

# Neighborhood NEWS

Spring 2010

Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association

## *The Ruxton News* “We Print It, You Read It”

By Bliss McCord

“Big Fire in Ruxton!”, “FBI Arrests Two Teens”, and “Sheep Killed by Dog” were all headlines shouted from the front pages of *The Ruxton News*. For two wonderful years in the Ruxton of the mid-1950s, people could count on being kept abreast of such local news by an enterprising group of 9-13 year old boys who, without any parental involvement, wrote, printed, and delivered this eight-page weekly newspaper. Though small in size (4” x 6”), its appeal was apparently huge since, at its zenith, the paper boasted a readership of 283, with subscribers from as far away as California.

Who were these budding Horace Greeleys? Peter Powell, Lindley Parker, Johnsy Hart, David Powell, and John deRussy formed the nucleus, with all but John living on Labelle Avenue. John deRussy, originally a reporter and later the editor, lived on L’Hirondelle Club Road, a short bike ride away. Over a period of two years, Johnny Hawks, Billy Van Zelm, and as many as twenty other children worked at one time or another on the paper, from cub reporters to bill collectors, but these five boys were the spokes of the wheel whose hub was, in the beginning, the Parkers’ basement at 1505

Labelle. Even before the newspaper project, Lindley Parker’s kindly mother and father had allowed the boys to use two rooms of their basement for a different venture, the Ruxton Zoo. There, for a small fee, curious children

could get a close-up look at an assortment of slithering snakes, Belgian hares, guinea pigs, and turtles.

Interest in the zoo paled in importance, though, when one of the boys received a printing press for his birthday. Some of you may remember them. They had moveable type made of rubber and putting together an entire page of print wasn’t easy. To start with, you had to do it in reverse. Then, the letters were small and inky and not always easy to manage for boys more accustomed to handling snakes and

baseballs. The group began by printing notices for the zoo but after a while, as deRussy puts it, “the zoo became last year’s project.” With the embarrassing escape of the black snake to a neighbor’s house, and the dying gasp of



### **SHEEP KILLED BY DOG**

RUXTON DEC. 8 On Saturday the sheep that live in the feild on the turn in Bellona Ave were killed by a neighbors dog.

They were owned by the Dorsey Yearlys of Rolandview Ave.

While Mr. Yearly was carrying one of the sheep to safty he stepped in a hole and broke his ankle.

He thinks one of the neighbor’s dogs did the killing but he has no evedence.

Many people see the sheep going to work in the morning.

THE END

### INSIDE

[How to “Dig” Your Neighbor](#)

[Page 3](#)

[Towson Events](#)

[Page 4](#)

[Home Sales](#)

[Page 6](#)

[Ah! Wilderness](#)

[Page 7](#)

[A Silent Tribute](#)

[Page 8](#)

[The Blizzard of 2010](#)

[Page 10](#)

[Sunshine Payback](#)

[Page 12](#)

[Cylburn Arboretum Reopens](#)

[Page 15](#)

[Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale](#)

[Page 16](#)

[Robert E. Lee Park Update](#)

[Page 18](#)

Continued on page 19

# Robert E. Lee Park Update

The Robert E. Lee Park Advisory Board met for the first time on January 19 at the Towson Library to organize into committees and leadership roles.

Staff and board members from Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks welcomed prospective members and explained that the organizational structure of the board should follow that of the Marshy Point and Oregon Ridge park councils, as well as the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park organization.



Lake Roland Courtesy Peggy Squitieri

Staff addressed several questions that arose:

- Recreation and Parks plans to have full-time rangers at the park, subject to budget approval. It is proposed that the rangers will be able to write tickets for dogs off leash and have direct radio

communication with the police department. The rangers would also be responsible for nature, environmental, and historical interpretive programming.

- Once developed, the park council will be able to raise funds for the park as a 501(c)(3) agency.

Initial sub-committees representing various areas of interest were formed:

**Recreational Committee** will address issues that deal with children, bikes, kayaks, boats, canoes, hikers, joggers, fishing, and dogs.

**Civic/Community Committee** will represent the interests of area community associations; RRLRAIA; Lake Falls, Bare Hills, and Falls Road area neighborhoods; Pikesville-Greenspring Community Coalition; Ruxton Area Foundation; Jones Falls Watershed Association; and area businesses.

**Environmental/Education/Historic Interpretation Committee** will concentrate on birds, plant life, water quality, historic preservation, animal life, insects/reptile, deer, fish, and geology.

Several residents who live in, or adjacent to, the park will serve on the council, as well as a few members-at-large.

## Dues Reminder!

If you have already paid your RRLRAIA 2010 dues, thank you very much. If not, now is the time to get them in! We know you wouldn't want to miss any of the benefits of membership such as this newsletter, emailed crime reports, upcoming area events, or discounted movie tickets. Plus, we will be publishing a new directory this summer but must have any changes by the first of April. So please send your check payable to RRLRAIA (\$55 or \$110 for two years) to RRLRAIA, P.O. Box 204, Riderwood, MD 21139. Thank you.

## Member Benefit Discount Movie Vouchers

An evening at the movies can cost an arm and a leg. Only RRLRAIA members may purchase VIP Super Saver Movie Vouchers to any Regal Cinema (Hunt Valley is the closest one) at Rider House at the DISCOUNTED price of \$7.00 (adults usually pay \$10 at the box office). This ticket is valid for admission after the first 12 days of "selected" (typically your big blockbuster films) new releases. If you wish to go earlier, you simply pay a \$1.50 up charge at the box office. That's quite a savings and your frugality may buy an extra popcorn or two.

To take advantage of this opportunity, contact Peggy Squitieri (410) 494-7797 or [rrlraia@comcast.net](mailto:rrlraia@comcast.net) three days in advance or drop by Rider House when you see the flag flying. These vouchers have no expiration date. Note: vouchers must be exchanged for tickets at the box office.

### CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Corner of Carrollton and Boyce Avenues

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

*All are welcome*

#### PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28

7:45 AM Holy Eucharist, no music  
9:00 AM\* Palms Procession  
& Holy Eucharist with Choir  
11:00 AM\* Palms Procession  
& Holy Eucharist in Parish Hall

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, & Stripping of the Altar (with Choir)

#### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

12:00 Noon Liturgy of the Day  
2:00 PM Stations of the Cross for all ages

#### HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

9:00 AM Liturgy of the Day  
8:00 PM The Great Vigil (with PowerPoint)

#### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

7:45 AM Holy Eucharist, no music  
9:15 AM\* Holy Eucharist with choir  
11:00 AM\* Holy Eucharist with choir

*\*Child care available.*

*Children are also welcome at any service.*

