

Around The Town

News from My HomeTown

Northwest

Day of Service Projects for Saturday, August 19, 2023

About 120 volunteers gathered Saturday morning to assist neighbors and friends with a variety of Rose Park area projects. Here is a summary of what was accomplished:

Project #1: To help prepare for an upcoming Fair Park Art Festival on August 28, volunteers, headed by Jared and Mushie Parker, cleared and readied a homeowners' back lot, removing unwanted trees, weeds and debris so the event could be held. Nearby residents, including children, participated.



Project #2: After waiting a year and a half for the city to test a garage for lead poisoning in the paint, Robin Egan purchased the necessary materials and ran the needed tests. On Saturday, Robin and Mary Egan's crew of volunteers scraped, sanded and painted the garage. They also trimmed bushes and cleaned the area.

The owner, an elderly woman, was very humbled and gratefully acknowledged the help of all.



Project #3: When My Home Town volunteers discovered a young woman, and a relatively new homeowner, had basement issues as well as excavation needs, they told her just to “worry about the basement. We’ll take care of everything else.”

The elated homeowner gladly volunteered to rent an excavator to help level the ground. Volunteers worked for hours to clear debris and finish the yard for future landscaping. Thanks to John Haynes and Becky Purdue and their hardworking crew for relieving a young homeowner of an extra burden.

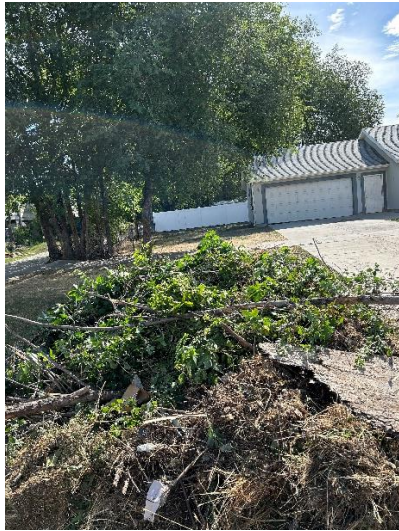


Project #4: There is a stretch of road along 700 North and I-215 that has needed to be cleaned for years according to a local homeowner who has been petitioning the city and UDOT to “take responsibility.” On Saturday Steve and Connie Sturtznegger’s crew cleaned the gutters, sidewalk and wall areas along this very well-traveled thoroughfare, making it presentable to all who pass by.



Project #5: Doing yardwork, cutting and trimming the lawn, and removing unwanted bushes for a local homeowner seemed pretty straightforward until Chris Haynes ran over a hornet's nest with a lawnmower. The nest was literally buried in the grass. Dozens of stings later, Chris continued working undauntedly. So did everyone else even though others were stung, too. (Chris is recovering at home, still feeling the stings of those attacking wasps.)

See the new home, sans the bees, below. Thanks to Jose Loya, an injured Chris Haynes, and a very dedicated crew for their hard work under difficult circumstances, to say the least.



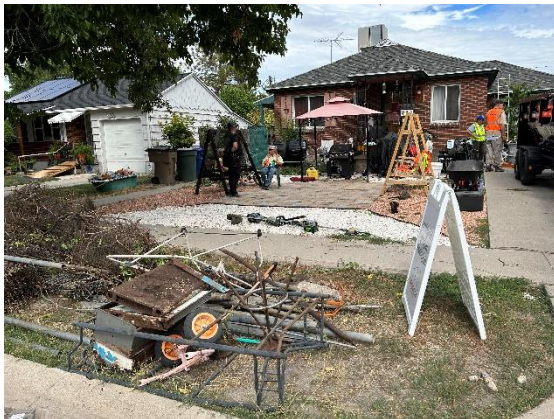
Project #6: Volunteers for this project had several objectives, including fixing drainage problems, cleaning, pruning and trimming branches as well as removing a tree that was growing into the side of a shed. To do so, Gaylen and Liz Zentner's team hauled in 2 cubic yards of dirt and wheeled it into the back yard. They also removed concrete chunks that peppered the yard.

The homeowner, an extremely grateful Rose Park resident, remarked that it would have taken her over a year to do what My Home Town accomplished in a few hours. Here is her full message:



*I am so grateful and truly blessed by
what My Home Town has done for me.
Saying thank you doesn't seem enough.
I send my heartfelt love, thanks and
blessings to everyone who helped.
I couldn't have ever got done this year by
myself what they did in a few hours.
Thank you, Leslie Brooks*

Project #7: Perhaps the most challenging project of the day was helping a longtime Rose Park resident remove an accumulation of household items, old furniture (i.e. junk), and a yard full of overgrown foliage. It took several dumpsters full of the discarded goods and hours of work to make a dent, but the homeowner as well as his neighbors appeared grateful. Some of them helped, too. Thanks to John and Diane Whittaker, Tim Herzog and Elaine Wycoff and their crew for taking on this mammoth task and going the extra mile.



Project #8: Recently, My Home Town volunteers helped build and install a wheelchair ramp for an elderly couple. On Saturday, a second crew, headed by Preston and Liz Richards, painted it (to the delight of the couple, shown below).



Several other challenging projects were undertaken on Saturday, initiated by My Home Town volunteers and completed by various service, religious and community organizations. All in all, it was a highly successful and rewarding Day of Service.

Special thanks to Jody and Mike Farley as well as Mary Egan for their many hours of planning, coordinating and implementing all of these potentially life changing Day of Service projects.



CRC Youth Activity, Friday August 18, 2023

The International Peace Gardens

The northwest area youth ages 12-18 gathered for an “End of Summer” party at the park. Doug and Becky Farley and their youth council group planned and coordinated the soiree which featured Italian sodas, hotdogs, fruit, popcorn and ice cream treats. Attendees played volleyball and watched the celebrated movie, The Sandlot (filmed in nearby locations). Each student also received a back pack loaded with school supplies.

“It was so fun to see these young people come together from diverse backgrounds and cultures, and participate in such a fun-loving way,” commented one of the volunteers who was busy creating Italian sodas for a very grateful and gracious group. Over 80 youth attended.

The organizers were also able to provide meals to a few families as well as some homeless individuals who showed up that evening.



