

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Good Neighbor

Garden Angel Bob McCartney

by Nicole Fitzgerald

Bob McCartney can be seen (or unseen) doing acts of kindness for the Rosedale community and its' members. He was nominated as a good neighbor for his generosity towards Rosedalians and for the selfless work he extends towards the South Early St. community garden. Bob and his family have been living in Rosedale for 30 years. They like the Rosedale area because it's close to metro attractions yet still has a quietness about it that he and his family value. Bob has been gardening at the South Early St. site for three growing seasons now. Last year, when the community garden became overgrown, Bob repeatedly walked his lawn mower down to the garden and mowed the wild, unruly grass. When I asked him why

he took time out of his day to mow the grass, he nonchalantly replied, "I saw the need and took care of it." After this simple yet profound answer, I went on to ask Bob what he likes most about the garden. "I look forward to the work days. I enjoy getting to know the community and meeting new people," he replied.

Once a month the gardeners get together for a workday to prune, pick, and beautify the lush garden beds that dot the earth. I asked Bob about his favorite thing to grow and eat from the garden. A wide smile broke out across his face as he told me, "I enjoy the pears, but I love the blackberries . . . if you can get them." Between the birds and other gardeners, blackberries are quick to go when they're in season. When I asked Bob if he'd be returning to garden at South Early St., he enthusiastically told me he would definitely be gardening again this summer.

As we wrapped up our conversation, I asked him what being a good neighbor meant to him. He said, simply put, good neighbors watch



KIMBERLY HUNTER

Bob mows the South Early St. garden before a community workday.

out for one another, and "our neighborhoods would flourish if people take an interest in them." Bob and many other Rosedalians have taken an interest in the betterment and beautification of Rosedale. Thanks to the countless hours of work and generosity from other good neighbors and

garden angels like Bob, Rosedale continues to flourish. Be like Bob and help RDA recruit more volunteers in 2019 than last year.

🏠 To volunteer or nominate a neighbor, contact Kimberly at 913-677-5097 or kimberly@rosedale.org.



RDA STOCK

AmeriCorps Kansas members practice holistic health in work and play.

Employment opportunities are blooming at RDA

by Rob Gibson

As winter ends and spring begins, new employment opportunities are blooming at Rosedale Development Association. The Summer Youth Employment (SYE) program, funded yearly by a Board of Public Utilities grant, gives youth ages 14-17 an opportunity to work seasonally at businesses in and around Rosedale. Local partners represent a range of business sectors, including HVAC, education, healthcare, animal care, automotive care, and culinary arts.

Successful applicants work a minimum of 12 hours a week Monday through Friday and attend required professional development sessions, including a weekly speaker series each Friday entitled "Lunch and Learn."

Students begin their job placements at the beginning of June, continue for eight weeks, and end in July. For many youth, SYE is their first job, so this program provides them an opportunity to gain the job, skills, and training experience essential for entering the workforce. Students who reside within the 66103 zip code and are interested in the SYE program may obtain applications at the RDA office or in their school's office.

AmeriCorps Kansas offers yet another Rosedale community service job opportunity. Successful AmeriCorps applicants serve in one of two capacities: half-time September through August focusing on gardening, kids cooking classes, neighborhood beautification, and youth sports or

Celebrate National Volunteer Week with the All-Rosedale Cleanup

by Kimberly Hunter

This spring, RDA invites Rosedalians and their fans to the second annual All-Rosedale Cleanup on Saturday, April 13. Participants may register as individuals or with a neighborhood, school, church, or organizational team. The team with the most volunteers, however, will win a 2019 park party at a Rosedale park of their choosing. Participants should meet at Fisher Park at 8 a.m. for orientation. There teams will receive gloves, water, snacks, trash bags and assignments for different projects around the neighborhood.

Afterwards, everyone is invited to reconvene at 12 p.m. in Fisher Park for music and a celebratory cookout. So far, the largest team to register is the University of Kansas Health Systems' Otolaryngology Department. But rumor has it Reggie Oddums with the Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association will be back again this year along with local youth and business leaders. So celebrate the end of National Volunteer Week by

joining the rivalry or simply enjoying some constructive, neighborly fun at an event where friendships will be forged, memories made, and a community cleaned up just in time for spring.

🏠 To volunteer or register for a cleanup project, contact Kimberly Hunter at kimberly@rosedale.org or 913-677-5097.



ERIN STRYKA

All-Rosedale Cleanup volunteers ranged from youth to elders, educators, and business leaders.

short-term seasonal serving approximately 40 hours per week June through July. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have some college or verifiable work history, be a U.S. citizen or national or permanent resident of the United States, and demonstrate a commitment to community service.

📍 To apply for the AmeriCorps positions, visit nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/join-ameri-corps.

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

Estimated number of volunteer hours served in 2018:

4,010

Estimated number of volunteer hours served in 2019:

258

Get outside in May with RDA

by Alissa Workman



Community volunteers, like Rebecca Garza and Sally Spaniol, help ensure a smoothly-run tournament and contribute to the overall success of Disc de Triomphe.

Rosedalians are invited to join their neighbors outdoors at two RDA events this May: the Rosedale Disc de Triomphe at Rosedale Park on Saturday, May 4 and the Bike-In Movie at the Boulevard Drive-In Theatre on Thursday, May 16.

The Rosedale Disc de Triomphe is a disc golf tournament for all ages and skill levels. In teams of two, players compete in a friendly environment. Rosedale and area businesses have not only pledged support as event sponsors but have also donated dozens of prizes so players at all levels have an opportunity to win. Registered players receive a tournament T-shirt, discs, breakfast, lunch, and lots of great swag. Players, teams, and interested sponsors can register by visiting rosedale.org/discgolf.

Those not interested in playing can still participate in the fun as event volunteers. By assisting with set-up, registration, food preparation, and more, volunteers contribute to the success of the event while engaging fellow community members.

Later in May, the Ninth Annual Bike-In Movie is a great way to meet neighbors and kick off the summer season. This family-friendly event includes games, activities, information booths from local organizations, helmet

giveaways for those in need, and the nostalgic PG-film, *The Pagemaster*, beginning at dark. Individuals and families can join by bike (free) or car (\$5 donation to RDA). Come out and get to know your neighbors while enjoying some favorite Rosedale sports this May!

↑ To learn more, contact Alissa Workman at 913-677-5097 or alissa@rosedale.org.

RDA welcomes Joshua Ellermann

by Kimberly Hunter

RDA is excited to welcome Joshua Ellermann to the team this year. A KCMO native, before graduating from Truman State University with degrees in sustainable development and economics and a minor in Spanish, he spent a summer in Boaco, Nicaragua teaching health, nutrition, and art to elementary and middle school students. After returning to Kansas City, Josh served as an AmeriCorps volunteer with RDA's partner, Kansas City Community Gardens. Now at RDA, Josh works as the program coordinator. Look for him at Rosedale Middle School teaching scholars jobs skills and financial literacy via Rosedale Future Professionals or find him prepping a curriculum and recruiting staff for the



Urban Rangers youth volunteer at a Rozarks Trail cleanup.

Spring into action with RDA

by Rob Gibson

This spring, residents who seek fun and effective ways to keep alive their "a new year, a healthier you" resolutions need look no further than the following volunteer opportunities. RDA is now recruiting youth sports coaches, nature lovers, and those with green thumbs.

Those passionate about

sports and working with youth might consider volunteering as a coach for a spring soccer or machine pitch/t-ball team. The time commitment is two to four hours per week, which includes attending one practice and game each week. There are also yearlong opportunities to coach volleyball, soccer, and basketball for both athletic types and those interested in youth mentoring.

Nature lovers might consider supporting the Rozarks, a 4.5-mile trail in the middle of Rosedale. RDA has scheduled workdays lasting up to 3 hours that include activities such as litter removal, invasive species extraction, and re-routing trails. The next Rozarks trail workdays are April 13 and June 1 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lastly, for those with the proverbial "green thumb," RDA offers the perfect opportunity to stay active through one of four community gardens. Residents may rent a raised bed for \$15 a year, plant seeds, and harvest seasonal produce. Apply for a plot at the RDA office before the June 1 deadline.

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



Josh is the program coordinator for Rosedale Future Professionals and Rainbow Summer Program.

Rainbow Summer Program. Welcome, Josh!

↑ To welcome Josh, contact him at 913-677-5097 or josh@rosedale.org.

Community Calendar

assembled by Kimberly Hunter

ONE-TIME EVENTS:

Saturday, April 13

All-Rosedale Cleanup

8 a.m.-1 p.m., Fisher Park, KCK

Saturday, May 4

Rosedale Disc de Triomphe

Rosedale Park, KCK

RECURRING EVENTS:

Every other Monday

Mobile Library

10-11 a.m., Rainbow Head Start 1444 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Every other Tuesday

Mobile Library

2:30-4:30 p.m., Rosedale Towers 2314 W 39th Ave., KCK

Every other Wednesday

Mobile Library

2:30-4:30 p.m., Bellrose Manor 2924 W 40th Ter., KCK

First Mondays

Hilltop Neighborhood meeting

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

Second Tuesdays

Frank Rushton Neighborhood meeting

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

Second Wednesdays

Shawnee Road Neighborhood meeting

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

Third Wednesdays

Rosedale Leadership Council

5:30 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, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.

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Spring Valley's creative campaign for safe sidewalks

by Clare Murphy Shaw

When I purchased my first home on the 4400 block of Francis St. in 2007, the sidewalks were a mess — tree roots pulling up large sections, cracks, crumbling curbs. Kids couldn't safely ride trikes, and elderly neighbors couldn't navigate the uneven surfaces. Then, at a Spring Valley Neighborhood Association (SVNA) meeting in 2011, County Commissioner Ann Murguia shared her passion for sidewalks improvement. She explained the Unified Government's (UG) sidewalks repair program, through which they would pay for half the repairs and the homeowner the other half. I realized if the SVNA worked together with the UG, we could address the problem.

If adjacent neighbors collaborated, we could not only save money but also repair a continuous span of sidewalk rather than scattered sections. After lengthy discussions, everyone on the block agreed to participate even though I couldn't give the exact price each resident would be responsible to pay, only that it would be cheaper to collaborate. I drafted up a "contract" for each neighbor to sign. Regardless of what work each house got, we would all pay the same price because we would all be able to enjoy the use of a long stretch of new sidewalk.

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.



The sidewalk repair program is possible for residential streets as well as busy thoroughfares.

In 2012, 21 homes on Francis St. got their curbs, sidewalks, and driveway aprons repaired. It took a long time to get a bill and figure out the neighborhood's portion, but the final price for the work was reasonable for each home. After what felt like a million meetings, emails, phone calls, and spreadsheets, we reaped a huge, long-term benefit and inspired other parts of the neighborhood to do the same thing.

In 2013, 13 homes along State Line Rd. got their sidewalks fixed too. But 2014 had the most impact when Commissioner Ann Murguia dedicated CNIP funds (Community

Neighborhood Infrastructure Program) so that approximately another one-third of Spring Valley could have their sidewalks and curbs fixed too.

These successes resulted from a lot of hard work and collaboration. We were all very proud of the final results. I am still grateful to Commissioner Murguia for her tireless work in helping us meet our goals, and for the UG for its willingness to let us use their program creatively to make a greater impact. To see our full story, visit springvalleykck.org/sidewalks-restoration.

↑ To share a memory, contact Kimberly Hunter at 913-677-5097.

