



Rosedale Park News

Serving a Friendly Neighborhood

Volume LXX • Number 3

Rosedale Park • Detroit, Michigan 48223

May/June 2012

www.rosedalepark.org

RPIA June Day Picnic on Saturday, June 2

It's that time again! Our RPIA Picnic will be Saturday, June 2, from 11 AM to 2 PM. The picnic will be held at Flintstone Park (corner of Rosemont and Acacia). Bring your children/grandchildren; or, just come yourself! This is an old-fashioned picnic with food, games and entertainment.

For dues-paying RPIA members and family the picnic is **free**. For non-RPIA households, or members who haven't yet paid

their dues, the picnic is **\$2.00 per person**. Haven't paid your RPIA dues yet? No problem! Pay your dues at the picnic (\$45/household).

Want to help at the picnic? We need volunteers for set-up, clean-up and games. If you can help, call Glynn @ 313-838-3265 or Chris @ 313-837-3215. See you there!



May 8th Membership Meeting Will 'Enlighten' You!

Presentations by DTE Energy and Detroit Works Project

As Rosedale Parkers, we pride ourselves on keeping abreast of what's going on in our City, especially factors that influence the value and safety of our homes and our neighborhood. That's why the May 8th RPIA Membership Meeting is sure to appeal to you, since it will be packed with the latest information! Plan to attend the 7 PM meeting at the North Rosedale Park Community House (18445 Scarsdale) to hear these excellent presentations:

DTE Energy Reliability Improvement Plan

A team of engineers and executives from DTE Energy will be on hand to make a formal presentation of their new "Reliability Improvement Plan" for our neighborhood. These electric distribution professionals are responsible for providing

electric service to our homes, and they are focused on ways to prevent the power outages that can put us all in the dark without warning. [NOTE: DTE is not responsible for our street lights, which are owned and operated by the City of Detroit's Public Lighting Department (PLD). RPIA hopes to have a presentation from PLD at a future meeting, as we know there are many concerns with the lack of adequate street lighting in our area.]

Detroit Works Project: Long-Range and Short-Range Plans

A team from the Detroit Works Project will also be on hand to give us a presentation on their current plans and the latest developments in this effort to rebuild, revitalize, and reinvent Detroit.

Knowledge is power. Come learn the latest developments. We plan to start promptly at 7 PM, so we'll have plenty of time to listen, ask questions, and discuss these very important issues. And bring a neighbor with you – it takes everyone in the village to make this neighborhood great!

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7th Annual Neighborhood Open House

Sunday, May 6, 2012 • 1-5 PM

For more information,
contact Mary Sue Schottenfels at 313-909-0760.
To volunteer, call Kevin Johnson, 313-835-6136.



President's Message

Dear Neighbors:

The early spring flowers seem to have spurred many of us to begin the sprucing up the outside of our homes. One of the things I love the most

about Michigan weather is the promise of hope and renewal that comes this time of year.

DETROIT PARTNERSHIP AT FLINTSTONE

It was great to be a part of the Detroit Partnership Day on March 31. People from Chrysler Corporation, students from the University of Michigan, and residents of our community worked side-by-side to clean up several locations throughout our community. The U of M students with us at Flintstone Park had several observations to make about our neighborhood. The first was that they had no idea such a beautiful place existed in this city. The second was that the warmth and cooperation they saw between and among our residents was very special. They had many questions about how this all is possible. Rosedale Park folks replied that maintaining and beautifying a neighborhood is a community project. Beautiful yards, manicured islands, and clean and safe parks require the efforts of everyone. The continuing decline of city services has forced us to look at and rely on each other in ways we had not needed to in the past.

We rarely read about the good things that are taking place around us, yet they are happening every day. You will find details of the following events in other places in this newsletter.

EASTER EGG HUNT IN NORTH ROSEDALE

Rosedale Park families worked and played side-by-side with those from North Rosedale Park to celebrate spring and the arrival of the Easter Bunny

at the Easter Egg Hunt at the North Rosedale Park Community House. The pride in our community was evident and the joy of sharing together was clearly expressed in lots of smiling faces (both young and old).

OPEN HOUSE ON SUNDAY, MAY 6

Invite your friends, family and co-workers to explore our area on Sunday, May 6, for our annual Neighborhood Open House Day. Be sure your home and the communal spaces around it are "company ready." Smile and wave at the buses carrying persons interested in new homes.

JUNE DAY PICNIC ON SATURDAY, JUNE 2

Join your neighbors for food, fellowship, and fun on Saturday, June 2 at the RPIA June Day Picnic at Flintstone Park (Rosemont Acacia Park). Admire the improvements made possible by grant money and elbow grease. There will be activities to delight all ages.

The size, shape and form of our local government may be changing but the true "spirit of Detroit" remains strong in our community. Catch and spread the spirit!

Welcome Spring!

Mary

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 8 at 7 PM
 North Rosedale Park Community House
 18445 Scarsdale
 (off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury)
All Residents Welcome!

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Block Captains' Corner

By Pam Weinstein

Looking back at old photographs and memorabilia is often both amusing and instructive. Those bouffant hair-do's and pastel tuxedos from old prom photos are sure to elicit a chuckle. Seeing yourself in bathing suit from a beach party 30 years ago gives you a new perspective on the realities of the aging process.

Looking back at an old document called "The Roles and Responsibilities of RPIA Block Captains" is also an enlightening experience. Here's what was said about the role of Rosedale block captains 20 years ago:

The Block Captain's Role:

- Promote community safety.
- Work with other block captains and neighbors through Rosedale Park to establish some common goals and to improve and maintain the neighborhood.
- Bring more unity and togetherness within the neighborhood.
- Create positive interaction and communication among neighbors.
- Ensure that neighbors are working together to promote positive resources for the benefit of the entire community.

Hmmmmmm...

No mention of vacant houses and the steps that neighbors must take to maintain them and protect them from squatters and strippers. No mention of the online research skills necessary to track down the true owner of a vacant property on your block, so you

can call the property manager assigned to that house to strongly suggest that they take responsibility for securing and maintaining their property. Seems that the role of the block captain has expanded quite a bit, in directions that no one could possibly have imagined 20 years ago!

As for the block captain's responsibilities, here we see that there is plenty that still remains the same:

The Block Captain's Responsibilities:

- Welcome new neighbors and make sure they receive a New Neighbor packet.
- Create and maintain a roster for all neighbors on your block, including names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts.
- Hold block meetings to discuss block concerns (for example, crime, island maintenance, snow removal, etc.)

- Organize block events (like block parties, barbeques, progressive dinners, etc.)
- Keep neighbors informed of important news and events, such as new neighbors, births, deaths, burglaries, etc.
- Act as the liaison between the Rosedale Park Improvement Association (RPIA) and the neighbors on your block, promoting the importance of becoming a dues-paying member. The RPIA exists to promote the interests and welfare of all residents of the community.
- Ask neighbors to assist you in one or more of the above duties. Volunteering is an important part of community life, and critical to keeping Rosedale Park clean safe, and beautiful.

WHAT'S MY POINT?

If you're a block captain, it's always good to remind ourselves of what is expected of us, and what we are called to do. If you're a resident, it's always good to realize how much your block captain does, and to start thinking about how you can lend a hand and contribute your time and talents.

BLOCK CAPTAINS' MEETING
 Sunday, May 6 from 4-6 PM
 at the GRDC office, 19800 Grand River

- Receive a print-out of your block roster and the record of the latest dues payments
- Receive updated 2012 editions of the Resident Information Summary and the Resident Survey forms

Delicious refreshments provided, as always...

And if you're a resident on a block without a block captain (there are about 10-12 of them in the Park right now), you can start giving some thought to stepping up and taking on this critical responsibility. Know that you don't have to do everything all

by yourself – recruiting others on your block to form a team with you will be your very first task. When you're ready, give me a call (313-837-2252). We'll pair you up with an experienced veteran block captain who will serve as your mentor and get you started on one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs you'll ever tackle.

I truly believe that the block captains of Rosedale Park are the most essential component of the quality of life in our neighborhood and our neighborhood association. Sure, it's a role full of challenges, but nothing in life worth doing is easy. We laugh a lot, support each other, and learn and grow in amazing ways.

Stop waiting – join us!

RPIA's 30-Block Garage Sale Saturday, June 23, 9 AM-3 PM

By Chris Remus

It seems today there are a number of reality TV shows involving buying, selling, bartering appraising or exchanging merchandise – Auction Hunters, Pawn Stars, Pawn America and Antiques Roadshow. Face it, many of us just like the idea of buying and selling stuff. To me, it is always fascinating the items that wind up on these shows; and...what people are willing to pay. It's also interesting how many of items from these shows were somehow found or travel through a **garage sale!** RPIA is getting ready to sponsor our annual 30-Block Garage Sale. Realistically, will you be able to find anything in our 30-Block Garage Sale that'll make it to Pawn Stars? Probably not, but you never know.

Did you know that we have a "garage sale expert" right here in Rosedale Park? Ben Washburn, a resident of Glastonbury and past RPIA president, shares some of his "Garage Sale Wisdom" below:

- Stuff sells better when it's clean and fixed. Nobody wants to buy something that's dirty; neither will they buy something that doesn't work. If it doesn't work, it's not worth trying to sell.
- Consider joining your table(s) with that of a neighbor. That way, you or your neighbor can take turns holding down the fort, while the other goes to check what other folks are selling.
- Tag each item with both a price and a number. Do this well before the sale day. This takes some time, thought and research, but it really is a key to success. If you don't know a price, check eBay or a thrift store.
- Set a fair price and stick with it (unless you enjoy haggling). But keep a notepad handy where people who offer less can leave their name and phone number in case the item does not sell. That's where the item number comes in handy.
- About half of the day's buyers will show-up during the first hour and a half of the day (that's from 9 – 10:30 AM). So, get up early and be ready for the surge. If showers are forecast, keep your items in a compact area, and have a big sheet of plastic ready to cover it quickly, along with some heavy weights to hold it down.
- Here is a partial list of things that sell well:
 - Lawn and garden tools and supplies
 - All types of power and hand tools
 - Unused auto parts from your last car
 - Pots, pans & kitchenware
 - Locks, hinges & hardware
 - Picture frames & books
 - Small appliances, vacuums & microwaves
 - Baby clothes and infant items
 - Costume jewelry and personal care items
 - Lawnmowers, trimmers and snow blowers
 - Weber cookers, ACs, and humidifiers
 - Sports and exercise equipment
 - Dressers, tables and chairs
 - Toys, cameras, dishes and flatware

- Building materials and supplies.
- Landscaping materials.
- Electronics – Converter boxes and TVs
- iPods and Video games
- Clocks, radios & phones
- Bicycles and children's toys
- Coffee makers & kitchen 'gadgets'
- Craft items, sheets and blankets



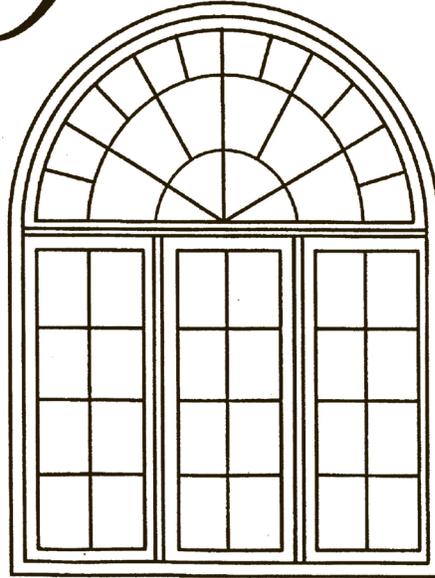
Also, here are a few other helpful garage sale suggestions:

- Have some grocery bags on hand for packing items; plus enough small bills and coins to make change
- On a security note, keep money out of sight and never allow any stranger in your house to use your bathroom or for other reasons.
- For public health reasons, do not sell prepared food (ribs, coleslaw, etc). Also, don't purchase prepared food from someone on the street. You don't know that person's hygiene, the condition of the food or how it was cooked. Buying food from someone who may not have been trained in sanitation and proper food handling is just a great way to get sick.
- No alcohol sales; now that can get you in trouble!
- If your child wants to have a "Pop Stand," that's fine.
- Be friendly. Say hello and greet those who pass by.
- Do not block the sidewalk with your goods.
- Please make an effort to drive safely. Watch out for children darting out from between parked cars.

RPIA's 30-Block Garage Sale has evolved over the years. In past, we divided the park in half for the event. However, our Sale has caught on in other neighborhoods and has become a community event. Now, residents of North Rosedale, Grandmont and surrounding communities are holding garage sales on the 4th Saturday of June. We no longer split the neighborhood and our 30-Block Garage Sale is open to all residents on all streets in Rosedale Park. Happy shopping and happy buying!



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Detroit Partnership Day 2012

By Stacy Pugh

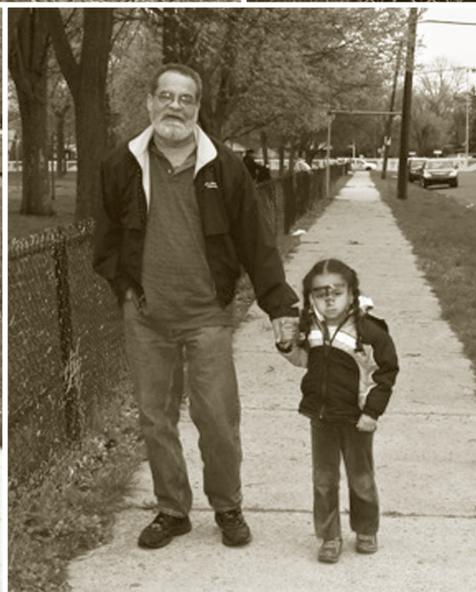
Volunteers from Rosedale Park, Grandmont #1, Chrysler Corp., the University of Michigan, and Macedonia Church made Detroit Partnership Day at Flintstone Park a success! Thanks to the Brightmoor Woodworkers, the old "Rosemont Acaica" sign was replaced with a brand new sign that reads "ROSEMONT ACACIA PARK." The volunteers were able to talk to residents and learn more about the community and Detroit.

For many of the students it was their first time in Detroit. Their experience at Flintstone Park gave them another perception of Detroit. As Rosedale resident Jacquie Carson explained, "Several of the student

volunteers were return volunteers from 2011, and other new volunteers attending this year expressed a desire to return next year. They genuinely seemed to enjoy interacting with our community volunteers, and the self-fulfillment they experienced with giving back to others was depicted in their positive comments about Detroit."

Thanks to all of the residents that participated and a special thanks to Macedonia Church for allowing us to use their facilities, the Chrysler Corp. volunteers, and the University of Michigan students for coming ready to work, and to GRDC and Chrysler Corp. for providing the supplies.





A Message from the Garden Committee

Greetings! Did you know that gardening is therapeutic? It is metabolic and relaxing, and can be a great workout. It also rewards both the individual and the entire community. We have experienced a mild winter and now we are able to get a jump-start on beautifying our islands. Last year, the competition was fierce for the Winners Circle, Honorable Mention, and Most Improved island awards. So, let's get our green thumbs ready and start cultivating!

You can expect three (3) observations by the Garden Committee this season, beginning after May 28, 2012 (Memorial Day weekend). Remember, every spring is a new chance to participate and grow! Good luck to all!



Rosedale Residents Review...

Rosedale Park residents Betsy and Richard Quick of Warwick submitted the following praise for Baker's

No. 2 Café:

"We have recently frequented this local restaurant and are writing to encourage you to try it. The food is delicious, the service is excellent, and they even have live music

several nights a week. We've sampled the BBQ chicken and ribs, the meatloaf, a wonderful grilled chicken salad, most of the side dishes, and several breakfast offerings—everything has been superb. Since the owner



is connected to Baker's Keyboard, it must be good. But the best thing about it is that it takes 5 minutes to get there since it's at 19650 Grand River (at Westmoreland). We've seen other restaurants come and go in this location. It would be a shame to lose this one, too! Give it a try!"

Do you have a favorite local business in the neighborhood? Tell us about it! Send your write-up to rosedaleparknews@yahoo.com. Submissions will be published as space is available.

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Outreach Committee Adds Facebook and Twitter

By Chet McLeod

The Rosedale Park Improvement Association's Outreach Committee consists of neighborhood volunteers whose goal is to make Rosedale Park a better place to live through information-sharing. We have established several methods to keep you informed, so that you can more fully enjoy this wonderful and active community.

- **WEB PAGE** - Our primary contact is, of course, our web site. Here you can find general information about Rosedale Park, including our Park's creed, minutes from board meetings, a listing of our current officers, board members, and much more. Check us out at <http://www.rosedalepark.org/>
- **HOT LINE** - We also have a telephone Hot Line where you can leave a message about an issue or a general comment. - Call us at 313-927-1089 to let us know what's on your mind.
- **ROSEDALE PARK NEWS** - Our printed newsletter (you're reading it now!) is our solid stand-by. Published every other month and mailed to all dues-paying members, the Rosedale Park News has been communicating with Rosedale neighbors for many, many decades.
- **EBLAST** - On the electronic front, our premier RPIA eBlast comes out every Sunday morning. This electronic newsletter features a handy summary of upcoming activities, meetings, and important community information. The eBlast is very popular and if you only follow one information source for RPIA, I would highly recommend connecting to the eBlast. You can get on the mailing list by sending an email to rpiablast@gmail.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.
- **New! FACEBOOK AND TWITTER** - In addition to the options described above

for getting news that is useful to Rosedale Park residents, we have recently established both a Facebook page and a Twitter account. These are still in their infancy and how they will grow is yet to be seen. [See adjacent article for more on what Twitter is and how it works.] Find our Facebook page by searching for "Rosedale Park Improvement Association" and our Twitter account is RPIA2.

JOIN IN THE FUN!

As with most undertakings, it's the give and take that makes new social media bloom. That's where YOU come into the mix. We are asking several things from you. First, check out what we have to offer. Second, get involved by reading, sharing your information, "liking" our pages if you find them helpful, or telling us how we are missing an opportunity to keep you informed.

We are and hopefully will always be a community that stays

informed, stays active, stays connected, and gives of "our" time and talents to make sure that "City living is great! It's best in Rosedale Park" is a reality for all our residents. Here's everything you need to get connected and stay connected:

- Rosedale Park Web Site: <http://www.rosedalepark.org/>
- Rosedale Park Hot Line: 313-927-1089
- eBlast: rpiablast@gmail.com (Type Subscribe in the subject line).
- Facebook: Rosedale Park
- Twitter: RPIA2

Finally, effective communication is a two-way street. We will do our best to keep you informed -- please do the same for us. Together we can live the dream.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social media system that connects you to friends, businesses, and sources of information using short messages delivered to you almost instantly. The biggest difference between Twitter and other ways of communicating is that "tweets," or the messages sent using Twitter, must be under 140 characters long. That may seem like a huge limitation, but it is amazing how much information you can squeeze into such a short message!

People tweet their reactions to things in their everyday life, send tweets about things happening in the news, or even to tell friends about a great bargain they found. Businesses send out tweets with "today only" discount codes, and celebrities tweet to their fans.

You get these tweets by "following" people on Twitter. You can get the messages on your computer, on your smart phone, or even by text message. Faster and less detailed than e-mail or Facebook, Twitter is a great way to get messages out to your contacts instantaneously.

You can set up a free account by going to www.twitter.com, and you can learn more about Twitter by visiting <http://support.twitter.com>, then clicking on "The Basics." You can get free Twitter apps for your smart phone or tablet at the iTunes App Store for iPhones or iPads, or at the Play Market for Android.

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HOME FOR SALE ON STAHELIN

– GRDC’s home renovation and sales program continues on, with the latest project at 14140 Stahelin, in the Grandmont #1 neighborhood. This four-bedroom home is completely renovated and available for viewing through our realtor, Cheryl Davis (313-477-4564). NOTE: you could receive \$10,000 in down payment assistance if you qualify for a new mortgage on this home.

There is also a renovation project going on at 16185 Rosemont. For more information, go to <http://www.grandmontrosedale.com/homes/homesforsale.html>

NORTHWEST DETROIT FARMERS’ MARKET OPENS JUNE 7

The Northwest Detroit Farmers’ Market will open for its seventh season of good food and fellowship on Thursday, June 7 from 4-8 PM. “The weather turned warm very early this year, so we are expecting a bumper crop of Michigan vegetables this season,” commented Market Master Pam Weinstein.



The market offers a wide variety of fresh, locally grown produce, meats, baked goods, spices, teas, and Michigan honey. The market is located in the south parking lot of Bushnell Congregational Church, 15000 Southfield Service Drive, just south of Grand River.

“We take plastic!”

The market accepts credit and debit cards and the Bridge card, as well as Project FRESH and Market FRESH coupons. The market also offers the highly popular Double Up Food Bucks program for Bridge card users, which matches up to \$20 of a Bridge card purchase with an additional FREE \$20 in Double Up Bucks, for the purchase of Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables.

For more information, and to volunteer to help at the market, contact Pam Weinstein at 313-387-4732, ext. 103, or pweinstein@grandmontrosedale.com.

MOTOR CITY MAKEOVER ON MAY 12 – Mark your calendars for the next major clean-up activity

in our area, Motor City Makeover, which is coming to northwest Detroit on Saturday, May 12. This “bagged litter campaign” is an annual event sponsored by the City



of Detroit, with this year’s theme being “Adopt a block!” Mayor Dave Bing is asking residents to focus on beautifying their own neighborhood.

Both individuals and community groups must register at the Community Access Center (19180 Grand River) in order to receive a limited supply of bags and gloves, as well as information regarding special pick-ups of bagged litter and roll-off containers. **If you have not registered, there will be NO CURBSIDE PICKUP of your bagged litter.** To register for a special pick, please call your local community access center: 313-870-0649. To register for Motor City Makeover, you can call 313-224-3450, you can log onto the City’s web site at www.detroitmi.gov, or you can go in person to the Community Access Center.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEEDS YOU! – The Grandmont Rosedale Community Garden at Bushnell Church welcomes new participants. Whether you are an experienced veteran or a complete novice, you are welcome to come join us. We will be planting (and harvesting) strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, beets, lettuce, Swiss chard, collard greens, arugula, green beans and more!



Come to learn, come to share your knowledge, come to have fun digging in the dirt! For more information, contact Pam Weinstein at 313-387-4732, ext. 103, or pweinstein@grandmontrosedale.com.

MAY 17th NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY MEETING PRESENTS NEW HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION INITIATIVE – The 6th & 8th Precinct are announcing a new Community Safety Initiative to reduce home burglaries. This summer a new community policing initiative at the 6th & 8th Precinct will use proven techniques that have worked to help reduce home burglaries and home invasions in other cities across the country.

Urban neighborhoods in New York and Los Angeles have used this same comprehensive strategy, incorporating an increased police presence, active community involvement, and the courts to help crime prevention efforts.

Attend the next **Neighborhood Safety** meeting on **May 17, 2012 at 6 PM** at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale (north of Grand River, between Avon & Glastonbury) to get the full details about this initiative and find out how you can get involved.

For more information call GRDC Community Crime Prevention Coordinator Austin Grout at 313-387-4732, ext. 109.

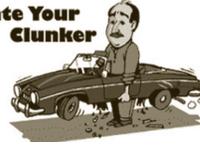
VOLUNTEER ON FRIDAYS WITH GRDC – GRDC will host a series of volunteer days this summer on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each

month, from May until August. The first one will be a Neighborhood Open House Clean Up on May 4th from 1pm to 4pm. Please contact Brittany Moore to volunteer: 313-387-4732 x116 or bmoore@grandmontrosedale.com

DONATE YOUR CLUNKER!

– Got an old car you need to get rid of? Skip all the hassle of trying to sell it yourself and instead donate it to GRDC. You'll get a tax deduction and GRDC will get the proceeds from the sale of your clunker. Make your donation to Charity Motors (313) 255-1000, and designate GRDC to receive proceeds from the sale. Charity Motors will even pick up your car for free. To date, 54 families have donated their cars to GRDC, for a total of \$19,729. Want more information? Contact Cathy Marshall at 313 387 4732, ext 105 or cmarshall@grandmontrosedale.com.

Donate Your Clunker



DETROIT WORKS PROJECT HOLDS CONVERSATIONS

– The Detroit Works Project Long Term Planning Team invites you to join them in a series of "Community Conversations." For the Northwest area, these meetings will be held at the Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers Road, Detroit, MI 48235. Dates and times are listed below; for more information, call 313-259-4407.

- Monday, May 7 - 5:30-8 PM
- Monday, May 21 - 5:30-8 PM

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 and SQUATTER ALERT

– Do you have any vacant houses on your block? Do you suspect squatters may be occupying a vacant house on your block? If so, please give GRDC Vacant Property Intern Becki Kenderes a call at 313-387-4732, ext. 117, and report the addresses and as much other information posted or available to her (or send an email to info@grandmontrosedale.com).

NOTE: In Rosedale Park, contact Stacy Pugh (313-574-8889) to report suspected squatters and contact Debbie Kent (313-836-4737) to report vacant property. If the house or suspected squatters are in North Rosedale Park, contact Clarend Webb (313-330-7844). If the house or suspected squatters are in Grandmont, contact Diane Patterson (313-836-3736).

It takes a LOT of people to keep track of and take care of all of the vacant houses in our neighborhood. Please do all that you can to maintain the yards of the vacant houses on your block – pick up trash and flyers, and do what you can to make the house look occupied. If you are already taking care of vacant houses in your community, THANK YOU and thanks for being a good neighbor!

GET THE GRDC E-MAIL BLAST!

– GRDC sends 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.

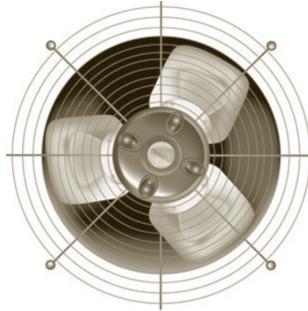


Preventing Air Conditioner Theft

By GRDC Crime Prevention Coordinator Austin Grout

Most of us have an air conditioner or central air to beat the heat. If you own either of these units, then you may or may not know that criminals see it as an opportunity to make a quick buck. The copper/aluminum piping and coils can be taken to local junkyards to earn the criminal anywhere from \$50 to \$100. This somewhat minor sum can actually cost the owner, who has to replace the unit, over \$1,000. The following tips can help prevent AC unit owners from having to replace their summertime investment (material has been adapted and revised from a Miami HVAC article, 2011).¹

- 1) **Install an alarm**—Alarm systems for an AC unit have a sensor that monitors the pressure in the refrigerant line. Certain alarms can also monitor the power supply and system controls to alert owners when AC units have been compromised. It is recommended that owners purchase alarms because they were created for the sole purpose of deterring criminals.
- 2) **Set it out of reach**—Some air conditioners can be placed in rooms (with proper ventilation systems) or on platforms fixed to roofs. Both locations give the owner more control over the situation and make it harder for would-be criminals.
- 3) **Cage it**—Use a large steel cage that will discourage criminals from stealing your AC unit. The steel is hard to cut through and welded to reduce the likelihood that it will be torn apart.



- 4) **Install motion lights**—Motion-sensitive lights are affordable, easy to install, and a general deterrent for criminal activity. Most AC unit theft occurs at night. Shedding a little light on the situation can save you some money in the long run.
- 5) **Go the “old-fashioned” route: Signs**—The deterrent value of signs is usually enough to force a criminal on to another potential victim. Signs can simply say that an area is protected (“Area under surveillance”) or that a dog is present (“Beware of dog”).
- 6) **Make the risk outweigh the reward**—As is the case with most crimes, offenders seek opportunities where the reward outweighs the risk. Specifically, an air conditioner/central air unit that does not appear to be secured or protected is more likely to be stolen than one inside a steel cage. Potential criminals are not looking for more work and a higher likelihood of getting caught.

For more information, contact GRDC Crime Prevention Coordinator Austin Grout at (313) 387-4732 Ex. 109 or agrout@grandmontrosedale.com

¹ All information provided by: Miami HVAC Guide (2011). Options for preventing home air conditioner theft deterrent in miami. Retrieved from: <http://www.miamihvacguide.com/options-for-preventing-home-air-conditioner-theft-deterrent-in-miami/>

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2012 Easter Egg Hunt

By RPIA President Mary McLeod

The 2012 Easter Egg Hunt was a great success! This year RPIA joined forces with the North Rosedale Park Civic Association in co-sponsoring the event held at the North Rosedale Park Community House.

The weather cooperated and over 100 "hunters," their parents/grandparents and volunteers, enjoyed the mild, dry, sunny day. As the children arrived starting at 11 AM, they were able to get "up close and personal" with a llama, turkey, pig, chickens, bunnies and other small animals. The "petting zoo" proved to be a big hit with everyone and continued to be available through 1 PM for the entire neighborhood.

Around 11:30 AM, the hunt began with the children divided among three areas according to age. The front lawn was divided into two areas, one for children between the ages of 1 and 5, the other for those 6-8 years of age. The 9- to 11-year-olds had a larger area to hunt at the back of the building, running from the parking lot to the baseball diamond. There was a wide range of experience among the hunters, with some having their first Easter egg hunt to many seasoned pros in the older age group.

After finding their eggs, people moved inside the community house, which was beautifully decorated for the event by North Rosedale residents. There the children and adults were treated to juice, cookies, and fresh vegetables (rabbit food!). The Easter Bunny greeted everyone and posed for many pictures. There was much conversation going on over the sharing of food while child-centered activities included coloring with coloring books donated by Deborah Virgiles, owner of "our" local McDonald's restaurant. She also provided juice and the cookies.



As the activity drew to a close, plans for next year's Easter Egg Hunt were "hatching." It was great to work with Gloria Adebayo and her North Rosedale volunteers on this joint effort. And special thanks go out to the RPIA volunteers, Chet McLeod, Deborah LaViolette, Carolyn Akpe, and Minty Kelly James, who assisted the Easter Bunny in hiding the eggs and supervised the hunt.



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For \$50, Grandmont Rosedale residents will receive a comprehensive audit conducted by a BPI Certified Building Analyst. The audit includes an air leakage and insulation test using a blower door and infra-red camera, installation of a programmable digital thermostat, replacement of your incandescent bulbs with high efficiency CFL bulbs and installation of a low-flow showerhead. They will also check all appliances for gas leaks and provide a personalized report on your home energy usage, along with quotes for recommended energy-saving home improvements.

Residents are eligible to save hundreds of dollars on their energy bills, and get cash back on energy-saving investments in their homes. This could include 0% APR financing or up to \$3,000 in incentives toward any energy-saving projects you choose!

This program is available to residents of the Grandmont Rosedale Communities for a limited time. You can visit <http://regionalenergyoffice.org/betterbuildings/sign-up/> or call Kendal Conerly at 313-566-4801, ext .721 for details. **Be sure to tell them GRDC referred you!**



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Congratulations, Park Graduates!



ARIEL ROGAN is a graduating senior with the class of 2012 from Renaissance High School in Detroit. Ariel is the daughter of Michael and Judith Rogan of Outer Drive and has lived in Rosedale Park all of her life.

Ariel has been awarded memberships in both the National Honor Society and the French National Honor Society. She has been

an active participant with the girls' tennis team, varsity choir, cheerleading, and dance. She has also spent two summers as a Teaching Assistant with the Wayne State University Math Corps program. Ariel is actively involved in the "Build-On" chapter at her school, where she recently received a leadership award for community service. Ariel is currently working as a student Co-op with DTE Energy while maintaining her high academic standards at Renaissance. She also serves as a Youth Usher at Word of Faith International Christian Center.

Ariel will have one of her life-long dreams fulfilled when she becomes a student at the University of Michigan this fall. She has been awarded a full tuition scholarship to the University of Michigan-Dearborn as well as a partial scholarship to the University of Michigan -Ann Arbor. She will be making her decision between the two schools very soon. She hopes to have a career in a health-related field or in Social Work.

CURTIS WILLIAMS is a graduating with the Renaissance class of 2012. He is the son of Curtis Williams and Gigi Branham-Williams of Artesian. Curtis is a member of the National Honor Society, as well as the school's football and baseball teams and the band. He is also active in the Detroit Area Pre College Engineering Program (DAPCEP). Curtis will attend Michigan State University in the fall and plans to major in Engineering.



OLIVIA BISHOP, daughter of Glen and Rosemary Blackmon, is graduating from Eastern Michigan University on April 29, 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in Electronic Media and Film Studies.



ROBERT JOHN DWIGHT, son of Pam Weinstein and Jim Dwight of 14810 Faust, graduated from Wayne State University on May 7, 2012, with a BFA degree.



A real son of Rosedale, Robbie was born at Detroit's Hutzel Hospital and grew up on Faust, attending the Rosedale Co-op Pre-School at then-Calvin Presbyterian Church; kindergarten and early elementary grades at Detroit Open School, where longtime Rosedale resident Mindy LePere was his first- and second-grade teacher; later

elementary grades at St. Thomas Aquinas; and middle school and high school at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, from which he graduated in 2007. Beginning at age 4, Robbie was also an active participant in Rosedale Soccer and Rosedale-Grandmont Little League.

Feeling the need to strike out on his own, Robbie completed his freshman year of college at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City, but then returned to Detroit the following year, transferring to Wayne State and completing the program in acting in the Theater Arts Department.

Robbie's parents and older brother, Charlie, are proud of his accomplishments and celebrate his graduation from college – great job, Rob!

RPIA Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of RPIA Board Meeting of March 26, 2012

Highlights of the March RPIA board meeting included: feedback from the recent visioning workshop, finance committee report, updates from the neighborhood benefits district's initiative, reports from the code enforcement, vacant properties and outreach committees, and neighborhood clean up efforts.

For a listing of these minutes in detail, you can find a complete copy on the RPIA website at www.rosedalepark.org.



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RPIA General Membership Meeting Minutes • March 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by RPIA Board President, Mary McLeod.

Rosedale and McDonalds

Mary acknowledged Deborah Virgiles, resident and owner of our neighborhood McDonalds restaurant on Grand River, for her continued support of Rosedale Park and her generous contribution to RPIA on the occasion of her recent grand opening following the major renovation of her store.

Treasurer's Report

Thom Gatson raved on the 2012 budget put together by the members of the RPIA board. He thanked the block captains for their diligence in collecting dues that are expected to provide a surplus to wholly fund the upcoming programs slated for the neighborhood. The board has been very conscientious in spending only funds allotted for each program and would like for more residents to volunteer to help carry out each. To continue the collection effort, RPIA plans to increase our communication with neighbors, encouraging them to pay their dues. When we as a community can stand in front of our elected officials with a roster of dues-paying

members, we can push for more support for our neighborhood in government affairs.

DTE Energy – David Broome, Director, Customer Marketing and Community Lighting

Mary welcomed David Broome, who is responsible for community lighting with DTE. He discussed the existing lighting issues in the city of Detroit and the costs that are needed to bring these old structures up to code. He explained what should be expected if the city lighting is privatized, and how the process of operating and maintaining the lighting structure would be. Residents in attendance expressed their concerns with the street lights and were provided an opportunity to ask questions. He explained the type of service that DTE provides to the city and how once DTE is notified of a lighting issue, the problem is expected to be fixed within three days.

Neighborhood Benefits District Update

RPIA Board Member Stephanie Young gave a report on the neighborhood benefits district task force. In looking at the past polls on neighborhood residents in regards to neighborhood needs, there was an

overwhelming demand in favor of security. This task force has been looking at different ways to work to secure our community. In an effort to gain financial support for this, there have been discussions regarding instituting an assessment fee in addition to the regular city taxes. There has also been discussions regarding adding in a neighborhood-wide snow removal service. This is expected to be an enhancement to our neighborhood and the city overall. She acknowledged the help that the task force has been receiving from Rep. Shanelle Jackson in moving their objectives forward.

Community Visioning Event

Grace Mutua, GRDC's Sustainable Communities Program Manager, and Brittany Moore, Sustainable Communities Organizer, addressed the group regarding the upcoming Community Visioning event, to be held at New St. Paul Tabernacle on Saturday, March 17th from 8:30 AM – 3 PM. Everyone interested in contributing ideas for improving our neighborhood in the future is invited to attend. Contact Brittany Moore at 313-387-4732, ext. 116 or bmoore@grandmontrosedale.com.

continued on page 18



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RPIA General Membership Meeting Minutes • March 13, 2012, *continued from page 17*

Home Improvement Project through "Rippling Hope.org"

State Representative David Nathan spoke of his aspiration to help strengthen the neighborhoods within the city of Detroit by building on the community block organizations. After being asked by his church Pastor to go in and clean a neighborhood park, he was inspired to expand this cleanup effort. This became the Rippling Hope Program where volunteers commit to work on resident homes to beautify neighborhoods free of cost. The program will allow block clubs to request that residents join their block club and they can receive these minor home repairs for the mere cost of the supplies. The program is intended to build the block clubs around the community. The program is expected to run from May through September. The application process is in effect now. There is no age or income requirement. This is an effort to get the community residents to be a part of their community.

Detroit Partnership Day

This is an effort where volunteers from University of Michigan come throughout the Detroit area to partner with various communities to do some spring cleaning. There will be projects around farmers market, the community garden, Stoepel Park, Flintstone Park, the Archdale lot near Bushnell, and a series of landscape beds along Grand River. This effort has been going for about 10 years now and the whole purpose of the project is for the student volunteers to connect

with the people in the neighborhoods. The volunteers are very eager to meet with you and talk with you in beautifying your neighborhood. Resident volunteers can pick whichever site they wish to clean up and arrive around 9am and this will be going until about 2pm, with a lunch thereafter. If you cannot stay the entire time, this is ok, just come out for the time that you can. The date is set for March 31st.

Code Enforcement Committee Report

Pam gave the update in Stacy Pugh's absence. The committee is getting the momentum going. There is a form on the RPIA website for residents to report code enforcement issues. The list of codes that are being enforced is also listed on the RPIA website. Once the complaint is received, the code enforcement committee will go out and verify the issue and send a letter to the resident and follow up until the issue has been corrected. The code enforcement committee can also work with the city of Detroit to issue official tickets to the resident if needed. To date, there have been 10 incidents reported; the committee is working hard in favor of our neighborhood.

Greening of Detroit and DWS Downspout Disconnection

The city used to require that residents connect their downspout gutters to the city sewerage system. Downspouts must be disconnected from this location and allowed to drain externally by the

end of June. Beginning July 1 there will be representatives from the city coming around to inspect that this has been done and will issue tickets for those that have not complied. GRDC is sponsoring workshops to show residents how to disconnect the downspouts, they are free and some workshops are providing residents with the materials to disconnect it. There have been discussions that the northwest side of Detroit will be the first target area for inspections. This requirement is being imposed in an effort to prevent resident basements from being flooded in the future. Contact GRDC for more information.

Opportunity with DIA

The DIA is offering residents an opportunity to photograph our area. They are in need of volunteers to come down to a meeting describing the project and receive a camera where they will be asked to photograph the beauty within the Rosedale Park area. Upon receipt of the camera, the DIA will develop the pictures and choose those that exhibit the best of our area and compose it in a photo collage and digital library for us to display in our neighborhood. Contact Mary McLeod for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm. Minutes submitted by Priscilla McDonald, RPIA Administrative Secretary.



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The official publication of the Rosedale Park
Improvement Association (RPIA) is published
six times a year by RPIA at
19800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48223.

Subscription Price

RPIA Members, \$5 per year of \$45 annual dues.
Non-members, \$5 per year.

Periodicals Postage paid at Detroit, Michigan.

Editor: Amanda LeFranc
rosedaleparknews@yahoo.com

Advertising Coordinator: Kevin Cosey
313-570-2673 or kevcozy@aol.com

Designer: Linda Liang
linda.liang@att.net

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Rosedale Park News, PO Box 23113, Detroit, MI 48223

Printed by Spartan Forms
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Calendar of Events

MAY

Sun., May 6.....Neighborhood Open House,
1 PM-5 PM

Tues., May 8RPIA General Membership
Meeting, 7 PM
North Rosedale Park
Community House

18445 Scarsdale,
off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury

Sat., May 19Rosedale Recycles, 10 AM-2 PM
18605 Pierson

Mon., May 21RPIA Board Meeting, 7 PM
19800 Grand River

JUNE

Sat., June 2June Day Picnic, 11 AM-2 PM
Flintstone/Rosemont Acacia Park

Fri., June 8.....Advertising deadline July/August
issue of RP News

Sun., June 10.....Article submission deadline
for July/August issue of RP News

Sat., June 16Rosedale Recycles, 10 AM-2 PM
18605 Pierson

Sat., June 2330-Block Garage Sale, 9 AM-3 PM

Mon., June 25RPIA Board Meeting, 7 PM
19800 Grand River

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