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THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Community Spotlight

Rosedale Farmers Market opens for 2018 season

by Nicole Fitzgerald

Tomatoes, watermelons, eggs, handicrafts, honey, and locally raised beef and poultry can all be purchased at this year's Rosedale Farmers Market. Located in the Commerce Bank parking lot at 4020 Rainbow Blvd., the weekend market is open every Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through September 23. It will feature local musicians for Music at the Market from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on June 24, July 29, and August 26.

On select Wednesdays the Rosedale Farmers Market also sells at the KU Medical Center's Dykes Library, located at 2100 W. 39th Ave. The Wednesday market is open

from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, and August 22.

Both markets partner with Cultivate Kansas City to offer the Double Up Food Bucks program to Rosedale residents with SNAP/EBT cards. A maximum of \$25 can be matched per market. For example, if a resident swipes a SNAP/EBT card for a \$10 purchase, Double Up Food Bucks will match their money with an additional \$10 for a total of \$20 to be used on nutritious fruits and veggies.

To learn more, email Nicole Fitzgerald at info@rosedalefarmersmarket.com.



NICOLE FITZGERALD

New midweek market offers fresh produce on select Wednesday afternoons.

Apply today: A-team seeks new players

by Je T'aime Taylor

Who seeks to make a lasting impact in their local community? Who needs professional experience and a college scholarship? Who is passionate about helping neighbors thrive? Rosedale Development Association is now recruiting eight individuals to serve as part-time AmeriCorps Kansas members from September 1, 2018-August 31, 2019 in the following areas:

Summer Youth Employment is a job-readiness program for youth ages 14-17. AmeriCorps members work with staff to create and update a job board on the RDA website. They also interview past participants to assess the program from participants' perspectives.

The Youth Sports program serves youth ages 5-13. RDA coordinates five eight-week-long seasonal sports programs including soccer, t-ball, volleyball, and basketball. AmeriCorps members are responsible for attending hour-long weekday evening practices and Saturday games, recruiting and training coaches, and assisting with program evaluation.

The Garden and Orchard Care program coordinates four community gardens and orchards in the Rosedale neighborhood. AmeriCorps members work closely with Rosedale residents to maintain designated grow-



MARK RODRIGUEZ

RDA's 2017 AmeriCorps Kansas team celebrates Healthy Halloween in style.

ing spaces from March through November. In addition, members coordinate with local garden experts to provide monthly workshops for residents. During the growing season, members

also organize weekly garden workdays on Saturdays from 8-11 a.m.

Kids in the Kitchen is a program from Harvesters that focuses on healthy cooking. After training from Harvest-

ers, AmeriCorps members provide cooking classes to 150 youth throughout the service year and collect learning growth data.

Each AmeriCorps Kansas member participates in orientation, training, community events, neighborhood beautification, and more. Members gain invaluable experience in community development, program coordination, coalition building, and growing partnerships. Members serve 20 hours each week and earn a \$250 biweekly living allowance. Each member also receives a \$3,000 Segal Education Award after the completion of 900 service hours.

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

"Text, Talk, Vote" dinners draw neighbors together

by Erin Stryka

To vote or not to vote? Why or why not? On Thursday, June 21, from 6-8 p.m., RDA and Consensus KC will host a non-partisan discussion about voting and what it means to be engaged in a community's political life. Rosedalianes are invited to enjoy a complimentary dinner with friends and neighbors. Afterwards, participants will form small groups for a facilitated discussion about voting and civic

engagement. Via a platform called Text, Talk, Vote, participants will receive discussion questions via a smartphone, talk as a group, and then text back their group's response.

Text, Talk, Vote is a national platform that creates comfortable conversational space for the modern era. According to Text, Talk, Vote, "Older generations had public spaces like diners and barbershops in which political and community

conversations could be had. All too often, political conversations devolve into a cynical or combative 'Thanksgiving Dinner' conversation. We're creating conversations to empower. By an overwhelming margin, most participants of the program say they had a good time: Texting and talking to friends is fun!"

According to wycovotes.org, 24.4 percent of the 77,671 (continued next page)

(Vote continued) registered voters in Wyandotte County voted in the last election. Text, Talk, Vote reports that after using their program, 20 percent more participants say they are “definitely going to vote” and 52 percent report entertaining new ideas or

perspectives about their communities or political involvement. Join RDA on June 21 to discuss voting with friends and neighbors!

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

Now open: Applications for free minor home repair

by Erin Stryka

The University of Kansas Health System is once again working with Christmas in October and RDA to provide minor home repair to Rosedalians this fall. Since 1984, Christmas in October has dedicated the first two Saturdays in October to repairing the homes of residents who are elderly, disabled, veterans, or low-income. The program focuses on issues of warmth, safety, and dignity and provides repairs at no cost to the homeowners.

Christmas in October works on 350-400 homes in the Kansas City area every year. This year, skilled volunteers from UKHS will take on up to 20 homes in Rosedale. Repairs can be as simple as a coat of paint or as complex as leaky faucets or faulty furnaces.

To qualify, residents must own only one home and currently reside in it; lack the finances or resources to have



ANDREA STEERE
UKHS volunteers partner with Christmas in October to repair a Rosedalian's home.

the repairs completed; and not have received assistance from Christmas in October in the past year. In addition, applicants must be at least 62 years of age, physically disabled, and/or a veteran or have a veteran living in their home.

📞 To apply or learn more, visit christmasinoktober.org/homeowner/ or the RDA office at 1403 Southwest Blvd.

Board and Staff Members

Welcome to new Board member **Grace Lamberton!** Growing up in Rosedale, Grace has always found the neighborhood to be vibrant and diverse, which inspired her to become more involved as an RDA board member. As someone who values healthy community, Grace wants to contribute to an organization that empowers its members to have a voice and take action on important issues. In the future, Grace envisions



Rosedale will build momentum in empowering the lives of its residents.

Play-powered philanthropy: Athletes, neighbors, and businesses team-up for Rosedale Disc de Triomphe

by Alissa Workman



ELIZABETH TILDEN PHOTOGRAPHY
High fives all around! The laid-back environment of the Rosedale Disc de Triomphe makes it an ideal tournament for families and first-timers, as well as those who love the sport and have been playing for years.

On Saturday, May 5, over 120 disc golfers, volunteers, and spectators joined RDA for the second annual Rosedale Disc de Triomphe. Presented by RDA and Dynamic Discs, the disc golf tournament offers fun, friendly competition for players ranging from curious novices to top-rated professionals who play in national tournaments.

This year's event raised over \$11,000, which will empower RDA's community-building work in Rosedale for months to come. Twenty-four businesses, many within Rosedale, sponsored the event, and an additional 25 businesses and organizations from the region donated prizes or supplies for “player packs” — disc golf bags filled with discs and other goodies for each participant.

Rosedale's disc golf community is not only about play. It regularly gives back to Rosedale Park and the surrounding neighborhood in a number of ways, including through donating to park improvement projects, such as a new ADA-approved playground accessible to those

living with disabilities; mentoring youth via RDA's Summer Youth Employment program; organizing regular volunteer workdays to clean up and annually plant 20 trees in the park; coordinating multiple annual tournaments in the park that draw many newcomers to Wyandotte County from around the region and nation.

📞 To get involved, contact Alissa Workman at 913-677-5097 or alissa@rosedale.org.

Rosedale Development Association

Our mission is: To work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.
1403 Southwest Blvd.
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Community Calendar

assembled by Kimberly Hunter

RECURRING EVENTS:

Fisher Park Walking Club

Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Call for meet-up location

Community garden workdays

Saturdays 8-11 a.m.

Call for meet-up location

ONE-TIME EVENTS:

Monday, June 4

Hilltop Neighborhood meeting

6 p.m.

1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Thursday, June 7

Garden workshop #4: Planting for pollinators

6-8 p.m.

1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Tuesday, June 12

Frank Rushton Neighborhood meeting

6:30 p.m.

4326 Lloyd St., KCK

Wednesday, June 13

Shawnee Road Neighborhood meeting

7 p.m., 818 Shawnee Rd., KCK

Tuesday, June 19

Cambridge Connector public meeting

4:30-7:30 p.m.

1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Wednesday, June 20

Rosedale Leadership Council

5:30 p.m.

1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Thursday, June 21

Text, Talk, Vote community dinner

6-8 p.m.

1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

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

Memory Lane: A different domino departure

by Kimberly Hunter

On Thursday afternoons, Rosedalians driving past Fisher Park might notice several grandfatherly gentlemen gathered around a shaded picnic table on the park's east side. Most are childhood friends who grew up west of Springfield St. — or as they say, on the “colored side” of Rosedale's racial dividing line enforced by “city codes.” They recall when white students attended Frank Rushton Elementary while they walked downhill to Crispus Attucks, now the Bernie Electric building. Though only a few still reside in Rosedale, they reunite here each week over lunch and dominoes. Some histories they hold are common to both sides of Springfield; others are distinctly theirs.

Like many thriving Rosedale organizations, theirs has roots in volunteerism. Over 40 years ago they were part of the Rosedale Sportsmen's Club, which originally met at Swope Park but later transitioned to Rosedale Park — then an easy trip by streetcar. After that club disbanded, they adopted an abandoned lot at the corner of Minnie St. and Lake Ave., which they dubbed Shelby Park for one of their friends who had passed away. They mowed and cared for the space until a private developer bought it, evicted them, and fenced it off. That lot still sits empty today. The group moved to Fisher Park but worries they may lose that spot, too, with the westward expansion of the University of Kansas Health System. When asked how to join their dominoes club, Carl — a retired police detective and community historian — says with a grin, “We're like the mafia; you have to have blood lines. You can't just walk in off the street.”

Despite the gleeful glint in his eye, Carl is serious. The men's roots run deep,



KIMBERLY HUNTER
Robinson, Officer, Jones and others reminisce each Thursday in Fisher Park.

pre-integration deep. One gentleman — Frank E. Jones, Jr. — recounts how in 1954 he and six students of color became the first to integrate Rosedale High. Another giant at the table, Melvin Robinson, furthered integration the following year with over 100 others. Both Jones and Robinson still live in the neighborhood. When asked why most have left, their answers vary. Johnny Officer, who worked in both Kansas and Missouri's juvenile courts, says, “They wiped out 30 percent of affordable housing. They're trying to price out those of us they call minorities.” Officer was displaced from a single-family house in Rosedale when the government bought his property to build Belrose Manor. “Oh, I knew that when urban renewal came through

where I live,” concurs Jones, who lives on Springfield but raised his family on land now owned by Mission Cliffs Home Owners' Association. Others recall a different domino departure effect in which parents passed away, children moved away, and homes went to tax sales. “We didn't have a choice because we were poor,” says one. “But when we lived close, we looked out for each other's kids, and everybody was okay.” When asked how they stay connected amidst such disruptions, Johnny says, “We're like family, a tight-knit community.” Heads nod around the table. “Communication keeps us together,” he concludes.

📞 To share a memory, contact Kimberly Hunter at 913-677-5097 or kimberly@rosedale.org.

Let's be rock solid together!

Join the Rosedale Arch Club by making a monthly or annual contribution suitable to your means. All individuals, households, and businesses are welcome to join!

By mail: Rosedale Development Association
1403 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103

Online at: rosedale.org/archclub

