Neighborhood NEWS

Spring 2009

Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association

RRLRAIA Prevails

Church Denied Oversized Sign on I-695

By Kathy Mountcastle

Trinity Assembly of God's six-year battle to erect a huge sign facing the eastbound lanes of I-695 has been dealt a potentially fatal blow by the state's highest court. In a Christmas Eve ruling, the Maryland Court of Appeals upheld decisions by the Baltimore County Zoning Office, Baltimore County Board of Appeals, Baltimore County Circuit Court and the Court of Special Appeals to deny a zoning variance for the proposed sign. RRLRAIA had joined with the People's Counsel of Baltimore County to oppose the variance.

The case began in September 2002 when the church at 2122 W. Joppa Road filed a Petition for Variance with Baltimore County to erect a 25-foot high, 250 square foot sign to help travelers on the Beltway find the church. The proposed sign would have been ten times larger in face size than the current limit. The church also sought to have a portion of the sign contain changeable copy features to allow the posting of scripture or information about upcoming events.

The petition was denied, and Trinity went to the Board of Appeals. Pastor George Raduano testified that parishioners and visitors complained that the church is difficult to find because it is hard to see from the beltway, and the I-695/I-83 interchange is confusing. Witnesses for Trinity, including a consultant for the sign industry's largest trade association, argued that an oversized sign was necessary because of limited visibility.

People's Counsel Peter Zimmerman was joined by numerous community groups, including RRLRAIA and the Greater Towson Council of Community Associations (GTCCA), and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods in opposition to the variance. They argued that the proposed sign's unprecedented size would pose a traffic hazard, diminish the aesthetics of the area, and lower property values in the neighborhood. RRLRAIA members Fred Hudson, Tom Peace and Rick Huether and current and former executive directors Peggy Squitieri and Nancy Horst were among those who testified in the cases.

After the Board of Appeals ruled against the church, Trinity took the case to Baltimore County Circuit Court claiming that the denial of the variance violated the church's religious freedom under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. The Maryland Court of Appeals found that "the denial of Trinity's requested variances does not impose a substantial burden on Trinity's religious exercise," and it concurred with decisions by the Board and the lower courts that the church "reasonably could identify itself and conduct outreach without a 250 square-foot sign."

Clean Your Stream April 4th

RRLRAIA has joined with the Jones Falls Watershed Association to help improve water quality, not only in our area, but for the entire Jones Falls watershed.

JFWA is currently recruiting site captains and cleanup volunteers for the April 4th Project Clean Stream. If you want to join this effort, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jenny Sabatier at jsabatier@jonesfalls.org or 410-366-3036.

Spring Walk in R. E. Lee Park

Guided walks in R. E. Lee Park will again be offered beginning Monday, March 30th from 1:00 – 2:30. Please watch for an email for directions and further information, or contact the RRLRAIA office at 410-494-7757 or **rrlraia@comcast.net**.

INSIDE

Please Mr. Postman
Page 4

Greater Ruxton Area Foundation Update
Page 5

Lug Your Rug and Save – The Kleenize Story
Page 5

Holiday Party Spreads Warmth
Page 6

Home Sales
Page 8

Slow Down
Page 9

Victory Gardens
Page 10

Signs of the Time
Page 13

Towson West Elementary Update
Page 14

Volunteers Needed For Stream Clean-up
Page 15

Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland *Neighborhood NEWS*

Spring 2009

Table of Contents

1 RRLRAIA Prevails
2 President's Letter
3 "Knock, Knock. Who's There?"
3 Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company
4 Please Mr. Postman, Look and See
5 Lug Your Rug and Save – The Kleenize Story
5 Greater Ruxton Area Foundation Update
6 Holiday Party Spreads Warmth in Community
8 Home Sales
9 Slow Down, You May Save A Life
10 Victory Gardens
11 Spring Recipes from Graul's Market
12 Charles Street/I-695 Interchange Project
13 Signs of the Time
14 Towson West Elementary Update
15 Volunteers Needed for Stream Clean-up

Board of Governors

President – Kathy Palencar
1st Vice President – Scott Murphy
2nd Vice President – Barbara Guarnieri
Treasurer – Julie D'Ambrogi
Secretary – Judy Wright
Steven A. Allen
Francis D. 'Fran' Anderson
Daniel S. Baird
Debrorah Burker
Kris Culp
Linda Eisenbrandt
Frederick Hudson
Elyse E. Jacob
Bliss McCord
David Meese
Helga Morrow
Kathy Mountcastle
Keith Murray
Rob Nelson
Beth Purvis
Marsha Ramsay
Kent Walker
Nettie Washburn
Tom Weadock
Ande Williams

Executive Director, Peggy Squitieri

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors:

I learned something new at a meeting I recently attended on learning styles and I'd like to share it with you. The audience was given a piece of paper and oral instructions for folding it. No other clues were given—no pictures, no sample of the finished product, no individual directions—just verbal instructions and a piece of paper. The task was challenging and not one attendee ended up with the final product—a paper cup. In a second exercise we were instructed to form a circle, hold hands and pass a hula hoop around without unlinking our hands. Once we accomplished that, we were asked to do it again, but with our eyes closed. Since many of us rely heavily on our vision for learning we felt severely handicapped. During both exercises, the speaker was teaching us to recognize our learning styles and strengths which are skewed toward the visual, but are enhanced by oral, tactile and kinetic input.

On my way home, with my newfound awareness, I looked at my neighborhood with a better understanding of my learning strengths. I was now acutely aware of absorbing information with my eyes. I saw the sweep of manicured lawns lit by soft gray shadows from the huge moon. I noticed the intricate detail of a new iron fence, the fretwork on a Victorian porch and the clean lines of a lovely wooden lamppost. I saw my own home, the refuge I return to each night, and the tiny heads that popped up at a window to welcome my arrival. When I took the time to really look, I was surprised by what I learned about a route that I had taken so often before. Our eyes have much to teach us.

As you travel through your own neighborhood, take in the details of spaces and places you thought you knew. Keep this experience in mind as you read this issue of *Neighborhood News*, especially the articles related to signs.

In 2001 RRLRAIA created Community Plan 2001 for the Ruxton, Riderwood, and Lake Roland areas. Our plan was adopted by the Baltimore County Council and became an official part of the County's Master Plan. This impressive document was the result of hours of input from community members like yourself and was led by land planning and design consultant Chris Batten of J. Christopher Batten, Inc. Many of the goals of that plan have been accomplished.

One of the Board's objectives for this year is to review and update the RRLRAIA Community Plan. The process of updating is less daunting than creating it from scratch, but every aspect of the plan must be reviewed and addressed for the coming decade. The more volunteers we have to work on the plan, the better the end result will be. Please contact our executive director, Peggy Squitieri, to join in our efforts and let her know what your areas of interest may be. The key focus areas in the current plan are Traffic & Light Rail; Zoning & Development; Land Preservation; Walkways & Bikeways; Historic Preservation; and Community Enhancements. It is a wonderful vehicle for us to get to know each other better as we work together to improve and preserve our community.

Best Regards,

Kathy Frederick Palencar

RRLRAIA Community Plan 2001 is available online at **www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/community_planning/adopted_community_plans/ruxton.html**

Neighborhood NEWS is published quarterly by the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Inc., P.O. Box 204, Riderwood, MD 21139 Tel: (410) 494-7757

Deadlines for copy, including announcements and calendar items, are February 1st for Spring issue, May 1st for Summer issue, August 1st for Fall issue, and November 1st for Winter issue. Advertisers contact: julie.dambrogi@bridgestreet.com

Nancy Worden Horst – Editor
Julie D'Ambrogi – Advertising
Graphic Production – DesignConcept

Newsletter Committee:
Barbara Guarnieri – Chair
Candice Dalrymple
Mary Sue McCarthy
Bliss McCord
Kathy Mountcastle
Nettie Washburn

"Knock, Knock. Who's There?"

Information gathered by Nettie Washburn and Barbara Guarnieri

This old childhood game would elicit gales of laughter with its silly responses. But last December no one was laughing after paramedics were called to an emergency on Circle Road and had to play the game in order to find their patient. Many of the homes were without house numbers clearly visible from the street. Some were without numbers at all. Paramedics lost valuable time searching for the home of the person needing medical assistance.

As part of your spring clean-up/spruce-up, please assess how easily your house can be identified *from the street* for emergency officials. This is no laughing matter and could literally be a matter of life or death.

How easy is it for an emergency vehicle to reach your house?

With today's GPS technology you might think that your house can easily be found. Not always true! For emergency crews a delay in finding the right house can be frustrating and might be deadly.

- Make sure the numbers on your driveway, or mailbox, or fencepost are visible day or night.
- Post numbers on the front of your house, preferably on or near the door.
- Use large (at least 3"), reflective numbers that contrast with your house color.
- If you live off a driveway shared with other houses, make sure the way to your house is evident.
- Keep the numerals clear of vegetation.

Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company

Did you know that the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company (LVFC) responded to 1,880 calls for help in 2008? Since LVFC is the first volunteer responder for the Riderwood, Ruxton and Lake Roland area, many of these emergency responses were to homes, businesses and traffic accidents in our neighborhoods.

The LVFC is beginning a capital campaign to help fund a new rescue vehicle as well as to rebuild the existing fire station, which is no longer large enough to house existing vehicles, conduct training exercises nor house on-duty firemen.

The new truck has four sets of life saving extrication tools and a portable winch to provide more flexibility and safety at accident scenes; the new truck is one of two used for every car accident requiring extrication along I-83 between the city line and Hereford, and along I-695 between Green Spring Avenue and Belair Road. It would replace a rescue vehicle purchased in 1985 for $200,000; the new rescue truck will cost $1,000,000 (the National Fire Protection Agency recommends replacement every 15 years).

LVFC has also instituted a domicile program which provides off-campus housing to five trained firefighters attending local colleges. These firefighters give LVFC a unique edge in being able to get equipment out the door in three minutes or less over 99% of the time.

While some members of our community are involved in the capital campaign or are volunteers at the station, LVFC is looking for volunteers to help with such things as grant writing, administrative duties, fundraising, and website support. Please contact LVFC at 410-252-4099, or through their website, **www.lvfc.com**.

B&H Contracting, Inc.

Building, Remodeling & Handyman Services

Small to Medium size projects –
Baths, small additions, garages

■ Very dependable ■ In business since 1987
■ Loves a challenge ■ References available in the Ruxton area ■ MHIC #32579

Brian Hill 410-515-0084

"Please Mr. Postman Look and See…"

By Barbara Guarnieri

". . . . Is there a letter, a letter for me?" The mailman in the Four Winds section of Ruxton usually answers "yes" to the question asked by the Marvelettes. Recently however, some delivered mail hasn't reached the addressees. In the quiet of daytime suburbia, mail thieves have rifled through some local mail boxes and stolen credit card statements/applications and checks.

In mid January, thieves were apprehended in Prince Georges County who had in their possession mail addressed to a Ruxton resident. When the resident was called about the discovered mail, she was not aware of the loss. The stolen mail included an IRS tax return check made out to her daughter. Tampering with delivery of a federal check landed the thieves with additional charges beyond federal mail fraud; they are still in a PG County jail awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, a different Four Winds resident alerted RRLRAIA of the fraudulent use of her credit card in December. An unused credit card with a zero balance suddenly had a four figure 'convenience check' drawn against it. The resident suspected that the 'convenience checks' had been stolen from her mailbox. The matter was referred to the credit fraud department of the issuing bank.

When RRLRAIA Executive Director Peggy Squitieri checked the addresses of the two residents, she discovered they were neighbors. When she notified them of the connection, they remembered that they had also had a four figure 'convenience check' fraudulently cashed in their name in December. Their bank had contacted them immediately since such activity was not part of their normal 'account profile.' Prince Georges County police were notified of the related incidents as was the Four Winds Neighborhood Association. At least five other residents in the greater Ruxton area reported mail thefts during this time.

Our neighborhoods appear to have been specifically targeted by a mail theft gang. Towson Precinct's Community Outreach Officer Steve Fink says low density neighborhoods with mail boxes a distance from the house are easy targets for this type of crime. In addition, thieves have easy ingress/egress to and from major roads.

The next time you begin to sing "…So many days you passed me by…." don't immediately blame your lover or the postman. Unfortunately, there are people out there who want to break much more than your heart.

If you suspect your mail has been stolen, contact Baltimore County Police ((410) 887-2222) and the local U.S. Postal Inspection Service ((877)-876-2455). USPIS Officer Nathan Houpt is investigating the most recent spate of thefts. If you believe your identity has been compromised, call (877) 438-4338, the ID Theft Hotline of the Federal Trade Commission. Mail thefts can also be reported on the following U.S. Postal Inspection Service website: **https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/contactUs/filecomplaint.aspx**

USPIS advises taking the following steps to protect your mail:

- Do not post mail in the box with the flag up. Known as an easy 'red flag theft' this often involves checks used to pay bills.
- Retrieve your mail as close to delivery time as possible.
- Stop you mail while away or have a neighbor or friend pick up mail each day.
- Consider installing a locking mailbox (can be purchased on-line for $99.00 and up). You can also opt to have your mail delivered to a local post office box.

Access
NURSING SERVICES

Small enough to embrace you, large enough to support you

The comfort and care of your loved one is our most important priority. We have been providing skilled care, respite care and companion services in the Baltimore area for over a decade. We are an RN owned and managed company from a long time Baltimore family.

RNs ■ LPNs ■ Nursing Aides ■ Companions

Call Us to Discuss Your Specific Needs
24 hours per day/7 days per week

Phone: 410-321-5560 Fax: 410-321-5565

Visit our website: www.accessnursing.com

Licensed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

JCAHO Accredited

Lug Your Rug and Save – The Kleenize Story

By Bliss McCord

Wayne Spangler, son of the original Mr. Kleenize, Paul Spangler.

Approaching Kleenize Rug Cleaners on Falls and Shoemaker roads seems like entering a time warp. The sign bearing the company name with its *Lug Your Rug and Save* motto feels as familiar as the Gill's Garage sign on Joppa Road. The motto, coined by company founder Paul Spangler, suggests a strategy for saving money that is still welcome today. The Spanglers have kept the business looking pretty much as it did fifty years ago, but somehow the old place still fits 'snug like a bug in a rug' along Falls Road.

Wayne Spangler, Paul's son and this generation's Mr. Kleenize, has a keen interest in history and a memory for detail. He is a delightful raconteur who takes obvious pride in his family's business. His rug cleaning and repairing company has received its share of accolades for excellence. In 2004, it was designated "Best of Baltimore" by *Baltimore Magazine*. It has also been cited for excellence by *The City Paper* and was even mentioned in the book *The Charms of Charm City*.

Kleenize is one of the oldest businesses in continuous operation in the Lake Roland area. Kleenize has cleaned and repaired all kinds of rugs at the current 6300 Falls Road location since 1947. Paul began with partners but, in time, took sole possession of the building and land. Kleenize looks much the same from the front as it did on those summer days when little Wayne accompanied his parents to work because there was no one to watch him at home. In those days, the Jones Falls Expressway, even the Beltway, were shadowy promises in the future, and young Spangler and a friend wandered the fields in the area, trapping tadpoles and wading in the Jones Falls. The only businesses in the area were Valley Mart (now Kellogg Collection), and a small gas station at the Sunnyfields location. Mostly, there were stretches of fields and trees, with Falls Road running down the middle. At one time the Neild family lived in the house next door to Kleenize. Wayne remembers how during the holidays, the Neilds made fruitcakes and sold them to local department stores like Hochschilds and Hutzlers.

The physical plant has grown considerably with special areas for special needs. There is a repair room. There is the cleansing room where dirty rugs are hooked to rollers which pull them across a tabletop contraption to be scrubbed by brushes with special detergents. Rinsed and wrung out by other machinery, they emerge in yet another room where they are attached to giant hangers connected to the ceiling. As they march in progression across the room, they are dried by giant fans circulating air. Once dried, they are inspected and if found sufficiently clean, are placed on yet another table and rolled for pickup or delivery.

Asked to recall memorable clients or events, Wayne mentioned the time someone from the show "Homicide" came into the shop inquiring about the ingredients of their cleaning solution. It seems that they were doing research for an upcoming episode in which someone was poisoned with rug shampoo. Then, there was the time they had to drive to an estate on the Wye River on the Eastern Shore for a rug pickup. Wayne remembers that the house was huge and beautiful and was home to a large family. What impressed him most was that there were separate bathrooms for the boys and the girls in the family, as in a motel lobby. He thinks the home was later sold to the Russian Embassy, which used it to entertain dignitaries on weekends.

When asked about the past, Wayne wandered out of the office and after rooting around, returned with several photos and pieces of memorabilia. Some photos were of his father. Others were of the neighborhood back in the '40s. The best was the very first receipt ever issued by Kleenize in 1947—a $2.16 charge for cleaning a rug pad.

Greater Ruxton Area Foundation Update

Joseph M. Coale, President

The Greater Ruxton Area Foundation concluded its development drive in January and would like to thank all those *community patriots* who gave so generously. These donations, along with a $5,000 grant awarded by the Baltimore County Office of Community Conservation, will enable the Foundation to continue its program of beautification and preservation in 2009.

Our budget was approved by the Foundation board at the February meeting and includes such projects as further restoration of the century-old privet hedge that runs along Bellona from Boyce to Joppa. Each year the Foundation plans to add a segment to this project. We are hoping the vacant land on the west side of Bellona from the Ruxton Road bridge south to the Shell station will be cleaned and planted with a meadow concept of wild flowers. The Rider House will have porch and rear maintenance done this spring to keep it in good repair for service to the Ruxton/Riderwood/Lake Roland communities. Appropriately designed storm windows will be crafted for the second floor that will be virtually invisible from the street. As the number of our projects increase, we will dedicate more of our operating budget to maintenance and upkeep. We would like to recognize the Lawn Doctor (Clark Parriott), Phil Humbertson of State Highway Administration, Tim Burgess of Baltimore County Department of Highways, and our County Councilman, the Honorable Kevin Kamenetz for their invaluable assistance. Absent their participation, our progress could not have been achieved.

Holiday Party Spreads Warmth in Community

By Beth Purvis

It may go back to caveman days when the clan gathered around a blaze at night, but there is something primeval about a fire and its ability to bring people together. Increasing sales of fire pits evidences this, and so does the popularity of RRLRAIA's annual Holiday Party in the Woods, which was held on December 21.

As the sun dipped low on the horizon, 100 people of all ages gathered on the old rugby field off L'Hirondelle Club Road to greet friends old and new, sing carols, sip hot chocolate and cider, and stoke internal furnaces with other goodies. Some faces were familiar, people who consider this event a traditional part of the season. Others were new or were back after a lapse of several years—grandparents returning with a new generation. Competition to see who could eat the most toasted marshmallows was intense this year, as gloved fingers threaded multiple gooey confections on sticks. Hopefully, for the victor, the sweetness of triumph overshadowed the agony of over-consumption!

At left, children wait to talk with Santa. Above, Fireman Henry drives Santa's sleigh. Below left and right, toasting marshmallows by the fire.
Photos courtesy Katie Poe and Rob Horst.

As in years past, Santa arrived by fire engine (courtesy of the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Department) to the delight of children who quickly lined up for a last-minute word with "The Man." Afterwards, an old-fashioned carol sing capped a perfect evening. From the contented faces illuminated by the fire, it is clear that this year's Holiday Party was quite a success.

The Association wishes to thank Graul's for their donation of delicious cookies; Santa's driver (Jamie Cahn); our fire-tenders, carol leaders, cooks and other volunteers, all of whom made this Holiday Party such a hit. A special thanks goes to Tom Mooney for the starring role he played (incognito, of course).

Santa arrives with bells on.

I've been a good girl, Santa.

You're never too young to attend the RRLRAIA Holiday Party in the Woods.

Cheers!

New strategies for extraordinary times.

YW GC Yerman Witman Gaines & Conklin Realty

The Strata Group

Baltimore Metro 410.583.0400
Bel Air 410.420.6778
Federal Hill 410.727.0606
Canton 410.732.3030
Phoenix 410.667.0801

YWGCrealty.com

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary people with visionary thinking.

YERMAN WITMAN GAINES & CONKLIN REALTY,

your Realtor® for today and tomorrow.

The real estate market of today requires new thinking and strategy.

Turn to

Yerman Witman Gaines and Conklin Realty.

We're local experts that know how to effectively market your home.

Find all Open House information on our website.
YWGCrealty.com

Five Convenient Locations:

Clarkview:	Bel Air:	Phoenix:	Federal Hill:	Canton:
1425 Clarkview Road	435 S. Main Street	14346 Jarrettsville Pike	1113 Light Street	2775 Lighthouse Point East
Baltimore, MD 21209	Bel Air, MD 21014	Phoenix, MD 21131	Baltimore, MD 21230	Baltimore, MD 21224
410.583.0400	410.420.6778	410.667.0801	410.727.0606	410.732.3030

Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland

Sold Properties from October, 2008 – January, 2009

Courtesy of the Whit Harvey Group,
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

ADDRESS	SETTLE DATE	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
1504 Boyce Avenue	10/17/08	949,500	940,000
108 Brightwood Club Drive	2/6/09	219000	250,000
8326 Carrbridge Circle	11/18/08	455,000	
609 Charles Street Avenue	12/12/08	624,825	605,000
645 Charles Street Avenue	12/12/08	425,000	415,000
1838 Circle Road	10/9/08	2,350,000	2,500,000
6610 Darnall Road	10/10/08	1,985,000	1,900,000
7829 Ellenham Avenue	11/25/08		800,000
10110 Falls Road	11/10/08		310,000
5 Farview Drive	1/13/09	995,000	948,000
901 Hillstead Drive	12/18/08	1,786,500	1,650,000
910 Hillstead Drive	11/25/08	1,695,000	1,650,000
1904 Indian Head Road	11/26/08	1,145,000	1,010,000
8204 Jeffers Circle	1/27/09	315,000	307,500
2 Johnson Mill Road	12/10/08	830,000	795,000
7516 L'Hirondelle Club Road	1/16/09	995,000	950,000
6000 Lakehurst Drive	12/29/08	385,000	385,000
1822 Landrake Road	11/26/08	399,000	355,000
1619 Landon Road	10/14/08		375,000
1802 Leadburn Road	11/14/08		248,000
1406 Malvern Avenue	12/8/08	819,000	805,000
6815 Newstead Lane	12/12/08	874,900	755,000
1208 Robin Hood Circle	11/8/08		350,000
15 Ruxlea Court	11/25/08	850,000	806,250
1 Ruxton Hill Road	12/11/08	1,175,000	1,050,000
8007 Strauff Road	11/25/08		475,000
813 Trafalgar Road	11/26/08	375,000	325,000
1403 Valley Crest Avenue	12/29/08		399,000
1706 Willow Avenue	1/23/09	349,500	325,000

If you want to
make Alzheimer's less difficult,
start here.

If you're caring for someone with Alzheimer's, chances are you're frustrated and uncertain about what to expect and how to cope. But there are ways to maximize your loved one's quality of life and independence.

Consider an Assisted Living Residence dedicated to Alzheimer's care.

If you decide you need additional help, there are places you can turn. Arden Courts is residential assisted living dedicated to people in the early to middle stages of Alzheimer's. Every detail is designed to make life simpler and more fulfilling for residents.

Look for a company with experience, not promises.

Arden Courts is part of HCR ManorCare, a company with more than 40 years of experience caring for seniors and their families. We have the expertise and experience to help simplify and enhance your loved one's life.

8101 Bellona Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
410-847-9400

Arden Courts℠

To schedule a consultation with one of our dementia specialists, call 410-847-9400.

Slow Down – You May Save a Life!

By Heidi Frank

Virtually every street within the RRLRAIA has homes. You may not consider this as you rush down Charles Street, Falls Road, or Bellona Avenue. On a regular basis the people who live in those homes and frequent neighborhood businesses—our neighbors—become pedestrians, even if it's just a stroll to the mailbox. Others are more regular pedestrians—the dog walkers, the joggers, and of course the kids. Are they safe?

How Safe Are Pedestrians?

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that one of the most effective ways to cut down on pedestrian accidents is to reduce traffic speed. Vehicle speed matters a great deal when an accident does occur. Consider these statistics from The Federal Highway Administration's PEDSAFE website:

Vehicle Speed	Survival Rate
20 mph	95%
30 mph	55%
40 mph	15%

** calculations from www.calculatoredge.com*

Clearly, speed makes a difference in the pedestrian survival rate. Slower speeds may also prevent accidents altogether by giving the driver and pedestrian more time to react.

How Much Time Is Saved by Driving Faster?

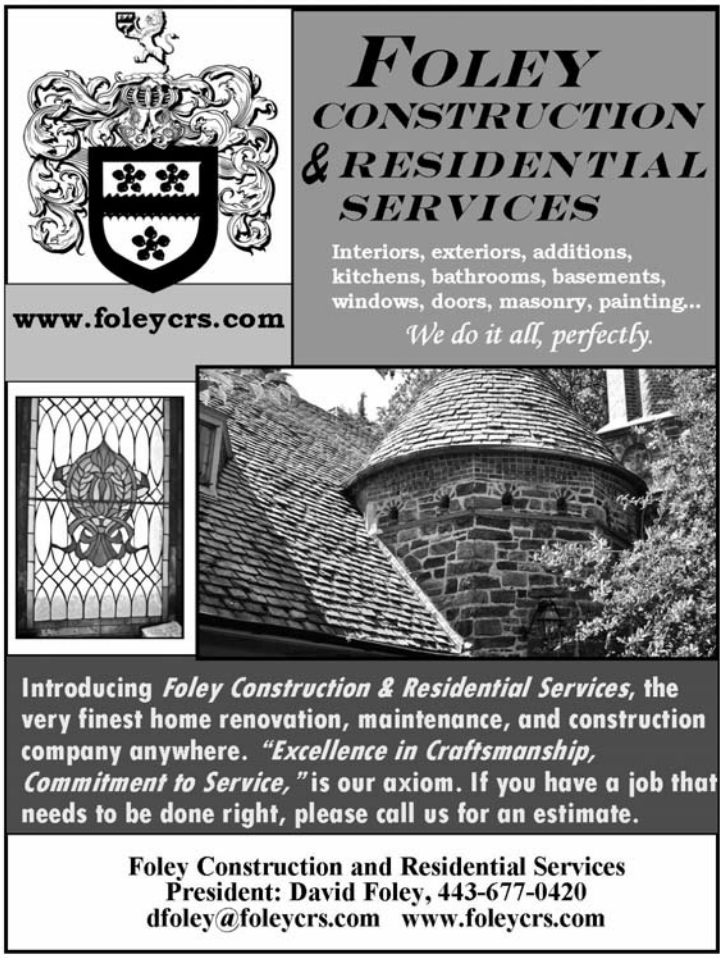
Taking a few examples in our community, compare the time it takes to drive these distances at various speeds.

Start	End	Distance	Time @ 25 mph (min:sec)	Time @ 30 mph	Time @ 40 mph
Thornton & W. Joppa	Thornton & Landrake	.3 miles	0:43	0:36	0:27
Malvern & Charles	Malvern & Bellona	1.13 miles	2:45	2:15	1:41
W Joppa & Bellona	W Joppa & Bosley	2.1	5:02	4:12	3:09

Thornton Road carries Riderwood Elementary School traffic as well as neighborhood traffic and vehicles bypassing Charles Street to points north of the Beltway. The school is located on Landrake. At 40 mph drivers save 9 seconds over the posted speed of 30 mph from Joppa to Landrake Road. Given the increased risk to pedestrians, is the time savings justified? Does saving one minute make a great difference in your day as you drive on Joppa Road ten miles over the posted 30 mph? One minute is also the time you save if you drive 40 mph the length of Malvern.

Few people choose to walk today. Pedestrians have retreated in the face of the potential dangers from speeding vehicles and aggressive drivers. Recently, a Dulaney High School student was killed by a car while walking home from school. While the facts of that accident are still uncertain, a young man is no longer with us. Not long ago we had an accident in the RRLRAIA area. A young girl collided with a car while riding her bicycle. She suffered a severe concussion. Because the car was traveling at 20 mph, greater injury was avoided.

We each need to consider our part in public safety. Speed matters—slower speeds prevent accidents and reduce the severity of injuries when accidents do occur. Those of us who live in this neighborhood need to set the standard by complying with the speed limits. Remember, if you are driving the speed limit on a single lane road, then everyone else behind you must also!



Victory Gardens

By Frances Horich

Locavores, Slow-Food Movements, Eat the View, Go Green, Live Rich

Have you noticed these phrases being bandied about recently? With times being what they are, everybody's looking for new ways to live and gardeners are no exception. During World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt introduced the concept of Victory Gardens to Americans by planting a vegetable garden on the White House lawn. Today Michael Pollan is pushing the "Eat The View" movement by encouraging the Obamas to take up some of the South Lawn at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and replace it with vegetables.

What's going on here? It's a convergence of issues, a "perfect storm", if you will. The economy is causing us all to look for ways to save money. It is far cheaper to grow your own food than to buy it at the store. That leads us to ask where our food comes from? If you shop at a traditional super market, how was the produce grown? How fresh is it? Consider the economic and environmental cost of fuel and packaging. So, if health is a concern for you, veggies and fruits that aren't over-sprayed, manipulated and held past their "pull by" date are a plus. Since we're thinking about our health, how about the exercise the gardener gets cultivating crops!

These are all compelling points. So how does one become a vegetable gardener? Slowly and with a little bit of education! I'll begin by recommending two books which have been around a long time. One is *Crockett's Victory Garden*, published by WGBH Educational Foundation and James Underwood Crockett, a month-by-month guide. The other is *Garden Way's Joy of Gardening* by Dick Raymond (Garden Way Publishing). Between these two books, all questions will be answered.

I offer a few pointers so you can begin the fun right away. Start small, even as small as a container. For example, plant a strawberry jar full of your favorite herbs and sit it on the front stoop—fun and useful! The only rule is to give your containers plenty of sun. I have a friend who is somewhat sun-challenged. He puts his tomatoes on wheels and moves them around all day!

Not sure you want to make this kind of commitment? Do as I do and simply put some vegetables in your existing border gardens. I love my lettuce border seeded directly into the soil in early spring along the kitchen path. It shines until the weather gets too hot and the lettuce bolts. By that time the plants behind have grown up to take over the space. When the weather starts to cool in September, I plant again for fall. Or you could try fruitful bushes. One of the loveliest ornamental shrubs I know is the blueberry bush—spring bloom, summer fruit and fall foliage. What more does a garden need?

So, baby steps and before too long you'll be hooked and looking for more room for your fruit orchard, corn patch, asparagus hedge and herb parterre.

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.*

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sun 7:45 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM
Wed 4/8 7:15 AM Holy Eucharist & breakfast
Thu 4/9 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday liturgy with choir
Fri 4/10 10:00 AM Stations of the Cross for all ages
12 Noon Good Friday liturgy with choir
6:00 PM Stations of the Cross in church
Sat 4/11 8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter
Easter 4/12
7:45 AM Quiet worship in Church
9:15 AM Worship in Church with choir
11:00 AM Worship in Church with choir

Children are welcome at all services.
Child care is also available from 8:45 to 12:15.

CORNER OF BOYCE & CARROLLTON IN RUXTON
TELEPHONE 410 823-0122
WEBSITE WWW.GOODSHEPHERD-TOWSON.ORG

Towson Gardens Day

When: Thursday, April 23 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(Rain date: Friday, April 24)

Where: Towson Courthouse Fountain Square
(W. Pennsylvania & Baltimore Aves.)

Guided tour of Courthouse Gardens 11:00 to 11:40 a.m.

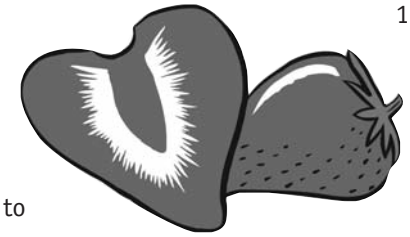
Plants • Crafts • Gifts • Food • Music • Exhibits • Awards

Sponsored by District III—Federated Garden Clubs of MD

For information call 443-275-1377

Spring Recipes from Graul's Market

Fresh Strawberries Cardinal



1 ⅓ cups fresh strawberries, sliced

⅓ cup orange juice, freshly squeezed

½ cup fresh raspberries

Combine strawberries and orange juice in a bowl and marinate for 1 to 4 hours.

Place raspberries into a food processor fitted with a chopping blade and process until pureed.

Press the puree through a fine sieve to remove seeds.

Drain strawberries and spoon into individual dessert dishes and top with pureed raspberries.

Makes 4 servings.

Approx. per serving: 31 calories; 0.3 grams of fat

Pineapple-Orange Slush

1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple in unsweetened juice

¾ cup evaporated skim milk

¼ cup frozen orange juice

Empty can of crushed pineapple into freezer-safe container and freeze overnight.

Break into chunks, place in a food processor or blender and puree.

Add milk and orange juice and process until the consistency of soft ice cream.

Serve immediately or pack into container and freeze for later use.

Makes 4 servings.

Approx. per serving: 151 calories; 0.5 grams of fat

Both recipes from *The American Cancer Society's Healthy Eating Cookbook* by The American Cancer Society.

Graul's Market is giving away a free reusable Graul's shopping bag with a certificate mailed to Graul's preferred customers. By reusing your shopping bags, you are helping to reduce the waste that goes into landfills.

Compost Bin Sale

Compost bins will be sold for $35 (including tax) at this first come/first served, rain or shine event. Only cash and checks accepted. Contact Tim Dunn for additional information. 410-887-2790 or **tdunn@baltimorecountymd.gov**.

Saturday, April 18

Ikea White Marsh – 8352 Honeygo Boulevard

Sunday, April 19

Franklin High School – 1200 Reisterstown Road

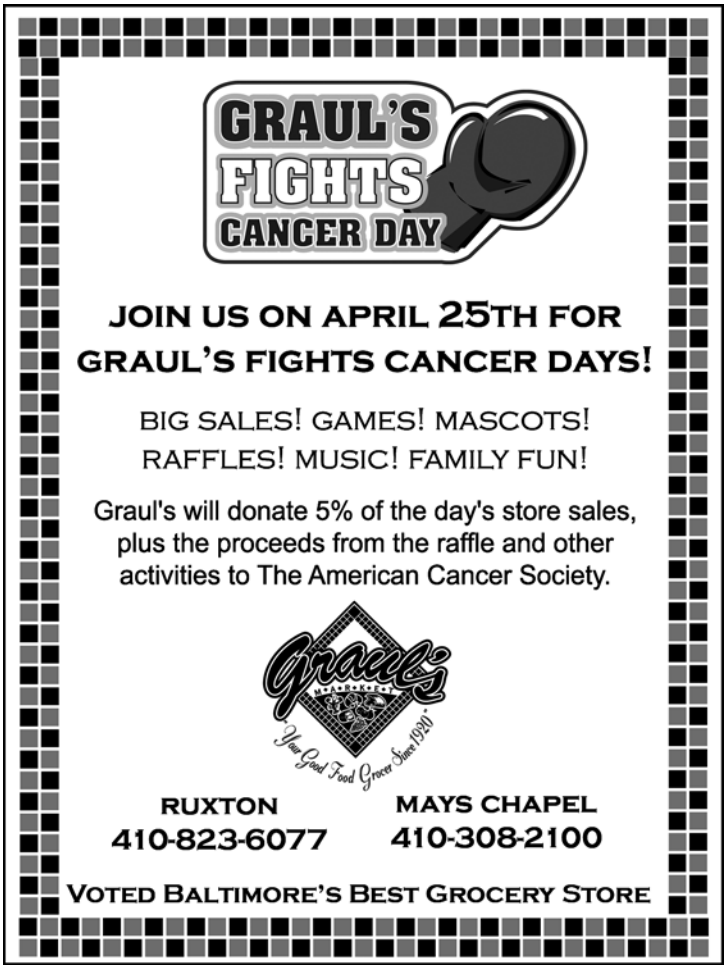
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

When – Sunday, April 5 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Where – Texas Landfill Drop-off Center
Warren Road, between York and Beaver Dam Roads

What – Baltimore County residents may drop off unwanted household chemicals, paints, pesticides, medicines, mercury thermometers, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, computers and home electronics, ammunition and automotive fluids for recycling or proper disposal. No trash will be accepted at this event.



Charles Street/I-695 Interchange Project

New Bridge, Roadway and Streetscape Improvements

Anticipated Completion—Fall 2011

Similar to projects along I-695 at Reisterstown Road, York Road and Dulaney Valley Road, the new Charles Street Bridge will have an architectural finish, ornamental fencing and decorative lighting designed to enhance the Charles Street corridor. The bridge will have sidewalks and bicycle lanes, new turn lanes approaching Bellona Avenue, and will be longer than the existing bridge to accommodate future I-695 widening.

Conceptual artistic rendering of the proposed Charles Street bridge.

The interchange improvements will involve modifications to Charles Street, Bellona Avenue and the ramps to and from I-695, including: replacement of the roundabout at Bellona Avenue with a traffic signal; construction of a traffic signal at the Outer Loop off-ramp and Bellona Avenue; and reconfiguration of the on-ramp to the Outer Loop / I-83, separating business traffic from ramp traffic.

New sidewalks and on-street bicycle lanes will be constructed along Charles Street between Kenilworth Drive and Bellona Avenue. New sidewalks will also be constructed along Bellona Avenue between Charles Street and Othoridge Road/Orchard Hills Park.

Streetscape improvements along Charles Street and Bellona Avenue will include landscaped medians and roadside areas as well as decorative hardscape finishes. Street trees, low plantings, and Belgium block paver accents will line the roadways, while new retaining walls will be textured to compliment the new bridge. Areas disturbed by construction along I-695 and Charles Street will be re-vegetated.

I-695 will be resurfaced and the I-695 Bridge over Light Rail will be improved with a deck rehabilitation and resurfacing. New interchange signing and lighting will be constructed throughout the project limits.

Project information, maps and illustrations can be viewed and downloaded at **www.marylandroads.com**. On the home page menu, select Keeping Current. Click Current Construction Projects Click SHA Projects Web Page. Select Baltimore County/City on the Maryland map. Click Baltimore Beltway Interchange at Charles Street (MD 139) Phase 1.

Questions/concerns about construction work or traffic operations? Contact David J. Malkowski at 410-321-2800 or **shadistrict4@sha.state.md.us**.

Source: Maryland State Highway Administration's Charles Street Interchange Project Newsletter—January 2009.

GERLAK CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Quality Interior Renovations

• Kitchens • Baths
• Sunrooms • Decks
• Family Rooms

Joseph Gerlak, Contractor
cell 443-604-1964 • office 410-377-0733
jgerlak@comcast.net
MHIC License # 12911

•••

Serving the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland community since 1985

Did you ever wonder how Ruxton got its name?

The community's namesake, Colonel Nicholas Ruxton Moore (1756-1816), was a Revolutionary hero, civic leader, congressman, and philanthropist. He owned a 300-acre farm on the west side of Roland Run (now the Circle Road area) over to the Jones Falls.

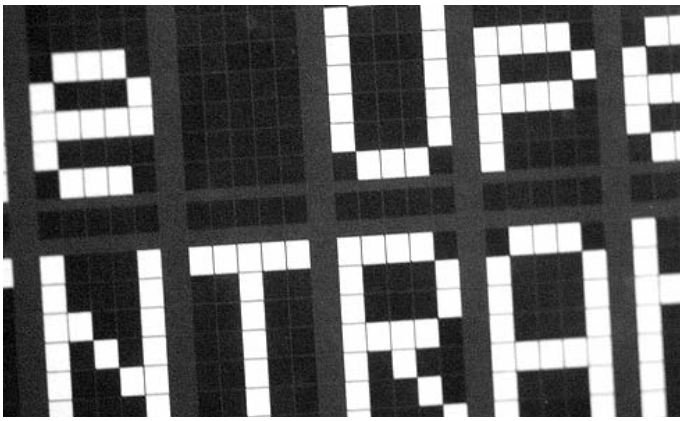
Source: Middling Planters of Ruxton 1694-1850 by Joseph M. Coale III

Signs of the Time

By Barbara Guarnieri

0%X$&#Z@! Do we have your attention? From the humble little corner church to the mega box store, everyone seems determined to grab our attention with a so called 'changeable copy' sign.

Here in Towson electronic signs have sprouted up along the York Road and Charles Street corridors. As these signs proliferate, County residents are becoming increasingly aware of the visual distraction these flashing, blinking, scrolling, strobing messages pose for drivers. Will our historic sleepy suburb soon look like an exploding Times Square?



Two years ago, in response to constituent concerns, the Baltimore County Council charged the Planning Board with reviewing issues surrounding electronic signs. Last February the Board took comments on the Planning Office determinations that current County regulations were neither explicit enough to adequately cover this newer technology nor were they very well enforced. The existing standard of change every 24 hours was difficult to police.

Ironically, shortening the interval between copy changes was determined to be more readily enforceable. After lengthy examination, the Board recommended a change to *once every hour*. The County Council took comments on this and several other proposed technical changes at a public hearing in July. The sign industry and local business owners were much in evidence. In deference to their concerns, the Council's proposed bill No. 106-08 would have restricted the time that a message could be changed to *every half hour*.

In deference to the concerns of community activists who also testified, the bill retained existing prohibitions on flashing, blinking, strobing or scrolling, as well as displaying logos or art graphics. The bill applied only to signs visible from roadways; it exempted public institutions.

As proposed, the bill seemed to please no one. RRLRAIA representatives attended the Council work session on the bill in early October. Businesses who owned changeable copy signs testified that the Council's bill would reduce their sign to nothing more than a static advertisement. They championed a *three second interval* as the ideal standard for catching a driver's attention. They also strongly opposed the long-standing prohibition on flashing, scrolling, etc. Neighborhood organizations objected to the much-reduced interval of change.

RRLRAIA expressed our concerns in letters to Councilmen Kevin Kamenetz and Vincent Gardina about the bill as proposed, advocating a return to the original Baltimore County standard of change every 24 hours. This remains the standard in Howard and Montgomery Counties.

Despite heavy opposition from RRLRAIA, other neighborhoods and the Greater Towson Council of Community Associations, Bill 106-08 passed the Council unanimously in early November.

Alarmingly, the bill was amended during that Council session to *allow changeable copy once every 15 seconds*! The vote on this amendment split the Council 4 to 3.

Councilman Gardina, who co-authored the amendment along with Councilmen Samuel Moxley and John Olszewski, suggested in an email to RRLRAIA that even "...*10 seconds* offers a reasonable time to get the message out but does not create an offensive or aesthetically displeasing appearance." Say what? How did this happen?

The International Sign Association touts this bill as "...a measured victory of their own making." *They* suggest that they "...organized a response from sign companies, business owners and the

Continued on page 15

WM F TURNER LANDSCAPE INC
Design & Construction

SERVING THE BALTIMORE AREA SINCE 1986

Custom Designs, Patios, Walls, Ponds, Water Features,
Decks, Shade Structures, Container Design.
Garden Installation and Maintenance.

www.turnerscapes.com

Landscape Contractors Association MD • DC • VA

M.H.I.C. # 43768 M.D.A # 1636

410 472-9333

2016 SHEPPERD ROAD MONKTON, MARYLAND 21111

Towson West Elementary Update

By Bliss McCord

At present, the planned construction of Towson West Elementary School on the same site as Ridge Ruxton School is proceeding on schedule. Work on the design is ongoing but bids should go out in late spring. Groundbreaking is planned for June and the school is slated to open in the fall 2010.

The good news is that 451 children who might have learned their ABCs in a trailer in 2010 will now be seated at spanking new desks at Towson West instead. The bad news is that those 451 new seats will only relieve the pressure on Towson's four elementary schools (Rodgers Forge, Stoneleigh, Hampton and Riderwood) by about half over the next five years. Towson Families United, the grassroots group whose hard work in 2008 helped bring about the current solution for overcrowding, states that by fall of 2013, the area elementary schools will again be in need of an additional 400 seats. Last year's overcapacity figure was the much-quoted 451. According to BCPS, it had grown to 554 by September 2008, in part necessitating a planned move next fall of Rodgers Forge's entire fourth grade to Dumbarton Middle School. In addition, with the downturn of the economy, some parents are finding it necessary to withdraw from or defer application to private schools. School system officials are presently looking at options to help resolve the problem. One idea under consideration is the construction of additions to Stoneleigh and Hampton elementary schools.

As the County continues to examine long-term solutions, there are active, ongoing efforts to require Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) and the Board of Education to adhere to rules, policies, and state law. The perception lingers that the Towson West project was rushed and that it failed to adhere to official procedure (especially regarding community input). The RRLRAIA has never received any response to letters expressing our concerns to the County Executive, the Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools, nor the President of the School Board. Most astonishing, no County or State agency seems willing or able to accept responsibility for oversight of the process by which this particular site was chosen or is proceeding.

Initially and in accordance with ordinary procedure, BCPS submitted its construction plans to the County's Development Review Committee. The DRC would have heard the concerns of objecting communities/individuals as part of its review process. However, shortly after submission of their plans, BCPS wrote to the County Department of Permits and Development Management asserting that BCPS was not subject to the development review process. They also contended that BCPS was not bound by County zoning regulations or restrictions because it was a "state agency". The Ruxton Ridge Community Association (RRCA), representing homeowners whose properties will be most closely impacted by the construction of the school, appealed to the Maryland State Department of Education to reverse this position. They responded that the County and the Board of Education had concurred in placing the project within their capital improvement program and the State did not have the authority to question their decision.

As further solutions are sought by County officials, let us be vigilant. The opinions and concerns of the communities whose children attend these schools, whose neighbors are affected by the construction, the increased traffic, and the increased activity of a new facility have been given a voice by the laws of our County and State. We *elect these officials to represent us*, and we need to be certain that we are heard fairly and adequately.

North Elevation Courtesy Baltimore County Public Schools website

South Elevation Courtesy Baltimore County Public Schools website

Volunteers Needed for April 4th Stream Clean-up

By Helga Morrow

For the past five years your Association has participated in the Jones Falls Watershed Association's (JFWA) annual Project Clean Stream. This year the event is scheduled for April 4th and again we ask for volunteers. Helga Morrow and her husband Dr. Richard Morrow have once more volunteered to be the site captains for the Falls Road area which stretches from Lakeside Drive to Old Court Road and includes parts of Robert E. Lee Park. Susan Nestler and David Ewell will be site captains for Roland Run, focusing on the area just off Thornton Road north of Joppa Road.

Accumulation of debris in one of our neighborhood streams.

Photo courtesy Joseph Coale

The JFWA is a volunteer-driven grassroots organization started in 1997 to protect and restore the Jones Falls and its tributaries. The organization is credited with bringing attention back to the river and building awareness of the stream and stream valley as natural resource assets for the community. JFWA organizes volunteer projects on the second Saturday of every month. Volunteers include community members, high school and local college students, as well as its staff and board members. If you want to join these projects contact Jenny Sabatier at (410) 366-3036 or **jsabatier@jonesfalls.org**.

Signs of the Time

Continued from page 13

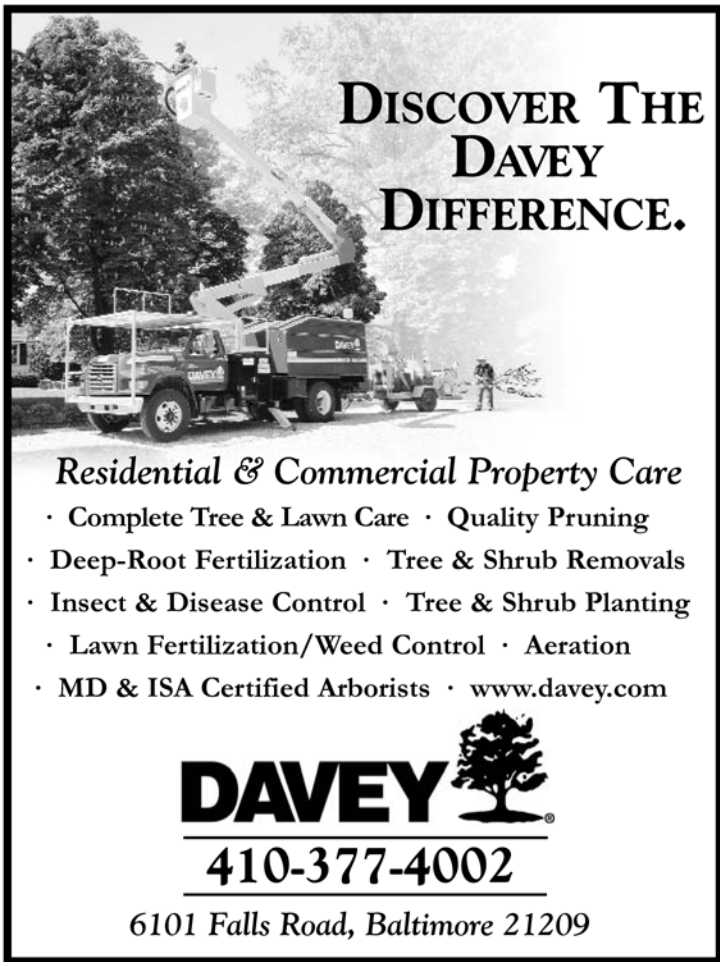
County Chamber of Commerce which resulted in favorable coverage…by local television and radio…and the *Baltimore Sun*."

The ISA website goes on to say "Based on numerous U. S. Supreme Court decisions, the on-premise commercial sign is protected by the First Amendment. It is speech—a civil right—and it may only be limited in certain circumstances." It would appear that this fight is far from over. Indeed, county tavern owner Harry Cohen stated after the Council vote, "We're not going to settle for this. It's not a done issue." (**www.baltimoresun.com**, 11/3/08)

Neighborhood associations are also not ready to settle for this. There are many facets of electronic changeable copy regulation about which RRLRAIA and other communities will remain vigilant. We would support stricter regulation of these types of signs in residential areas. Even more importantly, we will closely monitor attempts to reduce the allowable interval of change. But even as the code currently stands, imagine a streetscape dotted with continuous proximal signs.

Each sign's allowable 15 second break could vary by a second, providing potential changeable copy to the passing driver every second! The danger of such a prospect is obvious and the resulting visual clutter will surely degrade our communities.

What can you do? Write or e-mail the County Council and express your displeasure with this bill which will take effect on June 25, 2009. Ask that implementation be delayed until its impact has been given full scrutiny by all parties. ***Blink back Baltimore County****!*



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

Presort
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 171
Lutherville, MD

Hubble Bisbee
Real Estate Group

Voted Baltimore's Best Upscale Realtor

Top Producer
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Mid-Atlantic 2002-2008

Karen Hubble Bisbee, GRI, ABR
Associate Broker

Nancy C. Hubble, GRI, CRS, ABR
Associate Broker

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL

Office: 410-667-5610
www.HubbleBisbeeGroup.com

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Owned and operated by NRT LLC
Greenspring Valley 410-821-1700

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE