

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Design chosen for new Fisher Park playground

by Erin Stryka

One hundred kids and 44 adults weighed in on five different design options for the new Fisher Park playground in July. A large majority chose a custom-designed playscape by ABCreative. Rosedalians gave feedback online and in person that this design, pictured here, had a wide variety of things to do, was inclusive to kids of different ages and abilities, and looked like the most fun. Before the playground is built, ABCreative will incorporate some additional suggestions from the community, such as a toddler-sized slide and a small, rope-based climbing element.



Rosedalians selected a custom-designed playscape by ABCreative.

One Rosedalian who filled out the online survey comments, "My four-year old picked this . . . She loves all the slides. I like the large variety of things to do." Another Rosedalian, responding to a question about what they like about their preferred design, appreciates the "multiple ways of getting on the play structure, multiple slides," and "the round suspended swing that will allow children with special needs to play on the playground."

Volunteers are needed for a community build day this fall. Especially needed are five-to-ten people familiar with tools and able to lift over 60 pounds to assemble the equipment, as well as Rosedalians of any skill level to prepare the playground surface and help spruce up the park.

The Rosedale Development Association, Mission

Cliffs Homeowners Association, and the Unified Government Parks and Recreation raised funds for this project from Wyandotte County Parks Foundation, Neighborhoods Rising Fund, Meet Me at the Park (a highly-competitive

national award), and in-kind support from the Parks Department to assist with labor, landscaping, signs, and seating. This project follows several other recent community-led initiatives in Fisher Park, including a Giving Grove

orchard, rainwater gardens, Rozarks Nature Trail trailhead, and a water fountain.

📍 To volunteer with the Fisher Park Community Build Day, contact Alissa at 913-677-5097 or [alissa@rosedale.org](mailto:alissa@rosedale.org).

## RDA wins "Organization with Greatest Impact" award

by Alissa Workman

In October, RDA will join six other regional organizations and individuals as a 2018 Thrive Honoree. Presented by Greater Kansas City LISC, the award ceremony will take place on October 11 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Kansas City, MO to celebrate the honorees' contributions to community transformation.

According to their website, "with residents and partners, LISC forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportu-

nity across America — great places to live, work, visit, do business and raise families." This is the second year LISC has hosted the Thrive awards. In addition to the award, RDA will receive a short, professionally developed film showcasing some of their work in Rosedale this summer.

"It is an honor to be recognized alongside such great organizations and community leaders who are working to create positive change in the

Kansas City region," says RDA Executive Director Erin Stryka. She continues, "While we never approach our work by the accolades it will earn us, I'm grateful for any opportunity to bring Rosedale into the spotlight."

📍 To learn more about the Thrive awards and how to purchase tickets to the October 11 event, visit [lisc.org/kansas-city/regional-events/thrive-2018/](http://lisc.org/kansas-city/regional-events/thrive-2018/) or call Alissa at 913-677-5097.

## Community Spotlight

### Bambu Desserts and Drinks to open soon in Rosedale

by Je T'aime Taylor

Rosedale welcomes a new business, Bambu Desserts and Drinks, to 3920 Rainbow Blvd. Bambu is a national franchise that started as the small Vietnamese Chè, Coffee & Teas Shoppe in San Jose, California. Kansas City owner Giang Nguyen tells residents to expect incredibly fresh, nutritious and colorful chè, unique milk teas, bold Vietnamese espressos, blended coffees, exotic fruit smoothies, and individually prepared juices.

Giang came to the United States at the age of seven and since then has called Olathe home. Recently he and his sister decided to

open a coffee shop. After researching franchises, they decided to bring some of their Vietnamese tradition to Kansas City by way of opening Bambu Desserts and Drinks. Giang predicts the shop's favorites will be chè and Vietnamese coffee. Chè is a traditional Vietnamese dessert that is both dairy and gluten free, with ingredients prepared daily from cutting dozens of young coconuts to capture their water and meat to make a fresh batch of one-of-a-kind Pandan Jelly and Red Tapioca.

Bambu Desserts and Drinks is expected to debut in Rosedale mid-August. Their



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Bambu Desserts and Drinks plans to open this month in Rosedale.

business hours will be Monday through Friday, 6 a.m.-9 a.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Opportunities for employment are still open. To apply, send a

resume to [kansascity@drink-bambu.com](mailto:kansascity@drink-bambu.com).

📍 To learn more, contact Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097 or [erin@rosedale.org](mailto:erin@rosedale.org).



Each year, RDA counts on UKHS volunteers to assist with neighborhood improvement projects like landscaping, nature trail upkeep, and mural maintenance.

## Rosedale soaks up summer storm of service volunteers

by Kimberly Hunter

This season, thunder and rain are not the only forces of nature to take Rosedale by storm. In the short span of seven weeks, more than two hundred volunteers from seven organizations signed up to serve in seven neighborhood projects. The organizations represent Rosedale's institutional diversity, with groups hailing from the faith, education, and business sectors.

Each year, University of Kansas Health System (UKHS) students arrive ready to work — usually before 8 a.m. RDA often relies on them for major seasonal work projects, such as maintaining the Rozarks Nature Trails. This year the Triangle and Mission Road Mural also made the cut. "The Triangle" is a public green space located along Southwest Blvd., near the Mission Rd. and Interstate 35 exits. Before he passed away in 2016, Rosedalian Phil Gardos planted and maintained the area with irises, rose bushes, and flowering native plants out of the goodness of his huge heart. Now volunteers maintain the space

in his honor. Those passing by honked and waved their glad approval the July morning UKHS gave the beloved landscape a much-needed makeover. The Mission Road Mural is a public art installation just northeast of the Mission Rd. and W. 42nd St. intersection, which UKHS students carefully scraped in preparation for its restoration.

This summer, most other volunteer groups came from church youth groups like St. Gabriel's, Our Savior Lutheran, Rainbow Mennonite, and New Story. They served not only in the Rozarks and Triangle but also in community gardens and building renovations. New this year are volunteers from Rosedale business Laminate Works, who are partnering with RDA and Dynamic Discs to clean and repaint the bathrooms at Rosedale Park. Altogether, volunteers will donate over 800 human service hours, valued at more than \$17,700.

**To volunteer, contact Kimberly Hunter at 913-677-5097 or kimberly@rosedale.org.**

## RDA credits Rosedalians for making their work possible

by Alissa Workman

What is a Rosedalian? Is it someone who simply lives within the 66103 zip code or something more? After 40 years of working together with Rosedalians, RDA has learned they share a common desire to uplift their community; connect with one another in community parks and public spaces; work hard to achieve their goals for the neighborhood; support positive youth development; volunteer their time generously; build community through participation in neighborhood groups and civic engagement; and help neighbors in need.

Rosedalians are proud to be from 66103 and eager to play a role in shaping the community's future. Most of all, Rosedalians are the heart of Rosedale and the inspiration for RDA's work in the community. As RDA makes progress on community-driven 2018 goals, they invite Rosedalians

to join their work to strengthen Rosedale for all who live, work, and play here by making a tax-deductible donation. Each gift allows RDA to:

- Rehab 20 homes for low-income seniors
- Feed 40 families and elders over Thanksgiving
- Sustain and expand out-of-school programming for Rosedale youth
- Advocate for zoning updates that meet the needs of residents and businesses alike
- Host health-minded community events and a community build for the Fisher Park playground
- And more

Each gift, no matter the size, is meaningful and impactful. To make a contribution suitable to your means online, visit [rosedale.org/donate](http://rosedale.org/donate).

**To learn more, contact Alissa at 913-677-5097 or [alissa@rosedale.org](mailto:alissa@rosedale.org)**

## Board highlight: Dr. Robert Spaniol

by Kimberly Hunter

This month, RDA thanks long-time Board member and Rosedale co-homeowner Dr. Robert Spaniol for serving not only as Treasurer but also Christmas in October co-coordinator. As the University of Kansas Health System (UKHS) Director of HIPAA Commitment/Corporate Compliance, Spaniol first got involved with RDA through former Executive Director, Wendy Wilson, because he understood the medical institution has "such a big footprint it's important . . . to know what Rosedale is thinking as well as for RDA and residents to understand why we do what we do, especially related to buildings, housing, and parking." In 2009, UKHS recognized Spaniol has a HERO (Hospital Employee Reaching Out) for his leadership in connecting UKHS to RDA and broader Rosedale through service pro-



Dr. Robert Spaniol

grams such as Christmas in October's minor home repair. Spaniol believes, "To promote the community's well-being... there always needs to be a representative from UKHS on RDA's Board."

**To learn more, contact Erin Stryka at 913-677-5097 or [erin@rosedale.org](mailto:erin@rosedale.org).**

## Community Calendar

assembled by Kimberly Hunter

### RECURRING EVENTS:

*Mondays at 5:30 p.m.*

*Thursdays at 1 p.m.*

### Fisher Park Walking Club

Call for meet-up location

*Saturdays 8-11 a.m.*

### Community Garden Workdays

Call for meet-up location

### ONE-TIME EVENTS:

*Monday, August 6*

### Hilltop Neighborhood meeting

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

*Wednesday, August 8*

### Shawnee Road Neighborhood meeting

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

*Thursday, August 9*

### Community Potluck Workshop #6: Exercise in the Garden

Call for carpools and/or childcare 6-8 p.m., 2314 W. 39th Ave., KCK

*Tuesday, August 14*

### Frank Rushton Neighborhood meeting

6:30 p.m., 4326 Lloyd St., KCK

*Wednesday, August 15*

### Rosedale Leadership Council

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

*Saturday, August 25*

### Community Picnic at Whitmore Playground

Includes ice cream, face painting, and photo booth

6-8 p.m., 1412 Southwest Blvd., KCK

**To learn more about upcoming events and other community happenings, visit [rosedale.org](http://rosedale.org) or call 913-677-5097.**

## Rosedale Development Association

**Our mission is:** To work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community. 1403 Southwest Blvd. Kansas City, KS 66103

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

**Erin Stryka** Executive Director

**Kimberly Hunter** Editor

**Staff and Board of Directors**

online at [rosedale.org](http://rosedale.org)

Lizzardbrand Design

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Rosedale.org

## Rosedale clinic leads effort to erase \$1.4 million in medical bills for Kansas City patients

by Dr. Allison Edwards of Rosedale-based Kansas City Direct Primary Care (KCDPC)

Hundreds of Kansas Citians headed to their mailboxes last month and found their past-due notices and reminders for their unpaid medical bills had been replaced with letters declaring their debts forgiven. Even more surprising was a group of local doctors and nurse practitioners, The Midwest Direct Primary Care Alliance (MDPCA), was behind the debt relief.

Pulling from their own coffers, these independent primary care providers donated over \$10,000 to buy \$1,474,987.25 in unpaid medical bills. These medical bills belong to area residents who had been sent to collections by hospitals and clinics throughout the region. The providers partnered with the nonprofit organization RIP Medical Debt to turn around and forgive the \$1.4 million in debt that had previously burdened 784 people in the Kansas City region. Letters noting the debt relief were mailed to recipients in July explaining the gift had no strings attached.

Medical debt affects every community and can destabilize any household. A June 2018 article in the Kansas City Star brought the local impact of medical debt into sharper focus: in some parts of the



Laurin Myers, PBT, takes the blood pressure of a KCDPC patient during a recent visit.

metro, up to 30% of households have medical debt in collections. And though these families aren't yet at the point of bankruptcy, a 2009 research piece found that over 60% of bankruptcies studied were due to medical debt, and that the average balance leading to the bankruptcy was well over \$5000.

"When I worked within the large hospital systems, I couldn't tell you how much an MRI was. Or what a lab would cost the patient. As doctors, we had been blinded to the cost of care, and — whether we like it or not — we bore some responsibility for patients' bills," noted MDPCA member Ryan

Neuhofel, DO, MPH of Lawrence, Kansas. He continued, "But now's our job, as direct primary care providers, to prioritize thinking about health-care costs in the context of care and prevent debt like this from piling up in the first place." In addition to providing affordable, transparent health care to their patients, MDPCA hopes to erase even more past debt for local people through an ongoing crowdfunding campaign found online at [midwestdp-calliance.org/medical-debt](http://midwestdp-calliance.org/medical-debt).

**To learn more, contact Rosedale's Dr. Edwards at 913-730-0331 or [allison@kansascitydirectprimarycare.com](mailto:allison@kansascitydirectprimarycare.com).**

Let's be rock solid together!  
Please accept my donation in support of RDA.

Name of business or name of household

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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](http://rosedale.org/archclub).

