

# The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Inc.

Spring 1999

## Annual Spring Cleanup Saturday, May 1st (rain or shine)



May 1st is clean-up day. So lug that rug out of the basement, put the junk in the trunk and haul it all to the nearest dumpster. And when you have lightened your load, join your neighbors in helping get the clutter and trash out of Lake Roland.

Last year's First Annual Lake Roland Clean-up Day was such rewarding family fun that the association has decided to include the whole community this year by providing dumpsters at three locations around the area for your refuse.

The locations are:

Riderwood Elementary School  
on Thornton Road

Ruxton Center (former Ruxton  
Elementary) on Charles Street  
across from Manor Care

Falls Road and Lakeside  
Drive entrance to Robert E.  
Lee Park. This is the entrance  
to Bare Hills Light Rail station  
just north of the Wawa

The dumpsters will be  
available for free from  
**8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 1**

**NO FLAMMABLES ALLOWED**

Use the coupon inside which entitles you to preferential treatment as a member of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association. And don't forget to smile at your volunteer board member who has the unenviable job of manning the dumpsters for your dumping pleasure!

On your way from your garage to a dumpster, pick some trash off the streets, scoop soda cans and Styro-foam cups out of a streambed, round up those tattered plastic bags from a nearby field. Talk a scout troop or church group into joining the Lake Roland Community Clean-Up Day.

Speaking of Lake Roland, the principal clean-up site will be southwest of the Railroad Bridge, just west of where the running trail crosses the tracks. Wear boots and waders, bring rakes and trash bags and plan to get muddy and merry. Last year several families launched canoes at the same time.

For details call Sarah Lord at  
410-828-4355.

Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area  
Improvement Association  
P. O. Box 204  
Riderwood, Maryland 21139  
410-377-4700

## President's Letter

Several weeks ago I received a call from a member of our association. She was concerned about Light Rail double-tracking and had some specific issues she wanted to address. I gave her a few names and phone numbers. She thanked me and said, "Well, I'll call, but they never listen."

But, "they" do listen. They really do. We have some really excellent elected officials and public administrators and part of their job is to listen and to respond. Most of the time they are very appreciative when we call because it helps them understand what is going on.

Last winter at one of the meetings to talk about limiting the Greenspring Station development, Dutch Ruppertsberger said that it is important to understand the process and work from that perspective. Whining and moaning are a waste of time. A few calls to a few people can make a world of difference.

So, to help focus your time and energy, we have provided a list of some of the key people, agencies, and organizations (page 2). If you have a problem, call them...call us....call someone, but please make the call.

Mike Sicher



**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Baltimore County (www.co.ba.md.us)**

County Executive Dutch Ruppersberger  
 2nd District Councilman Kevin Kamenetz  
 4th District Councilman Wayne Skinner

dutch@co.ba.md.us  
 bcddistrict4@home.com

**State of Maryland (www.mec.state.md.us/)**

Senator, District 42 Barbara A. Hoffman  
 Delegate, District 42 James Campbell  
 Delegate, District 42 Maggie L. McIntosh  
 Delegate, District 42 Samuel I. Rosenberg

Barbara\_Hoffman@senate.state.md.us  
 Maggie\_McIntosh@house.state.md.us  
 Samuel\_Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

**United States**

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski  
 Senator Paul S. Sarbanes  
 Representative, District 2 Robert I. Ehrlich, Jr.  
 Representative, District 3 Benjamin L. Cardin

senator@mikulski.senate.gov  
 senator@sarbanes.senate.gov  
 ehrlich@mail.house.gov  
 rep.cardin@mail.house.gov

**OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS**

Animal Control 410-887-5961  
 Building Permits 410-887-3900  
 PDMBLDGRVW@co.ba.md.us  
 Consumer Protection 410-528-8662  
 Environmental Concerns 410-887-3733  
 Fire Department (non-emergency) 410-887-4500  
 Mass Transit Administration 410-539-5000  
 Customer Service 410-767-3999  
 Planning Department 410-887-3480  
 planning@co.ba.md.us  
 Police Department (non-emerg) 410-887-2222  
 bcopd@co.ba.md.us  
 Police Dept. - Towson Precinct 410-887-2361  
 Public Works 410-887-3300  
 Recreation & Parks 410-887-3871  
 Towson Rec. Council 410-887-5883

Refuse Collection, Bulk Pickup, Recycling 410-887-2000  
 Roads/Streets (maint/repair) 410-887-3560  
 Sanitary Sewer Problems 410-887-7711  
 Snow Removal (streets) 410-887-3560  
 State Police 410-486-3101  
 State's Attorney's Office 410-887-6600  
 Street Light Repair/Removal of Paper Signs (BGE) 410-385-0123  
 Tax Assessments 410-321-2272  
 Water 410-396-5352  
 Zoning  
 Information 410-887-3391  
 Complaints 410-887-8099  
 Enforcement 410-887-3351  
 General Baltimore Co. Gov't. Info 410-887-0000

## Help Raise Money for a Community Playground

Have you ever wanted to burn off some extra energy with your children at the neighborhood playground, but there isn't one nearby? Have you ever wished for a place to take your children on a Saturday afternoon where they could meet friends without planning a play date?

The lack of a playground in the Ruxton-Riderwood area has prompted a group of parents to begin a \$40,000 fundraising effort to build a great new facility at Riderwood Elementary School just off Thomson Road.

Baltimore County officials have said it would be years before the county could replace the antiquated equipment at the school because other communities rank higher on the waiting list. The county, however, does require communities to choose from an approved list of playgrounds and contractors to build them. Once the playground is built, the county will maintain it. The playground, which would be built behind the school not far from the current equipment, would be used by Riderwood school students during school hours and would then be open to anyone in the neighborhood after 3:15 p.m. and all day long when school is not in session.

A committee has begun seeking donations from businesses, parents and community groups and planning fundraising events in hopes of raising enough money to begin the project this year. The committee is selling inscribed bricks that will be used in a landscaped area on school grounds. Anyone who wishes to purchase a brick can have it inscribed with the name of a relative, friend, beloved teacher or to mark a special occasion. The bricks sell for between \$50 and \$135, depending on the size of the brick and the number of lines in the inscription.

Riderwood school is also hosting a "Bull Roast with a Caribbean Splash" on Saturday, June 5, from 7 p.m. until midnight at the Padonia Park Swim Club. The evening will include food, dancing and music. Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, will cost \$35 per person.

Those who wish to buy a brick or ticket to the bull roast or help in any of the fundraising, please call Anne Levine at 410-494-0723.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the playground fund may make their checks payable to B.C.P.S. Education Fund, care of Healthy Minds and Muscles Fund and mail them to:

**Riderwood Elementary School**  
1711 Landrake Road  
Towson, MD 21204



### RRLRAIA Member DUMPSTER PASS

**Saturday, May 1, 1999**  
**8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Please present this pass at any of the following locations to identify you as a member of the Association.

Riderwood School  
Ruxton Center  
(former Ruxton Elementary)  
Falls Road & Lakeside Drive

**NO FLAMMABLE  
MATERIALS ALLOWED**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Coming Soon in an Open Field Near You

As regular readers of this newsletter know, the Board has for months been working toward the goal of setting up a convenient, uniform process for helping our residents take advantage of the substantial tax benefits that accrue to homeowners willing to donate their unneeded development rights to a land trust organization.

That goal is at hand. In a cooperative venture with the Land Preservation Trust, there will soon be in place a process tailor-made for the needs of our community.

It isn't often that you can endear yourself to your neighbors and reap substantial economic benefits at the same time. But a development rights donation is good for everyone.

Please check your mailbox in the coming weeks for a special announcement about the annual meeting and a detailed description of the plan.

## Stop Signs at Bellona Avenue and Ruxton Road

A great debate has developed over the stop signs at the corner of Bellona Avenue and Ruxton Road since the State Highway Administration decided in January to install stop signs to make this intersection an all-way stop.

Members of the board had strong feelings about what was appropriate and safe for the corner and we thought you might too. So in the last newsletter we asked for your opinion and we are happy to say 507 people responded.

The majority—264 of you—wanted the intersection to remain the way it was with stop signs on Bellona and not on Ruxton Road. Only 40 agreed with the SHA plans to remove the stop signs from Bellona Avenue and keep the stop sign for traffic coming across the bridge on Ruxton Road. But a substantial

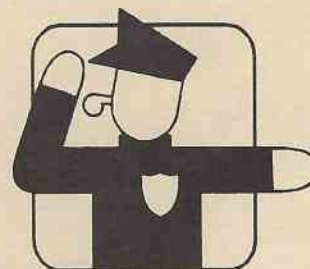
number of people—196—wrote in to say that they wanted the corner to be an all-way stop. We thought that number was significant because it was not one of the options we had listed in the questionnaire. Seven people had comments about other intersections, but not this one.

SHA officials came to our board meeting in February and we presented them with our survey results. We suggested that we could repoll our membership and ask them if leaving the stop signs on Ruxton Road to make the intersection an all-way stop had been an option on the questionnaire, would our residents have voted for it.

SHA agreed to hold off on making a final decision until after we have gotten a better consensus from our membership. So what do you think? If your response is the same as the

one you mailed in, there is no need to contact us. However, if your opinion has changed or you didn't answer the first poll and would like to be counted this time, please telephone or fax us at 410-377-4700 or e-mail us at [ruxrider@bcpl.net](mailto:ruxrider@bcpl.net).

By the way, we received a few comments regarding the new four-way stop at Ruxton Road and I-83. The responses were evenly divided between those who think this is an improvement and those who feel it was better with just a two-way stop.



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

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Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Riderwood, MD  
Permit No. 43

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*Reminder:*

*Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, May 25, 1999  
Church of the Good Shepherd*

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