

Roland Park E-letter

Web Editor's E-letter
March 30, 2009

1. April 2 Civic League Meeting to Discuss Marianist Building

The April meeting of the RP Civic League will be held on Thu., Apr. 2 in the Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Avenue, 7-9pm. Enter through the side door, please. All are welcome. There will be a presentation of revised developer plans for 4301 Roland Avenue (the former Marianist site). There have been important revisions since the developer presentation in March. Please attend this meeting. Additional community input is essential in the process.

For updates on the proposed demolition of the 1926 Marianist building and its replacement with a new retirement and memory-care center, please visit <http://rolandpark.org/Marianist.html>.

2. New Web Page on Roland Park Place Parking Lot Expansion.

RolandPark.org has created a new web page on developments surrounding Roland Park Place's proposal to demolish 4021 Roland Avenue and replace it with a parking lot (next to Elmhurst Nursery School). At a March 3 meeting, neighbors expressed great concern and RPP has promised to revise its plans. The web page is at <http://rolandpark.org/RPP.html>.

3. Program Open Space in Jeopardy.

Late last week, the state Senate Budget and Taxation Committee removed \$111 million in funding for Program Open Space. Program Open Space is Maryland's main land-conservation program. The program has protected hundreds of thousands of acres, including both urban and rural lands and urban parks and recreational facilities. The program has already suffered severe cutbacks. Program Open Space funds have been proposed as one source of funds for Roland Park's intended next offer on the BCC land.

If you support Program Open Space, please let your representatives, especially your state senators, know how important the retention of the funding is. Our own District 41 delegation may be blast e-mailed from the <http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html> page at the RP web site ("State Blast"), while the delegations for neighboring districts 40 and 43 may be e-mailed through "State Blast 2" and "State Blast 3," respectively. Or just copy and paste the e-mail links below and fire away:

District 41: RPStateReps@rolandpark.org (will simultaneously e-mail one senator and three delegates for Dist. 41).

District 40: RPStateReps2@rolandpark.org (ditto for Dist. 40).

District 43: RPStateReps3@rolandpark.org (ditto for Dist. 43).

4. Thank-you Letters, Round 2.

A second round of thank-yous may be in order for elected officials other than the ones I mentioned two weeks ago for their support during the BCC/Keswick affair. Helpful officials included:

On the City Council —

Councilwoman Rikki Spector: rochelle.spector@baltimorecity.gov
Councilman Bill Henry: bill.henry@baltimorecity.gov
Councilman Ed Reisinger: edward.reisinger@baltimorecity.gov

In the State Legislature (40th District) —

Senator Catherine Pugh: catherine.pugh@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Frank M. Conoway, Jr.: frank.conoway@house.state.md.us
Delegate Barbara Robinson: barbara.robinson@house.state.md.us
Delegate Shawn Tarrant: shawn.tarrant@house.state.md.us

All these e-mail links, and more, may be found at the “officials” page on the RP web site, for which see <http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html>.

5. Roland Park History and Ecology Lectures.

Please remember that the second and third lectures in the “Roland Park History and Ecology” series are coming up.

i. Roland Park and the Olmsted Legacy: Wed., Apr. 29, 7-9pm, Women’s Club of Roland Park, 4500 Roland Ave. Free! In the late 19th century, Roland Park formed part of a vision of America championed by Frederick Law Olmsted and other pioneer urban landscapers and planners. That vision recognized the importance of green space and park networks in making burgeoning cities livable. Those features are evident in Roland Park, one of the first planned urban communities in the U.S. Participants will learn about Roland Park’s origins and the ongoing work of the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

Lecturers: Jean Mellot, Friends of Maryland’s Olmsted Parks and Landscapes Board; and Jerry Baum, Immediate Past President, National Association of Olmsted Parks.

ii. Green Space Policy Options and One Park: Wed., May 13, 7-9pm, North Baltimore Mennonite Church, 4615 Roland Ave. Free! Baltimore is endowed with several Olmsted-designed parks and green spaces. However, crucial greenways to connect these jewels, as Olmsted envisioned, are missing. This lecture will present an overview of the One Park concept and will show how implementing it would affect Baltimore’s quality of life. Participants will discuss case studies from other communities that have preserved green space. Participants will learn about the City’s Master Plan, which envisions connecting greenways, bicycle and pedestrian paths, reforestation and other innovative proposals.

Lecturers: Steve Ziger, Parks and People Foundation Board; Peter Harnik, City Parks Alliance and the Trust for Public Land; and Tom Stosur, Baltimore City Planning (invited).

6. Spring in Roland Park!

And remember, the Roland Park Community Foundation invites you to celebrate spring in Roland Park. Friday, April 24, 2009, 6:30-10pm. The Woman’s Club of Roland Park, 4500 Roland Avenue. Tickets, \$60 per person: Proceeds will go to the Roland Park Community Foundation. Please make checks payable to the Roland Park Community Foundation. RSVP by April 10. Roland Park Community Foundation, P.O. Box 643, Riderwood, Maryland 21139. This is an annual rite in RP, one of the reasons we live here, indeed.

7. Firehouse Fund Target: Over Half Way but Only a Few Days to Go.

With the final totting up late last week of the proceeds from the Feb. 28 chili cookoff, the firehouse fund tally moved up to \$16,236.53, more than half way to the \$30,000 mark. However, there are only a few days to go in the campaign. Won't you support the Home for Heroes campaign? Please? As of now, the firehouse campaign would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their contributions (list excludes personal donations for privacy reasons):

Diamond Donors (\$2,000 and up):

- *None yet.*

Platinum Donors (\$1,000-1,999):

- *Still waiting.*

Gold Donors (\$500-999):

- Wireless Home, Inc.
- Tuxedo Pharmacy.

Silver Donors (\$200-499):

- *Come on, guys.*

Honorable Mention (\$1-199):

- Chow Mein Charlie's.
- Baltimore Country Club.
- Wyndhurst Improvement Association (Tuxedo and Embla parks).

Product Donations:

- Starbucks, Roland Avenue.
- Eddie's of Roland Park.
- Roland Park Deli.

Consulting or Service Help:

- St. David's Episcopal Church.
- Whole Foods Mt. Washington.
- Waste Neutral Group.

Please support your community with a generous donation. Donations may be made on line at <http://rolandpark.org/duescivicleague.htm>. Or a check may be mailed to Roland Park Office, P.O. Box 643, Riderwood, Maryland 21139. (please state "firehouse fund" on the memo line.) For more information drop a line to the campaign organizers at: firehousefund@rolandpark.org.

Best regards,

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