The VILLAGE CRIER

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

ALRV ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 13th!

President's Letter

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." Oscar Wilde

Dear friends,

As spring approaches, I always look forward to seeing blossoming gardens, budding trees, and enjoying the longer, warmer days ahead. I also start getting into "spring cleaning" mode and want to throw open my windows and clear the clutter and cobwebs from the long cold winter! So it's no surprise that it's also a cleaning and decluttering time for the board as we prepare for our annual general meeting in April and the year ahead. We have been working on our annual budget, and like many, we've had to take a hard look at what we want to accomplish on behalf of our community versus the reality of the support and input we receive from our fellow residents. It's a harsh truth that, while everyone in the Village benefits from the work of committed volunteers and community association members - LRV banners and street signage, clean-up days, the Crier newsletter, Santa's ride, wreaths hung at Christmastime, decorating contests, beautifully cultivated gardens along Putty Hill, etc., - very few are actually supporting ALRV with membership contributions. In fact, almost 80% of households in Loch Raven Village did not send in their membership for 2021! Some of what ALRV has to pay for is not glamorous. In 2021, it cost us around $2,000 for insurance, POBox and office rental, $700 to have Loch Raven Village banners taken down and repaired, around $3,500 in printing costs and plastic bag purchases for The Village Crier, $1,300 to print and mail membership renewal letters to residents (so please send yours in before the mailing!) Some activities are more fun

— continued on page 3

Annual Meeting Details

The annual general meeting of the ALRV will be held in-person and will follow all local guidelines for masking requirements. (Any updates or changes will be made on the ALRV Facebook Events page.) We will try to provide a zoom link for members who cannot attend in-person. County Councilwoman Cathy Bevins and Capt.D.L. Chemelli, Balt. Co. Police Department Precinct Commander, Towson Precinct will be in attendance.

The meeting will take place at the Loch Raven Center on Glen Keith Blvd. at **7:00 p.m. on April 13th.** Come to the meeting to hear the latest LRV news and bring questions you would like answered. See you there!

Summer Crier Submissions
Deadline: May 12, 2022
lrvcriereditor@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Vice-President / Nick Linehan
LochRavenVillageGreen@gmail.com
Treasurer / ALRVtreasurer@gmail.com
Tom Malstrom
Secretary / ALRVsecretary@gmail.com
Richard Brown

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LochRavenVillageCovenants@gmail.com
Block Captains / Lori Cullinan
LRVBlockCaptain@gmail.com
Block Party Grants /
Antoinette O'Donnell
Citizens on Patrol / Richard Brown
Brown7@comcast.net
Community Events / OPEN
Facebook / Antoinette O'Donnell
Gardens / Nick Linehan,
Gretchen Sarkin
Marketing and Website / Kate Walkinshaw
Membership / Colleen Carr
Real Estate / OPEN
Planning/Zoning Development /
Nick Linehan, Peter Moulder
Welcome Bags / Sue O'Neil
School Liason / Colleen Carr

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Pet Locator / *Darrell Krushensky*
410-823-6330
Police / ***911 or 410-887-2222***
Sixth Precinct Significant Event Information / *baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/pc06*
Solid Waste Management /
410-887-2000
Towson University /
Off-campus resident issues 410-704-2057

ALRV MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month
7:00pm, **Loch Raven Center**
1801 Glen Keith Boulevard, Room 102
unless otherwise noted in events calendar; no meeting in August

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."

— *continued from page 1*

and perhaps easier to appreciate. Santa's ride? ALRV contributed $300 to Providence Volunteer fire Co. for their generous efforts in bringing Santa to LRV in December. Holiday home decorating contests? ALRV paid $250 in prizes - regardless of whether the winner was an ALRV member. Putty Hill Ave, median? So beautifully maintained with plantings and flowers, it costs ALRV around $2,000 a year in maintenance. All of this in addition to the many volunteer hours from board members and volunteers.

I don't share this information as a guilt trip but rather as a reality check. ALRV cannot continue to be successful and do what we've always done with only 20% of households (both renters and homeowners) who send in membership supporting the 80% who don't. We want to continue the work we do on behalf of Loch Raven Village. ALRV needs volunteers - especially those with good organizational and computer skills to help on committees. We hope to resume more of the fun activities we supported prior to Covid (and even introduce some new ones!) And we need your commitment, and yes, your membership - the backbone of any successful community organization - to do so.

Grand intentions may open our eyes to new possibilities but it is the small acts that take us there. Make a small act of kindness and support today. Join ALRV for 2022. Consider an additional contribution or "sponsor" an additional membership to offset someone that cannot contribute this year. And if you've already done so, I sincerely thank you!

Respectfully,
Antoinette O'Donnell
President, ALRV

Village VIP
Shine the light...

This issue's VIPs are Ian Haupt of Edgewood Rd. and Vicki Lombardi of Drumwood Rd. for their generous efforts at cleaning up trash in LRV. Ian has been instrumental in picking up the area around Edgewood and the Loch Raven Center during the quarterly trash pickup days as well as on his walks with his children. Vicki, along with her dog Reis, is also frequently seen picking up trash on daily walks. Ian and Vicki, we want you to know that we appreciate these efforts!

Keep up with LRV!

As you join the ALRV by paying your dues, please remember to share your email address with the ALRV. Since the Crier can only be produced quarterly, a lot of information gets shared from the board via email. Also, check in with the ALRV Facebook page and the neighborhood website for information about upcoming events! The website is LochRavenVillage.com. On this site you can also shop for LRV gear, read The Village Crier, and find the answer to many frequently asked questions regarding home ownership in our Village.

Talking Trash Here...

We drive past it daily and are oblivious to most of it. Those of us who walk through the Village can't help but notice it but may have other concerns.

Or we may think, such is life today. Or we see it--the discarded COVID masks, the empty soda bottle, the carton that held chicken and fries (only half-eaten), the dog poop, the pizza ads--and we grumble to ourselves, how ugly! Why do we tolerate this?

Most ALRV streets don't present a bad scene--most of the time. But in an otherwise pleasant, attractive community of well-kept homes, TRASH remains an eyesore in places. And ignoring it, or figuring it's not your responsibility because you (or your dog) didn't drop it there, erodes the pride we have in our neighborhood and in LRV.

In answer to the above question: we refuse to accept the litter and will do what's necessary to get rid of it. Our ALRV association can and does clean trash-prone areas several times a year. Resident Diane Davenport will be coordinating efforts on a Saturday in March, in June, and in September, and she can use your help. Watch Facebook for more information.

But there's a lot more we can do. You and I, individually or working with a partner, can take an hour and a half during the weekend, say, to "police up" litter on our own property, in the alley out back, on the grass strip and in the street out front. Doesn't matter how it got there--it's there! And it won't go away by itself. Let's don our work gloves, grab a big plastic bag, fill it with the stuff and put it out with our household trash on Tuesday or Friday night. Not hard to do--and over a few weeks it's become a good habit!

And I have to add this: Is there trash in your own back yard--that you never notice because you don't have or use a parking pad? Or, if you park out back and never use the front sidewalks, might litter lurk out there? Be sure to take care of your own yard first!

Calling all residents: whether you own your home or rent, commit to some outdoor cleaning with a neighbor. Let your pride in Loch Raven Village show in our litter-free yards, alleys and streets--and keep us from "talkin' trash"!

Bruce Knauff

Shred Event

The Towson Communities Alliance (TCA) will hold a Shred Event on Thursday April 28th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 pm in the parking lot of the Ascension Lutheran Church on York Road (west side, opposite the church).

There will be a limit of 2 boxes per person, and there is a minimum donation of one new can or packet of food for each box brought to shred, which will go to the ACTC food pantry and the Student Support Network.

A food truck will also be on site so bring your paper to shred and your appetite! For more information contact the TCA at gtccainformation@gmail.com.

Pleasant Plains Elementary
Many, many thanks to Ukazoo Books and manager Ben McClung for their very generous donation of nine boxes of children's books to the school after Ukazzoo had to close its doors. The books will be given out to area children when the school starts up its Panther Express travelling program again. The Panther Express consists of PPES staff members meeting with members of the community in predetermined spots to give away literacy and math materials to the children. The kids really love receiving these items and we are so happy to have this large number of books to help spread a love of reading.

PPES Library and Media Specialist Ashley Schoen with the donated boxes of books from Ukazoo.

Loch Raven High School
LRHS presents **Clue**
Dates: March 18-19
Time: 7pm
Cost: $5 for students and children under the age of 10
$10 for adults
Junior prom – April 1st
Senior prom - May 6th
Senior graduation – June 7th

Starbucks Update

As many of you are aware, the "Bel Loc" Starbucks closed its doors abruptly in January. The ALRV has been working with Councilman David Marks and Mr. Jordan Levine, co-chairs of the Loch Raven Task Force to have the "Bel Loc" reopen rather than having a shuttered business in this location. Unfortunately, a representative for the Starbucks company said they would not reopen the "Bel Loc" Starbucks due to crime and safety concerns which they also said precipitated the closure. We have also reached out to the County Executive's office and the Baltimore County police department regarding the issue and will let you know of any updates.

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"Tim sold our home on Pleasant Plains Rd. for 98% of the asking price & using one of his Guaranteed Home Sale programs."
- *The O'Donnell Family*

Average Sold Price in Loch Raven Village 2021
$258,267 (when listed & sold by all Realtors)
$260,969 (when listed & sold by Tim Hodgin)

Days on the Market of Sold Homes - 2021
15 Days (when listed & sold by all Realtors)
6 Days (when listed & sold by Tim Hodgin)

*conditions apply. Seller & Tim must agree upon time of possession & price.

Holy Cross Preschool

8516 Loch Raven Blvd.
Towson, MD 21286
410-825-7905

Check us out at holycrosstowson.org
Email: director@holycrosstowson.org

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Babcock Presbyterian Church
and the
Associates of Loch Raven Village
are excited to present
a neighborhood

Easter Egg Hunt!

April 16th at 11:00 a.m.
For kids 3-10 years old
On the lawn at BABCOCK CHURCH

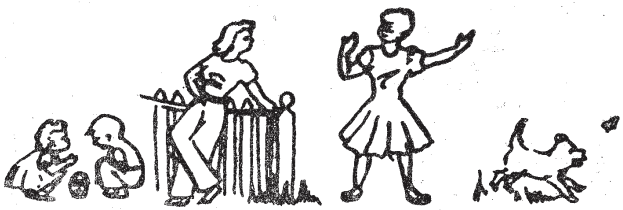
(PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION!)
Rain or shine
No rain date

Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who decorated for the season and made the neighborhood light up with bright and festive displays. Here are the winners of the annual ALRV decorating contest. Each home won a $25 gift card. Congratulations winners!

8110 Clyde Bank
8435 Greenway Rd.
1405 E. Joppa Rd.
1622 Feldbrook Rd.

OVER THE FENCE



Share your news with the Village Crier – welcome a new neighbor, wish someone a happy birthday, announce the birth of a child! Over the Fence is your opportunity to tell others what is going on in your part of the Village. Email lrvcriereditor@gmail.com.

Our condolences to **Beverly Dobson** of Dellsway Rd. whose daughter **Meeghan Darney** passed away on February 27th.

Congratulations to the **Loch Raven Youth Rec Wrestlers** on a successful season!

We would like to extend our best wishes to Baltimore City firefighter **John McMaster** of Edgewood Rd. Firefighter McMaster was injured in a tragic fire in January. We hope you are recovering well, John!

This article is copied from the website for Poor Boys Garden Center and was provided by gcs – Garden Center Solutions. It is not printed in its entirety.

Protecting Our Pollinators

Every garden requires pollinators, and bees are among the finest. Without them there would be limited flowers and far fewer fruits and vegetables. Did you know that about 30 percent of the food we eat depends on the pollination of bees, including onions, cashews, coffee, carrots, chocolate and vanilla? If we don't protect these prolific pollinators, our landscapes, gardens and diets will be irrevocably changed.

Although there are many bees that are great pollinators, like carpenter, mining, sweat and cellophane bees, some of the most well known and easily identified bees are the honeybee and bumblebee. Both of these bees live in social colonies and are cavity nesters. Because these bees are active all summer long, they require a constant supply of floral nectar close to their hive and they thrive in flower gardens, orchards and other areas with abundant blooms.

Unfortunately, both these types of bees – along with many others – are disappearing rapidly, and two key threats are to blame…habitat loss and pesticide drift…

Fortunately, it is easy to bring more bees to your garden and encourage healthy bee populations. To support local bees…

- Planting a variety of flowers that will bloom throughout the entire summer to provide ongoing food supplies.
- Opt for native flower varieties that will be more easily recognized and used by bees, instead of introduced flowers that are less familiar.
- Eliminate chemical use in your yard, as much as possible, including on your lawn, garden and trees, especially while plants are in flower.
- Provide bees a safe place for shelter and to lay their eggs. A wood pile is suitable, or you can invest in a specialized bee house.
- Make sure that there is an available water source for your bees. A bird bath or any simple water basin works just fine…

Have you tried the LOOP?

Baltimore County now has a free circulator bus option for getting around town! The Towson Loop is a free transit service that quickly and conveniently connects residents, commuters, students and visitors to stops throughout Towson's central business district. The Towson Loop launched two routes in October 2021 and is Baltimore County's flagship bus circulator service. Additional Loop routes are in their early planning stages for other communities in Baltimore County.

The Baltimore County Loop will provide a comfortable, fast and efficient transit that connects riders to:

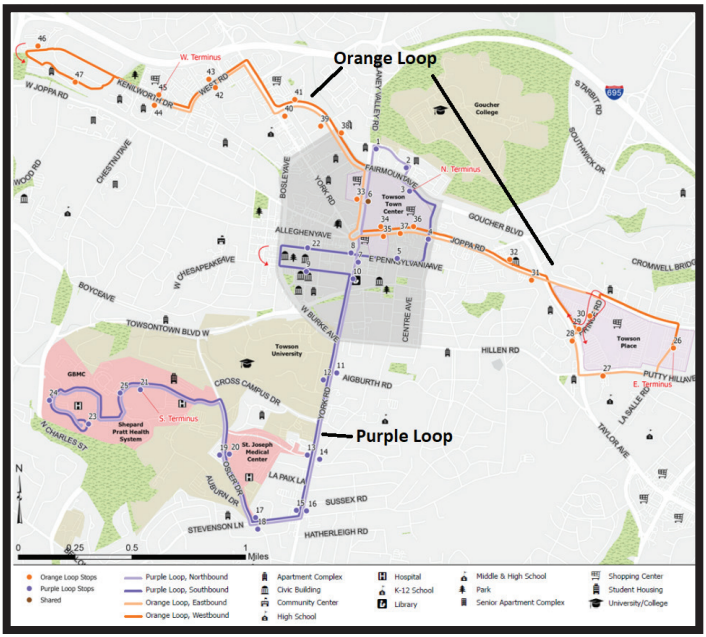
- Government
- Healthcare services
- Entertainment venues
- Restaurants
- School
- Shopping
- Work

The Towson Loop complements existing Maryland Transit Administration service and connects riders to major anchors, including:

- Goucher College
- Greater Baltimore Medical Center
- Sheppard Pratt Health Systems
- Towson Place
- Towson Town Center
- Towson University
- The Shops at Kenilworth
- University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center

The Loop consists of a fleet of 12 circulator shuttle buses. Each bus is equipped with a bike rack and air conditioning, and can hold 25 passengers, with space provided for wheelchairs, bicycles and strollers. Delivering simple and high frequency bus service, the Loop routes will reduce traffic congestion and pollution in the County's busiest corridors.

Visit https://student-support-network.ticketleap.com/a-night-for-the-network/ details for tickets.



Events Calendar – Spring

The Events Calendar provides a snapshot of upcoming activities in and around our community. For a complete list of activities at Loch Raven Library, visit: bcplonline.org/events/datelines-loch-raven. For more information on events at Cromwell Park visit info@cromwellvalleypark.org.

ALRV BOARD MEETINGS
At this time board meetings are being held virtually, via Zoom. They are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend. Please email Tom Malstrom at temalstrom@aol.com prior to 3:00 p.m. with your name and street address so that he knows you wish to be let into the meeting and he can give you the access codes.

SPRING HIGHLIGHT EVENT
Self-Guided Easter Trail Hunt at Cromwell Valley Park – All ages. Stop by our Nature Center, pick up a trek booklet and set off on a self-guided hike on our trails. When you have completed the trek return to the Nature Center to pick up your EGG-citing prize! $2 members /$4 non-members. BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT.
April 17 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
To register and for more information about events at Cromwell Valley Park, visit https://cromwellvalleypark.org/event_calendar/.
Also check out these local entities for more interesting and fun things to do with the family!
Loch Raven Library – www.bcplonline.org
Hampton Mansion National Historic Site -- https://www.nps.gov/hamp/index.htm
Towson University -- https://www.towson.edu/campus/programs/
Goucher College -- https://events.goucher.edu/
American Visionary Art Museum -- https://www.avam.org/exhibitions-and-events

Upcoming LRV Events!
Don't miss out on these fun events that the ALRV Events committee, led by Cole Bailey, is putting together. Since many of the dates are still being determined, please check the LRV website and the ALRV Facebook page regularly for more details as well as the summer issue of The Village Crier which will be distributed in mid-June. If you are interested in finding out more or helping with events in LRV, email Cole at lrvevents2@gmail.com.

LRV 1st Annual Community Gardens Tour and Scavenger Hunt
July 23 & 24
Loch Raven Village Community Yard Sale
Date: September
Loch Raven Village Annual Harvest/ Halloween Decorating Contest
Date: October 31
Santa Community Visit
Date: To Be Determined
Loch Raven Christmas Caroling
Date: December 10
Loch Raven Village Annual Holiday Decorating Contest
Date: December 17

…and keep in mind that the county Bureau of Solid Waste Management will be doing another bulk item collection on September 7th!

COP News

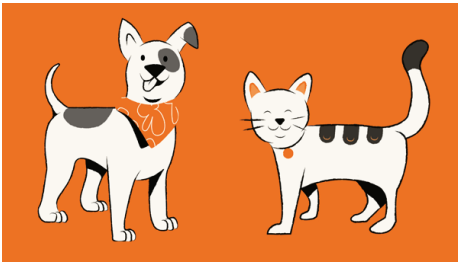
Citizens on Patrol (COP) are organized groups of citizens who volunteer their time to patrol their neighborhoods. The Loch Raven Village community has always had an active COP program with several residents patrolling our neighborhood. After completing a training course, COP members patrol parts of Loch Raven Village in their car, on bike or on foot. While on patrol, members look for suspicious activity and report what they see by calling 911 on their cell phone. Members set their own hours for patrolling each week. There will be a training session for those interested so that you may learn more about the COP program and how you may serve. Send me an email if you have an interest in participating in COP.

For more information on COP visit:
https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/community/cop.html

Richard Brown
COP Coordinator for Loch Raven Village
brown7@comcast.net

Donate to Local Pet Shelters

Loch Raven Village resident Diane Pigott is collecting items for local animal shelters in need of supplies. Materials needed include towels, soft blankets, baby blankets for kittens, any cat food, canned dog food, wash cloths, sheets, top flannel sheets, quilts, leashes -- almost anything pet related. Donations can be dropped off at 1711 Kennoway Rd. Thank you in advance!



Brick MASONRY

By Mike Eiser

Over the years I've repaired many LRV homes. I love what I do and appreciate working with homeowners in the Village.

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Note - limited Display Ad spaces per issue!

Ads run in the next issue (quarterly/seasonally) once paid and received by the editor. If your ad is time-sensitive, please contact the Crier editor for more information.

Dear Neighbors,

We are gearing up for our annual membership drive, and I wanted to take a moment to give you an update on what your Associates of Loch Raven Village (ALRV) has been working on for our members. We are keeping our membership levels the same at $40 per household, and $30 for seniors. You can join or renew your membership on our website, www.lochravenvillage.com, AND help us save paper and keep the costs of our membership drive down. Stay tuned as we are hoping to introduce new membership incentives!

Thank you for your continued support of
Loch Raven Village, a great place to call home!
Colleen Carr, Membership Coordinator

←Scan this code to pay via our BRAND NEW website!

Memberships run from January 1st through December 31st of each year.

2022 DUES Now Due

TO USE PAYPAL VISIT
lochravenvillage.com

Please complete this form and mail it along with your $40 payment ($30 for seniors) to:

Associates of Loch Raven Village
P.O. Box 9721
Loch Raven, MD 21284-9721

All information collected will be held in the strictest confidentiality, and will be used for the sole purpose of serving the Association's membership and community of Loch Raven Village.

Name: _____

Street address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Years as resident? _____

Comments, questions or suggestions for LRV or ALRV? _____

_____

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