

# Neighborhood NEWS

RUXTON-RIDERWOOD-LAKE ROLAND AREA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

WINTER • 2013-2014

## Trail Blazers

by Nancy Worden Horst

Many of us walk, jog or bike in local parks but don't realize there are more obscure opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. In Robert E. Lee Park, for example, many groups of volunteers get out onto the Park's trails and byways to clean, fix, restore, chat and get dirty all in the name of fun and Park stewardship. The Habitat and Trail team, comprised of a group of dedicated volunteers, keeps the trails and pathways of the Park clear and free of debris so hikers, walkers and runners can enjoy the Park more easily. On the second Saturday morning of every month these hardy volunteers clear fallen trees and brush, cut back invasive plants such as multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) vine and groom the trails. It is a never-ending process that provides some good, dirty fun and helps not only to make trail passage safer but also enables the sun to reach the underbrush and dry out areas that would otherwise be perpetually muddy. Another method of stabilizing muddy portions of a trail is to build a 'corduroy' road. This is an age-old road building technique in which logs are placed perpendicular to the direction of the road over a low or swampy area and then covered with sand. In the last couple of years, the trail team has helped to install several corduroy road patches.



John Goodrich working on his adopted L'Hirondelle Trail  
Photo courtesy Jeffrey Budnitz

John Goodrich, a twenty-something who grew up riding his bike on the trails through the Park, recently adopted clearing responsibility for the L'Hirondelle Trail. Jeffrey Budnitz, a Nature Council (as

well as an RRLRAIA) Board member, and John have groomed about ¾ mile of the trail from Club Road to



Photo top, Lake Roland clean-up crew – Park volunteers and Ocean Conservancy members. Photo below, Habitat and Trails volunteer Gero Verheyen cuts 'cookies' from 108" diameter poplar tree on the L'Hirondelle Trail Photos courtesy Jeffrey Budnitz

the Park 'gator' (the rangers' all-wheel drive vehicle, not a reptile!) and the fire department should an emergency arise.

Other volunteers and groups have been busy in different areas of the Park. For example, Mary and Frank Emerson have been grooming trails in the fragile serpentine area near the Home and Hospital School. There have also been several Eagle Scout projects where volunteers cleared and stabilized various trails. Still other volunteers have been busy cutting fallen tree trunks into 'trail cookies' – rounds of wood cut from tree trunks – that can be placed on muddy portions of a trail. One poplar tree that

the trestle bridge, ridding it of encroaching greenbrier and multiflora rose that had made it almost impossible to hike without scratched legs or torn clothes. John plans to bring members of the Young Defenders group from the Maryland Historical Society to work on the trail. An added benefit of clearing this particular path is that the L'Hirondelle Trail and the nearby Lake Roland meadow are now accessible to both

### INSIDE

Shredder Day  
PAGE 3

Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland  
PAGE 4

Roland Run Floodplain Study  
PAGE 6

Apple Cranberry Acorn Squash  
PAGE 7

Kids' Corner  
PAGE 8

Christmas Cannon  
PAGE 9

A More Than Fine Sister Act  
PAGE 10

With Our Sincere Appreciation  
PAGE 12

The RRLRAIA 2013 Annual Meeting  
PAGE 16

### Table of Contents

- 1 Trail Blazers
- 2 President's Letter
- 3 Shredder Day
- 4 Home Sales in Ruxton /  
Riderwood / Lake Roland
- 5 Thank You, Patrons!
- 6 Roland Run Floodplain  
Study
- 7 Apple Cranberry  
Acorn Squash
- 8 Kids' Corner
- 9 Christmas Cannon
- 10 A More Than Fine Sister Act
- 12 With Our Sincere  
Appreciation
- 14 Towson WinterFest  
Activities
- 16 Oh Say Can You See? –  
Yes, Yes I Can!  
The RRLRAIA 2013  
Annual Meeting
- 17 RRLRAIA Committee Reports  
for 2012-2013

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# President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

I am honored to have been elected President of the RRLRAIA. As noted during my brief address at the Annual Meeting in September, I have big shoes to fill following in the footsteps of Barbara Guarnieri. Barbara has worked tirelessly towards improving not only the Board structure and what it stands for but also the entire environment within our community. It has been such a pleasure to watch her excitement whenever she talked about the Association's projects. In fulfillment of many of the goals of the *Community Plan 2010* and our various committees, the last few years have witnessed the successful rejuvenation of Robert E. Lee Park and Paw Point, more opportunities for community recycling, the addition of the Adopt-A-Highway (Falls Road)/Adopt-A-Road (Old Court Road) street clean-up programs (formerly known as SWAT) and continued improvements to our website to make it more relevant and user friendly for our members. Thank you, Barbara!

We also say goodbye to eight other Board members and welcome the involvement of our eight new volunteers. This will be a year of huge transition and I look forward to working with every one of them towards meeting our current goals and finding new opportunities for the betterment of our community.

In my short tenure on the Board I have been particularly impressed with the dedication of the members and how much they truly care about our community. Through the often tireless efforts of many Association members we continue to work toward the goals of the *Community Plan 2010*, our piece of Baltimore County's Master Plan.

This year is looking to be filled with activity. We will continue to make a commitment to environmental enhancements through programs such as street and stream clean-ups. We are investigating historic preservation programs that could bring tax relief to homeowners for upgrades to historic properties. We remain committed to improvements and development along the Falls Road corridor just as we are



looking at pedestrian and bicycle improvements to other area thoroughfares. We will again sponsor several neighborhood social events such as Friday Night Lights as well as our annual Holiday Party in the Woods in December and Dumpster Day in April. Our newest event, the aptly-named Shredder Day, was held at Riderwood Elementary School in October. We

hope you were able to take advantage of this service and would appreciate your feedback for future planning (you can call or email us with your comments at [office@rrlraia.org](mailto:office@rrlraia.org)). We strive to build constructive relationships with government officials, community leaders, commercial property owners, residents and individual business owners.

Area home sales continue to remain steady, providing a tangible testament to the strength of our neighborhoods. Not surprisingly the Zoning committee continues to be extremely busy addressing development issues related to new and existing residences as well as code violations. I marvel at how well the Board works towards resolving disagreements which in turn helps to streamline the zoning process. RRLRAIA follows the zoning laws of Baltimore County and works to support fair results for all involved.

I hope you will be able to join us for one of our most cherished annual events, the Holiday Party in the Woods. It will take place on Saturday, December 21 from 4 – 6 p.m. in its usual location, the former L'Hirondelle Club rugby field, and is designed for all ages to enjoy. This holiday lighting of the dark winter sky is a great opportunity to spend quality time with old friends and make new ones. Keep your fingers crossed for fair weather; we had to cancel last year because of Park regulations regarding high winds and bonfires! Check our website for any cancellation information.

I wish you a happy holiday season and a New Year filled with opportunities!

Patrick Jarosinski

#### Newsletter Committee:

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Bliss McCord  
Kathy Mountcastle  
Nettie Washburn

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# Shredder Day

On a cloudy day in mid-October, RRLRAIA contracted with Mobile Data Shredding Inc. to provide shredding services to members of our community. Luckily the rain stayed away so our volunteers



All hands on deck to unload the boxes of paper for shredding Photo courtesy Ande Williams

stayed dry and so did our residents dropping off their boxes and bags of stored history.

**Neighborhood NEWS**  
photographer Nettie Washburn was on hand to capture the event.

MDS and its proprietors, Mike and Vicky Dodson, brought their all-in-one shredding truck to Riderwood Elementary School which

again graciously accommodated our neighborhood event. Community members were lined up early to take advantage of this opportunity, bringing old checks (remember those?), tax returns and who knows what other paper documents to feed the hungry beast. Several neighbors watched the video display screen to see their papers being gobbled up by the shredding jaws.

With help from Board members, the shredding company processed approximately 6,500 pounds of paper from our basements, attics and other

corners of our homes; not bad for a first effort. In fact, we know of one local office supply company that charges \$1 per pound for their shredding service, so we were able to save our members over \$6,000!



Board members Patrick and Kelley on the job as proprietor Mike Dodson looks on Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

And so...what happens to all this shredded paper? It's baled, sold and made into recycled paper products such as shopping bags, insulation, paper towels, cardboard boxes and magazines. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's website, recycling one ton of paper enables us to:

- save enough energy to power the average American home for six months,
  - save 7,000 gallons of water,
  - save 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space,
  - reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one metric ton of carbon equivalent (MTCE).
- We are looking forward to your feedback as we decide whether to make this an annual event (email us at [office@rrlraia.org](mailto:office@rrlraia.org)).



'Control Central' Photo courtesy Ande Williams

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# Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland

Sold Properties from mid-July 2013 – mid-October 2013

Courtesy of the Whit Harvey Group  
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704 Abell Ridge Circle		420,000
1619 Alston Road		160,000
8118 Bellona Avenue		388,600
7117 Bellona Avenue	4,200,000	3,800,000
110 Brightwood Club Drive	299,000	275,000
8229 Carrbridge Circle	449,900	420,000
8345 Carrbridge Circle	385,000	375,000
633 Charles Street Avenue	370,000	370,000
7903 Crossmoor Lane	995,000	850,000
15 Devon Hill Road	279,900	240,000
906 East Wind Road		510,000
309 Greenwood Road		540,000

ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
14 Halston Court	565,000	626,665
16 Halston Court	555,000	625,561
18 Halston Court	555,000	593,000
801 Hillstead Drive	925,000	885,000
1420 W. Joppa Road		120,000
7 Lacosta Court	312,000	299,000
1222 Lake Falls Road	310,000	310,000
1813 Leadburn Road	399,000	405,000
7514 L'Hirondelle Club Road	925,000	880,000
2008 Ridgecrest Court	650,000	630,000
8005 Strauff Road	525,000	515,000
412 Terrace Way		297,000
315 West Wind Road		1,350,000
1239 Wine Spring Lane	525,000	510,000
102 Woodbrook Lane	2,499,000	2,075,000



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# Roland Run Floodplain Study

by Laura Shmerler

Last September Baltimore County officials held a meeting to inform the community of the preliminary results of the new Floodplain Study for Roland Run and to solicit feedback prior to the study's completion. Wallace Montgomery, a local engineering firm, is conducting the study which in September was 75% complete.

The final version of the study may have significant implications for those living along the Roland Run floodplain zone. The initial findings show variations in the floodplain zone from prior studies. This will mean that some RRLRAIA residents will no longer be required to hold flood insurance while others will be required to obtain flood insurance for the first time. This change in status comes on the heels of the Biggert-Waters National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which removes federal subsidies for flood insurance and could result in increased premiums of as much as twice the current rate.

A copy of the 75% submission of the floodplain study is available for viewing or download at: [ftp.baltimorecountymd.gov](ftp://ftp.baltimorecountymd.gov), user name: Baltcodpw, password: BCmaps01. Any questions or comments regarding this issue should be directed to David L. Thomas, Assistant to the Director of Baltimore County Public Works, telephone 410-887-3984.

visit with Santa

cookies and hot  
chocolate

hotdogs

## Holiday Party in the Woods

Join your neighbors and friends on Saturday, December 21st from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Old Rugby Field (between Robert E. Lee Park and Light Rail) off L'Hirondelle Club Road. Turn onto L'Hirondelle Club Road. After passing the Club on the left, park and follow the designated path to the festivities.

Dress warmly - wear boots - bring flashlights.

No dogs, please. Questions? Call 410-494-7757 or email [rrlraia@comcast.net](mailto:rrlraia@comcast.net)

roast  
marshmallows

sing carols



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# Apple Cranberry Acorn Squash

Recipe courtesy Graul's Markets (from The American Cancer Society's *Healthy Eating Cookbook*)

Makes 8 servings. Approximately 129 calories and 3 grams of fat per serving.

As we move into the colder season, now's the time to use the fall bounty for this filling vegetable dish.

- 4 small acorn squash
- 2 medium apples, unpeeled and chopped
- ½ cup fresh cranberries
- ¼ cup light brown sugar, packed
- 2 tablespoons almonds, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh orange juice
- 1 tablespoon corn oil margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cut squash lengthwise into halves and discard seeds. Arrange squash, cut side down, in a baking dish and add ½ inch water. Bake for 40 minutes. Combine apples, cranberries, brown sugar, almonds, orange juice and margarine in a bowl and mix well. Turn squash cut side up and spoon apple mixture into squash cavities. Bake for 30 minutes.



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# Kids' Corner

The *Neighborhood NEWS* team would like to begin a regular feature devoted exclusively to children. We need their help (or yours) to launch this feature.

Do you have a budding news reporter living in your home? Do you have a young novelist with a story to tell? Perhaps you have a young artist or engineer with a craft to pass along or an eager new chef with a recipe to share. Maybe you even have a math or language whiz with a brain teaser or word puzzle to challenge.

Please pass along this Word Search to your children and encourage them to contact us with their child-friendly ideas for our publication. We need them! Please send all ideas and submissions to RRLRAIA, P. O. Box 204, Riderwood, MD 21139 or email [office@rrlraia.org](mailto:office@rrlraia.org).

See page 14 for Word Search answers.

Source: [www.sciencekids.co.nz/quizzes/wordsearch/winter.html](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/quizzes/wordsearch/winter.html)

# Oh Baby It's Cold Outside!

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 S W E A T E R N I F L R J E S N O W  
 T N R G Y O O T I Y O O L K P F E N  
 S T T R L W C R X X V S X A B R Z B  
 O C D Y B R E W H D E T T L J E Y E  
 S A A O A P M I G C S P W F E E K W  
 X E A R Q Q B C O A T S D W H Z Z N  
 I R A N F E S N O W M A N O E E P I  
 D C M S R D R A Z Z I L B N A I Q N  
 Z P I N O D L O C G Q U B S T S C R  
 M E A C J N Q C C L C W L K E F K E  
 S T Q Z L M K I V G H Q P I R B H I  
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 COLD  
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 SCARF  
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# Christmas Cannon

by The Ruxton Rambler

For more than 30 years I've enjoyed walking Ruxton roads, Riderwood rights-of-way, byways in the Lake Roland and Woodbrook areas and, perhaps most of all, the trails in Robert E. Lee Park. I often find interesting and unusual whatchamacallits or thingamabobs that call out for further exploration. As a former Associated Press reporter, I track down my sources by either telephone or internet and use pure persistence to get my story.

For example, on a recent walk I saw what appeared to be a real Civil War era cast iron cannon capable of repelling J.E.B. Stuart's charge. I wondered how and why such a weapon came to be perched high on a hill in the wilds of Ruxton.

As is often the case in 'Smalltimore', a friend of a friend knew just whom to call to find out more about the cannon. In the 1980s the son of the family read an ad for a cannon in a local paper. Figuring that he might never have another opportunity to buy a real cannon, he called the seller. The cannon is a 1960s Civil War replica that had been used during historical reenactments. The son made an offer, it was accepted and shortly after that the cannon began guard duty above the Roland Run valley.

The son, a gifted artisan, said he was drawn to the "confluence of crafts" represented by the cannon – a carpenter to build the caisson, a wheelwright to make and affix the wheels and axel, a foundryman to cast the barrel and a machinist to finish the metal parts.

Although rapid fire and satellite-guided cannons are still part of military arsenals, the modern parts are made and assembled in factories. The hands-on work of multiple artisans required to reproduce this replica appealed to the son's artistic nostalgia for individually-made and finely-honed utility goods.

Only fired by its new owners to celebrate high days and holy days, the cannon is never loaded with anything more than gunpowder and toilet paper. Nonetheless, it makes quite a roar. One night during the family's annual Christmas party, the holiday revelers fired the cannon and someone called the cops! The police quickly came and sorted things out. No one was charged but the owners were given a stern warning about disturbing the "peace on earth" with the cannon!

When fallout from the September 11th attacks put everyone on edge, the owners decided to put an end to firing the cannon. But when it was removed from its perch on the lawn this past winter passersby wondered about its disappearance. Had it been stolen?



Standing neighborhood watch Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn


Sold? Confiscated? The truth wasn't quite that dramatic. The homeowners' son had taken the cannon to his workshop to rebuild the caisson that had rotted out over the years.

Now fully restored, the cannon has been returned to its home and stands ready to 'protect' uptown Ruxton or commemorate a worthy event. This time, no doubt, fair warning will be given to those close to the roar. And in the

spirit of the season perhaps all will recall the wise words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The sound of a kiss is not so loud as a cannon, but its echo lasts a great deal longer."

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# A More Than Fine Sister Act

by **Barbara Guarnieri**

Several months ago I received a phone message from our Executive Director, Peggy Squitieri. “We have great new neighbors,” she reported. She had just met the two engaging entrepreneurs who were moving a framing and gift business into a long-vacant commercial space at 8012 Bellona Avenue across the street from Rider House. She described them as friendly, funky and fun. Before I even returned her call, I knew exactly whom she’d met! And she couldn’t have been more correct about the kindly nature of the two new tenants.

Annette Conniff and Terri Yellalonis are a rare ‘sister act’ I got to know quite well when they worked in Cockeysville at Valley Framing. In truth I remember Annette from the very early years of this frame shop in Dulaney Valley Plaza and eventually followed this merry band of framers to a larger facility in Belvedere Square and then to York Road along ‘antiques row’. Apparently I was not alone in my devotion to their talents. In their new location with the new name of More Than Fine



*Sisters Annette Conniff and Terri Yellalonis*  
Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

Framing, Inc. they appear to be among many old friends. Indeed, several area residents entered the store during our interview just to say, “Welcome to the neighborhood!”

The unique character of this framing and gift enterprise can be attributed solely to the two sisters. They combine the rare talents of artistry with business acumen framed by sincere goodwill. Annette, a trained artist whose paintings grace the walls of the shop, brings deep roots in the art world and the framing business to this new enterprise while Terri, a veteran of the retail sales and marketing world, provides the business and merchandising skills. Their differences also extend to their sense of style in that Annette prefers industrial chic while Terri gravitates to the antique and the girly. Like their sisterhood, the quirky combination somehow works.

Annette and Terri grew up in the Rosedale community in a big, close-knit family. Annette was the hands-on tomboy and Terri the more creative tea party type. Family still plays a large part in both of their lives as spouses, family and friends contributed long hours toward rehabilitating the new shop’s interior – building shelves,

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re-hanging the clever wall-sized frame sample system, painting the walls, moving the inventory and even creating a logo for the business. The latter, designed by a good friend sports, an elegant peacock emerging from a regal oval. Why the peacock? Terri has a peacock obsession (loves the girly feathers) but the design also appeals to Annette's eye for strong, clean lines – lines that try hard to contain the flashy bird, but don't entirely succeed.



Speaking of visual statements, you may recall that for their grand opening in September they parked a vintage red VW Beetle on the lawn in front of the shop. The story behind that car illustrates how quickly this dynamic duo can endear themselves to strangers. Months ago the owner of Riderwood Village met with them to discuss their potential plans for the leased space.

In the discussion they discovered a mutual love of cars – both old and new – and came up with the promotional idea of placing the eye-catching car out front for their grand opening. The sisters ran with the idea and added to the festivities with amusements like prizes awarded by spinning an antique wooden carnival prize wheel. Not surprisingly, the whole day was a big hit.

The new shop is painted in strong hues of aqua, red and green, another bold visual statement saying, “We are not your ordinary shop!” The traditional sales counter is anything but. The sales bar and sample wall are overlaid by recycled corrugated tin and lit by old industrial street lamps. The seats are mismatched fifties era stools straight from Beaver's breakfast bar. In fact, repurposing can be found in many of the aesthetic details of the shop as well as in the home decor *objets d'art* for sale. Both women have that creative vision to see potential in what many of us would simply discard.

Among the gift items for sale are a wide range of photo frames, some cleverly hand-decorated with found objects that appealed to designer Terri as ‘up-cycled’ art. Handmade jewelry, lamps and shades, chalk-painted furnishings and cement garden creatures all have a former life's tale to tell but now make for the perfect redecorating or gift item. Of course the pièce de resistance is the art on the walls. Currently featured are photographs and paintings by Annette as well as by friends and fellow artists Karen Messick, David Grafton and Jude Bates. Both Annette and Terri believe passionately in the shop's mission to showcase local artists and they hope to introduce us to many more. (Visit [www.morethanfineframing.com](http://www.morethanfineframing.com) for more information.)

Framing is the core of the operation and the reason so many customers have remained loyal through multiple relocations. Their expertise in matting, glazing, framing and even restoration of art works or antique frames equals that found in museum-quality workshops. Annette likened their product to a Woodberry Kitchen hamburger competing in a world that seems bent on being satisfied by a Big Mac. She hopes to guide the unknowing minds and hearts of greater Ruxton toward making the better choice, ‘The More Than Fine’ choice, in fact! The unusual name brings us back to the importance of family in their lives. Annette explained that her husband Steve, ordinarily a man of few words whose description of all things was never more than a tepid “fine”, once commented on their mother Lillian's brownies as being “more

than fine!” The saying became an immediate familial chestnut and seemed perfect for the new business venture.

Mention of Mom Lillian caused me to gush about one of my favorite whimsical purchases from their Cockeysville shop. Almost a decade ago I bought a Christmas ornament – one that I did not set out to buy but which I simply could not resist. Mom Lillian paints the backs of real Chesapeake crab shells to look like the face of Santa! Looped with decorative ribbon for hanging, the shell just had to join my treasured Santa ornament collection. I am always so relieved each Christmas when the delicate shell emerges intact from its hibernation in the attic and I think fondly of Terri and Annette. They assured me that Lillian will be painting shells again this year for the new shop. Lucky will be

the few who receive Mom's handiwork as a gift!

So whether you need holiday gifts, something framed, something big or little to revive your home décor or that perfect piece of art or photography, be assured you don't have to travel far. More Than Fine Framing can meet those needs and then some. More importantly, the charming ‘sister act’ of Annette and Terri offers that intangible something that engenders immediate trust and goodwill. So stop in to buy into their treasures and their friendship!

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# With Our Sincere Appreciation

by **Jessica Paffenbarger**

As always at this time of year we have to say goodbye to retiring Board members. It's particularly hard to do this when members have been on the Board for two consecutive terms and have become like members of our own family. Several volunteers are in this category this time around: Barbara Guarnieri, Fred Hudson, Bliss McCord, Kathy Palencar and Ande Williams and we want to thank them, in particular, for their past six years. With that said, THANK YOU to all of our retiring members (listed below) and here's to 'when we meet again'.

**Debbie Burkner** spent almost two terms on the Board. She was on the Enhancements/Historic Preservation committee where she became involved with an initial exploration of signage for our neighborhood. Debbie was also on the Events committee, participating in events such as street clean-ups and Dumpster Day and particularly enjoyed helping with Holiday Party in the Woods.

**Kelly Chew** was a major contributor to the Newsletter/Website team. Not only did she manage all the advertising for the newsletter, but she also posted information and managed the photographs on our website. Kelly pulled together detailed instructions to help the next 'advertising' person, an admirable task that we are now trying to do for all our committee positions. During Kelly's term she also served on the Membership Committee.

**Barbara Guarnieri** served two terms and was most recently our Board President for one year. She is a past co-chair of the Historic Preservation and Enhancements Committee as well as past chair of the Newsletter/Website Committee. She's been a long-time contributor to the newsletter (we haven't seen the last of her in this role, thank goodness!) and helped to streamline the planning and production processes. She initiated the Board's commitment to the SWAT street clean-up and more recently helped kick off efforts to map the area's historic properties.

**Fred Hudson** served two terms on the Board bringing with him first-hand experience with zoning issues, so serving on the Zoning/Development and the Traffic/Roads/Light Rail Committees was an excellent fit for him. Fred deserves extra thanks for enlisting our Annual Meeting speaker this year. Through his association with the Maryland Historical Society, Fred was able to 'persuade' his friend Burt Kummerow (MHS President and CEO) to entertain and educate us about Ruxton's (small) and Baltimore's (much larger) role in the War of 1812.

**Peter Maloney**, who served one term, was a member of the Bare Hills/Robert E. Lee Park Committee and the Zoning/Development Committee. Peter was also the first president of the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council and kept us well-informed about progress in the Park.

**Bliss McCord** served two terms and was most recently the Board's Secretary. She was chair of the Membership Committee, which is responsible for soliciting new members, producing the membership directory, sending out new member packets and coordinating meetings with other community associations in the RRLR area. Bliss was also on the Events Committee and has been a long-time contributor to the Newsletter Committee where she

does triple duty writing articles, editing and tracking revisions and proofing. Thankfully, Bliss is planning to continue to write her lovely articles for us!

**Kathy Palencar** served two terms, including two years as President. During her long tenure, Kathy committed many hours to the future direction of this Association. As co-chair of the Community Plan Update Committee, chair of the Zoning/Development Committee and a member of the Bare Hills/Robert E. Lee Park Committee she helped to craft the vision for many aspects of *Community Plan 2010*. Her insightful guidance and tireless efforts also helped the Board with several zoning issues.

**Ande Williams**, who served two Board terms, was chair of the Events Committee (which is responsible for planning Dumpster Day, Holiday Party in the Woods, the annual meeting and our new-this-year Shredder Day). Ande was also a member of the Enhancements/Historic Preservation and the Membership Committees. An added bonus was the delicious homemade cookies she often brought to events and Board meetings!

**Sky Woodward** served three years on the Nominating Committee and played a major role in identifying and engaging many of our wonderful new Board members. Her wide network proved very helpful. With her professional experience as a practicing attorney, Sky's guidance with difficult legal issues made her a valuable asset to the Board.

One of the regular challenges for this Association is to find volunteers able to, and interested in, giving their time to assist with the RRLRAIA mission of "working to preserve and enhance our neighborhoods and the wonderful quality of life" we are fortunate to enjoy here. This year we are excited to welcome eight such individuals.

**Gina Adams**, her husband Delbert and their three children have been residents of our area for the past 25 years. Moving from Carroll County, they settled here because of a house. Gina's husband Delbert (Delbert Adams Construction Group) was working on a house in the area and spotted the 1898 manor house known as Applewood Manor, a 'fixer-upper' which they purchased. They have renovated and remodeled to make the house a family friendly home. Gina works within the construction business on the marketing and strategy initiatives. She enjoys running,

golfing, hiking and particularly likes spending time with friends and family. Gina is a member of the Calvert School Board of Trustees, and actively supports several local nonprofit organizations.

**Cynthia Allen**, a lifetime resident of Baltimore County, has lived on Thornton Road since 2002. As Village Green Traffic/Safety Committee Chair,





Cyndy led an effort to address the speed issue on Thornton Road which resulted in the installation of traffic calming islands and a speed camera near Riderwood Elementary School. Cyndy started her working career as an organic chemist in pure research at the Radiological Science Department of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine before changing to her financial profession. Cyndy is a vice president/financial advisor with RBC Wealth Management in Hunt Valley. She recently taught financial classes for the Johns Hopkins Odyssey adult education program at the Homewood campus. Cyndy serves as chair of the Baltimore County Commission on Aging where she has advocated for issues affecting the elderly for over 16 years. In her free time, Cyndy is a member of the National Corvette Restorers Association which supports many charitable events. She has four married daughters and a son who lives at home.

**Andrew R. "Art" Arthur** grew up on Francke Avenue in Lutherville. He is currently a judge on the U.S. Immigration Court, an appointment he has held since 2006. Experiences prior to this appointment include counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and trial attorney in the San Francisco INS office. Art has been actively involved with two recreation league sports programs in Towson. He lives on L'Hirondelle Club Road with his wife (and former Board member) Sky Woodward (see above), their son and his in-laws who retired to the area from Oklahoma.



**Grant Cleverley** was born and raised near Toronto, Ontario. After college, Grant moved south of the border to San Francisco; however, when his apartment was destroyed by an earthquake, he moved east to safer ground where he met and married his wife Monique. Grant is self-employed and his company designs and engineers tensile fabric roof systems for permanent applications similar to the Pier Six Pavilion. The Cleverleys have lived in Baltimore since 1999 and moved to Ruxton in 2008. Grant, Monique and their two daughters like to spend family time on their sailboat enjoying the beautiful Chesapeake Bay.



**Paddy McSherry Morton** grew up in Frederick, Maryland. Paddy is an attorney who began her legal career as a products liability litigator but who now serves as legal counsel to the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations. In addition to representing nonprofits, she teaches nonprofit governance and management. Paddy lives with her husband Chuck and their four children in the Lake Roland area where they built a new home in 2012 and where they enjoy hiking, jogging and dog walking. She has served on numerous boards in Baltimore, currently heads the Haiti Program at their parish church, is a former chair of the Bryn Mawr Parents' Association and a former



chair of the board of directors of CASA of Baltimore, a child advocacy organization.

**Michael Muldowney** grew up in Hagerstown. After studying mechanical engineering, he became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force overseeing electronic warfare logistics. Mike later attended law school and became a litigator and a surety claims attorney for the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company. He currently works for CBRE, Inc., a commercial real estate services company specializing in multi-housing property sales. Mike is on the boards of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore and the nonprofit Coprodelli USA. Mike and his wife Sheila moved to the Bare Hills area in 2005 to raise their three children. In his spare time Mike likes to golf, work out and help his children through the maze of soccer, basketball and lacrosse schedules.



**Shannon Putman** grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and moved to Baltimore in 1996 for an internship in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins University Hospital where she met husband Eric. Upon graduation they remained in Baltimore. Shannon



currently works part-time in the Hopkins emergency room and her husband is a Hopkins infectious disease specialist. In the spring of 2012 they moved from Roland Park to a fixer-upper on Circle Road. Eric and Shannon love the home's proximity to nature and their three boys can frequently be seen running in the woods or looking for tadpoles near the Circle Road bridge. While living in Roland Park, Shannon co-authored a regular feature called Energywise for the

neighborhood newsletter. She also served as a board member of the Roland Park Pool and the Redeemer Parish Day School.

**Anne Rouse**, a Baltimore native, has made her home on Charlesway since 2005. She lives with her husband, Owen, and their Labrador, Pax. Anne, a long-time supporter of Project Clean Stream, has captained the initiative on Towson Run for the past three years. Anne's career began at T. Rowe Price but for the last decade she has been helping clients plan for retirement as a counselor at Transamerica Retirement Solutions. Her leisure time often involves animals. She volunteers at Lab Rescue of the Chesapeake and Potomac (LRCP), has organized supply drives for Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc. and has been associated with Karma Dogs, a program to help children become more comfortable reading aloud by having them read to dogs.



Thank you to all our new volunteers.

# Towson WinterFest Activities

Towson's month-long WinterFest, sponsored by the Towson Chamber of Commerce, has something for everyone.

## FOR FAMILIES:

### Baltimore County Tree Lighting

Friday, November 29 • 6 – 8 p.m.  
Olympic Park (near Towson Circle)  
Festivities include:

- Santa's arrival by fire engine
- Tree lighting ceremony
- Opening of Santa's Workshop at the Old Hutzler's on Towson Circle featuring Beau and Tinsel, the talking reindeer
- Reduced rate parking in the garage located at 502 Washington Avenue



### Fire & Ice Night

Friday, December 6 • 6 – 9 p.m.

View the ice sculptures located around Downtown Towson. Other festivities include street performers and free roasted chestnuts and s'mores offered by area restaurants. See the Chamber's website ([www.towsonchamber.com/](http://www.towsonchamber.com/)) for a map of ice sculpture locations.

## Street Performers

Friday, December 13 • 6 – 9 p.m. Throughout Downtown Towson.

## FOR ADULTS:

### HoHo Happy Hours

Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19 and 26 • Starting at 5 p.m.  
Several restaurants and bars will offer food and drink specials.

### Men's Shopping Night

Thursday, December 19 • 5 p.m.

Locally-owned shops will offer specials and promotions. Souris' Saloon will wrap your gifts for free.

## FOR CHILDREN:

### Breakfast with the Grinch

Saturday, December 7 • 9 a.m.  
Souris' Saloon, 537 York Road/Towson Circle



### Breakfast with Frosty

Saturday, December 14 • 9 a.m.  
Strapazza, 12 W. Allegheny Avenue

Each breakfast begins at 9 a.m. Price is \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. Afterwards, visit Santa's Workshop at 1 E. Joppa Road where kids can create holiday gifts. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. watch *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* on 12/7 and *Frosty the Snowman* on 12/14.

The Baltimore County Revenue Authority is offering free parking November 22-25 and December 20-25 at meters and Revenue Authority lots.

For more detailed information, see [www.towsonchamber.com](http://www.towsonchamber.com) or call the Towson Chamber at 410-825-1144.

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– Baltimore City Paper, Best of Baltimore 2012

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[eddiesofrolandpark.com](http://eddiesofrolandpark.com)

### Winter Word Search

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ARCTIC    | BLIZZARD  | COAT      |
| COLD      | FIRE      | FREEZE    |
| FROST     | GLOVES    | HEATER    |
| HIBERNATE | ICE       | ICICLE    |
| SCARF     | SEASON    | SKI       |
| SNOW      | SNOWBOARD | SNOWFLAKE |
| SNOWMAN   | SWEATER   |           |





# Trail Blazers

Continued from page 1

had crashed to the ground and was cut up into cookies (see photo on page 1) had a circumference of 108 inches! Don't worry; volunteers who cut trees, cookies and logs for the corduroy treatment have been trained and certified to handle chain saws and other equipment!

On the water and along the banks of Lake Roland, some 13 volunteers in kayaks and canoes recently collected dozens of bags of trash. This effort was sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy as part of their International Coastal Cleanup program. The Conservancy's educational philosophy stresses that "trash travels; no matter where you live, trash can travel from your hands out to sea" so everyone must be part of the solution to trash pollution. What goes in the Lake travels down the Jones Falls to the Chesapeake Bay which empties into the Atlantic Ocean – not hard to imagine.

In addition to cleaning and clearing, volunteers are also 'blazing trails' by marking them with 'blazes' (paint spots) at measured

distances to mark the direction of the trail. The Trail team is using high tech GPS (Global Positioning System) technology and physical maps to blaze the trails. Volunteers are marking blazes with red, green or yellow paint that will correspond to a paper trail map being developed by Baltimore County and the Nature Council. Not only will these blazes help hikers find their way along the trails but they will also make emergency location much easier to identify for the Park rangers.

The Park has some of the best trails in Baltimore County, but they require constant upkeep. So, if you like to work outside, get your hands dirty and do a good deed, join a ranger and the Habitat and Trail team on the second Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to help maintain the

beauty of Robert E. Lee Park. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water.



*Christine and Steve Christianson in the 'mother ship', collecting trash before it can flow further downstream to the harbor*

Photo courtesy Howdy Knipp





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# Oh Say Can You See? – Yes, Yes I Can!

## The RRLRAIA 2013 Annual Meeting

by Jessica Paffenbarger

At our September Annual Membership Meeting, Board President Barbara Guarnieri welcomed members and guests and proceeded to dispense with business matters as quickly as practicable, referencing several handouts that were distributed. Distinguished guests included two of our State 42nd District representatives – Senator Jim Brochin and Delegate Susan Aumann. Senator Brochin briefly addressed the audience, discussing several issues of importance to him including inheritance tax/federal tax recoupling, sentences for non-violent non-distributing drug offenders and last year's redistricting bill which will change the State's legislative district of some RRLRAIA voters.

Delegate Susan Aumann, the 2013 Maryland House Whip, serves on the House



Barbara Guarnieri giving her introduction and holding one of the handouts available to attendees

Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

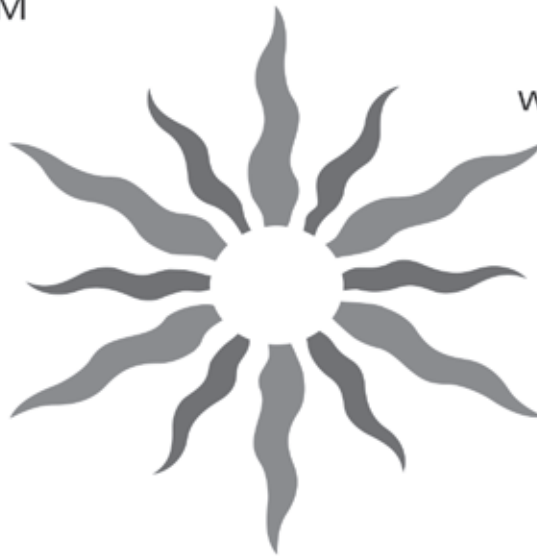
Appropriations Committee and several special joint committees. She warned of potentially trying times ahead as she is concerned about spending. She also recently attended a number of meetings regarding Common Core State Standards and school redistricting and shared some of her insights on both of these education hot topics.

Barbara then recognized 2012-13 RRLRAIA committee chairs and thanked the Board for their extraordinary hard work this year. She suggested that attendees should avail themselves of the handout entitled "RRLRAIA Committee Reports

Continued on page 18

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# RRLRAIA Committee Reports for 2012-1013

**Bare Hills Area Development Committee** is responsible for interpreting and implementing the development vision for the Bare Hills commercial area as outlined in the RRLRAIA *Community Plan 2010*. This year the committee:

- Continued to lay the groundwork with stakeholders in the Bare Hills commercial area for future development.
- Continued to meet with County Planning Office officials about a strategy and plan for development of the area.
- Monitored and informed the Board of any issues regarding Bare Hills commercial properties for sale, applications for variances or local work by County or State agencies.
- Monitored and informed the Board of issues related to Robert E. Lee Park.
- Monitored and informed the Board of issues related to the Mt. Washington MTA stop.

**Enhancements and Historic Preservation Committee** is charged with improving and protecting the historical and aesthetic fabric of our community. Accomplishments include:

- Created an interactive database and map of historic properties and community assets for the website.
- Began a newsletter series on the variety of neighborhood architectural styles.
- Developed a plan and information resource for assisting neighborhoods in the acquisition of 'National Historic District' status.
- Planned for a design standard for signage at community gateways.
- Planned and implemented evening events in the neighborhoods' commercial areas bringing together neighbors and business owners to promote these areas as places of community goodwill and exchange.

**Events Committee** plans and stages community-wide, as well as Board of Governors, special events. This year the Committee successfully planned and/or managed:

- Four roadside clean-up events on portions of Falls and Old Court Roads.
- Two stream clean-up events of waterways within our community.
- A Spring Dumpster Day held at Riderwood Elementary School.
- The annual Holiday Party in the Woods event (cancelled in 2012 due to Robert E. Lee Park wind and fire regulations).
- A new Fall Shredder Day held at Riderwood Elementary School.
- With the Enhancements and Historic Preservation Committee, a new spring evening event in the neighborhoods' commercial areas.

- Winter and summer Board of Governors potluck dinner meetings.

**Membership Committee** solicits new members, issues renewal letters and dues requests and publishes a biennial membership directory. This year the committee:

- Mailed over 100 "New Resident" packets to new neighbors.
- Issued more than 3,000 letters soliciting membership and/or renewal requests.
- Maintained a membership database of more than 1,100 continuing members.

**Newsletter and Website Committee** is responsible for writing and producing the RRLRAIA *Neighborhood NEWS* and for maintaining and updating the website at [www.rrlraia.org](http://www.rrlraia.org). Achievements this year include:

- Investigated, interviewed and contracted with a new website designer and host.
- Updated and continue to review potential features for the new website.
- Launched a website focused on communicating important committee information.
- Investigated the possibility of a website for Board internal use.
- Wrote and produced three newsletters, including two color photo issues.
- Maintained and increased advertising contracts which help to underwrite the costs of producing the newsletter.
- Reviewed and altered advertising costs in view of increasing outlays.

**Nominating Committee** must fill annual Board vacancies with attention to proportionate representation from the ten neighborhood zones. This year, filling an unusual eight vacancies (1/3 of the Board's 25 members), the committee:

- Solicited within the community for potential nominees.
- Conducted interviews, assessed candidates for potential Board positions and filled all vacancies.

**Transportation Committee** is charged with monitoring all issues related to roads and sidewalks in the community. This year the committee:

- Maintained a long-standing relationship with the roadway agencies of the State and County through periodic meetings.
- Investigated the nature, impact and protections of the designation of "National Scenic Byways" for purposes of exploring programs on Charles Street and Falls Road.
- With the Bare Hills Committee, explored several area traffic control issues including a traffic light at Clarkview and Falls Roads.

Continued on page 18

# Oh Say Can You See?

Continued from page 16

for 2012-13". Barbara then introduced Treasurer Keith Murray who reported a balanced budget. Keith also made available



Keynote speaker Burt Kummerow

Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

a handout for attendees. Changing hats to Chair of the Nominating Committee, Keith then introduced the new Board nominees, all of whom were subsequently elected by the membership.

Fred Hudson, an outgoing Board member and Trustee of the Maryland Historical Society (MHS), introduced his colleague and the keynote speaker, Mr. Burton

Kummerow, President and CEO of the Maryland Historical Society

## RRLRAIA Committee Reports for 2012-2013

Continued from page 17

- Responded to members' traffic concerns by contacting appropriate State and County agencies.
- Directed and supported inquiries about neighborhood traffic calming devices.

**Zoning Committee** is charged with monitoring and overseeing all community zoning issues. This year the Committee:

- In accordance with *Community Plan 2010*, developed basic policy positions for various zoning challenges posed by current and future development.
- Explored a strategy for including neighborhood commercial areas under the aegis of the Design Review Panel.
- Organized meetings between owners and neighboring property owners to preview and resolve potential issues on proposed new additions and/or new homes that qualified for Design Review.
- Attended and participated in Design Review Panel hearings when appropriate.
- Reviewed proposed zoning variance requests for compliance with *Community Plan 2010* and for potential neighborhood impact.
- Met with neighbors whose properties might be impacted by a zoning variance request and communicated any concerns to the property owners.
- Began developing information for the website on area zoning and development requirements such as storm water management, rental unit occupancy limits, etc.

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(and RRLRAIA member). Fred noted Mr. Kummerow's four decades of experience as an academic historian and his pioneering projects in the field of living history. Mr. Kummerow has written several books, the latest "In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake" co-written with Ralph E. Eshelman. (For more about Mr. Kummerow and his extensive accomplishments visit [www.historyworks-inc.com](http://www.historyworks-inc.com).)

Mr. Kummerow dazzled the audience with his enthusiasm for, and amazing knowledge of, local historic events. He admitted that "practically nothing happened here [Ruxton] in the War of 1812" but managed to keep us entertained nonetheless. The presentation centered on the War of 1812; its Baltimore-related bicentennial will be celebrated next year. Since Mr. Kummerow feels this is an American war many otherwise knowledgeable people don't seem to know much about, he expertly transported





us back in time to understand the causes of the War, what young America was like then and how the fledgling country managed to win its second war against Great Britain. Mr. Kummerow showed many slides of artwork and artifacts from the extensive MHS collection which document and commemorate the War of 1812. He encouraged everyone to visit the MHS ([www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org)) to learn more about the War and next year's commemoration of the September 14, 1814, battle that Francis Scott Key witnessed before penning his famous poem. Little did Mr. Kummerow realize how well his evening's talk served as its own advertisement for MHS!

Following the presentation, Executive Director Peggy Squitieri conducted the required vote on a resolution permitting Board members to speak on behalf of the Association in matters before Baltimore County administrative bodies. Barbara Guarnieri then recognized the outgoing Board members: Debbie Burker, Kelly Chew, Fred Hudson, Peter Maloney, Bliss McCord, Kathy

Palencar, Ande Williams and Sky Woodwood. Although Keith Murray is not retiring from the Board, he is retiring as Treasurer, a pivotal job, and Barbara thanked him for his efforts. Barbara then handed over the proverbial gavel to incoming President Patrick Jarosinski who presented her with a gift of thanks from the Board. Patrick particularly praised Barbara's extensive knowledge of our community and her dedication to her Board commitments. He noted her great writing and editing skills – you see her byline in the newsletter regularly but behind the scenes Barbara skillfully wields her red pen on most other articles you read in **Neighborhood NEWS!** Patrick is looking forward to assuming his new position and hopes to see everyone at our upcoming neighborhood events. The 2013 Annual Meeting was then adjourned.



A great turnout greeted our featured speaker  
Photo courtesy Nettie Washburn

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