

Traffic Calming Needed to Make Our Neighborhoods Safer!

by Nancy Worden Horst

It was standing room only at the June meeting of the Baltimore County Planning Board as board members heard testimony from citizens representing communities from Dundalk to Arbutus to Towson about the deficiencies of the County's current traffic calming policies. "Please change the criteria for classifying our streets," they said. "Please help us slow the traffic before someone is badly hurt. Give us some relief!"

When they saw drivers speeding down their residential streets, some people said that they tried yelling as the cars or trucks sped past; complaining to their neighbors; calling the police; or calling the County. But none of these courses of action were effective over the long term.

Only systemic traffic calming measures, instituted by Baltimore County on county roads, can make a difference in reducing the speed of traffic on our residential streets. But, you may be surprised to learn, many of our local streets, such as Malvern, Ruxton, and Old Court, are classified as collector roads, rather than local roads. As such, according to the County's arcane rules, these streets are not eligible for approved traffic calming measures.

Several of your neighbors are trying to get Baltimore County transportation officials to actually do something about inconsiderate drivers who speed through our residential streets on their way to Towson institutions, schools, or their jobs. In their verbal and written testimony to the Planning Board, neighbors attempted to persuade the County to change its policies for instituting traffic calming measures.

Traffic Committee member Heidi Frank and RRLRAIA board member and traffic committee chair David Meese wrote the following letter to the Planning Board detailing the steps they had taken to comply



Baltimore County's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

with the County's rules. They delivered the letter in person to the Planning Board as evidence of those efforts.

Dear Sirs:
We at the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association (RRLRAIA) have been working on an initiative to improve safety for our residents along Malvern Avenue and other streets within the

association's boundaries. The RRLRAIA has taken the following steps in the last year to address the high speeds and other unsafe driving on Malvern and surrounding roads:

- Met with Steve Weber of Baltimore County Traffic Engineering in September, 2006. At this meeting, Mr. Weber informed us that Malvern Avenue, as a collector road, did not qualify for any physical control measures such as speed humps.
- Reviewed passive control measures recommended in the Department of Public Works Neighborhood Traffic Management Program booklet. Determined to pursue police enforcement and a speed notification board.
- Met with Corporal Brian Kelly of the Towson Police Traffic Team in January 2007 to request traffic enforcement for Malvern, Boyce, and Ruxton Roads.
- Observed that Cpl. Kelly sent officers to perform enforcement on Malvern and Ruxton during four separate weeks between January and June.
- Placed speed board on Malvern in late March for four days. No statistics have been obtained from Police Department to date.
- Malvern Avenue, as well as Boyce Avenue and Ruxton Roads, are narrow winding roads with many blind intersections and driveways. The speed limits are set low at 15 mph, 25 mph, and 30 mph respectively. Many drivers use Malvern and Ruxton as an alternative to the beltway. The volume of traffic is particularly

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The Davens Garden

In 1992, the Robert E. Lee Park Conservancy received a generous and anonymous gift, earmarked for an elegant, terraced garden bordering Lake Roland. The garden was given in memory of Bea Dinning Davens, a

longtime friend of the donor. For several years the garden flourished, a fenced oasis with wrought iron furniture and careful planting. However, when the bridge to the park was closed, it became more difficult to maintain the garden, and, as people allowed their dogs to run unleashed through the area, much of the planting was destroyed.

Recently two community groups have taken the initiative and given time, thought and care to this special place. The RRLRAIA would like to extend deepest thanks to Brownie Troop #4947 and the Lake Roland Garden Club. The Davens Garden looks beautiful!



Brownie Scout troop #4947 (third grade, Riderwood Elementary School) members and friends clean up the Davens Garden at Lake Roland.
Photos courtesy Elyse Jacob



Charleston Oysters

from Chef Cindy Wolf

Cindy Suggests We Spice Up Our Raw Habits with Some Cajun Heat!

Chef Cindy Wolf's unusual Southern style comes from the Low Country of South Carolina's coastal plain and is a mix of English, French, African and West Indian traditions.

Yield: 2-4 servings

Ingredients

12 oysters, shucked and placed on half shell

The Topping:

4 Tbs. Andouille Sausage, diced very small



1 Tbs. shallot, minced

1 Tbs. butter

1 Tbs. celery, diced very small

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1 Tbs. fresh chives, finely chopped

Saute the first four ingredients until celery is just soft. Remove from heat. Add the lemon juice and chives, mixing well. Divide topping mixture evenly among the oysters. Broil until hot.