

FALL 2005

Neighborhood News

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Kimberly Warren

This fall your association will hold a different kind of board meeting in October. In planning our agenda for this year it's important to hear from you. Our October 24th meeting is open to all RRLRAIA members so you can have a bite to eat before the meeting, meet your area board representatives, and learn how your specific ideas and concerns can be brought to the attention of your community organization.

We want community members to hear about our committee agendas for the upcoming year and have the opportunity to influence those agendas. The association has 10 different committees in which our 25 board members participate. The committees cover a wide range of topics, including zoning issues, traffic, Lake Roland, historic preservation, special events and community enhancements.

There are many opportunities for community involvement that are fun and important to our mission. You can participate on a committee without being a board member. If you are too busy to go to meetings, but you want to help, we need you. Joining a committee is a great way to get involved and make a difference in your community. Hope to see you soon! Bring a neighbor!

**RRLRAIA MEETING OPEN
TO ALL MEMBERS
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS
NEEDED AND APPRECIATED**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005
6:30pm • Rider House
8013 Bellona Avenue**

BIG TREE CHAMPIONS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Trees are one of our community's most valuable assets and several in this state are reported to be more than four centuries old. Some of you may remember one of the oldest of Maryland's trees, the Wye Oak, a champion white oak that was destroyed in a wind storm in 2002. Our trees offer us immeasurable environmental, aesthetic, financial and sentimental benefits. We can't live without the welcome shade they provide in the summer or the oxygen given off in photosynthesis. Trees provide important buffers that filter out harmful sediment and nutrients before entering tributaries that empty into the Chesapeake. Maryland's first state forester, Fred Besley, realized the importance of our trees by compiling the first "Noted Tree List" in 1925 and as the list grew, he started a statewide contest that increased the nominations of champion trees dramatically. The



A grand southern catalpa tree at 1510 Locust Avenue is one of several champion trees in our neighborhoods.

American Forestry Association inaugurated a similar contest for the entire United States in 1940, and Maryland led all the other states in the number of champion trees for many years. The list of Big Tree Champions continues today. The state updates the list annually and hundreds of trees are measured and nominated each year. We

have several champion trees in our neighborhoods including a grand southern catalpa tree at 1510 Locust Avenue in Ruxton (see photograph).

The forestry division of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources keeps the list and sends foresters to evaluate trees for "champion" status. The information required to nominate a Big Tree is:

- **SPECIES:** Common name and scientific name
- **LOCATION:** County, town or road name
- **CIRCUMFERENCE:** Girth of the trunk at 4 1/2 feet above the ground, in inches
- **HEIGHT:** Total perpendicular height of the tree, in feet
- **CROWN SPREAD:** The spread is the average of two measurements taken at right angles
- **THE GENERAL CONDITION AND HEALTH OF THE TREE** should be included in the nomination
- The Big Tree must have a **SINGLE TRUNK FOR AT LEAST 4 1/2 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND LEVEL AND A TOTAL HEIGHT OF AT LEAST 15 FEET** to qualify as a champion. Only the largest single stem is measured in multiple stem trees.

Big Tree..., continued on page 6

WHYTE-LEVERING HOUSE RESTORATION WINS HISTORIC AWARD

Paula and Scott Aaronson have a 'thing' for history and historic houses. The couple moved from Massachusetts to Maryland in 2001. They looked for a home near Scott's job with Sheppard Pratt Health System and found the big white house just at the sharp bend in Ruxton Road near Roland Run.

The Aaronsons restoration of the Whyte-Levering house was recently recognized by the Baltimore County Historic Trust when they were presented with a BCHT Preservation Project Award for 2005. The Colonial Revival style house was built beginning in 1877 as a summer home for Governor William Pinkney Whyte

(1824-1908), Governor of Maryland, 1872-1874, Mayor of Baltimore, 1881-1883, and U.S Senator from 1868-69, 1875-81, and 1906-08. He died in office 1908. It was also home to the Levering family from 1914 to 1968.

The Aaronsons began the daunting project of stripping and completely repainting their house in November of 2002, a job which eventually took two years to complete. All old paint was stripped off the



The Aaronsons display their 2005 BCHT Preservation Project award which recognizes their efforts in renovating a house with an important history.

original siding (twice) and disposed of as hazardous waste. Seven-eighth inch cypress siding was milled to match existing siding and used to replace the original where it was damaged or rotted. The siding was hand-sanded, primed and given two coats of finish paint, as were the original shutters and all the trim. They repainted the carriage house, the front and back gates, and all the fences.



The house on Ruxton Road, built in 1877, was stripped twice of all the old paint hand sanded, primed and given two coats of paint. Maryland Historical Trust tax credits was a big help.

It was difficult for the Aaronsons to find workmen willing to do the stripping - which filled 23 drums - but eventually it was

completed. Although much of the work was paid for by the Aaronsons, Paula said that Maryland Historical Trust tax credits made an enormous difference to the final completion of the project. Today, the Aaronsons have a beautiful, historically accurate, and gracious light-filled home that reminds us of a time gone by when Ruxton was a summer community, with residents commuting to the city on the nearby Parkton Local.

For further information on Historical Tax Credits go to: <http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net>. For a list of the workmen used by the Aaronsons contact Paula at pdaaronson@aol.com, or RRLRAIA.

MEMORIES OF 1614 RUXTON ROAD

Mrs. Barbara Simmons was the youngest child of Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Levering.

I grew up in the house and my parents lived in this home for 59 years. It was originally Governor Pinkney Whyte's summer cottage at the corner of Ruxton and Circle Roads.

My memories are mostly of fun times—exploring underground tunnels down at the stream; playing 'kick the can' and football on the front lawn; skating on Lake Roland; bicycling every summer day

Memories... continued on page 5

1614 RUXTON ROAD

The house at 1614 Ruxton Road was built inside the former boundaries of the S. A. Hiser property as depicted in the 1877 G. M. Hopkins Atlas of Baltimore County. Newspaper articles from the time describe the transformation of Ruxton from the Hiser farmstead into a village of "Suburban Villas." Following is an excerpt from an article published in the February 7, 1887, Baltimore Sun:

"Hon. W. M. A. Fisher, Charles D. Fisher and others have purchased a tract of 214 acres of land on the line of the Northern Central Railway, about eight miles from the city, which they are developing by the construction of wide graveled avenues, bordered by trees, and are laying it off in lots ranging from one and a half to twelve acres, with the intention of creating a village of small villas. Roland's Run, a large stream, passes through the property from north to south, emptying into Lake Roland Other streams, flowing from a high elevation, will be used for pure water for household purposes, doing away with the necessity of boring wells. An avenue, thirty feet wide, will be finished from the property to Charles Street Avenue, about a mile distant ... another avenue, an extension of the one now underway, will be carried to the Falls Road, about a half a mile.

To accommodate the existing demand for moderate suburban homes, the Northern Central Railway has agreed to build a bridge over their tracks at the main avenue at the cost of \$7,000 to \$8,000 ... Thirty-four trains a day stop at Ruxton, which is a new station on the property."

Thanks to Maryland Historical Trust and researcher Kim Abe for this information.

MINING BARE HILLS FOR SERPENTINE ROCK, CHROMITE

Have you ever wondered how the Bare Hills area of our community got its name? Just over the Baltimore City line, Bare Hills is a residential neighborhood of rural Gothic revival



Photo: BCPL - Legacy web site

Isaac Tyson's Bare Hills chrome mine was recorded on glass plate negatives. A blacksmith, to take care of the donkeys and horses, was located on the west side of Falls Road. Circa 1927. Photographer: News American. Source: Jacques Kelley

houses and home to one of Baltimore County's 44 historic African American enclaves. During the mid-to-late 19th century and into the 20th century, city dwellers took the train to nearby Robert E. Lee Park and Lake Roland for picnics, ball games, fishing, boating, and swimming.

In the early 19th century, Bare Hills was the scene of some of our nation's earliest attempts at mining when Isaac Tyson discovered and mined chromium ore from the serpentine rock in the Jones Falls Valley. Sometimes called Maryland green marble, serpentine rock can be seen in Baltimore churches, the Bare Hills School on

Falls Road, and even as interior trim in the Empire State Building in New York City. In addition, between 1828

and 1850, Baltimore County's Bare Hills and Soldiers Delight areas were the largest producers of chrome in the world.

In Maryland, chromite is found only in serpentine – a rock that can be recognized by the barren country it produces. These “barrens,” (Bare Hills) as they are called locally, are stretches of uncultivated country which support only a sparse growth of grass, scrub oak, and pine. It is believed that this condition is due to the chemical composition of serpentine (a hydrous magnesium silicate), which prevents vigorous growth of vegetation, allows the soil to be rapidly eroded, and leaves dull, fractured, greenish-yellow serpentine rock exposed at the surface. This rock was probably named serpentine because its green, gray and brown colors resemble snake skin. Bare Hills also had active copper mines in the 1800s, the ore occurring in hornblende gneiss. This gneiss was used to build homes,

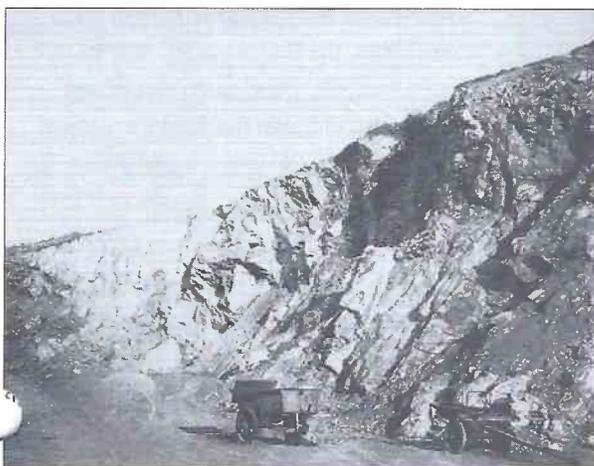


Photo: The BCPL Legacy Web Site

Pictured above are several two-wheeled trailer vehicles used to move ore from the quarry. Isaac Tyson's Bare Hills chrome mine was recorded on glass plate negatives. Circa 1927. Photographer: News American. Source: Jacques Kelley

such as the nearby Tyson home, known as Cylburn Mansion.

Born in 1792, Isaac Tyson began mining chromite in 1808 and processing it into chemicals in a facility at Fells Point on the Patapsco. His products became the basis for a dark yellow, paint pigment called “ocher.” (George III's son, George IV, ruled England from 1820-1830. His daughter, Princess Charlotte, fancied this ocher yellow and had her carriage painted with it, a tradition that continues to this

day.) As chromium oxide, it produces a dark green paint long associated with park benches and house shutters. Chrome salts are also used to tan leather. Chromium is a durable corrosion-resistant metal, and it was used widely for trim on all U.S. cars.

Vestiges of the old mines are still visible today in Robert E. Lee Park and elsewhere in Bare Hills, so keep alert the next time you are out hiking!

Our thanks to Baltimore County Historian John McGrain, the MGS, and the USGS for information contained in this article.



Photo: The BCPL Web Site

A pile of ore taken from the quarry after a hard day of work. Isaac Tyson's Bare Hills chrome mine was recorded on glass plate negatives. Circa 1927. Photographer: News American. Source: Jacques Kelley

ALL RESIDENTS NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN OUR/YOUR COMMUNITY

**THIS MEANS YOU!
GIVE IT A TRY...**

**RRLRAIA MEETING OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005
6:30pm • Rider House
8013 Bellona Avenue**

I REMEMBER WHEN...

by Adelaide Rackemann

In 1956, when I left my third floor apartment on Lanvale Street in Baltimore City, I married Frank Rackemann and moved to Brooklandville - specifically Rockland. We lived in the small, brown-shingled house next to what was known as the Brooklandville Post Office. The post office was made up of a single room, and it was presided over by Mrs. Rebecca E. Slaughter, who knew just about everything that was happening in what the residents of



Interior view of the Brooklandville Post Office. Post mistress Rebecca E. Slaughter stands behind the counter, where she is canceling the mail by hand. A customer sits by the pot-bellied stove reading her mail. Circa 1950s.

Rockland called "the Village." Although our house was right on Falls Road, I don't remember being aware of the sounds of any traffic, though children and family pets were involved in accidents until a traffic light was installed at the corner of Falls and Old Court Roads.

We had wonderful neighbors, some of whom have remained close friends. Our landlord was Mr. William Johnson, a dignified, elderly man. All the houses in Rockland at that time belonged to the Johnson family - property that was entailed and therefore could not be sold. Much later, the

Photo: The BCPL Web Site.

younger generation of Johnsons was able to sell the property.

Mr. Johnson expected his tenants to take care of the houses they rented from him, and we performed most repairs and improvements ourselves. The rent was fairly low - \$65.00 a month. If we wanted to paint the walls of the house, however, we were given the paint, a distinctively dull shade we called "Rockland Cream."

In summer we would gather by the swimming pool, a huge body of water, constructed by Mr. Johnson and based on a design of the farm pond. All the neighbors helped clean and fill the pool, and in return, we were allowed to swim. There were certain rules about the use of the pool, however. The one that annoyed my husband most was the requirement that all men wear tops as well as bathing trunks. When Frank once asked Mr. Johnson why this was required, he simply replied: "So people don't have to see the manly chest!"

To compensate for being located directly on Falls Road, we had a spacious back yard. We had a comfortable flagstone terrace and flower beds. Frank built a low stone wall and a wooden bridge over what had once been a mill race. Best of all, we faced beautiful woods.

The woods disappeared when



The stone above the porch reads 1813. This image is of the two story stone Post Office in Rockland Village. Photographed before restoration by Martin Azola. Circa 1974. Photographer: G.W. Fielding

Photo: BCPL - Legacy Web Site.

the Jones Falls Expressway came into being. The only time I ever enjoyed being on the expressway was on the Sunday before it officially opened, when we walked the length of it, a delightfully peaceful experience.

It was not long after this that we began looking for another place to live and decided we would buy a house. We looked in vain at various houses in the country, but one day our real estate agent called and said: "There's a house I want to show you. It's not where you want to be, but I'd like to show it to you anyway." So we went to look. It was on Copper Hill Road, across from what had once been an elementary school. We walked up a long front lawn that bordered on Falls Road. When we came to the house itself, which we hadn't noticed in our earlier searches, I remember thinking: "It's not hideous - we'll buy it."

Actually, it didn't please my eye, but as our friend Peggy Hook, an interior decorator, remarked: "It's not unfriendly, and a can of paint can make a big difference." So, in the end, we bought it. The house had been built by the Cowley brothers, who had come to the U.S. from England in the mid-1800s. It had remained in their family until we bought it in 1962. We spent many happy years there, with various dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens, and even a goat.

But our most unusual pets were two Sicilian donkeys, inherited when our neighbors, the Rosensweigs, moved to Dickeyville. I had rashly promised that we would take the donkeys before consulting Frank. When I told Frank, he thought about it for a moment and then announced: "I'll build a barn for them and fence in a pasture." Which he did. So, we obtained Rex and Gingerbread, and they remained with us for many years, although they sometimes wandered outside our pasture, managing to eat all of Sarah Lord's corn one summer. After Frank died in 1996, it occurred to me that the barn,

I Remember When, continued on page 5

I Remember When, continued from page 4

by then devoid of animals, might be converted into a guest house. Unfortunately, Ed Hord, my architect, decided the barn was not substantial enough to be used, so we had to tear it down. In 2001 we completed a new house, and, far from becoming a guest house, it became my home. The original I rented to a friend and former house-sitter, Chala Sadiki.

The construction of my new house wound up being the most drastic change on Copper Hill Road, and I hope will be the last such change!

Looking back on my life since 1956, I realize that the most significant changes occurred in Rockland during the period when we lived there. The construction of the expressway and the rerouting of Old Court Road were the most dramatic. Corn fields that had once been worked by Mr. Snyder and his sons gave way to Brightwood and to a whole new community on Old Court Road.

Mrs. Slaughter, the postmistress, eventually retired because of a United States government requirement regarding age. My friend and neighbor, Doris Unruh, then became the postmistress. By then I had started an antiques shop, The Ram Shop, which was located on the floor directly below the post office. When I wasn't busy in the shop, I could help Doris upstairs. My help came in handy when we dealt with the holiday mail, all of which had to be hand stamped. Some of the Christmas cards addressed in simple handwriting to such Hollywood notables as Bing Crosby and Bob Hope were from Dorothy Lamour, who, with her husband, Bill Howard, and their two children, had moved to Brooklandville. One day, there was so much mail, we simply took it to the Riderwood Post Office and dropped it in the mailbox outside. (Doris called this "the annex.") When Doris married Ed Stineberg and moved away from Rockland, Mrs. Copes took her place. The post office was soon moved to a location on Old Court Road for some years, then to its present location in Green Spring Station. The whole character of the post office, and of Rockland itself, had changed by them. It had become less casual, more formal. Reflecting now on these years and the pace of development today, I realize even more how important it is to hold on to the open space we still have left.

Memories...continued from page 2

in 100-degree weather to play tennis at L'Hirondelle Club; spying on my sisters' and brother's dates.

The worst memory I have is of a fatal automobile accident at the dangerous corner where we lived. No cell phones in those days. The poor souls had to trudge up our hill to use the telephone while we did our best to doctor and console the victims.

During World War II, I busied myself by donning a Red Cross nurse's aide uniform every morning and walking to the Ruxton Railroad station to meet



Swimmers enjoy the Jones Falls in Bare Hills. Photographer: Baltimore News-American. Circa 1934. Source: Jacques Kelly.

Photo: BCPL - Legacy Web Site

another aide. We rode the Parkton Local to Calvert Station and from there took a bus to Hopkins Hospital where we spent the day helping in the absence of many nurses. The ride home was great fun as we knew so many people who were coming home from work. Everyone respected our uniforms and what we did, which made us feel very important.

I left in 1950 when I married. It is a joy to go by the family home now to see how beautifully it is still kept up by the present owners.

BE PREPARED

With memories of Hurricane Katrina fresh in our minds, now is the time to prepare for possible future natural disasters in our area. For information regarding preparing emergency plans, check lists, and supply kits, go to these helpful websites:

- *Department of Homeland Security*
www.ready.gov
- *Federal Emergency Management Agency*
www.fema.gov/areyouready
- *Red Cross*
www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared

Two of the biggest problems in our neighborhood caused by hurricanes and tropical storms have been downed trees and overflowing streams. Extensive damage may be avoided by having large trees properly pruned, planting appropriate vegetation to reduce soil erosion, and keeping garden debris out of stream beds.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

In conjunction with County agencies, the Baltimore County Planning Board will hold a Citizen Input Meeting for the Capital Improvement Program on Thursday, October 6, at 6 p.m. in the County Courts Building (Room 407, 401 Bosley Avenue in Towson, enter from the Courthouse Plaza).

The Capital Improvement Program – a plan for the construction of public facilities such as roads, sewers, government buildings and parks – is updated annually. A citizen input meeting is held in October to allow citizen comment to be considered as County agencies formulate their requests.

Among other projects, your association is advocating for safety improvements and streetscaping on Charles Street from Bellona Avenue to the City Line and sidewalks and streetscaping on Bellona Avenue in front of the Graul's Shopping Center. For further information call Donnell Zeigler 410-887-3480, or contact your community association.

2005 HOLIDAY PARTY IN THE WOODS

The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association is looking for a few volunteers to produce the annual holiday party (formerly known as the

Bonfire) at the old rugby field. As those of you know who participated last year, the party has a new name - "Holiday Party in the Woods" - as the County no longer issues bonfire permits.

Last December 19th we had a great turn out of both adults and children: we had a visit from Santa Claus, cooked hotdogs and marshmallows over portable fireplaces, chatted with neighbors, made new friends, sang some carols and got in the holiday spirit.

This year we are looking for volunteers who will:

- Clear the path and mow the rugby field
- Organize the pick-up and delivery of the fireplaces
- Deliver and set up the firewood
- Be part of the party set up or clean up crew
- Be in charge of a firepit during the party and help with cooking hotdogs
- Assist with putting up signs, banners, and lighting the path
- Volunteer to be Santa!!!

If you want to help with this fun event, contact Sibley Classen 410-527-9327 (day) or, on weekends or evenings, call RRLRAIA headquarters, 410-494-7757, or email ruxrider@bcpl.net

LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

by Kathy Lumsden

Many of the communities on the northern end of the MTA Light Rail became aware of the Double Tracking Project when contractors began clearing the right-of-way for the second rail. The project began long before that, however, with the installation of a second track on single-tracked sections south of the city. The project is expected to be complete by spring of 2006. The following is a brief overview of this upgrade to Baltimore's public transportation system.

The Light Rail Double Track Project is intended to

- Add a second track to 9.4 miles of the existing Light Rail line, including track work, signaling, electrification and communications
- Enhance service reliability
- Allow service to operate in either direction on one track if the other track is not operational
- Allow for routine maintenance during the day rather than at night

The North End Construction was divided into four sections, although there has been activity on all four sections at once

- Section 1: Lutherville/Timonium – installing catenary pole foundations, drainage and underground conduits
- Section 2: Thornleigh/Ruxton/Riderwood/Lake Roland – installing new drainage, establishing track bed grade and placing new concrete ties
- Section 3: Mount Washington – installing new drainage, catenary pole foundations and underground conduits
- Section 4: Mount Royal – improving drainage system, clearing way for second track

Section 2 work began in December, 2004, with the felling of trees and clearing of all growth where the second track will be installed. There had been no formal communication of project plans at that time, and neighbors began contacting the MTA and RRLRAIA seeking information and assistance. RRLRAIA attended numerous meetings between the MTA and area residents, the first of which was held at Riderwood Elementary in February, 2005. Over the next year, RRLRAIA and its members addressed and resolved numerous issues, including trespassing by MTA contractors, damage to private property, fencing and landscaping adjacent to private properties, and repair to streets damaged by heavy equipment traffic.

Clearing for the second track and drainage system is complete in Section 2. Crews are finishing catenary foundations and installing overhead lines. Fencing and landscaping are essentially complete.

In January, 2005, Light Rail service from North Avenue to Hunt Valley was suspended to expedite the completion of the project. Shuttle bus service was established to provide substitute transportation. Shuttle route details can be found at the website mtadoubletrack.com/outage.php.

Once construction is complete, RRLRAIA will follow up with the MTA to address the conditions of local streets. While some interim repairs have taken place, e.g., rebuilding selected asphalt curbs, we will be requesting a plan for road surfaces, shoulders and storm drains damaged during the project.

CONTRACTORS/HANDYMAN LIST

A list of contractors and handymen recommended by neighbors is available at the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association headquarters. The list includes general contractors, painters, wood floor specialists, electricians, tree surgeons, remodeling specialists, and landscaping firms.

Please call 410-494-7757 or email ruxrider@bcpl.net for the information. If you have had a good experience with a contractor and would like to share his/her name, please contact RRLRAIA. We are especially eager to add the name of a good plumber!

Big Tree...continued from page 1

If you have a tree on your property that warrants Champion status, call Rob Prenger, forester for Baltimore County, at 410-665-5991, or email rprenger@dnr.state.md.us to find out how to nominate a tree.

SMALL WATERSHED ACTION PLAN MAKING BIG PROGRESS

by Chris Nufer

During the RRLRAIA Annual Meeting in May 2005, Ms. Frances H. Flanigan, who is in charge of community outreach for the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, presented an overview of the county's Small Watershed Action Plan to the membership.

The SWAP program was implemented to set protection and restoration goals for small watersheds throughout the county. The RRLRAIA has two such watersheds within its boundaries – Roland Run and Towson Run.

"One key component of the SWAP program is to encourage residents in these watersheds to voice their concerns regarding the health of their streams," Ms. Flanigan told the attendees. "SWAP team members and county government will then work with them to develop specific projects to address those concerns."

After her presentation, which was followed by a lively question and answer session with community members, it did not take long for a number of these projects to take shape. Ms. Flanigan met with Nancy Horst, RRLRAIA Executive Director, and Kimberly Warren, RRLRAIA President, over the summer to discuss specific ways the RRLRAIA could participate in SWAP programs going forward.

"From those meetings," said Ms. Flanigan, "it's clear there is a big interest in doing a number of activities such as stream clean-up and plantings to address the flooding problem in the Ruxton Riderwood area, especially along Roland Run." It is likely that there will be some sort of partnership project in the Roland Run watershed in the next six to eight months. Though the project is in the preliminary stages, efforts are moving forward to address causes of flooding in the area.

Ms. Flanigan noted that one particular area of concern is the Ruxton Road bridge over Roland Run. Tree limbs, trash and other debris get caught under it and act like a dam when there are heavy rains. The flooding that results has closed the road several times recently. One solution that has been discussed is to have the county remove that debris on a regular basis. Another proposed project is for community members to work on buffer planting along the shores of the stream to curtail erosion and sedimentation.

In addition, there have been discussions about the need for more clean up efforts similar to "Project Clean Stream," which is an annual event sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The RRLRAIA is looking to institute a more comprehensive program that would include using a combination of community volunteers and county resources to help keep streams in the watershed free from trash and debris.

Another suggestion on the table is to build a demonstration "Bayscape" garden at the RRLRAIA headquarters on Bellona Avenue. The garden would be an example of how to choose plants that are appropriate to prevent erosion, provide shade and curtail storm water run-off.

RRLRAIA has also been invited to participate in a program called "Builders for the Bay." This program, sponsored by the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, invites business and community leaders to participate in policy-level discussions to determine whether zoning regulations and other county codes properly address environmental concerns. For example, county regulations dictate that streets have to be a certain width. Wider streets cause more storm water run-off and flash flooding. Could they be narrower to reduce the amount of impervious surface in the area? Are there other ways to reduce impervious surfaces, such as encouraging builders to use alternative materials like gravel for parking lots and driveways in some cases?

The goal of the program is develop a more balanced approach to Baltimore County land use regulations.

By getting involved in the SWAP program and other related initiatives, our community will be able to have more impact on a number of issues that directly affect homeowners and the environmental health of our neighborhoods.

For community members who would like more information on the SWAP program, stream clean-up projects and what steps homeowners can take to make their property more "watershed-friendly," the following resources are available:

- **SWAP Information**
Fran Flanigan 410-377-2532
- **Project Clean Stream**
Kate Dowling, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, at 410-377-6270 or kdowling@acb-online.org
- **Watershed-Friendly Planting Guide**
Maryland Native Plant Society
www.mdflora.org

For a free copy of **A Homeowners Guide to Designing Your Property** call The Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay at 1-800-662-CRIS or by visit their website at www.acb-online.org.

SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRY

Sex offenders have been in the news lately. If you wish to check the list of sexual predators in Baltimore County, go to: http://www.dpsscs.state.md.us/onlineservs/sor/sor_listings/pdf_res_zip.pdf.

Alternatively, go to Baltimore County online: <http://www.baltimore-countyonline.info/Agencies/police/index.html>, Maryland Sex Offender Registry.

The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Inc. also maintains copies of sex offender notices at the office, 410-494-7757.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2005

2:00pm • Rider House
8013 Bellona Avenue

In partnership with the Jones Falls Watershed Association, RRLRAIA is sponsoring a rain barrel workshop. Park at the Riderwood Post Office parking lot across the street.

The program is free, takes less than two hours, and participants will take home their own 55-gallon rain barrel, which can save up to 1,300 gallons of water during summer months. Using rain barrels to gather water reduces runoff on homeowners' yards to area watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay.

Only eight people can participate in the workshop, so make your reservations ASAP by calling 410-494-7757 or email to ruxrider@bcpl.net.

**JOIN RRLRAIA TODAY TO KEEP
ABREAST OF WHAT IS GOING ON
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

RAIN, ROADS, ROOFTOPS & RUNOFF 2005 WATERSHED CONFERENCE FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005

8:30am – 3:00pm
Loch Raven High School
(Cromwell Bridge Rd –Beltway Exit 29)

Join in a continuing dialogue about our regional streams and creeks, highlighting the cumulative effect of paved surfaces on watershed resources. The conference is free for county and city residents. Space is limited, pre-registration is a must. For more information, call 410-887-5683 or the RRLRAIA at 410-494-7757. (Co-sponsored by Baltimore City and Baltimore County.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPEN MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005

6:30pm • Rider House 8013 Bellona Ave.

Join your Board of Directors to learn about and participate in your community association's committee agendas for the coming year. Park across the street at the Riderwood Post Office lot.

ANNUAL DUMPSTER DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005

8:00am – 1:00pm
Riderwood Elementary School
(Landrake Road)

This is a free service to all RRLRAIA dues-paying members. If you are not a member, you may pay your dues that morning before dumping your items.

One dumpster will be for metal objects only, and others for various household items and yard debris. We **cannot** take paint cans, pesticides, chemicals, propane cans, air conditioners, TVs, or refrigerators.

Try to break down larger items, and save your normal yard waste for regular pick-up by the County.

Volunteers are needed to help unload cars. Shifts are for 1-1 ½ hours. We need four people on site at all times. If you can help, please call Sibley Classen 410-527-9327 or Beth Purvis 410-825-6346.

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