Taking a Ride Down Charles Street

by Barbara Guarnieri

Did you know that Charles Street is one of the oldest roads in the country? It is also one of only four urban streets to be awarded the National Scenic Byway designation (2009)!

Charles Street started life as Forest Street, a primitive wagon path connecting vacant lots along the inner basin of a 1732 plan for Baltimore Town. By the turn of the 20th century it had become what local historian John McGrain titled ‘Baltimore’s Artery of Elegance.’ Sometime in the mid-18th century, the street was renamed to honor Charles Calvert, Fifth Baron of Baltimore and Maryland’s third royal governor (1721-51).

As tobacco commerce and the local population grew in the port city, Charles Street assumed a greater role in civic life. By 1900 it was home to an award-winning newspaper, a famous conservatory, two prominent museums, a stately railway station, a large university, two colleges, handsome houses of worship, widely respected theaters, impressive banking and brokerage institutions, elegant department and specialty stores and several luxury hotels. In-town neighborhoods of elegant brick and brownstone row homes and uptown country estates, owned or frequented by gilded-age barons, graced the popular street. Well-planned green spaces adorned with patriotic monuments enlivened small city parks and offered respite for a stroll. It is not surprising that Charles Street became a most beloved route for a horse or carriage ride.

For many years, the end point of a ride to the country was the Bellona Gunpowder Mills entrance (now Bellona Avenue). A dirt service road called Charles Street Avenue ran north from the mills on the edge of the Sheppard Asylum (1861), then a Bowen family farm (site of an 18th century grist mill, parts of which can still be seen near Bellona) and continued to an even more rustic lane known as ‘Charles Street Avenue Extended’ up to Joppa Road. In an 1898 map this northern neighborhood is labeled Kalmia Park. Property owners in the Kalmia area included Henry Imwold (Dolce Donum, now Pickersgill), Charles Weir (Hawthorneden, now 602 Chestnut Avenue), James Boyce (Chestnut Summit, now the Blakehurst retirement community), Mrs. George Abell (Ridge Mansion in Sherwood Park, now

A 1752 sketch of Baltimore Town with Charles Street along the shoreline
Photo courtesy Baltimore Historical Society

A horse drawn ‘omnibus’ of passengers on Charles Street in 1885
Photo courtesy Baltimore Historical Society

Elm trees on Charles Street near Bellona Avenue
circa 1900
Photo Baltimore Historical Society

Continued on page 22
President’s Letter

Dear Neighbors,

*Now ‘tis spring, and weeds are shallow-rooted; Suffer them now and they’ll o’ergrow the garden.*

William Shakespeare

Will’s words have a face-value meaning: pull out actual weeds while they are easily yanked; don’t put it off until they get a better hold. But then there’s a deeper metaphorical meaning: it’s wise to address all problems as soon as you possibly can, before they get worse.

And that’s what our Community Association tries to do. The mission of the RRLRAIA is to preserve and enhance our neighborhoods and the wonderful quality of life we are fortunate to enjoy here.

We work in partnership with other nonprofit organizations, like the Greater Ruxton Area Foundation, and local government, to stay informed about opportunities for improvement, but we welcome our members’ suggestions as well. As an Association member, if you learn of projects or opportunities that would enhance the quality of life in our neighbor-

Vanguard Project Community Input Meeting

The Community Input Meeting for the Vanguard project located at 6241-6247 Falls Road (CPC Falls Road Project also known as the Village of Lake Roland) is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2018, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1401 Carrollton Avenue, 21204. Additional information about this project and the Baltimore County development process is available at rrlraia.org.

West Joppa Road Royal Farms Site Improvements Planned

Work will soon begin on the Royal Farms site at the corner of W. Joppa Road and Thornton Road. The parking lot will be reconfigured to alleviate the congestion that currently exists. Improved landscaping, signage and storm water management are also planned. The store, which is located in a flood plain, will not be expanded.

Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Neighborhood NEWS
Spring 2018

Table of Contents
1. Taking a Ride Down Charles Street
2. President’s Letter
3. A Message from Greater Ruxton Area Foundation
4. Membership Dues Reminder
5. Our Area’s Unsung Heroes
6. Spotlight on the RRLRAIA Membership Committee
7. In Like A Lion
8. Lemon Chicken with Artichokes and Feta
9. What are Neonicotinoids – and why is it important that we rid our gardens of them?
10. Our Architectural Heritage – Eclectic Houses
11. Our Architectural Heritage – Riderwood/Lake Roland
12. Street / Stream Clean Efforts – Who Knows What You’ll Find!
13. Home Sales in Ruxton/Lake Roland
14. What are Neonicotinoids – and why is it important that we rid our gardens of them?
15. Our Architectural Heritage – Eclectic Houses
16. Our Architectural Heritage – Riderwood/Lake Roland

Board of Governors
President – Thomas Brown
1st Vice President – Tom George
2nd Vice President – Laura Shmerler
Treasurer – Trish Fallon
Secretary – Paddy Morton
Gina Adams
Cynthia Allen
John Baer
Harry Bond
Jeffrey Budnitz
Ward Classen
Debbie Codd
Joe Derr
Susan Law
Lauren Madsen
Courtney Middelton
Michael Muldowney
Linda Murphy
Shannon Putman
Lauren Seba
Carlton Sexton

Executive Director
Peggy Squitieri

Newsletter Committee:
Courtney Middelton, Chair and Editor
Debbie Codd, Advertising

Newsletters are published three times a year by The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Inc., P.O. Box 204, Riderwood, MD 21139, tel: 410-494-7757.

Deadlines for copy, including announcements and calendar items, are February 15 for Spring issue, July 15 for Fall issue and October 15 for Winter issue. Advertisers contact: office@rrlraia.org.

The masthead photo on the front page, courtesy of Nettie Washburn, offers an angled view of Rider House’s architectural detail.

Neighborhood NEWS is published three times a year by The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Inc., P.O. Box 204, Riderwood, MD 21139, tel: 410-494-7757.

Deadlines for copy, including announcements and calendar items, are February 15 for Spring issue, July 15 for Fall issue and October 15 for Winter issue. Advertisers contact: office@rrlraia.org.

The masthead photo on the front page, courtesy of Nettie Washburn, offers an angled view of Rider House’s architectural detail.
Dear Fellow Community Members,

I am very pleased to serve as the new president of GRAF. A Baltimore native, I’ve been a Ruxton resident for 16 years and have enjoyed being an active member of the GRAF board for the past three years.

Formed in 2002, the Greater Ruxton Area Foundation (GRAF) is a §501(c)(3) entity dedicated to the beautification and preservation of our community. While the two organizations work together on various efforts, GRAF (the Foundation) is independent from the RRLRAIA (the Association). GRAF relies on volunteers to serve as board members and, more importantly, it relies on donations from community members and organizations to fund its ongoing projects. Thank you to our past and present donors!

GRAF recently completed its 11th project (plantings adjacent to the fence at Bellona Avenue and Rolandvue Road – featured in the Fall 2017 edition of NeighborhoodNEWS) and is dedicating resources to maintain each completed beautification effort. At least one additional project is planned for 2018 – stay tuned for more information!

Please visit our website, ruxtonfoundation.org and ‘Like’ us on Facebook in order to learn more about our organization and see what we’re doing to help beautify our community. We encourage you to get involved – through volunteering for our events, making a monetary donation or simply collecting trash while you’re out walking your dog or enjoying the scenery that Ruxton has to offer. And don’t forget to maintain your trees by ridding them of invasive ivy!

I look forward to serving on this board of fantastic, dedicated volunteers including Bob Aumiller, Graham Boyce, Sibley Classen, Kevin Flynn, John Lalley, Bliss McCord, Hugh Purvis, Sam Santarelli, David Sawyer, Deirdre Weadock, Chris West and David Whitman.

All the best,
Dan Middelton
On a foggy, rainy morning in January, I met Jamie Cahn at the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company (LVFC). A banker by trade, Jamie has volunteered for decades at this station nestled in the heart of Lutherville, and he was happy to share this community treasure. Newly rebuilt, and with a full complement of firefighting apparatus, this company is an integral part of the neighborhood, broader community and County at large.

Like most fire departments throughout the country, Baltimore County Fire Department dispatches staff and apparatus from multiple firehouses to calls throughout the County, so every day and on almost every call the LVFC is cooperating with other fire companies. The LVFC answers calls in the area bounded by Greenspring Avenue, Belfast Road, Providence Road and the City line, so the familiar black and white livery of the LVFC is in our neighborhoods every week.

Baltimore County is unique in that not only are 60% of the fire stations in the County volunteer, but the volunteer and paid (career) firefighters work together as peers, each supporting the other in partnership. This unique partnership and commitment of the volunteers has served the area well.

The ‘crews’ as Cahn calls them are busy answering over 2,000 calls each year. Keeping up that pace means staffing up, and the LVFC has a robust team of 100 men and women. It’s important to understand that in this fire company every staff member is a volunteer.

**Interesting LVFC stats:**

- Calls per year: 2,000
- Number of apparatus: 6
  - Number of fire engines: 3 (the only firehouse in Baltimore County with three fire trucks)
  - Number of utility trucks (used for medic work): 2
  - Number of heavy apparatus: 1
- Gallons of water held in a fire engine: 500
- Number of volunteers: 100
- Oldest fire fighter in LVFC: 78 years old
- Youngest fire fighter in LVFC: 19 years old
- Training hours to become a fire fighter: 300+
- Cost of a fire engine: $600,000
- Cost of a heavy rescue apparatus: $1,000,000+

The ‘crews’ as Cahn calls them are busy answering over 2,000 calls each year. Keeping up that pace means staffing up, and the LVFC has a robust team of 100 men and women. It’s important to understand that in this fire company every staff member is a volunteer.
Most of us pass the Brooklandville Fire Station on a weekly basis while commuting to and from activities or work along the Falls Road corridor, and many of us have benefited from the aid of its emergency personnel in times of crisis. Have you ever wondered about the inner workings of this busy station? Captain Robert Kemp shared with me the details and responsibilities that make Brooklandville Fire Station (also known as Fire Station 14) a valuable part of our community. Although fire stations do not restrict themselves to physical boundaries, often working in conjunction with other stations for larger scale emergencies, they are responsible for a primary district. Brooklandville’s district falls within the borders of the City/County line, Old Court Road, Padonia Road and Charles Street. One of the station’s primary obligations within this locality is running annual fire safety inspections of businesses, schools and home daycare centers.

All Baltimore County fire stations fall under the rules and governance of the County and its Fire Chief. Brooklandville is one of 25 County stations that are manned solely by career firefighters. This means it functions with a full staff of paid employees on site 24 hours a day. There are 32 fulltime firefighters employed at Brooklandville, and each member makes up a smaller squadron of eight employees. A typical workweek involves two ten-hour day shifts, followed by two fourteen-hour night shifts, and then four days off. No fewer than seven people, including a captain, lieutenant, two fire apparatus driver operators (FADOs), a fire specialist, paramedic and emergency medical technician staff each shift. One of the FADOs is also trained in operating the hazardous materials unit.

In 2017 Brooklandville responded to 5,358 calls including 1,692 fire calls, 3,413 medical calls and 285 hazardous materials calls. The number of emergency calls is trending upwards, demonstrating the station’s ongoing value to our community. Further, Brooklandville is the County’s primary hazardous materials responder, often being called on for chemical spills along I-83 and I-695.

The station houses a large fire engine with hose and water capabilities, a pickup truck for off road response, a hazardous materials truck, a foam pumper for flammable fuel fires, a mobile air unit used for refilling firefighter air tanks and an ambulance. In addition to the space necessary for these rescue vehicles, the station is also compromised of rooms for the staff to sleep, eat and exercise. The firefighters’ day, if they are lucky enough to not have an early morning call, begins with checking the vehicles and equipment for optimal working conditions. They also try to carve out time for exercise in order to meet the physical requirements of the job. Firefighters must be able to carry 70 pounds of gear including a 40-pound oxygen tank and 30 pounds of...
There are no paid employees and these volunteers come from all walks of life. Cahn reports that the firefighters represent “a great mix of people” where the “unifying force is the idea of giving to the community and the love of the fire service. It’s a true melting pot of all kinds of people working together.”

The day jobs these volunteers hold are as varied as the people themselves: doctors, lawyers, bankers, UPS drivers, college students, plumbers and FBI staff all working in concert to answer calls. Interestingly, many of the volunteers also hold paid firefighter jobs. These career firefighters come from a broad geographic region including Baltimore, Montgomery, Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties and even Fairfax, Virginia.

So what’s the lure of this particular fire company? The first is the actual type of work this company does. Like most fire companies in Baltimore County, about 75% of its calls are medic calls, but the LVFC has a unique apparatus, a heavy rescue truck, the largest of its kind in the County and the only one with a crane. If this type of equipment is needed, the LVFC is sure to be called on to help, even if the call is outside of the primary call area. Last year, the fire company completed an addition and overhaul to the fire station which includes a training facility and live-in quarters. Many volunteers come for the training and the ability to stay overnight means that staff can come from much farther away.

In the LVFC firehouse there is a wall with framed commendations citing the Lutherville firefighters and firehouse for outstanding work including saving someone in cardiac arrest, resuscitating an individual who had been electrocuted, rescuing a victim on whom a tree had fallen, work done to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel and, of course, work done during fires, including the one that tragically took the life of volunteer firefighter Mark Falkenhan in 2011. Looking at the commendation wall, Cahn said, “Someone survived because of the work of these crews.”
Our Area’s Unsung Heroes

Continued from page 5

protective clothing. The ‘down portion’ of their day may also include refresher courses or training to maintain certificates. Brooklandville often hosts classes for other firefighters in hazardous materials management and emergency medical technician (EMT) training.

Construction of Brooklandville Station began in 1964 and it opened its doors in 1965. In addition to housing the equipment and firefighters, it also serves as a voting center for state and national elections. Although the station does not have a public community room like some other County stations, it does serve the community beyond its work during emergencies. The Brooklandville firefighters administer fire safety drills in area schools, provide education on fire safety to the public and participate in local events such as the mud run at the Lake Roland Nature Center and the Spring Fling at Quarry Lake.

Captain Kemp informed me that they receive the most calls in the winter months when homes are using additional heating sources or in the heat of the summer when electrical circuits are working overtime to maintain cooler temperatures. He advises families in our community to check their fire alarms twice a year and always have a functional carbon monoxide monitor near bedrooms if natural gas is used to heat the home. Brooklandville provides a critical safety function in our community. Although their services are completely paid for by the County and donations are not accepted, please remember to thank these dedicated men and women when you see them in action.

Editor’s Note: For more information about Station 14, see the Neighborhood NEWS Winter 2011-2012 article “Duty Calls.”
by Courtney Middelton

The RRLRAIA Membership Committee is one of several committees that focus on specific tasks for the Board (newsletter, traffic issues, zoning, events, etc). This energetic group is responsible for building and maintaining a viable, active paid membership of over 1,000 residents, businesses and institutions in the community.

Paddy Morton, Chair:
I recently started taking piano lessons (from Billy Scaletta, another Ruxton resident) and love the challenge of learning!

Laura Shmerler:
I am an avid runner and have run three marathons (Chicago, Baltimore and NYC) and am hoping to run at least one more!

Linda Murphy:
My husband and I adopted two baby boys from Guatemala who are now 11 and 13. During the adoption process, I was able to visit Guatemala nine times and we hope to visit again soon (now that the boys are old enough to remember).

Susan Law:
I love playing bridge and spending time in Florida during the winter. I also enjoy my real estate career and selling homes in my community, Ruxton Crossing.

Debbie Codd:
While volunteering in Alaska many years ago, I caught a 92-pound halibut in the waters north of Juneau that was taller than I was!

Trish Fallon (not pictured):
I’ve lived in the Four Winds neighborhood for nearly 22 years and was Treasurer of the Four Winds Association for many years. An avid gardener and dog lover, I walk extensively around the stunning neighborhood landscapes in the bucolic Ruxton area – my favorite reason for living here!

Laura Shmerler: Membership dues payments being processed on the conference table at Rider House

Photo courtesy Laura Shmerler

Get Ready For Life’s Milestones

Whether you’re just starting out or well on your way, we have the expertise and perspective to help you.

Move smoothly through life’s transitions.
Together, we can shape your financial future.

Rick Faby | Senior Vice President- Investments and Branch Manager
Nancy Eshmont, CFP® | Managing Director- Investments
Brian Rubin, CRPC® | Financial Advisor
Jeffrey Weiner | Managing Director- Investments
Robert F. Zimmer | Financial Advisor

We encourage you to stop by or give us a call.

BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS’ & Co.
INVESTMENTS for GENERATIONS*

111 S. Calvert St. | Suite 1720 | Baltimore, MD 21202
P 410-347-5559 | TF 855-347-8309
benjaminfedwards.com
2015-1343 Exp. 12/31/2018 Member SIPC
Friday, March 2, brought a windy wallop to our area via a nor’easter that resulted in widespread power outages, downed trees and extensive property damage. These pictures are evidence of Mother Nature’s ability to change the landscape within a matter of minutes.

Photos courtesy George Grose
Lemon Chicken with Artichokes and Feta

Lemon chicken with artichokes and feta is the perfect spring dish for the whole family and can be made in less than 45 minutes. Serve with a salad and crusty bread.

Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Spread 2 Tb olive oil on rimmed baking sheet. Add chicken to baking sheet and broil for 5 minutes. Surround the chicken with artichokes and lemon. Drizzle the remaining oil and sprinkle with oregano. Bake at 350 degrees until done. Sprinkle feta and lemon juice over chicken.

Recipe courtesy Laura Burden of Pepe’s Catering, 6801 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21209
PepesCatering6081@gmail.com
443-991-9659
pepes6081.com/catering

4 Tb olive oil
4 4-5 oz skinless, boneless chicken breasts
½ tsp freshly ground pepper
¼ tsp kosher salt
1 12 oz can artichoke hearts, drained
1 lb mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
1 lemon, cut into wheels plus ½ lemon juiced
1 Tb oregano
3 oz feta, crumbled

4 Tb olive oil
4 4-5 oz skinless, boneless chicken breasts
½ tsp freshly ground pepper
¼ tsp kosher salt
1 12 oz can artichoke hearts, drained
1 lb mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
1 lemon, cut into wheels plus ½ lemon juiced
1 Tb oregano
3 oz feta, crumbled
Upcoming Events

RRRLRAIA Dumpster/Donation/Shredder Day – Saturday, April 21
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Location: Riderwood Elementary School
For more details, see p. 21
Shredding service will be available until 10:45 a.m. There will be a small fee for those who are not current members of RRRLRAIA.

Towson Gardens Day – Thursday, May 3
Time: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Location: Towson Courthouse Plaza on Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Washington Avenues
Enjoy wonderful summertime foods including pit beef, ethnic delights, cheese steaks and more; purchase flowers, plants, unique crafts and jewelry; and enjoy a variety of entertainment.

Towsontown Spring Festival – Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6
Time: Saturday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Location: Downtown Towson from York Road to Bosley Avenue and Susquehanna Avenue to Allegheny Avenue
Enjoy carnival food, rides and games, 500+ vendors, live music on four performance stages, antique classic cars, beer gardens and much more. For more information, please visit towsontownfestival.com or call 410-825-1144.

Native Plant Sale – Saturday, May 5
Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Location: Across from the Lake Roland Nature Center
Sales of indigenous plants and shrubs chosen for their hardiness and adaptability to the Piedmont region.

RRRLRAIA Street Clean-up – Saturday, May 12
Time: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Location: Old Court Road and Falls Road

Feet on the Street – Beginning Friday, May 18
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Allegheny Avenue near the traffic circle
Towson’s Friday night block parties – food from local restaurants, children’s activities and live music. For a list of bands, visit towsonchamber.com (band list updated in late April).

Friday Night Lights – Friday, June 1
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Graul’s parking lot
A neighborhood street party to kick off summer. Join neighbors and friends for burgers and beverages. Details on p. 3

Towson 4th of July Parade – Wednesday, July 4
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Parade route includes the block around Bosley, Allegheny and Washington Avenues

Bring your friends and family and enjoy parade floats, antique cars, costume characters, bands and more.

For more information about the Parade, please visit towsonparade.com or call 410-825-1144.
Volunteers are needed for Gardens Day and the 4th of July Parade. Contact Nancy Hafford at the Towson Chamber of Commerce now if you would like to help.
For more information on these events, please visit towsonchamber.com or call 410-825-1144.

Towson’s Farmers Markets
Thursdays, June 15 through November 7
Time: 10:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Allegheny Avenue between Washington Avenue and York Road (June 7 – October 25)
Location: Old Courthouse, 400 Washington Avenue (November 1 – 15)
Over 25 local farmers and businesses offer their locally grown vegetables, flowers, spices, meats, crafts, homemade food and more.
Unlike some years, Mother Nature cooperated this past December and allowed for neighborhood revelers of all ages to gather in celebration of the holiday season. The long-established festivities were held at the Lake Roland Meadow (old rugby field) off of L’Hirondelle Club Road. The highlight of the evening was the spectacular bonfire manned by Owen Knott and Mike Barta, both of whom have perfected their pyrotechnical skills over the years. As tradition would have it, Mark McGrath loaned his beautiful baritone voice to lead neighbors in well-known songs of holiday cheer. The RRLRAIA provided freshly grilled hotdogs and hot cocoa to fill bellies with warmth on the cold, winter afternoon. To the excitement of our younger attendees, Santa made a special appearance in order to receive last minute Christmas wishes and to confirm the status of good behavior. Special thanks to Jamie Cahn for delivering Santa in style with sirens and bells in an off-road fire truck capable of making its way along the muddy trail.

This event could not take place without the support of several surrounding establishments. Our thanks to Graul’s which generously donated a tray of sugar cookies and several gallons of cider, while L’Hirondelle Club provided hot water and coolers for the cocoa. We owe a big thank you to the rangers at Lake Roland for mowing the field and helping maintain fire safety. Finally, Tom Mooney made his annual appearance incognito, bringing smiles to everyone’s faces. The Holiday Party in the Woods is a beloved event enjoyed by generations of friends and neighbors. Let’s hope Mother Nature continues to work with us next season to allow for this traditional holiday festivity to take place!
Street / Stream Clean Efforts – Who Knows What You’ll Find!

by Courtney Middelton

This past November, a crew of volunteers teamed up with RRLRAIA Board members and Blue Water Baltimore for the semi-annual street and stream clean effort. While the mission is always the same – to clean up as much trash and debris as possible – the outcome is, entertainingly, always a bit different.

The morning yielded 30 bags of trash, which equates to about 600 pounds. The ‘entertaining’ part of the effort? Mostly items that couldn’t necessarily fit into the oversized trash bags, including a mattress pulled from the water by volunteers from Ruxton House – The Retreat at Sheppard Pratt and several framed paintings strewn along the roadside. Unfortunately, there always seems to be an abundance of Styrofoam™ scattered along the roads and waterways as well.

Please join us on Saturday, May 12, for our next street/stream clean effort. Details can be found on rrlraia.org.

Left to right: Ruxton House professionals Beth Gylan, Dr. Miles Quaytman, Paul Richardson and Karen McGovern.

Photo courtesy Melissa Flanders

At Hunt’s Church Preschool, teachers are the heart of an exceptional educational program for children ages 2-4. Children learn to love school while feeling safe, secure and loved as they explore their world.

Girls and boys explore math, science, and technology (STEM) within the classroom. They also develop skills in reading readiness, language development, music, art, and physical education.

Hunt’s Church Preschool is convenient to Ruxton, Towson, Riderwood and Lake Roland. We offer a diverse community grounded in values and traditions. Young children flourish in a safe, clean, and inviting space where teachers are always ready with a smile and a hug.

Visit www.HuntsChurchPreschool.com

Enrolling now for the 2018-2019 school year!

For a guaranteed spot, register now. For a tour of this amazing preschool, contact Kelley Unger or Laura Roche at 410-296-3500 or Huntschurchpreschool@gmail.com.

Hunt’s Church Preschool
1912 Old Court Road, Towson, MD 21204
www.HuntsChurchPreschool.com

Photo courtesy Melissa Flanders

Left to right: Ruxton House occupational therapist Melissa Flanders

Photo courtesy Melissa Flanders

Street / Stream Clean Efforts – Who Knows What You’ll Find!

by Courtney Middelton

This past November, a crew of volunteers teamed up with RRLRAIA Board members and Blue Water Baltimore for the semi-annual street and stream clean effort. While the mission is always the same – to clean up as much trash and debris as possible – the outcome is, entertainingly, always a bit different.

The morning yielded 30 bags of trash, which equates to about 600 pounds. The ‘entertaining’ part of the effort? Mostly items that couldn’t necessarily fit into the oversized trash bags, including a mattress pulled from the water by volunteers from Ruxton House – The Retreat at Sheppard Pratt and several framed paintings strewn along the roadside. Unfortunately, there always seems to be an abundance of Styrofoam™ scattered along the roads and waterways as well.

Please join us on Saturday, May 12, for our next street/stream clean effort. Details can be found on rrlraia.org.

At Hunt’s Church Preschool, teachers are the heart of an exceptional educational program for children ages 2-4. Children learn to love school while feeling safe, secure and loved as they explore their world.

Girls and boys explore math, science, and technology (STEM) within the classroom. They also develop skills in reading readiness, language development, music, art, and physical education.

Hunt’s Church Preschool is convenient to Ruxton, Towson, Riderwood and Lake Roland. We offer a diverse community grounded in values and traditions. Young children flourish in a safe, clean, and inviting space where teachers are always ready with a smile and a hug.

Visit www.HuntsChurchPreschool.com

Enrolling now for the 2018-2019 school year!

For a guaranteed spot, register now. For a tour of this amazing preschool, contact Kelley Unger or Laura Roche at 410-296-3500 or Huntschurchpreschool@gmail.com.

Hunt’s Church Preschool
1912 Old Court Road, Towson, MD 21204
www.HuntsChurchPreschool.com

Photo courtesy Melissa Flanders

Left to right: Ruxton House professionals Beth Gylan, Dr. Miles Quaytman, Paul Richardson and Karen McGovern.

Photo courtesy Melissa Flanders

Street / Stream Clean Efforts – Who Knows What You’ll Find!

by Courtney Middelton

This past November, a crew of volunteers teamed up with RRLRAIA Board members and Blue Water Baltimore for the semi-annual street and stream clean effort. While the mission is always the same – to clean up as much trash and debris as possible – the outcome is, entertainingly, always a bit different.

The morning yielded 30 bags of trash, which equates to about 600 pounds. The ‘entertaining’ part of the effort? Mostly items that couldn’t necessarily fit into the oversized trash bags, including a mattress pulled from the water by volunteers from Ruxton House – The Retreat at Sheppard Pratt and several framed paintings strewn along the roadside. Unfortunately, there always seems to be an abundance of Styrofoam™ scattered along the roads and waterways as well.

Please join us on Saturday, May 12, for our next street/stream clean effort. Details can be found on rrlraia.org.

At Hunt’s Church Preschool, teachers are the heart of an exceptional educational program for children ages 2-4. Children learn to love school while feeling safe, secure and loved as they explore their world.

Girls and boys explore math, science, and technology (STEM) within the classroom. They also develop skills in reading readiness, language development, music, art, and physical education.

Hunt’s Church Preschool is convenient to Ruxton, Towson, Riderwood and Lake Roland. We offer a diverse community grounded in values and traditions. Young children flourish in a safe, clean, and inviting space where teachers are always ready with a smile and a hug.

Visit www.HuntsChurchPreschool.com

Enrolling now for the 2018-2019 school year!

For a guaranteed spot, register now. For a tour of this amazing preschool, contact Kelley Unger or Laura Roche at 410-296-3500 or Huntschurchpreschool@gmail.com.

Hunt’s Church Preschool
1912 Old Court Road, Towson, MD 21204
www.HuntsChurchPreschool.com

Photo courtesy Melissa Flanders

Left to right: Ruxton House professionals Beth Gylan, Dr. Miles Quaytman, Paul Richardson and Karen McGovern.

Photo courtesy Melissa Flanders
# Home Sales in Ruxton / Riderwood / Lake Roland

Properties sold from July – October 2017

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>List Price</th>
<th>Sold Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1902A Indian Head Road</td>
<td>699,000</td>
<td>680,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8227 Jeffers Circle</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>205,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8238 Jeffers Circle</td>
<td>294,900</td>
<td>275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1403 Jeffers Road</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1407 W. Joppa Road</td>
<td>2,550,000</td>
<td>2,425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1705 W. Joppa Road</td>
<td>464,995</td>
<td>440,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1727 W. Joppa Road</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Judges Lane</td>
<td>200,750</td>
<td>207,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112 Judges Lane</td>
<td>468,900</td>
<td>468,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Lacosta Court</td>
<td>290,000</td>
<td>279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Lacosta Court</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>337,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300 W. Lake Avenue</td>
<td>419,000</td>
<td>395,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1233 Lake Falls Road</td>
<td>319,000</td>
<td>310,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6008 Lakehurst Drive</td>
<td>649,000</td>
<td>645,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901 Old Court Road</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>225,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7812 Overbrook Road</td>
<td>899,000</td>
<td>860,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Overlook Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505 Piccadilly Road</td>
<td>449,900</td>
<td>455,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640 Piccadilly Road</td>
<td></td>
<td>439,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6209 Pleasant View Avenue</td>
<td>218,400</td>
<td>216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>407 Range Road</td>
<td>345,000</td>
<td>325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8024 Rider Avenue</td>
<td>730,000</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Roland Court</td>
<td>1,175,000</td>
<td>1,050,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940 Ruxton Road</td>
<td>799,000</td>
<td>780,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8215 Ruxton Crossing Court</td>
<td>214,700</td>
<td>207,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Ruxton Green Court</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,270,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Skyline Road</td>
<td></td>
<td>845,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6013 Stanton Avenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>540,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8024 Thornton Road</td>
<td>1,688,700</td>
<td>1,725,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1705 Thornton Ridge Road (land)</td>
<td></td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1320 Wine Spring Lane</td>
<td>575,000</td>
<td>570,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102 Woodbrook Lane</td>
<td>2,750,000</td>
<td>2,550,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

We provide you and your family with quality TOTAL EYE CARE...

from eye glasses, contact lenses, and exams through medical eye problems and surgery...

...all at one office for over 30 years.

**Better Vision for a Brighter Tomorrow**
What are Neonicotinoids – and why is it important that we rid our gardens of them?

by Gay Wagner

Until being asked to write about this subject, I had never heard of a neonicotinoid, or ‘neonic’ for short. It sounded like something to do with premature babies (I’m hoping that made a few master gardeners chuckle). Even though my husband and I love to garden, the subject has never come up. In doing research for this article, I have learned quite a bit about these commonly used pesticides. Now that I am educated and honestly alarmed, I thought it would be a good idea to share this knowledge and information with my neighbors.

Neonicotinoids are a group of insecticides used on commercial farms and around our homes and community landscapes. First introduced in the 1990s, they quickly became the fastest growing and most heavily used class of insecticides in the United States. There are seven different neonicotinoids: acetamiprid, dinotefuran, clothianidrin, nitenpyram, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam and, the most common, imidacloprid. Bayer, well-known to consumers for its lifesaving aspirin, invented imidacloprid and sells most of the products containing the substance.

Not all pesticides are bad and we all know that keeping bugs off our plants is important. The problem with neonics is that they are systemic pesticides which means they are absorbed by the plant tissues and expressed in all parts of the plant including the stems, leaves, flowers, nectar and pollen. Here is where the real problem begins. While these pesticides are doing a good job of killing insects, they also have a negative impact on the birds, butterflies and bees that visit plants and pollinate our food supply.

In 2015 it was reported that Maryland beekeepers lost as much as 61% of their hives. That is roughly twice the national average and far more than is typical in any given year. A study conducted by the Task Force of Systemic Pesticides a year earlier concluded that neonics were a key factor in the recent bee decline and also harmful to other essential organisms. It is crucial that we protect these pollinators since they are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat.

While there is much controversy around neonics’ direct link to the decline in local bee hives, much of the argument surrounds proper application and concentration of the product. It is believed that consumers are using higher concentrations of the pesticide in order to achieve better results. This then leads to higher doses than necessary passing through to the bee which can be harmful, if not deadly. Additionally, we all know that, as a Chesapeake Bay watershed state, what goes into the earth also finds its way into the Bay. It has been suggested that neonics harm aquatic life and have been linked to the death of molting blue crabs. More research is underway to understand the impact these insecticides may also have on the human nervous system.

The good news is that something has been done about it. In May 2016, The Pollinator Protection Act was passed which prohibited the sale and use of neonicotinoid pesticides in Maryland beginning January 1, 2018. Large retailers such as Home Depot and Lowes, as well as smaller nurseries, may no longer sell pesticides containing neonics; all products should have been removed from shelves before January 1st. While the insecticide sprays may be gone, people may not realize that the plants they purchase from these same stores may contain neonics. Retailers may purchase their plants, shrubs, annuals and perennials from large growers who fall under different laws and jurisdictions and, therefore, treat their plants with these insecticides. Lowes and Home Depot currently label their plants that have been treated with neonicotinoids but it is typically in very small print and hard to find on the plant tag. While Home Depot has agreed to phase out all plants treated with neonics, it will be up to the consumer to be proactive when buying plants. These plants have not been banned so ask questions of nursery staff to find out if the plants have been treated. Meanwhile, check those pesticide bottles on your shelves for neonics and consider replacing them with more earth-friendly products.
Our Architectural Heritage – Eclectic Houses

Installment 2 of 3

by Patrick Jarosinski

In the last issue of Neighborhood NEWS I began to discuss the architectural styles of the Eclectic design period, dating from 1880-1940, following the main architectural categories listed in “A Field Guide to American Houses” by Virginia & Lee McAlester. The designs of this period drew on the full spectrum of architectural tradition throughout Europe and stressed correct historical interpretation of the forms and details. You will see these designs sprinkled throughout neighborhoods of the early 20th century complementing, not competing with, each other. This allowed homeowners an individuality of style and took advantage of the construction techniques current at that time for using masonry veneers such as brick, stone and stucco over frame construction to allow for proper material representation. You will also see these designs in a grander scale in many of our public buildings and monuments.

In Installment 1 of ‘Eclectic Houses,’ I described Eclectic houses with English, Danish and French influences. Now we move into the Eclectic period encompassing Mediterranean and Spanish influences which include Italian Renaissance, Mission, Spanish Eclectic, Monterey and Pueblo Revival. A beautiful example of the Italian Renaissance style is shown in Photo 1. Identifying features of this style are low-pitched roofs, typically covered in ceramic tile, arches used at various openings and heavy bracketed cornices. Building shapes can be found in the following subtypes; simple-hipped roof, a hipped roof with projecting wings, asymmetrical or flat-roofed.

In Photo #1 you will see an open structure with a hipped roof (all sides slope downwards to the walls, usually with a gentle slope), symmetrical in design and with a stone veneer. The deep accentuated brackets on the front of the structure are highlighted in Photo #2. This detail distinguishes Italian Renaissance from Spanish style architecture. Other identifying features for the Italian Renaissance style include full height doors and/or windows on the first floor and pedimented windows (as shown in Photo #3) with similar details as seen in the Georgian and Adams style discussed in previous articles.

The Mission style of architecture is similar to Italian Renaissance, primarily due to the type of roof tiles and deep roof overhangs. These details were most popular in the Mediterranean regions of Europe. Although the birthplace of the Mission style is California, you will see these houses sprinkled throughout the United States. The roof tiles were available in various colors and served multiple purposes: to shed water, to reflect light by being lighter in color and, most importantly, to protect against fire. The terra cotta roof tile shown in Photo 4 was very common as many of these tiles were molded out of clay. The installation of the tiles provided a nice texture on the roof surface and created a decorative pattern which can be seen at the roof overhang. Although not illustrated in a photograph, the most distinguishing feature of the Mission style is the Mission-shaped dormer, or roof parapet, similar to a partial quatrefoil pattern (see Sketch 1). Walls were usually smooth surfaces of stucco,
a plaster-like finish that was painted. Most Mission architecture was light tan, pink or salmon in color, as seen in Photo #5 or Sketch 1. Each complemented the terra cotta tile roofing perfectly.

The Mission style was not popular after World War I as fashion shifted from freeform adaptations to more precise copies, heralding the birth of the Spanish Eclectic style. Spanish Eclectic architecture has many distinguishing features, as seen in Photo #5, including low-pitched roofs with a red tile roof covering, little or no roof overhang, a square or round tower, arched openings (typically at the front door or on porches), stucco walls and asymmetrical facades.

Roofs may be a shallow hipped roof, as seen in Photo #6, a gable-end roof, as seen in Photo #7, or a combination of both.

Decorative details were borrowed from the entire history of Spanish architecture, including Moorish, Byzantine, Gothic and Renaissance inspiration. Moorish detailing can be found in the arched openings and thin spiral-shaped columns of the outbuildings as shown in Photos #6 and #7. These arched, covered porches were often located on the rear façade of a house, serving as an exterior hall in temperate climates as seen in Photo #8. Decorative iron grilles were common, as seen on the round window in Photo 6 and the second story full length windows in Photo #8.

One of the later Eclectic styles of this period is the Monterey style, dating from 1925 to 1955. This style of architecture was an interpretation of the Anglo-influenced Colonial houses of northern California, blending Spanish adobe construction with English shapes. As you may have guessed, the first house was built in Monterey, California. These houses were typically two stories, had a low-pitched, gabled roof and a second story balcony that was cantilevered but covered by the principle roof structure, as seen in Photo #9. Wall cladding included brick, stucco or wood, or a combination of two, depending on the region of the country where the house was located. Earlier houses favored Spanish details, while later houses from the 1940s and 1950s favored English Colonial details, as seen in Photos #9 and #10.

Windows were traditional double hung and either single, double or tripled ganged (row of consecutive windows). The balconies typically had decorative iron pilasters and railings, as seen in Photos #10 and #11 or simple posts and rails, as seen in Photos #9 and #12. Sometimes, full-length windows opened onto the balcony.

I hope you enjoyed Installment 2 of our tour of Eclectic houses. We thank our members who have allowed us to showcase their homes. Keep an eye out for Installment 3 in a future newsletter which will outline Prairie, Craftsman, International and Modernistic houses from this same time period.
Kids Corner
Word Search: Think Spring!

BIRD
FLOWERS
NATURE
POOL
ROLAND
SUN
TROPICool
WARM

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

Mon - Thurs 11:30 AM - 9 PM
Fri - Sat 11:30AM-10PM
Sunday 12PM-9PM

1407 Clarkview Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-825-Fire (3473)

Please visit rrtraia.org for Word Search answers

EARTH, WOOD & FIRE
coal-fired cuisine
www.earthwoodfire.com
by Nancy Worden Horst

The peacefulness of Lake Roland in winter – the sun glistening and reflecting off the ice, the lovely vistas visible through the bare tree branches and the calls of birds and gentle honks of geese talking to each other – is always restorative.

But things at the Park are never at a standstill. To paraphrase Michael Caine, Park volunteers and staff are like ducks – calm on the surface, but paddling like the dickens underneath. They are working on clearing trails, providing assistance to some of the thousands of Park visitors, planning programs for Nature Camp and Nature Quest, Mud Day, kayak outings and preparing for the Spring Wildflower Walk (Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m.) to name just a few of the many activities hosted by Park staff and volunteers.

The much-anticipated spring and autumn Native Plant Sales are scheduled for Saturday, May 5, and Saturday, September 15. These sales are curated events that include indigenous plants and shrubs carefully chosen for their hardiness and adaptability in our Piedmont landscape.

Ongoing activities for adults include Friday Walks in the Park, the Nature Book Club and Yoga in the Park. Be sure to add Art on the Trail to your calendar – enjoy sculptures created by local artists that combine art and nature in the captivating scenery of Lake Roland. Details for all events can be found at lakeroland.org or by calling the Park office at 410-887-4156.

Plans are underway for landscaping the area around the Nature Center with native plants, shrubs and trees. Keep an eye on lakeroland.org for details. In addition, the Lake Roland Nature Council's intrepid environmental committee continues its work on a portion of the fragile serpentine barrens area in Bare Hills to restore it to its original prairie-like configuration. This landscape includes rocky grasslands dotted with a number of rare or endangered plants, including fameflower (Phemeranthus teretifolius), whorled milkweed (Asclepias verticillata), Serpentine chickweed (Cerastium velutinum), witch grass (Panicum capillare), green milkweed (Asclepias viridiflora) and little bluestem grass (Schizachyrium scoparium). In addition, there are two gerardias (Agalinis purpurea and Agalinis tenuifolia) and small white boneset (Ageratina aromatic) seen in the barrens. The lyre-leaved rockcress (Arabidopsis lyrata) is the host plant for the Falcate Orangetip (Anthocharis midea), an uncommon butterfly.

The greenish serpentinite rock that snakes through the area once yielded the first chromite ore in the United States. Indeed, this marked the beginning of Issac Tyson's fortune (see Neighborhood NEWS, Winter 2010 – 2011, p. 16, “The Serpentine Barrens of Bare Hills” by Jessica Paffenbarger). Periodic burning by Native Americans kept the Virginia scrub pine, black jack and post oak trees to a minimum, allowing the land to remain a prairie-like grassland.

The long-range vision for the serpentine barrens in Lake Roland includes plans to clear a portion of the area to return to a historical grassland-like area. To that end, environmental committee volunteers cut down some of the pines each year, then haul them off to be chipped. They also cut the highly invasive greenbrier vine and miscanthus (Chinese silvergrass) so these non-natives can be eradicated.

As for the many trails around Lake Roland, the Trails Committee continues to work on the Red Trail, the main trail through the Park that leads from the dam, up the hill of the peninsula, down the steps, across the light rail tracks, and then mostly follows the bed of the former Baltimore & Susquehanna Railroad line over the trestle to Falls Road. Work includes restoration of the trail where it is muddy and/or has washed out. Work is also slated for the Woodbrook Trail (aka the Pink Trail) which may mean occasional trail closures. The hard work of staff and volunteers at the Park this winter will make a big difference in the success of spring and summer programs and events at Lake Roland.
West Towson Elementary Honored as a Blue Ribbon School

On December 5, 2017, Principal Sue Hershfeld invited four West Towson Elementary School teachers to join her for a meeting at Maryland State Department of Education headquarters. She knew that her school was about to be named one of Maryland’s six newest Blue Ribbon Schools, but the four teachers – Jennifer Berlinger, Alice March, Gretchen Steffen and Melissa Wachs – did not. Imagine their excitement and pride!

Now Baltimore County Public Schools claims 24 Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools. “We are so proud of West Towson Elementary School for this latest honor and the high-quality academic program it provides all students,” said BCPS Interim Superintendent Verletta White. “Recognitions such as this underscore our system-wide commitment to excellence and equity. Achieving Blue Ribbon status requires strong leadership and a fully engaged teaching staff and student body. Congratulations to Principal Hershfeld and the entire West Towson school community.”

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a state and national program that recognizes and honors high performance as well as significant progress. Schools must meet rigorous standards developed by MSDE and the U.S. Department of Education. This year, West Towson and the other honored schools were all selected in the category of exemplary high-achieving school. Each scored in the top 15 percent of all Maryland Schools on the 2017 PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessments. At West Towson Elementary, an average of 79% of all students met or exceeded expectations in math and English language arts.

As a Maryland Blue Ribbon School, West Towson will receive a Maryland Blue Ribbon flag, a monetary prize, $1,000 in office supplies, interactive technology equipment, and a school celebration. At a dinner in Annapolis on March 12, 2018, the winning schools were celebrated by the Maryland House of Delegates and the Senate.

Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools compete for National Blue Ribbon Awards, which will be announced by USDE next year.

Source: bcps.org

Editor’s Note: Riderwood Elementary School, the other public school within our boundaries, won the National Blue Ribbon Award for educational excellence in 1995 and was the first Maryland school to achieve this distinction.
Saturday, April 21 – Rain or Shine
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
(Shredding accepted until 10:45 a.m.)
Riderwood Elementary School
1711 Landrake Road
Towson, MD 21204

One of our most popular events is just around the corner. Originally known as Dumpster Day, it has turned into an event that encourages reuse and recycling. This year’s event will include:

**Dumpsters (for the landfill)**
Dumpsters will be available for disposal of your bulk trash items. The dumpsters will be located in the Riderwood Elementary School parking lot nearest the tennis courts. Below are a few of the items that will not be accepted, but please check rrtraia.org for a more comprehensive list.

- NO large stumps or wood/logs in excess of 8” in diameter or 6’ long
- NO flammable/hazardous materials/liquids, paint, pesticides
- NO tires or appliances

**Paper Shredding (only until 10:45 a.m.)**
This is a free service for our members. Non-members are welcome to participate for a fee of $10 per box (up to 12” x 12” x 16”) or, better yet, become a member of our Association.

- Watch as your materials are shredded right before your eyes!
- Staples and paper clips are fine
- Remove binder clips, plastic sleeves, plastic binders and X-rays
- No materials for shredding accepted after 10:45 a.m.

**Electronics Recycling**
Hard drives and other media containing data will be accepted but taken off-site to be destroyed/recycled. For e-cycling, acceptable items include:

- Computers, laptops/notebooks, keyboards/mice/cables, monitors, printers, scanners, cell and regular telephones, fax and answering machines, televisions under 26”, VCRs, cable boxes, stereo equipment and battery back-ups (no alkaline)
- There is a fee for large televisions:
  - 26” to 40” – $15
  - Over 40” – $25
  - Console televisions – $35
- NO microwaves, refrigerators, washers/dryers, toasters, dishwashers or household appliances

For more information about electronics recycling, go to essrecycle.com.

**The Loading Dock (for building materials)**
This non-profit building material reuse center will collect useable home construction items (such as lighting fixtures, doors, flooring, plumbing fixtures, cabinets, etc.) until noon or until the truck is full. Check out acceptable new and used building materials at loadingdock.org. Click on Donate, then Material Donations or call 410-558-3625, ext. 17.

**Defenders of Animal Rights (dog/cat supplies)**
This no-kill animal shelter in northern Baltimore County would love items including:

- Dog and cat food and treats
- Collars and leashes
- Bowls
- Travel carriers
- Clean, new or used sheets, blankets and towels.

Former Board member Anne Rouse has again volunteered to collect the donations and deliver them to the shelter.

Thank you to RRLRAIA members whose dues make events like this possible. If you wish to support RRLRAIA and its events, consider becoming a member (see our website at rrtraia.org).

To volunteer for this event, please contact our office at 410-494-7757 or office@rrtraia.org.

Better yet, DONATE! The Reuse Directory lists organizations throughout greater Baltimore that accept various materials for reuse. Find it on our website at rrtraia.org.

*Goodwill will not have a truck at this year’s event.

We encourage you to take your donation to the nearby Goodwill Store located at 1012 York Road where donations are accepted from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday - Saturday (during April - September).
703 Abell Ridge Circle) and Joseph A. Shriver (Shriver Mansion). Farms, fields and woods surrounded these country estates. Several more large homes were constructed on Charles Street in the first decades of 1900.*

Fifty years later, these still bucolic back roads met a very modern fate when Baltimore County began planning for construction of the metropolitan beltway (1948-1961). In 1956, the County approved two upgrades to Charles Street Avenue, one from the City line to Bellona Avenue and then one north of Bellona Avenue to a proposed new super highway. Not surprisingly, the venerable old street was tapped to become an important urban spoke on the wheel of the new city beltway. In order to widen the country lane to a divided, four lane thruway, a significant work order was proposed as part of a twelve-year plan. Charles Street was given a reworked pathway north. The proposed roadway would still tack along the western edges of Sheppard Pratt and the new Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) hospital (1965) properties. At this point the original Charles Street Avenue Extended would continue northeastward, becoming today’s Charles Street Avenue, while the brand new part of Charles Street veered northward along the edge of Loyola Blakefield and the County Board of Education properties. From there it was decided that the new road would go due north through the gentle slope of Riderwood Ridge.

Above GBMC, the proposed route had to pil lage private lands. Properties were appropriated from the McCreary farm (now 7106 Charles Spring Way), the Shriver Mansion (the home was razed) and the Abell’s Sherwood Park as well as most of the very popular orchards owned by Egypt Farms. The most astounding construction proposal involved plans for the Riderwood Ridge where an eight-story high hill was to be cleaved and hauled away. The cut...
measured 78 feet deep and 475 feet wide at the top (now spanned by the Joppa Road bridge). More than 265,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock were dynamited and moved for this project. The explosions and huge excavating and earth moving machines must have amazed the quiet country community. ** When completed, Charles Street was significantly altered but beautifully groomed to provide a broad and lovely access route to the large clover leaf exchange for the new beltway.

Just as soon as the new interchange opened in the fall of 1957, local real estate agents began to advertise the benefit of “living on the Baltimore Beltway!” Today we might not agree with that ad, but I think we would all agree we are fortunate to have such convenient commuting access and luckier still to call this celebrated street our neighbor.

**A former neighbor whose home backed up to the construction could still recall the summer of explosions that sent books and plates flying from shelves and pictures from the walls. Ultimately, her home suffered a broken water main and a hairline fracture of the foundation. She understood there were many other neighbors with similar stories.**

Sources

A History of Murray Hill by Pauline Volmer, Patricia Shea, Charlotte Edmonds and MaryEllen Saterlie


A Million A Mile by Frank Henry, The Baltimore Sun, August 18, 1957

Grist Mills: The Early Economic Engine of the Roland Valley by Joe Coale, RRLRAIA Neighborhood NEWS, Summer 2008

A Brief History of West Towson by David Loizeaux, triposo.com

Egypt Farms Inventory Historic Sites Survey, File BA 1779, Maryland Historic Trust 1979

Editor’s Note. The three other National Scenic Byways are Woodward Avenue in Detroit (Automotive Heritage Trail), the Las Vegas Strip and Grand Rounds Byway in Minneapolis.

YGL

of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Homesale Realty

410-583-0400 | YGLTeam.com