Rooted relationships repair 20 Rosedale residences
by Erin Stryka

Last month 317 dedicated individuals repaired 20 homes for Rosedale seniors and people with disabilities over two high-energy weekends. Their work is part of a partnership between Christmas in October (CIO), the University of Kansas Health System (TUKHS), and Rosedale Development Association that began in 1992.

This year, however, is special. TUKHS is celebrating their 20th year of operating as a hospital authority. Employees are celebrating by participating in the H.E.R.O. (Health System Employees Reaching Out) program in record numbers, including taking on the highest number of home repairs to date.

On October 13 and 20, TUKHS volunteers built wheelchair ramps, cut back vegetation, scraped and painted, fixed leaky plumbing, replaced roofs, replaced broken windows, built fences, patched up steps and driveways, and got to know their Rosedale neighbors.

Christmas in October’s mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income, elderly, disabled and veteran homeowners. CIO provides tools, supplies, dumpsters, and porta-potties and has been a tireless partner to RDA in coordinating this event each year. This year, a generous donation from Polsinelli provided boxed lunches for the volunteers, and Dr. Robert Simari provided a continental breakfast to energize early morning workers.

To qualify for CIO assistance, residents must own only one home (the home in which they live) and lack the financial resources to complete the repair. They must also be at least 62 years of age OR of any age with a physical disability OR be a veteran or have a veteran living in the home.

All Rosedalians deserve housing that is safe, warm, and in good condition. Volunteers and partners like TUKHS and CIO improve quality of life for Rosedale seniors and people with disabilities, and each home they fix up helps improve the beauty, safety, and walkability of our neighborhoods as a whole. Thank you to the University of Kansas Health System and Christmas in October for helping to build a thriving Rosedale community!

To volunteer or learn more, contact Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097 or erin@rosedale.org.
This is Samanthe Burton-Bosket’s second year serving with AmeriCorps. She was born in Philadelphia and moved to Kansas City five years ago. Samanthe received her Master of Science in Organizational Leadership with a minor in Organizational Development from Central Penn College and founded Samanthe Bosket Consulting. She looks forward to serving with RDA this year and learning how to best serve this community.

Robert Gibson proudly hails from Philadelphia, PA. He received his bachelor’s of science in Biology from Rowan University and a Master of Public Health from Rutgers University. He is currently a medical student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. In his spare time, Robert enjoys playing chess, cooking, and playing sports. He is excited to join the AmeriCorps team at RDA, serve the residents of Rosedale and learn more about this unique community.

Many readers may recall fondly their early morning treks to school, others not so much; either way, walking to school is a rite of passage for many students around the world. So every Wednesday morning here in Rosedale, RDA and AmeriCorps join Frank Rushton Elementary students and families aboard the Walking School Bus. For years, Frank Rushton teacher, Faye Hohenorum, and Beverly Bronshoise, who have led the bus route, stop every few blocks to pick up other students along the winding road.

Depending on weather, their Walking School Bus route serves 15-18 students. The pace to Frank Rushton is brisk and the bus route, which gets their circulation flowing. “It’s a good way,” says parent Jason Needham, “to get kids to school on a Wednesday.” Mr. Needham recalls spending several hours per day on a school bus in elementary school, an experience he did not enjoy – which is why he enjoys walking his daughter Jocelyn to school every week. The Walking School Bus aims to provide a safe walking route to school and improve the health of Rosedale’s youth while honoring the tradition of walking to school.

On October 10, RDA celebrated International Walk to School Day, which began in 1997. According to the “Walk to School” website, “Children in all 50 States and from over 40 countries walk or ride bikes to school on the same day...to encourage alternate methods of commuting to and from school, and to implement and raise awareness of healthy habits.”

To learn more about upcoming events and other community happenings, visit rosedale.org or call 913-677-5097.

Rosedale Development Association

Our mission is to work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving community. 1403 Southwest Blvd. Kansas City, KS 66103 Phone 913-577-5997 Fax 913-677-3437 info@rosedale.org Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Erin Stryka Executive Director Kimberly Hunter, Chair Stafford Board of Directors online at rosedale.org Lizzardand Dustin Facebook.com/ RosedaleDevelopment Twitter.com/RosedaleDA Rosedale.org

‘Rosedale roots’ inspired first Black woman to own a male professional sports league

By Robert Gibson

As a youngster growing up in Rosedale, Evelyn Magley knew she was called to “greatness with a purpose.” And when she represented Frank Rushton Elementary School at the Junior Achievement Awards and became J.C. Harmond’s first African-American homecoming queen, it seemed certain. Yet what she could not know then was her greatest achievement by 2018 would involve basketball.

“I always thought music would be my life’s work because that’s where I invested most of my love,” Magley said. “Besides, growing up, the only sport I really cared about (if I met my husband) was football,” she recalls with a laugh.

Her love for music began with the youth choir of Rosedale’s St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church. Evelyn and her sister Alisa went on to sing the constellation until Evelyn enrolled at the University of Kansas, where she graduated with dual degrees in Music Education and Music Therapy in 1980. After graduation, she returned to Rosedale to complete an internship at Rainbow Mental Health, where she used music therapy to counsel abused children. While back at St. Paul, she also developed the Gospel Choir at the church, a non-profit organization focused on physically and psychologically empowering students to achieve their educational goals. While these endeavors steered her towards a music career, Magley knew a commitment to serving and developing others would also be a key part of her life’s work. “Growing up in Rosedale, around a community of people who loved each other, and seeing my parent’s commitment to mentoring young people in our neighborhood, I witnessed and experienced the impact you can have on people’s lives by authentically loving and investing in them,” she said.

Thus even as Magley and her family traveled internationally for her husband’s professional basketball career, she continued supporting community projects and organizations that served people. During her time in Canada as Director of Community Engagement with the Brampton Aces of the National Basketball League (NBL), she founded The Basketball League (TBL) – the male professional basketball league formerly known as the North American Premier Basketball League. “Our Motto, ‘Where the love of the game lives,’ embodies what our league is all about – using basketball as a platform to show love for our communities through the development and investment of our players,” says Magley, who serves as CEO of the league. Currently, the league has 11 teams – including the local Kansas City Knights – and plans to add two or three more by the start of 2019 season, which runs January through April.

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

Let’s be rock solid together! Please accept my donation in support of RDA.

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Please mail or bring this form along with your gift to: Rosedale Development Association, 1403 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103 OR contribute online at rosedale.org/archclub.

On October 13, 2018 RDA worked with BikeWalkKC, Strasser Hardware, Holy Name Church, Omega Door, TMS Mechanical Contractors and Three Bees Coffee and Pottery to offer the community of Rosedale and Southwest Blvd. a Better Block demonstration. Better Block is a community revitalization project and urban design exhibit. The event demonstrates how temporary block improvements, bicycle accessibility, pop-up businesses, local food art, and street life can improve vitality, create connections, and generate a thriving community of commerce and interaction.

Director of Programs at BikeWalkKC, Maggie Green, states, “BikeWalkKC is thrilled to partner with RDA, the United States Greenbuild, and Rosedale businesses to host another traffic calming demonstration in KCK. Traffic calming demonstrations are low-cost, fun, and relatively easy to do. You would be surprised how our streets could look like with better pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. And what better way to launch events like these than with great partners and with the community! Our goal through these events is to show the importance of and make the case for permanent infrastructure improvements.”

Five temporary crossings were put in along Southwest Blvd. between Iowa St., one of which was in front of Strasser Hardware, allowing customers to easily cross over to get to Three Bees Coffee and Pottery. Southwest Blvd.’s two lane road was reduced to a single lane with parking along the road and a protected bike lane.

Overall, Better Block effectively demonstrated that traffic can move more safely on Southwest Blvd. with a few updates. The most exciting thing to observe was cars stopping for community members in the temporary crosswalks.

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

Walk this way: Local scholars practice an international rite of passage

by Jason McGee

A-Team welcomes Rob and Samanthe

by Samanthe Burton-Bosket and Rob Gibson

This is the Samantha Burton-Bosket’s second year serving with AmeriCorps. She was born in Philadelphia and moved to Kansas City five years ago. Samanthe received her Master of Science in Organizational Leadership with a minor in Organizational Development from Central Penn College and founded Samanthe Bosket Consulting. She looks forward to serving with RDA this year and learning how to best serve this community.

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Volunteers and muralists join Frank Rushton staff and scholars for International Walk to School Day.