Matthew Dehaemers could be simply considered an artist, but that would be a great understatement. Through his sculptures and installations, Matthew becomes a storyteller by incorporating the community, history, and unique materials. I usually spend up to two times longer in the library than actually working on the piece. This commitment to history shows itself in the power of his projects. The history of a place guides him to the media he will use and the scope of the project. Engaging the community to take an active part in the process has become a signature mark of Matthew’s work. He feels his art is not successful unless others, particularly those who do not consider themselves artists, participate and support his work. Matthew works to ensure his art is easily assessable and tangible as possible to encourage people to find their own meaning in his art.

Some of Matthew’s most memorable projects have been a suspended “Ghost” Street car in downtown Avenue of the Arts — Kansas City, Missouri “Point of Departure” (Ghost 1920’s cable car suspended over the street)

KC MO and its latest installation in Evanston, IL, was a collaborative effort with the community to create 16 foot-long bottles from individual plastic bottles. Each was filled with small plastic sheets with messages written by the public. The historical significance is what makes Matthew’s installations so powerful. In 2006, Matt worked on a project in Omaha which focused on the 1919 events of William Brown’s lynching. Writing chalk on his hands and knees for over a mile, Matthew transcribed the non-biased account of that horrific night. He started at the original location of where Brown was taken and finished at the spot where he was finally killed and his body burnt. Matthew finds that looking to the historical events of an area’s tension, whether they are racial or social, brings out the most powerful product.

Matthew and his wife Shary have lived in the Hanover Heights neighborhood of Rosedale for the past three years and in the Kansas City area for most of their lives. He is encouraged to see the art community growing in Kansas City and expanding into Rosedale. Matthew loves Rosedale because of the great neighbors, respect for homes, and easy access to the KC metro area. Please go to www.matthewdehaemers.com for more pictures and to view his latest projects.

The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Early Bird Gets the Worm in Rosedale
By Angel Dow, Social Change Artist and student at Emporia State University

I've never been one to rise early in the morning. I take great delight in sleeping in, but this past September, on several occasions, I found myself up at sunrise en route to a hospital parking on a hill.

The drive from Overland Park to KU Medical Center would usually take just under 15 minutes. I was guided around the clutter of morning traffic by a scientist, who swore to the quickest path — 1-35 to the Mission Rd. exit, up the hill to 42nd St., up to the hospital, and back down to 42nd St. on the other side.

The scientist was a frequent visitor. The scientist was a frequent visitor. We never had time to talk, but he was the one who always seemed to know exactly where to turn. He always seemed to know exactly where to turn.

Rosedale? Where's Rosedale?

The scientist paused a bit, squinted his eyes, spun his fingers around, and said, "uh, ahh, of all of this, I mean Rosedale." I'd worked at the library at the medical center for nearly two years and had not once realized the name of the community at which I worked. I wondered why no one would ever use the word Rosedale.

This realization lit a spark, and anyone who really knows me, knows that I am unable to ignore such sparks. I wondered how many others attending school and working at the hospital were aware of this. I wondered what I could do to change the emptiness of that lot. I wondered what a change would look like.

The Rosedalian

Visiting the Rosedale Development Association for the first time is a moment I will never forget. I left knowing that the lot at 42nd and Mission Rd. would stand no longer as it had for a long time — empty.

The Only Constant is Change

The project unfolded over 'old man' winter. The beginning stages were 'change' sessions of how to make the lot. The artist, artist, artist, and artist. Wendy established a meeting with the city's planners to discuss the future of the lot. We worked on the designs and plans together, and dreamed up ideas for the lot.

Join Hands Day

This May we had our first event at the lot. The event was called Join Hands Day and was sponsored by the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. On three separate days, with a total of 16 community volunteers, seven of which were youth, we cut down damaged trees, planted a sign to indicate the coming mound, planted the wall, and planted a flower and bush garden. People showed and worked as they hoped to see . . . what was plain to see: change in Rosedale, Kan.
Wellness Programs offered in Rosedale
By Lori Swartzenhader, KU Masters of Social Work Intern with Rosedale Community Project

This summer KU is offering various wellness classes, most free of charge. Programs include first aid and CPR, parenting classes, support groups, programs for older adults, and information on specific health issues and diagnoses, and are offered at four locations: KU Medical Center, The Landon Center, Westwood Campus, and KU MedWest. For more information and a list of all programs, visit www.kumed.com and click on “Be Well!” or call 913-588-1227. Some examples of programs are:

“Straight from the Heart” Mondays and Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. at KU Center for Advanced Heart Care, White Heart Learning and Resource Center Conference Room.

Call for submissions
The residents of Rosedale already have a voice, but the Rosedale Development Association would like you to submit articles about what is going on in your part of Rosedale. Ideas for articles include:

- Submitting suggestions for doing something special
- Community issues
- Special events in Rosedale
- Special pictures of the community

Please send your submissions to the Landon Center, Room 200, 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of every month. We cannot guarantee that your article will be published, but we will look at all submissions.

Free Events Calendar
- Every Friday until July 18 the Landon Center on Aging offers free movie nights with popcorn. Shows start at 6:00 p.m. and go until 8:00 p.m.
- Free concerts are offered each Saturday night at the Legends Shopping area concerts go through August and start at 5:00 p.m.
- Farmers’ markets are a great place to go for fresh produce. Check out the Merriam Farmer’s Market and the City Market downtown on any Saturday morning.
- June 19 through June 22 at Kemper Arena the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Final Four will be held. Admission is free before 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Live music and food will be available. More info at www.nba.com/finals.
- The Blues Festival at 13th and State Ave. from June 27 through June 28. Local KC Blues artists will be in the streets performing for the public. More info at www.kcbluesfest.com.

If you have any questions about these free events in the area, please contact Mike at 913-587-5007 or mltcher@rosedaleassociation.org. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1403 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66103.
Roseda Business of the Month

Sunshine Flowers

Address: 4509 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, Kan. 66103, Phone: (913) 384-0034
Hours of operation: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Sat., 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sun., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

A common sentiment about Rosedale is that it’s like “a small town in the midst of a big city.” There are not many businesses that embody this feeling more than Sunshine Flowers, a locally-owned flower and garden shop on Rainbow Blvd.

Sunshine Flowers has been located in Kansas City, Kan., since the early 1970s, including the last 17 years here in Rosedale. It is a family business, nearly all of the employees are related. The company also prides itself on maintaining long-term relationships with its customers. Due to its relatively small size, employees are able to offer one-on-one attention and high-quality customer service.

“Once they [customers] come, they keep coming back,” says Butch Lips, one of the owners of the business. Lips says the company enjoys being in the Rosedale community. Their location on Rainbow Blvd. has served them well. When asked why Sunshine Flowers continues to support RDA and other community improvement initiatives, Lips says, “I just think I should. I like to support the neighborhood.”

If the last 17 years are any guide, then the “small-town” neighborhood of Rosedale will continue to support Sunshine Flowers, as well. For all of your gardening needs this spring, choose local — choose Sunshine Flowers.

Curb-side recycling comes to KCK

As part of Mayor Baird’s Green Initiative, the Unified Government will be implementing a curb-side recycling program this summer. The program is scheduled to begin the week of June 23-27.

All homes (up to a four-plex) that receive residential trash service from Deffenbaugh and that are located within the city limits of KCK and Borner Springs will have curb-side recycling. The program does not include apartment or business recycling.

Residents must have a green recycling bin in order to participate in curb-side recycling. Neighborhood groups have the option of distributing recycling bins to their residents if they choose. In addition, there was a coupon for a free recycling bin enclosed in customers’ April BPU bill. Starting this month, residents can take the BPU coupon with them to get a free bin at the following locations:

- RDA office, 1403 Southwest Blvd., Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Recycling Center, 3241 Park Dr., Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Fridays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Neighborhood Resource Center at Liveable Neighborhoods in the lower level of 4001 State Ave., Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- U.G. Annex, 8200 State Ave., Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Dual 3-1-1 or look on the U.G. website (www.wycklock.org) to find other locations where you can pick up a free recycling bin.

When curb-side recycling begins, place your recyclables in your green recycling bin and place the bin at the curb weekly on your regularly scheduled trash day. The green recycling bin signals the truck to stop, as Deffenbaugh will have a truck picking up recycling and trash on the same day. The recycling trucks will look similar to trash trucks, but all recyclables will be picked up together at the curb and taken to a facility where they are separated and processed. This is called “single stream” recycling.

You do not have to separate your recyclables, just place all your recyclables into the same green bin. This will make it easy and convenient for you. There is no limit on how much you can recycle. You can place extra recyclables in other containers, cardboard boxes or paper bags and put them next to your bin. Place cardboard under your bin. Keep your green recycling bin approximately 3-4 feet from your garbage, if possible.

For more information, contact KCK BPU at (913) 573-8170 or kckbpu@wycklock.org.

RDA memberships pour in

Thank you to all of you who have become new members or renewed your membership with the RDA for 2008. With your support, RDA will be able to continue serving, providing access to resources, and advocating for the Rosedale community. Our wide variety of programs and initiatives — including neighborhood group support, after-school and summer youth activities, land-use planning, minor home repair and other volunteer projects — all depend on the financial commitment of our constituents — people like you.

For more information on how RDA is working for you each and every day, visit our website: www.rosedaleassociation.org.

It is not too late to become a member or to renew your membership for this year. Membership dues are $15/year for households, and $10/year for businesses. Please make checks payable to “Rosedale Development Association.” and mail to: 1403 S.W. Blvd. KCK, KS 66103. You may also become a member or renew your membership online: www.rosedaleassociation.org/membership.htm.

Thank you,
Woodlands-TRAK East

RDA received a $10,000 grant from The Racing Association of Kansas (TRAK) East, located at The Woodlands-Race Park, to help pay for supplies and materials for new homes to be built in the Rosedale community. The money will be especially critical to the Christmas in October program, RDA’s annual minor home repair initiative in collaboration with KU Medical Center and KS Hospital. The grant period runs from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Thank you!
**R.O.C.K. kids show off their green thumbs**

On May 1, the youth in R.O.C.K.'s after-school R.O.C.K. program (Rosedale Opportunities for Community Kids) learned about gardening techniques and planted new flowers in the lot behind RDA's office. Phil Garces, Rosedale resident and former RDA Board member, led the session.

At right (from left to right) Anesia Garza, Andrew Thomas, and volunteer Suong Nguyen plant hand-to-shovel to prepare the ground for planting.

The 2007-08 school year was the first year in operation for the R.O.C.K. program, which provides educational enrichment and psychosocial groups for 11-15-year-olds. The program engages youth in individual and group activities that are designed to teach teamwork, integrity, respect, self-esteem and appropriate conflict resolution and social skills. Twelve youth participated in the program.

**Rosedale History Quiz**

In 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) 677-5007. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

**Last month's photograph and question:**

**Question:** What was this building and its function?

**Bonus:** Where was it located?

**Answer:** It was the Rosedale Post Office located near 42nd and Rainbow Blvd.

**Winners:** Congratulations to Claudette Patterson for answering correctly.

**This month's photograph and question:**

**Question:** Name this building from Rosedale's early civic history.

The answer will be provided next month.

**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.

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