

# THE ROSEDALLIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Building a strong, healthy community in 2015

*Andrea Steere*

To reach Rosedale Development Association's mission of building a strong, healthy community, we set goals in the areas of economic, social, physical, and environmental health. But what does that look like when translated into real life? Here are just a few of the ways life in Rosedale changed for the better in 2015, thanks to RDA's focus on building a healthy and strong community:

### Economic health

The 47th and Mission Rd. corridor in Rosedale has experienced a lot of changes in recent years, and 2015 was no different. This past year the Fairway North Shopping Center became Northwood and new businesses announced they would begin moving into the area.

The redevelopment of the corridor is partly due to the 47th and Mission Rd. Committee, which includes representatives from the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and KCK (UG), Westwood, KS, and Roeland Park, KS. Heidi Holliday, RDA's Executive Director, was appointed by the mayor to serve on the committee as a representative of the UG and Rosedale.

"The committee acts as the overlay district, so major development comes to us for review, to see if it fits with our plan for the area," Scott Bing-

ham, Chair of the committee, said. "We have been helping to guide the final development of the Northwood shopping center."

A project, Bingham says, in which RDA was a key player.

"With Northwood, Heidi played a key role in some of the feedback we received. She had some key comments in the review process about the local community's needs about that project," Bingham said.

### Social health

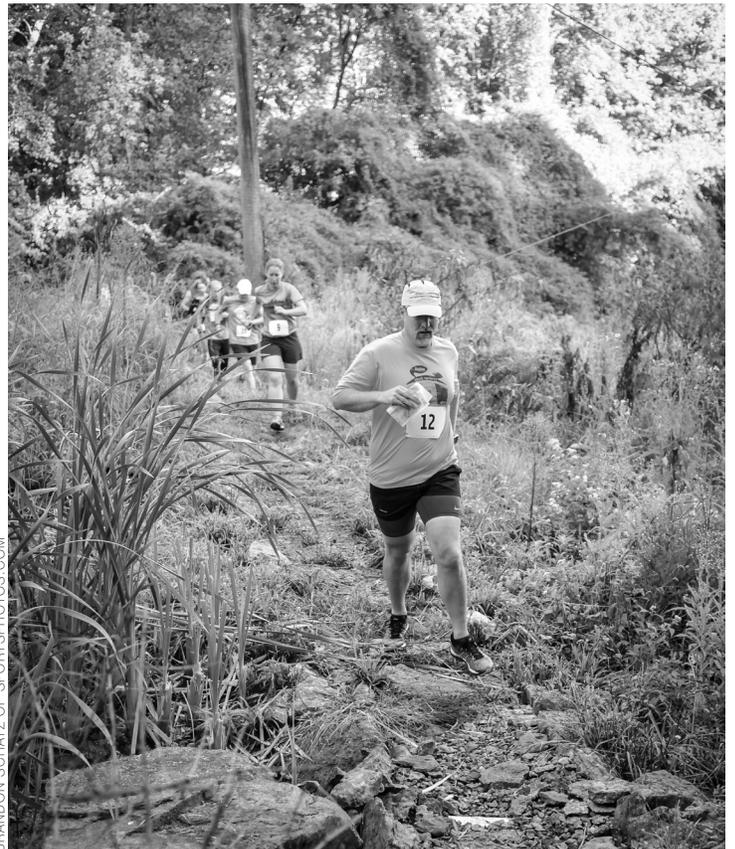
In 2015, RDA sought to do the impossible: to hear from everyone in Rosedale through the Rosedale Community Survey. More than 5,000 households received the survey and over 800 Rosedalians completed it. While this wasn't literally every Rosedale resident, it was more than enough to apply the results to the whole community.

"I thought it was important to give feedback," Rosedale resident Gloria Fileto said about why she filled out her community survey. "I've lived here for 12, going on 13, years, and I've seen a real change in this community and in the people."

The results from the survey will not only inform the 2015-2016 Rosedale Master Plan update, but they will help guide RDA's future vision and goals.

### Physical health

2015 was also a big year for improvements to Rosedale's



BRANDON SCHATZ OF SPORTSPHOTOS.COM

**Runners of all ages "broke in" the Rozarks trails at the Retro Run.**

walkability. From improvements to the Rozarks nature trails to new sidewalks, our community became safer, healthier, and more accessible for alternative transportation.

This spring we welcomed a team of National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members to help us build trails, grow gardens, and fix some homes. In just six weeks they helped us build 0.25 miles of trail, bringing our total to 3.5 miles.

But nature trails weren't the only thing built in Rosedale this year. Sidewalks along Mission Rd. and 42nd Ave. in the Hilltop neighborhood were also finished. This not only improved Frank Rushton Elementary School's walking school bus route, but now all residents of the area have a safe way to access Rosedale Park and businesses on Rainbow Blvd.

"Kids that do the Walking  
(continued next page)

**(Healthy communitiy continued)**

School Bus have expressed an increased focus in their classes,” Peter Wetzel, third grade teacher and Walking School Bus leader at Frank Rushton Elementary, said. “They have told me that they feel more awake and ready for school on mornings they walk with the school bus.”

**Environmental health**

While road construction can improve a neighborhood’s safety and walkability, it can also improve the health of the environment. That is exactly

what happened with the construction along Merriam Ln. in 2015.

For years, Merriam Ln. struggled with flooding problems because of the lack of stormwater drainage systems. Thanks to federal, state, and local transportation funding, the UG was able to resurface the street, build curbs and stormwater drainage — and, because of Wyandotte County’s Complete Streets resolution, the enhancements also included new sidewalks and bike lanes.



ANDREA STEERE

**Over the past year Merriam Lane has transformed right before our eyes.**

**Rosedale Community Survey results to be shared at annual meeting**

Ahanna Nanoski

On December 22, RDA will share the results of the Rosedale Community Survey at its annual meeting.

Heidi Holliday, Executive Director of RDA, said, “We are proud of the broad community participation in the Rosedale Master Plan Community Survey and I am excited for the community to hear the results from the survey.”

Attend RDA’s annual meeting to learn what your neighbors had to say about the future of our community. The meeting will be at **6 p.m. on December 22 at 1401 Southwest Blvd, KCK.** The annual meeting will also highlight RDA’s accomplishments

over the past year.

To learn about how the survey results will affect the Rosedale Master Plan update or to get involved, attend a Rosedale Master Plan community meeting. The next master plan meetings are scheduled for the follow dates:

- Our Savior Lutheran Church  
January 13  
2-1:30 p.m.
- Rosedale Middle School  
January 14  
6:30-8 p.m.

**i** For more information on the Rosedale Master Plan update or survey results, email [ahanna@rosedale.org](mailto:ahanna@rosedale.org) or call (913) 677-5097.



ANDREA STEERE

**The Rosedale Panthers, made up of students in second and third grade, had an exciting season this fall!**

**Basketball is back this January**

Aaron Davis

Youth sports with RDA will begin again soon with the winter basketball season.

Starting in early December, RDA will begin putting teams together with practices starting up right after winter break on January 4. Basketball is open to all children from kindergarten through sixth grades. Team divisions are separated by grades — kindergarten through third grade will be playing “Bittyball,” fourth-graders play their own division, and fifth- and sixth-graders play competitively.

Registration forms can be found and submitted at the RDA office, at your local community center, or can be found online at the UG’s Parks and Recreation website. The registration fee is \$15, and should be turned in to your local community center or at the UG Parks and Recreation office.

All youth are encouraged to sign up and come play basketball with us, regardless

of experience level. To volunteer as a coach or help with basketball this year, come by the RDA office, or go to [rosedale.org/volunteer-application/](http://rosedale.org/volunteer-application/) to fill out a volunteer application.

**i** For more information on youth sports, contact Aaron Davis at [aaron@rosedale.org](mailto:aaron@rosedale.org) or call (913) 677-5097.

**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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Kansas City, KS 66103  
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Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Heidi Holliday** Executive Director  
**Staff and Board of Directors**  
online at [rosedale.org](http://rosedale.org)  
**Design** Lizzardbrand Inc.  
**Facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment**  
**Twitter.com/RosedaleDA**  
**Rosedale.org**

# Community Calendar

Sunday, December 20

**Caroling in Whitmore Park**  
11-11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, December 22

**Annual meeting**  
6-8:00 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

December 24 - January 3

**RDA office closed**

Monday, January 13

**Rosedale Master Plan #2A**  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
12-1:30 p.m., 4153 Rainbow Blvd., KCK

Thursday, January 14

**Rosedale Master Plan #2B**  
Rosedale Middle School  
6:30-8 p.m., 3600 Springfield St., KCK

Thursday, January 14

**Reading Inspirational Stories to Empower (RISE) volunteer training**  
6-8:00 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

January 19-22

**Week of RISE**  
All day at participating Rosedale schools

Thursday, February 11

**Rosedale 101**  
6-7:30 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

**i** For additional information about upcoming events and other community happenings, call (913) 677-5097 or email [info@rosedale.org](mailto:info@rosedale.org).



## Congratulations to Rosedale's first Eat Complete businesses!

Erin Stryka

Deco Catering, Topp'd Pizza, and Taco Republic are Rosedale's first businesses to become Eat Complete certified.

At no cost to businesses, RDA's Eat Complete program identifies businesses that go above and beyond providing their customers with healthy and delicious options. Meet the first three businesses:

**DECO**  
catering kc

**Deco Catering** is on a mission to provide the finest personal service and a delicious dining experience, using locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients. Their meals include vegetables and breads from local bakeries, and they offer vegetarian and vegan items on most menus. Learn more about Deco Catering at [decocateringkc.com](http://decocateringkc.com).



**Topp'd Pizza** boasts a 100 percent "scratch kitchen" and prepares all toppings, sauces, and dough in-house daily without preservatives or additives. In addition to their pizzas (try the whole grain crust



and pile on the veggies for a healthier option), nearly half of their menu is entree-sized salads. You can also find gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan, and low-calorie choices. Give Topp'd a try at 3934 Rainbow Blvd, or check out their menu at [toppdpizza.com](http://toppdpizza.com).



**Taco Republic** is known for its relaxed patio seating and delicious street-style tacos. Healthy options include the Al Verde Salad, the Wood-Fired Chicken plate, and the Fresca Tostada. All salsas, quesos, guacamole, and taco meats are prepared from scratch. Learn more at [eattacorepublic.com](http://eattacorepublic.com), or visit them at 500 County Line Rd.

**i** For more information on Eat Complete, contact Erin Stryka at [erin@rosedale.org](mailto:erin@rosedale.org) or call (913) 677-5097.



## In Remembrance:

### Charles "Chuck" Stewart

by Heidi Holliday

On December 1, we lost a dear friend. Chuck Stewart — an RDA board member periodically since 2006 — passed away. Chuck was a tireless advocate for Rosedale and an active community volunteer. Chuck went out of his way to help people, and always had time for a conversation. Whether it was meeting with developers, marketing the community, or helping with the newsletter mailing, he always had a story to tell and a friend to make. Chuck had a soft spot for animals, and would often call the RDA office to ask whether Pepper (Heidi's dog) was holding office hours.

Professionally, Chuck was an accomplished and admired commercial real estate broker and developer. A native of Johnson County and lifelong resident of the Kansas City area, Chuck loved to travel, especially to Colorado, Hawaii, Ireland, and England. He served as the past Chairman of the Westwood Planning Commission, consulted with various local and national groups, and led many urban revitalization efforts.

Memorial gifts can be made in his name to Wayside Waifs and St. Luke's Hospice House.

We will miss his smile, wisdom, and compassion. Rosedale is a better place for his involvement.

## RDA Support Form

Name of business or name of household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail form, along with check made payable to:**

Rosedale Development Association, 1403 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103

### Suggested support levels:

Keystone: \$1,000 and above

Crown: \$750-999

Column: \$250-\$749

Foundation: \$0-\$249

Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Survey Update

### Rosedalians: A vegetable-eating bunch

*Adrienne Matlock*

Since the launch of the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative in 2009, Rosedalians have worked to provide access to fruits and vegetables close to home, and those who have gotten involved eat healthier because of it.

Nearly 70 percent of those who have been involved in community gardens said in the Rosedale Community Survey that they eat healthier because of their participation in the garden. Through the community gardens at 45<sup>th</sup> Ave., Early St., and Minnie St.; and schoolyard gardens at several schools; Rosedale residents of all ages have found that eating healthy is as easy as going outside.

But community gardens are not the only way

Rosedalians get fresh fruits and vegetables. One-third of survey respondents have attended the Rosedale Farmers Market and 60 percent of them reported eating healthier because of the market.

Every Sunday morning from May to September, a lively bunch of vegetable vendors and hungry shoppers gather at the Rosedale Farmers Market in the parking lot of Commerce Bank at 40th Ave. and Rainbow Blvd. High percentages from both groups — gardeners and farmers market shoppers — have increased the amount of fresh food they eat because of their participation.

So the question remains: have you eaten your share of fresh fruits and vegetables this



HEIDI HOLLIDAY

**The Rosedale Farmer's Market vendors provides homemade goods and local produce to the neighborhood weekly throughout the growing season.**

week? If not, now is the time to start thinking about taking advantage of these tasty opportunities. Call today to reserve your community garden plot for the spring, and mark your calendar for the commencement of the Rosedale

Farmers Market next May.

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*For more information on survey results, call (913) 677-5097. To get involved in community gardening or the farmers market, contact Katie at [katie@rosedale.org](mailto:katie@rosedale.org).*