

## Too Many Riders for One House

by Joseph M. Coale

An observant reader of this newsletter pointed out there have been numerous references to “Rider houses” in recent editions. This is true. There have been numerous Rider houses because the family was as successful in producing offspring as they

were in business and politics. When Edward Rider, Sr. and his wife, Rachael Gorsuch, moved here in 1827, their young family occupied a pre-Revolutionary stone farmhouse that still stands on the north side of Joppa Road between the light rail bridge and Rider Avenue.

Although not an imposing structure, its interest lies in its antiquity and early American vernacular character. Its history gives it life and value today. Rider acquired the house and surrounding 140 acres from Charles Ridgely of William who had purchased the property in 1780 for the grist mill that was situated on what is now the northwest corner of Thornton and Joppa Roads. The mill had been constructed in 1743 by Nicholas Haile and is referred to in the historic record as Haile’s Mill Land (see photograph above).

By 1832 everything was in place for Mr. Rider to become a very rich man—the railroad ran through his farm, Joppa Road was a main county thoroughfare, the Bellona Gunpowder Mills was located just to the south and he owned the active mill site. Soon he purchased another farm

to the north, naming it Thornton, where he built a handsome county estate house. As contiguous properties became available, he bought them too. Edward Rider, Sr. had 12 children and he liked having them close by. Most were given property or purchased land from their benevolent father so they could enjoy the family’s success and status in the local community—small lots for the ladies and farms for the gentlemen.



1743 grist mill known as Haile’s Mill Land  
Photo courtesy Joe Coale



Edward Rider, Jr.  
Photo courtesy Rider Collection Maryland  
Historic Society



Rebecca McConkey Rider  
Photo courtesy Rider Collection Maryland  
Historic Society

In 1845 Edward Rider, Sr. purchased a 250 acre farm to the south and later sold it to his oldest son Edward Rider, Jr. and bride, Rebecca McConkey. Granted in 1694 as Young Man’s Adventure this property was renamed Malvern (see photo on p. 22). Locust Avenue was the entrance to the farm house located at the top of the hill. The center of the farm was roughly where Graul’s is today. Unfortunately, it burned down in December of 1910.

Daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Dr. John Stevenson, inherited the Thornton estate at her father’s death in 1876. The property is shown on

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Spring 2011

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# President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to the Spring issue of *Neighborhood NEWS*. Although our editor of many years, Nancy Horst, has decided to step aside due to other commitments (see article on p. 3), we have an outstanding team in place to carry on sharing local affairs with you. Under the leadership of Barbara Guarnieri and Jessica Paffenbarger, RRLRAIA will continue to provide you with our high-quality newsletter.



I am excited to report that on February 22nd the Baltimore County Council unanimously voted to adopt RRLRAIA's *Community Plan 2010* for inclusion in their Master Plan. The overarching goal of our plan is to ensure the preservation of RRLRAIA communities as attractive, historic and thriving neighborhoods. Our plan seeks to build upon the County's multi-million dollar investment in the restoration of Robert E. Lee Park and many of the recommendations relate to improving access to the park, expanding pedestrian and bike paths, and encouraging the creation of a mixed-use "village" in the Bare Hills area.

This plan, the culmination of hundreds of volunteer hours over the course of two years, is a guiding document for RRLRAIA and our Board will work hard to implement the recommendations. Numerous people volunteered their time and expertise to help RRLRAIA in this process and I would like to give special recognition to a few. Al Barry of AB Associates, our consultant on this project, brought a combination of invaluable experience and a fresh vision. RRLRAIA committee members Kathy Palencar, Jeffrey Budnitz and Elise Butler, with critical support from Peggy Squitieri, demonstrated extraordinary dedication and leadership in crafting the plan and seeing it through to the end. I would also like to thank Pat Keller and Diana Itter from the Baltimore County Office of Planning, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, County Councilwoman Vicki Almond, and County Councilman David Marks for helping us to successfully navigate our plan through the legislative process.

In other community developments, we are pleased with Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent Joe Hairston's decision to replace the sign for West Towson Elementary and Ridge Ruxton schools (see article on p. 16). We believe that neighborhoods throughout the county will benefit from BCPS's efforts to create school signage that complements the surrounding landscape. As a result of the sign controversy, RRLRAIA has reached out to the principals of our neighborhood schools in order to foster better communication for the future. Across the street from West Towson Elementary, RRLRAIA

assisted residents of Greenwood Road in a successful effort to have speed bumps installed. Our Zoning Committee has been busy monitoring numerous zoning issues and trying to keep adjoining neighbors informed of projects that may impact them.

Upcoming activities include our always popular Dumpster Day on April 30th (see page 6), and quarterly clean-ups along stretches of Falls and Old Court Roads (see website for more information). If you are interested in volunteering for any of these efforts, please contact the RRLRAIA office. While on the subject of spring cleaning, I encourage you to read Barbara Guarnieri's article on recycling (p. 18). It includes information that I haven't seen elsewhere, and it answered many of my questions about what can and can't go into the recycle bin.

Finally, I hope that you will check out our improved website, which has been redesigned to make it more current and to better meet the needs of our members. The new site has an improved calendar function in addition to current news, weather, community activities, hot topics and other features. We are continuing to make improvements to it and in the future we are planning to build a "Members Only" area where we can solicit feedback on ideas, poll members for their position on topics, exchange ideas and share experiences. You can check it out at [www.rrlraia.org](http://www.rrlraia.org). And while you are there I hope you will renew your membership (if you haven't already)!

Sincerely,

Kathy Mountcastle

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# Greater Ruxton Area Foundation Spring 2011 Program

by Joseph M. Coale

This winter has not been kind to the Foundation's mission of "preservation and beautification." In fact, the entire season has been very inconsiderate and downright rude. All the more reason to have an aggressive spring offensive to restore our project areas!

Most notably, we will finish the hedge project on Bellona Avenue at Rolandvue this spring. When we drive by at 40 mph (or greater) it doesn't seem that long of a stretch, but walk it sometime and you can see what a formidable challenge it is. The Foundation and many who support our efforts recognize that this is a historic gateway into our community and needs to be properly groomed and maintained. The hedge traces its heritage back to the 1800's when it was cared for by the railroad, but has fallen into total decline, becoming unsightly and a safety hazard as well.

Our other projects are also suffering from the winter malaise but will soon revive as the days get longer. Our green Foundation sign will be placed on our projects just prior to our May fund

drive. For the past ten years we have solicited the community in the fall. This year our solicitation will arrive in your spring mail when we are all more aware of the beauty of our surroundings.



A decade ago a group of your neighbors recognized that the Ruxton, Riderwood and Lake Roland area communities had been in a slow period of decline due to infill development, stress on the infrastructure, presence of the light rail and neglect of numerous open space areas. The 2001 Community Plan recognized this in no uncertain terms. When the Rider House on Bellona Avenue and the Riderwood Station were threatened with destruction, the time for action had arrived. The Foundation was formed and has not stopped since. We all want to restore and maintain the key elements that have made the Ruxton, Riderwood and Lake Roland area

neighborhoods such unique and special places.

The Board of the Greater Ruxton Area Foundation (GRAF) asks for your continued support this spring so our important work here, where we live, will continue.

## Never at a Loss For Words

by Peggy Squitieri,  
RRLRAIA Executive Director

Nancy Horst has certainly set the bar high for **Neighborhood NEWS!** When I left in 2004 to accept a full-time position elsewhere, our newsletter was four pages, accepted no advertising and was published sporadically. When I returned in 2007 it had become a 20-page, professionally laid out quarterly publication. Then-president Kimberly Warren and her committee rightfully recognized that our newsletter is the most effective way to share all that RRLRAIA does for its members and the entire community. Articles about current topics, historical issues and interesting facts about



Nancy Worden Horst  
Photo courtesy Michael Franano

our community are reported in each issue. As Executive Director of the association, Nancy worked closely with the expanded Newsletter Committee, a dedicated group of board members who spend countless hours writing and editing this publication. When she resigned that position, Nancy became editor of our newsletter.

Since Nancy accepted the role of secretary for the newly-formed Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council last fall, she feels she can no longer give the newsletter the attention it deserves and has resigned that position. However, as a member of the Baltimore County Landmarks Commission, Nancy promises to contribute articles on historic preservation periodically. But we will certainly miss her as the driving force behind the **Neighborhood NEWS** you have come to know.

# Meet Our New County Council Members

The seven-member County Council is Baltimore County's elected legislative body. Each Council member serves a four-year term and represents a Councilmanic district of over 100,000 County residents.

RRLRAIA communities are split between two districts. The majority of our residents live in the 2nd District which includes the area west of Charles Street. A smaller number live in the 5th District which includes the area east of Charles Street. In January newly-elected Councilwoman Vicki Almond (2nd District) and Councilman



**Baltimore County Councilman David Marks** Photo courtesy Baltimore County Council website

David Marks (5th District) were sworn in.

Both are lifelong residents of Baltimore County and have a long history of community involvement. Vicki Almond lives in Reisterstown and David Marks lives in Perry Hall.

Vicki has served as president of the Reisterstown-Owings Mills-Glyndon Coordinating Council, as chief of staff to State Senator Bobby Zirkin and as president of the Franklin High School and Franklin Middle School PTAs.

David served nine terms as president of the Perry Hall Improvement Association and as president of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Committee where he worked to reduce school overcrowding throughout the County. David's professional background is in transportation and planning.



We have already developed a productive working relationship with each of them and have met on several occasions to discuss our *Community Plan 2010* and our mutual concerns, priorities

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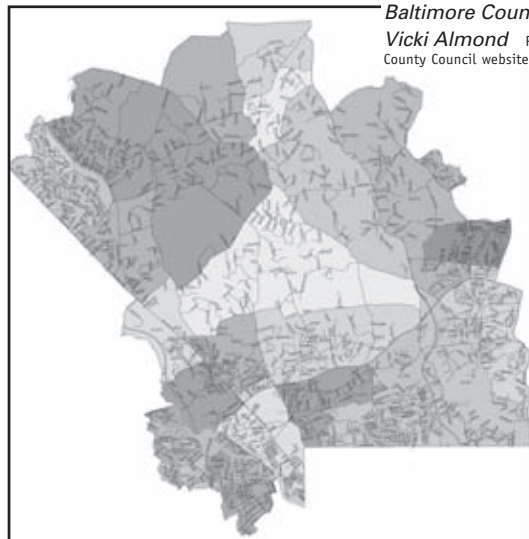
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and goals. We look forward to working closely with Vicki and David and are confident that their backgrounds and strong roots in community issues will serve us well.



**Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond** Photo courtesy Baltimore County Council website



See this web link for full-color PDFs of Councilmanic Districts:  
[www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/districts](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/districts)



# You May Be Moving This Year! Effects of Redistricting

by Nancy Worden Horst

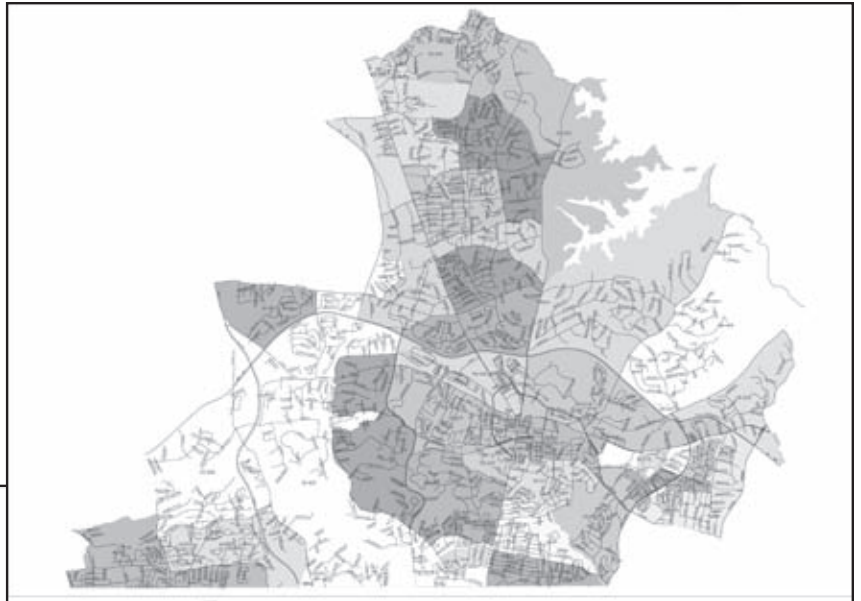
The decennial census, conducted in 2010 as required by federal law, is the basis for many changes in American life. Among those is redistricting—that is, redrawing boundaries of congressional and legislative districts in each state. The process is supposed to ensure that each district has substantially equal population, is compact in form and gives due regard to natural and political subdivision boundaries.

If you glance at your voter's registration card, you can see which congressional, legislative and councilmanic district you live in. Most people in our community association live in the Third Congressional, 42nd Legislative and either the Second or Fifth Councilmanic districts. But this could change in 2012 as Maryland is divvied up into six congressional districts, each having as close to 710,767 people as possible. There are 47 legislative districts in Maryland, some of which are subdivided into single-member districts. When state legislative districts are redrawn, they should each contain 122,842 people.

Why does redistricting matter? Our

local, state and federal elected representatives legislate the rules by which we live. Among other things, these laws affect the taxes we pay, the food and wine we consume, many of the roads on which we drive and the gas we use, even the very air we breathe. Elections are held to ensure that these legislators represent the voice of their electorate.

In most election districts voters are represented by the candidate who received the most votes in that geographical subdivision. The way voters are grouped into districts has a huge influence on who represents whom, and what policies they will fight for, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. A district composed mostly of farmers, for example, is likely to elect a representative



42nd Legislative District — See this web link for a full-color PDF: [www.mdelect.net/electedofficials](http://www.mdelect.net/electedofficials)



Baltimore County portion of 3rd Congressional District — See this web link for full-color PDF: [www.govtrack.us/congress/findyourreps.xpd?state=MD](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/findyourreps.xpd?state=MD)

who will fight for farmers' interests while a district with mostly city dwellers may elect a representative with different priorities. Similarly, districts drawn with large populations of the same race, or ethnicity, or language or political party are more likely to elect representatives with the same characteristics.

Redistricting can group different sets of voters together in new ways. Legal scholar Justin Levitt explains it this way: "Sometimes, the way a particular district is redrawn directly affects who can win the next election. Taken together, the way districts are redrawn can affect the composition of a legislative delegation or the legislature as a whole. In addition to affecting large political trends, the way district lines are drawn can have very specific consequences.

For instance, new lines may be redrawn to leave an incumbent's house out of the district she used to represent, making it impossible for her to run for re-election to represent her current constituents unless she moves. Other times, lines may be drawn to include homes of two incumbents in the same party, forcing them to run against each other or retire. In either case, one of them will be out of the legislature. Often, sitting legislators from the party controlling the legislature are also in control of drawing new lines, leaving them free to target challengers or legislators from an opposing party."

In 2000 we were represented by four Democratic and four

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# Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland

Sold Properties from November 2010–January 2011

Courtesy of the Whit Harvey Group,  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

ADDRESS	SETTLE DATE	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
6003 Altamont Place	11/4/10		127,500
7825 Bellona Avenue	1/30/10	325,000	325,000
8201 Bellona Avenue	12/17/10	425,000	380,000
1315 Berwick Road	11/4/10		675,000
1514 Berwick Road	1/14/11	525,000	525,000
1015 Boyce Avenue	12/31/10	475,000	375,000
23 Buchanan Road	1/4/11	999,900	940,000
6110 Buckingham Manor Dr.	11/17/10		380,000
8326 Carrbridge Circle	12/3/10	425,000	415,000
1404 Carrollton Avenue	11/4/10	749,900	747,500
2 Dembeigh Hill Circle	12/1/10		650,000

22 Dembeigh Hill Circle	12/17/10	600,000	526,500
7 Devon Hill Road	11/23/10	598,500	515,000
7844 Ellenham Avenue	12/14/10	779,000	770,000
2008 W. Joppa Road	12/28/10		1,200,000
108 Judges Lane	12/17/10	389,900	300,000
1407 Labelle Avenue	1/14/11	750,000	750,000
926 Lake Avenue	12/8/10		335,000
7524 L'Hirondelle Club Road	12/21/10	945,000	850,000
1517 Locust Avenue	11/17/10	699,900	680,000
6404 Murray Hill Road	11/8/10	849,500	911,025
6719 Newstead Lane	11/22/10	685,000	647,500
917 Rolandvue Avenue	12/22/10	539,500	471,900
17 Ruxlea Court	11/12/10	895,000	817,500
3 Sherborne Court	1/14/11	849,000	850,000
1805 Thornton Ridge Road	1/24/11	599,000	550,000



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## Dumpster Day Set For April 30th

Clean out your basement, garage and storage shed and get rid of your excess "stuff" on Dumpster Day. Further details about time and date will be mailed to RRLRAIA members. To make your life even easier, Goodwill is providing a truck to take away any items you can donate, rather than dump.

The Loading Dock, a non-profit building material re-use center, will also be at this event from 8:30 a.m. until noon or until the truck is full. This is a great way to pass along unwanted lighting fixtures, doors, wood flooring, plumbing fixtures, cabinets, etc. Check out what new and used building materials they will accept at [www.loadingdock.org](http://www.loadingdock.org) (click on the tab "Make a Donation," then click on "Acceptable Materials" on the left) or call 410-558-3625, extension 13.

And, if all this doesn't work for you, consider donating usable items to organizations listed in Baltimore County's *Reuse Directory*. This is a guide to organizations that accept a broad range of donated items including appliances (large and small), beds, building materials, furniture, rugs and more. This booklet can be found at: [http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Public\\_Works/2009onlinereusedirectrevised101018.pdf](http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Public_Works/2009onlinereusedirectrevised101018.pdf).



# You May Be Moving This Year!

Continued from page 5

Republican congressional legislators in Maryland, but following redistricting in 2002 we elected six Democratic and two Republican legislators. In the next election, two of these districts did not even field a Republican candidate. These elections were decided in the primary election. Towson was represented by one councilman in 2000, but in the 2002 redistricting Towson was sliced in half: the portion of the 21204 zip code from the west side of Charles Street to Falls Road was put in the Second Councilmanic District which includes Pikesville while the area on the east side of Charles Street to York Road is in the Fifth Councilmanic District which extends to Perry Hall.

Who gets to draw the lines? Where should the lines be drawn that determine your choice of candidates? This is where the devil is truly in the details. The decision about who gets to vote for whom has traditionally been determined by elected officials nominated by the governor. In the past, the governor has appointed a commission comprised of five elected officials, including the President of the Maryland Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Following the 2000 census, the Maryland League of Women Voters (LWV) studied the issue and put forth a plan that would have depoliticized the process by making the redistricting commission

## Redistricting Timeline

Governor Martin O'Malley may appoint a Redistricting Advisory Council which will hold regional public hearings on congressional and state legislative redistricting plans during the late spring or summer. By late summer or early fall 2011 a special legislative session may be called to adopt the congressional redistricting plan. On January 11, 2012, the governor will submit a state legislative redistricting plan to the legislature. The February 14, 2012, Congressional primary elections will include the revised congressional districts. The General Assembly has until February 25, 2012 to adopt an alternative legislative redistricting plan. If they fail to do so the Governor's plan will be adopted. Maryland's primary and general elections will be based on the revised state legislative districts.

independent and nonpartisan. Their report suggested that members of the redistricting commission be appointed by the Governor, the General Assembly and the Court of Appeals; that it be bipartisan, geographically representative and not include any

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## You see our signs all over town. Here's why.

The advertisement features a large 'SOLD' sign on a post. Below the sign is a real estate sign for YWGC REALTY, which includes the company logo, the website YWGCREALTY.COM, and a 'PREFERRED PARTNER' badge with a logo. At the bottom of the sign is the phone number 410.583.0040. To the right of the sign is a group of five people (four men and one woman) dressed in professional business attire, smiling. In the bottom left corner, there are logos for 'Equal Housing Opportunity' and 'REALTOR'. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'THE STRATA GROUP'.

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**THE STRATA GROUP**

# Food, Glorious Food

by Jessica Paffenbarger

Walk into my home and you'll find lots of corners filled with odds-and-ends that my family isn't going to use anymore. We can't bear to get rid of the unwanted extra school supplies, puzzles we're tired of doing, wax crayons, rubber bands, plastic bags, bottled water, brown grocery bags, twist ties, etc. – well, you get the picture. There's got to be a need somewhere!

The Assistance Center of Towson Churches fills that need. It is the conduit in the central area of Baltimore County for 48 churches to offer emergency assistance to local families in need. Aside from providing food and funds, ACTC also provides bagged lunches, various health and hygiene items (bars of soap, washcloths, deodorants, etc.), diapers, and practical advice and assistance to clients on a daily basis. The main goal of ACTC is to collect donated food and funds, but they would be happy to have other items as well. Donations mean they don't have to spend limited cash to purchase these needed items, freeing up funds that can go directly to their neediest clients.

ACTC's hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at 120 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Towson, MD 21204. Driving east on Allegheny Avenue from West Towson, cross over Bosley Avenue, cross over Baltimore Avenue, then turn right into the



ACTC volunteer Photo courtesy Terri Eckard

driveway at the sign "To Calvary Baptist Church." ACTC is in the small white building (see photograph on p. 9) at the back of Calvary Baptist Church.

Area churches which support ACTC also accept donations:

- Brown Memorial Woodbrook Church, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays

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[www.arden-courts.com/Towson](http://www.arden-courts.com/Towson)



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**Arden Courts**   
Alzheimer's Assisted Living

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Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 847-9400

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## Main Food Donation List

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- ✓ Canned fruit
- ✓ Saltines (boxes with individual packages)
- ✓ Tuna
- ✓ Peanut butter
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Canned meat (beef stew, chili, spam, etc.)
- ✓ Spaghetti
- ✓ Macaroni and cheese
- ✓ Spaghetti sauce
- ✓ Canned vegetables (corn, peas, green beans, etc.)
- ✓ Canned tomatoes
- ✓ Potatoes (canned or boxed)
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Pork and beans
- ✓ Pasta meals
- ✓ Soup

NO PERISHABLES, PLEASE

## Other Useful Items to Donate

### New:

- ✓ Plastic sandwich bags
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Individual bottled water
- ✓ Personal-sized toiletries

### Used:

- ✓ Brown grocery shopping bags
- ✓ Plastic grocery shopping bags (clean)
- ✓ Reusable grocery shopping bags



ACTC volunteer with client Photo courtesy Terri Eckard



ACTC Home Sweet Home Photo courtesy Ruth Schaefer

- The Agape House next to Hunts Memorial United Methodist Church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays

For more information about donating or to volunteer at ACTC, call 410-296-4855 or visit their website at [www.actconline.info](http://www.actconline.info). Hope you enjoy the rediscovered corners of your home!

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# Upcoming Towson Events

## “Feet on the Street”

Towson’s popular block parties will begin in May. Bring your family, friends and lounge chairs and join your neighbors for a night of fun! Please leave pets at home!

Where: Allegany Avenue between Washington Avenue and York Road

When: Every Friday night from 6 to 9:30 p.m. beginning May 13 through September 30, 2011

What: Food from local restaurants, children’s activities and live musical concerts

The “Feet on the Street” concert schedule will include Beach Bums (May 13), Voodoo Economics (May 20), The New Romance (May 27), Tony Berry & New Money (June 3) and Mary Lou & the Untouchables (June 10). Check the website for further dates (<http://towsonchamber.com>).

## Towson Gardens Day

The 25th annual Towson Gardens Day (flower mart) will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Towson Courthouse Fountain Plaza and adjacent West Pennsylvania and Baltimore Avenues. There will be jazz, wine and light fare in the Old Court House Garden from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Pre-Towsontowne Spring Festival Concert

On Friday, April 29, there will be a pre-event concert by Mood Swings, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Court House Plaza.

## 44th Annual Towsontowne Spring Festival


When: Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1

From: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday

- Live music
- Dance teams
- Food
- Gymnastics
- Children’s activities
- Magic show
- Radio games and prizes
- Moon bounce
- Pony rides
- Carnival games




For additional information on any of these events, visit <http://towsonchamber.com> or call 410-825-1144.




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*We extend a special thanks to the Lake Roland Garden Club volunteers who make Rider House festively green for the holidays and lushly colorful in the spring.* Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn



# December 2010 Holiday Party in the Woods



*Santa rings in the season with some eager elves* Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn



*Warm and toasty around the Yule fire* Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn



*Santa, always the center of attention, listens to special requests* Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn



*Smiles burn brightly all around* Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

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# Village at Home

## Aging in Place Concept Takes Root Locally

by Bliss McCord

If all goes according to plan and sufficient funds are raised, September 2011 will mark the birth of the “Village” concept in Baltimore. Village at Home will join 50 other Villages nationwide (and an astonishing 600 more under development) helping to fulfill the wishes of 90% of Americans over 50\* to remain in their own homes as they age.

Non-profit Village at Home’s mission is “to build supportive communities for all ages, with a special focus on providing activities and services to older adults and people with disabilities so they may have the practical means and the confidence to live full lives in their homes and neighborhoods.”\*\*

Among other contiguous neighborhoods, it will serve Roland Park, Mt. Washington, Ruxton, Homeland, Guilford and Oakenshaw.

Interim Executive Director Susan M. Newhouse, LCSW-C, is a clinical social worker and teaches in the Gerontology Department at Towson University. Owner of a geriatric care management agency, Susan described her excitement in 2006

after reading a *New York Times* article about Beacon Hill Village, a program in Boston designed to help people stay in their homes as they age. Instantly, she says, she knew that this was what she wanted for herself someday. As she and other like-minded individuals began to meet and study Villages in 2008, their dream grew into a real plan.

People join Villages for many reasons: they love their homes and neighborhoods and feel connected and secure there; they don’t want to leave their pets; they need Village services and they don’t want to disrupt the lives of their children and friends; they want to remain independent and pay for services as they need them. Even if they do not need services now, they believe in the Village concept and want to make sure services will be available for them when the need arises. They enjoy their neighborhood connections and those activities unique to their community.\*

Village at Home provides volunteers and/or tradesmen to help people of all ages. They perform many services traditionally undertaken by family and friends. Unfortunately, the problem with family and friends is that they, too, have busy lives and sometimes can’t be available when they are needed. This is where

Village at Home comes in.

Imagine you have a love of gardening but find it impossible to lug around your garden hose if the lawn needs watering. A simple phone call to Village at Home is all it takes to be connected to a volunteer who will arrange to come by when you need to water. Leaky toilet? The Village will send out a plumber from their approved vendor list to fix it, at a reduced cost. Need exercise? Join one of Village at Home’s walking groups. It all makes such good sense.

Here are the nuts and bolts. For a set annual fee (\$399 for an individual and \$749 for a household – husband and wife, mother, daughter, and granddaughter, etc.), members are entitled to a long list of free services provided by volunteers. Errands, intermittent household chores, instruction with computers and other electronic devices, help with mail sorting, dog walking—all offer a tiny glimpse of the possible. The Rise and Shine service provides a cheery morning checkup call daily when requested. A

volunteer might provide just a ride to a doctor’s appointment, or might also stay with the member, with permission, and take notes. The list goes on and on and is expanded as possible needs arise.

As families scatter and friends and spouses pass on, people often become lonely and isolated. Sometimes even the best of friends put off visiting beloved chums who are ill or who suffer mental impairment because the visits make them sad. A volunteer, though far from heartless, doesn’t have such a strong emotional

attachment, so may find visiting and conversing easier. Connecting to other people is one of our most basic needs.

When skilled help is needed, Village at Home maintains a list of community and member-recommended licensed and insured vendors who will provide skilled household repair and handyman services at discounted prices. These vendors (electricians, plumbers, gutter and roof repair, lawn help, etc.) have all been carefully vetted and background checked for reliability, safety and skill. Village at Home will also provide an email forum whereby members can freely discuss professional and other services they have used outside the Village. Village at Home provides this service merely as a convenience to members and without endorsement of any kind. Professional services such as legal, medical, financial and social work are not vetted by the Village per se.

According to Susan, rounding up volunteers is one of the easiest parts of organizing a Village; over 50% are themselves members. One interesting surprise is the number of young families who have endorsed the emerging idea of a mixed-age community. Wouldn’t that be ideal – to have a village in which young and



old worked together voluntarily for the mutual benefit of both? Young people would help their older friends when they need it, with the sure knowledge that one day they will be the ones needing help. Conversely, there are plenty of senior adults who are living very active lives who would be delighted to help their younger neighbors. Susan recounted the story of one young mother who was interested in joining Village at Home; she spoke of having been trapped at home with a sick child and needing somebody to pick up a second child from school. What a natural way for generations to intermix. Children with missing or distant grandparents could form relationships with surrogates, and older citizens, often isolated by dwindling numbers of friends or poor health, could make new, young friends.

Most of the organizational work of getting our local Village at



Home up and running has been done. Policies and procedures are in place and what is needed now is funding. Donations from private individuals and small foundations provide approximately 60% of its annual budget; member dues provide the other 40%. Due to current economic constraints, foundation support is more difficult to obtain than in the past, as foundations strive to honor commitments to others before embarking on new projects. The initial goal for startup membership is 100 memberships. Seventy people have committed to join; the task now is to find 30 more members and then to convert commitments to prepayments. One inducement to joining now is a \$100 discount on annual membership to the first 50 people prepaying.

This is an idea whose time has come. The more we connect, the more our lives are enriched and the better off we will all be. If you are interested in learning more about non-profit Village at Home, their website is [www.villageathome.org](http://www.villageathome.org) or you may contact Susan Newhouse directly at [info@villageathome.org](mailto:info@villageathome.org). Other examples of successful Villages can be studied at [www.capitolhillvillage.org](http://www.capitolhillvillage.org), <http://beaconhillvillage.org> and <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129086737>.

\*AARP Research Study ©2009

\*\*Village at Home website

## Did You Know?

The name for Bellona Avenue comes from the Roman Goddess of War and was adopted from the name of an early gunpowder mill begun in 1801 along the Jones Falls. In the early 19th century the Bellona Powder Mill rivaled the E.I. DuPont Gunpowder Works of Wilmington, DE as one of the country's more important gunpowder manufacturers. The Mill was the primary supplier of gunpowder to the U.S. Army during the War of 1812. The remains of the Mill were largely submerged by the flooding of Lake Roland in 1861 though traces of it remain at the current entrance to Robert E. Lee Park.

*Thank you to Teri Rising, Historic Preservation Planner, Baltimore County Office of Planning, for providing source material.*

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# It's Toad Time Again!

Last summer, we wrote about an annual toad migration that takes place from Ruxton to Lake Roland. We revealed that heroic volunteers help them survive a nighttime hop as they cross a minefield of human-made barriers. Want to join the 13th annual Toad Rescue? They first begin to head to the lake on the first rainy night following the first warm spell in spring. That day there is frantic texting, emailing and phone calling to volunteers. So, be ready to hop on over! Gather your 'wellies,' flashlights, reflective raingear and buckets, then email [ProjectToadFerry@verizon.net](mailto:ProjectToadFerry@verizon.net) for more info. Don't delay – they're hoppin' to go any day now!



Toads in Ruxton Photo courtesy Project Toad Ferry

## Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council Update

As the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council begins its first year, officers and volunteers continue to meet as committees to discuss topics such as: a 'natural' children's playground; how to protect fragile serpentine barrens; canoeing and kayaking; a 'jump park' for bikers; and the off-leash dog park in order to ensure equitability for the various patrons for the park. Members of the Nature Council are privileged to work with Baltimore



County Department of Recreation and Parks' Beatha Davis who has been assigned to the council. The park is due to open in late summer or early fall of this year when the bridge and boardwalk are complete.

Want to learn more about the park or volunteer for one of the planned activities? Contact [releepark-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:releepark-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov) or call 410-887-4156.

## Acting Out in the Neighborhood

### The Woodbrook Players

Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church is home to a small but hardy theater company known as *The Woodbrook Players*. The majority of the actors come from the congregation and the choir but they welcome all fellow thespians. Testament to their professionalism and dedication is the fact that several members have moved elsewhere in the country but return each season to perform!

The players present either one act plays or excerpts from longer plays. In the past, they have performed works from Wilder, Albee, Thurber and Shakespeare. They have also staged works by local playwrights such as fellow church member John DePrine and Loyola College professor Steven Vicchio. The upcoming ticketed spring performance will



be "Steel Magnolias" to be held May 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15 at 3 p.m. at the Church (corner of Charles Street and Woodbrook Lane). The community is invited to join the players—either on the stage or in the audience! Visit [www.bmwpc.org](http://www.bmwpc.org) or call 410-727-7232 for further information.



# Strawberry and Asparagus Salad

Courtesy Eddie's of Roland Park

The green and white asparagus creates a colorful springtime salad perfect for any meal.

2 cups green and white asparagus, cut into 1 inch pieces, blanched

2 cups strawberries, sliced vertically

½ cup crumbled blue cheese (optional)



## Dressing:

¼ cup lemon juice

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 tablespoons honey

To prepare, toss asparagus with strawberries. Combine dressing in a small bowl. Pour dressing over salad. Add crumbled blue cheese and toss the salad until mixed. Chill before serving. Serves 4.



Sign of a job well done! RRLRAIA has committed to cleaning the debris along Falls Road from Old Court Road to I 83 as part of a four-times-a-year commitment to the SHA (State Highway Administration) program known as SWAT, "Stop Waste and Trash." If you would like to participate, call the Association office at 410-494-7757 or email us at [office@rrlraia.org](mailto:office@rrlraia.org).

## Did You Know?

Joppa Road was fashioned from a series of old Indian trails stretching from Perry Hall through Towson to Joppa Town that were still in use as late as 1697. Testimony from court records suggests that Indians used the trails to search for new hunting grounds when colonial settlements had forced them out of Baltimore. Given the name "Joppa" by early Christian English settlers, after the Biblical city of "Jaffe" in Israel (now part of Tel Aviv), Joppa Town was a thriving 17th century seaport located at the mouth of the Gunpowder River. For much of the 17th and 18th centuries it hosted the largest Maryland deep water harbor for ocean going vessels. As such Joppa Town served as the Baltimore County seat from 1712 to 1769 and was the center of commercial, social and civic life in Maryland. It was also the seat of the County Court, so the road from Perry Hall and Towson was variably known as the Joppa Court Road. Silting of the harbor caused Joppa Town's commercial importance to wane and the county seat was moved to Baltimore in 1769. Joppa Road continued to be a major access route to points north and in the 20th century became part of the Maryland state highway system as Route 148. After the 1962 construction of the Baltimore Beltway, stewardship of the state road reverted back to Baltimore County.

*Thank you to Teri Rising, Historic Preservation Planner, Baltimore County Office of Planning, for providing source material.*



# A Sign of Things to Come

The onset of spring is expected to bring some changes to the landscape at West Towson Elementary and Ridge Ruxton schools. Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Joe Hairston announced last December that the controversial electronic sign along Charles Street would be replaced. Construction will get underway when milder weather sets in and as work schedules permit. The current sign will be dismantled once the new one is in place.

According to WTES Principal Sue Hershfeld, the new sign on Charles Street will be constructed of brick with silver lettering, similar to other signs along the Charles Street corridor. Closer to the school buildings, WTES and Ridge Ruxton each will have a small marquee sign to display information relevant to school programs and activities. The displays will be changeable, but Hershfeld said that they are a traditional style and not electronic. Where will the old sign go? BCPS has plans to use it elsewhere or sell it to offset the cost of the new sign.

The large, illuminated sign identifying the two schools went up one weekend in late September and drew fire almost immediately. Many residents who travel Charles Street complained about the bright lights and scrolling electronic messages. Critics also argued

that the sign was not compatible with other signage along Charles Street, nor was it suitable for a National Scenic Byway. Many of our Association members contacted our office to express dismay about the sign.

What happened next is a good example of how the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association operates. On November 2, RRLRAIA sent a letter to both principals

expressing our concerns about the sign and respectfully asking them to replace the sign with one that would better complement the character of the surrounding neighborhoods. Our position was that the electronic sign appeared out of sync with the neighborhood and presented a safety hazard because the changing messages were distracting to drivers.

Other factors played a role as well. *The Towson Times* and *Baltimore Sun* ran articles reporting that some residents were unhappy with the sign. Dozens of comments were posted online on those newspapers' websites and also on blogs such as Forge Flyer. Although some of

the comments were in support of the sign, the majority were unfavorable.

Following the November elections, the Association's leadership raised the issue with our newly elected County Council members, Vicki Almond and David Marks (our boundaries fall within two districts). Almond and Marks sent a joint letter to Superintendent Hairston expressing concern that the school signage could impact the visual appeal of the National Scenic Byway, a designation that also brings federal funding. Just days after the lawmakers delivered their letter, Hairston announced the decision to replace the sign with "one that complements the attractiveness of the community and the schools' natural landscape."

Principal Hershfeld is enthusiastic about the plans for the new signage. "This is a win-win situation," she said, "and I think everyone will be pleased."





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## Update on Traffic Light at Charles Street and Greenwood Avenue

SHA District 4 Traffic gave us the following information. "We have completed our signal analysis which included an update of our turning movement counts for the intersection, as well as conducted several site observations. Based on our findings the current hours of operation for the subject traffic signal will remain as is. Given that the side street traffic volumes are extremely light at this location we cannot justify making any further signal timing changes at this time. However, we will continue to monitor intersection operations for any future operational changes that may be warranted." If anyone has any further questions or concerns, they should contact Ms. Dianna Hines at 410-229-2392 or by email at [dhines@sha.state.md.us](mailto:dhines@sha.state.md.us).



# Aliens Invade Ruxton

by Joan Griffith

Several newsletters ago, an article entitled 'Invasion of the Aliens' introduced Ruxtonites to the nuisance *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, also known as porcelain berry vine. Beginning in the late 19th century the plant was cultivated as a bedding and landscaping plant. The same qualities that make the plant a great addition to a garden—lovely berries, good ground coverage, pest resistance, trailing growth and tolerance of adverse conditions—also make this vine an invasive nuisance. As a spring seedling this seemingly unassuming vine emerges looking a bit like a grape vine, but it is far more threatening. It can grow 15 feet or more in a single season! It drapes most of the trees along the Jones Falls Expressway, strangles the hedge along the light rail on Bellona (see GRAF Spring 2011 Program, page 3), and has grown so lushly that it masks whatever else is growing at the bottom of Circle Road. It also attracts such pests as Japanese beetles.



Porcelain Berry Vine Photo courtesy James H. Miller ([www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org))

The problem exists throughout the Baltimore area in part because the beautiful fall berries are attractive to birds who eat and expel them wherever they go! To eradicate the vine takes considerable, but worthwhile, effort principally on the part of property owners whose land is afflicted. How can this be done? Different methods will work in different seasons.

In spring and summer, seedlings (roughly 4"–10") can be pulled fairly easily. If the stem breaks, the remainder must be dug up entirely as any rooted remnant will continue to send up new growth. A Hori-hori knife, also known as a Japanese gardening knife, is a particularly effective tool.

On older plants more Draconian efforts may be required; manual and chemical means will be needed. The extensive roots (in loose, rocky soil up to 40') must be dug up and poisoned. Treatment must be repeated several times during the gardening year and perhaps for several years afterwards. The systemic herbicides tryclopr (Garlon 3A or Garlon 4) and glyphosate (Round-Up or Rodeo) have successfully been used by many gardeners; the former appears to be the most effective chemical. From summer to fall, after cutting the plants near the base, apply a water-based solution of 2.5% Garlon 3A (triclopyr amine) to the foliage of the remaining plant. Allow for regrowth, then re-treat as often as necessary. Do not re-treat until you have seen new sprouts and always be sure to clear your garden of the dead vines, being especially aware of the berries that carry the seeds.

A more serious attack can be made to the bark with an oil-based chemical solution. Apply a mix of 20-30% Garlon 4 and any commercially available basal oil, horticultural oil, diesel fuel or kerosene to a two- to three-foot section of the stem

near the base of the vine. You may need to cover these treated vines with clear plastic to keep the poisons from harming birds. Re-treat after a week or two. Once the vines appear completely dead, be sure to bag all of the remnants in a tightly tied bag for removal to the dump.

If you feel squeamish about using poisons, remember that they break down in the ground very quickly and, therefore, if applied correctly, are not a danger to birds or beneficial insects. If you apply the poisons with a foam-rubber brush, such as those sold for painting, you can easily prevent drips or spatters. If you always isolate the herbicide and all equipment used with it (try a zip-close plastic bag),

you will avoid endangering yourself or others. Be sure to read all of the directions carefully and do remember to wash up!

For further information please see [www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/porc\\_berry.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/porc_berry.html) and [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ambri.html](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ambri.html).

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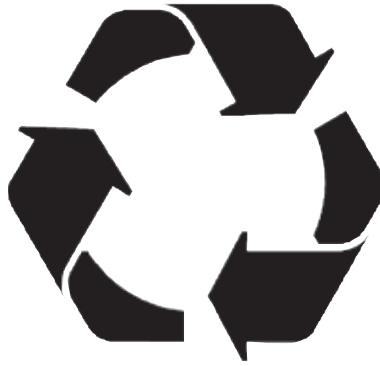
# Cycling Through Curbside Conundrums

by Barbara Guarnieri

Just over one year ago many of us were scavenging hardware stores in search of a new recycling tub. In December of 2009 former County Executive Jim Smith made a major announcement, adding Baltimore County to the growing list of municipalities and counties getting on the "single stream recycling" bandwagon. This type of recycling allows for merging into one container of the paper, glass, metal and plastic objects that we had been carefully separating and saving for alternate week pick-up. This 'co-mingling' of recyclables, as it is called, was promoted as simpler and cleaner as all recycling would be mixed and picked up weekly. It also eliminated, in fact dictated against, the blue bags in which many of us had brought home groceries and then reused for recycling. I admit, I was somewhat dismayed by it all.

Thankfully, the County was quick to educate us on what the new single stream changes would entail. Postcards, television ads and a new website ([www.bcrecycles.com](http://www.bcrecycles.com)) helped to clarify the changes. Old trash

bins were acceptable with a suggestion that we mark them to distinguish them from our trash containers. So, on that first Tuesday in February when our neighborhood was to switch over, my husband wheeled our beat-up old trash bin marked with an "X" to the curb filled with all manner of wine bottles, soup cans, newspapers and milk containers. The mix made me uncomfortable; it brought to mind the Ghostbuster's prohibition against 'crossing the stream'! I can't seem to let go of those nice blue bags all carefully sorted and tied up with bows for convenient carrying to the curb.



I also feel as though every meal poses more dilemmas to recycle or not to recycle. The new single stream rules differ from the old in that more items are allowed. But the changes seem only to elicit more questions. For example, when the rules state that 'clam shell' boxes are not allowed, do they mean only large salad containers or would small herb cases be allowed? The fact that the plastics are labeled with a particular number inside a small triangle no longer determines its recyclability. The guide also suggests that milk cartons are no longer waxed the old fashioned way and therefore are acceptable. Does this mean the ice cream container is also acceptable? And do I really have to scrape that last bit of clinging peanut butter out of the plastic jar in order to recycle it? I don't have time for these mind games while making meals so I inevitably opt on the "green" side and throw it in recycling. I am certain there are as many no-nos in my container as there are acceptable materials. As the first year of 'single stream' questions begin to weigh heavy on my mind, I decide it is time to seek wiser counsel. I contact Tim Dunn, a spokesman for the Baltimore County Department of Recycling and Waste Prevention Management.

Though he did not say as much, I could almost hear Tim thinking, "Me thinks the lady doth protest too much." He is effusive about the success of the new recycling program. In the year that single stream recycling pick-up has been in place, the County has reduced the overall trash tonnage by 4% and increased recycling tonnage by 33% compared to 2009! In October of 2010 the County added multi-family structures to the recycling pickup. The additional 81,000 apartments and condominiums are expected to further reduce the waste tonnage and increase the recycling tonnage handsomely as they represent a significant amount of previously non-recycled waste. Until this time these apartments had been served only by trash trucks.

While a 4% decrease in trash tonnage may not seem highly significant, Baltimore County collected 420,000 tons of trash in 2009. About 70% of our trash is headed for landfill; the remainder goes to Wheelabrator Baltimore (a subsidiary of Waste

Continued on page 21

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# Plastics That Can Be Recycled In Baltimore County

Plastic manufacturers mark a code inside a triangle on the base of all plastics in order to recognize the base chemical of the plastic container for recycling purposes.

#1 PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is the most frequently recycled plastic—containers include peanut butter jars, soft drink and water bottles, salad dressing bottles and plastic wrap.

#2 HDPE (high density polyethylene) is the second most frequently recycled plastic—containers include juice bottles, milk containers, shampoo bottles, liquid detergent bottles and flower pots. Also included are big durable products such as lawn furniture, Big Wheels, play structures, trash containers, buckets, rigid kiddie pools and crates. (Be sure to label these as 'recycling' when placed at the curb.)



#3 PVC (polyvinyl chloride) is less frequently recycled—containers include some clear liquid detergent bottles, clear food packages and some construction products such as traffic cones and piping.

#4 LDPE (low density polyethylene) is used primarily for some frozen food bags or some bread bags and trash can liners.

#5 PP (polypropylene) is used primarily in the building and automobile industries for objects such as battery casings, but is also used for wide-mouthed packaging like butter, mayonnaise, yogurt and cheese.

#6 PS (polystyrene) is used for packaging in the non-extruded form commonly called \*Styrofoam as protective packaging for electronics, toys or hot beverages or in its extruded form which is clear for cutlery and food containers.

#7 Other indicates that the plastic is made from a resin other than #1-6 and is used most often for three or five gallon reusable bottles.

Baltimore County recycling now accepts plastic items in all of the categories, including plastics without a number, with the following exceptions:

- plastic bags of any kind
- \*Styrofoam of any kind including packaging peanuts, coffee cups, meat trays and takeout containers
- clamshell containers of any kind
- CD cases or CDs
- VHS tapes
- motor oil containers
- plastic electronics (such as motherboards)
- plastic cutlery (forks, spoons or knives—straws are accepted) or plates
- food or candy wrappers (not referring to paper wrappers which are recyclable)
- multi-pack bindings, often in ring form (please cut the rings as these become a major choking hazard for wildlife)
- bubble wrap

## What To Do With Plastics That Can NOT Be Recycled In Baltimore County

The first thing Baltimore County recommends is re-use\*\*.

- For plastic bags, many grocers offer a collection container for the thin grocery, newspaper and dry cleaner bags. These can be recycled separately as a source material for the plastic fencing and decking industry.
- Styrofoam is collected by large shipping companies like UPS who can repurpose it. Call the Plastic Loosefill Council at 1-800-828-2214 for further information and a list of potential drop-off centers in Baltimore.
- Support entrepreneurs who repurpose and refashion non-recyclables as consumer items (for example, see [www.earthalley.com](http://www.earthalley.com) for a local green entrepreneur).
- Finally, avoid purchasing items packaged in the offending plastics. Industries continuing to use the offenders will eventually become enlightened.

\*\*Please see [www.bcrecycles.com](http://www.bcrecycles.com) for an extensive list of re-use ideas for all non-recyclable household items.

# The **ABCs** of Paper Recycling

## **A** MEANS ACCEPTABLE

- Newspapers (including inserts)
- Magazines, comic books and catalogs
- Phone books
- Books, including paperbacks, hardbacks, textbooks and notebooks
- Mail, including junk mail\*, letters and envelopes of all sizes
- Writing paper
- Computer, fax and copy paper
- Card stock
- Cardboard
- Resin-coated bleached paperboard which is used for milk and juice gabled-top cartons, drink boxes, cosmetics and perfume packaging, frozen foods such as ice cream and candy boxes
- Kaolin coated unbleached paperboard which is used for pharmaceuticals, frozen foods such as peas and milk cartons
- Uncoated recycled paperboard which is used for shoeboxes and composite cans like frozen juices
- Coated recycled paperboard which is used for laundry detergents, cookies, crackers, facial tissue boxes, cake mixes, cereals and other dry foods
- Paper bags
- Non-metallic gift wrap

\*You may opt to have yourself removed from junk mailing lists by going to [www.directmail.com](http://www.directmail.com) and entering yourself on the "National Do Not Mail List". This request is good for five years.

## **B** MEANS BAD

- Soiled tissues or napkins
- Soiled paper plates



- Grease or food contaminated containers such as pizza boxes or take-out cartons
- Waxed food containers such as some Solo drinking cups and soup containers
- Waxed corrugated cardboard
- Wax paper
- Photo paper
- Carbon paper
- Soiled fast food wrappers
- Pet food bags (paper exterior but laminated wax film lining)
- Foil gift wrap
- Foil-lined cold/hot food bags

## **C** MEANS CHECK WHEN YOU ARE NOT SURE

Call: 410-887-2000

or email: [recycle@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:recycle@baltimorecountymd.gov)



# Cycling Through Curbside Conundrums

Continued from page 18

Management, Inc. of Houston, TX) whom we pay to burn it. The Eastern Landfill is still in use but the Cockeysville 'dump' as we all know it has reached a fill rate that is keeping it off limits for the time being. The County has been forced to find alternatives to dumping, especially for Cockeysville. One solution has been to pay waste companies to haul our trash elsewhere. Currently, a different division of Waste Management is under contract to haul our weekly pickups to their private dump in Virginia. This is a costly solution because we must pay for WM's services and environmentally because the trucks hauling our garbage out of state expend additional carbons.

Another solution to dumping is to increase the amount of recyclables, the goal that prompted the move toward a single stream program. The County estimates that residents can place at least half of all household waste in recycling. Currently, recycling tonnage represents only about 12% of the County's total waste stream. Some long-standing municipal programs have achieved a 35% or greater diversion of waste. This comment brought our conversation back to what can and cannot be recycled. When I explained that I often err on the side of 'green,' Tim encouraged me to be judicious but not angst ridden about what I place in recycling. As it turns out, the automated sorting system that our single stream recycling enters once the County haulers have deposited their load is smarter than we are! The haulers bring the curbside recycling directly to a brand new facility in Elkridge, Maryland, owned and operated by a different subsidiary of WM, Waste Management/Recycle America (WMRA).

The sophisticated sorting process is so sensitive that unwanted recyclables are largely cleansed from the stream. Tim stated that in a recent test of Baltimore County's recycling delivered to Elkridge, the volume of inappropriate recyclables was less than 2.8% of the total tonnage, a very low industry-wide rate. It seems my kitchen conundrums were not gumming up the works too badly! My food-contaminated containers like the peanut butter jar are totally fine. Glass, metal and plastic are all recycled in an extreme heat process, which causes the incineration of any organic materials. Paper, on the other hand, is recycled in a water-based process, meaning organic materials like oil or grease cause contamination of the recycling batch. Oops, no more greasy Chinese takeout cartons in recycling! Also apparently the wax on some packaging like ice cream gives off oils that contaminate the batch. Oops again! (Some ice creams come in plastic tubs or are coated with a plastic polymer--check the triangle!) Speaking of contamination, all plastic clamshell casings will contaminate the plastic recycling batch. Big or small, they are not allowed. Unlike bottles made with PET, a plastic polymer, these rigid plastics are made from stronger resins that require differing temperatures to melt. The resulting recycled bales can be even more expensive to reuse than virgin plastics, and thus are less marketable. Hopefully, all my no-no containers are among the 2.8% of pulled offenders!

WM's website ([www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)) states that they are "North America's leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services..." Fast becoming Maryland's leading

provider, nationwide they manage over 8 million tons of recyclables annually. The Elkridge facility is the largest single stream recycling facility in the country and is one of more than thirty such facilities owned and operated by WMRA in North America. These facilities use advanced technologies like air currents, magnets, screens and optical scanners to automate the sorting. Tim suggested I watch a YouTube video of the sorting process at Elkridge produced by Towson State film students for Baltimore County ([www.bcrecycles.com/recycling](http://www.bcrecycles.com/recycling)). Tim has witnessed the process first hand and was clearly impressed.

The County arrangement with WMRA involves a net zero contract, meaning the mixed recycling tonnage is given to WMRA without a cost to the County. They process it for "free" and then sell the end products on world markets. The output is usually baled fiber (paper) pulp, baled plastic, baled metals and crushed glass. The glass has the least marketability. The mixing of the clear, green, brown and blue colors diminishes the technological ability to recycle it into new bottles. Mixed glass can be used as a countertop and a roadbed additive but has as yet a very limited market. Paper, plastic and metal bales have proven markets. The facility now accepts recyclables from Howard, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City and can process up to 1,000 tons of recyclables a day. It was designed to handle materials from the entire greater Baltimore/Washington area.

Continued on page 22



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# Too Many Riders for One House

Continued from page 1

the Hopkins map of the ninth district in 1877. A more current structure (1905), or one greatly renovated from the original, occupies the site on Landrake Road (see photograph at right).



1905 Landrake Road structure replacing original Thornton estate home Photo courtesy Joe Coale

The Rider House on Bellona just north of Joppa, now

occupied by RRLRAIA and the Baltimore County Historical Trust, is shown on early maps as belonging to Edward Rider. It appears he built a structure here sometime prior to 1850 probably for the purpose of overseeing his commercial and rail operations where the Riderwood shops are now located. The current house was



Malvern property farmhouse (Locust Ave.) destroyed by fire in 1910 Photo courtesy Rider Collection Maryland Historic Society

constructed in the 1880's and occupied by Mary Rider who served as postmistress for many years (see photograph on p. 1).

More information and maps are available in *Middling Planters of Ruxton* which can be purchased at the Ruxton Pharmacy.

## Cycling Through Curbside Conundrums

Continued from page 21

When the County bid out a new contract for single stream processing, WMRA won the competition. The change was a part of the Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan approved by the County in 2008, a Plan that had been vetted by multiple studies, forums and opinion polls. Statistics clearly supported efforts to increase recycling as a way to divert waste and save natural resources. The following figures from "Go Recycle," an organization sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments ([www.mwccg.org](http://www.mwccg.org)), help us to understand the impact of greater collective activity. "If we as a nation were to reach a rate of 35% of total waste recycling we would save enough energy to fuel 6 million homes, conserve enough landfill space to serve Dallas and Detroit combined 92 times over, generate \$5.2 billion dollars in raw materials, and reduce global warming equivalent to taking 36 million cars off the road."

Baltimore County continues to educate us with a statistics-laden education campaign of their own ([www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Pub](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Pub)). Sign up for their e-news and keep yourself informed. Set a household goal of reducing your trash by half. Make yourself aware of your consumer choices, e.g., look at the packaging, bring reusable shopping bags and use containers instead of paper wraps for lunches and leftovers. There are many ways to reduce, recycle and reuse. As for myself, I am finally over my blue bag obsession and in the swim of the single stream! However, I still have one final curbside conundrum. Where do all those recycled bales go when they leave WMRA? In the fall issue, journey with me on their worldwide odyssey!



## CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

### Our Easter Worship Schedule:

8:00pm Saturday, April 23: Easter Vigil  
7:45am Sunday, April 24: Holy Eucharist  
9:15am Sunday, April 24: Holy Eucharist with Choir  
11:00am Sunday, April 24: Holy Eucharist with Choir

Please join us. Everyone is invited.

Children are welcome to all services. Or if you prefer, certified child care is available 8:45am-12:15pm.  
Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is located on the corner of Boyce & Carrollton Roads in Ruxton. Call 410.823.0122 or visit [www.GoodShepherd-Towson.org](http://www.GoodShepherd-Towson.org) for more information.



## You May Be Moving This Year!

Continued from page 7

current state elected official; and that the resulting redistricting plan be based on substantially equal population and geographic contiguity and compactness. Unfortunately, the idea of a non-partisan commission was not popular with legislators so the process remained firmly in the hands of politicians.

### Prisoners – To Count or Not to Count?

Under the No Representation Without Population Act enacted in 2010, prisoners in state or federal prisons must be counted as residents of their last known address before incarceration. The Act also requires Maryland to exclude those federal or state prisoners who were not State residents prior to their incarceration from the count to determine legislative districts. The Act applies to legislative districts for the U.S. Congress, General Assembly and county and municipal governing bodies.

How can you get involved in the redistricting process to help ensure that there is more public participation and greater transparency and that consideration is given to the interests and needs of voters and communities rather than to some political advantage?

Make sure you visit informative websites such as:

- The League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, [www.baltimore.lwvmd.org/flyers/governmentofficials.pdf](http://www.baltimore.lwvmd.org/flyers/governmentofficials.pdf), tel. 410-377-7738.
- Baltimore County Board of Election Supervisors, [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/elections](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/elections), tel. 410- 887-5700.
- Maryland Department of Planning, [www.planning.maryland.gov/OurProducts/redistricting](http://www.planning.maryland.gov/OurProducts/redistricting), tel. 410-767-4458.

Contact your local and state representatives to inquire about their views on the redistricting process and tell them of your concerns and/or ideas about how your representatives are elected.

Be on the lookout for the schedule of public hearings on redistricting to be held this spring and summer, and attend these hearings to let your voice be heard. A schedule of hearings will be posted on the website for the Maryland Department of Planning, advertised in local media and announced in press releases.

Submit your own redistricting plan! Sites such as Public Mapping Project, [www.publicmappingproject.org](http://www.publicmappingproject.org), offer software that allows you to draw up your own plan according to specific requirements.

Other resources include:

- Maryland General Assembly at [www.redistricting.state.md.us/maryland/default.asp](http://www.redistricting.state.md.us/maryland/default.asp).
- National Conference of State Legislatures at [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org).
- Brennan Center for Justice at [www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/a\\_citizens\\_guide\\_to\\_redistricting](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/a_citizens_guide_to_redistricting).
- Swing States Project at [www.swingstateproject.com](http://www.swingstateproject.com) has a computer application allowing citizens to create redistricting maps; and Dave's redistricting app at [www.gardow.com/davebradlee/redistricting](http://www.gardow.com/davebradlee/redistricting).
- A computer program available at Redistricting The Nation website (<http://www.redistrictingthenation.com>) allows you to check the compactness of every congressional and state legislative district in the country.

*Information compiled from various sources including: League of Women Voters; Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law and Justin Levitt, associate professor of law at Loyola Law School – Los Angeles; Maryland Department of Planning; The Baltimore Sun; and Baltimore County Board of Election Supervisors.*

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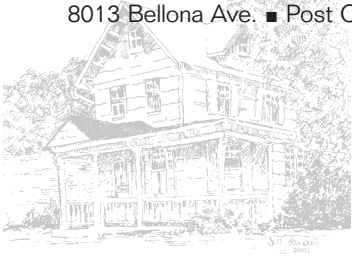
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