



Rosedale Park News

Serving a Friendly Neighborhood

Volume LXIX

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www.rosedalepark.org

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! Attend the RPIA General Membership Meeting

Join your neighbors on Tuesday, November 15, at the North Rosedale Park Community House to hear about the latest accomplishments and challenges in Rosedale Park. All dues paying residents will have the opportunity to vote for the officers and new members of the RPIA Board for 2012.

RPIA Board--Slate of Nominees 2012

Officers are elected for a one (1) year term. The nominees are:

President:	Mary McLeod
First Vice President:	Pam Weinstein
Second Vice President:	Stacy Pugh
Treasurer:	Thom Gatson (<i>returning</i>)
President Emeritus:	Carolyn Cruse (<i>automatic advancement</i>)

Directors are elected to fill a three (3) year term.

The nominees are:

Minty Kelly James (2012-2014)
Stephanie Young (2012-2014)

No vote is required for returning directors.

The returning directors are:

Chris Remus (2010-2012)
Deborah Gore (2011-2013)
Deborah Kent (2011-2013)
Glynn McKnight Sr. (2010-2012)

The Board of Directors has 3 remaining vacancies.

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m.
North Rosedale Park Community House
18445 Scarsdale,
off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury
General Elections

All Residents Welcome!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Saturday, December 3, 2011
9:00 a.m. to noon

Our neighbors in North Rosedale Park will join us again this year for a morning filled with good food, great conversation, and lots of holiday cheer. Residents and friends will enjoy pancakes, sausage, and beverages for the low price of \$3.00 per person. There will also be a holiday sing-along and a special visit for the children from a man in a red suit (you know who that is!). Don't miss this traditional celebration of the season at the North Rosedale Park Community House.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	2
Block Captains' Corner	3
Statements of the 2012 Nominees	3
RPIA Board Meeting Minutes	4
Getting to Know Your Neighbors.....	4
Changes to DPD's "Verified Response" Protocol.....	4
General Membership Meeting Minutes.....	5
Tree Plantings in Rosedale Park.....	6
GRDC Update.....	9
Vacant Property Grant Monies.....	10
RPIA Accomplishments in 2011	11
Switching Home Security Services.....	13
RPIA Contact List.....	15
Calendar of Events.....	15



RPIA Pancake Breakfast



President's Message

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.

— Harry Truman

Hello Rosedale Park neighbors. I have some questions for you. Are you ever discouraged?? I'm sure the answer is "yes" because, honestly, who among us has not been discouraged? The answer to the next question is a reflection on how you've lived your life thus far. What do you do when you feel discouraged?

I have tried living in that place of despair, believing that my enemies are winning the battle. My perceived enemies have, at times, been my friends and family members, my bosses, my neighbors, strangers, politicians, and even my own body. In that state, it is so very difficult to find that itch, that idea, or that love of someone or something that makes this war worthy of my time and attention. However, surrendering to these feelings of despair seemed only to serve as to multiply the weight of the boulder I seemed to be carrying on my shoulders.

So, years ago, I chose to see this life as a glorious journey and put down that boulder. I admit there are still times that a rock can be found resting there but it's never too heavy and it does not stay there too long. I accept challenges as a means to grow and to learn something new. The down times now are simply a way for me to rebuild my defenses so I am ready for the next thing.

Opportunities abound here in Rosedale Park.

You can help the environment by participating in the Rosedale Recycles program at Christ the King Church. Newspaper, plastic, glass and more are accepted on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Cash donations are welcomed to help to keep this program going. Contact weber@igc.org.

You can ensure that we continue to enjoy the street snow plowing service we have had for years by paying your annual dues. Send your dues to PO Box 23113, Detroit 48223 if you haven't done so. Those residents who have not paid dues by 10/31/11 will receive a second invoicing in early November.

GRDC was instrumental in having a portion of Rosedale Park recognized as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Families meeting the income requirements will be eligible to receive down payment assistance to purchase homes in the identified area. We have received numerous other financial benefits this year because of the work of GRDC. Donations in support of this valuable neighborhood organization are always appreciated. Contact them at 313-387-4732.

Stacy Pugh has kicked off a Code Enforcement Program that will result in improvements in the esthetics of our community. This committee welcomes any resident interested in joining in this effort.

Radio Patrol can increase their patrols if they can increase participation. It requires only two hours per month and you will be adding to the security of our neighborhood.

We now have an e-blast that contains valuable information about things happening in our area. All we need is your e-mail address and you can be the recipient of this information. Send your e-mail address to rpiablast@gmail.com.

We have a very committed block captain network. These people are at the forefront in getting information to you and ensuring continued park resident participation in block parties, the 30 block garage sale, the annual picnic and so much more. Perhaps your captain could use some help. Or perhaps your block does not have a captain. Pam Weinstein is your board member with responsibility for the block captain network.

The appearances of vacant homes are being maintained by neighbors. Debbie Kent of your board is leading the effort to find the owners for these homes and have them take responsibility for the properties.

There are so many opportunities to resolve some of our difficulties. Step up!!

Note: Contact information for board members can be found elsewhere in this edition or on our website at www.rosedalepark.org or you can leave a message on our hotline at 313-927-1089.

Carolyn

Carolyn Cruse, President
Rosedale Park Improvement Association



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Block Captains' Corner

Winter – It's Just Around the Corner!

As we write this we are experiencing almost balmy temperatures--in the high seventies--but we're told that this winter is promising to be at least as cold and snowy as last year. Having said that, we need to be sure and remind the neighbors on our blocks about paying their dues. Remind them that it is only \$45.00 a year (less than \$1.00 per week!) By doing so, we can be sure to have plowed streets this winter and avoid having cars stuck in the snow, prevent accidents, make our neighborhood a safer place in which to drive. You should also be sure to inform the new neighbors on your block (and remind the not-so-new neighbors) about the sidewalk snow-blowing provided to residents through Greener Still by their SEPARATE payment of approximately \$35.00 per season. What a bargain! They should be aware, however, that if not enough residents on the block make the payment, there won't be service provided to that block.

With winter comes the opportunity to share the holiday spirit with our neighbors. Presumably you moved into the neighborhood and have remained here, in part, because of the community and our special events. They allow us to meet, greet and socialize with neighbors and bolster the feeling of community in the neighborhood. The Holiday Pancake Breakfast is the best opportunity to socialize before we begin our winter hibernation. It also provides the opportunity to ask our neighbors what special interests or talents they have and how they would like to use those talents or interests to contribute to the community – either in the neighborhood, the Association, or both! Elections for the Association Board are coming up and by getting involved in

the community through the board we create better neighbors and neighborhoods for all of us. We only have a voice by becoming involved and by stepping up to contribute our efforts to the improvement of the neighborhood.

Our quarterly meeting is on Sunday, November 6, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. at the GRDC offices at Grand River & Bretton Drive. We will be discussing, among other things, the problems surrounding the Grandland Shopping Center and its effect on the neighbors just west of it, issues of tree trimming around traffic signs and the ongoing problem of squatters in the community.

Let's continue our efforts to revitalize our blocks to action and involvement. Working together is all it takes! Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Block Captain Team:

- Molly Eklund-Easley – scionmee@msn.com
- Dorothy McKnight – glynndot@yahoo.com
- Pam Weinstein – weinstein148@ameritech.net
- Nancy Bitzarakis – nancy2061@aol.com



Dorothy McKnight Molly Eklund-Easley
Block Captain Coordinators

Statements of the 2012 Nominees

Mary McLeod of Rosemont has been nominated for the position of President.

My husband and I moved to Rosedale Park in August, 1972. In the early years our young family was involved in the local babysitting co-op and the neighborhood food co-op. As our children grew our community involvement expanded to the soccer and baseball leagues. I have been a block captain for many years and have served on the RPIA Board since January, 2007 when I retired from Easter Seals. Working on the RPIA Board has opened my eyes to the many challenges and opportunities facing all of

us. Over time I have learned that the treasures we have in Rosedale Park are very unique and need to be nurtured and preserved. If elected as president I hope to focus on continuing the work of neighborhood revitalization. I look forward to utilizing the new technology available to us to increase our ability to communicate effectively with each other and to assure that important information gets to our residents in a timely manner. We are a community of talented people. We have much work to do. Our strength is in our commitment to maintaining the quality of life we sought when

we made the decision to live in Rosedale Park.

Pam Weinstein of Faust has been nominated for the position of 1st Vice President.

My family and I moved to Rosedale Park in 1984; I have served as block captain on my block since 1990, as editor of the Rosedale Park News, and as a Board member from 2005-2007. I re-joined the board as 2nd vice president in 2011, and am willing to serve as 1st vice president in 2012, if that is how residents cast their votes. I am honored to be a part of this amazing, unique community and will do my best to

continued on page 8

RPIA Board Meeting of September 26, 2011

– Summary of Minutes –

The Board met on September 26, 2011. Highlights of this meeting included the following: introduction of new Board member Minty Kelly James, appointed by President Carolyn Cruse; summary of the current financial report; invitation to Frank Raben, an RPIA representative on the GRDC Board, to attend the October Board meeting; Vacant House Committee report and appropriate channels of information regarding squatters; neighborhood tree planning update; Code Enforcement

Committee report; update to the RPIA website; planning for Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Annual Banquet; review and discussion of positive accomplishments over the past year in RPIA; and plan for a Board orientation and retreat in January.

For more details on these items and others, you will find a complete copy of the minutes on the RPIA website at www.rosedalepark.org.

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

By Austin Grout, Crime Prevention Coordinator, Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation

Fear of crime can lead to increased levels of criminal activity in a neighborhood. How? People become fearful of strangers, so they stay inside rather than venture outdoors. As a result, there are fewer people observing the community. Without the help of these informal measures of social control, community security and crime prevention efforts are at a major disadvantage. Fear can cause a resident to withdraw from community interaction and lead to an increase in criminal activity.

The phrase “getting to know your neighbors” means more than simply nodding to Mr. and Mrs. Smith when you check the mail in the morning.

Instead, we need to create social capital: connections between people. As we engage one another in various ways, becoming members of community associations or participating in a little league, we increase our social capital; trust, connectedness, and concern for one another emerge out of these interactions. Furthermore, increases in social capital are related to lower crime rates and increases in quality of life (e.g., higher performing schools).

What does this all mean to you as a resident? Should you wander the neighborhood, shaking hands and introducing yourself to strangers? Not necessarily. You should do whatever

makes you comfortable. That may mean introducing yourself to the neighbors across the street or attending community meetings to meet residents throughout the area. Either way, simply “getting to know your neighbors” may help add an element of surveillance to your area and simultaneously reduce your fears of strangers.¹

¹ *The information in this article was provided in: Gainey, R., Alper, M., & Chappell, A. T. (2011). Fear of crime revisited: Examining the direct and indirect effects of disorder, risk perception, and social capital. American Journal of Criminal Justice, 36, 120-137.*

Changes to the Detroit Police Department's “Verified Response” Protocol

By Austin Grout, Crime Prevention Coordinator, Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation

Crime Prevention Coordinator, Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation

At September's Neighborhood Safety Meeting, Commander Todd Bettison of the Detroit Police Department (DPD) revealed changes to the “Verified Response” protocol. Based upon resident feedback, the **DPD changed the amount of required alarm trips to qualify for “Verified Response” from 3 to 2.** This means that only 2 trips (e.g., motion detector at the front door and motion detector in the front hallway) will be needed to prompt a response from the DPD.

The change in the system illustrates the benefit of community members working closely with the Police Department. Feedback matters and helps direct the services that apply to the Grandmont Rosedale area. The change is outlined in the following ways an alarm monitoring company or resident can verify an alarm:

- Property owner, private guard, or other witness at the property verifies that an attempted or actual crime has occurred.
- Audio and/or video surveillance equipment shows that a crime is in progress and is relayed to the DPD and/or Prosecuting Attorney Staff for review.
- **A minimum of two alarm trips** are recorded and passed along to the police department (e.g., activation of a window alarm, motion detector in a hallway, and a motion detector in a bedroom).

*This policy does NOT include human activated alarms (e.g., hold-up and panic or duress). The DPD will continue to respond to these alarms without requiring “verified response.”¹

¹ *The information for this article was provided in a City of Detroit News Release: Verified Alarm Response Reduces False Alarms*

RPIA General Membership Meeting Minutes: September 13, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm by Carolyn Cruse and acknowledged board members, block captains and visitors from other communities that were in attendance.

RADIO PATROL

The police are currently working with the radio patrol to keep crime down. There is a need for more volunteers to patrol. There are reports of young men gambling in the driveways of vacant houses. Radio patrol volunteers are watching out and have broken up a few and reported them to police. There are discussions that the city is reorganizing the northwest area under one body for radio patrol. The Rosedale radio patrol would report to central station and could be sent to any neighborhood on the northwest side to patrol. Patrol units are fighting against this.

Radio patrol was able to secure caps for current volunteers and hopefully to encourage others to join and increase the safety within our neighborhoods. The area is deteriorating faster than anyone would have dreamed and radio patrol needs your support to bring it back and keep it up as the neighborhood that it was to draw people to live here.

BOARD ACTIVITY REPORTS

Carolyn reported on the upcoming 2012 Slate for the RPIA Board. The following persons will be running for the noted positions. President: Mary McLeod; First Vice President: Pam Weinstein; Second Vice President: Stacey Pugh; Treasurer: Thom Gatson. There will be two new candidates running as board members: Stephanie Young and Minty Kelly-James. The slate will be published in the November RPIA newsletter and will be sent via e-blast, including profiles for the new candidates.

Debbie Kent reported on the current status of the vacant homes project. All five associations applied for a Safe Grant and three were awarded. Those three decided to share the grants with the other two associations. Rosedale has acquired \$2000 from the safe grants. Debbie took time to thank the residents for taking care of the vacant properties around them. They maintained the front but there are some where the backyards still needs attention. Residents were asked to provide the addresses of these properties to Debbie so that they can be kept in the master vacant home database and follow up can begin for their upkeep and further investigation.

Stacey Pugh reported on the Community Improvement Grant awarded for the rehab of Flintstone Park. The grant totaled \$9000 and work is being done to improve the park in collaboration with Grandmont. There have been woodchips added, seal coating of the bike trail, and new benches have been ordered among other things. The job is expected to be completed by mid-October. A Kresge Grant totaling \$1000 was also received to beautify the area along the Southfield service drive. The grass has been cut along this route with another cutting scheduled to occur next week that will take us through the end of the season.

Tracey Wallace reported on the activities of the Public Works Committee. The grant awarded to beautify Rosedale Park was used to rehab the Rosedale signage that is seen when entering each street and to purchase flowers for the islands. There was \$1300 left over and this

was used to purchase 70 packs of 6 solar landscape lights to be delivered by the end of next week. These lights are being purchased for each block to be planted on the islands. Block captains will be contacted for distribution.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Thom Gatson, RPIA Treasurer thanked those that paid their dues, will pay them by the end of the year, and will pay during this meeting. A public thank you will be published to all those who have paid in the November RPIA newsletter. All programs and events have been fully funded because of resident dues payments. Thom spoke of all of the events through the year and the yearly snow plow. Residents were encouraged to patronize those that advertise in the RPIA newsletter. Use the newsletter like the yellow pages. There is an advantage for the Rosedale area in being heard from city official when the number of dues paying residents is reported to them.

TREE ISSUES IN ROSEDALE PARK

Pam Weinstein reported on the tree initiatives. Nancy Bitzarakis and Jill Laufer spent hours back in June making lists of dead trees and came up with 75 dead trees and 30 stumps that need to be removed. The next part was to identify the locations where no trees existed. This count came to 150. Long ago RPIA would pay \$50 to get a tree planted in front of houses that needed them, which was a part of the Tree Nursery Project in the city that existed 20 years ago in Detroit. There is now an association called Greening of Detroit that is charged with tree planting for the city.

BRAD DICK, DIRECTOR, CITY GENERAL SERVICES DEPT

Pam introduced Brad Dick who is in charge of the Forestry Division, the department in charge of the greening part of the city and the fleet in addition to managing city buildings. With the closing of The Tree Nursery, the Greening of Detroit took over the task of planting trees from the city department who ultimately could not manage it. With the downturn of the economy the Forestry Department has lost two forestry crews, there are 4-5 crews working for the entire city now charged with cutting down and trimming city trees. Trees that have fallen due to storms take precedence over regular calls for tree service because of the dangers. To date there have been 875 storm calls reporting down trees. The department is trying to get two more crews hired on currently to assist with this demand. Brad requested that residents call 311 for tree assistance or forward the issue to Pam to get them funneled to the correct department. Brad requested patience of the residents in handling current and future issues. When city crews come out to cut the grass on vacant lot and homes, this does not include the backyard because of the lack of monies. Trees located near stop signs and stop lights are the only ones slated to be trimmed. There is an idea to hold training seminars for residents to show them how to trim trees on their own.

GREENING OF DETROIT

Representatives, Caitlyn Pisarski, Community Engagement Coordinator and Sal Hansen, Senior Community Forester from Greening of Detroit spoke on planting live trees in Rosedale Park where

no trees existed. Caitlyn and Sal introduced two interns that were in attendance with them, Deidre and Corine. The Greening of Detroit provides urban agriculture support and work-first development training on green jobs in Detroit. Back in June they received the application to replace trees in Rosedale Park by the RPIA. There were 150 locations on the list. Postcards went to those 150 residents requesting that they agree to receive a new tree and take part in its initial upkeep. Tree planting days are set for Sunday October 16th and Sunday November 13th. Some locations were deleted due to lighting, space or power lines, etc but those in attendance were encouraged to see greening representatives or Pam if they are missing a tree and would like one planted to ensure that they are on the list.

HUD HOMES AND SQUATTERS

Timothy Shea from AMS Asset Management, was on hand to discuss issues with house squatters in vacant homes. AMS is a company that operates nationwide and is responsible for cleaning out foreclosed homes to get them ready for resale. They get rid of squatters when necessary. The process to remove squatters after they have taken up residence beyond 30 days is hard. It takes a long time to get squatters out, they will fight to stay in a house, but eventually they will be removed and the house will be locked up and kept safe to get it in the hands of families that want to stay there legally. AMS works with 99% of HUD homes. They have interacted with 13 houses out of the over 200 vacant in Rosedale. They are responsible for cutting the grass every two weeks. Of the 13 homes they manage, 10 have been sold and 1 more is in the final stages of being sold. Mr. Shea left his contact information for residents to call and if they are responsible for that home they will take care of it or put you on the trail to who is responsible. A tip is that a house cannot be sold without a presale inspection. So if you see someone in the home and you call the city and no presale inspection has been done, then you can assure the people are squatting.

Stacey Pugh reported on the code violations project. The goal is to use the website to report the code violations. The whole process will be revealed. The page is under construction and you will be notified when it is ready to be rolled out.

DPD'S ALARM RESPONSE POLICY

Commander Bettison was not in attendance. Carolyn spoke on the new alarm response system from the DPD. Because 95% of home alarms were false alarms, it was determined that a visual occurrence or multiple trips of alarms at a residence had to happen before police response could take place. Residents with home alarms should have been notified about this new verified response system. Those who have not been notified need to contact their alarm company to see how the new process affects you and your coverage. We will request the commander attend our next meeting. He will be in attendance at the next security system on September 27, Thursday at 6pm. Try to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm

TREE PLANTINGS IN ROSEDALE PARK

Rosedale Park Improvement Association, in partnership with the Greening of Detroit, is planting trees in our community, to replace trees lost due to disease and storm damage.

The first session planted 18 trees on Sunday, Oct. 16. Over 30 volunteers from the Greening and from the University of Michigan's Detroit Partnership, along with a number of Rosedale neighbors, assembled on the island on Rosemont, between Fenkell

and Chalfonte, for training by Greening's civilian foresters in how to plant a tree. The group was then divided into three teams that were given tools and directions to various locations all over the Park, including Ashton, Rosemont, Penrod, Faust, Stahelin, Artesian, Warwick, Piedmont, Grandville, W. Outer Drive, and Plainview.. "This was a great community tree-planting session," said Caitlyn Pisarski, Greening's Community Engagement Coordinator.

RPIA and The Greening will be planting more trees on Sunday, Nov. 13 from 1-5 PM. Please join us! The Greening will bring the trees, the tools, and the expertise. Volunteers should bring work gloves, work boots, a water bottle and their enthusiasm and energy.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Caitlyn Pisarski of the Greening at 313-285-2238.



Rosedale Girl Scouts help Greening's Community Outreach Coordinator Caitlyn Pisarski water a newly planted tree.



Girl Scouts and other volunteers, digging a hole.



Outer Drive resident George Rainey and his son, Omara, had help from two volunteers.



Volunteers work to get the root ball firmly anchored in the hole.



Registration of volunteers.

Statements of the 2012 Nominees *continued from page 3*

strengthen our neighborhood.

Stacy Pugh of Greenview has been nominated as 2nd Vice President.

I have been a resident of our community since 2004. I am currently a member of the RPIA Board and hold many key leadership roles such as chair of the code enforcement committee, co-chair of the special assessment district committee, and as chair of the clean and safe committee. I have been responsible for working with GRDC and Grandmont #1 for implementing grants at Flintstone park and cleaning the Southfield service drive. It is my philosophy that if you would like to see change, become a part of the solution and get involved. I look forward to my continued service in making our neighborhood a better place to live.

Stephanie Young has been nominated for a new term as a Board Member.

As a lifelong Detroit resident of Rosedale Park, I'm

honored to be considered for a position on the RPIA Board. I have lived a life of public service that predates my time in city and state government. I believe a community is only as strong as those committed to working in it. As the former Neighborhood City Hall Manager for this area, I have had the opportunity to work with community leaders and individual residents to positively make change in our neighborhood and I gladly bring my experience to the table for the collective good of us all.

Minty Kelly James has been nominated for a new term as a Board Member.

My family and I are excited to be part of the commitment to revitalize the Detroit community beginning with our involvement in the Rosedale Park homeowners' association. A native Detroit resident, I reminisce about our history with great pride and delight. Our community is rich in culture, art,

music and historic significance. It is critical to work to preserve the heritage and beauty of our neighborhood and city. As a homeowner and because of my history as a native Detroit resident, I have a vested interest in working to revitalize the community. Detroit has been wonderful to my family and me. I began my teaching career in the Detroit Public Schools. My career in education encompasses more than 30 years of service to students in the Detroit area as well as abroad. In addition to being a seasoned educator, my background reveals my experience as an entrepreneur in the automobile industry. My professional experience includes owning businesses in Oklahoma and Ohio. I am committed to working to improve our neighborhood as well as the greater Detroit community. My family includes my husband, Rodney; two sons who are enrolled at Michigan State, Rodney and Russell; a daughter, Tessa; two cats, Lance and Sirrus; and a dog, Reese.



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CALLING ALL INTERESTED HOMEBUYERS! GRDC has a variety of newly renovated homes for sale in the Grandmont Rosedale area. Find a home this fall and move in before the holidays!

If you, or someone you know, is interested in purchasing one of these beautifully updated, energy-efficient and highly affordable homes, send an email to tgoddeeris@grandmontrosedale.com or call 313-387-4732, ext. 100.

You can also view a few of GRDC's current renovation projects on our web site at www.grandmontrosedale.com.

MICHIGAN TAX CREDIT EXPIRING – DONATE NOW! – If you are thinking about making a donation to GRDC's endowment fund, now is the time to act! Recent changes to the Michigan tax code mean that the Michigan tax credits you have received in the past for such donations will no longer be available. Only gifts for endowment funds that are dated AND either received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2011 will be eligible for tax credits. Act now to take advantage of this deduction. Make your check payable to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and add "Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation" to the memo line of your check. Mail to the GRDC office at 19800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48223 and we will forward it on to the Community Foundation. Thanks!

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION – If you or someone you know is in danger of foreclosure, DON'T DELAY. Foreclosure counselors are available from Southwest Housing Solutions. Homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments should contact the free non-profit counselors immediately, while they still have options – **call 313-841-9641 TODAY** for an appointment with a counselor.



VACANT HOUSE ALERT – Do you have any vacant houses on your block? If so, please give GRDC Vacant Property Intern Jessica Iwankowski a call at 313-387-4732, ext. 100, and give her the address (or send an email to info@grandmontrosedale.com). In cooperation with all of the neighborhood associations, GRDC is trying to keep track of all of the vacancies and we need your help! We're developing a Vacant Property Strategy and it's important to keep up to date on every vacancy. Thanks for being a good neighbor.

GET THE GRDC E-MAIL BLAST! – GRDC operates a neighborhood-wide listserv; we send out a regular weekly electronic newsletter, to let everybody know what's going on in our neighborhood. Don't miss out on the latest! If you want to know what's happening, send us your e-mail address. We'll add you to our electronic mailing list and send you information of interest to the neighborhood. Send an e-mail to tmccrory@grandmontrosedale.com and ask to be added to the list.



Wanted: Part-Time Bookkeeper

The Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation (GRDC) is looking for a part-time Bookkeeper. Hours are flexible, wage is competitive. High level of proficiency in Quickbooks is a MUST, and at least 3 years of bookkeeping experience is also necessary. If you are interested, check out the job announcement on the GRDC website, www.grandmontrosedale.com.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

Security Alternative and Funding Empowerment (SAFE)-- Vacant Property Grant Monies

By Carolyn Cruse

Community Legal Resources received funding this year for neighborhoods within the City of Detroit to use to address problems with vacant properties. They had an overwhelming response from communities in the city. In fact, all five neighborhoods that make up the Grandmont Rosedale Communities applied separately for grant monies as did the Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation (GRDC). Awards were made to three of these communities earlier this year. Rosedale Park was not among them.

Our neighboring communities, however, recognized that we

are all in this together and requested that they be allowed to share their award with the two neighborhoods that did not receive funding. North Rosedale Park, Grandmont and Minock Park each donated a part of their award, which resulted in Rosedale Park and Grandmont I receiving \$2,000 each to manage the most problematic vacant properties.

We still need residents to pitch in where possible to maintain the appearance of the vacant properties on your block. However, we still need to research the owners of these homes and keep a record in the event of a problem. Therefore, it is important

that you report vacancies to our committee chairperson, Debbie Kent, as soon as possible. Also, if there are problems with the property, such as an accumulation of debris or high grass, referring the problem to Ms. Kent can expedite the resolution of the problem. After contact is made, someone from the Vacant Property Steering Committee will contact you to get any additional information that may be needed.

Debbie Kent can be reached at Msdeborahkent@aol.com or at 313-836-4737.



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We switched – Maybe you will, too!

By Pam Weinstein

In the wake of the Detroit Police Department’s recent change in its Verified Response Protocol, our household has decided to drop our longtime home security service, ADT, in favor of a locally-based company, Dusing Security. Dusing’s monthly monitoring fee is cheaper than ADT’s (\$20/month vs. \$33.99/month), and we believe that Dusing will respond more quickly to any alarm at our home than ADT would, especially since one of Dusing’s staff is driving around nearby North Rosedale Park for 40 hours a week.

NEW EQUIPMENT

This switch was a pretty easy call for our household: we were not signed up for any long-term contract with ADT. On the down side, we will be paying approximately \$250 to Dusing to install new equipment in our home. In our case, new

equipment is probably a good idea anyway, since our current equipment is 21 years old, never upgraded from the original items installed by Brinks back in 1990 when we first bought our house. And more good news: Dusing does not require a long-term contract – instead, just a 90-day commitment, with payment for the 90 days due upfront.

150 HOUSEHOLDS = 40 HOURS OF PATROL

In talking with Jim Dusing of Dusing Security about making this switch, I learned something pretty interesting. If 149 other Rosedale Park households joined us and signed up with Dusing, our Rosedale Park neighborhood would also be able to have a Dusing patrol for 40 hours a week! The monthly monitoring fee would rise from \$20 to \$30 a month, but our neighborhood

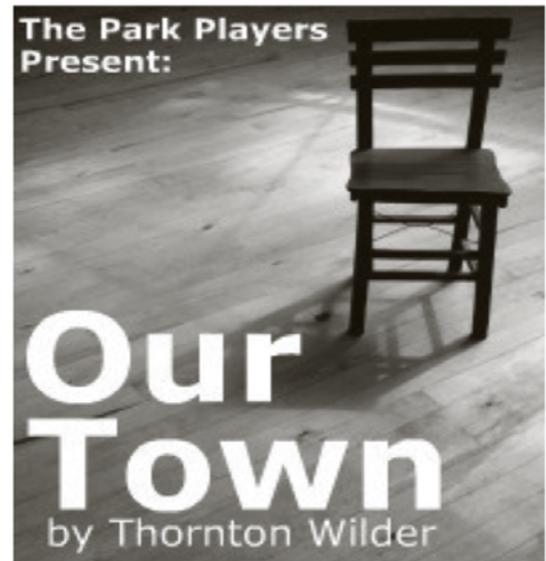
would have the benefit of 40 hours of patrolling! To me, that would be money well spent.

I know we have tried as a neighborhood to do a paid security patrol in the past, and that initiative didn’t work out – too expensive, not enough people paid, and perhaps it was not well organized by the particular company selected. I think it may be time to take another look at our situation, however, and consider the Dusing approach.

If you think you might be interested in signing up with Dusing, give them a call to find out more information – 586-779-5002. If enough Rosedale Park residents sign up, we can have a patrol. And if not enough residents sign up, we are all still getting a quality security company that is locally based, reliable, and much more likely to respond to our needs. Give it some thought.

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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- Thur., Nov. 3Bulk Pick-up (North of Fenkell)
- Tues., Nov. 5.....RPIA General Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.
North Rosedale Park
Community House
18445 Scarsdale, off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury
- Thur., Nov. 10Bulk Pick-up (South of Fenkell)
- Sat., Nov. 17Rosedale Recycles, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
18605 Pierson
- Mon., Nov. 28RPIA Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
19800 Grand River

DECEMBER

- Thurs., Dec. 1.....Advertising deadline for January issue of RP News
- Sat., Dec. 3.....Holiday Pancake Breakfast at North Rosedale Park
Community House, 9 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 10.....Article submission deadline for January issue of RP News
- Sat., Dec. 17Rosedale Recycles, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
18605 Pierson
- Mon., Dec. 19RPIA Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
19800 Grand River

**ROSEDALE PARK
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 23113
Detroit, MI 48223
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rosedaleparknews@yahoo.com

**ANNUAL
RPIA
BANQUET**

**Save
the
Date**



**Friday, January 27, 2012
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

The social hour will begin at 6 PM; the banquet meal will be served at 7 PM. The swearing-in of RPIA officers and board members takes place after dessert. The contributions of many residents to the success of this community will be recognized and Island Beautification awards will be presented. This is a nice evening of celebration for Rosedale Park. Come and join your neighbors and share in the food, fun and fellowship.



*RPIA Banquet.
Councilman Tate with
resident Doris Miller*



ROSEDALE RECYCLES

**Saturday, November 19
Saturday, December 17**

**10 AM - 2 PM
18605 Pierson Street**

**City living is great.
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