Southwest Blvd. businesses plan a Better Block Demonstration

by Erin Stykla

On Saturday, October 13 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Rosedale businesses near the intersection of Southwest Blvd. and Iowa St. will work with RDA and BikeWalkKC to plan a demonstration of possible changes to Southwest Blvd. Called a Better Block Demonstration, the project uses materials like tape, chalk, and cones to temporarily change the layout of a street as a way of seeing whether an alternative layout works better for drivers, pedestrians, and bike riders. The demonstration does not propose specific changes but does open a conversation with neighborhood stakeholders and the local government about what changes would be appropriate.

The project began when Nick Mediano, owner of Three Bees Coffee and Pottery, called RDA to talk about ways to improve safety for people crossing Southwest Blvd. on foot for their morning coffee. RDA and BikeWalkKC conducted traffic counts and observations of current conditions at the intersection. Southwest Blvd. widens from three lanes to four just northeast of Iowa St., which causes cars to speed up right in an area where pedestrians are increasingly likely to cross the street. BikeWalkKC designed an alternative layout for the demonstration in partnership with RDA, BikeWalkKC and the Better Block Foundation. They hope to draw attention to how increased car, bike, and pedestrian traffic in this area has resulted from new businesses like Three Bees, the growth of existing businesses, the growth of the neighborhood in general, and previous improvements to Southwest Blvd. As this area continues to thrive, changes may be needed to accommodate increased activity. Stop by Southwest Blvd. and Iowa St. on October 13 for food, fun, and conversation about how Southwest Blvd. continues to thrive. BikeWalkKC and the Rosedale Mural throughout the event.

Costumes are encouraged but not required at Healthy Halloween at KUMC on Saturday, October 27.

Rosedale community invited to Healthy Halloween

by Alissa Workman

Rosedale Development Association’s annual health-oriented Halloween celebration has a new location and some new partners this year! In collaboration with University of Kansas Medical Center, RDA is pleased to invite the community to the 2018 Healthy Halloween celebration on Saturday, October 27 from 2-5 p.m. This year, festivities will take place in and around the Health Education Building located on the KUMC campus on the northeast corner of Rainbow Blvd. and 39th St. Wheelchair and stroller accessible shuttles will be available to and from Whitmore Park and the Rosedale Mural throughout the event.

This year, moving the event to the medical center allows RDA and KUMC to offer community members of all ages health screenings, flu shots, winter weather giveaways, Thanksgiving turkeys and hams, some fun health-oriented workshops, and more. Like previous years, community members will recognize many of the Healthy Halloween traditions they love, including: costumes, Halloween games and activities, face painting, healthy treats, painted pumpkins, and lots of scary fun for youth of all ages. “We are excited to partner with KU Medical Center and our Office of Diversity and Inclusion team,” says RDA Executive Director, Erin Stykla. She continues, “As one of RDA’s signature community event series, our hope is that Healthy Halloween will provide a fun, safe, and healthy holiday celebration for residents while also connecting them to some great new resources this year.”

To help buy coats, hats, and gloves for youth, please call the office to obtain the sizes needed. Anyone is welcome to purchase items or make donations, and RDA will ensure items get to Rosedale families. Individuals, families, and organizations can support this Rosedale tradition by nominating a neighbor in need, donating resources, or volunteering time. Volunteers are especially needed to help assemble baskets on Monday, November 19.

To learn more, contact Je T’aime Taylor at 913-677-5097 or je*taylor@rosedale.org.
Volunteers and community partners help Rosedale gardens thrive

by Kimberly Hunter

Every year, RDA partners with volunteers, residents, and businesses to keep community gardens thriving in four locations throughout Rosedale. At each site, lead volunteers called “Garden Angels” keep vegetables watered, grass mowed, and weeds at bay. At each site, gardeners can get seeds, transplants, and organic fertilizer for a discounted price through Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG). This year, BPU and Green Solutions Tree Service offered wood mulch free of charge while Strasser Hardware generously gave gardeners a gift card to shop for supplies like gloves and hand tools.

At some sites, churches share property and water to help maintain the gardens, and at others businesses share freely from their extra resources. Three host communities compost bins where neighbors can recycle their food scraps. And one even boasts a small Giving Grove fruit orchard.

At the 45th and Rainbow site, residents can lease an individual plot for $15/year, complete with access to a compost bin maintained by Rosedale gardens. At other sites businesses help maintain the gardens, share property and water to refill their barrel. Down and around Southwest Blvd., neighbors can rent an annual plot at the South End Community Garden or help tend cooperatively grown rows. This site also has a coveted Giving Grove orchard, complete with a blackberry Bramble, three pear trees, and two apple trees.

These community garden partners increase not only Rosedale’s access to healthy foods but also their sense of community. Consider volunteering with them or saying hello when they are out working.

To learn more about community gardens, contact Je T’aime at 913-677-5097 or jetame@rosedale.org.

RDA welcomes new AmeriCorps team

by Amanda Henningsen and Jessica McGee

Amanda Henningsen has been a fresh-faced volunteer since her early days in Girl Scouts. Currently, she is establishing her career as a ghostwriter/editor and yoga instructor. She loves dancing, yoga, laughing, and giving and is excited to be part of the team. Some of Jason McGee’s earliest and best childhood memories revolve around history he found in the pages of books, movies, historical documentaries, and the reunions of KCCG and volunteers who helped Rosedale gardens thrive seriously gave gardeners a gift that they’ve been able to use to help their community gardens. And at one site, the volunteers have taken it upon themselves to build a new five-foot sidewalk inside and out. Farassati will include extensive renovations and other community happenings, visit rosedale.org or call 913-677-5097.

New daycare coming to Rosedale

by Erin Stryka

The Wyandotte County Planning Commission has approved an application for a new daycare center at 2065 West 39th Ave. Fran Farassati, a former employee of the University of Kansas Health Systems, was inspired to open a daycare center by his own past struggles to find childcare for his family when he worked in Rosedale.

According to state guidelines, the center will have capacity for up to 85 kids ages 2-5. It will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Farassati expects to hire 10 staff members. He also hopes to build a high-quality daycare with well-trained staff, a strong academic curriculum, and beautiful classrooms that use Norwegian design principles to represent nature and encourage a peaceful environment. It will be called The Outchool Academy.

Farassati looked for a location in Rosedale that would be convenient for not only KU employees but also Rosedale families and chose an existing site previously occupied by Bushfield Family Childcare.

For an application, contact Je T’aime at 913-677-5097 or jetame@rosedale.org.

Community Calendar

RECURRING EVENTS: Monday at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at 1 p.m.
Fisher Park Walking Club Call for meet-up location Saturday 8-9 a.m.
Community Work Days Call for meet-up location

ONE-TIME EVENTS:

Better Block Demonstration Saturday, October 13
JoAnn Keir’s 90th Birthday Friday, October 12
October 9-17

Community Potluck Workshop #8: Saturday, November 3
Healthy Halloween 2-5 p.m., KU’s Health Education Building 39th and Rainbow, KCK Saturday, November 3
Fisher Park Community Build & Chili Celebration 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 3880 Fisher St., KCK

For more information 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 Rosedale community. To learn more about our development work in Rosedale, contact Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097 or erin@rosedale.org.

Rosedale Development Association

Let’s be rock solid together!

Please accept my donation in support of RDA.

Name of business or name of household

Address

City/State/ZIP code

Contact person

Preferred phone

Email address

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.

Rosedale Arch Club

Year after year, Jim Needham has been a dependable Feed-a-Family volunteer. For several years, starting in 2012 or 2013, I have helped fill food baskets for fixed-income families in Wyandotte County. This activity usually happens a few days before Thanksgiving and takes place in the space next door to the east end of the RDA office, at 1401 Southwest Blvd., otherwise known as the Koch Community Center. My role was to fill boxes with donated food items. Sometimes items were donated by churches. Other times individuals and families dropped off grocery bags full of goods. And yet more people donated money online or at the office, which could then be used to purchase the rest of what was needed to complete the holiday baskets.

After the donations were collected, each volunteer in my role was given a list of food to put into each basket that a family would use to cook up a great Thanksgiving feast. For example, two cans of green beans, one can of yams, one or two cans of corn, and a frozen turkey or chicken would go in each basket. As a family came through the door, they would receive one box of food for their holiday dinner, as well as enough food for a few additional meals. Some families would also receive coats and hats for the winter.

This is a very good effort on behalf of RDA to help families in need in the Rosedale area. I am glad that I was able to help out, and I plan to help with future food drives and other RDA activities. Helping RDA with community programs has given me an opportunity to get out there, to meet new people, and to have a good feeling within myself that I am doing something good for my neighbors.

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

Memory Lane: The annual RDA Thanksgiving food drive by Jim Needham