### **INSIDE**

Thanks to All	2
Volunteers Turn Out	
Special Assessment District	
Blue Moon	

## Spring/Summer 2016

# Community Workshop Envisions Grand River Improvements



One design idea for a new Grand River Avenue.

On Friday, April 15th, more than 60 residents and other stakeholders turned out to begin the process of reimagining Grand River as a more walkable, bike-able, people-centered commercial district. The event was the kick off of a three-day design workshop hosted by GRDC in conjunction with the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), a national organization of architects and planners whose motto is "Building Places People Love."

Grandmont Rosedale was one of only four metro area communities to receive design services from CNU as part of the Congress Legacy Project leading up to their national convention scheduled for this June in Detroit. CNU assembled an expert team of national and local consultants who donated their time to the effort. The team was led by Dover, Kohl and Partners, from Miami, assisted by

local firm Design Team + as well as Hall Planning and Engineering and Urban Advantage.

Over the course of the weekend, the CNU team met with residents, business owners, city, state and county officials and others to gather input and ideas. The preliminary results were presented at a public meeting on Sunday afternoon. The plans will be refined and presented to the CNU conference in June. Among the design ideas under consideration are protected bike lanes, landscaped medians, enhanced landscaping, and increased pedestrian crossings.

While attendees left the workshop energized and optimistic, many wondered what was next. Two days after the workshop, GRDC presented the preliminary results to an inter-agency transportation workshop, which brought together the city's Department of Public

Works, Planning and Development Department, Detroit Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments, and many more decision makers. At this workshop, City officials expressed an interest in implementing changes along the Grand River corridor. GRDC will continue to follow up with CNU and the City of Detroit to develop recommendations for Grand River in the Grandmont Rosedale area.

Thanks are due to CNU and the entire consultant team, as well as to everyone from the community that participated, and to Bushnell Congregational church for the use of their facility. Funding for this project was provided by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. For more information go to www. grandmontrosedale.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.

A special thank you to Kenneth Wolfe and George Reo. They both donated houses to GRDC!

## Thanks to Our Supporters

GRDC thanks the following families and businesses for their generous support of our programs between November 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016. Your contributions make a real difference in our community!

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## **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

Looking for a way to pitch in to make Grandmont Rosedale more beautiful? These upcoming activities offer opportunities for volunteers of all ages and skill levels.

## MOTOR CITY MAKEOVER AT GRANDMONT ROSEDALE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Motor City Makeover, an annual citywide volunteer cleanup and beautification initiative, is coming to Grandmont Rosedale on Saturday, May 21st. To celebrate this event, GRDC will work in partnership with high school students from Project 561, to build a water catchment system at the Grandmont Rosedale Community Garden. Similar to a rain barrel, the water catchment system is designed to capture rain water from the roof of the garden's tool shed which can be used to water the garden. Volunteers are welcome to participate and lunch will be provided to those who join us from 10 am to 2pm.

### **GRAND RIVER LANDSCAPE PROJECT**

Also on Saturday, May 21st, GRDC will be joining forces with Hatch Detroit to plant new landscape beds along Grand River. Hatch Detroit is a non-profit organization supporting small business development. For 2016, they have selected Grandmont Rosedale for a neighborhood commercial district beautification project. Volunteers should meet at Grand River WorkPlace at 19120 Grand River at 9:00am. No green thumb required.

### **VACANT LOT BEAUTIFICATION**

Thanks to a mini-grant from Detroit Future City (DFC), two area vacant lots will receive new landscaping later this month. The beautification efforts will occur at 16838 Stahelin Street on Thursday May 19 and at 14367 Grandville Avenue on a date to be determined. Both activities begin at 10am. The projects will utilize designs contained in DFC's new "Field Guide to Working with Lots."

The lot on Stahelin near W. McNichols Rd. will be transformed into a native butterfly meadow that will include wild geraniums, yarrow, and daylilies, among other flowers. This lot design will add to previously established wild flower fields on Stahelin Avenue, planted by volunteers last year. This year, we're excited to involve students from nearby Cooke Elementary School in the beautification process. They'll be joining in by taking field trips, learning about green infrastructure, planting flowers and painting butterfly and bird houses that will later be installed on site. The Grandville lot in Grandmont #1 near Lyndon Avenue will also be transformed into a flower garden with dozens of roses and hydrangeas.

To volunteer for any of these activities, please contact GRDC Program Manager Becki Kenderes at 313-387-4732 x101 or bkenderes@grandmontrosedale.com. Scheduled dates are subject to change due to weather conditions and plant availability.

## Volunteers Turn Out for Detroit Partnership Day

For the 17th consecutive year, the Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation (GRDC) took part in the University of Michigan's Detroit Partnership Day (DP Day), held this year on Saturday, March 26. As in past years, hundreds of U of M students joined residents across Detroit to help in spring cleanups. However, this year participation in the Grandmont Rosedale community was marked by additional support from several other groups including volunteers from the Grandmont Rosedale Community Garden, Cass Tech High School, Groves High School and Bushnell Congregational Church. A total of 53 volunteers spruced up the Grandmont Rosedale Community Garden and cleared over 100 bags of litter from

the garden, alley and nearby church grounds.

Additional student volunteers served at clean-up events hosted by the Grandmont Community Association at Ramsay Park, by North Rosedale Park Civic Association on Stahelin Street and by the Rosedale Park Improvement Association and the Grandmont #1 Improvement Association at Rosemont-Acacia Park. The Detroit Partnership is a great opportunity for Grandmont Rosedale residents to introduce their communities to students who may not be familiar with Detroit, while getting some important neighborhood work done. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Detroit Partnership Day volunteers show off their hard work.

## Home Shoppers Flock to Grandmont Rosedale Area

Housing values in the Grandmont Rosedale area continue to rise as more and more home shoppers are discovering the quality homes found in our neighborhoods.

Two homes recently renovated by GRDC attracted multiple purchase offers as soon as they hit the market. The homes, located in the Minock Park and Grandmont #1 neighborhoods, sold at well-above-average prices for those communities.

"Area homes have recovered much of the value lost in the wake of the national foreclosure crisis," observed GRDC Executive Director Tom Goddeeris. "This is good news both for new buyers who want to purchase or renovate a home, and for current homeowners who are rebuilding the equity in their homes."

## ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE DRAWS HUNDREDS

One of the highlights of the spring home shopping season is the annual Grandmont Rosedale Community Open House, this year held on Sunday, May 15th. The Open House features homes for sale and showcases the neighborhood to prospective buyers. This year, it also featured several homes of current residents willing to open their homes to give shoppers a taste of community life.

The Open House, now in its 11th year, is a collaborative project of the five Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods and GRDC. Many thanks to these generous sponsors for supporting the event: Talmer Bank, First Merit Bank, Huntington Bank, PNC Bank, John Cash State Farm, Robinson Realty and Management Group and Dusing Security. Thanks also to the many volunteers who pitched in to make the event a huge success, and especially those homeowners who opened their homes to promote our community.



Recently renovated GRDC home in Minock Park attracted multiple offers.



# **NeighborWay Greenway to Link Community Projects**

Save the date of Saturday, August 6th for the grand opening of NeighborWay, a new five mile walking/biking path throughout the Grandmont

Rosedale communities. The path will connect many existing neighborhood points of interest, including parks, gardens, public art and green infrastructure projects. Three hubs will serve to orient visitors to the path. The hubs will be located on Stahelin Ave near McNichols, on Auburn at the entrance to Stoepel Park and at the Community Garden at Bushnell Church. Each of these hubs will feature a trailhead with an info station and map.

The NeighborWay was developed in collaboration with Project 561, a coalition of metro area high school students. The students raised half of the funds needed to implement the project and participated in a number of service projects to beautify and enhance the NeighborWay hub locations.

"Project 561 derived its name by adding the 313 and 248 area codes together," explained project coordinator Becki Kenderes. "These students wanted to support a project that united volunteers from the suburbs and the city and chose Grandmont Rosedale as the place to invest their time and energy.'

Matching funds are currently being sought from the State of Michigan through the Public Spaces, Community Places program.

# Special Assessment District Petition Drive Underway

The Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods have launched a campaign to establish a Special Assessment District (S.A.D.) that would raise money for supplemental security patrols and snow removal services in our community. If established, the cost of services would be shared equally by all area property owners through a special tax assessment included on their summer 2017 property tax bill, for services beginning in the fall of 2017.

## WHAT IS THE GRANDMONT ROSEDALE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT?

The Special Assessment District proposed for Grandmont Rosedale would encompass the residential blocks within the following neighborhoods: Grandmont, Grandmont #1, Minock Park, North Rosedale Park, and Rosedale Park. All five area neighborhood association boards voted to join the petition drive and be included in the proposed district. GRDC would manage the SAD in the Grandmont Rosedale area. The cost per property would be \$250 per year, or approximately 69 cents per day.

Security Services will include two security patrols 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Patrols will include one marked Detroit Police Vehicle staffed by off duty Detroit Police Officers and one marked Security Company Vehicle staffed by a uniformed Security. Residents will have a direct line to the patrols to report suspicious activity, and the off duty DPD Officers will retain full powers of arrest. Snow Removal Services will plow all residential streets in Grandmont Rosedale from curb to curb within 24 hours once the snow reaches 3 inches, but not before the snow ceases to fall. All sidewalks will also be plowed within 24 hours once the snow reaches 2 inches, but again, not before the snow stops.



#### **HOW CAN I SHOW MY SUPPORT?**

To establish an S.A.D. more than 51% of all property owners must sign a petition in support of the district. If these signatures are collected, the question then goes before City Council for public hearings and a vote.

If you support this concept, we urge you to sign the petition and help get others to sign too. There are many ways to get involved. For example, you can circulate the petition on your own block, or invite someone to come speak about the S.A.D. at your next block meeting. You can also volunteer to go door-to-door in your neighborhood or staff a community signing location. All are important and are the only way to ensure we reach all residents of the Grandmont Rosedale Communities.

A Special Assessment District would make Grandmont Rosedale a safer and better place to live, but it's going to take some effort on every resident's part. If you have questions about the Special Assessment District petition signing campaign or the Special Assessment District itself, contact Chelsea Neblett at cneblett@grandmontrosedale.com or 313-387-4732, ext. 103 or you can visit a website dedicated to the S.A.D. by going to www.grandmontrosedalesad.com.

# Residents Encouraged to be "On the Lookout"

When neighbors look out for one another the result is a safer, more vibrant community. That's why the Grandmont Rosedale Crime Prevention Task Force is launching the "On the Lookout" campaign in an effort to increase eyes on the street and to deter crime. Residents are asked to observe their own block from the window of their home for at least one minute per day, then track and report any suspicious activities observed.

Participating is as easy as recording the minutes you observe each month, and submitting them to the Community Security Program. The minutes will be tallied and reported at each Neighborhood Safety Meeting and online. The campaign will run until April 2017.

"Taking a minute a day to observe their surroundings is a simple step every resident can take to improve our community," said Community Safety Manager Chelsea Neblett. "When each individual action is added together, the results can be very powerful."

For more information about the "On the Lookout" Campaign, to view helpful documents or to download the tracking form please visit: www.mygrandmontrosedale. org/onthelookout, you can also submit minutes tracked electronically.

Contact the Community Security Program at safety@grandmontrosedale.com or by calling 313-387-4732 ext. 109 with any questions.

**Grand River WorkPlace Open House** 

Thursday, May 26th

Grand River WorkPlace is Detroit's premiere neighborhood "co-working" space right in our very own community. Providing shared amenities such as Wi-fi, conference rooms, and copy/printing services, Grand River WorkPlace is an affordable, flexible and professional work space for small businesses at any stage development. Looking for a work space where you can work, learn, and grow? Curious about co-working? Join us on Thursday, May 26th from 4pm-7pm to learn more about our Grand River WorkPlace and the resources



available to entrepreneurs and small business within Grandmont Rosedale, To RSVP, email Larissa Carr at lcarr@grandmontrosedale.com. WorkPlace is located at 19120 Grand River.

## **New Initiative Invites** Residents to "Discover

Discover D1 is a new initiative to encourage local shopping and create thriving commercial corridors within Detroit's Council District One. The Discover D1 campaign is sponsored by Councilmember James Tate, ProsperUs Detroit, Invest Detroit, and the City of Detroit Mayor's Office, and coordinated by GRDC with funding provided by the Knight Foundation.

"There are a lot of great local businesses just waiting to be discovered," says campaign coordinator Larissa Carr. "Our goal is to help those businesses engage with local residents and turn them into repeat customers."

In addition to raising awareness of local shopping alternatives, Discover D1 will also offer technical assistance to area businesses. Do you have a business in District One? Want to know more about the program or how to get involved? Contact Larissa Carr at lcarr@grandmontrosedale.com



## **Rebrand Detroit Comes to Grandmont Rosedale!**

The Grandmont Rosedale area has been selected as the first neighborhood to participate in the Rebrand Detroit project, the brainchild of Haji Flemings, small business consultant and founder of Brand Camp University. Flemings will work with several local businesses to help them create tools and strategies for telling their unique story in order to connect with customers and build their businesses. Rebrand Detroit will also work directly with residents and GRDC to

develop a stronger brand identity for the Grand River business district in Grandmont Rosedale. Rebrand Detroit is supported by the Knight Foundation as one of the inaugural winners of the 2015 Knight Cities

Interested in being a part of the Rebrand Detroit strategy meetings? Contact Larissa Carr at lcarr@ grandmontrosedale.com. For more information about Rebrand Detroit visit www.rebranddetroit.com.



## **Donate Your Used Car**

Do you have an old car you would like to get rid of but don't want to be bothered with the hassle of selling a used car? Why not donate it to GRDC and take a deduction off of your taxes? Donating a used car to GRDC is as easy as picking up the phone and calling Charity Motors at 313-255-1000. Tell Charity Motors that you would like to name Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation as the beneficiary of your donation. They'll handle the rest - they'll even pick your car up for free! It's just one of the ways you can help us make the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhood an even better place to live, work and play.

**Vacant Building to Become** 

**New Restaurant** 

GRDC has purchased the long vacant Blue Moon Ice Cream building located at 19614 Grand River and will be working with Detroit-based restaurant Detroit Vegan Soul to open their second Detroit location in the Grandmont Rosedale area.

"GRDC strives to be a catalyst for entrepreneurial growth and business attraction in our area," said Tom Goddeeris, Executive Director. "We are very pleased that we will be able to play a role in bringing such a great restaurant to our community."

Detroit Vegan Soul opened its first restaurant in the West Village neighborhood in 2013. Their success prompted them to look for a west-side location to expand into. Grandmont Rosedale was selected for its strong surrounding communities, accessible location for both city and suburban customers and revitalizing commercial district.

By assisting with property acquisition, the Detroit Vegan Soul is able to focus its attention and resources



Detroit Vegan Soul coming to Grand River Avenue.

on building out the interior of the restaurant and running their business. A "placemaking" grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority is providing support for this project. Watch for more details in the months ahead!

# Farmers' Market Returns Thursday, June 2

Can you believe the Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market is celebrating its 12th year of operation? Help get the 2016 season underway by attending the opening day festivities on Thursday, June 2nd from 4-8pm at the Community House! There will be food trucks, produce, baked goods, artisan crafts, youth activities and more on opening day.

### **RETURNING PROGRAMMING AND NEW VENDORS**

Last year's "Healthy Living Initiatives" such as food preservation workshops, healthy food recipes and exercise demonstrations, will return this season and there will be new vendors offering fresh, local produce and value added products! Don't worry though, your favorite long time vendors that you have come to love will also be returning! Our market will continue to accept cash and credit as payment as well as food assistance program payments such as EBT/ Bridge Cards, Double Up Food Bucks (an EBT matching program for all EBT users for fresh, local produce up to \$20 per market day) and Project/ Market FRESH coupons.

"We hope that residents will notice the increased product diversity and number of vendors at the market this season" Chelsea Neblett, manager of the Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market stated.

Stop by the North Rosedale Park Community House located at 18445 Scarsdale St. (near Bretton and Glastonbury) any Thursday evening from 4-8pm from June 2 until mid-October to pick up your fresh produce, local eggs, or simply to say hi to your neighbors – who knows, you might even win the weekly raffle!

For more information about the 2016 Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market season please contact Market Manager Chelsea Neblett at cneblett@grandmontrosedale.com or by calling 313.387.4732 x 103.





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## **News Around the Neighborhood**

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY MEETING**

The next Neighborhood Safety Meeting will take place Thursday, May 26th at 6:30pm at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale. The topic of this month's meeting is "Auto-Theft Prevention" with guest speakers from the Wayne County Prosecuting Office and the Detroit Police Department. From the Wayne County Prosecutors Office is head of the Auto Theft Unit, Dennis Doherty and Lead Attorney Suzette Samuels. Sergeant Robert Wellman from the Detroit Police Department will also offer insights. The Neighborhood Safety Meetings are free and open to the public.

Be sure to arrive early for your free Auto-VIN Etching (a \$200 value!). Auto-VIN Etching will take place before the Neighborhood Safety Meeting from 4-6pm in the North Rosedale Park Community House Parking Lot. Remember to bring your driver's license and vehicle registration. Can't make it to the May Auto-VIN Etching? Look out for two more opportunities at

the Farmer's Market over the summer!
For more information, contact safety@
grandmontrosedale.com.

## VISIT MYGRANDMONTROSEDALE.ORG

Mygrandmontrosedale.org is a website that provides a great deal of information about all that's happening in Grandmont Rosedale. You can read about residents, local business owners, community events and more. You can also take a look at a calendar of events and a business directory. Check it out!

## SIGN UP FOR THE GRDC EBLAST

If you would like to know what's going on in Grandmont Rosedale each week, sign up for the GRDC eblast. This electronic newsletter will arrive in your email inbox every Wednesday. In it you will find information about upcoming events and links to relevant websites, emails and flyers. Simply send an email to info@ grandmontrosedale.com and ask to be added to the list.