

ROLAND PARK NEWS

The Time is Now

Close your eyes and imagine two Roland Parks. In one, you can see children safely walking and biking to school through a beautiful park that runs along the Stony Run. You can hear the crowd laughing and singing, enjoying a community festival at the base of the restored Roland Water Tower. You can almost smell the 4th of July family picnics being enjoyed on the land purchased by the community from the Baltimore Country Club. After sunset, when the stars appear, you can hear the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra playing patriotic tunes for a concert that club members and community residents enjoy together.

Then picture another Roland Park, where none of these can happen. Now you understand why the Open Space Campaign is so vitally important.

Make no mistake. You will see a very different Roland Park with the loss of our precious open space. You may choose not to live and raise your family here. You may have trouble recruiting new colleagues to Baltimore if we lose an important characteristic of one the city's most beautiful neighborhoods. You may see the value of your home decline.

Please keep these and a few other important points in mind as you read through this issue.

- The Campaign represents a \$10 million investment

in open space, with \$5 million to be raised from private contributions and the rest coming from public, foundation and institutional funds.

- As you learn more about the Campaign, recognize that its benefits will accrue to all residents of Greater Roland Park—young and old, singles, families and retirees.
- It is only a matter of time before we lose our opportunities to preserve what's left of our open space and, once it's lost, it will likely be lost forever. Understand that the Baltimore Country Club land could be covered by a large institutional structure.
- This Campaign is a partnership that will include public and foundation dollars only if we, as resident stakeholders, demonstrate our commitment. Without a significant commitment by virtually everyone in Greater Roland Park, we cannot convince others to join the effort.
- Much has been achieved already. Work has already begun to restore the Roland Water Tower and the Stony Run. Together, we can get the whole job done.

Thank you.

Phil Spevak, President, Roland Park Civic League

By Mary Page Michel and Ellen Webb

Last May, the Open Space Campaign was announced to the community at the annual Civic League meeting. Since then, more than 17 presentations have been made to residents of every plat. Our goal is to present the vision for the Campaign to every resident of Greater Roland Park and to provide everyone with an opportunity to invest in the health and future of this great, historic community.

In 2010, the community came together to create a



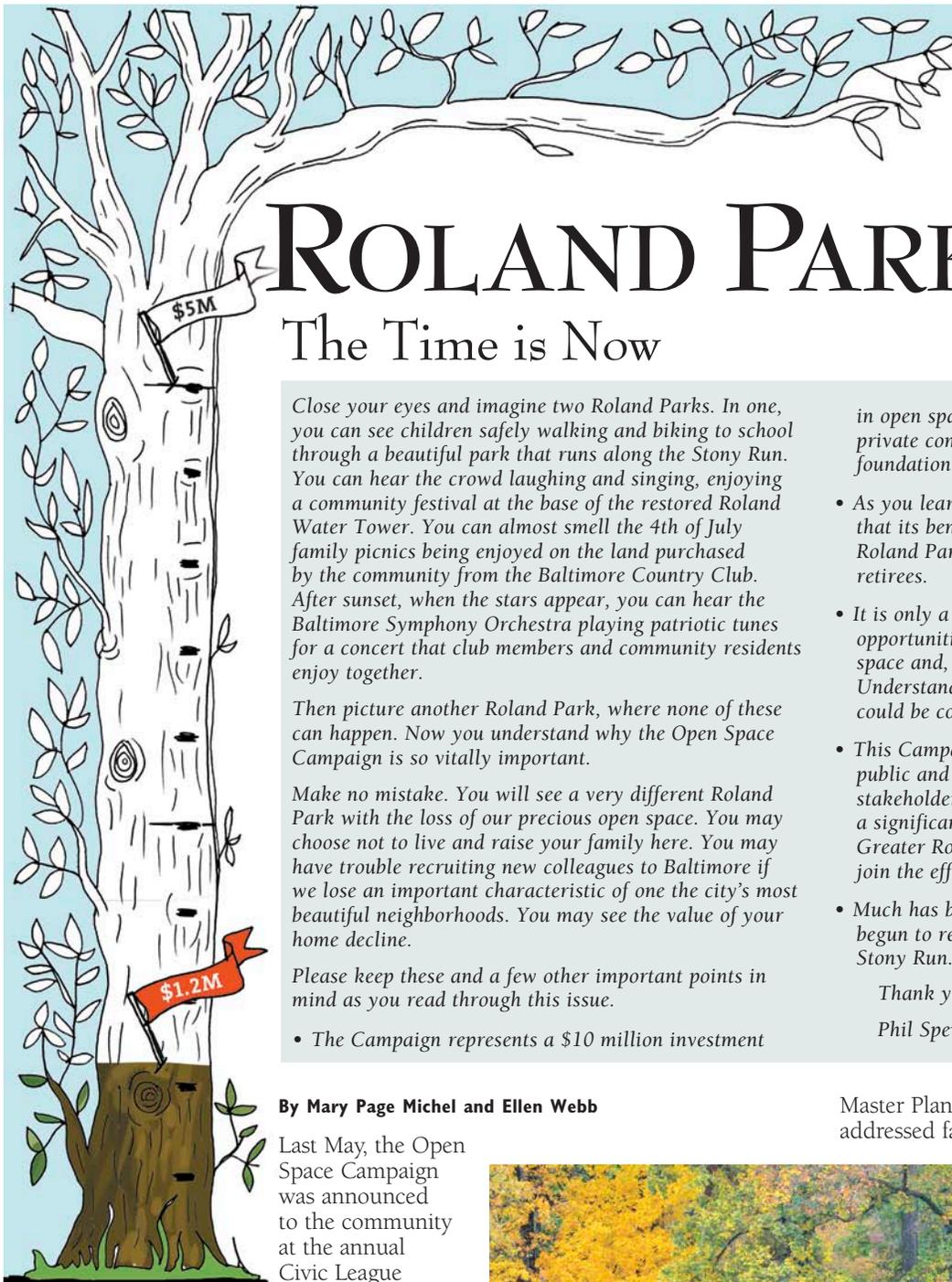
The Open Space Campaign has a dramatic vision to preserve and protect the BCC land as open space, with playing fields and walking paths.

Photo: Anne Stuzin

Master Plan for Greater Roland Park. The issues we addressed fall into six categories: transportation, infrastructure, commercial centers, livability, housing and open space. Most of the plan's priorities will be paid for over the next 10 to 15 years through the state and city budgeting process. An example is the \$3.5 million transportation improvement project along Roland Avenue, Cold Spring Lane and Wyndhurst Lane that will begin in 2013.

It has become clear that there is one area of concern that government budgets would not fully fund—open space. These spaces, so vital to the character of Roland Park, need to be paid for, in part, by

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News from Robert E Lee Park

By Nancy Worden Horst

Children's Programs

Rangers Shannon Davis and Bart Viguers, working with Master Naturalists and volunteers, provide a variety of imaginative programs for all ages, including bird watching, mud day, kayaking, native plant and history walks, bike rodeo, fairies and elves, cane pole fishing, kayaking and nature scouts.



Kathryn Horst models the fairy crown and wand she made at the "Fairies and Elves" program at Robert E Lee Park. Photo: R.W. Horst

A Kids' Night Out will be held at the park on December 20 and a Winter Solstice Campfire will be held on December 21. Celebrate the solstice with park rangers, and



After the mud pies, slip 'n slide and mess, Brooklandville firefighters hosed off all Mud Day participants. Photo: Ranger Bart Viguers

explore what's green and living this time of year. After a night hike, enjoy s'mores by the fire.

Programs planned for 2013 include a Winter Campfire in January, a Bird Extravaganza in February, and Natural Egg Dying and Woodland Egg Hunt in March. For details, visit relpnc.org/events. To sign up for an event, contact Donna at 410-887-4156.

Volunteerism

Just a year after County Executive Kevin Kamenetz cut the ribbon to re-open Robert E Lee Park, it is flourishing. A new pavilion overlooks Lake Roland, the trestle has been rebuilt and almost 50 acres have been added to the park.

Nature council volunteers such as Howdy Knipp and Jeffrey Budnitz, and their group of dedicated trail maintenance workers, wield chain saws, loppers and other tools to keep the many trails in the park clear of fallen trees and vines.

Eagle Scout Kevin Turner and Boy Scout Troop No. 711 built steps from Paw Point Dog Park to the lake. Student Conservation Corps members removed overgrown and invasive plants near the dam in preparation for members of the Guilford Garden Club, who replanted the area with native species. Children from Scott's Branch Police Athletic League planted turtlehead plants for the Maryland Checkerspot Butterfly (the Maryland state insect) and painted wooden butterflies for the caterpillar enclosure near the future site of Acorn Hill. ❖



Eagle Scout Kevin Turner and Boy Scout Troop No. 711 built steps from Paw Point dog park to the water's edge. Photo courtesy RELPNC



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Winter Birds

By Peter Lev

Winter is a good time to look for birds in Maryland. Many species of waterfowl are on area lakes, including mallard, black duck, Canada goose, gadwall, ring-necked duck and pied-billed grebe, to name a few. White-throated and other sparrows are in brushy and marshy areas—the boardwalk at Robert E Lee Park is a good vantage point. Sparrows may also be at backyard feeders.

Some of Maryland's biggest and most beautiful birds, including bald eagle, pileated woodpecker and barred owl, are easier to see in winter because deciduous trees are bare. The best spot for



Winter is a good time to look for birds in Maryland. Photo: Peter Lev

eagles is Conowingo Dam in Harford County, but they can also appear in local parks, at Loch Raven Reservoir or flying over your neighborhood. In fact, a pair of bald eagles has been hanging around Lake Roland in Robert E Lee Park for the last few years.

Once every several years, we find large numbers of northern songbirds wintering in Maryland because food is lacking in their more typical habitat—Canadian forests. This year, red-breasted nuthatch and pine siskin are already here. Look for them at your feeders. The red crossbill, a less common visitor, has also been reported. Crossbills feed on pine cones. Look for them in stands of pine or hemlock.

Winter is rarely dull for birders. So get out your field guide and have fun!

Peter Lev is a longtime member of the Baltimore Bird Club. For information about the club, visit www.baltimorebirdclub.org. ❖

Welcome New Neighbors!

(June through August)

Adam and Jessica Donaldson, 196 Oakdale Rd.
Gregory and Maria Durham, 204 Oakdale Rd.
Geoffrey Neuner and April Hotlman, 4604 Roland Ave.
Alexander and Anne Weil, 5 Club Rd.
Hakan Omer and Kara Bush Koymen, 1 Elmhurst Rd.
Peter Devereaux and Josephine Bergin, 14 Elmwood Rd.
Richard D. and Tracy A. Froh, 2 St. John's Rd.
Jeremy and Elizabeth Green, 8 St. John's Rd.
Adam Coleman and Lynn Desrosiers, 3931 Keswick Rd.
Elijah and Jamie Leigh Roberts, 4219 Wickford Rd.
Benjamin and Sara Langmead, 611 Edgevale Rd.

We'd like to thank the Crazy Man Restaurant Group for helping us welcome our new neighbors. We hope these new Roland Parkers enjoy the gift of one dozen bagels from Roland Park Bagel Co., one free large pizza from S'ghetti Eddie's and one free tall stack of pancakes from Miss Shirley's Café, Roland Park.

The holidays are just around the corner!

Celebrate with us! Treat your staff, clients, family, friends or team to breakfast, brunch or lunch this holiday season!

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