

Roland Park E-letter

**Web Editor's E-letter
February 21, 2010**

In This Issue:

- *Trash Collection.*
 - *Third Master Plan Charrette.*
 - *Roland Park Place Parking Lot Letter-writing Campaign.*
 - *Snow Regulations.*
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1. Trash Collection.

Now that the worst of the snow has been cleared, the city will this week — starting on Tue., Feb. 23 — start picking up trash and recyclables from the front of people's houses, as it did after the December (2009) snow storm. So this week, instead of taking your trash to the corner of your street, please place it in front of your house. Trash and recyclables will be picked up on the regularly scheduled days for your area. You should leave it in your usual trash cans or recycling bins. Please make sure that the sidewalk is free of snow or ice, and that there is a cleared means of getting from the road through the roadside wall of snow to your bit of the sidewalk.

There is no bulk-trash pickup again this week. This service is cancelled through Feb. 26.

2. Third Master Plan Charrette.

The time and place for the third of the four planned charrettes or community forums for the Roland Park master plan have been set. The charrette will be on April 8, 7-9 p.m., at the RP Elementary/Middle School. The purpose of the event will be to review with the community progress to date on the plan. All are welcome and representatives of the surrounding neighborhoods are encouraged to attend.

Also, at the May 19 Roland Park Civic League annual meeting, the first cut of the master plan will be displayed. The annual meeting is also at RP Elementary/Middle School, from 7-9 p.m.

3. Roland Park Place Parking Lot Letter-writing Campaign.

The Rolden Improvement Association — the community association for the 4000, 4100 and part of the 4200 block of Roland Avenue — has launched a letter-writing campaign to Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke opposing Roland Park Place's parking-lot expansion into the 4000 block of Roland Avenue. The campaign was launched on Feb. 8, 2010.

In a campaign document posted on the RolandPark.org web site, Rolden says, "Mary Pat has shown strong leadership on this issue; she has listened to all sides and worked diligently to find a resolution and common ground. She has successfully opened negotiations with Johns Hopkins University and Medical Institutions for Roland Park Place to rent parking spaces at the Zurich building. For Roland Park Place to turn the properties on Roland Avenue into parking, they must have PUD legislation approved by the City Council. Therefore, Mary Pat is critical to the

resolution of this issue.” The document may be found at this URL, <http://rolandpark.org/RPP.html>.

“This issue affects the wider community,” says Rolden. “A corner church will be converted to a corner parking lot at a major crossroads. A business would be allowed to expand into a residential neighborhood, and over time, would have the leverage it needs to purchase more adjacent properties.”

Rolden is asking local area residents to write to Councilwoman Clarke. A Rolden-prepared sample letter may also be found at <http://rolandpark.org/RPP.html>. The Roland Park Civic League, while it has not undertaken a letter campaign of its own, is fully supportive of the Rolden initiative. In November 2009, the league passed a resolution opposing “the plan to expand parking beyond the current borders of Roland Park Place and to demolish or modify any property along Roland Avenue for use as additional parking.”

4. Snow Regulations.

The recent snow storm revealed a certain amount of confusion about who is responsible for what in terms of snow clearing. This being the case, 14th District Councilwoman, who represents RP Plat 5 and most of Plat 4, recently e-mailed to community leaders the pertinent sections of the city code. Without getting into the merits of these provisions, here they are:

- **Saving of Parking Spaces by Means of Chairs, etc.:** This age-old and cherished Baltimore tradition is in fact a violation of article 19, section 50-2, “Obstructing street, etc., or gutter.” This is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$250 for the first conviction and \$500 for subsequent convictions.
- **Shoveling of Snow or Ice from Sidewalks:** Property owners must remove snow and/or ice from the sidewalks that “abut” their premises and within only three hours of the cessation of falling snow (or by 11 a.m. if the snowfall occurs between 3 p.m. and 6 a.m.). The cleared path must be at least two feet wide and the snow removed to clear said path must not be dumped such that it “obstructs the passage of water in the gutters” (Property Maintenance Code, section 305.8.1).

Best regards,

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