

Blizzard 2010, Part One

By Kathy Hudson

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As always, there's good news and bad news after a blizzard. The good news from our house is that our power did not go out during Blizzard 2010, Part One. With stories from friends in Baltimore County and on Wilmslow Road, (where some residents lost power for 36 hours), we were very fortunate. Other pieces of good news include a friend's husband, a general contractor, jump-starting an elderly neighbor's furnace when her power went out Saturday. Another family of four took it upon themselves to shovel their long sidewalks as well as those of their neighbors on either side. An enterprising, out-of-work roofer walked up from Hampden Saturday and offered to shovel our entire sidewalk for \$30. We paid him more than that, and he came back Monday and offered free help to my husband, who was digging out his car. He paid the man again and hopes he'll reappear after Blizzard 2010, Part Two strikes. After city plows dumped almost four feet of snow and blocked the entrance to Ridgewood, at Roland Avenue and Cold Spring Lane, another family shoveled it out on Sunday evening. An amazing piece of news was that the Roland Park post office was open on Monday. Miracle of miracles. I almost didn't try the door until I saw another person go up the steps and confidently enter. The bad news is that Baltimore City did not get plows to neighborhood side streets until late on Monday. This is a record-breaking snowstorm and the city has limited resources and a huge job, but many city workers envied those throughout Baltimore County who were plowed out in time to get to work easily on Monday morning. Many major city thoroughfares, however, took most of Saturday and Sunday to plow, including Cold Spring Lane, where trees fell from behind several houses in our block and blocked Cold Spring Lane for almost 24 hours. Some streets, even whole city neighborhoods, took plowing into their own hands and hired private contractors. If a second major storm hadn't been forecast for late Tuesday, some might even have waited for city plows to arrive. After a fire claimed the lives of Abby and Matthew Young on a snowy night in 2008, the thought of fire trucks unable to enter residential streets pushes some Roland Park residents into taking blizzard matters into their own hands.

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Kathy Hudson is a freelance writer who lives in in Roland Park. Her interests include gardening, literature and city life. She's a terrible cook, so she's always on the lookout for a decent meal, carryout or otherwise. She's written for "The

Baltimore Messenger" since 1995 and has had a bi-weekly column, "Hudson's Corner," since 1998. For "Style" magazine she writes spotlights on people and regular garden features.