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The Grand Opening of the GRANDpark(let) and a Shop Small in GRANDmont Rosedale – Spring Edition

It was a beautiful day in Grandmont Rosedale, and a beautiful way to celebrate community. In early May, GRDC, along with the Project 561, the City of Detroit Planning Department, and several resident volunteers created Grandmont Rosedale’s first pop-up park, the GRANDpark(let). The park featured outdoor seating, art installations, plantings, and, for its Grand Opening, food trucks and music. The park(let) was also the centerpiece of the Shop Small in GRANDmont Rosedale – Spring Edition, a day that encouraged shoppers to support local businesses by offering specials and in-store events. The park(let) remained for 6 weeks as a way to introduce a more pedestrian-friendly outdoor space in Grandmont Rosedale. This temporary plaza involved closing two streets to all non-residents of those streets, and provided an opportunity for residents and business owners along Grand River to meet up and enjoy each other and their beautiful new park(let).



Little ones enjoy the whimsical GRANDpark(let)

Photo credit to Mar Mnz

The Grand River Annex, the New Cultural Hub in Grandmont Rosedale

The Grand River Annex at 19556 Grand River, Grandmont Rosedale’s new cultural incubator space, has become a hub of art installations, community events, and a destination for new visitors to the Grand River commercial corridor. The Grand River Annex is an event space as well as the home for the Norwest Gallery of Art. The Norwest Gallery of Art, thoughtfully curated by Asia Hamilton, calls the Grand River Annex home. Monthly exhibits have included Detroit music and



GRANDMONT ROSEDALE’S CULTURAL INCUBATOR & ART GALLERY



photography, art focused on women artists, and the debut of a film about women in hip hop. Neighboring businesses have also taken advantage of this versatile space to

host events. There have been several Detroit Made Markets at the Annex, which highlight local entrepreneurs and some of our Northwest Detroit Farmers’ Market vendors.

If you are interested in hosting your next event at a beautifully curated space that highlights up and coming artists, contact the Grand River Annex at hello@thegrandriverannex.com or “like” the Grand River Annex Facebook page. To find out more about the Norwest Gallery of Art, visit www.norwestgallery.com

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GRDC is a non-profit, community-based organization working to preserve and improve the Grandmont Rosedale Neighborhoods of northwest Detroit. We take a comprehensive approach to community revitalization, with programs designed to renovate vacant homes, assist local homeowners and businesses, beautify our community and keep our neighborhoods safe and vibrant.

Thanks to Our Supporters

GRDC thanks the following families and businesses for their generous support of our programs between January 16, 2018 - June 30, 2018. Your contributions make a real difference in our community! If we've forgotten your name on either the donor or volunteer list, we apologize and please let us know! Contact Jocelyn Moss at jocelyn@grandmontrosedale.com or 313.387.4732, ext. 104.

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Minock Park Holds First Community Event in CornerView Park

In June, Minock Park residents gathered for an Ice Cream Social at the new CornerView Park, Minock Park's new, public space designed for community events. With a grant from Detroit Future City, The Ford Volunteer Corps, and a dedicated team of volunteers from Grandmont Rosedale, GRDC transformed two blighted lots into a welcoming public space – the perfect spot for an Ice Cream Social. Kids of all ages and their families enjoyed the ice cream among the newly planted flower gardens and beneath the picnic shelter installed by community volunteers.



Residents and fans of Minock Park's first Ice Cream Social at CornerView Park

Grow Detroit's Young Talent Team Helps out in Grandmont Rosedale

For six weeks in July and August, several young Detroiters ages 14-24 from Grow Detroit's Young Talent program spent 20 hours per week for six weeks in Grandmont Rosedale learning about and receiving training in Community Engagement, Economic Growth and Development, and even Starting a Small Business. Several GRDC board members, Grandmont Rosedale residents, along with Kitty Yarbrough, GRDC's Community Engagement Manager, and GRDC Intern Joél Reyes-Klann devised a schedule for the young people. The youth were paid through the City of Detroit, and the GRDC community made sure that



GRDC's Tom Ridgway and the Grow Detroit's Young Talent Team: Dehvin, Micah, Rashid, KeAndra, and Ebony help out in Grandmont Rosedale

along with participating in several beautification projects throughout Grandmont Rosedale, the youth engaged in other ways as well. The youth helped out at our Grandmont Rosedale Community Garden and the Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market. They learned about the importance of rain gardens at Stoepel Park, and attended GRDC's Vacant Property Task Force and Crime Prevention Task Force meetings. Community members also arranged several meetings where residents shared their expertise on choosing a career, a college, and the importance of integrity with these future leaders of Detroit and beyond.

GRDC Hosts Property Tax Exemption Application Workshops

Thanks to a grant from Quicken Loans, GRDC is hosting Property Tax Exemption Application Workshops the second Wednesday of every month from 10 am – 3 pm at the GRDC offices, 19800 Grand River. This Neighbor to Neighbor: PTE Workshop initiative is an ongoing organizing effort designed to keep families in their homes and to keep our neighborhoods stable for all families and businesses. Attendees receive help filling out the property tax exemption application. These workshops will run through December 2019. For more information about this program, visit www.fromclosuresdetroit.com.

Homeowners,
Are your property taxes unaffordable?
You may qualify for help.



Meet Joél Reyes-Klann, GRDC's UM Intern and Vacant Property Task Force Assistant



Joél Reyes-Klann, GRDC's intern from the University of Michigan, is no stranger to community engagement. Since last June, Joél has spent much of his time assisting GRDC's Community Engagement Manager Kitty Yarbrough with Vacant Property

Task Force meetings. A first-generation college graduate from Southwest Detroit, Joél earned a degree in political science with a minor in environmental studies, and will soon earn a Master's of Social Work with an emphasis on community-based interaction in urban communities. According to Kitty, Joél's assistance has been very beneficial to the Grandmont Rosedale community: "Joél's energy and eagerness to engage with the community has been great!"

GATHERING EXPERIENCE AND NARROWING HIS FOCUS

The work-study program at UM as well as a couple of valuable internship experiences helped Joél zero in

on his particular passion. The work-study assignment that took Joél to Del Ray, "really opened my eyes to environmental justice issues." After graduation, Joél worked for the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Project at Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies where he helped promote safety and community in Detroit neighborhoods by helping residents form block clubs, organize neighborhood clean-ups, and board up vacant properties.

JOÉL'S HOME AT GRDC

Because Joél's passion for community engagement lies specifically with working on environmental justice issues in urban communities, working with GRDC's Vacant Property Task Force which looks at what can be done to combat blight, and the safety and environmental issues that can arise with vacant properties, is the perfect fit for Joél.

With people like Joél working in our communities, it is indeed a great time to live in Detroit. If you'd like to get involved with the Vacant Property Task Force, let Joél know at joel@grandmontrosedale.com or you can contact Kitty Yarbrough at kyarbrough@grandmontrosedale.com.

GRDC's First Super Senior Spring Fling Luncheon a Great Success!



GRDC's Crime Prevention Task Force, in collaboration with Oak Street Health and St. John Open Arms, sponsored a Super Senior Spring Fling Luncheon in early May. Over 50 Grandmont Rosedale seniors gathered at Oak Street Health, a primary care clinic in the neighborhood, to socialize, listen to music, hear about neighborhood resources available to seniors, and to share a delicious lunch. "It was great to see so many senior members from Grandmont Rosedale," said Kitty Yarbrough, GRDC's Community Engagement Manager, "It was so successful we plan to have another one soon!" Keep in touch with GRDC to find out about the next Super Senior event, and spread the word! Our seniors are vital to our community!

Detroit Partnership Day Beautifies Grandmont Rosedale

For more than a dozen years, Grandmont Rosedale resident volunteers have welcomed volunteers on Detroit Partnership Day, an annual event that brings University of Michigan students to Grandmont Rosedale to help us beautify our community. Residents specified which parks, streets and alleys that needed some clean up. In late April, the UM student and Grandmont Rosedale volunteers met at several locations, tools were distributed, and together the volunteers set to work cleaning up overgrown, and littered parks, spreading mulch at our Community Garden

and Minock Park's new CornerView Park. A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who identified the areas in need of attention, who helped get the tools to the volunteers, and who showed up to work in spite of the chilly weather. Grandmont Rosedale is a more beautiful place because of your dedication!



DP Day volunteers from UM and Grandmont Rosedale clean up Ramsay Park in Grandmont

GRDC Works on Another Formerly Vacant House

GRDC has begun renovations on a 1938 Grandmont Rosedale home, 14583 Penrod. This previously vacant two bedroom, 1 ½ bathroom home was acquired by GRDC through the National Community Stabilization Trust, an organization that “works to provide community-based buyers an opportunity to acquire vacant, abandoned and distressed properties as part of their neighborhood revitalization strategy.”



14583 Penrod

Renovations to this charming home will include a new roof, new electrical, a complete re-plumbing, a new

furnace and AC, and some kitchen upgrades. This home features a natural fireplace, hardwood floors throughout, a sunroom, and even a small basketball court in the back. Restoring a vacant home to its original high quality so a family can call Grandmont Rosedale home is one of GRDC’s main objectives, and has over its nearly 30 year history, proven to go a long way to make Grandmont Rosedale one of the most stable, desirous

neighborhoods in the city of Detroit. Stay in touch with GRDC to find out when this home goes on the market.

GRDC Welcomes Ian Watts, Economic Development Manager

Grandmont Rosedale resident and Grand River WorkPlace member Ian Watts’ new position as GRDC’s Economic Development Manager is a great fit. Ian knows first-hand the benefits of running a small business out of a neighborhood co-working space as well as the importance of having a variety of tools, resources readily accessible that allow small businesses to flourish and grow. As a member of our community, Ian also understands the value of having a neighborhood business both to the residents of Grandmont Rosedale and to

the Grandmont Rosedale business community. “I’m really looking forward to making an impact in the entrepreneurial community,” says Ian of his new position.

“Besides, the Grand River WorkPlace and GRDC are right around the corner from where I live.” A perfect fit indeed.



GO Grandmont Rosedale Campaign Unifies Businesses

Working with the design team Unsold Studios, GRDC and the Grandmont Rosedale business community have created a brand campaign to unite our the businesses that are so vital to our neighborhood. Designed to reflect both the Grandmont Rosedale residential and the business district, the aim of this GO Grandmont Rosedale campaign is to create a business corridor that is easily identifiable as well as reflective of the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods. GO Grandmont Rosedale will attract new customers to shop in our community, making our business corridor a destination for people seeking everything from a great haircut to dinner out.

Grandmont Rosedale businesses will be better able to communicate their special events and exactly what their business has to offer to a wider audience and in a more cohesive, identifiable way. Look for “GO Grandmont Rosedale” in store windows, on postcards, posters, and on Grandmont Rosedale business social media sites. You can “like” GO Grandmont Rosedale on Facebook, and help spread the word about all that Grandmont Rosedale businesses have to offer!

**GRANDMONT
ROSEDALE**

What's Happening at the Grand River WorkPlace



Applications to be the next pop-up shop in the Grand River WorkPlace have gone out, so look for the next small business owner to join the Grand River small business community soon! In its four years, the Grand River WorkPlace has had seven pop-up retail businesses and about 50 small business owners take advantage of the many benefits that come with being a WorkPlace member. Ongoing programming that offers workshops, mentoring, and one-on-one counseling on such areas as marketing,

budgeting, and funding, as well as special events, make the Grand River WorkPlace a busy place! Several WorkPlace members have been doing business at 19120 Grand River since its beginning, and several, such as United Horizons and former pop-up shop Voluptuous Bien-Aimee, have moved to their own storefronts in Grandmont Rosedale. The majority of the WorkPlace members are also Grandmont Rosedale residents, making the WorkPlace a stabilizing presence for all of Grandmont Rosedale.

Larissa Richardson Heads to TechTown



Larissa Richardson (formerly known as Larissa Carr), GRDC's Economic Development and Grand River WorkPlace Manager, has been, as Executive Director Sherita Smith says, "a tremendous asset to GRDC," serving as the

first Program Manager of Grand River WorkPlace, the first neighborhood co-working space in Detroit. Under Larissa's management, the WorkPlace became a model for neighborhood based co-working and business incubation. Larissa built relationships with corridor businesses, attracted new businesses and helped them find space in the community. As Sherita Smith says, "We are excited to see her contributions to Detroit's entrepreneurial ecosystem in this new role, but certainly sad to see her go." Larissa will be bringing her talents to TechTown as a Director of Collaborative Workspaces where she will manage a similar, but bigger co-working space.

THE FIRST MANAGER OF THE GRAND RIVER WORKPLACE

Larissa started at GRDC four years ago as a Fellow from the University of Detroit Masters of Community Development Program. Her work ethic and innovative

ideas led to her full-time employment at GRDC. When she first came to GRDC, Larissa admits that she "didn't know what I was getting myself into." Launching the WorkPlace demanded a creative, flexible approach, while always keeping the interests of the Grandmont Rosedale business community in mind. Larissa is most proud of the fact that "WorkPlace members really feel as if they are part of a community." The WorkPlace isn't just a convenient office space, but a home for their business where entrepreneurs "can network and meet one another as business owners and as neighbors." Starting a small business can be a stressful, even frightening experience, but under Larissa's management, many small business owners at the WorkPlace have felt supported, encouraged, and above all welcomed into the Grandmont Rosedale business community.

LARISSA STILL CALLS GRANDMONT ROSEDALE HOME

While she will be sorely missed at GRDC, the great news is that Larissa still lives in the Grandmont Rosedale community. When you see her at the Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market or having a cup of coffee at Always Brewing Detroit, say hello and ask Larissa what's next in what's sure to be a thoughtful and innovative career.

Invest in the Future of GRDC!

For more than 28 years, GRDC has been taking its direction from the residents and business owners on how to make Grandmont Rosedale an even better place to live, work, play, shop, and eat. Together we have maintained a stable community for all who chose to call Grandmont Rosedale home, but the people of Grandmont Rosedale have ideas for the future of our community. GRDC wants to be the support they need, but GRDC needs your support. When you donate to GRDC, you are helping to keep one of Detroit's most beautiful neighborhoods healthy

for residents and business owners. The ways to support us are many! Donate cash, your car, even a house, and GRDC will transform that support into a greater future for Grandmont Rosedale residents and business owners. To support GRDC, go to grandmontrosedale.com or contact GRC's Administrative Assistant Jocelyn Moss at 313.387.4732, ext. 104.





Tess Tchou, GRDC Board Member, Steps Down

Tess Tchou moved to Grandmont Rosedale in 1978 “without a clue about what kind of neighborhood we were moving into.” She and her husband Ray came to love living in Grandmont

Rosedale, believing that, as Tess says, “There’s meaning to living here.” This is Tess’ seventh year on the GRDC board, but she and Ray are thinking seriously about moving to San Antonio where their son Philip lives. Tess initially became involved with GRDC as a volunteer for the first Grandmont Rosedale Open House over ten years ago, and has volunteered for many other events and activities in Grandmont Rosedale.

THE LONG JOURNEY TO GRANDMONT ROSEDALE

Much of Tess’ involvement in neighborhood stability comes from her involvement in social justice issues. As Tess explains it, “I know what it’s like to have enough,

and then have nothing - and the social stigma that comes with economic deprivation. When I was growing up in the Philippines, we were comfortable and then our house burned down and my father fell ill. There were nine kids. We found different ways to survive.”

SERVING ON GRDC’S BOARD

Tess and Ray have had quite a journey before settling in Grandmont Rosedale, but Tess is not one to spend a lot of time resting. Tess has spent her time on the GRDC board working to make Grandmont Rosedale an attractive place for other families to settle. And, as Tess says, she’s “seen successes.” According to Tess, her fellow GRDC board members are “some of the most astute, committed, visionary and resourceful people” she has ever worked with. While her leaving is bittersweet both for her and GRDC, we wish her well and have no doubt that once she and Ray are unpacked, Tess will start looking around San Antonio for a place or organization where she can get involved.

The Northwest Detroit Farmers’ Market in its 14th Season

Shopping at the Northwest Detroit Farmers’ Market has become a summertime habit for many Grandmont Rosedale residents and for several people outside of the neighborhood as well. With 20 vendors who offer a variety of goods – from farm fresh eggs and vegetables to a cup of coffee or a food truck specialty - about 150 regular shoppers get a good deal of their food shopping done at the Farmers’ Market. A Senior Shuttle makes it even easier for our seniors to have access to all the fresh and healthy foods offered at the Market. MSU Extension is returning this year to offer classes on canning and preservation, as is Generation Promise who will distribute healthy recipe samples. Live music and interactive children’s activities occur throughout the season. The annual Pumpkin Bowling and Chili Cook-

Off event will round out this season. The Market has become the place where neighbors gather to shop, chat, and catch up while their kids play on the Community House playground or kick a ball on the soccer fields.



The Northwest Detroit Farmers’ Market takes place every Thursday through October 4 from 4 – 8 pm in the parking lot of the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale. To stay informed about Farmers’ Market events, “like” Northwest Detroit Farmers’ Market on Facebook.

Attend the Community Connections Breakfast

On Thursday, October 4 at 7:30 am, GRDC will host a Community Connections Breakfast to bring together residents, business owners, government officials, and those interested in community development. A discussion of this year’s theme “Building Opportunity Communities” will be led by a panel representing community development, government, philanthropy, and the private sector. The Community Connections Breakfast is a great opportunity for those involved in restoring Detroit neighborhoods

to connect and advance strategies to move our communities forward, and to support the efforts of GRDC. Held at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, the breakfast will be catered by Grandmont Rosedale’s River Bistro. To purchase your tickets to the Community Connections Breakfast, visit grandmontrosedale.com, or contact Jocelyn Moss at 313.387.4732, ext. 104 or jocelyn@grandmontrosedale.com.





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News Around the Neighborhood

JOIN THE GRAND RIVER WORKPLACE

Becoming a member at the Grand River WorkPlace, 19120 Grand River, gives your small business a professional, affordable, and flexible co-working space in the Grandmont Rosedale community. The WorkPlace hosts several on-going small business workshops, business courses, and even offers one-on-one mentoring and consulting for entrepreneurs. The Grand River WorkPlace is the ideal place to go for all your small business needs. To find out more, send an email to WorkPlace@grandmontrosedale.com or visit www.grandriverworkplace.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY MEETING

The next Neighborhood Safety Meeting will be on Thursday, October 25 at 6:30 pm at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale. Neighborhood Safety Meetings are a great way to get to know your law enforcement officers and to voice your concerns about safety in your community. The Neighborhood



Safety Meetings are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Stay in touch with GRDC to hear about the guest speaker and the topic for Neighborhood Safety Meetings.

STAY UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Grandmont Rosedale is a busy place, so be sure you stay connected! To keep up to date on neighborhood events, "like" Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation on Facebook or sign up for the weekly GRDC eblast by emailing your request to be added to the list to info@grandmontrosedale.com.