

Rosedale Business of the Month

Rhino Builders

Address: 1040 Merriam Lane, Kansas City, Kan. 66103, Phone: (913) 722-4353, Website: www.rhinobuilders.com

"Rhino tough, TUFF on quality."

In a nutshell, that slogan describes one of Rosedale's most successful businesses - Rhino Builders, an award-winning general contractor specializing in residential remodeling.

"TUFF" summarizes Rhino's philosophy: Team-oriented, Understanding, Form Alliances, and Four-Point Guarantee. The company prides itself on a team-based attitude; understanding of its customers and industry; forming alliances with trades and suppliers to give customers the best materials, prices, workmanship, and schedule; and providing customers with a lifetime workmanship guarantee for the life of the original owner.

The company takes on a variety of home remodeling projects, including basements, kitchens, bathrooms, additions, exteriors, and whole-house



remodels. For a sampling of Rhino's handiwork, visit their website: www.rhinobuilders.com.

Founded in 1996 by Terry Skilling and his partner Lance Combs, Rhino Builders has a proven track record of professional, high-quality work. The company employs certified lead carpenters, and is fully licensed and insured in all of the communities it serves. According to Guild Quality, an independent performance reporting organization, 100% of Rhino Builders customers who responded to post-project surveys would recommend the com-

pany to a friend or family member, compared to the national average of 60%.

Rhino has won numerous awards for its design and craft, including the 2005 and 2006 Kansas City Homes & Gardens Best Remodeling Project and numerous recognitions from NARI (the National Association of the Remodeling Industry). Skilling is a Certified Remodeler and is a past-president of NARI.

Taking its name from the book, *Rhinoceros Success*, by Scott Alexander, Rhino Builders strives to be innovative and a leader on the cutting edge of its industry. Skilling was inspired by the book's message, and along with his partner, formed Rhino Builders during the course of one weekend after leaving a previous company he had been with for 20 years. Rhino has been in Rosedale ever since, though its service area is metro-wide.

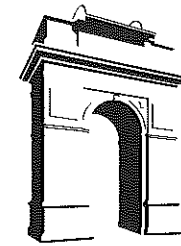
Looking for an affordable, first-class way to remodel your home? Look no further than Rhino Builders. ☑

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The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

RMS tutoring program shows promise, but more tutors are needed

Since last fall, about 10 adults from a variety of professions and walks of life have been spending time with students at Rosedale Middle School (RMS), helping them improve their math and reading skills in preparation for the upcoming state assessments. Last year, a similar tutoring effort contributed to higher test scores among students in the program. This year, the goal is to improve even more and help RMS meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

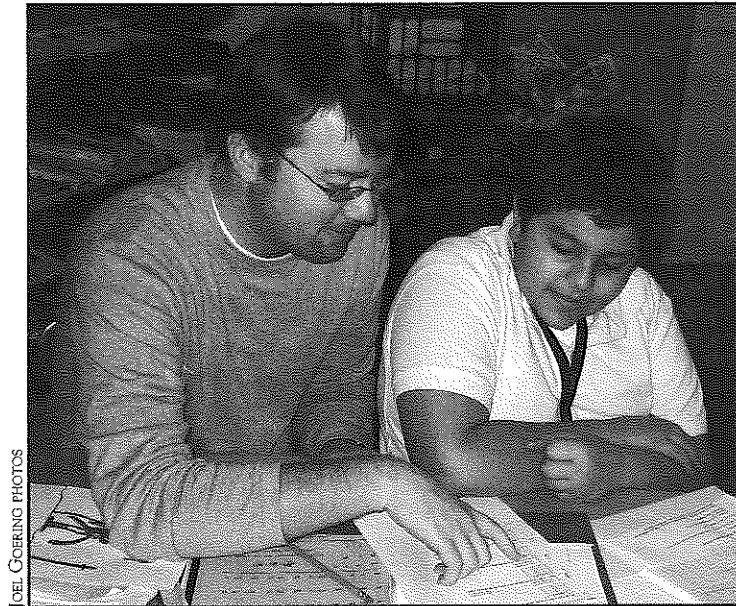
Research shows that children who have caring, responsible adult role models in their lives on a consistent basis do better in school and later in life. They have lower rates of teen pregnancy and alcohol and illegal drug use, and are more likely to finish school and have higher self-esteem.

It is for these reasons that RDA is a strong supporter of the tutoring program at RMS, which is organized and managed by the Rosedale Community Project (a practicum site of the KU School of Social Welfare) in partnership with YouthFriends (a Kansas City-based mentoring organization).

Tutors come to the school on Wednesday afternoons, working with students from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Following the academic tutoring, there is a more informal time of games and activities from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Tutors come mostly from local community organizations, including the University of Kansas Medical Center.

While the response has been good so far, more tutors are needed. The commitment is one hour per week until the end of the school year in May. Your dedication will contribute to Rosedale's success!

YouthFriends provides background



Robert Bagley (left), an admissions coordinator at the KUMC Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science School, works with Justin Ababneh, a 7th-grader at RMS. "I leapt at the chance to help," he says. "The program is terrific not only with helping students academically but also gives them a chance to meet and hang out with other students they might not normally talk to."

checks on all academic tutors, while Rosedale Community Project workers and RMS staff will provide orientation and training.

For more information or to sign up for this critical volunteer effort, contact Madelaine Tack: (913) 627-0312 or e-mail at rcp@ku.edu. ☑

23rd Annual Whitmore Park

Easter egg hunt

Saturday, March 22
10:30 a.m.
1400 block of S.W. Blvd.
Sponsored by:
Sharing Community in Rosedale
Rosedale Optimist Club

Speak up for Rosedale! Make your voice heard!

Rosedale is being watched.

There is a group of powerful individuals waiting for Rosedale to speak. Who is this mysterious organization? I'll give you a hint, they have a big beautiful building in Topeka...that's right! They are the men and women who have been elected to listen to us and make decisions on our behalf: the Senators and Representatives from the state Senate and House, respectively. In Rosedale, we are represented in the House by **Rep. Louis Ruiz** and represented in the Senate by **Sen. Chris Steineger**.

Why should the residents of Rosedale care?

Well, if you have any feelings about immigration, abortion, drug and alcohol abuse, TAXES, or social services, you do not want to miss out on what is going on in Topeka. This year is particularly important being an election year. Representatives concerned about re-election are often more willing to act on an issue if they hear from enough voters.

How important is my voice?

How many calls do you make or receive in a day? More than 3? Because 3 is the number of phone calls a representative needs to receive about an issue to flag it as important and possibly affect their vote one way or another. Surely, there are some issues being talked about right now in Topeka that warrant your participation. This is your right as an American citizen and as a Rosedale resident.

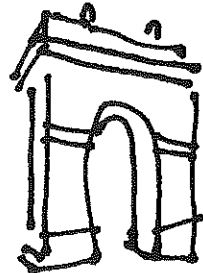
How do I find out about the issues?

www.kslegislature.org is a great resource to find almost everything you need to know about your issue. If you do not have access to a computer, a great resource is the **Kansas Legislation Hotline at 1-800-432-3924**. They can answer most questions about issues and can mail or fax full texts of bills and history.

Do you have to go to Topeka?

The answer is no. Representatives take great stock in phone calls, emails, and letters. When calling, ask them about your issue and if there are any committees, hearings, or other happenings which you can attend to maximize your time at the capitol.

When writing letters or emails, refrain from using ready-made forms. Representatives want to hear YOUR voice.



Talk about the effect the issue has on you, your family, and your community. Include your personal stories. If the hour drive to Topeka doesn't scare you, set up an appointment with your representative to discuss the issues. ☑

Rep. Louis Ruiz (Dem.)

Capitol Office 420-S
(785) 296-7122
ruiz@house.state.ks.us

Sen. Chris Steineger (Dem.)

Capitol Office
(785) 296-7375
steineger@senate.state.ks.us

Volunteer projects needed

Each spring and summer, RDA is approached by numerous volunteer groups – both from within the community and from elsewhere – wanting to get involved in volunteer projects in Rosedale. RDA seeks to find meaningful work for these enthusiastic volunteers. Typical projects in the past have included: minor home repairs for low-income and/or elderly homeowners, painting homes and other buildings, cleaning vacant lots, and other neighborhood beautification efforts.

RDA is always looking for projects that our volunteers can help with or take on. If you know of potential

volunteer projects for this spring and/or summer, please contact the RDA office: (913) 677-5097.

In addition to gaining valuable service from the volunteers – with real benefit to Rosedale – these projects provide an excellent opportunity to teach people about our community, its history and demographics, and its strengths and challenges. It is not just a service experience for the volunteers; it is an *educational* experience. Please help support this important work by identifying potential volunteer projects and notifying our office. Thank you! ☑

Did you know? (animal control edition)

All dogs and cats over the age of six (6) months must be spayed or neutered, except as provided in city ordinance 7-147 (c). To view the ordinance, visit: www.kckpd.org/animalcontrol.htm.

This is one of the new ordinances that was passed in 2005 by the Unified Government Board of Commissioners to address the considerable animal control issues affecting the city, including large numbers of stray cats and dogs and a high euthanasia rate at the city's animal control shelter.

By requiring dog and cat owners to spay/neuter their pets, there will be fewer unwanted pets and the euthanasia rate will be reduced.

The following is a list of local agencies that provide free or low-cost spay and neuter services in the Kansas City

area. If you own a dog or cat, contact one of them to set up a spay/neuter visit.

The Pet Connection

5918 Broadmoor, Mission, Kan. 66202
(913) 671-7387
www.thepetconnection.net

No More Homeless Pets KC

5428 Antioch Dr., Merriam, Kan. 66202
(816) 333-7387
www.nmhpkc.org

Spay and Neuter Kansas City

3710 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 353-0940
www.snkc.net

Humane Society of Greater Kansas City

5445 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, Kan. 66104
(913) 596-1000
www.hsgkc.org

Rosedale Briefs

Rosedale Holy Week Service

Tuesday, March 18
7:00 p.m.
at Holy Name Catholic Church
(corner of S.W. Blvd. & Iowa St.)

Featuring pastors and choirs of Rosedale churches.

Everyone is welcome!

Save the Date!

Rosedale Freedom School fundraiser

"Let Freedom Ring: A Benefit for the Rainbow Mennonite CDF Freedom School"

Saturday, May 3
6:00-9:00 p.m.
at Union Station
(corner of Pershing & Main, Kansas City, Mo.)

H&R Block City Stage

Stay tuned for more details.

Congratulations...

...to Holy Name School students who participated in the Bishop Ward math contest for Wyandotte County Catholic Schools. The 7th grade team of Jacob Cushing, Sal Grado, and Stephen Palacio took first place as a team and Jacob won first as an individual. The 8th grade team of Carlie Hall, Michaela Mavai, and Ally Montero took third place as a team. All of Rosedale is proud of these students. Keep up the good work!

To learn more about Holy Name School, visit: www.archkckcs.org/holyname.

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Working in partnership with residents, businesses, and institutions to build a strong and healthy community and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale.

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Phone: (913) 677-5097
Fax: (913) 677-3437

www.rosedaleassociation.org
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wendy Wilson, Executive Director

Linda Wright, Office Manager

Joel Goering, Community Organizer

Board of Directors

www.rosedaleassociation.org/who_board.htm

Newsletter design by Elizabeth Johnston, Lizzardbrand Inc., www.lizzardbrand.com

Rosedale History Quiz

In each issue of *The Rosedalian*, we will publish a Rosedale historical photograph along with an accompanying question. The first person to answer the question correctly will receive a prize. Submissions must be e-mailed to: rosedalehistoryquiz@yahoo.com or called in to the RDA office: (913) 677-5097. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

Last month's photograph and question:

Question: Name the business that was once housed in this building. The address is 722 Southwest Blvd. (currently Boulevard Tires).

Answer: Rosedale State Bank.

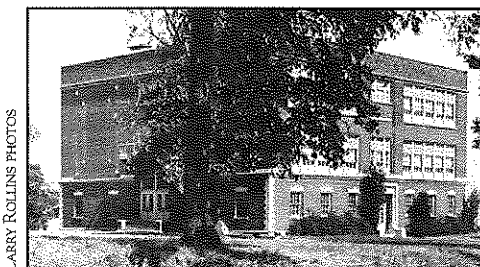
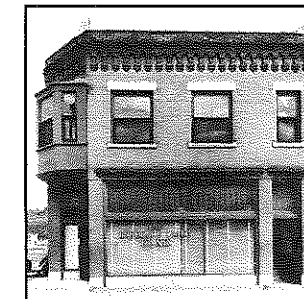
Winners: No one answered the question correctly. Better luck this month.

This month's photograph and question:

Question: What was the original name of this educational institution?

Bonus: What is the building's current function?

The answer will be provided next month.



LARRY ROLLINS PHOTOS

Membership application

Annual business dues: \$100 ☑ Annual household dues: \$15

Name of business or name of household

Address City State ZIP code

Contact person

Day phone Evening phone Fax

E-mail address

Please mail application, along with check made payable to:
Rosedale Development Association
1403 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, Kan. 66103

Rosedale Business of the Month

John Rohrer Contracting Co.

Address: 2820 Roe Lane, Bldg. S, Kansas City, Kan. 66103, **Phone:** (913) 236-5005, **Website:** www.johnrohrercontracting.com

If you're thinking concrete in Rosedale, look no further than John Rohrer Contracting Co., a full-service concrete contractor.

The company does just about anything and everything related to concrete in the commercial and institutional sectors: structural concrete, concrete flatwork, site concrete, concrete restoration, and concrete coatings. The company has a national reach, taking on projects in numerous states across the country.

John Rohrer Contracting has built a strong reputation for quality concrete work over many years. Founded in 1922, the company has sought to maintain four key pillars of success: attention to detail; professionalism; competitive pricing; and strong, long-lasting relationships. Having been in business for more than 85 years, it's clear that the company has done an excellent job of staying true to its principles.

The current company president is John Rohrer, who represents the



Many of these projects have won Excellence in Concrete Awards from the Concrete Promotional Group (CPG).

While the company has suffered from the flooding of Turkey Creek at several points in the past due to its close proximity to the notorious creek, President John Rohrer says that the company likes its Rosedale location (where it has been since 1957). "It is centrally located and has easy highway access," he says. He also believes the recent work of the Turkey Creek stakeholders and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has improved the situation and that the creek is a lot less likely to flood in the area near his business. "[The flood control efforts] are very important," John says.

The company has been a good neighbor, too, having adopted a stray cat from Rosedale and participating in RDA's Feed-a-Family program last year.

So remember, if you're thinking concrete in Rosedale, think John Rohrer Contracting. ☑

3rd generation of the Rohrer family to own the business. "The company has a philosophy of building relationships with not only our clients, but suppliers and vendors, as well," he says. "We have done this by treating them with honesty and integrity."

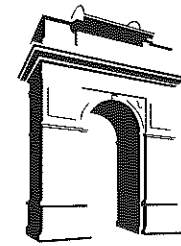
The company has completed several high-profile projects in recent years, including at Nebraska Furniture Mart and Cabela's in western Kansas City, Kan., the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., the Denver World Trade Center in Denver, Co., and Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Calif.



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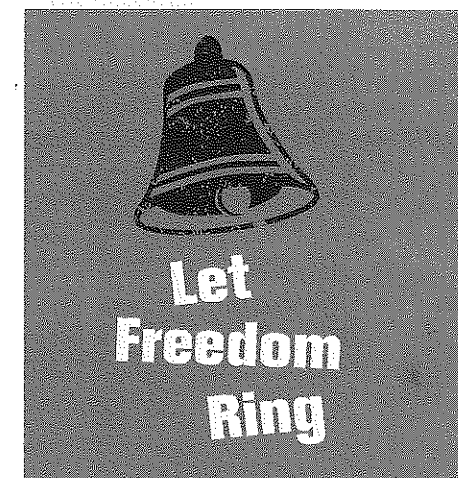
ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

"Let Freedom Ring" to raise funds for Rosedale-area Freedom School

On Saturday, May 3, the Rainbow Mennonite CDF Freedom SchoolSM will host "Let Freedom Ring," its 2nd annual benefit fundraiser. The event will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the H&R Block City Stage at Union Station in Kansas City, Mo. You are invited to join the fun and festivities.

Guests will be treated to an evening of song and dance featuring some of Kansas City's finest entertainers performing on one of the region's premier stages. G. Leayn Losh, owner of Musical Theatrical Studios and music teacher at Rosedale Middle School, will produce the night's entertainment. Tasty hors d'oeuvres, complimentary soft drinks, and cash bar will be available. There will also be a silent auction, replete with a diverse array of gift baskets, handicrafts, jewelry, and other items from local vendors.

Tickets cost \$30.00, and may be purchased online at www.unionstation.org (Theaters & Showtimes tab, H&R Block City Stage menu item), by phone at (816) 460-2020, or in-person at the following locations:



- Rosedale Development Association (1403 S.W. Blvd., KC, KS 66103)
 - Rainbow Mennonite Church (1444 S.W. Blvd., KC, KS 66103)
 - Landon Center on Aging (36th & Rainbow, KC, KS 66103)
 - Union Station box office (30 W. Pershing, Kansas City, MO 64108)
- All proceeds go to the Rainbow Mennonite CDF Freedom SchoolSM, which is a 6-week summer educational enrichment program for children in grades K-8 from the Rosedale community. The program emphasizes literacy, cultural awareness, multigenerational mentoring, social action and community service, and parental involvement.

To learn more about the program, visit: www.kcfreedomschools.org or call: (913) 236-8820.

Special thanks to Quality Litho, Inc., Rosedale Community Project, KUMC Landon Center on Aging, KUMC Community Outreach Program, and Regina Troyer. ☑

Attention Rosedale middle and high school students plus business owners!

Planning and preparation for RDA's annual Summer Youth Employment program is underway. The program places high school-age youth (ages 14-16) in a job at a local business for 6-8 weeks during the summer. Each youth is required to attend employment skills training sessions at the beginning of the summer. The youth are paid minimum wage through an RDA-administered grant from the Board of Public Utilities.

Youth who would like to apply for the program may contact the RDA office: (913) 677-5097. Applications must be returned to the RDA office by May 15.

Dial 3-1-1 for city services

The Unified Government has opened a new 3-1-1 Call Center, thus providing a centralized location to handle all questions, complaints, and requests for city services. The new office will also provide an efficient means to track service requests. Each request will be given a tracking number and citizens will be able to follow up with the complaint, if the issue is not resolved in a timely fashion.

Call 3-1-1 if you have a question or service request regarding:

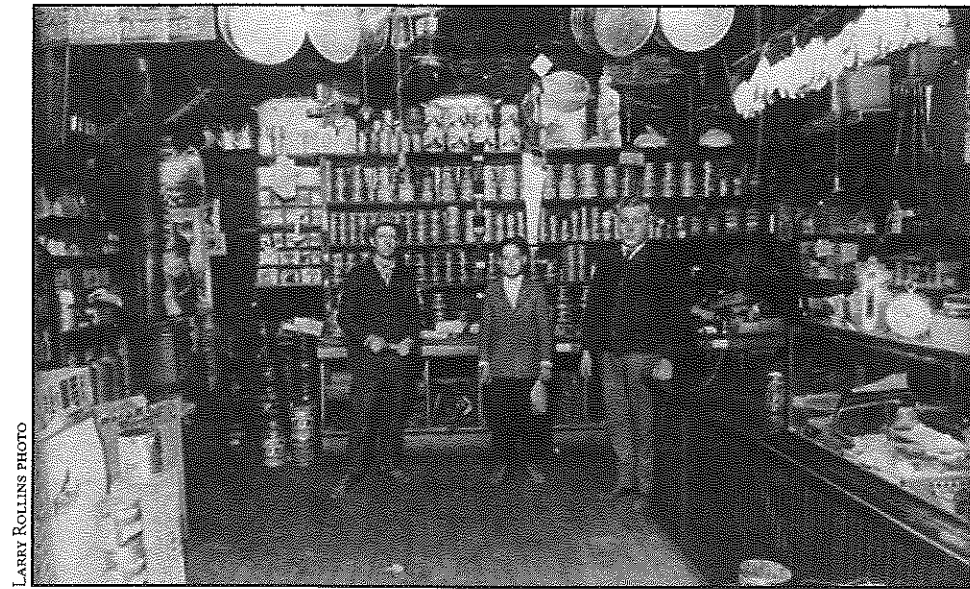
- Property taxes
- Potholes and other street repairs
- Damaged traffic signs
- Municipal Court
- Code enforcement
- Animal control
- Business and rental licenses
- Building permits

If the 3-1-1 customer service representative cannot immediately answer a question, the call will be transferred to someone in the appropriate department who is knowledgeable on the subject of the call.

The Call Center is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. ☑

RDA is also looking for Rosedale businesses that are interested in hosting and supervising a youth for the summer. The program is a great way for businesses to gain some extra help for the summer at no extra cost (since RDA pays the youth). Participating businesses are simply responsible for supervising the youth throughout their term of employment. RDA will take care of any disciplinary actions, should they be necessary.

Interested businesses should contact the RDA office as soon as possible: (913) 677-5097. ☑



LARRY ROLLINS PHOTO

From left to right: Bill Green, Harold Strasser and Adolf Strasser in 1920 in the original store in Rosedale.

Strasser's celebrates expansion, mourns death of 2nd-generation owner

One of Rosedale's most prominent businesses, Strasser Hardware, has had an eventful month.

First, the company suffered the loss of the man who had been with the company since its founding in 1917, Harold A. Strasser. Harold started working for his father at age 10, and continued with the family business until his death on March 11 at the age of 100. Harold, a graduate of Rosedale High School and Navy veteran of WWII, could often be seen assisting customers and helping around the store even in his later years. With Harold's passing, the torch has now officially been passed to his son, Louis A. Strasser, the current company president.

Then, as if the death of a company icon wasn't enough for one month, Strasser's opened a 10,000-sq. ft. expansion to its longtime home at 910 Southwest Blvd. — which interestingly, Harold and Louis had first envisioned ten years ago. The additional space will allow the company to increase its inventory and selection, improve the shopping experience through wider aisles and expanded departments, and continue to provide hardware supplies and materials at very competitive prices.

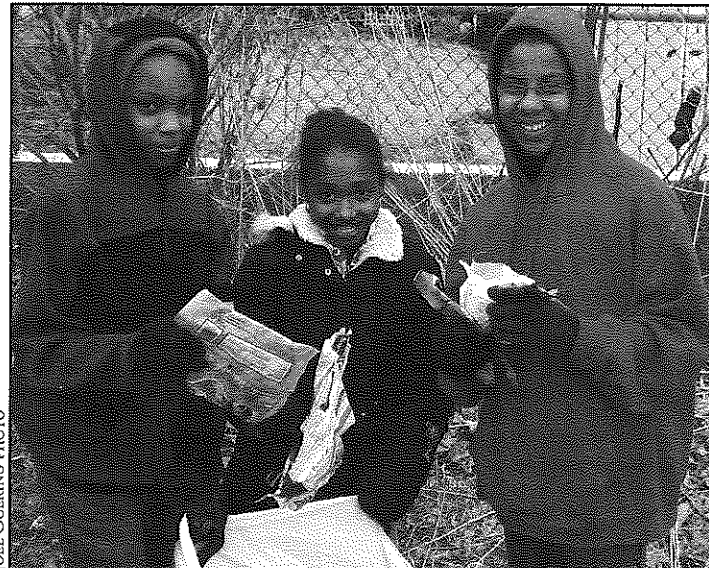
RDA sends its heartfelt blessings to Strasser Hardware in this time of grief on the one hand, and excitement on the

other. Rosedale is grateful for Harold's lifetime of service and for Strasser Hardware's presence in our community. ☺

Service learning teaches giving back to the community

As part of a new RDA pilot program, 5th-graders at Frank Rushton Elementary in Rosedale recently took part in a "service-learning" project at their school.

Cheri Miller, district manager of the Wyandotte County Conservation District, spoke to the students about soil erosion and runoff and how they relate to water quality in our streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. She also stressed the importance of conservation and how human beings must be careful in how they treat the environment.



JOEL GOERING PHOTO

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Wendy Wilson, Executive Director

Linda Wright, Office Manager

Joel Goering, Community Organizer

Board of Directors,
www.rosedaleassociation.org/
who_board.htm

Newsletter design by Elizabeth Johnston, Lizzardbrand Inc.
www.lizzardbrand.com

Then, following Cheri's presentation, the students picked up trash around the school as a community service, which fit with the theme of caring for the environment.

According to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, "service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities."

Two more service-learning projects are planned at Frank Rushton before the end of the school year: one will focus on healthy living, the other will focus on proper pet handling and responsible pet ownership. ☺

Rachel Johnson, Christina Rand, and Raven Johnson show off some of the trash they picked up.

"Petpalooza" to focus on responsible pet ownership

This is one event you — and your pet — will not want to miss.

The University of Kansas Medical Center's Community Outreach Program, in conjunction with RDA, will hold the 1st Annual Rosedale Neighborhood Petpalooza on Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in the large parking lot on the northeast corner of 39th and Rainbow Blvd. Pets are encouraged to attend but are asked to remain on a leash.

The event, which is free to the public, will highlight responsible pet ownership, including pet safety, grooming, and nutrition, as well as the health benefits to humans of owning a pet.

"We are really excited about Petpalooza," said Ryan Gove, Director of Student Engagement at KUMC. "It will be a fun way to celebrate the significant role pets can have in our lives and in our community as a whole if we learn how to treat them properly."

Petpalooza will feature several interactive activities for people of all ages, including the construction of dog and/or cat houses, a coloring contest and additional child-friendly games that emphasize healthy pet ownership.

Spay and Neuter Kansas City will also be on-site to offer low-cost rabies vaccinations and microchips to those who qualify. PetSmart, the Brookside Barkery, and other retail vendors will be on hand to distribute food samples and educational information about pet care, pet supplies, and additional information about their services. ☺

Obituary

Soledad "Sally" G. Mendez, 88, mother of RDA Board member and former U.G. 3rd district Commissioner John J. Mendez, died on March 29, following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Soledad lived in the Argentine community of KCK for her entire life. She volunteered at her church, St. John the Evangelist, and served as a voter polling place worker during the 1970s. Soledad was the Mendez family matriarch, having been married for 51 years and raising four sons and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren here in KCK. The funeral mass was held at St. John the Evangelist on April 2. Soledad will be greatly missed by her family and community.

Rosedale History Quiz

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Last month's photograph and question:

Question: What was the original name of this educational institution?

Bonus: What is the building's current function?

Answer: Major Hudson School, built in 1924. The building was converted to residential condominiums in 1985.

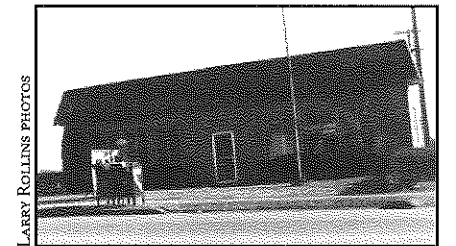
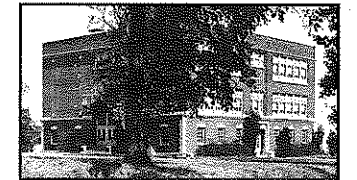
Winners: No one answered the question correctly, but two people guessed that the building was Rosedale High School (now Rosedale Middle School).

This month's photograph and question:

Question: What was this building and its function?

Bonus: Where was it located?

The answer will be provided next month.



LARRY ROLLINS PHOTOS

Membership application

Annual business dues: \$100 ☺ Annual household dues: \$15

Name of business or name of household _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Contact person _____

Day phone _____ Evening phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

Please mail application, along with check made payable to:
Rosedale Development Association
1403 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, Kan. 66103