

R The ROSEDALIAN

Newsletter of the Rosedale Neighborhood
Austin, Texas 78756

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

July 2013

Editors: Vicki Almstrum & Jay Carpenter

Rosedale July 4th Carnival

Join your neighbors at Ramsey Park to celebrate the 4th of July! We'll gather at the bleachers in the park at 9:30am to decorate bikes, hats, strollers, etc. and then at 10:00am promenade around the park.

We'll enjoy watermelon and the water balloon toss back at the bleachers after the promenade and then at 10:30 stroll over to the playscape for delicious baked goods and carnival games. We'll have plenty of games on hand: fishing, lollipop tree, golf, treasure dig, face painting, nail salon, spin art, and fish pond, as well as music and home-baked treats to eat.

We need donations as well as volunteers to run the games, baked goods, and watermelon. Volunteers are needed for 45-minute shifts from 10:30 – 11:15 and 11:15 – 12:00 to help with games, ticket and food sales, set up, and clean up. If you can help out with your donations or volunteering your time, please contact Mindy Marble at msmarble@juno.com or call 709-1407. Thanks!

— Mindy Marble RNA co-president and carnival co-chair

Summertime Means Suncare

The American Academy of Dermatology issued updated guidelines for selection of sunscreen. <http://www.aad.org/dermatology-a-to-z/health-and-beauty>

Sunscreen labels have changed. To select a sunscreen, look for the words “broad spectrum,” which protects your skin from both types of UV rays – UVA and UVB. Find one with an SPF value of 30 or greater, and is “water resistant.” You won't see “waterproof” any longer nor will you see the word “sunblock.” The terms are misleading.

Be safe and enjoy the pool this summer!

STAGE 2 Watering Restrictions Still In Effect

Automatic sprinkler systems are allowed before 5am and after 7pm on Wednesdays for odd addresses and Thursdays for even addresses. Hose-end sprinkler systems are allowed before 10am and after 7pm on Saturdays for odd addresses and Sundays for even addresses.



Exemptions are allowed any time of the day for:

Soaker hoses on vegetable gardens
Automatic bubblers on trees or soaker hoses placed within the canopy drop line

Hand watering with a hose or watering can.

Report violations to 3-1-1.

For more information:

<http://austintexas.gov/news/austin-water-activates-stage-2-water-restrictions>

Ramsey Park Improvement Programs

As you may know, a portion of Ramsey Park was closed for 18 months to store earth-moving equipment needed to improve Rosedale's storm drains. The project finished in July 2012. In exchange for using Ramsey Park as a staging area for the storm drain project, the City of Austin allocated approximately \$240,000 in mitigation funds to improve Ramsey Park. The RNA Steering Committee formed the Ramsey Park Committee, a sub-committee, to spearhead implementing this project.

As per an April 2012 City Council Resolution, all COA parks are required to have an approved master plan in place before any new amenities can be added or significant improvements to existing features can be made. Initially, the COA required the Committee to develop a master plan (a list of desired elements the community would like to see incorporated in the park over the next 20 years). The Ramsey Park master plan was developed following input from neighborhood community meetings and emails further soliciting input from neighborhood residents for features they would like to see incorporated at Ramsey Park.

The master plan's vision is to provide the community with a park where they can play, gather, and grow together. The plan further identifies the following as top priorities for Ramsey Park: a place that is enjoyed and used by multi-generations, a retreat from the heat, and preservation of open spaces. In September 2012, the master plan was approved by the RNA and submitted for COA's approval.



Secondly, the COA required the Committee to develop a concept plan (a schematic drawing incorporating the top desired features from the master plan). The Committee worked with David Wilson, neighbor and owner of David Wilson Garden Design, who volunteered his time and expertise to develop a beautiful concept plan. Once this was completed, the Committee met with PARD in October 2012 to review the concept plan.

General elements of the concept plan include new sidewalks to connect diverse areas around the south side of the park. The playscape will remain in the same general area. Shade will be provided over the basketball court. New trees and benches will line the park's perimeter. Hillside seating will be provided at the pavilion, along with additional picnic tables and seating. There will be an information kiosk, an art piece, a fitness area, and additional water fountains. (cont. page 2)

(Ramsey Park cont.) In November through February, PARD further modified the concept plan to incorporate additional features from the master plan, including pathways and COA regulations such as defining the required amount of space for fall zones in the playscape areas. The COA presented the concept plan to the RNA and it was approved in March 2013; PARD officially adopted the master and concept plans in April 2013.

Although \$240,000 seems like a large amount of money, it is not nearly enough to pay for everything in our master plan. The Ramsey Park Committee has made a formal request to the COA to leverage the mitigation funds for matching grant dollars through the Austin Parks Foundation grant process. The Committee requested matching funds for \$50,000, the most possible. The Committee also recognizes the need for additional fundraising efforts. To make a tax-deductible financial contribution towards Ramsey Park improvements, write a check payable to "Austin Parks Foundation (a 501(c)(3))" with "Ramsey Park Improvement Project" written in the memo and mail to Austin Parks Foundation, 507 Calles Street, Suite 116, Austin, TX 78702. Donations may also be made via credit card through APF's website:

<https://www.austinparks.org/adopter-donations.html>.

This summer, PARD will discuss timeline, funding, and project delivery methods for our top priorities. Top implementation priorities include:

- Upgrade and maintain playscapes for children of all ages (though the playscapes may seem fine, they are reaching the end of their lifespan, according to the COA, and will need replacing)

- Improve pool and poolside area

- Overhaul pavilion space and adjacent amphitheater near restrooms and add additional shade

While the process may appear to be slow, PARD assures us that we are actually on the fast track. We will keep you posted on all developments as they progress.

Unrelated to the park renovation, PARD has replaced the 8' metal slide with a 7' plastic slide. (All metal slides in COA parks have been replaced, not just Ramsey's.) COA also replaced the gravel fall zone material with engineered wood fiber. These changes were done for safety reasons and mitigation funds were not used.

If you have any questions, send us an email at ramseypark2012@gmail.com.

Regards, Sunitha Downing and Alison Alter
Ramsey Park Committee co-chairs

Ramsey Pool Schedule

June 10 – July 5, 2013

Monday – Friday

8:00am – 10:00am Lap Swim

10:00am – 12:00pm Swim Team

12:00pm – 8:00pm Recreational Swim

5:30pm – 7:40pm Swim Lessons

Weekends

11:00 am – 12:00pm Lap Swim

12:00 pm – 8:00pm Recreational Swim

July 6 - August 9, 2013

Monday – Friday

8:00am – 10:00am Lap Swim

8:00am – 10:00am Swim Lessons

10:00am – 8:00pm Recreational Swim

5:30 pm – 7:40pm Swim Lessons

Weekends

11:00am – 12:00pm Lap Swim

12:00pm – 8:00pm Recreational Swim

August 10 – August 25, 2013

Daily

1:00pm – 7:00pm Recreational Swim

An exciting development should help Rosedale beat the heat a little more effectively this summer. In cooperation with the Aquatics Division of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, RNA is assembling an aerator for use at Ramsey Pool this summer. An aerator circulates the water in the pool after hours in order to cool the pool a few degrees in the hottest days of summer. Similar devices are in use at Northwest Pool and are considered a great success. RNA is donating the device to the City and we hope to see the aerator humming away by July!



*** 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 • AUSTIN

RNA website: rosedale-na.org

Rosedale Neighborhood Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I would like to help with:

Newsletter ___ Zoning ___ Neighborhood Events ___ Traffic/Parking ___ Community Relations ___ Neighborhood History Project ___
July 4th Carnival ___ Ramsey Park Revitalization ___ Graffiti Removal ___ Electronic Communication ___

Dues are \$5 per household and extras will be donated to the Ramsey Park fund

If you would like to join the RNA, please fill out this form and either bring a check payable to RNA to the Annual Meeting or mail to:

Kim Relph 4510 Rosedale Ave., Austin, Texas 78756

Can't remember if you already joined? A list of members will be available at the Annual Meeting in the Fall.