

WINTER 2005-2006

Neighborhood News

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Kimberly Warren

The preservation of our Chesapeake Bay Watershed is an issue that runs through many of our activities over the fall. The last newsletter mentioned our involvement in the Small Watershed Action Plan initiative, and in this issue you'll find Chris Nufer's articles on the *State of our Watersheds Conference* and the urgent need for a ranger for Robert E. Lee Park.

Another RRLRAIA initiative is participation in Baltimore County's *Builders for the Bay Roundtable*, a consensus process to change existing local sub-division codes and ordinances to be more environmentally friendly and economically prudent. *Builders for the Bay* is an agreement among the Center for Watershed Protection, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the National Association of Home Builders to hold 12 local roundtables in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed over the next several years. Baltimore County is the sixth of these roundtables supported by private sector foundations, businesses, the EPA, and Baltimore county government. We are participating with the storm water management and review process sub-committees, which enables us to discuss issues directly with county officials, engineers, and developers. A report on the outcome of this process will appear in upcoming newsletters.

A new feature in this newsletter is a summary of recent home sales in our area (see page 5). Also note information about opportunities for local merchants to place ads, which will help us to offset the cost of newsletter production and upgrade our publication (see pages 5 and 8).

SECURING A RANGER FOR ROBERT E. LEE PARK IS A NEW COMMUNITY PRIORITY

by Chris Nufer

The neighbors of Robert E. Lee Park love having a 453-acre historic landmark in their back yard. They enjoy the beauty of the forest and wetlands and the tranquility of the lake and streams nearby. What they do not care for: drivers who speed recklessly in and out of the park entrances at all hours of the day and night and they do not particularly appreciate having prostitutes, drug dealers and professional dog walkers plying their trades in the park, either.

"We're really at a crossroads as to what we need to do," Jeffrey Budnitz stated in a recent interview. Budnitz serves on the board of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association and has been a tireless force in trying to stop the deterioration of the park in recent years.

"Until there is more sustained supervision of the park," he says, "any attempts to restore it will fail."

Unfortunately, the park seems to be stuck in a jurisdictional void. It is a city-owned property that happens to be located in Baltimore County. Though county police technically have jurisdiction over the property, the city, like any property-owner, is responsible for the health and safety of those who visit there.

Securing A Ranger..., continued on page 7

SAVE ON HEATING AND ELECTRIC BILLS THIS WINTER

To reduce the amount you spend on energy bills this winter, try following these simple procedures:

- Plug holes and cracks in walls and windows with caulk.
- Close the flue damper of your fireplace when not in use. Unless you have glass doors or an insert, a wood burning fireplace can actually draw heat out of the home.
- If you don't have storm or thermal windows, cover the inside of your windows tightly with plastic.
- Caulk or weather strip around doors and windows to seal out cold air.
- Add draft-sealers around electric switches and outlets.
- Use oil, gas, kerosene or wood-burning stoves only when properly vented to the outdoors.
- Remove window air conditioning units during the winter to reduce drafts. If this isn't possible, cover all sides of the unit to minimize leakage.
- Computers, fax machines, TV's, VCR's, CD players, cable boxes, and cassette decks consume energy due to standby features. Energy is consumed even when turned off if they are plugged in. Unplug when leaving home or go on vacation.
- Set thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.

Save on Heating..., continued on page 7

THIRD ANNUAL "STATE OF OUR WATERSHEDS" CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON RAIN, ROADS, ROOFTOPS AND RUNOFF

by Chris Nufer

On October 15th, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works and the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) co-sponsored the 2005 "State of Our Watersheds" Conference at Loch Raven High School. The focus this year was on environmental damage caused when too great a percentage of our land is covered with impervious surfaces such as asphalt, concrete and buildings. Once impervious surfaces replace natural ground cover, rainwater has nowhere to go except into storm drains. The tremendous amount of water accumulated in the storm water drainage system then causes flooding, severe erosion and sedimentation in our streams and rivers.

The conference began at 8:30 a.m. with an opportunity for people to view exhibits sponsored by groups as diverse as Trout Unlimited, Parks and People, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Watershed 263 Community Council. In all, twenty-one exhibitors distributed literature and net worked with other water-quality activists from Baltimore and the surrounding counties.

At 9:30, the two hosts of the conference, David Carroll, head of Baltimore County DEPRM, and George Winfield, director of Baltimore DPW, welcomed more than 300 citizens and introduced the keynote panel. Mr. Carroll recognized the efforts of members of the Watershed Advisory Council who put together the conference, including Nancy Pentz and Fran Flanagan with DEPRM.

Bill Stack of Baltimore City DPW served as panel moderator and presented an overview of the state of the watersheds in the area. He noted that the number of attendees had doubled from last year's conference and encouraged everyone to bring at least one person to next year's conference.

The first panelist was Tom Schueler from the Center for Watershed Protection. He explored the question of whether our communities could fix the water quality problems caused by too much impervious surface. He cited the direct correlation between the percentage of impervious surface and the health of the streams and rivers in an area and provided graphic examples of how runoff is destroying streams. Possible solutions include homeowners' increased use of rain barrels and rain gardens to abate storm water runoff from their property. He also noted local stream repair initiatives for reducing impervious cover and increasing forestation.

Don Outen, from Baltimore County DEPRM, provided an excellent analysis of the role that Planning, Zoning and Redevelopment can play in reducing the amount of impervious surface in the county. He listed the top ten reasons for imperviousness in our communities and explained some of the tools and techniques the County has begun to use to manage the development process and solve watershed problems. He noted that although we think there is a lot of development occurring in the county now, there was twice as much in the 1950s before people understood the problems that impervious surfaces and runoff cause. "We have to change the way we develop and we need better models of what urban planning should be," he said. "Fifty years ago we developed a model of how the county should grow, but we just didn't follow it."

Following Mr. Outen, Mike Galvin of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources discussed how urban tree planting and maintenance of tree canopies play a direct role in the health of our streams, water quality and overall restoration efforts for the Chesapeake Bay. He noted that areas with more than fifty percent tree canopy coverage had significantly healthier streams.

George Friday of Parks and People discussed how small scale urban watershed action projects can make a significant difference in water quality. Ms. Friday focused on her organization's efforts to restore Watershed 263, which is essentially a system of streams that have been contained and routed through the storm sewers under the streets of southeast Baltimore City. By making the community aware of this hidden watershed, she noted, people are taking more care not to dump waste oil and other toxic fluids into the sewers in their neighborhoods, thus reducing the pollutants that end up in the Patapsco River and the Bay.

Eric Eckl of American Rivers gave an informative talk on "Communicating Complex Technical Issues." He was followed by Bill Smith of the Academy for Educational Development who gave examples of how his group has created public service advertising to support environmental initiatives in other communities, specifically the recent effort in Virginia to curtail dumping of municipal solid waste into Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

At noon, County Executive Jim Smith took the podium to show his support for the conference. After lunch, participants broke out into three workshop groups.

One group took a walking tour of Minebank Run adjacent to Loch Raven High School. Minebank Run is regarded as the premier example of a successful stream restoration project in the county. A second group worked with Eric Eckl to learn more about how to develop and apply effective communication strategies for their organizations to develop support for watershed restoration and clean water initiatives within the community. The third group explored ways to teach volunteers how to evaluate impervious surfaces and other pollution sources in their neighborhoods and look for opportunities for improvements.

The conference marked the third anni-

Third Annual..., continued on page 5

RIDER HOUSE RECEPTION

The Ruxton, Riderwood, Lake Roland Area Foundation and Improvement Association held a thank you reception for Rider House donors and guests on Sunday, September 25. The house and grounds were decorated and groomed for the event by the Lake Roland Garden Club; Sophie Gerard, Rider House curator, prepared the interior, and the Association's Events Committee put out a delightful spread of culinary delights. Brewmeisters, Bo Lewis and Barry Truax performed at their usual high level of excellence. The Foundation's program for house restoration, land preservation, and open space improvements has generated over 250 contributors from the community in the past three years. Thanks to everyone involved in making the Rider House reception a huge success!

RECYCLING JUST GOT EASIER

Recyclable bottles and cans may be placed out for collection in open-top bins (such as laundry baskets and plastic storage bins) OR in see-through plastic bags (blue, clear, tan, etc.) However, still no trash containers (to avoid confusion and contamination) and no red/pink or yellow bags (to avoid confusion with medical and hazardous waste).

For info contact the Bureau of Solid Waste Management at 410-887-2000.

AND A REMINDER — DON'T DUMP... DONATE!

Baltimore County offers a free publication listing more than 40 local organizations that accept donated, reusable items. Info is available at the following website: <http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info> (select "Trash and Recycling" under Residential Services) or call Baltimore County Bureau of Solid Waste Management at 410-887-2000 or 410-887-3188.



The RRLRA Improvement Association and Foundation held a reception at the Rider House for donors whose generosity helped turn this historic house into a home for the community.

PHOTO: JOE COALE



The Rider House is pictured above on a cold and snowy day. The house and grounds were decorated and groomed for the holidays by the Lake Roland Garden Club. PHOTO: NEIL MEYERHOFF

PROTECT YOUR PLANTS FROM WINTER WEATHER

Left unprotected from the elements of winter weather, some of your plants may suffer damage to branches, roots and foliage, and it won't show up until the spring. Heavy snow and ice, damaging wind, and use of de-icers all can contribute to damage. Snow itself doesn't hurt your plants; in fact, it works as a great insulator. You can think of snow as one of the best mulches for winter protection.

Snowplows and blowers make snow dense, however, and then it starts to damage our shrubs and plants. You can protect a vulnerable plant or new shrub by placing a teepee-shaped wooden frame over it, particularly if it is located where snow or ice could slide off the roof and cause damage. Throughout the winter, keep your small trees and shrubs clear of snow. Knock the snow off with a broom before it freezes and becomes heavy enough to damage the branches.

Place posts with reflectors to mark those shrubs and plants that might be forgotten by the plow, snowblower, or shoveler.

Ice and chemical de-icers are additional hazards for plants growing along walks and driveways. Snow and slush that becomes mixed with salt piled around plants can harm roots by leaching into the soil. Avoid piling salty snow near plants or on lawns or use one of the less toxic salts such as calcium chloride. You can also use kitty litter, sand, or sawdust on icy patches to give you traction. Try mixing salt with one of the abrasive materials such as sand (1 part salt to 4 parts sand) for your walkways where plant damage may be an issue. You might also choose plants that are salt-tolerant such as hydrangea, rugosa rose, and oak. Check with your local nursery for other salt-tolerant varieties.

You can often save a plant damaged by ice, snow, or wind by knowing when to administer first aid to avoid future decay and possible loss. Don't be in a hurry to prune those branches bent out of shape because they may straighten up on their own in a few days following the damage. Broken limbs can be pruned immediately, and if the plant is completely misshapen by the break, consider balancing the shape by pruning the entire plant. Trees that are uprooted should be straightened, staked, watered, mulched, and broken branches should be pruned.

Finally – enjoy the snow and the indoor time to plan your garden. Before you know it, the first snow drops will be emerging.

DESIGN REVIEW PANEL

by Nancy Worden Horst

The Summer 2005 RRLRAIA newsletter discussed the Design Review Panel and the newly created position on that panel for a community representative. The legislation creating the position was introduced by Councilman Kevin Kamenetz for neighborhoods within the boundaries of Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association. (Charles Street to Charles Street Avenue on the east; the Baltimore Beltway on the north; Falls Road and Jones Falls Expressway on the west, and the city line on the south)

The law seeks to ensure that infill housing contributes to, rather than detracts from, the fabric of our older neighborhoods. The law is applicable to new building, for homes on a single lot of record or larger developments, and for houses where there is an addition of more than 50%. The law does not, however, speak to the subdivision of lots or homes built on vacant land with 'unused density' (for example, the empty lot between houses in older subdivisions).

We are beginning to see homes proposed for environmentally constrained land parcels with wetlands, steep slopes, or woods. RRLRAIA succeeded in securing legislation to require that the Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) to post the granting of waivers to build on such parcels on the Baltimore County website. The on-line notification began December 1st. However, since DEPRM is ONLY required to post the notice on-line, you must go to the county website to check to see which parcels are being reviewed.

This change in the process would allow for comment from those people who live in the neighborhood and are familiar with problems such as flooding, siltation and stream erosion. DEPRM could then be alerted to conditions that may not be readily apparent, and, in the long run, everyone would benefit.

RRLRAIA will be checking this website frequently. However, if you know of a project that is being proposed for your neighborhood, please contact Nancy Horst, Executive Director, at the office, or your area representative (see listing in the directory).

As the cost of raw land in our inner suburban community has risen dramatically, we will continue to see more and more infill development. To counter inappropriate building, we must continue to work with Baltimore County to ensure that our neighborhood residents are informed, aware, and involved in new development and redevelopment of our community.

LEARN MORE

If you want to learn more about the development process in Baltimore County, or if you want to know about your zone, you can go to the Baltimore County website: <http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info>.

- *Citizens Guide to Zoning* (PDF) assists in providing a brief understanding of the various components of the zoning process
- *My Neighborhood: Zoning* allows citizens to find information about the area in which they live.
- Many of the meetings or hearings are posted on the *Development Management* pages.
- If you would like to know what land development projects are being considered in the near future for your area, you might consider subscribing to the *community updates* e-mail for your district (if you live east of Charles Street, you are in Councilmanic District #5; if you live west of Charles Street, you are in Councilmanic District #2).

HOLIDAY PARTY IN THE WOODS

The Holiday Party in the Woods in December was a HUGE success!!! Over 200 people came to this RRLRAIA sponsored annual party, which was held at the Olde



Annie Brinkley sits on Santa's lap, while she explains exactly what she expects this Christmas.

Rugby field off L'Hirondelle Club Road.

The main attraction was a surprise visit from a Lutherville Volunteer Fire Department fire truck that came down the path with its sirens blaring and lights flashing, and guess who it was bringing to the party – Santa!!!



Santa arrived in style, in his Itmousine with flashing lights.

Children and adults enjoyed cooking their own hotdogs and marshmallows, seeing friends, and playing in the snow. After Santa left, we sang holiday carols, which put everyone in a festive mood.

A BIG thanks to Graul's Market for donating cheese trays and cider, and also to The Daily Grind for providing hot chocolate and coffee.

Thanks to our party co-chairs, Julie D'Ambrogi, Liz Cannon, and Christie Root,

Holiday Party, ... continued on page 7



Holiday Party co-chairs Liz Cannon, Christie Root, and Julie D'Ambrogi and were full of the holiday spirit.

versary of the signing of the Baltimore Watershed Agreement, which requires the preparation of an annual "State Of Our Watersheds" report. The group of over 300 attendees demonstrated that there is growing support for watershed restoration and better water quality throughout the area. It was an opportunity for citizens and government officials to celebrate significant improvements in the last twelve months. Also, it provided a platform for launching the upcoming year's efforts to deal with the issue of stream damage from outdated storm water management systems and raise community awareness of the problems caused by too much impervious surface in our local watersheds.

For information on what you can do as a homeowner or business person to improve

RECENT HOME SALES IN THE RRLRAIA AREA

courtesy of The Whit Harvey Group

ADDRESS	PRICE SOLD	DATE SOLD
7 Ruxton Green Court	\$1,616,000	08/05/05
1856 Circle Road	\$1,425,000	09/25/05
1751 Circle Road	\$1,250,000	09/02/05
920 Rolandvue Avenue	\$1,200,000	10/05/05
20 Jack Frost Lane	\$1,100,000	09/16/05
4 Acorn Hill Lane	\$975,000	08/05/05
1308 Berwick Avenue	\$1,100,000	10/26/05
7516 L'Hirondelle Club Drive	\$985,000	08/23/05
921 Army Road	\$895,000	08/31/05
1010 West Wind Court	\$863,000	10/28/05
316 West Wind Court	\$709,000	10/14/05
1016 Rolandvue Avenue	\$777,000	08/31/05
7539 Bellona Avenue	\$730,000	09/27/05
904 Army Road	\$670,000	09/30/05
903 East Wind Road	\$650,000	09/14/05
7919 Springway Road	\$649,900	09/29/05
1205 Boyce Avenue	\$535,000	09/23/05
6625 Charlesway	\$530,000	10/31/05
8208 Burnley Road	\$499,000	10/05/05
8018 Rider Avenue	\$470,000	11/15/05
7910 Ruxway Road	\$450,000	08/31/05
642 Charles Street Avenue	\$468,000	09/06/05

watershed conditions in our area, Nancy Pentz at the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management is interested in hearing from you. Her e-mail address is npentz@co.ba.md.us. For a "how-to" brochure to help you begin to make your property more "watershed-friendly," ask for a copy of "A Homeowners Guide to Designing Your Property." It's available at no charge by calling The Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay at 1-800-662-CRIS or by visiting their website at www.acb-online.org.

MAKE NEWS IN THE RUXTON, RIDERWOOD & LAKE ROLAND AREA

Help your neighbors learn more about our community, the people who live here, and the social, environmental and governmental issues that affect us all.

Call The Ruxton Riderwood Lake Roland Area Improvement Association now to volunteer to work on the neighborhood newsletter! We need community members who will take responsibility for:

- Suggesting topics for stories and features
- Contacting neighborhood residents to write these articles
- Making sure articles are written and delivered on time

You don't have to do any writing yourself...unless you want to! Contribute a few hours to an important community-building activity and a chance to get to know both your neighborhood and your neighbors better. Please call Nancy Horst, Executive Director of the RRLRAIA at 410/494-7757 or email her at ruxrider@bcpl.net.

I REMEMBER WHEN

by Harriet and David Gearhart, former Rector of Church of Good Shepherd

Singing carols on Christmas Eve around a large fir tree at the Ruxton Railroad station was a tradition of long standing in our community. When the station was demolished to make way for the town house community now at that location (Ruxlea Court) the tree was also chopped down.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, which had just completed an addition to the Parish House, planted a lovely blue spruce, about six feet tall, inside the curved driveway to the entrance to the Church, and the carol singing moved to that location.

Several years later, on the night before Christmas Eve, someone sawed the tree down at the base and stole it.

In the morning, John Chapman, then Junior Warden at Good Shepherd, purchased a cut tree, mounted it on a stand, and the community gathered and sang that Christmas Eve around that tree.

In the spring John bought and planted another blue spruce, this one poorly shaped. "No one," he said, "will want to steal this tree. But when it grows too large to steal it will fill out to a fine, handsome focus for our sing."

His words proved true, and the tree, now much too large for vandals to steal, still stands there, beautifully shaped, tall and proud.

SEE YOUR AD HERE

Advertising space is for sale in future newsletters. Tell community merchants, contractors, etc. Contact

Chris Hanley

chris@berwickassociates.com

Julie D'Ambrogi

julie.dambrogi@bridgestreet.com

THE BIRD BOX

by Mary Sue McCarthy

It was 8:10 in the morning and the day had already been so much better than I had expected it would be.

I had successfully rescued a beautiful male cardinal from the jaws of our tabby cat, a rescue himself from the York Road Petco. Its hard to say which tugs at my heart the most... the clarity of the cardinal's early morning song or the peaceful purring of our tabby as he nestles into our polar fleece jackets and comforters. It's easy to say whose side I pick, though, when I hear the telltale cry of a bird in trouble, and I know the odds of its survival are bleaker than bleak.

If truth be told when I first heard this bird's calls, I turned a partially deaf ear figuring by the sounds of it that the tabby had won and "What the heck.. wasn't this just nature's way"? Besides, it was one of those unexpectedly cold mornings and diving under the bushes clad in my bathrobe and slippers to outwit the tabby wasn't my highest priority. My father had just suffered "a small stroke in a bad place," and I was feeling sad for him and confused about the best way to help him and my mother.

So, turning my attention to the rituals of the morning, I tuned the little fellow out, but just for a minute or two, until my urge to do something – to act

and to help – sent me outside, dish towel in hand, and under the rhododendron. After three or four tries and stern words to the cat, I covered them both and thus surprised the cat into dropping his prey.

The cardinal was an unrecognizable mound of gray fluff and while his black eyes remained open (a very good sign) they stared straight ahead, unblinkingly frozen by his deep state of shock. Now totally immobile, he was easy to scoop up and place safely in my special Bird Box a sturdy, cat proof, cardboard thing about 10 in. X 10 in. punched through with a few air holes.

My next move was to place the box in the warmest, quietest, darkest spot I could find. In 30 minutes, maybe an hour, I would know whether my backyard friend would survive. The key was to leave him undisturbed so he could regain his equilibrium.

This is always the hardest part of any Ruxton bird rescue – not peaking, not bothering, not reshocking.

My ears told me how things were going... There was scratching against the sides of the box and a rustling sound. Opening the Bird Box while I was still inside was risky. The revived bird might rush toward the light. I needed to be outside even though I doubted it could fly. I saw not even a hint of a red feather or any feathers at all.

So I slipped back outside into the cold,

filled my Bird Box with daylight, and watched in utter amazement and gratitude as the reddest of our neighborhood cardinals brushed by me to land safely in our dogwood not more than four feet above my head.

He stared and I stared at one another for quite a while as if to size each other up until it was I who made the first move. I stepped closer to him and watched as he inspected not only me but also his ruffled feathers that he was just now feeling safe enough to display.

The morning sun was just right and for an instant it was just the two of us on a brilliant November day. Together, yet in our own distinct ways, it was if we shared first a sense of hopefulness and purpose, then a small bit of happiness, and finally, more than a touch of relief. Yes, it had been quite a good day ... for both of us.

DUMPSTER DAY A BIG SUCCESS AND FUN TOO!

Kent Walker, Jamie Cahn, Fran Anderson and Bob Goldstein get ready to toss trash



Photos: Neil Verthoff

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH Interested in participating in a national effort to catalog and track changes in the bird species of North America? Project FeederWatch, a Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology (in partnership with the National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada, and Canadian Nature Federation) is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species seen at feeders from November through early April. FeederWatch helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. The Lab provides a wall poster to help bird watchers identify different species. Project FeederWatch began its 19th season on November 12. Last year 223 Marylanders participated in the program. To join this effort or for more information, go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>.

Securing a Park Ranger, continued from page 1

For years, various groups have made repeated appeals to both city and county governments to do something about the social and environmental problems in the park.

In 2003, a memorandum of understanding between the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and the Baltimore County Police articulated an agreement to jointly patrol and monitor the area. But there is lingering confusion over whether the county or city has authority to enforce regulations such as pet leash laws.

Also in 2003, the city and county agreed to share the costs to clean up an area of the park that had been contaminated by dog feces, upgrade the facilities and rebuild a crumbling pedestrian bridge near the Lake Roland Dam. The \$1.3 million project was to be funded by \$400,000 from the county with remainder from the city with funds earmarked for the project from motor vehicle registration fees.

Unfortunately, in the two years since, that money was reallocated and the city has been reluctant to convey its portion of the funding. As a result, the clean-up effort has stalled.

There have been small victories. When word got out that the city might sell off portions of the park to developers, the community mobilized and worked with Councilman Kevin Kamenetz to have the park rezoned to RC-7 (one house per 25 acres). But at the same time, a master

plan for improving the park that was finalized in 2003 has gathered dust. The initiatives may have stopped, but the problems haven't.

Visitors' cars are routinely broken into in broad daylight. Vandals deface the buildings and other structures in the area near the dam. Mountain bikers cut down live trees to build ramps and tear up the trails and hillsides. Homeless people camp in the forest undisturbed. Unleashed pit bulls and other dogs regularly threaten families hiking the woods or picnicking on the peninsula. And homeowners nearby have to be alert for thieves who can break in to houses then disappear into the park.

Without dedicated supervision, Budnitz says, the situation in the park will probably worsen. Community groups, such as the Robert E. Lee Park Conservancy, have already served notice that they will no longer pursue beautification and restoration efforts because of rampant disregard for park rules. On the other hand, Mr. Budnitz suggested, a ranger living in the park with the authority to ticket people who violate the rules would be the most important step the community could take to make the park a safe and pleasant place again.

Having a uniformed person overseeing activity around Lake Roland would add an extra level of home security for those living near the edges of the park on Circle Road, Indian Head Road, L'Hirondelle Club Road, Brightside Road, Copper Hill Road, Woodbrook Lane and the streets off of Lake Avenue. A ranger would help encour-

age visitors to clean up after themselves, discourage vandalism of historic park structures and reduce incidences of teen drinking and drug use. A safer, rehabilitated Lee Park would also serve to enhance property values. Most of all, better security and enforcement would make the park an attractive destination once again for families from all parts of the Baltimore region.

Whether the funding comes from the city or county, from private contributions, or a combination of public and private philanthropy, the money has to be found to restore the caretaker's house, then pay for someone to live there and patrol the park everyday.

Jeff Budnitz has been working to preserve the treasure in his community's back yard for years. But, like many homeowners who love using the park for hiking and picnicking, he's had enough.

"Unless jurisdictional issues are worked out and funding for a resident park ranger can be obtained," he warns, "we are going to lose this wonderful urban green space to crime, pollution and ecological degradation. It's as simple as that."

Community members interested in helping to develop a plan to hire a ranger to oversee Robert E. Lee Park are encouraged to contact Nancy Horst, Executive Director of RRLRAIA. (email: ruxrider@bcpl.net; tel: 410-494-7757).

Holiday Party..., continued from page 4

as well as all of the many volunteers who helped make this event such fun.



Volunteers Bob Ferber, Doug Brinkley, and Stuart Vogel had a good time getting everything ready for the party.

Save on Heating, continued from page 1

- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Bleed trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if in doubt about how to perform this task, call a professional.
- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.
- During the winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

FLAMED APPLE CALVADOS

(Four servings)

3 firm red apples (NOT Red Delicious)	¼ cup sugar
¼ cup butter	2 tblsp. fresh lemon juice
1 – 2 tsp. cinnamon	½ cup Calvados apple brandy
¾ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg	¼ cup rum
1/8 – ¼ tsp. ground cloves	pint best quality vanilla ice cream

Core and peel apples; cut into 3/8 inch slices. In a heavy skillet melt the butter over low heat. Add apples and next 6 ingredients. Cook slowly, stirring constantly, until apples are tender and the pan liquid becomes syrupy. Heat rum in a small saucepan until it begins to boil; pour over the apples and ignite. Stir gently to ignite completely. When flame dies out, spoon warmed apples into pre-warmed dishes and top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Serving hint: Prepare apples early in the day; leave at room temperature. At serving time, transfer to chafing dish, reheat thoroughly and flame at table side.

Easy and spectacular. Warms the soul! Thanks to Graul's Market for this terrific winter-time recipe.

SUPPORT RRLRAIA BY JOINING TODAY

Your dues payment allows the Association to

REMAIN AWARE OF ISSUES AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY
BE ACTIVE IN RESPONDING TO ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY
PRODUCE NEWSLETTER
PLAN SEASONAL GET TOGETHERS AND DUMPSTER DAY

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

RRLRAIA will be selling advertising space for future newsletters. We're looking for merchants, contractors, or others who would like to get the word out to our community about their businesses. Ad space ranges from one quarter to a full page. Please contact either: • Chris Hanley chris@berwickassociates.com or • Julie D'Ambrogi julie.dambrogi@bridgestreet.com for further information.

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
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Baltimore, MD

RUXTON-RIDERWOOD
LAKE ROLAND AREA
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 204 Riderwood, MD 21139
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