

The ROSEDALE News

Austin, Texas 78756

"Working together to keep our neighborhood
a nice place to come home to."

July 2009

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FOR ROSEDALE

The City of Austin will undertake a major infrastructure project in Rosedale in the near future. The Rosedale Neighborhood Association (RNA) wants all residents and businesses in the area to be fully aware of the planned construction. We are very fortunate to have this major flood control and water quality project designed, funded, and built this quickly by the City of Austin. Many Austin neighborhoods experiencing these same problems are still waiting for their turn to have their problems addressed in a comprehensive plan. But, the construction means some inconvenience and frustration for a while and it possibly could limit our use of one part of Ramsey Park for the duration of project. The details are set out below.

Reason for the infrastructure construction -- flood control. In 005, the City of Austin developed a comprehensive plan to upgrade the outdated and inadequate storm water and drainage infrastructure in Rosedale. Many homes in Rosedale had experienced flooding and many streets and yards also flooded because the storm drains were inadequate. The whole plan was designed and scheduled to be implemented in two phases.

Phase 1 construction completed. Phase I of this upgrade was completed in 2007. In Phase I, the old inadequate storm drains were replaced with new larger storm drain pipes. Since streets had to be excavated, old water and waste water pipes were also replaced and streets were repaved. Phase I was a success. Since completion of Phase I, no home that previously had been susceptible to flooding in the Phase I area has flooded again. Residents who lived on the streets involved in Phase I weathered the inconvenience of having their streets disrupted with the construction of this new infrastructure.

Phase 2 construction coming in near future. At the end of Phase I, the City of Austin told Rosedale residents that additional infrastructure replacement would be necessary to alleviate flooding in other parts of the neighborhood. The additional construction, Phase 2, will be funded with bond money and was originally scheduled to begin in October of 2012. However, at the RNA monthly meeting on Monday, May 18th, Stephanie Lott from the City of Austin, along with other city department representatives, presented information about Phase 2 and informed us that the project may be fast-tracked and could begin in March of 2010, less than a year from now. Because contractors are in need of work during the current economic conditions, they have contacted the City with offers to begin projects at a reduced cost sooner than originally planned. The City will be using reserved bond money for this project, so the city's current economic shortfalls are not involved. The construction will directly affect about 16 city blocks in Rosedale.

Map showing the location of Phase 2 construction. To view the areas affected by Phase 2, you can link to city information and maps at: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/flood_rosedale.htm

Amount of time needed to complete Phase 2. Phase 2 will take approximately 15 months to complete. The construction will be undertaken in parts and, as a general matter, will begin downstream in the drainage system (that is, at the southern part of the neighborhood) and move upstream (northward).

Hours of construction; notice of disruptions. The normal working hours for the project will be weekdays 7am to 7pm, but the city officials will consider changes if problems are brought to their attention by the neighborhood. Workers will notify affected residents of disruptions that will affect their property, such as intersection closings and water shut-offs, by personally knocking on doors or leaving notices if no one is home.

Staging Area — Ramsey Park a possibility. City officials have informed the RNA that they are currently looking for space that is approximately one acre in size to serve as the staging area for the project. They have identified the northeast corner of Ramsey Park (the outfield area of the baseball field) as the preferred staging area. Other areas were considered, but each of those areas has serious drawbacks and probably would not be acceptable. The other areas considered were: Texas Department of Transportation property at 45th Street and Bull Creek Road; open space at the State Records Center Building at 4400 Shoal Creek Blvd; and open space at the Triangle development. There are pros and cons to consider in regard to Ramsey Park serving as the staging area. Also, any damage done to the staging area, wherever it may be, will be repaired to equal or better condition by the contractors at the conclusion of the project.

Money for Ramsey Park if the park is used as staging area. If the northeast corner of Ramsey Park is used as the staging area, mitigation fees would be paid, and the city would dedicate that money to financing various improvements to Ramsey Park. The city representatives estimate that the total amount of the fees would be about \$200,000. If Ramsey Park is used for the staging area, the neighborhood will have the opportunity to work with the area parks manager to select the park improvements, and the RNA would seek neighborhood input about what kind of park improvements would be most beneficial to the neighborhood and about setting priorities for those improvements. A few ideas that have been mentioned in the past are: a landscape irrigation system around the pool; renovation of the restrooms at the pool; creation of sidewalk areas specifically for use by children bicyclists and tricyclists; tennis court resurfacing; and pavilion improvements.

Further discussion with City at the RNA's June meeting. The City representatives will return to the next RNA meeting on Monday, June 22, for further discussions. The meeting will be at 6:45 at the Yarborough Public Library on Hancock Dr.

Future Postings About The Project. More information will be posted on the listserv as we receive it.

JULY 4TH CARNIVAL

It's not too early to start making plans for RNA's biggest fundraiser of the year! Join us at the bleachers in the park on Saturday, July 4th at 9:30 to decorate bikes, hats, strollers and anything else needing decorating and then march around the park. Enjoy a watermelon and a water balloon toss after the parade and then amble over to the playscape for delicious baked goods and carnival games.

We'll have all the old favorites — fishing, lollipop tree, golf, treasure dig, face painting, nail salon, spin art, fish pond—as well as a new stuffed animal walk, penny toss and succulent plant swap courtesy **(cont. on back)**

(cont. from front) of the Rosedale Garden Club. In addition, we hope to have a silent auction with items and services donated by businesses in the 'hood. If you would like to make an in-kind or cash donation for the auction, we'd love to hear from you! Volunteers are needed for 45-minute shifts to help with games, silent auction, ticket sales, set up and clean up. We also need small and large stuffed animals and gobs of those irritating little toys cluttering your kids' toy chests for carnival prizes (Yes, so they can clutter up someone else's toy chest).

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact carnival co-chair Melinda Marble at msmarble@juno.com.

If you'd like to donate a silent auction item or toys, please contact carnival co-chair Rebecca Ray at: runrebeccaray@gmail.com. For donations of baked goods, please contact Felicia Adams at adams4203@yahoo.com. Many thanks to Pam Archer for her dedication and commitment in organizing the carnival year after year. Maybe this year, she can relax and enjoy it!

THE ROSEDALE LISTSERVS

aka bulletin boards, are now in their 15th year and serve as a great communications vehicle for the 'hood. There's a main board and a separate 'ads' board for commercial and other advertisements. Membership is free and readers of the listservs have a range of ways to consume what's on each. The options range from simply visiting the listserv online (to read on your schedule), to subscribing to the daily digest (where all the previous day's posts arrive in your inbox in a single email), to subscribing to receive each post as it's approved. The main listserv currently has over eleven hundred members and has averaged 2,800 posts per year over the past five years, or more than seven posts a day.

To learn more, visit: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/rosedale/ www.groups.yahoo.com/group/rosedale_ads/ There you can join a group to review posts online or find the email addresses to subscribe, unsubscribe, post, and contact the list moderators.

TACO SHACK 5K FUN

On Saturday, July 11, 2009, a special event will take place at Ramsey Park. The first annual Taco Shack 5K Fun Run and Kids Triathlon will benefit the Center For Child Protection, a local non-profit organization. The 5K run begins at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Kids Triathlon about an hour later. Other activities and entertainment will take place all morning, including music and announcements at the starting and finishing line. The Taco Shack 5K Organizing Committee invites you to join in this neighborhood community celebration as a participant, volunteer or observer. Register at the event website: (www.tacoshackfunrun.com/). For course information contact Jeff Berres at 965-5909. Volunteers contact Melissa Soliz via email at msoliz@centerforchildprotection.org or give her a call at 472-1164 .

*** Crime Safety Tips ***

Lock your car and house.
Install motion detector lights on home.
Get a yippy dog.
Report all suspicious activity to 911.

ROSEDALE GARDEN CLUB TOUR

About twenty members turned out for the first Rosedale Garden Club Tour on Wednesday evening, May 13. The group made their merry way through eight gardens in the neighborhood, with each gardener explaining the highlights of their labor of love. It was quite an accomplishment to complete the meandering route together before dark, some participants on foot, others by car or by bicycle, and one on a skateboard. We discovered that each garden has its own unique design based on the owner's location and interests. While some focus on edibles, others have created profuse beds of colorful flowers. Several gardens include a water feature that provides a refreshing respite for wildlife and humans alike.

The Rosedale Garden Club formed in August, 2008, and members range from novice to well-seasoned gardeners who usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the home of a member. Our main goal is to share our enthusiasm and knowledge on a particular gardening topic at each meeting and through our emailing group.



Rosedale Garden Club Members

Back Row: JoAnna Rollings, Jacoba van Sitteren, tank top, grey shirt, Linda Mosley, Victoria Smith Middle Row: Martha-Cary Sadler, Margaret Powis, Melinda Marble, Cheryl Silver, Rebecca Ray, Michelle Raymond Front Row: Monica Wells, dog, Sandy Tipton, Aletha St. Romain, Trish Szekely, Rachel Boyce, Staci Osburn, Ryan & Eva Raymond
Photo by Sandy Tipton

RAMSEY PARK SIDEWALK UPDATE

Thanks again to the Austin Parks Foundation and their Austin City Limits Music Festival grant awarded to the RNA to complete the sidewalk around the park. And many thanks also to all residents who donated money for the RNA's required contribution to the project. The city should be in the park beginning the week of June 8th!

Join the **RNA yahoogroup** by sending a blank email to: rosedale-subscribe@yahoo.com .

Join a committee—help make a difference in your neighborhood. To join visit: www.rosedale-na.org/opportunities.php
Email areas of interest and contact info to volunteers@rosedale-na.org

RNA Steering Committee meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of every month. Meetings are held at the Yarborough Library at 6:45 PM. To verify date and location email president@rosedale-na.org. All residents are invited to attend.

Ramsey Pool Hours www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/pools_schedule.htm