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# Rosedale Developments

A monthly publication of the Rosedale Development Association

October 1994

## **Blitz to Have Lasting Effect**

As many of you know, during the week of September 12-17 RDA and the City Inspections Division conducted a joint code enforcement blitz of the target area bounded by 39th, Rainbow, 44th Ave, and Mission Rd. This was a pilot project for the Liveable Neighborhoods Taskforce. The goal of this program was: (1) to make an immediate positive impact on the property conditions in a neighborhood, (2) to develop long term community involvement and programs to address property and crime issues, and (3) to build trust and communications between the community and the City.

Area residents, City staff, Wy. Co. Regional Prevention Ct. staff, Cal & Sharon Cormack and the South Patrol of the KCK Police Dept. all worked together for several months prior to the blitz. We planned the info. packet that was sent to each property owner and resident, held meetings to develop understanding of the project by area residents, set up a hot line in a resident's home, lined up volunteers who rode with the inspectors, assisted with a clean up on the 17th, helped with minor repairs for elderly or handicapped homeowners, and are completing the follow up inspections.

So far RDA considers this project a success. It has brought people in the community together to help each other. It has fostered better understanding between residents and the city codes dept. It has helped us to identify some of those individuals who need

help but have not asked for it, like the 98 year old woman who has occupied the same house since 1906 and was cited for weeds in her yard. We had approx. 20 people who really needed help and only called the hotline because of the codes blitz. We are still in the process of aiding these people (and will be for some time).

Thanks to all the people who worked to make this a success. I wish I had room to name all of you. You are very important to this community. I do want to thank Dean Katerndahl, Ray Bond and the Codes Inspectors, Kirk Suther and the City Public Works Dept. A very special thanks goes out to Forrest Rhea who manned the hot line and answered over 200 calls including those from communities on both sides of the state line wanting to know how to do this in their area.

## Parade & Fest.

I hope everyone enjoyed this year's event. I was exausted but happy at the end of the day. The parade was double the size of last year's and we were happy to see family floats participating. I want to thank the Parade Committee: Janette and Annette Strong, Marlene Clevenger, Gwen Mendenhal, Glen Gordon, Roberta Stewart and Steve Bryant for all their help. We would not have had a parade had it not been for these people and others.

The festival was larger (and drier) than last year. We had a good turn out and great entertainment. A special thanks goes out to Capt. Ron Miller and the South Patrol for their help and participation. Thanks to Dr. Elmer Sharp for presenting the parade trophies.

(cont. on page 2)

# **Monthly Meeting**

Our next monthly membership meeting will be held on:

Tuesday, October 18, 1994 7:00 P.M. 3409 Rainbow Blvd. Door A (This is behind Applebee's)

Our guest speakers will be from the KCK Housing Authority. have asked them to speak to us on housing young mentally and physically handicapped persons in elderly housing complexes.

Rosedale Towers is one of these sites. Some of the older tenants are having trouble adjusting to the younger, sometimes troubled youth. I don't feel it is appropriate to combine these two groups. How do you feel? Find out how the Housing Authority feels about this new federal mandate.

## **ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWS**

(continued from pg. 1)

Also, thanks to the festival committee: Judy Smith, Dee Shead, and Kathy Mollett. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers without whom this event would not have been possible. You have all helped to make Rosedale a better place in which to live and work.

## New Group to Aid Needy Homeowners with Repairs

As a result of the Codes Blitz a number of homeowners in need of home repair assistance were identified. In response to this identified need in our community for help to elderly, handicapped and low income homeowners a few caring and sharing area residents came forth to volunteer their time and skills. This small group helped on Saturday, Sept. 17th and have done more work in the weeks that have followed.

We would like to increase the size of our group and make this helping a regular event. Possibly giving one Saturday morning per month to making repairs on a needy person's home. We have been painting, doing minor carpentry, cutting weeds and brush, putting up guttering, and even fixing a chimney.

If you have some time, the community needs you. If we join together to tackle one home at a time it is fun and the work goes quickly and you leave feeling very satisfied. Our new neighbor to neighbor program is just another way to strengthen our community. This is also a way to give area youth something positive to do and a chance to learn new skills. Please call the RDA office at 677-5097 to help.

## **Community Codes Group**

Are you concerned about run down properties, trash in yards, abandoned autos or other codes violations in your neighborhood? Well, this new Codes Committee may be just for you. Composed of people like you from Rosedale we will meet once a month with our area codes inspector. We will inform her as to which proper ties we feel need priority attention and for she can give us follow up on previously reported problems and tell us who may need our help in complying with city codes. We may also be able to help her find some of our absentee property owners.

The City Codes Dept. is a valuable resource for us to use in improving our community. We must learn to work with the various city departments to obtain the best results for our neighborhoods. We want them to understand our concerns and problems and we must understand theirs.

## **Landlord's Group Organized**

Trash in yards, run down property, drug houses, problem residents these are not only the concerns of people who own their own homes but of some landlords too. It is difficult for landlords to rent to and retain good tenants if the neighboring properties are run down or house problem tenants. In order to help area landlords deal with problems such as these and the problems of finding good tenants, easy eviction of problem renters and more RDA has helped found a local landlord's group. The members exchange information, research solutions to problems, plan to put collective pressure on problem landlords, and improve property values.

The group is planning on bringing in speakers on various topics and expanding the group. If you own rental property or know someone who does and you are interested in this group, please contact the RDA office for our next meeting date and time.

### Walker Points Out Problem

I recently received a letter from a resident who does a lot of walking in the area for exercise. She pointed out the problem of residents parking their cars in driveways so as to block the sidewalk. This means that the walkers must walk in the street to get around the vehicle. This is especially hard on elderly and handicapped persons. Please be considerate and try to pull forward in your driveway far enough so you don't block the sidewalk.

We want to encourage walkers because they help to deter crime. The more we know our neighbors and neighborhood and get out in the community the safer we become.

## Wanted: Old Photos

History, knowing where we have been is very important in determining where we are going. Rosedale has a rich history that should be preserved. To this end RDA is collecting historical information on Rosedale. We are very interested in old photos of the area and the people who lived and worked here. If you or someone you know has old photos or other historical items that they are willing to share, please contact the RDA office. RDA would be happy to make copies of the photos, so the owners can retain the originals.

## K.U. Police Chili Supper

Do you enjoy a good bowl of chili? Do you wish to help feed needy area families and elderly? Then plan on attending the K.U. Fraternal Order of Police 3rd Annual Feed a Family Chili Supper.

Saturday, October 22, 1994 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

Holy Name Catholic Church 1007 S.W. Blvd.

All proceeds from this event are used to purchase food for needy Rosedale residents. The food is given to the families just before Thanksgiving. This year RDA has been asked to assist in identifying needy residents. This is a worthwhile cause and they do make a good bowl of chili.

### Rosedale Church Begins Clothing Drive

The Rosedale Congregational Church is stocking a children's clothing closet. They intend to have free clothes available for needy kid's in the Frank Rushton School area.

If you have good, clean children's clothing to donate they would love to have them. You can drop them off at the church at 4326 Lloyd or call 235-6337 and they will pick the clothes up. This is a good way to get rid of those items that are left over from your last garage sale or just building up in your closets.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Special thanks go out to the following businesses and residents for their new or renewed memberships.

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Rosedale Development Association

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DAY PHONE EVENING (RESIDENTS)

Annual Business Dues - \$60

Annual Household Dues - \$12

Please mail application along with check made payable to: Rosedale Development Association

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# Rosedale Developments

A monthly publication of the Rosedale Development Association

November 1994

## Summer Vacant Lot Program Results

This summer RDA received our first grant. It was for tools to mow vacant weedy lots, clean area roadsides and assist elderly and handicapped homeowners with minor home repairs and lawn maintenance. We planned to use court referred workers for the labor force. The City then proposed to us that they pay us to hire a supervisor for this project. We readily agreed and after reviewing applications hired a former court worker who was unemployed.

This program began on June 20th and ended on September 30th.
Our accomplishments follow:

Cleaned and mowed over 120 vacant weedy lots. Most with weeds 3 to 4 feet high.

Mowed 40 lawns for area elderly or handicapped homeowners.

Completed minor repairs on 6 homes owned by elderly or handicapped persons.

Provided court workers with over 190 hours of work.

Provided jobs to 3 summer youth worker through the Full Employment Council.

Cleaned over 15 miles of area roadsides.

Cut trees and shrubs that were obstructing motorists views at 4 area intersections.

Although the City funding for the supervisor has ended for this year we are still using court workers, our tools and area volunteers to clean up Rosedale and aid needy homeowners.

## RDA & K-State Design Revitalization Project

Shops, infill housing, community center with a swimming pool, these are just a few of the proposals from the K-State School of Architecture to improve the Rosedale area.

Several months ago RDA contracted with the K-State School of Architecture to help us develop a masterplan for the revitalization of the S.W. Blvd./ Merriam Lane area from Roe to I-35. With the help of area residents and business owners the students have

designed four initial proposals.

On Monday Nov. 7th several of us drove to Manhattan to view their plans and give them feed back on their solutions. One of the groups even included the S.W. Blvd. area from 7th St. to Mission Rd. In this area they suggested making green spaces, by planting trees, shrubs, and flowers to soften the harsh feeling one gets when driving down the street.

(cont. on page 2)

# Happy Thanksgiving from the Rosedale Development Association.

We hope you find time to spend with family and friends being thankful for what you have and remembering the good things about Rosedale. We wish each of you the very best.

# **Monthly Meeting**

Our next monthly membership meeting will be held on:

Tuesday. November 22, 1994 7:00 P.M. 3424 Rainbow Blvd.

The topic for this meeting will be the "Consolidation of City and County Government". We will discuss the pros and cons of consolidation including various options for partial consolidation.

### Rosedale Feed-A-Family Project

Again this year we are helping the KU Fraternal Order Of Police with their Feed-a-Family program. They provide all the 'fixins' for a Thanksgiving Dinner to Rosedale area needy families. RDA helps by collecting non-perishable food items for them. Soooo...

Please bring some food items to our meeting for this worthy cause.

## ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

(continued from pg. 1)

Our main goals are to:

Facilitate the growth of a sense of community.

Enhance the area's sense of identity and place.

Integrate economic development goals with other objectives.

Provide a user-friendly environment.

Allow residents to fulfill daily need in the neighborhood.

Decrease the impact of the automobile.

Within each of these goals a number of objectives have been identified that will help us reach these goals. We have looked at community strengths and weaknesses and major community concerns. Suggestions for achieving these goals include:

Availability of Public Transportation.

Closing off of some streets to improve the safety of the Merriam Lane and McDowell Lane intersection.

Narrowing of Merriam Lane to slow traffic and the placement of curbs and marked parking areas to delineate the street from parking and walking areas.

Increased lighting, sidewalks, trash cans, Rosedale community markers at 18th and Merriam Lane, planting of trees and shrubs, multi-use parking lots.

Incentives for businesses to locate in area. Such as a health clinic, small grocery store, cafes, offices, etc.

Turning the Boulevard Drive-In into a recreational site with a pool, soccer fields, ball diamonds, and a community center on the high ground.

These are only some of the ideas described in the four plans. If

you wish to look at these proposals you may call or drop by the RDA office and I will be glad to show them to you.

The students are currently refining their plans and adding more detail. When they are complete RDA will host a public meeting for the community to unveil the finished proposals. The K-State students will be present to explain their plans.

## Crime

#### Car Thefts

The KU Medical Center Police have informed me that in the past two months approximately 30 vehicles have been stolen in the area around the Medical Center.

The Police suspect there are several different groups committing the thefts. One group seems to be make up of kids 13-16 years old. They seem to steal the autos, joy ride and then destroy the interior. KU Police have questioned one of the kids involved and he has given names of others involved. Most of these thefts seem to happen in the afternoons between noon and 3pm. when the kids should be in school. Some of these kids are students at Rosedale Middle School. Most of these cars have been recovered.

Another group must be composed of older thieves because these cars have not been found and are presumed to be going to "chop shops".

The police do have some leads but this points up the need for each of us to pay attention to what is happening on our streets. When you get that gut feeling that someone is acting suspicious please call the police. If you feel comfortable, ask the person what they are doing and remember to contact your neighbors to warn them also. Try to get a good description of the person/s and write it down, just in case something does happen in the area. With all our eyes and ears open we should be able to help the police catch these crooks.

### **Drug Activity**

RDA, KCK Police and area property owners have eliminated 5 drug houses in the 4000 block of Springfield, but now activity seems to be increasing in Bellrose Manor. In the past week area residents have heard several different incidents of gun fire. We hope that by working with the Housing Authority these problem tenants can be evicted. It's not fair or safe for the other decent residents of Bellrose or adjacent community residents to live and try to raise their children in this type of environment.

# New Neighborhood Group to hold first meeting.

Another neighborhood has taken the first step toward organizing as a group to take control of their area. They will have their first meeting on Monday, Nov. 21st, 7:30 p.m. at the Mission Road Baptist Church - 4225 Mission Road.

The area targeted will be 43rd and 42nd street west of Mission Rd. This is the area just south of Rosedale Park. Although anyone in the surrounding area is welcome to attend as well as members of other neighborhood groups. If you need further information, please contact the RDA office at 677-5097.

# RDA Volunteer Awards & Holiday Celebration

This year RDA will hold its
Holiday Celebration on Monday
December 12th - 7 p.m at
3411 Rainbow Extension.
(This is behind Applebee's)
We will honor some of this year's
many volunteers.

We will have a catered dinner and live entertainment. Cost per person should be around \$15. RDA will send you more detailed info. as soon as all arrangements are complete. But please hold this date open to help honor our volunteers and to celebrate the Holiday Season with us.

Thanks to all of you who attended the City Council meeting on Thur. November

3rd. I felt honored to have so many of you respond to my last minute call for help. I hope you know how important that meeting was to our community. It not only showed our gratitude to the City but it also showed our strength and commitment to building a better community.

## Through your membership you become the foundation of the Rosedale community. Your dues allows us to obtain matching funds from the City and work toward a safer more

ships.

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RDA has moved. Please make a note of the new address - 3408 Rainbow Blvd. K.C., Ks. 66103. We are just a few doors north of our old location, we are right next to Applebee's.

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