

Grandmont #1 Informer

Volume 45, Issue 1

Winter 2013

Northwest Detroit's Pride Community

Brought to you by the
Grandmont #1
Improvement Association

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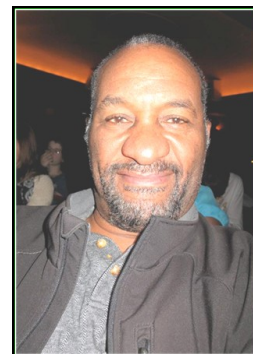
Hello fellow citizens of the best community in Detroit,

As we start a new year, we give thanks for getting through the past year but we also pause to reflect and remember the community citizens that we lost this past year. We will never forget them or their tireless service and work to and for our community. While their work on earth is done, ours continues.

We must challenge ourselves to be the best representatives of our great City of Detroit, everyday, wherever we go. To dedicate ourselves to the improvement of our community and

our city. To vote in every election cycle. To demand from our elected officials the service and dedication to the job they were elected to do and accept nothing less than their best. Finally, to acknowledge the wonderful work that our dedicated, underpaid, overworked, thankless, city employees do for us on a day-to-day basis.

So, with that, I say, on behalf of the officers, board of directors and citizens of the Grandmont #1 community, to our City Employees, our City Council, our Mayor, our Police Department, our Fire Department, Sanitation, Public Works, Bus



System and all others... thank you!

Let's make 2013 the year that folks around the world say, "Detroit, Michigan-USA, I want to go there!"

Sincerely,

Oliver Cole

Oliver Cole
President

Support Your Neighborhood—Your Dues are Due!

By the time you receive this Winter 2013 edition of your Grandmont #1 Informer, you will already have received the notice for your 2013 Grandmont #1 Improvement Association dues. If you have already paid, please accept our sin-

cere thanks. If you haven't quite gotten around to it, please write your check today and return it with your payment form (which can be found on page 11). Your dues pay the bills and are your neighborhood's only source of income. We

use the money to plow the snow off the streets, print this newsletter and take care of vacant properties — all things necessary to keep your neighborhood looking good and your property values up.

New Year brings in a New Newsletter Committee

It's a new year and the Grandmont #1 newsletter is under new management and a new name! *The Grandmont #1 Informer* is now produced by Grandmont #1 residents & co-editors Carolyn Nash & Becki Kenderes. Find out more about the Newsletter Committee on page 12.

Grandmont #1 gets Curbside Recycling

As part of the City's goal to become more environmentally friendly, Grandmont #1 households are now included in the City of Detroit's curbside recycling service (only available in select neighborhoods).

Here's what you need to know:

- Use the container with the blue lid for recyclables
- Recycling pick-ups occur on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
- All materials go together (in a single stream) in your container, do

NOT place them in a garbage bag first

- Do not put food or garbage in your recycling container
- If you're not sure if an item can be recycled, look for a "chasing arrows symbol."



PLEASE RECYCLE!



CLEAN RECYCLABLES ONLY

QUESTIONS? Visit detroitrecycles.com to learn more.

PAPER & CARDBOARD

FLATTENED BOXES • PAPER • NEWSPAPER • MAGAZINES • JUNK MAIL • CARTONS



PLASTICS #1-7

BOTTLES • TUBS • CONTAINERS



GLASS & METAL

CANS • BOTTLES • JARS • CLEAN FOIL



NO

STYROFOAM • LIQUIDS • YARD WASTE
GARBAGE • FABRICS • PLASTIC BAGS • ELECTRONICS



Lowering Your Property Taxes

Sometime after the first of the New Year, you will receive a statement in the mail from the Assessment Division informing you what value has been assigned to your property. This is also known as State Equalized Value (SEV). The assessor's office is telling you what they think your property is worth and that is the number that the property tax formula is then applied to. If you think your property has been valued too high, you must build a case to show that the number is wrong.

Visit the Assessment Division

Office in Suite 804 in the Coleman Young Center and examine the information the assessor is using to evaluate your home. The dates for this are Feb. 1-15. Their phone number is (313) 224-3011.

Read it carefully and note any errors that would lower the value of your home. Perhaps they have

too many bedrooms listed or claim you have a finished basement or garage when you do not. Those types of errors could help you lower your assessed evaluation.

Find out what other homes in your area have sold for that are similar in age and size to yours. Local real estate offices can help in this and often will provide you with this information free of charge.

Compare your assessed evaluation with what other similar homes actually sold for. The more evidence you can build is to your advantage. Make copies and keep them.

An appeal of property values must be made from Feb. 1 – Feb. 15, 2013. Ask the Assessment Office for the forms and instructions on what you need to submit to them.

Even if you are unsuccessful in reducing your assessed evaluation at this level, there are appeals you can make. The Assessment Office will supply you with those dates and instructions.

The strongest case you can make is with facts and figures that show that your house is NOT worth what the Assessment Office claims it is, and this is the way to reduce your property tax.



Attention New Neighbors...

If you've recently moved to the neighborhood we'd like to know so that we can share information with you about neighborhood happenings. Please contact Grandmont #1 Treasurer Duane Perry to update your contact information by calling 313.836.4757 or e-mail duane.perry@sbcglobal.net



2013 Bulk Trash Pick-up Days

Feb.
14

May
13

Aug.
13

Nov.
8



Find Grandmont #1 on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/grandmont1improvementorganization

Homes for Sale in Grandmont Rosedale

As part of the City's goal to If you, or anyone you know, are looking to buy a home in the Grandmont Rosedale area, then be sure to visit our web site, www.GrandmontRosedale.com, to see the renovated homes that are available from GRDC. GRDC homes are all move-in ready, with many updated features.



GRANDMONT ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Down payment assistance is also available to help buyers reduce their out-of-pocket costs and to make home buying more affordable.

In 2013, GRDC will be receiving a grant from the City of Detroit Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). This grant will enable us to buy and renovate nine more vacant area homes. Eight of the nine homes are being purchased through a cooperative arrangement with the Detroit Land Bank Authority. These long-vacant homes were foreclosed for non-payment of taxes, and will be renovated and ready to purchase this spring and summer. For more information, contact GRDC at 313-387-4732, ext. 100, or belong@grandmontrosedale.com.

Get the GRDC E-mail Blast!

GRDC sends out a regular weekly electronic newsletter, to let everybody know what's going on in our neighborhood. Don't miss out on the latest! If you want to know what's happening, send us your e-mail address. We'll add you to our electronic mailing list and send you information of interest to the neighborhood. Send an e-mail to

info@grandmontrosedale.com and ask to be added to the list.



Valentine's Day Roses Keep Grandmont Rosedale Beautiful

This Valentine's Day you have the opportunity to put more roses into Grandmont Rosedale while supporting efforts to keep litter away! The Grandmont Rosedale Beautification Task Force is launching a new anti-litter campaign in our area ("Love Where You

Live") this spring. To raise funds to support this effort, the Task Force is selling roses for Valentine's Day.

For just \$5, you can have a rose hand-delivered on Feb. 14 to your sweetheart in the neighborhood, along with your

personal message displayed on a handmade card. To place your order, contact GRDC Sustainable Communities Program Manager Becki Kenderes at 313.387.4732, ext. 101, or

bkenderes@grandmontrosedale.com.

VALENTINE'S DAY
ROSE SALE
FUNDRAISER



Opportunity for Low Income Construction Workers & Businesses

If you are a low-income resident of the Grandmont Rosedale area and have skills and experience in home renovation and construction, GRDC would like to help connect you with contractors



working on federally-funded home repair and renovation projects in our area.

GRDC utilizes federal funds provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to renovate vacant houses and to provide home repair grants and loans to low-income homeowners in the Grandmont Rosedale area. Under Section 3 of the HUD Act of

1968, wherever HUD financial assistance is given for housing or community development, to the greatest extent feasible, economic opportunities must be given to low- and very low-income residents and businesses located in that area.

To qualify under Section 3, construction businesses must be owned by low- or very low-income residents, employ low- or very low-income residents in full-time positions, or subcontract with businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons. GRDC will work together with local residents and contractors participating in our federally funded programs to share information about employment and/or training opportunities for residents who qualify under Section 3. Contact GRDC Administrative Assistant Wilsie Calhoun at 313-387-4732, ext. 100, or email info@grandmontrosedale.com for more information.

Neighborhood Safety Meeting

The monthly neighborhood safety meeting will be held on

Thursday, Feb. 28 at

6 PM at North Rosedale Park

Community House

18445 Scarsdale St

Neighborhood Safety meetings are open to the public. Please join your neighbors, local law enforcement officials, and guest speakers as we learn and share crime prevention strategies. Every meeting provides important information to help keep us and our neighborhoods safer! For more information, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Scott Knoll at 313-387-4732, ext. 109, or

sknoll@grandmontrosedale.com.

Join the Crime Alert

Want to know what's going on around you? Join the GRDC Crime Alert system and you'll get email messages to update you.

The GRDC Community Security Program's staff monitors and sends out email crime alerts as reported by community residents about recent suspicious or criminal incidents or activities.

Our goal is to provide timely information to residents and when possible and appropriate, to offer crime prevention strategies and reminders that may help keep us safer in the future.

To join the Grandmont Rosedale Crime Alert system, send an e-mail request to grandmontrosedalecrimealert@googlegroups.com. And please share this invitation and e-mail address with other neighbors and friends who also live in the Grandmont Rosedale area.

NOTE: This alert system is designed to help increase our awareness for our own personal safety and/or to show possible trends and to help increase the arrest and prosecution rate of criminals. This alert system is not to be used for community announcements about programs or activities, but only for reporting suspicious or criminal activity or crime prevention tips. We also ask that people not "reply" to any given incident via the system, but instead to direct comments to info@grandmontrosedale.com or call and leave a message at 313-387-4732, ext. 100.

Vacant House & Squatter Alert

Do you have any vacant houses on your block? Do you suspect squatters may be occupying a vacant house on your block? If so, please give GRDC's Vacant Property Hotline a call at 313-387-4732, ext.

117, and report the addresses and any other information posted or available. You can also send an email to vacant-property@grandmontrosedale.com.

NOTE: If the house or suspected squatters are in North Rosedale Park, contact Clarendia Webb (313-330-7844).

If the house or suspected squatters are in Grandmont, contact Diane Patterson (313-836-3736).



It takes a LOT of people to keep track of and take care of all of the vacant houses in our neighborhood. Please do all that you can to maintain the yards of the vacant houses on your block – pick up trash and flyers, and do what you can to make the house look occupied. If you are already taking care of vacant houses in your community, THANK YOU and thanks for being a good neighbor!

GRANDMONT ROSEDALE COMMUNITY THEATRE GROUP
PARK PLAYERS PRESENTS
DREAMGIRLS
A BENEFIT FOR THE VACANT PROPERTY TASK FORCE

All proceeds support the Vacant Property Task Force, a group of resident volunteers working to maintain abandoned homes in the community.

Tickets..... \$25

Call to reserve your seat today:

313.387.4732, ext. 117

Sunday, March 17

Doors open at 1, show at 2 pm

Light refreshments will be served

**North Rosedale Park
Community
House**

18445 Scarsdale St.
Detroit, MI



Grandmont #1

Crossword Puzzle

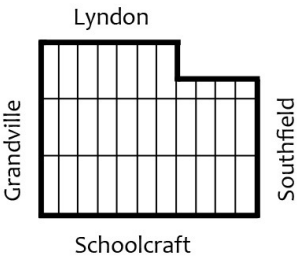
(note: for answers with multiple words, include a blank square between words in the puzzle)

ACROSS

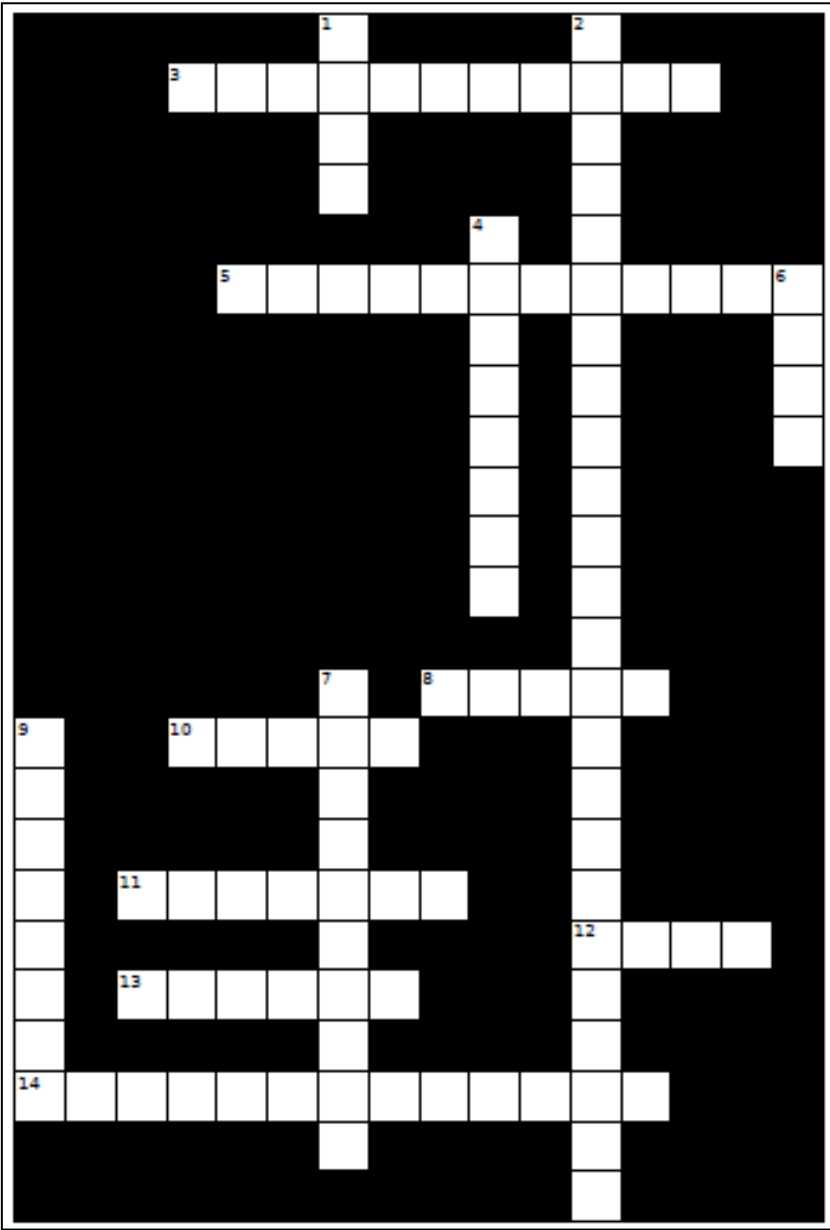
- 3. Name of commercial street in Grandmont #1
- 5. Your association dues pay for this service
- 8. Annual cost of association dues
- 10. Last name of Grandmont #1’s Treasurer
- 11. Day of the week association meetings are held
- 12. Last name of Grandmont #1’s President
- 13. Last name of Grandmont #1’s Corresponding Secretary
- 14. Name of neighborhood north of Grandmont #1

DOWN

- 1. Last name of Grandmont #1’s Vice President
- 2. Association meetings are held at this location
- 4. last name of Grandmont #1’s Secretary
- 6. Name of non-profit that serves Grandmont #1 (and other Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods)
- 7. Western most street in Grandmont #1
- 9. Name of Grandmont #1’s newsletter



Test your knowledge of Grandmont #1!



Answers

- ANSWERS (DOWN)
- 1. Holt
 - 2. Macedonia Baptist Church
 - 3. Schoolcraft
 - 4. Springer
 - 5. Snow plowing
 - 6. GRDC
 - 7. Grandville
 - 8. Fifty
 - 9. Informer
 - 10. Perry
 - 11. Tuesday
 - 12. Cole
 - 13. Rosedale Park
 - 14. Rosedale Park
- ANSWERS (ACROSS)

February is Black History Month



Think About This...

By: DJ Abubakari

We study history to...

1. **Learn its lessons,**
2. **Absorb the theory of possibilities,**
3. **Extract its excellences and**
4. **Because to study it, is our moral obligation!**

One-Bowl Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Glaze

Recipe from Carolyn Nash

This is a quick, easy, and deliciously moist cake!

- 1-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. sugar
- 3 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. coarse salt
- 6 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 Tbsp. white vinegar
- 1 c. cold water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In an 8-inch square cake pan, whisk together the flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Make a well in the center of the mixture. Add the oil, vanilla extract, vinegar, and cold water. Whisk

until well combined. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes until cake tester or toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan before putting on glaze or your favorite frosting.

Cake can be cut into various shapes for little decorative cakes. You can also cut cake into squares, cut squares in half and fill with your favorite ice cream and top with whipped cream.



Chocolate Glaze

- 1 Tbsp. cocoa
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. water
- 1/2 c. powdered sugar

Microwave cocoa, butter, and water on high 20 – 30 seconds until melted. Add powdered sugar until runny enough to drizzle on cake.

Grandmont #1 Meetings

Be sure to attend the next Grandmont #1 Improvement Association meeting. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Macedonia Baptist Church (14221 Southfield Freeway).



Grandmont #1 Graduates

The *Grandmont #1 Informer* is happy to recognize recent high school or college graduates from our neighborhood. Proud parents, spouses and graduates are invited to send notices to grandmont1informer@gmail.com.



Avon— sell or buy

Become a representative contact:

—

Damita Barnes Unit Leader—Representative

313.768.8902 — damita816@aol.com

Youravon.com/damitabarnes

The Case for Community Policing By GRDC Crime Prevention Task Force

What comes to your mind when you think of community policing? Probably the usual suspects: Neighborhood Watch, radio patrols, and crime alerts. In other words, how local residents have come together for the betterment of the entire community. However, community policing is much more than simply volunteers on an island; it is a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Detroit Police Department (DPD).

Traditional policing involves tracking criminal trends, investigating suspicious activity, and arresting criminals. Law enforcement officials are seen as crime fighters, whose main purpose is to hold lawbreakers accountable, whereas, community policing goes beyond simply arresting offenders to address quality of life issues, social disorder, and the causes underlying crime. Members of the community are brought in as key stakeholders who help shape how the area is policed; attention is not just given to responding to criminal actions after they have occurred but at how to prevent them in the first place. You can see the process at work in the aforementioned Neighborhood Watch and radio patrols, but also in the dialogue at the Neighborhood Safety Meetings and people's willingness to SPEAK UP! Call a neighbor,

report crimes to the police department, or send an email to a crime alert that details suspicious activity going on around you. Active participation is encouraged and supported. Don't just sit back and remain silent. As we all know, silence can be seen as granting permission.

With the uncertainty surrounding the finances of the city of Detroit, community policing is more relevant now than ever. Citizens can act as a mechanism for the Police Department and enhance their overall effectiveness. For instance, the Neighborhood Watch signs you see throughout neighborhoods in the area act as a symbol that put criminals on notice. Yet, residents can go one step further by taking an active role in their neighborhood's community policing efforts so these signs don't become an empty gesture.

Get active and involved in a number of ways:

Create a neighborhood or block directory with phone numbers and email addresses. Being able to easily contact neighbors can help prevent crimes from

occurring. It can also help to notify neighbors when non-criminal activities are occurring (e.g., home repairs/maintenance).

Take 15 minutes of your day to take a drive throughout your neighborhood. Coordinate this action with neighbors to establish a baseline of surveillance.

SPEAK UP! If you see a crime occurring report it. You can always maintain your anonymity by contacting crime stoppers: Phone – 1-800-SPEAK UP; Text – Send CSM and your tip to CRIMES (274637); and Online – www.1800speakup.org.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS! You will be less skeptical of their behavior and increase your ability to identify strangers or other suspicious individuals.



A Tribute to Harold Harris by: Carolyn Nash

Harold Harris is our Block Captain for Artesian. He has been a resident of Grandmont #1 since 1986. Harold knows all of the longtime neighbors as well as every new neighbor on Artesian. He makes sure the new neighbors know about the community and invites them to our monthly Association meetings. About two days before our meeting, expect a call from Harold saying -- "don't forget about the meeting Tuesday". He is the first person to greet you when you arrive.

Harold is so diligent in talking to his neighbors and making sure they are engaged in the community. He is a great motivator -- Artesian residents are #1 in paying their annual dues. He is the go-to

person and lends a helping hand where needed.

Harold represented our Association on the Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation (GRDC) board for many years until year-end 2012. He continues to serve as a volunteer on the Grandmont Rosedale Vacant Property Task

Force. Harold is also on the *Grandmont #1 Informer* Newsletter committee and makes sure the newsletter reaches every resident.


We want to thank Harold for his valuable service and help in making the Grandmont #1 community a great place to live.




Thank you, Harold!

Left: Harold Harris receives an appreciation certificate from GRDC Sustainable Communities Program Manager, Becki Kenderes, for his volunteerism with the Vacant Property Task Force

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Grandmont #1 Meeting, 7pm @ Macedonia Baptist Church	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Rosedale Grandmont Little League sign-up @ GRDC
24	25 6th/8th Police Community Meeting @ Bushnell Congregational Church, 7 pm	26	27	28 Neighborhood Safety Meeting @ Community House, 6 pm		

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Grandmont #1 Meeting, 7pm @ Macedonia Baptist Church	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
 Park Players present Dreamgirls	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 6th/8th Police Community Meeting , 7 pm	26	27	28 Neighborhood Safety Meeting @ Community House, 6 pm	29	30
31						

Membership is required for all Grandmont #1 residents. Your association dues provide for snow plowing of the residential streets in Grandmont #1 (the City of Detroit does not plow our roads), lawn-mowing at abandoned properties, maintenance at Flintstone Park (Rosemont/Acacia Park), a quarterly newsletter and an annual community picnic.

Grandmont #1 2013 Officers

Oliver Cole.....fantasyonfilm@mac.com
President.....313.320.0627

Annie Mae Holt.....annieholtm@aol.com
Vice-President.....313.615.6248

Duane Perry.....duane.perry@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer.....313.836.4757

Ruby Springer.....rros@live.com
Secretary.....313.273.0089

Harold Harris
Corresponding Secretary.....313.407.2826

Board of Directors

Cheryl Minniefield.....cminniefield@yahoo.com
 313.837.5048

Kathleen Holmes.....mskholmes@comcast.net
 313.837.4808

Denise Cole.....dsellcole@yahoo.com
 313.320.0627

Representatives for GRDC Board of Directors

Oliver Cole — Annie Mae Holt — Duane Perry

Grandmont #1 Improvement Association Membership Application



Please return this form with your check or money order (for \$50) to:

Grandmont #1 Improvement Association
 PO Box 23065, Detroit, MI 48223

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Dues: \$50

Amount enclosed: _____

Additional donation included: _____

Be a Volunteer!

(check your interests)

- ☐ Beautification ☐ Bylaws
- ☐ Community Engagement
- ☐ Community Security
- ☐ Membership ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Nominations ☐ Social Planning
- ☐ Special Assessment District
- ☐ Vacant Property
- ☐ Welcome Committee
- ☐ Youth Development

Buick Achievers Scholarship Applications Now Open

The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program, funded by the General Motors Foundation, will accept applications for 2013 scholarships now through Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 5 p.m. EST. This is the third year the 1,100 Buick Achiever Scholarships will be awarded to students who excel in both the classroom and in the community and are pursuing degrees in engineering, design, information technology and business-related majors in the auto industry.

Through the program, 100 high school or current undergraduate students receive scholarships up to \$25,000 a year, renewable for up to four years and one



additional year for qualified five-year engineering programs. To learn more information or to register for e-mail notifications about the program, please visit www.buickachievers.com.

Submit Content to Grandmont #1 Informer

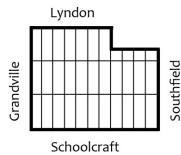
If you have an article or event you'd like to share with Grandmont #1 residents please e-mail grandmont1informer@gmail.com or call 313.272.4810. Content is due by March 10, 2013 for distribution in April 2013.

Advertising Rates

Business card: \$20; 1/4 page: \$40; 1/2 page: \$60; Full page: \$100. *Grandmont #1 Informer* is distributed to 800 households.

Grandmont #1 Informer Newsletter Committee

Co-Editor.....	Carolyn Nash
Co-Editor.....	Becki Kenderes
Distribution.....	Harold Harris
Member.....	DJ Abubarka
Member.....	Velma Bradley
Member.....	Carol Hanson
Member.....	Annie Mae Holt
Member.....	Jennifer Russell
Member.....	Ruby Springer



Grandmont #1 Improvement Association
P.O. Box 23065
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