

February 16, 2020

Dear Roland Park Residents:

I am writing to review the guidelines for Roland Park's Organic Debris Service, and make you aware of some upcoming changes to the program this year.

The Organic Debris Service has been available to residents who pay their Civic League and Full Roads and Maintenance fees annually. This makes them eligible to have two cubic yards (equivalent to 4 large garbage bags) of organic debris picked up during specified months. For residents with more debris, there has been a \$45 fee for each additional two cubic yards. Up to now, there have been eight months designated for debris pick-ups (March, April, May, June, July, September, October and November).

Effective this spring, the Organic Debris Service will go four months per year, with pick-ups scheduled in April and May, October and November. A list of monthly registration dates and general guidelines is included with this announcement.

The reason for the changes to the Organic Debris Service is simply a fiscal one. The Civic League's annual budget continues to be challenged by fee collections, as we do not have a large enough percentage of Roland Park residents paying full Roads and Maintenance fees or their Civic League membership dues. The annual budget relies on resident fees to fund the business of running our community. We are obligated with a long standing agreement with the city to tend to our shared spaces including medians and islands, our historic footpaths, plowing of lanes, and preservation of our tree canopy. We also incur legal fees at times for advocacy work with zoning and the preservation of the architecture that makes Roland Park so special. We have committed to at least 10% of our budget to philanthropic giving including The Roland Park Baseball League, our annual Thanksgiving food drive, our newly instituted Holiday Toy Drive, and the Roland Park Elementary/Middle School just to name a few. And we must remain committed to ensuring we celebrate together as a community with our Annual 4th of July parade which incurs city permitting expenses, our Halloween trick or treat table, our Spring Egg Hunt, and our Fall Family Social. We have a strong desire to do much more. We therefore do not have room in the operating budget to continue to support the Organic Debris Service at its current level. It is a service that takes up 20%+ of the annual budget, but is used by less than 10% of Roland Park households. On the advice of our Finance Committee we are therefore adjusting the Organic Debris Service frequency to realize some cost savings

and help us better manage expenses. This will allow the Civic League to support long overdue maintenance projects throughout our community, including work on Roland Park's beautiful paths.

We acknowledge that the new Organic Debris Service program parameters will be disappointing to some residents. However, we take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously and therefore, it is our view that the changes are necessary, reasonable and ultimately fiscally responsible in light of the current budget situation. Over time, if dues collections start to trend upwards, and demand for the debris service increases, we can revisit the program guidelines and make adjustments accordingly. Please remember that Baltimore City will pick up properly bagged organic debris (currently up to 5 bags) on regularly-scheduled weekly garbage service days at no charge.

We obviously need everyone who has been consistently dedicated to paying their full Roads and Maintenance fees and Civic League dues to continue to do so! We thank you for your long-standing commitment. We hope that many more of you join us in paying your small share of keeping this neighborhood vibrant, beautiful, and active in its advocacy.

If you have any questions about the changes to the Organic Debris Service, please email me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Connors
President, Roland Park Civic League
civicleaguepresident@rolandpark.org

ROLAND PARK CIVIC LEAGUE
ORGANIC DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM
2020

2020 Debris Pick-Up Months/Registration Deadlines:

April (3/31/20)

May (4/30/20)

October (9/30/20)

November (10/31/20)

Debris Guidelines:

All residents must abide by the organic debris guidelines below to avoid any disruption in service.

- Two cubic yards of organic debris will be picked up once a month.
- Debris must be in designated area at time of scheduled pick up. If it is not there, you will be charged a no show fee and will forfeit your pick up for that month.
- All debris must be in biodegradable bags to be transported and accepted at the dump.
- NO rocks or bricks.
- NO firewood
- Trees and branches must be broken down so they are no bigger than 2 cubic yards