

## **Roland Park E-letter**

**Web Editor's E-letter  
March 1, 2010**

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### **1. Regular Trash Collection Resumed.**

Now that the alleys are clear of snow, the city is this week resuming regular trash collection. Please put your trash and recyclables out back in the usual containers on the usual days. Bulk trash pick up is also resuming. Please call 311 to make an appointment.

### **2. Assault in Tuxedo Park.**

Today, I received the following e-mail from our friends at the Wyndhurst Improvement Association (WIA). Generally, I don't post do crime alerts without police verification. However, I consider the source reliable and the matter pressing, so the e-mail is reproduced below:

"I'm sorry to say we had a bad incident last night.

"A man was walking his dog at 12:30 a.m. [Mar. 1, 2010] at the intersection of Gladstone and Summit. He was assaulted from behind by a man wearing a ski mask, who hit him over the head repeatedly with a gun. Two people from a nearby house heard the altercation, turned on their porch light and came to his assistance. There was a brief struggle; then the assailant fled. The police were notified, the man who was assaulted was given medical care and now has staples in his head where he was lacerated.

"If any of you saw or heard something last night that could help shed light on this incident, please let [either the police or the Wyndhurst Improvement Association] know. The man who was attacked has done much for this neighborhood. Our thanks go to him for what he has done, as do our wishes for a full and speedy recovery."

If you know anything about this incident, please let the police know or contact Carol Bishop at the WIA ([wyndhurst@gmail.com](mailto:wyndhurst@gmail.com)).

### **3. Important Civic League Meeting March 4.**

The Roland Park Civic League meeting this Thursday, March 4, 7 p.m., will focus on the important issue of whether or not Roland Park and its neighbors should seek designation as a protected historic district under the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP).

While not the first planned garden suburb in America, Maryland or even Baltimore, Roland Park is nonetheless one of the largest still intact such districts in the country. With a considerable degree of success, Roland Park and its immediate neighbors have fended off the “edge chipping” that has been the fate of many other such Victorian developments across the country. It is true that Roland Park has been on the National Park Service’s Historic Register since the 1970s, but what is not commonly understood is just how little protection this provides. Being on the register protects a district from harm caused by federal- or state-funded or -licensed projects, but it does not impose maintenance or improvement standards, does not restrict sales in any way, and does not prevent demolition.

The discussion will also delve into the issue of whether its covenants are enough to protect the neighborhood if it were not to opt for CHAP designation. For more on covenants, see <http://rolandpark.org/civicleague/civBylaws.html>. Covenants have a useful role to play. However, even if they were deemed enough to protect Roland Park proper, it should be borne on mind that our immediate neighbors — with whom our fate is inexorably entwined — may have no such protection.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the RP Presbyterian Church at 4801 Roland Avenue (basement). All are welcome, including representatives of the neighboring communities.

For an excellent read on covenants, including their long-gone and little-lamented seamy side, I heartily recommend Robert M. Fogelson. 2005. *Bourgeois Nightmares: Suburbia, 1870-1930*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press. It is an unputdownable read in which Roland Park features heavily.

#### **4. Roland Park Place Civic League Letter.**

February 28, 2010 saw Roland Park Civic League President Phil Spevak send a letter to Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke on behalf of the league opposing continuing-care community Roland Park Place’s plans to expand parking onto Roland Avenue by demolishing an 1889 church building and adding a parking lot to an RPP-owned house next to a nursery school. “We write now to reaffirm our belief that effective resolution can be achieved with modification of parking within the current boundaries of Roland Park Place,” said Spevak in the letter. Roland Park Place is located on 40th Street, immediately west of the Keswick Multi-Care Center and on the old site of the Roland Park Country School. Spevak’s letter is at [http://rolandpark.org/documents/RPCL\\_RPP\\_MPC\\_02282010.pdf](http://rolandpark.org/documents/RPCL_RPP_MPC_02282010.pdf).

The Civic League encourages Roland Parkers to write to Councilwoman Clarke, in whose 14th District RPP is situated. Rolden has drawn up a template letter that may be used. You may access it here: <http://rolandpark.org/RPP.html#Letters>.

#### **5. Home for Heroes ChiliFest.**

The Home for Heroes chili-tasting fiesta on Feb. 27 was a great success, with 11 superb entrants (and one non-competing chili cook) and gallons of delicious chili. Full details will be released in a future edition. In the meantime, a round of applause is due to Kate Culotta and Martha Marani for organizing the event, to the dozen wonderful chefs who fed us so well, and to the Cross Keys Radisson for hosting and sponsoring the event. The Radisson’s web site is here: <http://www.radisson.com/baltimoremd>.

Best regards,

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