Leadership journal names RDA one of the best neighborhoods in Kansas

by Kimberly Hunter

In August, The Journal rated Rosedale one of the four best neighborhoods in Kansas. Judges appointed by the Kansas Leadership Center voted on seven factors: the community’s story, uniqueness, interaction, attractiveness, comfort, mobility, and leadership. In Rosedale, the community’s strength lies not only in economic but also ethnic and institutional diversity. Kansas City, Kansas is the only city in the Metro without a racial majority, and District 505 is the second most linguistically diverse school district in the nation. This forms a firm foundation for strategic partnerships between multicultural organizations, which makes Rosedale and Wyandotte County a dynamic place to live, work, and raise a family.

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In Rosedale, neighbors, churches, schools, and businesses regularly communicate what they need and ask how they can help. Lending a hand is a way of life here that bridges many backgrounds. On one block, some neighbors are first generation immigrant families from El Salvador, while others are third generation Rosedalians, former Black Panthers, university students, construction workers, and high school teachers. Like its residents, Rosedale’s institutions range from rooted to recently arrived, too. KU Med and Strasser Hardware have served this community for over a century, but new and innovative businesses open here every year. From labor industry to auto repair, coffee shops, and clinics like Kansas City Direct Primary Care and Southwest Blvd. Family Health Care, they meet a broad range of community needs.

Volunteers needed for Fisher Park Playground community build day in October

by Alissa Workman

Earlier this year, RDA, Mission Hills Homeowners Association, and the Unified Government Parks and Recreation raised funds and in-kind support from several organizations to rebuild the playground at Fisher Park. These include Wyandotte County Parks Foundation, Neighborhoods Rising Fund, Meet Me at the Park, and the Parks Department. Residents voted for a model that is fun, offers diverse activity options, and is inclusive of park users with different ages and abilities.

This project follows several other recent community-led initiatives in Fisher Park, including a Giving Grove orchard, rainwater gardens, Rozarks Nature Trail I-67 head, and a water fountain. Volunteers are needed for a community build day this October. Especially needed are five-to-ten people familiar with tools and able to lift over 60 pounds to assemble the equipment, as well as Rosedalians of any skill level to prepare the playground surface and help spruce up the park. Follow RDA on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram for as-it-happens updates.

To learn more, contact Alissa at 913-677-5097 or alissa@rosedale.org.

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

Tanner’s Bar and Grill brings karaoke and good times to Rosedale

by Erin Stryka

Since opening their newest location in Atchison, Kansas, with a vision to run a friendly bar and grill with great food and a relaxed atmosphere, Tanner’s has brought new energy, good food, cold drinks, and now karaoke to the community.

“With KU Med across the street, we wanted to serve the neighborhood and offer something a little unique.” Now Tanner’s is home to karaoke on Friday nights at nine, where patrons can choose from thousands of songs. Couey emphasizes you don’t have to be good. “This isn’t ‘Tanner’s Got Talent.’ This is ‘Tanner’s Has Fun,’” he says, laughing. They offer daily specials, like Taco Tuesdays with $0.99 hand-shelled tacos and Booga Chicken Lips (hand-breaded chicken tenders), Boogas.

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To learn more, contact Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097 or erin@rosedale.org.
Now recruiting new board members for RDA’s 40th year
by Erin Stryka

RDA relies on the leadership of skilled and passionate individuals to build the most effective organization possible. We are now accepting applications to join the 2019 Board of Directors, who will lead us into RDA’s 40th year.

All board members must live or work in Rosedale, possess a deep commitment to the community, and be able to attend meetings and participate in committee work.

Preparing the next generation for the workforce

by Je’ianne Taylor

RDA bids farewell and good luck to Miranda “Friend” Coffey

Each year, RDA recruits new members for its AmeriCorps Kansas Service Team. When Miranda Coffey joined last fall, she introduced herself as being from the small town of Friend, Nebraska. And during her service term, she acted as friend to many Rosedaleans, including scholars, gardeners, and community elders.

“Miranda’s most unique contribution to our RDA team was her go-get-it personality,” says Je’ianne Taylor, RDA’s Healthy Kids Program Director. Indeed, within her first few weeks here, Miranda literally jumped up to assist residents however she could. “She’s a dare devil!” says her AmeriCorps alumni, Janai Jarrett, recalling the time Miranda jumped up on a roof to clean out some gutters for a senior. When he expressed concern, Miranda shrugged and replied, “Yes, I’m up here now; it’s okay!”

Though she assisted with many programs over the year, Miranda says the highlight was partnering with Harvestors to teach kids in the Kitchen and Project Strength, two cooking and nutrition curricula for youth and adults, respectively. “These two programs have helped me to unlock my passion for cooking and sharing my love for food with others,” says Miranda. “It is my goal to teach others how to use wellness to increase quality of life by educating about food choices.” After leaving RDA, Miranda plans to obtain a Community Health Worker certificate from Metropolitan Community College and continue supporting healthy living in the Kansas City area. RDA thanks Miranda for her service and will miss her joyful spirit but wishes her success in her next steps.

Let’s be rock solid together!

The draft concept for first two panels are drawn by Abbygail Bennett.

The place-making magic of the Mission Rd. mural
by Lydia Knopp

The Mission Rd. area near 47th St. was my adolescent stomping grounds. My whole life, I’ve been walking between my mom’s house on Fisher St. and my dad’s on S. 7th St. I’ll never forget finding a $100 bill in the old IGA parking-lot, which is Walmart today. I remember walking past Taco Republic and LuLu’s where those bustling restaurants were mechanic shops. And though the line is still consistently out the door, I won’t forget when “Joe’s KC” was called “Oklahoma Joe’s.”

My favorite memory is Walmart today. I remember finding a $100 bill in the old IGA parking-lot, which is Walmart today. I remember walking past Taco Republic and LuLu’s where those bustling restaurants were mechanic shops. And though the line is still consistently out the door, I won’t forget when “Joe’s KC” was called “Oklahoma Joe’s.” These memories are a testament to how much I have seen our community grow and thrive.

During high school years, I would drive to Summer Academy and paint murals. At the intersection of 42nd Ave. and Mission Rd. So when I landed in a small, all-women’s art college in Philadelphia, I believed it was destiny that this city is also the mural capital of the world. My world, always rooted in Rosedale, expanded to explore the infinite possibilities public space has on public voice, especially voices often unheard. This exploration took me to the Social and Public Art Resource Center in Venice, CA, where I helped clean the longest mural in the world while learning how public space can tell stories of community pride. But during my travels, people always reminded me, “There’s no place like home.”

So in 2014, high school friend and talented artist, Abigail Bennett, and I made a pact to one day bring our creativity, into our community. Years later, we both held full-time positions in creative fields. When Abby got married and bought a cute bistro in Rosedale, I began thinking about the legacy of the 42nd St. Mural project, who those original artists were, and how they had first put paint to those walls so long ago. With that, I set out to bring magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also magic murals carry, they also