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President's Update



RPIA President Frank Raben

By the time you receive this Newsletter, Labor Day will be here. Where has summer gone? Even though the RPIA Board doesn't meet in July and August, we've had a very active summer. A job well done goes out to the Event Committee members – Tonia Holloway, Bonnie White, Andrea Eckert, and Veronica Williams—for their work on the

Summer Soiree held at Rosa the evening of August 3rd.

Please join us for our General Membership Meeting on Sept. 10th at the North Rosedale Park Community House 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. We will have a slate of guest speakers, including Denisha Adams, Nurse Practitioner; Ed Haroutunian, Esquire, and Dale Thomson, President and Chairman of the GRDC.

Lastly: with acorns and leaves dropping soon, please remember to keep your sidewalks clear and save a walker a sprained ankle, or worse.

General Membership Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 10

Join us at 7:00pm for our next General Membership Meeting at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. Light refreshments will be served.

RPIA Nominations Committee Announces 2024 Candidates

The RPIA Nominations Committee announces below its candidates for officers and board of directors' positions for 2024. The election will be held at the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 pm. All members in good standing (2024 dues paid) are eligible to vote.

Officers for 2024:

- David Sernick, President
- Ivan Johson, 1st Vice President
- Tonia Holloway, 2nd Vice President
- Frank Raben, Treasurer & President Emeritus

Board Seats Expiring in 2026:

- Pedro Coracides, New Nominee (to complete remainder of David Sernick's term)
- Larry Castleberry

Board Seats Expiring 2027:

- Ulysess Freeman, Current Board Member seeking another term
- LaTonya Woods, Current Board Member
- Sean Vanderbrink, New Nominee

Summer Soiree a Stunning Success

The Summer Soiree, hosted by the RPIA board, was a delightful event held at Rosa's coffee shop on Saturday night, August 3rd. The cozy ambiance of the coffee shop provided the perfect setting for a cocktail hour filled with laughter and conversation. Guests indulged in delectable light hors d'oeuvres while mingling with neighbors, both new and seasoned. The event offered a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and catch-up after a busy Summer vacation. With a 21 years-old and over policy, attendees enjoyed a relaxed evening in the company of friends and left everyone looking forward to our next neighborhood gathering.



Candidates for 2024 Officer and Board Positions

David Sernick, candidate for President

I moved to Rosedale Park in 2020 with my wife (Bonnie White) for the beautiful tree lined streets and old houses and immediately was struck by the support of my neighbors and the amazing sense of community. I currently work for the City of Detroit as the Director of ARPA Finance and Strategy. I was born and raised in West Michigan. I lived in New York City for 8 years, where I worked in theater as a producer and director before returning to Michigan to get my MPP from University of Michigan.



Ivan Johnson, candidate for 1st Vice President

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. In addition, he currently serves on the GRDC Board of Directors and the RPIA Board of Directors. He is very positive about our community and the city of Detroit. He believes the best way to effect change is to be an active participant in the process. Professionally, Ivan recently retired from PNC Bank, N.A. with over 40 years of service. Ivan helped manage the Michigan Trust Real Estate group which was part of the PNC Private Bank. The real estate portfolio exceeded 100 million dollars and was comprised of residential, commercial, and agricultural real estate.



Tonia Holloway, candidate for 2nd Vice President

Tonia, a native Detroiter, 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.



Frank Raben, candidate for Treasurer

I have lived on Greenview Rd in Rosedale Park since 1978, I was a Block Captain on Greenview Rd for 10 years. I spent 37 years working for Michigan National Bank, Standard Federal Bank and Huntington Bank before retiring in 2009.



I held positions as Branch Manager, Vice President District Manager and Mortgage Loan Officer the 4 years I worked for Huntington. I served as Rosedale Parks representative on the GRDC Board of Directors from 1990 until 2020, during that time I was Vice President 3 years, President 3 years and Treasurer for 18 years. I became Treasurer of Rosedale Park Improvement Association in 2014 until 2021, 2nd Vice President in 2022 and President 2024.

Pedro Coracides, candidate for Board

I am Pedro Coracides. I am originally from Phoenix, Arizona., and moved to metro Detroit by way of my husband - he tricked me - who is originally from Livonia. We moved into a house on Glastonbury about a month ago with our furry child, Hudson. I have been a working professional for the past 19 years in the airline, tech, healthcare, and, now, higher education industries. I have a bachelor's degree from St. Louis University and a Masters of Social Work from Wayne State University. My main passion is to help identify the needs of a community and find ways to meet them.



Larry Castleberry, candidate for Board

Larry is a 24-year resident of Rosedale Park. He is a former RPIA President, and a firm believer that when we work together, we can and will accomplish great things.



Olysses Freeman, candidate for Board

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 a 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 of my efforts into keeping the Rosedale Park community as beautiful of a place to live as it was when I first moved here.



LaTonya Woods, candidate for Board

LaTonya Woods has enjoyed a portfolio career. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University, she began her collegiate career at the University of Michigan in the School of Music, Theater, and Dance with a major in viola performance and education. She currently works for the University of Michigan as a Senior Business Systems Analyst



in the Information and Technology Services department. She is also the Director of Operations with restaurant group, Afor Concepts in Dearborn. As a violinist and violist, she has performed with Grammy award winning artists, spanning the genres of classical, R&B and gospel, including Stevie Wonder, Midori and Marvin Winans.

Sean Vanderbrink, candidate for Board

I grew up in Rosedale on Rosemont street. I spent 4 years in Grand Rapids, receiving an art degree with an emphasis in ceramics from Calvin College. I moved back to the neighborhood in 2011, and did home renovation work and house painting for GRDC. I purchased a home from GRDC in 2012, and set about making it habitable as well as carving out studio space (ceramics, woodshop, printmaking, fibers). We started calling ourselves the Glastonbury Collective and put on small events and workshops. I work for Ford motor company as a clay sculptor, am working on a masters degree in ceramics at Wayne State, and teach at Lawrence Tech.



Rosedale Park's Islands Shine Yet Again

Congratulations, Island Beautifiers! Once again, Rosedale Park bloomed in beauty this summer. Come see your Island Beautifiers and cheer on our Winner's at the 7pm November 12 General Membership Meeting at the North Rosedale Park Community House. This year we will also have new "Legacy" Awards for islands that have maintained their status as Best Maintained Winner Circle Islands for five years! Thank you to each and every one of you, who invests in our community and makes Rosedale Park one of Detroit's shining jewels!

2024 Island Beautification Winners and Beautifiers

1st Place Winner:
Glastonbury-Chalfonte to Fenkell. Island Beautifiers: Angela Lee and David King (*Block Captains: Debbie Gore and Bobbie Phillips*)

2nd Place Winner:
Glastonbury-Eaton to Chalfonte. Island Beautifiers:

(continued on page 4)



1st Place Winner, Glastonbury-Chalfonte to Fenkell

RPIA Contacts List 2024

OFFICERS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melodie Bunkley ('24-'26) Faust melbunkley@hotmail.com	David Sernick ('24-'26) Greenview david.sernick@gmail.com	Andrea Eckhart ('23-'25) Glastonbury eckert.andrea@gmail.com	Ulysses Freeman ('22-'24) Faust uly_2684@yahoo.com	Director position ('22-'24) VACANT
Earl McCullough ('24-'26) earlmccullough19@yahoo.com	Bonnie White ('23-'25) Greenview bonnierwhite@gmail.com	Veronica Williams ('24-'25) W. Outer Dr vjbsnoddy@gmail.com	Michael Malis ('22-'24) Rosemont mgmalis@gmail.com	

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Rosedale Grads Are Headed For a Bright Future

This year RPIA awarded three \$1,250 scholarships to promising seniors headed off to college. Meet each recipient below:

Heaven Drake of Glastonbury has graduated from Lincoln-King High School with honors and is headed to North Carolina A&T to study engineering. In high school, Heaven was an active student, participating in basketball, National Honor Society, the Chik-Fil-A Leadership Program, and DECA, a national leadership program for high school students. She has enjoyed connecting with her future dorm mate over Instagram and is excited about this new chapter in her life. She expects having family in North Carolina to make the out-of-state transition easier. Good luck, Heaven!



Jordan McDonald of Stahelin is off to Wayne State University where he will study music. His instrument is guitar. A Cass Tech graduate, Jordan was active in Jazz Band, Concert Choir, and Detroit Kappa League. Jordan is also a member of Boy School Troop 1 and recently attained the status of Eagle Scout. He spent the summer working at the newly renovated Michigan Central Station as a Grow Detroit's Young Talent intern with Google Mobility. Kudos, Jordan!



Zamari Dudley of Glastonbury will attend Oakland University where she plans to major in Criminal Justice. This major will likely serve her well as she plans to attend law school after college. Zamari was accepted into the Honors College at Oakland. At her high school, Zamari was active in the Senior Sisters Program as well as Debate Team. Zamari attended a summer bridge program at Oakland where she was able to get a head start on learning the campus. She is looking forward to move-in day this August. She is joined here by her sister Ava and her mother Angel.



(Rosedale Park's Islands, continued from page 3)

Kim Uhuru, Andrea Eckert, Lois Lawton and Henry Williams
(*Block Captain: Leon Jackson III*)

3rd Place Winner: Three-Way Tie: Piedmont-Chalfonte to Fenkell. Island Beautifier: Susan Berry (*Block Captain*)

Ashton-Lyndon to Eaton. Island Beautifier: Katalin Daigle (*Block Captain*)

Warwick-Eaton to Chalfonte. Island Beautifiers: Judy Alhamisi, Glee Sodergren (*Block Captains: Trevor/Clare Layton, Stevie/Doris Seabrook, Judy Alhamisi, Dawn/Nate Fred*)

Most Improved Islands: Artesian-Lyndon to Eaton. Island Beautifiers: Dorothy McKnight (*Block Captain*), Valerie Orr and Arthur Griffin

Piedmont-Keeler to Midland. Island Beautifiers: Charisse Snoddy, Pat Folks, Gwen Harden, Masako Green and Joann Kelly (*Block Captain: Keith Cosby*)

Outer Drive-Midland to Grand River. Island Beautifier: Dwayne Miller (*Block Captain*)

Best Home Landscaping: Dale and Katrina Reid, 15362 Grandville.

2024 Best Maintained Winner's Circle Island: Rosemont-Chalfonte to Fenkell. Island Beautifiers: Martha Cleaves (*Block Captain*), Cheryl Ball

Best Maintained Winner's Circle LEGACY* Islands: Artesian-Chalfonte to Eaton. Island Beautifiers: Donna West and Pat Hale (*Block Captain Vacant*)

Stahelin-Chalfonte to Eaton. Island Beautifiers: Mike Herron, Ron and Carol Robinson, Allen Iles, Ronald Jones, Jacquelyn Willingham (*Block Captain*)

Warwick-Chalfonte to Fenkell. Island Beautifiers: Jill Laufer (*Block Captain*), Dennis Jones



Best Home Landscaping_ Dale and Katrina Reid, 15362 Grandville