Good Neighbor

Garden Angel Bob McCartney
by Nicole Fitzgerald

Bob McCartney can be seen (or unseen) doing acts of kindness for the Rosedale community and its members. He was nominated as a good neighbor for his generosity towards Rosedaleians and for the selfless work he extends towards the South Early St. community garden. Bob and his family have been living in Rosedale for 30 years. They like the Rosedale area because it’s close to metro attractions yet still has a quietness about it that he and his family value. Bob has been gardening at the South Early St. site for three growing seasons now. Last year, when the community garden became overrun, Bob repeatedly walked his lawn mower down to the garden and mowed the wild, unruly grass. When I asked him why he took time out of his day to mow the grass, he nonchalantly replied, “I saw the need and took care of it.” After this simple yet profound answer, I went on to ask Bob what he likes most about the garden. “I look forward to the work days. I enjoy getting to know the community and meeting new people,” he replied.

Once a month the gardeners get together for a workday to prune, pick, and beautify the lush garden beds that dot the earth. I asked Bob about his lush garden beds that dot the earth. I asked Bob about his favorite thing to grow and eat from the garden. A wide smile broke out across his face as he told me, “I enjoy the pears, but I love the blackberries . . . if you can get them.” Between the birds and other gardeners, blackberries are quick to go when they’re in season. When I asked Bob if he’d be returning to garden at South Early St., he enthusiastically told me he would definitely be gardening again this summer.

As we wrapped up our conversation, I asked him what being a good neighbor meant to him. He said, simply put, good neighbors watch out for one another, and “our neighborhoods would flourish if people take an interest in them.” Bob and many other Rosedaleians have taken an interest in the betterment and beautification of Rosedale. Thanks to the countless hours of work and generosity from other good neighbors and garden angels like Bob, Rosedale continues to flourish. Be like Bob and help RDA recruit more volunteers in 2019 than last year.

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

Employment opportunities are blooming at RDA
by Rob Gibson

As winter ends and spring begins, new employment opportunities are blooming at Rosedale Development Association. The Summer Youth Employment (SYE) program, funded yearly by a Board of Public Utilities grant, gives youth ages 14-17 an opportunity to work seasonally at businesses in and around Rosedale. Local partners represent a range of business sectors, including HVAC, education, healthcare, animal care, automotive care, and culinary arts.

Successful applicants work a minimum of 12 hours a week Monday through Friday and attend required professional development sessions, including a weekly speaker series each Friday entitled “Lunch and Learn.” Students begin their job placements at the beginning of June, continue for eight weeks, and end in July. For many youth, SYE is their first job, so this program provides them an opportunity to gain the job skills, and training experience essential for entering the workforce. Students who reside within the 66103 zip code and are interested in the SYE program may obtain applications at the RDA office or in their school’s office.

AmeriCorps Kansas offers yet another Rosedale community service job opportunity. Successful AmeriCorps applicants serve in one of two capacities: half-time September through August focusing on gardening, kids cooking classes, neighborhood beautification, and youth sports or short-term seasonal serving approximately 40 hours per week June through July. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have some college or verifiable work history, be a U.S. citizen or national or permanent resident of the United States, and demonstrate a commitment to community service.

To apply for the AmeriCorps positions, visit nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps.

To learn more, contact Je T’aime at 913-677-5097 or jetaime@rosedale.org.

Celebrate National Volunteer Week with the All-Rosedale Cleanup
by Kimberly Hunter

This spring, RDA invites Rosedaleians and their fans to the second annual All-Rosedale Cleanup on Saturday, April 13. Participants may register as individuals or with a neighborhood, school, church, or organizational team. The team with the most volunteers, however, will win a 2019 park party at a Rosedale park of their choosing. Participants should meet at Fisher Park at 8 a.m. for orientation. There: will receive gloves, water, snacks, trash bags and assignments for different projects around the neighborhood.

Afterwards, everyone is invited to reconvene at 12 p.m. in Fisher Park for music and a celebratory cookout. So far, the largest team to register is the University of Kansas Health Systems’ Otolaryngology Department. But rumor has it Reggie Odums with the Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association will be back again this year along with local youth and business leaders. So celebrate the end of National Volunteer Week by joining the rivalry or simply enjoying some constructive, neighborly fun at an event where friendships will be forged, memories made, and a community cleaned up just in time for spring.

To volunteer or register for a cleanup project, contact Kimberly Hunter at kimberly@rosedale.org or 913-677-5097.

All-Rosedale Cleanup volunteers ranged from youth to elders, educators, and business leaders.

To learn more, visit rosedale.org/40th.
Get outside in May with RDA
by Alissa Workman

Rosedalians are invited to join their neighbors outdoors at two RDA events this May: the Rosedale Disc de Triomphe at Rosedale Park on Saturday, May 4 and the Bike-In Movie at the Boulevard Drive-In Theatre on Thursday, May 16.

The Rosedale Disc de Triomphe is a disc golf tournament for all ages and skill levels. In teams of two, players compete in a friendly environment. Rosedale and area businesses have not only pledged support as event sponsors but have also donated dozens of prizes so players at all levels have an opportunity to win.

Registered players receive a tournament T-shirt, discs, breakfast, lunch, and lots of great swag. Players, teams, and interested sponsors can register by visiting rosedale.org/disgolf.

Those not interested in playing can still participate in the fun as event volunteers. By assisting with set-up, registration, food preparation, and more, volunteers contribute to the success of the event while engaging fellow community members.

Later in May, the Ninth Annual Bike-In Movie is a great way to meet neighbors and kick off the summer season. This family-friendly event includes games, activities, information booths from local organizations, he nest giveaways for those in need, and the nostalgic PG-film, The Pagemaster, beginning at dark. Individuals and families can join by bike (free) or car ($5 donation to RDA). Come out and get to know your neighbors while enjoying some favorite Rosedale sports this May!

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

RDA welcomes Joshua Ellermann
by Kimberly Hunter

RDA is excited to welcome Joshua Ellermann to the team this year. A KCOM native, before graduating from Truman State University with degrees in sustainable development and economics and a minor in Spanish, he spent a summer in Boaco, Nicaragua teaching health, nutrition, and art to primary and middle school students. After returning to Kansas City, Josh served as an AmeriCorps volunteer with RDA’s partner, Kansas City Community Gardens. Now at RDA, Josh works as the program coordinator. Look for him at Rosedale Middle School teaching scholars jobs skills and financial literacy via Rosedale Future Professionals or find him prepping a curriculum and recruiting staff for the Rosedale Development Association.

Josh is the program coordinator for Rosedale Future Professionals and Rainbow Summer Program.

Rainbow Summer Program. Welcome, Josh!

To learn more, contact him at 913-677-5097 or josh@rosedale.org.

Spring into action with RDA
by Rob Gibson

This spring, residents who seek fun and effective ways to keep active this “new year,” a healthier you!” resolutions need look no further than the following volunteer opportunities. RDA is now recruiting youth sports coaches, nature lovers, and those with green thumbs. Those passionate about sports and working with youth might consider volunteering as a coach for a spring soccer or machine pitch ball team. The time commitment is two to four hours per week, which includes attending one practice and game each week. There are also yearlong opportunities to coach volleyball, soccer, and basketball for both athletic types and those interested in youth mentoring.

Nature lovers might consider supporting the Razzors, a 4.5-mile trail in the middle of Rosedale. RDA has scheduled workdays lasting up to 3 hours that include activities such as litter removal, invasive species extraction, and re-routing trails. The next Razzors trail workdays are April 13 and June 1 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lastly, for those with the proverbial “green thumb,” RDA offers the perfect opportunity to stay active through one of four community gardens. Residents may rent a raised bed for $16 a year, plant seeds, and harvest seasonal produce. Apply for a plot at the RDA office before the June 1 deadline.

To learn more, contact J’Aime Taylor at 913-677-5097 or jetaime@rosedale.org.

Community Calendar
assembled by Kimberly Hunter

ONE-TIME EVENTS:
Saturday, May 7
All-Rosedale Cleanup
8 a.m.-1 p.m., Fisher Park, KCK
Saturday, May 28
Rosedale Disc de Triomphe
Rosedale Park, KCK
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 38th Ave., KCK
Every other Wednesday
Mobile Library
2:30-4:30 p.m., Belle Rose Manor
2924 W 40th Ter., KCK
First Mondays
Hilltop Neighborhood meeting
6 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK
Second Thursdays
Frank Rusthon Neighborhood meeting
6:30 p.m., 4326 Lloyd St., KCK
Second Wednesdays
Shawnee Neighborhood meeting
7 p.m., 815 Shamer 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.

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

1403 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, KS 66103
Phone: 913-677-5097
Fax: 913-677-3447
Email: info@rosedale.org
Hours: Monday- Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Erin Styrka Executive Director
Kimberly Hunter Coordinator
Staff and Board of Directors
online at rosedale.org
Lizanne and Design:
Facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment
Twitter.com/RosedaleDA
Rosedale.org

In 2012, 21 homes on Francis St. got their curbs, sidewalks, and driveway aprons repaired. It took a long time to get a bill and figure out the neighborhood’s portion, but the final price for the work was reasonable for each home. After what felt like a million meetings, emails, phone calls, and spreadsheets, we reaped a huge, long-term benefit and inspired other parts of the neighborhood to do the same thing. In 2013, 13 homes along State Line Rd. got their sidewalks fixed too. But 2014 had the most impact when Commissioner Ann Murguia dedicated CNI funds (Community Neighborhood Infrastructure Program) so that approximately another one-third of Spring Valley could have their sidewalks and curbs fixed too.

These successes resulted from a lot of hard work and collaboration. We were all very proud of the final results. I am still grateful to Commissioner Murguia for her tireless work in helping us meet our goals, and for the UG for its willingness to let us use their program creatively to make a greater impact. To see our full story, visit springvalleykck.org/ sidewalk-restoration.

Spring Valley’s creative campaign for safe sidewalks
by Clare Murphy Shaw

When I purchased my first home on the 4400 block of Francis St. in 2007, the sidewalks were a mess — tree roots pulling up large sections, cracks, crumbling curbs. Kids couldn’t safely ride trikes, and elderly neighbors couldn’t navigate the uneven surfaces.

Then, at a Spring Valley Neighborhood Association (SVNA) meeting in 2011, County Commissioner Ann Murguia shared her passion for sidewalks improvement. She explained the Unified Government’s (UG) sidewalks repair program, through which they would pay for half the repairs and the homeowner the other half.

I realized if the SVNA worked together with the UG, we could address the problem.

If adjacent neighbors collaborated, we could not only save money but also repair a continuous span of sidewalk rather than scattered sections.

After lengthy discussions, everyone on the block agreed to participate even though I couldn’t give the exact price each resident would be responsible to pay. It was too much to ask them to collaborate.

I drafted up a “contract” for each neighbor to sign.

Regardless of what worked each house got, we would all pay the same price because we would all be able to enjoy the use of a long stretch of new sidewalk.

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

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

Name of business or name of household

City/State/ZIP code
Address
Email
Contact person
Preferred phone

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

The sidewalk repair program is possible for residential streets as well as busy thoroughfares.

Community volunteers, like Rebecca Garza and Sally Spaniol, help ensure a smoothly-run tournament and contribute to the overall success of Boulevard Drive-In Theatre.

Urban Rangers youth volunteer at a Rosedale Trail cleanup.

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

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