



A Note From The President

Larry Townsend

What a lovely spring we are having, but wait – it's January! Hey, I'll take what we can get. I actually thought about cutting the grass the other day – but only for a moment.

Thanks to all that participated in the annual decorating, hanging and taking down of the community Christmas wreaths. The decorators were Barbara Poniatowski, Dorrie Wilfong, Barbara Houck, Susan Shaffer, Barbara Rauschenberg, Walter and Kate Schruaffer and Gladie Alcarese. Conrad Poniatowski was their “supervisor”. Then Max Collins, Ang Peng, Bill Hoyt, Bob Johnson, Tom O'Dwyer, Conrad Poniatowski and yours truly hung the wreaths and subsequently removed them and returned them for storage. We only had one wreath fall this year – the same one that has fallen for the last year or so – hmmm?

Santa visited us and rode on an antique fire engine supplied by the Fire Museum of Maryland. The new Fire Museum Education Director, Rick Bray, and his wife and daughter also participated as did the fire crew from the museum. The Birkenthals, Ellen and Jeff, made sure the signs were up and that everyone had a candy cane – which I understand came in several flavors this year!

On one dark and somewhat gloomy night, Susan Shaffer, Ginny Thompson and Larue Oster set out to find the best decorated homes in the community. They had looked at the door decorations earlier. This was one tough job this year. So many of our homes were decorated beautifully – lots of lights and lawn “ornaments”. We wish we could include many more in the prize list – but a decision had to be made (I stayed out of it!). Susan reported the winners to the Towson Times and presented them with a gift certificate to use at Wegman's.

Our annual meeting and wine and cheese party at the Fire Museum was a great success. Somewhere around 125 community members attended. Watch for the notice in the newsletter and plan to attend this years meeting – usually the third Saturday in November.

The water project is complete and now Baltimore County has begun to repair the curbs and gutters on Tenbury Road. This will cause some disruption but will provide better drainage and a better appearance when completed.

Work continues on the new office building at 1209 York Road. The contractor was delayed in closing the temporary access on Tenbury Road when they had to install a larger than expected water run-off containment facility and hit rock. We now expect the new internal roadway will be complete by the end of January and the temporary access will be closed – weather permitting.

After numerous reports about speeding and rolling through STOP signs, we have asked that the Baltimore County Police strictly enforce both the speed limit and the STOP signs. Beware – when we ask for this, we catch a lot of our residents – as well as those that are passing through.

As always, thank you for supporting your community.

UPCOMING EVENTS
<p>Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 31, 2007, 10:00 a.m. Behind Hampton Elementary School</p>
<p>Community Yard Sale Saturday, April 28, 2007 Throughout the Community</p>

UPCOMING MEETINGS
Monday February 12, 2007
Monday March 12, 2007
Monday April 2, 2007
Monday May 14, 2007
Monday June 11, 2007

DUES NOTICE
<p>The DVIA will be mailing out 2007 dues notices to community members during the month of February 2007.</p>



Editors Note: We are including a letter that Steve Heaver of the Fire Museum of Maryland sent out with a newsletter to their members and donors. The Museum is an important part of the DVIA community. We are including the letter in our newsletter to keep you informed of the strides they are making, and to encourage you to support their Annual Campaign to raise funds for Fire Safety and Fire Prevention programs for children in Baltimore City and County.

Dear Friend of the Museum,

As the Museum approaches the end of 2006, it is time again to pick up my pen, figuratively speaking, and ask you to make a donation. Your gift is always important to us as it this money which keeps us operating and doing all of the strategic activities which preserve the history of the American Fire Service and teach fire safety to our younger citizens. All gifts are fully tax deductible in the eyes of the I.R.S.

Wendy Codd, out new Development Director, has put together an illustrated newsletter that is three times bigger than last year; I hope that you will enjoy reading about some of our activities from 2006. It has been an especially exciting one. Dr. Pete Petersen, author of The Great Baltimore Fire, donated his complete 32 volume set of notes that were the corpus of his research. There is something like 734 newspaper articles that delve into the Great Fire. We were successful in getting a \$100,000 Bond Bill from the State to further our goal of new lighting and air conditioning. The County Arts & Sciences Commission doubled the size of their grant. There were three, well executed special events to show off some of our collections working at what they do best.

We've had some significant personnel changes one of which is to hire our first, full-time Educator: Rick Bray will be joining the staff in December. He and his family are moving from Indiana so we're going to give them a warm welcome; he is a fire fighter and a teacher of some fifteen years. We said 'good bye' to Debbie in September after twelve years of energetic and devoted service.

I think that I'll close now and invite you to look over the Newsletter. Please note that the Holiday Train Garden opens on Thanksgiving Saturday and will remain in operation on Saturdays in December, plus the special days of Christmas Week: 26-29 December. Every day hours are 11 to 4. (Next year we will be extending our hours to 10-4.)

We need your financial support more than ever, and I ask that you give as generously as you can. A special envelope has been enclosed for your convenience. If you have questions about our budget, or our plans, don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen G. Heaver,
Director & Curator

I would like to help the Fire Museum with preservation and education.

Enclosed is my contribution to the Annual Fund.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
e-mail: _____ Tel: _____

With a donation of \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 or \$ _____

Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____

Please charge my Visa/MC account: # _____ exp: ___ / ___

The Fire Museum of Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and as such all contribution are fully deductible in accordance with current IRS regulations.

- A copy of the audited financials may be obtained by writing to FMM at 1301 York Rd, Lutherville, MD 21093. Additional information is on file with the Maryland Secretary of State
- The Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Road, Lutherville, MD 21093

Annual Fund

The Fire Museum of Maryland is a non-profit organization; we rely on memberships, grants, and donations from members and friends for our operations

Zoning and Code Enforcement Issues

The Board of Appeals for Baltimore County has set March 20 and 21, 2007, as the date for The Galleria to appeal the Zoning Commissioner's decision that they must remove the parking area that they installed without a permit and without the required zoning. This is a second round on this issue which DVIA won at the Circuit Court level the last time.

Several complaints concerning commercial vehicles have been received. Again, we do not welcome commercial vehicles in our neighborhood. The Baltimore County regulations concerning commercial vehicles are somewhat confusing and contradictory. We are working to get a single definition. Right now, small vehicles CAN be parked on the street but NOT in the driveway. This simply makes no sense. Large vehicles cannot be parked on the street or in the driveway. Commercial trailers cannot be parked on any county street whether they are attached to a vehicle or not and they also cannot be parked in the driveway.

A new regulation gives Baltimore County Code Enforcement jurisdiction over recreational vehicles – of any type or kind. They can ONLY be parked in the street when they are being readied for a trip or being emptied after a trip and then for no more than 24 hours. They CANNOT be parked in a driveway unless they are ten feet or more behind the front line of the house and at least two and one-half feet from any property line. This includes boats on trailers, motor homes and house trailers.

The regulations concerning motor scooters have been posted on our website www.dvia.org. They CANNOT be used on any Baltimore County street.

All automobiles must be in serviceable condition and have valid license plates and validation stickers whether they are on the street or on your property. A car with a flat tire is NOT in serviceable condition! Covering a car in your driveway does not exclude you from having valid tags and validation stickers.

Someone has been driving across the newly seeded area adjacent to Valley Court Road. We asked Baltimore County to rehabilitate the area; they did; now it has been "torn up". Neighbors have reported seeing a dark SUV doing the damage. If you have any information, please contact president@dvia.org or better yet call the Baltimore County Police.

Please observe the regulations concerning trash cans. They may be placed at the curb NOT MORE THAN 24 HOURS before a scheduled pickup and they must be removed the day of the pickup. This information is found in several different parts of the regulations and does not always have the exact same specification BUT let's all do our share and put the trash out the night before and take the cans back in the day of the pickup – simply put, it makes the community look better if we do. Also, be sure that if you use bags instead of cans that they are tightly closed – and please pick up after our "wildlife".

If you have a question about any Baltimore County Regulations, please contact president@dvia.org and we will do our best to find an answer for you.

Thank you for caring and taking such good care of our community.



Join the Easter Bunny and your neighbors at the DVIA Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31, 2007 behind Hampton Elementary

Check-In at 9:45 a.m. Event begins at 10:00 a.m.

Please RSVP by March 24 to Bebe Ferro 410-821-8177

Don't forget your Easter Basket

(For DVIA Member's Children and Grandchildren Ages 8 and under)

In case of rain, have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny and pick up your goody bag under the awning in front of Hampton Elementary from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.



Decoration Contest Winners

And the Winners Are...

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who decorate and make the community so beautiful during the holiday season! It becomes harder each year to choose just three winners in the two categories of the Holiday Decoration Contest. The committee had a hard time selecting from among all of the beautifully adorned and lighted homes throughout the neighborhood.

The winners for this year are:

Daytime/Doorway Decorations

- 1st Place: Mary Jo and Frank Kuhn, 1210 Longford Rd.
- 2nd Place: Josephine and Bob Schmidt, 24 Tenbury Rd.
- 3rd Place: Lynne and Hans Kellner, 2 Tenbury Rd.

Nighttime Decorations

- 1st Place: Kathleen and Russell Mellinger, 31 Tenbury Rd.
- 2nd Place: Melinda and Randy Thomas, 1309 Charmuth Rd.
- 3rd Place: Joanne and Garrett Zour, 1406 Newport Place

It is also very much worth noting several "**Honorable Mentions**":

- 112 Ridgefield Rd.-- Anne and Herman Schmid
- 112 Greenridge Rd.-- Marre Fanning
- 101 Tenbury Rd. -- Susan and Stephen Riegger
- 1300 Felton Ct. -- Samantha and James Cole

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

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