit Court. While the Circuit Court Judge did not overturn the County Board of Appeals ruling, it did remand the case back to the Board of Appeals for further explanation.

After the second County Board of Appeals hearing this past summer, the Board reversed its earlier approval and denied the variance. The Board ruled that the developer had incorrectly depicted the limits of the 100 year floodplain, and that some of the proposed dwellings would have been impacted by the floodplain. In response to the Board’s change of stance, the developer has appealed the latest ruling back to the Circuit Court. No trial date has been established, but the LCA and neighbors of the development await the next round in this ongoing effort. Feeling partially vindicated, the LCA will continue to try to work with various Baltimore County departments to try to correct the problems associated with flooding along Roland Run.

## Charles Street Bridge Replacement Update

In response to community reaction, the LCA has opened a dialogue with the State Highway Administration over the Charles Street bridge replacement project, which may begin towards the end of 2008. The project proposes to replace the bridge, eliminate the round about at Bellona Avenue, reconfigure the intersection of Clarke Avenue and introduce new traffic signals at the Bellona/Charles intersection and at the off ramp from I-695 to Bellona.

The community association remains concerned about several issues, including the change in the Clarke Avenue connection, which will impact part of the stone wall adjacent to 1401 Clarke Avenue, the potential increase in noise levels associated with the Charles Street project and the future changes to the off ramp from I-695 to I-83 and possible further backups along Bellona Avenue.

To date, State Highway Administration has offered to meet with the affected property owner at Clarke Avenue to further discuss impacts, which also could require further consideration of historic district implications. On the other hand, the State does not seem sympathetic to addressing broader concerns about Bellona Avenue, including the intersection problems at Bellona and Seminary Avenues. The committee formed to interact with State Highway will continue to press for changes, and the State will schedule a public information meeting in February to present its plan refinements. Stay tuned for the announcement on this meeting date and time.

## Join LCA’s Listserv (Google Group)

Keep current on what is happening in the neighborhood. To join, click on the “google” link on the LCA homepage. Questions? Contact [newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org](mailto:newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org).

## Welcome New Neighbors

If you know of anyone moving into the neighborhood, please, let the hospitality committee know at [mmklamitch@msn.com](mailto:mmklamitch@msn.com).



## Community Notes

### HopeWell Cancer Support: Kids Circle and Kids Grief Programs

HopeWell Cancer Support's mission is to create a **community** for all people with cancer and their families and friends, that **encourages** an exchange of information, the development of a **support** system and the presence of **hope**.

HopeWell Cancer Support (formerly The Wellness Community—Baltimore) opened in April 1993, and since that time has had over 65,000 visits from people with cancer and their families. HopeWell provides a complete range of free **support services, stress reduction classes, educational workshops, social events, and kid's programs** in a comfortable, home-like setting.

HopeWell's Kids Circle Program is a 6-week program designed to **support children and teens** ages 5-18 who have a **parent or adult loved one with cancer or who have lost a parent or adult loved one to cancer**. Please contact our Program Director, **Carole Sharp, at 410-832-2719**, for more information about our programs.

HopeWell is located at 10628 Falls Road in Lutherville, MD, across from Greenspring Station and next to Meadowood Park.

*All of the programs at HopeWell are FREE of charge and are facilitated by trained mental health professionals.*



### Dine Easy Dine

In is Baltimore's answer to great tasting gourmet meals prepared locally by our chefs and

delivered fresh, never frozen, right to your front door. Dine Easy Dine In creates great tasting recipes and then prepares everything with skill, experience and artistry just for you. We deliver it all fresh to your front door the same day it's prepared, so it's as fresh as it can possibly be.

Our delivered gourmet meals are perfect for today's busy and active lifestyle. They allow you the convenience of delicious meals without the hassle of shopping and cooking yourself. See for yourself how easy it is to enjoy great and easy meals at [www.DineEasyDineIn.com](http://www.DineEasyDineIn.com).

## Sponsor & Supporters of LCA



**Poulet Gourmet Catering** is the answer to the 4pm question of..."What's for Dinner?" Delicious, healthy meal options and gourmet catering for all occasions. Please visit us at: [www.pouletcatering.com](http://www.pouletcatering.com) or call 410-339-3900. Located in Green Spring Station at: 2346 W Joppa Road, Lutherville, MD 21093.

### Lutherville Ladies

Need extra cash for the budget? Looking for something Fun for YOU? I have my own jewelry business & I love it! To find out more, contact me, Ann Alcaraz / neighborhood resident 443-226-7125 / [annsgreatjewelry@aol.com](mailto:annsgreatjewelry@aol.com)



At **Self Storage One**, you've just found the best place in Baltimore to store your goods, furniture or commercial inventory. We have the friendliest and most responsive support team in the business, and our full-service storage facilities are designed at ground level for your convenience. Whether you're moving, cleaning your house, or want to free up more space at work, our focus on customer service will put you at ease, and our low rates will keep you happy. Please give us a call or send an e-mail; we look forward to discussing how we will be of service to you. You'll know you've found the best! Please call our home office at 410-686-9600 for more information, or visit our website at [www.selfstorageone.com](http://www.selfstorageone.com).



### Welcome New Business Members

Please support the following businesses: Bay Associates, Bradford Bank, Community Insurance Associates, Inc, Greater Chesapeake Hand Specialists, G. T. Pizza, Lutherville Tile & Marble, Lutherville Volunteer Fire Co., Watson's Fireplace and Patio, Watson's Garden Center

### Advice from Captain Marty Lurz, Precinct 7

Lock doors and windows on houses, garages, sheds and vehicles. Nearly 35% of the burglary incidents reported this year to Precinct 7 officers involved entry through an unlocked door or window.

Call 911 to report any suspicious activity. You do not need to provide a name when the call is made.

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410-252-6450

Monday-Thursday: 9-3  
Friday: 9-6 / Saturday: 9-12  
24-hour Walk-up ATM

Please email to [newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org](mailto:newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org) any community notices to be included in the Lutherville Community Association website or newsletter.

**The Lutherville Community Association, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 6**

**Timonium MD 21094**

[www.luthervillecommunityassociation.org](http://www.luthervillecommunityassociation.org)

**Officers:**

Jeff Dier, President  
Marcia Hettinger, Vice President  
Alice Parson, Treasurer  
Cindy Piazza, Secretary

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Lutherville-Timonium  
Permit No. 140



*Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday in September, November, February, and April beginning at 7:30 pm and are open to members of the Association. All members and interested parties are invited to attend the Association General Meetings that are held on the second Tuesday in October, January, March and May (the Annual Meeting) beginning at 8:00 pm.*

Join us at the next General Meeting,  
January 8, at 7:45 p.m. at Lutherville  
Laboratory Elementary.