

ROLAND PARK NEWS

The Last Wave Good-bye

This Issue's Highlights

Home Sales

Page 4

Chili Cookoff Raises Funds for Water Tower

Page 5

Natural Selections: Cylburn Arboretum

Page 8

Roland Park Pool News

Page 9

The Private Gardens of Old Roland Park

Page 10

Civic League Update

Page 14

Are We There Yet?

Page 17

Energywise: Windows

Page 18

Footlights: Banking on a New Home for the Bard in Baltimore

Page 19

School News

Page 20

Spring Celebration 2014

Page 24

Book Nook

Page 26

By **Kate Culotta**

This May brought smiles, cheers, hugs and tears as the last Kindergarten class graduated from the Elmhurst Nursery School on Roland Avenue. The Director, Mrs. Pine, announced earlier in the school year that this would be Elmhurst's last year.

Mrs. Pine, affectionately known as Lou to her colleagues, was a kindergarten teacher at Friends School in the early 1950s. Back then she was Margaret Louisa Dukes, a native Roland Parker and Roland Park Country School alum who always wanted to be a teacher. As Mrs. Pine explained on the sunny spring day when we sat down to chat, the mid 1950s brought about a baby boom, especially in North Baltimore. The Kindergarten program at Friends, and other local schools, had long waiting lists. So with the support of colleagues and mentors at Friends, Ms. Dukes rented a church-owned house at 2 Elmhurst Road in Roland Park. When parents would call Friends School to inquire for information, they would explain their program was full but a new preschool was opening in the area with the approval of the Friends School administrators.

The school flourished, moving a couple of times in the area before coming to its current location on Roland Avenue in the brown and yellow house.

Thirteen preschoolers walked through the door that first year. Ms. Dukes married Jonathan W. Pine, a silver salesman with Kirk-Steiff, the next school year and Mr. and Mrs. Pine settled into a house on Wickford Road, where she still lives today. Little did she know at the time that she would become an educational legend among the preschool community. In a time when it was expected that a wife would stop working once she became a mother, Mrs. Pine decided that when her own children arrived, they should have the very best preschool opportunity—so Elmhurst Nursery school continued, not only educating her own children but her grandchildren as well. The school flourished, moving a couple of times in the area before coming to its current location on Roland Avenue in the brown and

yellow house. Mrs. Pine loves the idea that children start their early education in a building that is as welcoming as home. Inside, the class space is warm and homey, not institutional at all. There is a large



Elmhurst students wave goodbye. Photo: Nigel Sequeira

side play yard and the roomy front porch does offer some protected outdoor play space when the weather is wet or cold and snowy.

Mrs. Pine still feels as strongly about the early development of preschoolers as she did in 1955. Children should be surrounded by a loving staff in a warm and nurturing environment. Though there should be structure to the day, it's important that children learn through play and the development of their imagination. The motor, intellectual and social skills developed during these early years are as important as ever. Maybe even more so now, in our busy digital lives, children need the time to explore, learn, socialize, play and build enduring and lasting relationships. Many of her students continue their friendships throughout life, going on to high school together, playing with or against each other in sporting events, and eventually attending each other's weddings. Mrs. Pine has known former students to meet and become friends when their own children came to Elmhurst.

Wonderful traditions and memories have been created over the years. The annual Christmas Pageant, held at the North Baltimore Mennonite

Acorn Hill Natural Play Area Opens in Robert E. Lee Park

By Nancy Worden Horst

Have you seen the workers in hard hats operating bulldozers, making drainage ditches and moving equipment around in the mud atop the hill near the new pavilion at Robert E. Lee Park? They have been readying Acorn Hill for its debut. By the time you read this article, children, their families and friends will be clambering over and through hollow logs, making crafts out of 'found' materials, exploring 'Mine Town' and riding a 'train' through 'Hollins Station'.

Acorn Hill natural play area is finally open!

Almost four years ago, a group of Nature Council grandparents, working with the landscape/architecture firm Hord|Coplan|Macht, designed a children's play area for the park. A state bond bill, sponsored by Sen. Bobby Zirkin and Dels. Dana Stein, Dan Morhaim and Jon Cardin, provided initial funding, while Baltimore County government generously provided labor, materials and expertise to make the concept come to fruition.

Various play stations made of natural materials, including structures for climbing, swinging, exploring and balancing, are

designed to help children develop physical skills and learn while having fun. The names of the stations highlight the history of the park, including its factories, mines, reservoir and railroad.



Photo courtesy of Ranger Bart Viguers.

Acorn Hill also has picnic and quiet areas, a butterfly hatchery, bird sanctuary and spaces for art projects and theater productions. A critter path has been created nearby where children can discover the rich diversity of animal life in and under dead logs, and learn about protecting 'critter' habitats.

Planned programs at Acorn Hill will emphasize environmental conservation and exploration of animal and plant habitats, with talks and demonstrations by park rangers

and volunteer naturalists. Please see our website at relpnc.org for more information.

Come visit Acorn Hill on your next visit to the park! ❖

Sign up online for Roland Park's Organic Debris Removal Program

Residents who have paid their Civic League dues and their full maintenance fees may take advantage of the Roland Park Civic League's organic debris removal program. Organic debris is picked up during the months of **March, April, May, June, July, September, October and November**. Please note that pickup is only available by signing up on the website or calling the Civic League office. If you do not sign up, your debris will not be collected.

To submit your online request, please complete the "Yard Debris Pick-up Form" at www.rolandpark.org by the end of the previous month. On the form, you will indicate where you are placing your debris. You can also request pickups by calling the Civic League office at (410) 464-2525.

Each household is limited to a free monthly pickup of 2 cubic yards (about the amount of mulch that would fill a pickup truck bed). Overage above 2 cubic yards will not be collected unless you request so and agree to pay for the overage at a rate of \$40 per each additional 2 cubic yards exceeding the allowance.

Please have the material out for pickup by the 5th of the month. Debris length should be less than 4 feet and you should not combine your waste with the piles of neighbors. Debris should be left in a pile or in paper bags—plastic bags will not be picked up.

If you have any questions, please contact the Roland Park Civic League office at (410) 464-2525.



A & A Tree Experts, Inc.

Serving Baltimore and Surrounding Counties for Over 60 Years

Tel. 410-486-4561 Fax 410-486-1812

7081 Milford Industrial Road, Pikesville

info@aatreeexperts.com

www.aatreeexperts.com

L.T.E. #184