

## **Roland Park E-letter**

### **Web Editor's E-letter**

**February 16, 2009**

#### **1. Please Remember the Fund-raising Chili Cookoff for the Firehouse.**

The first annual Chili Cookoff and Chili Fest will be held Saturday, February 28 at the hall at St. David's Church on Roland Avenue.

The event is from 5-8 pm. The cost is \$10 per person or \$50 for families. This fun, social event will be a great way to meet new and greet old friends and neighbors and support our local heroes, the firefighters of the Roland Park firehouse.

Please RSVP by e-mailing [firehousefund@rolandpark.org](mailto:firehousefund@rolandpark.org) or call Kate Culotta 410-889-4095. This event is close to selling out and we won't be able to sell tickets at the door.

We are raising funds to renovate the kitchen of the firehouse. The kitchen is in dire shape and many of you may not realize that the firefighters work a four-day-on/four-day-off schedule. When they are on duty, they live at the firehouse for the whole four days, away from their families. The firehouse is their home away from home and they deserve a comfortable living arrangement. The current kitchen is put together from salvaged cast-offs, and some of the appliances are broken or old and run down. Many of the cabinets are missing doors and several drawers are broken.

We are one third of the way towards our goal of \$30,000. Although we have raised \$10,000, there are still many who have not yet donated. Please consider our local heroes and how much they contribute to our neighborhood.

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

[www.rolandpark.org/duescivicleague.htm](http://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.

Additional information is available on the Roland Park web site. Just look for the chili pepper logo at [www.rolandpark.org](http://www.rolandpark.org).

Please contact [firehousefund@rolandpark.org](mailto:firehousefund@rolandpark.org) if you are able to help in any way or if you have additional questions or comments!

Kate Culotta  
Guest Contributor

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## **2. Break-in News.**

A heads up: There was a break-in on the 5000 block of Box Hill Lane Friday afternoon, Feb. 13, between 2pm and 2:45pm. The break-in sounds similar to ones that were occurring several months ago in nearby neighborhoods. The key thing seems to be seeing computers visible through windows. The earlier break-ins sometimes had these other characteristics. All were bold break-ins during the day. Once a witness saw a driver waiting in a car for a get-away, but two people walked in a leisurely way to the car, carrying things in a bag. The casual walking made people think it wasn't a break-in. (In the Box Hill case we know of no one who saw anyone exiting the house.)

In the Box Hill case, the house may have been watched because the break-in occurred during a 40-minute interval between the husband's leaving and the wife's coming back.

There were two laptops visible through a kitchen window at the back of the house. The thieves seemed to know exactly what they were doing. Three panes of glass in French doors in the back of the house were broken, exactly what was needed to gain entrance. The only things taken were from the kitchen, possibly because the wife returned home and may have interrupted the theft. Two laptops, a camera and a computer bag were taken. The thieves were wearing gloves, but there was a sample of blood on the inside of the door. Several papers were in the computer bag and these papers were later found in the restroom of a Dunkin' Donuts on Howard Street.

The homeowners were told that laptops are seldom accepted by pawn shops because they are easily traced, but you should know that the Wyndhurst Improvement Association owns two etching devices that you may borrow to put your driver's license number on computers or other items that might be stolen and sold. Police check pawn shops regularly and can trace the items back to you with your number (even if items end up in another state.) You may contact WIA's Nick Fessenden to borrow the etchers. His phone number is 410-532-7581.

Please be vigilant around your neighborhoods in the next few months. These break-ins often come in waves.

Carol Bishop  
Guest Contributor

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Best regards,

D.P. Munro

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RolandPark.org