

Roland Park E-letter

Web Editor's E-letter
April 26, 2009

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1. Roland Park History and Ecology Lectures.

The second and third lectures in the "Roland Park History and Ecology" series are coming up. These promise to be fascinating events, with the first one featuring a slide show of old Roland Park photos.

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).

2. Misdemeanor Fines in Baltimore City.

Baltimore's adoption late last year of a \$1,000 fine for leash-law violators, as part of a revenue-raising measure, has infuriated dog lovers throughout the city, including many in the RP area. While it is true that for years the city has had a policy of requiring all dogs to be leashed when off their owners' property, it is also the case the offense is hardly a heinous one, assuming the dog to

be trained and friendly. In the view of most, the \$1,000 fine is excessive indeed.

If we assume that the fine attached to a municipal misdemeanor broadly speaking reflects elected officials' degree of disapproval of that activity, a review of the list below is an eye-opening exercise indeed. For apparently this is a city where the manufacture of fake ID cards and the personal use of LSD are considered to be one tenth as serious as letting Fifi off the lead, for each warrants at \$100 fine versus \$1,000 for letting a dog run free. And two illegal sales of opium-derived prescription drugs will only get you socked for \$500, as will the illegal possession of the tools for breaking into cars. Priorities, priorities!

- Street sales of theater and circus tickets (not scalping): \$10.
- Singing or playing the "Star-spangled Banner" in a non-approved way: \$100.
- Fraud against restaurants (i.e., skipping out on the check): \$100.
- Theft or vandalizing of a shopping cart: \$100.
- Personal use of LSD or similar drugs: \$100.
- Manufacture or issuing of fake ID cards: \$100.
- Illegal possession of tear-gas devises by minors: \$100.
- Illegal sale of opium-derived prescription drugs, first offense: \$100-250.
- Illegal sale of opium-derived prescription drugs, second offense: \$250-500.
- Illegal affixing or distribution of advertising circulars: \$500.
- Illegal affixing of signs on public property: \$500.
- Operation of a "body studio" (i.e., a sexual massage parlor (but not a brothel)): \$500.
- Illegal possession of tools for car break-ins (slim jims, etc.): \$500.
- Loitering in the vicinity of liquor establishments, drug abuse centers, or amusement arcades: \$500.
- Provision of alcohol to a minor in a public place: \$500.
- Provision of spray paint to a minor, or possession of spray paint by a minor, for the purposes of vandalizing property: \$500.
- Failure to report a missing handgun, first offense: \$500.
- Letting Fifi off the leash for a few minutes: \$1,000 — the big 1K.

Source: Baltimore City Code, Article 19, Police Ordinances.

3. Baltimore Dog Leash Law Hearing.

If the above strikes you as being a little misguided, you may be interested in the City Council's hearing on the leash law at 10am, Tuesday, April 28 at the council chambers, 100 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. Our city elected officials' e-mail addresses may be found here: <http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html>.

Since an unfortunate Roland Parker was slapped with fines for having three dogs off leash a few weeks ago, I have heard at number of suggestions for what to do about dog walking at Stony Run. Some neighbors have suggested to me that we should push to have the park turned into a dog park, as at Canton (<http://www.cantondogpark.org>). My own sense is that this would not be advantageous to the RP area. Stony Run is one of our best-kept secrets and we need to keep it that way. Other, and in my own view better, suggestions have included having set on-leash and off-leash hours and/or the allocation of the east (Blythewood) side of the park to dog walkers and the west (Wilmslow) side to joggers.

Got your own views? Let the City Council know on April 28.

4. Roland Park Beautification Committee Plant Sale and Swap.

A native plant sale and plant swap will be held May 16, at 8:00am in front of the Roland Park Library (5108 Roland Avenue). The plant sale, sponsored by the Roland Park Civic League Beautification Committee, will feature a selection of perennials, ferns, grasses, shrubs, and trees native to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and which are perfect for planting in Roland Park landscapes. The swap is open to all kinds garden plants, not only natives. The sale and swap will begin at 8am and last until the plants are gone (by 10:00 am, we expect). Cash and checks will be accepted. For more information, call (443) 682-1331 or e-mail info@rolandparknative.org. Proceeds will benefit the Roland Park Civic League.

5. Cross Keys MovieFest.

A new tradition is being created at The Village of Cross Keys — MovieFest — a month-long series of free movies in the Cross Keys courtyard on Saturday nights throughout the month of June. The MovieFest line up features blockbuster films, each with a Baltimore twist.

The MovieFest festivities begin each Saturday evening at 6:00pm with food, drink, music and prizes in the village square. Pre-movie dinner specials will be offered at each of the Cross Keys restaurants — Crossroads, Donna's Café and Village Square Café. The retail shops will be open extended hours for the shopping pleasure of MovieFest guests; many stores will offer shopping specials. The free movies will begin at Sunset. Guests are invited to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets; limited seats will be provided.

Movie fest is being produced by Extraordinary Events and is sponsored by the Cross Keys shops, restaurants and businesses: Bettina Collections, Carl's Salon, Chapin Davis, Chezelle, Coldwell Banker, Cross Keys Tennis Club, Donna's Café, Dresscode, Joanna Gray, Jones & Jones, La Terra, Pied Piper, Radisson Hotel, Ruth Shaw, The Store Ltd., and Village Square Café

June 6 — Hairspray (8:30pm: feature presentation begins)
Written and directed by John Waters

June 13 — Avalon (8:35pm: feature presentation begins)
Written and directed by Barry Levinson

June 20 — The Accidental Tourist (8:40pm: presentation begins)
Based on the novel by Ann Tyler

June 27 — Cry Baby (8:45pm: feature presentation begins)
Directed by John Waters

6. Repaving of Keswick Road.

Repaving work will resume again on Keswick Road this week, April 27-May 1, between Cold Spring Lane and Wyndhurst Avenue. There will be no parking permitted between 8am-5pm and towing will be enforced.

Best regards,

D.P. Munro
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RolandPark.org