



Rosedale Park News

Serving a Friendly Neighborhood

Volume LXX • Number 6

Rosedale Park • Detroit, Michigan 48223

November/December 2012

www.rosedalepark.org

RPIA Board Slate of Nominees

At the RPIA General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, all dues-paying RPIA members will have the opportunity to vote for the team of Rosedale Park leaders who will be sworn in at the Annual Meeting in January 2013. The following is a list of the nominees.

Board member Debbie Gore continues to serve through 2013. The positions of Second Vice President and Treasurer remain vacant as well as three additional Board positions. If you are interested in serving your community in this capacity, please contact current Board President Mary McLeod at (313) 272-1704 or marytmcleod@aol.com.

President	Stacy Pugh
First Vice President	Stephanie Young
Second Vice President	(Vacant)
Treasurer	(Vacant)
Board Members	Edmon Carmichael
	Dale Cathey
	Jim Dwight
	Rhonda Pugh
	Dorothy Roman
	Pam Weinstein

All Rosedale and North Rosedale Parks Residents are Invited to Our Annual HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

Saturday, December 1st, 2012
(Serving breakfast from 9 – 11 AM)

North Rosedale Park Community House
18445 Scarsdale,
off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury

Hosted by Rosedale and North Rosedale Parks

This will be a great opportunity to meet and greet your neighbors and mingle with old friends.

Cost: \$4/ adult; \$3/ children (under 12)

Santa will be arriving between 10 and 10:30 AM!



IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Block Captains' Corner	3
GRDC Update	5
Tree Plantings in the Park	6
United States Postal Service Statement	7
Board Meeting Summary	8
General Membership Meeting Minutes	9
Statements of the 2013 RPIA Board Nominees... ..	10
Chili Cook-Off	12
Rosedale Resident Fights Eviction	14
RPIA Contact List	15
Calendar of Events	15

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 13 at 7 PM
North Rosedale Park Community House
18445 Scarsdale
(off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury)

General Elections

All Residents Welcome!



President's Message

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – ELECTING NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

On Tuesday, November 13, we will gather at 7 PM at the North Rosedale Park Community House for the RPIA General Membership

Meeting. This is the meeting where we elect new officers and board members who will begin their terms of office in January 2013. This is one of many opportunities to contribute to the health and beauty of our neighborhood. Please consider nominating yourself for one of the still-open spaces on the Board; don't wait for someone else to do it. While I have served on this board, I have gained a heightened respect for my neighbors and a greater appreciation of the many assets that make Rosedale Park a desirable place to live. I have also become better informed about what is going on in the City of Detroit and our section of it, in particular. You would certainly find it to be time well invested in serving your community.

FIND YOUR OWN WAY TO CONTRIBUTE

Our neighborhood is very dependent upon the volunteer hours of residents committed to maintaining and improving the space in which we live. It is easy to do your part. You don't have to be on the board. You can keep an eye out for your neighbors, exchange phone numbers and work schedules, and pay attention to anything out of the ordinary on your block. You can commit to assisting--or being--your block's captain. Join the Radio Patrol or the Code Enforcement Committee. All of the RPIA events, such as the Holiday Breakfast, Annual Banquet, Easter Egg Hunt, and June Picnic, need persons to be involved in planning and follow-through. The Rosedale Park soccer and baseball leagues are eager to have coaches and supporters for their wonderful youth sports activities. If you don't know where to start or who to call, contact any Board member (*contact*

information is published in every issue of our newsletter), or call the hotline at 313-927-1089. While you are at it, sign up for the Rosedale Park e-Blast, which will put lots of timely information in your inbox every Sunday. Just send an e-mail to RPIAblast@gmail.com.

PRESENTATION BY DETROIT WORKS LONG TERM PLANNING

The RPIA Board attempts to provide information and resources of interest to all through presentations at our General Membership Meetings. In addition to the general election at this month's meeting, the agenda includes a presentation by Detroit Works Long Term Planning. Their efforts to develop an integrated plan for moving Detroit forward is coming to a conclusion. As part of their work they have made every effort to include the community in discussions and reviews of each step. This presentation will bring you up to date on what is happening and will allow for questions of the presenter. Take this opportunity to look at the options and to become better informed about what could be possible in the coming years in our city. Come out and join your neighbors and let your voices be heard!

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST ON THE WAY

As the holidays approach, be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Rosedale Park Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, December 1. I promise there will be good food, lots of lively conversation, music and merriment and a visit from Mr. Claus. Rosedale Park and North Rosedale Park are co-sponsors of this celebration, always a great family event. While you have your calendars out, note that January 25, 2013 is the date for our Annual Banquet at the North Rosedale Park Community House at 6 PM.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday season and a new year filled with hope and promise.

Mary

Mary McLeod, President
Rosedale Park Improvement Association



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Block Captains' Corner

By Deborah LaViolette

“For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people’s love and concern for each other.”

— Millard Fuller

Greetings, Rosedale Park residents! I have enjoyed living in and being a part of the Rosedale Park community, riding and walking throughout the neighborhood looking at the beautiful custom homes with tree-lined streets, islands, and parks. I purchased my home in June 2010 and officially moved into my lovely home in November 2010. I will always be grateful to Glynn and Dorothy McKnight for their warm welcome, kindness, and friendship. I especially thank Dorothy for her loving heart and smile. Neighbors like the McKnights make our neighborhood stronger and better. I also appreciated the “New Neighbor Welcome Packet” Dorothy gave me, filled with a wealth of knowledge about the community. The packet was extremely valuable, answering many of my questions, providing some “Do’s and Don’ts,” a history of the neighborhood, and what was expected of me as a neighbor. I encourage all new and old neighbors to read their packets. You contact New Neighbor Kit Coordinator Bill Nolan for a copy (313-838-9035 or sweetgrass 59011@gmail.com).

ROSEDALE PARK: A GREAT PLACE!

Despite some the challenges we face in the city, Rosedale

Park is a wonderful neighborhood in which to live, work, and play. I’m thankful to live in a community that has churches, banks, restaurants, medical and dental offices, and a variety of other businesses that we can drive or walk to and from. The parks are

beautiful, clean, and safe, offering a variety of family programs. Our churches have programs and activities and are involved in the communities. We are so fortunate to have organizations, churches and businesses that

support and care about our community and our future.

**BLOCK CAPTAINS’
QUARTERLY MEETING**

Sunday, November 4, 4-6 PM
at the GRDC Office, 19800 Grand River

Delicious refreshments provided, as always!

STRONG ORGANIZATIONS

We are one of the few neighborhoods in the city and suburbs that have strong, committed organizations like RPIA and Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation, with support from the Detroit Police Department’s 6th and 8th Precincts, which represent and protect our communities. They’re our liaisons to city and state officials and other organizations that assist us in improving and maintaining our communities, keeping us updated through meetings, eBlasts, and newsletters. I encourage all of you to support these organizations and to attend their meetings. Your participation gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion, share your ideas, and show that you care about your community. I have learned so much from the meetings and programs I have attended. We must work collectively to build and maintain our community.

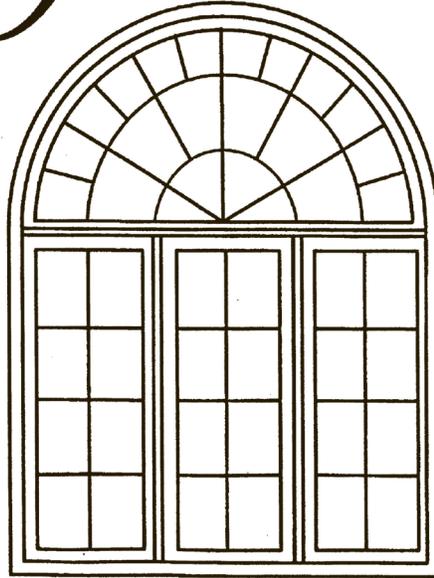
News About Your Neighbors

Carolyn Akpe (Artesian) wrote to us about her neighbor Ben Wright’s YouTube webseries about life as a student at Eastern Michigan University. The series is called “Friends, Freaks & Fakes,” and its first season can be viewed at www.youtube.com/actorthebenman. Ben is the son of Drs. Michael and Conja Wright (also of Artesian). He has written, acted in, and produced plays for neighborhood block parties and appeared in a production of “Eat Like a Child” at the Community House. We wish Ben success in his budding career and congratulate him. Please visit <http://www.easternecho.com/article/2012/10/emu-student-directed-youtube-webseries-returns-for-second-season> for the full article on his series.



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HOME BUYER WORKSHOP ON

NOV. 14 – Find out all you need to know about buying a home in the Grandmont Rosedale area at this informative workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 PM at the GRDC office, 19800 Grand River. Come learn about opportunities to purchase a fully-renovated, move-in ready home from GRDC. Special mortgage financing and down-payment assistance programs are available to make home ownership achievable and affordable.

Representatives from GRDC, Grandmont Rosedale Lending Solutions, and Robinson Realty Group will be on hand to answer all of your home-buying questions. To reserve your spot, contact Tom Goddeeris at 313-387-4732, ext. 111 or tgoddeeris@grandmontrosedale.com.

NEW PROGRAM COULD HELP SAVE YOUR HOME – Grandmont Rosedale Lending Solutions is offering an innovative new program designed to help families facing foreclosure stay in their homes and reduce their monthly house payments. This program is modeled after a successful initiative now underway in Boston, Massachusetts that has already helped 300 families. Under this program, Southwest Housing Solutions, a local non-profit organization, could purchase your home on a “short-sale” approved by your lender and then sell the home back to you at its current market value.

To find out more about this program and whether it could help you save your home, attend an informational workshop on Tuesday, November 13, at 6:30 PM at the GRDC office, 19800 Grand River. For more information and to reserve your place at the workshop, contact Rosemarie DiRita

at 313-600-4180 or rdirita@swol.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY MEETING ON NOV. 29 – The monthly Neighborhood Safety meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 6 PM at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, between Glastonbury and Avon.

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 or 313-387-4732, ext. 110.

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. 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 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 Vacant Property Intern Braden Latham-Jones a call at 313-387-4732, ext. 117, and report the addresses and as much other information posted or available to him (or send an email to blathamjones@grandmontrosedale.com).

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

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

GET THE GRDC E-MAIL BLAST! – GRDC sends out a regular weekly electronic newsletter, to let everybody know what’s going on in our neighborhood. Don’t miss out on the latest! If you want to know what’s happening, send us your e-mail address. We’ll add you to our electronic mailing list and send you information of interest to the neighborhood. Send an e-mail to tmccrory@grandmontrosedale.com and ask to be added to the list.

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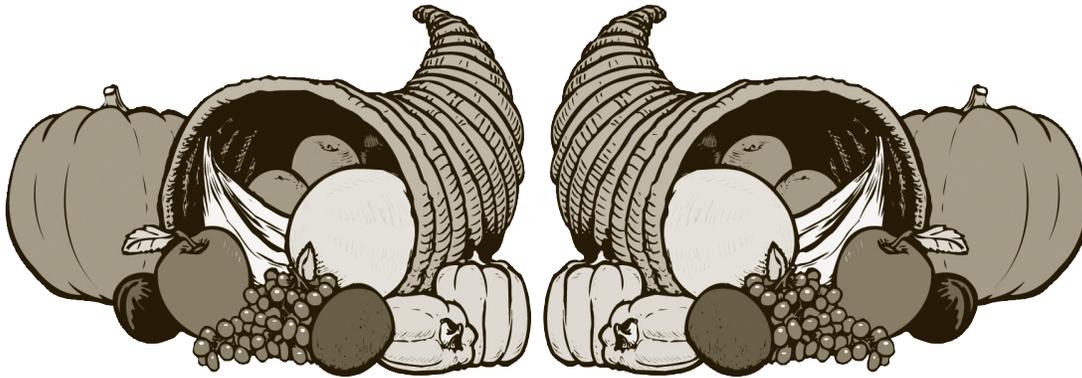
RPIA Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of RPIA Board Meeting of September 24th, 2012

Highlights of the September RPIA Board Meeting included a review of the current financials; a report from the Events, Outreach, and Vacant Housing Committees; a brief discussion on the Quality of Life Plan for the Grandmont Rosedale area, a review of the candidates for the 2013 RPIA Board; agenda items for the November

General Membership Meeting; ideas for a Neighborhood Beautification Award; and discussions on the past City Under Siege and Security Meetings.

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



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RPIA General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by RPIA Board President Mary McLeod.

Mary began the meeting by acknowledging current RPIA board members and block captains in attendance.

Vista Maria Foster Care Awareness

Vicki Taylor from Vista Maria explained the volunteer opportunities available at Vista Maria. Vista Maria is an organization that serves the needs of at-risk children right in our community. This is done through various in-patient and outpatient treatment programs and foster care. Ms. Taylor was accompanied by a foster parent who shared her rewarding experience in fostering children through Vista Maria. The need for foster parenting is great and even greater within the teenage group. There is a lot of support in caring for teenage children. There is no age limit to fostering; and your status could be married or single. If fostering is not an option, there is also a need for mentors and volunteers at Vista Maria. Ms. Taylor was on hand for questions and provided supportive information to those interested.

DTE: Conserving Energy and Saving Money

DTE's purpose in attending the meeting was to continue the partnership they have established within our community. DTE provided those in attendance with energy saving pamphlets, trinkets and information on setting up free home energy audits. DTE provides an e-newsletter and encouraged members to sign up to receive it.

Jason Kupser from the Marketing Dept. at DTE gave a presentation on why energy efficiency is important to the consumer, to DTE, and the community. The main reason is to save money both personally and for the local economy. These savings are poured back into local communities and help in creating new jobs. Mr. Kupser provided tips for consumers in picking appropriate products for energy efficiency and the environment. Additional reasons to save energy would be for safety and comfort. Mr. Kupser detailed how heat travels throughout a house. He detailed the three major ways to tackle insulation issues in order of priority: seal air leaks, insulate, and upgrade windows. DTE offers a free home energy consultation program to residents to assist with energy efficiency. After DTE performs an energy audit on a home, they offer rebates for wall, ceiling, crawl space insulation, windows, and air sealing work done as a result of a need found during the audit.

Environmental Agenda and Survey

Margaret Weber provided an environmental survey and encouraged residents to fill it out and return it at the meeting. City officials are seeking input from residents on the impact of the environment on our quality of life.

Currently, residents that live north of Fenkell are participating in the pilot curbside recycling program. Margaret provided brochures and refrigerator magnets that detailed the current changes to the program that included the collection of glass (brown, green, and clear), septic containers (milk and juice containers), and clean pizza boxes that are not loaded with grease. Plastic bags will no longer be collected; bags can still be brought to Christ the King every third Saturday during Rosedale Recycles days. Rosedale Recycles is still pushing to get the curbside recycling effort to the residents south of Fenkell, so stay tuned.

Neighborhood Benefits District

Stacy Pugh provided an explanation and update on the special assessment district initiative. This is a coalition of representatives from the five communities in the Grandmont Rosedale area (Rosedale, North Rosedale, Grandmont, Grandmont 1 and Minock Park) working to help the city in determining the services that are actually needed in our community. The main purpose of the neighborhood benefits district (NBD) is in being proactive in crime prevention and improving the quality of life for city residents.

The NBD committee is spear heading an effort to have a small fee assessed to property owners specifically to pay for services like snow removal, security and mosquito abatement. The main advantage is to provide a consistent and sustainable funding source for key services to improve the quality of life for residents. This is not an effort to replace what is already in place to aid residents, but to expand and improve upon what services we have and give residents access to services that are not available but found to be a need.

The coalition is in the process of working with lawyers who have volunteered their time to put together an ordinance to present to the city council for approval. Financial budgeting to carry out the needed services will accompany this and then residential voting on the ordinance will commence. This process could take up to 18 months for completion.

GRDC Community Updates

Tom Goddeeris provided a brief update on the building sustainable communities program, current GRDC programs, and the Detroit Works project.

The building sustainable communities program has developed a quality of life plan addressing neighborhood stabilization, community security, commercial revitalization, beautification and place making, youth development, and community engagement.

GRDC programs mirror the efforts outlined in the building sustainable communities program. They are working in conjunction with the neighborhood benefits district committee and the Northwest Detroit Farmer's Market. They are also beginning work on an online business directory, and developing a web portal that combines all of the information on all neighborhoods within the Grandmont Rosedale area. The main effort of GRDC is in vacant house rehab and Tom provided a statistical update on the houses that have been rehabbed, sold and the funding efforts to accommodate this project.

The Detroit Works Project looks at strategies for improving Detroit for the long haul. These strategies include housing, employment, proper use of environmental systems, and city services. They are in the final stages of information gathering from the community meetings before releasing a final document detailing the meetings.

Announcements – Wrap Up

Mary read the slate of officers that will be running for board election at the next general membership meeting on November 13th. A complete list will be published in the RPIA News for review. All residents were encouraged to come out to take part in the elections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Next meeting scheduled for November 13th.

Minutes submitted by Priscilla McDonald, RPIA Administrative Secretary

Statements of the 2013 Nominees

STACY L. PUGH has been nominated for the position of President.

I have been a resident of Rosedale Park since 2004. Since then, I have been involved with Radio Patrol, clean-up and enhancement efforts at Flintstone Park, have co-chaired the Neighborhood Benefits District coalition, and have been a dedicated board member and Second Vice President of RPIA. I have a 6-year-old son, Mekhi. I am a program manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, working with Health and Human Services to implement Health Care Reform compliance efforts within Blue Cross. I have an MBA from the University of Detroit and have been a compliance consultant for over 15 years. I look forward to serving as RPIA President in the upcoming term to continue to make Rosedale Park a great place to live.

STEPHANIE YOUNG has been nominated for the position of First Vice President.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on RPIA's board this past year. As a relatively new resident, having moved here in 2009, I have seen firsthand the hard work and dedication of the RPIA board and would be honored to continue serving with a group that seeks out opportunities to improve our community and then finds a way to turn those opportunities into realities. I stand ready and willing to do my part. With the support of our neighbors, Rosedale Park will continue to be one of Detroit's premier communities. As we say around here, "City living is great. It's best in Rosedale Park!"

EDMON CARMICHAEL has been nominated for the position of Board Member.

My family and I are 40-plus year residents of Detroit, with 25 of those in Rosedale Park. I am honored to be considered for a position on the RPIA board. I am a retired Engineer. I have served as Block Captain and co-Captain for the past 15 years. I am currently an active member of the Rosedale Park Radio Patrol. As a home owner in the park I have a vested interest in working to revitalize our community, in particular, and the city of Detroit, in general. Since we arrived in the community in 1987 we have been actively involved in every aspect of community activities, from youth programs, such as soccer and soft ball, to our annual picnic. I am committed to improving our neighborhood and community at large.

DALE CATHEY has been nominated for the position of Board Member.

I have been a Rosedale Park resident for 24 years. My late wife Carolyn and I fell in love with this community about 28 years ago as we surveyed various Detroit communities in search of our first home. As we drove block after block through North Rosedale, Rosedale Park and the two Grandmonts, the true sense of community that resonated resulted in our decision to make one of these communities

our home. We found our home in Rosedale Park and have never regretted it.

In my time in Rosedale Park I've taken part in numerous community undertakings such as the annual park cleanups, park renovations, coaching in our community sports leagues for 19 years and vacant home and island maintenance. My late wife Carolyn and I were together for 34 years until she succumbed to colon cancer in November 2011. Our son Brandon is a 2004 Cass Tech grad and has returned to Detroit after spending time in Baton Rouge, LA and Orlando, FL. I hope to gain a greater knowledge of the challenges facing our community and help promote the collaborative effort needed to meet those challenges to continue to make this community the best Detroit has to offer.

There is no place like home...and home for me is Rosedale Park.

JIM DWIGHT has been nominated for the position of Board Member.

In 1976, I moved to Detroit to find fame and fortune – I found neither. What I did find was a city filled with amazing people.

I met my wife, Pam Weinstein, in 1980 at the Traffic Jam Restaurant; we married in 1981, and by 1984 we had settled in Rosedale Park. Our two sons, Charlie and Robbie, attended the Detroit Open School and later both graduated from University of Detroit Jesuit high school. I also have a 39-year-old daughter, Erin, who lives in Kalamazoo.

When my sons were little, I served on the boards of the Rosedale Soccer League and the Youth Basketball League. For 19 years I have also been a board member and T-ball division coordinator of the Rosedale Grandmont Little League. I'm passionate about urban gardening and am a volunteer with the Grandmont Rosedale Community Garden and the Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market.

My goal since retiring in September (26 years as a copy editor with the Detroit Free Press) is to make Detroit, and the world, a better place.

RHONDA PUGH has been nominated for the position of Board Member.

I have been a resident of Rosedale Park since 1990. Since then, I have been involved with parks clean-island beautification, RPIA parades, and served as RPIA Treasurer and block captain. I raised my daughter, Celeste, in Rosedale Park. I am a vice president of a local bank. I've worked with the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development for many years. I'm an active and involved lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). I have served as the liaison for the Corporate Sponsor in 2006 for the Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner. I also served as the co-chair in 2007 for the Historical Committee during the 98th NAACP National Convention

held in Detroit, Michigan. In 2010, I was honored as a Phenomenal Woman of Excellence by the Michigan Chronicle. I've served as the co-chair for the 57th Annual Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner as the NAACP Detroit Branch celebrated 100 years. I've earned an Associate's degree in General Studies with a major in Accounting from Oakland County Community College. I've also obtained the Series 7 & 63 licenses (trading stocks on the stock market) and a Life & Annuity Insurance license, while working for Merrill Lynch. I've worked for American Express Financial Services. My duties included being a Financial Planner. I've also obtained my Mortgage License.

DOROTHY ROMAN has been nominated for the position of Board Member.

I am running for this position because Rosedale Park and the City of Detroit are both very close to my heart. I was born and raised in Detroit and I have been a resident of Rosedale Park for 24 years. I have served as the RP NEWS's Advertising Coordinator for over 5 years. I have served as Block Captain for most of the 24 years I have been in the Park, and have worked with the Radio Patrol as Corresponding Secretary for the past 5 years, as well as a patroller. I am currently helping on the vacant house committee.

I feel that all residents of this city or whatever community they reside in should be committed to that city and community. If we don't fight for what we believe we deserve as residents of Detroit and Rosedale Park then we have no right to complain about the state of the city or our beautiful community.

We each must pick our battles and mine is to fight by serving my community in whatever capacity I am able. This service includes involvement. This is my way of sticking it out for the long haul with all the energy I have to see our community sustained as one of the quality places to live in the city and that one day it will be said that Rosedale Park is one of the premium communities to live in, in the state. I intend to be around to see that and will work to help to get it to that point.

If elected, I will serve with the same vehemence, energy and involvement that I have put into any project I have committed myself to.

PAM WEINSTEIN has been nominated for the position of Board Member.

I moved to Rosedale Park in 1984 and fell in love with the neighborhood right away. The beautiful homes, the tall stately trees lining the streets, the warm and wonderful neighbors – I have always felt so lucky to live in Rosedale Park!

My husband and I raised our two sons in Rosedale, and I've worked for Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation since 2001, a job that has allowed me to serve my neighborhood and my community in a variety of ways. I have previously served on the RPIA board, as editor of the newsletter, and as an officer. In 2013, I would like to focus on recruiting more block captains so that every block will have a representative.



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Chili Cook-Off: Friendly Neighborhood Competition

By Mary McLeod, RPIA President

Another successful community event took place on Saturday, October 6, 2012 at the North Rosedale Park Community House. The Second Annual North Rosedale Park Chili Cook-Off invited cooks from all adjoining communities to engage in a friendly competition for best neighborhood chili. Twelve cooks participated, including two Rosedale Park Board members. A wide variety of options, including Rattlesnake Chili, Vegetarian Three-Bean Chili, White Chicken Chili, and several more traditional styles made the judging very challenging. Three local "power" couples served on the panel of judges -- Gershwin and Meredith Drain, Burton and Roseanne Leland, and James and Nutrena Tate. They were served a "taster"-serving of all of the offerings. Prizes were awarded based on 75% of judges' scoring and 25% of "people's choice" scoring. Judges were told that they should vote for the chili based on the following

major considerations: good chili flavor, texture of the meat, consistency, blend of spices, aroma, and color.

Anyone who was interested was also given the opportunity to taste and judge the chili (the "people's choice"). For \$1 one could purchase tickets for three tastings which meant that you could taste all twelve for the low price of \$4! There was a steady flow of people of all ages enjoying the warm food and fellowship throughout the afternoon. Hungry soccer kids and their moms and dads joined in after their games. It was truly a celebration of community!

(As a footnote, the current RPIA President received the second place award, thereby upholding the reputation of Rosedale Park! The first place prize went to long-time Grandmont #1 resident Sylvia Perry.)

All photos credit to Richard M. Castillo/www.RichCreative.net.



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!

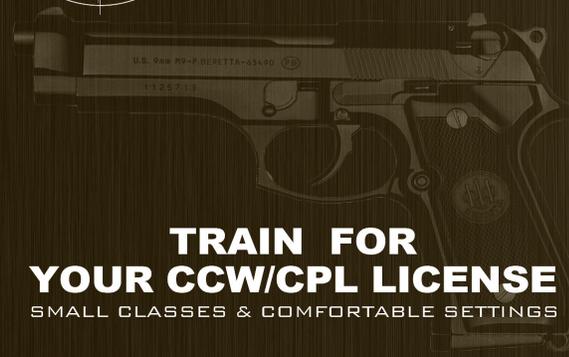


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For more information and to place an ad, please contact Advertising Coordinator Kevin Cosey at 313-570-2673 or kevcozy@aol.com.

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.*

With a little help from her friends

Rosedale Resident Fights Eviction, Saves Her Home

By Steve Babson, Detroit Eviction Defense

It wasn't at all what you'd expect of another court-ordered foreclosure and eviction. No frantic scurrying to salvage belongings, no carpenter waiting to board up the windows with plywood, no fearful children watching in numb bewilderment, no court bailiff directing the removal of furniture to a curbside dumpster. In fact, there was no dumpster in front of the corner house on Warwick and Midland.

Instead, there was a crowd of neighbors, friends, and supporters, gathered on the lawn and street. Some were drinking coffee as the sun rose in the summer sky, some were sitting or standing in small groups talking—and laughing. And some were standing at nearby Grand River Avenue with signs asking drivers to “HONK IF YOU OPPOSE FORECLOSURES.” A ragged chorus of car horns filled the air.

There would be no eviction because these people had announced that many among them were prepared to peacefully prevent the placing of a dumpster in front of the home of longtime Rosedale Park resident Jennifer Britt. So long as they occupied the street, the dreaded dumpster could not be deployed and another unjust eviction would be stopped before it started.

Their vigil lasted over a month, dawn-to-dusk every weekday, interspersed with rallies, barbecues, driveway meetings, and the occasional visit from Fox News and the *Metro Times*.

This remarkable turn of events would have been hard for Britt to imagine six years ago, when her husband Leon died and the mortgage first went into default. She used his life insurance settlement to make the loan current, but two years later she was laid off, right at the start of the Great Recession.

Britt kept paying the mortgage out of savings and asked Flagstar Bank for help with a loan modification. Instead, the bank *raised* her monthly payment after 2006, eventually taking \$46,000 from Britt and forcing her into foreclosure. She depleted her life savings on the hope that Flagstar would reconsider a modification, but the bank had no interest in modifying the loan.



Jennifer with Local 600 officers.

Unknown to Britt, Flagstar had already sold her mortgage at full value to Fannie Mae, the now-insolvent mortgage banker taken over by the federal government in 2008. Flagstar was just a servicer, collecting a handsome fee for sending Britt's payments along to Fannie, which owns or guarantees nearly half of all single-family mortgages in the United States.

As a matter of policy, Fannie Mae sells foreclosed homes to investors at less than market value, but won't write down mortgage principal to keep people in their homes. Even after Britt found new employment and offered to buy her house back at market value, Fannie Mae refused and got an eviction order.

Unlike the many homeowners who feel shamed by their circumstances and alone in their peril, Jennifer Britt was determined to save her home and find friends who would help her. She started by going to a free legal clinic organized by the Eviction Defense Committee of Occupy Detroit. There she found activists and homeowners fighting unjust evictions with a combination of courtroom strategies and peaceful direct action. Neighborhood canvassing and rallies at Britt's home built a network of supporters, while informational picketing of Flagstar Bank and the Federal Building drew allies from the 99%.

The day of the scheduled eviction, more than 100 supporters kicked off the month-long vigil, protecting Britt's home in rotating shifts. Spurred by this public protest, the offices of Senators Stabenow and Levin began pressuring Fannie Mae to do the right thing.

And that's what finally happened. The details are confidential, but the bottom line is that Britt may soon be able to purchase her home under a 30-year mortgage from the Opportunity Resource Fund, a non-profit housing agency.

Any homeowner interested in resisting an unjust eviction is invited to email DetroitEvictionDefense@gmail.com and ask for information about free legal clinics and upcoming meetings.

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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 13 RPIA General Membership
Meeting, 7 PM
North Rosedale Park
Community House
18445 Scarsdale,
off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury

Sat., Nov. 17 Rosedale Recycles, 10 AM-2 PM,
18605 Pierson

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 1 Holiday Pancake Breakfast, 9 AM
North Rosedale Park
Community House
18445 Scarsdale,
off Bretton Drive at Glastonbury

Sat., Dec. 1 Advertising deadline for
Jan./Feb. issue of *RP NEWS*

Mon., Dec. 10 Article submission deadline for
Jan./Feb. issue of *RP NEWS*

Sat., Dec. 15 Rosedale Recycles 10 AM-2 PM,
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