

Rosedale Church of the Month: Rainbow Mennonite Church

Rosedale is now home to Kansas City's oldest pipe organ

By Debra Sapp-Yarwood, Special to the Rosedalian

Built in Boston in 1869, the instrument known as the EGG Hook Organ Company, Opus 488, made its way from Troy, N.Y., to 1444 Southwest Blvd. in Rosedale this year with the help of the Rainbow Mennonite Church organ committee, as well as other donors and volunteers.

On Nov. 9, the congregation heard the organ for the first time in a worship service at its new home. Music Coordinator Roseanne (Rosi) Penner Kaufman decided that the first music of KC's oldest organ should be played by the congregation's youngest musicians, but before they were allowed to touch it, the children sat on empty boxes that had held the pipes during transport and heard the story of the organ's journey.

Kaufman and Carol Buller, also of the RMC organ committee, first visited the organ in New York in 2004. The once-vibrant church that had commissioned the building of the organ after the Civil War had recently closed, and the organ sat un-played for two years. Inside the organ were repairs made with string and paperclips. The church's former pastor turned on the organ and Buller played a hymn, which



JOEL COERING PHOTO

made the pastor weep. The women agreed that the instrument showed an irresistible potential, and the Rainbow congregation then adopted it, raised the money to buy, transport, install and restore it — sans paperclips.

Rainbow engaged the Quimby Organ Company of Warrensburg, Mo. to oversee the transport and restoration, and Quimby contracted with organ builder Richard Hamar of Connecticut to serve as project director. Hamar has more than 40 years experience in restoration and maintenance of historic organs. He says Rosedale has an instru-

ment to be proud of.

"Hook organs have this wonderful silvery quality to their tone, and each set of pipes has its own distinctive color and when it's all put together as an ensemble it all blends together cohesively... That's a characteristic that sets (Hook organs) apart from many of the comparable builders of the same period, the 19th century."

He says Hooks are also famous for their reed stops. An electric blower has replaced the original bellows system, but other than that, the action remains entirely mechanical.

While all the ranks play, the organ still needs some minor work and fine-tuning before its community debut.

Rainbow Mennonite Church warmly invites the Rosedale community to attend the organ's dedicatory recital on **Sunday, Feb. 8 at 4:00 p.m.**, featuring organist Roseanne Penner Kaufman. If you cannot attend that event, then the following week, on Feb. 16, the local American Guild of Organists will present Bruce Stevens in concert. And, of course, Rainbow welcomes visitors at all Sunday services, which begin at 9:30 a.m.



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The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.rosedale.org

As I See It

By Stevie Reynolds, outgoing Chair of the RDA Board.

Now here is an idea worth having.

Political analyst David Brooks wrote a column with advice for President-elect Obama from Michael Porter, a Harvard business guru. Porter's advice was not to do anything in the short term that doesn't serve a long-term goal.

Brooks ended with an idea of his own: use tax dollars to create social entrepreneurship investment banks. The banks would invest their funds in the best local community organizations. The organizations would use the money for existing programs as well as to expand operations.

In the event this idea sticks, let's go on record to be in the pilot program as soon as the money is appropriated!

As a board member and president, I have first-hand knowledge of why RDA is a solid investment.

Programs and policies are guided by the people who live and work in Rosedale. All major initiatives such as Mission Cliffs and the master plan for the Rainbow corridor began and ended with input and feedback from the community.

RDA practices sound financial management — living within its means, maintaining accountability for funds and reducing costs when feasible.

The board and staff plan, cope with change and manage challenge through innovation.

A partnership with the KU School of Social Welfare places graduate students in Rosedale to work with youth, families and populations with unique needs, a summer work program provides teens with skills training and jobs with area businesses and a large pool of vol-

unteers carry out a number of signature programs such as Christmas in October.

RDA has big plans in store for the community.

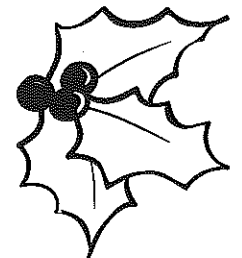
On the wish list: creating a wireless hot spot where everyone can access internet service; developing an after-school program at Rosedale Middle School that would intrigue as well as instruct; implementing the next phase of the Turkey Creek flood control project and environmental enhancements; and building a forum for businesses to join together to plan and problem-solve.

In the meantime, RDA will continue to be the "go-to-source" for Rosedale — to find out about stray dogs, to reserve the event room, to take part in leadership training, to pick up recycling containers, to take part in youth activities, to volunteer, and to catch up on the news.

In these uncertain times, RDA is an investment worth making for the long-term. ☑

Season's Greetings

The RDA Board of Directors and staff would like to wish everyone a joyous and fulfilling holiday season. We look forward to continuing our work in 2009 of building a strong and healthy community and improving the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale.



RDA snags 1st Place Philly Award

On Dec. 11, Nonprofit Connect (formerly known as the Council on Philanthropy) presented a 1st Place Philly Award to RDA for its 2006 Annual Report. RDA was recognized in the category of organizations with less than a \$1 million budget.

This is the second Philly Award that RDA has received in the last three years. In 2006, RDA was recognized for its Volunteer Brochure.

The Philly Awards are presented on an annual basis to organizations

within the Kansas City non-profit community that demonstrate excellence in communications and marketing.

Congratulations and thank you to Elizabeth Johnston, a Rosedale resident and volunteer extraordinaire for RDA, who designed the winning Annual Report (and the winning Volunteer Brochure from two years ago). The award is a testament to Elizabeth's skill and talent as an artist and graphic designer. ☑

Rosedale shines at Collaborative of Wyandotte Co. recognition ceremony

Two Rosedalians, Derek Lysinger and Erika Suarez, were recognized by the Collaborative of Wyandotte County for their work in the community at a special program on Dec. 9. Derek was presented with the "Youth of the Year Award" and Erika was presented with the "Youth Worker of the Year Award."

Derek is a 15-year-old student who has performed nearly 130 hours of community service for RDA. He has participated in minor home repair projects, such as Christmas in October and KUMC M1 Volunteer Day, and helped make improvements at Whitmore Park. He mows yards for elderly residents and vacant lots in Rosedale. He also distributes informational flyers, paints out graffiti, and picks up trash on a regular basis. Derek attends Holy Name School

in Rosedale and is often viewed as a role model by his peers.

Erika, a second-year Family Advocate with the YOUTH SUCCESS program at Rosedale Middle School, provides invaluable services to youth and families. She serves as a resource for students, often simultaneously filling the roles of advocate, counselor, and mentor. She communicates with parents about issues at the school and strives to bring their concerns to the attention of the administration. She is also bilingual, and so can assist as an interpreter and translator for parents, youth, teachers and staff.

The YOUTH SUCCESS program is a partnership between the KU School of Social Welfare, the REACH Healthcare Foundation, KCK Public Schools (USD

#500), and Wyandot Center-PACES.

The Collaborative of Wyandotte County is a network of non-profit and social service organizations dedicated to community improvement. Members meet regularly to share resources and information and advocate on issues of mutual concern.

Congratulations to both Derek and Erika for your achievement. RDA and Rosedale are proud of you! ☑



Derek Lysinger (left) and Erika Suarez show off their awards from the Collaborative of Wyandotte County.

What's up with the 42nd St. Mural Project?

By Angel Dew

A year ago today, the corner of 42nd and Mission Rd sat empty, riddled with trash, the wall bore chipping white and yellow paint, and a deep frost spat out by Old Man Winter covered the cracked asphalt.

Once again, Old Man Winter has officially arrived, but the 42nd Street Mural Project is far from cold.

The spring and summer months brought sweet change to the empty lot. White primer covered the cracking paint, tree limbs were pulled out and thrown away, and a garden was created with the help of a local church, several local neighborhood youth and a small grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

But the ascetic enhancement, alone, was and could not be enough.

Our original plan was to create, during the summer months, a large-scale youth-inspired mural with the help of Joe Faus, a local artist. Our funding hopefuls, however, always seemed to fall short. So in mid-summer, when City Vision Ministries, a non-profit community development corporation that has sponsored several murals in downtown KCK, decided to provide financial backing to a portion of the project, we knew we had to shift our original plans a bit.

With limited time and funds, Mikey

was able to secure the help of a local artist by the name of Holly Swangstu. She was a friend of Joe's and agreed to do two focus groups with youth from Rosedale and in turn take their ideas and create a collaborative "art frame" for the site.

This endeavor would indeed leave a large portion of the wall white, yet we believed the creativity displayed would yield a hopeful approach to the future of the lot.

Holly's efforts have done just that. After meeting with half a dozen Rosedale Middle School students during the two focus group sessions, Holly was able to pull the group's ideas into a collaborative art piece.

By the end of August, at last, there was color on the walls of 42nd and Mission Road.

The work, however, isn't done...for there is still a plethora of white space on the walls. Holly's frame, though, has become the catalyst to an idea former RDA staff member Mikey Fletcher likes to call the "revolving mural."

Editor's Note: Each semester, a different student art class at Rosedale Middle will be responsible for designing the next open section along the mural, so as to create a dynamic, ever-changing piece of work. Look for the next phase of the mural to be painted next year, after warm weather returns. ☑

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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Rosedale Briefs

Learn about Turkey Creek flood control project online

Plans for environmental enhancements along Turkey Creek, including such beautification as parks, trails, and recreational areas, are now available on the Unified Government website. You can also read about the history of the Turkey Creek flood control project and the proposal to close the Mill St. bridge over the creek. Visit: www.wycokck.org/Dept.aspx?id=17042&banner=15284.

Grain elevators behind Strasser's torn down

Thanks to the efforts of RDA, the U.G., and the BNSF railroad, the abandoned grain elevators behind Strasser's hardware store have been demolished and the debris has been removed. The elevators had become an eyesore, attracting graffiti and becoming unsafe. The BNSF, although not the owners of the elevators, does own the land and so agreed to pay for the demolition. RDA commends the BNSF for its efforts.

Congratulations to the Johnson family...

...for receiving the "Good Neighbor Award," presented by the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, 4000 S. Minnie St. Rodney and Michelle Johnson, along with their children, were recognized for the beautiful landscaping on their property, which is located across the street from the church, and for helping to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. The Johnson's were honored during the church's Annual Homecoming Day Praise Service on Nov. 9.

Rosedale Obituary

Leona Kallaras, long-time Rosedalian and resident of the Adams St. apartments, passed away on Oct. 29, 2008, from complications related to colon surgery and pneumonia. Leona, 86, worked for nearly four decades at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was also a regular RDA volunteer in recent years - she helped fold and label *The Rosedalian* in preparation for mailing each month. She was one of the recipients of RDA's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2007.

Crime Alert

While the holiday season is one of joy for many people, it is also typically a time for increased burglaries and theft. The current poor economic situation may also contribute to a rise in these types of crime. Please be vigilant and aware of your surroundings, and take care to watch your neighbors' properties in addition to your own. If you observe suspicious behavior or something that just doesn't look right, call the police (emergency: 911 or non-emergency: 913-596-3000).

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@rosedale.org or called in to the RDA office: (913) 677-5097. Please provide your name, address, and phone number. To see more historical photos of Rosedale, please visit www.rosedale.org.

Last month's photographs & questions:

Question: When was old Station No. 12 built?

Answer: 1924.

Bonus: What is Station No. 12's current use?

Bonus Answer: A cabinet shop (privately-owned business).

Winner: Becky Polofsky

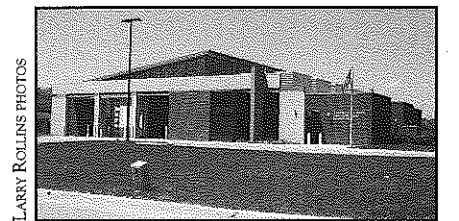
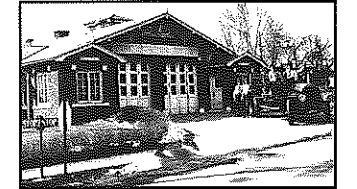
This month's photograph & questions:

In this issue, we continue a special series on Rosedale fire stations. For the past two months, we have focused on old fire stations that have been converted into other uses. Now, we take a look at the current Rosedale fire station, (new) Station #10, located at 2210 W. 36th Ave. The two older stations were consolidated into the new one.

Question: When was new Station No. 10 built?

Bonus: What is the name of the captain at Station No. 10?

The answer will be provided next month.



LARRY ROLLINS PHOTOS

Membership application

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

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