Rosedale Church of the Month:

Greystone Heights Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1200 Greystone Ave., Kansas City, Kan. 66103, Phone: 913-321-7011
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m., Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Parked high above I-35 near the Cambridge Business Park, Greystone Heights Missionary Baptist Church sees itself as a beacon of hope for its parishioners and for the Rosedale community as a whole.

The church grew up in the midst of a predominantly African-American neighborhood at the far northeastern part of Rosedale. Founded in 1922 from a merger of two other churches, most of the members lived in the immediate area at that time. However, in 1966, Greystone had to move to its present location due to the construction of I-35. The highway Right-A-Way Commission bought the church’s original property and the congregation relocated to a new building a few blocks away, up the cliff known as Greystone Hill.

According to Pastor Ephraim “Doc” Banks – in service at Greystone since 1993 – many of the church’s members moved to other parts of the metro area as a result of the I-35 construction.

The current building for Greystone Heights M.B.C., erected in 1966. The church is visible from I-35, near the Cambridge Circle and 7th St. exits.

Nevertheless, their commitment to the Rosedale community stayed the same.

“The people here have strong feelings for the Rosedale area,” he says.

Despite the congregation’s relatively small size, Greystone is active in numerous community and broader church organizations. For example, the church was an early member of the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance, an ecumenical coalition of Rosedale pastors and lay leaders committed to neighborhood improvement. Rev. Banks serves as the current President of the Alliance.

Greystone is also part of the Kansas Baptist Area Association, the Kansas State Missionary Baptist Convention, and the National Baptist Convention USA.

The church offers Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and a praise-filled worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. In addition, the church has a Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study, starting at 7:00 p.m. The choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

The community is invited to the Annual Church Parade and Carnival, to be held May 16, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. There will be horses, a marching band and drill teams, dunk tank, rides, games, food and prizes...fun for the entire family, to be sure.

Greystone’s Vacation Bible School is June 16-19. To sign up, contact the church office.

Rosedale Development Association Newsletter
www.rosedale.org

Planning & Zoning Commission requests changes to CVS Pharmacy proposal

On March 9, the Unified Government Planning & Zoning Commission asked the developers of a proposed CVS Pharmacy at the southwest corner of 45th Ave. and Rainbow Blvd. (site of the former Quik Trip) to revise their proposal and come back with a new plan that complies with the Rosedale Master Plan for land-use.

The CVS developers are scheduled to submit their new plans to the P&Z Commission on April 13.

The March hearing followed two prior public meetings at which the developers presented their plans directly to Rosedale residents and property owners. While most residents are not opposed to having a new pharmacy in the community, many expressed concerns with the original CVS proposal, such as incompatibility 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 surrounding community.

As called for in the Master Plan, there is a desire for CVS to institute a "walkable," urban-style design and site plan at the 45th and Rainbow location, rather than the suburban, “big box"-style that has been proposed.

The "hold over" motion by the P&Z Commission will allow the developers an opportunity to address some or all of these concerns.

The Rosedale Master Plan, developed by members of the Rosedale community and approved by the U.G. Commission in 2005, can be viewed on the city’s website: www.rosedale.org/masterplan.htm.

Yes you can…

VOTE!

General Election: April 7

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

Online voting is available until April 5.

Make your voice heard and exercise your democratic right to vote!

For more information, contact
the Wyandotte Co. election office:
(913) 573-8508.
In Memoriam

Howard J. "Bob" O'Neal, Jr., a long-time Rosedale resident and community leader, passed away on March 15. He was 81. Bob graduated from Rosedale High School in 1946 and served in the Army during World War II. He was a member of Local Union #124, I.B.E.W., for more than 50 years and was active in the Wyandotte County Democratic Party. According to some, Bob was the unofficial "Mayor of Rosedale." He was heavily involved in political and in striving to make his community a better place. He often volunteered for candidates he believed in, and then held them accountable once they were elected. Bob knew how to get things done at city hall in order to benefit Rosedale. Bob also had an exceptionally strong RDA supporter. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Westminster Church (6050 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood, Kan. 66205) or the First Tee organization at Sunflower Hills Golf Course (122nd and Riverview, Bonner Springs, Kan. 66012).

Clifford L. Tracy, 69, died March 14 following a battle with cancer. Born in 1939 in Washington, D.C., Cliff and his wife, Shirley, moved to the Lakes of the Ozarks in 1977 where they operated Mickeyland Resort for seven years. In 1987, the Tracy's moved to Overland Park, Kan. Soon thereafter, Cliff founded Mechanical Services Corporation, a heating, air conditioning and commercial refrigeration company. For many years, the company's office was located close to the RDA office, on the 1400 block of Southwest Blvd. An RDA business member, Mechanical Services Corp. served as a job site for high school-aged youth involved in RDAs Summer Youth Employment program. This spirit of "giving back" exemplified Cliff and his business. Condolences and next memories may be shared with the family at www.kczcremation.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Kansas City Hospice (10010 W. 87th St., Ste. 100, Overland Park, Kan. 66212).

Mervin Carver, former owner of the Rosedale-based Williams-Carver Company, passed away on Feb. 24. He was 79. A Topeka, Kan. native, Mervin attended Washburn University and served in the Navy. In 1963, he and his family moved to the Kansas City area. Nine years later, Mervin purchased The Williams-Engineering Company. Through his leadership and that of his children, the company became a nationally-supplied supplier of process stainless steel and industrial refrigeration systems. Williams-Carver's main office is located at 4001 Mission Rd. The family asks in lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the Journe at of Faith fund in care of the Overland Park Church of Christ (13400 W. 119th St., Overland Park, Kan. 66213).

Attention Rosedale business owners!

Planning and preparation for RDAs annual Summer Youth Employment program are 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 youths are paid minimum wage through an RDA-administered grant from the Board of Public Utilities. RDA is recruiting Rosedale business owners 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), in addition to providing opportunities for youth to learn valuable job skills and develop a solid work ethic.

Participating businesses are simply responsible for supervising the youth throughout their term of employment. RDA will take care of all disciplinary actions, should they be necessary.

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

Rosedale faith community celebrates Holy Week

The Rosedale Ministerial Alliance's annual Holy Week ecumenical worship service with the Rosedale community will be held on Tuesday, April 7, starting at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church (400 S. Minnie St. in Kansas City, Kan.).

Pastors from several Rosedale churches will offer brief reflections on the traditional Seven Last Words of Christ. The choir from Creystone Heights Missionary Baptist Church (see feature on page 2 and "The Fun with Singing" choir will each perform a few musical selections.

Come worship with the vibrant Rosedale faith community as it prepares for Easter. See you on April 7th!
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What's happening with the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative?

Moving into its next phase, the Healthy Kids Initiative (HKI) has hired a talented community organizer, started collecting baseline data, and began forming work teams to guide and expand the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-supported project.

Funded from a partnership between RDA, the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance, KC Healthy Kids, and the University of Kansas Medical Center-Internal Medicine Foundation, the HKI is a faith-based advocacy effort to reduce childhood obesity in the community — a major issue considering that 35 percent of elementary school students in Rosedale are overweight or obese.

One of the first steps of the Initiative was to hire a community organizer. Seeing that Barack Obama was not available, HKI leaders recently hired Heidi Holliday — a young woman with a passion for building healthy communities.

Heidi graduated from Bethel College (Kan.) in 2006 with a B.A. in Global Peace & Justice Studies and Spanish (yes, she’s fluent). While young, she has already had several community organizing positions, including at two different social action agencies in south central Kansas.

An avid cyclist, vegetarian and gardener, Heidi understands the challenges in addressing the issue of childhood obesity but is optimistic about prospects for success.

"The epidemic of childhood obesity should concern all of us as this generation will face more health problems sooner than any previous generation, with tremendous expense and decreased quality of life," she says. "With the Healthy Kids Initiative, we have a chance to inspire a new generation to enjoy and value nutritious foods and the outdoors, ultimately improving the health of the entire community."

Through convenations with area stakeholders, the Initiative is gathering baseline health data for the Rosedale community. Information is also being collected through surveys conducted by KU Med Center students. This initial data will be used to track progress on meeting the goals of the HKI.

To drive the project, several work teams consisting of residents, church members, and others have been, or will be, created. The teams will be structured around the Initiative's two broad focus areas: healthy eating and active living. Examples of the specific work teams include:

- Gardening — grow produce at community gardens throughout Rosedale.
- Use of Physical Space — expand the use of churches, schools, and other buildings, along with parks and outdoor areas, for physical activity for children.
- After-School Activities — develop and/or enhance after-school programs for children that emphasize physical activity.
- Transit Options — make the area more bike- and pedestrian-friendly.
- Infrastructure/Safety — advocate for new or improved sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting at parks, traffic signs, graffiti abatement, crime prevention, etc.

Healthy Foods — improve access to healthy foods at area grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets and community gardens, etc.

Purposed interested in any of the work teams are invited to contact Heidi (913) 236-6337 or rosedalehealthykids@net.net.

For more information or to sign up for a work team, contact Heidi (913) 236-6337 or rosedalehealthykids@net.net.
Bi-state partners cheer progress made on Turkey Creek flood control

For decades, the periodic floodwaters of Turkey Creek have wreaked havoc on Rosedale businesses and property owners along Merriam Lane and Southwest Blvd. Now, thanks to the efforts of federal and local elected officials, along with other area stakeholders, significant advancements have been made in reducing the threat of future flood events.

On March 27, more than 100 people gathered at the Schulte Lumber Co. headquarters to celebrate the near-completion of repairs to the Turkey Creek diversion tunnel, which drains the excess waters of Turkey Creek into the Kansas River. The 1,500-ft-long and 28-ft-diameter tunnel, originally constructed in 1919, had deteriorated in recent years to the point that it could have collapsed — with catastrophic consequences for Rosedale and surrounding areas.

The federal government (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), City of Kansas City, Kansas, and the County Government of Kansas City, Kansas/Pennsylvania County joined together to provide the funding for the tunnel repair project — and the funding for other flood control measures along the Turkey Creek basin. By its projected completion in 2014, the entire Turkey Creek project is expected to cost about $90 million — of which the U.S. Corps is expected to contribute approximately $12 million (less than 15 percent of the total). The other government entities will cover the remaining 85 percent of the cost.

In addition to the tunnel repairs, other flood control efforts for Turkey Creek include: construction of a 2,800-ft levee, deepening and widening of the creek channel, replacement of culverts, installation of large-scale interception systems, and environmental enhancements such as bike and walking trails and planting of native vegetation.

RDA is proud to have worked with other members of the Turkey Creek stakeholder group during the past several years to advocate for the necessary resources to implement the flood control measures. While the tunnel repairs and other flood-reduction efforts are not cheap, they represent a long-term investment in the future growth and economic development of the area.

At the celebration event, many speakers praised the bi-state cooperation, and bi-partisan support for the project. U.S. Rep. Fred tterson said the regional approach and collaboration across state and county lines "We ought to have more of these kinds of collaborations.


Rosadale Briefs
2nd Annual Petpalooza — May 2
Bring your pet and the whole family to the University of Kansas Medical Center “Neighborhood Petpalooza”, which will be held on May 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the NE corner of 30th and Rainbow Blvd. There will be fun activities for both pets and microchips available. The purpose of the event is to promote responsible pet ownership and to celebrate the special bond between humans and animals. See you there!

Get Ghosts!
Do you know any ghost stories involving Rosedale people and places?
Have you heard of haunted buildings or paranormal activity in Rosedale? If so, we want to hear about it. Ghost tours of Kansas, a company providing guided visits to haunted locations around the state, is interested in starting a Rosedale ghost tour. It's not just about ghosts. It's also an exciting new tourism opportunity and driver of economic development. Downtown KCK has had good tourism developers that have provided a boost to area businesses, and there's no reason Rosedale can't do the same. Call Janet Reed with your ghost stories: (913) 231-7848. For more information, visit: www.ghost-tours.org

Summer Youth Employment
RDA is recruiting community-minded Rosedale businesses that are interested in supervising a 14- to 17-year-old youth employee for 6-8 weeks this 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 through a grant from the BUP, in addition to providing an opportunity for young people to learn valuable job skills and develop a solid work ethic. To learn more or to sign up, contact the RDA office: (913) 677-5087.

Thank you...
To Bill Glaser at Heinen Landscape and Irrigation — a Rosedale-based business — for eradicating the weeds at a prominent grassy area near one of Rosedale's main entrances. His work will make the area more attractive and welcoming. Due to its location, the beautiful lot will make a positive statement about Rosedale as people drive into the community. Kudos to Heinen for giving back to Rosedale!

42nd St. mural project "Spring clean day"

On April 5, starting at 10:00 a.m., come plant flowers and trees and clean up the lot in front of the 42nd St. mural, near the intersection of 42nd and Mission Rd. Sponsored by the Clinical Lab at KU Med, this volunteer event is part of the annual "Lab Week" to recognize the work of medical technologists and technicians. During the week-long celebration, service projects are chosen to renew the commitment to the community surrounding the hospital.

Thus, RDA's 42nd St. mural project was selected. Anyone is welcome to participate — a lot of volunteers are needed. If you help, you'll also have the chance to see up close the exciting new art work that's been painted on the wall in recent weeks. For more information, contact: Sean Tucker (stucker@cumc.edu), Mikey Fletcher (mikey1141@gmail.com), or Angel DeWitt (angeldeitt86@gmail.com).

One of the newest completed panels on the 42nd St. mural.