

Roland Park E-letter

**Web Editor's E-letter
February 14, 2010**

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1. Trash Collection.

I have just received a press release from the Department of Public Works, reproduced verbatim a couple of paragraphs below. The summary is this, however.

A. The DPW is asking residents to place their garbage and recyclables at the end corners of streets or alleys, without blocking pedestrian or vehicular access. It is hard to imagine how dozens' of residents trash on one corner would not impede something, but we must make the best of the situation. My own recommendation is that a typical block of, say, 20 houses (10 on each side of the street), do something like this: (a) first 10 of the even-numbered side, use the bottom even corner as a dumping spot, (b) last 10 of the even-numbered side, the upper even corner, (c) first 10 of the odd-numbered side, the bottom odd corner, and (d) the last 10 of the odd-numbered side, the upper odd corner. In this manner, no corner should have more than, in this example, five households' worth of trash.

B. There will be no bulk-trash pickup this week.

Here is the DPW press release:

“The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Solid Waste, announced today that both trash and recycling collections will resume Tuesday, February 16, 2010. Citizens are asked to place their regularly scheduled trash OR recycling at the end of the nearest street or alley or at an accessible central location determined by your community association president for pick up. Care should be taken not to block sidewalks, streets and alleys for vehicles and pedestrians.

“Community Association Presidents may call 311 with accessible central locations where regularly scheduled trash OR recycling will be placed for pick up. As always, citizens should call 311 for missed pick ups. The Bureau will continue to collect in this manner until full access to regular pick up locations is possible.

“Citizen Drop-Off Centers are open to the public at their regular operational hours. Citizens can go to www.baltimorecity.gov or www.clearergreenbaltimore.com to find the nearest drop off center.

“Bulk Trash pick up is cancelled for the week of February 15 through February 19, 2010.

“As always, citizens are asked to properly contain trash in cans with tight-fitting lids to keep rats out and keep litter in its place.

“PLEASE NOTE: Changing weather conditions expected for Monday, February 15 may alter planned sanitation operations. Citizens should continue to listen to and read local media for the latest updates and instructions from the Mayor and the Office of Emergency Management.

“As citizens can safely do so, they should clear their sidewalks and then help their elderly and disabled neighbors do the same. It is also very important to clear areas around fire hydrants and storm drains to augment the continuing efforts of Public Works Water and Wastewater crews as they tackle the City’s 33,000 inlets. Daily thawing and melting snow can pool and freeze during the night causing large ice patches.”

If your trash is not picked up, please call 311 or contact your city council person, as follows:

- Sharon Green Middleton (Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov), plats 1, 2, 3 and 6.
- Mary Pat Clarke (MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov), plats 4 (part) and 5 (all).
- Belinda Conaway (Belinda.Conaway@baltimorecity.gov), plat 4 (part, corner of the west side of Roland Avenue and Cold Spring Lane from 4418 down through 4300). (Thanks to Martha Armenti for this detail, which had previously eluded me.)

2. Parking.

Baltimore is still under a Phase II snow emergency. As a reminder, this means that (a) you can drive on the roads again, provided you have snow tires, all-weather radials or chains and (b) you can be towed if you park in a snow emergency route.

3. Charrette Notes Now On Line.

Committee notes from the second RP master plan charrette (Jan. 8-9) have been posted as PDF documents to the master plan metablog page (<http://rolandpark.org/MasterPlanMetaBlog>). Residents may read the documents and then post their thoughts and comments to the charrette topic forums, which may be accessed through the metablog page or at the RP master plan forum list page (<http://rpmasterplan.groupsie.com/discussion/forums>).

To e-mail the charrette committees to volunteer (or for any other reason), go to <http://rolandpark.org/MasterPlanMetaBlog>. Go to the table in the righthand column.

To access the eight charrette forums, go also to <http://rolandpark.org/MasterPlanMetaBlog>. The list of forums is down the left side. Here you will also find the committees' summary reports from the first and second charrettes.

To catch up on master-plan reading material and to be kept abreast of the latest developments and dates, go here: <http://rolandpark.org/MasterPlan>.

4. School Closings.

At present, the only school districts already publicly stated to be closed on Tue., Feb. 16 are Howard and Queen Anne's counties. At press time, Baltimore County schools are projected to be open (many RP area private schools take their cue from the Baltimore County public system). The Baltimore City system is planning on being open, too, and officials are asking residents in the areas around the schools to help clear snow near them. Says school system CEO Andrés A. Alonso in a open letter e-mailed to Baltimoreans today:

“More than in most other jurisdictions, children in Baltimore City get to school on foot — especially our youngest children in the elementary grades. Many of the sidewalks they use to get to school remain un-cleared, and un-passable. And as we all know from our own experience in recent days, when we are unable to traverse the two, three feet of snow on the sidewalk, we resort to walking in the streets. This is not a viable option for our children. Not only must we get our kids to school, we must get them there safely.

“So I am asking for your help. Now that we've all dug out our own front steps, stretches of sidewalk and cars, let us please join together to get the routes to school ready for Baltimore City's kids. Please look at the area surrounding the school nearest to you — from the perspective of a much smaller, elementary student trying to get there — and do what you can to help carve out a safe path.”

5. More Thanks Due.

In the last e-letter, I forgot an important thank you. Kudos to Loyola University, which was responsible for plowing all of Wyndhurst Avenue last Sunday and Monday. (Thanks to Louise Phipps Senft for bringing this to my attention.)

6. Lost Cat.

A Linkwood Road resident reports finding a brindle tabby cat a week ago at Linkwood and Overhill roads, just as the first storm was brewing. The cat is an indoor, spayed female with no collar. When found, she smelled of perfume. The Guilford e-connection has already sent out a message, but so far no luck. If any Roland Parkers know to whom this cat belongs, please contact 410-662-7709 or cdryden@DHR.state.md.us. (Thanks to Kathy Hudson for providing this information.)

7. Local Preservationist Dies.

Michael V. Murphy, brother of John Murphy (who worked so hard for RP during the Keswick/BCC matter), unexpectedly died this past week. Michael was an architect and a CHAP commissioner.* He participated in a CHAP presentation to the RP Civic League in 2009. According to the Mitchell-Weidefeld Funeral Home, friends may call at SS Philip & James Church, 2801 N. Charles Street, on Tuesday, February 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered Wednesday, February 17th at 10 a.m. at SS Philip & James Church. There will be a tribute and luncheon in Michael's memory at the Tremont Grand, 225 N. Charles St on Wednesday, February 17 at 1 p.m. Please omit flowers. Contributions in his memory may be made to Catholic Charities, 1966 Greenspring Dr, Timonium, MD 21093 or Catholic Relief Services, 228 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201.

* Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation.

8. Local Author Book Reading.

Roland Park resident Chris Corbett will be reading from his new book, *The Poker Bride: The First Chinese in the Wild West*, at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral Street, in the Poe Room on Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. All welcome. The book's web site is here: <http://www.thepokerbride.com>.

Best regards,

D.P. Munro
Web-site Editor
RolandPark.org

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