

A Note From The President

Larry Townsend

It is hard to believe that summer is over. What started out somewhat cool and wet became the normally hot and dry that we have come to know. But – we are looking good! Nary a high grass or weed complaint this summer. Thanks for the good job that is being done by all.

Several projects continue in the community. The construction at 1209 York Road has continued without incident. We thank the contractor and the owner for a job that is continuing to be well done. You may have noticed that the old entrance/exit on Greenridge Road has been closed. A new temporary entrance/exit, a safety requirement, has been opened on Tenbury Road. It is expected that it will be closed on or before December 8, 2006, when the relocated entrance/exit on Greenridge Road is completed. We signed an agreement with the owners to that effect.

Our thanks to **Jennifer Belt** and **Dan Rauschenberg** for renovating the flower box and the adjacent area around our community sign on York Road at the cul-de-sac of Ridgefield Road. It looks great! Jennifer and Dan plan to do some additional pruning in the near future to take care of the trees that have overgrown the flower box.

The water main cleaning project is nearly completed. The disruptions that this project have caused both to our water supply and our roads will be forgotten when we have had our water quality restored. I have seen some of the “junk” that they have removed from the mains. As one resident commented, “I am sure that no one has been suffering from an iron deficiency in our neighborhood!” When the project has been finished, we have assurance that everything will be restored to its original state – including the roads.

Our annual DVIA community meeting and wine and cheese event is scheduled for November 18, 2006, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. During the meeting, officers for the year 2007 will be elected. The event has been well attended and has had an increase in attendance every year for the last few years. Mark your calendars now – and bring the family – as the Museum will be open as well as the activity center. Incidentally, if you are not a member of the Maryland Fire Museum, why not become one?

The Galleria continues to request forgiveness for installing new parking places in the residentially-zoned area of their property. We won our case all the way to Circuit Court in the last go-round. They are trying again to have the spaces approved that were installed without a permit and without zoning approval. They also requested that they be allowed to continue to lease space above that allowed by the number of parking spaces that they now have – a difference of 300 spaces! The commissioner turned them down again but allowed their new “as built” parking plan to be approved. We have appealed that decision and are waiting for an Appeals Board hearing date. In the order, they were told to remove the spaces and not renew or sign any new leases that would add to their parking deficiencies. They have appealed that part of the decision. We will keep you informed as this case once more progresses through the system.

School is open and we ask that you be mindful of the students that are walking to bus stops and to Hampton Elementary School while you are out and about. Also, we ask that you use care around the school while students are arriving and leaving by not blocking Charmuth Road. This has been a problem in the past and is being monitored.

Another street problem continues to be addressed. The “No U-Turn” sign on Charmuth Road is continually ignored by many “lost” motorists. I have had reports (and have witnessed myself) that cars, vans, truck, busses and semis are making u-turns or turning into Meadowvale Road and backing out into traffic on Charmuth Road. The State Highway Administration has been contacted many times as well as the Baltimore County Highways Department and we have not been able to reach a satisfactory solution to the problem – but we are continuing to work on it. A resident that is very much affected continues to pursue the State Highways Administration as most of the cause seems to stem from the signs on the Beltway and on Dulaney Valley Road not being much help to out of the area motorists.

A coupon worth a dollar off for admission to the Fire Museum of Maryland is elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter. This is one of the best exhibits of fire fighting equipment and history in the country – and it is right here in our community! After you have had your “free” visit during the wine and cheese party, use the coupon to repeat your visit and take some friends!

We welcome everyone in the community to ALL of our meetings – which are held at the Hampton Elementary School on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Have you renewed your membership? If not, please consider doing so. And, we will see you at the Fire Museum on November 18th!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wine and Cheese Community Meeting



The DVIA Annual Wine and Cheese Party and November Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18, 2006 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

This event is open to all members of our community, dues-paying and non-dues paying, and the children of our community. It is a chance to come out, explore the Fire Museum, and meet the neighbors of your community.

The DVIA will be serving a number of finger foods and beverages (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) free of charge. We will also be holding a short DVIA meeting to give you a chance for your voice to be heard. The meeting will also include elections for the 2007 calendar year.

Annual Wreath and Community Decoration

Guidelines for the Holiday Decorations Contest



1. Homes will be judged on **Sunday, December 17, 2006** in the late afternoon/early evening.
2. First, second, and third-place awards will be given in two categories:
 - Lights/Overall Effect/Nighttime Display
 - Doors/Entryways/Daytime Display
3. Winners from last year may not receive the same place award in the same category as last year.
4. The judging committee will include at least three people. Committee and Officers member's homes are not eligible in this competition.
5. A member of the DVIA board will notify winners within a week of judging. Results will be posted in the Towson Times and the next issue of the DVIA newsletter.
6. Winners will receive gift certificates to local businesses.

Santa Claus to Ride Through Our Community

Sunday, December 17, 2006 starting at 1 p.m., an antique fire truck will escort Santa Claus through our community! Have your camera ready! The locations are:

- 1:00 p.m. Greenridge Road and Belmore Roads
- 1:05 p.m. Ridgefield Road and Longbrook Roads
- 1:10 p.m. Tenbury Road and Longbrook Roads
- 1:15 p.m. Meadowvale Road and Rothwell Roads
- 1:20 p.m. Ridgefield Road and Strathdon Way (by the street lamp)
- 1:25 p.m. Felton Road and Longford Roads
- 1:30 p.m. Felton Road and Doragen Court
- 1:35 p.m. In front of Hampton Elementary School

These times are estimates. Please listen for the Fire Truck horns and look for the Santa Stop sign on the corners!

If weather is inclement, the antique truck can not drive around. Therefore, if you don't hear the horn of the truck, go to Hampton Elementary in the front drive. Santa will be there at 1pm waiting for the children to take their pictures and give them a candy cane.



Neighbor News

Brooke Kuhl-McClelland of Longbrook Road has been named the Howard County Teacher of the Year, and was also in the running for the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Best of luck to **Julio and Isabel Esteban** who are moving after living in our neighborhood for a long time at Longbrook Road.

Welcome to the neighborhood to **Seth and Stephanie Spalding** and son, **Seth** (April 2006) at 117 Tenbury Rd; **Scott & Sharla Nance** with **Sabrina and Seth** (Summer 2006) of 113 Tenbury Road.

Congratulations to **Anita Thesen and Bryan Hassler** of 116 Tenbury Rd. on the birth of their new daughter, **Charlotte**, born in May 2006.

Lois Boyd, long-time volunteer and former DVIA Recording Secretary has passed away. The DVIA sends its condolences and thanks Lois for her dedication to the betterment of our community.

Upcoming DVIA Meetings

The next meeting will be on **Saturday, November 18th** at the Fire Museum during the Annual Wine and Cheese Party. We will be holding elections as well.

The final meeting of the DVIA for the 2006 calendar year will be held **Monday, December 11, 2006** at the Hampton Elementary School library at 7 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public.

DVIA to Hold 2007 Officer Elections

The DVIA will be holding elections for the 2007 calendar year during the **November 18, 2006** Wine and Cheese Party.

Available officer positions are as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary.

There are a number of adjunct positions as well, including: Communications Officer, Newsletter Editor.

There also exist a number of Board Member positions.

If you are interested in running for an Officer or Board Member position, please be sure to attend the November meeting.

DVIA Community Web Site Re-Designed and Now with Community Forums



The DVIA Web Site, located at <http://www.dvia.org>, has recently been graphically re-designed by our Communications Director Jeff Sanders.

The web site's hosting contract with our Internet hosting provider was coming due for renewal. Jeff took the chance to move the web site to a new hosting provider (which reduced the cost to ¼ of its former annual price), and provided for a significant overhaul to the site's overall look and feel.

In addition, the web site now offers a "Community Forums" feature. This portion of the web site allows our community residents and non-residents to log-on, and post their thoughts, concerns, suggestions, services they offer, and more for other readers to see, much like a bulletin board.

The site is free to anyone who uses it, and continues to be funded by your annual dues and generous donations.

FIRE MUSEUM OF MARYLAND

This coupon entitles its bearer to
\$1 OFF ADMISSION

Terms and conditions may apply.



Zoning and Code Enforcement Issues

Hardly a day goes by that a call is not received that pertains to a zoning question, a zoning violation or a code issue. It seems that more and more of my time is being spent in this area. Several items are being worked on at this time.

Commercial vehicles – they are NOT welcome in our community, that is unless they are here performing a service for a resident – and that is the only allowed use. You may NOT bring home your work vehicle IF it has equipment visible or it has more than a name on the driver's or passenger's door. If it is over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, it is not permitted at all!

Any non-motorized motor vehicle (that is, a trailer) cannot be parked on a county street at any time unless loading or unloading is in progress. However, they can be parked in your driveway as long as they do not have advertising on them. If the trailer has a boat on it, it can only be parked in a side or rear yard, ten(10) feet behind the front line of your house and two and one-half (2 ½) feet from any property line. House trailers, camper trailers and motor homes cannot be on the street at any time unless they are being loaded or unloaded in preparation for use. They can NEVER be in a set up state or be utilized in a residential zone.

ALL motor vehicles motorized and non-motorized MUCH have valid license tags and dated validation stickers. Vehicles on county streets can be ticketed and towed. Vehicles on your property and be cited by code enforcement. If a vehicle is to be "donated", it must continue to display valid license tags until the towing company arrives to pick it up.

We get a lot of questions about building set backs. This is the distance that you must leave empty between your house and the front, side or rear property line. This information is on the property plat that was filed when your sub-division was approved by Baltimore County. We do not have these plats in our files and cannot advise you on a lot by lot basis. They are available for viewing at the zoning desk at the Permits and Development Management office in the Baltimore County Office Building. Many of our homes were built on the front set back line. Most are on or near the side set back line. The rear yard often allows room for expansion.

**Dulaney Valley Improvement Assoc., Inc.
P.O. Box 102
Lutherville, MD 21094-0102**

| |
|---|
| <p>PRSR STD U.S. Postage PAID Lutherville, MD Permit No.102</p> |
|---|