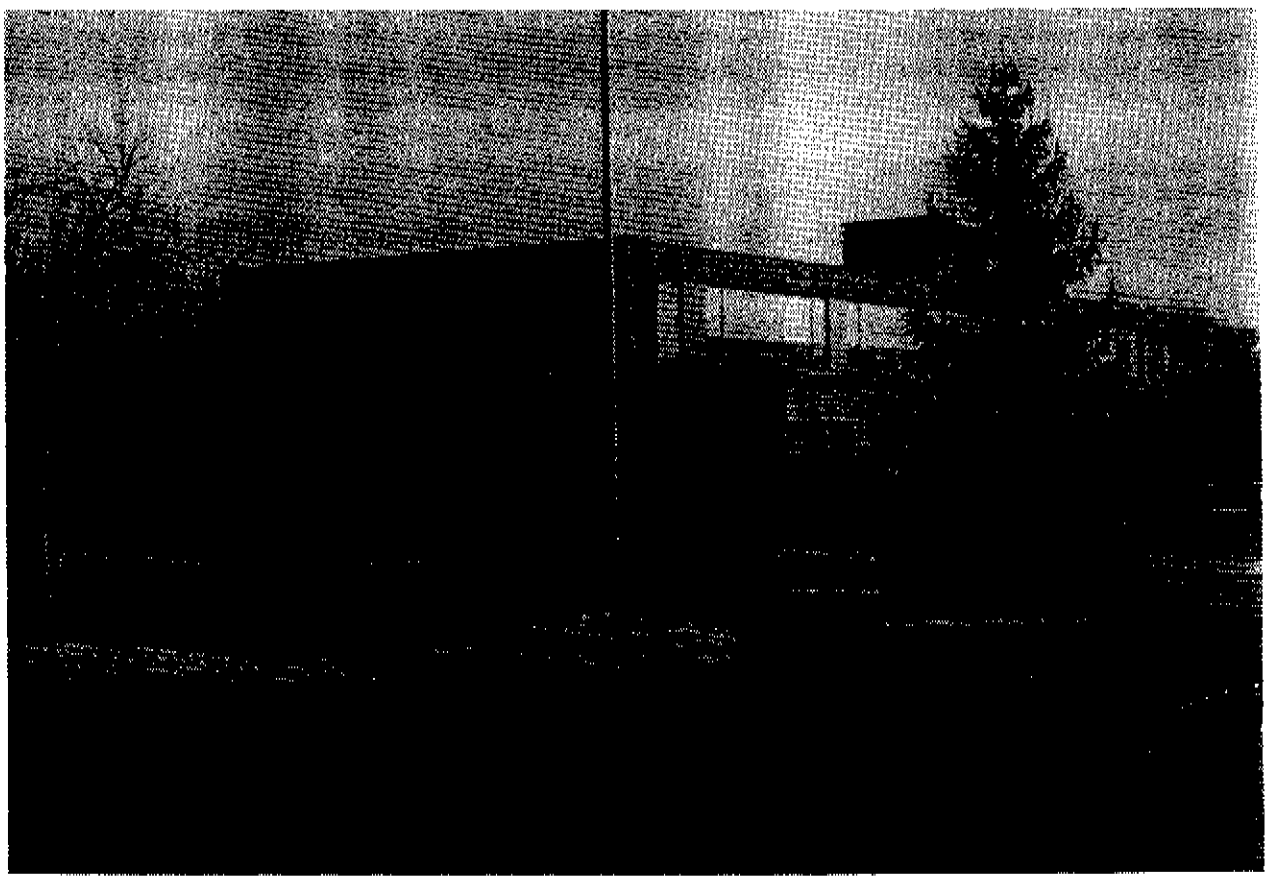
B. SOCIAL ISSUES

Seniors

In June, 1988, the senior center at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was relocated to the former Loch Raven Elementary School. At that time, this Center had about 150 members. As of June, 1990, there were 300 members. In September, 1990, the Center's programming expanded from three days/week to four days/week.



According to the 1990 membership rolls* (paying members) of Loch Raven Village, approximately 40% of Loch Raven Village households have a member who is over 60 years old.

According to Loch Raven Village's 1990 neighborhood survey, an estimated 34% of Loch Raven Village's residents are over 60 years old.

Projections for the 1990 Baltimore County Master Plan show an increasing older population for central Baltimore County.

The Association will address the growing senior population by working with the Baltimore County Department of Aging, Senior Center staff, and the Loch Raven Senior Center Council in promoting the programs at the Loch Raven Senior Center. The Association will investigate other programs to assist and meet seniors' special needs. Examples of these programs include:

- providing or finding an in-home service that would enable the seniors to remain longer in their homes as residents, and
- seeking transportation options for seniors who are public transit dependent.

Some of the current programs (see Appendix K) available at the Loch Raven Senior Center include:

needlepoint	crafts
bingo	art
woodcarving	ceramics
quilting	senior stride (walking)
aerobics	English literature

* See Appendix H for a copy of the Loch Raven Village Membership Notice

Child Care

The Loch Raven Village 1990 community survey revealed that approximately 32% of Loch Raven Village's children are under 5 years old. Projections provided by the Board of Education show the elementary school age population rising through 1999. Play Centers, Inc., which has been providing day care in the former Loch Raven Elementary School since 1988, has increased its enrolled families 60% in two years - from 65 families to 103 families. The Baltimore County Board of Education is also projecting an increase in elementary school age children for Pleasant Plains Elementary (see Appendix H). Observations throughout Loch Raven Village reflect an increasing number of children.

Young couples and single parents are economically dependent on adequate child care facilities. To make Loch Raven Village attractive to families, it is imperative that the Association seek additional child care facilities. This could be accomplished with the support of Baltimore County government; for instance, implementing a program that would involve the senior center in providing day care services.

Since the current child care facility is in the former Loch Raven Elementary School, the recommended Public Facilities Committee will oversee this initiative.

Baltimore County Services

Police:

Currently, Loch Raven Village is part of the jurisdiction served by the Towson Post. Four police cars out of its total of 8 are assigned to service the area east of York Road and west of Perring Parkway. Car #218 is primarily assigned for duty in Loch Raven Village.

The Association is concerned about increasing incidence of crime in Baltimore County - especially in the Loch Raven Village area. The Association recognizes that as Baltimore County becomes more urbanized, the crime rate will show a corresponding rise.

The Association has a history of cooperation with the Baltimore County Police, most recently, with the COPE Unit's award-winning effort in the apartment complex.

The safety of Loch Raven Village residents is one of the Association's primary concerns. The Association will work with the Baltimore County Police Department and other agencies of Baltimore County government to promote crime prevention techniques. The Association will also work to maintain adequate levels of police protection for Loch Raven Village.

Recreation & Parks and Department of Aging:

The Association recognizes the importance of the Department of Recreation & Parks and Department of Aging. The Association will maintain a rapport with the local recreation council and senior center council and will work with these agencies to maintain their existing programs as well as promote future programs.

Other County Departments:

The Association will maintain a good working relationship with other County departments to foster activities that support the joint efforts of neighborhood associations and Baltimore County government in protecting the quality of life of all communities.

The Village Crier / Local Newspapers

The Village Crier is Loch Raven Village's neighborhood newsletter. It is in its 40th year of publication and ranges from approximately 20 to 40 pages per issue. The Village Crier is distributed 11 times a year to 1,472 homes, 495 Loch Raven Village apartments and mailed to approximately 50 interested parties.

The Association will seek to better utilize The Village Crier by continuing to survey the residents for articles and information, thereby keeping them informed and better able to assist with community needs. For example, The Village Crier could be used as a job bank for Loch Raven Village teenagers.

The Association will explore other types of community services to promote.

The Association will continue to use this communication vehicle to inform the residents of neighborhood issues.

The Association will establish a Public Relations Committee to promote Loch Raven Village.

Knettishall Community & Other Surrounding Communities

The Association will maintain a good working relationship with the neighborhood community of Knettishall and the other surrounding neighborhoods. Knettishall and the other communities should be included in any Loch Raven Village activities affecting them.

The Association will work with other neighborhood associations on issues of mutual concern, such as zoning, as well as issues relating to the Central Sector of the 1989-2000 Baltimore County Master Plan.

On February 12, 1991, the Association passed a motion to join the Towson-Loch Raven Community Council, Inc. - an umbrella organization of neighborhood associations, currently represented by seven nearby communities with common concerns and interests.