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THE ROSEDALLIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Community Spotlight

\$1.6 million KU grant will reduce violence and improve health in KCK

adapted by Kimberly Hunter, with permission from Debra DeCoster of Wyandotte Health Newsroom

The Kansas City, Kansas Youth Violence Project aims to study the health risks in neighborhoods exposed to high rates of violence. Dr. Jomella Watson-Thompson, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Applied Behavioral Science and Associate Director at the KU Center for Community Health and Development, announced the program last month. Her department at the University of Kansas recently received a four-year, U.S. Health and Human Services grant that will examine the effect of the combined support of multiple organizations and agencies on youth violence in Kansas City, Kansas. The \$1.6 million grant project will

focus on children in grades 8, 9 and 10 and target neighborhoods in the zip codes 66101, 66102, 66104, 66105 and 66115.


The study recognizes many factors contribute to neighborhood violence, so it focuses on addressing the social determinants or underlying root causes of the problem: employment, education and access to resources and social connectedness. "We don't want to stop anything that is in place, but we do want to be more intentional and strategic with how we can impact both youth and the community," said Watson-Thompson. The project will collaborate with multiple agencies



DR. JOMELLA WATSON-THOMPSON

Dr. Jomella Watson-Thompson, left, at the KCKPD, a KCK Youth Violence Prevention Initial Project Partner.

and groups in Kansas City, Kansas working across the spectrum of these social determinants.

 To read the full-length article, please visit the Wyandotte Health Newsroom website at wyconewsroom.com.

RISE 2018: Sharing your time could empower a child

by Deanna Wardlow

Reading Inspirational Stories to Empower (RISE) is a program that celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by having community volunteers go into classrooms to read stories about civil rights and social justice. MLK Day is used as a starting point for volunteers to engage with children about our country's struggle toward equality, a struggle that we still carry on today.

By connecting the Civil Rights Movement to our lives today, we hope to inspire children to continue King's legacy and show them that they, too, can help make the community a better place. Every January since 2013 RDA has hosted RISE. In 2017, 44 volunteers read to 64 classrooms in five different elementary and middle schools for an estimated total of 720 students.


"Last year's RISE week was scheduled for the week before [the] inauguration. This was an emotional week for lots of the volunteer readers, and speaking for myself, it gave me an added incentive to connect with young students, especially the middle schoolers, who are just becoming aware of politics and civic events, and the place of the civil rights movement in the lifetime of their parents and grandparents. RISE is good for us volunteers, maybe more

so than for the kids," says former Americorps service member Philip Rhoads, who co-coordinated the program this past January and also read to students. Volunteers will participate in a special volunteer orientation to help discuss these stories and their significance with Rosedale youth. The orientation will also help volunteers emphasize the importance of reading and communication, and re-emphasize the themes of these stories. In addition, volunteers will engage in activities that help them reflect on the inequality in and around their own lives and inspire them to take action. Training is at 6 p.m., Wednesday, January 10 at 1401 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS. A complementary dinner will also be provided.



Dr. Amanda Vega, principal of Holy Name Catholic School, reads Freedom Summer to Frank Rushton Elementary School first graders during RISE week 2017.

day, January 10 at 1401 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS. A complementary dinner will also be provided.

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

RDA Annual Meeting to celebrate volunteers and honor outgoing Board members


by Kimberly Hunter

At RDA's annual meeting on Tuesday, December 19 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Koch Community Center located at 1401 Southwest Boulevard, Rosedallians are invited to celebrate RDA's 72nd year serving the Rosedale community and honor the volunteers and community partners who help move RDA's mission forward. This family-friendly event will include refreshments, an awards ceremony, an overview of RDA's 2018 goals and organizational priorities and opportu-

nities to provide feedback and express appreciation for RDA's outgoing Board Members.

Staff and AmeriCorps service members at the Rosedale Development Association depend on a dynamic Board of Directors for critical elements of their community work, such as fundraising, goal-setting, and implementing a strategic plan. This year, RDA will bid farewell to five Board members who have served Rosedale in this way. These include Bob Roddy (Chair), Mark Mohler

(Vice Chair), Carroll O'Neal (Secretary), Daniel Serda, and John Hornbeck. Several are leaving only because RDA's bylaws stipulate no Board member may serve more than a total of seven consecutive years. RDA thanks them for their service and dedication.

 To learn more, RSVP, request a carpool, share a ride, or note appreciation for an RDA volunteer or program, contact Alissa at 913-677-5097 or alissa@rosedale.org.

New myWyCo app makes it easier to report infrastructure issues

by Erin Stryka

The Unified Government now has an official app that can be used to report issues and make requests. Rosedalians already do a great job noticing issues like graffiti, trash, potholes or streetlights out and calling 3-1-1 or RDA to report the issue. The new app, myWyCo, offers all the same options as 3-1-1 without having to wait on the phone line.

Residents can download the myWyCo app to their phones. When the app is opened, "DotteBot" greets users and walks them through the process of making a report. Residents can alert the UG to problems with street maintenance, trash collection, codes violations, or street lights. Users can also reserve a Parks and Recreation shelter, look up a municipal court date or select "something else" and type a specific issue or request.

Soon, myWyCo will also have an option to pay property taxes through the app. The app may also soon include the option to send a picture, such as a picture of graffiti.

The 3-1-1 Contact Center handled over 91,000 resident calls in 2016. In addition to being convenient, reporting issues through 3-1-1 or the myWyCo app helps the UG collect data about recurring problems that need a coordinated approach. For example, the UG compiles all the reports to 3-1-1 about missed trash collection dates by Waste Management, and bills Waste Management for the missed collections.

☎ To learn more, contact Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097 or erin@rosedale.org.



Rosedale Arch Club presents: 12 days of year-end giving

by Alissa Workman

In November, RDA was positively overwhelmed by the amount of support they received for Feed-a-Family Thanksgiving baskets. Without a doubt, the Rosedale community comes together to help neighbors in need. As this year draws to an end, many seek purposeful gift ideas as well as ways to give tax-deductible donations. So as



Shoppers can choose from over 500 cards at the new Gold Crown Store.

First ever Hallmark hospital gift shop now open in KU Med Center

pulled by Deanna Wardlow from Hallmark Cards, Inc.

Hallmark Cards, Inc. recently opened its first ever hospital gift shop in the lobby of the main hospital building of The University of Kansas Health System. The gift shop contains many products from Hallmark as well as Kansas City vendors.

"We strongly believe in the power between emotional wellness and physical well-

ness. We hope this store can be a place for patients, their families, and campus employees to take a moment to recharge and discover meaningful ways to connect with others," said John Watson, president of Hallmark Retail.

☎ To learn more, contact Deanna Wardlow at deanna@rosedale.org.

1. Become a monthly donor. Whether one gives up the cost of a cup of coffee or a meal out, this dependable, recurring gift empowers RDA to plan for the future.
2. Make a one-time gift to support the mission of RDA

and the services we provide.

3. Volunteer in the RDA office during our regular business hours.
4. Adopt an ongoing program by being a youth sports coach, RISE reader, neighborhood clean-up or garden leader, trail steward, and more.
5. Earn monetary credits for RDA while shopping at Smile.Amazon.com
6. Donate items RDA uses often, such as office supplies and healthy snacks for youth sports.
7. Share love for RDA and Rosedale on social media; encourage friends to join the mailing list and/or learn more about RDA.
8. Join or help restart a neighborhood association.
9. Ask friends to contribute to RDA in lieu of gifts this holiday season.
10. Follow RDA on social media and sign up for our e-newsletter.
11. Attend RDA's annual meeting on December 19 and learn how RDA aims to partner with community members in 2018.
12. Publicize RDA events in the community by calling a phone tree or posting flyers.

☎ To learn more about the countless ways to give the gift of community this holiday season, contact Alissa at 913-677-5097 or alissa@rosedale.org.

Community Calendar

Wednesdays, recurring
Girl Scouts Troop Meeting
6 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Monday, December 4
Hilltop Neighborhood Meeting
6 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Tuesday, December 12
Frank Rushton Neighborhood Meeting
6:30 p.m., location TBD

Wednesday, December 13
Shawnee Road Neighborhood Watch
7 p.m., 818 Shawnee Rd., KCK

Saturday, December 16
Rose Alert Neighborhood Holiday Party
6 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Tuesday, December 19
RDA Annual Meeting
6 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Wednesday, December 20
Rosedale Leadership Council
5:30 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

December 25 - January 1
RDA office closed

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

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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Erin Stryka Executive Director
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Rosedale.org

KCKHA: Smoke-free living policy begins January 1

by Emily Xiong

January 1 will ring in not only the New Year but also a new residential no-smoking policy for the Kansas City Kansas Housing Authority (KCKHA). In 2018, anyone residing, visiting or working in a KCKHA property must refrain from smoking inside buildings. This will require persons wishing to smoke to be at least 25 feet away from KCKHA buildings.

In the past few months, Healthy Communities Wyandotte (HCWYCO) has been educating Rosedalians about the policy. Some tenants, like Carmen Siers of Rosedale Towers, have already implemented a no-smoking zone in their private living quarters because of health conditions that could be aggravated by second-hand smoke.

But as Tobacco Free Wyandotte Coordinator, Rebecca Garza, explains, "This property-wide policy is necessary

because if a heavy smoker lives next door, smoke can waft into a resident's home through vents and trigger an asthma attack or cause other complications. In an extreme case, smoking caused one resident's oxygen tank to explode, leading to many types of damage." In addition to causing health problems, residential smoking damage also costs



KCKHA thousands of dollars to rehabilitate a housing unit for a new tenant.

Please help notify friends, family and neighbors who may be affected by this new policy. And remember, while the no-smoking policy does not require smokers to quit in order to rent a KCKHA residence, if someone does seek to quit, HCWYCO is equipped to assist and lists resources here: hcwyco.org/quitnow.

☎ To learn more, contact Rebecca Garza at 913-573-8833 or rgarza@wycokck.org.

Register for ACA by December 15!

by Kimberly Hunter

Open enrollment for health-care coverage through the Affordable Care Act continues through December 15. RDA encourages residents to register as soon as possible rather than wait until the last day. The beginning rush of applicants is now over, so today is a great time to register while lines are short.



☎ To learn more, contact a Certified Application Counselor of the Community Health Council at 913-735-9008 or visit wycowhealth.com/enroll-wyandotte/.

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.

