Community Spotlight

Business is booming on the Boulevard
by Nicole Fitzgerald

This season, Rosedale welcomes the neighborhood One Star Bikes and Three Bee’s Pottery and Coffee Shop, both of which recently opened along the Southwest Blvd. corridor. The owner of Three Bee’s Pottery and Coffee Shop, Nick Medrano, selected the majestic, vine-covered, two-story building at 925 Southwest Blvd. for a storefront for his pottery shop. Customers can sip coffee, enjoy a pastry or sandwich, and shop shelves full of colorful clay pots and beautifully blown glass.

Many other vibrant businesses call Southwest Blvd. home, too. “Since the Southwest Blvd. Merriam Ln. Corridor Master Plan was adopted, the UG has invested millions of dollars into storm water control, bike lanes, and sidewalks and curbs, in the hopes of attracting new and diverse businesses. RDA hopes to see a healthy mix of light industrial, retail, office, and residential uses growing in this corridor,” says RDA executive director, Erin Stryka. Thus RDA encourages residents to shop local and support Rosedale’s two newest Southwest Blvd. businesses.

Rosedale community gardens welcome changes by Miranda Coffey

UG studies “Cambridge Connector” to improve traffic flow by Erin Stryka

Rosedalians who attended public meetings for the Rosedale Master Plan repeatedly raised the issue of increasing traffic to and from the University of Kansas Health System and Medical Center campus. When the Rosedale Master Plan was adopted, RDA urged the Commission to devote further study to one of the more popular options presented for improving traffic flow in the neighborhood, the Cambridge Connector. With a grant from Mid-America Regional Council’s Planning Sustainable Places Program, the Unified Government is now conducting that study.

The Cambridge Connector Feasibility Analysis examines extending the Cambridge Circle exit on I-35 to Southwest Blvd. In a first round of stakeholder and public meetings in March, consultants presented three concepts aimed at reducing traffic at and near the 7th and Southwest Blvd. intersection by 17-32%.

One concept extends Cambridge so that it meets Southwest Blvd. at grade and then turns into 31st St. Another extends Cambridge over Southwest Blvd., where it turns into 31st St. with the option to turn left onto Roanoke. The third alternative extends Cambridge over Southwest Blvd., a little to the north, where it turns into Roanoke and then connects to 31st. At the next public meeting, planned for June 19 from 4:30-7:30 at the Rosedale Development Association, consultants will refine these concepts and present a preferred alternative, based on neighborhood input from an online survey and the first public meeting. The community will have another chance to weigh in on the preferred alternative before the consultants create their final report.

To develop each concept, consultants considered vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. When the study is completed, the written report will include cost estimates, land use redevelopment opportunities, and an implementation plan to move the project into design and construction.

The open-house style public meeting is planned for Tuesday, June 19, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at RDA. Residents are encouraged to attend and share thoughts on which of these concepts will best serve neighborhood needs.

To learn more, contact Erin Stryka at erin@rosedale.org or 913-677-5097.
Tired trail workers rest after re-routing trail in Fisher Park

Bike, walk, or ride to the eighth annual Bike-In Movie
by Alissa Workman

Welcome new Board member Scott Martens
by Erin Stryka

Community Calendar
Compiled by Kimberly Hunter

Fisher Park Walking Club
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Call for meet-up location

Welcome the new Board member Scott Martens
by Erin Stryka

Peggy Bell has been a resident of Rosedale for 26 years. Her neighbors know her as someone who is always making people laugh. She moved to Kansas City, MO from her hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas at the age of 17, and then into Rosedale at the age of 45.

Peggy vividly remembers when her apartment complex, Rosedale Towers, was being built in 1970 — long before she had any idea she would become a resident there. She remembers thinking at the time that the building seemed “too enormous.” Rosedale Towers is an independent living community which is home to seniors, low-income residents, and people living with disabilities. Residents enjoy social events planned by the tenant association as well as a community garden and healthy living program facilitated by RDA.

Peggy says she’s very happy with where she lives because it is conveniently close to her doctor’s office and she enjoys living in Rosedale more than her previous neighborhoods. Peggy’s neighbors have become her best friends over the last 26 years, though she has seen many residents come and go.

Peggy says she doesn’t know of any place she would rather live than her home at Rosedale Towers. Her advice to people thinking of coming to Rosedale is to make the move because “Rosedale is a better place to live than any other.”

According to Peggy, the neighborhood complex increased. During that time, her building has undergone many changes. Peggy remembers when she first moved into her high-rise apartment complex, all the floors were covered in a bright red carpet, which have since been replaced with linoleum. Her favorite hobbies are art projects in the community room and playing bingo with her best friend, Ms. Dorothy Johnson.

Transportation can be an issue for seniors like Peggy and many other residents of Rosedale Towers. Some have inhibitions about going out alone in the community or being too far from home, and the public transportation system can be intimidating to navigate. As a result, many residents feel connected within the walls of the high-rise. Peggy’s idea of a thriving Rosedale community is one in which all members engage with one another and treat each other well. She wants to live in a place where no one has to struggle alone and where people feel safe and connected.

Let’s be rock solid together!
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