

Roland Park E-letter

Web Editor's E-letter
September 27, 2009

1. Roland Park Sustainability Initiative.

Like many communities worldwide, Roland Park is taking steps to reduce energy consumption, conserve natural resources and make green services and products more accessible. Over the coming year, Roland Parkers will be invited to be part of a new neighborhood sustainability initiative created under the auspices of the RP Civic League.

Led by Mike McQuestion (Plat 2) and Rita Walters (Plat 5 City), a team of “energy captains,” recently trained and provisioned by the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge (<http://baltimoreenergychallenge.org>), is already knocking on doors. The captains are inviting homeowners to sign up to have their homes “energy audited.” By doing just a few simple things, the initiative participants are betting, Roland Park homes can be made measurably more energy efficient.

To get the ball rolling, the initiative team has planned a number of activities for this October. On October 23-25, Roland Park will celebrate its first Sustainability Weekend.

On Friday, the 23rd, students will be walking, biking, carpooling or taking public transport to school. Participating adults, too, will use alternative transportation to get to work.

On Saturday, the 24th, there will be a sustainability “teach-in” on Roland Avenue. Various groups will have displays in front of the Roland Park library. The movie “Kilowatt Ours” will be shown continuously that afternoon in the library (<http://www.kilowattours.org>). Neighbors can come and learn more about what they can do to make a difference. The teach-in will be one of thousands of grassroots actions worldwide that day orchestrated by the climate-change action group, 350.org (www.350.org).

On Sunday, the 25th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Roland Park will host Baltimore’s first ever “ciclovía.” This term literally means “cycle way” or bike path in Portuguese, but in this case it refers to the fact that southbound Roland Avenue will be closed to vehicles during that time from Northern Parkway to Cold Spring Lane. Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters and skateboarders will rule the road. If successful, the ciclovía concept may be extended to other parts of the city next year.

The Roland Park Civic League Sustainability Initiative team is working closely with the city’s Office of Sustainability and with city Councilwomen Sharon Green Middleton and Mary Pat Clarke, and it is reaching out to neighboring communities and businesses to involve them as well. The Roland Park Civic League Sustainability Initiative is planning more activities throughout the coming year. For more information, or to volunteer, contact one of the Sustainability Initiative co-chairs: Mike McQuestion (443-912-7655, mike.mcquestion@gmail.com) or Rita Walters (443-610-3403, rwalter7@jhu.edu). To keep up with the group’s activities check in at <http://rolandpark.org/SustainInitiative.html>.

2. RP Civic League Meeting, Oct. 1.

The Civic League’s October meeting will be this Thursday, October 1, in the basement of the RP Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Avenue, 7-9 p.m. Among the topics for discussion will be the

Sustainability Initiative's Sustainability Weekend and again the issue of the Gilman School's desire for a southbound left-turn lane opposite its Roland Avenue entrance. (For details, see <http://rolandpark.org/GilmanTurn.html>.)

Speaking of which, the Roland park community on-line survey about the issue is running: 19 opposed to any median-strip configuration change, 3 in favor of narrowing but not eliminating the median strip, 1 in favor of eliminating or narrowing the strip, and 1 in favor of "other" (in this case, "Close parking from Northern Pkwy to RPCS. Reconfigure 2 SB lanes and KEEP the TREES"). If you would like to vote in the survey, please do so at this URL: <http://rolandpark.org/cgi/surveys/surveys.cgi>.

3. RP Office Gets New Fax Number.

The Roland Park office — administrative home of the Civic League, the Roads & Maintenance Corporation and the RP Community Foundation — has a new fax number. It is 410-464-2533. The phone number is still 410-464-2525.

4. Medieval Lute and Voice Concert, Oct. 4.

Asteria, a Medieval lute and voice duo, will be the featured performers on Sunday, October 4 at 3:30 p.m. at Community Concerts at Second, located at the Second Presbyterian Church, 4200 St. Paul Street. Their program, titled *Un Tres Doulx Regard* (A Most Sweet Glance), will include music by 14th- and 15th-century composers.

In 2004, Asteria won Early Music America's first Unicorn Prize for Medieval and Renaissance Music with a performance heralded by the *New York Times* as "intimate and deeply communicative...meltingly beautiful." The result of Asteria's musical exploration can be heard on their first two recordings of 15th-century songs, *Le Souvenir de Vous me Tue* and *Soyes Loyal*. The October 4 concert, funded in part by Free Fall Baltimore and the Maryland State Arts Council, is free and open to the public. For more information call 443-759-3309 or visit <http://www.CommunityConcertsAtSecond.org>.

5. Baltimore Green Map Community Shredding Fundraiser, Oct. 10.

On Saturday, October 10 there will be a community shredding event for a good cause. Local residents may bring their documents to Eco-Shred, LLC's mobile shredding truck for secure on-site disposal. The truck will be located in the parking lot at Friends School of Baltimore, 5114 N. Charles Street, on Saturday, October 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A \$5-per-box donation will support the Baltimore Green Map and its interactive on-line map, its print maps and its community outreach events. Using the international Green Map System Icons, the Green Map maps Baltimore's ecological and cultural resources and charts the region's progress toward becoming a healthy, sustainable environment. Coffee and baked goods will be available to sweeten the day. Contact: Janet Felsten, Director, Baltimore Green Map, 410-235-0838 or jfelsten@baltogreenmap.org.

6. S'ghettie Eddie's 3rd Annual Fall Festival.

S'ghettie Eddie's 3rd Annual Fall Festival will be held on, Monday, October 26, 4-7 p.m. Pumpkins and supplies will be provided for decorating, during an evening of music and family fun. Kids can get into the Halloween spirit and wear a costume. The event is free.

7. Children's Chorus of Maryland Benefit, Nov. 7.

The Children's Chorus of Maryland (CCM) will hold its first annual "Sing It Forward" scholarship benefit concert and silent auction, featuring the CCM Concert Choir and members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Woodhall Wine Cellars of Parkton, Maryland will conduct a wine tasting event as part of the Sing It Forward scholarship benefit concert. The event is sponsored by the St. Andrews Christian Community at First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue. Saturday, November 7, 2009. Reception, auction and wine tasting from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Concert at 5:00 p.m. Event ends at 6:30 p.m. Purchase tickets on line at www.ccmsings.org. Tickets are available at two levels: concert and auction: \$25.00. Concert, auction and wine tasting: \$30.00. For more information, contact Cindy Gaddis, cgaddis@ccmsings.org or 410-494-1480.

Best regards,

D.P. Munro
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RolandPark.org