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THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Good Neighbor

All-Rosedale cleanup crew captain, Reggie Oddums

by Kimberly Hunter

This year The *Rosedalian's* back panel will feature a new, "Good Neighbor" column to highlight residents who are giving back to their community in a volunteer capacity. The title is inspired by the Good Neighbor Training that Livable Neighborhoods holds along with a light dinner on the fourth Monday of each month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Resource Center at 4953 State Ave.

This month's column honors the local leaders who organized their families, neighbors, and schools into teams to help with last year's All-Rosedale Cleanup. The largest overall team had three families for a total of 13 members and called themselves the "Mike Nichols for Judge

Estimated number of volunteer hours served in 2019:

179

Estimated number of volunteer hours served in 2018:

4,010

Cleanup Crew". Eisenhower Middle School students also brought a big team. But with almost ten members, Reggie Oddums of the Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association organized the largest Rosedale-based team; not only did his team help clean up debris, Reggie also volunteered his truck to speed up the process and afterwards helped with the cookout.

Now RDA is inviting Rosedalians and their fans to save the date for 2019's All-Rosedale Cleanup on Saturday morning, April 13. Like last year, participants may register as individuals or with a neighborhood, school, church, or organizational team. The team with the most volunteers will win a park party at the Rosedale park of their choosing. Participants should meet at Fisher Park at 8 a.m. for orientation. Gloves, water, and trash bags will be provided before teams split up to focus on different parts of the neighborhood. After-



Eisenhower Middle School students helped with last year's All-Rosedale Cleanup.

wards, everyone is invited to reconvene at 12 p.m. in Fisher Park for music and a celebratory cookout. Spread the word and help get the community cleaned up just in time for spring!

Be like Reggie and help

RDA recruit more volunteers in 2019 than last year.

↑ To volunteer, nominate a neighbor, or recommend a cleanup project, contact Kimberly at 913-677-5097 or kimberly@rosedale.org.

Seeking event sponsors for high-flying community disc golf tournament

by Alissa Workman

In May, disc golfers from around the metro will gather at Rosedale Park for some friendly competition to support Rosedale Development Association. In partnership with Dynamic Discs and TMS, Inc., RDA will host the third annual Rosedale Disc de Triomphe, a family-friendly disc golf tournament that provides an exciting opportunity for those new to the sport, for professionals, and for everyone in between.

Rosedale businesses are invited to join in on the fun by becoming event sponsors, putting their name and logo in front of nearly 150 players and volunteers from around the metro area as a business that supports the growth of the Rosedale community.

With sponsorship, businesses receive a number of benefits, including logo or business name on all marketing materials and event signage, the opportunity to send team(s) to the event, and inclusion on RDA social media and website. If preferred, businesses can also customize a sponsorship package that best suits their needs. RDA also seeks donations of gift cards and goods to give to players as prizes, preferably in pairs of two.

In 2018, 24 regional businesses sponsored the event and an additional 25 provided items for prizes. Proceeds from the 2018 event allowed RDA to provide minor (and some major!) home repair for Rosedale elders, disabled individuals, and veterans;

to serve as a neighborhood resource center; to engage over 600 volunteers in community cleanups, youth programs, and home repair; and much more.

Proceeds from the 2019 tournament will support RDA's audacious annual goals in Rosedale, including expanded programming, business development that suits the needs of all Rosedalians, and continued advocacy for a Rosedale community center and/or permanent food retail location.

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



ELIZABETH TILDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Rosedale businesses, such as Omega Door, see the Rosedale Disc de Triomphe as an opportunity to show their support for RDA's mission and give employees the chance to participate in the fun community-oriented tournament.

Ways to connect in 2019

by Kimberly Hunter

This year, RDA is offering several ways to connect with neighborhood happenings, so residents can choose the one that best serves their needs and get involved. These include phone, electronic, postal, and in-person communications.

As one of the Unified Government's Neighborhood Business and Revitalization Organizations, RDA uses the Livable Neighborhoods phone-tree system to inform residents of neighborhood news and invite them to local events. Any resident may join the RDA phone tree by submitting a

request to the RDA office. Residents who prefer electronic communication may choose from several options. First, they may use an email address to subscribe to RDA's bi-monthly e-newsletter, sent via Mailchimp. Or they can follow RDA events and announcements on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by searching "RosedaleDA." Lastly, residents may simply scroll to the bottom of www.rosedale.org and view a calendar of upcoming events.

If residents wish to connect in-person and help get others involved, they may

join the Rosedale Leadership Council, a neighborhood group, and/or serve as a liaison to smaller local groups like schools, churches, businesses, and cultural centers.

Finally, residents may also connect through The Rosedalian, the monthly neighborhood newsletter mailed to residents.

To submit an event to the "Community Calendar" or a story to "Memory Lane," simply contact the editor.

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



Rosedale resident Karen Hostetler reads to Frank Rushton students.

RISE volunteers inspire students toward creative solutions

by Samantha Burton-Bosket

Each year to celebrate MLK's birthday, Reading Inspirational Stories to Empower (RISE) helps Rosedale youth become change agents. This January RDA focused on inspirational youth from past and present and the importance of speaking up for what one believes is right, even if it is an unpopular opinion. On January 15, volunteer readers gathered with a group of RDA personnel and watched a video about the 1963 Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama. The march focused on the Civil Rights Movement and how youth stood against segregation and changed America.

After the video, participants discussed the books they would read the following week in Rosedale schools. Each book highlighted kids using their voices to speak up against things they saw as being unjust in their communities. For example, in "I Am Malala," a girl speaks up for more freedom for women in her country. And "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom" involves youth marching in 1965

Selma, Alabama for African-Americans' right to vote.

Finally, RDA introduced a new, optional advocacy component to RISE this year. To ensure each youth understood their voice mattered, after each reading, volunteers invited

scholars to write a postcard to an elected government official about a concern or a change they want to see in their community. One elementary student wrote to

Kansas House Representative Louis Ruiz, saying, "Similar to a recent law proposal of higher income homes paying higher taxes, I suggest something along the lines of richer schools will pay small amounts of money monthly or yearly to smaller, poorer schools, so they can afford equipment and better lunches for the students who attend." RISE helped many scholars brainstorm similarly creative solutions to today's complex problems.

📌 To learn more about RISE, contact Je T'aime at 913-677-5097 or jetaime@rosedale.org.



RDA Board welcomes Rachel Russell

by Erin Stryka

RDA is excited to welcome Rachel Russell to its Board in 2019! Rachel is a case manager with YouthBuild KCK. She is a longtime member of the Frank Rushton PTA and president of the KCK Council PTA and has also served as the VP of Member Services for the Kansas PTA. When invited to join the board, Rachel said, "I am looking forward to joining RDA's board as a way to continue my education of the diverse opportunities non-profit has to offer professionally as well as contribute to my community more personally." Welcome, Rachel!



📌 For an application, contact Erin at 913-677-5097 or erin@rosedale.org.

The Rosedale guide to winter wellness

by Nicole Fitzgerald

Whether one enjoys relaxing yoga or hitting it hard, Rosedale has great 2019 options for winter wellness. Exercising in a group can be motivating and helpful for meeting new people. Below are three neighborhood locations with fitness classes for all levels.

- Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness at 300 Southwest Blvd. offers an array of group classes and welcomes people of all ages and fitness abilities.
- For those 60 or above, the Landon Center on Aging at 3599 Rainbow Blvd. also boasts numerous group options. Deanna Wardlow says, "I am thankful we have free classes right here in Rose-

dale, led by certified health professionals in a relaxing setting with soothing music. No special shoes, clothing, or yoga mat needed."

- CrossFit Matters at 735 Southwest Blvd. is an affordable option. It has a free introductory class Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. The instructor guides participants through the structure of a day-to-day CrossFit class.

Visit one of these three locations, and kick off 2019 right by joining a group fitness class in Rosedale to stay warm and well this winter!

📌 To learn more, contact Nicole at 913-677-5097 or nicole@rosedale.org.



Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness brings their "All about the Glutes" class to seniors at Rosedale Towers.

Community Calendar

(assembled by Kimberly Hunter)

RECURRING EVENTS:

Every other Monday

Mobile Library

10-11 a.m., Rainbow Head Start
1444 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Every other Tuesday

Mobile Library

2:30-4:30 p.m., Rosedale Towers
2314 W 39th Ave., KCK

Every other Wednesday

Mobile Library

2:30-4:30 p.m., Bellrose Manor
2924 W 40th Ter., KCK

First Mondays

Hilltop Neighborhood meeting

6 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Fourth Mondays

Good Neighbor Training

5:30-7:30 p.m., 4953 State Ave., KCK

Second Tuesdays

Frank Rushton Neighborhood meeting

6:30 p.m., 4326 Lloyd St., KCK

Second Wednesdays

Shawnee Road Neighborhood meeting

7 p.m., 818 Shawnee Rd., KCK

Third Wednesdays

Rosedale Leadership Council

5:30 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

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



Our mission is to work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.

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Memory Lane: My love affair with all things Rosedale

by Elizabeth Johnston

In 2003, my universe altered after moving from Boulder, Colorado to planet Rosedale. It was a shock, quite honestly, but I came to realize it was the best move I ever made. Lonely and isolated, my friend Kelly Jander encouraged me to reach out to Wendy Wilson, executive director of RDA. I hoped to find an opportunity to meet new people and get involved in my neighborhood.

When this powerhouse of a woman walked in to greet me, she looked me up and down and said, "What an image!" Wendy too was an artist and, apparently, she liked my "Western/hippy/artist look." I instantly fell in love with RDA and its delightful leader. Volunteering was in my DNA — I donated my design skills helping women's health causes, women in politics, families in need, and several other nonprofits in Colorado.

From the moment I found RDA I knew what needed to be done. I started by designing RDA's logo, then tackled the newsletter — its main communication tool. I became aware of the good things happening in Rosedale thanks to RDA. From policies and planning to business support to programs and advocating for the community, RDA was making a huge impact on our southeast cor-



Elizabeth tackles weeds wearing her insect-proof "hazmat" suit. When not gardening, Elizabeth owns and operates the design studio Lizzardbrand.

ner of Wyandotte County.

One-hundred and seventy-nine *Rosedalians* later, I still love designing each one, hoping to make a small difference in my community. Over the years, my neck of the woods has grown from blighted homes and chained up dogs into a diverse neighborhood of proud homeowners, neighbors talking and helping each other, and gardens sprouting everywhere. By working together, our community has become much stronger. (And the dogs are much happier too.)

Through selfless volunteers, community engagement, compassionate Ameri-

Corp members, and RDA's dedicated staff, Rosedale is a much better place. I have had the pleasure of working with three visionary executive directors during my tenure with RDA: Wendy Wilson, Heidi Holliday, and now Erin Stryka. Their leadership has inspired their staff, the community, businesses, partners, and friends to prioritize the health and well-being of Rosedale now and in the future. Do I miss Boulder? Not really. Rosedale is my home.

📌 To share a memory, contact Kimberly Hunter at 913-677-5097.

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.

