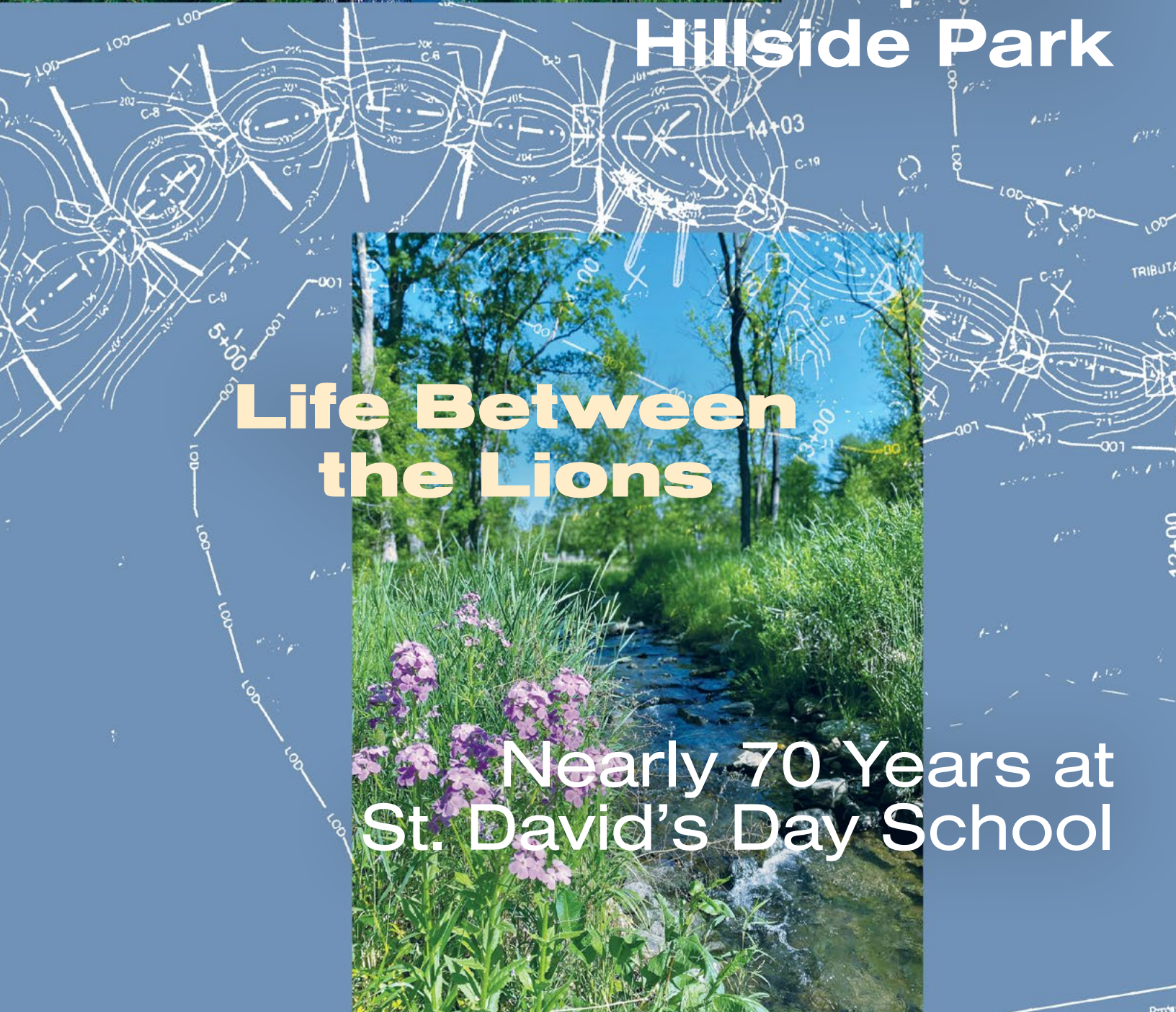


# ROLAND PARK news

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume One Hundred and Two • Fall 2026



## NOAA Grant Impacts Hillside Park



## Life Between the Lions



## Nearly 70 Years at St. David's Day School

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## Editor's Note

By Martha Marani

**N**eighbors Melissa and Tom Bloom, occasionally “supervised” by their dog Ollie, transformed a neglected corner at W. 40th Street and Keswick Road into a lovely verge garden.

When asked what inspired them to tackle this project, Bloom explains, “My husband and I both like doing what we can to keep our neighborhood beautiful. The corner area was so overgrown with ivy, weeds and trash it felt unconquerable, which is probably why it took us so long to get to it.” She continues, “Building and maintaining gardens makes me happy and I love being able to walk by it each day and appreciate it.”

She’s not the only one who loves passing by the colorful and tidy garden. Nancy Chambers, our eagle-eyed copy editor, brought it to my attention, writing that “it makes me light up every time I see it.” Chambers suggested the Blooms be recognized on these pages for creating beauty for others.

*“I don’t want to end up simply having visited this world.”*

Mary Oliver,  
 “When Death Comes”



The Blooms’ verge garden brings joy to passersby.  
 Photo: Melissa Bloom

Stuzin herself has donated countless hours to helping the community. The wit and wisdom of her words have captured the essence of our community in the pages of this magazine, on the web and social media pages of the Civic League and Hillside Park, and through the local media.

As important as it is to recognize the Blooms for beautifying the neighborhood and the many dedicated volunteers who work, often behind the scenes, to make Roland Park worthy of Frederick Law Olmsted’s vision, I think it’s equally important to recognize Chambers and Stuzin for wanting to tell everyone how much these folks matter. The fact that they are paying attention to what those around them are doing is, as Jennifer Breheny Wallace, author of *Mattering: The Secret to a Life of Deep Connection and Purpose*, would say, “proof of a connection in a world that often feels indifferent.” Brava, friends!

Let’s all do more to show the folks around us—in our families, our workplaces, our communities—that they matter. You’ll find some great examples on the pages of this issue. Folks like Devra Kitterman, ever the staunch Lorax for the world’s flora and fauna; J. Denis Glover, keeper of Roland Park’s memories of long ago; Hilary Paska, ad contract and payment wrangler extraordinaire; Jim Fanzone of DesignConcept, the magician who transforms a jumble of Google docs and JPGs into a beautifully designed magazine; Gerry Quinn, owner of Advance Printing, who makes sure the *RPN* hits mailboxes on time, every time. I could go on.

Please feel free to use these pages to call out others who matter in our community by emailing me about them at [magazine@rolandpark.org](mailto:magazine@rolandpark.org).

Happy fall, everyone! ❖

## Island Refresh

The Landscape Committee is taking a look at the green islands in the neighborhood, which were designed by the Olmsted Brothers to slow traffic (even in horse and buggy days), further daily connection to nature and soften the edges of the street grid. Some need refurbishment. In cooperation with the Roads & Maintenance, gradual and modest replanting will begin this fall. Residents’ maintenance fees help fund projects like this. If you live near an island and could water the new plantings, it would help guarantee their success.

The same day I heard about the Bloom’s garden, I got a message from my dear friend, Anne Stuzin, who suggested that the *Roland Park News* run profiles of longtime community volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent as stewards of Roland Park. For decades,

Cover: A map of proposed stream restoration efforts at Hillside Park, inset with “after” pictures from a previous *Environmental Quality Resources (EQR)* project. Map courtesy of Biohabitats; photos courtesy of EQR

# Exciting Progress on Hillside Park's Stream Restoration

By Mary Page Michel, Roland Park Community Foundation Chair

**E**xciting news from Hillside Park! As reported in the spring issue, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded us a \$2.1 million grant to restore the park's streams while creating a strong environmental education program. For a brand-new park and a small nonprofit foundation, this was a remarkable achievement.

## Why restore streams?

Many people ask, "Why spend so much money restoring streams? Aren't they just water flowing through a gully?"

The answer is that healthy streams provide benefits far beyond moving water. The drainage area to Hillside Park is approximately 88.5 acres, primarily consisting of single-family homes and roadways. Since Roland Park was developed prior to stormwater regulations, there are few stormwater controls leading to the park's streams. Restoring them will improve public safety, protect the environment, enhance wildlife habitat and create unique educational opportunities.

**Public Safety.** Today, the stream corridor contains deteriorating metal pipes, steep and unstable stream banks, exposed infrastructure, and numerous dead or dangerous trees. Restoring the streams will make this area significantly safer for both park visitors and wildlife.



The park's streams are currently impacted by fallen trees. Photo: Mary Page Michel



EQR has extensive experience stabilizing streambanks. Photo courtesy of EQR

**Environmental Benefits.** Healthy streams reduce erosion, keep nutrients on site and slow stormwater, minimizing sediment and pollutant transport downstream to the Jones Falls. Cleaner water flowing into the Jones Falls ultimately improves the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The project will also help to protect exposed sewer infrastructure currently located within the stream corridor.

**Wildlife Habitat.** A restored stream provides healthier habitat for birds, frogs, pollinators, foxes, aquatic insects and many other species that depend on a functioning ecosystem. Removal of nonnative invasive species and their replacement with native plants will support more wildlife.

**Education.** One of Hillside Park's core missions is to serve as an outdoor classroom. With 15 neighborhoods within one

# NOAA GRANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mile of the park, there is a great opportunity to be a resource for the wider community. Safe access to a healthy stream will allow students to monitor water quality, wildlife populations, stream temperature and other environmental indicators, while learning firsthand about ecology and watershed science.

## How We Got Here

Since the establishment of Hillside Park was announced in 2021, the Hillside Park team has partnered with the Parks & People, Inc. ([parksandpeople.org](http://parksandpeople.org)), Environmental Quality Resources ([eqrllc.com](http://eqrllc.com)), and Biohabitats ([biohabitats.com](http://biohabitats.com)) to plan this ambitious restoration project. Support letters from both Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School strengthened the NOAA grant application, and the project received funding in 2024.

Over the past year, Biohabitats and EQR have worked closely together to develop the stream restoration design. The team met repeatedly with Baltimore City and other regulatory agencies as requirements evolved, refining both the design and the budget to remain within the grant's funding limits. From the outset, the Hillside Park team made it clear that the project had to be completed within the grant budget, as no additional funding was available. Fortunately, both firms bring decades of experience designing and restoring streams throughout the region.



*Deteriorating pipes also impact current conditions in the park's streams.*  
Photo: Mary Page Michel

As required by the grant, Biohabitats presented the proposed restoration at the Roland Park Civic League meeting on March 4. A recording of that presentation is available at [.](#)

## What Happens Next?

EQR estimates construction will require approximately six months.

Federal and state environmental regulations prohibit major in-stream construction between March 1 and June 15, when aquatic life is particularly vulnerable. Because stopping and restarting construction is both difficult and expensive, the goal is to begin work after July 1 and complete it before the following March. This schedule also provides the team with flexibility if weather causes delays.

Before construction can begin, however, the project must receive approvals from three separate agencies: Baltimore City, the



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*Healthy streams improve conditions downstream.* Photo courtesy of EQR



# The Fox Report

By Devra He'ui Kitterman

Upon hearing the news that two rabid red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) had been found near the Stony Run, my reaction was the dread of new and potentially hysteria-laden fears that some residents might now harbor against our local foxes and other wild animals that live in our greater suburban community. Certainly, caution around all animals is prudent, but I was witnessing folks taking their early morning walks around the neighborhood, seeing a fox walking up ahead and then turning around and heading in the opposite direction. I don't want people to be afraid, but I do want them to be well-informed.

I have been feeding the foxes in my yard for at least 25 years. Early one morning, I placed food in a shrubby hiding area between our house and our neighbor's at night, but I noticed that raccoons were often taking the food before the foxes found it and, while I respect raccoons, I do not want them around because they are one of the very few predatory threats to my seven rescue eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) I have had for years. Raccoons are destructive and human contact with their powder-dry feces is considered dangerous because it can cause a form of encephalitis if inhaled. Care should be taken in barns, garages and any enclosures where raccoons leave scat.

Five foxes now wait for their breakfast near my front porch each morning. I monitor

*Kitterman monitors the health of five foxes daily.* Photos: Kitterman



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*A female fox waits for her breakfast.*

their health and injuries closely and treat them for mange if I see any signs of this extremely painful parasite that causes all of an animal's fur to fall out. Mange kills foxes. All last winter, I treated one poor fox with ivermectin paste injected into fig bars or meat balls. I am baffled as to how this poor fox survived with almost no fur during what was a horribly cold January. I put warm food out for him and was gratified to see when his hair started growing back. His tail hair is still very short, about an inch, because the tail and hind quarters are often mange-affected first and most.

I observe these foxes daily, often filming them, starting at 5:30 am. Even though they know me and respond to my whistles and voice, they are very cautious and do not approach me. Our encounters are brief. One female waits on my front porch with her paws crossed. When humans are walking nearby, they quickly duck and hide. When I am a little late bringing out their food, I look in their

usual spots but I cannot see them. They literally disappear when they see humans and we humans rarely see them as we stroll by. After I put the food plates out and return to my porch, the foxes appear, take what they want and disappear again under the trees and shrubs, where I can hear them eating the bones and meat of the raw drumsticks. Their bodies thrive on the calcium and minerals of the bones.

I buy animal food in bulk from the big box stores. I offer them a dish of raw chicken eggs and drumsticks, which are criminally cheap compared to wings), and Nature's Bakery whole wheat fig bars that I break into quarters because, while foxes can crush raw bones, they sometimes have trouble with the gooey fig bars getting stuck in their very small, narrow jaws. The foxes eat the fig bar pieces first for a quick carbo boost, then the eggs, then the drumsticks. This order of food selection amazes me, but I trust them to know what works best for them. Oddly, the last fox eats whatever remains, then pees in the empty dish before he leaves. Every time. Nasty.

Before this year, I had never seen fox kits visit my yard, but two skinny kits showed up recently with the three older foxes. They are about 6 months old. Very jumpy and cautious. Tragically, most kits do not survive in our area. Starting in late May and into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

An advertisement for Eye Candy Opticianry. At the top left is a logo of a stylized eye with a fish-like shape inside. To the right of the logo is the text "eye candy" in a large, lowercase, sans-serif font, with "opticianry" in a smaller font below it. Below the logo and text is a large, colorful illustration of a person's head and shoulders, completely covered in a dense, chaotic mass of small, black, stylized human figures. The person's face is visible, showing a surprised or overwhelmed expression. To the right of the illustration, the text reads: "Open 11am-6pm Monday to Thursday and 11am-4pm on Sundays", "eyecandyop@verizon.net", and "410-889-0607". At the bottom of the advertisement, the address "600 Wyndhurst Avenue, Suite 115 Baltimore, MD 21210" is printed in a clean, sans-serif font.

# FOX REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

June, I see many of them dead along Charles Street, Northern Parkway, the exit ramps to the Jones Falls Expressway and Falls Road. Everywhere, seemingly. It breaks my heart every time and I know that it's because the territory the neighborhood wildlife rely upon is shrinking every year.

The impact is being felt, even at Hillside Park, the largest acreage of green space in the neighborhood, where the foxes and groundhogs that had made their home for years have been impacted—hopefully only temporarily—by the heavy equipment activity that was required by the required environmental remediation done before the land was sold to the community. Tree, shrub and hedgerow removals have also impacted what too many are using now to exercise unleashed dogs, against park policies and city ordinances (see “Dogs i the

## Rewilding the Park

**T**he Hillside Park committee understands the concerns regarding wildlife at the park, with Mary Page Michel, committee chair, explaining that the removal of more than 50 fallen, dead and dying trees at the park have made the space more safe. Stacks of trunks and wood chips have been left on-site. Some trunks are being left as wildlife habitat, while others will be transformed into furniture by Camp Small and used to line trails and property lines. In addition, the landscape architect that will be hired to develop plans for Hillside Park will be required to prioritize rewilding efforts, to transform the space from its current state in ways that support biodiversity.]

Park” at [hillsideparkmd.org/know-before-you-go](http://hillsideparkmd.org/know-before-you-go)). Ignoring these policies and ordinances and posted signage, some people are letting their dogs loose and those dogs are harassing what little wildlife remains, to say nothing of the fact that the removal of the ugly and unwelcoming fences means that dogs can now run onto Hillside and Falls roads, endangering themselves and motorists. Not a good thing. The foxes and groundhogs have moved onto private properties, including under the porches of residents who often do not realize that they are there, until they do. The removal of trees, shrubs and

hedgerows also means a loss of habitat for many birds and small creatures, and it saddens me that life for all these animals has become more difficult and dangerous.

Because I see them every day, I am in the front line of protection for and from these particular foxes. If I see any change in their behavior, signs of stiffness or any kind of illness, I have assured Baltimore City Animal Control that I will contact them immediately in order to protect the public and myself.

In 1960, when I was 5, I was bitten in the face by a large stray dog that our neighbor's boys had brought home and chained to their old oak tree, located behind our houses in southeast Washington, DC. I was offering the dog a piece of bologna when it suddenly bit me on my upper lip and face. I was shocked, mostly by the sound of teeth puncturing my flesh with an audible “snap”. Holding my bleeding face, I ran home. The boys immediately let the dog go, sentencing me to the then-mandatory 14 rabies shots in my stomach, one a day for two weeks. The very long needle for this potentially lifesaving treatment was terrifying and traumatizing. Because of this childhood experience, I do not take the potential for exposure to rabies lightly. I do not take for granted the potential danger from any animal lightly.

I love that I am not the only person in Roland Park feeding the foxes, songbirds, crows and other critters. Keep in mind that providing fresh drinking water is important in the extreme periods of heat (or cold) that have now become a regular and dreaded weather reality.

Please, with a world on fire, let us live and let live. ❖

Devra He'ui Kitterman is a Baltimore City beekeeper. She formerly owned and operated He'ui Horticultural Services, which provided commercial interior plant services and exterior landscape design and maintenance for 27 years. To receive her free pollinator plant list, contact her at [devra.kitterman@gmail.com](mailto:devra.kitterman@gmail.com).

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# New City Demonstration Gardens at Cylburn

By Brooke Fritz, Executive Director, Cylburn Arboretum Friends

On a sunny day at Cylburn Arboretum, visitors may find themselves wandering through a series of gardens unlike anything else on the property. Tucked behind the Mansion, five new demonstration gardens offer inspiration not only for



gardeners, but for anyone who has ever looked at a small urban yard and wondered what might be possible.

The City Demonstration Gardens are one of the most ambitious

*The City Demonstration Gardens embody Cylburn Arboretum's role as a landscape of learning. Photos courtesy of CAF*

projects undertaken by Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF) Head Gardener Brent "Fig" Figlesthahler in recent years. Created over years of collaboration among landscape designers, garden clubs, contractors, donors, volunteers and staff, the gardens also showcase the creative reuse of materials sourced throughout the Baltimore region. While each has its own personality, they share a common goal: inspiring a new generation of gardeners and proud city residents.

Each garden occupies approximately 800 square feet—a scale that is familiar to many Baltimore homeowners. Some city yards are paved almost entirely in concrete. Others are shaded by mature

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# CYLBURN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

trees or challenged by deer, tight budgets or limited space. These gardens demonstrate practical, beautiful solutions to real-world conditions, while encouraging visitors to reimagine what their own landscapes could become.

The first garden, **The Garth**, designed by Apiary Studio, is inspired by the enclosed gardens of medieval cloisters. Reused cinder blocks form inviting seating walls, while fencing creates a sense of privacy and refuge. Espaliered fig trees demonstrate how fruit can be grown in small spaces, showing that compact gardens can be both productive and peaceful.

The **Naomi Camper Memorial Garden**, designed by Groundsmith Collective, honors the founding president of the For-Win-Ash Garden Club, whose members helped create one of Cylburn's original model backyard gardens in the 1980s. A herringbone brick path, reclaimed porch columns and thoughtfully arranged "garden rooms" celebrate Baltimore's gardening heritage, while demonstrating how distinct spaces can make even a modest yard feel larger.

**The Learning Pad**, designed by CAF, serves as an outdoor classroom. Movable raised beds built from recycled white oak salvaged through Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' Camp Small program demonstrate flexible gardening solutions for paved urban spaces. Each year, the space can be reimaged through new plantings and different planter arrangements.

For those seeking a quieter experience, **Senses + Stillness**, designed by FORM Garden Design, encourages visitors to slow down. Rather than focusing primarily on visual impact, the design engages multiple senses. Gravel crunches underfoot. Lavender releases fragrance on warm days. Water moves gently through a repurposed historic urn transformed into a fountain. The design demonstrates how relatively simple elements can transform a garden into a restorative space.

The final garden, **The Nestled Native Garden**, designed by Phaire Gardens, illustrates how native plants can thrive alongside existing landscape features. Centered around a mature Persian ironwood, it embraces the reality that most gardeners inherit existing conditions rather than starting from scratch. Creative fencing made from varied wood lengths and carefully planned sightlines show how thoughtful design can make a small garden feel expansive.

While each garden tells a unique story, together they communicate a larger message—gardening is not reserved for those with large properties, extensive budgets or formal training. Creativity and thoughtful design can transform even the smallest spaces, and we can all be better stewards of our city.

The City Demonstration Gardens also embody Cylburn Arboretum's role as a landscape of learning. As the gardens mature over the coming years, they will continue to evolve. Plants will grow, new lessons will emerge and visitors will discover fresh sources of joy with each season. Great gardens are not defined by their size. They are defined by the ideas they inspire. ❖

Cylburn Arboretum Friends ([cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)) is a non-profit organization that has partnered with the City of Baltimore since 1954 to maintain the grounds and gardens at Cylburn. As a 501 (c)(3), it provides support and stewardship for the arboretum as a place of natural beauty, tranquility, culture and learning, open to all.

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## Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(MAY — JUL 2026)

|                         | LIST<br>PRICE | CLOSING<br>PRICE |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 532 W. University Pkwy. | \$ 524,900    | \$ 525,000       |
| 4302 Roland Ave.        | \$ 597,000    | \$ 675,000       |
| 4416 Roland Ave.        | \$ 639,900    | \$ 633,500       |
| 201 Hawthorne Rd.       | \$ 650,000    | \$ 660,000       |
| 614 W. University Pkwy. | \$ 685,000    | \$ 685,000       |
| 511 Edgevale Rd.        | \$ 825,000    | \$ 875,999       |
| 207 Hawthorne Rd.       | \$ 849,500    | \$ 849,500       |
| 14 Hillside Rd.         | \$ 875,000    | \$ 950,000       |
| 4203 Somerset Pl.       | \$ 888,000    | \$ 898,000       |
| 225 Hawthorne Rd.       | \$ 899,900    | \$ 865,000       |
| 4503 Roland Ave.        | \$1,100,000   | \$1,025,000      |
| 502 Somerset Rd.        | \$1,275,000   | \$1,385,000      |
| 520 Woodlawn Rd.        | \$1,495,000   | \$1,400,000      |
| 6 Elmhurst Rd.          | \$1,600,000   | \$1,607,500      |
| 1 Kenwood Rd.           | \$1,995,000   | \$1,735,000      |

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Information not guaranteed by Broker or Agents, nor by the *Roland Park News*. Information provided by Laura Grier, Realtor, Cummings & Co., Roland Park Office, 484-356-6332 (cell), 410-823-0033 (office), [LauraGrierRealtor@gmail.com](mailto:LauraGrierRealtor@gmail.com)



# An Elevated Early Childhood Education in Your Backyard

Established in 2008 and nestled in the heart of the Roland Park community, Little Reds at Roland Park Country School (RPCS) has grown to become an award-winning early childhood education center. Inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy for learning, the Little Reds program offers a warm, nurturing environment that honors what it truly means to be a child. Little Reds serves boys and girls from 6 weeks to 5 years old; with the infants, toddlers and preschoolers being a vital and beloved part of the wider K-12 school community.

A unique advantage of Little Reds is access to the expansive RPCS facilities that are not found in standalone daycare settings. On any given day, the students could be exploring the more than five acres of woods, watching concerts in the Sinex Theater, taking to the stage themselves in the lower school, or enjoying the indoor and outdoor athletic facilities. "Our children are given incredible experiences simply by being connected with this K-12 community," shares Alice Wetzel, director of early



Little Reds was recently voted Best Preschool Program in Baltimore by Baltimore's Child. Photo courtesy of RPCS

childhood education. "As our children age up in the program, we are able to expand their access to resources throughout the school, offering endless opportunities for discovery, collaboration and joyful play. For example, the PreK students benefit from specialized instruction by lower school faculty in areas such as world language, music, physical education and library."

Every day, the expert faculty thoughtfully balance social-emotional growth with foundational academic skills for kindergarten and beyond. By following the children's interests, weaving learning into daily routines, and encouraging hands-on exploration, teachers nurture an innate, lifelong love of learning. Whether counting out blueberries for a morning snack or writing invitations to a class performance, children are constantly engaged in authentic, hands-on learning. Wetzel says, "We do a wonderful job of preparing children for the academics of kindergarten in an age-appropriate, experiential way. Reading and writing skills develop naturally in our classrooms, right alongside leadership and community-building."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



## Find your path at RPCS.

At Roland Park Country School, girls are empowered to pursue their passions, challenged to reach their full academic potential, and prepared to lead lives of purpose.



Register for our Open House on Oct. 3 at [rpcs.org/visit](https://rpcs.org/visit)

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# Nearly 70 Years of Educational Excellence at St. David's

As Roland Park's oldest parish preschool, St. David's Day School is approaching its 70th academic year with a new wave of energy accompanying the return to the classroom. The school is welcoming three new teachers this year and rolling out expanded programming and extended day options to better meet the needs of neighborhood families. These new initiatives include Spanish language instruction for all students, "extended day" programming designed with working parents in mind, and a brand-new "Hatchlings" class for two-year-olds who miss the September cut-off for the "Twos" program.

"I am proud to continue and expand the high-level of care that the St. David's program has always been known for," says Day School Director Katie



The 2026 kindergarten class pictured with their teachers, Ann Little and Margie Szymkiewicz, on Field Day last May. Photo: Katie Schroeder

Schroeder. "Knowing your child is in the best hands, being nurtured and challenged each day, is not only a relief, but a true blessing."

Schroeder notes that "allowing parents to meet the demands of their schedules while feeling confident that their child is in a developmentally rich environment" has become a top priority during her tenure. Last school year, she introduced weekly afternoon enrichment classes like karate, soccer, yoga and chemistry for students three and up, and both parents and students were thrilled by the opportunities to explore new skills and discover unknown passions.

Fr. Todd Bruce, St. David's Church Rector and Day School Chaplain, could not be more pleased with the changes that are afoot. "I appreciate our renewed focus on how we can better serve families in our community," he says of the efforts to broaden and diversify the school's bedrock programs. "All while maintaining the hallmarks of an Episcopal education—learning to respect the dignity of all people and learning how to be curious and appreciative of differences, rather than judgmental or intolerant." These lessons, he contends, "make the St. David's Church and Day School community a place where we feel we belong and are known and loved, and where we achieve great things in harmony with one another." ♦

St. David's Day School ([stdavidds.org](http://stdavidds.org)) nurtures children, encourages their innate enthusiasm for learning, and prepares them for the school years ahead by providing individualized attention at each stage of their intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social and physical development

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# Young Learners Thrive at Garrison Forest

With 110 acres to explore, experienced and caring staff, small classes, and an educational philosophy that focuses on giving each student a strong start, Garrison Forest School is an ideal place for young children to develop a lifelong joy of learning.

## Co-Ed Preschool

Welcoming girls and boys ages 2 through PreK, the preschool at Garrison Forest is a magical place that nurtures and values each student's developing personalities and interests while giving them space to explore. Dedicated teachers work with each child, instilling a love of learning and embracing their natural curiosity and wonder. With a five-day, full-day program, the preschool also focuses on developmental milestones and introducing subjects like literacy, math and social-emotional skills. Each day is filled with an intentional curriculum, enrichment experiences and lots of outdoor time exploring campus. All preschool students participate in a variety of special area classes such as music, gym, science, languages and art. They become a part of the larger campus community, attending special events and often



Young children thrive in the preschool and lower school at Garrison Forest.  
Photo courtesy of Garrison Forest

enjoying visits from older students to read books or lead activities. Each day, preschoolers spend time outdoors traversing the expansive campus, including visits to the school's barns and horses or the campus pond and chicken coop.

"Our program is built around recognizing each student's potential," says Sandi Uehlinger, head of early childhood education at Garrison Forest. "The academic program is fun

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



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# Jennifer Dickens, Bryn Mawr's New Middle School Director

**T**his year, Bryn Mawr welcomes Jennifer Dickens as its new middle school director. Dickens joins Bryn Mawr after serving as the associate head of school at the BASIS School in Manhattan. As she makes the move from New York City to Baltimore, Dickens shares what drew her to Bryn Mawr and what she is most excited about for the year ahead.

**Q: What are you most excited to do in Baltimore?**

**A:** I'm really excited to be by the water. I always feel much calmer when I'm near the water. I'm also excited to meet my neighbors and check out the food scene. We have family in Washington, DC, so living closer to them is going to be nice too.

**Q: Are you ready for crabs and Old Bay?**

**A:** Before I started, I asked the middle school faculty what I should



*Dickens moved from New York to be Bryn Mawr's new middle school director. Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr*

be prepared for, and the number of people who wrote about their favorite crabcake restaurant was unexpected, but fun. Old Bay fries and chips are delicious too!

**Q: What made you want to come to Bryn Mawr?**

**A:** A couple of things—first, the unapologetic way Bryn Mawr is who they are. It was the first time I've felt like I could be myself throughout the interview process. Also coming to campus, meeting everyone and hearing the way that parents spoke about the school, and how everyone knew exactly what they wanted in a new director.

**Q: What do you love about middle school?**

**A:** I often joke that I peaked in middle school! When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to shadow a middle school counselor, and I left that day knowing that this is what I wanted to do. I feel so lucky that I figured out in high school what I wanted to do with my life. Middle school kids are great,

they are a little weird, going through a lot of feelings, growing in so many ways and it's so fun.

**Q: What are you most excited about?**

**A:** I'm excited to meet the faculty and staff. I believe that when we support our teachers 100 percent, they will turn around and give their students 100 percent. There is also a really unique joy in watching adults feel successful in the work that they do and watching them have the same lightbulb moments that students do. ❖

The Bryn Mawr School ([brynmawrschool.org](http://brynmawrschool.org)), founded in 1885 as the first college-preparatory school for girls in the U.S., is an independent, nonsectarian all-girls school for grades K-12, with a coed preschool.



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Photo: Adobe Stock

# Advancing Athletics through Facility Additions at Friends

**B**efore the start of the 2026 spring athletic season, Friends School of Baltimore was thrilled to announce a major milestone for its softball program. For the first time in recent history, Friends softball teams would have a dedicated home field on their Homeland campus.

As a community, Friends is committed to providing access and equity for all student-athletes across the school's athletic programs—a key reason the addition of the softball field was so important. In 2020, the school built a baseball field and has proudly hosted home games on its campus for the past six years. The atmosphere, energy and community enthusiasm that this home field has brought have been unparalleled. Building on that momentum, the addition of the new softball field marked a significant step forward for the athletics program, the softball teams and the community as a whole.

Investing in a home field for the softball program was a long time coming. For years, Friends' athletic department had rented out softball fields at Medfield Heights Elementary School and the YMCA on 33rd Street, requiring middle and upper school players and coaches to travel to and from practices and home games each season. For the 2026 season, though, Friends' four-time IAAM Softball Champions (2004, 2005, 2018 and 2021) finally had a place to call their own, with only a short commute across campus.

At the end of the 2025/26 school year, Friends also unveiled a new state-of-the-art multimedia A/V system—a jumbotron that replaces the current, antiquated setup and transforms the historic Old Gym into a multifunctional, modern assembly space.

As Friends' only indoor space large enough to gather every student, and faculty and staff member, the Old Gym (built in 1937) plays a central role in daily life on campus. Serving as the home for physical education classes, all-school convocations, middle and upper school athletic competitions, and multiple musical performances each year, the Old Gym, often likened to the historic Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, Indiana, truly embodies the Friends student experience.

The jumbotron was made possible by the Class of 2026's Senior Family Gift Effort, a fundraising effort established in 1989 that creates a legacy for Friends seniors and their families, and strives to connect with the school's audiences in new, powerful, and unforgettable ways.

Friends is incredibly proud of its student-athletes and grateful to everyone who helped make these visions a reality. The school looks forward to continuing to host games and events at its facilities, building community within Friends and throughout



*Members of the school's administration and softball program at the new softball field's ribbon-cutting ceremony.*  
Photo courtesy of Friends

Baltimore, and cheering on the Quakes on the fields and on the courts, at home where they belong, for years to come. ❖

Friends School of Baltimore ([friendsbalt.org](http://friendsbalt.org)) is a private coeducational Quaker school founded in 1784 and serving students in Pre-K through 12th grade.



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# Community Spirit and School Pride Shine at RPEMS this Fall

By Alex Moschina

As another exciting school year gets underway, Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) is already celebrating the creativity, community involvement and school spirit that make our neighborhood school so special. From a meaningful student legacy project to opportunities for neighbors to get involved, there is much to look forward to this fall.

## A Lasting Legacy for the Library

A beautiful new quilt honoring the Class of 2026 has been completed with hopes that it will soon become a permanent part of the RPEMS library. The quilt features individual squares created by last year's 5th grade students, and was lovingly assembled by Alex Graves, parent of rising 6th grader James Graves. It will be professionally framed and displayed in the library as a lasting legacy piece, serving as a reminder of the creativity and contributions of the Class of 2026 while inspiring future generations of Rams for years to come.



The RPEMS Class of 2026 is honored by a new quilt that will soon be hung in the school library. Photo courtesy of RPEMS

## The Class of 2026 Gives Back

The RPEMS community is also celebrating the generosity of members of the graduating Class of 2026 and their families, who presented the school with a remarkable \$3,200 class gift to benefit future 8th grade scholars in the Class of 2027.

"This gift is more than a financial contribution;

it is a lasting legacy," explains Principal Brandon Pinkney. "It demonstrates that the Class of 2026 is leaving Roland Park not only with wonderful memories but also with a commitment to ensuring that those who follow can create memories of their own."

## Back to School Nights Welcome Families and Community Partners

Back to School Night is fast approaching. Elementary families are welcome on Tuesday, September 8, while middle school families are invited on Thursday, September 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

RPEMS is also seeking community partners who provide after-school programs, extracurricular activities or other enrichment opportunities for students. Organizations interested in hosting an information table during Back to School Night are encouraged to contact the PTA at [pta@rolandparkpta.org](mailto:pta@rolandparkpta.org).

## Third Annual Wellness Fair Returns

Mark your calendars for the third annual RPEMS Wellness Fair on Saturday, September 19. Sponsored by the PTA, this free event is open to the entire Roland Park community and will once again bring together organizations and resources that support healthy living for children and families. As the event approaches, watch for signs posted in front of the school with additional details.

## Ready, Set, Run for Recess!

The Roland Park Annual Fund is once again assembling a community team for the Baltimore Running Festival. Whether you are an experienced runner, casual jogger or prefer to walk, joining the RPEMS team is a fun way to connect with neighbors while supporting local students.

Funds raised this year will support capital improvements to the school's outdoor green spaces, helping create even better places for learning, play and community gathering. We hope you'll consider joining the team and helping make a lasting impact at RPEMS. Register today at [eventbrite.com/e/ready-set-run-for-recess-tickets-1988904819856](https://eventbrite.com/e/ready-set-run-for-recess-tickets-1988904819856).

**We are #RPEMSProud!** ❖

Roland Park Elementary Middle School embodies the art of quality instruction by fostering wholeness for all stakeholders and authentic learning through collaborative partnerships. We will empower a thriving community founded on integrity and fueled by innovation. [bit.ly/RPEMS233](https://bit.ly/RPEMS233)



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# Anna Follensbee, Gilman's New Director of College Counseling

**A**nna Follensbee became Gilman's new director of college counseling in the summer of 2026, following the retirement of Sarah Ross, who held the position for nine years. Follensbee is no stranger to Gilman, having joined the college counseling office there in 2013.n.

*Follensbee brings a wealth of experience as Gilman's new director of college counseling.* Photo courtesy of Gilman

"I am fortunate to inherit a wonderful office with a strong team and great programs already in place," says Follensbee. "That said, I think there is always room for growth and reflection, and so I am especially interested in looking closely at the college counseling experience for both students and families across the four years of upper school, and examining what is working well and what might be improved. I am also interested in collaborating more closely with our health and wellness team to see how we can best support families through a process that can feel stressful and uncertain."

Follensbee characterizes her approach to college counseling as "holistic," emphasizing the importance of "seeking to understand each boy's distinctive strengths, goals, accomplishments and hopes." She says that she and her colleagues aim to help each student engage in a reflective process of compiling a list of "best-fit" colleges and presenting strong college applications.

"The Gilman college counseling office could not be in better hands," says Ross. "Not only is Anna extremely knowledgeable about every single aspect of the college application process, she is also a gifted counselor who guides her students with humor and empathy. Over the nearly a decade we have worked together, I have watched her build trusted relationships not just with students, but with their families and college admissions offices across the country. These connections provide a wealth of insight into best practices and shifting institutional trends, which allows the office to deliver the most accurate, real-time information to students and families." Ross also highlights Follensbee's strength in writing, noting that she "communicates with enormous care, precision and heart."

Prior to her time on Roland Avenue, Follensbee spent nine years as a college admissions counselor at Eckerd College, Providence College and Loyola University Maryland. In addition to college counseling at Gilman, Follensbee is an advisor and intramural coach; she has also taught English, led the upper school's Senior Encounter program, acted as a service learning coordinator and helped out with the student newspaper, The Gilman News.

Follensbee offers advice for students as they prepare to move on to their next chapter: "Embrace the opportunities and challenges of your next institution. College is what you make of it!" ❖

Gilman School ([gilman.edu](http://gilman.edu)) is a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade independent school in Baltimore, Maryland, with an enrollment of approximately 1,000 boys. A diverse community dedicated to educating boys in mind, body, and spirit, Gilman seeks to produce men of character and integrity who have the skills and ability to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live and work.



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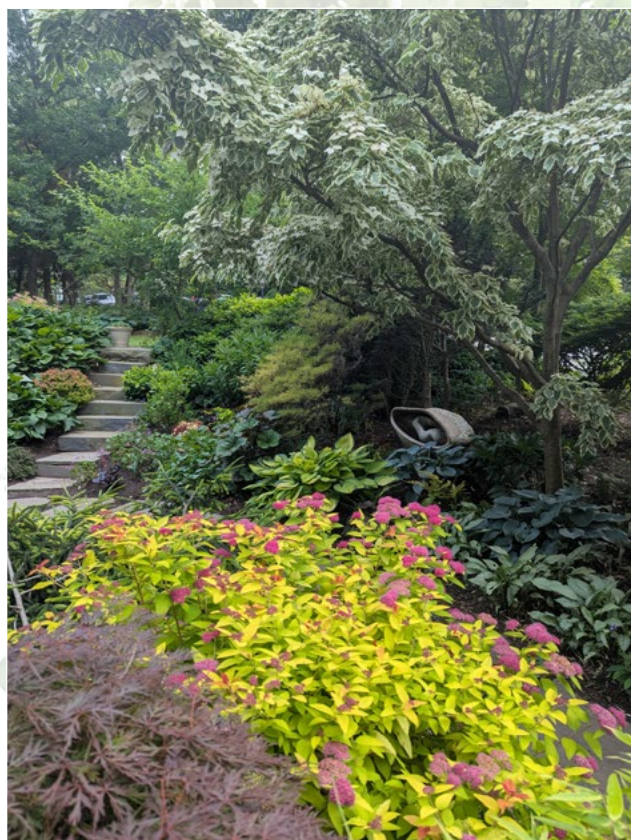
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## Photo Essay: A Sanctuary

Devra Kitterman often writes about her garden—a lovely sanctuary where pollinators, birds, rescued turtles, fish and many other creatures find food and safe refuge. Most mornings, neighborhood foxes stop by for a bite (and, more often than not, a much-needed piece of fig bar with hidden medicine). Bees hum contentedly, crows peer intently—“Where’s my breakfast?”—the pond gurgles soothingly, and birds twitter their endless avian gossip. Gentle breezes carry the delicate scents of seasonal blooms through air cooled by shade trees.



Photos: Devra Kitterman





# Waldorf Rigor: Educating the Whole Child

By Scotti Morrow, Advancement Director, Waldorf School of Baltimore

**W**aldorf education asks for a form of academic rigor that is not always easy to measure and is therefore often overlooked by academics. It does not rely on test preparation, early specialization or acceleration to meet arbitrary metrics; instead, it asks something more demanding: the steady, integrated development of the whole human being over time.

At Waldorf, children are expected to grow in many directions at once. They engage as thinkers and makers, artists and analysts, collaborators and independent learners. Each year asks them to not only deepen their strengths, but to meet what is unfamiliar or difficult with persistence.

This begins early. Around age 7, students take up a second language while still mastering literacy in their first, developing flexibility of mind and ear alongside foundational skills. By 8, they may be knitting while learning multiplication tables, small hands fumbling at first, then returning day after day until the work begins to hold, strengthening patience, coordination and numerical understanding together. By 10, every child begins a string instrument, without auditions or exceptions, learning discipline, listening and the gradual rewards of practice.



*Waldorf education cultivates determination, flexibility of thinking and the capacity to engage the world in multiple, dynamic ways. Photo courtesy of Waldorf*

In middle school, the work becomes more demanding and more visible, building on years of experience. Having participated in class plays each year since 1st grade, students arrive in 8th grade prepared to take on Shakespeare as a true culmination. On opening night, a student who once spoke tentative lines in the early grades

now shines under stage lights, carrying complex language with clarity and presence. They have memorized, rehearsed and collaborated through setbacks, and stepped into the vulnerability of performance with growing confidence.

At the same time, academic work deepens alongside an equally demanding program in the arts, the workshop and on the field. Middle schoolers design and conduct physics experiments, wrestle with algebraic thinking and study environmental systems with increasing precision. They are asked to think like scientists, write like observers, and to work alone and alongside others—the point being not mastery of any single mode, but fluency and confidence across many.

In many educational settings, early strengths can begin to define a student's path. Waldorf education takes care to widen that path rather than narrow it too soon. A student who excels in one area is still asked to engage fully in others. The athlete sings. The musician studies geometry. The confident speaker learns to listen; the hesitant one learns to stand and speak. Students are not tracked toward a single strength, but invited to become more capable, more balanced, and more aware of others.

This is a different kind of rigor: not doing only what comes easily, but developing the capacity to meet what does not; to work steadily in areas that do not come easily. Waldorf education does not center talent as the primary measure of success; instead, it cultivates determination, flexibility of thinking and the capacity to engage the world in multiple, dynamic ways.

The result is a graduate who can move between disciplines, collaborate effectively, and approach new challenges with grounded confidence in high school, college and work, and in a rapidly changing world.

There is a quote I often return to that captures this feeling. Peter Nitze, a Waldorf and Harvard graduate working in aerospace engineering, observed, "If you've had the experience of binding a book, knitting a sock, or playing a recorder, then you feel that you can build a rocket ship or learn a software program you've never touched. It's not bravado, just quiet confidence."

That quiet confidence is one of Waldorf education's most enduring outcomes. ❖

The Waldorf School of Baltimore ([waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org](http://waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org)) is tucked behind Cylburn Arboretum at 4801 Tamarind Road. Their Children's Garden serves children 2.5 to 5 years of age. A Parent and Child Program is available for families of children 10 months through 3 years. The school also has elementary and middle school grades 1 through 8.



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# Park: A Living Laboratory

The Park School of Baltimore's 100-acre campus is a living laboratory where students from PreK through 12th grade explore, create and connect with the natural world every day. Interconnected academic buildings—with a net-zero Science & Engineering Wing and dedicated arts and athletic facilities—serve as hubs for discovery, and outdoor classroom spaces, woodlands, trails, gardens, a pond and a stream are easily accessible and often visited.

## STEM: Learning by Doing

Park's campus provides endless opportunities for scientific exploration and engineering innovation. In the labs of the school's new 12,500-square-foot Science & Engineering Wing, students build human-powered amphibious vehicles to race through downtown Baltimore as part of the American Visionary Art Museum's Kinetic Sculpture Race. Students of all ages conduct field studies in the stream that runs through campus, and use the pond as a site for observation, experimentation and environmental research, learning how to think and behave like scientists.



*Park's campus supports hands-on experiences that reward curiosity and inspire growth. Photos courtesy of Park*

## Athletics: Space to Grow and Compete

Park's 42,000-square-foot Athletic Center anchors a competitive interscholastic athletic program that emphasizes teamwork, wellness and personal growth. The facility includes three basketball courts, a fitness center, a training room, locker rooms and an outdoor swimming pool. Five playing fields on the main campus and additional fields at the nearby Sugar Campus provide exceptional spaces for practice and competition. An on-campus tennis complex joins the suite of facilities this fall. Beyond Park's athletic program, students use the fields, trails and a Challenge Course to build strength, resilience and confidence.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

## GET TO KNOW THE PARK SCHOOL

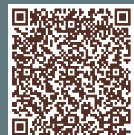
PRE-K — GRADE 12 PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION



The Park School of Baltimore is a Pre-K through Grade 12 community with the mission of supporting young people in becoming confident questioners and responsible citizens of the world. [www.parkschool.net](http://www.parkschool.net)



PLAN A VISIT:



I'm a reader and a writer. I'm an athlete, a lawyer for the Mock Trial team, and a photographer. I'm a leader. *I love being all of these things.*

None of us really sees the world in the same way — and that's just such an exciting idea to me.

I want to dedicate my life to something that's bigger than myself — something that helps other people.

—Aria  
Grade 11



THE PARK SCHOOL of BALTIMORE

# Life Between the Lions

By J. Denis Glover

My teenage years in Roland Park were bookended by two lions elsewhere: the The Barye Lion, a bronze by famous Romantic French sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye that sits in front of the apartment building my father owned at 6 West Mount Vernon Place, and the Columbia University mascot in front of which I received my Master's degree.

For part of those long-gone years, my home was on Roland Park's Indian Lane in a *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine-featured ranch that sat above a small stream that went underground until it emerged on what was then the Baltimore Country Club golf course and is now Hillside Park. There, in the winter, I would sled down the steep hill with my brother Gary and other neighborhood boys.

The brick ranch house had been built by my father, J. C. Glover, on the grounds of financier Benjamin Griswold's large 201



*The Barye Lion graces Mount Vernon Place.*

*Glover (below, right) as a teenager representing the United Nations Youth of Maryland with Governor Thomas Roosevelt McKeldin. Photos courtesy of Glover*



Edgevale Road estate, which my father had purchased a couple of years before.

Memories of all three locations remain vivid, but none more than that of the lion at Mt. Vernon Place, crouching in front of my father's building. It sat across from what was the abandoned Thomas-Jencks-Gladding House, which is now the Hackerman House, a Baltimore landmark built around 1848 for Dr. John Hanson Thomas. It is currently owned by the Walters Art Museum.



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Gilman's Carey Hall, pictured in the 1950s. Photo courtesy of Gilman

Why is that a special memory? Because that's where, during my high school days, the United Nations Youth of Maryland board occasionally met in the spooky, empty building with only a few chairs. I was the organization's public relations chairman and wrote its printed brochure. It was there that we brazenly planned a public meeting at what was then called Gilman Country School for Boys (now, Gilman School) featuring Eleanor Roosevelt with then-Governor Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin introducing her.

Roland Park's East Lane resident, Peggy Ewing Baxter, civic leader and wife of a judge, served brilliantly as our caring United Nations Youth advisor. Waxter was also an advocate for civil rights and justice for women. She organized funds and raised awareness for these issues as well as for the improved care of children and the elderly.

That year, according to our plan, a United Nations Youth audience would be assembled in the school's auditorium to hear a presentation by the former First Lady, who had generously agreed to come at my invitation. However, I received an urgent call from her that morning—she was fogged in in New York! There would be no speaker to address the crowd that had already assembled!

Thankfully, Governor McKeldin rose to the occasion. In Roosevelt's stead, he spoke powerfully in support of the United Nations with his inimitable resounding voice. He made an impressive and fortuitous substitution and saved the day—especially mine!

That's how I lived between two lions and how two Roosevelts did not meet. ❖

Former lifestyle editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*, J. Denis Glover was raised in Roland Park. He is author of the Virginia-based novel, *The Smithy Miracles*. The author's family is thought to have arrived in St. Mary's County in Maryland from southwestern Scotland before 1665. Later generations migrated up the Rappahannock River into the Shenandoah Valley, and eventually ended up in Roland Park, where Glover was raised.



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# Truffled Wild Mushroom Pappardelle

Eddie's of Roland Park

Perfect for a cozy weeknight fall dinner. Prep time: 15 minutes. Cook time: 20 minutes. Serves four.

## Ingredients

|                                                   |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 12 oz. pappardelle pasta                          | 1/2 cup heavy cream                      |
| 4 oz. cremini mushrooms, sliced                   | 1/2 cup plus 1 T. grated Parmesan cheese |
| 4 oz. shitake mushrooms, stems removed and sliced | 1/4 tsp. coarse kosher salt              |
| 1 T. extra virgin olive oil                       | 1/4 tsp. fresh ground pepper             |
| 4 T. unsalted butter                              | 2 T. fresh chives, minced                |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced                           | 1 tsp. black truffle oil                 |
| 2 shallots, sliced                                |                                          |
| 1/2 cup Marsala wine                              |                                          |

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the pappardelle and cook according to package directions until al dente, about 12 minutes. Be sure to reserve a cup of pasta water before draining.



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the mushrooms and sauté until lightly browned, about 7 minutes. Add the butter, garlic and shallots, and sauté for about 2 minutes. Add the wine and cook for about 3 minutes until it is slightly reduced. Stir in the cream, a half cup of the Parmesan, and salt and pepper. Allow the mixture to simmer for 2 minutes until it is slightly thickened.

Add the pasta to the skillet, folding it in with the mushrooms until it is evenly coated. Add some reserved pasta water a little at a time to achieve the desired consistency.

Transfer the pasta to a large bowl, drizzle it with truffle oil and sprinkle it with chives and Parmesan. ❖

\* Pair with Fondato Feudo Montoni Grillo. *Eddie's Tip:* For a heartier flavor, try adding crispy fried prosciutto before serving

## School Nights Made Easy

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## PARK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

### The Arts: Creativity at Every Turn

The 44,000-square-foot Wyman Arts Center is home to a vibrant visual and performing arts program. Students learn and create in drawing and painting studios, photography studio, digital imaging lab, recording studio, and maker spaces for wood, metal, and ceramics. Two theaters provide venues for performances, assemblies and gatherings. The studios and stages at Park are transformative spaces, giving students opportunities to imagine, experiment, and thoughtfully and creatively engage and build community.

All areas of Park's campus, both indoors and out, provide opportunities for hands-on experiences that reward curiosity and inspire growth.

To learn about the Park philosophy, curriculum, co-curricular programming, and community, you can attend one or more admission events. Some events are designed specifically for parents, some are geared towards children, and others are designed for the entire family. Please visit [parkschool.net](http://parkschool.net) for the most up-to-date information on ways to experience Park. ❖

Founded in 1912, The Park School of Baltimore ([parkschool.net](http://parkschool.net)) is an independent, gender-inclusive, non-sectarian, progressive Pre-K through 12th grade school located on a 100-acre campus minutes from the city.

# Cajun Shrimp and Corn Stew

Miss Shirley's Café

*Yields six to eight portions.*

## Ingredients

- |                              |                                                                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 celery stalks, diced small | 1 T. tomato paste                                                      |
| ½ red pepper, diced small    | 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce                                            |
| ½ yellow pepper, diced small | 2 T. white wine                                                        |
| ½ Spanish onion, diced small | ¼ tsp. ground pepper                                                   |
| ½ cup fresh white corn       | 2 green onions, chopped                                                |
| ½ tsp. thyme                 | Cornstarch slurry: 2 tsp. cornstarch and ¼ cup water, whisked together |
| 1 tsp. parsley, chopped      | 1 lb. cooked shrimp, peeled, diced and tossed in Cajun spice           |
| 2 tsp. garlic, minced        |                                                                        |
| 1 T. olive oil               |                                                                        |
| 3 cups shrimp stock          |                                                                        |
| 1 14-oz. can diced tomatoes  |                                                                        |

Dice the onion, celery, and red and yellow peppers. Saute in olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat for 3 to 4 minutes, until the vegetables just start to soften. Add the chopped garlic, thyme and fresh corn, and sauté for 1 minute more. Add the white wine and Worcestershire, and cook for 1 to 2 minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook for 1 minute. Add the diced tomatoes and their



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

juice, ground pepper and shrimp stock, and bring to a boil. Slowly pour in the cornstarch slurry, whisking to combine. Cook over low heat, stirring consistently until the stew thickens.

Let the stew simmer for 8 to 10 minutes, adjusting it to taste with salt and pepper. Remove it from the heat and stir in the diced shrimp and chopped green onions. Serve the stew immediately, sprinkled with green onions and Cajun spice, or let it cool to room temperature before labelling, dating and refrigerating. The stew will last refrigerated for 3 to 4 days. ❖

## GARRISON FOREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

and engaging for our little learners while instilling important foundational skills that will prepare them for their future educational journey.”

### All-Girls Lower School (K-5)

As students transition out of the preschool, the Garrison Forest team will help parents of boys find the right next step for their child, while girls will have the skills they need to seamlessly transition into the lower school. The lower school, serving grades kindergarten through 5th, is where girls build confidence and critical thinking skills while learning about friendship, kindness and respect. Throughout lower school, students encounter a strong, interdisciplinary academic program, bringing in aspects of music, art and more to deepen their understanding of the topics they are exploring. They build research, collaboration and public speaking skills, preparing them for middle school and beyond.

Whether you are looking for care for your young child or seeking a place that can help your young daughter thrive, start your journey at [gfs.org/academics](http://gfs.org/academics). ❖

Garrison Forest School in Owings Mills is a day and boarding school educating girls in grades K-12, with a coed preschool and early childcare starting at 6 weeks. Daily transportation is offered to the Roland Park area. Learn more at [gfs.org](http://gfs.org).

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Best<br>Gluten-Free<br>Options                                                                                                                                                                  | America's<br>Favorite Family<br>Friendly Restaurants                                  | Best<br>Kids<br>Menu                                                                  |
| Baltimore Sun<br>Readers' Poll                                                                                                                                                                  | FoodNetwork<br>.com                                                                   | Baltimore Magazine<br>Readers' Poll                                                   |
|                                                                                                             |  |  |
| GLUTEN FREE PANCAKES                                                                                                                                                                            | KID FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES                                                               | CHILDREN'S BENTO BOX                                                                  |
| <p><i>Voted</i> <b>BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT FOR KIDS</b><br/>           Baltimore's Child 2026 Readers' Choice Awards<br/>           Proud to be a Peanut, Tree Nut &amp; Sesame Free Kitchen*</p> |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Miss Shirley's</b><br/>CAFE</p>                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| <p><i>Award Winning<br/>Breakfast, Brunch &amp; Lunch</i></p>                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| <p><b>NEW Fall Menu October 7th!</b></p>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
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# The Book Nook

By Greg Fromme, Branch Manager, Roland Park Branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Welcome to the Book Nook! Please read on for a list of programs coming up at the Roland Park branch, as well as reading recommendations from the library staff.

All Pratt libraries will be closed September 7 for Labor Day, October 11 for Indigenous Peoples' Day, November 3 for Election Day, November 11 for Veteran's Day and November 26 for Thanksgiving.

## Programming at the Pratt

(details at [calendar.pratt.library.org](http://calendar.pratt.library.org))

### For Kids

- Wednesdays at 10:30 am. **Baby and Toddler Storytime.** Stories, movement, play and songs for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. Playtime follows. All abilities welcome. Groups of five or more must call 410-396-6099 to register.
- Thursdays at 10:30 am. **Family Storytime.** Stories, movement, songs and the library's most fun activities. Come ready to move, laugh and learn together. For families with children ages 2 to 5. All abilities are welcome.
- Sep. 2, 3 pm. **Back-to-School Popsicle Stick Bookmarks.** Get into the back-to-school spirit by decorating a bookmark!

- Sep. 21, 3 pm. **Dot Art Trees.** Fall is in the air. Make a dot art picture of fall fun!
- Sep. 29, 10:15 am. **Opera: Voice Your Story.** Join us as Opera Baltimore leads youth into mindfulness and collaboration through opera-based storytelling. Children will create and perform "mini-operas" using a variety of picture books, excerpts or poetry. Participants will also engage in breathing and team-building exercises. This program has limited spaces and pre-registration is recommended. To register, please call 410-396-6099.
- Oct. 7, 3 pm. **Cupcake Liner Crab Scenes.** Read to Reef is here! Make an ocean scene to celebrate.
- Oct. 15, 11 am **Tissue Paper Pumpkins.** Decorate a tissue paper pumpkin for a spooky treat!
- Nov. 9, 3 pm. **STEM Crafternoon.** Come to the library for a STEM-themed crafternoon in honor of Maryland STEM Fest. Learn how to make your own windmill and try out some fun STEM tools!
- Nov. 19, 3:15 pm. **Toilet Paper Roll Turkeys.** Make a turkey out of a toilet paper roll and gobble up some fun!

### For Teens

- Sep. 3, 3 pm. STEM Day: **LED Name Badges.** School is in, which means STEM Day is back at the Roland Park Branch. Visit the teen department to build your own LED name badge and learn about optics and circuitry.
- Sep. 10, 3 pm. **Creating Moss-Scapes.** Explore the intimate and fascinating world of moss! Learn about the role (and lore) of moss in our environment while creating our own Moss-Scapes

## RPCS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Brian Hasselfeld, Roland Park resident and father of a recent Little Reds graduate, shared, "Our son and daughter have been at Little Reds since they were only a few months old. As our oldest progressed through the program, we experienced the benefits of her structured early education as she was guided by the wonderful Little Reds educators over the years, gaining concrete skills, social skills, expanding her interests in reading, language, arts, numbers, and beyond. Little Reds has laid a great foundation for her exciting transition to kindergarten in the RPCS lower school!"

Young families come together to share the journey of raising children in a supportive community, helping to navigate early childhood. Little Reds makes time and space for families to bond by hosting parent events, such as breakfasts, art shows and educational seminars.

Little Reds was recently voted Best Preschool Program in Baltimore by *Baltimore's Child*. To learn more, visit [rpcs.org/little-reds](http://rpcs.org/little-reds). ❖

Roland Park Country School ([rpcs.org](http://rpcs.org)) is an independent school for girls in grades K-12, with a coed preschool for children 6 weeks through 5 years. RPCS is a place of profound and hands-on learning with a rich history of dedication to the intellectual and moral development of its students.

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through guided art prompts and artistic exploration with preserved moss. You will create a 3D mixed-media sculpture with moss and other materials to bring home. All materials will be provided, and please feel free to bring your own objects, artifacts and accessories as well.

- Sep. 14, 3 pm. **Hojalata Art: Mexican Tin Art.** Tweens and teens will learn the history of Hojalata art and have the chance to make their own Winter-themed Mexican Tin Art. This is a hands-on program.
- Sep. 21, 3 pm. **Blast from the Past Gaming: Dance Central 2.** This month's after school gaming experience will let you show off your dancing skills in Dance Central 2 on the Xbox 360, where "you are the controller." Complete a co-op to reach a five-star team score or challenge a friend to a dance battle with this fun after school activity.
- Oct. 8, 3 pm. **STEM Day Bristlebots.** Tweens and teens will build a robot on the head of a toothbrush. Participants will learn how to create closed circuits by connecting a motor and battery wires. These motors are the same type found in cell phones and video game controllers to make them move.
- Oct. 22, 3 pm. **International Artists Day.** Visit the Roland Park branch and decorate paper lanterns with various upcycled supplies. International Artist's Day on October 25 honors the contributions made by artists and celebrates Pablo Picasso, who was born on the date in 1881.
- Oct. 29, 3 pm. **Zombie Heads.** Spooky season is almost here! Visit the Roland Park Branch and decorate your own zombie head with a plethora of crafting supplies. This program has limited spaces and pre-registration is recommended. To register, please call 410-396-6099.
- Nov. 10, 4 pm. **Author Visit: Paula Chase, *Off Balance*.** Chase is the co-founder of the award-winning blog, *The Brown Bookshelf*. A longtime advocate for diversifying the type of fiction featuring Black characters, she has written nine critically acclaimed upper middle grade and young adult novels and is the recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English Assembly on Literature for Adolescents Konigsberg Award.
- Nov. 12, 3 pm. **National Sundae Day.** Visit the teen department to decorate a foam clay ice cream sundae to celebrate America's classic dessert. All sundaes are dairy- and nut-free.
- Nov. 16, 3 pm. **STEAM Day: Solar Bugs.** Tweens and teens will create solar-powered insects that move. Participants will learn about solar energy by creating a simple circuit using conductive tape and batteries.
- Nov. 23, 3 pm. **After School Gaming: Overcooked.** This month's after school gaming experience is all about teamwork. Work with other players in this cooperative cooking simulation game to feed hungry customers while racing the clock in a chaotic kitchen.

## For Adults

Sep. 21, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell.** Read and discuss *Hamnet*, a short, piercing, deeply moving novel about the death of Shakespeare's 11-year-old son Hamnet—a name that was interchangeable with Hamlet in 15th century Britain—and the years leading up to the production of his great play.

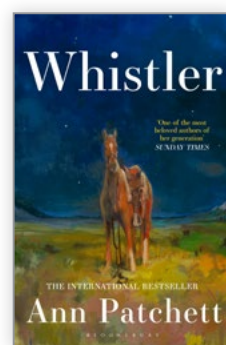
Oct. 19, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *On the Calculation of Volume***

**(Book III) by Solvej Balte.** Read and discuss *On the Calculation of Volume (Book III)*. Where Books I and II focused on a single woman's involuntary journey away from her life and her loved ones and into the chasm of time, Book III brings us back into the realm of companionship, with all its thrills and odd quirks, and a sense of mutual bewilderment at having to relearn how to exist alongside others in a shared reality.

Nov. 16, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *A Registry of My Passage Upon this Earth* by Daniel Mason.** Read and discuss *A Registry of My Passage Upon the Earth*. At times funny and irreverent, always moving and deeply urgent, these stories—among them a National Magazine Award and a Pushcart Prize winner—cap a 15-year project. From the Nile's depths to the highest reaches of the atmosphere, from volcano-racked islands to an asylum on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, these are tales of ecstasy, epiphany and what the *New York Times Magazine* called the "struggle for survival . . . hand to hand, word to word," by "one of the finest prose stylists in American fiction."

The following reading recommendations have been submitted by members of the Roland Park branch staff.

***Whistler* by Ann Patchett** (recommended by Abby Lyon, children's librarian). This may not just be my favorite book of the summer, it is in strong contention as my favorite of the year. I am not alone, judging by the many accolades written since the book was published. Much like her last



CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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## BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

novel, *Tom Lake, Whistler* tells the story of family and reconciling one's past actions and decisions to better understand the present. Daphne, an English teacher at an all-girls school in New York City, unexpectedly runs into her former stepfather, Eddie, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It has been four decades since Eddie and her mother divorced and she last saw him. When she was 9, she and Eddie were in a car accident. Eddie's comfort and reassurance during the harrowing time as they awaited rescue has always had a profound impact on Daphne. Their reunion proves to be meaningful and life-altering for both of them. Patchett writes a beautiful, simple story, yet her characters are drawn with great depth and complexity. There is humor, empathy, and intelligent, insightful dialogue. All of which are the hallmarks of an Ann Patchett novel. Expect to see *Whistler* on many Best Books of 2026 lists; it most likely will be on yours. If you prefer audiobooks, it is an additional treat that the book is narrated by Patchett herself.

***Sisters* by Jonas Hassen Khemiri** (recommended by Gregory Fromme, branch manager). *Sisters* is a sprawling family saga that is structured with chapters that alternate points of view between Jonas and the eponymous Mikkola sisters, whom Jonas has known since they were children



growing up in Stockholm. Khemiri deftly weaves character study with social commentary throughout this lengthy novel. Jonas and his family, as well as the Mikkola sisters, are children of Tunisian immigrants. Much of the story focuses on how these characters view their identities—how they fit (or don't) into Swedish society. The novel also explores the ways in which the characters attempt to connect to their Tunisian roots. There is also a mysterious “curse” that looms over the Mikkola family. *Sisters* covers quite an expanse of geography over 30-plus years. But in the deft hands of Khemiri, the story moves compellingly along and is eminently readable. Highly recommended!

***Time Shelter* by Georgi Gospodinov** (recommended by Gregory Fromme). *Time Shelter* is a fascinating work of imagination in which a mental health practitioner in Bulgaria named Gaustine has opened a clinic where patients reside in rooms that painstakingly replicate specific places from their earlier lives, decorated with specific artifacts from their past. Gaustine's intention is to help those who struggle with memory loss or dementia to reclaim their vanished past. These so-called “time shelters” become hugely popular amongst those who seek to remember or replicate the comforts of their past. Similar facilities open across Europe as the popularity of this practice increases. This is a fascinating story articulated by a very capable writer who has tapped into deep-seeded feelings about memory, time and cultural history. Highly recommended! ♦



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# KidLit Picks: Fall into Reading

By Paula Willey, The Ivy Bookshop

## Books for Babies

***The Pigeon WON'T Pick a Color!*** by Mo Willems Workshop

***The Questioners: How Many is That?*** by Andrea Beaty

## Picture Books to Share

***Golem, Golem, Golem*** by Richard Ho

***The Only Way to Dance*** by Cristina Quintero

***Young Cat, Old Cat*** by Jillian Tamaki

***What's On Your Mind?*** by Todd Parr

***Sisters All the Time*** by Angela Quezada Padron

***The Whale's Tale and the Otter's Side of the Story*** by Kate Messner

***Clara the Cucuy Rescuer/ Clara la rescatadora de cucuyes*** by Laekan Zea Kemp

***Here Come the Grandmas!*** by Cynthia Leitich Smith

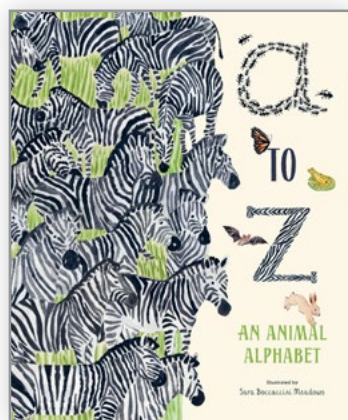
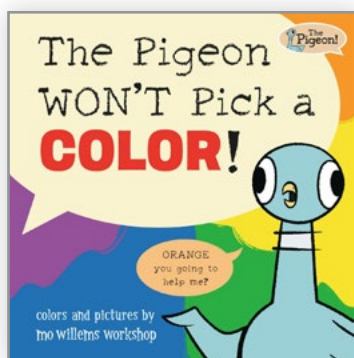
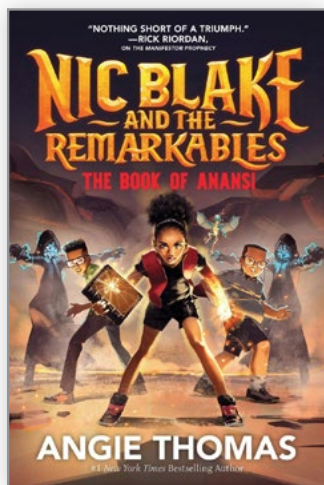
***A Riddle of Eels*** by Nicholas Day

***We Are the Light*** by Rajani LaRocca

***The Bakery Dragon and the Giant Cookie*** by Devin Elle Kurtz

***A to Z: An Animal Alphabet*** by Sara Boccaccini Meadows

## Fun for Emerging and Independent Readers



***Reina Ramos Works It Out!/Reina Ramos encuentra la solución!*** by Emma Otheguy

***Step Inside a Fairy Tale*** by Lars van de Goor

***Dragons Around the World*** by Sally Nicholls

***Very Far from Home*** by Hope Larson

***Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Book of Anansi*** by Angie Thomas

***Riding the Trail: Cherokees Remember the Removal*** by Traci Sorell

***A Skeleton in the Closet*** by Claire Hatcher-Smith

***Wish You Well*** by Jamie Sumner

***Candace, the Universe, and Everything*** by Sherri L. Smith

***Mischief and Monsters*** by Adrianna Cuevas

***Mystery Guest*** by Maren Stoffels

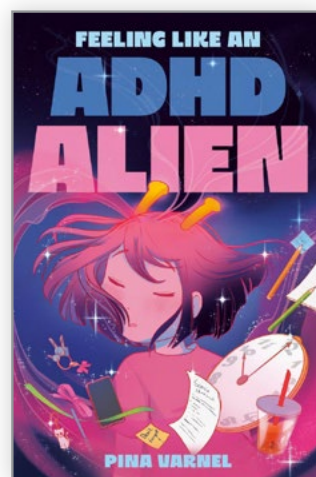
## Graphic Novels, Nonfiction and Nonfiction Graphic Novels

***Comic Strip Science Adventures: Exploring Space*** by Paul Mason

***Comic Strip Science Adventures: Digging for Dinosaurs*** by Paul Mason

***Feeling Like an ADHD Alien: A Graphic Novel*** by Pina Varnel

***The Whole Wide World of Mabel Mulligan: A Graphic Novel*** by Victoria Jamieson



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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## KIDLIT PICKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

**Raise the Bar: A Graphic Novel**  
by Fernanda Frick H.

**Who Got Game? Football** by  
Derrick D. Barnes

**The Web of War (Nathan Hale's  
Hazardous Tales #14)** by Nathan  
Hale

**Diamond Fever!** by Steve  
Sheinkin

**Inbetweens** by Faith Erin Hicks

### Teen Identities

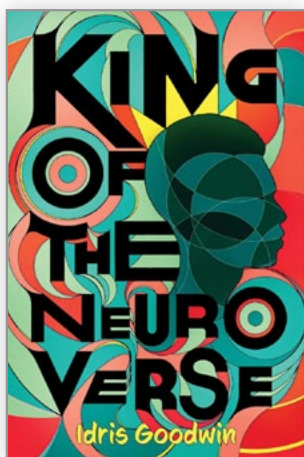
**King of the Neuro Verse** by Idris  
Goodwin

**Shift Happens: The History of Labor in the United States** by J.  
Albert Mann

**Meet Me at the Picket Line** by Jasper Sanchez

**Titan of the Stars (Book 1)** by E.K. Johnston

**Anger is Only a Shadow** by Elizabeth Acevedo



### Spooky Season Special Picks

**The Last Kids on Earth and the  
Zombie Parade** by Max Brallier

**Tales from Cabin 23: The Boo  
Hag Flex** by Justina Ireland

**Tales from Cabin 23: Night of  
the Living Head** by Hanna Alkaf

**Howliday Inn: The Graphic  
Novel** by James Howe

**Middle School Monsters (A Graphic Novel)** by Robin Easter

**The Last Kids on Earth and the Nightmare King** by Max Brallier

**The Burn Beast** by Mary Averling

**Crimes Through Time** by Rosie McCormick

**How to Survive a Slasher** by Justine Pucella Winans

**Your Boyfriend Needs an Exorcist** by Justine Pucella Winans ❖

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# Calendar Highlights

## Houses of Worship

Please call or visit the websites of these Roland Park area houses of worship for information about their holiday service dates and times.

| HOUSES OF WORSHIP                                                             | PHONE        | WEBSITE                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bolton Street Synagogue</b> , 212 W. Cold Spring Ln.                       | 410-235-5354 | <a href="http://boltonstreet.org">boltonstreet.org</a>                           |
| <b>Cathedral of Mary Our Queen</b> , 5200 N. Charles St.                      | 410-464-4000 | <a href="http://cathedralofmary.org">cathedralofmary.org</a>                     |
| <b>Cathedral of the Incarnation</b> , 4 E. University Pkwy.                   | 410-467-3750 | <a href="http://incarnationbmore.org">incarnationbmore.org</a>                   |
| <b>Church of the Redeemer</b> , 5603 N. Charles St.                           | 410-435-7333 | <a href="http://redeemberbaltimore.org">redeemberbaltimore.org</a>               |
| <b>First Christian Church</b> , 5802 Roland Ave.                              | 410-435-1506 | <a href="http://rolandparkcc.org">rolandparkcc.org</a>                           |
| <b>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore</b> , 102 W. University Pkwy. | 410-467-7974 | <a href="http://christiansciencebaltimore.org">christiansciencebaltimore.org</a> |
| <b>The Gathering of Baltimore</b> , 5802 Roland Ave.                          | 410-252-7816 | <a href="http://thegatheringbaltimore.org">thegatheringbaltimore.org</a>         |
| <b>Grace United Methodist Church</b> , 5407 N. Charles St.                    | 410-433-6650 | <a href="http://graceunitedmethodist.org">graceunitedmethodist.org</a>           |
| <b>Mt. Olivet Christian Church</b> , 5802 Roland Ave.                         | 410-435-1506 | <a href="http://rolandparkcc.org">rolandparkcc.org</a>                           |
| <b>North Baltimore Mennonite Church</b> , 4615 Roland Ave.                    | 410-467-8947 | <a href="http://bmoremenno.org">bmoremenno.org</a>                               |
| <b>Roland Park Presbyterian Church</b> , 4801 Roland Ave.                     | 410-889-2001 | <a href="http://rolandparkchurch.org">rolandparkchurch.org</a>                   |
| <b>St. Andrew's Christian Community</b> , 5802 Roland Ave.                    | 410-435-9470 | <a href="http://rolandparkcc.org">rolandparkcc.org</a>                           |
| <b>St. David's Church</b> , 4700 Roland Ave.                                  | 410-467-0476 | <a href="http://stdavidsbaltimore.org">stdavidsbaltimore.org</a>                 |
| <b>Second Presbyterian Church</b> , 4200 St. Paul St.                         | 410-467-4210 | <a href="http://secondpresby.org">secondpresby.org</a>                           |
| <b>Stony Run Friends</b> , 5116 N. Charles St.                                | 443-703-2590 | <a href="http://stonyrunfriends.org">stonyrunfriends.org</a>                     |

**The Baltimore Police Department Northern District Commander's Monthly Crime and Community Meeting** is held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Northern District Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Ln. All are welcome. [baltimorepolice.org/find-my-district/northern-district](http://baltimorepolice.org/find-my-district/northern-district)

Saturdays, 10 am-4 pm. **Regular Museum Hours**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301-R York Rd., Lutherville. [firemuseummd.org](http://firemuseummd.org)

## September

- Through Sep. 27. **Kim's Convenience**, Everyman Theatre, 315 W. Fayette St. Step inside the heart of this neighborhood with Ins Choi's critically acclaimed, award-winning comedy that inspired the hit Netflix series. This co-production with Indiana Repertory Theatre and Portland Center Stage will be directed by cara hinh. [everymantheatre.org](http://everymantheatre.org)
- Sep. 2, 12 pm. **Tree Collection Walk: Oaks**, Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF), 4915 Greenspring Ave. Join CAF for a one-hour guided walk to explore oaks on the property. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Sep. 3, 6 pm. **Ben Eggerman: A Gay Little History of Maryland, Volume 1**, The Ivy Bookshop, 5928 Falls Rd. From trans horse thieves in 19th century Baltimore to Southern Maryland's 1960s secret gay getaway, these lovingly researched stories span 150 years and take place all across the state. The first book ever published on Maryland's LGBTQ+ history, *A Gay Little History of Maryland*, proves that our state's story is far less straight and narrow than you think. RSVP for this free event at [theivybookshop.com](http://theivybookshop.com).
- Sep. 6, 3:30 pm. **Community Concerts at Second: Violinist Vijay Gupta and Pianist Dominic Cheli**. Community Concerts at Second, 4200 St. Paul St. MacArthur Fellow Gupta was the youngest musician ever appointed to a major American orchestra when he joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic at

The Civic League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in person at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road (4801 Roland Ave.). The next meeting will be on September 2.



- 19. Joined by acclaimed pianist Cheli, Gupta will present a richly varied program that spans three centuries, including Vitali's dramatic *Chaconne*, Korngold's enchanting selections from *Much Ado About Nothing*, contemporary works by Reena Esmail, and *Brahms' Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108*. [cc2nd.org](http://cc2nd.org)
- Sep. 6, 4 pm. **A Homeland We Carry: A Musical Portrait of Iran**. Friends of Early Music and Music at St. David's, St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave. A concert on period instruments will bring the musical heritage of Iran to vivid life. Free with a suggested donation. [stdavidsbaltimore.org](http://stdavidsbaltimore.org)
- Sep. 8, 10:30 am. **Children's Tree Time**, Cylburn Arboretum. Join this parent/child class to learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Ages 2-5. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Sep. 10, 2 pm. **Gardeners' Workshop**, Cylburn Arboretum. These adult workshops, taught by the horticulture team, are an opportunity to learn more about gardening concepts and skills. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Sep. 12, 10 am. **Honoring Our Heroes Motor Muster**, Fire Museum of Maryland. Check out the antique and contemporary motorized fire equipment, kids games and activities, and food trucks. Free admission made possible by the citizens of Baltimore County. [firemuseummd.org](http://firemuseummd.org)

# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

- Sep. 16, 12 pm. **Wednesday Walk**, Cylburn Arboretum. These walks are geared toward an adult audience. Topics range broadly and each walk is led by a different expert. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Sep. 17, 10:30 am. **Children's Tree Time**, Cylburn Arboretum. Join this parent/child class to learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Ages 2-5. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Sep. 17-26. **Laura Benanti: Nobody Cares: A Comedy Show**, Baltimore Center Stage, 700 N. Calvert St. Direct from an acclaimed run at Edinburgh Fringe and two sold-out Off-Broadway engagements comes this one-woman comedy show from the mind of Tony Award® winner Benanti. [centerstage.org](http://centerstage.org)
- Sep. 19, time TBD. **Third Annual RPEMS Wellness Fair**, Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS), 5207 Roland Ave. All are welcome to this one-of-a-kind event that will bring together organizations and resources in support of healthy living for children and families. Details will be announced closer to the event. [bit.ly/RPEMS233](http://bit.ly/RPEMS233)
- Sep. 20, 4:30 pm. **Recital and Evensong for the Feast of Hildegard von Bingen**. Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. Soprano Caitlin Glastonbury will present a recital of works by medieval visionary Hildegard von Bingen, interspersed by modern works of Missy Mazolli and Cecilia Livingston, and followed by choral offerings by the Choir of St. David's. Free with a suggested donation. [stdavidsbaltimore.org](http://stdavidsbaltimore.org)
- Sep. 24, 10 am. **Opening Day Activities Fair**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park (TWCRP), 4500 Roland Ave. The fair is open to the community, and will provide information about activities, special interest groups, upcoming trips and programs. It's a terrific way to find out more about TWCRP. Complimentary light fare with mimosas, coffee and tea will be provided. Please register in advance at [manager@twcrp.org](mailto:manager@twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org)
- Sep. 27, 1:30 pm. **Laura Resau: The River Muse**, The Ivy Bookshop. Join Resau, in conversation with Jane Delury, to discuss this summery, whimsical and atmospheric novel, where a young woman recovers from a menacing ex-partner with the help of music, nature and friendship. Oh, and a mischievous ghost boy. RSVP for this free event at [theivybookshop.com](http://theivybookshop.com).
- Sep. 27, 3:30 pm. **Community Concerts at Second: Musicians of the Baltimore Symphony**. Community Concerts at Second. This performance will feature Holly Jenkins, Soojin Chang, Agnes Tse and Adam Wu, violin; Peter Minkler and Colin Sorgi, violas; Jeremy Tai, cellos; Ryan Avila, bass; and Wan-Chi Su, piano. [cc2nd.org](http://cc2nd.org)
- Sep. 29, 5:30 pm. **Lecture: "Deer in Baltimore"**, Cylburn Arboretum. Join Shane Boehne, Baltimore wildlife conservation analyst, as he talks about one of the most



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## October

- Oct. 1, 11 am. **Sister Helen Amos, RSM: Keynote Speaker**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. TWCPRP will launch its yearlong 130th anniversary celebration with Sister Helen, an inspirational trailblazer and devoted advocate for community health, healthcare access and social justice initiatives. Please register in advance at [manager@twcrp.org](mailto:manager@twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org)
- Oct. 2-4. **Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now**, Baltimore Center Stage. With 16 Broadway shows and more than 300 episodes of television between them, Kerry Butler, Laura Bell Bundy and Marissa Jaret Winokur have truly done it all! From *Beetlejuice* to *Big Brother*, *Mean Girls* to *Legally Blonde*, the three met while originating the roles of Tracy, Penny and Amber in the Tony Award-winning show *Hairspray*. Now, they will spend an evening revisiting the show that helped launch their careers and lifetime friendship, all the while singing hits from the shows that made you fall in love with them. [centerstage.org](http://centerstage.org)
- Oct. 4, 3:30 pm. **Community Concerts at Second: Brandon Woody's Upendo**. Community Concerts at Second. Recently signed to Blue Note Records and hailed by *The New York Times* as a "rising force in contemporary jazz," Woody will bring his acclaimed band Upendo—Troy Long, keys; Quincy Phillips, drum; and Michael Saunders, bass—to CC2nd for an afternoon of music rooted in love, resilience and community. [cc2nd.org](http://cc2nd.org)
- Oct. 7, 12 pm. **Tree Collection Walk: Walnut and Hickory**, Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF). Join CAF for a one-hour guided walk to explore walnuts and hickories on the property. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Oct. 8, 1:15 pm. **Healthcare in the Time of A.I.**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Dr. Alejandra Blanco is a research associate at Johns Hopkins University, where she oversees data collection, analysis and interpretation in order to support the development of machine learning models. She has extensive experience developing A.I. tools for early detection of pancreatic cancer. Blanco will share what A.I. can do well, where it falls short and why human judgement remains essential. Please register in advance at [manager@twcrp.org](mailto:manager@twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org)
- Oct. 8, 2 pm. **Gardeners' Workshop**, Cylburn Arboretum. These adult workshops, taught by the horticulture team, are an opportunity to learn more about gardening concepts and skills. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Oct. 9, 6 pm. **Diana Rojas: They Hold Grudges**, The Ivy Bookshop. Gather in The Ivy's gardens with Rojas to discuss her new novel, a story of family, loyalty and the weight of suspicion. She'll talk about the swirling forces of gossip and paranoia, truth and peace, in conversation with Abby Higgs and all of us. RSVP for this free event at [theivybookshop.com](http://theivybookshop.com).
- Oct. 10, time TBA. **Murdle Jr.'s Curious Crimes for Curious Minds: Ready, Set, Solve!**, Charm City Books, Gilman School Lecture Hall, 5407 Roland Ave. Whodunit? Join Charm City Books and Gilman to solve a crime and save the world! Jump into a nefarious world full of mystery and mayhem, created by bestselling author of the Murdle Jr. series, G.T. Karber. Participate in this bestselling logic puzzling phenomenon for Junior Detectives and their families. With kid-friendly challenges, riddles and secrets galore. Check back for the details and RSVP at [charmcitybooks.com](http://charmcitybooks.com).
- Oct. 13, 10:30 am. **Children's Tree Time**, Cylburn Arboretum. Join this parent/child class to learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Ages 2-5. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Oct. 15, 10:30 am. **Children's Tree Time**, Cylburn Arboretum. Join this parent/child class to learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Ages 2-5. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)
- Oct. 17, 7 am. **RPEMS Team at Baltimore Running Festival**, 210 Key Highway. Community members of all ages and abilities are invited to walk, run or wheelchair-ride while raising funds for capital improvements to the school's outdoor green spaces. Advance registration from \$40 is required. Register at: [eventbrite.com/e/ready-set-run-for-recess-tickets-1988904819856](https://eventbrite.com/e/ready-set-run-for-recess-tickets-1988904819856).
- Oct. 18 through Nov. 15. **Different Words for Happiness**, Everyman Theatre. Discover a stirring and intimate exploration of the human heart in a profound new work written by Everyman Theatre Resident Company Member Katie Kleiger. Directed by Laura Kepley. [everymantheatre.org](http://everymantheatre.org)
- Oct. 21, 12 pm. **Wednesday Walk**, Cylburn Arboretum. These walks are geared toward an adult audience. Topics range

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

broadly and each walk is led by a different expert. Free for CAF members and \$5 for non-members. [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org)

- Oct. 22, 11 am, **Gloria Richardson and the Civil Rights Movement**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Peter Levy, history and political science professor emeritus at York College, will introduce the audience to Gloria Richardson, a remarkable, though virtually unknown, activist in the 1960s. Please register in advance at [manager@twcrp.org](mailto:manager@twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org)
- Oct. 23, 7:30 pm. **Trio Sirènes**. Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. St. David's 2026/27 Ensemble-in-Residence, Trio Sirènes, made up of members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, will present a program for a Debussy trio (flute, viola and harp). Free with a suggested donation. [stdavidsbaltimore.org](http://stdavidsbaltimore.org)
- Oct. 24, 6 pm. **Lantern Night**, Fire Museum of Maryland. Enjoy a family-friendly Halloween, with fire apparatus lit by etched-glass signal lamps and kerosene lanterns, and reenactors in period attire. [firemuseummd.org](http://firemuseummd.org)
- Oct. 25, 3:30 pm. **Community Concerts at Second: Awadagin Pratt, Piano**. Community Concerts at Second. Praised by the *Washington Post* as "one of this country's most interesting and profound pianists," Pratt is one of the most



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distinctive artists in American classical music. He will perform four monumental works that showcase both the grandeur and poetry of the piano: Johannes Brahms' *Ballades, Op. 10 and Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel, Op. 24*; César Franck's *Prelude Chorale and Fugue*; and François Couperin's selections from *Pieces de Clavecin*. [cc2nd.org](http://cc2nd.org)

- Oct. 31. **Pete the Cat**, Baltimore Center Stage. Join Jimmy and Pete on an adventure of friendship, all the way to Paris and back in a VW Bus! [centerstage.org](http://centerstage.org)

## November



The 2026 Maryland General Election will be held on **November 3**. On the Federal level, all 435 U.S. House seats are up nationwide, including eight seats in Maryland districts. About a third of U.S. Senate seats are up nationwide. State offices up for election include Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General and State Senators. In Baltimore, the seats on the Board of Education are on the ballot.

Any registered voter can request an absentee (or mail-in) ballot by mail or fax by Oct. 27, or via the Internet by 11:59 pm on Oct. 30. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked, placed in a designated ballot box or handed to an election official by 8 pm on Nov. 5.

Early voting will be available from Oct. 22 to Oct. 29, from 7 am to 8 pm. You can vote at any early voting center in Baltimore.

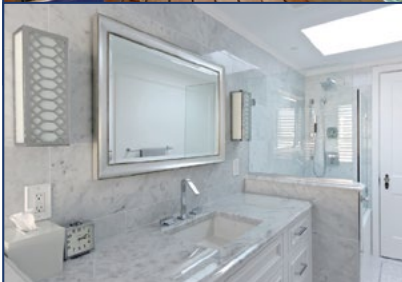
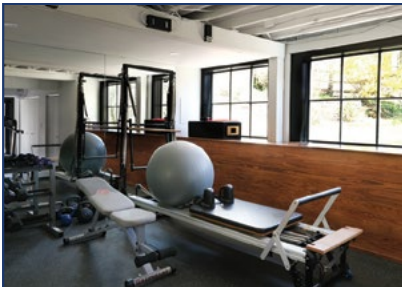
Election Day is Nov. 3 from 7 am to 8 pm. For more information, visit [elections.maryland.gov/elections/2024](http://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2024).

- Through Nov. 15. **Different Words for Happiness**, Everyman Theatre. Discover a stirring and intimate exploration of the human heart in a profound new work written by Everyman Theatre Resident Company Member Katie Kleiger. Directed by Laura Kepley. [everymantheatre.org](http://everymantheatre.org)
- Nov. 1. **Pete the Cat**, Baltimore Center Stage. Join Jimmy and Pete on an adventure of friendship, all the way to Paris and back in a VW Bus! [centerstage.org](http://centerstage.org)
- Nov. 5, 11 am, **Ellen Owens: The American Visionary Art Museum**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Come meet the newly appointed executive director of the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM), whose appointment comes at a pivotal time for the 30-year-old museum and education center. Her goals include expanding AVAM's educational programming, strengthening its reach and support, and continuing its mission of giving voice to diverse human experiences. Please register in advance at [manager@twcrp.org](mailto:manager@twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org)
- Nov. 7, 7:30 pm. **Waterfall Dances: A Concert in Memory of Jane Goodall**. Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. Organist Douglas Buchanan will present a program in

memory of Jane Goodall, inspired by her research and observations of the natural world. Free with a suggested donation. [stdavidsbaltimore.org](http://stdavidsbaltimore.org)

- Nov. 13 through Dec. 27. **Charmz: *The Other Reindeer: A Motown-Inspired Christmas Musical***, Baltimore Center Stage. Enjoy a new holiday musical that blends heart, humor and soulful sound. The show follows Charmz, a determined reindeer who dreams of shining just as brightly as Rudolph. Full of warmth and big aspirations, the story celebrates self-belief, friendship and discovering that your own light is more than enough. [centerstage.org](http://centerstage.org)
- Nov. 15, 7:30 pm. **A Celtic Evensong: Recital and Evensong for the Feast of St. Margaret**. Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. Celtic harpist Liv Castor will present a recital program, joined by Douglas Buchanan on Scottish smallpipes and followed by a choral offering by the Choir of St. David's. Free with a suggested donation. [stdavidsbaltimore.org](http://stdavidsbaltimore.org)
- Nov. 19, 11 am. **Chris Wilson: *The Master Plan***, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Wilson was only 18 years old when he was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison. But what felt like the end of his story was just the beginning. His best-selling memoir about that transformative time of his life, *The Master Plan*, describes how he turned his life around to create jobs for other returning citizens, and how he went from convicted murderer to entrepreneur to talented local artist. It's a fascinating and inspirational story of resilience, determination and character. Please register in advance at [manager@twcrp.org](mailto:manager@twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org). [twcrp.org](http://twcrp.org)
- Nov. 22, 3:30 pm. **Community Concerts at Second: Marina Piccinini, Flute, and Justin Taylor, Harpsichord**. Community Concerts at Second. "The Heifetz of the flute" (*Gramophone*), Piccinini will return to CC2nd with Taylor, the young Franco-American harpsichordist. The duo will showcase the harpsichord not merely as a bass voice but as a virtuosic, equal collaborator. [cc2nd.org](http://cc2nd.org)
- Nov. 28, 10 am. **Holiday Train Garden Opening Day**, Fire Museum of Maryland. Snap a selfie with Santa and watch O-scale trains wind through a 20th century town. [firemuseummd.org](http://firemuseummd.org)
- Nov. 29, 3:30 pm. **Community Concerts at Second: Musicians of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Community Concerts at Second**. The performance will feature the Clipper Mill Quartet: Kevin Smith and Ivan Stefanović, violins; Karin Brown, viola; and Dan Levitov, cello; Colin Sorgi, viola; Wan-chi Su, piano; and Agnes Tse and Chelsea Kim violins; and Bo Li, cello. [cc2nd.org](http://cc2nd.org)
- Nov. 29 through Dec. 30. ***The Mirror Crack'd***, Everyman Theatre. For the first time, Agatha Christie's iconic and clever sleuth, Miss Marple, steps out of the novel and onto the stage to solve a chilling murder at a summer soiree hosted by a glamorous Hollywood star. Adaptation by Rachel Wagstaff. Directed by Brandon Weinbrenner. [everymantheatre.org](http://everymantheatre.org) ♦

Please send calendar announcements to [magazine@rolandpark.org](mailto:magazine@rolandpark.org).



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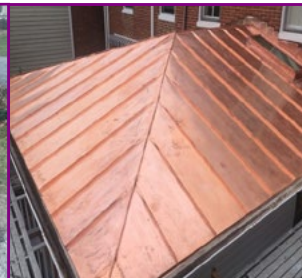
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