



September 2009

What's your vision for Grandmont Rosedale?

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

This fall, Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation (GRDC) will be hosting a series of "Community Conversations" on topics affecting the future well-being of the Grandmont Rosedale communities. The ideas and opinions gathered at these meetings will be used to help GRDC update its strategic plan for neighborhood improvement.

All area residents, business owners and other interested persons are invited to come and be part of the discussions. Each session will focus on a different topic. You can attend all four sessions or just the ones that interest you most.

REINVENTING DETROIT ON SEPTEMBER 21

The first Community Conversation will focus on innovative ideas for revitalizing Detroit as a whole, with an emphasis on how the Grandmont Rosedale communities fit within the "big picture" of Detroit's redevelopment. Presenters will include Diane Van Buren from WARM Training Center speaking about the concept of a

"Leaner, Greener Detroit," and Megan Owens of Transportation Riders United, reporting on how efforts to improve mass transit in Detroit and the region could affect Grandmont Rosedale.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- **Monday, September 21 at 7 PM**
Reinventing Detroit: City-wide Dev. Issues
North Rosedale Comm. House, 18445 Scarsdale
- **Monday, October 5 at 7 PM**
Housing and Urban Living Trends
North Rosedale Comm. House, 18445 Scarsdale
- **Monday, October 19 at 7 PM**
Community-Based Economic Development
North Rosedale Comm. House, 18445 Scarsdale
- **Monday, November 9 at 7 PM**
Improving Safety and Public Services
Bushnell Congregational Church, 15000 Southfield

HOUSING, JOB, AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Additional sessions are scheduled for October and November. The Monday, October 5th session will look at changes in the housing market and consider how a rising interest in urban living could benefit our community. On Monday, October 19th, we will look at ways to boost our local economy through entrepreneurship and community-based businesses. The final conversation on Monday, November 9th will explore ways of improving public services in the face of the City's financial crunch.

For more information on this series of community conversations, please contact GRDC

Intern Delores Hearst at 313-387-4732, ext. 109.

GRDC Teams with Young Detroit Builders

GRDC has recently teamed up with Young Detroit Builders, a local non-profit job training program, to renovate a vacant home at 14567 Rosemont in Rosedale Park. Renovations will be complete in early September and the home will soon be offered for sale to new homebuyers.

JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

Young Detroit Builders (YDB) provides low-income Detroit residents between the ages of 18 and 24 with on-the-job training in residential construction and remodeling. In addition, trainees get assistance with GED test preparation, life skills development and job-readiness.

"This project is helping our community by getting a vacant home renovated and back on the market, but it is also providing opportunities for young people to develop job skills," said GRDC



The Young Detroit Builders group, at 14567 Rosemont

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**ATTENTION ALL
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Why not designate
GRDC (code #94303) as
your charity of choice in
this year's Combined Fed-
eral Campaign?

Put your CFC dol-
lars to great use right here
in our neighborhood!

Thank You to Our Supporters

GRDC thanks the following families and businesses for their generous support of our programs.
Your contributions of time and money make a real difference in our community!

[All donations received 05/01/09 - 8/01/09]

CONTRIBUTORS

Raymond Dong
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Columbus and Karen Moore
Frank and Connie Obelnicki
Mary Sue Schottenfels and
Ken Knoppow
Cynthia Williams

Neighborhood Legacy Fund

Glen Warn and Beverly Loudon

VOLUNTEERS

Rahsaan Abdullah
Tiffany Akins
Valerie Alagon
Michelle AliDinar
Sharif AliDinar
Artemae Anderson
Jerry Anderson
Sally Askar
Mark Barkey
Tiffany Barksdale
Ray Bazmore
Denise Beauregard
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Geraldine Grunow
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Tamara Hanel
Lillia Hardy-Scott
Eddie Hejka
Josette Hejka
Michael Hejka
Randall Herbert
Stephan Hicks
Stephani Hicks
Kevin Hornick
Sadre Howard
Kadijah Howell
Diane Hoye
Kemit Hoye
Moji Igun

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Vacant House Maintenance in High Gear

Working together with a group of die-hard neighborhood residents, GRDC has been able to secure and maintain over 100 vacant houses in our community.

FUNDING SUPPORTS THE PROGRAM

GRDC received grant funding from two different sources – Community Legal Resources’ Detroit Vacant Property Campaign and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The funds are being used for three main activities: boarding up vacant homes that are open to trespass, emergency lawn maintenance, and installing motion detector security lighting on the outside of vacant homes.

“This program is really having an impact on our community,” said GRDC Deputy Director Cathy Marshall. “The vacant homes don’t look as vacant, now that we are securing them and maintaining the yards. The neighbors of vacant homes in our community generally do a really good job of making the houses look occupied, but sometimes a little extra something is needed – that’s where the grant funding comes in.”



L to R, Intern Sarah Van Allen, Grandmont neighbor Sharif AliDinar, North Rosedale neighbor Mary Ellen McEvoy, and Intern Alex Ocampo work on the home at 14046 Southfield.

GRDC INTERNS COORDINATE PROGRAM

Originally coordinated by GRDC interns Patrick Williams and Sarah Van Allen, the program is now managed by our newest intern, Simon Wang.

The real program champions are the neighborhood representatives that each neighborhood association has assigned to collect information from their communities and coordinate the activities.

The more vacant a house looks, the more of a target for crime that it becomes. If you live next door to a vacant house, or have one on your block, please help protect it by contacting your neighborhood representative:

- ◆ **Grandmont** – Larry Courts at 313-835-6553
- ◆ **Grandmont #1** – Harold Harris at 313-272-9165
- ◆ **Minock Park** – Wendy Mayer at 313-729-0297
- ◆ **North Rosedale Park** – Clarenda Webb at 313-330-7844
- ◆ **Rosedale Park** – Denise Beauregard at 313-418-7906 or Carolyn Cruse at 313-273-4324

If all of us pitch in to help watch and maintain the vacant homes on our blocks, we will avoid a lot of the negative activity that surrounds these vacant homes. Call your neighborhood representative today!!



Much improved after the attention of our crew!

New AmeriCorps Intern Joins GRDC

GRDC is fortunate to have another AmeriCorps member working at our office – and this time, he’s here for a whole year.

Born in Beijing, China, Simon Wang moved to Maryland with his family when he was eight years old. He came to Michigan to attend the University of Michigan, and graduated in May 2009 with a BS in Industrial Engineering.

Simon is going to work at GRDC through the AmeriCorps program for the next year, and then he’ll either go back to school for an MBA or find a job. Simon is a huge sports fan, especially UM sports and the Tigers. “I’m excited to be involved in this community,” said Simon, “and I’m looking forward to learning more about it every day.”

Wang will be working on four main programs at GRDC: the Northwest Detroit Farmers Market, the Vacant Property Maintenance Program, volunteer coordination, and communications such as our website/Facebook/Twitter pages.

Welcome to GRDC, Simon!



Simon took a moment at a recent farmers’ market to play ball with Sammy Chiuppi (L), and Joey Chiuppi (R).

Summer in the City Kids Help Out in Grandmont Rosedale

On Friday, July 31, over sixty youthful volunteers from Summer in the City came to Grandmont Rosedale to clean up various neighborhood landscape beds, install woodchip paths in the Grandmont Rosedale Community Garden at Bushnell Church, and gloriously beautify the alley that runs along the side of the garden by painting an awesome mural of fruits and vegetables.

SUMMER IN THE CITY

Summer in the City (SITC) is a non-profit organization designed to improve and expand community service in metropolitan Detroit. They offer community service projects that are fun, flexible and fulfilling for high school students, and practical and productive for more than 40 community partner organizations in Detroit. Typical projects include mural painting, gardening, demolition, construction, working with elementary school students and assisting the elderly.

MURAL OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

If you haven't been by the community garden lately, or driven through the alley behind the Grand River White Castle, you're in for a treat! No longer a grey, dreary cement block wall with blobs of graffiti painted over, the wall now sports a colorful parade of healthy vegetables and fruits -- eye-catching and spirit-lifting! The numerous young volunteers completed the mural in a matter of hours.

WOODCHIP PATHS AND LANDSCAPE BEDS

The community garden and the landscape beds along Outer Drive also received some attention from the SITC kids. "With their



The mural includes quite a variety of fruits and vegetables.

help, we were able to install several new woodchip paths in our garden," commented GRDC Commercial Program Mgr. Pam Weinstein.

"The Outer Drive beds look 100% better since they were weeded and cleaned up by the Summer in the City volunteers," added GRDC Office Manager Tom Ridgway.

These volunteer projects were part of a series of ongoing clean-up and beautification projects throughout the neighborhood sponsored and coordinated by GRDC. "We urge everyone to get involved in the upkeep of their community," said GRDC Executive Director Tom Goddeeris. "Volunteers make a tremendous difference in our neighborhood."



Happy volunteers at the conclusion of their successful projects

Continued from page 1

Executive Director Tom Goddeeris. “The students have been doing excellent work and the training staff has been great to work with. This has been a wonderful partnership for us.”

HOME DONATED TO GRDC

The Rosemont home was donated to GRDC by the estate of long-time Rosedale Park resident Aileen Hinds. The charming two-bedroom ranch home features hardwood floors and leaded glass windows and will sell for \$45,000. Down payment assistance may also be available for qualified low-to-moderate income home buyers. For more information about purchasing this beautifully renovated home, contact GRDC Executive Director Tom Goddeeris at 313-387-4732, ext 111. For more information about the Young Detroit Builders training program, call 313-256-7280 or visit their web site at youngdetroitbuilders.org.

Cool Cities Grant Supports Grand River Mural



Next time you’re driving down Grand River, be sure to notice the attractive new mural painted on the side of the second story of Robert’s Barber Shop, at 18424 Grand River. There you’ll spot the sleek contemporary letters spelling out “Detroit,” which are backed by cheerful yellow sun rays. CCS Graphics Design junior Joel Grothaus created the design and with a little help from his dad and some friends, painted the mural on the wall.

ROBERT’S BARBER SHOP ENTHUSIASTIC

Robert’s Barber Shop owners Robert and Charlita Frazier were quick to say “yes” when approached by GRDC Intern Jack Temple about having a mural put on the side of their building. “Robert and I are always interested in a new idea, a new approach, fresh energy,” commented Charlita.

“The Fraziers were great to work with,” Temple said, “they were very positive and helpful, assisting us in getting access to their building and providing the water and electricity we needed to get the wall prepped for the mural,” he added.

COOL CITIES GRANT PROVIDED SUPPORT

As one of GRDC’s summer interns, Temple applied for and received a Cool Cities grant to paint a mural on the wall of a Grand River commercial property. In proposing the mural, Temple had two goals in mind: improving the look of the business district and further developing the area’s sense of community identity. With help from the New Leaders Arts Council, Temple identified local artist and designer Grothaus, who quickly set to work coming up with a design. “The timeline was very short—we had only 2-3 weeks to come up with the design and get it on the wall,” Grothaus said. “But it was a great opportunity and I enjoyed the challenge,” he added. “This project turned out great,” concluded Temple.

VOLUNTEERS (cont. from page 2)

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rashad Irvin | Sonya Pouncy |
| Wendy Jackson | Charles Pugh |
| Hazel Jefferson | Richard Quick |
| Betty Johnson | Mary Ratkowski |
| Harriet Johnson | Betty Redditt |
| Jennifer Johnson | Jeanne Rem |
| Jim Johnson | Deborah Rhodes |
| Kevin Johnson | Chris Ridgway |
| Charles Jones | Tom Ridgway |
| Tamara Kamara | Keely Robinson |
| Zachary Kay | Elliott Rosenfield |
| Jamisha Kearney | Joel Santella |
| Joanne Kelly | Dan Schluentz |
| Terry Kelly | Henry Schneider |
| Keith Kennedy | Jean Pierre Seguin |
| Renee Kent | Katie Seguin |
| Angela King | Hemant Shah |
| Charles King | Julie Shepherd |
| Ellington King | Naomi Sherman |
| Kenyatta King | Daryn Shopbell |
| Gary Knoerl | Michael Siegal |
| Erma Leaphart | Curtis Smith |
| Gabe Leland | Andrew Sokoly |
| Sharon LeMieux | Jeff Sorrell |
| Cleofus Lewis | Brenda Springs |
| Zuri Lewis | Emma Stark |
| Nancy Lockhart | Linda Streeter |
| Joshua Long | Eartha Sullivan |
| Chris Marrocco | Jack Temple |
| Tom Maxwell | Charles Thomas |
| Zelda Mays | Kristin Thomas |
| Mariah McClain | LaVonne Thomas |
| Mary Ellen McEvoy | Dale Thomson |
| Michael McEvoy | Mario Tipon |
| Tynisha McGee | Carol Trowell |
| Colleen McInerney | Charlene Uresy |
| Steven McKay | Jim Van Hoy |
| Makayla McKenzie | Ronda Volkman |
| Dorothy McKnight | Tracy Wallace |
| Glynn McKnight | Paulette Washburn |
| Vicki McLellan | Anita Washington |
| Mary McLeod | Marquis Washington |
| Sylestine McQueen | Daniel Waun |
| Bonnie Mead | Andrew Webb |
| Alex Mogen | Clarenda Webb |
| Karyn Moore | Leonard Weber |
| Carla Morgan | Rob Weber |
| Mary Mueller | Hannah Weiner |
| Mary Muhammad | Amy Wenger |
| Muhsin Muhammad | B. Artis White |
| Dominique Murray | William White |
| Alexa Nagan | Steve Wilke |
| Bill Nolan | Jeremy Williams |
| Margie Nolan | |
| Emily Novick | |
| Joe Novick | |
| Connie Obelnicki | |
| Frank Obelnicki | |
| Alex Ocampo | |
| Alex Parker | |
| Charlotte Patnaude | |
| Ron Patnaude | |
| Malik Patton | |
| Joseph Perry | |
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News Around the Neighborhood

SERVICE AGENCIES TO OPEN GRAND RIVER OFFICES

The Center for Empowerment and Economic Development (CEED) and the Accounting Aid Society (AAS) will be opening new offices this fall in the GRDC-owned building at 19550-19566 Grand River.

CEED provides business development training, networking opportunities and small business loans, with a special focus on women and minority-owned businesses. In partnership with the City of Detroit's Office of Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization, they manage the Small Business Detroit Micro-loan Program.

AAS provides free tax preparation services and promotes the economic self-sufficiency of low- and moderate-income families, seniors, and others in need. Joining AAS will be The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW), which provides low-income individuals and families with emergency energy assistance and advocates for long-term solutions to energy issues.

"We are very pleased to have these highly-regarded organizations opening offices in our Grand River building," said GRDC Executive Director Tom Goddeeris. "They provide valuable services to the Detroit community and will now be especially accessible to our neighborhood residents."

Other building tenants include Rosedale Eye Care and the campaign office of Detroit City Council President Ken Cockrel, Jr. Additional space is also available for lease. For more information, contact Tom Goddeeris at 313-387-4732, ext. 111.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

If you or someone you know is in danger of foreclosure, DON'T DELAY. Foreclosure prevention counselors from Southwest Housing Solutions are available. Homeowners who are behind on their mort-

gages or tax payments should contact the free non-profit counselors immediately, while they still have options – call 313-841-9641 TODAY for an appointment with a counselor.

WELCOME, DELORES!

GRDC is pleased to bring Wayne State University Masters in Social Work student Delores Hearst on board. Delores will do a semester-long internship with GRDC, from September to December this year. Delores' past work experiences include Child Protective Services, Vista Maria, and Romulus Community Schools.

At GRDC she will be helping with the strategic planning process, assisting with the volunteer program, and updating GRDC's database of local businesses. "I'm really looking forward to working at GRDC," said Delores, "it's a beautiful neighborhood and I love the idea of working there." We're looking forward to it, too, Delores - welcome aboard!

FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE

Good news for Grand River business owners! The City of Detroit's Office of Neighborhood Commercial Development recently announced renewed funding is available for its ReFresh Detroit! program, which supports projects to improve the appearance of the facades of businesses in designated areas.

"This reimbursement grant program has been very popular with our business owners," commented GRDC Commercial Program Manager Pam Weinstein. "We have received \$30,000 in additional funds that will now be available to improve more Grand River businesses."

For more information and to find out if your project would be eligible for a reimbursement grant, contact Weinstein at 313-387-4732, ext. 103, or at pweinstein@grdc.org.