Rosedale Business of the Month
Rhino Builders
Address: 1040 Merriam Lane, Kansas City, Kan. 66103, Phone: 913-722-4353, Website: www.rhinobuilders.com

"Rhino tough, TUFF on quality." In a nutshell, that slogan describes one of Rosedale's most successful businesses - Rhino Builders, an award-winning general contractor specializing in residential remodeling.

"TUFF summarizes Rhino's philosophy: Team-oriented, Understanding, Form Alliances, and Four-Point Guarantee. The company prides itself on a team-based attitude; understanding of its customers and industry; forming alliances with trades and suppliers to give customers the best materials, prices, workmanship, and schedule; and providing customers with a lifetime workmanship guarantee for the life of the original owner.

The company takes on a variety of home remodeling projects, including basements, kitchens, bathrooms, additions, exteriors, and whole-house remodels. For a sampling of Rhino's handbook, visit their website: www.rhinobuilders.com.

Founded in 1996 by Terry Skilling and his partner Lance Combs, Rhino Builders has a proven track record of professional, high-quality work. The company employs certified lead carpenters, and is fully licensed and insured in all of the communities it serves. According to GuildQuality, an independent performance reporting organization, 100% of Rhino Builders' customers who responded to post-project surveys would recommend the company to a friend or family member, compared to the national average of 60%.

Rhino has won numerous awards for its design and craft, including the 2005 and 2006 Kansas City Homes & Gardens Best Remodeling Project and numerous recognitions from NARI (the National Association of the Remodeling Industry). Skilling is a Certified Remodeler and is a past-president of NARI.

Taking its name from the book, "Rhinoes in the Success," by Scott Alexander, Rhino Builders strives to be innovative and a leader on the cutting edge of its industry. Skilling was inspired by the book's message, and along with his partners, formed Rhino Builders during the course of one weekend after leaving a previous company he had been with for 20 years. Rhino has been in Rosedale ever since, though its service area is metro-wide.

Looking for an affordable, first-class way to remodel your home? Look no further than Rhino Builders!

Rosedale Development Association Newsletter

RMS tutoring program shows promise, but more tutors are needed

Since last fall, about 10 adults from a variety of professions and walks of life have been spending time with students at Rosedale Middle School (RMS), helping them improve their math and reading skills in preparation for the upcoming state assessments. Last year, a similar tutoring effort contributed to higher test scores among students in the program. This year, the goal is to improve even more and help RMS meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Research shows that children who have caring, responsible adult role models in their lives on a consistent basis do better in school and later in life. They have lower rates of teen pregnancy and alcohol and illegal drug use, and are more likely to finish school and have higher self-esteem.

It is for these reasons that the Rosedale Community Project (a practice site of the KU School of Social Welfare's Kansas Community Project) is pleased to announce the following program:

Tutors come to the school on Wednesday afternoons, working with students from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Following the academic tutoring, there is a more informal time of games and activities from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Tutors come mostly from local community organizations, including the University of Kansas Medical Center.

The program is run by volunteers and is open to anyone who is interested in helping. For more information or to sign up for this critical volunteer effort, contact Midlaine Tuck (913) 627-8312 or e-mail at rcp@ku.edu.
Speak up for Rosedale! Make your voice heard!

Rosedale is being watched. There is a group of powerful individuals waiting for Rosedale to speak. Who is this mysterious organization? Tell them you're huge and that they have a big beautiful building in Topeka—right! They are the men and women who have been elected to listen to us and make decisions on our behalf. The Senate Representatives from the state Senate and House, respectively. In Rosedale, we are represented in the House by Rep. Louis Ruiz and in the Senate by Sen. Chris Steineger.

Why should the residents of Rosedale care?
Well, if you have any feelings about immigration, abortion, drug and alcohol abuse, TAXES, or social services, you do not want to miss out on what is going on in Topeka. This year is particularly important being an election year. Representatives concerned about re-election are often more willing to act on an issue if they hear from enough voters.

How important is my voice?
How many calls do you make or receive in a day? More than 37! Because 3 is the number of phone calls a representative needs to receive about an issue to flag it as important and possibly affect their vote one way or another. Surely, there are some of you who have been talking about right now in Topeka that warrant your participation. This is your right as an American citizen and as a Rosedale resident.

How do I find out about the issues?
www.ksciteleg.org is a great resource to find almost everything you need to know about your issue. If you do not have access to a computer, a great resource is the Kansas Legislature Hotline at 1-800-432-3924. They can answer most questions about issues and can mail or fax full texts of bills and history.

Do you have to go to Topeka?
The answer is no. Representatives take great stock in phone calls, emails, and letters. When calling, ask them about your issue and if there are any committees, hearings, or other happenings which you can attend to maximize your time at the capital. When writing letters or emails, remain from using ready-made forms. Representatives want to hear YOUR voice.

Volunteer projects needed
Each spring and summer, RDA is approached by numerous volunteer groups—both from within the community and from elsewhere—wanting to get involved in volunteer projects in Rosedale. RDA seeks to find meaningful work for these enthusiastic volunteers. Typical projects in the past have included minor home repairs for low-income and elderly homeowners, painting homes and other buildings, cleaning vacant lots, and other neighborhood beautification efforts. RDA is always looking for projects that our volunteers can help with or take on. If you know of potential volunteer projects for this spring and/or summer, please contact the RDA office: (913) 677-5097.

In addition to gaining valuable service from the volunteers—with real benefit to Rosedale—these projects provide an excellent opportunity to teach people about our community, its history and demographics, and its strengths and challenges. It is not just a service experience for the volunteers; it is an educational experience. Please help support this important work by identifying potential volunteer projects and notifying our office. Thank you!

Did you know? (animal control edition)
All dogs and cats over the age of six (6) months must be spayed or neutered, except as provided in city ordinance 7-147 (c). To view the ordinance, visit: www.kscitegov.org/animalcontrol.htm. This is one of the new ordinances that was passed in 2005 by the Unified Government Board of Commissioners to address the considerable animal control issues affecting the city, including large numbers of stray cats and dogs and a high euthanasia rate at the city’s animal control shelter. By requiring dog and cat owners to spay/neuter their pets, there will be fewer unwanted pets and the euthanasia rate will be reduced. The following is a list of local agencies that provide free or low-cost spay and neuter services in the Kansas City area. If you own a dog or cat, contact one of them to set up a spay/neuter visit.

No More Homeless Pets 5428 Antioch Dr, Merriam, Kan. 66202 (186) 333-7387 www.nmhpkc.org
Spay and Neuter Kansas City 3710 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111 (186) 353-0940 www.sncrk.net
Humane Society of Greater Kansas City 5445 Pendell Pkwy, Kansas City, Kan. 66104 (186) 596-1000 www.hsgkc.org

Rosedale Briefs
Rosedale Holy Week Service
Tuesday, March 18 7:00 a.m. Holy Name Church (corner of S.W. Blvd. & Iowa St.) Featuring parishioners and choir of Rosedale church
Everyone is welcome!

Save the Date
Rosedale Freedom School fundraiser
"Let Freedom Ring! A Benefit for the Rainbow Menorah! CDF Freedom School!" Saturday, May 3 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Union Station (corner of Pershing & Main, Kansas City, Mo.) 1st Floor Black City Stage Stay tuned for more details.
Congratulations ...
...to Holy Name School students who participated in the Bishop Ward math contest for Wyandotte County Catholic Schools. The 7th grade team of Jacob Cushing, Sal Girod, and Stephen Patricio took first place as a team and Jacob won first as an individual. The 8th grade team of Carlee Neal, Michele Mavey, and Ally Monkos took second place as a team. All of Rosedale is proud of these students. Keep up the good work!

To learn more about Holy Name School, visit: www.archokc.org/holyname.

Rosedale Development Association
Working in partnership with residents, businesses, and institutions to build a strong and healthy community and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale.
1400 Southwest Blvd Kansas City, Kan. 66103 Phone: (913) 677-5097 Fax: (913) 677-3437 www.roosedaldevassociation.org Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wendy Wilson, Executive Director
Linda Wright, Office Manager
Joel Goering, Community Organizer
Board of Directors, www.roosedaldevassociation.org who@board.htm Newsletter design by Elizabeth Johnston, Lizardbrand Inc., www.lizardbrand.com

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
E-mail address

Please use application, along with check made payable to Rosedale Development Association 1405 Southwest Blvd Kansas City, Kan. 66103

In each issue of The Rosedaliant, we will publish a Rosedale historical photograph along with an accompanying question. The first person to e-mail to: rosedalehistoryquiz@yahoo.com or call in to the RDA office: (913) 677-5097. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

Last month's photograph and question:

Question: Name the business that was once housed in this building. The address is 722 Southwest Blvd. (formerly Boulevard Tire).

Answer: Rosedale State Bank.

Winners: No one answered the question correctly. Better luck this month.

This month's photograph and question:

Question: What was the original name of this educational institution?
Bonus: What is the building's current function?

The answer will be provided next month.
Rosendale Business of the Month
John Rohrer Contracting Co.

Address: 2820 Raw Lane, Bldg. S, Kansas City, Kan. 66103, Phone: (913) 238-5055, Website: www.johnrohrercontracting.com

If you’re thinking concrete in Rosendale, look no further than John Rohrer Contracting Co., a full-service concrete contractor.

The company does just about anything and everything related to concrete in the commercial and institutional sector: structural concrete, concrete flatwork, site concrete, concrete restoration, and concrete coatings. The company has a national reach, taking on projects in numerous states across the country.

John Rohrer Contracting has built a strong reputation for quality concrete work over many years. Founded in 1922, the company has sought to maintain its four key pillars of success: attention to detail, professionalism, competitive pricing, and strong, long-lasting relationships. Having been in business for more than 65 years, it’s clear that the company has done an excellent job of staying true to its principles.

The current company president is John Rohrer, who represents the 3rd generation of the Rohrer family to own the business. The company has a philosophy of building relationships with not only our clients, but suppliers and vendors, as well. “We have done this by treating them with honesty and integrity.”

The company has completed several high-profile projects in recent years, including at Nebraska Furniture Mart and Cabrini’s in western Kansas City, Kan., the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., the Denver World Trade Center in Denver, Colo., and Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Calif.

Many of these projects have won Excellence in Concrete Awards from the Concrete Promotional Group (CPG).

While the company has suffered from the flooding of Turkey Creek at several points in the past due to its close proximity to the notorious creek, President John Rohrer says that the company likes its Rosendale location (where it has been since 1957). “It is centrally located and has easy highway access,” he says. He also believes the recent work of the Turkey Creek stakeholders and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has improved the situation and that the creek is a lot less likely to flood in the area near his business. “The flood control efforts are very important,” John says.

The company has been a good neighbor, too, having adopted a stray cat from Rosendale and participating in RKAS Feed-a-Family program last year.

So remember, if you’re thinking concrete in Rosendale, think John Rohrer Contracting!  

Attention Rosendale middle and high school students plus business owners!

Planning and preparation for RKAS annual Summer Youth Employment program is underway. The program places 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 a RDA-administered grant from the Board of Public Utilities.

Youth 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 15.

RDA is also looking for Rosendale 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 no 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.
From left to right: Jill Green, Harold Strasser and Adolfr Strasser in 1920 in the original store in Rosedale.

Rosedale Development Association

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

1403 Southwest Blvd. Kansas City, Kan. 66103
Phone: 913-677-6907
Fax: (913) 677-6957
www.roseaddedvelopment.org
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Wendy Wilson, Executive Director
Linda Wright, Office Manager
Joel Goering, Community Organizer
Board of Directors, www.roseaddedvelopment.org/who, board.html
Newsletter designed by Elizabeth Johnson, Lazzardbrand Inc. www.lazzardbrand.com

"Petpalooza" to focus on responsible pet ownership

This is one event you — and your pet — will not want to miss.

The University of Kansas Medical Center’s Community Outreach Program, in conjunction with RDA, will hold the 1st Annual Rosedale Neighborhood Petpalooza on Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in the large parking lot on the northwest corner of 39th and Rainbow Blvd. Pets are encouraged to attend but are asked to remain on a leash.

The event, which is free to the public, will highlight responsible pet ownership, including pet safety, grooming, and nutrition, as well as the health benefits to humans of owning a pet.

"People are really excited about Petpalooza," said Ryan Glove, Director of Student Engagement at KUMC. "It will be a fun way to celebrate the significant role pets can have in our lives and in our community as a whole if we learn how to treat them properly."

Petpalooza will feature several interactive activities for people of all ages, including the construction of dog and/or cat houses, a coloring contest and additional child-friendly games that emphasize healthy pet ownership.

Spay and Neuter Kansas City will also be on-site to offer low-cost spay and neuter surgically services to those who qualify. PerSmaat, the Backside Barkery, and other retail vendors will be on hand to distribute food samples and educational information about pet care, pet supplies, and additional information about their services.

Service learning teaches giving back to the community

As part of a new RDA pilot program, high school students visited Frank Rushton Elementary in Rosedale recently took part in a "service-learning" project at their school.

Cheri Miller, district manager of the Wyandotte County Conservation District, spoke to the students about soil erosion and runoff and how they relate to water quality in our streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. She also stressed the importance of conservation and how human beings must be careful in how they treat the environment.

Then, following Cheri's presentation, the students picked up trash around the school as a community service, which fit with the theme of caring for the environment.

According to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, "service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities."

Two more service-learning projects are planned at Frank Rushton before the end of the school year; one will focus on healthy living, the other will focus on proper pet handling and responsible pet ownership.

Rachel Johnson, Christina Rand, and Raven Johnson show off some of the trash they picked up.

Obituary

Sallie "Sally" G. Mendez, 88, mother of RDA Board member and former U of K 3rd district Commissioner, John J. Mendez, died on March 29 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Solied lived in the Argentine community of KCK for her entire life. She volunteered at her church, St. John the Evangelist, and served as a voting place worker during the 1970s. Solied was the Mendez family matriarch, having been married for 51 years and raising four sons and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held at St. John the Evangelist on April 2. Solied will be greatly missed by her family and community.

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 E-mail address
Please mail application, along with check made payable to: Rosedale Development Association 1403 Southgate Blvd. Kansas City, Kan. 66103

I n each issue of The Rosedalian, we will publish a Rosedale historical photograph along with an accompanying question. The first person to answer the question correctly will receive a prize. Submissions must be e-mailed to: rosedalehistoryquiz@yahoo.com or called in to the RDA office: (913) 677-6907. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

Last month’s photograph and question:

Question: What was the building's current function?

Answer: Major Hudson School, built in 1924. The building was converted to residential condominiums in 1985.

Winner: No one answered the question correctly, but two people guessed that the building was Rosedale High School (now Rosedale Middle School).

This month’s photograph and question:

Question: What was this building and its function?

Bonus: Where was it located?

The answer will be provided next month.