



The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Christmas in October pulls off biggest success to date



Volunteers from the Radiology team work with heavy machinery donated by George Shaw Construction to re-route drainage around a house to help keep the basement dry.

KAYLA BROJN PHOTOS



▲
KU Med and Hospital volunteers painting the exterior of one of twelve houses repaired and improved this year.

▶
Several new doors installed during Christmas in October will help Rosedale residents keep the cold out this winter.



On October 1, RDA partnered with KU Med and Hospital to host the 16th year of Christmas in October in Rosedale. The program assists elderly or disabled low-income families with repair and upkeep projects each year.

Together, KU students and neighborhood volunteers repaired twelve homes in the neighborhood, and the homeowners couldn't be more appreciative. Don Caruther, one of the owners selected for the program, raved

about the volunteers and their project saying, "They were wonderful, wonderful. Really on the ball. We appreciated all the volunteer help and how well-mannered they were. They all did a beautiful job."

Bob Spaniol, the coordinator at KU Hospital, commented that the 340 volunteers this year was a record number and a 30% increase from the 2010 event. "Volunteers were able to tackle more structural projects than usual," Bob said. "They repaired porch roofs and floors, rebuilt staircases and

hand railings, replaced siding and dry wall, installed windows and doors and rolled in several thousand feet of insulation to keep our Rosedale neighbors warm this winter."

Wendy Wilson, executive director at RDA, also applauded the great work this year. "It's truly amazing that every year the number of volunteers increases and the projects grow in complexity. Our partnership with KU Hospital and Medical Center is critical to this program. We couldn't achieve such success without them." ☐

Walking to school gains fans in Rosedale

The morning of October 5 dawned bright and beautiful for the thousands of kids across the country walking to school for International Walk to School Day. Rosedale was no exception to this celebration, and over 80 kids, parents and community members gathered at the mural wall at 42nd and Mission Road to walk to school together.

Organized by Joshua Hoffman, RDA's Safe Routes Coordinator, the gathering hosted Commissioner Ann Murguia, who read a proclamation by Mayor Reardon, declaring support for International Walk to School Day. Kids munched on healthy breakfast snacks and twirled their homemade parade batons as they marched down 42nd street, across Lloyd and down 43rd to Frank Rushton Elementary. Walkers followed "I Need A Sidewalk" street markers and carried signs to inform passing cars about the movement.

Walking School Buses, as these groups are called, make it safer and easier

HEIDI HOLLIDAY PHOTO



Walkers and bikers, some in safety vest and with stop signs, follow "I Need A Sidewalk" route markers on their way to school. Head to ineedasidewalk.com to share your story about sidewalks and safety in your neighborhood.

for kids to walk to school. It cuts down on traffic congestion surrounding schools and gives kids some much needed physical activity to kick start their day. Walking school buses also raise awareness about the need for sidewalks, crosswalks and complete streets, which "enable safe access for all users," according to the National Complete Streets Coalition.

One immediate outcome of Frank Rushton's Walk to School Day was that

Commissioner Murguia had two crosswalks painted on 42nd street, where there were previously crosswalk signs but no actual crosswalks. The Rosedale neighborhood is sincerely grateful to Commissioner Murguia and her focus on infrastructure safety.

Frank Rushton's Walking School Bus meets at 8:15 a.m. every Wednesday at 4000 South Minnie Street, in the parking lot of St. Paul AME Zion Church. Join us! ☎

Rosedale Park's untapped resource

One of our neighborhood's most valuable assets, Rosedale Park, is home to a world-class sports course. Nothing coming to mind? That might be because many native Rosedalians fail to notice the two top-quality disc golf courses located in the park. Luckily, many avid disc golfers haven't overlooked this gem. The park is nearly always full of KU Med students, area high-schoolers and even out-of-towners coming to see what all the fuss is about. Playdg.com even calls it "arguably the most played course in Kansas City."

Despite its popularity with med students and disc golf fanatics, most Rosedale kids are unfamiliar with the courses and even the game itself. In an effort to increase physical activity opportunities for area youth using the neighborhood's existing facilities, Ross Philbrick, a spring intern for the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative, applied for and won a grant to provide us with some basic disc golf equipment.

We have introduced local kids to the game through the annual Freedom School Carnival, RHKI's Healthy Kids club and camp and most recently at Rosedale Middle School. RMS borrowed our equipment and

middle-schoolers there have been learning disc golf basics in P.E. class.

We hope this introduction to the game leads more kids to the park and disc golf courses. A sincere thank you to Educational Disc Golf Experience, Inc. (EDGE) for the disc golf equipment grant. "EDGE is a non-profit corporation organized to help educators and other youth organization leaders teach the lifetime sport of disc golf." ☎

STEPHANIE KOLLMANN PHOTO



▲ A healthy kids camper tosses a disc into one of the portable goals donated to RDA.

Ready to become a leader in your community?

Nominations are now being accepted for two at large positions on RDA's Board of Directors: representatives from the business community and the residential community. Nominations will be accepted now until December 1. Ballots will be mailed out in December and all dues-paying members of RDA are eligible to vote. The elected board members will begin their term in January. Nominate yourself or someone you know by contacting RDA to have a nomination form sent to you. ☎

To keep up with RDA staffers, follow our activities in real time and get access to great pictures from around the neighborhood, "like" us on Facebook at facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/#!/RosedaleDA.



Rosedale Briefs

Join RDA and RHKI at the 2nd annual Healthy Halloween in Whitmore Park! Kids will have a frighteningly good time playing ghoulish games and munching on spooky snacks. Parents can enjoy health resources, flu and pneumonia shots and a health assessment. The celebration will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday October 29 at Whitmore Park, in the 1400 block of SW Blvd. in KCK. *For more information call (913) 645-7826 or email info@healthkidsinitiative.org.*

There will be another health fair on November 5, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the SW Blvd. Family Health Care Clinic (300 SW Blvd., KCK 66103). Participants can expect BMI, glucose and blood pressure assessments, among other things. *Contact RDA for details.*

A reminder to all Rosedale businesses that the Rosedale Business Stakeholders will meet November 3, noon, at Taqueria Mexico on Rainbow Blvd. November's meeting will host Commissioner Ann Murguia, speaking about the particulars of her office and how businesses can take the opportunity to work with her to help create a better community. *Contact them at info@rosedalestakeholders.org.*

There will be an open house on November 8, 5-7 p.m. with the UG and the engineering firm Burns & McDonnell to discuss plans for bike lanes along SW Blvd. The meeting will be held at 1401 SW Blvd., in KCK.

Donations of old bicycles are needed for an after-school skill building program at Rosedale Middle School. This fall, 15 students will learn the timeless skill of bicycle repair by fixing up two bikes — one to give to a younger kid and one for themselves. Please bring your donations to the RDA office. Bikes in any and all conditions are welcome until November 14. *Call Joshua Hoffman at (913) 645-7128 with questions or to volunteer with the program.*

Now is the time to order a genuine, locally-manufactured Rosedale bike rack for your business. It pays to encourage active transportation in The Dot. *Interested businesses can contact Joshua Hoffman at (913) 645-7128.*

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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Stormwater Runoff Management

The Unified Government's Public Works Department asks, "After a heavy rain, what happens to the stormwater runoff?" Most rain seeps into the soil, but if the ground is saturated, frozen or paved over with a road or sidewalk, rain flows into the street and into storm drains. This stormwater runoff carries soil, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and litter into storm drains and flows directly into local streams, rivers and lakes without treatment. To reduce stormwater pollution:

- Sweep driveways instead of hosing them off.
- Wash vehicles at a commercial car

wash and not on driveways.

- Don't leave pet waste in yards.
- Don't over-apply pesticides and fertilizers.
- Inspect and pump your private septic systems.
- Recycle motor oil and automotive fluids properly.
- Don't blow leaves and grass into the street.
- Don't litter or drop cigarette butts.

For more information go to www.wycokck.org/pw and under the 'Additional Links' section, click 'Stormwater info'.

Feed-a-family program taking donations and referrals

For the past 26 years, RDA has been providing some extra holiday cheer to those in need in the neighborhood with the Feed-a-Family program. Relying on donations from neighbors and residents, RDA coordinates the donation and distribution of food gift baskets to local families in need.

RDA takes referrals from neighborhood groups, schools and churches for families who would benefit from a basket of holiday foodstuffs and household items. Referred families undergo a brief screening process and then are contacted by RDA to deter-

mine their specific needs. A few days before Thanksgiving, gift baskets are compiled and distributed to each family. Interested in getting involved? Families or businesses can sponsor a basket, volunteer to sort and distribute or make a referral. This year we are taking donations of non-perishable food items, household items, children's winter wear and cash to purchase perishable items.

Contact RDA to get the list of donation items or to have a referral form sent to you. Donations can be dropped off at RDA before November 17.

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

Volunteer Spotlight

Walking School Buses have a new champion in Rosedale

RDA's newest staff member, Yvonne Dorsey, has over 20 years of experience in the health and fitness field, which makes her a perfect addition as the new Walking School Bus Coordinator for Wyandotte County. Originally from Hannibal, Missouri, Yvonne graduated from Lincoln University with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in psychology. After graduation Yvonne worked as an investigator at the Department of Labor for ten years before leaving the work force to stay home with her kids.

It was when she sought to get back into the job market that Yvonne began to think about turning her passion into a career. All through college she had taught aerobic and fitness classes for extra money. She kept her certifications and also taught classes on the side as a stay at home mom. She returned to work as the fitness director for the KCK YWCA. After funding for the position ran out, Yvonne decided to start her own company, FIT WITHIN, a successful fitness consulting service. In that capacity, Yvonne works with organizations to design and implement wellness and fitness programs.

Yvonne's passion for health and fitness sprung from her early participation in sports. "Back then," Yvonne says, "kids



exercised because it was fun, not to combat obesity. That was rare with kids then." She remembers exercising along with aerobics instructor videos when she was young, and declaring to her parents "I can do that, and I'm going to do it better!" In her college days, it never occurred to Yvonne that her hobby could be something more. "I was teaching my sorority sisters for fun. I was involved in fitness because I enjoyed it," she says.

As for her work at RDA, Yvonne will serve as a Walking School Bus Coordinator under contract with the Health Depart-

ment of the Unified Government. Her position is grant-funded and calls for eight new walking school bus programs in Wyandotte County schools. A walking school bus is a program to help kids walk safely to school with trusted adults. Walking school buses cut down on morning traffic congestion, provide much-needed physical activity for participants, and connect the community. Her work as a coordinator at RDA aligns with the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative's goal to reduce childhood obesity in the neighborhood. Yvonne came into the job with a little knowledge of what a walking school bus was, but has since gained knowledge of how it operates in a community.

Her short time here has already given Yvonne a new respect for Wyandotte County and the Rosedale neighborhood. This is her first job where the organization has been up close and personal in the neighborhood and community. "The view I have here is different from everything you hear about Wyandotte County. This community learns how to deal with the bad things in the area while they keep working for the good."

We're so glad to have Yvonne aboard and are looking forward to all the wonderful work she'll be doing in our community! 🌟



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