RDA to host Bike Month events this May

By Andrea Steere

Bike Month is back this May and it all kicks off on Bike to School Day on May 4.

This year’s Bike Month events include a Bike Rodeo with Frank Rushton Elementary, the Bike-In Movie at Boulevard Drive-In, and Bagels on the Boulevard.

May 4 is Bike to School Day at all Rosedale schools and Frank Rushton Elementary’s annual Bike Rodeo with BikeWalkKC. Due to the construction at Frank Rushton, this year’s Bike Rodeo will be held at Belrose Manor from 3-5 p.m., near W. 41st Ave. and Fisher St. BikeWalkKC will be leading activities like obstacle courses and lessons on bike safety, while the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater KC will provide free helmets to kids so they can ride safely.

“BikeWalkKC is happy to partner with our friends at RDA for the annual bike rodeo at Frank Rushton,” Maggie Priesmeyer, BikeWalkKC’s education program manager, said. “Bike rodeos are great because they combine safety, skill and fun, and are designed for all ages. We want to see more kids riding bikes!”

The morning of the Bike Rodeo, Frank Rushton’s walking school bus will be celebrating Bike to School Day by inviting participants to bring their bikes and ride to school.

Bike Month continues on May 19 at the Boulevard Drive-In Theater with Rosedale Development Association’s annual Bike-In Movie. RDA is excited to announce this year’s movie is a quote-along of The Princess Bride.

Concessions and activities for the Bike-In Movie start at 7 p.m. and the quote-along starts at 9 p.m. (or whenever it gets dark). Fun props will be available for a donation to play along with the movie, and to help bring the Bike-In to life.

RDA’s Bike Month events conclude with Bagels on the Boulevard from 6 to 9 a.m. on May 24. For Bagels on the Boulevard, RDA will host breakfast for all cyclists, pedestrians and bus riders near S. Mill St. and Southwest Blvd.

All of RDA’s Bike Month events are free and open to anyone who wants to have a good time on their bike, excluding Frank Rushton Elementary’s Bike Rodeo. The rodeo is free, but it is only open to Frank Rushton students and their families.

To learn more about Bike Month, contact Andrea Steere at (913) 677-5097 or email andrea@rosedale.org.
Meet your neighbors: Healthy living at Rosedale Towers

By Ahnna Nanoski

The Rosedale Towers Tenant Association has been active for more than 10 years. The group serves the residents of the 120 unit high-rise apartment building, a Kansas City, KS Housing Authority property providing housing for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The association and participating tenants work together to plan social events, provide support, and brainstorm ideas to make their community better. It is easy to seclude yourself, especially when living in a high rise apartment building, so another goal of the tenants association is to build community and get everyone involved.

According to Rosedale Towers resident, Melva Kennedy, the 2015 Valentine’s Day party was the most memorable social event planned and sponsored by the tenant association. There were more than 60 people in attendance and they spent the whole party dancing, eating food, socializing, and playing games.

Patrick Hernandez, Rosedale Towers Tenant Association President, believes that the Valentine’s Day party is a good example of how the group helps support the social and mental health of all of the residents in the building.

Hernandez said, “The tenant association helps maintain a healthy environment and living situation.”

To aid in this healthy environment, Rosedale Towers has even taken steps to host a mini food pantry for its residents. With the help of the Housing Authority of Kansas City, KS, new shelves have been added to their computer lab space. Along with a refrigerator, residents have a place to put unwanted food for others to take. Rosedale Towers will also be partnering with the Healthy Kidz Community Garden to receive their extra produce through the growing season.

The computer lab is also a new feature of Rosedale Towers. The tenant association worked with Connecting for Good to bring in two computers for all residents to use.

The Rosedale Towers Tenant Association is the backbone of a great community that loves Rosedale and all the great things the neighborhood has to offer.

Farewell Rachel

This month we are skipping board introductions to thank Rachel Hostetler, Community Service Coordinator at Rainbow Mennonite Church and Executive Director of the Sharing Community of Rosedale (Rainbow Freedom School), for her seven years of service to Rosedale. Rachel resigned from her position to pursue new opportunities, but plans to continue living in Rosedale. She made a huge impact in the neighborhood, especially through her work on the Rosedale 105 bus line, housing advocacy at Rosedale Ridge, the Rosedale Farmers Market and Rainbow Freedom School. We will miss her, and wish her the best of luck in her new pursuits!

Try me: Crossfit Matters

By Will Lyons

In case you haven’t heard, there is a new crossfit gym in the Rosedale community. Crossfit Matters, located at 735 Southwest Blvd., is your one-stop shop to get in shape.

Crossfit is a fitness program that combines gymnastics, olympic lifting, and cardio into one intense workout. It promotes functional movements that apply to everyday life. The goal of crossfit is to create a well rounded athlete: one who is not only strong or fast, but one who is strong, fast, flexible, balanced, powerful, agile, accurate, balanced, coordinated, and has a high endurance.

While this type of exercise may seem intimidating, it is not an intimidating environment. Jim Caskey, the owner of Crossfit Matters, explained to us the connectivity of the crossfit gym, “it’s a supportive, encouraging, and challenging community in the gym. Everyone is feeling each other’s energy and working off of that.”

If you are interested in trying out one of Caskey’s crossfit classes, you can sign up for a free Intro to Crossfit Class. Caskey emphasizes the importance of the experience, saying “you have to come in and experience the atmosphere [of the gym],” which is one of the reasons he offers the free introductory class.

Fellow Rosedale Development Association staff member Aaron Davis and I went to try Crossfit Matters’ free “Intro to Crossfit” class and it challenged us, but in a welcoming environment. Caskey adjusted each workout according to our abilities, while also pushing us to our limits.

For more information, or to sign up for the free monthly introductory class, you can contact Jim Caskey at (913) 948-3112, info@crossfitmatters.com, or stop by Crossfit Matters, located at 735 Southwest Blvd., KCK.

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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Hilltop and Frank Rushton Neighborhood Associations host cleanup days

By Matt Alexander

On April 16 and 17, the Hilltop Neighborhood Association and Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association coordinated two neighborhood cleanups in their respective areas.

With help from RDA and the Unified Government’s Operation Brightside initiative, both neighborhood groups were able to clean up their corners of Rosedale and get to know their neighbors.

According to the UG’s website, “Operation Brightside provides services that assists residents with efforts to cleanup their neighborhoods.” The program’s services include reducing graffiti, litter prevention, recycling, and reducing waste.

“One of our members noticed a lot of trash on Mission Road and we were able to put together a team to tackle it,” Sarah Stueve, Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association’s president, said. “We were able to clean from the bottom of the hill up to the park on both sides of the road.”

RDA encourages all of Rosedale’s neighborhood groups to take advantage of Operation Brightside’s help and organize their own cleanup days. Tasks to be accomplished on cleanup days include litter removal, cutting back brush and picking up leaves, sweeping sidewalks, mowing overgrown empty lots, or any other identified needs.

“It just takes one person with an idea to make a difference,” Stueve said.

If you want to host a neighborhood cleanup day in your neighborhood, or to get involved in existing neighborhood cleanups, contact Matt Alexander at (913) 677-5097 or email matt@rosedale.org.

Camp Wildwood registration begins in May

By Aaron Davis

Camp Wildwood registration begins this month for children ages 7-15. Thanks to a special partnership between Wildwood and RDA, children from Rosedale are able to sign up at a reduced cost of $25 for the camp session from August 3-6.

Camp Wildwood, located an hour south of Kansas City, is a sleep away camp that offers innovative and high-quality outdoor education. Children receive the classic camp experience and have the opportunity to experience nature through educational and physical activities.

Seasoned camper Gianna Reese had nothing but good things to say about Camp Wildwood saying, “My favorite thing to do was going fishing. I had fun making a new friend!”

All parents and families that are planning to participate, or are even just interested in Camp Wildwood, are encouraged to attend the informational meeting on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at 1401 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS. Wildwood officials will provide a program overview, and answer any questions you may have.

If you have any questions about Camp Wildwood or the informational meeting, please contact Aaron Davis at (913) 677-5097 or at aaron@rosedale.org.

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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: $
Survey Update

Dinner with your Data
by Adrianne Showalter Matlock

At 6 p.m. on June 23, RDA will host “Dinner with your Data,” a special event to dig deeper into the Rosedale Community Survey results with members of the Rosedale community.

The event comes about a year after the release of the survey and just a month after the last Rosedale Master Plan Update community meeting. Now RDA wants to know how we can best use the survey data to serve the community.

Rosedalians are invited to enjoy a free dinner and review how survey respondents ranked questions on housing, parks and recreation, transportation, healthy lifestyles, community safety, sense of community, the community’s future direction, and more.

Each month since the survey results were tallied, we have highlighted information about the survey in the RDA newsletter. Hopefully this has piqued your interest and left you wanting more in-depth information about the survey responses. Perhaps you want to find out how survey takers in your section of Rosedale responded; or how the priorities for Rosedale that were selected most often compare to your own priorities for the neighborhood. “Dinner with Your Data” will be a fun opportunity to learn more about what the survey found while enjoying a catered meal with other Rosedalians.

If you would like to join us for “Dinner with your Data,” be sure to contact us soon. Seating is limited and an RSVP is required, so please call Ahnna Nanoski at (913) 677-5097 or email ahnna@rosedale.org.