Community Spotlight: All-Rosedale cleanup
by Kimberly Hunter

This spring, RDA invites Rosedalians and their fans to come together for the first ever all-Rosedale cleanup on Saturday, April 28. Participants may register as individuals or with a neighborhood, school, church, or organizational team. The team with the most volunteers, however, will win a 2018 park clean-up event "Take Pride in Your Park" theme and the event will be free for those arriving by bike, while a $5 donation is requested for cars.

So far, the largest team to register is a group made of three families calling themselves the "Mike Nichols for Judge Cleanup Crew." They have 13 members and counting. But rumor has it Reggie Oddums with the Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association may give them a run for their money. So join the rivalry or just come enjoy some constructive, neighborly fun at an event where friendships will be forged, memories made, and a community cleaned up just in time for spring.

To register, contact Kimberly Hunter at kimberly@rosedale.org or 913-677-5097.

Cyclists gear up for bike month
by Jamal Jarrett

Throughout the month of May, bicycles can be seen riding up and down Rosedale in commemoration of Bike Month. Rosedale Development Association participates in the national celebration of Bike Month each May, with opportunities for the community to fellowship and enjoy bicycle-centered events. Residents can take part in activities such as Rosedale Bike-to-School Day May 9, Bagels on the Boulevard May 15, Frank Rushton Bike Rodeo May 16, and a Bike-In Movie at Boulevard Drive-In Theatre on May 16.

Bagels on the Boulevard will be held at two locations along Southwest Blvd. on Tuesday, May 15 from 6 to 9 a.m. in celebration of Bike to Work Week. Wednesday, May 16 is Frank Rushton Elementary School’s Bike Rodeo with BikeWalkKC. From 3 to 5 p.m., Frank Rushton students will be able to get helmet fittings, learn minor bike repair skills, navigate obstacle courses, and gain bike safety skills.

The Bike-In Movie at Boulevard Drive-In Theatre on Thursday, May 17 will begin at 7 p.m. and last until dusk. This year’s movie will feature Sandlot. Games and activities will be provided for all ages and the event will be free for those arriving by bike, while a $5 donation is requested for cars.

For more information on Bike Month activities, follow RDA on Facebook or contact Alissa Workman at 913-677-5097 or alissa@rosedale.org.

Centennial celebration at Rosedale Arch
by Alissa Workman

On Saturday, April 28, Louisburg Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7348 will host a Loyalty Day Celebration at the Rosedale Arch. Taking place from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., the event includes patriotic music, color guard, guest speakers, and a wreath-laying ceremony.

For additional details, call the RDA office at 913-677-5097.
JE T’AIME TAYLOR
letter,” says Je T’aime Taylor, participant came to RDA to acquire career skills. She signed a mentor, who guides her in a weekly Lunch and Learn. In addition to their skill training and participation of businesses interested in partnering with RDA, she made sure to win. Recently a past SYE participant Jaime Vizcarra teaches his mentor, Deanna Wardlow, the difference between discus.

Summer Youth Employment applications now available
by Nika Cotton
Rosedale Development Association’s Summer Youth Employment (SYE) program matches young people ages 14 to 17 with local businesses for an eight-week summer job. RDA is accepting applications from both youth and businesses interested in participating in the program from April 2 – 23. Individuals can apply at the RDA office, their school, or at rosedale.org.

Youth are required to complete an interview, attend job skills training and participate in a job fair before they begin working. In addition to their time on the job, youth attend a weekly Lunch and Learn session and meet with an assigned mentor, who guides them through their first job experience. Each youth gains valuable work experience and career skills.

“Recently a past SYE participant came to RDA to request a recommendation letter,” says Je T’aime Taylor.

RDA Healthy Kids Program Director. “This youth asked if she could come back and assist with the interviewing process for the 2018 SYE program. She was interested in passing on what she learned to the new group. SYE helps youth develop valuable work history and references for future employment as well as higher education.”

RDA is seeking businesses willing to provide a nurturing environment for youth exploring their career interests for the first time. Businesses may host youth employees for the summer, provide financial support for the program, or join the advisory committee to inform program development. Throughout the summer, RDA staff regularly check in on youth at the work site to offer additional support.

To participate, contact Je T’aime Taylor at 913-677-5097 or jeterminate@rosedale.org.

Youth soccer season kicks off
by Jamal Jarrett
Springtime is finally here, and that means soccer will soon be in full effect! Rosedale teams are now recruiting new players for the 2018 spring soccer season through the Unified Government Parks and Recreation. This is a co-ed league that offers children ages 5 - 13 the opportunities to be active, learn the game of soccer, and most of all have fun without too much pressure to win.

Registration is now open and may be obtained at local schools or the Rosedale Development Association. There is a $15 registration fee for each youth to play and a registration form which needs to be filled out and returned to the Parks and Recreation office at 5033 State Ave Kansas City, KS.

Team practices at Rosedale Park will begin April 7 and be held Thursdays at 6 p.m. The season will officially start with an April 14 game, and all games will be located atLeo Alex Park in Argentine. Players will receive a jersey, an RDA water bottle, and an end-of-season trophy. Guardians will be responsible for supplying cleats and shin guards for the season.

To ask questions, sign up, or volunteer as a coach, contact Jamal Jarrett at jamal@rosedale.org or 913-677-5097.

Memory Lane: Rosedale High School in the 1950s
by Anita Elvins Strub
How I loved spending my teen years at Rosedale High. Some of my happiest memories began with my Maccouchee classmates, adding new faces from surrounding schools who became close friends before I graduated in 1959.

The teachers were very helpful. They taught us about getting along with each other and other skills I still use today, like cooking and sewing. I even made the dress I wore for freshman graduation.

Cheerleading was especially fun. We would practice for hours, then go to Winstead for a smoothie, tapping the glasses with spoons while keeping time to the music. During the colder months, we would try to stay warm by layering and high kicking at cool, crisp fall football games.

We also spent a lot of time planning fundraisers for our Sayonara Senior Prom, and those committee meetings were almost as much fun than the event. We made tissue paper roses from Kleenex for the tables and a “picture opp” area with a Japanese cherry tree garden, complete with a wood-carved bridge art and woodwork students painted with Japanese lettering.

I remember the excitement of making posters and buttons when running for sophomore class president and the embarrassment of forgetting my speech before the entire senior body. After school, I loved going to Alters for a coke or to a movie at the Boulevard Drive-in Theatre with my steady in his pink and black 1966 Ford convertible. But my fondest memories are of hooking up with friends jabbering to and from classes and looking forward to the trip home. We would usually stop at the closest drugstore at 29th and Adams or pool our change to share one order of French fries at the “You All Café” at 41st and Rainbow.

The 50s at Rosedale High were the best of times. I thank my lucky stars I got to spend my high school years at Rosedale — a great, small, friendly school. Our classmates still keep in touch through reunions, funerals, and sometimes lunch with the girls. At Rosedale High, I made lifetime friends.

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

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