

THE ROSEDALE PARK NEWS

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Happy New Year, Rosedale Park!



**RPIA President
David Sernick**

I hope your holiday season was restful and filled with joy. On a personal note, this past season was a major milestone for my household. After plenty of work, we finally fixed up our house enough to host my whole family for Hanukkah. It was a full house, and what made it even more special was that the furniture we used to accommodate everyone was sourced right here from our wonderful neighbors. It was a perfect reminder of the generosity and community spirit that defines this neighborhood.

As we settle into 2026, we are also turning a page on how we communicate as an association. Starting with this issue, the RPIA newsletter will be moving from a bi-monthly schedule to a quarterly publication. We are making this change to allow us to focus less on just dates and updates, and more on the heart of this neighborhood: the people. We want to use these pages to tell the stories of the neighbors who make Rosedale Park such a special place to put down roots.

To kick things off, this issue features two stories about longtime neighbors who have seen our community evolve over the decades. I encourage you to give them a read—you might learn something new about the person living right down the block.

We are actively looking for more of these stories. If you have a neighbor with an interesting history, a unique passion, or a deep connection to the area, please let me know. You can reach me directly at President@rosedalepark.org.

Here's to a year of connection and community.

Let's Keep Rosedale Park Walkable All Winter

As we settle into the winter months, this is a friendly reminder to keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Rosedale Park is a walking community—we have neighbors walking dogs, and mail carriers delivering packages every single day.

When you shovel, you aren't just clearing a path; you are ensuring your neighbors can get around safely. If you have a neighbor who is elderly or physically unable to shovel, consider being a "Snow Angel" and clearing their walk when you do your own. It's these small acts of kindness that make our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live.

A few quick tips for safe sidewalks:

- **Clear the full width:** Make sure wheelchairs, strollers, and mail carts can pass through easily.
- **Don't forget the ice:** Shoveling is great, but a layer of salt or sand is necessary to prevent slips.
- **Corner lots:** If you live on a corner, please ensure the curb cut (ramp) is cleared so pedestrians aren't trapped by the plow mounds.

2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES GOAL: EXCEEDED!

\$0

GOAL: \$27,000

Total: \$28,420!

HELP US REACH OUR 2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES GOAL!

Dues are \$45, or \$25 for residents of Outer Dr. and Evergreen. You can pay your dues online at rosedalepark.org, or by mailing a check to RPIA, P.O. Box 23113, Detroit MI, 48223. Make checks payable to RPIA.

\$0

GOAL: \$27,000

“The Best Move Ever Made”: A Half-Century on Greenview with Bill and Margie

When Bill and Margie look back on their decision to settle in Rosedale Park in 1973, they are in total agreement: “It was one of the best moves ever made.” For over 50 years, they have been the heartbeat of Greenview, helping to build the diverse, family-oriented community we cherish today.

From the Plains to the Park

Bill, born in Waterloo, Iowa, originally wanted to go into aviation but settled on chemistry at Creighton University. It was in Omaha where he met Margie, a Montana native who had just graduated at the top of her nursing class. They met in 1959 and married in 1961.

Bill was eager to head west, earning his MA in Organic Chemistry at the University of Oregon while raising their first three children. To pay his way through school, he joined the ROTC, delaying his service until his education was complete. By the time he arrived at Fort Dix as a 1st Lieutenant to train truck drivers for Vietnam, he already had gray hair, earning him the nickname “Frosty Top.” Though his official job was training, his real work often involved issuing Article 15s for soldiers who went AWOL.

After a brief stint teaching at the Virginia Military Institute—where the administration prioritized “order” over correcting textbooks with known chemical errors—Bill accepted a position at Mercy College of Detroit. He intended to return west eventually, but after 21 years at Mercy and another 11 teaching Chemistry and Environmental Science at Oakland Community College, Michigan became home.

Setting Roots on Greenview

The couple initially landed in Redford, where they had twin girls, bringing their total to five children. But they were looking for something different: a short commute and a diverse community for their kids. Fate intervened when they drove through Rosedale Park and spotted Pete Rettig, a longtime neighborhood leader and real estate agent, standing on the porch of what would become their future home.

Traditions and Good Times

If you lived on Greenview, you knew Bill and Margie. For 28 years, Margie ran an in-house daycare, watching over a generation of neighborhood children.

They were also the architects of legendary block parties. The street was so full of children that they used to warn new residents that there must be “something in the water.” They bought beer by the keg for these parties, with a strict but fun rule: anything not finished during the party had to be drunk the following morning.

They established beloved traditions, hosting their own Greenview Easter egg hunts before the larger neighborhood-wide event existed. On Christmas Eve, they lit up the neighborhood by placing 70 candles in milk cartons along the house stoops and the island.

Despite their deep roots in Detroit, they never lost their connection to the land. Every summer, the family returned to Montana to work on the hay crew, with Margie running the loader and Bill stacking the hay.

All five of their children looked back fondly on their time growing up here. Bill and Margie’s story is a reminder of the spirit of Rosedale Park: working hard, welcoming neighbors, and throwing a great party.

Ben Washburn

Don’t let Ben’s slight Southern drawl throw you off. A long-time Detroiter, this Kentucky native has left his mark throughout the city and our beloved community. Shortly after getting married in 1971, Ben and his wife Paulette moved into their first home on Warwick. Thirteen years and three kids later, they decided they needed more space and moved to their current residence on Glastonbury. Almost 54 years later, I sat down with Ben to talk about his time as a resident of Detroit and Rosedale Park.

The early years

Ben’s professional career was formed by his education and years of military service. After completing one year of school at the University of Kentucky, Ben joined the Air Force in 1955 to get access to the GI Bill. After four years of service, which included covert operations in Europe and the Middle East, Ben attended the University of Michigan where he earned his history degree. After graduation, Ben decided to accept an offer from the City of Detroit as a personnel examiner where he wrote exams for a variety of city roles. During that period, he attended law school at Wayne State University.

A local impact from national progress

Ben’s professional career brings to life the history of our nation at the local level. The majority of his public service was spent working in the City of Detroit and Wayne County Commission. With the start of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Great Society programs in the mid-1960s, Ben moved to the mayor’s office to work on the Community Renewal Program for the city. In the late-1960s, under President Nixon’s “safe

streets program,” Ben worked on the creation of a city-county justice system coordinating council, of which he ultimately served as deputy director of the justice coordinating council for over 13 years. Ben’s accomplishments also included some of the things we know today. In 1973 he helped reform our jury duty system to help create jury pools that were more representative of Detroit demographics. Years later he helped establish an EMS system that provided for better response to medical emergencies—prior to his work, you’d find yourself in the back of a police cruiser versus an ambulance on your way to the hospital. In 1983, Ben retired from the City of Detroit and worked for the Wayne County Commission for the better part of 25 years until his retirement in 2009.

Ben has also made a lasting impact on our Rosedale Park. He joined the neighborhood association in 1976. His accomplishments included establishing our current block captain framework along with a manual that to this day serves as the blueprint for success. He talks about the days when the neighborhood ran a food co-op, the need for the creation of the island beautification program to fill the void left by the city, finding compromise in the creation of our yearly garage day sale, and much more. Like his work in the city and county, Ben left a mark in our neighborhood through his commitment and dedication to community.

90 years of wisdom

Short of his 90th birthday, the passion and wisdom that Ben has for his work continues to shine in the way he tells his stories. And, while much has changed over the course of his 90 years on this planet, Ben believes in one thing: in the era of technology where we use social media to get a deal on a used piece of furniture or catch up with a friend, there can still exist a world where we knock on a neighbor’s door and provide a friendly smile and warm hug.

Important Future Dates

Member Meetings at the North Rosedale Community House at 7pm

- Tuesday March 10 • Tuesday Sept 15
- Tuesday May 12 • Tuesday November 10

Board Meetings at GRDC at 7pm

- Tuesday Feb. 24 • Tuesday June 30
- Tuesday Mar. 31 • Tuesday Sep 29
- Tuesday Apr 28 • Tuesday Oct 27
- Tuesday May 26 • Tuesday Nov 24

Rosedale Block Captain Meetings at GRDC, 4–6pm

- Sunday, Feb. 22 • Sunday, Aug. 16
- Sunday May 17 • Sunday, October 18

Events

- Saturday January 24 Annual Gala @ Community House
- Saturday April 4 Easter Egg Hunt @ Community House
- Saturday June 6 June Day @ Rosemont Acacia Park
- Saturday June 27 60 Block Yard Sale
- Sunday October 25 Fall Festival @ Rosemont Acacia Park
- Saturday December 5 Pancake Breakfast & Visit from Santa @ Community House

**All dates are subject to change. Please review rosedalepark.org/events to keep up to date.*

Note: at the bottom right of rosedalepark.org/events you can click on "Subscribe to calendar" and you can add it to your calendar to say up to date.

RPIA CONTACTS LIST 2026

WHO TO CONTACT

president@rosedalepark.org treasurer@rosedalepark.org events@rosedalepark.org communications@rosedalepark.org

RPIA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT David Sernick	1ST VICE PRESIDENT Ivan Johnson	2ND VICE PRESIDENT Tonia Holloway	TREASURER Frank Raben	PRESIDENT EMERITUS Frank Raben
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RPIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024–2026	Larry Castleberry	Pedro Coracides	Earl McCullough
2025–2027	Ulysses Freeman	Sean Vandenbrink	LaTonya Woods
2026–2028	Bonnie White	Samantha Bridges	Veronica Williams

OTHER CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT VACANT	NEIGHBOR KIT COORDINATOR Jill Laufer purejill@yahoo.com	RPIA NEWSLETTER DESIGNER John Herron Gendreau gendreau@gmail.com	NRPCA COMMUNITY HOUSE Beverly Frederick, President NRPCA beverly@nrpca.org 313-854-2954
BLOCK CAPTAIN COORDINATOR Pam Weinstein Weinstein148@ameritech.net 313-231-2244	RPIA EBLAST EDITOR David Legg rpiablast@gmail.com	RP RADIO PATROL Trajan Centers, President centerstrajan@gmail.com	

RPIA ANNUAL GALA DINNER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

6:00PM–9:00PM

NORTH ROSEDALE COMMUNITY
HOUSE, 18445 SCARSDALE

TICKETS: \$40



Join your community for a dinner to celebrate our community and its key members. Ticket includes dinner and drink. Scan QR code for tickets. Presale only; no tickets sold at door.