Neighborhood NEWS

Winter 2010-11

Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association

It's Not the Ruxton Mall!

by Bliss McCord

Although it seems like a long time ago, there are still area residents who remember the days when wives dropped off their husbands in the morning at the Ruxton train station in time to catch the "Ruxton Rocket" (a commuter train) to work in downtown Baltimore. Perhaps they stopped at Harrington's for groceries on the way home. Grown up little boys, like my husband, may even recall the exquisite agony of patiently waiting at the old Ruxton Pharmacy for an ice cream soda, and how cool and smooth the stainless steel counter felt beneath their folded arms on a hot summer day. These were typical scenes in Ruxton's commercial center of the 1950's and '60's.

Ruxton Village stores today are quite changed from the grocery store in the 1950's.

Although the neighborhood has no official village center, most people think of it as the collection of businesses stretching along Bellona Avenue at its intersection with Ruxton Road. Flanking LaBelle Avenue are buildings housing tenants of Ruxton Village Shops to the north and Ruxton Station to the south. These properties are owned and managed by the Graul family and, since 2008, Michael Weinfeld's Kittredge Properties respectively. Just south of Ruxton Station are the Ruxton Pharmacy, M & T Bank, Ruxton Car Care and, across Bellona, Ruxton Service Center, all properties individually owned and operated.

There has long been a grocery store on the corner of Berwick and Bellona. One of the early families to do business there was the Harringtons. Charles Harrington's father had purchased the property in 1919 from the Foster family (see *Neighborhood NEWS* Fall 2009 issue at **RRLRAIA.com**) and eventually built most of the brick building we see today. Throughout the fifties and sixties, Charles Harrington operated a grocery store and a liquor store in Ruxton Village. There was also a post office, which had moved from its home in the train station. (Sadly, soon after train service halted in 1959, the station mysteriously burned. The property was sold in 1963 and from the ashes of the railway station arose the Ruxton Township Apartments.)

Harrington also had a second grocery up the tracks in Riderwood. In 1973, Harold Graul, Jr., whose family had been in the grocery business since the twenties, acquired Harrington's and eventually expanded the original structure. Now owned (along with the Mays Chapel store) by Harold's two children, Dennis Graul and Kate Graul Poffenberger, Graul's is the anchor store for Ruxton Village, whose other tenants are Needles and Threads of Ruxton (a needlepoint shop), a hair salon and a women's clothing store.

It was around the same time (the early 1950's) Fred Thune purchased a frame house and property from the Duer family on the other side of LaBelle Avenue. The house was razed and replaced by the structure now known as Ruxton Station. Now home to nine boutique shops, such as J. McLaughlin and Linens and Lingerie, and services such as Rutland

Continued on page 18

INSIDE

RRLRAIA Goes Back to School for Annual Meeting *Page 3*

Welcome New Board Members *Page 5*

Home Sales *Page 6*

Saving A Seat at the Holiday Table *Page 8*

Community Plan 2010 Update *Page 10*

Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council's First Annual Meeting *Page 11*

Indoor Gardening for the Holidays *Page 13*

Gone A Century, But Not Forgotten *Page 14*

The Serpentine Barrens of Bare Hills *Page 16*

Ruxton-Riderwood-
Lake Roland
Neighborhood NEWS

Winter 2010-11

Table of Contents

1 It's Not the Ruxton Mall!
2 President's Letter
3 RRLRAIA Goes Back to School for Annual Meeting
5 RRLRAIA Welcomes New Board Members
5 Thank You Retiring Board Members
6 Home Sales
7 Cold Weather Split Pea Soup
8 Saving A Seat at the Holiday Table
10 Community Plan 2010 Update
11 Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council's First Annual Meeting
12 A Bridge for All Seasons
13 Indoor Gardening for the Holidays
14 Gone A Century, But Not Forgotten
16 The Serpentine Barrens of Bare Hills

Board of Governors

President – Kathy Mountcastle
1st Vice President – Barbara Guarnieri
2nd Vice President – Tom Weadock
Treasurer – Keith Murray
Secretary – Bliss McCord
Jeffrey Budnitz
Deborah Burker
Kelly Chew
Jamie Heffron
Frederick Hudson
Elyse E. Jacob
Peter Maloney
David Meese
Tracy Miller
Scott Murphy
Rob Nelson
Jessica Paffenbarger
Kathy Palencar
Tom Peace
Beth Purvis
Marsha Ramsay
Nettie Washburn
Justin Wiggs
Ande Williams
Sky Woodward
Executive Director,
Peggy Squitieri

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

I am honored to serve as president of the Board of Governors for the coming year. At a recent meeting of the Baltimore County Planning Board, one of the members remarked that we are one of the most effective community associations in the area. RRLRAIA's strength stems from a board full of talented people and an excellent Executive Director, Peggy Squitieri, whose extensive experience and knowledge provide continuity and ongoing support to the Board. It is a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of people.

This fall has been a busy season for the Association. We kicked it off with our annual meeting in September at the brand new West Towson Elementary School. Those who attended were treated to a tour of the state-of-the-art facility by WTES Principal Susan Hershfeld. The LEED-certified building is impressive, and the students seem to be happily ensconced in their new surroundings. However, many of our members have contacted our office about the large electronic sign on Charles Street at the entrance to WTES and Ridge Ruxton School. The sign had not yet been erected when we had our meeting at WTES, nor was RRLRAIA notified ahead of time that such a sign was being contemplated. Ironically, the sign appeared just weeks before Charles Street was formally dedicated as a National Scenic Byway. We have communicated to the principals of both schools our serious concerns, and RRLRAIA will work with the appropriate officials to address those concerns. The Association also plans to ask the County Council to take up legislation which would limit similar signs from cropping up elsewhere in residential areas.

We have finally wrapped up the year-long process of updating our Community Plan, and the Baltimore County Planning Board approved it on November 4th. It will be taken up by the County Council sometime in the next few months, and, if approved, will become part of the Master Plan for Baltimore County. This plan will serve as a guide for decision making for the RRLRAIA Board, Baltimore County officials and members of our community for the next decade. I encourage you to read the plan on our website, if you haven't already done so.

You may have recently seen a group of volunteers in yellow vests collecting trash along Falls Road. RRLRAIA is now participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program and we will be cleaning up stretches along Falls Road and Old Court Road several times a year. If you are interested in participating in one of our quarterly cleanups, please contact our office.

Every two years, we publish an updated membership directory that is available only to members of RRLRAIA. If you are a dues-paying member, you will receive a copy of the directory. A substantial portion of our dues also goes to publishing this quarterly newsletter. If you enjoy reading our newsletters, please do join RRLRAIA and help support this effort to keep you informed.

I hope you will join us at our annual Holiday in the Woods on Saturday, December 18th. We will have hot cocoa and a bonfire to keep you warm, and Santa might stop by to help usher in the holiday spirit.

Warm wishes to you and your family for the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mountcastle

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: **rrlraia@comcast.net.**

Nancy Worden Horst – Editor
Advertising – Kelly Chew
Graphic Production – DesignConcept

Newsletter Committee:
Barbara Guarnieri – Chair
Kelly Chew
Bliss McCord

Kathy Mountcastle
Jessica Paffenbarger
Nettie Washburn

RRLRAIA Goes Back to School for Annual Meeting

by Barbara Guarnieri

Members attending the 2010 RRLRAIA Annual Meeting were treated to a 'back to school night' on September 23rd, as West Towson Elementary School Principal Susan Hershfeld gave a tour of the newly constructed school. Participants visited a colorful art room, a playfully decorated pre-K room, spacious office and health suites, a beautiful glass-walled, fully stocked library and a high tech first grade classroom.

Outgoing President Kathy Palencar.

The school is LEED-certified with many recyclable building products and design features, including a 'green' roof. The wireless classrooms are outfitted with Promethean Boards—digital, interactive white boards that connect all students to a visible learner response system. Ms. Hershfeld stated that students love this new technology. For most people on the tour, the green features and the technological investment gave a new meaning to 'school daze'! (See Summer 2010 *Neighborhood NEWS* for an interview with Susan Hershfeld and a description of the technology in the school.)

Following the tour, RRLRAIA then-President, Kathy Palencar, convened the 2010 Annual Meeting in the multi-purpose room. Kathy recognized several community leaders in attendance including Delegates Susan Aumann and Bill Frank, and the Director of the Baltimore County Office of Planning, Pat Keller. She also noted that two former RRLRAIA presidents were in attendance, Jamie Cahn and Kimberly Warren.

Before asking for reports from the chairs of the RRLRAIA committees, Kathy ceded the floor to the two candidates for the Second District County Council seat, Jonathan Herbst (R) and Vicki Almond (D), who stated their qualifications and reasons for seeking a seat on the Council. Principal Hershfeld also added her thanks for the interest in her new school and encouraged neighbors to volunteer in the school.

Reports followed from the treasurer and the following committees: Enhancements, Newsletter, Events, Robert E. Lee Park, Membership, Traffic and Roads, Community Plan Update, Zoning and Nominating. Significant among the issues discussed was the deficit in the treasury necessitating a raise in the annual dues. A combination of increasing costs and decreasing investment assets posed a threat to the bottom line. Thankfully, it was reported that membership continues to increase so any potential revenue shortfall should be righted.

RRLRAIA Board of Directors gather following the Annual Meeting September 23rd.

West Towson Elementary School Principal Susan Hershfeld describes features of the school's roof garden to board member Tracy Miller and RRLRAIA member Bill Meyers.

RRLRAIA board member Tracy Miller and newly-elected Councilwoman Vicki Almond pay attention to Principal Hershfeld's presentation.

Photos courtesy Nancy Worden Horst

Additional items of interest discussed included a new Association effort toward cleaning the streets of the neighborhood (see photos on page 12); the much anticipated filing of the updated Community Plan with the County Council (see article on page 10); the successful launching of a governing board for the Park; the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council, which will develop and help to operate Park programs; a new effort to create a level of membership for commercial, retail and non-profit establishments which will, hopefully, lead to better communication of nearby residential concerns; and a successful effort at securing County help with traffic changes brought about by the new elementary school. The membership also voted on, and passed, a proposed motion to broaden the pool of allowed and potential speakers on behalf of the Association at County hearings. Members were encouraged to attend the upcoming winter social event, the Holiday Party in the Woods, on December 18th (see notice on page 4) and to mark calendars for Dumpster Day on April 30th, a perfect time to do your spring cleaning.

Finally, proposed nominations for filling RRLRAIA Board vacancies were announced and approved by the membership. New members are Kelly Chew, Peter Maloney and Sky Woodward. The new slate of Board officers was announced

Continued on page 4

Holiday Party in the Woods

Have fun with neighbors and friends
• enjoy cookies & hot chocolate • sing carols
• visit with Santa

Date: Saturday, December 18, 2010

Time: 4 – 6 p.m.

Place: Old Rugby Field between Robert E. Lee Park and Light Rail

Park on L'Hirondelle Club Road

Dress warmly • Wear boots • Bring flashlights

No dogs, please

Questions? Call 410-494-7757 or email rrlraia@comcast.net

Back to School for Annual Meeting

Continued from page 3

and approved after the general meeting by the Board. Officers include President Kathy Mountcastle, First Vice President Barbara Guarnieri, Second Vice President Tom Weadock, Secretary Bliss McCord and Treasurer Keith Murray. Two retiring Board members, Helga Morrow and Steve Allen, were recognized for their diligent service to the Board and the community. After receiving a small token of appreciation for her considerable service to the Board, President Kathy Palencar then 'passed on the gavel' and ended the meeting.

RRLRAIA past presidents Kimberly Warren and Jamie Cahn are intrigued by the new West Towson Elementary School.

Photo courtesy Nancy Worden Horst

RRLRAIA Welcomes New Board Members

Members of RRLRAIA elected three new members to its Board of Governors at September's annual meeting. It is the goal of the nominating committee to propose people whose skills contribute to a well-rounded board, and this year's new members will undoubtedly fulfill that aim and contribute to an already strong group.

New board members Kelly Chew, Sky Woodward and Peter Maloney.

A finance major at University of Delaware, Wilmington native Kelly Chew earned her M.B.A. from Loyola College of Maryland. After working in Wilmington for J.P. Morgan, she married and moved to Baltimore, where she worked first at Fidelity and Trust Company and then at T. Rowe Price, where she was a financial analyst and managed operational groups. Kelly is currently involved with the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle, a philanthropic organization composed of women whose goal is the improvement of the lives of disadvantaged women and children in Baltimore City and County. She is also involved with the Baltimore Community Foundation. She and her husband, Paul, have lived on Pratt Avenue for 13 years. Kelly has already volunteered to work to improve the RRLRAIA website as well as take on the role as the point person for *Neighborhood NEWS* advertising.

Sky Woodward, her husband Art Arthur, and young son have lived on Malvern Avenue since 2004. Sky is an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC, and practices civil litigation in areas of class actions, products liability, toxic torts, premises liability, environmental liability, constitutional law, election law and business disputes. Past president of Downtown Baltimore Child Care, Inc. (DBCC) and Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc., Sky continues to serve on several panels and organizations devoted to preschool education as well as to the legal profession. You may even see her on WMAR's (Channel 2) "Square Off" where she is a frequent guest commentator. No doubt Sky's legal expertise and counsel will be a valued asset on the board.

Peter Maloney and his family (two grown children) have lived in the area for 36 years, the last 20 on Falls Road in the Bare Hills neighborhood, bordering on the Robert E. Lee Park. Peter's professional background is in the basic biomedical sciences (research and teaching) and he is a faculty member at the Johns Hopkins Medical School. He is also an associate dean for its nearly 1,000 graduate students. Both Peter and his wife, Gail Stetten, have been active with the Falls Road Scenic Route Group (she as president) since their arrival here and, most recently with the newly-formed Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council, of which Peter is the first president. A longtime RRLRAIA member, Peter's objective in joining the Board "is to ensure that the Association continues a productive and collegial partnership with the Bare Hills/Falls Road community. It is clear that our immediate area has attractions and assets that benefit all of us, such as the Robert E. Lee Park and the Bare Hills historic district. I want to make sure we are all constructively engaged in this relationship."

New RRLRAIA Board member Tom Peace
Photos courtesy Nettie Washburn

Finally, the Association is pleased to welcome life-long Baltimorean Tom Peace to the RRLRAIA Board. In early November, Tom enthusiastically agreed to serve out the term of a resigning director. Tom and his wife, Merle, have four children and live on West Joppa Road. A graduate of the University of Baltimore and Loyola College, Tom taught school for several years and worked in banking. The bulk of his career was spent working and volunteering in the non-profit sector, specifically in fundraising and event planning. For 40 years, he was able to satisfy his love of sports and teaching by coaching in area schools and for the Towsontowne Recreation Council. Now semi-retired, Tom is eager to help the Association achieve its community objectives.

The Board is fortunate that such talented volunteers have made a commitment to their community. Welcome Kelly, Sky, Peter and Tom.

Thank You Retiring Board Members

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to three dedicated volunteers who retired from our Board this year:

Steven A. Allen represented the Woodbrook area of our Association. Steve's ability to sort out and distill complex information while fairly representing all sides of a discussion will be missed.

Julie D'Ambrogi, a Rider Avenue resident, joined the Board in 2006. Julie served as treasurer and as the first advertising coordinator for *Neighborhood NEWS*. Julie's organizational skills and meticulous work behind the scenes have been invaluable to the Board.

Helga Morrow served on the Board for six years. A Falls Road area resident, Helga coordinated RRLRAIA's participation in the annual Jones Falls stream cleanup. During her two terms on the Board Helga was responsible for recruiting hundreds of volunteers and removing tons of trash from Robert E. Lee Park. Helga was also co-chair of the Enhancements Committee and an ardent champion of RRLRAIA's renewed focus on Bare Hills.

Thank you all for your many years of service.

Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland

Sold Properties from August 2010–October 2010

Courtesy of the Whit Harvey Group,
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

ADDRESS	SETTLE DATE	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
908 Army Road	8/18/10	895,000	845,000
1200 Berwick Road	10/20/10		400,000
6 Betty Bush Lane	9/20/10	1,685,000	1,400,000
207 Brightwood Club Drive	8/16/10		185,000
304 Brightwood Club Drive	8/24/10	325,000	200,000
402 Brightwood Club Drive	10/4/10	335,000	275,000
6308 Canter Way	9/28/10		611,277
8203 Carrbridge Circle	9/24/10	489,000	435,000
8335 Carrbridge Circle	10/19/10	450,000	438,000
6902 Charles Street	9/7/10	569,000	542,000
10 Dembeigh Hill Circle	8/19/10	645,900	610,000
24 Dembeigh Hill Circle	8/10/10		650,000
9 Devon Hill Road	10/15/10	649,000	600,000
100 Estes Road	7/15/10		1,300,000
1809 Indian Head Road	9/14/10	540,000	470,000
8204 Jeffers Circle	10/27/10	329,900	315,000
8206 Jeffers Circle	8/31/10	314,900	305,000
1400 Jeffers Court	10/25/10	250,000	230,000
1613 Landon Road	10/6/10		390,000
816 Loyola Drive	9/24/10	261,250	229,900
910 Malvern Avenue	8/11/10		581,500
1004 Malvern Avenue	10/7/10	599,000	550,000
1111 Malvern Avenue	8/16/10		650,000
1412 Malvern Avenue	10/7/10	885,000	750,000
1310 Maywood Road	9/1/10	1,045,000	962,500
41 Murray Hill Circle	9/16/10		690,000
1919 Old Court Road	9/2/10	1,095,000	960,000
512 Piccadilly Road	9/13/10	415,000	405,000
6205 Pleasant View Avenue	9/17/10	389,000	382,000
425 Range Road	9/17/10		300,000
7 Roland Court	8/19/10		1,150,000
301 South Wind Road	10/13/10		700,000
317 South Wind Road	10/8/10	675,000	620,000
418 Terrace Way	8/2/10		589,900
1320 Wine Spring Lane	9/8/10		629,000

Access
NURSING SERVICES

Care Beyond Compare

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

Thank You, Patrons!

RRLRAIA recognizes and thanks our Patrons for their support this year. We encourage you to patronize these good neighbors in the spirit of community cohesiveness. Thanks to:

- Applied Magnetics Lab, Inc.
- Arden Courts Towson
- Blakehurst
- Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church
- Burdette, Koehler, Murphy & Associates, Inc.
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Eddie's of Roland Park
- Falls Road Animal Hospital
- Graul's Market
- Hubble Bisbee Real Estate Group
- J. McLaughlin
- Jewels
- Kleenize Rug Cleaners
- L'Hirondelle Club
- Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart
- The Mitre Box, Inc.
- Needles and Threads of Ruxton
- Pickersgill Retirement Community
- Pro Lawn Plus
- Rutland Beard Florist
- Ruxton Animal Hospital
- Ruxton Professional Center LLP
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Trinity Assembly of God
- Valley Country Club

Cold Weather Split Pea Soup

Courtesy Graul's Market

"Perfect for cold winter evenings!"

1 cup diced ham
1 cup dried split peas
1½ quarts cold water
1 tsp. instant chicken bouillon
2 ribs celery, cut in 1-inch pieces
2-3 sprigs parsley
1 large carrot, peeled and quartered
1 large onion, quartered
1 tbs. chives
¼ tsp. onion powder
1 tsp. sugar
½ tsp. seasoning salt
1/8 tsp. freshly cracked black pepper
1 cup half-and-half

Combine the first 9 ingredients; bring to boil. Cover and simmer for one hour. Pour the soup and all seasonings into a blender or food processor to puree. Add half-and-half and reheat. Serves 6.

Note: A ham bone can be used in this recipe in place of the diced ham.

Serve with fresh crusty bread!

Saving a Seat at the Holiday Table

A Tribute to Cpl. Nicholas L. Ziolkowski

by Tracy Miller

Fall was Nick's favorite time of year. I know this because one evening, when I picked him up from a school event, I asked him. "October," he said. "I like the colors of October; I like the smell of October and Halloween is my favorite holiday. October is just me." Each year, we would get pumpkins and harvest the seeds. I'd roast and salt them and Nick and his older brother Peter would eat them.

The last time I roasted pumpkin seeds was in the fall of 2004. Nick, by then a U.S. Marine sniper, was in Iraq. As soon as pumpkins appeared in the markets, I bought them, roasted the seeds, kept some for Peter and myself and shipped off full containers to Nick.

Ruxton neighbors would often see Nick as he made his daily seven-mile run. He ran rain or shine, in the humid heat of summer or the deep cold of winter. Not only did he run, he also did daily physical training exercises. Many neighbors probably thought he was crazy; he wasn't, he was just determined to be a Marine. He made that decision when he was only a young boy of ten or eleven and never gave up the dream.

Cpl. Nicholas L. Ziolkowski (1982–2004).

As a pacifist, I wondered why he was interested in a military career. He told me, "Don't you see how

Continued on page 9

Arden Courts
Alzheimer's Assisted Living

When you're looking for dignified, upscale living for your loved one with a memory impairment, look past the ordinary. Discover a unique approach to answering the needs of your loved one. Arden Courts invites you to see our specialized approach, featuring an entire single story facility which provides a secure place to enjoy living, and gives you the peace of mind you deserve.

Our company has invested years of Alzheimer's research into the development and design of Arden Courts to ensure that your loved one is receiving quality dementia care. Private bedrooms, family-style kitchens, dining and living rooms complete each house which surrounds a "town commons," with each area providing cues to help your loved one live as independently as possible.

Discover the Extraordinary

Our approach centers on success-oriented programs and life skill assistance to ensure that your loved one is receiving quality dementia care and assistance.

Arden Courts caregivers, nursing staff, and program directors are specially trained to assist those with memory impairments working daily to provide gracious living indoors and out – on a campus featuring manicured grounds with pathways, outdoor gardens and terraces to provide the feeling of freedom and independence, while still providing safety and security for your loved one.

Arden Courts
Alzheimer's Assisted Living
8101 Bellona Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 847-9400

www.arden-courts.com/Towson

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

To arrange for your personal consultation with one of our dementia specialists, call 410-847-9400.

pretty it is here? I want to make sure that it [all this] is still here for my children and grandchildren." He saw the Marines as a way to help people. At the time, there was no war. His grandfather used to tell him stories of fighting the Nazis, protecting villages against the German invaders, helping citizens survive. Nick visualized himself in that role of protector.

Cpl. Nicholas L. Ziolkowski in Iraq, 2004

We moved to Ruxton Crossing in 1996 when Nick was 14 years old. He was a student at Boys' Latin, where he earned a reputation for mentoring younger boys and for being kind and helpful to all. Nick was a popular boy. When he started wrestling, he was elected co-captain of the team—in his first year in the sport!

Academics were not his strong suit and I think that's why the structure of the military was appealing to him. He felt that he could excel in that environment, and he was right—to a point. He joined the Marines after graduation and trained at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he did well. In basic training at Parris Island, Nick was named a series guard, one honored to carry a flag at graduation. He was also asked to be a survival swim instructor at Camp Lejeune. But, in keeping with his egalitarian outlook, he refused to take the tests that were required for promotion in rank. It was his contention that officers should recognize good leadership skills and promote on the basis of action, not a test.

Nick intuitively understood that a battlefield tests mettle and brains and that no amount of written preparation could separate the men from the boys. Unfortunately, he would have the opportunity to realize and prove his theory. In the spring of 2003, Nick's Marine platoon was called up to join in the military campaign, Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nick was shipped out to a naval flotilla where he spent eight months on the Iwo Jima, except for brief deployments to Albania or Liberia for refueling. He wanted to fight in Iraq and he almost got his chance. Members of his battalion were ordered to Mosul, Nick among them. Unfortunately, the airplane that was supposed to get his team there never showed up; he was furious.

Nick eventually did get to fight. He was a valiant Marine, a sniper by training; but he remained a thoughtful human being. Fighting in the Battle of Fallujah, Nick sought first to protect his comrades, but then to respect the properties of those dislocated by the fighting. One of his comrades told me that, when their team went into a building and found personal possessions, they wrapped and protected the abandoned items so that they would be preserved when the owners returned. Nick was sensitive to the fact that the war intruded on the lives of ordinary people who had little or nothing to do with starting it.

During the Battle of Fallujah on November 14th, 2004, Nick was killed in combat. I take some comfort in believing that he felt nothing and did not know. His death was a cruel and immediate tragedy for me, for his family and his friends. But in truth, it is a continuing tragedy for us all. Who knows what Nick would have become had he lived. His promise was such that I know he would have made the world a better place to live. In fact, he had already done just that.

At his memorial ceremony on March 4th at Camp Lejeune, his fellow Marines characterized Nick with these comforting words. "Corporal Nicholas Lee Ziolkowski, 'Ski,' was a fun loving man with a gift for bringing smiles and happy times to everyone around him." "Ski made every effort to keep a positive outlook and constantly worked to hone his ability to find the best in everyone."

Marine friends commented that he was one of the most moral and upstanding persons they knew. "Ski took time to enjoy what life had to offer in every way he could ... with his beliefs" and he stayed true to those beliefs…Enjoying life often included time with his family and friends, training or surfing. He valued every friend and expressed great love for his parents, for Peter and their families. Ski wanted very much for his little brother and sister…as well as Madelyn [his niece] to get to know him as they grew up. Maybe they still can…through us…He defined himself…[by] his actions. Corporal Nicholas Lee Ziolkowski was a man who was young at heart and mature far beyond his years."

As I write my own tribute to Nick, I think of how he could have been so many things but mostly I realize that he could have been something that is so rare today, a decent, honest man dedicated to helping others. For a child who loved Halloween, it is ironic that Nick lived such an unmasked life. I miss his profound humanity, especially at this time of year.

Just before the holidays in the year Nick was killed, I received a package in the mail. It included a box of roasted pumpkin seeds, returned as "undeliverable". It was the kind of poignantly absurd moment that Nick would have enjoyed. At our holiday celebrations we continue to leave an empty chair to honor all those who have given their lives in combat. Nick would not have asked you to grieve on his behalf; rather he would tell you to celebrate the freedoms that he so valiantly upheld. They are the most precious of gifts and he was duty bound to give them to you. I thank him every day for those gifts and hope you will, too.

Cpl. Ziolkowski's mother, Tracy Miller, is a member of the RRLRAIA Board.

For further information regarding support of our troops during the holidays and throughout the year, please visit **uso.org.**

Community Plan 2010 Update

The RRLRAIA *Community Plan 2010* is one step closer to adoption and inclusion in Baltimore County's Master Plan. The Baltimore County Planning Board held a public hearing in October where our plan received favorable reviews. At its next meeting, the Planning Board voted to endorse our plan and forward it to the County Council, which will hold its own public hearing, probably sometime after the first of the year.

We are proud of the accomplishments that resulted from our 2001 plan, which include:

- **Baltimore County's takeover of the management of Robert E. Lee Park**, something for which RRLRAIA has long advocated.
- **Creation of the Greater Ruxton Area Foundation**, a 501(c)3 organization. GRAF accepts tax-deductible conservation easements to encourage preservation of our open space. The Foundation also is responsible for many enhancement projects throughout the community such as restoration of the privet hedge along the light rail tracks.
- **Inclusion in Baltimore County's Design Review Panel process**. New residential construction and substantial additions on buildings within RRLRAIA boundaries are now subject to review by the County's Design Review Panel. The goal of the DRP is to encourage design excellence.
- **Restoration of the Rider House** for our Association office and meeting space. The idea of a home for the Association came out of the planning process of our *2001 Community Plan*. The c. 1880 Victorian Rider House at 8013 Bellona Avenue was set for demolition and the site was to become part of Arden Courts, the assisted living facility next door. An Association board member at the time, Joe Coale, convinced the owner of Manor Care (then parent company of Arden Courts) to save the house, which had served as the community post office long ago. Manor Care used the house as a sales office during construction. When Arden Courts was completed, Manor Care donated the house to the newly-formed Greater Ruxton Area Foundation. The Foundation spent the next several years restoring the house which is now listed on the Baltimore County Landmarks List. The serpentine landscaping wall is constructed of stones from the c. 1740 Bowen House, formerly on the GBMC campus, which was demolished during the winter of 2004/2005. Designed by community resident Carol Macht of Hord|Coplan|Macht, the wall was awarded Baltimore County Historical Trust's 2007 Preservation Project Award.

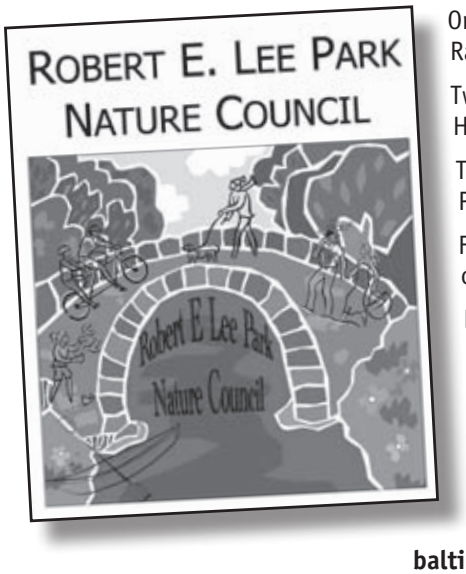
Now we look forward to an exciting new decade for our community. The County's agreement to take over the operation of the City-owned Robert E. Lee Park offers many opportunities. For this reason, the Park and the Bare Hills area are a major focus of *Community Plan 2010*. This document will guide the current and future boards of the Association.

You can request a copy of the plan by contacting our office or view it online at **http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Planning/communityplans/draftrrlraiaplan.pdf.**

We would like to express our appreciation to our consultants Al Barry and Nate Pretl of AB Associates, members of our Community Plan Committee, former Councilman Kevin Kamenetz, several Baltimore County agencies including the Office of Planning, the Planning Board, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Economic Development, as well as members of the Pikesville Greenspring Community Coalition and many others who also devoted their time and talent to this undertaking.

This sign on North Charles Street, a National Scenic Byway, has stirred up a controversy among some area residents.

Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council's First Annual Meeting



It was standing room only at the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council's First Annual Meeting held in Towson October 20th, 2010. The Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council (RELPNC), one of several nature councils chartered by Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, was formed by a group of dedicated volunteers meeting as an advisory committee for the park for the past year under the aegis of Rec & Parks. The work of the Advisory Committee included drafting by-laws and planning diverse projects in the park such as an off-leash dog park; park staffing (including rangers); historical and environmental programs; and how to accommodate the needs of the many users of the park, including children, bird watchers, naturalists, bicyclists, boaters (such as kayaks and canoes), families, dog walkers, hikers, joggers, residents and neighbors and those interested in fishing.

Event organizer Charlotte Galley began the evening by welcoming everyone and outlining the program. She thanked County Executive Jim Smith and Councilman Kevin Kamenetz for their work in obtaining funding for improvements to the park and in their persistence in realizing the transfer of control of the park from city to county supervision. Charlotte also recognized key players from Baltimore County Recreation & Parks for their assistance and guidance in creating the Nature Council: Director Bob Barrett; Bud Chrismer, Deputy Director for Nature & Recreation Resources; Beahta Davis, Area Coordinator for Nature & Recreation Resources; and Steven Kroll, a member of the Baltimore County Board of Recreation who served as chairman of the Advisory Committee.

Planner and consultant Al Barry was then introduced. Mr. Barry discussed the park's prominence in the recently completed Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association's *Community Plan 2010*. Next, RRLRAIA board member Jeffrey Budnitz briefly reviewed the history of the transfer of the maintenance of the park from Baltimore City to Baltimore County. Bud Chrismer from Rec & Parks gave an update on improvements to the park and Elise Butler gave an overview of the Nature Council. Chairpersons of several RELPNC committees gave updates, including: Howdy Knipp, Recreation Committee; Peter Maloney, Dog Park Committee; Elise Butler, Environment, Education & Historic Preservation Committee; and Charlotte Galley, Residents' Committee. Other committees include: Civic and Community, Membership and Nominating.

Prospective board members standing for election were introduced. The following individuals, nominated by the RELPNC Nominating Committee to serve on the Board, were elected unanimously for the terms of office as indicated:

One year terms: Bruce Boswell, Aviva Hord, Marsha Ramsay, Gail Stetten

Two year terms: Jeffrey Budnitz, Nancy Horst, Howdy Knipp, Helga Morrow, Timmy Ruppersberger

Three year terms: Elise Butler, Dwight Johnson, Peter Maloney, Rick North, Larry Zeafla

Following the election of the board, the following officers were elected:

President: Peter Maloney

Vice President: Larry Zeafla

Treasurer: Jeffrey Budnitz

Secretary: Nancy Worden Horst

Want to get involved or learn more about the park? Contact us at **releepark-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov** or 410-887-4156.

Design Review Required for New Construction and Substantial Additions

Did you know? Before you can build a new house or add a substantial addition to an existing structure on any property within Association boundaries your plans are subject to approval by Baltimore County's Design Review Panel.

The Design Review Panel (DRP) was established by Section 32-4-203 of the Baltimore County Code 2004, as amended. The goal of the DRP is to encourage design excellence through the application of design guidelines contained in Baltimore County's Master Plan, the Comprehensive Manual of Development Policies, and adopted community plans, as applicable. The general charge for the DRP is to assure the overall quality of a project. In residential DRP areas, the panel may increase setback requirements for a proposed development. The DRP acts in a technical consulting capacity; its recommendations are binding on Baltimore County hearing officers and county agencies.

For more information, contact: Lynn Lanham at 410-887-3480 or **mlanham@baltimorecountymd.gov** or Jenifer Nugent at **jnugent@baltimorecountymd.gov**.

A Bridge for All Seasons

The interchange at I-695 and Charles Street reached a major milestone this summer with the completion of the new southbound span of the bridge. In late August all traffic was shifted from the old bridge to the new bridge so the remaining demolition work could begin.

Meanwhile, site preparation is underway for the new partner span of the bridge, including pile driving for the steel supports. Construction will continue throughout the winter for this and several other associated projects: a new ramp from Bellona Avenue to I-695 and I-83; retaining walls along Charles Street; reconstruction of the I-695 west ramp from Charles Street; and rehabilitation of the I-695 bridge over the light rail. Additionally, signal improvements will be made throughout the area.

The left turn ramp onto I-695 East from Charles Street south will remain closed throughout the fall. Traffic coming from Lutherville will be directed instead to the York Road entrance of I-695 East.

Watch for changes near the work zone at night when lane closures and shifts may be necessary to accommodate construction and large work vehicles. Some ramps may be temporarily closed for short periods for the same reasons. There will also be temporary lane closures on I-695 in both directions. Remember that the speed limit is 50 mph on I-695 in work zones and a camera has been posted to automatically capture speeders who exceed the limit by 12 mph.

When finished in spring 2012 the new bridge will be a wonderful enhancement at a very visible entry point to our community. Please be patient.

(Article based on information provided by the Maryland State Highway Administration)

Roadside Clean-up

Barbara Guarnieri, Peggy Squitieri, Debbie Burker, Helga Morrow bag the roadside trash on Falls Road.

Ande Williams, Barbara Guarnieri, Kathy Mountcastle take a break from cleaning up Falls Road.

Photos courtesy of Nettie Washburn

Indoor Gardening for the Holidays

By Frances Horich

I'm moving a little bit out of my comfort zone here, but some words about holiday plants have been requested, so I'll have a go. To begin with, a copy of *White Flower Farm Holiday Catalogue* is probably all you need, along with a bit of knowledge about growing things inside in containers. The same principles apply as for outside growing: you must provide the plant with its requirements in terms of space, soil, light, water, nutrition and temperature.

Begin with a survey of your house. Assess what kind of light and temperature control is available to determine where you can put what kind of plants. Of course, one of the best things about container gardening is that plants can be moved around. So, if you want a colorful pot of forced bulbs in a low light spot, you could get them to bloom under artificial lights and then move them into your dark corner when they are ready. Just remember that the less light anything gets, the slower the metabolism and, therefore, less water is generally needed.

I also think you can "holiday up" the plants you normally live with in your house, like a ficus tree or an ivy topiary, by adding ribbon, ornaments, perhaps berries from your *Nandina domesticata* (domestic bamboo) or *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry) or cones and pods sprayed with gold or silver paint.

If you are growing paperwhites, they can be beautifully supported, but not regimented, by graceful twigs stuck into the growing medium. We so often see a single *Amaryllis* in a pot, which is lovely, but how about trying multiple bulbs, at least five, in a large basket? That is a spectacular sight.

Perhaps you have potted some herbs to grow on a sunny window sill in the kitchen. Since most of them require good drainage, a gritty soil mix is in order. You can achieve this by adding some turkey grit to commercial potting soil. I would not recommend any of the soil mixes that include fertilizer as indoor plants don't require as much nutrition. For the holidays, how about placing some greens from your garden around the base of the pots? Needled evergreens, except for *Tsuga* (hemlock), and magnolia, last beautifully. My experience with *Ilex* (holly) is that it dries up very quickly. A few sticks of cinnamon in some of the pots are also a nice touch.

There are two other plants I would recommend trying for the holidays. *Cyclamen* is easy to obtain and tolerant of indirect light. As long as you water from the bottom consistently, but not too much, and deadhead as needed, *cyclamen* will last a very long time. The Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*) is a shade-loving perennial that grows happily in your garden, but potted up and brought inside it will dazzle with its white bloom and lustrous green foliage.

Happy holidays, fellow gardeners. Enjoy getting your hands into the soil in a pot while your garden takes a well deserved winter rest.

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.*

Graul's
Wine & Spirit Shop

20% OFF WINES

Valid only on 750ml wines
Excludes sale items
Coupon good for one shopping order
Not to be combined with any other offer/discount

7713 Bellona Ave., Ruxton, MD 21204 410-823-3500

Offer expires March 31, 2011
Present this coupon at time of purchase

RUINS OF RIDER HOME VIEWED

Neighbors Find Only Walls of Old Homestead Standing

[Reported for the *Baltimore Sun*.]

Many persons living at Ruxton and for miles around the surrounding country visited the ruins of the Rider Mansion yesterday, which was destroyed by fire Tuesday night caused by sparks from an open fireplace. Portions of the old stone walls are still standing, which give an idea of how homes were constructed more than a century ago, but the greater portion of the structure has been reduced to a mass of debris. The original building was erected 104 years ago but additions were made of more recent date. All the contents of the house burned with the building, as Mr. Edward Rider, the only occupant, was away at the time and nothing was saved by neighbors but a few old table pieces. The loss is estimated at $8,000, covered by insurance. The mansion had a commanding view of the surrounding country, as it stood on Ruxton Hill and was at one time in the centre of a large tract of land that took in a greater portion of that part of the country. It was one of the landmarks of the county and, when the news of its destruction spread over the county, many events that happened about it were recalled. It was erected in 1806 by Philemon Coale, one of Maryland's pioneer farmers, and has always remained in one family. Mrs. Mary Rider Haslup, the great-granddaughter of Mr. Coale, lived in the mansion for many years.

Source: *Baltimore Sun*, December 29th, 1910

Gone A Century, But Not Forgotten

by Joseph M. Coale

December 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the fire that took the Rider House that once stood proudly at what is now 1402 Locust Avenue. For many years prior to development, Locust Avenue was the driveway to the Rider farm at the very top of the hill. When my research began for the *Middling Planters of Ruxton* in the mid-1970's, I had the good fortune of meeting three granddaughters of Edward Rider Jr.: Ethel, Mary and Mildred Rider. All nonagenarians, they lived in a large Victorian home on Church Road in Owings Mills, had been school teachers and remained spinsters all their lives. After an initial period of suspicion, they finally agreed to speak with me about their childhood spent at Malvern, the 250 acre farm that was centered on where Graul's is today.

Riders at home: l to r Elizabeth Rider, Mrs. Edward Rider, Jr., Edward H. Rider, Florence Rider, Dr. William B. Rider

On my second visit, they revealed that their uncle had been a photographer and had taken pictures of north Baltimore and the Rider farm. I pleaded with them to see the photos. One of the images shows Malvern, the three story family home built in 1845 where their father, Dr. William B. Rider, had grown up. The mansion was a handsome clapboard structure which had been attached at the rear to

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

an earlier small stone home. The older home had been built by Philemon Coale whose family had been the property's prior owner.

The Rider ladies were not hesitant in expressing their opinions about a variety of subjects, from politics to religion. They were very suspicious of today's younger generation and felt that no one younger could possibly be interested in their life experiences or history. I argued that many people would be interested and

Malvern purchased and built by Edward Rider, Jr. in 1845. The second shed from right still stands.

that the photos were local treasures that needed to be preserved. Ethel, the youngster and most feisty of the three at 91, said that they planned on burning the photo collection instead of having it later be sold at a yard sale. The sisters were very fond of Mayor Schaeffer, my boss at the time. After receiving a phone call from him, the Rider ladies eventually agreed to turn the photographs and other items over to the Maryland Historical Society where they are now part of the Rider Collection.

They were anxious to tell me that the cause of the fire that claimed the house was their "bad-boy" uncle, Edward H. Rider, who had been living there. In relating the details, they got as exercised about him and the fire as if it had happened yesterday. They remembered visiting the destroyed home and feeling a terrible loss that they still carried with them. Little of the farm site remains. Stone walls from a barn and the out building in the far right of the photo are still in place, as is a recently restored spring house built prior to the Rider ownership. When Ethel, the last Rider sister to survive, passed away in 1983, their home in Owings Mills was given to the Lutheran Church as a retreat home. Local history can be very personal and that's why it is so much fun!

Towson's WinterFest

Do you remember Bow and Tinsel, the talking reindeer? Well, they're coming back to Towson this year and will be in Santa's Workshop at the former Hutzler's Department Store on Towson Circle. Many grownup kids and their parents still remember their special conversations with Bow and Tinsel from decades ago.

There are special holiday breakfasts for children and their families—one with the Grinch at Ridgely & Ferrens December 11 at 9:00 a.m., the other with Frosty at Souris' Saloon December 18 at 9:00 a.m. After breakfast, stroll on over to Santa's Workshop where the kids can watch a holiday movie (*The Grinch* and *Frosty*, of course) while parents shop around Towson. Children can shop for holiday gifts at Santa's Workshop on Saturdays, December 11 and 18, from 10:00 a.m. to noon where gifts will be priced from $1 to $5.

Invite a friend or neighbor to join you for a glass of holiday cheer at a HoHo Happy Hour on Thursdays in December at many participating bars and restaurants. Food and drink specials will be offered beginning at 5 p.m.

There will be a Men's Shopping Night on Wednesday, December 22, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Locally-owned shops in downtown Towson will offer specials and promotions—and help you select the perfect gift. Souris' will even wrap your gifts for free.

Two-hour free parking at any parking meter will be available from Saturday, December 11 through Sunday, December 19.

For more detailed information, see **www.towsonchamber.com** or call Towson Chamber of Commerce at 410-825-1144. Supporting our local merchants can make wonderful memories.

The Serpentine Barrens of Bare Hills

by Jessica Paffenbarger

On a recent autumn walk through the serpentine barrens in the Bare Hills area Dwight Johnson pointed out the unique flora to a group of local residents. Bare Hills, located on both sides of Falls Road between the I-695 to the north and the Baltimore City line, is a focus of the RRLRAIA *Community Plan 2010*. As such the area will receive considerable attention over the next few years.

Johnson, a member of the Maryland Native Plants Society, described the area as "a remnant prairie community." As you can see in the photograph, the landscape includes rocky grasslands dotted by Virginia scrub pine, scrubby black jack and post oak trees and a number of rare and endangered plants, including the fameflower, whorled milkweed, serpentine chickweed, panic grass and little bluestem grass.

Native plant specialist Dwight Johnson points out the unique flora and fauna in Bare Hills to a group of local residents. Photos courtesy Nettie Washburn

Bare Hills contains a wide variety of natural and man-made settings. One of its most unique treasures is a swath of barrens covered by an olive green rock known as serpentinite or serpentine, which takes its name from the Latin '*serpentius*' or 'serpent rock'.

Indeed, it does snake its way through Bare Hills and was responsible for attracting the area's first industry in the form of mining. Serpentinite rock contains large amounts of chromite, an ore used to make stainless steel and other chemical compounds. When chromite was added to steel, the end product offered greater resistance to corrosion and discoloration. Isaac Tyson, Jr. was the first enterprising chemist who found the chromite ore in Bare Hills serpentinite rock and began searching throughout northern Baltimore and southern Pennsylvania for more of these barrens. He started mining chromite ore in Bare Hills in 1808 and expanded his operations throughout the early 1800's. From 1828 to 1850 Maryland was the world's largest producer of chrome! Eventually the mines were depleted

Continued on page 17

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

and world trade shifted to Asia Minor where a vast deposit of chromite was discovered in Bursa, Turkey. Local chromite mining and chrome production all but ceased by 1900.

There are only a handful of serpentine barrens in the eastern United States that have remained undeveloped, including Bare Hills, Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area in western Baltimore County and the State Line Serpentine Barrens (which run along 20 miles of the Maryland-Pennsylvania border) in Nottingham County Park, PA. Small pit mine openings and some larger mine shafts can still be seen along the trails of these three barrens, though they have long since been secured against entry. Copper was also mined in the area.

While great for mining, the high concentration of heavy metals in the soil of serpentine barrens makes them poisonous to most plants. The degradation of the metals over time leaves few nutrients such as nitrogen or calcium in the soil. Additionally, the metallic soils have such a small clay content that they do not retain water. The lack of water retention forces the few plants that do grow to adapt to very dry conditions. According to Kirk Dreier, Senior Park Naturalist at Marshy Point Nature Center, rainwater and any collected natural flows of water quickly dissipate. The lack of water and the metals combine to make a very acidic topsoil, with base deeper soils. This odd combination gives flourish to a special flora (and fauna) that thrive almost exclusively in serpentine barrens.

Because of the hostile environment these plants have developed special adaptations to survive. Some have to do with the internal chemistry of the plants such as a reduced need for calcium, while others are more visible. For example, the leaves and stems of the serpentine chickweed are covered with tiny hairs that deflect sunlight and prevent the plant from overheating. The hairs perform the double duty of also trapping moist air close to the plant, minimizing wilt during hot dry weather. The little bluestem grass has the quirky adaptation of rolling its long, narrow leaves inward during peak high-temperature hours and prolonged droughts, lessening moisture loss from the plant. The fameflower has developed fleshy leaves and stems which store water. Other plants have leaves that grow around the base of the plant in a rosette shape, which helps to prevent drying-out of the leaves by the wind. An example of this is the lyre-leaved rockcress which has small white flowers and a basal rosette of leaves. This plant, with its special adaptations, in turn provides a habitat for the falcate orangetip, a “small uncommon butterfly”, says Mr. Johnson, whose larvae use the plant for food. Other rare insects also take advantage of the unusual plants on the barrens.

The next time you take a walk in Robert E. Lee Park, we hope you will take time to seek out the serpentine barrens and admire the tenaciousness of plants able to live in such an inhospitable environment. The plants’ beauty lies not so much in their looks but in their ability to adapt and survive. In that same spirit, we hope that a newly energized Bare Hills community will adapt, thrive and bloom well into the future.

Happy Holidays

New Bridge and Other Improvements for Robert E. Lee Park

Baltimore County is renovating the Robert E. Lee Park bridge in the Lake Roland area. The project, which is estimated to cost $1.5 million (and is on schedule), will be finished by February 2011. During construction Lakeside Drive is closed.

In addition to the new bridge for the park, Baltimore County is investing $1.5 million in various improvements, including a half-mile long boardwalk across wetlands to the light rail station, along with a new walking trail, a parking lot, a dog park and a program to stabilize banks. Work began in August and should be finished by the end of spring 2011.

A LITTLE BIT OF FINE JEWELRY
A LOT OF FASHION JEWELRY
GIFTS, ACCESSORIES,
SPECIALTY APPAREL FOR A SMACK OF ATTITUDE!

Repairs, Appraisals, Custom Redesign too.

ALWAYS FUN... ALWAYS THE UNEXPECTED

Ruxton Station, 2nd Floor
(The Bridge at Ruxton Rd & Bellona Ave)
1515 LaBelle Ave, Ruxton, MD 21204
410-321-8100
www.jewelsruxton.com

jewels
WHAT WOMEN WANT

It's Not the Ruxton Mall!

Continued from page 1

Beard Florist, Ruxton Station was not always so fashionable. Thune's family initially lived on the second floor and rented the space below. When they eventually moved out, space upstairs was reconfigured for a dentist and a pediatrician. Downstairs was a hardware store, another store lost to memory, and a little restaurant called 'The Snack Shop'. Along came Leonard DeMoss, whose skill at buying rundown restaurants, improving them and selling them was apparently legendary. DeMoss purchased 'The Snack Shop', applied his golden touch and changed the name to Lendee's. Judging from the lunchtime crowd of Towson businessmen vying for tables and parking places, it was a hugely popular place for lunch by day, casual family restaurant at dinnertime and teen hangout by night.

Though baby boomers may remember the Ruxton Pharmacy of that era, few people realize that a pharmacy had operated in the original building as early as the 1920's, prior to Prohibition. Tom Parrish, owner of Ruxton Pharmacy, has faded prescriptions for "medicinal" alcohol dating back to that wild time that were recovered from the building when his father acquired the business in 1952. At that time, the Parrish family lived in a house behind the business. Bud Miller's service station was where the bank is now and the property on the south side of Ruxton Road was a large vacant lot known as 'Rose Field' by the neighborhood children who played there. Farther south, and on the other side of Bellona, was Ernie Gill's service station; everybody took his car to Bud or Ernie. The old pharmacy building was demolished in 1968 and replaced by the present day brick building. Two years later, Miller sold his property and moved his business across

ORIGINAL
PRESCRIPTION FORM FOR MEDICINAL LIQUOR
F95325
21 days
Rx Whisky 1pt.
Queen Esther — Aug 12 '33
4033 Bonney Rd. Balto. Md.
Dr. J.H. Lawrason Wed. 9.103
3608 Bank St. Balto. Md.
CANCELED Read Drug & Chem Co. I 2695
Aug 12, '33
3518 Eastern Baltimore Md.
DO NOT REFILL OR TRANSFER UNDER PENALTY
55
ISSUED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL PROHIBITION ACT

A Prohibition-era doctor's prescription for medicinal alcohol, which was tightly regulated by the federal government. This one, from Read Drug & Chemical Co., bears the signature of Paul Parrish, father of the current owner of Ruxton Pharmacy.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Our Christmas Season Worship Schedule:
6:00 PM Dec. 2, 9, 16 Advent Evening Prayer
5:30-7:00 PM Dec.19 come, bring your neighbors, gather in our Courtyard around an open pit fire to sing Christmas carols and share hot mulled cider and light snacks
2:30 PM Christmas Eve Pageant & Eucharist
4:30 PM Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Choral Prelude
10:30 PM Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist
11:00 AM Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is located on the corner of Boyce & Carrollton Roads in Ruxton. 410.823.0122. Visit www.GoodShepherd-Towson.org for our regular worship services. All are welcome!

Ruxton Merchants

BlueGreen Acupuncture & Bodywork
Ellie
Garnish Boutique
Graul's Market
Graul's Wine and Spirit Shop
J. McLaughlin
Jewels
Kate Beck Events
Linens and Lingerie Shoppe
M&T Bank
Mt. Washington Cleaners
Needles and Threads of Ruxton
Rutland Beard Florist
Ruxton Hair Gallery
Ruxton Pharmacy
Ruxton Car Care
Ruxton Service Center, Inc.
The Little Shoebox
Thomas K. Moseley, Attorney

Ruxton Road, where it remains today. The new owner built what would become the first of several banks on the old site.

Today, most area residents realize how fortunate they are to have the convenience of the Ruxton shopping district in their back yards. Part of the charm of the area is that it is small and village-like. A developer might conclude that such a site would be a death sentence for small businesses—it is not on a major thoroughfare,

Two views of the shops at Ruxton Station.
Photos courtesy Bliss McCord.

but tucked into a neighborhood pocket. There is no more room to grow but, even if there were, parking would be problematic. However, the Graul siblings, Michael Weinfeld and other owners recognize the unique appeal of the area and are confident of its niche for specialty shoppers. Ruxton Station has been extensively renovated, both inside and out, and has recently acquired some new occupants upstairs, such as Jewels. Tenant turnover at Ruxton Village has been practically unheard of in the nearly 40 years of Graul family ownership. The owners of Ellie, for instance, previously owned The Pink Crab and, long before that, the Wilmington Country Store. The Grauls have clearly done something right all these years.

The area boasts small, upscale stores with friendly merchants. Many have been there so long that they have forged strong personal friendships with their customers. Several stores support good causes by hosting special events, assigning a percentage of their sales to specific charities. Through their fun twice-yearly parking lot events, Graul's alone has raised around $500,000 in the fight against cancer.

We live in a homogenous world. The malls all look the same, no matter what city you visit. The megastores, with their lure of discount shopping, understandably appeal to many of us who sometimes forget all the smaller 'American dream' businesses that were gobbled up along the way.

Our Ruxton businesses are unique and we would miss any of them if they were gone. Within three blocks, you can do your banking, buy marvelous clothes, shoes, jewelry, and household goods, plan and shop for a wedding, get legal advice, fix your car, refill your prescription, clean your clothes, get a haircut and a massage, and pick up dinner, a bottle of wine, and some flowers for your sweetie. Heavens, you can even buy that canvas for a needlepoint Christmas stocking you won't complete until your baby is in college! For all these reasons, if you haven't recently, you should poke your head into the stores down in Ruxton. You may be surprised, as I was, to see what is there, what has changed and what hasn't.

A Baltimore tradition since forever

Voted **"Best Butcher"**

– Baltimore Magazine's Best of Baltimore 2010

FULL SERVICE GROCERY STORE
OUTSTANDING SERVICE | PERSONAL SHOPPING
GOURMET TO GO | CATERING | DELIVERY

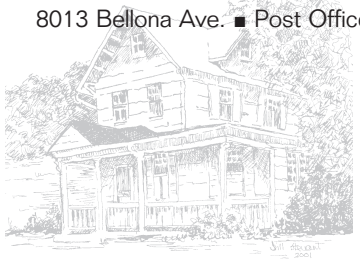
Eddie's
OF ROLAND PARK

5113 ROLAND AVE.
Baltimore, MD 21210
410.323.3656
Mon.-Sat. 8-7, Sun. 9-6

6213 N. CHARLES ST.
Baltimore, MD 21212
410.377.8040
Mon.-Sat. 8-8, Sun. 9-7

www.eddiesofrolandpark.com

THE RUXTON ★ RIDERWOOD ★ LAKE ROLAND AREA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
8013 Bellona Ave. ■ Post Office Box 204 ■ Riderwood, MD 21139 ■ TELE/FAX 410-494-7757 ■ rrlraia@comcast.net



Presort
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1262
Baltimore, MD

Hubble Bisbee
Real Estate Group

REMARKABLE SERVICE, REMARKABLE RESULTS

"Overleigh"
7309 Brightside Road

7512 L'Hirondelle Club Road

Karen Hubble Bisbee, GRI, ABR
Associate Broker

Office: 410-667-5610

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

www.HubbleBisbeeGroup.com

Voted Baltimore's Best Upscale Realtor

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