New sidewalks coming to two Rosedale schools

by Erin Stryka

Rosedalians will see new sidewalks coming to key locations this summer. Noble Prentis and T.A. Edison Elementary schools were chosen for Phase Two of the Safe Routes to School program, which features federal funding for sidewalks on walking routes to schools.

Consultants from the Unified Government held a public meeting with neighbors at RDA on Tuesday, January 9, to share the initial designs and locations for the planned sidewalks.

Heather Brasil, resident and landlord in the T.A. Edison neighborhood, has been advocating for new sidewalks for years. “There have been many mornings and afternoons where I have seen kids in our neighborhood walk to school through busy, narrow streets and been so nervous,” Brasil shared. “Upon review of the plans, I think they addressed a couple key areas around T.A. Edison to help make things safer for the kids. I also believe the addition of some sidewalks in the neighborhood will help make it more walkable, visually appealing and draw new families into our area. I hope this is an initial phase of neighborhood improvements that will bring more sidewalks and storm water management, balanced with the need to protect the neighborhood’s character and low-key feel.”

Elizabeth Johnston, who lives near Noble Prentis and whose street was chosen for one of the sidewalks, was also pleased. “I’ve been watching the kids walking on the streets for the last 14 years, and it has seemed like an accident waiting to happen,” she said. Of the sidewalks, Johnston said, “I think it’s fantastic. The way it helps me is it helps the kids.” Sharon Potts, principal at Noble Prentis, is looking forward to increased safety for her students. “Parents who live nearby and don’t feel safe for their children to walk to school due to no sidewalks. More students will enjoy coming to school and riding their bikes with sidewalk additions.”

Sidewalks are planned for construction during the summer and fall of 2018.
Executive Director - 

Welcome new Board member Layne Feldman
by Erin Stryka

RDA is excited to welcome six new Board members in 2018. One of the new members is Layne Feldman, resident of the Hanover Heights neighborhoood. Layne, a digital and social media manager at TLC Consulting, is excited to bring his perspective to the Board as one of the 60 percent of Rosedalians who rents his home. “As a resident of Rosedale for the last 11 years, I look forward to serving as a Board member for this wonderful and unique area of Kansas City,” Layne says. Welcome to the RDA Board!

Reactions on AmeriCorps service
by Victor Michimani

An experience at RDA is unlike any other. As an AmeriCorps member, one has the duty to assist and serve in a thriving community. Working at RDA offers the opportunity to make a difference through multiple avenues of community engagement. From volunteering to read at schools for the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., to working at community gardens, RDA touches sectors many organizations do not.

My experience as an AmeriCorps member has been life changing and has offered me a unique perspective on the world and how to make it a better place. I look forward to the future and hope to continue to make a positive impact on the community.

To learn more, contact Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097 or erin@rosedale.org.

Garden with RDA in 2018
by Miranda Coffey

RDA invites neighbors to garden in 2018 and offers a variety of options at four locations throughout the neighborhood, ranging from individual four-by-four foot plots to larger, in-ground, cooperatively grown rows. All skill levels are welcome. Interested Rosedalian should attend the March 8 workshop or stop by the office for a plot rental application. Plots will be leased on a first come, first served basis.

Planned workshops include the following topics: planning your plot for success, organic pesticides, butterfly gardens, cooking with garden produce, herbs and natural remedies, sunset gardening, weeds, and basics of composting. Workshops will be held the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. as the spring growing season approaches, more details about RDA’s 2018 garden workshops will be available online at rosedale.org.

The first workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 8 at 1401 Southwest Blvd. and will introduce the gardening options in Rosedale, explain how to get involved and include an opportunity to apply for a plot.

Rosedale Development Association
Our mission is: To work with residents, business and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community. 1403 Southwest Blvd. Kansas City, KS 66103

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Award ceremony honors athletes after spring 2017 soccer season.

Rosedale.org

Reflections on AmeriCorps service

Amanda Vega tends her garden plot alongside her mother and daughter.

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"Grandpa wanted a parcel of land with a natural spring, so he could build a house over it and use the water." — Evelyn Barnes

Memory Lane: This old house
by Evelyn Barnes

My grandfather, James Henry Taylor, was a bricklayer from England who settled in Kansas. At first, he and his wife, Sarah, lived in Pleasanton, Kansas. He wanted a parcel of land with a natural spring, so he could build a house over it and use the water. He would come by train with his wheelbarrow full of tools. When the train stopped at the station on 7th St. Bridge, what was now torn down, James would take his wheelbarrow and walk to 708 Seminary. After work he returned the same way.

The spring was underground before the washroom, where there was a long table, sink and water pumps, like sometimes seen in parks. There was an outhouse in the backyard. The box gutters all started to the back of the house and came down a pipe. On the drain pipe there was a spout that went to the alley and a trap to stop rain from going to the alley and redirected it into another pipe connected to the cistern. So, the dirty water from the well would drain into the alley while the clean water would go to the cistern. Therefore, the spring water was for drinking and cooking, and the cistern water was for doing laundry.

The ground was on road level and had a hill going down to the alley in the back of the lot. Rocks were used to make a retaining wall and dirt led to the sitting room. Steps went down the side of the house, leading from the front porch to the back. The house was finished in 1888. Grandpa died in 1934 before I was born. My grandparents raised eight children in this home. We came to visit them every holiday and spent a week at a time with Grandma and Aunt Coda during the summer. I spent many happy hours here as a child. We took care of Aunt Coda until she died in 1983, when she willed the house to me.

To share a memory, contact Kimberly Hunter at 913-677-5097 x11 or kimberly@rosedale.org.

AmeriCorps, I have grown as an individual and developed a thriving Rosedale community.

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Publication services provided by TLC Consulting