

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Long & Winding Run

As I sat in the home of Mel and Rita Timmons recently with a group celebrating a victory in the longstanding court case against the developers of Lutherville on Roland Run, the word that came to mind was persistence. And not just run-of-the mill persistence. This was the never-say-die kind of persistence that leads some folks to wage a battle for a generation against overwhelming odds, against County, State and federal authorities, and against private developers. And maybe, just maybe, the little guys will win out in the end.

The Jones Falls watershed is composed of 40 square miles including rural sections of Baltimore County at its upper reaches. The headwaters of the Jones Falls begin in Greenspring Valley and the stream bends east and includes Roland Run. At Lake Roland the river merges with the eastern tributaries and then continues southward over the dam and through Baltimore

City. It finally emerges from a tunnel in Baltimore City's Inner Harbor.

There has been flooding on the Lutherville reach of Roland Run since the 1960's and our community has been attempting to obtain relief from authorities since Hurricane Agnes caused major flood damage in June of 1972. In 1980, the County Department of Public Works obtained a hydraulic and hydrologic analysis of the vicinity to determine the extent of the 1% chance floodplain. As a result of the evaluation, the County bought a number of homes in the floodplain. However, residents quickly realized that houses not listed in the floodplain had also experienced extensive flooding. The Community Association, including many of the same folks at Mel and Rita's house, obtained another study that determined that the County evaluation was flawed. Although the County never acknowledged the inaccuracies, it did purchase

several more homes.

Over time, as construction continued upstream, more and more residents have experienced nuisance flooding of their property and storm water edging closer to their homes. The County has refused to perform additional analysis to determine the causes of the problems and potential solutions. Then, in 2005, a developer bought a site on the left bank of the Lutherville branch of Roland Run. The development plans for Lutherville included a six foot high, 400 foot long retaining wall on the left bank of the stream that LCA believed would cause further flooding on the right bank. Without even performing an analysis to assess the impact of the wall, the County granted the developer relief from a forest buffer regulation that applied to the property.

At this point, the Public Facilities Committee of the LCA sprang into action. Composed of Mel Timmons, Eric Rockel, Ted Rossman, and

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NEW EARLIER TIME!

General Meeting - Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at Lutherville Elementary School. Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting starting at 6:30p.m. Guest speaker will be James McGee. He will talk about hostage negotiations, threat assessments and profiling, domestic violence and stalking, and his background as a sports psychologist with professional athletes.

Get Involved in Helping to Solve Our Traffic Issues

Do things like the amount of traffic or the way that people drive through our community drive you crazy? Then you should get involved with the Traffic Committee and attend our next meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, in Spangler Hall. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Our special guest will be Mr. Keith Link, with Baltimore County's Traffic Engineering Department. Mr. Link has been very responsive to residents' concerns in the past and wants to hear from us about what's on our minds now. Also mark your calendars for the Committee meeting on April 20, 2010.

Lutherville Nostalgia Quiz

Where was "Miller's Store"?

To find out the answer, visit the LCA web site.

Welcome New Neighbors

If you know of anyone moving into the neighborhood, please let the hospitality committee know at triciakevin@yahoo.com.

Luthervillian

2010 Census to Begin

Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a hand held device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.
- You really only need to tell them how many people live at your address.
- While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, you don't have to answer anything about your financial situation. The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.
- The census bureau has decided not to work with Acorn on gathering this information. No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

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Cool Kids 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk/Run

On June 12, 2010 a 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk/Run will be held in Historic Lutherville. All proceeds from the race will go directly to helping families involved in the Cool Kids Campaign. The Cool Kids Campaign is an organization dedicated to improving the life for pediatric oncology patients and their families while they are going through the trauma of a cancer diagnosis and its treatments. Please join us in helping this amazing organization continue to provide financial and emotional support to children and families dealing with this horrific disease. Registration details for this event can be found at charmcityrun.com. If you would like to participate in some way, but are not interested in running the race, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in finding out how you can help, please contact Nydia Peel or Monica Enoch at coolkids5k@verizon.net. To find out more information about the Cool Kids Campaign in general, please visit their website at coolkidscampaign.org. More detailed information will follow shortly. See you in June!!

Get Involved

LCA Web Site

Look for upcoming events in the Lutherville Community Association's website. Community and church events are welcome. Please send them to newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org "Lutherville" photos are also welcome.

Join the LCA Listserv Google Group

Keep current on what is happening in the neighborhood. To join, click on the "google" subscribe link on the LCA homepage.

Submit Your News!

Please email to newsletter@luthervillecommunityassociation.org any community notices or photos to be included in the Lutherville Community Association website or newsletter.

President's Corner from page 1

Al Fisher, the group sparked the LCA into joining a lawsuit already being formulated by affected residents Eric Rockel, Sue Harvey and Barry Hunter. Attorney Carroll Holzer was retained to appeal the Lutherville variance to the County Board of Appeals. Unfortunately, the Board upheld the buffer variance in 2006.

But that temporary setback did not deter our heroes who led an appeal of the Board's decision to the County Circuit Court. After a hearing in April of 2007, the Court remanded the case to the Board of Appeals with further instructions for reconsideration. The Board of Appeals then reversed their earlier decision and refused to grant the variance! However, the case took another turn when the developer appealed the Board's decision back to the Circuit Court. The LCA and residents disagreed with some of the Board's findings and cross-petitioned. After a hearing before another judge in November of 2008, there was an agonizing wait of nearly a year before we received word this past October that our side was victorious.

That's why I was sitting in the den of Mel and Rita Timmons that brisk November night with Ted and Orva Rossman, Barry and Carol Hunter, Eric Rockel, Al Fisher, Sue Harvey, and Carroll Holzer. Mel and Rita had graciously invited me to join in the victory celebration after the appeal period had lapsed for the developer. There was quite a feast, including Mallo Pies. Carroll Holzer regaled the group with tales of his days as the chief litigator for the City State's Attorney's Office. And, at least on that one night, there seemed a glimmer of hope that our community will one day gain relief from the flooding problems on Roland Run.

Community Notes

Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up Schedule

2010 Dates: April 17th | July 17th | October 16th

Meet at St. John's parking lot at 9:00 am. Bring your safety vest, gloves and hat. Black plastic bags for trash will be provided. New participants must sign up with Mel Timmons and review the State Highway Presentation. Equipment will be provided to new participants. Contact Mel at melret@comcast.net or 410-252-9380.

Do you love gardening? Consider joining the Lutherville Garden Club

At the Lutherville Garden Club, we practice conservation and aid in the reversal of environmental deterioration; study horticulture; practice the artistic use of flowers, shrubs and trees; and share our knowledge with others through the friendly exchange of information and informative speakers. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, September through May at 11:00 am at Providence United Methodist Church, 1320 Providence Road in Towson. All are welcome to attend. Contact the President, Pauline Biggley at 410-692-6027 or Membership Chair, Carol Kakel at 410-252-8662 for additional information.

Google Listserv Etiquette Guidelines

1. The LCA Google group (listserv) is maintained by the LCA as a service for the Lutherville community. The LCA reserves the right to suspend or permanently remove members who do not adhere to the rules of the group (below). LCA reserves the right to remove any posting that violates these etiquette guidelines and reserves the right to end any topical thread that would weaken the value of the list.
2. Send only items that will interest the Lutherville community. Personal replies to postings should go directly to the individual. Notices for services offered by you or a member of your household, such as baby sitting, lawn care, etc. are allowed; note that the LCA is not endorsing any of these, but merely allowing members to make legitimate postings.
3. When appropriate, make it easy for people to respond to you directly. Include your e-mail address and other contact information at the end of your message.
4. If you do not wish to receive email messages from the listserv, you can change your settings to "No email" under "Edit my membership." (Other alternatives include a setting to a "daily digest" (one summary per day at most) or "receive each email as they arrive.")
5. Technical problems with the list or difficulties unsubscribing from the list should go to the list administrator (mar@rrginc.com).
6. Always keep to the topic and purpose of the list. The more topic-specific contributions are, the more useful the list is for everyone.
7. Do not send chain letters or spam
8. Always, always be courteous. (Write so that your mother will be proud.)
9. Do not subject any list member to a personal attack. If a message angers you, wait until you are calm before responding. Members who attack others will be barred from future postings.
10. Do not use profanity. Members who use profanity will be barred from future postings.
11. Do not disparage the LCA or other organizations in your message.
12. Problems with another list member's posting should be directed to the Listserv Administrator, not the individual member. No list member should criticize another; the Administrators will deal with issues.
13. Please avoid sending responses such as "I agree" or "thank you for responding." Send these types of messages directly to an individual.
14. Do not post private e-mail to the list that you have received from someone else without his or her express permission to do so.
15. Do not post copyrighted materials.
16. Use descriptive subject lines. The subject line is the main access point for archived lists and for following a specific discussion.
17. If you are responding to a message, preface its subject line with "Re:" This makes following an e-mail discussion (or thread of a discussion) much easier for all members.
18. Be concise. Quote from a message if necessary. In summarizing a lengthy discussion, be careful to be accurate.
19. Do not post messages in all caps. This is the equivalent of shouting.
20. Messages posted on the listserv are the opinions of the composers. The LCA does not endorse the opinions expressed.

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LCA Meetings

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday in September, November, February, and April beginning at 7:30 pm in Spangler Hall 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 7:00 pm.

Officers:
Jeff Dien, President
Marcia Hettinger, Vice President
Alice Parson, Secretary
Leslie Storms, Treasurer

The Lutherville Community Association, Inc.
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