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Stoepel Park, A Jewel in Our Neighborhood



The new shelter has grills, a prep table, and picnic tables.



The surface of the west court is Versa Court Tiles.

The Detroit Recreation Department's recent improvements at Stoepel Park elevated the 31-acre park to a Rosedale neighborhood jewel. It's easier to access the park through the new parking lot and walk around on the sidewalk trail system. From the parking lot, check out the Fitness Zone with four workout stations. Continuing around notice the new covered shelter with two charcoal stoves, and the new picnic tables.

One spectacular upgrade is with the tennis courts. New high-end surface tiles were laid for the courts closest to Evergreen. An acrylic coating will be put on the other courts closest to the parking lot and the basketball courts by the end of June. In late July, a bathroom will be fabricated and placed not far from the parking lot, the tennis courts, and the baseball diamonds.

Park Memories

RPIA Board Member Kimberly Uhuru grew up near Stoepel Park and played tennis on the courts. Here are her memories:

One of my earliest memories of growing up in Northwest Detroit is going to Stoepel Park with my father, where he regularly played tennis with a group of his friends. These were neighborhood guys of a broad stripe – civil servants, police officers, lawyers, auto workers.

As time went on and parts of the city became more blighted, I watched my dad and his friends fill in the gaps when city services were not present by sweeping and maintaining the courts, and making sure the nets were brought in for the winter. They did this without expecting pay or thanks. Without being explicitly told, I came to understand that this is what community service looks like, and that it was expected of me too.

Watching these men as I grew up is part of what made me certain that after being away at school, I would come back to Detroit, back to this neighborhood, to help make necessary change. Thanks to my dad, my kids have learned to play on the same courts where I learned to play (badly, I admit). Now the tennis courts are refurbished, restored and looking better than they have in years. I look forward to all the future generations of kids that will grow up there the way I did.

Stoepel Park is one of the most beautiful parks in our city. Let's do everything we can to keep it first class. If you see anyone destroying our park, please call 911, Detroit Parks and Recreation Dept. 313-224-1100, or RPIA board member Jim Dwight, 313-231-2245.

Rosedale Blood Drive a Success

Our earlier American Red Cross blood drive on June 3rd was a great success, so we are encouraged to proceed with more events. The need for blood continues, and collection locations in Detroit are especially needed. We are happy to share the plans to conduct TWO more blood drives in the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods this summer.

Both drives will be conducted by the American Red Cross at the North Rosedale Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, thanks to the generosity of the North Rosedale Park Civic Association, which is making their facility available. Masks will be required for all participants, and physical distancing will be observed as much as possible.

Here are the details:

- Tuesday, July 28 from 11am - 5 pm
- Wednesday, August 19 from 11am - 5 pm

Automatic Antibody Testing

As an additional benefit to donating blood at these drives, donors will automatically have their blood tested for COVID-19 antibodies by the Red Cross and will be notified of the results about a week after their donation.

Volunteers Needed

Each 6-hour drive needs about 15 community volunteers to assist. Assignments include taking donor temperatures, using a computer to check pre-registration details, and passing out juice and cookies after donations. Volunteer shifts are 2-1/2 hours long — here are the hours:

- 10:30 am – 1 pm
- 12:30 pm – 3 pm
- 2:30 pm – 5 pm

To sign up to volunteer, contact Pam Weinstein at weinstein148@ameritech.net or 313-231-2244.

Share Info Widely

We need donors and we need volunteers. Please share the above information widely.

Rosedale Block Captains VIRTUAL Meeting

Sunday, August 9 from 4 – 6 pm

- stay tuned for log-in instructions via email and postcard •

Rosedale Scholarships Proposed!

The RPIA board of directors recently adopted a proposal from our Youth Committee to offer college scholarships to two deserving high school seniors from our neighborhood! This proposal will be formally presented at our September 8th general membership meeting for approval by the membership. The first awards will be made for the semester beginning January 2021.

Academic Scholarship Details

RPIA seeks to recognize, encourage, and support our youth residents. To this end, we plan to offer scholarships to two deserving high school seniors planning to enroll in post-secondary institutions following high school graduation. These will be one-time awards of \$1,250 each, to be awarded to two graduating seniors who reside within the boundaries of the Rosedale Park neighborhood and who have demonstrated effort and promise during their high school career. These scholarships will be offered on an annual basis. Particular value will be placed upon past participation in RPIA activities and/or community service efforts in the Rosedale Park neighborhood.

Application Criteria

- Must be a high school senior graduating in 2020
- Applicant must be a Rosedale Park resident
- Minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA
- Student Essay (Essay should discuss personal and academic goals and interests, award and honors received, extra-curricular activities, and any participation in community service)
- Household dues paid for 2019 and 2020 (new resident, 2020 dues paid)
- Most recent report card with cumulative GPA listed
- Documentation of acceptance to a post-secondary institution

Application Timeline

Application and materials must be submitted to RPIA Youth Committee by November 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Submit by email to Youth Committee Co-Chair Kimberly Uhuru at kuhuru@gmail.com. Any questions regarding the application process or requirements can be submitted to Ms. Uhuru.

Editor's note: A shout-out to Grandmont Community Association's Cora Duncan-Foster for inspiring us to provide this scholarship.



Know a Good Contractor?

RPIA is putting together a list of approved contractors that will be available to all residents when seeking a qualified contractor or tradesman to perform repairs and maintenance on their homes. If you used a contractor in the past 5 years that did great work and charged a fair price, we would like to hear about it.

Please include the following: Name of business, contact information of business (address and telephone number), website if available, and type of repair/maintenance performed.

Please send your info to Kimberly Uhuru at kuhuru@gmail.com. We will compose and publish a list once entries are in.

Yes, Island Beautification Judging to Begin in July

Members of the Island Beautification Committee, Master Gardener Deborah Tunstull, Ruth Remus, and Carolyn Murphy, will be judging islands this summer. "Keep up the good work," said Murphy. "During this time of crisis, we can safely work to make our islands beautiful for all."

SOLID WASTE PICK-UPS IN ROSEDALE PARK July-August-September 2020

July 6	Trash only
July 13	Trash, Recycling, Bulk, Yard Waste
July 20	Trash only
July 27	Trash, Recycling, Bulk, Yard Waste
Aug 3	Trash only
Aug 10	Trash, Recycling, Bulk, Yard Waste
Aug 17	Trash only
Aug 24	Trash, Recycling, Bulk, Yard Waste
Aug 31	Trash only
Sept 7	HOLIDAY – No Service
Sept 8	Trash, Recycling, Bulk, Yard Waste
Sept 14	Trash only
Sept 21	Trash, Recycling, Bulk, Yard Waste
Sept 28	Trash only

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President's Message

Greetings, RPIA Neighbor!

Hope you and yours are well and safe. The global health crisis unfortunately hit our quaint neighborhood particularly hard. We lost several longtime, beloved residents. We will have a memorial to recognize them at a later date. Please email your suggestions to rdalepark@gmail.com.

Service Drive Clean-Up

Due to COVID-19, a number of annual events were canceled, including our June Day Parade and Picnic and our 60-block yard sale. But it wasn't able to stop our annual Motor City Makeover spring clean-up. Thank you to everyone who participated on the Southfield Service Drive project!

TCF Bank Beautification Grant

The Grandmont Rosedale strategic neighborhoods were recently "adopted" by TCF Bank. TCF is committed to providing resources to enhance our communities. Each of the five Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods received a \$5,000 beautification grant. Our Vacant Property/Blight Task Force, our Garden Committee, and the Ashton Block Club decided to use these beautification funds to purchase commercial grade planters and low maintenance shrubs to serve as barriers on the Ashton block that dead-ends into Rosemont-Acacia Park. Be sure to check out the beautiful addition to our neighborhood later this summer.

Black Lives Matter: Friday Night Driveway Vigils

Lastly, my heart has been broken by the recent string of deaths of Black Americans due to systemic racism and police brutality. Rosedale Park Improvement Association and other Grandmont Rosedale communities took part in a peaceful protest on Friday, June 5th. Residents stood in solidarity against systemic racism and police brutality by holding or placing a candle at the end of our driveways for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time it took to end Mr. George Floyd's life. We are a welcoming neighborhood that celebrates diversity and we could not remain silent on this issue — Black Lives Matter. We are continuing our peaceful protests every Friday at 9:40pm for a total of 8 Fridays, ending on July 24th. All are welcome to join.

As always, please feel free to call me about anything. Along with our remarkable Board, I am here to help. Blessings and I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

Steph

Stephanie A. Young
2020 President
Rosedale Park Improvement Association
313.334.8192



RPIA President Stephanie Young trims overgrown bushes.



Ashton Block Club members make decisions about the new planters.



Several members of the service drive clean-up crew pause for a photo.



Neighbors on Rosemont participate in the vigil on June 5.