

# ROLAND PARK NEWS

## Homegrown and Handpicked: Local Artwork at Our “Shop Around the Corner”

### This Issue's Highlights

#### Calendar and Announcements

Page 6

#### The Ladies Are Doing It for Themselves: The Castle Club offers New Fitness Venue at Cross Keys

Page 7

#### Friends and Neighbors Hold LLS Fundraiser

Page 9

#### Master Plan Update

Page 10

#### Planning for Lake Roland Education Center in Robert E. Lee Park

Page 13

#### Working Together to Stop Drug Trafficking in Our Neighborhood

Page 19

#### School News

Page 20

#### Bookends

Page 22

#### Inspiring the Next Generation: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Speaks at Bryn Mawr

Page 24

#### Book Nook

Page 26

By Martha Marani

Much like the Shop Around the Corner in the movie, “When Harry Met Sally,” the Carriage House on Wyndhurst Avenue represents a labor of love for its proprietor, Pat Pratt. Pratt, whose husband Jeff is the fourth generation owner of Schneider's Hardware, carefully curates her selection of gifts and can tell you the story behind each. Through her commitment to offering high quality, distinctive items and her support of local artists, Pratt's shop has earned a reputation for being the go-to place for Roland Park shoppers.



The shop was once home to a mule and carriage, which were used to deliver groceries in the late 1800s. Image courtesy of the Carriage House

shop, which is also where the carriage was kept. After the grocery store became a hardware store in 1950, a man who refinished and made furniture used the building.

“There are little wooden pegs on the wall,” Pratt points out. “He used to hang his chairs to dry on these pegs.” She smiles, “There's a lot

of history in this old shop, even though it's small.”

Since 2003, working with a highly discriminating

eye, Pratt has filled her small shop with unique gifts, many of which are hand-made by local artists. She explained that her vision for the shop 11 years ago was that it would be an extension of the flower-filled area in front of Schneider's. She visualized the area in front of the Carriage House filled with colorful pots, birdbaths, statuary pieces and birdhouses, displayed with the same artistic touches Jeff uses with his



Pat Pratt has sold the work of local artists in her shop since 2003. Photos: Martha Marani

seasonal flower displays in front of the hardware store.

She knew she wanted to sell the work of local artists, many of whom she had discovered by frequenting art and craft shows.

*“...the whole shopping experience at the Carriage House is delightfully ‘old school.’” Anne Stuzin.*

“I think the whole shopping experience at the Carriage House is delightfully ‘old school.’ It's a one-of-a-kind shop—an original—in our community,” says Anne Stuzin, a longtime customer. “When you go in, it's like going over to the house of an old friend and spending a few minutes catching up. Pat makes you feel welcomed, and she would let you stay as long as you want to shop and talk...or talk and shop!”

For many, the Pratts are indeed old friends. The history of the shop on the corner of Wyndhurst and Summit Avenue goes back as far as that of Roland Park itself.

Schneider's has been in Jeff's family since 1896,” Pratt explains. “It was originally a grocery store and meat market operated by his great-grandfather, and then his grandfather converted it to the hardware store.”

When Schneider's was a grocery store, goods were delivered throughout the neighborhood by a mule-driven carriage. The mule lived in what is now Pratt's

# A Community Resource: Planning for The Lake Roland Education Center in Robert E. Lee Park

by **Elise Butler and Nancy W. Horst**

Activities and pleasures abound in Robert E. Lee Park during fair weather: Fairy Princess and Nature Scout adventures, s'mores around the campfire, holiday events, art classes and history, plant, birding or story walks, even a full moon hike. But as the weather turns too cold or wet to be outdoors, many of these fun events have to be moved inside or not held at all.

Today there is only one small indoor space to pursue such activities. The small stone building across from the dam now serves as the ranger station, but in an earlier incarnation this sturdy building served as a restroom. It has been re-purposed as an office for the ranger staff and a small meeting space, jammed with a single conference table, supplies, exhibits and tanks holding turtles, snakes and toads. It is also the only place available to provide programs for park visitors with special needs.

To address these issues, the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council, in partnership with Baltimore County, is proposing the Lake Roland Education Center. The Center would be located in the heart of the park and complement such recent improvements as the new pavilion, Paw Point Dog Park and Acorn Hill, the children's play area. The multi-purpose building would allow Baltimore County and the Nature Council to provide education and event programming year round for the more than 180,000 yearly visitors to the park.

A key feature of the center's design is a wall comprised of operable glass doors that would allow activities and events to extend onto the expansive deck, providing year round views of the Lake Roland Dam. In addition, the 2,594-square-foot Lake Roland Education Center is designed to be as 'green' as possible, utilizing renewable construction materials and having a minimal environmental footprint.

Challenging topographical constraints dictate that the Education Center be elevated on piers. Both geothermal and solar array panels are being considered to minimize energy use. The location of the site along the boardwalk is also a naturally cool place during the summer months, when the surrounding tree canopy can provide shading.

The Nature Center will be directly accessible from the Falls Road Light Rail Station via a raised spur connecting with the existing boardwalk – a true transit-oriented park, the first of its kind in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Costs are anticipated to be \$1.2 million, but funding this project will not be easy. State, county and non-profit resources, including grants and charitable donations, are all necessary to make the

building a reality. Part of the project may be funded through a State bond bill; however, passage of a bond bill in these difficult economic times will require active advocacy by all friends of the Park. It is estimated that as much as a third of the money must be raised from private funds. A naming opportunity is available.

Our hope is that park users and the Greater North Baltimore community will be generous with their resources and their efforts to advocate for government funds. Beginning in January, please watch our website, [www.relpnc.org](http://www.relpnc.org) for information about how you can support this effort by, for example, contacting your legislators, asking friends and neighbors to join in the effort and giving directly to the building fund. With help from the community, the Lake Roland Education Center can become a reality. ❖



The proposed Lake Roland Education Center. Courtesy Hord | Coplan | Macht



**STONY RUN HOME**  
FURNITURE LIGHTING ART ACCESSORIES  
STORE MON-FRI 10-5, DESIGN STUDIO BY APPT  
318 WYNDHURST AVE [stonyrunhome.com](http://stonyrunhome.com)