

Roland Park E-letter

**Web Editor's E-letter
December 8, 2009**

1. Roland Park Area Master Plan On-line Discussion Forums Created.

RolandPark.org has created a series of nine on-line discussion forums where area residents may air their news and views about the various aspects of the nascent Roland Park area master plan. The forums may be reached via a "metablog" page on the RP web site. The metablog page contains links to the nine forums, one for each of the issue areas discussed at the first master plan charrette, November 21, plus an additional forum for youth issues (which was not specifically covered at the charrette). The metablog page is at <http://rolandpark.org/MasterPlanMetaBlog>. The forums are as follows:

- Commercial & Retail Forum.
- Future Development Areas Forum.
- Historic Preservation & Architectural Standards Forum.
- Housing Forum.
- Infrastructure Forum.
- Livability Forum.
- Open & Recreational Space Forum.
- Transportation Forum.
- Youth Forum (does not correspond to any charrette discussion).

Once on the metablog page, click the name of the forum to be taken to the page for that discussion group. Follow the instructions on comment posting. For those interested in visiting a number of forums often, they are all grouped on their own web page, here: <http://RPMasterPlan.groupsites.com/discussion/forums>. You may wish to visit that page and bookmark it.

I suggest you begin at each forum with the "start here: charrette summary" thread, which will take you to a posting of the summary generated by volunteers on each charrette topic. You can leave your thoughts on the summaries by hitting the "post reply" button at the end. This done, for matters that are related but which are not directly covered in the charrette summary, you can start a new thread by hitting the "create new topic" button. Make sure to give your thread a pertinent heading.

If you have any questions about the technical aspects of the forums, e-mail me at rpcommunication@rolandpark.org. E-mail links for subject-matter contact people for each of the forums will be posted on the metablog page in the near future. Thanks are due to Tom Hoen for hooking RolandPark.org up with the excellent Groupsites.com forum-hosting service. Observant readers will notice that this Groupsites series of forums replaces an earlier, prototype series of blogs that were up for a few days (though not publicized). The new system is much better, though postings to the earlier blogs will have been lost (I think there was only one). I regret this and hope you will repost your comments.

2. Leaf Disposal.

Municipal leaf vacuuming is over for the year. The city is, however, still supposed to take up to 10 bags of leaves per house per week through the end of January. Leaf bags should be placed out

for collection on your regular trash day. I don't know about you, but the city manifestly has not been doing this over my way. You may call 311 to leave a complaint if the same goes for you.

3. Holiday Theft Warning.

A few days ago, I received a very sensible message from the police Northern District Community Council, which I reproduce below:

“It would be useful to send an advisory out to residents that if they are shopping on line, or are expecting packages from family, that the shipping instructions should include what to do if no one is home to accept the package. Common instructions to carriers can include ‘leave with neighbor’ or ‘leave at side door’.... Requiring a signature may be a pain but may be worth it at this time of year.

“This is very common during the holiday season when [some people] ‘go shopping’ on front door steps. There are also bad guys who follow UPS trucks through neighborhoods to pick up the packages right after they are dropped off. And think of all the shopping bags and packages that are left in cars, openly visible to thieves! You can expect a rash of car break-ins during the holidays.

“Then after the holidays, if neighbors put out boxes labeled Dell, Panasonic, Samsung (you get my drift) in the trash (or better yet in recycling!) bad guys will know exactly what Santa brought and will target those homes for future ‘shopping’ expeditions. All of these boxes left out for recycling might best be discreetly hidden in the bins or taken directly to the Sisson St. [solid waste] station.

“Please be sure that all neighbors REPORT any incident to the police so that they can track the data and see where to deploy resources.

“Vigilance remains the key.”

4. RP Resident Has New Gutter-cleaning Invention.

George Van Dyke, an RP resident, has put together plans for a gutter-cleaning device that can be created with a shop vac and a few readily available extra parts. According to Van Dyke, any shop vac or leaf blower can be modified for under \$30 in parts. A self-released video about the invention can be viewed here:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/GutterCleaningSecret/CleaningGutters/prweb3213684.htm>.

5. Expanded State and Local Swine Flu Vaccination Program.

Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that Maryland will expand the distribution of H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine to the general population, adding healthy adults and seniors to the five target groups for whom the vaccine is currently recommended. Those target groups will remain a statewide priority as the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reports a decline in flu activity following a late October second wave peak in H1N1 flu. A list of vaccinating centers and dates and times can be found here: <http://rolandpark.org/documents/SwineFlu.pdf>.

6. Roads & Maintenance Meetings.

The RP Roads & Maintenance Corp. has discontinued its practice of meeting in the Roland Park Presbyterian Church. Instead, meetings will take place in board members' houses on a rotating basis. The meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. If you would like to attend, please e-mail R&M's current president, Kathleen Truelove, to find out where the meeting is. Please e-mail RMPresident@rolandpark.org.

7. Lost Poodle Found on Somerset.

I received the following a couple of days ago:

“We found a dog today, Sunday, December 6. It is an older small white poodle found on the corner of Keswick and Somerset Roads. Wearing a collar but no ID, just a rabies tag. I'll contact the vet listed on the rabies tag, and they may give me a lead. Just wanted to get the information out there so someone can have his or her baby back by the holidays! My husband's cell number is 202.320.6000 — Suzy Wolffe.”

I have a very hectic couple of weeks coming up so this may be the last e-letter before the hols. If so, have very merry festive season, all!

Best regards,

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