



BULLETIN



Vol. 3—No. 2

May, 1974

President Thanks Many For Successful Year

by George Wills

Your Association is completing an exceptionally busy and productive year for the Ruxton-Riderwood communities and those communities that border Charles Street to the east and Falls Road to the west. Membership has increased markedly, as a result of important zoning and land use issues facing our community. Through a strong communications program about the threat of an adverse zoning change on the Sobeloff property, your Association stimulated a membership increase of over 100 residents.

The heart of your Association's program is a strong committee system composed of members of the Board of Governors. The highlights of these committees' work, in the past year, is as follows:

Zoning - Phillips Goldsborough, III, Dryden Hall - co-chairman. The most critical issue facing our community has been the proposed DR-16 zoning request for the Sobeloff tract, Charles Street and Joppa Road, for 500 apartments on 33 acres. The Zoning Committee has been working closely with Association Secretary Erroll Hay and other residents adjacent to this tract.

ZONING HEARINGS SET

Hearings before the Baltimore County Board of Zoning Appeals are scheduled for late this spring. Your Association has made a major financial commitment, in conjunction with residents of the immediate area, to oppose any zoning change for this property. We will vigorously oppose any increase in density as proposed by the owner, Excavation Contractors.

For the past two years excavation and grading operations on this tract created tremendous damage to Lake Roland. Tons of silt were poured into the lake by inadequate sediment control procedures. Now, after literally "raping" the land, Excavation Contractors, seeks a zoning change that will create heavy volumes on Bellona Avenue and increase population density in an area totally unsuited for such an increase.

Other zoning matters have included

monitoring of, opposition to zoning changes on the Barney property, Falls Road and Hollins Avenue; the Pikesville Plumbing and Heating tract on Falls and Valley Roads; Webb-Oles property, Ruxton Bridge and Bellona Avenue.

BRIDGE PLANS STUDIED

Traffic and Roads Committee is headed by S. James Campbell and Alexander Y. Hoff. This committee has had an exceptionally active year, beginning with a series of meetings with county and State officials on the rebuilding of the Riderwood bridge, Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue. Through your Association's efforts and the co-operation of county agencies, plans for a greatly enlarged bridge have been reduced.

We are in opposition to any detours during construction of a new bridge that would divert traffic over Ellenham Avenue to Ruxton Road, or Roland Avenue to Bellona Avenue over the railroad tracks. Public hearings will be held on this issue.

The Roads Committee has also monitored county and city plans to upgrade Circle, Club Road Bridges. The Roads Committee had reported that there are no current plans to build such a road.

GRADE ELIMINATED

The sharp and dangerous grade when approaching this intersection from the north will be eliminated. On the south side of the intersection, it is tentatively planned that the triangle and first dual entrances to Bellona Avenue here from Wine Spring Lane will be eliminated and that a nominal taking from the next property owner south will be necessary.

Consideration for a grade crossing in lieu of a new bridge for this project was discarded because of the prohibitively long regrading of Joppa Road to the east that would have been required in order to meet acceptable descent grade proceeding west.

The curb-to-curb width of 30 feet plus a sidewalk on one side and 30 mph speed are the present design criteria of the bridge.

(Continued on Page 4)

Hughes Special Speaker At Annual Meeting May 20

Harry Hughes, Maryland's top transportation official, will be the speaker at the annual meeting of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Monday, May 20, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Boyce and Carrollton Avenues, Ruxton.

Mr. Hughes is Maryland's Secretary of Transportation and former majority leader of the State Senate. He will discuss the transportation problems as they affect the Ruxton-Riderwood area. Of particular interest to residents of this community is restoration of commuter service on the Northern Central Railroad and improved community bus service. As the top policy-making official for transportation in Maryland, Mr. Hughes' remarks will be of vital interest to the community.

The other highlight of the evening will be a special report on the upcoming Sobeloff property zoning hearing, slated for June 4, 6 and 11, at 10 A.M., Room 301, County Office Building.

These hearings will be discussed by Richard C. Murray, the Association's Counsel. Erroll Hay, III, will supplement Mr. Murray's talk with a special slide presentation of the destruction of this tract of land by grading and excavation, 1971-1973.

The entire community is invited to attend this special annual meeting. This will be an excellent opportunity to all residents to hear what must be done to stop the rezoning of the Sobeloff tract to D.R. 16, thereby allowing 500 apartments on 33 acres.

Green Spring Valley

Green Spring Valley derived its name from Green Springs located on 62 acre tract originally belonging to the Elders and the Noales. The Chattolane Hotel was built on the property in 1890, and was once a well known resort. Water from the springs is still being sold under the name of Chattolane.

New Member Growth Makes Record Gains

Interest in the important work of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association is reflected in the increase in membership. Since the last issue of the Bulletin the list of new members has continued to climb, making a record gain, reassuring evidence that the residents of the area are backing the work of the association in its effort to protect the neighborhood in the matter of the many problems arising from rezoning, traffic, pollution. Following is a list of new members:

Mr. and Mrs. John N. Alexander
Mr. and Mrs. John Bacon, Jr.
Miss Margaret H. Bardzik
Miss Janet H. Bardzik
Dr. Katherine H. Borkovich
Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Barnhart
Mr. and Mrs. Stanislaw Bask-Mostwin
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bensonson
Dr. Annie M. Bestebreurtje
Mr. and Mrs. F. Kenneth Bloom
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. C. Bond
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Born
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Bozel
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne M. Brittain
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Brooks
Major and Mrs. W. O. Butler, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Cashman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Chaffinch
Dr. and Mrs. Ewan B. Chambers
Mr. and Mrs. James Boxley Cooke
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Cooper, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Crow, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Darby
Mrs. Katherine D. Dashiell
Mr. and Mrs. Rix A. Dieffenbach
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Doak
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Doub
Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Dunn, Jr.
Mrs. Marshall Eckers
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen T. Ellen
Mr. George D. Fox
Mr. and Mrs. W. Chester Fox
Mr. and Mrs. J. Gaillard Frey, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Garthe
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Gehret
Mr. and Mrs. M. Robert Gemmill
Mr. and Mrs. Hauer E. Gischel
Mr. and Mrs. Sydney A. Gosman
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Haeffner
Rev. and Mrs. Arthur S. Hanson
Mr. Donald G. Hanson
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Harman
Mr. and Mrs. Alan E. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Owen G. Hartlove
Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Heinecke
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce A. Herman
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hilgartner, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Holley
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hood
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Hopkins
Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Hoshall
Mr. and Mrs. Byron W. Inman, Jr.
Mr. Robert H. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn E. Jones, 3rd
Dr. and Mrs. Conrad G. Julian
Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Kemp, 3rd
Dr. and Mrs. George H. Kohler
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Lambros
Mr. Walter J. Lears, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Donald T. Lewers
Dr. and Mrs. Hugh L. McNeil
Mr. Charles E. McCarthy
Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Mann, Jr.
Dr. Michael R. Mardiney, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Martin
Mrs. Ivan M. Marty
Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Mays, 3rd
Mr. and Mrs. C. Ross Menchey
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Meinert
Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Miller, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Robert Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. J. Kevin Mueller
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Myers
Mr. L. E. Neale, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Nicholson
North Towson Building Co., Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Lee C. Park
Dr. and Mrs. William F. Pearce
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Pletcher
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Pohlhaus
Miss Ruth V. Price
Mr. and Mrs. James O. Proctor
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Quinn
Mr. and Mrs. B. Arthur Raetsch
Mr. and Mrs. Sam A. Rasken
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Retzker
Mr. and Mrs. Austin L. Reynolds
Mr. Hency C. Ritz
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Rosch
Ruxton Imports, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Carl B. Schleifer
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Schoenhaar
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart A. Schuck
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon J. Steedman
Mr. and Mrs. William N. Stellmann
Mrs. Frank B. Tompkins
Mrs. F. Howard Trewin
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas E. Vaughan
Dr. and Mrs. George J. Vlasak
Mr. and Mrs. Howard H. Vorderberge
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilder
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph N. Willis
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McD. Wyatt
Dr. and Mrs. Carl A. Zapffe
Dr. and Mrs. William H. Zinkham

Warehouse Zoning Sought by Rockland Bleach-Dye

Rockland Bleach and Dye Corporation is seeking zoning action in this next cycle of zoning requests to erect a warehouse on its property east of Falls Road across from its present plant. More details on just what this entails will be forthcoming and residents in the Indian Head Road area who will be particularly affected by such a change will be alerted.

This same corporation was turned down in its previous request to change the zoning of the same sixteen acres east of Falls Road from DR-1 to DR-16.

Association Spans 23 Years Community Service

Organized in January, 1953, the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association has thus spanned a period of twenty-one years of service to the community, evidence of the confidence and support of the public.

With the increase in population, especially in the suburban areas, bringing about many changes in both State and County regulations, the homeowner must be ever vigilant to protect the residential status of the neighborhood and to make constructive suggestions to the ruling powers.

Now more than ever there must be a healthy balance between government and citizenry.

Publicity, the presentation of ideas and information regarding neighborhood events, whether in the matter of roads, traffic regulations, bridge repairs, pollution or the many other facets of community problems, becomes a vital need in working out formulas of living for a better and happier way of life.

The Bulletin is making effort to report all pertinent information relative to the Ruxton-Riderwood area.

Joppa Road Bridge Impact Statement Awarded

The County is still waiting Federal Government evaluation of its environmental impact statement on plans for replacing Joppa Road Bridge over Northern Central Railroad and improving the Joppa Road - Bellona Avenue intersection. Upon receipt of approval of this statement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the County will schedule a public hearing on the project. Approximately sixteen inquiries were received by the County which they have considered as requests for a public hearing, when all desired information can be made available.

Present tentative plans on the west side of the bridge call for a retaining wall along the adjacent property line on the south side of Joppa Road, but no changes in either Ruxway or Rider Avenue entrances and essentially the same entrance to the old station property west of the bridge. Some widening of the west side of Bellona Avenue, north of Joppa Road, could possibly be accomplished with a retaining wall to avoid taking from the property owner on the northwest corner.

Joppa Road Site In Area For 47 Apartment Units

A hearing on cycle re-classification involving 6.27 acres, the Stump property located at the corner of Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue, will come up for a hearing in the early fall in the zoning department of Baltimore County. The reclassification, if granted, would permit the construction of 47 garden apartment units at this location.

Details of this proposed re-classification plan will appear in an advertisement of the Jeffersonian, issue of May 8. Legal steps will undoubtedly be taken to prevent the construction of these multi-type garden apartments. This contemplated building enterprise in a neighborhood that is so strictly residential in the very center of the Ruxton-Riderwood area would undoubtedly have an adverse impact on the entire aspect of the neighborhood.

No Appeal Instituted In Johnson Property Case

The long series of legal maneuverings that began back in 1970 in the matter of the proposed rezoning of the Johnson Property on the Falls Road in an effort to sell that property to the Rouse interests has for the time being come to an end.

Petitioner in the proceedings for rezoning of the tract including parcels for business areas, apartment units, etc. was the Rockland Holding Corporation, legal owner, an entity which represented nine members of the Johnson family whose early ancestors originally acquired the property in 1690.

The Rockland Holding Corporation had entered into a contract of sale with the Rouse-Wates Corporation. This contract was contingent upon requested zoning reclassification and special exceptions.

The petition for rezoning was denied in an order signed by S. Eric DiNenna, Zoning Commissioner, on February 12, 1973. An appeal from these proceedings was taken to the Board of Appeals. The case was duly argued, but the request for rezoning was again denied in a special order signed by John A. Slowick, chairman, and Walter Reiter, constituting a majority of the Board. A dissenting opinion was filed by Giles Parker, the third member of the Board.

The thirty days period from that Board's decision expired without the Rockland Holding Corporation taking advantage of its legal right of appeal to the Circuit Court of Baltimore County. There have been no indications as what future plans have been made for the property.

Zoning Committee Report of Current Cases

Zoning problems continue to dominate much of the attention of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, involving constant supervision not only in the matter of legal detail of the various cases but also the responsibility of final trial work before the Zoning Commissioner, the Board of Zoning Appeals and perhaps the Circuit Court of Baltimore County.

Two cases of importance concern Excavation Contractors and the Windsor property. These properties are located on the north side of Bellona Avenue, adjacent to Brookside Lane. The Windsor property consists of 3.85 acres currently zoned DR 3.5 and DR 2. An application is pending for a change in the zoning to DR 16. The Excavation Contractors property consists of 31.5 acres, currently zoned DR 3.5 and DR 2. Here also, an application is pending for a change in zoning to DR 16. Both applications have been denied by the Zoning Commissioner, and both cases are now pending on appeal by the property owners to the Board of Appeals. The trial before the Board of Appeals in the Excavation Contractors case has been scheduled for June 4, 1974. No definite date has yet been assigned for the trial of the Windsor case, but it is expected that this trial will probably take place in July.

POPULATION DENSITY PROBLEM

Our Association is actively opposing each of these applications, since they would result, particularly in the case of the Excavation Contractors property, in large scale apartment developments in a single family residential area and would create serious problems in the neighborhood with respect to increased population density, increased traffic density, would adversely affect the value of other residential properties in the area, and generally would result in a highly undesirable change in the character of the entire neighborhood.

Counsel for our Association is proceeding with the work necessary to properly prepare the cases, in cooperation with counsel for various property owners in the area most immediately affected. Arrangements have been made to secure the necessary expert opinion evidence. Members of the Board of Governors and of the Zoning Committee consider these cases to be of a crucial nature, and intend to do everything possible to see that these applications for rezoning are defeated.

DULLINGER PROPERTY

This property is located on the west side of Charles Street north of

Towsontowne Boulevard. An application is pending for change in zoning classification from DR 2 to DR 16 with a special exception for a medical office building. The property backs up to the Four Winds Development, and the application is being actively opposed by the Four Winds Association, which is being assisted in its opposition to the application by our Association. It is expected that this case may be assigned for hearing before the Board of Appeals in July or August.

WEBB - OLES TRACT

This property is located on the north side of Ruxton Road west of the Ruxton Township Apartments. Our Association has filed suit in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County asking for a reclassification from DR 16 to DR 2 of a small sliver of the property which appears to have been erroneously zoned DR 16 on the 1971 zoning map. The case is at issue on our bill of complaint and the answer of the property owners and the County. No trial date has been assigned. Negotiations are continuing with the attorney for the property owners, and it is hoped that a satisfactory disposition of this case may be arrived at without the necessity for trial.

EGYPT FARMS CASE

This property is located on the east side of Charles Street immediately south of the beltway. The property consists of two parcels, one of about seven acres owned by John Strickland and the other of about three acres owned by Leonard Stulman and wife. The application of the property owners for reclassification from DR 16 to BL was denied by the Board of Appeals in January of 1974. Riderwood Hills Association was supported in its opposition to the application by our Association, both financially and through testimony at the trial before the Board of Appeals. An Appeal has been filed by the property owners to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. Argument on that appeal took place before Judge J. Kemp MacDaniel on April 16, 1974. We expect that the decision of the Board of Appeals will be affirmed.

BARNEY (PRESTON) PROPERTY

This property is located on the east side of Falls Road at the intersection of Hollins Lane. An application for reclassification from DR 3.5 to DR 16 with a special exception for medical offices was opposed by your Association and has now been dismissed by counsel for the property owner.

Phillips L. Goldsborough III
Committee Chairman

It is hoped that the majority of the through east west traffic now using Joppa Road can be rerouted to the Beltway, particularly due to the inadequacy of Ellenham Road.

The Association will keep in close touch with this project and will be glad to help clarify any issued that might arise concerning it.

LAKE ROLAND REPORT

Lake Roland Committee, George Wills, chairman. A separate report on the status of Lake Roland in this Bulletin issue. Your Association has worked with nearby residents this year on another problem relating to the Lake: the safety and attractiveness of Robert E. Lee Park. There have been expressions of concern by residents in the Hollins Road - Lake Falls areas about speeding motorcycles and other vehicles to and from the park. A continuing effort will be made to encourage the park's management to maintain its recreations program at reasonable daylight hours.

Roland Run Committee - Carlton S. Hardwich, Carlotta Shelton, co-chairman. In response to many expressions of concern by Springway and Ruxway Road residents, your Association established a standing committee to help solve the flooding problems created by swollen waters of Roland Run. During heavy and even moderate rains, these waters have caused damage to properties and homes along the run. This committee has had the active support of your Association's in developing help from appropriate county agencies.

COMMUTER SERVICE NEED

An important transportation issue facing our community is the revival of train commuter service. Your Association has been actively encouraging the re-activation of the "Parkton Local" on the Northern Central tracks passing through Ruxton. There is also continuing concern about the increasing number of motorcycles on the roadbed adjacent to the single Northern Central Track. The Roads Committee has been seeking the co-operation of the Penn Central Railroad to reduce this hazard.

The Communications Committee headed by Arthur Waxter has moved actively to keep your Association in contact with zoning and land use problems of Ruxton and Riderwood that may affect this area. This committee is monitoring proposed land use changes for a parking lot in the Bare Hills section; also any potential change on a tract at Falls and Valley Roads owned by Pikesville Heating and Plumbing.

Your Association has co-operated

with our neighbors in Lutherville in opposing land use changes that will adversely affect that historic community.

The Communications Committee has also monitored potential zoning problems with the Jerry Geary property (Pimlico Road) and has kept close contact with other community improvement associations, including the Seminary Council, Riderwood Hills and the Valley Planning Council.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Publications Committee - Edwin K. Gontrum, Erroll Hay, co-chairman. Three outstanding Bulletin issues have been completed this year under Editor Ed Gontrum. In addition to regular news items, feature stories and special historical notes have been included. Photography is an important addition, including photographs of the temporary Riderwood Post Office, the Old Ruxton Railroad station in the 1930's, and, in this issue, a picture of Lake Roland taken by Rick Wills.

The important department of membership under the direction of Richard Frisch has had a strong increase this year, particularly heightening in the absence of a major zoning battle until January when the excavated Sobeloff property was threatened with a high-density increase to DR 16. From May 1973 to May 1974 the membership has increased over 300 residents, a phenomenal record. This is evidence of an active program run by this hardworking committee of your Association.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Finally, a personal note: It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association for the past year. The success of this year is largely the result of a solid foundation established in the term of my predecessor, T. Talbott Bond, an important asset in fulfilling these responsibilities has been the help and advice of many long-time community leaders - names such as Jim Campbell, Dorsey Yearley, Phil Goldsborough, Page Dame, Bill Finley and Ed Gontrum come to mind as having been particularly helpful to me in relating the Association's activities to the important accomplishments of past years. They have my thanks, as do the hardest group of volunteers I know - the members of our Board of Governors.

In particular, the committee chairmen have carried a heavy load. Phil Goldsborough and Dutch Hall, Zoning; Jim Campbell and Sandy Hoff, Traffic and Roads; Dick Frisch, Membership, Earroll Hary, Sobeloff

property, and also secretary to the Board; Archie Waxter, Communications; Carlotta Shelton and Carlton Hardwich, Roland Run; Jenks Cromwell, Nominating Committee; Bill Sawers, Treasurer; Dick MacGill and Dick Harper, our two vice president.

THE BULLETIN SERVICE

A special word of thanks goes to Ed Gontrum, editor of the Bulletin and a former president of the Association. Ed has enthusiastically undertaken the difficult task of assembling many articles submitted for each issue and has applied his own special "flair" in providing interesting historical pictures and reports. The Bulletin is an important way of communicating to our community "What is going on."

My appreciation to those who have made this year's program run so smoothly would not be complete without thanking three hard-working and dedicated people, Alice Sadtler, our staff secretary, and her husband Lew, handled the innumerable administrative chores with ease and patience. Marge Jones also gave outstanding assistance on administrative secretarial matters. Special commendation is due Page Dame and Marge Bright for their work in connection with the Lake Roland Watershed Foundation.

Community work is time consuming, even frustrating at times. But, unless each of us take a special interest in Ruxton and Riderwood, then we only have ourselves to blame for poor streets, high density apartment developments we didn't want; a lake clogged with dirt and trash. The only way to keep these problems under control is to get active in our community.

Zoning changes require our constant vigilance to protect this fine, historic area. We are particularly fortunate in Ruxton and Riderwood to have great natural beauty and a unique lake. Each of us, as residents and members of this Association, are also trustees with the important obligation to pass these assets intact to future generations.

Fort Garrison

Garrison on the Reisterstown Road derived its name from Fort Garrison said to be the oldest standing fort in Maryland, a brochure of May 1, 1964, of St. Thomas Church, states, "In 1693 a 'Garrison Road' linking four forts from which Rangers patrolled the frontier as a protection against Indians was laid from the Patapsco River."

Club-Circle Road Plan Not Envisaged by County

Recent articles in this paper have noted that County's present capital budget for 1974-75 includes funds for the replacement of the original and temporary bridge on Circle Road over Roland Run. As approved by the County Council, these items in the budget must then be approved by the voters by their authorization of various bonds in the November ballot.

Concern by certain area residents that there were also later plans for a County road paralleling Roland Run and connecting Circle Road and Club Road were dispelled by Albert Kaltenbach, Baltimore County Director of Public Works, when he personally visited in the area with Ned Obrecht, Cub Harvey and a few other nearby residents the afternoon of April 18, 1974.

Mr. Kaltenbach noted again, as had been indicated in the last issue of this paper, that there were no plans for such a connecting road, and that it was obvious that the flood plain of this stream valley would require a very expensive subgrade if such a road were to be considered. It is possible that the additional fears concerning the road were kindled by the stakes sighted in place in the area by the Circle Road Bridge. The lineup of these stakes rather than indicating any road or bridge alignment were instead merely stakes set by the surveyors in the field making a topographical plat to be used in connection with the bridge specifications. These stakes are often askew to the alignment of the roadway.

As previously noted, the new bridge will exactly parallel and be in the same exact location as the present bridge. The Bailey Bridge which will be used during construction will then be removed. The new bridge will relieve the Circle Road area of the problem caused by the current weight restriction placed on the bridges.

Springtime Colorful In Ruxton-Riderwood Area

Springtime this year has never been more beautiful than in the Ruxton-Riderwood area. Dogwoods in their white blossoms seem to be everywhere. This is a dogwood year, the experts say. As one tours the winding roads, there are gardens on every hand with vari-colored tulips with their patterns of red, pink, yellow and lavender. Then there are the azaleas to give a colorful background to the landscape.

Many of the homes have their rows of white and purple lilacs, and the fragrance from the blossoms pervades the atmosphere.



Lake Roland: view south from a point near Club Road Bridge. Photo by Rick Wills who took this picture

standing on dry silt and mud that used to be part of the Lake.

Lake Roland Report, Financial Progress Noted

In a letter from Malcolm S. Aldrich, director of the Department of Recreation and Parks of Baltimore County, to George S. Wills, president of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association, encouraging news as to rehabilitation of the Lake Roland project has now reached the point where a successful outcome seems almost assured.

"This is to confirm," the letter states, "that the Department of Recreation and Parks has included funds for the Lake Roland rehabilitation project in its 1974-75 Capital Budget Requests which have been submitted to the County Government for review, and, hopefully, subsequent approval.

BIRD SANCTUARY AREA

"I am also happy to report to you that at its regular monthly meeting on March 13, 1974, the Board of Recreation and Parks considered and approved the proposal to designate the Lake Roland Area and Robert E. Lee Park as a Bird Sanctuary. The Board and Department will recommend to the Administration that appropriate action for County Council adoption of this proposal be taken."

Similar correspondence has been received from Douglas S. Tawney, director of the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. Now both city and county departments have included funds for preservation of Lake Roland in their 1974-75 budget requests. What remains to be done is approval of the Baltimore City and Baltimore County Councils for the fiscal year 1975. That begins this July 1, 1974.

Neither the city or the county has made application for funds to the State of Maryland through Program Open Space. This program, administered by the Department of

Natural Resources, provides matching funds to local governments in conservation programs, such as the Lake Roland project.

STATE AID PLANNED

Neither the City nor the County has made application to the State for funds, it is expected that they will, once budgetary requests are approved. Your Association will continue to encourage the completion of a final agreement between City, County and State on this project.

It is vital that the unique character of Lake Roland as a wildlife sanctuary and a place of nature and quiet continue to be recognized by our community and those who will be responsible for a sensitive and aesthetic rehabilitation program. Problems remain to be solved—such as storage and removal of soil material from the lake.

PLACE OF BEAUTY

Your Association has supported the successful efforts of the Hardy Garden Club to have Lake Roland designated as a bird sanctuary. The Association has coordinated with Mrs. W. Gibbs McKinney and her associates on this project. This designation is an important step in achieving recognition of Lake Roland and surrounding area as a place of quiet beauty and nature. Your Association will continue to work towards maintaining those characteristics of the Lake during the rehabilitation program.

To that end, the Lake Roland Watershed Foundation will direct its efforts in developing community interest in the Lake as a place of scenic beauty and conservation. Mrs. J. Paul Bright's report in the February Bulletin issue indicates the Foundation's progress to date.

Appeal Hearing Set For Excavation Contractors

Hearings in the case of Excavation Contractors have now been set before the Baltimore County Board of Appeals for June 4, 6 and 11. The appeal involves a request of Excavation Contractors to rezone 31.5 acres, formerly owned by Simon Sobeloff. The request which seeks to change the zoning from D.R. 2 and 3.5 to D.R. 16 was denied by the Zoning Commissioner last year.

The land is bounded by the beltway on the north, Bellona Avenue on the south, Charlesgate and Ruxton Towers Apartments on the east, and Brookside Lane on the west. The property was bought by Excavation Contractors for the purpose of using the dirt as fill for the construction of I-83 Beltway interchange at Charles Street. Originally a wooded hillside, the land was stripped of all vegetation and extensively excavated. Although field grass has now been planted, the property remains a topographical disaster.

The hearings are scheduled for 10 A.M. on all three days in Room 301 of the County Office Building. Support the fight against higher density development in your neighborhood. Express your opposition by attending one or more of the hearings. It is advisable to check with the Board of Appeals Office, 494-3180, or Erroll Hay, 825-3724, to be sure the appeal hearings have not been postponed.

For further information, contact Erroll Hay or attend the Association's annual meeting on May 20.

Speed Controls Set For Bellona-Malvern Avenues

Speeding on Bellona and Malvern Avenues, creating dangerous traffic violations on these much traveled thoroughfares, has been reported by George S. Wills, president of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association, in a letter under date of April 14 to Ellison W. Ensor, chief of the Baltimore County Police. Mr. Wills cited a personal injury case when a small boy was hit by a car on Bellona Avenue near the Ruxton Shopping Center. After a brief stay in the hospital, the boy was returned home.

Mr. Wills also told of his experience while riding a bicycle along Malvern Avenue. He had just pulled off to visit some friends when a speeding convertible car roared along the roadway. The car was going so fast, he stated, that it almost left the road near the yard where he was standing.

The following communication was received by Mr. Wills from Chief Ensor regarding the traffic problem:

"As a result of your letter of April 15, I am instructing the Traffic Bureau of this Department to set up radar enforcement along Malvern and Bellona Avenues in the Ruxton area. In addition, the signs in this area will be checked to see if they are adequate. This action should alleviate the situation you describe."

A dangerous traffic situation also exists at Club and Ruxton Roads. A high, thick hedge blocks the view of approaching traffic on the left as one enters Ruxton Road from Club Road.

Turkey Cock Hall

Located on the east side of Falls Road, near Old Court Road, Turkey Cock Hall, built in 1712, is one of the landmarks near the Ruxton-Riderwood area. This colonial house is part stone, part frame, with sloping roofline and dormers. The above date is engraved on the chimney stone. This was the original farmhouse of the Rockland farm property which consisted of 200 acres and was purchased from the Merrymans by Edward Risteau when he married the daughter of Thomas Johnson.

The area map has been omitted in this issue since there will be possible changes in the list of Captains for the respective areas to be decided upon at the annual meeting on May 20. The new list of Captains will appear in the October, 1974 issue of the Bulletin.

Any problem that relates to our community should be reported to Mrs. Lewis Sadtler, 1304 Maywood Avenue, Secretary - Phone: 823-2843.

Neighborhood Spirit

Neighborhood Life is an adventure in friendship and we must all strive to make it a successful one. A harmonious spirit evokes tranquility.

**The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area
Improvement Association, Inc.
1304 Maywood Avenue, Balto., Md. 21204**

FIRST CLASS MAIL
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