

ROLAND PARK NEWS

Finishing Olmsted's Masterpiece: An Update on the Plan to Purchase BCC's Open Land

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by **Mary Page Michel, President, Roland Park Community Foundation**

This past summer, did you or someone you know visit a destination with a beautiful mountain, lake or ocean? A scenic vista or trail? Parks and open spaces continue to be an enormous draw for all ages. Our community has been working diligently to preserve, improve and even create new green space right here in Baltimore City. The Open Space Campaign for Greater Roland Park selected three projects. The first two — improvements to Stony Run and the restoration of the Roland Water Tower have been showcased in the *Roland Park News*. The final project, and the largest in scope, is the purchase of the surplus land from the Baltimore Country Club. It is important for residents to understand the history of this land, and why it is so important to so many.

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a permanent community recreational space in one of America's oldest Olmsted planned developments is now at hand.

For almost a half century, the threat of large-scale development on the 17.5 acres of open land at the Baltimore Country Club (BCC) has been a source of community concern. While this threat is serious, our community's alternative vision for this majestic space is truly exciting. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a permanent community recreational space in one of America's oldest Olmsted planned developments is now at hand.

The Baltimore Country Club land is the remains of a 150-acre golf course, one of the first courses in the country and the first to be incorporated within a planned community. The original site included what are now Poly and Western High Schools and the Cross Keys development. The remaining 17.5 acres are bounded by Hillside Road on the South, Falls

Road on the West, Plover Lane and Edgevale Road on the North, and about halfway up the hill in front of the Baltimore Country Club building that faces Falls

Road. Two streams run through the property and join at the bottom of the hill before going underground and flowing into the Jones Falls. This land is zoned R-1, which allows for single family homes, churches, schools and recreational space.

The community would like to transform this site into a public community recreational park. The park would be planned using the informal, natural style of Frederick Law

Olmsted and his sons, who designed the surrounding landscape. The healthiest parks are those that welcome three generations. Initial plans for the new park include a dog park, playing fields, a playground, paths connecting to the existing footpaths and a central expanse for community gatherings, with no lights or additional parking other than what exist on Falls Road.



The woods and the fairway today, the proposed site of the new community recreational park. Photo: Anne Stuzin.



The view from the BCC clubhouse veranda, looking northwest down on the 1st tee and, beyond, the Jones Falls valley. Circa 1910s. Photographer unknown. Source: www.tillinghast.net.

Roland Park News

Volume 55
Fall 2014

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Editor's Notes

By Hilary Paska

Summer in Roland Park reminds me of a nap in a hammock, warm, quiet and relaxing. Fall, on the other hand, feels like an action-packed sprint toward the holiday season! This issue of the *Roland Park News* is packed with fall events to suit every taste from a host of arts happenings to seasonal outdoor activities at Cylburn Arboretum and Robert E. Lee Park.

Getting outside to enjoy the cooler weather, whether on foot or by bike, is a popular pastime in Roland Park. Our neighborhood's network of footpaths and tree-lined sidewalks are part of the legacy of Roland Park's original developers, Edward Bouton and particularly Frederick Olmsted, Jr., who believed that public spaces and man's connection with each other and with nature were key features of a healthy community. Today, Roland Park is still regarded as one of the preeminent designs for planned communities in the United States.



A view up the fairway towards the BCC clubhouse, circa 1920s. Photographer unknown. Source: Anthony F. Pinto III collection.

The purchase of the surplus land from the Baltimore Country Club, subject of this issue's cover story, is part of the stewardship of this legacy. Transforming this land into a public community recreational park will protect it from large-scale development and provide our neighborhood with new amenities for all ages. As the Open Space Campaign continues, help Roland Park meet this goal to the best of your abilities. Give generously and encourage others to do the same.

Roland Park's evolving landscape was also the inspiration for Chris Cortright's article, "Forgotten and Surprising Neighbors." Having moved to the neighborhood in 2013, Chris was curious to research the history of

his new home and the adjoining land. Find out what he unearthed about his forgotten neighbors.

An update on the Roland Avenue Repaving project, underway since June, can be found on P. 8.



Olmsted Jr. believed that public spaces were key features of a healthy community. Photo: Anne Stuzin

Road construction inevitably causes inconvenience and delays. With the schools now back in session, road safety is especially important. Please drive carefully and plan ahead by signing up to receive the latest construction news via the e-newsletter

and community listserv at rolandpark.org.

The Baltimore Broadband Campaign to bring faster, more competitive internet service to Baltimore has also gained momentum over the summer. Find the answers to common questions about this campaign and discover how fiber optic technology could improve our existing services. As Phil Spevak explains, this initiative requires continued community support to succeed, so please consider supporting their efforts.

Finally, as the autumn evenings draw in, enjoy some of the books thoughtfully selected by Julie Johnson, branch manager of the Roland Park library, for our "Book Nook" section. The library is an excellent example of what our neighborhood can achieve when we pull together toward a common goal. Without community action, we would have lost this popular resource; instead, our modernized library reopened in 2007. The BCC land could be similarly transformed if we rise to the challenge again. ♦

Join the Roland Park News Team

The Roland Park News seeks an energetic editor with an eye for details and commitment to spreading the good news about Greater Roland Park. Curiosity and a sense of humor essential.

Contact
newsletter@rolandpark.org

Art Happenings

The **Modell Performing Arts Center at the Lyric** (140 West Mount Royal Avenue) is proud to announce 120 years of continuous operation. In honor of the 120th Anniversary, the Lyric will celebrate by hosting world-renowned entertainment throughout the year.

Fall shows at The Lyric include:

- November 7 and 9, **Madama Butterfly**. Puccini's great tragedy of innocence betrayed is set to some of the most beautiful music ever composed for the stage. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Steven White in a magnificent production designed by John Conklin and directed by James Harp.



Madama Butterfly.
Photo courtesy of the Modell Lyric.

- November 13, **An Evening with Aretha Franklin**. Known the world over by her first name and as the undisputed, reigning "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin is peerless. It is her rich legacy of recordings that are a testament to the power, majesty and genius of this one-of-a-kind artist of the first order.



Aretha Franklin.
Photo courtesy of the Modell Lyric.

- November 16, **Ghost Brothers of Darkland County**, a southern gothic supernatural musical. This extraordinary collaboration, 16 years in the making, is a haunting tale of fraternal love, lust, jealousy and revenge. Written by Stephen King with music and lyrics by John Mellencamp and musical direction by T Bone Burnett.
- November 22, **Trace Atkins, The Christmas Show**. Atkins' "The Christmas Show Tour" is a reverent, family-friendly theatrical production, featuring songs from his Celtic Christmas album, "The King's Gift." The show combines fireside storytelling with performances of classic carols.

Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com or at the Modell PAC/Lyric box office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 410-900-1150. For more information, visit modellpac.com.

The **Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center** (MFAC, 2201 Argonne Drive), located on the edge of the Morgan State University (MSU) southeast campus, is Baltimore's most modern venue replete with contemporary, state-of-the-art facilities for members of the performing and visual arts communities to showcase their talents. MFAC's performance spaces ably accommodate performers and productions who play to thousands at a time and to acts who prefer the intimate settings of studio theatre or recital hall venues. MFAC's complete package includes four performance spaces; talent/crew expertise that rival the offerings at Baltimore's downtown performance venues; and a museum with art objects valued in excess of \$10 million. For more information, call 443-885-4440 or visit murphyfineartscenter.org.

Fall events at the Murphy Fine Arts Center include:

Art Exhibitions:

- Through September 17, James E. Lewis Museum of Art, **Contemporary Perspectives: The Art of Kine Aw**. Ms. Kiné Aw is an internationally renowned painter artist from the West African country of Senegal. Her paintings, often large format, celebrate women and feminism in traditional and contemporary African society. Free and open to the public, Tuesday through Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.
- October 16 - December 14, James E. Lewis Museum of Art, **Ed Towles: Black Enterprise & Art**. An exhibition of the unique and specialized covers of the monthly business magazine, Black Enterprise. Black Enterprise is widely known as a monthly publication for business and investment news and features. During its first decade, Ed Towles, Art Director, established a very unique aesthetic for the publication, using the cover of each issue to exhibit artistic expression (paintings, photography, sculpture) to coordinate with the business information that was inside the issue. Some of the cover art have become collector's items. Opening reception on October 16, 6 p.m. Free and open to the public, Tuesday through Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.,

Theater:

- October 9 -12, Turpin Lamb Theatre, **Manchild in the Promised Land**. Written as an autobiography by Claude Brown,

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Art Happenings

Continued from page 3

this work is noted as the definitive account of African-American youth in Harlem of the 1940s and 1950s, and a seminal work of modern literature. Adapted for stage by Joseph Edward and Wynn Handman. Tickets available at the MFAC Ticket Office. Visit murphyfineartscenter.org for show times.



MSU Modern Dance in White.
Photo courtesy of the MFAC.

- October 23 – 26, October 31–November 2, Turpin Lamb Theatre, **The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at the Celebration of their first One Hundred Years.** A romantic comedy by celebrated playwright Pearl Cleage that lets the audience watch as the Nacirema Society of Montgomery, Alabama introduces debutantes to a world of wealth, privilege and social responsibility as it has done every year since Emancipation. This story delightfully mixes debutantes, social change, and a delicious helping of scandal. This year, at its 100th anniversary, with young love brewing, old flames simmering and national media attention on hand...what would dare go awry? Tickets available at the

MFAC Ticket Office. Visit murphyfineartscenter.org for show times.

Dance:

- November 7 – 9, 7:30 p.m., Gilliam Concert Hall, **Dorothy P. Stanley Modern Dance Festival.** An annual showcase of modern dance ensembles from the region. Hosted by MSU Modern Dance Ensemble, Dr. Charles Carter, Director. Tickets available at the MFAC Ticket Office.



MSU Marching Band. Photo courtesy of the MFAC.

Music:

- December 6, 4 p.m., Gilliam Concert Hall, **The Marching Band Show, "The Magnificent Marching Machine"** (aka, The Morgan State University Marching Band), directed by Melvin N. Miles, Jr. presents its annual showcase of high-stepping choreography, inspired showmanship, and great music. It's like a parade, only it's INSIDE! Tickets available at MFAC Ticket Office.
- December 14, 4 p.m., Gilliam Concert Hall, **MSU Choir Annual Christmas Concert.** The sounds of the Holiday season are made even more beautiful when they are sung by the world renowned Morgan State University Choir. The concert, a perennial favorite, includes classical, gospel and traditional Holiday music with orchestral accompaniment. Tickets available at MFAC Ticket Office, President's Committee for the MSU Choir, and Ticketmaster.com.



MSU Choir Ovation. Photo courtesy of the MFAC.

The 2014/15 season at the **Everyman Theatre** (315 W. Fayette St.) includes:

- August 27– September 28, **The Understudy**, by Theresa Rebeck. "A masterpiece of comic clockwork" (Wall Street Journal) from the creator of TV's "Smash," "The Understudy" places the backstage tension of a frantic rehearsal in the spotlight. Meet Harry, the "real" actor who's just a tad bitter about his lot in the theatrical world — you see, he's just the understudy. The grossly overpaid, action movie star he's working with doesn't understand the play. The charmingly lovesick stage manager happens to be his ex. And the backstage technician appears to be high — oh it's just another day in the glamorous life of being the one who didn't quite make the cut! Will they ever pull the show together before curtain?
- October 15–November 16, **Grounded**, by George Brant. A sold-out hit in London, "Grounded" tells the story of a hot-rod F16 fighter pilot whose unexpected pregnancy ends her career in the skies over the Middle East. She finds herself instead flying remote-controlled drones half a world away while in a comfortable trailer just outside of Vegas. Her 12-hour shift now consists of staring at a grey-screen monitor targeting terrorists by day and playing dutiful wife and mother by night. Soon finding

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herself struggling to play her new dual roles, this intense and thought-provoking blend of the personal and political is a one-woman tour-de-force-performance.

- December 10–January 11, **Deathtrap**, by Ira Levin. World-famous thriller playwright Sidney Bruhl is suffering from a chronic case of writers' block. When one of his former students shows up at his doorstep with what might be the next Broadway hit, Sidney and his wife concoct a deadly plan to make the manuscript their own. Holding the record for the longest running comedy-thriller on Broadway, "Deathtrap" is filled with twists and turns in a series of thrilling events that will keep you guessing on the edge of your seat until the very last moment!

Tickets are available online at everymantheatre.org and at the Everyman Theatre box office from noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 410-752-2208.

Handel Choir of Baltimore is celebrating its 80th year of choral and choral-orchestral music-making in Baltimore! Subscriptions are now on sale for our 2014-2015 season concerts:

- December 13, 14, **Handel's Messiah**

- March 1, **Wild Roses** (Lauridsen, Brahms, Poulenc, Górecki).

- April 25, **Distant Bells** (Pärt, Handel, Vivaldi).

Subscriptions: \$115 Premium, \$88 Standard, \$25 Student (with ID). Purchase online at handelchoir.org or by calling 410-294-8074. ❖

Baltimore Children Making Change

by Leah Vey (age 10)

This summer, a group of children in North Baltimore did chores for charity through Our Children Making Change (OCMC). The national organization was founded by Laura Shapiro Dulac, who grew up in Mt. Washington and now lives in New Jersey. About 120 kids were on the OCMC Baltimore team, representing at least nine area schools. They raised money for the Maryland SPCA, Boys Hope Girls Hope, Birthday Box and My Sister's Circle.

Participating kids did many different activities to raise money. In June, my brothers and I, together with the Lewins and the Lunkins, had a yard sale and bake sale. Others kids in the area sold their own paintings and jewelry, mowed lawns, painted faces, babysat, and took care of pets for neighbors on vacation. As of this writing, a group of families are planning to have a backyard movie night.

Through OCMC, we all had fun raising money for good causes! ❖



James Vey, Nina Lewin, Talia Lunken and Leah Vey raising money for charity with a neighborhood yard and bake sale.

Photo: Sally Foster.

Call for Singers!

Handel Choir of Baltimore is holding auditions for community singers for its 80th anniversary 2014-2015 season. By appointment only.

Wednesday, September 3, 7-10 p.m.

Friday, September 5, 7-10 p.m.

Saturday, September 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The auditions will be held at Church of the Holy Comforter, 130 W Seminary Ave in Lutherville-Timonium.

To schedule an audition, please call 410-366-6544 and leave your name and daytime phone number.

Concert rehearsals: Monday nights 7:30 to 10 p.m., September 2014 to May 2015.

Visit handelchoir.org/auditions.htm for more information on audition preparation and the season's repertoire.

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Calendar & Announcements

The **Roland Park Civic League** meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church (4801 Roland Avenue). For more information, call the Civic League office at 410-464-2525.

Job Hunters Support Group meetings are held on Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at First Christian Church (5802 Roland Avenue). Participants are welcome to share ideas, challenges and spiritual support. A sandwich luncheon will be served. Call 410-435-1506 or visit baltimoredisciples.org.

The **Baltimore Police Department Northern District Community Council** meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at the Northern District Headquarters (2201 W. Cold Spring Lane). All members of the community are welcome. The Council maintains a liaison relationship between Council communities and the police, keeps Council neighborhoods informed of relevant measures that citizens can take to support police efforts to prevent or resolve criminal activity in the area, and establishes a network for effectively educating and sharing information on mechanisms for dealing with problems in Council neighborhoods. To receive updates on the Council via email, join the Yahoo group at groups.yahoo.com/group/northerncommunitycouncil.

Mechanical Street Cleaning: Odd sides of the streets will be swept on the 1st Wednesday of the month and even sides of the streets will be swept on the 2nd Wednesday of the month,

excluding city holidays. Please move your vehicle from the on-street parking lanes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on these days to enable the most thorough street sweeping. For more information or to check your schedule, call 311, or go to cityview.baltimorecity.gov.

Volunteer activities at **Robert E. Lee Park** are plentiful, including Habitat and Trail team outings on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Nature Council meets the third Wednesday of each month at the Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue in Towson at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please check the website for up-to-the-minute information on cancellations (<http://relpnc.org/>), or contact one of the committee chairs (listed on our website) to volunteer for one of the many projects needed to keep the park safe, clean and beautiful. Please pass this information along to family members, friends and neighbors.

Scoozi Restaurant at the Radisson Hotel, The Village of Cross Keys is offering ½ Price Pizza Nights every Tuesday, from 5 to 9 p.m. Please join us! ❖

Please submit information for this column to Newsletter@RolandPark.org.

Fall Events

Fall Events in the Roland Park Area include:

September 11, 7 to 9 p.m., Second Presbyterian Church, Smith Hall, 4200 Saint Paul Street, **The Roland Park Company Conversations Series with BNI - Maryland. Excluded from Paradise: Discriminatory Housing Policies in The Roland Park Company's Suburban Developments.** The ambitions and ideologies of those involved in developing The Roland Park Company District resulted in discriminatory housing practices. These practices functionally excluded most Baltimore City residents from this shining "new Baltimore." The talk and accompanying slideshow will illustrate the real life consequences for those excluded from the company's developments. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free, but space is limited. Advance registration required. Reserve your place with Ann Giroux at ann@anngiroux.com or 443-939-4023 by providing name, phone number and street address.

September 12, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **Fall Beauty in Baltimore.** Escorted by Kathy Hudson and Dickie Wyskiel, Kaleidoscope, Roland Park Country School. The mini coach departs from Roland Park Country School's Melrose Avenue parking lot at 5603 N. Charles Street. \$100, registration required. Please visit rpcs.org/pages/lifelong-learning/kaleidoscope-fall for more information.

September, 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Fall Fashion Fair.** The Village of Cross Keys will be hosting a Fall Fashion Fair complete with runway shows, special merchant sales, flower sales, and children's activities.

October 11, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., **FLO, Jr.'s Residential Communities: Guilford** with Ann G. Giroux. The Odyssey Program, Johns Hopkins University Center for Liberal Arts. Meet at Guilford's Gateway Park at the intersection of Greenway, St. Paul Street and University Parkway. Registration Required. Please visit odyssey.jhu.edu for more information.

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October 12, 1 to 3 p.m., **Guilford: The Golden Age of American Residential Development and Design** with Ann G. Giroux and David H. Gleason, FAIA, Kaleidoscope, Roland Park Country School. Meet at Guilford's Gateway Park at the intersection of Greenway, St. Paul Street and University Parkway. Registration Required. Please visit rpcs.org/pages/lifelong-learning/kaleidoscope-fall for more information.

The Woman's Club of Roland Park (4500 Roland Avenue) announces their **2014-2015 Speakers Series**. The Club is a group of over 400 women, who meet weekly from October to May for lectures on topics including art, drama, literature, music, international affairs, education and health, gardens and legislation and civic affairs.

October 7, 7 p.m., **Stuart Rothenberg Election 2014 & Beyond: A Look at the State of American Politics**. Stuart Rothenberg is editor and publisher of The Rothenberg Political Report, a non-partisan political newsletter covering U.S. House, Senate and gubernatorial campaigns, Presidential politics and political developments. He is also a columnist for *Roll Call*, Capitol Hill's premier newspaper. He has appeared on *Meet the Press*, *This Week*, *Face the Nation*, *The NewsHour* and *Nightline*, and served as an election night analyst for *The NewsHour* on PBS in the last three election cycles.

October 21, 7 pm., **Judge Katie O'Malley – Bullying Prevention**. Judge Catherine "Katie" O'Malley is married to Maryland's Governor Martin O'Malley. While serving as Assistant State's Attorney, Baltimore County, she handled many domestic violence cases. An advocate for victims' rights, Judge O'Malley has worked to end domestic violence by participating in centers, such as House

of Ruth. She is also a strong voice to end bullying. In 2011, Judge O'Malley partnered with Facebook and Time Warner to promote National Bullying Prevention Month, held in October. O'Malley will talk about this issue and open the floor to questions and conversation with the audience.

November 4, 7 p.m., **Al Spoler – The History of Maryland Wine**. Al Spoler is one of Baltimore's best-known wine commentators. He is the co-host of WYPR's *Cellar Notes*, and also co-hosts Radio Kitchen. Spoler has a strong interest in the wines of his home state, Maryland, where he is deeply involved in promoting this new wine region. Spoler will discuss our winemaking history from colonial times to the present. By overcoming substantial difficulties, our wine makers have built a thriving agricultural industry producing top-flight vintages.

December 9, 7 p.m., **Anirban Basu – Back to the Future II**. Anirban Basu is Chairman & CEO of Sage Policy Group, Inc., an economic and policy consulting firm in Baltimore. Basu is one of the Mid-Atlantic region's most recognizable economists, in part because of his consulting work on behalf of numerous clients, including prominent developers, bankers, brokerage houses, energy suppliers and law firms. He also hosts WYPR's *Morning Economic Report*. Basu currently lectures at Johns Hopkins University on international and urban economics. He will give a detailed update on the performance of the global, national, and regional economy, including trends in financial, real estate, energy and labor markets.

All programs are free, but seating is limited. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the Woman's Club of Roland Park at 410-889-0760. Tax-deductible donations to the Woman's Club of Roland Park Foundation, Inc. would be appreciated.



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Roland Avenue Repaving Project: Latest News

by **Chris McSherry, President, Roland Park Civic League**

As the Department of Transportation's (DOT) orange barrels and heavy equipment arrived in late June, we all waited with great anticipation for the start of the Roland Avenue repaving project, a \$3.9 million plan that will greatly improve traffic safety in our neighborhood.

Here's what we can expect to see from August through the end of October.

- The driveway into Bryn Mawr School from Northern Parkway is being reconstructed to line up with the Gilman driveway. This work started on June 23 and marks the first phase of the project.
- Gilman's driveway from Northern Parkway will also be under construction through October.
- The light poles and the signal work for the new traffic light on Northern Parkway between Gilman and Bryn Mawr will be completed.
- 13 trees will be removed from the Northern Parkway median to allow for the new turn lanes into Gilman and Bryn Mawr.
- The contractor has already removed 13 trees and shrubs in the median of Roland Avenue at the entrance to Gilman to allow for the new left-turn lane. Unfortunately, a total of 55 trees or shrubs will have to be removed during the entire construction project, but many of these are in poor health or leaning precariously. All

will be replaced and a total of 148 new trees planted.

- The left-turn lane from southbound Roland Avenue into Gilman will be constructed and a new traffic signal installed.
- The concrete curb and gutter work along Roland Avenue, extending from Northern Parkway to Beechdale Road, will take place between August and October.
- The contractor aims to start the Roland Avenue milling and complete the base repairs by the end of November. This work will extend from Northern Parkway to Wyndhurst Avenue.

Please note that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is also working on the neighborhood's sewer lines. In July, they completed the first section of the sewer line work on Roland Avenue, from Deepdene Road moving north past Roland Park Elementary/Middle School. The second section, from Deepdene Road moving south to Beechdale Road, should be finished by September. The DPW aims to complete these essential repairs before the roads are repaved, and we thank them for coordinating this project with the DOT.

The DOT will be holding regular status update meetings, attended by Civic League representatives. To receive the latest news, please sign up for the Civic League's e-letters and the community listserv at rolandpark.org.

While we are all bound to face some frustrations with the construction work, the new "complete streets" will ultimately improve our quality of life. Roland Avenue will be smoother, safer, and more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. In addition, more of the school traffic will stay on Northern Parkway, instead of going through our neighborhood. To use a popular British phrase, let's "Keep Calm and Carry On" over the coming months! ♦

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Home Sales

(May through July)

List Price	Closing Price	
302 Edgevale Rd.	\$825,000	\$800,000
419 Hawthorne Rd.	\$699,000	\$699,000
505 Hawthorne Rd.	\$695,000	\$695,000
4709 Keswick Rd.	\$534,900	\$570,000
4805 Keswick Rd.	\$450,000	\$445,000
21 Merrymount Rd.	\$838,500	\$765,000
501 Overhill Rd.	\$790,000	\$765,000
104 Ridgewood Rd.	\$995,000	\$995,000
4906 Roland Ave.	\$899,900	\$850,000
835 W. University Pkwy.	\$599,000	\$600,000
4212 Wickford Rd.	\$419,000	\$419,000
206 Woodlawn Rd.	\$695,000	\$685,000
302 Woodlawn Rd.	\$889,875	\$895,000

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Information provided by **Daniel Motz**, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, (410) 235-4100 (office), (443) 415-3160 (cell), dmotz@cbmove.com.

Natural Selections: Fall Events at Cylburn Arboretum

Cylburn Arboretum

(4915 Greenspring Avenue) is a 207-acre, nature preserve and public garden located in northwest Baltimore. The property takes its name from the Civil War-era mansion, which was once the private estate of industrialist Jesse Tyson. The house, designed by Baltimore City Hall architect George Aloysius Frederick, was completed in 1888. Now it is home to the Cylburn Arboretum Association and the Horticultural Division of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. This partnership has preserved and protected the Arboretum as a place of beauty and open space for more than half a century.

Cylburn has an extensive and expanding collection of trees and shrubs, including groves of magnolias, hollies, conifers and Japanese maples. The grounds include 13,000 square feet of greenhouse space, more than three miles of walking trails, wildflowers and natural habitats. The grounds are open to the public from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

Fall events include:

September 12 and 13, **Cylburn Campout**, 6 p.m. to 10 a.m., Mansion. Designed as a first or early camping experience for



Ar-BOO!-retum, a fun Halloween treat for families! Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum.



Cylburn Mansion at Halloween. Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum.

families, the Cylburn campout will be an evening of fun nature activities and socializing with friends. Explore some trails by moonlight, look for and identify moths, grill dinner, make

s'mores, sleep under the stars, and wake up and have breakfast with friends. Please bring tents, bedding and flashlights for your family. If needed, arrangements for borrowing tents may be possible. Email lili.levy@cylburnassociation.org with questions. Children must be under adult supervision at this program. Tickets include snacks, dinner and breakfast, plus fun programming! \$20 per person, \$75 for a family of four, \$90 for a family of five.

October 25, **Ar-BOO!-retum**, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Mansion. Returning

for its second year, ArBOOretum is a fun Halloween event for families! Explore a decorated mansion, make Halloween crafts and travel along a trick or treat trail keeping an eye out for nocturnal creatures! Wear your costume and participate in a costume parade. Food, beer and wine will be for sale at the event, non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Contact lili.levy@cylburnassociation.org if you would like to submit a pumpkin to the contest. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. ❖



Thank You

Many thanks to the following neighborhood businesses and individuals for donating to our latest new neighbor welcome baskets:

Greg Otto & Kathy Hudson

Atelier Salon

Chow Mein Charlies

Eddie's of Roland Park

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Little Lamb Consignments/Stony Run Teen

Miss Shirley's Café

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Forgotten and Surprising Neighbors

by Chris Cortright, Plat 4

Moving to our new house on Somerset Road last year was, needless to say, a very busy time. It took a lot of work for us to settle in and make the place our own. It was also a lot of fun, as my family learned more about the new area, met new neighbors, and jogged down the streets and paths.

And we did some exploring. As a history buff, I am drawn to uncovering stories about the past in the places I happen to live, travel, or work, so I started researching our new home and its vicinity as soon as I could. The late 1800s and early 1900s are particularly interesting to me, so I hoped to uncover as many facts and surprises as I could find.

A new addition

Built in the early 1920s, our home is a relatively new addition to Roland Park. I learned from the 1924 and 1929 *Polk City Directory* at the Maryland Historical Society (MHS) that the first owner of our house, William Staub, was a vice president of United Railways (which went out of business in the 1930s). I also discovered (from the "ProQuest" database online) that his wife, one Helen Kinsman Elphinstone, was president of the Maryland Society for

the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) during the 1930s and was a founder and president of the "Women's Ritchie-for-Governor League." Other family's names appeared in the records for our house, including Polk, Walker, Devlin, and Chambliss, and we appear to be the seventh family to live there.

Because our house was somewhat of a youngster, I got curious about what came before. Looking at the 1898 Bromley map posted on the *Roland Park: Then and Now* webpage, I could see that not only was our block of Somerset not yet built then, but there were some structures north of the intersection of Somerset Road and Kittery Lane, referred to as an estate called "Wilton." The main house of the estate was also marked on an earlier map dating from 1877. I asked the MHS reference librarian, Francis O'Neill, to research the villa, and he created new indexes with the information he



St. Mary's Orphanage.

Courtesy, Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise Archives, Emmitsburg, Maryland

discovered:

"A small country seat west of Kittery Lane on the south side of Cold Spring Lane owned until his death by Baltimore safe manufacturer

Luke Hitchcock Miller (1828-1894). At his death, it passed to his widow Mrs. Caroline A. (Whipple) Miller (1835-1911) and at her death to their only child Mrs. Caroline Whipple (Miller) Holmes (1855-circa 1922) wife of Edward Abbott Holmes (1867-1911). Wilton Villa was probably incorporated into St. Mary's (No. 701 West Cold Spring Lane) from which it seems to originally have come." ¹



The great pavilion and playground.

Courtesy, Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise Archives, Emmitsburg, Maryland

'A beautiful wedding'

At the turn of the twentieth century, Wilton Villa was occupied by Caroline Whipple Miller and her husband, Captain Edward Abbott Holmes, a popular officer who participated in the Spanish American War and was commander of Company H, Fifth Regiment Infantry, Maryland National Guard. In June 1913, their daughter's wedding took place on the porch of Wilton Villa, which was "almost entirely enclosed in red rose bushes in full bloom."

A *Baltimore Sun* article, dated June 14, 1913, describes the wedding in an almost Gatsby-esque fashion: "An interesting feature of the wedding was the attendance of orphans from St. Mary's

¹Incidentally, the name "Cold Spring Lane" appears to have been named for the springs in the Govans and Homeland areas, whose artificial lakes are sourced from multiple springs.

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Orphanage attired in spotless white and strewing roses in the path and singing songs of well wishes. They followed the couple from the altar to a beautiful wedding bell suspended from two oaks trees, perhaps the oldest in Roland Park.... The couple left in a heavy downpour of rice for Atlantic City.”

A forgotten neighbor

What was St Mary's Orphanage, I wondered? Another forgotten neighbor, as it turns out, was the “St. Mary's Female Orphan Asylum,” later known simply as “St. Mary's Villa.” Looking across our backyard toward the Symphony Manor and Roland Springs developments, you cannot find a trace of either Wilton Villa or St. Mary's Orphanage. Yet, in its day, the orphanage's building

was an imposing structure described as a “handsome, rugged stone house – a brown and grey castle,” a description confirmed by an old photo of the Gothic stone edifice that was home to thousands of children from 1889 to 1960. The photo reveals a tall chimney in the background used for the orphanage's



The children's playroom at St. Mary's.

Courtesy, Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise Archives, Emmitsburg, Maryland

power plant.

Prior to 1890, the orphanage was located on Park Street in downtown Baltimore, and called the “Saint Mary's Orphaline School.” Founded in 1818 by a French order of nuns known as the St. Vincent de Paul Daughters (or sometimes Sisters) of Charity, the Orphaline School expanded into buildings on Franklin, Eutaw and Fayette streets, as the order responded to the city's growing population and the ensuing need to care for parentless children and children who could not be supported by their families.

‘Smiling acres of green’

St Mary's was relocated to Roland Park when a successful Protestant furniture merchant, named Thomas Hanson, donated some land in 1886. A description in a pamphlet from 1918 depicts the new location in lyrical terms: “20 smiling acres of green and fruitful land where old Cold Spring Lane comes out to greet and intersect the modern Roland Avenue at the very entrance of Roland Park's noble settlement.”

The booklet's introduction further portrays the orphanage as a cheerful place: “Two hundred happy girl children, heart-free in their innocent pastimes, earnest in the studies, joyous in their daily tasks, cheerful even in their juvenile troubles...” The children were managed “under the kindly and sympathetic yet punctilious Sisters of Charity.”

Symphony's surprise

In 1926, “Kirkleigh Villa,” a retirement home for women of moderate means, was added on the southwest corner of the property. Built with a gift of \$150,000 from Elizabeth Jenkins of Baltimore, the Daughters of Charity managed the home until 1966, when it was purchased by the Society of Mary (the Marianists), also as a retirement home. In 2008, the site was sold to F.M. Harvey Construction Company, which developed the present Symphony Manor.

By the late 1950s, the Archdiocese had concluded that its Catholic charities would function better if they were physically consolidated on the Dulaney Valley Road campus in Baltimore County. The orphanage was summarily vacated, and the St. Mary's Villa land sold to developers, who turned it into the gated Roland Spring Community on the east, while building the Roland Heights Condominiums on the west side.



Learning to sew.

Courtesy, Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise Archives, Emmitsburg, Maryland

All neighborhoods have a history, and ours is one with a fascinating combination of forgotten stories and remarkable surprises. As we settle into our new place, I hope to continue to uncover and share more. ♦

Many thanks to archivist Carole Prietto of the Daughters of Charity for her gracious help and Mr. Francis O'Neill of the Maryland Historical Society. Also a big thank you to fellow Plat 4 residents Andy deMuth and Rob Blanchard for their enthusiasm and interest in our neighborhood's surprising and almost forgotten history, and Doug Munro, Then and Now Editor, www.rolandpark.org.

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Sweet Potato Bisque with Maple Cream and Toasted Pecans

Miss Shirley's Cafe

Serves 6-8 people

- 1 lb. carrots peeled and diced
- 3 lbs. sweet potatoes peeled and diced
- ½ white onion, diced
- 2 whole cloves of garlic
- 1 stick (4 oz.) unsalted butter
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. ground nutmeg
- ¼ cup + 1 T. maple syrup
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 cup pecan pieces
- Salt and pepper to taste

Place carrots, sweet potatoes, garlic and onion in a large pot. Cover



with water and sprinkle with salt. Bring to a boil and simmer until all ingredients are soft.

Purée the softened vegetables in a blender in small batches, combining with the butter, brown sugar, ¼ cup maple syrup, heavy cream, cinnamon and nutmeg. Blend until smooth and add more water if the soup is too thick. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

In a separate bowl, mix sour cream and 1 T. maple syrup until well incorporated. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and toast pecans for 2-3 minutes, taking care not to burn them.

Place soup in bowls, drizzle with maple cream and sprinkle with toasted pecans. ♦

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All Aboard to Acorn Hill at Robert E. Lee Park!

By Nancy Worden Horst

Acorn Hill, a children's creative play area in Robert E. Lee Park, opened on June 18 to great shrieks of delight. The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured County Executive Kevin Kamenetz doing the honors, while other elected officials, construction workers, parents, grandparents and Nature Council volunteers joined in the celebration.

"I've never seen a public works project turn out so aesthetically pleasing," said Kamenetz, referring to the refurbishment of Robert E. Lee Park. "[The view] is just breathtaking." He said what began as a "kind of a dream . . . has become a fantastic amenity" for Baltimore.

Following Kamentz' remarks, Helga Morrow was presented with a Baltimore County Council resolution congratulating the Nature

Council's Acorn Hill

Committee for their work in planning the new children's play area. Helga and Gail Stetten, together with the late Peter Maloney, first president of the Nature Council, envisioned a place where children could learn through imaginative play.

Various play stations with names such as 'Hollins Station', 'Jones Cabin', 'Mine Company' and 'B & S RR' reflect the rich history of the Park, with its railroad, mines, reservoir and mills. The stations contain structures for climbing, swinging, exploring and balancing, and are designed for children to learn while having fun.

Acorn Hill features picnic and quiet areas, a butterfly hatchery, bird sanctuary and spaces for art projects and theater productions. A 'critter



Opening Day at Acorn Hill in Robert E. Lee Park — fun in the sun for everyone! Photo: Hord | Coplan | Macht.

path' has been created nearby where children can discover the rich diversity of animal life in and under dead logs, and learn about protecting animal and plant habitats.

The Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council is offering many programs this fall that emphasize environmental conservation and exploration of animal and plant habitats — child friendly doses of learning in the guise of great fun! See p. 14 for more information.

Robert E. Lee Park is easily accessed by public transportation; a scenic walk along the boardwalk leads directly into the Park from



Zachary Cheng and Amelia Auvil sell tickets to the train at Acorn Hill's 'Hollins Station' in Robert E. Lee Park. Photo: Susan King-Byrne, Master Naturalist.

Fun! Great Outdoors! Prizes!

Have an adventure in your own backyard with Baltimore County Nature Quest. Pick up your Nature Quest Passport booklet at participating parks, online at relpnc.org/nature-quest or at your local Wegmans grocery store. Passports will direct participants to hiking, biking, and canoeing opportunities at the County's nature sites, where questers can record their visit in the Passport. Complete just five trails to earn prizes and free admission to Quest Fest at Robert E. Lee Park, October 18, 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information, please visit relpnc.org/nature-quest or call 410-887-4156.



the Falls Road light rail stop. Drivers can use the aforementioned light rail parking lot or park in the designated lot just past the Lake Roland dam.

Come explore Acorn Hill with your children, grandchildren or young friends and take a magical trip through this scenic Park. ❖



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Fall Highlights at Robert E. Lee Park

September 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., **Camp Fire Cooking 101**. Enjoy time around the campfire while learning techniques and recipes for campfire cooking. Create and sample several recipes and conclude the evening by creating your own campfire dessert. Ages 8 and up, \$5 per person.

September 13, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., **The Battle of Baltimore: The Homefront**. Enlist to help the home front during the Battle of Baltimore! Learn about the battle, see a historic weapon demonstration and participate in a race against time to make black powder for the front line defenses. Ages 7 and up, \$3 per person (\$2 members).

September 20, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., **Nature Quest Canoe Trip**. Enjoy canoeing on the lake while searching for the Nature Quest marker. Call or email to reserve a canoe. Ages 8 and up, \$10 per person (\$8 members).

Tuesdays beginning September 23, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. or Thursdays beginning September 18, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Nature Scouts**. Rangers will teach children important outdoor skills, including whistle with grass, build a miniature boat, go fishing, construct a shelter, build a fire, and much more! Ages 6 – 12, \$25 for all six sessions (\$20 members).

September 26, 7:00 p.m. to September 27, 9:00 a.m. (Rain date: September 27 to September 28), **Fall Campout**. Experience the forest night life with this family campout. Rangers will lead the group on a night hike and end the evening with a campfire. Bring dinner on Friday or food to cook over the fire; Saturday breakfast

will be provided. Bring your own tent, or call 410-887-4156 to rent one. All ages, \$5 per person (\$3 members).

September 27, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., **Introduction to Geocaching**. Looking for a fun, family-friendly way to exercise both mind and body? Try geocaching, the fast-growing sport that's akin to a modern-day treasure hunt. We'll explain geocaching basics and find caches located right here in the park. When registering, please note if you will need to reserve one of the GPS units. All ages, free.

September 28, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., **Serpentine Nature Quest Hike**. Hike on the back trails to the globally rare serpentine barrens and collect your serpentine Nature Quest rubbing along the way. See the last page or the park website for more information. Ages 8 and up, free. Trail surface: packed dirt, with rocky incline. Difficulty: moderate.

October 4, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., **Canoe and Kayak Tour**. Bring your own canoe or kayak for a ranger-led paddle around Lake Roland. Explore the length of the lake looking for wildlife and learning about the history of Baltimore's first public reservoir. All participants must wear a life jacket and those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 8 and up, free.

October 17, November 4 or December 29, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., **School's Out Days**. Looking for something fun to do? Unplug the kids and let them spend the day at the park! Bring lunch, snack and water. Ages 6-12, \$25 per child, per day.

October 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Quest Fest**. All Ages, FREE with Quest completion. Be sure to complete at least five trails in your Nature Quest booklet for free admission to this exciting event. Quest Fest features live animals, canoeing, archery, face painting and tours of the dam at Lake Roland.

October 24, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., **Haunted Hall Zombie Scavenger Hunt**. Try to escape the zombies as you collect items at stations along our trail. Candy for all participants, and prizes for the quickest "survivor." Not for the faint of heart! Bring a flashlight and fast shoes. Ages 12 & up, \$10 per person (\$7 members).

October 25, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Rain date: October 26), **Haunted Halloween Hike**. Encounter witches, owls, snakes and others as you try to solve a Halloween mystery. Bring your flashlight and treat bag to this scary event. Costumes welcome! Ages 5-12, \$7 per person (\$5 members).

November 1, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m., **History Walk**. Learn about the history of the park, which includes railroads, mining, wars and more. This two hour walk begins at the dam. Ages 8 and up, free.

November 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., (Rain date: November 15), **Stories Around the Campfire**. Gather around the campfire to hear stories and learn about the art of storytelling. Feel free to bring a short story or instrument. Ages 5 and up, \$3 per person (\$2 members).

November 22 or November 23, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., **Pioneer Days**. Come build miniature log cabins, create corn husk dolls, play colonial games and dip your own candles to learn how early American pioneers lived. Ages 6 and up, \$5 per person (\$3 members).

November 29 or November 30, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., **Wreath Making**. Make a decorative wreath from natural materials such as pine, spruce, and holly. We'll have everything you need to make a masterpiece and brave the cold inside the ranger station, including hot chocolate, cookies, and holiday tunes! Ages 14 and up, \$10 per person.

More fall programs may be found at relpnc.org. Registration is limited and required for all programs. Please call 410-887-4156 or email releepark-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov to register. ♦



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Broadband Campaign Spreads City Wide After Strong Support in North Baltimore

by Philip Spevak

Our grass roots campaign to bring faster, more competitive internet services to Baltimore through fiber optic cable has expanded citywide. In Roland Park alone, over 300 individuals have joined the campaign, surpassing our goal of 238 (20% of occupied residential units). Actions speak loudly as we show how strongly we want to change the existing monopoly and enable faster internet services. If you have not yet joined, please do so at RolandPark.org.

We are working on many fronts to reach out to commercial and institutional stakeholders and our elected officials. The campaign's success depends on strong partnerships, so we continue to explain the essential elements and answer common questions.

Two common questions are: how is fiber different from cable (Comcast) or DSL (Verizon) and why is fiber deployment critical to our campaign? Fiber optic cables contain small flexible glass strands over which data travels as light. Fiber can be deployed above or below ground. Comcast uses coaxial cable, which you see connecting to your television. DSL uses standard copper phone lines. Both coaxial and copper send data as radiofrequency signals



competition for high speed internet services. Comcast owns their cable, but fiber will open the market to new internet providers.

Other important questions are: how, where and when we see fiber deployment occurring? Our campaign is citywide and inclusive; we believe fiber should be deployed to all Baltimore neighborhoods and should occur with every city utility and work project along major corridors. Currently 20-40% of Baltimore residents do not connect to the internet and we believe that internet access is a necessity in today's world.

Fiber deployment is not one-plan-fits-all, however. We understand that fiber is expensive and use our Crowdfunding campaign to demonstrate the size and patterns of potential market demand. Where demand is sufficiently strong, we favor immediate fiber deployment; where market demand is less strong, fiber could extend along corridors (so-called middle mile) and then connect to individual homes and businesses (so-called last mile) with high-speed wireless. ♦

Please talk up the campaign with friends and colleagues throughout Baltimore. Follow on Twitter [@BaltBroadband](https://twitter.com/BaltBroadband) or at Facebook.com/BaltimoreBroadband. For more information, please email BaltimoreBroadband@gmail.com.

Currently, fiber carries data between 20-50 times faster than coaxial cable and typically greater than 100 times faster than DSL.

rather than light. Currently, fiber carries data between 20-50 times faster than coaxial cable and typically greater than 100 times faster than DSL. Imagine you wanted to rapidly fill a pool and could choose a fire hose (analogous to fiber), a garden hose (cable) or an eye dropper (DSL). As data transmission requirements continue to increase, fiber is the future. Fiber deployment also increases

Welcome New Neighbors!

Katherine Embry & Thomas Webb, 3820 Beech Ave.

Christopher McCormick & Stephanie Turner, 302 Edgevale Rd

Eleanor Frias & Samuel Robfogel, 609 Edgevale Rd.

Kathleen Griffith & Jeffrey Martin, 120 Hawthorne Rd.

Charles & Marie Brown, 419 Hawthorne Rd.

Shawn Mudd, 4709 Keswick Rd.

David Carey & Sarah Johnson, 4805 Keswick Rd.

Robert Lieberman and Lauren Osborne, 104 Ridgewood Rd.

Deforest & Amy S. Freed, 4906 Roland Ave.

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Finishing Olmsted's Masterpiece

Continued from page 1

History of the BCC Land

In 1896, Edward H. Bouton, a Kansas City developer, was hired by a British group of investors to develop Roland Park. Bouton subsequently hired George Kessler, a Kansas City engineer, and later the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, to help design the new community. Early advertising contrasted Roland Park's cool breezes and closed sewers with the inner city, but Bouton did not want residents to be isolated from downtown. He created a trolley system connecting Roland Avenue to downtown Baltimore, and subsidized schools, churches and the Roland Park Shopping Center, one of the first off-street shopping centers in the United

Today, Roland Park is seen by architects, landscape architects and planners as one of the preeminent designs for planned communities in the United States.

States. Today, Roland Park is seen by architects, landscape architects and planners as one of the preeminent designs for planned communities in the United States.

Bouton's partnership with Frederick Olmsted Jr. is critical to understanding the neighborhood's development. Olmsted brought his love for green spaces into his private developments. Streets were designed to follow the natural topography and wind, so horse and rider, and later car and driver, would slow down and enjoy

the scenery. Planted triangles further slowed traffic and provided greenery.

Olmsted also believed in the need for public engagement in a community.

He created sidewalks and a system of footpaths between houses, so residents would be able to walk through the neighborhood and interact. He believed that public spaces and man's connection with each other and with nature were key features of a healthy community.

Despite Roland Park's many advantages, initial home sales were slow, so in 1898 Bouton changed development plans on 150 acres and designed a recreation club. He wanted a location at the center of the community where people could exercise, socialize and share a meal. Roland Park's golf course was one of the first in the country and these new attractions soon boosted home sales.

Bouton eventually sold the Club to its members and BCC leased the flagship clubhouse from the Roland Park Company until 1901 when it was purchased for \$60,000. The Club signed a lease for \$1,000 per year with an option to buy the golf club for \$500 per acre and in 1899, hosted the U.S. Open, the fifth Open in history.

With the addition of bowling alleys, four grass tennis courts and the acquisition of the Mount Washington Cricket Club, BCC ran smoothly until 1917 when, under the Baltimore City Annexation Act, Roland Park became part of the City. Club members resented the new taxes and were concerned about the occasional flooding from the Jones Falls onto the golf course. They began to look at a new location in the suburbs and eventually opened a new golf course in Baltimore County in 1926. The Club was in disarray, because the members worried about the status of the city location.

In 1960, Baltimore City purchased 37.5 acres from BCC for the Jones Falls Expressway and for the public high schools Poly and Western. In 1962, the remaining 65 acres were sold to the Rouse Company for the development of the Village of Cross Keys. The proceeds from this sale were used to build a second golf course and the new clubhouse at the Five Farms location in Baltimore County. The Club continued to use the Roland Park tennis courts, but the rest of the land was no longer used.


These tennis courts had been the site of the Maryland State and Middle Atlantic championships from 1905 through 1940. During the late 1930s and early 1940s the grass tennis courts at Roland Park were selected by the National Lawn Tennis Association to host the qualifying rounds for the Davis Cup matches. Wimbledon and Davis Cup Champions Jack Kramer, Gardner Mulloy, Budge Patty, Vic Seixas, Rod Laver and Billie Jean King all competed at BCC. Teams from Australia, Cuba, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the United States also participated. In 2007, the Club moved its tennis facilities to the county, and the land has not been used since.

Previous Interest in the BCC Land

In 1999, Friends School offered \$5.1 million dollars for 18.5 acres. The offer was accepted by the Club's leadership but rejected by a vote of the membership. Roland Park Country School also made an offer at that time. The Roland Park Civic League has made five



Photo: Anne Stuzin.



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offers but all have been rejected.

In 2008, the BCC leadership accepted an offer from Keswick Multi-Care, a nursing home, of \$12.5 million for 17.5 acres, subject to a zoning change. The Club's membership accepted the offer, but the Baltimore City Council appeared ready to reject the zoning change, and the offer was withdrawn in March of 2009.

The Greater Roland Park Master Plan

The Greater Roland Park community has carefully considered its vision for the future. In 2009, after the sale of the BCC property to Keswick fell through, neighborhood consensus led to the development of a Master Plan to inform the City and all interested parties of the community's vision for Greater Roland Park. This effort took two years, four major community workshops, 180 volunteers and thousands of hours. The 180-page document spells out numerous improvements to benefit the Greater Roland Park communities. The Baltimore City Planning Department has never in its history had an all-volunteer plan developed by a community. The Plan was approved by the City in the spring of 2011. The Baltimore Country Club also signed off on the Master Plan.

Public Funds

Possible sources of public funds to purchase the land may include the following:

1. Program Open Space (POS)

Funds are available from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to acquire land for public recreational use. According

to a 2007 Abell Foundation report, Baltimore City does not receive its share of these funds as they are continuously weighted toward the counties. Two POS grants of \$600,000 each were awarded for the improvements to Stony Run.

2. Maryland State Bonds

"Legislative initiatives are used to fund individual bond bill requests. Bond authorization bills filed by members of the General Assembly support specific local or non-State-owned capital projects. These projects include, but are not limited to, health facilities, historic preservation projects, museums, and sports and recreational facilities." Past State bond bills include the 2009 Bond Bill to Improve the Roland Park Fire Station (\$105,548) and the 2012 Bond Bill to Repair the Roland Water Tower (\$250,000).

3. Baltimore City Funds

While Baltimore City is financially strapped, especially when it comes to parks and recreation, there may be opportunities. The City contributed \$337,000 to the Roland Water Tower, for example, essentially donating the money they had set aside to demolish the building.

Federal funding programs are constantly changing, so our state legislators would be key to identifying funding sources.

Continued on page 19

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Green Corner: A Child's Eye View of Home Renovation

by Polly Bart and Sara Barnett

A child's scope can be limited to a few spaces — their bedroom, preschool or a grandparent's house. When these important spaces undergo changes, it may seem that their whole world is being turned upside down. While finalizing the project's details may seem to be the top priority, keeping your children comfortable and happy during a home renovation is even more important.

There are several ways to achieve this, depending on the age and interests of the child. Children may be excited about the upcoming changes, or they may feel their home is just fine the way it is. Keeping kids involved and explaining the project in ways which make sense to them can turn a renovation into a fun and educational experience.

A good way to start is with a simple explanation of what is going to happen. If there are drawings, invite your children to explore the drawings with you. If you don't have drawings, make a sketch of your floor plan showing where the work will take place. Ask children if they can figure out where they are in the drawing.



Creating a herd of flying Galapagos tortoises.
Photo courtesy of Greenbuilders, Inc.

Older children can check measurements; younger children can treasure hunt to find different rooms in the house on the drawing. This exercise creates a spatial understanding of the project and encourages children to see the space as something which can be designed and changed.

To create a stronger sense of the project's time line, you or the contractor can make up a set of cards showing the various stages: demo, framing, rough in, flooring, painting, etc. Ask your kids to arrange the cards in the order they think the tasks will be completed. You can correct and explain. Once the project is ready to begin, ask your kids to document it with photos and notes, which they can share on social media or keep in a scrapbook.

During the project, there should be some opportunities for kids, under careful supervision, to participate in the construction. Use your judgment to determine what you are comfortable with, but remember that most kids can hold a paintbrush, remove a tile or apply a little spackle to drywall. Pick an area which will be covered later, or preserve the kids' work, as

you choose. We suggest two or three "workshops" for your kids, lasting no more than an hour, with assistance and constant supervision from both you and the onsite professionals.

How to keep inquisitive and energetic children safe, particularly when we are not onsite, is on the mind of every contractor. We find it best to proactively involve the whole family, because children will usually follow the rules if it's their project too. What are some examples of safe construction projects? We use Bonded Logic recycled blue jean insulation instead of fiberglass. It is safe, easy to handle and is installed by simply patting it into place between the joists. A young man doing that for his mother's new study will always feel a special pride in that room.

Small demolition projects, even pulling loose tiles off a wall, are always popular. Most kids will instantly drop their electronic gadgets if offered the chance to help demolish something!

Planning a project field trip is another great way to involve children. Selecting the plants for a green roof at Emory Knoll Farms (greenroofplants.com) is a Greenbuilders' favorite. One family drove to the facility where their countertops would be fabricated. While the adults helped lay out the countertops so the seams and quartz strips would be exactly right, the kids were given a tour of the facility by helpful staff members. A home renovation can provide excellent learning opportunities, and you and your



Small demolition projects are always popular!
Photo courtesy of Greenbuilders, Inc.



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Finishing Olmsted's Masterpiece

Continued from page 17

Possible Uses of the Property as of Right

The 17.5 acres at BCC are zoned R-1, so single-family homes, churches, schools and recreational facilities can be built there as of right, with no zoning change. It is estimated that up to 60 homes could be developed on the land. The Greater Roland Park Master Plan envisions a public community recreational park, as described above. Neighborhood private and public schools are also in need of more playing fields so it may be possible to allow them to rent fields. Interest in community gardens and/or orchards has also been expressed. All of these uses are covered under R-1 zoning.



Interest in community gardens and/or orchards has also been expressed.
Photo: Anne Stuzin.

Current and Prior Fundraising Efforts

In recent years, the Greater Roland Park community has repeatedly rallied to improve and maintain our area's assets.

When the Roland Park public library was threatened with demolition, the community raised \$5.1 million in public and private funding to enlarge and improve the historic building, and it was reopened in 2007. The Roland Park Firehouse, built in

1899, was in desperate need of renovations; again, residents rallied and raised \$185,000 in private and public funds to complete the renovations in 2012. This community has also raised \$837,000 in private and public funds toward the renovation of the Roland Water Tower and \$1.2 million in private and public funds towards improvements to Stony Run. With a similar commitment to this land purchase, we can create a new community recreational park.

At present, a core group from the community is focused on creating a successful bid to the Club.

This preparation includes researching the possible tax benefits of using conservation easements, as well as hiring tax advisors, landscape architects and legal counsel. The key is to determine a fair price for the land, as the Club has told us they cannot assist in financing the project. BCC has a fiduciary responsibility to its membership and real financial needs so they cannot offer the community a discount or donation. With more than a million dollars donated to date, however, the Club understands that Greater Roland Park is serious.

The opportunity to leave a permanent legacy to the next generation is once in a lifetime.

Many believe that Frederick Olmsted, Jr. was an artist whose greatest pieces are in

parks across the country. This is our chance to finish a piece of his canvas, by creating a park in his style in one of America's oldest planned communities. ♦

Green Corner

Continued from page 18

contractor can figure out the most appropriate trip for your kids' interests and level of attention.

In one of the sweetest kid collaboration moments we remember, we were called in to replace a child's bedroom ceiling that had gotten wet and fallen. Even after the work had been completed, the four-year-old was not entirely comfortable about staying in her room for the night. Together with her parents, we asked her if she would like to design a mural for her ceiling? She happily said yes and she and her sister collaborated on a simple drawing. Young naturalists, they insisted that the herd of flying tortoises they had drawn had to be tortoises, NOT turtles. This sent Greenbuilders to the dictionary, and lo, a herd of flying Galapagos tortoises cavorts on this youngster's ceiling. Needless to say, there was no question about her eagerness to spend her first night with her very own herd. Or would that be flock?

Greenbuilders, Inc. encourages child participation because they are part of the renovation story too. We want children to say "Oh, guess what I got to help with today?" or "I got to see how this was made!" Getting children excited about the changes to their home will not only expose them to new learning experiences but will keep them comfortable and secure in their home during the renovation. ♦

Polly Bart is owner and CEO of Greenbuilders, Inc., an eco-friendly general contracting firm. Please write pbart@greenbuilders.com or call (410) 833-4814 with your suggestions for this column and questions. Also visit www.greenbuilders.com for more information.

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i2 Camp at Bryn Mawr: Fun with STEM

by Heather Wilson, i2 Camp Director at Bryn Mawr and Upper School Science Teacher

This summer, The Bryn Mawr School welcomed i2 Camp (www.i2camp.org) to its Roland Park campus. A national network of hands-on summer enrichment programs, i2 Camp is designed to broaden middle school children's exposure to science, technology, engineering and math (the STEM fields) through project-based courses. Partnering with some of the world's leading scientific and academic institutions—including MIT, Stanford University, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the American Museum of Natural History—i2 Camp provides courses in a broad range of topics. The fun hands-on activities strive to excite and inspire campers about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their future years.

The boys and girls who participated in i2 Camp at Bryn Mawr had an amazing time! Campers in "Colonizing the Moon" designed and built a moon colony, while those in "Surgical Techniques" dissected sheep brains and learned how to suture. Students were able to see sound waves come to life in "The Science of Sound, Motion, and Music" and families witnessed the Robotics Sumo Wrestling Challenge at the weekly showcase. Meanwhile, campers in "Outbreak Alert!

Pandemic Response" designed model viruses to learn how virus particles enter cells. In the final weeks of the camp, students in "Pharmacology" tested various chemicals using see-through Casper fish and synthesized aspirin. These were just a few of the incredible experiences that i2 Camp offered to participants.



Campers in "Pharmacology" demonstrate a chemical reaction. Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr School.

Over the course of each week, boys and girls also participated in camp-wide activities that included building flying machines, egg drop engineering, popsicle stick chain reactions, and learning the chemistry of ice cream. They also heard from Dr. Noah Cowan, a professor at The Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering, about how studying the movement of animals can

translate into making better robots.

Overall, i2 Camp at Bryn Mawr offered inspiring and fun activities, and provided a chance for middle school students to imagine, innovate, investigate and inquire! ♦

\$8 Million Renovation Underway at Friends School

Friends School of Baltimore began an \$8 million renovation of its visual and performing arts spaces in June. The project will renew and transform the current Auditorium and educational classrooms, effectively matching the School's facilities to its high-quality performing and visual arts programs. Thanks to the generosity of



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A section rendition of the new visual and performing arts space. Photo courtesy of Friends School.

its leadership campaign donors, Friends is starting construction a full year ahead of schedule. Campaign gifts will also increase the School's endowment by \$10 million. For more information, visit friendsbalt.org/support/giving/capitalcampaigns. ♦



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Gardens for Learning at Roland Park Country School

by **Nancy Mugele, Assistant Head of School for External Relations**

At Roland Park Country School (RPCS) we use gardens to build lifelong learners and thinkers. The use of the exterior of our campus has increased considerably in recent years as the natural world has become very important to our students and teachers. A butterfly garden, a vegetable garden, an urban meadow, a green roof, and most recently, a rain garden, have been added to the outdoor environment, and efforts have included restoring the habitat around the building and in our Backwoods urban woodland in environmentally friendly ways.

The gardens afford us many opportunities for collaboration, creativity and understanding consequences, and they are integrated into the school's curriculum. Each garden is designed with specific learning goals in mind, and each help our community to learn about the benefits of plants in improving air quality, reducing



Photo courtesy of Roland Park Country School



Photo courtesy of Roland Park Country School

global warming, reducing storm water runoff and erosion and in helping humans stay healthy.

RPCS is recognized in the environmental education community as a school that

makes use of the outdoor areas of its campus and is part of a pilot project initiated by the Governor for schools to Explore and Restore their Schoolsheds. As part of this project, our students will be monitoring the Backwoods stream and carrying out an action project to improve watershed health on campus. RPCS has received a grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust to support this work.

A brief overview of the outdoor classrooms follows:

1. The native meadow at RPCS teaches our school community the importance of native plants as food for wildlife including the birds, bees and butterflies. Meadows help protect local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay by controlling storm water runoff and erosion.
2. The rain garden designed and built by the Sixth Grade includes native plants. Rain gardens capture runoff and rain water so the water will not pull sediment or pollution into bodies of water like the bay by using a system of berms, or small hills, in a low or bowl shaped area.
3. Food-based gardening begins in the First Grade. Students plant seeds indoors in February. After observing and nurturing the growth of the seedlings, they are planted into the raised beds in the Lower School Playground area. When the spring vegetables are harvested, summer plants go into the beds. In the fall students harvest tomatoes, peppers, basil and many other vegetables, and prepare for a feast.

4. The RPCS Butterfly Garden was established in 2005 to attract Monarch butterflies. By planting native perennials that are used for nectar and host plants for caterpillars, we increased the habitat for Monarchs. The garden is registered with Monarch Watch as a certified Monarch Waystation.



Photo courtesy of Roland Park Country School

5. The RPCS Athletic Complex includes a living green roof that helps to sustain the environment in many ways. It absorbs and filters rain water and reduces storm water runoff and erosion. It also provides habitat for native plants and wildlife. By absorbing radiant energy, it helps to insulate the building, reducing our energy needs and our carbon footprint.
6. Students of all ages study and explore the ecology, geology and aesthetic beauty of the five-acre urban woodland on our campus known as the Backwoods.

We welcome you to visit our learning gardens. Please call 410-323-5500 to schedule your tour. ❖



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No Summer Slowdown at Gilman School

by Deborah Baum, Public Relations and Social Media Manager, Gilman School

There's no such thing as a summer slowdown at Gilman School.

In fact, with hundreds of students taking part in Gilman Summer courses, athletic offerings, and Gilman's outreach programs, there are nearly as many kids on campus in the summer months as there are in a typical school day.

More than 70 of those students, hailing from Baltimore City Public Schools, took part in two separate programs with the same goal: combating summer learning loss. The initiatives, Baltimore Independent School Learning Camp and Bridges, begin after second and third grade, respectively, and the long term programs have kids coming back year after year.

Gilman has hosted the **Baltimore Independent School Learning Camp** since 1977 with Gilman's Lower School Admissions Coordinator Jane Bartlett running the program for the last 25 years. For four weeks, teachers from Bryn Mawr, Calvert, Gilman, and Roland Park Country School lead 49 rising third, fourth, and fifth graders in reading, writing, computer classes, and French, along with some martial arts and swimming instruction.



Combating summer learning loss at the Baltimore Independent Schools Learning Camp. Photo courtesy of Gilman School

"This is a program that intervenes at a critical point in their educational experience to encourage these young students to stay on track," said Bartlett. "We may not be able to change a student's academic course in a matter of four weeks, but we provide a positive learning experience and that's something that sticks with them."

The camp also features cultural and recreational programs, including field trips to the Baltimore Museum of Art, Fort McHenry, Hampton House, and a boat ride on the Chesapeake Bay, to name a few.



Campers honed their swimming skills while having fun! Photo courtesy of Gilman School

"Just having a playground and unstructured play is new to some of these kids. Learning Camp is a great place where they just get to be kids," said Andrew Holt, Gilman's Lower School reading specialist and Learning Camp co-director.

New to Gilman this year is **Bridges**, a program founded in 1993 at St. Paul's School, which similarly works with Baltimore City youth. Students enter Bridges in the summer before fourth grade and the cohort attends five-week institutes each summer until ninth grade. Bridges organizes weekly tutoring and guidance throughout the school year, and continues the relationship with its high school students through a Fellows program, which offers SAT preparation, paid summer jobs, and scholarship opportunities, among other things.

This summer, 24 rising fourth and fifth graders took over part of Gilman's Upper School for daily classes in language arts, math, art, and sports and enjoyed field trips and community building activities on weekly themes, such as Outdoor Week, Baltimore Week, and Giving Back. And yes, they had nightly homework.

"The academic program is designed to be challenging and liberating at the same time," said Ned Harris, Gilman's Academic Dean and Bridges leader. "It's challenging in that it asks our students to be prepared each day for class, to achieve high levels of organization, and to absorb new skills and content. And it's liberating because they are not tied to a rote curriculum or to standardized testing. For many of them, this is their first experience with learning for learning's sake, and it's obvious that they are excited about it and fully engaged."

The young students aren't the only ones benefitting from these summer learning programs. In all, 12 Gilman students, plus others from Bryn Mawr, Friends, and RPCS, worked as mentors for Bridges and Learning Camp, assisting in classrooms, tutoring students, and serving as role models for the campers. Three Gilman teachers and a recent graduate also served on the Bridges staff.

Harris says the campers, student volunteers, teachers, and program organizers develop a real closeness during the summer months; likely, relationships that will continue for many years. "It's a pleasure to be a part of this, provide a sense of family for these students, and welcome them to a community that will be a source of strength and support for them during a critical time in their development." ♦



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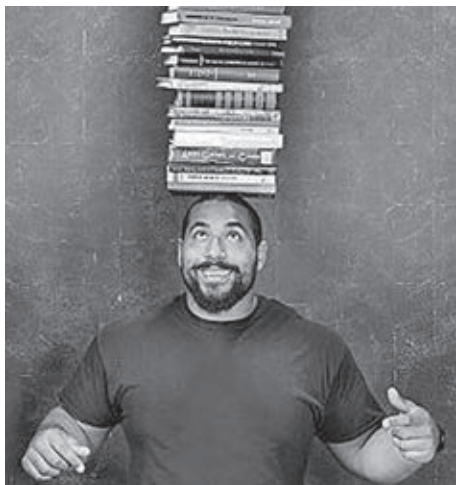
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Ravens Rookie and Math Genius John Urschel Teams Up with Mathnasium of Roland Park

by Jim Trexler

When Penn State graduate and 2014 NFL prospect John Urschel tried out for his middle school football team, he didn't make it. It wasn't that his skills were lacking, it was just that his head was too big. And no, it wasn't the stereotypical "big head" you might normally associate with a standout athlete. It was just literally too big. No helmet would fit.

If we determined our sports superstars based on a combination of sports skills and academic prowess, John Urschel would be the



John Urschel Photo courtesy John Urschel

undisputed #1 pick in this year's NFL draft. In addition to being selected as a first-team All-Big Ten guard, he recently completed both bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics at Penn State, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. As a senior, he won the William V. Campbell Trophy, presented by the National Football Foundation to the nation's top football scholar-athlete, and this month he became the 84th annual Sullivan Award winner for the top

Mathnasium will hold a free special event on September 27, from 2-3:30 p.m. with Urschel sharing his insights on math and balance in life. He will also sign autographs and pose for photos.

amateur athlete in the country, joining past big-name winners Peyton Manning, Tim Tebow, Michael Phelps and Michelle Kwan. If that wasn't impressive enough, during his last year at Penn State he taught a trigonometry class to undergraduates while fulfilling all his obligations to his team and also published a paper, "Instabilities of the Sun-Jupiter-Asteroid Three Body

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Photos: Gabby DiPietro and Sally Foster



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The Book Nook

by Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

Welcome to the Book Nook. Now that everyone is well-rested from the summer holidays, I'd like to issue an invitation to one and all to our adult Fall programs.

Saturday, September 13, 2:00 p.m.,
Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi,
GI Brides

Bestselling authors of *The Sugar Girls*, Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi have returned with a compelling tale of the GI brides of World War II, the British women who became smitten with American GIs and traveled to the U.S. to become their wives. The personal stories of Sylvia, Margaret, Gwendolyn and Rae illuminate the journey of war brides who found themselves in a foreign culture thousands of miles away from family and friends, with men they hardly knew. Duncan Barrett works as a writer and editor, specializing in biography and memoir. Nuala Calvi is a writer and journalist trained at London College of Printing.



Wednesday, October 15, 6:30 p.m., **The Village Movement:
Aging in Place**

The Village Movement represents a new development in aging in place. Villages help residents live independently in their homes, providing access to transportation, health and wellness programs, social and educational activities, as well as assistance with some

repairs. Through a network of supportive volunteers, village members address the day-to-day issues of aging in their own homes. Community connections, individual empowerment and volunteerism are at the core of the Village Movement. Village at Home, a village program in North Baltimore, will present the benefits of a Village for both members and volunteers. Program presenters will provide details about the Village concept and how it can fit into your present and future. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, October 18, 11:00 a.m., **One Maryland/One Book**

Join us for a lively discussion of this year's One Maryland/One Book title *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir*, by Reyna Grande. Our discussion will be moderated by Roland Park's own Kim Riley.

Fall Reading

Book reviews are excerpted from the Pratt Library's online Catalog, catalog.prattlibrary.org.

Fiction

Vertigo 42 by Martha Grimes

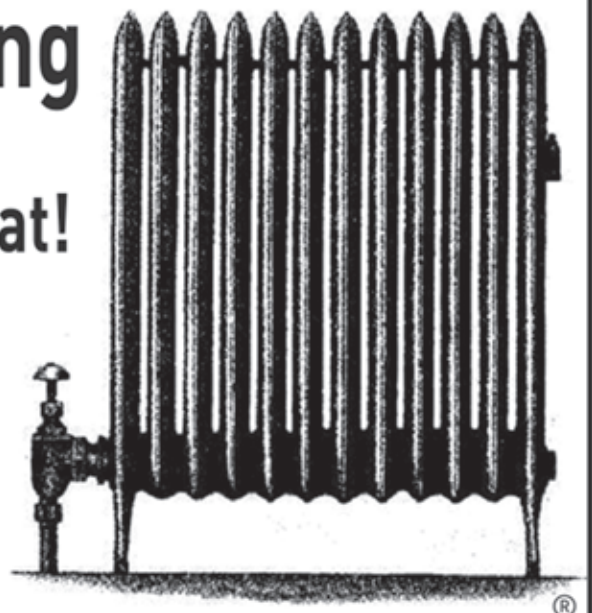
It's been four years since the last Richard Jury mystery (*The Black Cat*), but Grimes hasn't lost her touch when it comes to this droll, literate series. This time it's a cold case that draws Jury in: Tess Williamson, known for her vertigo, fell to her death on the garden steps of her estate 17 years ago. Her devastated widower has never agreed with the inquest that ruled it an accident, especially since a local child drowned in their pool five years before. During his investigation, Jury is roped into more recent death-by-falling, which has peculiarities of its own that are impossible to ignore. As usual, Grimes's strong visuals flesh out Jury's world, from a skyscraper champagne bar to the local pub. The supporting

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characters are equally engrossing; when Jury leaves to follow up on a lead, you almost wish you could hang back to keep listening to their conversations.

Be Safe I Love You by Cara Hoffman

In this story about a female soldier returning from a tour of duty in Iraq, Hoffman does many things well, including her depictions of sibling dynamics, setting (both upstate New York and Iraq) and the working-class mind-set. But what she does best of all is to capture the symptoms and fallout of PTSD. Lauren Clay is an excellent student, but her parents' divorce has wreaked havoc on her father's ability to earn a living and care for his children, so Lauren, ever the responsible one, has taken up the slack. She's the one who makes sure her younger brother has enough to eat and arrives at school on time. When her father receives a foreclosure notice, she decides to enlist in the army for the signing bonus, instead of attending college. But what she undergoes in the bloody desert of Iraq changes her forever. She comes home, but everyone who knows her best can sense that she's not quite right. Hoffman describes in visceral prose the disorientation, guilt and shame of returning war vets.

The American Mission by Matthew Palmer

A captivating debut thriller by a longtime Foreign Service officer explores the complicated politics of the Congo. "Death came on horseback," the novel begins. Idealistic diplomat Alex Baines loses his security clearance over a disaster in Darfur, and he must decide between a civilian career and years of stamping visas for the State Department. Then a friend offers him a chance to restore his reputation and Baines finds himself deep in the Congo. Nearly everyone wants to exploit that country's vast mineral riches, not least Consolidated Mining. Residents of Busu-Mouli already have a modest mine along the Congo River, but Consolidated wants to take over and strip the mountain to rubble. The company has important political support, and Baines stands with Busu-Mouli's Chief Tsiolo and his daughter, Marie, to oppose the area's rape. An exciting story unfolds, filled with intrigue, murder and even romance... Both foreigners and Congolese are villains and heroes here, though the real power still lies outside the country. With their intelligence and humanity, Alex and Marie are easy characters to root for, but even the bad guys are well-drawn and believable. This is first-rate fiction. Let's hope Palmer has a sequel in the works.

In The Light Of What We Know by Zia Haider Rahman

War can divide friends. But then again, so can peace and all that falls between, the spaces inhabited by this ambitious, elegiac debut novel by Bangladeshi-British writer Rahman. The unnamed protagonist is a brilliant 40-something math whiz turned-financier who comes from privilege; his father, a Pakistani physicist, is fond of whiskey, his mother scornful of religious pieties ("[n]ot for her such opiates"). The story, though, turns on his mysterious friend Zafar. Raised more modestly, Zafar made a fortune as a derivatives trader, yet has apparently acquired enough martial skills along the way to thrash a gang of ill-meaning neo-Nazis in a London mews. Now, as the book opens, he is back in London from a harrowing journey both geographical and metaphysical, his talisman being Kurt Gdel's Incompleteness Theorem ("the world was foolish to ignore it in an age of dogma"), his life a scatter burst of fragments. Rahman's narrative quickly takes flight, literally, moving from



London and New York to Islamabad and Kabul and points beyond as the narrator comes to flourish, oddly, in a post-9/11 world where he and his South Asian compatriots are no longer merely local-color background. Rahman capably mixes a story that threatens to erupt into le Carré-like intrigue with intellectual disquisitions of uncommon breadth, whether touching on the geometry of map projections or the finer points of Dante; the reader will learn about Poggendorf illusions, scads of math and the reason flags fly at half-mast along the way. A betrayal complicates matters, but in the end, Rahman's is a quiet, philosophical novel of ideas, a meditation on memory, friendship and trust.

Something More Than Night by Ian Tregillis

New, independent fantasy from the author of the fine *Milkweed Triptych* and it's a doozy. Imagine a gumshoe noir yarn, embedded in a fundamentally theology-free medieval heaven underpinned by known or extrapolated scientific cosmological theory. Further posit that a minor fallen angel named Bayliss has assumed the persona of Philip Marlowe — why? Eventually readers will find out and as the story opens, he watches the death of the angel Gabriel spread across the skies of Earth in a spectacular shower of meteors and particles. Bayliss has been ordered by his superiors in the angelic Choir to recruit a replacement — someone pliable and not too bright. And the victim must die before being resurrected as an angel. So, Bayliss arranges an accident, but instead of his chosen dupe, he kills Molly Pruett, a highly intelligent, strong-willed and stunning redhead. Bayliss, being Marlowe, thinks of Molly as his client and carefully tells her little of what she needs to know to

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Book Nook

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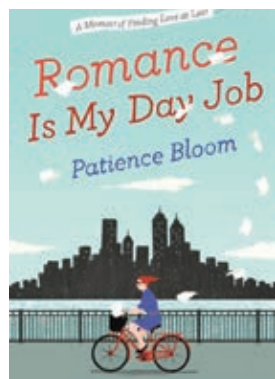
assume her angelic mantle. Impossible as it seems, Gabriel was murdered, somebody has stolen the Jericho Trumpet, and Bayliss is determined to find out why. The trail leads him to Father Santorelli, who's been handing out powerful plenary indulgences (get out of hell free cards). Molly, meanwhile, after a series of mishaps and a scolding from METATRON, the Voice of God, learns that the recipients of the indulgences cannot sleep for fear of the terrible dreams of angelic violence that now plague them. All this barely scratches the surface of what's going on here, as Molly (and the reader) gradually comes to realize that Bayliss may not be the most reliable of narrators and that his Marlowe persona is one part of a vast,

intricate plot a billion years in the making. Superlatives seem superfluous. Instead...wow. Just wow.

Nonfiction

Romance Is My Day Job: A Memoir Of Finding Love At Last by Patience Bloom

A veteran editor of romance novels at Harlequin delivers a witty memoir of her history with romance. Unlike the novels she





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Date & Time	Program
Thursdays, 11 a.m.	Preschool Leaps. Ages 3 to 5 Stories, songs and fun for preschoolers.
Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.	Mother Goose Baby Steps. Birth to 2 An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.
Tuesdays, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 & Nov. 18, 3:15 p.m.	STEM Adventures. Ages 5 to 12 Experience Science, Technology, Engineering and Math outside the textbook.
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 12 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Rosh Hashanah. Birth to 5. The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of Rosh Hashanah.
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 12 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Sukkot. Birth to 5. The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of Sukkot.
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 3:15 p.m.	Imagination Celebration – Where the Wild Things Are. Ages 5 to 12. Come help us recreate Max's adventure among the Wild Things with stories, art and music.
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 12 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Shabbat. Birth to 5. The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of Shabbat.

edits, her real-life relationships have been messy and the happy endings elusive. Bloom's story begins at a private high school in Connecticut, when she invited "Harlequin-hero gorgeous" Kent to a formal dance only to be ditched, then rescued by the popular, "fiendishly cute" Sam, who swirled her around the dance floor and insisted they have their picture taken. The photo becomes an important factor later in the story. From high school to college to teaching to a successful editing career, readers follow the author's quest for Mr. Right. She cleverly juxtaposes the conventions of romantic novels and movies with the challenges of maintaining a real relationship, avoiding maudlin territory. She chronicles her series of at-first-exciting but ultimately deficient boyfriends, and her encounters inspire a humorous contrast of romantic archetypes "The Secretive Hero (Who May Be Hiding Something Really Bad)," "Dangerous and Sexy Alpha Male Heroes That Are Supposed to Have a Heart of Gold," "The Beta Hero (Who Cooks and Isn't a Tool)" to their real-life counterparts. This is classic girls'-night-out dishing. Though the men in her memoir, with the exception of one, are more typecast than fully formed, the deeper thread here is the idea of self-evaluation and betterment. "This is the part of any romance novel that is never included, the mundane details, the forging ahead, the suffering that doesn't involve pining for a boy," she writes. Despite insecurities, Bloom, a survivor of a violent crime, reveals an inner strength and resolve to carry on. In the end, it's not romance but something more elusive that Bloom finds: intimacy. Romance may wane as the quotidian details of cohabitation intrude on hearts and flowers, but that's when true love begins.

Roland Park Branch Hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 12 to 8:00 p.m.

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Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: Closed

Please note the following holiday closings and one change in hours for all Pratt Libraries: September 1 for Labor Day, October 13 for Columbus Day (closed to the public for a Staff Development Day), November 4 for Election Day, November 11 for Veterans' Day, November 26 at 5 p.m. for Thanksgiving Eve and November 27 for Thanksgiving Day.

Atomic Accidents: A History of Nuclear Meltdowns and Disasters from the Ozark Mountains to Fukushima by James Mahaffey

Having delivered a delightfully astute history of atomic power in *Atomic Awakening* (2009), nuclear engineer Mahaffey goes over the same ground with the same combination of expertise and wit, this time describing what happens when things go wrong. The author opens with a disaster that destroyed a hydroelectric plant, killed 75 people and contaminated a wide area. Pure uranium and plutonium are well-behaved and barely radioactive. Under the right circumstances, their atoms fission (split), producing immense heat and radiation. There would be no nuclear explosion,

however, without the addition of complex technology. Fission heat and radiation by themselves can wreak havoc, and beginning with the first reactor in 1942, experts have worked hard to make them safe although an automobile is over one million times more dangerous to a bystander than a nuclear reactor. Much of this progress arose from painful experiences, which the author happily recounts. Human error and stupidity are not in short supply. Movie heroes never go by the book, but real-life nuclear plant employees should stick to it. Many of the mishaps that fill the book were ordinary industrial accidents: fires, conventional explosions and toxic leaks, and Mahaffey takes readers on a 400-page thrill ride. Despite this litany of disasters, the author remains fond of nuclear power plants, which have "killed fewer people than the coal industry." However, he shows no mercy toward workers or engineers who have, at times, forgotten their vast capacity for harm. The most comprehensive and certainly one of the most entertaining accounts of atomic accidents.

A Garden of Marvels: How We Discovered That Flowers Have Sex, Leaves Eat Air and Other Secrets of Plants by Ruth Kassinger
Whether debunking the myth of the vegetable lamb borometz



Continued on page 30

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Book Nook

Continued from page 29

plant or cooing over the rippling lettuce-like appearance of the green sea slug, Kassinger proves that it truly is a jungle out there. A self-taught, infectious enthusiastic home gardener, Kassinger nevertheless realized that a more formal understanding of botany would be necessary if she were to prevent turning her horticultural hits into misses. But who said such a pursuit had to be boring? All manner of great stories were hidden in the cabbage patch,



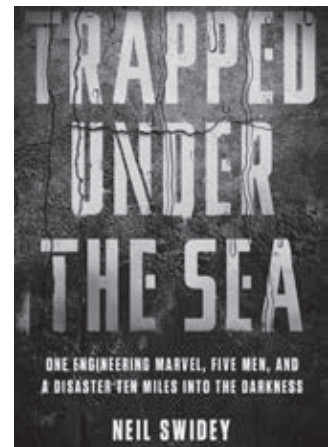
from the daredevil biographies of botanists of yore to the mysterious manifestations of plant sex. An intrepid journalist and indefatigable plants woman, Kassinger ferrets out the most entertaining and educational aspects of plant science with a researcher's fervor and a collector's zeal. From instructions on how to grow a giant pumpkin and then convert it into a regatta-worthy sailing vessel (along with discovering why someone would even want to), Kassinger has a knack for uncovering horticulture's quirky side.

Stand Up Straight and Sing: A Memoir by Jessye Norman

Raised in Augusta, Georgia, a child of the Jim Crow and Civil Rights era, Grammy-winning, international opera singer Norman offers a broad and global perspective on life, the arts and spirituality. Encouraged at an early age, she recalls playing on her grandmother's pedal organ, listening to her mother and grandmother sing spirituals, and taking to heart her mother's admonition to stand up straight while reciting and singing. She recalls a long line of ancestors and the tight-knit community who encouraged her to go beyond the limitations of race and sex. Surrounded by music, from gospel to jazz to classical, and inspired by Marian Anderson, she started singing in church. Her talent was later nurtured at Howard University, and she went on to a career singing at the Berlin Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. Looking back on her life, she marvels at her long journey from the segregated South to a dazzling career in the arts. Norman recalls memorable performances and makes observations on the power of beautiful music to enter the spirit and simply live there. Her inspiring memoir includes lyrics of her favorite songs.

Trapped Under the Sea: One Engineering Marvel, Five Men, and a Disaster Ten Miles into the Darkness by Neil Swidey

Since the opening of Boston's immense Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant in September 2000, the "giant, stinking cesspool" of Boston Harbor has cleared significantly in what has been widely hailed as an environmental engineering triumph. This gripping history focuses on construction of its business end: the world's longest dead-end tunnel, which travels 9.5 miles through bedrock, ending in 55 vertical pipes that diffuse effluent far out to sea. In hindsight, disaster was inevitable, since the project's contract stated that these pipes' 55 safety plugs could be extracted only when the tunnel was complete—meaning all drainage, ventilation, transportation, and electrical systems were removed. Commercial divers tackled the job. Years of research and interviews by Boston journalist Swidey (*The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of their Lives*) has produced a fascinating account of these skilled blue-collar men and their mission, aborted when a malfunctioning oxygen supply killed two of them. While others later completed the job, Swidey describes the years of bitterness and litigation that followed. This virtuoso performance combines insights into massive engineering projects, corporate litigation, environmental science and cutthroat free-market behavior, with vivid personal stories.



General Information

Please note that I always update the voice message on the branch phone when there are changes to our public service schedule. Just call 410-396-6099 and listen to the first message for any changes to hours and openings. Changes to the public schedule are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt Library's webpage at prattlibrary.org.

Our phone number is 410-396-6099 and our branch e-mail is rln@prattlibrary.org. When e-mailing us, please make sure the subject line indicates that you have a library question by using BOOK REQUEST or something similar as your subject. ♦

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Hoisin Soy Marinade

Kiko Wilson, Executive Chef, Johnny's

This is a great marinade for grilled meats such as flank steak, rib eye, thinly sliced short ribs or even chicken.



- 1 cup Hoisin sauce
- 1 cup soy sauce, preferably Kikkoman brand
- 1 cup apple cider or apple juice
- 4 whole garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 medium piece of ginger, peeled and sliced thin
- 1 T. crushed red chili flakes

Blend all the ingredients in a large bowl. Place up to 2 lbs of desired meat in the marinade. Marinate in the refrigerator for 8-24 hours before grilling. ♦

Ravens Rookie Teams Up with Mathnasium

Continued from page 23

Problem,' in the journal *Celestial Mechanics and Dynamical Astronomy*. John Urschel is, justifiably, a big deal.

Now John will team-up with Mathnasium of Roland Park owner Jim Trexler to promote balance between academics and athletics or other after school activities such as music, art, and video gaming. "John is the perfect example of excelling in academics and athletics," says Trexler. "I can't imagine a more inspiring person than John, he can do it all."

Mathnasium will hold a free special event on September 27, from 2-3:30 p.m. with Urschel sharing his insights on math and balance in life. He will also sign autographs and pose for photos.

John the athlete, John the scholar, is also John the communicator. He understands that his long list of impressive accomplishments and public persona make him a role model for rising mathletes and children across the country. Over the past years, as our society has put the spotlight on athletes, we should make sure to highlight and celebrate those like John Urschel who will impact our world far beyond an NFL career. ♦

Mathnasium is the number one math only franchise in the country. We have the tools, resources, and instructors to help any student in grades 2-12 improve their math skills. For more information about Mathnasium of Roland Park, contact Jim Trexler at 443-863-0531, or email rolandpark@mathnasium.com. Visit our website at mathnasium.com/rolandpark.

Roland Park Open Space Campaign Pledge Form

Please cut out and mail this form to the Roland Park Community Foundation at P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210.

In support of the Open Space Campaign for Greater Roland Park and to assist in the preservation and improvement of the environment of Greater Roland Park:

I/we hereby pledge \$_____ to the Roland Park Community Foundation, Inc., to be dedicated for the use of the Open Space Campaign.

- ☐ I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____.
- ☐ I/we have donated by credit card on the Foundation's website (www.rolandpark.org/foundation.html) by clicking the yellow "Donate" button at the bottom of the screen.
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