



The ROSEDALIAN

Newsletter of the Rosedale Neighborhood
Austin, Texas 78756

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

July 2012

Editors Jay Carpenter & Vicki Almstrum

Rosedale July 4th Carnival

Join your neighbors at Ramsey Park to celebrate the 4th of July and (hopefully) the end of the Rosedale Storm Drain Project!! We'll gather at the bleachers in the park at 9:30 am to decorate bikes, hats, and strollers and then at 10:00 am parade around the park.

Enjoy watermelon and a water balloon toss back at the bleachers after the parade and then at 10:30 stroll over to the playscape for delicious baked goods and carnival games. There will be 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. There won't be a silent auction booth this year, but there will be an information and fundraising booth where you can contribute ideas and funds to help make the master vision for Ramsey

Park a reality! (Bring your checkbook, renovated bathrooms don't come cheap, you know! Gosh, it once seemed like \$240,000 was a massive amount of money.)

We need donations including pristine small and large stuffed animals (this may be the last year for the stuffed animal walk. so purge while you can!), a very limited amount of small toys for games (we still have lots left over from last year),

baked goods (none left from last year), and cut up watermelon on the morning of the 4th. You can drop toys off at 4403 Shoalwood Ave (green house with the dying lawn). For donations of baked goods, please contact Felicia Adams at adams4203@yahoo.com.

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'd like to volunteer, please contact carnival co-chair Melinda Marble at msmarble@juno.com or call 709-1407.

Mindy Marble and Rebecca Ray Rosedale carnival co-chairs

Happy 4th, everyone!



Shoal Creek-Rosedale Storm Drain Improvements Project Update

Highlights

- We have completed the base layers of the new pavement for most of the project area. This should provide a better driving surface until we are able to finish the repaving.
- We have decided to replace the water line on 42nd Street between Burnet and Rosedale. While we were working on 42nd Street, we noticed this water line was deteriorating. Replacing it now will help to prevent leaks as well as the potential for more construction in the future should the line fail.
- We still need to connect the new water lines on the streets surrounding the park. When the connections are made, we will need to turn the water off. We will leave notices at your homes or businesses 48 hours in advance. Please keep an eye out for these notices in the coming weeks.
- Please note that the original construction inspector, Travis Miller, has returned to this project. His contact information is at the bottom of the email.



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Completion of Project and Staging Area

Most of the work on this project has been completed, but the few remaining items will likely not be finished by the end of June as originally planned. Two issues have delayed project completion. One is the addition of the water line on 42nd Street. The other is the water line work on Medical Parkway near 42nd Street. We are pushing to complete these tasks as soon as possible and want to thank everyone for their patience. We would like to return Ramsey Park to the neighborhood as soon as possible and are looking into other possible staging areas for the remainder of the work. (Note from RNA: June 27 is the target date for moving the staging site per meeting with RNA representatives June 12).

Remaining Work

- A water line and inlets on Medical Parkway near 42nd Street.
- Replacing the water line on 42nd Street.
- Work on the water line on 44th Street near Medical Parkway.
- Connecting the new water lines on the streets near Ramsey Park. After this is completed, we will install the last remaining inlets on these streets.
- Re-installing speed cushions on 40th Street.
- Repaving and restoration.

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Shoal Creek-Rosedale Storm Drain (cont.

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47th Street

Work on 47th Street has been completed except for spot repairs to the pavement base, installing the top layer of asphalt and repaving work at the intersection of Burnet.

Project Team

- Hotline: 512-684-3232
- Construction Inspector: Travis Miller <<http://www.austintexas.gov/email/travismiller>>, 512-974-1564
- Inspection Supervisor: Phillip Preslar <<http://www.austintexas.gov/email/phillippreslar>>, 512-974-8794
- Rosedale Web Page <<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/rosedale>>

Ramsey Park Improvement Suggestions

The "Ramsey Park Improvement Suggestions" is a comprehensive list of all the suggestions and general comments the committee has received in response to emails, asking for ideas on how the park can be improved, and the brainstorming session. We asked you to dream big, and dream big you did!

There were many, many wonderful suggestions and most revolved around a number of common themes, such as adding more shade, updating the tennis courts, and providing more seating, to name a few.

As a reminder, the city is requiring all parks to have an approved master plan before any improvements can be made. This is a new requirement, and only two parks (Brentwood and Bartholomew) have approved master plans in place. They have been kind enough to share their documents and process with us. The Rosedale Neighborhood Association (RNA) is in a unique position in that we have funds that can be used for improvements, whereas Brentwood and Bartholomew were being proactive in drafting master plans prior to moving forward with their fundraising efforts and park improvements.

The current draft of the master plan is based on feedback that was gathered, through emails and the brainstorming session. It is a high level view of the park's current functions, with a look to the future. Consequently, if we want something -- even if it is 10-15-20 years from now -- it should be included. There are elements listed that we will not be able to afford using the mitigation funds alone, or elements we may not want to allocate mitigation funds toward at this time, but still want to see incorporated into the park in the future. As funds become available either through fundraising, grants, or city bonds, these elements will already be in the master plan, and working with the city to execute our goals will be easier.

Since this is the RNA's first experience with a master plan, we are asking city staff to react to this version to see if we are on the right track. At this time, we are not asking for the city's approval of the content, we want to know if it matches the city's expectations and needs, and if the plan is lacking an important component. We are also sharing this version of the plan with you for your feedback. If you have ideas about the park that are not covered in either the spreadsheet or the master plan, please let us know at RamseyPark2012@gmail.com.

The master plan is the first of a two-step process with the city. Once it is in place, (which we will distribute again when an updated version is available), we will be working with a landscape architect and/or designer to help us draft a much more detailed "Concept Plan" for the scope of this project. The concept plan will outline specific improvements and will include a rendering. We will conduct a neighborhood survey this summer, to ascertain priorities for the specific improvements to make using the mitigation funds.

Thank you for your support as we go through what is an on-going learning process, for us and the city. The good news is that the end of the storm drain project is in sight!

Regards,

Ramsey Park Committee
Sunitha Downing (40th) Co-chair
Alison Alter (Bellvue) Co-chair
Jeff Archer (Rosedale)
Erika Brown (Shoalwood)
Lizan Gilbert (Bellvue)
Melanie McLeroy (44th)
Mindy Marble (Shoalwood)
Sara Smith (Woodview)
Nicole Wayman (Rosedale)

Short-Term Rentals

On June 7, the Austin City Council approved on first reading changing the City Code to allow for the commercial use of residential property. The ordinance would allow short-term rentals (less than 30 days) for up to 3% of the houses in a zip code. That would be 36 houses in Rosedale if STRs were spread evenly throughout the 78756 zip code. Rentals by owner occupants would be allowed without restriction; commercial rentals are houses bought just for the purpose of leasing them out for short term duration.

There will be other opportunities to voice your opinion by emailing the city council and attending future council meetings where the ordinance will be presented again.

Rosedale Neighborhood Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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:

Karen McLinden, 4401 Ramsey, Austin, TX. 78756

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

I would like to help with:

Newsletter____ Zoning____ Neighborhood Events____ Traffic/Parking____ Community Relations____

July 4th Carnival____ Ramsey Park Revitalization____ Graffiti Removal____ Electronic Communication____