As members of one of the oldest churches in Rosedale, parishioners at St. Paul AME Zion have stayed true to their roots and continue to be involved in significant ways in the community. Founded in 1893, the congregation has been a long-time force for good in the neighborhood.

The church is currently part of an exciting partnership with the Rosedale Congregational Church, starting fellowship and ministries together and overcoming racial barriers. St. Paul’s is predominantly black, Rosedale Congregational is predominantly white. The two churches occasionally participate in joint worship and also started a community garden, the Healthy Kids Garden, near St. Paul’s church building last year.

St. Paul’s is engaged in various ministries, as well. The church donates clothes and other items to the Willa Gill Multi-Service Center and the Salvation Army to assist persons struggling with homelessness, mental illness, financial constraints, and other issues. St. Paul’s also distributes food once a month to residents in need through the Angel Food Ministry, and passes out holiday gift baskets during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Furthermore, the congregation hosted the “World Day of AIDS” public education seminar last Dec. 13, which provided information and testing to residents.

The current pastor is Rev. Ruby Watson, who has served the church since 2003. During Rev. Watson’s tenure, the church has made several capital improvements, including a new parking lot, refurbished interior, new tile in the bathroom and a new mechanical chair on the staircase for disabled persons.

Rev. Watson is also involved in the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance, an ecumenical coalition of pastors and lay people from various Rosedale churches, “We’ve always been a part of the community,” says Rev. Watson. “Our mission is to bring the community together and win souls for Christ.”

St. Paul’s will celebrate its 116th anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 8. There will be normal Sunday morning worship, a dinner, and special afternoon service that day. The community is invited to attend.

For questions about ministries or the 116th anniversary event, call: (913) 384-6738.

Rosedale Church of the Month:
St. Paul AME Zion
Address: 4900 S. Minnie St., Kansas City, Kan. 66103, Phone: 913-384-6738, Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting: 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Choir Practice: 7:00 p.m.

The Rosedalian
Rosedale Development Association Newsletter
www.roseedale.org

RDA honors community partners, presents citizen survey results at Annual Meeting

On Dec. 15, RDA held its 2008 Annual Meeting at Rainbow Memorial Church. Approximately 40 residents, business and property owners, and elected officials attended.

The agenda consisted mainly of the annual awards presentation and a report on the results of a survey of 3rd District residents and business owners initiated by Commissioner Ann Murray.

Faced resident and volunteer extraordinair Phil Gordon received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Phil is an active member of Holy Name Catholic Church and is known for his “green thumb” he has planted and tended several garden plots in Rosedale during the past several years, helping to beautify the neighborhood. Phil also happens to be the incoming RDA Board President.

KC Drywall received the Business of the Year Award for the company’s charitable repair work at the Rosedale Congregational Church. Owner Eric Martinich donated materials and numerous hours of labor to help make critical maintenance improvements at the church, which is known for its community-based health programs for area youth and older adults.

Congratulations to Phil and KC Drywall for their outstanding contributions to the Rosedale community.

Attendees of the annual meeting also listened to a presentation by Karen Fahlk from the ETC Institute, which conducted a citizen satisfaction survey within the U.G’s 3rd District last August and September. The survey was mailed to residents and businesses within the boundaries of Rosedale and Argentine. It was designed to gauge their level of satisfaction with basic city services and to assist in planning efforts for the area.

769 residents and 65 business owners completed the survey. Key findings from the survey data and analysis:

1. Most residents were satisfied with the quality of public safety services (police, fire, and ambulance), but were least satisfied with the quality of curbs and sidewalks.

2. During the next two years, residents thought the city should prioritize the following three services: (1) maintenance of city streets; (2) quality of curbs and sidewalks; and (3) lowering the mill levy property taxes.

3. 56% of residents would vote "yes" on a 1/4-cent sales tax, if the revenues would fund improvements to key infrastructure, such as sidewalks, roads and curbs.

4. 61% thought that their neighborhood was an excellent or good place to live.

5. 51% of residents supported a fireworks ban and 50% supported a smoking ban.

6. 25% of businesses were satisfied with the city’s efforts to improve the physical appearance of their neighborhood and 45% were dissatisfied.

7. 23% felt that the current tax structure in Wyandotte County was fair.

8. 63% thought that their neighborhood was a "business-friendly" community.

RDA’s 2009 Goals & Priorities

With the start of a new year, RDA has an ambitious set of plans as it strives to fulfill its mission of building a strong and healthy community. Among our priorities are:

1. Create a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly network, as guided by the Rosedale Master Plan approved in 2005.

2. Improve and enhance awareness of transit options.

3. Update aging infrastructure to promote development, health and safety, and opportunities.

4. Boost safety and perception of safety and promote a "crime free" area.

5. Increase the number of community gardens and encourage partnerships among area schools, churches, and neighborhood groups.
Feed-a-Family program helps make the holidays a little brighter for families in need

RDA and numerous members of the Rosedale community teamed up last month to provide holiday gift baskets to 20 families and senior citizens (70 total persons) who needed assistance, as part of the 23rd annual Feed-a-Family program. From the end of November through mid-December, RDA collected donations of non-perishable food items, household products, children’s toys, winter clothes, and cash (which was then used to purchase eggs, margarine, milk, and other food). Harvesters Community Food Network also contributed 20 market baskets—one for each gift basket.

Benefits for the program were referred by local schools, churches, and neighborhood groups. Many of the families and seniors experienced difficult circumstances last year. There were grandparents raising their grandchildren, single mothers trying to make ends meet, and older adults struggling to pay the bills. Despite hard times, the gift basket recipients remain hopeful. Many expressed deep gratitude to RDA and the community.

The Feed-a-Family program would not be possible without the generous support of many individuals, businesses, and other organizations in our community. It is heartening to know that Rosedale is a community that cares about its neighbors and will step up to help others, even when the economic times are tough.

Thank you to the many friends of Rosedale who provided support for the program. Major sponsors were:
- Harvester
- Chaun Portaro
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Westwood Apple Market
- John Rohrer Contracting Co.
- KU Police FOP (Lodge #17)
- FOP Lodge #48

These Rosedale residents were slated to receive one of the 20 Feed-a-Family holiday gift baskets last month. In the current economic conditions, the baskets were both timely and needed for many families.

KU’s Studio 804 once again chooses Rosedale for construction of new residence

For the fourth time in six years, architecture students at the University of Kansas will design and build a new home in the Rosedale community, helping to bring cutting-edge techniques and residential features to the neighborhood while preserving the existing character of the area.

The students will complete their work through a hands-on class experience called Studio 804, which is an innovative design/build program at the University of Kansas School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Students are exposed to ideas and practices in the field of architecture and design, while simultaneously benefiting a local community through the construction of new housing or other buildings.

The new home is planned for 3716 Springfield St., immediately south of Rosedale Middle School. The 1,900 sq. foot residence will feature three bedrooms, two-and-a-half bathrooms, a two-story atrium living area, and a walk-out balcony. Active systems, implemented in the building’s design, include grey water reclamation and reuse, a geothermal heating system, and solar panels. The finishes will employ sustainable and recycled products, as well as reclaimed wood.

The building will serve as a prototype for the region and is Studio 804’s ambition for it to become the first LEED Platinum residence in Kansas. It will also be the first home to primarily use renewable energy sources in Wyandotte County. For more information and weekly updates on the project’s progress, visit studio804.com.

Studio 804’s three previous homes built in Rosedale are nationally recognized and have brought positive recognition to the community. For the curious, they are located at: 3914 Lloyd St. (2007), 750 Shawnee Road (2005), and 1908 Lloyd St. (2004).

CVS Pharmacy Update

Last month, developers of a proposed CVS Pharmacy at the southwest corner of 43rd and Rainbow (site of the former Quick Trip gas station) met with neighborhood residents and property owners to discuss their plans.

There were several concerns raised at the meeting, including incongruity with the Rosedale Master Plan, access and traffic issues, proximity to residences on Adams St., the pedestrian unfriendly design, and lack of integration with the remaining commercial strip on the adjacent property to the south.

The developers and their representatives at the Polinichelli law firm agreed to consider our comments and schedule another community meeting prior to presenting it to the Unified Government.

The project has been placed on the Feb. 9 meeting agenda for the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

For additional information, contact the RDA office (913) 677-5097.

Local Election Candidates Forum

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Armourdale Recreation Center
700 Osage Ave.
Kansas City, Kan.

Come hear from the candidates for Mayor/CEO, Commissioner, Sheriff, Register of Deeds, USD 500 Board of Education, and BPU.

Become an informed voter and practice your democratic rights.

Primary Election: March 3
General Election: April 7

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 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, Kan. 66103

Last month’s photographs & questions

Question: When was new Station No. 10 built?

Answer: 1996 (at that time, old Station No. 10 and old Station No. 12 were consolidated and moved to the new Rosedale station).

Bonus: What is the name of the captain at Station No. 10?

Answer: Steve Howard.

Winner: No one answered correctly last month.

This month’s photograph & question: Who is this man and what is his relevance to Rosedale? The answer will be provided next month.

Rosedale History Quiz

I n each issue of The Rosedalean, 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 rosedalehistory@rosedale.org or called in to the RDA office: (913) 677-5097. Please provide your name, address, and phone number. To see more historical photos of Rosedale, please visit www.rosedale.org.
Rosedale Church of the Month:
Holy Name Faith Community
Address: 1001 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103, Phone: (913) 236-9219, Website: www.holynameparishkc.org
Weekly masses: Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The Holy Name Catholic church and school have been long-time fixtures in Rosedale, offering many spiritual and social services for parishioners and community members alike. The congregation recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the start of construction of its current church building (the cornerstone was laid May 1, 1919), and next year, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its school. The parish was founded in 1876, with the first Mass taking place a few years before at the home of Richard Fitzgerald, an Irish settler. As more and more people moved to Rosedale in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Holy Name grew and prospered. Throughout its history, the congregation has maintained a prominent location in Rosedale, being situated along one of the community's main streets, Southwest Blvd. As Father Jerry Spencer, lead pastor of the parish, says jokingly, "We're part of the Holy Trinity of Southwest Boulevard: Strasser Hardware, Rosedale Barbeque, and Holy Name." The parish is involved in several community ministries, including serving lunch to low-income and homeless persons once a month at the Willa Gil Mill service center in downtown KCK; maintaining a food pantry on-site; visiting the homes of elderly residents; and participating in the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance (Father Jerry was a founding member of this ecumenical organization). Holy Name also sponsors an annual Green Social for the neighborhood, which will be held June 13-14 this year instead of in August as in past years.

Father Jerry has been with Holy Name since 1967. He took over as lead pastor in 1986. In addition to his duties at the church, he is also a chaplain at the University of Kansas Medical Center. There, he offers counseling and support to students, faculty, staff, patients and family members.

The parish holds several Masses throughout the week, at both KU and Holy Name. The days and times can be found on the parish website www.holynameparishkc.org. Ash Wednesday services will be held Feb. 25 at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Holy Name School, which prides itself on an ethnically and economically diverse population, currently has about 180 students enrolled in pre-K through 8th grade. Enrollment for the 2009-10 school year begins this month and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the school for more information: (913) 722-1032.

Rosedale Development Association Newsletter
www.rosedale.org

RDA and partners secure major grant to combat childhood obesity

Rosedale Development Association (RDA), together with the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance, KC Healthy Kids, and the University of Kansas Medical Center, was recently selected as a recipient of a $25,000 two-year grant. This is a faith-based advocacy initiative to prevent childhood obesity by increasing access to healthy foods and physical activity.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) received nearly 100 proposals and has recognized the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance Healthy Kids Initiative as one of 21 programs across the United States to support.

"The immense challenge we face in reversing the trend of childhood obesity is a shared responsibility. All parts of society must be engaged if we are to succeed," said Dawn C. Peebles, director of RWJF's Childhood Obesity Team.

Wendy Wilson, RDA Executive Director, agrees there are many factors that lead to childhood obesity and believes this alliance will serve as a catalyst to stimulate a variety of programs to make Rosedale a healthier community in which to live, work, and play. Fifty percent of elementary school children in the Rosedale area are overweight or obese, which is 10 times greater than the federal government's Healthy People 2010 objective.

"It is critical for us to be able to modify the risk factors for overweight children in a multi-ethnic, urban, low socioeconomic community," said Wilson. "This grant will allow us to make some significant strides towards improving transportation, infrastructure, and public services supporting active lifestyles and healthy eating.

Rosedale plans to advocate for a variety of programs, including creating a bicycle and pedestrian network; improving transit options; and planting community gardens to provide healthy, affordable food. Rosedale will work with the University of Kansas Medical Center to provide data and research analysis. Activities will encompass economic, health, and fiscal policy analysis, community assessments, and program evaluation support.

It's time to renew your RDA membership

RDA is a membership organization — meaning that it truly belongs to you, our members. By becoming a member, you get a voice in shaping RDA's priorities and in improving the quality of life in your neighborhood. We receive support from residents through a $15/year membership and from businesses through a $100/year membership. In this tough economic climate, new and renewing membership contributions are even more critical in keeping our doors open and continuing to build a healthy and strong community in Rosedale.

All RDA members receive our monthly newsletter, which provides up-to-date information on issues, events, and programs affecting the community. RDA also serves as an advocate and resource center on behalf of its members. Please take the time to cut out and complete the membership form on page 3. Then, mail it to the Rosedale Co. election office: 1403 Southwest Blvd., KC, KS 66103, along with your contribution. Thanks for your support.

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Yes you can... Vote!

Local elections in Kansas City, Kan., and Wyandotte County are just around the corner. These elections are arguably more important than national elections in terms of their relevance to your daily lives. On a grassroots level, it's critical that we have a high voter turnout; our city's elected officials will be more responsive to our concerns when we vote in large numbers.

Positions up for election include: Mayor/CEO, U.S. Commission, Sheriff, Register of Deeds; Board of Public Utilities (BPU), KCK Community College Board of Trustees, and KCK Board of Education.

Primary Election: March 3
General Election: April 7

For more information, contact the Wyandotte Co. election office: (913) 573-8600

February 2009
Your new RDA Board members

A December meeting of the RDA Board of Directors approved the slate of nominees and officers to the Board for 2009. In addition, the community elected two new Board members to represent the business and residential sectors.

Officers for 2009 are: Phil Gardos (President), Elden Masters (Vice-President), B. David Kaufman (Vice-President, Residential); John Kornhaus (Treasurer); and Paul Davidson (Secretary).

For a complete list of current Board members, visit: www.rosedaleassociation.org/who_board.htm.

To learn about the members of the Board, read below:

Kent Best is a stockholder and property owner of KC Winnelson, a plumbing supplies wholesale company located in Rosedale. He is also an Area Leader for WinnWholesale, Inc., the national parent company of KC Winnelson, in which he oversees company operations in four Midwestern states.

Kent is a former member of the RDA Board and is eager to join again. Kent will represent the business community.

Phil Gardos is a long-time Rosedale resident and former member of the RDA Board. He is now retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Phil attends Holy Name church in Rosedale and is known around Rosedale.

RDA’s youth service-learning program increases impact

Building on the success of a similar pilot project last spring, RDA has initiated a new after-school youth program called the Rosedale Youth Volunteer Club. The program, which engages 5th-graders in service-learning projects at school and in the community, is designed to increase civic awareness and community involvement among participants.

Program sessions are held once a month on Wednesday afternoons at Frank Russell and T.A. Edison elementary schools, both of which are public schools in Rosedale. There are currently 8 students enrolled at each school. Each month, the group studies a different topic of community interest and then completes a service project related to that topic. Some sessions are held on-site at the school; during others, the group takes field trips to off-site sites.

The Youth Volunteer Club is an outgrowth of an RDA pilot project in March-May 2008, during which a small group of students at FrankRussell participated in various service-learning projects. Due to the pilot’s success, RDA decided to expand the program for the current school year.

Joel Goering, RDA staff member, along with two adult volunteers—Sarah Stueve and Shannon Boehein—manage the project, which is funded through RDA’s youth programming budget. Donors include the Rosedale Optimist Club, among others.

Examples of the Volunteer Club’s service projects this year are making holiday cards for seniors at the Lutheran Center on Aging; sorting donated canned goods at Great Lakes Food Bank; and volunteering at Associated Youth Services and walking and playing with dogs up for adoption at the Pet Connection, a local animal shelter.

For more information, call the RDA office: (913) 677-5097.

Rosedale Briefs

Studio 804 construction update

The students from Studio 804 at the University of Kansas have begun construction on their sustainable residence at 3716 Springfield St., the Rosedale community. Moving with an extremely accelerated timeline, the house is expected to be completed in May 2009. It is projected to be the first LEED-Platinum home in the state of Kansas. The Studio welcomes anyone in Rosedale who is interested to stop by and observe construction of the modern sustainable residence.

You can monitor our progress at www.Studio804.com.

Congratulations to Rosedalans Harold Hafner, . . . for going above and beyond the call of duty in serving as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. In his 25+ years as a bell ringer, Harold has raised more than $100,000 for the charity. This year, he raised more than $26,000 at a Valley Fair shopping center, while working six days a week, 8-10 hours each day. For his efforts, Harold is featured in the Kansas City Star, Chicago Tribune, and on several local TV news channels.

Rosedale Obituary

Prima Reyes, a Rosedale resident of 47 years, died Feb. 8 at KU Medical Center. She was 84 years old. Prima was a 1912 graduate of Wyandotte High School and worked for Commerce Bank for many years. She played baseball for the Aztec Baseball Club in the 1940s, as well. In retirement, she often volunteered as a poll worker during elections.

CVS Pharmacy update

The developers of a proposed CVS Pharmacy at the southwest corner of 43rd Ave. and Rainbow Blvd. (site of the former Reep’s gas station) have scheduled a meeting with the public to discuss revisions to their original plan on Feb. 24, starting at 7:15 p.m. at Our Saviour Lutheran Church (4163 Rainbow Blvd.). In addition, the project has been placed on the March 9 meeting agenda of the Planning & Zoning Commission. RDA encourages concerned residents and business owners to attend both meetings.

Last month’s photographs & questions:

Question: Who is this man and what is his relevance to Rosedale?

Answer: Dr. Simeon Bell, who donated land to the State of Kansas for the Eleanor Taylor Bell Memorial Hospital, named for his late wife. "Bell Memorial" was the predecessor of the current University of Kansas Hospital and University of Kansas Medical Center.

Winner: Congratulations to Rosedale resident Shirley Hill.

This month’s photograph & question:

This is a photo of the Bell Memorial Hospital, named after the aforementioned Dr. Simeon Bell. When was it built?

The answer will be provided next month.

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 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, Kan. 66103.

Rosedale History Quiz

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