



# THE ROSEDALLIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Get Out, Get Dirty, Get Together: RDA to host family-friendly garden party

By Katie Green

On Saturday, April 23, RDA will host Get Out, Get Dirty, Get Together at the South Early St. Community Garden. This event is a family-friendly garden party where the community is invited to come together to play games, eat garden-fresh food and remember the joys of being in nature.

Activities will include: burlap sack races, bean bag toss, fairy house construction, a garden scavenger hunt, pot painting, and, of course, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Brooke Seiz, a nutritionist with Natural Grocers, will also be there to teach "Building Meals for Superhero Health," a special class for children and families.

"We're happy we can be a part of an event that fits in so well with everything we're trying to foster in the community," Seiz said. "It's so important for families and kids to get outside together. This is a great thing for families and kids to do to support their health, happiness, and overall wellness."

This event focuses on the garden not only as a space to grow food, but also as a public space that the whole neighborhood can enjoy — gardener or not. Rosedalians of all ages are invited to join RDA as we celebrate all that community gardens can do.



So round up all your kids, parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins and bring them out to the South Early St. Community Garden from 2 to 5 p.m. on April 23.

Thank you to all the businesses who have already con-

tributed: Strasser's Hardware, Natural Grocers, and DECO Catering.

**i** If you're interested in volunteering for the event, contact Katie at (913) 677-5097 or [katie@rosedale.org](mailto:katie@rosedale.org)

## RDA staff begins strategic planning process at staff retreat

By Heidi Holliday

For the past three years, our staff has dedicated one day in March to a staff retreat. It is rare opportunity that we are able to take a step back, evaluate our work and plan for the future, but it is vitally important that we do so.

This year, we once again utilized the beautiful Hollis Renewal Center for our retreat. With walking trails, plenty of picnic tables and beautiful weather, it was the perfect setting for a reflective day away. We began by remembering our 2015 accomplishments and learning experiences, doing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) for Rosedale Development Association and looking over the 2015 community survey results.

Our main goal for the day was to take a look at the programs and services we provide and compare them with community needs and desires, as outlined by the community survey results. We spent several hours working on an action plan for RDA's next five years that aligns with what Rosedalians want. While we still have work to do, this was the first step in a strategic planning process that will also include the board and commu-

*(continued next page)*

**(Staff retreat continued)**  
nity members. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved.

We also like to do something fun with the staff to reward them for all the hard work they do, so in the afternoon we traveled to River Market to try to solve the mystery of the missing secret agent at the Escape Room KC. We managed to solve the puzzle and save the secret agent just in time at over 53 minutes!

## 15 years in Excellence in Education

By Will Lyons

Excellence in Education, a local program that honors Rosedale youth and their achievements in school, is celebrating its 15th year with a special dinner on May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Excellence in Education is an honors program that recognizes students for having three key achievements: perfect attendance, good grades, and good behavior. It is all about giving kids positive reinforcement needed to keep them doing well in school. The program was started by George Kemper, Sr., a retired Community Police officer.

"[The program] is to identify and recognize those students going above and beyond and doing the right thing," Kemper said. "We want the children to understand that people in the community see what they are doing and are being recognized for the right things."

Currently the Excellence in Education program is

I am grateful to lead an organization with such committed and enthusiastic staff and board members, and I am grateful to the community for your guidance and grace as we move forward in the planning process.

**i** To learn more about the Strategic Planning process RDA is beginning, please contact Heidi at [heidi@rosedale.org](mailto:heidi@rosedale.org).

available at Frank Rushton Elementary, Rosedale Middle School, and John F. Kennedy Elementary School.

To date, the program has been funded mainly out of Kemper's own pocket. That is why this year Kemper is partnering with the Outreach Committee at Our Saviour Lutheran Church to host a fundraising dinner for Excellence in Education.

The dinner will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. on May 6 at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 4153 Rainbow Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66103. Tickets are \$12 for one, or \$20 for a pair. Table sponsorships are also available. All proceeds from the dinner will go to ensuring the continuation of this important program in Rosedale schools.

**i** For more information contact George Kemper at [ebenezerministries1991@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezerministries1991@gmail.com) or (913) 221-1019, or Will Lyons at [will@rosedale.org](mailto:will@rosedale.org) or (913) 677-5097.

## Meet the RDA Board and Staff

### Matt Alexander

I am a longtime member of the KC area and proud to call it home for twenty years. Previously, I have been a volunteer/organizer at the American Red Cross. I'm excited to take on the role of Social Services Coordinator to allow everyone to thrive while living, working, and playing in Rosedale.



ANDREA STEERE

**The new water fountain is located west of the playground at Fisher Park.**

## New water fountain at Fisher Park encourages active community

By Erin Stryka

Thanks to the partnership between Hilltop Neighborhood Association and Rosedale Development Association, a water fountain and a water spigot have been installed at Fisher Park.

The water fountain is a result of community members coming together to provide Rosedale kids and families with drinking water. Hilltop Neighborhood Association and RDA partnered to raise the funds for fountain installation, and the Parks and Recreation Department of the Unified Government provided the fountain itself. Funders included the Neighborhoods Rising Fund, Community Health Council of Wyandotte County and the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation.

Not only will the new water fountain help park users stay hydrated and active, but it also opens the door for another new addition to the park. A water spigot has been installed, allowing RDA to partner with the Giving Grove to plant a small fruit tree orchard in Fisher Park this spring. In 2019, the orchard will begin bearing apples, pears, and

jujubes. The trees will help to manage excess storm water that washes through the park by capturing the water and storing it in the ground.

In addition to providing water to park goers, the water fountain will provide water to volunteers during the Rozarks trails workdays.

Fisher Park has also been chosen to be part of the Healthy Parks Initiative, which invites groups of community members to start walking groups and develop projects for park beautification and improvement.

### How to get involved:

- Become a fruit tree steward and learn how to care for the fruit trees
- Help maintain the Rozarks trails by attending volunteer work days at 9 a.m. on April 23 or May 28 at Fisher Park. No experience required.
- Join the Fisher Park Walking Group and be a part of making Fisher Park even better

**i** Learn more about all of the opportunities by contacting Erin at (913)-677-5097 or email [erin@rosedale.org](mailto:erin@rosedale.org)

# Community Calendar

Tuesday, April 5

**Garden Workshop  
Rain Barrel Retrofitting**

\*Please RSVP  
\$35 fee, scholarships available  
6-7:30 p.m.  
1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Saturday, April 9

**Brain Discovery Fair**

Activities include lab tours, brain games, an exciting neuroscience lecture, and hands-on experiments using anatomy models, human brains, microscopes, and more.  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center at 39th and Rainbow Blvd., KCK

Tuesday, April 19

**“Get Out. Get Dirty. Get Together”  
Volunteer Training**

6-8 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Wednesday, April 20

**Rosedale Leadership Council**

5:30-6:30 p.m.  
1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Thursday, April 21

**Frank Rushton Kindergarten Round Up**

If your child will be 5 on or before August 31st, 2016, come enroll your child in kindergarten, meet the teachers, and get to know the school.  
2 p.m., 2605 W 43rd Ave., KCK

Saturday, April 23

**“Get Out. Get Dirty. Get Together”  
A garden party at the Early Street Community Garden**

2-5 p.m., 2300 S. Early St., KCK

**i** For additional information about upcoming events and other community happenings, call (913) 677-5097.



ANDREA STEERE

**Zumba classes at Southwest Boulevard are open to all ages and abilities.**

## Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness now offering Zumba classes

By Andrea Steere

“Zumba is for everyone,” said Adriana Rodriguez, Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness’s group instructor.

The new class, offered at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and 10 a.m. on Saturdays, is a result of Rodriguez’s determination to help the community become healthier.

When she first started as a group instructor in October 2015, Rodriguez was taking over a completely different dance class.

“It was more complicated and frustrating for me and our

members,” Rodriguez said.

In order to reach more people, Rodriguez became a certified Zumba instructor in order to help people of all skill levels reach their health goals.

“It’s even for kids,” said Rodriguez. “I see older people, people in their 20s, people wearing knee braces, mothers with their daughters, and that’s exciting for me.”

For those wanting to give Zumba a try, memberships and day passes are available. Memberships are based on income and include access

to the center’s fitness equipment and all of their classes. Day passes are also available for \$3.

Apart from Zumba, Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness also offers karate, boxing, yoga, low impact aerobics, weights, and more.

**i** To learn more about Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness, visit them at 300 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS, on the web at <http://www.swbfhc.org/id5.html>, or call (913) 384-2988.

## 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.

1403 Southwest Blvd.  
Kansas City, KS 66103  
Phone (913) 677-5097  
Fax (913) 677-3437  
[info@rosedale.org](mailto:info@rosedale.org)  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Heidi Holliday** Executive Director

**Staff and Board of Directors**

online at [rosedale.org](http://rosedale.org)  
Lizzardbrand Inc. Design

**Facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment**

**Twitter.com/RosedaleDA**

**Rosedale.org**



## 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:

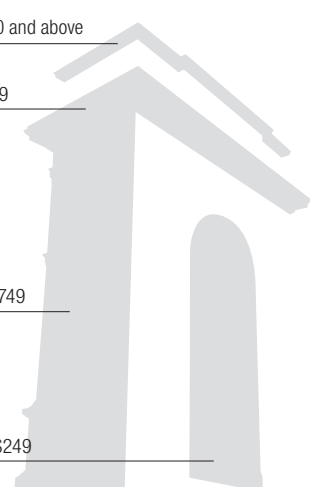
Keystone: \$1,000 and above

Crown: \$750-999

Column: \$250-\$749

Foundation: \$0-\$249

Other: \$



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Mayor's Listening Tour Update

**Wyandotte County weighs in on new income**

*by Adrienne Showalter Matlock*

Mayor Mark Holland's staff recently tallied results from his Listening Tour stops and found that residents of Wyandotte County want to prioritize spending of new revenue on property tax relief, park improvements, and street resurfacing.

In 2017, a new source of tax revenue from the STAR Bonds (which were used to finance the Village West development) will result in an increased revenue of approximately \$12 million per year to the Unified Government.

While Rosedale was busy weighing in on the community survey, Mayor Holland made the rounds to hear what people across Wyandotte County want to do with

this new source of sales tax revenue. The Mayor's office facilitated community conversations at one location in each of the eight districts. On average, residents attending the listening tour events said they would allocate nearly 20 percent of the new revenue to relieving property taxes, or \$2.3 million per year. Residents expressed a desire for about 10 percent to go to improving parks and 10 percent to street resurfacing. Other services included police, fire, and code enforcement.

**i** For a further breakdown on the results from Mayor Holland's Listening Tour, visit [www.wycokck.org/Listen/](http://www.wycokck.org/Listen/) or stop by our office for a handout.

