Now that spring is on the way and summer is just around the corner, many people will be thinking about ways to improve their homes or properties. If you are one of those people—and if your plans include installing a new patio or water garden, building a retaining wall or stone pathway, or some other landscaping project—then you need to visit House of Rocks, located just outside of Rosedale near the intersection of Merriam Lane and the 18th St. Expressway.

House of Rocks, which has been a long-time RDA supporter, is a supplier of many kinds of rocks, boulders, stone, gravel, and more. The company sells decorative gravel and boulders, flagstone, patio stone, veneer, rubble, cut wall stone, edging, premium sand, and pond liners.

Typical projects of House of Rocks customers include swimming pools, back-porch patios, barbeque pits, retaining walls, fountains, and gardens.

Displayed above, the House of Rocks office and an example of a landscaping project using stones from the company’s inventory.

For examples of the company’s materials, visit the website listed above or stop by for an in-store tour.

Although House of Rocks still considers itself a small business, it imports materials from as far away as Mexico and receives orders from across the United States. According to owner Jack Robinson, 70-80% of the company’s current business is wholesale, commercial, i.e. landscapers, designers, builders, stone masons, etc., and the remainder is “walk-in retail” residential. “We treat everybody like a neighbor, like family,” says Robinson, whose mother was born in Rosedale. “As a business, you can’t lose your roots. We try to be fair and honest with everybody.”

House of Rocks started as a supplier of gravel and mineral specimens, but over the years, the company has evolved and added many types of rocks and landscaping materials to its inventory. The company’s first location was near 75th St. and Metcalf, but it moved to its current location in the early 1970s. Robinson became sole owner in 1984.

Mission Cliffs housing development making noticeable progress

Have you driven or walked by the corner of Lake Ave. and Minnie St. in Rosedale lately? If so, you have seen the remarkable transformation taking place, as the first phase of a 155-home development is currently underway and nearing completion.

The construction of the single-family townhomes and single-family detached homes represents the fulfillment of a vision that was initiated nearly a decade ago by members of the Rosedale community and RDA. The vision was to reclaim and revitalize a historic neighborhood that had fallen into disrepair by building new owner-occupied housing and strengthening the fabric of the community.

Following the construction of several infill homes in nearby Rainbow Park in recent years, the Mission Cliffs project—which will be completed in several stages—is the next step in the neighborhood’s redevelopment process.

The mission is a partnership between RDA, City Vision Ministries, the United Government, Brotherhood Bank, Fannie Mae, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Shott Construction is the general contractor, while Robinson Development Company is responsible for marketing and sales.

RDA is especially grateful to City Vision Ministries, a fellow not-for-profit community development corporation based in Kansas City, Kan., for its expertise, resources, and drive that made this project succeed. City Vision will be holding its 15th anniversary celebration at the Mission Cliffs site on April 17. Guests will be treated to one of the first tours of the new townhomes.

The Rosedalian

Mission Cliffs housing development making noticeable progress

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Mission Cliffs housing development making noticeable progress

House of Rocks

The Rosedalian

Mission Cliffs housing development making noticeable progress

KCK Animal Control heading in right direction

Sometimes, surprises are good. A recent visit to the George Lee Dunn Animal Shelter and Control Facility in Kansas City’s city-run animal shelter—was indeed such a pleasant surprise.

Cape, Henry Horn, on special assignment from the Chief’s Office as Director of KCK Animal Control (AC), had invited me to tour the facility located at 3301 Park Dr. and discuss recent physical and operational changes.

Cape, Horn has instituted a number of positive changes, many of them recommended by the Animal Control Task Force in 2005.

Among the physical improvements, an outdoor fenced area has been constructed that allows potential adopters to interact with an animal prior to adoption. The animal-holding areas have been reconfigured and refreshed, and the facility has a new parking lot, as well. During my visit, the entire facility was very bright and clean.

Improvements in the shelter operations are even more exciting. All staff members are receiving ongoing training. AC has entered into an agreement with the Greater Kansas City Humane Society to alter all adopted animals. Dogs are being pruned for temperament prior to adoption. The shelter has also developed relationships with a variety of licensed groups in Kansas who assist in getting animals into “forever homes.”

In addition, AC is partnering with Spay & Neuter Kansas City to offer a series of low-cost rabies vaccinations and microchip clinics for all KCK residents. These clinics will be held at various locations throughout the city. We are hopeful that Rosedale will be a chosen site in the near future.

Public outreach and education on local animal control ordinances, including the mandatory spay/neuter of any cat or dog over 6 months of age, has improved.

Cape Horn has talked about the challenges of upgrading KCK Animal Control and is making excellent progress to provide a caring atmosphere for lost and unwanted animals. I applaud his efforts.

Continued on next page
Attention Rosedale high-school students and business owners!

Planning and preparation for RDA's annual Summer Youth Employment program is underway. The program placement high school age youth (ages 14-16) in a job at a local business for 6-8 weeks during the summer. Each youth is required to attend employment skills training sessions at the beginning of the summer. The youth are paid minimum wage through an RDA administered grant from the Board of Public Utilities. Young who would like to apply for the program may contact the RDA office: (913) 677-5097, Applications must be returned to the RDA office by May 18.

RDA is also looking for Rosedale businesses that are interested in hosting and supervising a youth for the summer. The program is a great way for businesses to gain some extra help for the summer at extra cost (since RDA pays the youth). Participating businesses are simply responsible for supervising the youth throughout their term of employment. RDA will take care of any disciplinary actions, should they be necessary.

Interested businesses should contact the RDA office as soon as possible: (913) 677-5097.
Firehouse Fiesta Wrap-Up

Thank you!

Thank you to the following local businesses and individuals who contributed to the Firehouse Fiesta benefit for the Rosedale Freedom School. We appreciate your support! Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of the children and families being served by the Freedom School program.

A special thank you goes to Bungalow Creative for designing the Firehouse invitations and to Quality Litho for printing the invitations. Thank you to Jan Bourge for the loans of assistance with the silent auction.

All of you made the event a success!

**Businesses**
- All About Scrapbooking
- Applebees
- Astoria
- Best Western
- Chopstix
- Commerce Bank
- E. Edwards Work Wear
- The Hair Fix
- Half Price Books
- Jeff Lake
- KU Med Center
- Larden Center on Aging
- McGuys
- McDonald's
- Nails & Solar Tan
- Original Juan
- Pizza Hut
- Quik's Barbeque
- Rainbow Car Wash
- Rosedale Barbeque
- Sono Drive-In
- Strasser Hardware
- Sunshine Flowers
- Urban Mining Housewares
- Velvet Creme
- Wald Pottery
- Westwood Apple Market
- World's Window

**Individuals**
- Rick Burgooner
- Virginia Daily
- Mary House
- Marilyn Rhee
- Todd Zehner
- Kathy Kaufman
- Ralph & Laurel Kaufman
- Cheryl Martin
- Pat Bertrum
- Robert & Krista Kaufman
- Pat & Donna Devine
- Aaron Barrnett
- Hallie Kates-Calloway
- Wendy Wilson & Jeff Binder
- Melissa Garber
- Virginia Daily
- George Kempster
- Stacie Murrell
- Kristi Kasznek

Upcoming Events

**June 18**
First day of Rosedale Freedom School. 1444 Southwest Blvd.

**June 20**
Rosedale Leadership Council. 1403 Southwest Blvd. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**June 26**
RDA Board meeting. 1401 South- west Blvd. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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Firehouse Fiesta nets more than $7,000 for Rosedale Freedom School

Talk about a party! To raise funds for the Rosedale Freedom School and to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, more than 200 people attended the “Firehouse Fiesta” on May 5 held at the historic firestation home of Rick Bumgardner and Don Fields.

In a great success, more than $7,000 was generated for the operation of Rosedale’s first Freedom School, to be held at Rainbow Memorial Church this summer. The Freedom School will serve 100 children in grades K-8, most of whom will be from the Rosedale community.

The school will operate for six weeks, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day. The school opens in a few weeks, on June 18.

The Firehouse Fiesta was the brainchild of several key people, including: RDA Executive Director, Wendy Wilson; Rosedale Community Project supervisor, Donna Devine (and her daughter, Andrea Villars — a marketing and fund development specialist); and of course, the owners of the firestation, Rick Bumgardner and Don Fields.

“Rick and Don had wanted to do a fundraiser for Rosedale for a long time,” says Wilson. “The Freedom School presented the perfect opportunity to do so.” Bumgardner and Fields converted the former Rosedale Firestation #10 (located at 1166 Southwest Blvd.) into a luxury home several years ago. The remodeling work and interior decorating are so unique and fabulous that the home has been featured in Kansas City Homes and Gardens magazine and will be the subject of an upcoming documentary on KCPTV.

At the Firehouse Fiesta, guests were treated to Latin-American-themed foods and a sparkling margarita fountain. In addition to ticket sales, funds were also raised from a silent auction. For a list of the businesses and individuals who contributed to the fundraiser, see page 4.

RDA wins “Partner of the Year Award” from City Vision Ministries

In a formal gesture that testifies to the intimate and collaborative relationship between the two organizations, City Vision Ministries presented RDA and Executive Director Wendy Wilson with its “Partner of the Year Award” for 2006.

The award was given to City Vision’s 15-year anniversary celebration on Friday, April 27, held at the new Mission Cliffs housing development in Rosedale. Mission Cliffs came about as a result of many partnerships, but one of the most critical was the one between RDA and City Vision.

Like RDA, City Vision is a not-for-profit community development corporation serving Kansas City, Kan. The two organizations worked together to build support for the Mission Cliffs project, develop community consensus, overcome numerous obstacles, and make sure the project kept moving.

As the mission Cliffs is now taking shape at the intersection of Lake Ave. and Minnie St. in Rosedale, it will bring 115 new single-family townhomes and detached homes to the area, increasing homeownership rates and providing housing options in Rosedale for employees and students of the nearby University of Kansas Medical Center and other professionals.

For more information, visit: www.missioncliffsownershome.com or www.cityvisionministries.org/mission.html.

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KU students complete Studio 804 house

For the third time in the last four years, students from the University of Kansas School of Architecture’s capstone field experience class — named Studio 804 — have designed and installed a new, prefabricated home in the Rosedale community.

The latest Studio 804 home is located at 3914 Lloyd St., a few blocks from the new Mission Cliffs housing development and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

The program provides the KU students with a “hands-on” learning experience, while simultaneously providing the community with a new, affordable home that incorporates cutting-edge architectural concepts and practices.

Rosedale is blessed to now have three such homes in our community. The previous two homes are located at: 3908 Lloyd St. and 730 Shawnee Rd. For more information, visit: www Studio804.com.
Cruisin’ in style: Chess Club members get limo ride, end school year with success

The Rosedale Knights Chess Club wrapped up its third year in existence with several fun events during the month of May. On May 3, the means of transportation for the club’s field trip to the Irene Ruti Library in Kansas City, Mo., was none other than...a limousine! The limo was provided by the owner of Olympic Cabs, Doug (Lyle) Oscar (Olympic Cabs is a Rosedale business). Many thanks to Doug for his generosity!

The chess club members were ecstatic when they saw the limo pull up to the RDA office, and realized that they would be using it for the field trip. Several youth excitedly asked, “Is that for us?” The limo transported the youth to and from the Ruti Library.

The club visited the Ruti Library to be able to try out the library’s outdoor chess tables, made of stone and rock. There are five such tables, which members utilize to stage a mini-tournament. They also received a tour of the library from one of the librarians.

Two weeks later, on May 17, the chess club celebrated the completion of another school year with a tidy outdoor barbecue. The full spread included hamburgers, hotdogs, taquitos, potato chips, carrots, and more. The barbecue was held in the grassy recreation area behind the RDA office.

One of RDA’s primary youth development programs, the Rosedale Knights Chess Club has been in existence since February 2005. It meets during the school year once a week after school, serving primarily fifth- through eighth-graders. RDA staff member Joel Goering serves as the group’s sponsor, along with two other adult volunteers. For the 2006-07 school year, the average attendance at weekly chess club gatherings was 12 youth, although the program served a total of 24 youth at some point during the year. The club is financially supported by the Rosedale Optimist Club and other RDA donors.

The Chess Club will take a break for the summer months, but if you have or know of a child who would be interested in joining the Rosedale Knights Chess Club next year, or if you would like to make a donation, contact Joel Goering at RDA: (913) 677-5097.

Rosedale Briefs

- Don’t forget to vote: The Wyandotte County Gaming Election is Tuesday, June 26. After years of debate, the Kansas Legislature has given permission to Wyandotte County and several other Kansas counties to build gaming facilities. The tax increase on the Wyandotte County ballot will authorize the construction of slot machines at The Woodlands and a destination casino. Exercise your voting rights!
- Jobs for young people: 14 students will participate in RDA’s Summer Youth Employment program this year. The program places high school-aged youth in a job at a local business for 6-8 weeks during the summer. Each youth is required to attend a series of employment skills training sessions before they begin working. The youth are paid minimum wage through a grant from the Board of Public Utilities (BPU).
- Cross Lines says thanks: The Board and staff of Cross Lines Community Outreach wishes to express its gratitude to the Rosedale Park office of Rosedale Community for its generous donation of $1000 for the 2005-2006 holiday season. Cross Lines is one of KCKC’s principal service providers for low-income people. The donation will help the agency through the summer months as demand increases. Good job, Rosedale.
- Park care, close to home: On Saturday, May 5, Spay & Neuter Kanasi City held a low-cost spaying and neutering clinic for cats and dogs. Pet owners were also able to purchase flea and tick treatments for their pets and obtain low-cost heartworm and rabies vaccinations. The event was successful enough that there is already an interest in scheduling another one in Rosedale in the near future.
- Excellence in Education: During the 2006-07 school year, children in Rosedale received 423 Excellence in Education Awards. The overall award total this year was 914 in three categories: academic excellence, citizenship, and attendance. The program is currently scheduled to end in March 2006.
- Rosedale Briefs: Rosedale Middle, T.A. Dean Elementary, Franklin Roosevelt Elementary, and Holy Name.

Joining hands” to spruce up a Rosedale neighborhood asset

On Saturday, May 12, approximately 60 volunteers from RDA, Rainbow Mennonite Church, and Thirteen Financial for Lutherans came together to make improvements at Whitmore Park (the park across the street from the RDA office). The massive effort was a part of Join Hands Day, a national initiative designed to make a difference in communities through helpful projects that connect youth and adults.

Five major projects were completed at the park, including: (1) removing two large bushes and replacing them with a Red Oak tree; (2) building a wooden box to contain the water faucet and hose; (3) installing five stone walkways in various places throughout the park; (3) constructing and installing a railroad-like bridge beam and railroad crossing signs; and (5) spreading wood chips throughout the park.

Of the 60 volunteers, 35 were adults and 25 were children.

Whitmore Park, which is owned by the St. Mary’s Community in Rosedale (a 501c3 organization affiliated with Rainbow Mennonite Church), is a heavily-used neighborhood park. Many people come to the park enjoy the unique play equipment and creative design. Families, young children, and teenagers all use the park on a daily basis.

Thirteen Financial contributed $1,000 to the project, along with several volunteers. Rainbow Mennonite contributed volunteers, as well. Several church members purchased supplies and materials beforehand and others prepared lunch on the day of the project. RDA helped coordinate and publicize the event.

The next time you’re in the park, make sure to check out the new features and other improvements!}

Rosedale History Quiz

In each issue of The Rosedaleian, there will be a historical photograph of a place in Rosedale along with an accompanying question. The first person to answer the question correctly will receive a prize. Submissions must be emailed to: rosedalehistoryquiz@yahoo.com or called in to the RDA office: 913-677-5097. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

Last month’s photograph & question:

Question: What is the name of this structure?
Answer: Shawnee Rd. Bridge over 79th St. Trafalgarway, originally constructed 1934-35
Winner: Claudette Patterson.

This month’s photograph & question:

Question: Name this building.
Answer: Rosedale
If not, it is no longer there.

The answer will be provided next month.

Recycling Contest for Whitmore Park and Playground

Help fill the yellow-and-green Paper Retriever recycling bins at Whitmore Park ($40 block of Southwest Blvd.), and generate funds for park improvements. The more paper that is recycled, the more money that Paper Retriever will give to the Park for new equipment, repairs, and other upgrades.

From May through August, we’re competing in a special contest to see if we can recycle more than we did last year during the same period. The prize is more cash for the Park! So bring your newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and junk mail and school papers. Collect paper at home, at work, or from family and friends.

If you need pickup, call Rainbow Mennonite Church: (913) 236-8820.

Thank You.

— The Whitmore Playground Committee

Membership application

Annual business dues: $100
Annual household dues: $15

None of business or name of household

Address
City
State
ZIP code

Contact person

Day phone
Evening phone
Fax

E-mail address

Please mail application, along with check made payable to: Rosedale Development Association

1407 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, Kan. 66103

Derek Lusinger, John Wright, and Jim Martin, owners of flower of their labor on Join Hands Day. A brand-new wooden box to cover the outdoor water faucet and hose in Whitmore Park. The box will provide protection for the faucet and hose and allow easy access to water for volunteers. The project was one of many completed at the park by Join Hands Day volunteers on May 12.