

Roland Park E-letter

**Web Editor's E-letter
November 18, 2009**

1. Remember the Roland Park Area Master Plan.

Please remember that the first of four master plan “charrettes” or community forums is taking place this Saturday, Nov. 21, at 9:30 a.m. until noon at the Roland Park Elementary/Middle School (5207 Roland Avenue). Area residents’ participation is strongly encouraged.

The full schedule of charrettes is:

When: Saturday, November 21st, 9:30 a.m. to noon.
Where: Roland Park Elementary/Middle School, 5207 Roland Avenue.
Why: To gather information and identify areas of concern.

When: Friday, January 8th, 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, January 9th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Roland Park Elementary/Middle School.
Why: To refine strategies for addressing areas under study.

When: Week of April 5th, time to be determined.
Where: Site to be determined.
Why: To review progress with the community.

When: Week of June 21st, time to be determined.
Where: Site to be determined.
Why: To present the final area master plan to Roland Park.

The planning process will solicit area residents’ views on zoning and land use, historical preservation, and resource sustainability. The idea is to turn these views into a comprehensive plan that then can be used to inform city zoning regulations for this area. Keep up to date with the latest master-plan developments at [RolandPark.org’s](http://rolandpark.org/MasterPlan.html) dedicated web page, <http://rolandpark.org/MasterPlan.html>. Likely candidates for discussion are:

- Parking, traffic and congestion;
- Sidewalks, bike paths and medians;
- Road improvements/design and alternative transportation;
- Design guidelines, historical preservation and the maintenance of our residential scale/character;
- Homeownership, senior housing and “aging in place”;
- Green-space enhancement, recreational fields, pools, parks and playgrounds; and
- Zoning, mixed-use commercial/retail areas and institutional expansion;

2. Child Care at Master Plan Charrette.

Child care will be available at a cost of \$10 per child at the first forum. Each child must be 2 or older and potty trained. Please make sure that your child has no infectious conditions, such as pink eye, seasonal flu or of course H1N1 flu. Children must be collected promptly at the end of the meeting. Please take your child to the first room on the left as you come in the front door of the school (Ms. Harker’s kindergarten room). Care providers will be on station there from 9:10 a.m. If your child suffers from separation anxiety, please arrive a few minutes early to help settle

him or her in before you yourself leave for the meeting. Please e-mail rpcommunication@rolandpark.org if you would like child care at the event. I will forward your e-mail to the care coordinator. Please put "Charrette Child Care" in the subject line.

3. Leaf Vacuuming.

In response to last Monday's e-letter paragraph about leaf vacuuming on University Parkway, I received an e-mail from a resident wanting to know when the other roads will be done in Roland Park. RolandPark.org does not have access to the city vacuuming schedule. All I can say is, keep an eye open for white, corrugated plastic signs placed on your street by city employees. In my part of Plat 1, these were set out a couple of days before the vacuuming started. So, if you see such signs on your street, your wait should not be long.

4. Demolished Buildings on 5100 Block of Roland Avenue.

As regular readers of this e-letter will know, RolandPark.org is slowly but surely putting together a web series of "before and after" photos of various scenes in and around Roland Park. Each pair of photos will feature a historical photo and a modern picture of the same view. At 5100 and 5102 Roland Avenue, there are at present two comparatively recent redbrick houses built in the 1920s or '30s. I am trying to find out what happened to the original buildings on these sites, which I have photos of. The one at 5100 was a school, known as Todd's Academy. And 5102 was a large, three-story, pale-colored house with an extensive porch and an almost perfectly semi-circular second-floor bay window above the front door.

The tax records for the current buildings give 1920 as the construction year, but a 1935 state Bureau of Plans and Surveys map shows the school, at least, still extant as of that year (though the map may have used outdated information). A 1938 aerial photo of Roland Park definitely shows the old buildings gone and the current redbrick buildings already in place. If there are any old-time residents that remember hearing of the original buildings, or otherwise know why they were demolished, please contact me at rpcommunication@rolandpark.org.

5. City Zoning Code.

The municipal zoning code has recently been updated. The most recent version, in PDF form, can be found at this URL: <http://cityservices.baltimorecity.gov/charterandcodes/Code/Art%2000%20-%20Zoning.pdf>.

6. Philippines Disaster Relief and Medical Mission.

Plat 1 resident Cyd Lacanienta has asked me to pass on her thanks to all Roland Parkers who donated children's summer clothes for shipment to the recently cyclone-struck Philippines. Children's clothes are still being accepted. They may be left on the porch at 4815 Keswick Road through December 15, 2009. They will be sent as part of a medical mission sponsored by a local philanthropic group, the TAA Foundation, Inc.

Best regards,

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