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Grand River Construction Project Slated Summer 2019

By David Lega

Representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the City of Detroit Planning Department, and our District 1 Manager's office joined over 100 community members at a public meeting in mid-December 2018 regarding road and streetscape design features for Grand River Avenue.

MDOT and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) will begin an \$8 million construction project on Grand River in July 2019. DWSD will replace several sections of water main along Grand River, and MDOT will repave and make changes to traffic lanes and pedestrian crossings, as well as adding amenities, on Grand River between Southfield Freeway and Berg Road. The two projects will be carried out at the same time, so only one construction period will be required.



"Complete Streets"



MDOT now has an updated policy that requires all road-resurfacing projects to be designed with "complete streets" as part of the goals. Basically, "complete streets" means that all forms of use, not just auto traffic, will be considered. Earlier meetings with community members along the Grand River corridor indicated that the top two community concerns are (1) speeding and dangerous traffic on Grand River, and (2) speeding traffic through neighborhood streets that intersect Grand River. The Detroit Planning Department is also working with MDOT to add pedestrian and traffic safety features, along with "traffic calming" elements to the design. The aim is to reduce traffic speeds to the posted 35 mph.

Road Diet

According to MDOT engineers, there are some features that they know will be included in the project, while others are still under consideration. Traffic lanes will be reduced from 7 to 5 (center turn lane, two traffic lanes in each direction), and the lanes

will be narrowed. This is a proven method of slowing down traffic. Also, "curb bump outs" will be added at all signal crossings, shortening crosswalks for pedestrians and reducing the possibility of vehicles passing in the parking lanes. Any added traffic signals will include bump-outs. They also plan to add pedestrian refuge islands at crosswalks.

The exact configuration of the lanes is still in the design stage, and the representatives took written comments from attendees about their preferences, which was the main goal of the December meeting. Three configurations were presented. The street Right of Way (which is the distance across Grand River from building front to building front) is wider north of McNichols than it is south of McNichols, so the lane configurations may

be different in the two areas. They asked for opinions on where additional traffic signals are needed. Comments during the discussion M-5 GRAND RIVER AVENUE overwhelmingly supported a new traffic signal at the CVS-Grandland MDOT ROADWAY & STREETSCAPE PROJECT area.

Streetscape Improvements

There are two areas in the project that will receive "streetscape" improvements. One is from McNichols to Cooley, and the other is between Evergreen and Glastonbury. Meeting participants were asked to rank improvements they would like to see, including street trees, bus shelters, sidewalk cafe seating, benches, plantings, lighting, and so on. Next Community Meeting Feb. 6, 2019

MDOT and Detroit Planning reps plan another meeting on February 6, 2019, exact time and place to be announced. That meeting will seek input on the final design features. You can find more about the project at www.detroitmi.gov/northwest.

MDOT is seeking written comments. Comments may be submitted on their website, by fax; 517 335-5696, or by email to grabj@ michigan.gov or RichardsonA13@michigan.gov

Project Area



Top Left - Various Street Plans currently being considered by MDOT. Bottom Right - Two Project Areas that will be the focus of the Streetscape Project. All images are from the Dec. 13th M-5 / Grand River Ave. Community Meeting PDF. www.detroitmi.gov/northwest

Why is RPIA's Solid Waste Schedule Only Through June?

Likely you have noticed that the 2019 Schedule for Solid Waste collection (which RPIA is distributing to all residents, along with this newsletter) shows dates only through June 30th! How can that make sense?



There is good reason. Starting July 1, a new contract with waste haulers for the City will go into effect. At present, we don't know if there will be any change in haulers, or a change in routes that could mean a change in our collection day.

What we DO know is that the new contract will require same-day collection for all curbside refuse: recycling, yard waste, garbage, and bulk will all be picked up the same day. We do not yet know the finer details, i.e., what day, what is bi-weekly, etc.

We will do our best to keep updates flowing! Please keep your eyes wide open for the notices, both from the City and from RPIA! And we will publish and distribute an additional schedule for the second half of 2019 at a later date.

> --Margaret Weber Convener, Zero Waste Detroit Coordinator, Rosedale Recycles

Holiday Celebration - Santa and Pancakes!!

The North Rosedale Community House was filled with holiday revelers on Saturday, Dec. 1 for the Annual Grandmont Rosedale Holiday Pancake Breakfast, organized by the five Rosedale neighborhoods.

Nearly 200 parents, children, grandparents and just regular folks attended and helped kick off the holiday season to make this event a huge success.

Upon entering the hall at 9 am, everyone was welcomed by the piano sounds of Christmas carols played by RPIA Board Member Deborah Gore and a carol singalong organized by longtime Rosedale resident Connie Obalnicki. The Community House was beautifully decorated by volunteers from North Rosedale. You could smell the sausages, coffee and pancakes as you came in the door.



Volunteers from all five neighborhoods cooked 288 turkey sausages, 168 eggs, hundreds of pancakes (maybe 600 – no one counted but usually three each). Neighbors drank hundreds of cups of OJ, milk, mango juice, water; and at least 100 cups of coffee – plus all the syrup and butter anyone would want!

Santa Claus and his helper elf joined us around 10 am, and gave a small gift to every child in attendance. At the end, everyone left with a smile.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who help out with this event every year! And a special big thank-you to all the new residents who came to volunteer, making this a real team event.

The Pancake Breakfast is a great tradition of bringing people together and we all want this to continue for decades to come. Looking forward to next year's Pancake Breakfast.

Check out the photos on page 4!

-Nancy Bitzarakis

RPIA Block Captain's Meeting Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019

Rosedale block captains will gather for their regular quarterly meeting on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019 from 4-6 pm, at the GRDC Main Office, 19800 Grand River. On the agenda are reports from the Rosedale board, the Rosedale radio patrol, and our District 1 Manager LaTrice McClendon, along with tasty treats for all. Save the date!!



Events Calendar

JANUARY

No Public Meetings Scheduled in January

FEBRUARY

Sunday, Feb. 10 Rosedale Park Block Captain's Meeting 4:00pm GRDC Office 19800 Grand River

Monday, Feb. 25 **RPIA Board Meeting** - 7:00pm GRDC Office 19800 Grand River

Thursday, Feb. 28 Neighborhood Safety Meeting 6:30pm North Rosedale Community House 18445 Scarsdale



Rosedale Grandmont Little League

With the cold winds of January blowing strong, let's think about spring... spring training, that is.

Registration for the Rosedale Grandmont Little League (RGLL) begins online on February 1, and in-person in early March. The RGLL is organized into age groups: T-ball (ages 3-4); coach pitch (5-6); Baseball – rookies (7-8), minors (9-10); juniors (11-12); seniors (13-16).

For more information, go to rosedalegrandmontlittleleague.org. Let's play ball!



Rosédale Park's Annual Gala

Friday, March 29, 2019

Mark your calendars – our traditional RPIA gala is Friday, March 29, 2019!

Yes – that's not a typo. It really says MARCH 29. This traditional get-together to swear in our new officers, recognize outstanding community service, and highlight the best island landscaping is usually scheduled for a date in late January. But this year, we are celebrating in March, due to a major renovation of the kitchen at the North Rosedale Community House. Work will commence around January 1 and is expected to be complete by March 1, 2019.

We are sure the new kitchen – and the Gala—will be worth waiting for!

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Mail your 2019 RPIA dues Payment

Name(s)
Address
Email
Phone
☐ I want to volunteer. I am interested in:
I want to receive the weekly eBlast
☐ Annual dues of \$45* enclosed Note: Outer Drive and Evergreen residents pay \$25
Make checks payable to "RPIA"
Mail payment to RPIA P.O. Box 23113 Detroit, MI 48223

- OR -

Pay your 2019 RPIA dues ONLINE

www.rosedalepark.org

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Winter is Coming...

Getting to school, work, the doctor or the grocery store can be a challenge during a Michigan winter. Whether you drive, bike, ride the bus, or walk, streets full of snow can make the journey a real hassle!

Fortunately, Rosedale Park is able to hire a private contractor to plow our streets when there are 3 or more inches of snow. Our neighborhood association, Rosedale Park Improvement Association (RPIA) uses your dues dollars to pay the contractor.

That's why it's so important for you to pay your fair share. Paying RPIA dues is easier than ever – just go to www. rosedalepark.org to pay online. You can also mail your check payable to RPIA to P. O. Box 23113, Detroit MI 48223. Dues are just \$45 (for Outer Dr. and Evergreen residents, only \$25, since Wayne County plows those roads).

A Friendly Reminder: When it snows in Rosedale Park

Move cars, courvilles and recycling carts off the streets!

RPIA pays a private contractor to plow the snow from our streets, so that we are all able to get to work and to school on time. If your vehicle is parked on the street, the snowplow driver has no choice but to plow you in.

Sometimes the snow may fly on a Sunday night/Monday morning. When that happens, be sure to place your Courville and Recycling Carts <u>UP ON YOUR BERM, NOT ON THE</u> <u>STREET!!</u> If you see your neighbor has forgotten, please remind them or lend a hand.

Working together, we can have a smooth winter season!

