

WIA News

AUTUMN • OCTOBER 20, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WIA Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 8
7 p.m.

Roland Park Elementary/
Middle School's
multipurpose room,
5207 Roland Avenue

*Attend this important
meeting to stay current
on neighborhood issues
and to help us to build
a stronger community.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE THEN & NOW ARCHIVE OF ROLAND PARK.ORG



How Stony Run Trail would have looked in the 1950s when the Ma & Pa trains were still running. Though undated, photo was taken post-1930.

MORE FUN IN THE '50s

After the article in the spring newsletter about Tuxedo Park in the '50s from the point of view of grown up little boys, it seems only fair to give the grown up little girls a chance to contribute their two cents. To that end, I spoke with Judy DePauw and Mink Stoll, both of Colorado Avenue, where much of the action centered in those days. It was the height of the baby boom, and there were even more kids in the neighborhood than there are now, and they apparently roamed freely all over Tuxedo Park and beyond. Like the men interviewed in the last issue, Judy and Mink also spoke of fun and games in a neighborhood with far fewer cars on the streets than there are today, a place where all the mothers watched out for everyone's kids. They too remembered the trains—climbing around

under them when they stopped at the station, putting pennies on the tracks, taking rail spikes to hammer into tree trunks for climbing, jumping into the coal bins. Both boys and girls played kick-the-can and hide-and-seek. Judy could simply stand still in the tall field grass at the foot of Colorado and remain invisible to all seekers.

The same field was the scene of important "meetings" in a dugout space with "built-in seats" for participants. Both women remember playing on the roof of the apartment building at Colorado and Summit, dangling their feet over the edge, leaving notes behind in loose bricks. Judy and Mink's sister Leila tormented 5-year-old Mink by feeding her mud as she lay under their hammock. (Why she ate the mud remains unclear!)

In the winter, there was great sledding down the Summit hill,

making (or not!) the sharp turn onto Colorado and continuing on down. In the summer, in addition to the woods and fields and trains, there was The Pool.

The Pool provided opportunities for daredevil feats like doing flips off the diving boards (accompanied by the bruising of heads and shoulders). Judy learned to play bridge at The Pool; Mink learned to inhale in the girls' bathroom there. And there were teen pool parties which would begin with swimming and end with everyone trooping off to someone's house to continue the fun.

There was no neighborhood association in those days, and there were no official community social events, though there were crab feasts at the corner of Colorado and Summit, featuring George Hyde's father steaming the crabs. Interestingly, both women had the sense that Tuxedo Park of the '50s was a community of "starter homes", with many residents aspiring to move across Roland Avenue into something grander. Many of the houses were "covenanted"—or at least the belief in the importance of keeping out "undesirables" was shared by many. The biggest change in the neighborhood now, Judy and Mink say, is that it is seen as a desirable place to live in and of itself, in part because of its diversity. They note that while we were once "wannabes", we now "embrace and flaunt our eccentricities"!



There were too many Wyndhurst party-goers to list here, but a few are easily identified enjoying the perfect weather, delicious food, and great company. Above: Beth and Hank Ratrie; right, top and middle: the party in full swing; below left: Matt Hornbeck and Henry Kay; below right: Palin Gaither, Sarah Wolfenden, and Stephanie Shapiro enjoy a chat on the grass.



WIA ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS!

The annual WIA street party was especially enjoyable this year because we had FANTASTIC weather: cool and clear! The party was originally scheduled for the previous day, but the threat of storms (and the oppressive humidity) convinced us to switch to the rain date. In the future, we may

just designate the weekend after Labor Day as our party weekend, and then pick the more promising of the two days: Saturday or Sunday.

Thanks to all of you who participated. And a special thanks to the following neighbors for their help with set-up, grilling and/or clean-up: Julia Barker, Mira Boland, Libby & Dave

Champney, Fyn Gaither, Corby and Lauren Pine, Brandon Middleton, Beth Ratrie, Frank Thomsen, Ivan Walsh, Peter Wayner, Jo & Joe Wingard. Additional thanks to Henry Kay, WIA treasurer, for collecting our annual \$20 dues and to Elizabeth Gething for creating the digital invitation.

**DON'T FORGET TO
KEEP YOUR STREET
GUTTERS AND
STORM DRAINS
CLEAR OF LEAVES
(JUST IN CASE THE
STREET CLEANERS
FALL BEHIND!).
THIS IS IMPORTANT
IN REDUCING
UNHEALTHY RUN-OFF
INTO THE BAY.**

STREET CLEANING IS SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

Odd side of the street on the first Wednesday of every month; even side on the second Wednesday. This should occur between 8 and 4. If you think you've been skipped, call 311.

A DECEMBER DUMPSTER

is scheduled for **Saturday, Dec. 6,** on Lawndale next to the cleaners.

WIA MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The WIA Board established the Maintenance Committee in 2009 in order to keep the Wyndhurst neighborhood safe and well maintained. One of the great assets of the neighborhood is that it is very pedestrian-oriented: young and old alike can walk to shops, schools, places of worship and other amenities. For this reason the Committee encourages property owners to keep sidewalks clear of vegetation, ice and snow in accordance with City regulations.

The Committee also encourages property owners to maintain yards and buildings to ensure the health, safety and general upkeep of the neighborhood's historic buildings. Maintenance includes keeping properties, sidewalks and strips between the yard and curb clear of debris, high weeds and overhanging vegetation, and addressing issues such as vacant buildings, broken windows, significant peeling paint, missing or failing gutters, or deteriorated or rotting exterior elements.

The Committee follows these guidelines: After learning about a concern from community members, block captains, or its own members, the Committee determines whether the issue is serious enough to warrant action, taking into account particular circumstances. (For example, it will not pursue an issue already being addressed by an owner or if there are extenuating circumstances, such as fiscal constraints.) If necessary, the Committee takes the following actions: First, it communicates with the owner (through direct conversations and/or a letter from the President and Committee Chair) and asks how the issue will be addressed. If a response is lacking or insufficient, the



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID CHAMPNEY

Committee will send a second letter suggesting that it may involve the City if this continues to be the case. The Committee strives to deal with issues on a local level and to avoid involvement of City authorities. If, however, the property owner is not responsive and/or the conditions of the property are especially problematic, the Committee may register a formal complaint with Baltimore City. This action may be particularly warranted in the case of vacant or abandoned buildings. Every effort is made to keep these activities confidential.

Currently serving on the Committee are Richard Gross, Brooks Nobel and Frank Thomsen. John Bishop, author of the above article, has recently stepped down as chairman.

THIS WINTER, MAKE ROOM FOR ROOMS IN YOUR GARDEN

Late fall and winter is the best time to take stock of our gardens without the splendid and plentiful leaves of our mature neighborhood trees. Just as when we view rooms without furniture, we can ask ourselves, "*what do we really want in our landscape?*" In truth, landscapes can be seen as exten-

sions of who we are and how we live. If we think of actual living spaces, part of our outdoor spaces are extensions of indoor rooms, for example, the kitchen with a vegetable garden; the living room with patio chairs and table situated for optimal conversations, or the much-needed additional play area (can you tell which homes house children?).

If you begin to see your outdoor spaces as extended rooms of your house, ones that you will enjoy at least a good portion of the year, then you can organize outdoor spaces to better harmonize with how you live. We do this out of necessity already: where do you put your garbage bins, vis-a-vis the rest of the landscape? Is your outdoor dining area in close proximity to the kitchen?

The Permaculture movement led by Bill Mollison, et al, thought of landscapes as zones, with zone 1 being the closest to you, the area in which you interact the most. I interpreted it as where we naturally congregate with the least amount of energy—our front porch perhaps? The next zone is one we frequent less often (the garage perhaps) with the outer zones being ones we visit the

Would you like to be a WIA officer? Do you know someone who would make a good one? We're looking for nominations for the coming year and would love to have your input.

Also, we are scanning the neighborhood for nominees for our two traditional awards, to be presented at the annual meeting in January—the Good Neighbor award, and the Most Improved Property award (building or landscaping). Ideas?

Feel free to contact your block captain (names are listed on the masthead) if you have questions or concerns, or if you have an agenda item for the next block captains' meeting.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID CHAMPNEY

least, once a year if that (for some, Stoney Run Trail). Whether we think in terms of zones or rooms, functionality or aesthetics, winter is great time to reevaluate our landscape.

One of my favorite places for near perfect examples of outdoor rooms and vistas is Dumbarton Oaks in Georgetown created by landscape designer Beatrix Farrand, whose vision transformed the thinking around garden design. <http://www.doaks.org/>. It's definitely worth the hour's drive for inspiration. I wish you happy planning and gardening.

Eva Khoury lives and gardens in Tuxedo Park. For the past two years, she has gardened for residents in the area. If you'd like gardening help, please email her at: earthalley@gmail.com

ROLAND AVENUE REPAVING PROJECT

We are all aware of the progress being made in the repaving of Roland Avenue, a \$3.9 million project which began in late June. Among the many improvements are the concrete curb and gutter work and the construction of a left-turn lane (with stoplight) from southbound Roland Avenue into Gilman. Work by DPW on sewer lines from Deepdene Road north and from Deepdene south to Beechdale should soon be finished.

The contractor aims to start the Roland Avenue milling and complete the base repairs by the end of November. This work will extend from Northern Parkway to Wyndhurst Avenue. The total project is scheduled to last for a year. We ask for your cooperation with traffic re-routing and noise.

Unfortunately a total of 55 trees or shrubs will have to be removed during the entire construction project, but some of these are in poor health or leaning precariously. The good news is that all will be replaced and a total of 148 new trees planted. The even better news is that after all the frustrations attending this work, our quality of life will be improved. Roland Avenue will be smoother, safer, and more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. In addition, more of the school traffic will stay on Northern Parkway due to the new driveways and traffic lights facilitating entrance to both Bryn Mawr and Gilman. Rejoice and be glad.

LISTSERV/DIRECTORIES INFORMATION

In an effort to keep the listserv and directories up to date, residents are encouraged to review their entries in the directories and to report any changes in information to Wyndhurst@Gmail.com. Also, when you are aware of a neighbor moving out of the neigh-

borhood please notify the listserv so that the entry for them can be deleted. Likewise, if someone new moves to our neighborhood, please encourage them to send their information (name, address, phone number(s) and email address) to the listserv. The directories are up to date as of April 1, 2014. If you do not have copies of the directories and would like them, please notify the listserv.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: IT WORKS!

Traffic signs, which manage morning traffic from Wyndhurst Avenue onto the alley behind Deepdene and southbound on Church Lane, were installed in late May. These initial signs were not quite right and were corrected in August. Since then, all reports indicate the congestion has been greatly relieved. The cut-through traffic has been profoundly reduced. Neighbors are able to get out of the neighborhood, and children have a much safer walk to school. Some parents dropping off children to Roland Park Elementary/Middle School still drive into the neighborhood, but most park and safely and walk their young children to school. So far this has been manageable, but we will continue to monitor and make any necessary changes.

This is a great example of how to imagine a more livable commu-

nity and work together to make it happen. More than 85% of Tuxedo Park neighbors approved the signs. Thanks again to all who helped get this done, but especially to Councilwoman Sharon Middleton and her community liaison Robert Ginyard.

Yellow School Bus Service for RPEMS students living one or more miles from school began this fall and has helped to reduce traffic congestion. In addition, a committee composed of representatives from neighborhoods impacted by school traffic is considering other ways to coordinate with local schools, each of which has already made efforts to deal with traffic issues. Caroline Wayner is

Wyndhurst's representative on this committee.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The roof replacement at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School has been ongoing for more than a year. It should have been finished this past summer. According to Baltimore City Public Schools, however, it is approximately 65% complete. We ask the neighbors to continue to be patient. RPEMS is an asset for our neighborhood and hard won city dollars are improving it, so the neighborhood is directly benefitting from this work. Because the work must be done after school hours, the contractors are working past the legal 7pm hour. We have

an agreement with Baltimore City Public Schools, however, that if we hear construction noise after 7pm Jim Determan will notify them and it will be stopped. Please contact Jim if you hear construction noise after 7pm.

NORTHERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Baltimore Police Department's Community Council meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at the Northern District Headquarters (2201 West Cold Spring Lane). All members of the community are welcome to attend. The Council acts as a liaison between surrounding communities and the police, keeps

FALL FUN

If you happen to own a smart phone and find yourself on Stony Run Trail reveling in autumn foliage, try downloading the free app **Leafsnap**, an electronic field guide. Designed to help you identify that beautiful leaf falling at your feet, Leafsnap was developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. The app allows you to upload a photo of a leaf, identifying its species instantly. To learn more, click here:



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID CHAMPNEY



Fall Clean Up
AT STONY RUN

IT'S TIME TO PREPARE STONY RUN FOR WINTER!

We've got lots of mulch to spread and invasives to remove, and we need YOUR help. Join us for the **Better Waterways Fall Clean Up** at Stony Run on **Saturday, November 15, starting at 9 AM** (rain date Sunday, November 16) at the foot of Gladstone Avenue.

We'll be working all day, so feel free to stop by and help anytime. Please bring your wheelbarrows (needed most!), mulch forks/pitchforks, clippers, and gardening gloves. Even if you cannot come, you can help by donating any of the above tools for the day.

Refreshments will be provided! Please let me know ASAP if you'll be joining us: claire@wayner.org. Thank you!


—Claire Wayner

resolve crime in area, and establishes a network for educating and sharing information. To receive updates on the Council via email, you may join its Yahoo group at groups.yahoo.com/group/northerncommunitycouncil. Caroline Wayner has graciously volunteered to be Wyndhurst's representative on the Council.

BROADBAND CAMPAIGN SPREADS CITY WIDE

The grass roots campaign to bring faster, more competitive internet services to Baltimore through fiber optic cable has expanded citywide. In greater Roland Park alone, over 300 individuals have joined. If you are interested in joining the campaign, you can join at RolandPark.org. You

can also follow it on Twitter @BaltBroadband or on Facebook. [com/BaltimoreBroadband](https://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreBroadband). For more information please email BaltimoreBroadband@gmail.com.

The above notice was excerpted from an article by Philip Spevak in the fall issue of the Roland Park Newsletter. 



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID CHAMPNEY

WIA NEWS

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*Have a story for us?
Want to learn more
about the history of
a particular house
in the neighborhood?
Email Libby Champney,
libbycc@aol.com*

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE & UPCOMING EVENTS

Floating Fridays

The Social Committee was busy over the summer. Floating Fridays were a hit and—thanks to the hosts and good weather—we had one every week this time! We had three families host for the first time and that gave us a chance to spend some time getting to know our neighbors that live on Roland, Boxhill, and Colorado. The biggest turn-out was for the one sponsored by the 600 block of St Johns. Next year, if we start organizing a little earlier we might recruit some more new hosts especially on Deepdene and Greenleaf.

Next up: Halloween Parade – See flyer, next page. Sunday, October 26 at 4 PM at the bottom of St Johns Road. With the help of Debbie Swartz and Tamara Wahlin, this year's event should be lots of fun—and a little better contained! We are aiming at the toddler to 12 year old crowd, but we need teenagers to help us with the event! We will meet and greet, then parade to Eddie's for a photo shoot. Last year we had some drummers join us—maybe others with instruments can chime in this year. Once back on St Johns, we will descend to the Ratrie's lower yard for drinks (children's only – adults must bring their own!), treats and games for the kids. So we can plan better, please email or call Beth Ratrie if you think your ghoul will be joining us (bratrie@yahoo.com, or 410-323-7032). We are also in need of teens and parents to help with the games and refreshments.

Something New – Talent Show February 7, 2015

Our neighbors have enjoyed the progressive dinners for over ten years now. The organizers have been trying to find a way to include more kids and families in this event, but that hasn't worked out, so let's give the progressive dinner a sabbatical for now. In 2015 we will change our winter event to one that includes families: a pot luck family talent show night. Our venue will be Roland Park Presbyterian Church. We are planning on doing this the Saturday after the Super Bowl: 2/7/15. So start thinking about what you and your friends, neighbors or family might do for your "talent". It could be a skit, telling jokes, singing, playing instruments, reciting poetry, or just being able to perform cartwheels across the stage in between the acts! If you have ideas, suggestions or want to help with the event, please email Caroline Wayner (caroline@wayner.org)

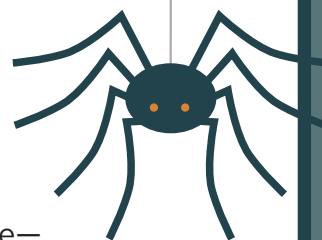
CALLING ALL GHOULS FOR WYNDHURST'S

HALLOWEEN PARADE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 4-6 PM

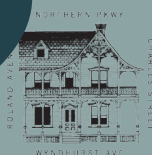


COME ONE, COME ALL! Join the neighborhood for its Annual Halloween Celebration. Kids of all ages are welcome—



as participants and helpers. We will gather at the bottom of St Johns Road and start marching at 4:15. Be ready for the “Kodak moment” when everyone gathers in front of Eddie’s Supermarket. After a “jungle trip” back to the bottom of St Johns Road, there will be refreshments, crafts and games for the kids ages 2-12. There is no rain date, so pray for dry weather!

WEAR YOUR COSTUME!



Wyndhurst
Improvement
Association

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There's a job for everyone. Contact:

PARADE Beth Ratrie (bratrie@yahoo.com) needs photographers, instrumentalists and help with set-up and clean-up as well as managing the crowd.

REFRESHMENTS Tamara Wahlin (tamara.wahlin@gmail.com) needs help with drinks and home-made goodies.

CRAFTS & GAMES Debbie Swartz (debbie@manoswartz.com) needs lots of helpers to run the games and make crafts.

