Rosedale Development Association

Working in partnership with residents, businesses, and institutions to build a strong community and improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale.

Summer Developments 2001

Introductions
If you’ve been to the RDA lately, you may have noticed a couple of new faces. Leslie Larsen, a KU school of social work graduate has been working with us, and the Rosedale Community Project since the beginning of September 2000, and Vicki Collie, another KU grad has been working with the Rosedale Community Project since August of last year. This summer they have continued their work here, specifically with the Saturday Academy, and Summer Youth Employment programs. Part of this program is Emily Gardos, who is interning here at the RDA. She’s been working with the computers and writing things (like this newsletter) about the RDA.

RDA POLICY
We are a membership organization dedicated to the improvement of the Rosedale Community. We believe in partnerships to address issues/concerns in the community.

We can:
- Provide resources and skills that will help you to resolve concerns.
- Bring people in the community together for joint problem solving and celebrations.
- Work with local businesses and the Unified Government to influence changes being made.
- Make sure the community’s voice is heard.

You can:
- Participate in your neighborhood group meetings, or start a neighborhood group if none exist in your area.
- Register to vote and participate in the election process.
- Become a paid member of Rosedale Development Association.
- Volunteer in the community.

It’s time for the Rosedale Uproar! And we need your help!!
913-677-5097
Come and Volunteer! Run your own Booth!
Bring your Friends! Help your Community!
Sept. 8th from 10 am to 5 pm
Read the Newsletter and call the RDA for more info!!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Annual Business Dues—$100  Annual Household Dues—$15

Name of Business OR Name of Household
Address
City  State  Zip Code
Contact Person
Day Phone  Evening Phone  Fax

Please mail application along with check made payable to:
Rosedale Development Association
1403 S.W. Blvd.
Kansas City, Kansas 66103

Rosa and the Two Way Street (2001)
Suasa Youth Employment Program

The Summer Youth employment program, funded by the Board of Public Utilities, has been offered by the RDA for the past few years, and will hopefully continue for years to come. This program offers local youth, ages 14 to 16, the opportunity to explore possible future careers. This funding is shared with Argentine.

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their theft - make sure you do the following:
1. Make sure your bikes, lawn and gardening tools, and anything else you keep outside are marked as yours.
2. Write down their serial numbers, put identifying marks on them, or engrave your name or initials in them.
3. Keep bicycles, lawn mowers, and gardening equipment in doors when they aren’t in use.
4. Do not leave a lawn mower unattended to - not even for a minute.
5. If you keep your bicycle outside, secure it using a chain and lock. Hopefully, if followed, these tips will help to decrease the theft of bikes, lawn mowers, and other equipment during these summer months.

Neighborhood Leadership Council

The Neighborhood Leadership Council is a group consisting of community leaders who meet with the RDA on a monthly basis, organized by Leslie Larsen and Wendy Wilson. Through these meetings the neighborhood leaders get to talk to each other, and are made aware of the events, resources, and information available in other parts of the community. The council last met on Wednesday, July 25. At this meeting we discussed conflict resolution techniques and neighborhood enrichment ideas. Your neighborhood leaders are working hard for you and this community. To learn more about current events in your neighborhood contact your neighborhood leader. They’ll be more than happy to help you keep updated. If you have no neighborhood group in your area but think you need one in your area, talk to the people in your neighborhood to gather interest and then contact Wendy Wilson at RDA to get one started.

NEW LAUNDROMAT

We all know that empty lot at 4310 Pearl, but did you know it’s going to be gone soon? That’s right! Ms. Theresa Potter has proposed to open a Laundromat on the plot. It will be a 4500 square foot concrete block building, with a lighted parking lot. This building will be a modern, self and full service Laundromat, and will also include a full service discount cleaners. So get ready to say goodbye to that old lot, and say hello to The Ultra, soon to be the newest edition to our community.

Community Teacher Award

Vicki Collins, a University of Kansas student who worked for the RDA as part of her school, developed the idea of a community teacher award. Her intent in developing this award was to demonstrate to outstanding teachers that the community values the work they do, and recognizes the purpose they serve. Vicki worked with the Rosedale Middle School Site Council, a committee of community representatives, parents, staff, and students, to offer an award to a few of the outstanding teachers that work at Rosedale Middle School.

ACCENT PROGRAM

The Accent Program is made up of three key parts: assigned community workers, police supervisors, and the community. When the court system assigns someone to community service they become part of the Accent Program. Working four hours on Saturdays (from nine to one) these workers clean up empty lots, pick up litter, and perform other community service activities. Community police supervise these workers on a rotating schedule, and so far it’s been a great success.

THE NEW ARCH PLAN

The Rosedale Memorial Arch has been a part of our community for a while now, and a part of our lives. I used to keep a child, with my brother, sister, and father. We’d eat ice cream cones and look out over the city’s skyline. Then the arch fell into a state of disrepair, and no longer felt safe. A fence was placed around the arch to prevent it from being vandalized. People have stopped visiting the arch for these reasons and more. But folks, we’re in luck! A $35,000 grant has been given to the RDA by the American Planning Association (APA) to restore the area. Plans include improvements such as new picnic tables, benches, landscaping, directional and informational signage, new lighting for the street and the site, making the arch handicapped accessible, and creating a stairway to link the Rosedale Middle School athletic field with the arch to get more people to the arch. Piper-Wind Architects, Inc will do this work. Now here’s the really exciting stuff! You can help! The metal benches can be sponsored. Sponsorship of a bench not only helps with the process, but also gets your name (or message within reason) engraved on a plaque to be affixed on the bench. The improvements alone won’t be the best part. The best part will be the newfound security and feeling of safety as people begin to use the area again, like when you come to check on your bench. For more information about the arch project call Wendy. With a lot of hard work, and a little luck, the Rosedale Memorial Arch will be transformed once more into a place we can bring our families, friends, and just ourselves to enjoy the view, the company, the arch, and the ice cream.

Rosedale MS Gets New Principal; Uniforms

Many changes are finding their way into the halls of Rosedale Middle School for this coming school year. One is a new principal, Lili Englebrick. Ms. Englebrick was previously the vice principal of Argentine Middle School, and promises to be good for Rosedale MS. This year uniforms are also being introduced to Rosedale MS. This should cut down on school violence, distractions during class, and will improve students’ self esteem and hopefully, grades. The move to uniforms is caused in part by the success of a uniform program at Argentine MS. There, suspensions and school fights decreased while students improved academically after only one year.

With a new principal, Lili Englebrick, and this new uniform program, things are looking up for Rosedale MS.

RDA At Work For You!

Minor Home Repair

The RDA, with the help of a volunteer work force has been working hard to improve the standard of living in the Rosedale Community. So far we have provided three air conditioners to families and individuals who had been without.

Many elderly women have also been helped. One had her house painted by volunteers, another elderly and handicapped woman had gutters supplied and hung by volunteers, another had her yard cleaned by volunteers, and the last had a security storm door provided and installed by community volunteers. The minor home repair program has been a great success in improving the living conditions of several people this far. Thanks to volunteer commitment in the past, and your continued support, we’ll be able to help more people in the future.

Kids Mow the Boulevard

During these hot summer months we’ve all noticed unkempt lots, weeds out of control, and many code violations. So what’s being done about it? Mr. Wilson of the RDA has hired youth periodically throughout the summer to mow the grass by South West Boulevard to improve the look of the area.
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Practicum workers are KU School of Social Welfare students in their last years of education who work to gain practical experience before graduating. Former practicum employees include Leslie Larose and Vicki Collie. We are looking forward to the possibilities these new faces will bring to RDA and the Rosedale community.

Goodbyes
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UPROAR
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Reflections from Wendy: RDA has experienced a very busy summer. We have been working on numerous projects as well as assisting families and individuals who come to us with questions and concerns and helping to train social work students from KU to be community social workers. Amid all of this, we recently celebrated our community with the 9th annual Rosedale Uproar Festival. This is the first year we have not organized a parade. However, with enough volunteer help, it may be possible to hold a parade next year.

It appeared that the volunteers and participants at the festival truly enjoyed the day. I saw a lot of laughter, camaraderie and silliness. A number of the volunteers were sociology student from Dr. Charles Wilson’s class at Kansas City Community College. Part of their assignment entitled writing about their observations of the festival. Many of them made the same comment, they were surprised at the number of people of different races coming together and enjoying each other’s company without any kind of conflict.

In light of the recent events in New York, I hope everyone in Rosedale appreciates the diversity of our community and that we all take the time to think about what we say about others and how hurtful words can be. After all, other than Native Americans, we are all descendants of immigrants.

Karl Wenger
Thanks goes out to Karl Wenger for his continued commitment to keeping our community in shape. Karl does a great service to Rosedale all spring and summer long by mowing lawns and vacant lots up and down the boulevard. Thank you, Karl, for your hard work and great initiative. Keep up the good work!
Reflections from Rick Silva

One of the most enjoyable things that we as Rosedale Development Association members do every year is plan and hold our annual festival. I say this even though in the past it was hard to get excited about something that was so much work and made little or no money. But this year, thanks to the overwhelming support of many volunteers, this year's festival was one of the most successful ever.

Many thanks to everyone who attended this year's event as well as the participants and people who worked individual booths, such as our many food vendors.

Also, thanks to all our sponsors who donate the supplies as well as give valuable cash donations each year that help defray our costs for such things as entertainment, tents, and chairs. Unlike the bigger metropolitan festivals, every dollar donated comes from the Rosedale Community, making this a true community event.

And last but not least, to all the wonderful people who gave of their time, the most precious commodity of all, we thank you with all our hearts. This year thanks to you, more people attending the festival were able to enjoy all we had to offer. Every child was able to play a game or participate in the many skill and thrill attractions we provided. This has never happened before and you do not know how much we appreciate your time.

Thank you.

As we close the book on this year's festival, we remember what it means to be a part of this community. We all share many of the same concerns for a better Rosedale, but once a year we celebrate what is right with where we live and work and play. Thanks to all of you who participated and remember us again next year.

CHILDREN'S SPEECH CLINICS

There's a new resource for families in Rosedale. Children with communication disorders now have a place to turn for speech therapy. If your child has difficulty hearing, speaking, or understanding, these clinics may be right for you. Sponsored by the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the clinics are absolutely free. Communication problems are serious, and do not go away by themselves. This is an especially crucial time to get treatment for these disorders, with the school year just beginning. If you suspect your children may have a communication disorder, get it checked out now. A new clinic has recently opened at KU Medical Center. For more information, contact Nancy Martin, the coordinator. Call by phone (913) 588-5937, or fax your questions to (913) 588-3923.

Rosedale History Books

Available!

Have you ever wondered about the history of Rosedale and how it has become what it is? If so, you're in luck! Thanks to the diligent work of long-time Rosedale resident, Margaret Landis, paperback books of the history of the Rosedale community are now available @ RDA for $15.00 each. Stop by the office or call us @ 677-5097 if you interested in having your own copy of this special limited-time book.

Summer Youth Employment Wraps Up

This year's Summer Youth Employment program has been a great success, perhaps the best yet. Good matches were made between businesses and youth workers this year. In fact, these matches were so good that many of the youth involved have been offered continuing positions by their current employers. The success of this program can be attributed to the generous funding we receive from the Board of Public Utilities, the dedicated youth who apply, the interest and involvement of local businesses, and the people who work to keep everything organized and updated. Everyone has done a great job this year, and we thank you for your patience and support!

This year's involved businesses include: Westwood IGA, Miller Image Group, Vital Signs Center, the Rosedale Vision Center, Strasser's Hardware, Argentine Community Center, Pet Connection, the Law offices of Stephan Kirschbaum, and the Rosedale Development Assn.

CRIME ALERT

The months of September through December are notoriously high crime times in Rosedale. To make sure that you and your family are not victims, the following months follow these simple guidelines:

- Do not leave personal belongings out in your car.
- Make sure purses, wallets, cell phones and CDs are out of sight if you leave them in your car.
- Keep boxes, shopping bags and the like in your trunk if you make a stop on your way home.
- Always lock your door.

Community police officer Jeff Miskic adds, "If you're going to leave your purse out in your car, you might as well leave your door unlocked. That way you don't have to worry about a broken window." The RDA does not endorse this view in any way, and feels that officer Miskic is attempting to use absurd humor to explain the folly in leaving your personal belongings in plain view in your car. Be advised to take all the aforementioned tips seriously, in order to better protect yourself and your belongings in coming high theft season.

POLICE SEEK INFO

The community police are interested in obtaining the names of homebound individuals in the Rosedale Community. If you know anyone who is homebound please call RDA. The police will use this information to organize clean ups of their yards, check on them in the winter, and make sure they are protected. To obtain the names of an individual on the list, please call us here at RDA (913) 677-5097, or Officer J.J. Witt and leave a message at his office (913) 573-8720. Thank you in advance for your help with this project. Together we can make Rosedale a safer community for everyone.

Rosedale Saturday Academy Coming Soon!

This session, the 9th series of the Rosedale Saturday Academy, might be a little different than it has been in the past. New activities are already being arranged. Participation in series eight was somewhat sporadic. While participation of any kind is great, it is important to start at the beginning and to keep attending the Saturday Academy. This will ensure that participants will experience all of the different projects that the Rosedale Saturday Academy has to offer. The RSA will kick off the first session of its next series on Saturday, October 20.

Call Rae Johnson @ 677-2561 if you have question or if you would like more information.

Interested in Learning More About the Rosedale Memorial Arch?

If you or your neighborhood group are interested in learning more about the Rosedale Memorial Arch and the current status of the improvement efforts, you may call RDA @ (677-569) to ask for a formal presentation covering the recent progress with this project.

Educational Opportunities

Do you like to learn or to take classes every now and then and simply for the joy of it? Kansas City Community College has a variety of businesses and continuing education classes available for the Fall 2001 semester. Classes are available in many areas including: Workforce Development, Continuing Professional Education Classes, Business & Career Education, Non-Credit Classes, Short-Term Classes, Adult Studies Advancement Program, GED Testing, and Self Enrichment. Other opportunities such as Senior Citizen Field Trips are also available. Deadlines for classes vary. If you have specific questions about any of the classes available, feel free to contact KKCC at (913) 334-1100 or (913) 288-7660. A brochure is also available at our office or for your use if you are interested.

Opportunities for Learning & Involvement at the Argentine Branch Library

October 17 - What: A presentation of the CD-ROM "Rosetta Stone" - a language learning software for those interested in improving their English skills. Where: Argentine Branch Library When: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Please note that space for this event is limited. If you are interested in attending this session, please call 722-7400 to register.

Children's Storytime

What: Pre-school children ages 2-5 When: Presentation of the Argentine Branch Library in the children's department. When: 10:30 a.m. (approximately 1 hour)

October Hayrides!!!

Hayrides will be given every Friday and Saturday night of the month of October at Wyandotte County Lake, 91st and 1st Avenue Road, which start at the 83rd Street shelter on the East Side of the Lake. Each ride lasts approximately 45 minutes, and takes passengers through a heavily wooded area. A bonfire will be available and marshmallows can be purchased to cook. These are not spooky rides, and passengers can expect to see deer and other wildlife. The early ride on Saturday is designed for those who want to see fall foliage.

Friday rides, 7:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Saturday rides, 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

$5.00/person ages 13 - Adult $3.00/children ages 4 - 12 FREE/children 3 and under

Reservations taken only for groups buying the entire wagon. Maximum capacity 24 people/ mixture of children & adults. For more information or reservations, call Vicki at 913-299-0550.
Open Burning

Resident are allowed to apply for a free burn permit at any Kansas City Kansas Fire Station. The permit is valid for up to three days. Burn dates start October 16, 2001 until November 15, 2001. Applications must be received and approved at least 24 hours prior to the start of burning.

Open Dumping

Open dump times and dates for Kansas City, Kansas, residents will be from 7:15 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on Saturdays October 13, October 27, and November 17, 2001. All debris must be taken to the Forest View Recycling and Disposal facility at 4800 Kaw Dr. (K-32), 913-287-2711
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It appeared that the volunteers and participants at the festival truly enjoyed the day. I saw a lot of laughter, camaraderie and silliness. A number of the volunteers were sociology student from Dr. Charles Wilson’s class at Kansas City Community College. Part of their assignment entailed writing about their observations of the festival. Many of them made the same comment, they were surprised at the number of people of different races coming together and enjoying each other’s company without any kind of conflict.

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Karl Wenger
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community has to offer. So what is the best? According to Jeff it's the Rosedale Development Association and the area around it. "This is the best place in Rosedale because there's a positive energy. People here want to help and give back to the community. There's just a good feeling about the place," says Jeff. What advice does Jeff have for the community? "Call the police." He says. It's as simple as that. "If you see something going on, if you know it's wrong, call the police." Jeff says the biggest problem is people don't want to get involved but they'll complain about the police not doing anything to help them. "We can't do anything to solve the problem if we don't know what's going on, unless we stumble across it ourselves by dumb-luck." Jeff wants the community to know that the police and the community must work together. We are their eyes and ears, and the police can only function properly when we help them to do so. And now, the people in this community know Patrolman Jeff Miskec a little bit better.

Next on our roster is Officer George Kemper, a man intimately involved with the workings of the area. Born and raised in Kansas City, George has been working with the KU Police Department for quite some time. He's spent the last 20 years working as a part of the KU Police Department; 18 of those years he spent working as sergeant. In October of 2000 George began his work as a community police officer. Mr. Kemper has deep roots with the community, and continues to dig deeper. In 1996 he became a pastor, and recently has become part of the New Rosedale Ministerial Alliance. He created a new award program for kids at Frank Rushton (which is talked about in the article "KU Police Officer Creates Academic Excellence Award," also in this newsletter). Officer Kemper says he jumped at the chance to become a part of our community police. "In community policing," he says, "You get to see more aspects of the community." George came with a plan when he started in Rosedale. "I wanted to be more involved with the churches, the schools, the people and the community and bring KU and Rosedale closer together." Recently he helped KU with their Food and Clothes drive, but he also helped Rosedale. George made sure that all the food and clothes went to the churches and schools in the community. Officer Kemper is a man totally enveloped in the community, and we thank him for it.

Finally, we turn to J.J. Wilt. Like our other community officers, J.J. was born and raised in the Kansas City area, and has been a part of the KCPD for the past 7 years (eight, if you count being in the police reserves in 1997). However, this has been his first year as part of the community police. "Rosedale is a great place," he says. "It's very diverse, not just the people—there's a lot of business and a lot of residential homes. It's this big mix." What does J.J. want to tell the community? Like our other community police officers, Wilt urges Rosedale to "Not be afraid to report suspicious activity, code problems, etc. So many times people will page me, and they don't think they're reporting anything important, but it'll be such valuable information." After a pause, Jay adds, "And be patient with me. Just because there's not a change overnight doesn't mean I'm not working on it. It takes time to get things done." So, what's his advice for a better community? "Be involved." Officer Wilt says the best thing some one can do is "Participate in your neighborhood groups. Start a watch group. Just be involved." Jay wants everyone to get involved, to report suspicious behavior, and to stay proud to be a part of Rosedale.

Jess Brizendine is also a part of the Rosedale Community Police. He has likewise helped the community in more ways than we can write, but was not interviewed in this article because he has been previously introduced in other newsletters.

Thanks to all of our community officers, Rosedale is a better place to live, and all of their work is greatly appreciated.

Darrell Dye
Darrell Dye, a past president of the Hilltop Neighborhood Association passed away June 19. He will be remembered as a dedicated worker in the Hilltop Neighborhood and the Rosedale community and an active member of the Rainbow Boulevard Church of the Nazarene. Darrell was well known in the area for volunteering to mow lawns, work with older people in the area, and always ready to organize neighborhood picnics and celebrations. Darrell was always willing to help a person in need, and will be missed greatly. His memorial service was held at the Rainbow Boulevard Church of the Nazarene (located at 44th and Rainbow) on July 8.
teachers with gift baskets and their awards at the Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest.

**Rosedale Community Project**

Our friends Leslie Larsen and Vicki Collie are leaving us soon, to further their educations and experiences, both will be sorely missed. We are excited, however, to meet four new students from the University of Kansas School of Social Work who will be placed at the Rosedale Community Project. A new project manager will also be coming to the Rosedale Community Project, because Juliana Carlson, the project manager for the last two years, has left Kansas and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota to be married in August. Good luck to all our old friends in all their future endeavors.

**Rosedale Saturday Academy & Class Reunions**

The Saturday Academy provides non-academic classes and projects to youth ages 11-14 that live or go to school in the Rosedale community. These classes include art, photography, video, cooking, etc. The program is free, but you must pre-register by calling 677-2561. Series eight is now in session through August 11, but the program continues throughout the year. Rosedale Saturday Academy offers free classes to Rosedale kids that help to enrich their lives for years to come. **Class Reunions** bring previous participants of Rosedale Saturday Academy together for food, fun, and active learning on a monthly basis. Class Reunions include community service and learning activities, such as trash pick ups and painting over graffiti, art work, field trips to places such as the Children’s Peace Pavilion, health fairs, working in the community garden, and the developing of a Rosedale Saturday Academy webpage.

**KU Police Officer Creates Academic Excellence Award**

In the past Frank Rushton School has done a lot to encourage their students. Each quarter they give out special awards: one for perfect attendance, one for good citizenship, and one for being on the honor roll. Still, this didn’t seem like enough to KU officer George Kemper. He listened to the community when they said there’s not enough positive reinforcement for youth in the world today. Kemper then began to form an idea. He met with Frank Rushton principal Mary Welch to create a program to better recognize exemplary youth for their achievements. A new quarterly award was created, the academic excellence award. This award was for students that met three different criteria: being on the honor roll, being recognized as a good citizen, and having perfect attendance. Pizza Hut and McDonald’s on 43rd provided free food for the kids, and Westwood IGA provided cake and cookies for over a hundred people free of charge to have at the award ceremony. The neighborhood associations provided funds and help for the program (especially Hilltop), and Anne Blander from Corporate Awards provided some very special awards for the kids who met the criteria. All of these forces came together to create a ceremony not just for the school, but also for the community of Rosedale as a whole. This ceremony repeats every quarter of the school year. But is it worth it? ABSOLUTELY! KU Community Officer Kemper knows progress is being made because of his program. The first time around 26 kids got the special award, but the second time the award was given to 41 students. With this success Kemper is feeling ambitious, and says more can be done. He’s already gotten a $700 grant from the ARNIF (Argentine and Rosedale Neighborhood Improvement Fund) to help pay for the award (which so far has run on good will). Now Kemper wants to start the same program in other local schools. And so we thank the contributing businesses, residents and KU Officer George Kemper for their continued support and interest in our youth.

**Community Police**

Officer Jess Brizendine, Patrolman Jeffery Miskec, Officer George Kemper, and Patrolman J.J. Witt: whether you know it or not, you’ve seen them around. They are our Community Police officers, and they are serving us well. By doing everything from patrolling the area to making drug busts, they’re keeping Rosedale safe. But what do we know about them? How long have they been here? And what do they think about Rosedale? I recently talked to them to find out the answers to those questions and more.

Jeff Miskec has been patrolling the Rosedale area for seven years now. He was born and raised in Wyandotte County, and has seen the best and the worst this