Community Spotlight

Good Neighbor Training offers tools to do even more good in your neighborhood

By Erin Stryka

Ever wondered how the process of building demolition goes in Wyandotte County? How about how Animal Services works, or what the Unified Government is doing throughout the city and county? Are you interested in addressing blight in your neighborhood? Livable Neighborhoods’ Good Neighbor Training has the answers to these questions and many more.

Good Neighbor Training is held the fourth Monday of the month from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 4953 State Ave., KCK. A light dinner is provided. Each training focuses on a different department or program within the UG.

To plan on attending. It is well worth your time.”

Building a stronger and healthier Rosedale takes everyone’s help, and some of our biggest challenges can feel daunting if you don’t know where to start. The Good Neighbor Training will help you understand what the UG is doing throughout the city and county, address the issues affecting our communities, and provides opportunities for involvement or partnering with the UG to make a difference in your neighborhood.

To learn more about the Good Neighbor Training, contact Livable Neighborhoods at 913-573-8737.

The program began in January with Code Enforcement training and the Neighborhood Resource Center’s e-link system for tracking codes violations. Rosedalian Tam Grodsky attended and called RDA the next day with a rave review, saying “I was so glad that I attended the Good Neighbor training last month. Plan on attending. It is well worth your time.”

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Spring is in the air and that means Rosedale Development Association is buzzing with activity. Plans for the season include youth sports, gardening activities, minor home repair projects, and a disc golf tournament.

This month our winter basketball season wraps up with 23 players and over 200 hours played. Now RDA will be taking registrations for soccer and baseball. We will also be looking for volunteer coaches to lead the teams, especially baseball coaches. Stop by the RDA office to register or pick up a form at your nearest community center.

Spring also sprouts opportunities to get your hands dirty in one of Rosedale’s community gardens. Residents are able to rent plots at the 45th and Rainbow garden and the South Early Street garden. Plus, RDA will host garden workshops at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

The first garden workshop will feature information on how to plan your garden plot for success on March 9. The second workshop, “Rain Barrel Retrofitting," will help participants build and use a rain barrel in their garden on April 13. View the full schedule online.

RDA programs kick into gear this spring with youth sports, garden workshops, minor home repair, and more.

RDA buzzes with activity this spring

By Je T’aime Taylor

By Andrea Steere

RDA, in partnership with Dynamic Discs, is hosting its first-ever disc golf tournament! The Rosedale Disc de Triomphe is set for Saturday, May 6 at Rosedale Park. Registration starts at 9 a.m., and the tournament starts at 10 a.m.

All proceeds from the event will benefit RDA’s work to build a strong and healthy community and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale.

All registered players will also receive a swag bag, provided by Dynamic Discs, which includes everything one needs to participate in the tournament.

Interested in learning more about RDA’s spring activities or how you can volunteer? Contact us at 913-677-5097, visit info@rosedale.org, or stop by the office at 1403 Southwest Blvd., KCK.

For more information, visit rosedale.org/discgolf.
Summer Youth Employment applications available for businesses and youth

By Je T’aime Taylor

RDA is now accepting Summer Youth Employment applications from businesses and youth interested in being a part of the program. SYE links Rosedale youth with Rosedale businesses for an eight-week employment experience. The program was birthed 21 years ago with the start of a yearly grant from the Board of Public Utilities. SYE provides 12 youth ages 14 to 17 with job training and experience working in a real business (and real responsibilities) during the summer.

The program’s recent local business partners include Carroll Seating, Little Angel’s Daycare, Rainbow Menominee Freedom School, Annedore’s Fine Chocolates, Vista Manufacturing, Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care and Dynamic Discs.

During the summer, the youth work approximately 11 hours per week at a business of their choosing. During the “Lunch and Learn,” youth learn new skills from seven guest speakers from the community. These speakers cover various topics such as learning styles assessments, money management, taxes, first impressions, and accessing opportunities, and the interview process.

Businesses interested in partnering with RDA will need to fill out an application explaining the work plan with site supervision. Interested youth will need to complete the application and take part in an interview process. After the interview process, businesses and youth will attend a job fair where both will choose their top three potential employers or placements.

Applications for both businesses and youth participants are available at rosedale.org/summer-youth-employment.

To learn more about SYE, please contact Je T’aime Taylor at 913-677-5097 or email jetaime@rosedale.org.

New AmeriCorps members join RDA’s team

By Je T’aime Taylor

RDA has a legacy involving AmeriCorps members volunteering in Rosedale. AmeriCorps State members provide direct services to the communities that they work in. AmeriCorps is a part of the Kansas Volunteer Commission, and the Corporation for National and Community Service, whose mission is “to support the American culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility.”

We welcome three new AmeriCorps members to the RDA team, Deanna Wardlow, a resident of Rosedale, Nicole Fitzgerald, a new Kansas City resident who has ties with University of Missouri in Kansas City and Metropolitan Community College, and Victor Medina, a student at UMKC. Each of these members bring knowledge in areas of minor home repair, gardening, administration, bike repair, and the passion to work in the Rosedale community.

The new AmeriCorps members will join our current members Kimberly Hunter and Phil “Pip” Rhoades until October where they will focus on programs such as Kids in the Kitchen, Walking School Bus, neighborhood beautification and gardening. Both will also be assisting with community events. You will notice them in the community wearing their trademark AmeriCorps shirts and serving.

We will have a cycle of hiring AmeriCorps members in the fall. Please look for opportunities to be a member at that time.

To learn more about AmeriCorps opportunities at RDA, please contact Je T’aime Taylor at 913-677-5097 or email jetaime@rosedale.org.

Community Calendar

Every Monday
Fisher Park Walking Club
4:30-5:30 p.m.
Health Walk at UMKC

Every Tuesday
RDA Leadership Council
5:30-6:30 p.m.
1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Every Thursday
Fisher Park Walking Club
4:30-5:30 p.m.
Lawnspot on Aging

Saturday, March 18
Rozarks trail walkday
9 a.m.-12 p.m., 3903 Fisher St., KCK

Monday, April 3
Hilltop Neighborhood Meeting
6-7 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Tuesday, April 11
Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association
6:30-7:30 p.m., 4326 Loyd St., KCK

Wednesday, April 12
Shawnee Road Neighborhood Watch
7 p.m., 8118 Shawnee Rd., KCK

Thursday, April 13
Community Workshop
Rain Barrel Retooling
6-7:30 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Friday, April 14
Hilltop Neighborhood Meeting
6-7 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Saturday, April 15
Join (or start!) your neighborhood group this spring

By Eryn Styra

Neighborhood groups in Rosedale have a history of getting things done. In my time with RDA, I’ve seen Rosedale and surrounding groups take on projects from massive litter cleanups, installing signs and benches, and even a water fountain, to crowdfunding sidewalks, having food drives, throwing block parties and family fun days, taking on drug houses, and advocating for development that serves the neighborhood.

Right now in Rosedale there are eight active neighborhood groups and tenant associations, all working on different projects to improve the places where we live, work and play. Neighborhood groups can be a place to bring your hopes for your neighborhood and connect with people (and even funders) who can help make it happen. They can also be a place to meet friends with the people you pass every day, and a place to learn how to best look out for one another.

Some neighborhood groups are looking for new leaders or volunteers, and some areas without an active neighborhood group might be looking for you to start one!

Get involved in a neighborhood group near you! Call Erin at 913-677-5097 or email enright@rosedale.org to find out where the group nearest to you is meeting.

Suggested support levels:

- Keypiece: $100 and above
- Donation of $50
- Other: $25-49

Neighborhood groups will notice them in the community. These speakers are a place to make friends with the people you pass every day, and a place to learn how to support your neighborhood and connect with people (and even funders) who can help make it happen. They can also be a place to meet friends with the people you pass every day, and a place to learn how to best look out for one another.

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RDA Support Form

Name of business or name of household

Address

City

State/ZIP

Phone

Fax

Email

Webpage

LinkedIn

Facebook

Twitter

Volunteer

Potluck

Workshop

Partners

AmeriCorps

Foundation

Other

Email address

Thank you for your interest to support RDA, please contact Erin Styra at 913-677-5097 or email enright@rosedale.org to find out how you can help.

Local businesses and youth participate in a job fair during the SYE program.