



# Rosedale Park News

Serving a Friendly Neighborhood

Volume LXXI • Number 1

Rosedale Park • Detroit, Michigan 48223

January/February 2013

[www.rosedalepark.org](http://www.rosedalepark.org)

## Save the Date for Our Annual RPIA Banquet!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2013 • 6 - 9 PM

North Rosedale Park Community House • 18445 Scarsdale

Ticket Cost: \$20

### AGENDA

- 6:00 – Punch Bowl/Meet & Greet
- 7:00 – Dinner (*Catered by Charles and Nina Walker, formerly of Spice Restaurant*)
- 7:45 – RPIA President’s Address & Recognition Awards
- 8:15 - 9:00 – Music and Dancing

As we all know, the last several years haven’t been that kind to the City of Detroit. There are a number of issues in our neighborhood; however, we have a lot of good folks making good things happen. Attending the RPIA banquet gives us a chance to acknowledge those people and it also shows our support for RPIA. Tickets can be obtained from any RPIA board member. Hope to see you there!

*Paying it forward*

## Neighborhood Action Saves Another Rosedale Park Home

By Steve Babson, Detroit Eviction Defense Committee

Rosedale Park neighbor Jennifer Britt knows what it means to have friends and neighbors come to her aid. When she was threatened with foreclosure eviction this summer and the bailiff was expected to arrive at any moment to clear out her home, Grandmont Rosedale neighbors rallied to her defense, aided by activists from the Detroit Eviction Defense Committee and Occupy Detroit. Over the course of several months,

their collective efforts stopped an unjust eviction and eventually persuaded Fannie Mae to negotiate a settlement to keep Jennifer and her family in their home on Warwick Street.

### HERE WE GO AGAIN

Recently, the same sorry sequence of events began to unfold in another part of our neighborhood. Artesian Block Captain Dorothy McKnight got a call from some of her residents, Jerry and Gail Cullors. In tears, Gail reported that their family was about to lose their home

*continued on page 6*

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### General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 12 at 7 PM

North Rosedale Park Community House

18445 Scarsdale

*(off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury)*

*All Residents Welcome!*

### 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

I have recently had the opportunity to peruse some old copies of the *Rosedale Park News* and the *Rosedale Echo*, as it was called in 1932. Many of the opportunities and challenges we encounter today were mirrored in the

stories/reports throughout the years.

Rosedale Park as a diverse community of people who look out for each other and enjoy the warmth of the social and human contact in a neighborhood is a very strong theme. In the October 1948 issue of the *Rosedale Park News*, the Association President wrote: "Rosedale Park is one of the most desirable subdivisions in the City of Detroit in which to live and raise a family. Since the first homes were constructed, it has proven its stability. As it ages...the beauty of its streets is enhanced....The desirable aspects of this community, as mentioned, were only possible because of the folks who live here. The longer you live in the Park and the better you become acquainted with your neighbors, the more convincing this statement becomes. If you don't know your neighbors, get acquainted with them; you'll find them friendly and with living aspirations the same as yours." Within the past month a couple who are members of my church moved from a suburban Detroit neighborhood to Rosedale Park. It is fun to observe the way in which they are embracing this strong sense of belonging to a community of caring individuals.

Concern about the appearance of individual homes, communal gathering areas, and the commercial districts was another recurring theme. Several issues of the *News* addressed concerns about Grandland and its stores, the "new McDonald's" being built, and the condition of Fenkell, a dirt road (nearly impassable in the rain in 1932). A full page of the December 1974 issue of the

*News* was dedicated to ways in which residents could voice Grandland complaints. A neighborhood resident called this week to say that he was concerned about the littered appearance of the sidewalk in front of a store at Grandland and indicated that he had gone in to talk to the store manager about it. Our current Code Enforcement Committee continues this compliance monitoring and advocacy for maintaining a clean and safe environment.

This is my last President's Message as the leadership of RPIA will transition to new officers and Board members at our Annual Dinner on January 25, 2013. It has been a privilege to serve my community and I am very grateful to all of those neighbors who continue to volunteer their time and talents on behalf of all of us. In another recent local newsletter, *Neighbors Building Brightmoor*, a quote from the social activist Dorothy Day was printed that seems fitting to repeat here:

*"People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."*

Each new year seems to bring with it a resolve to do better, think smarter, act more kindly, etc. We have so many challenges ahead of us in the city of Detroit. The many efforts of each and every one of us will continue to strengthen this place we call home as we move ahead. May you all continue to experience the blessings of membership in our community for many years to come. Happy New Year!

*Mary*

Mary McLeod, President  
Rosedale Park Improvement Association



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# Block Captains' Corner

By Nancy Bitzarakis

## ROSEDALE PARK – A STRONG AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY

I have been a block captain in Rosedale Park for perhaps 25 years now. That makes me pause and think of all the things that have happened to me as a mom, a nurse, a wife, a daughter-in-law, a sister-in-law and, as a block captain in Rosedale Park. One thing that new residents sometimes don't realize when they move into our neighborhood is that, this really is a Community. They are not just moving into a house. They are moving into a living, breathing Community with a strong history.

All of us who have lived here for 20, 30 and more years have Rosedale Park "in our bones." We are more than just an address here. We are neighbors to the men down the street who always get out and mow the Island once a week and love how good it looks. We are the couples down the street who come out every spring to clean out the Island flowerbeds and plant new flowers for the summer. We are the woman down the street who always makes sure to haul out her hose and water the flowers on the Island so they thrive and become more beautiful as the summer months go by. We are the seniors down the street who always make sure to come out and contribute money to buy the flowers for the Island even if all that bending and shoveling is something that we have left behind. We are the resident across the street who mows two or three lawns if someone is ill or out of town. We are the residents who go over and talk to new neighbors and welcome them to the community. We are the residents who have gotten to know who lives on our block and watch anyone who looks "suspicious" until they keep on walking. And we are the block captains that make sure every new neighbor gets a New Neighbor Kit to learn what it means when you move into a home in Rosedale Park.

## BLOCK CAPTAINS' SUPPORT GROUP MEETS FOUR TIMES A YEAR

When you are a block captain you are a member of a special group in Rosedale Park. You are on an e-mail list that receives announcements early, on what is happening locally, before some other members of the neighborhood. You have the opportunity to come to a quarterly meeting with the other block captains to eat, to share, and to listen to new programs that are coming to our neighborhood so you can keep your neighbors informed about all of these events. You and your block are more informed and current on our area and our city. You are never alone in your job when you are a block captain in Rosedale Park.

## OUR BLOCK CAPTAINS: PART OF THE GLUE THAT CONNECTS OUR RESIDENTS

While it is some work at times during the year being a block captain, it is also an advantage. We not only help everyone on our block get to know one another, we also promote feelings of security in ourselves and others by connecting neighbors to each other and developing that feeling that we are "all in this together" in terms of living in a large city with issues. An owner of a security company once told me that there were two major elements in keeping as safe as possible: One is to have a good alarm system, and the other is to have good neighbors. This has been demonstrated to me over and over again. When there is a block captain on a block who is promoting those "good neighbor feelings", that activity

connects people to each other. When neighbors feel "connected," criminals have a harder time committing their crimes. Neighbors spot when someone is not a member of their block and they watch until the stranger leaves; they call their neighbor if they see something that "just doesn't look right"; they call 911 when action is needed to protect their neighbor or their property. We are neighbors that "have each others backs."

## BLOCK CAPTAINS' QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, February 17, 4-6 PM  
at the GRDC Office, 19800 Grand River  
Delicious refreshments provided, as always!

## YOU CAN SPOT THE BLOCKS WITHOUT A CAPTAIN

It's unfortunate but true, that when we ride around Rosedale Park on Radio Patrol, we can see which blocks are looking kind of shaky and often (but not always) these are blocks that do not have a block captain or do not have a

block captain that is somewhat active. Detroit neighborhoods have been hard hit with foreclosures and vacancies. On organized blocks, residents tend to take better care of their own homes and those vacant houses. It has been demonstrated in study after study that well-kept areas have less crime. On the blocks that are not well organized, the deterioration tends to get worse faster because residents are not getting fed up together. Collective outrage spurs action versus just giving up and trying to ignore the blight when you think you are alone in your concern.

## WANTED: 11 MORE BLOCK CAPTAINS

Of the 63 blocks in Rosedale Park, 52 have block captains and this is great!! But 11 blocks do not have captains. Here's a list of blocks in need of someone to step up. If you live on one of these blocks and are reading this article, maybe it's your time.

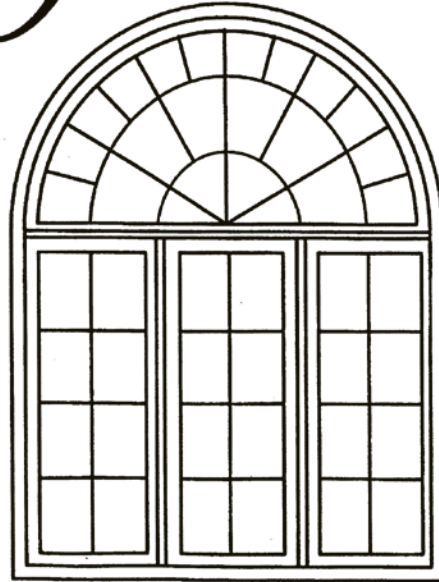
- Penrod - Acacia to Lyndon
- Penrod - Lyndon to Eaton
- Penrod - Chalfonte to Fenkell
- Faust - Lyndon to Eaton
- Greenview - Eaton to Chalfonte
- Artesian - Chalfonte to Fenkell
- Warwick - Fenkell to Keeler
- Grandville - Lyndon to Eaton
- Westwood - Lyndon to Eaton
- Outer Dr. - Midland to Grand River
- Minock - Park to Outer Dr.
- Auburn Park to Outer Dr.
- Auburn - Outer Dr. to Fenkell

## LET'S PLUG THOSE HOLES AND STRENGTHEN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

So, think it over. We are nearing the end of 2012 and looking forward to 2013. If you have never attended, consider coming to our Annual Banquet at the North Rosedale Park Community House on Friday, Jan. 25, 2013 at 6 PM. Our new officers and board members will take their Oaths of Office, but we will socialize in the beginning and then have a great dinner with DJ music in the background. Our board will be sworn in by our neighbor, Judge Gershwin Drain, recently appointed to the U.S. District Court in Detroit, and awards will be given to the blocks shone with beauty over the summer because of the work of residents. Come and see and meet your "colleagues" in your neighborhood of Rosedale Park and see why it is work to get involved, yet very rewarding work.

Call or e-mail anyone on the Block Captain Committee and "put your toe in the water." You do not sign a contract. No one will chain you to a chair. Involvement has its own rewards. You are needed. Being a block captain is an investment - for you, for your block, and for your neighborhood.

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**HOMES FOR SALE IN GRANDMONT ROSEDALE** – If you, or anyone you know, are looking to buy a home in the Grandmont Rosedale area, then be sure to visit our web site, [www.GrandmontRosedale.com](http://www.GrandmontRosedale.com), to see the renovated homes that are available from GRDC. GRDC homes are all move-in ready, with many updated features. Down payment assistance is also available to help buyers reduce their out-of-pocket costs and to make home buying more affordable.



In 2013, GRDC will be receiving a grant from the City of Detroit Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). This grant will enable us to buy and renovate nine more vacant area homes. Eight of the nine homes are being purchased through a cooperative arrangement with the Detroit Land Bank Authority. These long-vacant homes were foreclosed for non-payment of taxes, and will be renovated and ready to purchase this spring and summer. For more information, contact GRDC at 313-387-4732, ext. 100, or [belong@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:belong@grandmontrosedale.com).

**OPPORTUNITY FOR LOW-INCOME 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 and renovation projects in our area.

GRDC utilizes federal funds provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to renovate vacant houses and 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.

Contact GRDC Administrative Assistant Wilsie Calhoun at 313-387-4732, ext. 100, or email [info@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:info@grandmontrosedale.com) for more information.

**NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY MEETING** – After a brief holiday break, the monthly Neighborhood Safety meeting resumes on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 6 PM at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, when GRDC Community Security Program Manager Karen Johnson Moore will give a presentation on the Neighborhood Benefits District (NBD) campaign, a type of Special Assessment District (SAD). Detroit City Councilman James Tate and Karla Henderson, Group Executive for Planning & Facilities from Mayor Bing’s office, will also be participating in the discussion about creating a SAD ordinance that will benefit many neighborhoods in Detroit. SAD Task Force members will also be available to answer questions.

Neighborhood Safety meetings are open to the public. Please join your

neighbors, local law enforcement officials, and guest speakers as we learn and share crime prevention strategies. Every meeting provides important information to help keep us and our neighborhoods safer! For more information, contact Karen Johnson Moore at [kmoore@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:kmoore@grandmontrosedale.com) or 313-387-4732, ext. 110.

**NEW CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATOR** – GRDC’s new AmeriCorps VISTA intern Scott Knoll has begun work as the Crime Prevention Coordinator for GRDC’s Community Safety Program. Originally from Grand Rapids, Knoll recently moved to Detroit following graduation from Grand Valley State University with a major in philosophy and political science. Knoll’s previous experience working with other non-profits will come in handy as he works closely with the Crime Prevention Task Force, the group that plans the monthly Neighborhood Safety meetings and other crime prevention activities. Knoll can be reached at 313-387-4732, ext. 109, or [sknoll@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:sknoll@grandmontrosedale.com). Welcome, Scott!

**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 \$19,484.



Want more information? Contact Cathy Marshall at [cmarshall@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:cmarshall@grandmontrosedale.com) or 313-387-4732, ext. 103.

**HOME REPAIR PROGRAM** – The City of Detroit, through its Planning &

## Neighborhood Action Saves Another Rosedale Park Home, *continued from page 1*

– a dumpster had been placed on the street nearby, waiting to be filled with the Cullors' belongings. Dorothy took immediate action and called another of her residents, Carolyn Akpe, who she knew had participated in the month-long vigil in front of Jennifer's house that prevented the placement of the bailiff's dumpster and ultimately saved Jennifer's home. Carolyn, in turn, knew just what to do about the bailiff's dreaded dumpster: she called Jennifer Britt.

### NEIGHBORS AND ACTIVISTS FIGHT BACK... WITH BAGS OF LEAVES!

Jennifer sprang into action. "I knew I had to return the favor all my neighbors and friends had done for me," as she later explained. "Right away, I began calling people and telling them to get over to the Cullors house to help them."

The bailiff's "wrecking crew" arrived the next day to put the Cullors, their daughter, and Gail's 88 year-old mother out of their home, but they found the job wasn't going to be easy. They faced a growing crowd of energized, lively neighbors and activists, standing guard in front of the Cullors' home. The bailiff and his men also discovered the resourceful crowd had already filled up the dumpster with bags of leaves (that neighbors had put out for collection by DPW), thus rendering it useless in the attempt to unjustly evict the Cullors family. By the time additional dumpsters arrived, an emergency motion had been filed in 36th District Court that temporarily stayed the eviction and provided a few weeks of time to organize a campaign of public protests.

### STEADY PRESSURE PAYS OFF

Over the next five weeks, the Rosedale Park community rallied to the Cullors' support, aided again by the Eviction Defense Committee's coalition of activists from area churches, community groups, Occupy Detroit, UAW Local 600, and other unions. Packing the courtroom in subsequent hearings, flooding the phone lines of Bank of America and Fannie Mae, marching to the local bank branch on Grand River to urge a settlement— these direct actions all paid off when Bank of America finally agreed to buy back the mortgage from Fannie Mae and modify the loan so the Cullors can stay in their home.



*March on Bank of America at Ashton, November 10, 2012.*

Neither the Cullors nor Jennifer Britt went into default of their own choice. Jennifer's husband died and she was laid off at the start of the recession; Jerry Cullors, a retired bakery truck driver, took huge cuts in pay and pension when Wonder Bread went bankrupt. Both families made every effort to find a solution that would keep them in their homes, but it took a community effort and visible, public protests to fend off the evictions and persuade Fannie Mae and the banks to make reasonable accommodations to keep families in their homes.

### SPREAD THE WORD – GET SOME HELP

Neighbors can make a difference when they act together and keep an eye out for each other. If you or someone you know is struggling with mortgage payments or threatened with— or already caught up in— foreclosure proceedings, go to [www.Stepforwardmichigan.org](http://www.Stepforwardmichigan.org) or [www.miforeclosuresresponse.org](http://www.miforeclosuresresponse.org). You can also call the Michigan State Housing Development Authority toll-free at (866) 946-7432 for referrals to non-profit counselors and public programs that can help *before* it comes down to the sheriff's sale and the dumpster in front of the house.

And if the dumpster is already on the way, contact [DetroitEvictionDefense@gmail.com](mailto:DetroitEvictionDefense@gmail.com) for advice and possible assistance in fighting to keep your home. People power gets the job done!

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## Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation, *continued from page 5*

Development Department, provides home repair services under the CDBG Home Repair Program. Utilizing grant funds provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), this program assists homeowners with their home repair needs, including eliminating lead-based paint hazards and addressing structural defects affecting the health and safety of its residents. Additionally, the CDBG Home Repair Program supports the city's efforts to preserve existing housing inventory and stabilize neighborhoods.

City of Detroit residents interested in receiving home repair services are invited to complete the "Home Repair Program Entry Form," which will place your name and information on a waiting list. Names are drawn from this list to receive a CDBG Home Repair Application as targeted areas are identified and home repair funds are available.

The Home Repair Entry Form is available online from the City of Detroit web site. Go to the Planning & Development page and click on the Home Repair Program Information link. Fill out the entry form and email to [HRP@detroitmi.gov](mailto:HRP@detroitmi.gov). To download and complete the form, you will need the latest copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader. For questions, please contact the City of Detroit's Housing Services Division at (313) 224-3461.

Eligible clients must meet the following minimum program requirements:

- Detroit must be your primary residence.
- Your home must be an owner-occupied single family or a duplex housing unit.
- You must not be delinquent on your property taxes.
- You must have current homeowner's insurance.
- The applicant must have owned the home for at least six months and the deed must be in the name of the applicant.
- Other requirements may apply.

- You must meet the income guidelines at 80% area median income (AMI) or below.

1 person	\$36,600
2 people	\$41,800
3 people	\$47,050
4 people	\$52,250
5 people	\$56,450
6 people	\$60,650
7 people	\$64,800
8 people	\$69,000

For additional information regarding the Home Repair Program, please contact:

Housing Services Division  
65 Cadillac Square, Suite 1700  
Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 224-3461  
Hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
(Monday-Friday)

**JOIN THE CRIME ALERT!** Want to know what's going on around you? Join the GRDC Crime Alert system and you'll get email messages to update you.

The GRDC Community Security Program's staff monitors and sends out email crime alerts as reported by community residents about recent suspicious or criminal incidents or activities. Our goal is to provide timely information to residents and when possible and appropriate, to offer crime prevention strategies and reminders that may help keep us safer in the future.

To join the Grandmont Rosedale Crime Alert system, send an e-mail request to [grandmontrosedalecrimealert@googlegroups.com](mailto:grandmontrosedalecrimealert@googlegroups.com). And please share this invitation and e-mail address with other neighbors and friends who also live in the Grandmont Rosedale area.

**NOTE:** This alert system is designed to help increase our awareness for our own personal safety and/or to show possible trends and to help increase the arrest and prosecution rate of criminals. This alert system is not to be used for community announcements about programs or activities, but only for reporting suspicious or criminal

activity or crime prevention tips. We also ask that people not "reply" to any given incident via the system, but instead to direct comments to [info@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:info@grandmontrosedale.com) or call and leave a message at 313-387-4732, ext. 100.

**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's Vacant Property Hotline a call at 313-387-4732, ext. 117, and report the addresses and any other information posted or available. You can also send an email to [vacantproperty@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:vacantproperty@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 Clarenda 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 [info@grandmontrosedale.com](mailto:info@grandmontrosedale.com) and ask to be added to the list.



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

By Chris Remus

On Saturday, December 1st, Rosedale Park Improvement Association and North Rosedale Park Civic Association jointly hosted a Holiday Pancake Breakfast at the North Rosedale Park Community House. It was a terrific neighborhood get-together with a great turnout, with an estimated attendance of around 150 neighbors from the Grandmont Rosedale area, along with one resident from the North Pole.

In addition to a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and scrambled eggs, attendees were treated to music and carols provided by Connie Obelnicki, Deborah Gore, Mary Davis, and Allan Tellis. Josh McCleandon accompanied on the cello and Tom Garrett on the trumpet.

## THE MAN IN THE RED SUIT

The highlight of the morning, as we were all singing “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” was the arrival of Mr. Claus himself, loaded down with gifts for all of the children! This year we had many children who wanted to talk with Santa; it took Santa around an hour to meet with all the boys and girls. Later, I was talking with Santa and I think we both realized that sometimes as adults we just complicate life. Regardless of the amount of texting, Twittering, or social media out there, we must remember the simple magic that the man in the Red Suit brings to children.



*Michelle Breech, Kelyse, and Kelvin (KJ) with Santa.*



*Ever popular -- Rudolph the red nosed reindeer.*



*Girl Scouts Yakia Baldwin, Karrington Eutsey and Hunter Eutsey.*



*You'd better not pout!*



*Connie Obelnicki leading us in song.*



*Chris Remus and Santa.*



**NEIGHBORS PITCH IN TO MAKE A SUCCESS**

The Holiday Pancake Breakfast would not be successful without the help of many volunteers from both Rosedale communities. In addition to those we have already named above, here's a list of other residents who helped out; if you see one of these neighbors, thank them for their contributions:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Silvia Puckett              | Chris & Ruth Remus       |
| Mark & Judy Barkey          | Connie Obelnicki         |
| Chet McLeod                 | Glynn & Dorothy McKnight |
| Jim & Betty Johnson         | Dorothy Roman            |
| Nancy & Dimitris Bitzarakis | Mark Flanders            |
| Carolyn Murphy              | Julie Hacker             |
| Pam Weinstein               | Taft Gaddy               |
| Priscilla McDonald          | Rhonda Pugh              |
| Clarenda Webb               | Earl McCullough          |
| Lavonne Thomas              | Dee Jackson              |
| Phil Schloop                | Betty Redditt            |
| Mindy LePere                | Jim Dwight               |

And a special thanks to Girl Scout Troop #43120 for also helping out.

If you weren't able to attend, make sure to join us next year!



*Waiting to visit with Santa.*



*Santa welcoming the boys and girls.*



*The Community House was festively decorated and bustling with activity!*



*Sausage chefs Phil Schloop and Chet McLeod.*



*Pancake chefs Silvia Puckett and Mark Barkley.*

# RPIA Board Meeting Minutes

## Summaries of RPIA Board Meetings of October 22 and November 19, 2012

Highlights of the October meeting included approval of the September minutes; reports from the Events Committee, the Outreach Committee, and the Code Violations Committee; a brief discussion on the agenda items for the November General Membership Meeting; a review of upcoming meeting dates; an update on the community of Redford's look at Rosedale's history; and a review of the current financials.

Highlights of the November meeting included a discussion on archiving RPIA documentation; approving the RPIA liaison with GRDC; approving the appointment of Rhonda Pugh to the board prior to January 2013; reports from the Finance Committee and the Events Committee; and a review of the upcoming meeting dates.

For a listing of these minutes in detail, you can find a complete copy on the RPIA website at [www.rosedalepark.org](http://www.rosedalepark.org).



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# RPIA General Membership Meeting Minutes

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## November 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by RPIA Board President, Mary McLeod.

Mary extended a welcome to all block captains and allowed those candidates running on the 2013 RPIA Board slate to introduce themselves.

The membership was told of the passing of Mr. William Brown and provided information on the upcoming home going service arrangements. Ms. Kathy Roland from radio patrol was in attendance and encouraged members to continue to volunteer to keep radio patrol operating as it has before.

### **DTE EXTENDED AN APOLOGY TO THE RPIA COMMUNITY**

A representative from DTE attended the meeting to deliver an apology from his company for the recent misunderstanding which led to RPIA being listed as an organization supporting a NO vote on Proposal 3. RPIA's bylaws preclude the organization from engaging in political endorsement of any kind.

### **ROSEDALE RECYCLES**

Karen Moore and Mary Ratkowski spoke about the long tenure that Rosedale Recycles has been in operation within the Rosedale community. It has been 272 months and counting. They shared stories of how everyone has been recycling in some form or another since they were younger. Examples included reusing bread bags for wrapping school lunches. Recycling is the most effective way to keep landfills from becoming too full.

The ladies shared the importance of November being America Recycles Day and the city of Detroit promoting recycling during this week with a 'Keep Detroit Beautiful' campaign. More details can be found on the city of Detroit website. Other important recycling news included curbside recycling beginning for the residents south of Fenkell. This is expected to occur before the end of 2012. Rosedale Recycles will continue to operate at the location at Christ the King on Grand River accepting all recyclable items including those items not acceptable with the curbside recycling program. Examples of acceptable and non-acceptable items were on display for residents to understand the recycling program.

### **TREE PLANTING**

Pam Weinstein shared information on the upcoming tree planting efforts in Rosedale scheduled for March 2013. For those residents interested in having a tree planted in front of their home they should contact Pam directly to get on the list. RPIA will be working with the Greening of Detroit to get at least 10 households to participate. Those participating must commit to maintaining the care of the tree and supplying two volunteers to assist in the tree planting on their scheduled day.

### **HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE**

Representatives from Occupy Detroit were on hand with residents who recently had trouble in saving their home from foreclosure. The residents shared their stories in how Occupy Detroit has provided assistance and how encouraged they were in receiving the large show of support from the Rosedale community. Before Occupy Detroit got involved, residents attempted to save their homes in negotiations with their mortgage company to no avail. Occupy Detroit works with the community and the mortgage companies in securing a situation where the residents can remain in their homes and work to ultimately own their homes. Upon the success of Occupy Detroit, more residents in need of assistance have been uncovered.

Occupy Detroit commends the community for coming together to help its neighbors in need that are struggling to keep their homes. The government agencies are bailing out the banks, so we as a community have to stick together and place pressure on the banks and mortgage companies to work with residents that want to save their homes. Literature was provided with information of who to call to get assistance in saving their homes. Residents were encouraged to sign a list to join a Network of Detroit Eviction Defense to help or receive help in efforts to save homes for deserving families.

### **RPIA BOARD ELECTION RESULTS**

Mary announced the election results and welcomed the newly elected board members. The new 2013 RPIA President will be Stacy Pugh with 1st Vice President as Stephanie Young. Pam Weinstein will be stepping into a full board member position, joined by newly elected board members Dorothy Roman, Rhonda Pugh, Jim Dwight, Edmon Carmichael, and Dale Cathey.

Residents were encouraged to attend the upcoming RPIA Banquet where the new board will be officially sworn in on January 25, 2013 at the North Rosedale Community House from 6pm-9pm. Tickets will be \$20 each and can be purchased through any RPIA Board member and will be available at the upcoming Rosedale Pancake Breakfast held in conjunction with North Rosedale Park on December 1st at 9am at the North Rosedale Community House. Tickets for the Pancake Breakfast are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children.

### **DETROIT AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

Board member Stephanie Young shared information on the need for volunteers in passing out meals to seniors in need during the holiday season. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Stephanie Young for details.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.  
Minutes submitted by Priscilla McDonald, RPIA Administrative Secretary.





## Little League Sign-Up Coming Soon!

Calling all boys and girls! It's time to sign up for Rosedale-Grandmont Little League. Open to kids ages 4-16, this neighborhood instructional league has teams in several divisions, including t-ball, coach pitch, junior baseball and junior softball, senior baseball and senior softball.

To sign up, come to the GRDC office at 19800 Grand River (just east of Evergreen) to fill out an application and pay your fees. Here are the dates and times for signing up:

- Saturday, Feb. 23 from 9 AM – 12 PM
- Saturday, March 9 from 9 AM – 12 PM

You can also download an application form from the GRDC web site at [www.grandmontrosedale.com](http://www.grandmontrosedale.com) and mail it in, along with your check or money order. For more information, send an e-mail to [rglittleleague@aol.com](mailto:rglittleleague@aol.com).

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## Make Your Home More Comfortable!

Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation (GRDC) is partnering with BetterBuildings for Michigan to offer a low-cost Energy Audit for residents of the City of Detroit. This audit could save you hundreds of dollars on your energy bills. A similar program was offered to 480 Rosedale Park residents in early 2011, and nearly 100 residents participated!

For \$100, 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://www.mihomeenergy.org/> or call Kendal Conerly at 313-566-4801, ext .721 for details.

**Be sure to tell them GRDC referred you!**



## A Community Resident Speaks Out

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down with Mary McLeod, RPIA President, to talk about Rosedale Park and the concerns regarding Rosedale Park.

What I thought was going to be a brief discussion turned into an hour-long talk. I learned a few things about Rosedale Park, which hopefully will be helpful. Hopefully, I can become more active and do more. I am writing this letter, which might be a start in the right direction. I'm interested in Rosedale Park; however, some of my actions haven't been in that direction.

I really wanted to thank Mary for taking the time to meet with me. It was quite helpful. While I'm on the soapbox, let me say a couple other things. Residents, do more in your community. Try to become more involved. The more you are involved, the better the community will be. Help support our local businesses; stop running to the suburbs all the time. If the businesses feel needed, they might stay. If you don't like some of the things they are doing, tell them, in person. Who knows – maybe they will or can change a bit.

Finally, this is a great community. Let's keep it that way. It will take an effort by you.

– Burt Carp, Artesian resident for 30+ years.

## A Local Hero for Our Times

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Read below the inspiring story of one neighbor springing into action to help another. Piedmont residents Marge Goddard and Jarvis Woods live between Fenkell and Grand River but on different blocks; the two had never met or even seen each other before the frightening events recounted below. You never know when you will need help or be called upon to provide it.*

On Wednesday, September 5, 2012, a beautiful warm day, my dog Ginger and I were returning home after enjoying a long walk. We were crossing Keeler to go in my back gate, and there was not a soul in sight. Out of the blue a large pit bull jumped over a cyclone fence and came at us like a bullet. He knocked me flat on my back on the street and then went for Ginger. My last thought was, "This is how we're going to die." We were both traumatized.

That's when my guardian angel sent a truly courageous hero. With no thought for his own safety, a brave man, who I would later learn is Jarvis Woods, ran up with a cane and the attacking dog ran back and jumped the fence back into his own yard. Jarvis helped us up and escorted us across my back yard to the house. He called police, an ambulance, and took photos on his cell phone. This man is my hero - a man who "stepped up!"



– Marge Goddard  
Piedmont resident

Piedmont neighbors Marge Goddard  
and Jarvis Woods.

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AD TYPE	COST/ISSUE
Business card	\$24
Quarter page	\$60
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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Theresa Taylor, Instructor  
TTaylorFitness@yahoo.com  
313.204.9400

\*Zumba Gold is the fitness party for the active older adult and beginner participant.

\*\* If registered by Mon Jan 7<sup>th</sup>

Prorate after Mon Jan 7<sup>th</sup>

Class dates are subject to change

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[www.rosedalepark.org](http://www.rosedalepark.org)

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## Rosedale Park News

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## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

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

Fri., Jan. 25 ..... RPIA Annual Banquet,  
6 PM-9 PM  
at North Rosedale Park  
Community House  
18445 Scarsdale, off Bretton Drive  
at Glastonbury

### FEBRUARY

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

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

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

**ROSEDALE PARK  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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