



BULLETIN



Vol. 1, No. 4

May, 1972

LAKE ROLAND, A YEAR LATER: SOME PROGRESS, SOME FRUSTRATION

By George S. Wills—Chairman, The Lake Roland Committee

This month marks one year since the work of your Association's Lake Roland Committee began. Progress toward obtaining the funds for reduction of pollution has been reported in each issue of The Bulletin. The pollution that concerns us consists of sediment, or soil runoff; industrial waste; septic tank infusion; or simply plain litter. The final report of the Goucher College study team has been issued. While largely technical in analysis, the report offers one clear view: Lake Roland is in the process of dying, unless corrective steps are taken.

The greatest problem faced by your Association, and its Lake Roland Committee, is to get the full commitment of the local governments involved behind The Lake Roland clean-up—so that corrective action can occur. The greatest barrier facing us is jurisdictional: the Lake, and its adjoining Robert E. Lee Park, are owned by Baltimore City, but located geographically within Baltimore County.

It was largely at the recommendation of your Association that the Baltimore County Board of Parks & Recreation wrote a letter to the Baltimore City Recreation Department. The letter indicated that, were the City to transfer title to Lake Roland & The Park to Baltimore County, the County would assume responsibility for maintenance. The response of Baltimore City to that letter is reflected in the following letter—dated April 21, 1972—from the Baltimore City Recreation-Parks Department to Mr. William J. Tierney, Director of the County Recreation-Parks Department.

April 21, 1972

Mr. William J. Tierney, Director
Department of Recreation and Parks
301 Washington Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear Mr. Tierney:

The request of Baltimore County for Baltimore City to deed to the County, Robert E. Lee Park (Lake Roland), was brought to the attention of the Board at its April 19, 1972 meeting.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Douglas S. Tawney, Director, the Board voted to take no affirmative action on this request until the County presents a definite plan on how much it would spend annually on the improvement, development, programming, and maintenance of the park.

The Board further decided, that should a satisfactory proposal be forthcoming from the County as to these questions, the City should not deed the property to the County, but should enter into a long-term lease. The Board took into consideration the fact that many of the problems presently existing at Lake Roland, such as siltation, pollution, and erosion, relate to Baltimore County.

We will, therefore, take no further action on this matter until we hear from you.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs. Linda A. Bennett
Executive Secretary

LAB:ebd

cc: Hon. William D. Schaefer

Mr. Harry Reich, Dir., Planning
Dept. Staff

Your Association believes, as a precondition to transfer of title, the City's request for a "definite plan" by the County for pollution control of the Lake, and maintenance of the Park is a reasonable request. The Association was represented at a May 10 meeting of the County Recreation-Parks Board to urge responsive action and a detailed plan by the County.

To further underscore your Association's commitment to restoration of Lake Roland, the formation of a "Lake Roland Foundation" will be announced at our annual meeting on May 24. This foundation is being established for the purpose of receiving tax-deductible contributions for conservation and beautification work at Lake Roland, the surrounding

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Progress Noted On Association Work

The last year, May, 1971, to May, 1972, has been an interesting and active one for your twenty-four member association board. In Zoning, under the leadership of Phil Goldsborough, an agreement was made with American Oil Company for a new, attractive Amoco Station of Colonial design on Bellona Avenue. Also financial support was given to Peter Christie and Clark Murphy for their law suit against Rockland Bleach and Dye over the storage of large trucks on the property in the rear of the plant.

As a result of the Communications Committee, chaired by Jack Mulholland, contacts with other community organizations, financial aid was given to the Riderwood Hills Association for legal expenses in connection with the zoning of the Egypt Farm property and we supported the Valley Planning Council in opposing the sewer extension by telegrams to our county councilmen.

The Traffic and Roads committee under Sam Williams deliberated on at least one problem per month, such as traffic lights, warning signs, continuation of the Ruxton Bus Service, the possibility of a reclamation service, determining the rumor that the roads in Ruxton were going to be widened was not valid and the recommendation to our board to contribute money for part of the legal expense to the Earnshaw Cook property litigation.

Under Mr. Gontrum, the Publicity Committee is now publishing the fourth edition of the Bulletin. The dissemination of information in the community is vital if our organization is to operate effectively. Our total membership, as a result of the efforts of the Membership Committee headed by Pitts Robinson and the publication of pertinent news releases in the Bulletin, has increased by over 300 in twelve months, a record attesting community interest and support.

The most interesting project of the Board during this year has been our efforts to save Lake Roland with a long-term solution of the siltation and pollution problems of the Lake. There has been no harder working group than the Lake Roland Committee, chaired

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Lake Roland—Editorial Comment

The following editorial entitled "Lake Roland" appeared in the News-Post Edition of April 14. The observations contained therein are indeed illuminating and project some interesting opinions regarding the status and future of Lake Roland.

Douglas Tawney, director of the city's bureau of parks and recreation, has asked Baltimore County to dot the i's and cross the t's in connection with a proposal for developing and maintaining Lake Roland and the surrounding 450-acre Robert E. Lee Park.

Until a definite plan from the county is forthcoming, Mr. Tawney says, he will not consider giving the title to these city-owned properties.

The county's interest in a county-operated park on the site has been stimulated by the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association. This highly vocal group is concerned about the deteriorating condition of Lake Roland, and rightly so.

Despite skepticism in some quarters, the Baltimore County Board of Parks

and Recreation recently gave the green light for county parks officials to express the county's interest in assuming the costs of park and lack maintenance—as funds become available—in return for title to those facilities.

According to Mr. Tawney, the phrase "as funds are made available" is the key to the whole picture.

Says the city's recreation and parks boss: "I've always been in favor of the county and city cooperating on this project, as the city is land-rich and money-poor, and the county would be better off cooperating in the maintenance of existing park land than spending more money for adding additional land. But I would like to see some definite programs, showing how much the county would spend annually on this project."

Mr. Tawney is quite right to ask for specifics before expressing any willingness to give up city title on the Lake Roland property. If county officials mean what they say, it is incumbent on them to come up with a concrete plan and the funding to back it. For the sake of Lake Roland, a precious recreational source, we hope they do so promptly.

LAKE ROLAND, A YEAR LATER:

(Continued from Page 1)

wooded areas, and for wildlife preservation. It should be emphasized that the Foundation will not become active until the essential governmental commitment has been made to stop the pollution, sediment runoff and flooding problems relative to Lake Roland. Knowledgeable specialists who have advised your Association have recommended siltation basins be installed at the 3 major feeder streams as a principal means of controlling soil runoff. Capital construction costs for these basins are estimated at \$250,000. Maintenance costs in removing the collected silt are \$50,000-\$75,000.

Through an article in the Baltimore News-American, your Association has just learned of a plan proposed by Mr. Thomas Cofield (Outdoor Editor of the News-American) and Mr. Falconer Baird, a community resident, to construct a boat launching ramp and parking lot on the Bellona Avenue side of Lake Roland. Approval of this plan has been given by the Baltimore City Recreation-Parks Department.

LAKE ROLAND GRANT OK'D

By Tom Cofield
Outdoor Editor

The first phase of the Lake Roland Rehabilitation Project, sponsored

jointly by North Baltimore Kiwanis and the News American, received approval from the Maryland General Assembly in the amount of funding up to \$25,000.

Drawn from the Waterway Improvement Fund, the grant is to be used exclusively for the construction of a boat launching ramp and parking lot.

Other features of the Kiwanis-News American master plan, which has also been approved by the Department of Recreation and Parks, include a slit dam, three more launching ramps and fishing piers.

Work will resume beginning next month on the cleaning of an access footpath around the back perimeter of the upper lake beginning at the railroad tracks. This phase of the redevelopment plan is being accomplished with volunteer help from Kiwanians and other interested citizens.

For more details call Committee Chairman, W. Falconer Baird at VA 5-7a97.

The opportunity for fishing and rowboating at the Lake is an exciting one. But, it would seem appropriate that any planning in this regard be carefully phased in with the basic, critical steps first necessary to save the Lake itself from pollution and soil runoff. In this connection, it may be appropriate—before any construction

begins—for Baltimore City to obtain the detailed pollution control and light recreation plan so wisely requested from Baltimore County. Your Association will endeavor to determine the details for the parking lot-boat ramp plan, beyond the brief press report seen just in time to report in this issue of The Bulletin.

Any development of recreation in connection with Lake Roland should take into consideration the remarkable wildlife sanctuary at the northern end of the Lake. This "nature conservancy" is an integral and vital part of the total Lake. Environmentalist Robert Wirth has said there are over 250 species of wildlife at this northern end.

Finally, the problem of sediment, or soil runoff remains most critical. In another article in this issue of The Bulletin, Erroll Hay has described the serious problems in connection with the excavation and grading being done on the Sobeloff property. This community is concerned about the apparent unwillingness of the Construction-Excavation Company to conform to rigorous sediment control procedures. This community is also concerned that Baltimore County and the State of Maryland insist upon proper enforcement of these regulations. The Sobeloff property situation is in sharp contrast to the excellent cooperation provided by the Towson State College in instituting sediment control practices for construction being done adjacent to the Towson Run.

In trying to solve these problems, we have had the benefit of the best advice and counsel available from Dr. M. Gordon Wolman, Chairman of The Environmental Sciences Department at The Johns Hopkins University and one of the country's leading sediment control experts. Dr. Wolman is the speaker at our May 24 annual meeting.

It has been a year of both progress and frustration in the complex, time-consuming efforts to "save Lake Roland." Getting government to respond has been a major challenge—basic pollution and sediment control problems must be solved first. In this context, Lake Roland is vital to the Baltimore area watershed. Until actual work begins on these 2 essential areas, all else is secondary. Unless local government and this community act now, there will be no Lake at all for the various purposes we seek—from wildlife and nature preservation to fishing and boating.

Bob Wirth has aptly described Lake Roland as "a quiet place." It is up to us to save this remarkable resource, this "quiet place" for future generations. Your Association and its Lake Roland Committee will continue to move vigorously to that end.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

T. Talbott Bond, President
A. Pitts Robinson, Vice-President
George S. Wills, Secretary
William N. Finley, Jr., Treasurer
Edwin K. Gontrum
Dorsey Yearley
Dr. John H. Mulholland
D. Heyward Hamilton
Phillips L. Goldsborough, 3rd
Mrs. G. L. Sadtler, Ass't. Sec.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Zoning—Phillips L. Goldsborough, 823-2852
Membership—A. Pitts Robinson, 825-7518
Traffic and Roads—Samuel C. Williams,
823-8358
Publication—Edwin K. Gontrum, 823-9180
Communications—Dr. John H.
Mulholland, 828-1811
Lake Roland—George S. Wills, 823-9243

May 1, 1972 New Members Since Jan. 1, 1972

January

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Barnhart
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard C. Boykin
Dr. & Mrs. Charles C. Brown
Mr. Thomas C. Crane

February

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Banks, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Seeber K. Bodine
Mr. Lee P. Bredbenner
Mr. & Mrs. Henry L. Cabell, 3d.
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Mr. Charles Carroll, 3rd.
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Mr. & Mrs. John M. Lescure
Mrs. 'm. Cromwell Marshall
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Mr. & Mrs. Raymond C. Maule, Jr.
Mr. Don W. Mayborn
Mr. John P. McGuire
Mr. F. Tyrie Miller
Miss Marianne H. Moore
Mr. Donald F. Murphy
Mr. Frank J. Murphy
Dr. & Mrs. Alfred T. Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Nitchie
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Nolan
Mrs. William Hamilton Porter, Sr.
Miss Barbara Hamilton Porter
Dr. & Mrs. Donald F. Proctor

Dr. & Mrs. Edward H. Richardson, Jr.
Mrs. Ellen B. Schaub
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Shea, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel H. Sheppard, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. C. Wilson Spiker
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Technico, Inc., W. E. Regan
Mr. & Mrs. William Bohler Thompson
Mrs. Champe B. Tubman
Miss Margo VerKruzen
Mr. & Mrs. Farnham Warriner
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, Jr.
Mrs. G. Calvin Whiteley
Mr. & Mrs. Horatio Hall Wittridge

March

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Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Aker
Mr. Emma G. Bright
Mr. & Mrs. Churchill G. Carey
Mr. & Mrs. William N. Clements, 2nd.
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Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Everitt
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Fischer
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Mrs. Roberta S. Hatchett
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Hubbard, Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. George F. Lemon, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Mangels, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Clarke Murphy, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Parron
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Potts
Mr. & Mrs. E. William Scriba
Mr. C. Albert Standiford
Mr. & Mrs. George R. Trageser

April

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth B. Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence C. Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Taylor
Dr. & Mrs. Rodrigo Toro

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by George Wills. This committee recommended and our board approved a donation of \$200.00 to assist the Goucher Survey of Lake Roland, the appropriation of \$2000.00 (after certain conditions are met) towards the total cost of \$9600.00 for siltation study of Lake Roland by Whitman, Requard and Associates, engineering consultants, and the establishment of a "Lake Roland Foundation" to improve the lake.

The annual meeting of the association will be held Wednesday, May 24, 8 P.M., in the auditorium of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Our speaker will be Dr. M. Gordon Wolman of Hopkins who will discuss the problems of Lake Roland. Please make every effort to attend this important and informative meeting.

T. Talbott Bond
President

SPRING TIME IN RUXTON-RIDERWOOD

Living in the Ruxton-Riderwood area has been a source of special joy this springtime. There has never been a

spring in many years when the flowers and foliage created such loveliness. A tour of various neighborhoods proved a real treat in the way of colorful gardens, a matter of great pride to all homeowners.

First, there are the ever-inspiring pink and white dogwoods. These trees in their vernal attire seemed to be evident at every turn, on the hillsides, flanking driveways. Then there are the pink and white magnolias, the flowering crabapple, the Japanese cherry and the azaleas dominant in their vari-colored patterns, not to mention the vivid hues created by the beds of daffodils and tulips. And on some of the grassy plots there are carpets of violets, their subdued purples accentuated by interspersing golden dandelions.

Throughout the countryside the trees have put on new foliage, so freshly green under the warmth of the sun that the cold days of winter seem a part of the remote past.

And in a few more days when the sultriness of early June arrives there will be flash of fireflies after dusk sparkling through the night like myriads of tiny stars to remind us of the miracles of nature.

REPORT OF ZONING COMMITTEE

Matters have been fairly quiet on the zoning front since publication of the last newsletter. We have determined that the construction of the Keely Apartment Development at Ruxton Road and Malvern Avenue is in conformity with the restrictions imposed by the applicable zoning regulations, and an investigation is currently being conducted in order to determine whether the Thornton Road condominium project is also being constructed in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Grading for the construction of the new American Oil Company station at the southeast corner of Ruxton Road and Malvern Avenue has begun, and it is expected that the new station will be completed within the next two or three months. This project will be watched carefully in order to determine that the construction is in accordance with restrictions imposed by the Zoning Commissioner and in compliance with the stipulations reached sometime ago between the members of our Zoning Committee and the American Oil Company.

Phillips L. Goldsborough, III,
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP SHOWS STEADY GROWTH

Memberships in the Association continue to show a steady growth, according to the report of A. Pitts Robinson, membership chairman. At

the present time there is a total membership of 732, which indicates a growing interest in the work of the Association for the Ruxton-Riderwood area. Paid memberships to date show a total of 550 of which 72 are new households. Since January 1, the report disclosed 84 new applications for membership, an encouraging trend in the matter of neighborhood support for the general civic welfare of the community.

REVISION OF BY-LAWS RECOMMENDED

Proposed changes and revisions in the By-Laws of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association will be submitted for discussion and approval at the annual membership meeting of the Association Wednesday, May 24.

Briefly, changes recommended are as follows: Article I—That wording be eliminated which prohibits the Association from taking any action to influence legislation; Article III—That no member of the Board of Governors serve on the Board for more than two consecutive 3-year terms. It is also proposed that after being off the Board for one year, an individual may be elected to serve for two additional terms. Any member of the Board whose term may expire while he holds office will be permitted to stay on the Board until his term of office expires. It is also proposed that the President may be given authorization with the approval of the Board of Governors, to elect Directors Emeriti.

Article IV—It is proposed that the office of Chairman of the Board be eliminated. It is suggested that the vice-presidents be designated 1st vice-president and 2nd vice-president on the theory that the 2nd vice-president would succeed the 1st vice-president who, in turn, would succeed the President. It also seemed desirable to give the President an additional officer to assist him in his duties.

Article V—It is proposed that eight regular meetings of the Board of Governors be held annually with no meetings to be held during the months of June, July, August and December. Under the current By-Laws only three meetings a year are required.

Members of the By-Laws Revision Committee included Richard Macgill, chairman; Dorsey Yearly, Heyward Hamilton and Geary Stonesifer.

ROADS AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

A sub-committee met with Mr. Imhoff to discuss garbage pick up. Mr. Imhoff is concerned with two problems—dogs and time. If people place stones on garbage cans the collectors are confronted with extra detail with the resultant loss of time.

This practice of putting weights on can lids is against county regulations.

Mr. Imhoff suggests deodorization of cans and garbage with the use of an appropriate spray. Clorox will help. Dogs are attracted by odor, not by the sight of cans. Plastic bags are recommended as being the most satisfactory solution.

A detailed directive regarding refuse collection is being publicized by the Baltimore County Bureau of Sanitation. This information is of vital concern to every homeowner, and should alleviate many problems in connection with garbage collection. A copy of this publication has been mailed to every member of this Association. Copies may be secured by calling the County Bureau of Sanitation—494-3185.

House Bill 451 And Taxes

Residents who have been reassessed in the recent county and State program of revaluations of real estate during the past several months should be interested in an analysis of legislation on this subject by Senator Finney appearing elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin. Serious efforts, as this article shows, were made to keep assessments on a more equitable basis. Only one bill—House Bill 451—passed, but, as Senator Finney points out, this legislation does not provide much relief for the taxpayer. A copy of this bill can be had by writing the Bureau of Legislative Research, State House, Annapolis, Md.

Sater's Baptist Church

Driving out Falls Road residents are attracted by the old brick church with its quaint graveyard nearby. It is known as Sater's Church, located on the west side of Falls Road, one mile north of Seminary Avenue. The church is located on land granted by the Fifth Lord of Baltimore, Henry Sater, gentleman planter, in 1742. It is the first church of Baptists in Maryland.

RUXTON LANDMARK PASSES

One sunny afternoon the last week in April traffic was stopped on Bellona Avenue near the site of the excavation work for the new American Oil Company Filling Station, Ruxton Road and Bellona Avenue. People watched as a giant bulldozer jangled and sputtered in its attempt to dislodge the towering spruce tree that had stood on this spot for nearly a century. Finally, the old tree with its sturdy trunk and shapely branches dropped to earth with a roar amid a shower of dust. The tree standing sentinel-like on a knoll overlooking the road had become a Ruxton landmark. The destruction of this beautiful tree will recall days when the country surrounding it was undeveloped territory.

Tierney Appoints Committee To Study Park Finances

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Department of Recreation and Parks of Baltimore County was held Wednesday morning, May 10. A matter under discussion involved Lake Roland with the idea to formulate plans to help solve the siltation and pollution problems of the lake.

Further negotiations with Baltimore City, owner of the Lake Roland park area, depend upon adequate financial arrangements from the county, and a special committee was appointed by William J. Tierney, county director, to study the matter and report back at the next meeting of the board with ideas as to how such funds can be raised.

T. Talbott Bond, president of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, reported that there seemed to be a general feeling of optimism that negotiations with city authorities will be concluded on a satisfactory basis.

Hunt's Methodist Church

Hunt's Methodist Church, Joppa and Old Court Roads, enjoys a long and interesting history. The original church was built of logs about 1772, when Methodism was first established in Maryland. It was built on land belonging to Phineas Hunt. His property included parts of Brooklandville, Riderwood and Ruxton. The second church was built in 1826, and was rebuilt in 1932, as Hunt's Memorial Church of colonial design.

Traffic Conditions In Ruxton

Traffic conditions in and around Ruxton-Riderwood seem to be growing steadily worse. There is always a continuous line of cars along Bellona Avenue with Joppa and Ruxton Roads providing an ever increasing flow of feeder traffic. Ruxton Village Apartments with its 96 units has brought in new families to add to the number of automobiles. For drivers who go north on Bellona Avenue to Charles Street the stop light at this intersection, the result of negotiations by the improvement association, is proving to be a great convenience.

LAKE ROLAND CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Coordinating with Boy Scout Troop No. 921, Clean Up Day for Lake Roland has been set for Saturday, June 10. Work will begin in early morning to continue throughout the day. This method of ridding the lake area of the unsightly accumulation of trash in the way of countless bottles, tin cans, old tires, etc., has been a most successful venture in the past several years. Persons interested in participating in this program should contact Mr. G. R. Davidson for details. Tel. 823-7070.

Lake Roland Siltation Problem Probed

On April 14, Talbot Bond, George Wills, Richard Murray, Ann Wiler, Jim Hitzrot, and Erroll Hay, all representing your Association, met with the Baltimore County Office of Permits. The purpose of the meeting was to discover exactly what the County is doing to protect Lake Roland and its feeder stream, Roland Run, from siltation caused by the erosion of the former Sobeloff property.

The property, which lies south of the Beltway, north of Bellona Avenue, and east of Brookside Lane, is being graded by Excavation Construction Co., and residents are witnessing silt run-off into the stream below the land. This stream moves the silt to Lake Roland. Since Baltimore County issued the permit for grading of this property, we requested the meeting with them so that we could see the siltation control plan and discover what control the County has over Excavation Construction Co. for prevention of erosion.

The plan submitted by Excavation Construction Co. and approved for permit by the County requires that a 400 foot long settling pond with containment dams be built along the lower end of the property. Inspection of this

site before the meeting showed only a 150 foot settling pond and no containment dams, so we asked the County to enforce the provision of the permit and to require E. C. to enlarge the pond and construct the dams. The County Inspector, Frank Gunther, stated that what was installed now was adequate. Our committee disagreed with him. We had seen run-off completely bypassing the settling pond and entering the stream below. We again insisted that the County require E. C. to bring the siltation control up to the submitted plans.

When we left the meeting, the committee felt that continued surveillance of the earth-moving project and siltation control is necessary by all residents concerned with the preservation of Lake Roland. Any evidence of silt in Roland Run should be brought to the attention of Baltimore County Office of Permits, 494-3950. Anyone who sees silt run-off coming from the property should photograph it if possible, and report it to the County and to the Association through Erroll Hay, 825-3724. It is vital that we convince the County of our determination to prevent further degradation of Lake Roland.

Annual Meeting And Election Of Officers May 24.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association will be held Wednesday, May 24, at 8 P.M. in the auditorium of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Boyce Avenue, Ruxton.

Speaker of this occasion will be Dr. Markley Gordon Wolman, chairman of the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Wolan is a graduate of Johns Hopkins and received his Ph.D. in geology at Harvard University. He has received many scientific awards. He has been a member of the U.S. Geological Survey since 1951.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY BOATING RAMP PLANS

In the special article by George S. Wills regarding Lake Roland, mention is made of a plan which has been approved by the Baltimore City Recreation-Parks Department to construct a boat launching ramp and parking lot on the Bellona Avenue side of Lake Roland.

This project is only in the formative stage without any definite arrangement of construction details, according to Douglas S. Tawney, director.

A problem, Mr. Tawney states, involves the matter of access to the site from Bellona Avenue across the

railroad tracks, and approval for this right must be given by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Such a crossing of the railroad demands serious consideration in the light of the possibility of accidents. Freight traffic of the railroad is steady, and it is obvious that motor vehicles and pedestrians using the crossing would have to be ever watchful.

A special committee appointed by the Association has been requested to keep in close contact with the situation and to report all developments to the Association.

MOTORCYCLE MENACE

Despite notices prohibiting the use of all motor vehicles, motor cyclists continue to use the trail just off Club Road along Lake Roland and Jones Falls, a practice that constitutes a danger to pedestrians who enjoy the pathways for quiet walks. The noise from the motors with their staccato reverberations is a source of annoyance to nearby residents and the many wild

birds are disturbed in their wooded sanctuary. It is hoped that officials will enforce the law and keep the pathways free of any type of motorized traffic.

Reassessment Bills Cited By Legislator

By Senator Jervis Spencer Finney

The 11th hour defeat of our legislative drive in the 1972 General Assembly session to restrict massive increases in property assessments was a real setback for the taxpayer. Those of us in both parties whose major goals are reduced spending and budgetary control are struggling to keep next year from being even worse.

In general, the bills to limit assessment increases were directed (a) to freeze residential assessments as of July 1, 1971, or (b) to restrict yearly assessment increases to a given percentage, 5 per cent of 15 per cent. The proposed freeze was quickly ruled unconstitutional by the Attorney General in a written opinion, so this legislative proposal foundered.

Senate Bill 186, Senator Bishop's measure to allow no more than a 5 per cent increase per year, came out of the Finance Committee (of which I am a member) with a favorable report and we were very pleased to get it passed by the Senate. However, the House of Delegates amended this bill severely and then tabled it on the last night of the session by a vote of 54 to 50, overriding the able efforts of our delegates, Hopkins, Price and Stroble.

One so-called compromise bill, House Bill 451, passed both houses and will be enacted into law. It provides for physical inspection of each property for reassessment every 3 years and a phase-in of assessment increases in excess of 36 per cent during the 3-year period, except where this is a zoning change, a sale of the property, extensive improvement, or where the previous assessment was clearly erroneous. No help is evident there.

H.B. 451 also permits the counties to defer payment of excessive increases in property taxes. While the measure had this benefit, the final amended version will not really ease the taxpayer's burden, despite the propaganda from Annapolis.

Membership dues for 1972

Individual Membership	\$ 5.00
EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF HOUSEHOLD	2.50
Business Membership	10.00
Sustaining Membership	10.00

Congressman Long Reports On Environmental Laws

A note of encouragement in the matter of environmental legislation in Congress is given in the following communication by Congressman Clarence D. Long, a member of the Association. Special mention is made of his Clean Lakes Act which he introduced after investigation of pollution in Lake Roland.

This session of Congress has made real progress on several bills which will mean major improvement in the quality of our environment.

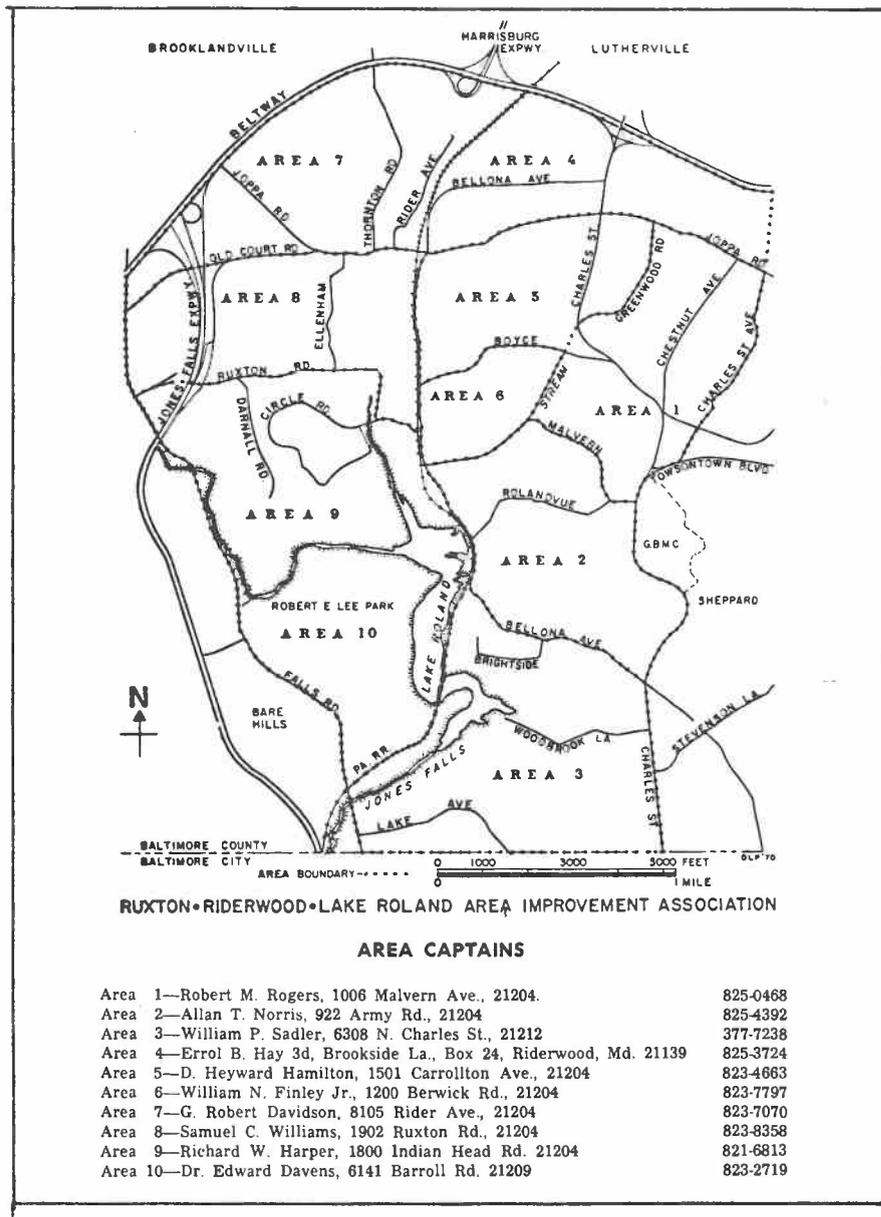
The Clean Lakes Act, which I introduced after my investigation of Pollution in Lake Roland, is part of the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments, now awaiting a House-Senate Conference.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act, in favor of which I testified last August, has passed the House, although without amendments I supported to strengthen protection of dolphins and porpoises. The bill now awaits Senate approval.

Hearings were held in March on my bill to require environmental impact statements in all Federal agency reports on bills and resolutions Congress is considering.

The House and Senate have passed and are now conferring on legislation I introduced to establish a Joint Congressional Committee on the Environment.

These are just a few of the many bills to improve our ecological situation. I hope for action this session on others—including the Clean Air Act Amendments which I co-sponsored, my National Litter Control Bill, and legislation to end strip mining.



The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area
Improvement Association, Inc.
Box 204, Riderwood, Maryland 21139

Address Correction Requested

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Riderwood, Md.
Permit No. 8