

Neighborhood NEWS

FALL • 2016

RUXTON-RIDERWOOD-LAKE ROLAND AREA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

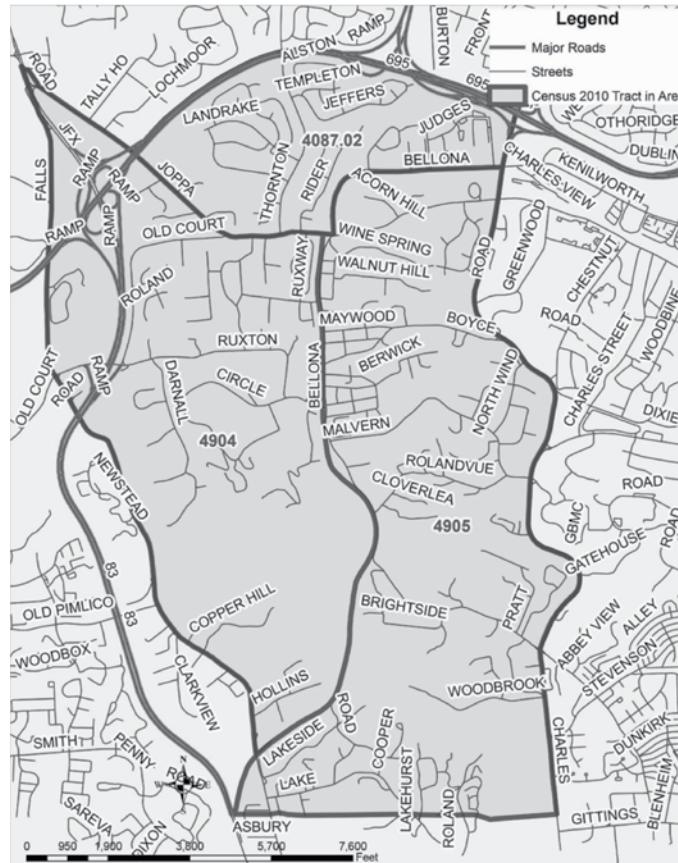
Who are We? Making Sense of the Census

by Lauren Madsen

Most of the residents in the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area would probably agree that they have it good when it comes to quality of life. But have you ever wondered how our neighborhoods stack up against others in Baltimore County, Maryland or the nation as a whole? Have you ever thought about how our lives are changing over time in relation to the people who lived in these neighborhoods before us? Well, for those inquiring minds among us, there is a wealth of data available online from the American Community Survey, produced annually by the U.S. Census Bureau. Here are some highlights from the last five-year survey, which encompasses 2010-2014, to help make sense of the census.

The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area roughly corresponds with three separate census tracts, each with its own set of data. To the north lies tract 4087.02 which is roughly equivalent to the Riderwood area, bounded by I-695, Joppa Road running east from I-695 (near Greenspring Station) and Bellona Avenue running between Joppa Road and I-695 at Charles Street. To the west is tract 4904 which corresponds to the western half of Ruxton and the homes along Falls Road on the western side of Lake Roland. It sits south of Joppa Road, east of Falls Road, north of Lakeside Drive and west of Bellona. Finally, on the eastern side is tract 4905, or east Ruxton and areas south of Lake Roland. It lies north of Lake Avenue, west of Charles Street and east of Lake Roland and Bellona until it intersects Charles Street and becomes Kenilworth Drive.

As you may have guessed, all three tracts in the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area are predominately affluent neighborhoods of mostly single-family dwellings with residents who are economically advantaged in comparison to the wider population in the county,



2010 Census Tract Reference Map for the majority of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area
Map courtesy United States Census Bureau

state or country as a whole. In 2014, the median household income ranged from \$94,063 to \$119,471 across the three census tracts. That's well above the median household income of \$66,940 in Baltimore County, \$74,149 in Maryland and \$53,482 in the U.S. In west Ruxton (4904) a whopping 32% of households had income over \$200,000 annually, versus 6% in the county, 9% in the state and only 5% nation-

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President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

As I write my final president's letter, I can't help but reflect on all I've learned about our amazing communities, residents and Board members. Little did I know when I accepted the presidency the multitude of issues RRLRAIA routinely oversees. Sure, I knew about the great newsletter, Dumpster Day and RRLRAIA's involvement with the Baltimore County Design Review Panel (DRP). In fact, my initial contact with RRLRAIA was when one of my projects was in the process of being reviewed by the DRP (I'm an architect). The Association typically notifies neighbors of development projects or zoning changes that are occurring in their neighborhoods to identify and resolve issues before they become problems. The Association's role in establishing lines of communication between the parties is a great service to all involved.

I'm sure you can relate to the frustration of making multiple phone calls to resolve an issue, whether it be a dangling wire, a water leak, graffiti, a pot hole or poor visibility from an intersection. Fortunately, RRLRAIA has an impressive list of contacts and has cultivated relationships with numerous state and county agencies so we can often resolve an issue by making a single phone call. For example, I never would have guessed that you must call the Baltimore County Bureau of Highways to have a fallen tree removed from a stream. Further, when we are contacted about code enforcement issues we often are able to resolve the problem by making a friendly call to the property owner rather than involving government agencies.

Currently, in response to a member's inquiry, we are gathering information about a new sewer line that is proposed to run along Towson Run from Towsontowne Boulevard to Bellona Avenue.



We are pleased to see so many facets of our *Community Plan 2010* being implemented. The quality of the recent and proposed development in Bare Hills (Falls Road) is bringing much-needed amenities to that area. Through many, many hours of meetings with

Royal Farms representatives, plans have been developed to improve the parking and traffic flow at their West Joppa Road site. Other improvements include renovation of the store, improved (and limited) signage and the installation of attractive landscaping.

Other commercial areas within our boundaries also have been, or are being, improved. We have enhanced the partnership between our Board, residents and business owners with initiatives such as our annual Friday Night Lights block party, held in co-

ordination with the shops on Bellona Avenue at Ruxton Road, and our Bare Hills Business Happy Hour for the Falls Road business area.

Enhancement to Lake Roland, which was a goal of our previous community plan, continues to exceed expectations due in large part to the efforts of some of our most effective Board members (both current and former) who serve, or have served, on the Lake Roland Nature Council board. We hope you will join us at our annual meeting on September 28 which will be held at the new Lake Roland Nature and Environmental Education Center.

These accomplishments, and the strength of the Association, are possible because we have so many talented people who volunteer their time helping with street and stream clean-ups, publishing **Neighborhood NEWS**, planning events, investigating neighborhood concerns, delving into zoning, development and infrastructure issues and serving as Board members. Thanks to our volunteers for everything they do!

Patrick Jarosinski

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Greater Ruxton Area Foundation Announces New President

by Tom Weadock

At its June 13 meeting, the Greater Ruxton Area Foundation Board of Trustees elected a new president and added five new Board members. After two years as President, I have stepped down to spend more time at my Florida residence. I will serve as Vice President through the end of 2016. The new President, life-time Ruxton resident John Lalley, is well-known in our community. He is noted for his past community service activities and for his dedication to gardening and landscaping. John is a Master Gardener and has extensive vegetable and flower gardens at his Ruxton home. In fact, his gardens were the highlight of a Baltimore Sun article about noteworthy area gardens. While serving on the GRAF board over the last few years, John has used his vast gardening knowledge and experience to help improve our many community landscaping projects. The Executive Committee is rounded out by Sibley Classen as Treasurer, Kathy Mountcastle as Secretary and Joseph M. Coale as President Emeritus.

Also at the June meeting, the Board elected new members Bob Aumiller, Kevin Flynn, Bliss McCord, Sam Santarelli and Sky Woodward. These residents join our existing board of George Grose,



Graham Boyce, David Whitman, Dan Middelton, Christopher West, Edward Taylor, Kimberly Warren and Bo Lewis. Fred Eisenbrandt moved out of the Ruxton area and, therefore, has resigned after

many years of dedicated service. With the active support of an increasing number of residents, the Board will continue to aggressively pursue its mission of area preservation and beautification with special focus on the Bellona corridor, community gardens, the restoration of vacant land and the maintenance of historic sites.

Treasurer Sibley Classen reported that the Foundation, which derives all of its funding from charitable donations and grants, received over \$50,000 in contributions from 247 residents in 2015. In reporting these results, she said, "The fall campaign, by any measure, was successful and showed increasing community support for the beautification and preservation mission. With broad community support,

we are making a difference." We encourage everyone to visit www.ruxtonfoundation.org to see interesting historic photographs, before and after pictures of our projects and the latest news about Foundation projects and future plans.

Shredder and Electronics E-Cycling Event

October 29, 2016, 9 a.m. – noon, Riderwood Elementary School parking lot, 1711 Landrake Road (21204)

Watch as your materials are shredded right before your eyes! Staples, binder clips and paper clips are all fine. No plastic sleeves, plastic binders or X-rays, please. Hard drives and other media containing data will be accepted but taken off-site to be destroyed/recycled.

For e-cycling, acceptable items include: computers, laptops/notebooks, keyboards/mice/cables, monitors, printers, scanners, cell and regular telephones, fax and answering machines, televisions under 26 inches, VCRs, cable boxes, stereo equipment and battery back-ups (no alkaline).

There is a fee for large televisions:

26 inches to 40 inches – \$15; over 40 inches – \$25;
console televisions – \$35.

NO microwaves, refrigerators, washers/dryers, toasters, dishwashers or household appliances, please.

Thank you to RRLRAIA members whose dues make events like this possible. If you wish to support RRLRAIA and its events, consider becoming a member (see our website at www.rrlraia.org). For more information about electronics recycling, go to <http://essrecycle.com/site/>.

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What is a Riparian Buffer and Why You May Want One

by Nancy Worden Horst

If your property is adjacent to one of the three streams that crisscross the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area communities – Roland Run, Towson Run and the Jones Falls, culminating in Lake Roland – the shadows and sparkles that play on the water and the gurgling sound of the running brook may be part of what led you to choose the neighborhood. But if you've lived in this area for any length of time, you've probably also witnessed the awesome power of water when heavy rain turns your stream into a raging torrent. Planting a riparian buffer is a good way of mitigating flooding, improving drainage and stabilizing banks so you can enjoy the beauty of the water without the fear of negative consequences when Mother Nature rears her head.

An article in the winter 2015-16 edition of *Neighborhood NEWS*, entitled "Water: The Fight Against Nature Continues" by Cynthia Allen, points out that "Flooding and drainage problems have existed in our area for many years." This is especially true

in the area of Essex Farm, with issues going back to at least the early 1970s, as noted by County and community association efforts to combat or solve the problems, all with varying results.

Ms. Allen discusses the complex issues surrounding flooding, flood insurance, property values and so on in a most compelling fashion.

She also gives examples of what homeowners can do to help with the problems of flooding: "Keep waterways on/around your property clear of litter and debris; keep your house and garage gutters clear; and don't [dump] logs or garden waste [in or] near a stream or drainage channel" as they may clog water drainage systems in a heavy rain. An additional way to mitigate the potential for damage from such storms is by paying attention to the riparian buffer between your house and the stream.

What is a riparian buffer? It is simply another name for streamside plantings

of water-tolerant shrubs, trees, native grasses and other vegetation that help hold the banks in place, especially during times of heavy water flow.

Plants native to our Piedmont area of the Chesapeake Bay watershed that can tolerate water are the best choices for a riparian buffer. The benefits of such plantings include:

- protection from flooding and its subsequent damage;
- slowing the flow of water and improving water quality;
- improving water quality by reducing sediment and nutrients;
- stabilizing stream banks and preventing soil from washing away;
- providing habitat for birds, fish and reptiles, and
- adding natural beauty.

For those interested in native plants, two sources for retailers of mid-Atlantic native plants are The Maryland Native Plant Society (www.mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/bayscapes/bsresources/bs-nurseries.html). You can also check with your local nursery. In our own backyard, Lake Roland now has an annual native plant sale each spring. As you can see from the photographs from this spring's sale, many volunteers make this happen and a large variety of plants is available for sale.

There are also more global, eco-friendly advantages of planting trees and other vegetation to make an 'urban forest' and few other community resources offer such a varied and extensive benefit package:

- carbon dioxide, the primary culprit in the 'greenhouse effect,' can be reduced in the atmosphere;
- strategically-placed trees can reduce summer cooling costs by up to 50 percent and heating costs may be reduced by as much as 30 percent when trees are planted as windbreaks;

Autumn Native Plant Sale at Lake Roland

Saturday,
September 17,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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■ property values may be increased by 5-20%, depending on the size, number, species and lot location of trees, and

■ buffers add natural beauty and reduce noise in the area.

What can you, as a homeowner of a property near a stream or as an interested community resident, do to help prevent or at least help control periodic flooding?

#1 – Don't mow your grass to the edge of the stream. Why not? The clippings, as well as fertilizers and herbicides used on the lawn, get into the stream and feed algae blooms. More heat reaches the stream and aquatic life and generally undermines the stability of the stream bank when the grass is kept short.

#2 – Stop fertilizing and spraying insecticides anywhere near a stream. Again, rain will wash the fertilizer and insecticides into the water, poisoning it and affecting aquatic creatures and water quality.

#3 – Educate yourself about which trees and other plants are best suited to hold banks and prevent or slow water flow. Consider planting native grasses or sedges to help stabilize the banks. The Maryland Native Plant Society's recently published booklet *Landscaping with Native Plants* is an excellent resource. It contains a list of Maryland native plants and areas where they are appropriate, indicating sun, shade, wet or dry conditions. It can be downloaded from the website (<http://mdflora.org/resources/Publications/GardenersGuidelines/Landscaping-Natives.pdf>) or ordered for \$2.00 each thru the MNPS publications. Other resources include:

- https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/riparianbuffers/FS727.pdf (trees and shrubs for understory riparian buffers)
- www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/nativesMD/pdf/MD-Piedmont.pdf (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping*)
- www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/toc.htm (invasive plants *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*)

#4 – Report silt runoff from building sites. The increasing number of infill housing projects in our community means that when part of a lot is stripped of existing vegetation, the resulting bare earth is subject to runoff and erosion whenever there is a significant rainfall. Muddy water draining from a construction site usually indicates an incorrectly installed or damaged silt fence – or none at all. Report the problem to Baltimore County so an inspector can visit the site and require the builder to fix the silt fence to prevent the runoff from draining into a nearby stream. Contact Code Enforcement at 410-887-3351 or Sediment Control at 410-887-3226, send an email to gberry@baltimorecountymd.gov, file a complaint at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/codeenforcement/codecomplaint.html or contact The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association (office@rrlraia.org or 410-494-7757).

#5 – Get to the source of the sediment that clogs our streams by supporting attempts to limit up-stream development.

Requiring Baltimore County to enforce existing regulations providing for stream protection is one way and becoming an advocate for our streams is another. When new projects are planned for Timonium, Lutherville, Towson and the Valley, speak up to defend your stream from siltation and pollution.

#6 – Join your neighbors in the street and stream clean-up efforts in our communities. While flooding may be an act of Mother Nature, it is up to each of us to do our part to keep our waterways clear of debris and silt.

For information about how to design a riparian buffer, see article on page 14.



LRNC native plant sale's native Eastern shooting stars (*dodecatheon media*) awaiting a new home.
Photo courtesy Elise Butler

Editor's Note: Lake Roland Nature Council has several educational programs that 'teach through doing' the importance of planting riparian buffers, such as Trails Over Truancy, whose school-age participants have planted native trees along the Jones Falls. Volunteers working with the Lake Roland Nature Council Trails Committee have installed water bars (logs placed diagonally across a trail to help divert water from washing out the trail) and spread stone in perpetually muddy areas. The Trails Committee is always seeking people to help clear invasive plants, cut up trees and so on. Interested parties should email the Committee at recreation@lakeroland.org.



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Supporting Our Local Schools

If you are one of those compulsive clippers who enjoys cutting out coupons, consider supporting our three local county schools with the Box Tops for Education™ program. The PTA organizations at Riderwood and West Towson elementary schools and Ridge Ruxton school collect these coupons and use the money they receive to provide wonderful extras that teachers can use for their students. Each coupon is worth ten cents, so these shouldn't be discarded! Schools can send in their Box Tops to General Mills twice a year to earn money; General Mills sends out checks at the end of December and the end of April.



In 1996, General Mills set up this coupon program to support education by providing a fundraising opportunity for schools. Nowadays coupons can be earned in other ways, too, such as the online redemption program eBoxTops™. During a given school year, a school can earn anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand dollars depending on how vigorous the collecting is.

These coupons are found on many supermarket products such as dairy products, trash bags, food storage bags, cereals, snacks, juices and baking products. Brand names include Mott's®, Ziploc®, Hefty®, Wheaties™, Betty Crocker™, Cascadian™, Annie's® and Pillsbury™. For more information about which products carry a Box Tops for Education™ coupon, go to www.boxtops4education.com/.

Please mail the Box Tops for Education™ coupons to the school's PTA or put them in an envelope labeled for the PTA and drop it off at the school's office. Following are the addresses for each school:

- West Towson Elementary School, 6914 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21204
- Riderwood Elementary School, 1711 Landrake Road, Baltimore, MD 21204
- Ridge Ruxton School, 6916 Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21204

Avocado Salsa Recipe

by Kristi Skinner

Thanks to resident Kristi Skinner for sharing her easy-to-prepare recipe to help us hold on to the last of the warm summer days.

In a large bowl,
mix together:

- 2 cans black beans – rinsed and drained
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 2 large tomatoes – chopped
- 2 avocados – chopped
- ½ red onion – chopped
- Fresh cilantro to taste

In a small bowl,
combine:

- 4 Tb lime juice
- 2 Tb olive oil
- 1 Tb red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper

Pour over mixture in large bowl and marinate for a few hours. Serve with tortilla chips.



Giving a House a Second Chance – it's all in the Details

by **Barbara Guarnieri**

When most of us begin to renovate, or perhaps totally rebuild an existing home, we probably give little thought to the resultant rubble that goes to our landfills. According to the FEMA "Debris Estimating Field Guide," a typical 2,000 sq. ft. wood frame home produces 10,000 cubic feet of landfill debris. If salvaged, that same home yields 6,000 feet of reusable wood board or the equivalent of 36 mature trees. In addition, many of a home's interior details like fireplaces or window frames and hard goods such as stoves, bathtubs, etc., can also be saved from landfills through salvage repurposing. All told, the EPA reports that almost 40% of landfill space is occupied by building and construction debris. This is why on Dumpster Day RRLRAIA includes several building materials recycling and reuse services along with the waste containers. One local salvage and reuse company is called Second Chance, a name that signifies its dual purpose.

Second Chance not only accepts donated home goods for repurposing, it is also known for its building deconstruction projects. It identifies and salvages architecturally significant forms and valuable building materials, skillfully salvaging anything from the most well-preserved or historically important building elements to entire homes. The work can be tedious and the hourly rates can add up compared to the alternative: a day's worth of bulldozing. But the latter leads to a costly lifetime in the dump. So, for the homeowner, deconstruction offers major environmental brownie points and can also offer tax relief as Second Chance is a registered §501(c)(3) nonprofit business. Furthermore, the local community benefits from Second Chance's thriving salvaged goods retail sales business. Many of the historic or vintage treasures are put up for sale providing a truly amazing shopping experience for the general public. I highly recommend a trip through Second Chance's Ridgely Street warehouse! (For a virtual visit, go to www.secondchanceinc.org/store-tour/.)

The primary purpose of Second Chance is neither historic preservation nor 'antique' sales. Second Chance began over a decade ago as a training and employment program for workers in Baltimore facing severe challenges that made it difficult for them to find employment (lack of education, prison records, homelessness, etc.). The organization teaches a combination of life skills and specialized 'deconstruction' building skills. Today it trains and hires workers in deconstruction, salvage, warehousing, retail operations, transportation and customer service. Second Chance has proven its value to many regional businesses and now works closely with a broad group of architects, developers, builders and homeowners to assess the salvage potential of buildings slated for demolition.

The founders appreciated from the start that the salvage and reuse of materials also has 'green' benefits: diverting tons of material from the waste stream, decreasing consumption of natural resources, lowering energy use and decreasing waste in the landfills. While those are important goals, Second Chance is most interested in salvaging lives by giving people work skills needed to sustain a living wage and pursue a career path. The organization is supported by income from direct sales and salvage contracts, commercial and non-profit partnerships, government grants and individual donations. It views its business goals as threefold: being socially

responsible, environmentally sound and financially viable. Senator Ben Cardin recently cited Second Chance as one of the nation's exemplary models of workforce development.

Baltimore is home to several similar companies that are collectively known as social enterprises. The national Social Enterprise Association defines a social enterprise as, "...an organization or initiative that marries the social mission of a non-profit or government program with the market-driven approach of a business." Second Chance was recently joined by another social enterprise named Details, a part of the Columbia, Maryland-based, service organization Humanim. Humanim's original focus was on finding employment for disabled adults, but it now extends its services to all people in need of conquering employment challenges.

In its initial stages, Details is funding its programs through a combination of partnerships and grants. For example, one of Details' current grant projects is a program that teaches deconstruction trade skills using eligible vacant and abandoned city row houses. This unusual collaboration between City government, several local non-profits and businesses as well as community members, offers not only job skills and all the benefits of deconstruction listed above but also aims to stunt the blight and crime that vacancy imposes on struggling neighborhoods. Details' apt motto is "We take apart the old to make room for the new." Workers recently finished



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86 home deconstruction projects on Eager Street yielding startling salvage statistics:

- 14,500 square feet of flooring
- 230,000 bricks
- 51,000 linear feet of lumber
- 300,000 nails pulled (to be recycled)
- 154 marble steps

Details earns additional revenue by offering these salvaged materials for sale to the building trades. Most importantly, the enterprise supports eight workers who are chronicled on its website (www.baltimorebrickbybrick.com/category/meet-the-crew/), saving them from the devastating effects of intractable unemployment.

In addition to special grant projects, Details also offers deconstruction services to individual private homeowners. All tax advantages of using a non-profit §501(c)(3) enterprise would, of course, accrue to the owner. Like Second Chance, Details is committed to programs that not only build job skills and a career track but simultaneously solve societal or environmental problems and enrich the lives of everyone who lives in Baltimore. We are fortunate to have two such admirably committed social enterprises right here in our own backyard.

For more information, visit www.secondchanceinc.org and www.details.org.



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RRLRAIA Annual Meeting 2016

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

7 p.m. (tours of Nature Center
will begin at 6:30 p.m.)

A new view and a new venue! This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Lake Roland Nature and Environmental Education Center, 1000 Lakeside Drive (21210).

Learn about all that the Nature Center will offer the community. Tours will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will commence with this year's presenter, Jonathan S. Kays, Natural Resource Extension Specialist at the University of Maryland Extension and author of *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home*. Mr. Kays will speak about the benefits to small acreage owners of transitioning traditional lawns to natural areas and how to enhance existing natural areas for wildlife, forest health or other reasons. For more information on this topic, visit www.extension.umd.edu/woodland/woods-your-backyard.

Following Mr. Kays' presentation, please join us for a brief business meeting which will include the election of new Board members and acknowledgement of our retiring Board members.

Nominees to the Board are: Trish Fallon (1), Jeffrey Budnitz (3), Joe Derr (4) and Jamie Cahn (7). Current Board members standing for re-election to a second term are: Gina Adams (2), Paddy Morton (2), Cynthia Allen (7), Art Arthur (9), Shannon Putman (9) and Mike Muldowney (10). Refer to page 6 of the Membership Directory for a map showing districts which are indicated above in parentheses.

The entrance to Lake Roland is on Lakeside Drive between the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Falls Road. There are two parking areas. Park on the east side of the MTA light rail parking lot and walk across the boardwalk to the end and turn right to the Nature Center or park in the lot at the end of Lakeside Drive. Transportation from the Lakeside Drive parking lot will be provided until 6:55 p.m. for those who need assistance getting to the Nature Center.



Who are We? Making Sense of the Census

Continued from page 1

ally. While we can hardly complain, we are actually less affluent than during the previous census survey from 2005-2009, when median household income ranged all the way up to \$131,321.

Census tracts (in the Environmental data layer) are one of the many descriptives that can be seen about our area on our very own Baltimore County government website <http://myneighborhood.baltimorecountymd.gov/> – once you have accepted their terms and conditions, etc. Bodies of water, conservation easements, bicycle routes, National Register Historic Districts and much more local data is available.

Of our residents currently in the workforce, 82-92% are employed in the management, business, science, professional and sales fields and on average commute only 23-25 minutes to work. More than two-thirds of residents own their own home, live in houses with three or more bedrooms and have resided at their address since at least 2009. One surprising fact is that not a single home across the three census tracts was reported to have solar power, at least as of 2014! So either residents are lackluster environmentalists or we all live on very shady lots. Judging by the number of trees I see driving around our beautifully wooded neighborhoods, I prefer to believe the latter!


Each of the three census tract areas boasts unique characteristics. West Ruxton (4904) is geographically large but by far the least dense thanks in large part to its roughly 500-acre Lake Roland park, and has the smallest population with only 1,721 residents living in 680 households. East Ruxton/Lake Roland (4905) is equally as large geographically but is home to more than double the number of residents with 3,648 people in 1,449 households. Riderwood (4087.2), which is significantly smaller in geographical size, is the most densely populated and second in size by overall population with 2,413 residents living in 1,003 households. Population in these three census tracts (the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area west of Charles Street) is holding roughly steady at 7,782 people in 2014 versus 7,829 people in 2009. It actually fell in two of the three census tracts over the five-year period and rose

less than 4% in the third, most populous tract, east Ruxton/Lake Roland (4905).

According to the Census Bureau, a household can consist of a family or a single resident living alone. As you may have guessed, our area tends to have more families, which represent 62-71% of all households in the three tracts. Our residents are also getting a little younger, with a median age range of between 45.4 years in east Ruxton/Lake Roland (4905) and 49.1 years in west Ruxton (4904), versus a range of 47.7 years to 49.5 years in the previous survey. However, we are still much older than the general population, which has a median age of 39.1 years for Baltimore County, 38.1 years for Maryland and 37.4 years for the U.S. as a whole. In fact, of the total households in each census tract in our area, there is at least one person age 65 or older in 32% to 41% of homes, much higher than the 26% to 31% of households with a child under 18.

If all these facts and figures have piqued your curiosity and you would like to learn more about your census tract, please visit the American Community Survey data files at www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/2014/. Available data includes social characteristics, such as education and marital status; economic characteristics, such as income and employment; housing characteristics, such as home values and occupancy; and demographic characteristics, such as population and age.

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Community Business Profile – Callahan's, a Rockland Treasure

by Shannon Putman

John Callahan knows gardening and landscape design well. His parents were long-time owners of a garden center known as The Potting Shed, so he developed a passion for plants from an early age. This Ruxton native owns Callahan's Gardening Supplies and Services on Old Court Road (at Falls Road) and describes his employment as "not a job, but a pleasure." He also owns a landscaping business headquartered in Hampstead. John moved his retail business from Hampstead to his current space across from the Grist Mill five years ago when the downturn in the economy dramatically reduced his landscaping income. He reports that this location has been "lifesaving," and allowed him to rebuild his business with new customers from the surrounding neighborhoods.



Callahan's attired in its summer décor

Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

John loves the seasonality of landscaping, as evidenced by the changing scenery when you drive past Callahan's. In the fall, the outdoor setting centers around Halloween – colorful pumpkins, mums, unique fall annuals and scarecrows catch your eye. From Thanksgiving onwards, fresh cut winter greens, wreaths and trees, twinkling holiday decorations and vintage sleighs will tempt you to visit. You won't be sorry if you do because, in addition to retail goods, John offers full-service holiday decorating including indoor and outdoor options. No more uncertain trips up that icy ladder! John can provide custom Christmas designs, install indoor and outdoor elements and arrange for scheduled removal and storage during the off-season. In fact, throughout the year, John carries unusual, difficult-to-find greenery that is grown locally and fresh cut to order. From the childlike wonderland to the elegant and refined interior, John



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can satisfy a wide range of holiday customer requests.

The spring season typically begins immediately following Easter. Callahan's doesn't have heated greenhouses, so the wide variety of unique annual flowers, hanging baskets, potted plants and spring-themed yard art doesn't go for sale until the weather warms up. Summer is considered high season at the store because that is when John's beautiful custom potted plants and hanging baskets are in demand. He loves to customize planters for clients, either at their home or in dropped-off beloved planters. He also sells small trees, a wide selection of perennials and a wide variety of tropical plants and ferns, perfect for the poolside! In any season, he can provide live or cut flowers and plants for special parties or events and loves working with clients to create a one-of-a-kind party atmosphere. John prides himself on providing the best options available for each setting, often searching far and wide to find the perfect plants.



Blooming plants surround the outside of the business Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

John's other business, the landscape company in Hampstead, has enjoyed a loyal clientele for more than twenty years. It offers services ranging from design to installation and maintenance. Some of his many services include stonework and masonry, pond installation and landscape lighting. All large plants and trees purchased from Callahan's are delivered for free and can be installed and maintained by his crews. Although John does not offer lawn mowing or maintenance, he can make recommendations about reliable lawn service companies. Luckily, he does offer snow removal services in the winter for the local community. Especially noteworthy are the discounts he offers to schools and homeowner association members – so be sure to mention that you are a member of RRLRAIA!

In addition to all of the seasonal plants, trees and yard décor outside, inside Callahan's you can find oil paintings by D. Masom for sale. Many of the paintings feature seasonal views of the store front. Callahan's also sells maps of historic Rockland and a small selection of furniture. Outside or in, this neighborhood business is a treasure and well worth a visit!





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Kids Corner – Rescued Animals at Lake Roland

by Charlie Nuernberger

If you have attended any of Lake Roland's animal programs, then you probably have already met Picky, Cornelia or one of the other native animals housed there for the long term. The rangers care for a limited number of animals who have been injured near the park or who have been donated after spending extended time in captivity. Currently, the rangers feed and care for a red bellied turtle, a common snapping turtle, a box turtle, a diamondback terrapin (see photo), an amelanistic albino corn snake (see photo), an eastern black snake and an American toad.

Ranger Mel, more formally known as Melissa Til-

lery, reports that the park does not shelter any mammals or birds because they require more intensive care, including specialty cages and meals multiple times per day. This could be a problem during large snowfalls when rangers have trouble accessing the park on a daily basis. Ranger Mel's favorite animal she cares for is Cornelia, an albino corn snake that has a beautiful pattern of orange and red scales on her back and is described as incredibly "gentle and easy to handle." The rangers took in Cornelia after she was found on a nearby construction site and was determined to be unlikely to mature to adulthood due to a lack of camouflage.

Ranger Mel recently acquired an eastern black snake, now known as Mousetrap, that was found attached to a glue trap. The snake was frail, thin and had injured her skin on the trap, but was safely removed after greasing the trap with cooking oil. Another of Ranger Mel's favorites is Picky, the box turtle. Many people take box turtles out of their native habitat to keep as pets, but

this is a bad idea because the box turtle has a selective diet and needs very clean water. The box turtle is a valuable part of the native ecosystem and serves as an essential seed distributor. The diamondback terrapin is interesting because it is the mascot for the University of Maryland and serves as the Maryland state reptile. It is endangered and so illegal to own as a pet. However, the park has one that was rescued from captivity during a house fire in Baltimore City. It had burns on its skin and shell but is now thriving. It's even comfortable and friendly with people.

These animals are educational ambassadors for the students and adults who attend the many educational programs at the park. The

rangers use them to educate the public about reptiles and amphibians – how they fit into the native landscape of Lake Roland and Maryland. They are not treated as pets but are well cared for and fed specialized diets that meet their nutritional needs. The common black snake and the American toad are the two animals most likely to be found in the wild at Lake Roland.

Ranger Mel hopes that the new Lake Roland Nature and Environmental Education Center will provide more space to showcase and rehabilitate animals donated to the park. She aspires to have a turtle run that will allow the turtles to bask in the sun and have access to pond-like features while in the safety of captivity. Lake Roland has many regular programs that showcase the animals and the rangers anticipate they will be more available for display in the new educational building. To learn more about programs highlighting these animals, go to www.lakeroland.org. Please support the park by attending a nature walk or program or donating money to the Lake Roland Nature Council.



Ranger Mel holding the diamondback terrapin

Photo courtesy Shannon Putman



Ranger Mel holding the amelanistic albino corn snake

Photo courtesy Shannon Putman



Dumpster Day April 2016

by Jessica Paffenbarger

Judging by the amount of garbage and donations dropped off by neighbors, April's Dumpster Day was another popular RRLRAIA-sponsored community event. A big THANK YOU to Riderwood Elementary School for again permitting us to use their parking lot and to our volunteers who were kept busy directing traffic and unloading vehicles. The event was well-attended with many neighbors returning two or even three times, happy to unload their unwanted items from basements, attics and garages. Residents filled four dumpsters to the brim. The Goodwill and The Loading Dock trucks were also well-filled and the Planet Aid truck made off with a good haul of fabric, bags and other textiles.

Defenders of Animal Rights received many items this year: several bags of sheets, towels and linens; pet carriers; food storage bins and pet food; toys and beds; cat litter; and leashes, brushes and collars. Many thanks to Board members Anne Rouse and Mike Muldowney for transporting these items to the organization's shelter in northern Baltimore County.



Anne Rouse (Board member and Dumpster Day organizer extraordinaire) with neighbor Mary Beth Marsden Photo courtesy Linda Murphy



Neighbor Cathy Durkin is happy to clear out her cupboards by donating and dumping unwanted clutter Photo courtesy Jessica Paffenbarger



Terry Spencer just walks across the road to drop off his contributions

Photo courtesy Jessica Paffenbarger



Goodwill employees Cush (on truck) and Darnell accept donations from neighbors Patty and Peter Kimmel

Photo courtesy Jessica Paffenbarger



West Towson neighbor Adam Allston brings dumpster donations

Photo courtesy Anne Rouse



Neighbor Lynne Mallon arrives with contributions for Planet Aid

Photo courtesy Anne Rouse



Village Green neighbors Rob & Marshall Fry with a dumpster offering

Photo courtesy Anne Rouse



Mich Wilhelmi comes back for a third time with treasures for The Loading Dock's Corey (on truck) and Adara (L)

Photo courtesy Jessica Paffenbarger



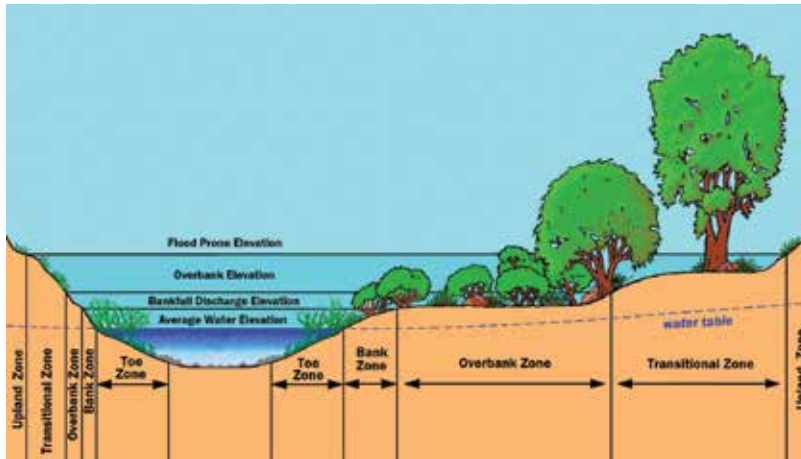
How to Design a Riparian Buffer

Riparian areas can offer natural beauty, cooling shade and a special sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. At the same time, they work to slow water flow by filtering and spreading water and helping to hold the soil in stream banks and trap nutrients.

A riparian buffer contains plants with flexible stems and rhizomatous root systems from the 'bank zone' to the 'overbank zone' and beyond. Tree species are usually planted in the upland zone, while wetland herbaceous species can be used to fill in the streambank cross section up to the upland zone.

According to riparian plant ecologist J. Chris Hoag of Hoag Riparian & Wetland Restoration LLC, the riparian planting area can be

divided into four zones: the toe zone (below the average water elevation or baseflow, where there is flow all summer long); the bank zone (the area between the average water elevation and the bankfull discharge elevation); the overbank zone (between the bankfull discharge elevation and the overbank elevation); and the transitional zone (between the overbank elevation and the flood-prone elevation). Based on these zones, a planting design can be developed showing where each species will be planted on the site. Plant shrubs with flexible stems in the bank and overbank zones on floodplains for diversity or stabilization or as a buffer. Plant trees up the bank from the shrubs or on top of the bank; the shrubs provide protection for the trees when planted this way. You can



Cross section of a riparian buffer Diagram courtesy J. Chris Hoag, Riparian Plant Ecologist

contact Mr. Hoag for a copy of his publication *Hoag Riparian & Wetland Restoration Guides #16*, March 2001. His email address is jchris.hoag@gmail.com or call 208-221-0944.

Art on the Trail at Lake Roland

By Kurt Davis and Nancy Kaplan

Art on the Trail is a unique exhibit allowing Maryland artists to showcase their work in the natural beauty of Lake Roland. These engaging installations connect the viewer to nature, art, aesthetics and function. The installations can be viewed along the red trail west of Lake Roland on the far side of the Light Rail tracks (shown clearly on the park's trail map at <http://lakeroland.org/trail-maps/>).

Originally the art works were meant to blend into the landscape with the understanding that they might eventually decay, be swept away by the elements or be reclaimed by the growing forest. However, the program has become so popular that installation guidelines were updated this year to include permanent works of art to be viewed year-round.

Started in 2014, the program was developed as part of the Lake Roland Master Naturalist program. The Art on the Trail committee, composed of six volunteers and park rangers, reviews and selects the artwork according to guidelines they developed. As a juried exhibit, Art on the Trail draws entries from talented professionals with impressive resumes who donate their ideas, supplies and time to the park.

A call for entries for Art on the Trail 2016 is now in progress with proposals for this season due by September 16, 2016. The chosen artists will have their installations placed in the park by December 2, with a "Meet The Artist" reception on December 11.



"Civilis Arbores," a grouping of frames overlooking the lake by artist Thomas Mulligan, is interactive, inspiring passersby to take pictures. Former Woodbrook resident and RRLRAIA Board member Elyse Jacob is pictured. Photo courtesy Kurt Davis

The 2015 installations included "The Edge Effect" by artist Elie R. Sollins; "Sacred Grove" by artists Howard and Mary McCoy; and "Ancestors Watching" by artist Bobby English, Jr. which draws inspiration from other cultures. At the location of each installation, there is a sign marker with an explanation about the art piece; just follow the trail and read the signs.



"Baby Mastodon" by artist Paul Rodriguez. This is Repo-Renaissance art, i.e., classical sculpture made from recycled material. The artist turns the debris he finds littering Maryland into art, inspiring ecological innovation and recycling of trash by others in hopes they will invent their own ways of making healing changes to the Earth.

Photo courtesy Kurt Davis



"The Edge Effect" by artist Elie R. Sollins. This sculpture of lumber, stone, wood and objects found within the park, suggests new edges where life in all its forms can meet, marry and evolve.

Photo courtesy Kurt Davis

Ram Pits – This Water Moves Up!

by Jessica Paffenbarger

Earlier this year Jim Owings, a Ruxton-Riderwood resident and amateur historian, suggested we write an article about ‘ram pits.’ Yes, ram pits. What on earth are these, you may ask? I did when I first heard about them, as did the entire newsletter team. Basically, a ram pit is a shallow well housing the core apparatus for a hydraulic system to move water from one location to a higher location without the use of electricity.

Mr. Owings grew up on a property in Ruxton-Riderwood, where he still resides, and recalls the ram pit in his family’s yard. It was still visible when he was a child in the 1950s, although it has since been filled in. He remembers being told that the pit (similar to the one in the photograph on page 21) was part of the system which provided fresh water to the original house that stood on the property in the late 1800s, a house that his family, after they bought the property in 1901, replaced in 1911 with the house that survives today. The water source for the 1800s house was a pond which also still exists. In fact, the pond has served many purposes; in winter it was used to harvest ice and in summer it became a swimming hole and a fond memory for Mr. Owings. With the country’s current pursuit of energy saving programs, perhaps there is something to be learned from these simple means of water supply from the past. Of course, drinking the water in our ponds or streams is a whole other story! But using a hydraulic ram system to supply a garden may be just the solution needed to achieve a small measure of water conservation.

Hydraulic rams are still used in the U.S., mainly by agricultural communities in remote areas. But in the mid-1800s, this system of moving water was the most commonly used method in the U.S. to pump fresh water into homes, barns and fields before electricity became available. The sources for the water varied from streams to rivers and ponds to lakes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service continued to make available their Technical Notes about hydraulic ram pumps well into the twenty-first century. The last one was dated September 2007 suggesting that perhaps it is time for us to capture the facts about the waning technology of ram pits.

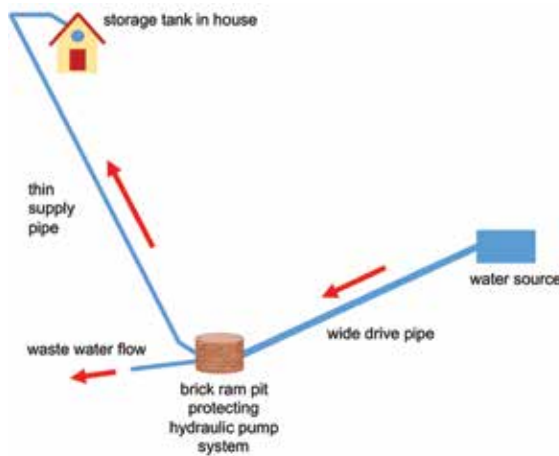
As you can see in the photograph, a vestige of this system still exists in the Wine Spring Lane neighborhood, including some of the pipe work which isn’t pictured in the photograph. The elliptical pit is about nine feet three inches at its longest cross section and sits several feet above a branch of Roland Run, which runs parallel with Wine Spring Lane. We can surmise that the stream was the source of water for this particular system.

The pump system is a lopsided, V-shape design with one side of the V shorter than the other. The point of the V is where the valve is located and the walls of the ram pit serve to protect it (see

sketch on page 21). The short arm of the V is the pipe that sits in a water source and is referred to as the drive pipe. Via gravity, the water travels down the drive pipe from the water source, collecting at the base of the V, where a closed valve holds it. Once enough water pressure builds up, the valve opens and the water shoots from the pipe through the ram apparatus and up a supply pipe to a water storage area in the home. Once fully drained of reserve water, the valve closes. The build-up of water pressure, the opening of the valve, the release of water up the supply pipe to the home and the reclosing of the valve is repeated about 40 times a minute. Once the storage tank is full, the water runs out a waste valve back into nature’s water system.

An additional valve in the supply pipe prevents water from running back down into the ram apparatus. Other pipes and valves complete the system and the drive and supply pipes are buried in the ground for protection. The pump assembly is placed in a deep pit (the ram

Continued on p. 21



Schematic of a hydraulic ram system Drawing courtesy Emily Bih

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Community Business Profile – Simply Beautiful Flowers and Gifts

by Rachel Seba

The corner of Falls and Clarkview Roads has been a busy place lately. New restaurants, shops and businesses have opened and, with new traffic patterns and a stoplight, this part of town has been revitalized for residents and workers. The latest addition, Simply Beautiful Flowers and Gifts, follows this trend. The thoughtful work remediating the site, planning and building the structure and presenting unique goods and services to the community are welcome additions.

Though new to the neighborhood, Simply Beautiful Flowers has been thriving for nearly 25 years. Started by Rennie Friedlander in her mother’s Pikesville basement, the shop has long been a go-to



A light and airy welcome for customers Photo courtesy Vincent Lupo

destination for thoughtful floral design. Not long after she started the business, Rennie moved to a small storefront in the Pikesville Alley Shops and her husband, Brian, joined her in the business.

This past January the business was reborn as Simply Beautiful Flowers and Gifts through a new partnership with the mother/daughter pair Debbie and Courtney Carey. The Carey family was a longtime customer of Simply Beautiful Flowers and was excited about the idea of teaming up with the Friedlanders. The four flower



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Archie, the shop mascot, is ready to greet customers Photo courtesy Vincent Lupo

lovers bought the property at 1400 Clarkview Road, “ground zero for a delivery business” and assembled a neighborhood team for “a truly custom build...a floral designer’s dream space” according to Rennie.

Working with local vendors including architect Peter Ratcliffe, Delbert Adams Construction Group, Sunnyfields for cabinetry, and Star Systems for lighting and A/V needs, the team has built a space meant to anticipate and meet their customers’ needs. As Courtney says: “Every part of the shop was well thought through,” and when it’s an experienced florist doing the thinking, that means every detail is designed to help designers bring their customers’ visions to life.



After an intense, eight-month build the new Simply Beautiful Flowers and Gifts opened its doors on March 22. The 6,000 square foot facility offers customers custom floral design, daily grab-and-go bouquets, luxury faux florals and a retail area stuffed with gifts for any occasion. Patrons will find coffee table books, candles, garden accessories and outdoor planters, houseplants in signature pots and even interior decorative touches like large mirrors.

Of course, flowers are the stars here and through the main shop is the floral arranging area. In this large, light-filled space, custom touches abound. There are three work tables hand-crafted by a local carpenter of cypress and hemlock and a countertop designed to photograph arrangements before shipping to customers. This is a place for flower lovers to work and play!



Floral arranging area Photo courtesy Vincent Lupo

While the customer-focus is real, the building doesn't skimp on meeting floral designers' needs either. Two steel triple sinks give the team plenty of space to prepare flowers for design; the pull-through garage means orders can be loaded for delivery no matter what the weather and the industrial box crusher means the team no longer spends hours breaking down wholesalers' boxes.

All of these touches and more make for what the partners describe as a dream. In fact, Rennie says, "I can't think of any more to dream." In both the big picture and the smallest detail, the dynamic partnership of the Careys and Friedlanders complements the community feel of the area. Surely the addition of Simply Beautiful Flowers and Gifts to the neighborhood is...simply wonderful.

If you'd like to stop by and 'smell the roses,' you'll find the shop in the Bare Hills area at 1400

Clarkview Road; they are open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Circle Road Clean-up

by Shannon Putman

It began with an email from a concerned neighbor and Circle Road resident Jill Heard to RRL-RAIA Executive Director Peggy Squitieri. It quickly followed into an email exchange to include Board members Shannon Putman and Kelley Keener. Could anything be done about the debris under the Circle Road bridge and the encroaching vines on the trees and fence surrounding the stream at the entrance to Circle Road? The buildup of logs, trash, organic material and invasive vines had become untenable and was leading to an increased frequency of flooding from the stream onto the road, often leading to temporary obstruction of passage across the bridge during high volume rain storms. Enthusiastically, a plan was developed to join forces with the Association and pair the Circle Road clean-up



The clean-up haul waiting to be picked up near Circle Road Bridge
Photo by Carlton Sexton

with our scheduled street clean-up of Falls and Old Court Roads.

The result was impressive! On a rainy morning in early April, a team of 21 Circle Road residents, including several children, gathered at the bridge and vigorously attacked the job with gloved hands and chainsaws. Fueled by doughnuts and determination, the group gathered eight large bags of litter and several dump trucks of organic matter. Baltimore County Bureau of Highways removed the debris and cleared the piles within the week. The results were visible to all who crossed the bridge and reinforced the value of team work and neighborhood camaraderie. All it took was one neighbor voicing concern over a problem, the

organizational might of the Association and the energy of fellow neighbors to find a solution.

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Spring 2016 Street and Stream Clean-ups

by **Carlton Sexton**

Our first street and stream clean-up of the year took place on April 2, followed by a second street clean-up at the end of May. The highlight of the morning emerged at the Circle Road bridge with a team of at least 21 neighbors, including four children, and a couple of chain saws and other major yard work weapons. Shannon Putman and Jill Heard organized and led the team. In addition to eight bags of litter dumped by our big February rain-storm along the banks of Roland Run, 25 cubic yards of branches and vines were untangled from the flood plain and piled near the bridge for collection by Baltimore County.

Meanwhile, back at the Association's street clean-up, four RRLRAIA Board members were able to tackle most of our sections of Falls Road and Old Court Road in a little over two hours.



Stream clean-up by Boys' Latin School volunteers. From left to right: Michael Scandora, David Giordano, Sean Lezcano, Walker Campbell and Henry Purdue. Photo courtesy Carlton Sexton

Project Clean Stream, sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and supported by Blue Water Baltimore, supplied five volunteers from The Retreat at Sheppard Pratt's Ruxton House, along with a volunteer from the Church of the Holy Comforter to address trash in other stream sections. Along Roland Run north of the Royal Farms store, volunteers collected seven bags of litter, including an oversized tire (if you've ever tried to move one yourself, you know how much of a challenge it is). In addition, two exchange students from Shanghai, China, who were attending St. Paul's School, collected four bags of litter from Pimlico Road and Slaughterhouse Branch.

Fall 2016 and April 2017 will bring many more clean-up projects in our neighborhoods. Don't put that volunteer gear away just yet! Check the RRLRAIA website calendar (www.rrlraia.org) and watch for emails for the dates of our next events.

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Sharing our Neighborhood Streets

by Jessica Paffenbarger

While our area has some lovely roads for driving and cycling, it also has its fair share of curving, narrow roads with poor visibility due to fences, signs, corners and overgrown plantings. We all want to get where we are going safely, which means sharing the road and understanding our responsibility. As the approach of fall brings shorter daylight traveling hours, we caution motorists and cyclists alike to take extra care when traveling around our neighborhoods.

Under Maryland law, bicycles are classified as vehicles, too, so cyclists and motorists must follow the same set of road rules. An easily digestible listing of the current laws can be found in Maryland's "Bicycle Safety in Maryland" document at www.mva.maryland.gov/safety, click on the tab 'Safety Programs', then on 'Bicycle Safety', then on 'See More' for the complete document "Bicycle Safety in Maryland." To help safely navigate our neighborhoods, some of the key laws for motorists and bicyclists from this document are listed below.

Traffic Laws for Motorists

- The driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle, including a bicycle, must pass at a safe distance and leave plenty of space.

The driver should be able to see the passed vehicle in the rear view mirror before returning to the original lane. After passing, a driver must make sure they are clear of the bicyclist before making any turns.



- The driver of a vehicle must not pass any closer than three (3) feet to a bicycle or motor scooter if the bicycle is operated in a lawful manner. It is not lawful to ride against traffic.
- The bicycle has the right-of-way when the motor vehicle is making a turn and motorists must yield to bicyclists.
- Motorists must yield the right-of-way to bicyclists riding in bike lanes and shoulders when these vehicle operators are entering or crossing occupied bike lanes and shoulders.
- Failing to yield right-of-way to a bicyclist, resulting in a crash in which the bicyclist is seriously injured, can result in a \$1,000 fine and three points on a driving record.
- When riding on a sidewalk — where such riding is permitted — or a bike path, bicyclists may ride in a crosswalk to continue on their route. Motorists are required to yield right-of-way to a bicyclist operating lawfully in a crosswalk. Drivers must look for bicycles coming from both directions. (TR §21-101, §21-202, and §21-1103).

Traffic Laws for Bicyclists

- Maryland's traffic laws apply to bicycles and motor scooters. (TR§21-1202)
- A bicycle may not carry a passenger unless it is specifically designed for and equipped with a seat for each passenger. (TR§21-1203)
- Bicycles, motor scooters and EPAMDs [Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device] are not permitted on any roads where the speed limit is more than 50 miles per hour (MPH). (TR§21-1205.1)
- A person riding a bicycle shall ride as close to the right side of the road as practicable and safe, except when:
 - Making or attempting to make a left turn;
 - Operating on a one-way street;
 - Passing a stopped or slower moving vehicle;
 - Avoiding pedestrians or road hazards;
 - The right lane is a right turn only lane, or
 - Operating in a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle to travel safely side-by-side within the lane (TR§21-1205).
- Where there is a bike lane, a person must use it and not ride a bicycle or motor scooter in the roadway except: (TR§21-1205.1)
 - If passing safely cannot be done within the bike lane or shoulder;
 - When preparing for a left turn;

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- To avoid hazards, or
 - When the bike lane is also a right-turn or merge lane.
- A person riding a bicycle or motor scooter may not cling to any vehicle on the roadway. (TR§21-124)
 - A motor scooter may not be operated at a speed in excess of 30 MPH. (TR§21-1205.1)
 - An EPAMD may not be operated at a speed in excess of 15 MPH. (TR§21-1205.1)
 - A person cannot carry anything that prevents them from keeping both hands on the handlebars or that interferes with the view or balance of their bicycle, motor scooter or EPAMD. (TR§21-1206)

Helmets

- Helmets are required for everyone under the age of 16, including passengers, who ride their bicycles on the road, bicycle paths or any public property. (TR§21-1207.1)
- Helmets are also required for everyone under the age of 16 who is riding on a scooter or on in-line skates. (TR§21-1207.2)
- Helmets must meet or exceed the standards of the American National Standards Institute, the Snell Memorial Foundation or the American Society for Testing and Materials. (TR§21-1207.1)

Safe travels through the neighborhood!

Ram Pits – This Water Moves Up!

Continued from page 15

pit) to protect the ram apparatus and increase the vertical drop of the water from the source. The apparatus in the pit includes a pressure tank – a tank filled with air – which cushions the ‘hammer’ of the pump when the valve at the end of the drive

pipe closes. The size of the pipes, pump and pit vary according to the amount of water to be stored and the height to which the water must be pumped. Modern hydraulic ram systems don’t require a ram pit, so their heyday has truly passed.

For more information about the hydraulic ram, an excellent description and diagram can be found at <http://library.united-diversity.coop/Energy/Hydraulic-Ram.pdf>.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Mr. Owings for bringing this piece of local history to our attention.



Ram pit off Wine Spring Lane

Photo courtesy Jessica Paffenbarger



I’m interested in how things work.

I am an athlete. I am an artist. I am a musician. I am a thinker. *I am caring.*

If I had to make a metaphor for myself, it would be a penguin that always wanted to see what was on the next iceberg.

I know this because I go to Park.

—Gabriel, 4th Grade

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Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland

Properties sold from January – June 2016

Courtesy of the Whit Harvey Group of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation

ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
1617 Alston Road		385,000
916 Army Road	550,000	555,000
6 Barrow Court	225,000	160,000
8 Barrow Court		180,000
8005 Bellona Avenue	369,000	359,000
8222 Bellona Avenue	525,000	555,000
1210 Berwick Road	1,150,000	1,160,000
1512 Berwick Road	598,000	580,000
1212 Boyce Avenue	2,192,000	2,192,000
1306 Boyce Avenue	710,000	685,000
1504 Boyce Avenue	875,000	883,000
611 Brightwood Club Drive	650,000	610,000
8218 Carrbridge Circle	510,000	520,000

ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
8307 Carrbridge Circle	599,900	593,000
8333 Carrbridge Circle	350,000	340,000
1510 Carrollton Avenue		505,000
7109 Charles Spring Way	561,600	560,000
6325 Charles Street	290,225	284,000
517 Charles Street Avenue	550,000	
6730 Charles Street Avenue	780,000	765,000
6621 Charlesway	417,050	410,000
6625 Charlesway	650,000	650,000
419 Chestnut Avenue		523,350
1820 Circle Road	1,895,000	1,500,000
9 Coldwater Court		300,000
17 Coldwater Court		255,000
10 Coniston Road	1,095,000	985,000
15 Devon Hill Road	549,000	522,500
1502 Dunlora Road	698,000	665,000
7913 Ellenham Avenue	799,000	790,000
7847 Ellenham Road	729,000	700,000
707 Hillstead Drive	890,000	860,000
802 Hillstead Drive	1,950,000	1,665,000
1102 Hollins Lane		875,000
1902A Indian Head Road	699,000	685,000
8244 Jeffers Circle		269,500
1420 W. Joppa Road		550,000
1426 W. Joppa Road		165,000
1513 W. Joppa Road		505,000
1805 W. Joppa Road	239,000	230,500
2014 W. Joppa Road		635,000
118 Judges Lane	379,900	350,000
1724 Killington Road		515,000
6001 Lakehurst Drive		672,249
6003 Lakeview Road		460,000
6019 Lakeview Road	450,000	450,000
1803 Landrake Road	555,000	553,500
1813 Landrake Road	515,000	540,000
3 Leadburn Court	409,900	390,000
7612 L'Hirondelle Club Road	1,075,000	1,075,000
1513 Locust Avenue	374,900	370,000
8 Malibu Court	475,000	450,000
22 Malibu Court	340,000	340,000
1403 Malvern Avenue	798,500	754,000
1503 Malvern Avenue	449,000	450,000
1909 Old Court Road	535,000	500,000
7807 Overbrook Road	949,900	937,500
512 Piccadilly Road		495,000



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Outstanding Leadership Award Goes to Jeffrey Budnitz – a Dedicated Community Volunteer

by Nancy Worden Horst

Congratulations to Lake Roland Nature Council volunteer (and RRLRAIA Board member) Jeffrey Budnitz who won the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Community Volunteer of the Year Award this spring. The MRPA award is given to “an individual recognized for outstanding service to a local/community park, recreation or leisure program within the state.” His significant trail restoration and trail clearing work in Lake Roland played a significant role in his selection for this award.

Always behind the scenes and without fanfare, Jeffrey can often be seen driving a ‘Gator,’ a park trail dump truck or a bulldozer, as well as organizing crews to clear invasive vines and bushes from the serpentine and other areas of the park. Jeffrey and his crew wield clippers, loppers and chainsaws (crew members take chainsaw training, also organized by Jeffrey), and use park



Lake Roland Head Ranger Shannon Davis, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks representative Patrick McDougall, Jeffrey Budnitz, Baltimore County Recreation representative Beahtha Davis and Lake Roland Ranger Jeff Ruark. Photo courtesy Siobhan Budnitz

trucks for dumping and spreading stone. Jeffrey, his wife Siobhan and other loyal volunteers have organized clean-ups in Paw Point dog park and work tirelessly to keep up with the demands of this popular resource. Jeffrey also meets with elected officials, works with County employees and raises awareness (and much-needed funds) from neighboring businesses.


Also honored at the MRPA Annual Conference, held in Ocean City, was Lake Roland Ranger Jeff Ruark, who received the ‘Tree Hugger of the Year Award’ for lifetime achievement from the Park & Resource Conservation Branch of MRPA.

Editor’s Note. Jeffrey has been a Board member of RRLRAIA for many years, is a Lake Roland Nature Council Board member and its treasurer, and manages his own business in Bare Hills, working tirelessly with other stakeholders to implement RRLRAIA’s Community Plan 2010.

Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland

Continued from page 22

ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
617 Piccadilly Road	365,000	380,000
635 Piccadilly Road		475,000
6209 Pleasant View		233,888
3 Railroad Avenue		101,700
4 Railroad Avenue		97,500
429 Range Road	459,000	475,000
445 Range Road	370,000	365,000
8123 Rider Avenue		377,500
1710 Roland Avenue	198,000	198,000
1014 Rolandvue Road	525,000	510,000
1514 Ruxton Road	339,000	321,000
1714 Ruxton Road		830,000
8204 Ruxton Crossing Court	1,350,000	1,250,000
7906 Ruxway Road		350,000
7923 Ruxway Road	290,000	275,000
8120 Thornton Road	470,000	470,000
1407 Walnut Hill Lane	1,695,000	1,647,500
1411 Wine Spring Lane	1,325,000	1,260,000
102 Woodbrook Lane	2,785,000	2,700,000
8209 Yarborough Road	389,000	388,000



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