

The ROSEDALIAN

Newsletter of the Rosedale Neighborhood
Austin, Texas 78756

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

June 2024

Editor: Vicki Almstrum
email: newsletter@rosedaleaustin.org

July 4th celebration in Rosedale

<https://rosedaleaustin.org/rosedales-july-4th-celebration-for-2024>

Join us Tuesday, July 4th, 10:00am to noon

Our 4th of July celebration is fast approaching. We hope you can join as neighbors come together and have a great time!

Arrive by 10:00am to decorate bikes / scooters / strollers / pets using decorations we provide or decorate at home if you prefer.

Right after 10:00am, join our traditional promenade around Ramsey Park, followed by watermelon slices, live music, the bake sale, a water balloon tossing contest, an ice cream truck, and (if we have enough volunteers) carnival games for the kiddos. All proceeds from the bake sale and carnival are used for park improvements.

Cash preferred! We can also accept PayPal and Venmo payments.

URGENT: Volunteers needed!

Please help bring our sweet neighborhood tradition back in full this year! Among the volunteer tasks: donating drinks and baked goods, loaning camping chairs and tables, setting up before, and cleaning up after. We have many carnival shifts available (perfect for middle and high schoolers). The carnival can only happen if we have plenty of volunteers, so please consider volunteering for a shift.

Questions to Morgan Merritt,
morgan.p.merritt@gmail.com

To sign up either
use either the QR-code at right
or the direct URL

signupgenius.com/go/4090C4EA4AE29A7FD0-49305607-2024#/



July 4th Bake Sale - WE NEED YOU!

The bake sale is a popular spot at the celebration each year. It always raises a good amount of money and, like the carnival, 100% of the proceeds goes into the park fund for Ramsey Park improvements.

Come by for a snack and fabulous cookies to take home with you! We will offer tacos (first come, first served) and welcome additional business donations (contact Felicia at the number or email below!).

The most popular items are lovingly home-baked goodies by our very own Rosedale neighbors. We normally sell out! Please consider donating items that kids find irresistible, as well as items for a more grown-up palate.

Ideas of items to bring:

- individual baggies or plates of cookies or brownies
- decorated cookies, cupcakes, and cake balls
- individually packaged slices of bread (banana, pumpkin, etc.)
- whole loaves of cakes and breads, (e.g. pound cake, pumpkin bread)
- small whole cobblers in takeaway pans
- pies in takeaway pans
- gluten-free items (very popular!)
- any kind of baked goods that neighbors might enjoy

The only items that do not sell well are large and elaborate cakes.

Please bring items to the bake sale tables by 9:30 - 10:00.

Questions to Felicia Adams, adams4203@yahoo.com / 512-426-4203

Greetings from the Rosedale Neighborhood Association!

Hello Neighbors! Long-time neighbor or Rosedale newcomer, thank you for taking a few minutes to peruse this newsletter. The RNA is an all-volunteer informal organization that exists to help preserve the neighborhood and provide an independent voice to the residents of Rosedale on matters of community concern. We are not an HOA, governmental body, or arm of the city. We are Rosedale neighbors like you, committed to the well-being of our neighborhood and city. We provide leadership, advice, and public comment on matters before local governmental bodies that affect us as a neighborhood, such as zoning and transportation issues, and work in many other ways to make and keep Rosedale a nice place to live and work.

The RNA has worked for decades to preserve and improve Ramsey Park and Pool, and maintains an invaluable email group, a website full of great info and archives, and a Facebook page to keep the neighborhood in the loop and give everyone an effective way to speak up, ask for help, or share timely information. We hope this newsletter is informative and inspires you to join the email group, attend a meeting, or participate in an RNA event such as the upcoming 4th of July Celebration at Ramsey Park.

Jeff Archer, Rosedale Ave.

RNA President 2024, president@rosedaleaustin.org

Rosedale Roundup

Ramsey Pool is open!

Our summer oasis, Ramsey Pool, is open daily (except Thursdays) until August 18. Lap swimming weekday mornings at 8 am, and recreational swimming every afternoon till 8 pm. This is the absolutely best place to meet your neighbors every summer. The aerator that the RNA helped install keeps the water cool and refreshing! The pool is closed on Thursdays (except July 4th) and whenever there is thunder and lightning in the area.

The official schedule: austintexas.gov/departments/ramsey-pool

Please mark your calendar for our **End of Summer Pool Party** on Saturday, **August 17 starting at 5pm**. Come enjoy music, snacks, pizza, drinks, and great company!

Redevelopment of former Rosedale School site

The redevelopment project at the old school site, located on 49th Street at Ramsey Ave., is currently on hold as AISD's new Superintendent Matias Segura settles into his challenging position. The latest plan proposed by the district consists of affordable single-family and duplex housing designed to fit in the neighborhood and promote home ownership. AISD staff and possibly other public employees would get purchasing preferences. The school district would retain site ownership, so owners would essentially own condominiums.

The pending plan: austinisd.org/repurposing/rosedale

Austin State Hospital (ASH) redesign

Rosedale neighbors entering Central Market's north driveway have noticed the now open view of the new state hospital. The \$305 million building is part of a larger \$2.5 billion overhaul of the state's entire psychiatric hospital system that has been in the works since 2018.

The ASH project is led by Dr. Stephen Strakowski, who sends greetings to our neighborhood and shares that construction on the hospital is now largely complete, with primarily "loose ends" occupying the next few weeks. The pandemic did not simplify construction, but the result is a truly beautiful, world class facility that will immediately improve the lives of the people who are served and who work there. They anticipate patients will move in late summer 2024.

Neighbors who are interested in more information may contact Dr. Rishi Sawhney at Rishi.Sawhney@austin.utexas.edu

Shoal Creek footbridge is NOT open — yet!

You may have noticed that the new pedestrian bridge connecting Rosedale to The Grove at the bottom of the hill on Shoal Creek Boulevard (south of the State Records Center at 4400 SCB) is in place, but is still not open due to permitting issues. When it opens, we will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate this great way to cross the creek safely and conveniently!

Affordable housing project

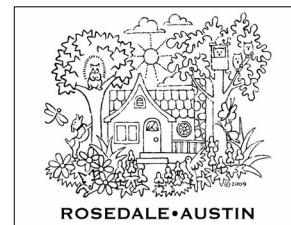
Ovetta Rosedale is a proposed 70-unit affordable housing development on the corner of Medical Parkway and 42nd Street. The project will include a couple of classrooms for Pre-K. This project applied for funding in March 2024 and is awaiting approval, which should occur in late July 2024. If the funding is approved, construction is estimated to begin Summer 2025.

More information: affordablehousingtexas.com/

Election Season is approaching

In the fall, the RNA will hold an informal candidate forum at one of our meetings for any local candidates that request a chance to briefly introduce themselves and take a few questions. As you may know, the terms of both our current city council members, Leslie Pool representing District 7, and Alison Alter representing District 10, expire at the end of 2024, so elections to fill these critical positions will be held in November, with runoffs in December. The next term of Austin Mayor will also be filled this November.

Please note as we approach the elections that posts to the Rosedale email list may include concise, respectful endorsements and comments on local candidates, with a clearly marked subject line. This is a great way for the neighborhood to keep up with these often obscure local races. No general political messages or discussion of state and national races!



Zoning and Austin's HOME Initiative

Every Austinite should be aware of the HOME Initiative adopted by the Austin City Council over the past six months. HOME includes sweeping changes to the allowable uses for every property in the city previously zoned for SF (single-family). HOME is in its infancy, and the city staff is still developing rules to accommodate the changes. Adopted by a 9-2 vote, HOME is intended to promote housing availability and affordability. The HOME amendments to the city's Land Development Code:

- Allow up to three housing units, including tiny homes, on a Single-Family (SF) zoned property (SF-1, SF-2, SF-3).
- Remove restrictions on the number of unrelated adults living in a housing unit.
- Allow for residential lots to be as small as 1,800 square feet, about a third the size of most smaller lots in Rosedale.
- Reduce or eliminate many restrictions on residential structures developed under HOME, including heights and setbacks, lot width, and compatibility standards for nearby buildings.

HOME has the potential to dramatically increase the density of housing in Austin neighborhoods. The overall initiative has many more elements, including special rules for property within a half-mile of the newly proposed light rail corridors. For details, explore the various items in the city's HOME website: austintexas.gov/page/home-amendments

The RNA plans to monitor the implementation of HOME in Rosedale, and will share observations as permits for HOME housing begin to be granted.

From Alison Alter, District 10 Council Member

Dear Neighbors,

I hope your summer is off to a great start! I'm Alison Alter, a proud Rosedalian, and your District 10 representative on the Austin City Council. I have been working to improve public safety, resilience, and effective delivery of public services in our community, and I want to share a few updates and resources for you and your families.

As your council member, I have focused on expanding access to child care, strengthening our EMS system, preparing for and preventing wildfire, improving Austin's response to hate and sexual assault, bolstering our climate resilience, and more. For an overview of my policy priorities, you can read my newsletter highlighting our work together in 2023: <https://rb.gy/ud0i8x>

To highlight one recent, major policy victory, the Travis County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to grant our community the opportunity to invest in our children and the providers who serve them. This was the result of eighteen months of work and collaboration between myself, the City, the County, the Austin Early Childhood Council, United Way, and the Children's Funding Project. You can learn more about this groundbreaking initiative at AffordableChildCareNow.com

I want to let you know about an upcoming opportunity to connect with me and my staff. I will be hosting a Budget Town Hall and Resource Fair on Monday, August 5th at 6:30 p.m. in Huffman Hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (8134 Mesa Dr.). I am inviting several City departments and special guests to share resources and answer questions you may have. I hope to see you there! If you can't make it to the Town Hall and have specific questions about the budget or other City business, you can email my office at District10@AustinTexas.gov. I also share regular updates via my email newsletter (subscribe at bit.ly/d10newsletters), and on Facebook ([Council Member Alison Alter](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilMemberAlisonAlter)), Twitter ([@AlterForATX](https://twitter.com/AlterForATX)), and Instagram ([@Alison.Alter](https://www.instagram.com/Alison.Alter)).

I also want to remind you about an exciting City program I helped launch. If you live in D10 (i.e. south of 45th St.), you can now safely dispose of paint cans, oils, lightbulbs, batteries, and more by scheduling a home pickup through Austin Resource Recovery's Household Hazardous Waste Pickup Pilot. See the full list of eligible items and schedule your pickup at austintexas.gov/hhwipilot.

Finally, as your representative, I want to let you know that I have chosen to honor the spirit of the City Charter, which recommends a two-term limit for Council Members. My term ends in early January, and I will share updates on my future plans via my social media accounts (listed above). It has been an honor to serve you, and I look forward to our continued work together.

I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Regards,

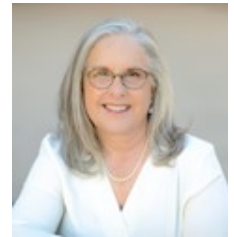
Alison Alter, Rosedale Resident and Council Member, District 10



From Leslie Pool, District 7 Council Member

Hello friends,

It's the beginning of summer and it's going to be a challenge to stay cool, but we can all have some fun at the same time. Austin is certainly up for it: See how many city pools you can visit before school starts up again, how many new flavors of ices can you try, and which library has the best kid section. The recreation centers are awesome places to play basketball or hang out in the heat of the day



July 4 is right around the corner, and it's a big celebration in District 7. While you're out enjoying the neighborhood parade, or maybe going to a block party, take a moment to notice the rain garden improvements on Shoal Creek Boulevard courtesy of your neighbors! Lots of young folks worked very hard to create the Woodview Rain Garden to make Shoal Creek Blvd friendlier, greener, and more resilient. Due to their awesome efforts, the Shoal Creek Conservancy and the City of Austin are partnering to install three more rain gardens along Shoal Creek Blvd. To learn more, email sierra@shoalcreekconservancy.org for information.

The hot weather has returned, which means many of us will be swimming to cool off. Our beautiful pools, creeks, lakes, and oceans provide much-needed relief and enjoyment. However, they also pose significant risks if we aren't careful.

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children between 1 and 4 years old. They are particularly vulnerable around pools, especially backyard pools, where we may not pay as much attention to their safety. Drowning is fast and silent; it can happen to anyone, regardless of age or swimming ability. The statistics remind us that no one is immune to this danger. Here are some safety rules to remember:

- **Most important: Always supervise children around water.** Active, attentive supervision can make the difference between life and death.
- Always have a phone ready for emergencies, but please—avoid distractions. Don't talk on the phone or text while supervising children in the water. A moment of distraction can lead to a lifetime of regret.
- Simple steps like installing pool barriers, using life jackets and learning CPR can save lives.
- Water safety is a shared responsibility. We must educate ourselves and our loved ones about the risks and safety practices.

For more about water safety, please visit

- the [American Red Cross website](https://www.americanredcross.org)
- the [Austin-Travis County EMS Department online](https://www.austintexas.gov/ems)

Even during summer, the serious work continues. It's City budget season again, and time for you to weigh in on community priorities. You can visit SpeakUpAustin.org to get the public engagement schedule and please participate in the process! The City Manager's budget proposal will be released in July, and we will hold our annual District 7 Budget Town Hall soon thereafter. We are finalizing details on that date and the location, and we'll post that information in the next District 7 newsletter (sign up by sending an email to District7@austintexas.gov).

Have a fun, and safe, June and July!

Leslie Pool, Rosedale Resident and Council Member, District 7

Yarborough Branch Library

The Yarborough Branch Library has an incredible array of activities available throughout the summer. Housed in the old Americana Theater, our local branch building is a delight to visit, even without the bonus of books, computers, and activities! Here is a sampling of information (visit the front desk for info):

Summer reading logs: With four age-level oriented options (0-5, 6-12, 13-17, 18+), participants are challenged to read daily and complete three activity badges to receive a prize (while available). Logs can be picked up at library locations as well as via Beanstack Tracker (available via app stores).

Youth Services activities: Activities throughout June and July include All Ages Story Time, Tween Summer activities (ages 9-12), Book and Baby activities (ages 0-14 months), and more.

Adult Program activities: Programs include Board Game Night (second Tuesdays at 5:45pm), a Birdhouse Building Workshop, and Chair Yoga (third Fridays at 10:00am). On June 29 at 2pm, jigsaw puzzle lovers can form teams to compete in the Puzzlepalooza Speed Competition — plus the opportunity to swap old jigsaw puzzles for new-to-you jigsaw puzzles!

Book Clubs: During June, the book club offerings include Reading the Rainbow (first Saturdays, 2pm-3pm) and Disability Dialogues (second Saturdays, 2pm-3pm).

Location: 2200 Hancock Dr.

Hours: Mon-Thu 9am to 8pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm

Closed: Sundays and Thursday, July 4th

Library catalog + services + calendar: library.austintexas.gov/

History of the Yarborough Branch Library:
family.do512.com/venues/austin-public-library-yarborough-branch

Our Rosedale neighborhood email list

Our neighborhood mailing list is a community news and information service for non-commercial use only, with a focus on truly local issues. This list, which was created for and is moderated by the Rosedale Neighborhood Association (RNA), is vital to the RNA as an emergency alert system. Use policies are designed to avoid losing subscribers due to a large flow of spam, broad political debates, or commercial messages. The moderators actively moderate all messages.

This forum is restricted to matters that are distinctly local. To determine whether a post is appropriate, we ask posters to consider whether local residents can provide information or viewpoints that are **more** informed than other easily obtainable sources. Good manners are expected in all postings. Flaming is always inappropriate. In general, *always* put your name and general location within Rosedale on messages to the mailing list. Messages should not be forwarded beyond the Rosedale list without asking permission of the original poster.

The only "for profit" messages allowed on the main Rosedale list are announcements of neighborhood garage sales and kid-run "businesses". For other neighborhood commercial announcements (e.g. to sell a car or baby clothes), subscribe to our ads subgroup with a message to ads+subscribe@rosedale.groups.io or via the web site at rosedale.groups.io/g/ads

For additional information about the Rosedale neighborhood and the RNA, visit our website at rosedaleaustin.org/.

A sampling of recent topics on the Rosedale email list: recommendations for services and products; identifying the charming sound of the Rio Grande Chirping Frog; and getting Bubbles, a lost pet ball python, home again.

Stay Connected to Your Rosedale Neighbors!!

Join our popular e-mail list — A great neighborhood resource since 1999, hosted on groups.io. Subscribe to share news, learn about events, discuss local issues, learn of garage sales, etc.

- Mailing list website: rosedale.groups.io/
- Subscribe via email: main+subscribe@rosedale.groups.io
- Send email to list moderators: main+owner@rosedale.groups.io

Visit the RNA website: <https://rosedaleaustin.org/>

RNA Facebook page for Rosedale Neighborhood — Follow here:
facebook.com/rosedaleneighborhoodaustintexas/

Nextdoor — A social networking service for neighborhoods; they use a validation process that ensures members reside in the neighborhood.

nextdoor.com/neighborhood/rosedale--austin--tx/

Our Austin City Council Members — Rosedale is split between two districts. See the Council Member webpages for information such as contact, sign up for newsletters, email notices, and recent updates.

- District 7 (north of 45th Street) Council Member **Leslie Pool**
austintexas.gov/department/district-7
- District 10 (south of 45th Street) Council Member **Alison Alter**
austintexas.gov/department/district-10

Rosedale Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Get involved in Rosedale!

Volunteer to help with one of the RNA committees:

Community Relations _____ Electronic Communications _____ Neighborhood Events _____ Neighborhood Features _____ Newsletter _____

Parks _____ Traffic/Parking _____ Zoning _____

Committee info: <http://rosedaleaustin.org/the-rna/subcommittees/>

Annual dues: \$20 per household, \$10 for retirees

Any amount above that is donated to the Ramsey Park fund.

<https://rosedaleaustin.org/the-rna/membership-information/>

Options to pay RNA dues for 2024:

- 1) Use this paper form and send with a check payable to RNA to:
Kim Relph, 4510 Rosedale Ave., Austin, Texas 78756
- 2) Pay electronically at <https://pay.rosedaleaustin.org/> (QR code at right)
You use either PayPal or Venmo. Please include street address in the comments if the app indicates a different address than your actual Rosedale street address.

