



Rosedale Park News

Serving a Friendly Neighborhood

Volume LXX • Number 1

Rosedale Park • Detroit, Michigan 48223

January/February 2012

www.rosedalepark.org

ANNUAL RPIA BANQUET JANUARY 27, 2012

On Friday, January 27, 2012 the annual RPIA Banquet and installation of board members and officers will take place at the North Rosedale Park Community House. The evening will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. leading into a delicious meal served at 7:00 p.m. After dessert, Councilman James Tate will conduct the swearing-in of the board members and officers for 2012. The program also includes the recognition of the contributions of many residents to the success of our neighborhood. Those

blocks that earned Island Beautification awards will be presented with them this evening.

This celebration is great fun and a wonderful opportunity to share in the warmth of our vibrant community. Fill a table with others from your block or join in the fellowship with persons you are meeting for the first time. We guarantee good food, music and conversation. All of that is yours for the price of a ticket, \$20. Contact any board member or leave a message on our hotline, 313-927-1089, to reserve a ticket.



Debbie Gore leads the group in the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Friends and neighbors gathered on December 3 to enjoy breakfast, singing, and a visit with Santa.

See page 13 for more photos from the event!



Neighbors enjoy breakfast and conversation.

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Enjoy this free issue of your neighborhood association newsletter.

The **ROSEDALE PARK NEWS** is published six times a year and is sent regularly only to those who pay their association dues. Once a year, in January, we send a copy to every household in Rosedale Park, to give everyone a chance to enjoy the news about our neighborhood and to be informed about the issues and challenges we face together as neighbors. Please enjoy this complimentary issue. In order to assure that you receive all future issues, return the invoice mailed to you along with a check made out to RPIA and send it to: Rosedale Park Improvement Association, P.O. Box 23113, Detroit, MI 48223

Step up. "Due" your part.



President's Message

Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything

in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find that you have more of it."

— Ralph Marston

Happy New Year, Rosedale!!!!

This is my last month as president of this wonderful community organization. Where did the time go???

I want to thank each of you for the opportunity to be of service. This has been an exhilarating, challenging and rewarding opportunity. There are so many people who are responsible for the many successes that we, as a community, have experienced this year. My first inclination is to name them all but there is a risk in that type of public acknowledgement. Because I'm human, I will have forgotten something that someone did that allowed us to achieve one or more of our goals and that omission will result in ill feelings. Rather than end my tenure by an omission of a name, I would like to say THANK YOU to those that did one or more of the following:

- 1) Smiled, waved and introduced yourself to a new neighbor.
- 2) Acknowledged the illness of or loss experienced by a neighbor by sending a card, flowers, or something to eat. Perhaps you dropped in to see if there was something needed.
- 3) Cleaned out the flower beds on your island or planted flowers, watered beds or pulled weeds.
- 4) Mowed the island.
- 5) Mowed the vacant property next door or down the street or behind your home.
- 6) Shoveled or plowed the snow for an elderly or infirmed neighbor.

- 7) Took a neighbor shopping.
- 8) Worked for the association in some volunteer capacity, i.e., website, e-blast, committee work, events, etc.
- 9) Cooked food at the annual breakfast or the picnic.
- 10) Cleaned up the park after the picnic.
- 11) Solicited advertisers for our newsletter.
- 12) Invited friends to come to the Realtors Open House in May.
- 13) Participated in the yard sale and told family and friends to come by and see the magic of this community.
- 14) Picked up paper, bottles or trash littering the streets.
- 15) Shopped at ACO, Metro Foodland, RiteAid and CVS. Took your clothes to a local cleaners.
- 16) Recycled.
- 17) Voted. Every time.
- 18) Talked with the youth.
- 19) Prayed for our community.
- 20) Paid your taxes.
- 21) Took a walk or rode your bike.
- 22) Laughed out loud. Respected others. Turned down the volume.
- 23) Organized the block party. Organized the kids' games for the party. Came to the party.
- 24) Became a block captain. Helped a block captain.
- 25) Told someone "thank you" for organizing the block party, cleaning the islands, getting your e-mail information and providing you with important information about things happening around here.

I know. I missed some things. That does not mean they were not important or noteworthy. That simply means my mind does not hold everything for immediate retrieval. For everything that you have done to make this home, I want to thank you. For helping the plans we made become actual accomplishments, thank you. For allowing me to write from my heart in this space, thank you!

Rosedale,
Keep on the path. Take care of this, our home!!

Carolyn

Carolyn Cruse, President
Rosedale Park Improvement Association

Job Announcement: Fundraising Manager

The North Rosedale Park Civic Association (NRPCA) wants to hire a Fundraising Manager, on a contractual basis, to coordinate all fundraising activities associated with its \$2-2.5 million Capital Campaign for the renovation of the Community House and grounds. For more information on job tasks, qualifications, salary and application process, please see the Job Announcement on NRPCA's website, www.northroosedalepark.org.

Block Captains' Corner

Happy New Year, Everyone!!

Welcome to our new RPIA board members. Let's make the effort to show how much we appreciate those who have taken on the greater part of responsibility for making our neighborhood one of the best places to live in the City of Detroit. However, all Block Captains should be proud of the work you do on your block to make each neighbor feel a part of the larger community of Rosedale Park.

Thank you to all the Block Captains who turned out for the quarterly Block Captain meeting in November. Look for announcement of our quarterly Block Captain Meeting in February. . It's not too late to have a Happy New Year block get together to continue good neighbor relationships. I was privileged to be a guest for the Warwick block progressive dinner. It was just a small sample of what makes this a great community in which to live. Another thing which makes this a great community is the way in which we all look out for each other. We keep each other informed of the criminal activity which may be occurring on the block and in the neighborhood so that we can be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary and alert our neighbors.

It's already time to start thinking about what your block will be doing for your spring planting and the annual competition for Island Beautification awards. It will be Spring before we know it. Several of the items we talked about at the last Block Captain meeting, including vacant homes and ordinance enforcement as well as tree planting and tree removal, are ongoing topics of concern. One more thing of concern is the new ordinance about removing our downspouts from the

pipes leading to the sewer system and letting the rain water be what waters our grass. Thank you to GRDC for providing the information necessary for us to be able to comply with that.

We also want to thank those Association Members who have paid their dues this year. Dues payments support the organization's activities including the holiday pancake breakfast we all just enjoyed last month and pays for the street snow removal which is really appreciated this time of year.

Let's continue to work together to continue to improve our neighborhood and the community we live in and take pride in. Contact any one of us if you have a particular problem or suggestion for topics which need to be addressed on your block or in the neighborhood. Working together is all it takes!

The Block Captain Team:

Dorothy McKnight – glynndot@yahoo.com

Molly Eklund-Easley – scionmee@msn.com

Pam Weinstein – weinstein148@ameritech.net

Nancy Bitzarakis – nancy2061@aol.com



Dorothy McKnight Molly Eklund-Easley
Block Captain Coordinators

The Past Six Years: Reflections from a Board Member

Hello, neighbors. My name is Tracey Wallace and I have been a member of the RPIA board of directors for the last six years. During that time, I have served five years as a Board Director and one year as 2nd vice-president. Over the years I have solicited volunteers to help clean up Flintstone Park, help at the Rosedale Jazz in the Park that got rained out a few years ago (thank you neighbors!), help with the Easter Egg Hunt, help stuff envelopes with Holiday Pancake Breakfast flyers the first year we started doing the breakfast again, help fill spots on the RPIA board, help distribute flyers on blocks that do not have a block

captain, help plan and distribute flowers to the neighborhood. Some times the volunteers were RPIA residents that I had never met and just randomly called to ask for help. A lot of the time the volunteers were neighbors from my own block of Glastonbury (Eaton - Lyndon). Either way, the result was the same. Neighbors were genuinely willing to help if their schedule permitted. That was the great part of being a board member. I got a chance to help our neighborhood, meet neighbors, and see first-hand how much my neighbors throughout Rosedale Park really want to keep our neighborhood clean, safe,

and fun. I'm stepping down from the board this year to become more active with our neighborhood Girl Scout troops. However, I will continue to volunteer to help keep our community as the best neighborhood in Detroit. Happy New Year!

Tracey Wallace is leaving the RPIA board in January after six years of service, and we asked her to reflect on those years. The RPIA board can always use new members willing to give some time and talent to keep out community strong and viable. If you are interested, contact one of the current board members to discuss opportunities.

RPIA Board Meeting Minutes

– Summary of Minutes of October 24, 2011 –

Frank Raben, an RPIA representative on the GRDC Board reported on his role with each organization; review of monthly financial report; planning for next General Membership meeting; final accounting of neighborhood improvement grant;

report on neighborhood communication tools; update on pancake breakfast plans; review of plans for annual banquet; Vacant Home Safe Grant update; and Code Enforcement Committee update.

– Summary of Minutes of November 28, 2011 –

Highlights of the meeting included: a summary of the financial report; what to expect in the 2012 RPIA planning session; the Public Works Committee report on tree planting and progress with improvements to Flintstone Park; the 2012 dues mailing to residents; the plan to remove the leftover tree stumps in the

ber; and the last two major events which include the pancake breakfast and annual banquet.

For more details on these itmes and others, you will find a complete copy of the minutes on the RPIA website at www.rosedalepark.org.

Treasurer's Message

Dear Neighbors,
The most truthful statement made by former Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was that no one was coming to save us. We would have to help ourselves. For as challenging as the past year has been, that is exactly what we have done--helped ourselves, and helped each other. In 2011, your board initiated an austerity plan where no programs were cut, all were fully funded, and all committee chairpersons and program managers brought them in under budget. In 2011, we've had neighbors who not only paid their dues, but also the dues for empty houses on their block. We've had neighbors make donations to celebrate anniversaries and the births of grandchildren. In the year that has been reported as the worst recession since the Great Depression, the tough got going, the tough stayed in their homes and in their city, and the tough supported their neighborhood. (Not to be hypocritical, but when I retire I'm moving to Hawaii.)

2012 is forecasted to be just as daunting. We are going to have to make decisions, or they will be made for us. I'm not talking about an emergency manager. Our reality will make our decisions. The reality is this. The issue you are reading has been delivered to every known occupied household in the association. It has been paid for by the dues-paying members, which number 570 out of 1220 households. This is unsustainable. The board, in a cost saving measure, has cut the number of printed issues by combining issues in 2012. Still, this will not be enough. We must convert to electronic media as a means of communication and provide printed media **only to dues paying households**. We need the email addresses of everyone who hasn't submitted one thus far. You will hear this plea until we have reduced the cost of communicating to our members. You can submit your address at rpiablast@gmail.com, or write it on the return envelope of your 2012 dues invoice you will be receiving shortly.

The payment of your dues has far greater value than its monetary equivalent. When the board is able to present proof to our city that we represent the majority of our neighborhood--by paid dues, from members who vote--that's when we get street lights repaired, dead trees cut down, and roads paved.

In closing, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, a happy New Year's celebration, and I look forward to seeing you at our annual banquet. (Remember to contact your block captain or board member for tickets.) I want to thank all of our members who voted in the November general election and entrusted me to serve another year. All 50 of you. Decisions get made by the people who show up, and things get done by the person who has one more thing to do. I am glad to be counted among you.

Sincerely,
Thom Gatson
RPIA Treasurer

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RPIA General Membership Meeting Minutes: November 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Carolyn Cruse and she welcomed and acknowledged board members, block captains and visitors from other communities that were in attendance.

GRDC - GLEN WARN

Mr. Glen Warn, Senior Project Manager at GRDC spoke regarding houses that are being purchased and rehabbed for resale. They are being purchased on conventional and FHA mortgages from GRDC and this is helping to bring housing values up in Rosedale. In addition to purchasing the homes, some are acquired by GRDC through trusts that go into foreclosure to non-profits and others are donated. The majority of the purchases come from referrals from friends or relatives of existing residents. The goal is to purchase about 15 houses per year for resale with subsidy funds. There is a broad mix of families that are purchasing the homes. The home prices range from 55,000 to 100,000 in resale. GRDC updates the homes for efficiency where possible while staying within historic district designations. Mr. Warn took questions from residents regarding how GRDC works for the neighborhood.

TOM RIDGWAY

Mr. Tom Ridgway, Housing Program Manager at GRDC was on hand to discuss the home repair programs offered for Rosedale Park residents. These home improvements are done with funds from the State of Michigan and city of Detroit. The funds are for low to moderate income families. They have been soliciting applicants in Rosedale since March and received 65 applicants. Qualifications include stipulations where residents have to meet the 80% income level or below, have to be up to date on their home owners insurance, and the property must be owner occupied. The goal is to deal with lead issues in the older homes and bring the homes up to code within historic district designation. There are a handful of slots still available. Both programs place a lean on the house which is either forgiven in full within 3 years or up to 60% forgiven within 5 years. Mr. Ridgway left applications for residents to review and submit if they are qualified.

VACANT HOMES COMMITTEE

Debbie Kent gave an update about the vacant homes database that is used to keep track of research information acquired on vacant homes to aid residents in forcing home owners to take care of their property. Some funding from RPIA is being used to do the most accurate research. In the past we were given a full grant to maintain vacant properties where home owners were not. This year we were given \$2000 from our relationship with the surrounding communities and their generosity in working as a true community. Residents were encouraged to contact Debbie Kent for any questions or to make any vacant property reports; her contact information is in the RPIA news and on the Rosedale website.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Stacy Pugh spoke on the efforts of the code enforcement committee which is fully established and beginning to take complaints. The committee met in Sept for the first time. There has been good dialogue and input from committee members. The 9 current members split up the neighborhood to track violations within the Park. They currently found 73 active violations on homes that appeared to be occupied. The procedure gives residents 10 days to fix or remedy issues. They can call to discuss

any restrictions they have to making these fixes, making other arrangements. The letter of notification is sent to the resident and if the resident is not the owner, the landlord will receive a letter as well. Committee will go and verify that the issues have been corrected after the 10 day period with before and after pictures. The committee will publish a list of violations, full descriptions and how to report the violations in the upcoming RPIA newsletter. The preferred method for reporting violations is via the website: <http://www.rosedalepark.org>. Issues will be readily addressed. Residents can also call the rosedale hotline and make a report.

The voting polls for 2012 RPIA Board closed at 8:05pm.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Carolyn cruse spoke on sustainable communities as the person scheduled to speak was unable to attend. Residents were asked to start thinking about what you would like to see done to help improve Rosedale Park as a more sustainable community. Residents were encouraged to attend the March 2012 General Membership Meeting for further discussion.

GREENING OF DETROIT

Pam Weinstein spoke on the Rosedale partnership with Greening of Detroit that lead to 2 recent tree planting sessions this past October. The Girl Scouts also participated in making the tree planting a success this year. Thanks to the Girl Scouts!

FARMER'S MARKET

Pan spoke about the loss to the farmer's market with the closing of the Southfield freeway during its construction this year. There was a loss of about 40% of expected revenue.

RPIA 2012 BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The election results were announced with Mary McLeod being voted as President, Pam Weinstein as 1st Vice President, Stacy Pugh as 2nd Vice President, Thom Gatson as Treasurer, and Minty James and Stephanie Young joining as the newest board members.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thom Gatson opened his summary of the financial state of RPIA with a wish that the finances of our country were as good as our community in paying their dues. There were a total of 670 households that have paid to date. The community appreciates all of those households that paid their dues in a timely fashion. The board also committed to not spend one penny more than what was budgeted for on each event or initiative set for the year. All of this helps to keep the expenses to a minimum and collect revenues in efficient and timely manners.

RPIA NEWS ADVERTISING

Residents were reminded of Dorothy Roman's volunteer efforts in selling and collecting revenue for advertising in the RPIA newsletter. Dorothy stepped up as Advertising Coordinator this year. Dorothy has done a phenomenal job and had collected over \$3000 in revenue for ads. Dorothy worked in this position while the board worked to find a permanent person to fulfill the duties. There is a young man who lives in the Rosedale neighborhood who works in marketing, Kevin Cosey who will be meeting with Dorothy to make the transition. Dorothy was thanked tremendously for her contribution.

RPIA E-BLAST

David Legg reported that there were a total of 430 subscribers to the weekly e-blast and encouraged those who had not signed up already, to do so by sending their email address to rpiablast@gmail.com. Of the e-blasts that are sent, it is currently being read by a quarter of those that receive it. Hopefully residents are sharing the newsletter and the invaluable information that is contained in it. There are a lot of good links to more information as well. We are currently looking to expand on the type of articles that are in the newsletter so stay tuned.

RADIO PATROL

Residents were encouraged to sign up for radio patrol. It is a small commitment that does not cost anything but time and helps to keep our neighborhood secure. The city of Detroit pays 50 cents per mile and these funds can be either donated back to radio patrol to keep it sustained or used as a reimbursement for your time. It is a real proven deterrent to crime. It is a mere few hours a month commitment. The radio patrol volunteers are in the process of scheduling their annual meeting on December 10th from 4 - 6 pm.

COMMUNITIES FIGHTING BACK

There was a recent article in the news about the Grandmont Rosedale communities fighting back against crime. It discussed the monthly meetings that are set up for residents to meet with police representatives regarding securing the neighborhoods. These meetings were organized by our very own Rosedale resident, Nancy Bitzarakis, former 2009 RPIA President and a North Rosedale resident. Debbie Kent spoke of the Citizens Police Academy that exists where residents can attend and graduate with a full sense of the police effort to secure city of Detroit residents. There were 2 recent graduates from Rosedale Park and 3 graduates that live in North Rosedale Park. They were able to ride along in the police squad cars, toured the 911 call center, visited the official police range, and received a free security assessment of their homes. This is an 8 week course that all residents are encouraged to participate in. Contact the local police precinct to sign up or attend one of the monthly security meetings to show your support. Congratulations graduates!

REMINDERS

Residents were reminded about the Pancake Breakfast scheduled for December 3rd and the Annual Banquet set for January 27th of January.

One of the final Thursday hearings at the Coleman Young building downtown will be held to discuss the rezoning of Redford High School, reselling it to the Meijer Stores chain and other commercial properties. The other meeting will be held to discuss the city using tax credits to redo the incinerator. Meetings are to be held at 10:15am.

This coming Saturday is Rosedale Recycles day at Christ the King from 10 - 2 where in addition to the usual recyclable items they will be collecting any clothing that residents would like to donate.

Also on this Saturday residents will ban together with Officer Crawford at 8:30am to remove the tacky signs that are appearing around Rosedale Park. Any volunteers wishing to help with this effort are encouraged to meet at the Neighborhood City Hall wearing gloves and bring a hammer or any tool useful in removing signage. The group will head out by 9am.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

ROSEDALE RECYCLES

10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Third Saturday of each month

Location:
 Christ the King Church parking lot
 South of McNichols & north of
 Grand River Avenue on Pierson
To volunteer or for more information,
call 938-1133 or email rr@igc.org

**PLEASE ENTER THE RECYCLING
 CENTER FROM PIERSON.**
 Traffic flowing one-way serves
 everyone most efficiently.

2012

JAN 21	FEB 18	MAR 17	APR 21
MAY 19	JUNE 16	JULY 21	AUG 18
SEPT 15	OCT 20	NOV 17	DEC 15

Household Hazardous Waste April 21;
Paper shredder on site June 16 & Dec 15.

We can recycle the following *CLEAN* items. *SORT* and *SEPARATE* the items as follows before bringing them to the Recycling Center.

- NEWSPAPERS:** Place into paper bags or tie in bundles. Inserts can be left inside. If it comes in a newspaper, it can be recycled with the newspaper.
- MIXED PAPER:** White and colored office paper, envelopes, junk mail, folders, construction paper, and cardstock. **CANNOT BE RECYCLED:** Tissue paper, receipts, napkins, wrapping paper, and paper towels.
- GLOSSY PAPER:** Magazines, catalogs, and flyers. Keep separate from newspapers or mixed paper.
- BOOKS:** Bound, hardcover, paperbacks, and telephone books. No magazines in with books.
- CARDBOARD:** Brown, gray, white interiors; corrugated cardboard boxes; cereal boxes, shoe boxes, Kleenex boxes; paper grocery bags; **EMPTY, CLEAN, and FLATTEN.**
- ASEPTIC CARTONS:** Milk, soymilk, and juice cartons. Remove plastic top, **RINSE**, flatten & save space.
- GLASS BOTTLES & JARS:** Separate by color—clear, brown, green. **RINSE** and **REMOVE TOPS**; recycle metal lids with metals. **NOT ACCEPTED:** Plexiglas, Pyrex, window glass, drinking glasses, or light bulbs.
- METALS:** No need to separate: tin or metal cans; copper, brass, aluminum foil, pie pans or cans; **RINSE** and **REMOVE LABELS**; flatten if possible to save space.
- PLASTICS:** Remove caps and tops and discard unless labeled as recyclable. Labels can be left on containers. Sort according to number on bottom of containers:
- PLASTIC BAGS:** 1, 2 & 4 plastic grocery, dry cleaning, & newspaper bags are accepted. **NOT ACCEPTED:** Bubble wrap, garbage bags, Ziploc food bags. Bags must be clean and dry, receipts removed.
- BATTERIES:** Household batteries only: AAA through D, 9 volt, and cell phone batteries.

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Rosedale Park Resident and Lifelong Detroit Booster Passes Away

By Bonnie Mead

Robert M. Holland, a long time Rosedale Park resident, died on October 21, 2011 at the age of 88. Born and raised in Detroit, Bob was a Detroiter through and through. A graduate of Redford High School, Bob received degrees from both Michigan State and Wayne State Universities. He served in the Army during World War II where he participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

Bob's career with the City of Detroit began as a supervisor in the Planning and Development Department. After spending time as a manager in the City Tax and Abatement Program, he became an administrator in the Parks and Recreation Department. He retired in 1992. Bob was twice presented with the Spirit of Detroit award from the City Council; once for his Community Involvement and then in recognition of his 47 years of service to the city.

Bob's contributions to the community over the years included serving as Board Member and President of the Rosedale Park Improvement Association. He also helped found the Rosedale Recycles Program. "The neighbors fondly referred to him as 'The Mayor of Rosedale Park' because he lived there for so long and was such a charismatic person," said his daughter, Patricia Soma. "He was very pro-Detroit, from the day he was born until the day he died.

People from the neighborhood had great respect and admiration for my father. He not only walked the walk and talked the talk but he was regarded by many as a good neighbor and friend." Bob was preceded in death by his wives, Elinor Holland and Marian Holland. His sister, Margery, survives him as does his daughter.

The members of the Rosedale Park Improvement Association acknowledge that Bob's wit and enthusiasm were contagious. He was the champion of all that was - and is - good about living in the city of Detroit. At the same time, he was quite vocal about any shortcomings



Bob Holland

when they arose. He never hesitated to make his position known! Bob will be greatly missed but his accomplishments will remain and his memory will always bring a smile to the faces of Rosedale Park residents.



Bob Holland (second from left) with neighbors James Edwards, Henry Williams, and Mike Thiry.



Bob with his sister, Margery Holland.



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Chicken or Turkey Salad
\$5.99

8 oz. New York Steak & Eggs or
Potatoes \$5.99



Meet friends for lunch and enjoy our 1/4 cheeseburger with
lettuce, tomatoes, onions and melted cheese for just \$2.55

Or

Stop by for our breakfast special and pick 2 eggs, your way.
Your choice of ham, bacon or sausage, grits, or hash browns with
toast. All for just \$2.99 5am-11am



NEW \$10K DOWN PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR GRDC HOMES

GRDC has launched a new down payment assistance program that can help you find the home of your dreams in the Grandmont Rosedale area. The program will provide up to \$10,000 in down payment assistance to home buyers purchasing renovated homes from GRDC.

City of Detroit employees may be eligible for up to \$15,000 in down payment assistance through another new program offered by the Detroit Development Fund, with support from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation. This program is limited to homes located in North Rosedale Park, however. Details regarding this program can also be found on the GRDC web site.

GRDC has several beautifully renovated homes for sale right now. Visit our web site at www.grandmontrosedale.com to view our most current listings. For more information, call GRDC today at 313-387-4732, ext. 100, or email tgoddeeris@grandmontrosedale.com

ATTENTION, AREA CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND BUSINESSES

– If you are a low-income resident of the Grandmont Rosedale area and have skills and experience in home renovation and construction, GRDC would like to help connect you with contractors working on federally-funded home repair projects in our area. Contact Home Repair Program Manager Tom Ridgway at 313-387-4732 ext 108 for more information.

GRDC utilizes federal funds provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide home repair grants and loans to low-income homeowners in the Grandmont



Rosedale area. Under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, wherever HUD financial assistance is given for housing or community development, to the greatest extent feasible, economic opportunities must be given to low- and very low-income residents and businesses located in that area.

To qualify under Section 3, construction businesses must be owned by low- or very low-income residents, employ low- or very low-income residents in full-time positions, or subcontract with businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.

GRDC will work together with local residents and contractors participating in our federally funded programs to share information about employment and/or training opportunities for residents who qualify under Section 3.

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 ALERT

– Do you have any vacant houses on your block? If so, please give GRDC Vacant Property Intern Jessica Iwankowski a call at 313-387-4732, ext. 117, and give her the addresses (or send an email to info@grandmontrosedale.com). In cooperation with all of the neighborhood associations, GRDC is trying to keep track of all of the vacancies and we need your help! We're developing a Vacant Property Strategy and it's important to keep up to date on every vacancy. Thanks for being a good neighbor.

GET THE GRDC E-MAIL BLAST!

– GRDC operates a neighborhood-wide listserv; we send 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.

New Publication Schedule in 2012 for ROSEDALE PARK NEWS

The ROSEDALE PARK NEWS embarks on a new publication schedule for calendar year 2012. In an effort to be both consistent and cost-effective, the RPIA Communications Committee decided that the newsletter will be published every other month in calendar year 2012. The issue you are now reading, January/February 2012, is the first of 6 issues planned for this year. "We are mindful of reduced revenues and increasing costs, so we are definitely trying to do more with less," incoming RPIA President Mary McLeod explained. "Our newly-launched electronic RPIA eBlast will be utilized to fill in the gaps between issues of the newsletter," McLeod continued. "The eBlast is fast, flexible, easy to prepare, and very inexpensive."

Be sure you are subscribed to the RPIA eBlast! Send an email to rpiablast@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list.

Here's the schedule for 2012:

Publication Date	Content Focus Areas	Advertising Deadline	Article Deadline	Approx. Date Received by Residents
Jan/Feb	Annual Banquet	Dec. 1, 2011	Dec. 10, 2011	Jan. 10, 2012
March/April	March Membership Mtg., Easter Egg Hunt	Feb. 1, 2012	Feb. 10, 2012	March 6, 2012
May/June	May Membership Meeting, June Day Picnic, 30-Block Garage Sale	April 1, 2012	April 10, 2012	May 1, 2012
July/Aug	Summer Fun in the Neighborhood	June 1, 2012	June 10, 2012	July 10, 2012
Sept/Oct	Sept. Membership Meeting	Aug. 1, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	Sept. 4, 2012
Nov/Dec	November Membership Meeting & Elections, Holiday Pancake Breakfast	Oct. 1, 2012	Oct. 10, 2012	Nov. 6, 2012

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The Case for Community Policing

By Austin Grout, GRDC Crime Prevention Coordinator

What comes to your mind when you think of community policing? Probably the usual suspects: Neighborhood Watch, radio patrols, and crime alerts. In other words, how local residents have come together for the betterment of the entire community. However, community policing is much more than simply volunteers on an island; it is a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Detroit Police Department (DPD).

Traditional policing involves tracking criminal trends, investigating suspicious activity, and arresting criminals. Law enforcement officials are seen as crime fighters, whose main purpose is to hold lawbreakers accountable; whereas, community policing goes beyond simply arresting offenders to address quality of life issues, social disorder, and the causes underlying crime. Members of the community are brought in as key stakeholders who help shape how the area is policed; attention is not just given to responding to criminal actions after they have occurred but at how to prevent them in the first place. You can see the process at work in the aforementioned Neighborhood

Watch and radio patrols, but also in the dialogue at the Neighborhood Safety Meeting and people's willingness to SPEAK UP! Call a neighbor, report crimes to the police department, or send an email to a crime alert that details suspicious activity going on around you. Active participation is encouraged and supported. Don't just sit back and remain silent. As we all know, silence can be seen as granting permission.

With the uncertainty surrounding the finances of the city of Detroit, community policing is more relevant now than ever. Citizens can act as mechanisms for the police department and enhance their overall effectiveness. For instance, the Neighborhood Watch signs you see throughout neighborhoods in the area act as a symbol that put criminals on notice. Yet, residents can go one step further by taking an active role in their neighborhood's community policing efforts so these signs don't become an empty gesture.¹

Get active and involved in a number of ways:

- **Create a neighborhood or block**

- **directory with phone numbers and email addresses. Being able to easily contact neighbors can help prevent crimes from occurring. It can also help to notify neighbors when non-criminal activities are occurring (e.g., home repairs/maintenance).**
- **Take 15 minutes of your day to take a drive throughout your neighborhood. Coordinate this action with neighbors to establish a baseline of surveillance.**
- **SPEAK UP! If you see a crime occurring report it. You can always maintain your anonymity by contacting crime stoppers: Phone—1-800-SPEAK UP; Text—Send CSM and your tip to CRIMES (274637); and Online—www.1800speakup.org**
- **GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS! You will be less skeptical of their behavior and increase your ability to identify strangers or other suspicious individuals.**

¹ Information for this article provided in: Xu, Y., Fiedler, M.L., & Flaming, K.H. (2005). *Discovering the impact of community policing: The Broken Windows Thesis, Collective Efficacy, and Citizens' Judgment.* *Journal & Research in Crime in Delinquency*, 42 (147), 146-186.

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Did you know that ads in the *Rosedale Park News* reach over 800 households in and around Rosedale Park for a very reasonable cost?

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AD TYPE	COST/ISSUE
Business card	\$24
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Half page	\$120
Full page	\$240
Personal classified*	Free for RPIA members!

NOTE: Prices above are for space only. An additional one-time set-up fee may be charged for new ads and revisions of existing ads. Fees vary depending on complexity of set-up. Copy for new and revised ads is due the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication.

**For individuals and young people only – not for adult-owned businesses; must be text only, and 50 words or less.*



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Our Holiday Pancake Breakfast – A Good Time Had By All!

By Chris Remus

On Saturday, December 3rd, Rosedale Park and North Rosedale Park hosted a joint Holiday Pancake Breakfast at the Community House. The attendance was impressive at around 150 residents!

In addition to the pancakes, sausage, and scrambled eggs, we enjoyed music and the company of our friends and neighbors. Connie Obelnicki and Debbie Gore played the piano and led the group in carols. Deborah Moore helped to lead the singing, and Elizabeth Garrett accompanied the music on her trumpet.

The highlight of the morning: as we were singing “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” guess who arrived? Mr. Claus himself, loaded down

with gifts for all of the children! Later, as I spoke with Santa, we both realized that sometimes, as adults, we just complicate life. In this era where many of us spend more time using the Internet and social media, we forget the simple magic that “the man in the red suit” brings to children.

The Holiday Pancake Breakfast would not be successful without the many volunteers from both Rosedale communities. Here’s a list of all those who helped out:

**Judy Barkey
Nancy Bitzarakis
Santa Claus
Elizabeth Garrett
Thom Gatson
Deborah Gore
Dee Jackson
Betty Johnson**

**Jim Johnson
Earl McCullough
Dorothy McKnight
Glynn McKnight
Mary McLeod
Deborah Moore
Connie Obelnicki
Betty Redditt**

**Chris Remus
Ruth Remus
Dorothy Roman
Phil Schloop
Lavonne Thomas
Clarenda Webb
Pam Weinstein**



A youngster has his list for Santa on his phone.



Deborah Moore sings, accompanied by Connie Obelnicki.



Santa with some helpers.



Phil Schloop talking with Councilman Ken Cockrel.

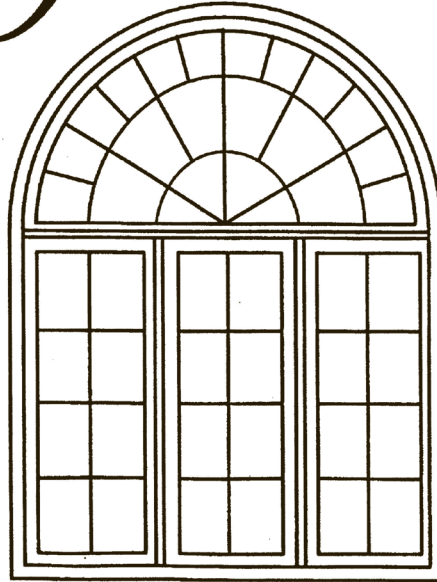


*Couldn't do it without the kitchen crew!
Thom Gatson, Betty Redditt, Mary McLeod,
Lavonne Thomas, Judy Barkey and Randall Herbert.*



Deborah Moore sings, accompanied by Elizabeth Garrett and Connie Obelnicki.

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Rosedale Park News

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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
24205 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights, MI 48217
313-278-6960

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 21Rosedale Recycles, 10 AM-2 PM
18605 Pierson

Fri., Jan. 27RPIA Annual Banquet, 6 PM-9 PM
at North Rosedale Park
Community House
18445 Scarsdale,
off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury

Sun., Jan. 29RPIA Board Planning Retreat,
2 PM-6 PM
19800 Grand River

FEBRUARY

Wed., Feb. 1Advertising deadline
for March/ April issue of RP News

Fri., Feb. 10Article submission deadline
for March/ April issue of RP News

Sat., Feb. 18Rosedale Recycles, 10 AM-2 PM
18605 Pierson

TBARPIA Board Meeting

**ROSEDALE PARK
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 23113
Detroit, MI 48223
313-927-1089

Editor: Amanda LeFranc
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The Rosedale Park Improvement Association publishes a weekly email newsletter, the RPIA eBlast. It arrives in your inbox every Sunday morning with news and information about the

neighborhood and surrounding areas that can impact your daily routine, plus items that are vital to your home and block. Subscribe FREE by emailing rpiablast@gmail.com, and include your name and street address. If you have a smart phone with a QR code app, you can subscribe by scanning the code you see here. You'll find a sign-up form for the eBlast on our Facebook page (RPIA eBlast). You can follow us on Twitter, too (@RPIAeblast)!



ROSEDALE RECYCLES

**Saturday, January 21
Saturday, February 18**

**10 AM - 2 PM
18605 Pierson Street**

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