



GRAND DALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

GDNA Garden

Several years ago Grand Dale Neighborhood Association volunteers created a garden on Plymouth Road with the help of the Redford Township Beautification Commission, the Plymouth Road Association, the Parks Department, the Redford Garden Club and E & A Landscape Supply. Part of the Adopt-A-Garden program, our flower bed welcomes all who pass along Plymouth Road between Leverage and Southwestern. It sits next to Redford Karate and Gold N Time. The owners of Gold N Time have always graciously supplied the water for our plants.

Although the association does not have to pay for water, we do have a number of financial obligations related to the garden. We had to replace a tree lost to the ash borer disease and must pay to have our other trees treated against the disease. We must also pay for new plants, mulch, hoses and other garden supplies. These costs are covered by association dues and money earned from fundraisers, such as our recent booth at Redford Township's Oktoberfest where we sold caramel apples. We are thankful for a number of residents who volunteer to take a week or two during the summers to water and weed and pick up debris. We can always use more volunteers. Just email Colleen at credoute@msn.com if you would like us to call you next summer. We hope you enjoy your neighborhood garden!

Neighborhood Watch Program

Officer Jennifer Mansfield wants you! She would like you to help ensure the safety of our community by joining a Neighborhood Watch program. If you would like more information or would like to become a block captain, please contact her at 313-387-2562. The program features a number of informational meetings that teach residents about crime prevention. One neighbor who reported suspicious activity said she would not have known what to watch out for if she had not attended a Neighborhood Watch meeting. Because she called the police, a thief was apprehended. Please consider becoming a block captain so that your area will be able to benefit from this worthwhile program.

You're a Member!

If you live in the area bordered by Joy, Inkster, Plymouth, and Beech Daly Roads, you live in the Grand Dale Neighborhood. You are welcome to attend any of the Grand Dale Neighborhood Association activities even if you are not a dues-paying member. However, membership dues help to finance our events and the GDNA garden. For a limited time we are offering a full membership for only \$5 instead of the annual \$15 fee. We want as many residents as possible to join so that we will be able to continue the operation of the association.

In the past we have sponsored Halloween and Easter parties, family picnics, ice cream socials and informational meetings on home security and other topics of interest to home owners. Other Redford groups are now offering similar events, so we have discontinued many of our activities. Nonetheless, we would like to know what you, the Grand Dale Neighborhood residents, would like your association to sponsor. Would you like block parties, pot luck dinners, or speakers on topics such as insurance, home improvement, safety, etc.? Would you like to attend a general membership meeting once a year? Let us know what interests you by calling Elvera at 313-937-8924 or emailing Colleen at credoute@msn.com.

Watch for a flyer on your door in the spring announcing our next event!

GDNA Event

We recently held an informational meeting about home security. We were fortunate enough to have Officer Jennifer Mansfield chat with us on crime prevention techniques and give us the “inside information” about neighborhood crime. Here are some highlights of our meeting:

- We can sign up at www.nixle.com for email and text alerts about crimes and events in Redford Township as well as other areas.
- Keep doors and windows locked! A steel door offers more protection than a wooden one. Use a deadbolt.
- Windows left opened should have a tab or other device to keep them from opening more than 8 inches.
- Glass block windows protect basements better than crank-open ones.
- Outside lighting prevents break-ins and helps the police locate criminals. Motion sensor lights are a good investment.
- Motion sensor alarms for driveways may be purchased for as little as \$20. A chime rings inside your home if someone comes into your driveway or yard.
- Not only do dogs make excellent pets, but their barking scares away bad guys.
- We need block captains for Redford's Neighborhood Watch program. Training given to members has helped citizens report crimes in progress and has resulted in the capture of criminals.
- Police Reserve Officers will check on your property when you are out of town. Let the Police Station know when you will be away.
- Get to know your neighbors so you know who belongs and doesn't belong on your street. (Joining the Grand Dale Neighborhood Association is a great way to get to know the folks who live near you!)

Township News

Redford Township is looking for additional police reserves. The following information is from the Redford Township Police web site (www.redfordtp.com/police):

Applicants must be at least 21 years old, must pass a physical and psychological exam, have weight in proportion to height and have no serious vision or hearing defects.

In addition, applicants must pass an extensive background investigation and successfully complete Reserve Officer training. The Academy is approximately 15 weeks long, the cost of which is reimbursed upon successful completion.

Reserve Officers must volunteer a minimum of 75 hours of work per year. The 75 hours must consist of property checks and special details. Road patrol time is optional and does not count towards the minimum time commitment. Also, Reserve Officers must attend at least 7 of the 12 scheduled monthly meetings.

Applications are available at Town Hall. If you have any additional questions, please call (313) 387-2576.

SNAP - Stabilizing Neighborhoods Action Plan

Redford Township has a wonderful program enabling the township to purchase and refurbish houses that can then be sold for a reasonable amount to new homeowners. In order to apply and receive program information, you must submit your name to the Community Development Department located in the Redford Township Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, Michigan, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis or until the program reaches its capacity. For details, visit www.redfordtp.com.

