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Dear Rosedale Neighbors,



RPIA President
Kimberly Uhuru

As this is the final newsletter of the year, this message will be my last in my capacity as your president.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve RPIA. I'd like to share some insights I've gained from serving on the board these past few years.

Without a doubt, the thing that has struck me most is how much of the work of RPIA is invisible.

- We all know about the headliner events (Pancake Breakfast, June Day, etc.) that are put on by a small army of diligent and selfless volunteers.
- And we know about the snow removal.
- But how many neighbors know about the RPIA members who wake up early on weekends to go out and pick up trash around the neighborhood to keep it clean and livable?
- Neighbors who keep the Southfield Service Drive mowed and pick up litter on a regular basis.

- Who write letters to the neighborhood businesses to cajole them into maintaining their lots? Who petition the city departments for the services and amenities that we deserve?
- Our extensive block captains' network and newsletter distributors.
- Without looking on P. 3 (contacts) of this newsletter, do you know the name of the person who sends out the weekly E-Blast?

What I can tell you for sure is that Rosedale Park would be a much different place without these souls. We are all so much richer for their efforts.

Next year, I will serve in the capacity of President Emeritus, as called for in our by-laws. My job will be to help the new president accomplish the goals of the organization. I will be less visible. But my hope is that I will find myself among that army of volunteers- small but mighty, quiet but effective. And I hope you join us.

Kimberly Uhuru, RPIA President

General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 9 – In Person

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Tuesday, November 9th General Membership Meeting at 7 PM – at the North Rosedale Community House, 18445 Scarsdale. The agenda includes:

- Election of 2022 officers and board members
- Grand River Streetscape – Issues and Concerns
- Sweatshirts and T-Shirt will be available for sale just in time for the holidays
- New Neighbor spotlight
- Updates – snow plowing; Rosedale Clean-Up Club; Meet our new BSEED inspector; Holiday Pancake Breakfast; our Gala (which is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 21) – see you there!

To meet safely, we will not be sitting at tables. Instead, chairs will be scattered throughout the room so we can meet socially distanced. Also, we will not be serving snacks. Masks required!

No Holiday Pancake Breakfast but Gala to return

Our annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast is canceled for 2021. The RPIA board stated that the event, which is very popular, is attended by both adults and children in very close contact – sitting at tables and eating – and is too difficult to manage safely. Only 46.1% of Detroiters have been vaccinated as of Oct. 21, 2021.

On a positive note: The board voted to bring back the Annual Gala, which is scheduled for Friday, January 21. More information will be forthcoming.

Candidates for 2022 Officer and Board Positions

Larry Castleberry, candidate for President (2022)

I wish to continue the legacy of commitment and service to our community demonstrated by our past presidents. As we hopefully exit the pandemic, I look forward to reincorporating in-person community events and working with community leaders and law enforcement to address issues such as speeding on Fenkell and Grand River. I've lived in Rosedale Park for 22 years and have been an RPIA board member since 2017. I love martial arts, reading, playing chess, and telling stories.



on GRDC's board for 30 years and as a Block Captain on Greenview for 11 years. I am retired and being Treasurer gives me something to do; it is an honor to be trusted by the Membership and RPIA Board to look after RPIA's finances.

Ulysses Freeman, candidate for board member (2022-2024)

I was born and raised in Detroit, and graduated from Northwestern High School. I earned a bachelor's and a PhD in chemistry at Wayne State. For 35 years, I worked as chemist for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, retiring as a water plant manager. I have lived in Rosedale Park for about 34 years. Retirement has allowed me time to channel some my efforts into keeping the Rosedale Park community as beautiful of a place to live as it was when I first moved here.



Andrew Sarazin, candidate for 1st Vice President (2022)

Originally from the Upper Peninsula, I relocated to Metro Detroit with my fiancée (now wife, Cassandra) in 2015. We both work downtown and felt it was important to also live in the city, so we purchased our home in Rosedale Park in January 2016. As a newcomer to the neighborhood, I have been involved with the RPIA through various activities including regular attendance at general membership meetings, community clean-up efforts, Easter Egg stuffing, and tree trimming activities. I am eager to step up my involvement and contribute more to the neighborhood. I look forward to working with all residents and stakeholders to continue to improve and strengthen our wonderful association, neighborhood, and city. My wife and I reside on Glastonbury with our 2.5-year-old daughter, Vivienne.



Tonia A. Holloway, candidate for board member (2022)

Tonia, a native Detroit, graduated from Detroit Redford High School, and earned a B.S. in Health System Management from Ferris State University. She is a health insurance professional who has worked in the health care industry for over 25 years. She has been a resident of Rosedale Park since 1978 and currently serves as a block captain. Tonia said she is excited and honored to serve in a community where she grew up. Some of her hobbies are making homemade preserves and watching old movies. She serves as a board member for the Redford Theatre and the Detroit Redford High School Alumni Nonprofit Organization.



Alex Derdelakos, candidate for 2nd Vice President (2022)

I've lived in Rosedale Park since March 2013 with my wife Susan Laing and our sons, Elias and Chuck. I'm a project manager/estimator for a family commercial painting company. I've served on the board since January 2017. Since joining the community and board, I've developed a new website for the neighborhood, assisted with the signing of a new contract for snow removal, and sat on the Finance Committee, helping with several projects. Rosedale Park is such a wonderful and welcoming community to live in. We look forward to living and raising our children here for years to come.



Ivan Johnson, candidate for board member (2022-2024)

Ivan became part of Rosedale Park in 2001 and is an active community member. He is part of our neighborhood Radio Patrol and a Block Captain on Grandville between Grand River and Midland. He is very positive about our community and the city of Detroit. He believes the best way to affect change is to be an active participant in the process. Professionally, Ivan joined PNC Bank, N.A. over 40 years ago. Through the years, he has worked in the International Department and the Commercial Real Estate area, which broadened his expertise and management skills. He currently helps manage the Michigan Trust Real Estate, as part of the PNC Private Bank portfolio, which exceeds 100 million dollars and is comprised of residential, commercial, and agricultural real estate. His work experience, which



Frank Raben, candidate for Treasurer (2022)

I have been serving RPIA as Treasurer for the past eight years and have lived in Rosedale Park since 1978. I have also served as Rosedale Park's representative



Bios continued on top of P. 3.

Continued from P. 2.

requires critical thinking, compromise, and problem solving, will help him as a board member make a positive difference in our community. He also served as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the former Allen Academy in Detroit. He is a graduate of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and received his BA degree from the University of Detroit.

Jasmin DeForrest candidate for board member (2022-2024)

A native Detroit, Jasmin leads and maintains a diverse portfolio of Detroit-based community investments to support inclusive arts and culture programming at the Rocket Community Fund. In 2017, she created the Rocket Community Fund's, Small Business Murals Project, which connects art and entrepreneurship by pairing artists and small business owners to bring art to their space and neighborhoods. To date, nearly thirty Detroit small businesses throughout the city have been awarded murals, including four on Grand River: Rosedale Park's, Cutz Barber Shop, Spa-a-Peel, The Garden Bug and Powerhouse Gym. Jasmin is also mindful of the importance of diverse representation and ensuring Detroit youth have equitable opportunities to explore creative career pathways and has created partnerships to support this mission. Outside of work, she enjoys connecting with family and friends, listening to music and being Auntie Jas to her beautiful nieces and nephew.



RPIA Offering Two \$1,250 Scholarships

Is there a high school senior in your home who could use \$1,250 in their post-secondary education following high school graduation? The Rosedale Park Improvement Association is offering onetime college scholarships of \$1,250 each to two 2022 graduating seniors who reside within the boundaries of the Rosedale Park neighborhood, and who have demonstrated effort and promise during their high school careers. Past participation in RPIA activities and/or community service efforts in the Rosedale Park neighborhood are a plus. In 2021, Kevin Wallace (Glastonbury) and Lauren Talbert (Stahelin) won the scholarships. For more details, visit our webpage at rosedalepark.org.

Get Your RPIA Hoodies

Nothing says loving like a Rosedale hoodie! Warm, cuddly, fashionable, and oh so local! They make perfect holiday gifts, and at only \$25 each, you can afford to outfit your entire family and friendship circle!

Rosedale hoodies come in navy, burgundy, and dark gray. Sizes are Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, and 2XLarge. Available for purchase (cash, check or credit card) at the RPIA General Membership meeting on Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 at the North Rosedale Community House (18445 Scarsdale).

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RPIA Dues

Mail your 2021 RPIA dues payment of \$45 (note: \$25 for Outer Drive and Evergreen residents) to RPIA, P.O. Box 23113, Detroit, MI 48223. Make checks payable to "RPIA." Or pay online at rosedalepark.org.

Pumpkin Carving and Flag Football at RPIA Pumpkin Extravaganza

The sun peeked out just as the RPIA Pumpkin Extravaganza began, Saturday, Oct. 23. The friendly Mr. Funkin (see photo) brought a smile to all who attended. Rosedale neighbors carved pumpkins, kids (with adult help) played a spirited

game of flag football, little kids played pumpkin bowling, and most everyone drank spiced cider and ate doughnuts. This new RPIA event was a great activity that brought people together safely.



Grand River Streetscape Problems

State Representative Stephanie Young arranged for concerned Rosedale residents to meet with representatives from MDOT and Detroit DPW, to voice our concerns regarding the recently installed Grand River Streetscape, including numerous traffic accidents and damage to the islands and crosswalks. Weeds and trash accumulating in the landscape beds on the islands was another issue that also emerged at the October 5th meeting. For a recap of the conversation, visit our website, rosedalepark.org. A report will be presented at the Nov. 9th membership meeting, and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for Friday, Dec. 3.

Stay Connected With Free Text System

Don't miss a meeting or an event in Rosedale Park with our new text message notification system. We want to alert residents about events, meeting schedules, weather alerts & advisories, and other pertinent information that would benefit our community. We promise we will not blow up your phone with excessive messages — we anticipate a maximum of around 2-3 messages per month. If this is something you think may be useful to you and your household, please sign up at rosedalepark.org/text, or text START to 313-631-7742.