

Roland Park E-letter

Web Editor's E-letter

February 9, 2009

1. Fund-raising Chili Cookoff for the Firehouse.

We hope by now you have all heard about the Chili Cookoff and Dinner Fest to benefit the Roland Park Firehouse. The event will be held Saturday, February 28 from 5-8 p.m. at St. David's Church. Please join your friends and neighbors that evening. It will be great fun and it's a worthy cause. In addition to enjoying several varieties of great tasting chilies, we will be stuffing the firemen's boots with "green" to renovate the firehouse kitchen.

We are hoping for generous contributions, as it is exactly this sort of self-help attitude that makes greater Roland Park so unique — the willingness of RP and the immediately neighboring communities to step up to the plate and undertake tasks that one might ordinarily expect the municipal government to undertake.

In order to keep costs low and donate as much money as possible to the firehouse, we are asking neighbors to help us out. Please e-mail the event organizers if you are able to help out in any of the following ways.

- Enter the chili-cooking contest.
- Make a pan of corn bread
- Make a dessert
- Donate one (or more) 2-liter bottles of soft drinks.

Do you know a middle-schooler or high-schooler who needs to earn service hours? Organizers Kate Culotta and Martha Marani could use help the night of the event. They will write up a document confirming the service hours. Service will include any of the following:

- Helping out with the chili stations and assisting the chili cooks.
- Bussing, cleaning off tables and collecting trash.
- Assisting at the front door.
- Working at beverage and dessert tables.

Additional information is available on the Roland Park web site. Just look for the chili pepper logo at www.rolandpark.org.

Please contact firehousefund@rolandpark.org if you are able to help in any way or if you have additional questions or comments!

Tax-deductible donations to the firehouse "Home for Heroes" campaign can be made at the Chili Cook-Off or on the Roland Park web site at

www.rolandpark.org/duescivicleague.htm (select Roland Park Firehouse), or checks can be written and mailed to the Roland Park Community Foundation, Home for Heroes Campaign, P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210.

2. Civic League Monthly Meeting — Rescheduled.

The Roland Park Civic League monthly meeting scheduled for March 5, 2009, has been rescheduled for March 12. The location is the RP Presbyterian Church at 4801 Roland Avenue, 7-9 p.m. Enter through the side (south) door. All welcome. We anticipate a review of the status of sewer problems in Roland Park.

3. Mulch Danger to Pets

I recently received the following e-mail and reproduce it here. RolandPark.org cannot vouch for its veracity:

“Over the weekend the doting owner of two young lab mixes purchased Cocoa Mulch ...to use in the garden. They loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from their garden. Their dog Calypso decided that the mulch smelled good enough to eat and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical when she eats something new but wasn't acting lethargic in any way. The next day, Mom woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Half way through the walk, she had a seizure and died instantly....

“This Snopes site gives the following information:
<http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp>.

“Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by [many] garden supply stores, contains a lethal ingredient called “theobromine.” It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last 2-3 weeks. Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate, which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.”

4. Theft on St. Johns Road.

An unlocked car on the 700 block of St. Johns Road had a green backpack removed from the back seat the night of Feb. 3. There was a document in the backpack of great importance to the owner but not to anyone taking the backpack. If you see an abandoned backpack that is not emptied of content, please contact Carol Bishop at the Wyndhurst Improvement Association (wyndhurst@gmail.com).

Best regards,

Kate Culotta
and
D.P. Munro
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RolandPark.org