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THE ROSEDALLIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Community Spotlight

Pablo Escareno

by Je T'aime Taylor

On December 12, 2017, Pablo 'Paul' Escareno passed unexpectedly. He will be remembered as a neighbor who had his ears to the ground, a jokester who loved to bring a smile to the face of all, a community gardener who loved growing ghost peppers and watering fruit trees, an advocate who pushed for public transportation and a volunteer who was willing to lend a helping hand. To me, he was a community uncle figure who kept watch over the neighborhood we call home.

In March 2015 I started my position at Rosedale Development Association. Within a week or two on the job Pablo 'Paul' Escareno came in, took a seat and asked me several

questions. I did not realize it then, but Pablo was conducting a community job interview. I was hired by RDA but had not yet been approved for hire from this Rosedale resident.

Pablo would frequently visit me at the office. He taught me about RDA and the community of Rosedale while reminding me every chance he had about the strong women who had come before me. I had big shoes to fill from those who walked before me, and he wanted me to know that. As our relationship grew, Pablo introduced his families—both biological and communal—through story.

At some point I assume I was accepted into Pablo's grace. In the spirit of com-



REV. RUTH HARDER OF RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

Pablo and his family often shared time together at Whitmore Playground.

munity he began to bring me fresh tamales and Mexican sweet bread. He must have known that the way to my heart was through meaningful conversation, food and laughter. That is how I will remember Pablo.

My condolences to the

family and friends of Pablo 'Paul' Escareno. He will truly be missed.

📌 To express condolences to Pablo's family, contact Kimberly Hunter at 913-677-5097 x11 or kimberly@rosedale.org.

RDA sets audacious 2018 goals to best serve Rosedale

by Alissa Workman

Rosedale Development Association believes a thriving Rosedale is characterized by: a robust economy, vibrant community, healthy people, a thriving environment and a sustainable RDA.

Utilizing input from the 2015 Rosedale Community Survey, the RDA Board, staff and AmeriCorps team members annually set community-driven goals to move this vision of Rosedale forward. Executive Director Erin Stryka says, "RDA is driven by the needs of Rosedalians, so I'm really excited to start working towards the needs identified in the 2015 Rosedale Community Survey."

In 2018, with the support of residents, businesses, community partners and donors, RDA will:

Robust economy

- Build a strong Rosedale business identity through mutually supportive partnerships. Increase access to job skills education for all Rosedalians.
- Advocate for business development that serves the economic interests of all Rosedalians.

Vibrant community

- Amplify a Rosedale community identity.
- Increase opportunities for Rosedalians to give input on community issues.
- Engage Rosedalians as ambassadors to invite and inform neighbors of all cultures.



KIMBERLY HUNTER AND EMILY XIONG

RDA team enjoys Whitmore Playground over the holidays.

- Increase opportunities for residents to build relationship in community events.
- Advocate for a Rosedale Community Center.
- Continue health-related programs that fill the gap.
- Advocate for local, permanent healthy food retail outlets.
- Connect residents to and advocate for healthcare resources.
- Partner with residents, neighborhood associations and developers to create high-quality, green neighborhoods.
- Partner with UG, residents, and businesses to improve park quality and usage.
- Advocate for complete

street throughout Rosedale.

- Advocate for policies and development that decrease vacancy and blight and increase gathering spaces.

Sustainable RDA

- Improve RDA's building to maximize functionality and income.
- Increase unrestricted revenue/reserves.
- Increase RDA's visibility and communication efforts to residents and businesses.
- Invest in staff and board capacity to meet the evolving needs and challenges of Rosedale.

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

Tips to prevent illness this winter

by Dr. Allison Edwards

Cold and flu season is upon us, and here are a few tips to keep you well (or help you recover if you do fall ill):

- Get your flu shot! The CDC has warned that it may not be as effective as we would like this year, but it is still better than not getting your flu shot. The flu shot does not cause the flu.
- Wash your hands. Seriously. This is the easiest way to prevent the spread of germs.
- Aim to sleep for eight hours a night, eat well, and stay hydrated. These are the basics, but they're supremely important in creating a strong foundation to keep your body strong to fight off infections when they happen.

- Exercise. Evidence shows that having a regular habit of exercising (even walking 30 minutes a day) can help you fight off infections faster when they strike.

- Establish care with a doctor. Colds and flu are usually caused by viruses — meaning that there is not a good treatment to treat the infection itself. Treatment is usually based on treating your symptoms, but if things seem to be getting worse or a fever is not subsiding, check in with your doctor to make sure all is well. Stay well, Rosedale!

📌 To learn more, contact Dr. Edwards at 913-730-0331 or visit kansascitydirectprimarycare.com.



EMILY XIONG

Rosedale Girl Scouts fine tune their harmony in preparation for caroling.

Rosedale Girl Scout Troop leads the way

by Emily Xiong

In a mission to make a difference this holiday season, Girl Scouts Troop #1685 caroled in Rosedale and served as gift donors for the Salvation Army Angel Tree.

This year the Scouts wanted to give back with a new holiday project. For this project each troop member received a special slip from the Salvation Angel Tree at Oak Park Mall. The slip provided information such as the age and the wish list of a local child. Each gift was personally purchased by a troop member at a local Walmart. Because of their giving, many local children will have presents to open on Christmas morning.

In accordance with troop tradition, the Girl Scouts also caroled for community elders at Rosedale Towers and used troop meeting time to diligently practice. The troop enjoys this annual activity because it always brings holiday cheer and excitement to Rosedale Towers residents. This year, many Scouts made cookies and ornaments to share at the concert. As troop member, Zoe Hobbs, says, "It's fun and people really enjoy it!" To support the troop, consider placing an order for Girl Scout cookies this winter.

📞 To learn more, contact Emily Xiong at 913-677-5097 or emily@rosedale.org.

RDA Board welcomes new members

by Erin Stryka

RDA benefits from the time and talents of our board of directors throughout the year, and in 2018 is excited to welcome six new board members! One of the new members this year is Sharon Potts, principal at Noble Prentis Elementary School. Sharon came to Noble Prentis in 2016. She says, "I am always mindful of what students and

families need socially, emotionally and academically and want to be involved with community resources for the betterment of families. I believe in supporting communities that support children and families." Welcome to the team, Sharon!

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

University Town Plan holds final public meeting

by Erin Stryka

The University Town Plan, a project to refine one of the major moves laid out in the Rosedale Master Plan, held a final public meeting in December laying out steps toward achieving the goals set in the master plan and in the previous public meetings.

Strategies for the first goal, creating a transit oriented development plan aimed at increased services for residents and walkability, included proposals for pedestrian and bike facilities on Rainbow and Adams, increasing street trees, and two proposed locations for a transit center.

Strategies for the second goal, to improve area parks, trails and recreational amenities, included enhancing green space on 39th from Fisher Park to Rainbow, and creating a central hub for the community at Fisher Park emphasizing the Rozarks trails and working towards a long-hoped-for

community center or library.

Strategies for the third goal, promoting high quality development that enhances the Rosedale image, included locating higher density housing on the edges of neighborhoods and major roads, and using middle housing to transition from university and office areas into single family ones.

Strategies for the fourth goal, pursuing housing that accommodates diverse housing needs, included both upper-end housing that is not currently available in the area and a proposal to maintain affordability with a requirement that 10 percent of new housing be affordable. The University Town Plan will be presented to the commission for adoption as part of the Rosedale Master Plan in 2018.

📞 To learn more, visit rosedaleuniversitytown.com or call Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097



Rosedalians discuss changes made to the plan since the previous public meeting.

Community Calendar

December 23-January 1
RDA office closed

ONGOING EVENTS:

Mondays and Thursdays
Fisher Park Walking Club

Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Call for meet-up location

January 2-30

Mobile Library

Mondays: 1-3 p.m., January 8 and 22

Whitmore Playground

Tuesdays 2:30-4:30 p.m.,

January 2, 16, 30, at Fisher Park, KCK

ONE-TIME EVENTS:

Monday, January 1

Smoke-free policy takes effect at HUD & KUMC properties

Tuesday, January 9

Open house: Sidewalks for Safe Routes to School

4:30-7 p.m.,

1401 Southwest Blvd. KCK

Wednesday, January 10

RISE Readers' Volunteer Orientation

6 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

January 15-19

RISE reading program

Various schools throughout Rosedale

Wednesday, January 17

Rosedale Leadership Council

5:30 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Saturday, January 20

Rose Alert neighborhood meeting

6:30 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, business and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.

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Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Erin Stryka Executive Director

Staff and Board of Directors

online at rosedale.org

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Memory Lane: How I-35 changed Southwest Blvd.

by Cecilia Raab

My family never lived in Rosedale, but our home was about four miles west on Espenlaub Lane just off Merriam Lane. I grew up there in the 1950's and 1960's. Our area was known as the Merriam township until Kansas City, KS annexed our neighborhood. Our street was named after the Espenlaub family who lived in Rosedale.

We traveled through and also shopped in Rosedale. The area surrounding Southwest Blvd. was known as "Downtown Rosedale" or lower Rosedale, and the area around Rainbow Blvd. was called upper Rosedale. The railroad tracks bisected lower Rosedale. I remember waiting in the car with my family for the train to pass by, and my dad, Joe Raab, told me that the city was planning on building an overpass there, so we wouldn't have to wait for the train anymore.

My mother used to take us to Rosedale to visit the doctors located above one of the drugstores. The pediatrician was named Dr. Reike and the dentist Dr. Poisener. I thought that was an ironic name for a dentist! At age 5, I was a little

scared to visit the doctors, but they gave us some candy afterward – usually those little pastel colored pills on a paper strip. Mom took the cab because there was an affordable cab stand right there in downtown Rosedale.

The old brick, three-story Whitmore School was where the playground is now, but I never went inside because I attended another school. My family liked to shop in Rosedale, and one of our favorite stores was Mrs. Rose's Outgrown Shop. This was a thrift store, and we found play clothes and toys there to buy. After it was demolished for the I-35 overpass, Mrs. Rose moved her store to Armourdale. We also liked to go into the drugstores. The first one was below the doctors' offices at 1700 Southwest Blvd. The second one was at S. 8th and Southwest Blvd., and it had a soda fountain. I admired the glass apothecary bottles filled with colored liquid displayed in the windows.

One of the stores on the Southwest Blvd. curve was Old McDonald's Feed Store.

One day, Dad went there and purchased ducks – both Mallards and whites – and brought them to the creek behind our house. A large white duck quacked so loudly I called it "Loudmouth"! Later, I discovered Loudmouth was a female duck because she laid a whole nest of eggs! She continued to quack loudly to scare us away. We also got several chickens from Old McDonald's.

Of course, I have many more memories of Rosedale, but these are enough for now! I hope you enjoyed reading my trip down memory lane.

📞 To get in touch with Cecilia or share a memory, contact Kimberly Hunter at 913-677-5097 x11 or kimberly@rosedale.org.

Retraction: Last month The Rosedalian incorrectly identified the RISE reader in the page one photo as Dr. Amanda Vega. The reader was Rosedale resident Rachel Hostetter. Editors regret the error.

Let's be rock solid together!

Please accept my donation in support of RDA.

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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.

