Neighborhood NEWS

Fall 2007

Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association

Traffic Calming Needed to Make Our Neighborhoods Safer!

by Nancy Worden Horst

It was standing room only at the June meeting of the Baltimore County Planning Board as board members heard testimony from citizens representing communities from Dundalk to Arbutus to Towson about the deficiencies of the County's current traffic calming policies. "Please change the criteria for classifying our streets," they said. "Please help us slow the traffic before someone is badly hurt. Give us some relief!"

Baltimore County's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

When they saw drivers speeding down their residential streets, some people said that they tried yelling as the cars or trucks sped past; complaining to their neighbors; calling the police; or calling the County. But none of these courses of action were effective over the long term.

Only systemic traffic calming measures, instituted by Baltimore County on county roads, can make a difference in reducing the speed of traffic on our residential streets. But, you may be surprised to learn, many of our local streets, such as Malvern, Ruxton, and Old Court, are classified as collector roads, rather than local roads. As such, according to the County's arcane rules, these streets are not eligible for approved traffic calming measures.

Several of your neighbors are trying to get Baltimore County transportation officials to actually do something about inconsiderate drivers who speed through our residential streets on their way to Towson institutions, schools, or their jobs. In their verbal and written testimony to the Planning Board, neighbors attempted to persuade the County to change its policies for instituting traffic calming measures.

Traffic Committee member Heidi Frank and RRLRAIA board member and traffic committee chair David Meese wrote the following letter to the Planning Board detailing the steps they had taken to comply with the County's rules. They delivered the letter in person to the Planning Board as evidence of those efforts.

Dear Sirs:
We at the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association (RRLRAIA) have been working on an initiative to improve safety for our residents along Malvern Avenue and other streets within the association's boundaries.
The RRLRAIA has taken the following steps in the last year to address the high speeds and other unsafe driving on Malvern and surrounding roads:

- *Met with Steve Weber of Baltimore County Traffic Engineering in September, 2006. At this meeting, Mr. Weber informed us that Malvern Avenue, as a collector road, did not qualify for any physical control measures such as speed humps.*
- *Reviewed passive control measures recommended in the Department of Public Works Neighborhood Traffic Management Program booklet. Determined to pursue police enforcement and a speed notification board.*
- *Met with Corporal Brian Kelly of the Towson Police Traffic Team in January 2007 to request traffic enforcement for Malvern, Boyce, and Ruxton Roads.*
- *Observed that Cpl. Kelly sent officers to perform enforcement on Malvern and Ruxton during four separate weeks between January and June.*
- *Placed speed board on Malvern in late March for four days. No statistics have been obtained from Police Department to date.*
- *Malvern Avenue, as well as Boyce Avenue and Ruxton Roads, are narrow winding roads with many blind intersections and driveways. The speed limits are set low at 15 mph, 25 mph, and 30 mph respectively. Many drivers use Malvern and Ruxton as an alternative to the beltway. The volume of traffic is particularly*

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Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland
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President's Corner

Dear Neighbors:

It only requires a short walk down almost any street in any one of our neighborhoods to recognize the Association's impact on preserving the quality of life that drew most of us to this community in the first place. In helping to preserve that quality of life, the Association's strength has always been the commitment of its members and the considerable talents of those who have volunteered to lead it. Volunteers like Jamie Cahn, whose dedication and enthusiasm for this community have been unparalleled during his time as an Association board member and as our immediate past president.

Which is why when I was asked to serve as President of the Ruxton-Riderwoood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association board of directors, the thought of being entrusted with the remarkable legacy of my predecessors was really quite humbling. In fact, I immediately questioned my qualifications for the position and whether I had the time to devote to such a big job (to be honest, the first question I really asked was "How did I let this happen?", but that was just momentary panic).

While considering whether I could even accept the position, I thought about a few of the significant challenges facing all of us in the upcoming year; the labor-intensive Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP - see article in Summer, 2007 newsletter), the mounting number of vehicular safety issues in our neighborhoods, the on-going battle for Robert E. Lee Park, and the ever-present pressure of new development. Complicating our ability to address these and many more similar issues will be the need to find and elect eight new board members, while saying goodbye to our valuable and trusted executive director, Nancy Horst (if you see Nancy, please remember to thank her being a tireless advocate for our community and her incredible service to the Association).

As the reasons not to accept this position seemed to grow exponentially, I was reminded of a story I first heard in college about a man and his two sons. This was not the famous biblical parable, but an adaptation in which a man tells both sons that he would like them to go on a journey. The first son, much to the father's dismay, asks many questions regarding where he will be going, what dangers he may face along the way, and when he will be returning home. The second son, however, simply replies to the father "When do I begin?" and his faith in his father is greatly rewarded.

That's when I realized that I'm probably not qualified for this job and I don't have the time it would require to do it correctly. However, it's my guess that my predecessors had the same beliefs and feelings when they contemplated their own journeys and they undoubtedly reached the same conclusion that I have; that success is ensured not by the Association president, but only by having faith in the Association's greatest asset…its members.

That faith has already been rewarded in the return of Peggy Squitieri as our "new" executive director. For those who don't know, Peggy had served the Association in the same capacity until early 2004, and her commitment to our community, and a little prodding from Nancy, has led her back. We are very lucky and excited to have Peggy back.

And as we look to the challenges of the months to come, I am certain that my faith in our members will be rewarded with the kind of continued commitment and help that the Association has come to count on over the years. Which is why when a board member or Association member calls to ask for your help by attending a hearing, writing a letter, or volunteering your time, rather than asking yourself "How did I let this happen?" please consider responding "When do I begin?"

Sincerely yours,

Fran Anderson, President

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The Davens Garden

Brownie Scout troop #4947 (third grade, Riderwood Elementary School) members and friends clean up the Davens Garden at Lake Roland. Photos courtesy Elyse Jacob

In 1992, the Robert E. Lee Park Conservancy received a generous and anonymous gift, earmarked for an elegant, terraced garden bordering Lake Roland. The garden was given in memory of Bea Dinning Davens, a longtime friend of the donor. For several years the garden flourished, a fenced oasis with wrought iron furniture and careful planting. However, when the bridge to the park was closed, it became more difficult to maintain the garden, and, as people allowed their dogs to run unleashed through the area, much of the planting was destroyed.

Recently two community groups have taken the initiative and given time, thought and care to this special place. The RRLRAIA would like to extend deepest thanks to Brownie Troop #4947 and the Lake Roland Garden Club. The Davens Garden looks beautiful!

Charleston Oysters

from Chef Cindy Wolf

Cindy Suggests We Spice Up Our Raw Habits with Some Cajun Heat!

Chef Cindy Wolf's unusual Southern style comes from the Low Country of South Carolina's coastal plain and is a mix of English, French, African and West Indian traditions.

Yield: 2-4 servings

Ingredients

12 oysters, shucked and placed on half shell

The Topping:

4 Tbs. Andouille Sausage, diced very small

1 Tbs. shallot, minced

1 Tbs. butter

1 Tbs. celery, diced very small

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1 Tbs. fresh chives, finely chopped

Saute the first four ingredients until celery is just soft. Remove from heat. Add the lemon juice and chives, mixing well. Divide topping mixture evenly among the oysters. Broil until hot.

Xeriscaping – It's Simple

by Frances Horich

Well, gardeners - have we made it through the heat of the summer? I'm hoping so. As I write this, the drought is having a devastating effect on my landscape. Global warming, you say? Perhaps, but we have been here before. Did you need to close your eyes in order to get by your borders or newly planted trees or pots you couldn't keep up with during those brutal July days when the weatherman promised thunderstorms but all we really got was wind and an occasional splash? Me, too!

I have, however, learned some things over the years aside from the fact that I hate dragging hoses and am prone to forgetting I left the sprinkler on, thereby running the well dry. The first, and most important rule is that if you are going to water, do it efficiently! Holding the spray nozzle of the hose four feet above the plants and dusting them for 2 minutes is absolutely useless. When you water, it should be applied deeply, slowly, and gently as close to the roots as you can get it.

Soaker hoses and the dripper bags you can attach to trees are an option, but I prefer a sprinkler that can cover as large an area as possible. You're shooting for one inch of water per week, so try the sprinkler for about two hours at a time. The sprinkler is easy to move from garden to garden; unlike a soaker hose, a sprinkler isn't in your way or peaking out from the mulch; and you don't have to look at those weird green bags hanging on what is supposed to be an ornamental addition to your property.

For individual plants which are just getting established, I recommend a two to five minute visit by you, the gardener, with a watering wand at the end of your hose. This quality time with your new plant will allow you to get to know it. If you're having trouble imagining how you're going to spend that time with everything you've put in, it might be time to learn some of the principles of xeriscaping.

It's a form of gardening which focuses on conserving water, growing plants with low water requirements, arranging plantings in groups with similar needs, developing good organically rich planting beds, covering the beds with mulch, and eliminating any unnecessary water guzzlers.

In this part of the world, we revere our lawns. Unfortunately, keeping a lawn green in Maryland in high summer usually requires huge amounts of water. The other piece of maintaining a good lawn is mowing, which has a very negative impact on the environment. How about eliminating some of that greensward? If you have children who require basepaths and lacrosse creases and football fields, maybe you can't lose it all and if, aesthetically speaking, the contrast of the blanket of green to your other mixed plantings is important, leave some. But I wonder if it's not possible to decrease it somewhat. Almost every border I have sprang from the fact that mowing that space didn't please me.

So why not begin the process of rethinking your garden vis a vis water availability by assessing how everything made it through the summer while it's fresh in your mind. Take a walk around and consider what works and what doesn't.

Now is a great time to do some transplanting and planning for next year. I'm not implying that the growing season is over by any means. The autumn garden can be the best of the year if you've planned for it. Did you start your zinnia seeds around July 4th so that they are looking gloriously fresh until frost? How about Dahlias? This is their time; absolutely spectacular when the evenings start cooling off; also great for cutting and arranging. In the shrub department, the *Callicarpa* (beautyberry) makes a sensational show with its purple or white berries. One of my favorite large shrubs is *Heptacodium* (seven-sons tree) because its white blooms in August are followed by very ornamental red bracts in September. This plant is drought tolerant and will also take some shade. But remember, it needs a big space. It can grow twenty feet tall. The huge heads of *Hydrangea paniculata* of which there are many varieties are wonderful as they go pink in the fall and then "dry on the vine".

Hopefully, we can expect more moisture in the fall and winter, so transplanting things to better spots or adding new ones now means you can expect some watering help from Mother Nature. Just make sure you get the work done in time for the roots to make some growth before we get a freeze. A rule of thumb for watering after planting new things is: water every day the first week, every other day the second week, every third day the third week, etc., slowly weaning the plant from daily attention. Some plants are better left to spring planting, so do your research first. Many garden centers are great resources for this kind of information.

As to organizing your plantings for better culture, keep your plants together in a limited number of places rather than dotting them around. Then you're only hauling the hose to one spot. If gardening is your thing, the number of spots will grow, but at least you'll be enjoying the process. For everyone else, keep it simple!

Frances V. Horich, a landscape designer and horticulturist since 1982, designs gardens for clients throughout the Baltimore area. She can be contacted at ***fvhorich@aol.com*** *or 410-925-9383.*

Fall Dumpster Day

RRLRAIA is sponsoring its annual Dumpster Day again this Fall. RRLRAIA members, be on the lookout for a postcard listing all the pertinent information. And please consider volunteering - it's a great way to meet your neighbors. Call the RRLRAIA office, 410-494-7757, or email rrlraia@comcast.net to verify your membership status.

You Say Goodbye, I Say Hello

Nancy W. Horst has resigned as executive director of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association after more than three years of service to pursue other interests. Peggy Squitieri, who served as executive director for six years prior to Nancy's arrival, has returned to fill the position. We thank Nancy for her service and her advocacy for her community.

To keep up with the myriad of details associated with a large and active organization, RRLRAIA has employed the services of a paid executive director for almost 20 years. The executive director's responsibilities run the gamut; from representing the Association at numerous meetings, monitoring zoning compliance, and maintaining the membership database to coordinating the newsletter and providing constituent services. Our active, 25-member board is comprised of volunteers, so the executive director provides continuity and handles the day-to-day issues.

Nancy Horst (right) welcomes Peggy Squitieri to the Rider House as Peggy resumes her post as executive director of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association. Photo courtesy Neil Meyerhoff

Peggy is happy to be back. "This is a great job. You work with wonderful people, deal with interesting issues, and have a flexible schedule. What more could you ask for?"

We welcome Peggy back to RRLRAIA. Please feel free to stop in and visit her at the Rider House (8013 Bellona Avenue) if the flag is out.

This newsletter marks my departure as executive director of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association. I have greatly enjoyed working with many of you, in person, by telephone or by email. Thanks so much for the opportunity to serve my community.

Nancy Worden Horst

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2. Selling or buying a home is time consuming. From 9/1/06 to 2/5/07, homes in Ruxton-Riderwood have stayed on the market for an average of 127 days. It usually takes another 60 days or so for the transaction to close after an offer is accepted.

3. Real estate has its own language. If you don't know a CMA from a PUD, you can understand why it's important to work with someone who speaks that language.

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Wildlife in Distress

by Kathy Woods, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Phoenix Wildlife Center

Each year thousands of wild animals in Maryland are injured, orphaned, sickened or displaced, many because of human activities. If these animals are to have a chance to survive and live again in the wild, they require help. Many are found by people who want to help them, either on their own or by taking the animal to someone who can help.

Wildlife rehabilitation has come a long way in 20 years, from the home-based kitchen table "baby feeder" to the qualified, certified, licensed professional who has the necessary specialized knowledge, skills, equipment, training, and facilities to treat the animal in distress.

As a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with state and federal permits and the state's first bald eagle permit, I handle thousands of calls a year. This leads to thousands of patients a year, but the most successful phone call is the one that offers a solution without disturbing the animal from its natural habitat. Knowing the natural history and behavior of the wild animal is a prerequisite to success.

The following are probably the most common distress calls and solutions:

Bird hitting window: Most birds do not die when they hit a window; rather, they are momentarily stunned from the impact, and some are blinded. Remember these words: *warm, dry, quiet, dark*. Place the bird in a box which has airholes in it for ventilation and paper towels on the bottom for footing. The darkness lowers the pulse and blood pressure, and the bird quickly regains its senses. The bird does not need perches, food or water. After one hour, take the box back outside and open the lid; the bird should fly out. This works in 98% of all cases. It is safer for you to have the bird inside than have it exposed to the neighborhood cat or Cooper's Hawk. NEVER use toweling for any animal. Tongues (i.e., woodpeckers) can get caught in toweling and the bird can hang itself, and little toenails can get caught in the loops.

Birds in chimneys: The saliva of the chimney swift gets sticky once a year and the parent bird flies through the air grabbing the tips of branches off and places the semi-circular nest on the inside of your chimney. Sometimes the nest falls or gets tilted and an infant chimney swift appears on your fireplace screen, looking very pterodactyl and chattering incessantly for food. If the parent is still around (you can hear the other birds chattering as the parent comes back), the bird can be placed over the damper and can climb its way back into the nest.

Fallen out of nest: Let's first dispel the myth that the mother will reject the bird if you have touched it. It is simply not true. Yes, there are some birds that do not take kindly to your disturbing a nest (a no-no in the first place), and they will abandon the nest. However, if you can find the nest, put the baby back in it. If you cannot reach the nest, a berry basket or old woven basket will do. Tie it to the closest branch of the tree where the nest is located, and the parent will come back. You can use an old margarine tub or other container, but make sure to poke holes in it for drainage.

Fledglings: This is our biggest problem. For birds that have left the nest and are dutifully following the parent bird around learning to find food and being fed by the parent, this is their most vulnerable time. Many are picked up "because my neighbor's cats will kill them." My suggestion is to talk to neighbors who let their cats out while these fledglings are out there and put the baby into a high branch of a tree or bush for the evening. If the fledgling's parent is around, this is its best chance at survival. Domestic cats do not kill because they have to, and as more and more wildlife is pushed into smaller territories, it is not fair for a little owl to have to compete with a cat for food when the cat is just out having a good time. (Domestic cats are not part of nature, no matter what anyone tells you). Triple bell your cat or invest in a

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Home Sales in Ruxton/Riderwood/Lake Roland

Sold Properties from May, 2007 – July, 2007

Courtesy of the Whit Harvey Group,
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	SETTLED DATE
1805 Joppa Road	$249,900	$249,900	5/18/07
1221 Lake Avenue	$256,000	$256,600	6/29/07
7919 Roldrew Avenue	$310,000	$260,000	5/31/07
816 Loyola Drive	$338,000	$337,000	5/4/07
826 Loyola Drive	$355,000	$346,500	6/4/07
13 Coldwater Court	$419,000	$405,000	6/21/07
8113 Bellona Avenue	$439,000	$439,000	6/6/07
7810 Ruxway Road	$459,900	$420,000	6/19/07
1012 Joppa Road	$499,000	$480,000	5/2/07
523 Piccadilly Road	$499,000	$499,000	6/29/07
1101 Joppa Road	$510,000	$510,000	6/22/07
2 Jack Frost Lane	$560,000	$560,000	5/31/07
8003 Strauff Road, #18	$589,000	$560,000	6/29/07
1219 Wine Spring Lane	$629,000	$624,000	5/1/07
1205 Boyce Avenue	$635,000	$575,000	5/14/07
3 Acorn Hill Lane	$710,000	$710,000	7/12/07
6507 Darnall Road	$749,000	$765,000	5/4/07
1507 Labelle Avenue	$779,000	$720,000	5/11/07
1611 Ruxton Road	$795,000	$805,000	5/31/07
6421 Murray Hill Road	$895,000	$925,000	6/25/07
8 Jack Frost Lane	$965,000	$965,000	4/2/07
9 Roland Court	$1,075,000	$980,000	7/20/07
1407 Malvern Avenue	$1,150,000	$1,150,000	6/26/07
7608 L'Hirondelle Club Rd.	$1,195,000	$1,195,000	6/29/07
8 Coniston Road	$1,750,000	$1,750,000	7/20/07
7701 Rider Hill Road	$1,985,000	$1,990,000	6/29/07
1018 Wagner Road	$6,500,000	$5,000,000	6/20/07

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Dues Reminder

Dues notices for membership in the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association were sent out this Spring with the Newsletter. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible. Dues are just 15 cents a day ($55.00 a year), an excellent value when you consider the wide range of issues affecting our neighborhoods such as zoning and development, environmental quality, preservation of open space, crime control and prevention, neighborhood enhancements and speed and volume of traffic that the Association addresses.

We are here for you on an ongoing basis, working to maintain and improve this community where we live, work, play, and raise our families.

Your membership dues entitle you to the benefits of all of these efforts, as well as: a community-wide membership directory; informative newsletters; invitations to community meetings with informative speakers; access to emailed crime alerts and other important announcements; and special neighborhood events, such as the RRLRAIA Dumpster Day and the annual Holiday Party in the Woods.

Please make an investment in your community and mail your dues to: RRLRAIA, P. O. Box 204, Riderwood, MD 21139.

If you have already sent in your dues, thanks so much for your support.

Save the Date! RRLRAIA Annual Membership Meeting Coming Up!

Thursday, September 27, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Good Shepherd

Invitations will be mailed to current RRLRAIA members in late August. (Call the RRLRAIA office at 410-494-7757 or email **rrlraia@comcast.net** if you wish to verify your membership status.)

Volunteer Organizer Needed

We are fortunate to have a number of members who offer to volunteer their time, talent, and expertise. We are looking for someone to organize our volunteer list and be the point person for contacting volunteers when needed. For example, we need several volunteers for Dumpster Day in the fall. We would like to be able to call on a Volunteer Coordinator to contact people who have previously indicated an interest in helping with community events and schedule them in appropriate time slots. If you are interested in considering this role, please call Peggy Squitieri at 410-494-7757 or send an email to **rrlraia@comcast.net**.

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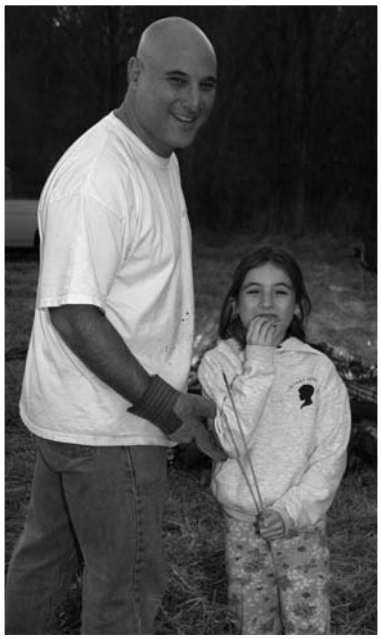
Party In the Woods - Great Winter Memories

The RRLRAIA-sponsored Holiday Party in the Woods was a huge success. Friends and neighbors gathered on a beautiful afternoon last December and enjoyed hotdogs, roasted marshmallows and hot chocolate. To the delight of all, Santa arrived on the Lutherville Volunteer fire truck. We are planning another event this winter for our members. If you would like to attend, or even better, volunteer to help with this event, please contact the RRLRAIA office (410-494-7757 or **rrlraia@comcast.net**).

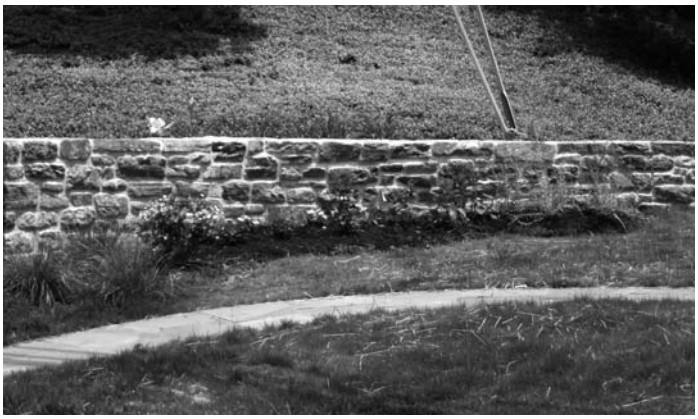


Greater Ruxton Area Foundation Report, Summer 2007

by Joseph M. Coale, President, Greater Ruxton Area Foundation

The Foundation Board has decided to change the Foundation's name to reduce continuing confusion with the Association. After considering many options, the Foundation will now be known as the ***Greater Ruxton Area Foundation***. The mission remains the same: to serve the communities of Ruxton, Riderwood, Lake Roland and other encompassing communities in preservation and beautification as called for in the *2001 Community Plan*. A brochure that more fully articulates our mission is planned for distribution with our fall capital campaign.

During the summer the Foundation received the Baltimore County Historic Trust's Annual Project Award for the Bowen Wall at the Rider House. The Bowen House (circa 1745) had stood on the GBMC property until 2005. Cut field stone from the structure was used for the wall. The Lake Roland Garden Club installed a period flower garden at the base of the wall, and it is thriving. The Club was recently awarded the 2007 Community Service Award from the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland for its work at Rider House.



Constructed with cut field stone from the Bowen House (circa 1745), which stood on the GBMC property until 2005, the Bowen Wall received Baltimore County Historical Trust's 2007 Project Award for creative reuse of historic materials. The Lake Roland Garden Club received the 2007 Community Service Award from the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland for planting the period garden near the wall.

Our land preservation program, which provides an alternative to development for local property owners, continues to be of great interest. Parameters for acceptance are strict, but for those who qualify, the

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benefits can be significant. Board members David Whitman and George Grose have been crusaders in leading efforts to preserve open space for future generations. Their efforts will help maintain the quality and character of the greater Ruxton area.

At the Rider House, we have a new tenant, the Baltimore County Historical Trust, whose service mission complements the work of both the Association and the Foundation. *Please see sidebar for more information on BCHT and a message from Executive Director Patricia Bentz.*

According to the latest information, the Bellona Avenue sidewalk project, from Boyce to Malvern on Bellona, is pending entry approvals from affected property owners. We are disappointed at the delay of this important project.

The Ruxton Road site at Roland Run has been established as a pleasant grove of native Maryland trees. Loyal board members have been regularly filling the Gator water bags with the convenience of the County fire hydrant made available through the generous support of the offices of Ed Adams, Director of Public Works, and Tim Burgess, Bureau Chief of the County Highways Division. To the south, the perimeter of the old rugby field off L'Hirondelle Club Road has been recently mowed, permitting access to this pleasant open space area.

A message from Baltimore County Historical Trust

As mentioned in the article in the Greater Ruxton Area Foundation report, the Baltimore County Historical Trust (BCHT) has moved its offices into the Rider House. BCHT is chartered to register historic properties and historically significant architectural landmarks in Baltimore County.

According to its mission statement, "The purpose of the Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc. is to preserve historic and significant properties in Baltimore County through education, research, technical assistance and policy formulation."

The Trust is dedicated to the core belief that the preservation of the past is essential for shaping the future. It includes:

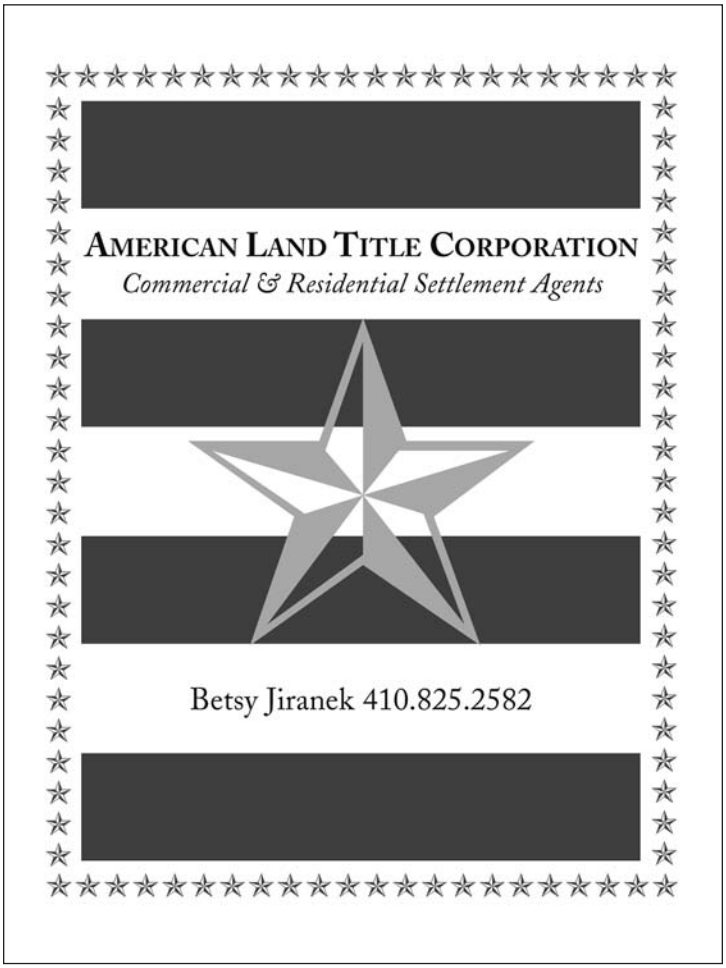
- cooperation among property owners, community groups, neighborhoods, not-for-profit groups, government agencies at all levels and elected officials;
- respect for design, craftsmanship and the importance of retaining material culture;
- maintenance of historic areas as central to thriving prosperous communities and districts; and
- leadership and direction for preservation policy development.

Following is a message from BCHT Executive Director Patricia Bentz:

We are very grateful to the Greater Ruxton Area Foundation for allowing BCHT to rent space in their beautifully restored Rider House. We have settled in quite nicely and look forward to continuing to serve your community as well others in Baltimore County.

Do you have a historic property or is there a historic property in your neighborhood that you would like to have considered for a historic designation? Are you unsure of what the different historic designations are and how they would affect your property/neighborhood? The new historic preservation legislation passed by the County Council in April 2007 makes it more difficult to flag potential historic structures from demolition. Therefore, it is very important for communities to be proactive in preserving their neighborhoods. No one knows better than each one of you what deserves protection. This involves not only protection of the structure, but of its setting.

If you would like more information or would just like to discuss some concerns, please contact me for an appointment. We have brochures and nomination forms for handouts and/or would be available to meet with your community group for a question/answer session. I can be reached at (410) 832-1812 or **TrishBentz@bcht.org**



Traffic Calming Needed

Continues from page 1

high during commuting hours. Drivers routinely exceed the speed limit.

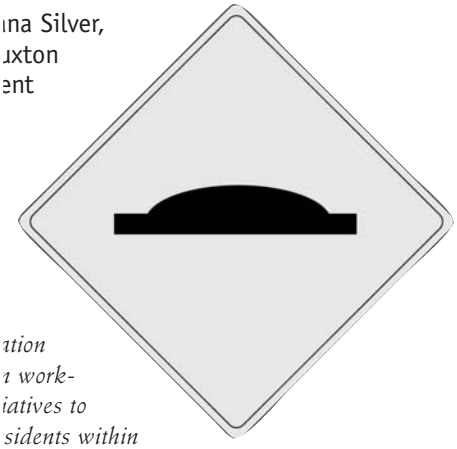
Our observations concerning traffic calming are as follows:

- *Baltimore County's traffic calming policies do not address the needs of collector roads such as Malvern Avenue.*
- *Passive control measures have had little impact on overall driver speeds.*
- *Police traffic enforcement needs to be stepped up in order to have a lasting impact. The traffic team does not have the resources to provide this type of coverage on an ongoing basis.*

Traffic enforcement on a narrow, winding road is difficult as there are limited places where officers can engage in enforcement. Large sections of the road are left without any means to slow traffic.

We feel that the situation on our roads continues to deteriorate. Most drivers speed and there have been many cases of drivers harassing other drivers and pedestrians. Only more targeted measures such as electronic speed enforcement will begin to slow driver speeds and make our neighborhood safer.

In addition, Dr. Dana Silver, Secretary of the Ruxton Hill Association, sent the following written testimony:



We understand that the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association (RRLRAIA) has been working diligently on initiatives to improve safety for residents within the Association's boundaries.

We would like also to call the Board's attention to problems with Old Court Road, between Ruxton Road and Joppa Road. The Ruxton Hill neighborhood has its entrance off this part of the road, and some neighborhood homes are located on Old Court.

The speed at which people travel on Old Court Road is excessive; while the speed limit is set at 30 mph and 35 mph, drivers routinely treat it as highway access or a cut-through road. Many cars, particularly in the winter, have come around the curve in the road so fast that they have spun out and ended down the embankment. In addition, pulling in and out of the driveways on Old Court Road (much less trying to walk on the road) is treacherous.

We recognize that this part of Old Court Road is considered a collector road. However, it is apparent that the current traffic calming policies do not address the needs of such a collector road. Very rarely do we see police traffic enforcers as reminders of the speed limits on Old Court Road and as deterrents for speeders. We urge the Board to re-examine its current traffic calming policies and to address the issue of collector roads such as ours. In addition, we request stepped-up traffic enforcement on our road.

YOU can help slow traffic in YOUR neighborhood!

You can take immediate – and extremely effective – action by driving exactly the speed limit. This will force cars behind you to slow down, and instantly make our narrow streets safer.

You can join the RRLRAIA transportation committee by contacting David Meese at (410) 339-7661 or **dwmeese@comcast.net**.

You can contact your county councilman and County Executive Jim Smith, asking that they change the County's traffic calming policies to encompass or reclassify 'collector roads' to make them eligible for traffic calming measures.

Contact information:

Second District (west of Charles Street)
Councilman Kevin Kamenetz can be reached at:
(410) 887-3385/**bccdistrict2@comcast.net**;

Fifth District (east of Charles Street)
Councilman Vincent Gardina's information:
(410) 887-3384/**bccdistrict5@comcast.net**.

County Executive Jim Smith:
(410) 887-2450/**jimsmith@baltimorecountymd.gov**.

Wildlife in Distress

Continued from page 7

"Purr-fect" fence to keep the cat contained.

Whether it is a nest of bunnies in your yard (they are not abandoned), a fawn in your neighbor's yard, or a baby owl on the ground…there are many solutions that do not include your taking the animal to a rehabilitator. Suggestions about what to do or whom to consult are on the Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association website (**http://www.mwra.org/**). Any rehabilitator will refer you to the person either closest to you or most skilled in taking care of that particular animal. It is always best if you take the animal to the rehabilitator yourself; if rehabilitators have to come to your place, they are jeopardizing the lives of other animals left at their clinics.

Remember: *warm, dry, quiet, dark*. Warm means transporting it on a "waterbed"; a zip lock bag with hot water in it. Their body temperatures are much higher than ours; the baby should feel warm when picked up. *Dry* means no water in the box. *Quiet* means no music or other noise to terrorize the animal - we do not talk to the animals once they are brought to the clinic. Darkness and quiet are soothing.

*Kathleen Woods runs the Phoenix Wildlife Center in Jacksonville, Maryland, located 10 miles north of Towson. She can be reached at 410-628-9736 or email **phoenixcenter@comcast.net** with questions. There is never a charge for wildlife rehabilitation, although tax-deductible donations are appreciated and all monies go towards food, medicines and equipment unless otherwise specified by the donor. Kathleen has rehabilitated a barred owl caught with fishing line at Robert E. Lee Park and numerous other hawks, songbirds and mammals in our neighborhoods.*

The Recipe for Success Lives Next Door

Cindy Wolf and Tony Foreman Move to Ruxton

by Barbara Guarnieri

For those in the know, the mention of Cindy Wolf and Tony Foreman tickles the palate and turns on the salivary glands. Since 1995 this husband and wife team have been infusing the eating and drinking landscape of Baltimore with ethnic energies that have catalyzed the local restaurant scene. We are now as familiar with shellfish bisque (Charleston) as we are crab soup, or steak frites (Petit Louis) as we are Boardwalk burgers and fries, or jamon Iberico (Pazo) as we are a Virginia baked ham, all thanks to Cindy and Tony.

The couple's talents are a perfect marriage of creativity in the kitchen with shrewd front room business savvy. Cindy trained at the Culinary Institute of America in New York and apprenticed in prominent restaurants in South Carolina where her low country fare fused with French fundamentals took root. It blossomed at Georgia Brown's where she successfully seduced Washingtonians to her signature style while she herself was seduced by the restaurant's general manager, her future husband Tony.

Tony graduated from Widener University in Pennsylvania with a degree in restaurant management and then received a sommelier's certificate from Colmar school in France before assuming the general manager's role at a number of Capitol Restaurant Corporation properties in DC, including Georgia Brown's. His ability to manage costs while delivering an elegant meal in a sumptuous setting made him an attractive property in the restaurant world. As it turns out, it also made him attractive to the creative young chef in Georgia Brown's kitchen.

Cindy and Tony married in 1994 and a year later moved to Baltimore and opened Savannah at the Admiral Fell Inn, their first venture together. Cindy's kitchen produced a fusion of country down-home ingredients with uptown attitude and Tony's carefully chosen wine cellar provided the perfect accompaniment. Baltimore quickly adopted this dynamic duo and their tasty fare.

Since the first restaurant, they have deliciously cooked up three additional ventures. In 1997 they transformed a spare, newly-built harbor-side, high-rise lobby space into the appealing but gracious Cindy Wolf's Charleston dining room. Widely considered one of Baltimore's best eating experiences, Charleston put both the chef and the city on the national culinary map. In 2000 they opened Petit Louis, a Parisian-inspired bistro in Roland Park, which has since become as much a fixture of this old money neighborhood as its tall oaks and stately turn-of-the-century homes.

Following his passion, Tony branched out in 2001 to establish the Bin604 Wine Sellers in a storefront very near Charleston. Accolades soon followed as Tony acquired unusual and rare wines, often directly from the vintners with whom he personally cultivated relationships. Not surprisingly, in 2002 Food and Wine magazine named Bin604 "Best New Wine Shop" in the country!

Never ones to rest on their laurels, the couple dove headlong into a large scale urban renewal project in 2002 when they purchased an 1880's machine tool shop behind Charleston. After gutting the interior space and creating a large dining hall and toney bar area

Photo courtesy Neil Meyerhoff

that literally pumps with energy, they opened Pazo in late 2004 to their usual rave reviews. The hip vibe and eclectic Mediterranean menu satisfies a broad range of tastes and pocketbooks and keeps a young, cosmopolitan following standing in line at the door. It seems that no matter what they set their minds to, Cindy and Tony just have that Midas touch. *

Which is why RRLRAIA readers will be thrilled to learn that their latest project is a new home in Ruxton. Seeking a more verdant surrounding than their original downtown St. Paul's home, the couple began to search for an older home with some property. While they saw many genteel homes in pastoral settings, the long commute was often a deal breaker. Happily, in 2006 they found a charming older home with a lovely wooded view on L'Hirondelle Club Road.

They are only the third family to own this house, a fact that Cindy finds comforting. They are charmed by its curious history which includes old hardware, windowpanes and doors which pre-date the home's 1930's construction by a century. Not surprisingly, for a couple who are noted for the simple but evocative details of their created interiors, they both love their new home's "wood-burning fireplaces, creaky old floors and secret hiding places."

They have made few changes to the existing décor but like many of us, were forced by circumstances to make substantive systemic improvements when two water pipes broke in February. How ironic that they broke in the kitchen ceiling, the room this couple would be most suited to personalize anyway! From the new kitchen Cindy and Tony delight in entertaining friends and family, and often bring the company outside for spring and summer grilling in their bucolic surroundings. Cindy particularly enjoys an al fresco breakfast on her porch when her parents come to visit.

Occasional melodies wafting about their outdoor spaces from events at L'Hirondelle Club have become an amusing benefit.

From the convenient kitchen herb garden to the Christmas outdoor lighting spectacular, Cindy and Tony feel they have struck gold again. "This house was made for entertaining, for living, for sharing, a house to be happy in. And, it came with lavender, sage, mint and a whole lot of roses." We can all only hope we become good enough neighbors to be included in their happy entertaining!

*Rumor has it that they will soon produce another gold nugget in the harbor area but I won't 'boar' you with the details. Stay tuned for the opening of Cinghiale.

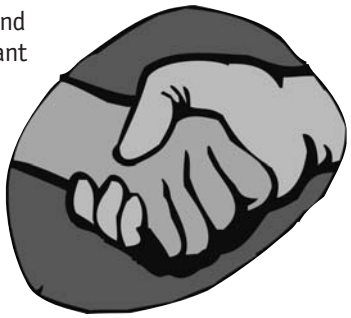
Neighborly Negotiating

by Nancy Worden Horst

He who has learned to disagree without being disagreeable has discovered the most valuable secret of a diplomat. (Robert Estabrook)

As my last duty before retiring as executive director of RRLRAIA, I've been asked to write a brief article on "How to Solve Neighborhood Disputes."

While I've helped resolve some neighborhood issues, I cannot call myself an expert. But I gladly share some observations.



1. Treating people with respect and kindness is essential if you want to accomplish your goals.
2. Do some research first; know your facts and what the laws are before you take any action.
   a. check out the County Code at **baltimorecountymd.gov**
   b. check to see if your neighborhood has any covenants or homeowners association regulations
   c. check with the RRLRAIA (410-494-7757 or **rrlraia@comcast.net**)
3. When negotiating, take what you think is a fair position and stick with it.
4. The more stressful the situation, the more civil you must try to be.
5. I would also recommend reading *The Power of Nice* by Ronald M. Shapiro and Mark A. Jankowski

Change (or getting outside our 'comfort zone') is something most of us don't enjoy. It may be a neighbor who wants to put up a fence, add lights, build an addition, or take down a tree (whose is it, anyway?); or a neighbor who likes to host loud, late parties; or a developer who wants to tear down an old house and put up a McMansion or subdivide a lot; change can make us uncomfortable.

My husband, Skip, is a big believer in the direct approach – walk over to your new neighbor's house, introduce yourself, welcome the neighbor, and bring flowers or some food. If nothing else, you will have established a certain rapport.

If you see construction going on and have questions, the direct approach is best. (Skip's favorite: "What the heck's going on around here?")

So be neighborly when you negotiate, and remember the Golden Rule. But as Frank Crane says, "The Golden Rule is of no use to you whatever unless you realize that it's your move."

Baltimore County Offers a Free Mediation Program

What is mediation?

- Mediation is an alternative dispute settlement process where a neutral party (mediator) meets with two or more individuals to help enable them to resolve an issue.
- The process of mediation addresses future behavior and does not determine the "truth of facts" nor "guilt or innocence."

What kind of conflicts can be mediated?

- Any dispute of a minor nature.
- Disagreements between neighbors, landlords/tenants, business owners, community association/homeowners, etc.
- Disputes over property, animal complaints, noise complaints, civil disputes, etc.

Why mediation?

- Mediation is free. No fee or legal advice is needed.
- Mediation is quick and convenient. Mediation sessions are scheduled at mutually acceptable hours so that no one loses time from work or other commitments.
- Mediation allows the parties to reach an agreement without labeling someone a winner or a loser.
- The entire community benefits when its citizens have access to a reliable, impartial service, designed to help people deal with problems.

Who are the mediators?

- Mediators are volunteer business professionals, attorneys, government employees, and other concerned citizens.
- Each mediator has extensive training in third party negotiations and conflict resolution.
- Mediators are committed, respect confidentiality and are mandated to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct.

How do I bring a case to mediation?

- It's easy! Simply call 410-887-5871 and a Mediation Coordinator will get the basic information to ensure that the case can be mediated. A meeting will be set up for the mediation at a mutually convenient time and place, usually within two weeks.

How mediation works

- Once there is an agreement to mediate, a date will be scheduled and an impartial mediator will be assigned.
- All parties are present voluntarily.
- Attorneys may be present, but the Baltimore County Mediation Program does not encourage their presence, nor will they be allowed to interrupt the mediation session.
- Witnesses are allowed at the discretion of the mediator.

Lake Falls

by Nancy Worden Horst

Lake Falls, a compact community of 40 homes located on Lake Falls Road and a portion of Lake Avenue just east of Falls Road, was developed almost 60 years ago through the efforts of the Lake Falls Construction Company, headed by Claude R. Milburn and J. Lawrence Lears.

Above, Noah Robinson stands in the Breezeway. At left, Ellen Parsons, a long-time Lake Falls resident who, along with her husband Roy, have given years of TLC to the Breezeway. Mrs. Parsons is joined by Noah Robinson who interviewed her for his school project.

Photos courtesy Neil Meyerhoff

There were four house styles built in the neighborhood, A, B, C & D. Some of the houses had porches, some had gables and some had dormers, but all of the houses sold in the post-war years were priced between $10,250.00 and $12,250.00 with a ground rent.

Robert E. Lee Park, which is owned by Baltimore City, serves as the northern boundary of Lake Falls. The City reserved an area running through the middle of the development from Lake Avenue to Lake Roland for access to an underground conduit that connected Lake Roland to the reservoir in Hampden at 36th Street and Falls Road.

This small area, a park known as the Breezeway, has been a real asset to the neighborhood, and many community events have been held there since 1948, including block parties, visits from Santa, Fourth of July Parades and picnics. (See Gary Marino's remembrances from Lake Falls' 50th Anniversary Celebration on page 19.)

As one of the newer residents, Noah Robinson, now 12 years old, wrote in a 2005 school report on the history of neighborhood: "One change in the landscape is the amount of trees in the neighborhood. In the early 1950's a man came driving down into the neighborhood and was selling the trees for $2.00 each. Many people purchased the trees for their front yards and sidewalks. The trees were only little, tiny trees, two feet tall or so. Now they are big trees, as tall as our house. Some are even starting to die. One last thing about the trees is that there used to be only an open space between Lake Avenue and the Breezeway (which is the open area with grass where we play and go sledding). Then, seventeen years ago, the neighborhood association planted trees there to form a natural border and now they are big, huge cypress trees."

"A second topic is about how the people in the neighborhood have changed. One dramatic difference is in the number of kids. In 1959 around 67 kids lived in the neighborhood (that is about two kids per house). Of these 67 kids, six were adopted. Now there are 16 kids, a drop of 76%. Families who lived here sometimes moved to a bigger houses, but the families always say, "Oh, why did we move? We were in such a friendly neighborhood!"

"The kids play in the Breezeway, people are still really friendly, and everyone's first concern is safety...We still have a Lake Falls Neighborhood Association, and they still organize fun parties."

The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association played an important role in saving the Breezeway in 2004 when Baltimore City tried to sell the land to a developer to build houses. Working with a very determined Lake Falls Association, and with the cooperation of County Councilman Kevin Kamenetz, the Breezeway, as well as Robert E. Lee Park, was rezoned to limit the number of houses that could be built. Thus the Breezeway - the green space that has played such an important

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Freecycle – Great Way to Recycle Just About Anything!

by Peggy Squitieri, Executive Director, RRLRAIA

Do you have a basement/closet/garage full of stuff you're keeping because someone might need it someday? FreecycleBaltimore, part of a non-profit online network, is a vehicle that will help you find that someone today.

The goal of *FreecycleBaltimore* is to reduce waste by connecting people who want to get rid of items with others who are seeking those items. You can post messages to discard or acquire items. Computers (working or not), furniture, clothing, magazines, building materials - no item is too big or too small, but all items must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages.

According to a July 13, 2007, article by Marc Gunther on **CNNMoney.com**, Freecycle inventor, Deron Beal, estimates that the network keeps the equivalent of 300 tons of stuff out of landfills every day.

Here's how it works:

You have an old worn sofa that you think no one would possibly want. You post a message:

OFFER – Old Worn Sofa – Towson Area.

Someone whose puppy just ruined her sofa sees your posting and is thrilled. Your unwanted sofa is perfect until the puppy gets a little older. She replies to your posting by email. You communicate either by email or phone and make arrangements for the transfer. It's that easy.

Following is a random sample of messages that appeared on the FreecycleBaltimore site as this article was being written:

OFFER: cow-themed tart warmer in 21222

Tart warmer in the shape of a milk jug. Has a ceramic cow on the front. Still some old candle tart left in top of it. Located in Dundalk, 21222. 12:39 p.m.

OFFER: hat box in 21222

Cute white/purple hat box, approx. 18" diameter. Has white/purple toile pattern on it, plus carrying cord. Located in Dundalk, 21222. 12:39 p.m.

WANTED: boxes for moving

Moving boxes, needed by next week. Thanks! 12:42 p.m.

TAKEN: cow-themed tart warmer in 21222

Pending pick up today. Thank you! 1:57 p.m.

Note that the cow-themed tart warmer was claimed in less than two hours!

Freecycle is a moderated website which you must join. Since Freecycle generates a flood of email messages, *we suggest using a separate email address or setting up a filter that funnels Freecycle emails into a separate folder*. For more information, please go to **http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecyclebaltimore/**

Another useful website for finding homes for unwanted items is **www.craigslist.com**. You are permitted to offer items for sale or free on this site.

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The Breezeway – Lake Falls' Town Square

by Gary Marino
(originally delivered October 3, 1998, Lake Falls' 50th Birthday)

On a cold winter night, particularly one after a big snow, when most have turned in and all is quiet, take a walk to the Breezeway. Peer down the hill, then up to the Leland cypress. One can capture the spirit of Lake Falls merely by "listening." This simple plot of grass has a mighty story to tell.

Certainly the day's sounds will be easily imaginable. The train of children swooshing down the slope flung side to side as they stop short of the stream. The bonfire crackling as it heats the cold hands of watchful parents. And the dogs snowplowing alongside, barely escaping serious injury from fearless sledders. A couple trudges by carrying their edible contribution to the annual winter dinner party.

Winter turns into spring as you stand in silence. The wide eyes and anxious faces of children become clear as they lurch over the starting line for the Easter egg hunt. Shouts of excitement swell, as treasures are uncovered. A sound of disappointment is heard as someone comes up a little short. Not to worry, others share their wealth and a frown turns to a smile.

Shortly thereafter a woman hurries by, as it won't be long 'til the horses enter the gate...Derby Party! Another gathering. More food. It's interesting to note how much food per square inch navigates its way to or by the Breezeway.

Despite the freezing temperature, thoughts of summer quickly penetrate. Summer brings out the best. A car turns into the street. So many people are out and waving that one's hand could tire returning the gestures. Congregating on the sidewalk by the Breezeway, good conversation and family news is bouncing back and forth. It's nice to be home and it's still light. No homework. Just fun. Lots of noise. And my goodness, how many dogs live here?

Over there is a hotly contested baseball game as batters with the constitution of mighty Casey swing for the fences. Young Cal Ripkens wait to snag anything hit their way. The inevitable shout, "You're out!" is quickly followed by its sister response, "Nuh-uh."

The clanking of metal against metal is the sound of a friendly game of horseshoes at the annual picnic. Men, careful not to ooze too much testosterone, try mightily for a ringer. Burgers and hot dogs sizzle on the grill as mothers implore their children to slow down on the sodas and the men to slow down on the horseshoes; give the kids a chance. There is bocce you know. Forget that. Rubber meets the road almost imperceptibly as the street is closed to cars and bikes become king; just about the coolest thing you can conceive of as a kid. Hearty laughs and pleasantries abound.

Summer suddenly deserts as Fall has broken its spell. A Breezeway bonfire is warming slightly chilled bones. There is nothing quite like the aroma of a flaming marshmallow, nor the taste of same with graham crackers and chocolate. Children are asking for more.

The first day of school revives the well-worn path across the grass to and from the bus stop. Back-to-school fashions make their debut on the natural runway and talk is feverish about new teachers and expectations.

It's suddenly very dark except for that street lamp that works most of the time. Well, some of the time. Gremlins appear from behind trees, as do witches, warlocks and grim reapers. Not to worry as princesses, flowers, crayons and a host of other costumed children appear for the Halloween parade. The neighborhood haunted house eagerly awaits the most venturesome whose donations raise money for charity.

Suddenly it's Thanksgiving. There is much to be thankful for here in Lake Falls. Then, a snapping sound. That's one of the old guy's hamstrings failing during the Turkey Bowl Classic; just a friendly game of soccer, one side of the street against the other. Not to be taken too seriously as long as the right team wins.

Peering up the street, jingle bells resonate in the distance. They grow louder as the ever-faithful Santa drops in for his annual pilgrimage to Lake Falls. Tiny faces, most in awe and some in fear, relay their dreams. Cameras click as parents suspect these wishes will surely break the bank account of most mortals, but of course, as the children know, not Santa's. Still more food traverses the turf on its way to the Holiday gathering

The year is turning over. Fire crackers blast from the middle of the Breezeway. Fifty years have passed. One more under the belt and a new one just ahead. The sounds of many events have drifted over this Breezeway and it has passed under the feet of hundreds of people.

Your personal recollections may be different but the underlying theme remains the same; terrific memories of wonderful experiences with friendly, caring people. What my grandmother would have called "good people."

Many of those good people are here tonight. Some are no longer with us but their spirit lives on in what they have left their neighbors and friends to remember. Good people.

The houses we live in or have lived in obviously hold as many fond memories as the Breezeway brings to mind; Christmas mornings, birthday parties, time with friends. Nothing, however, symbolizes the camaraderie or closeness of community as well as the Breezeway; the Lake Falls town square. The sounds can be deafening, especially when it's quiet. Please go by some time and listen for yourself.

THE RUXTON ★ RIDERWOOD ★ LAKE ROLAND AREA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
Post Office Box 204 ■ Riderwood, MD 21139 ■ TELE/FAX 410-494-7757 ■ rrlraia@comcast.net

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Baltimore, MD

West Towson | 15 Burnbrae Road

Set on an incredible 1.13 acre rolling lot with a stream, this storybook cottage is a charming oasis in the middle of West Towson. The open and flowing main level has a lofted greatroom with a stone fireplace, a door to the front deck and a slider to the brick patio. A modern kitchen, dining area, family room with a wood stove, den/bedroom with full bath, two bedrooms and another full bath round out the first level.

The loft level features a bed/bath suite. The lower level features a large, daylight room with stone floors, tiled floors and fireplace. Through the windows or on the deck or patio, there are magnificent views of the stream, perennial bulbs, blooming azaleas, mature landscaping and soaring trees.

Offered at $599,000

Carroll & Sawers
We have experience. All kinds of experience.
Charles Carroll 410.832.4040 | Kelle Sawers 410.832.4041
Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc.
410-583-5700