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THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Good Neighbor

Youthful volunteers makeover 45th & Rainbow Garden

by John Pauldine

Volunteers from Sun Creek Methodist Church of Texas and the University of Kansas Medical Center's first year students helped revamp the community garden located on the corner of 45th and Rainbow Blvd. Together, the volunteers were able to completely transform the once overgrown and weed-infested plot of land into a manageable space for gardens. The area was previously growing out of control, with weeds and other unruly plants beginning to overtake some of the community members' garden plots. Before the help of the volunteers, grasses and underbrush were also beginning to overtake the white picket fences to the south and east sides of the garden.

Now, both fences have been cleared of undergrowth, which not only maintains the charming aesthetic of the garden but also helps to sustain the structural integrity

and longevity of the fence, saving the community costs in the long run. Not only were volunteers able to successfully reclaim the fence surrounding the garden, they were also effective in recreating paths between plots, refilling the water barrel, and clearing out unused plots. Before their help, it was often difficult, if not impossible, to locate garden patches by their designated letter because the paths had become so overgrown with grass, making it impossible to see the lettering. Now gardeners can easily navigate between plots in the garden.

The water barrel, which had been dry for much of the summer, is now filled and easily accessible. The filling of the barrel, which takes a significant amount of time, is one of the more difficult tasks for residents. Gardeners are already taking advantage of having it back up and run-



Overgrown paths surround a plot (left). Thanks to volunteers, garden benches and a water barrel are accessible again. Volunteer John Pauldine serves as the Garden Angel for RDA's 45th and Rainbow Community Garden (right).

ning. The previously unused plots that were beginning to spill into paths have also been cleared out, allowing for more space for people to plant crops. Community members have been thrilled to see the charming aesthetic of

the garden restored and look forward to preparing for the fall harvest.

To volunteer or nominate a Good Neighbor, contact Kimberly Hunter at kimberly@rosedale.org.

Fall into fitness with these healthy partners

by Victor Michimani

As summer outdoor pool activities draw to a close, fall brings new healthy activities. From youth sports teams to fitness classes, Rosedale has great options to start this last part of 2019 off right. Wyandotte County Parks and Recreation along with Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness are offering several affordable options for families seeking to begin or continue a healthy lifestyle.

Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness is the wellness division of Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care, located at the intersection of Southwest Blvd. and 7th St. in Kansas City, KS. With a mission to provide a fitness facility to all, Southwest Boulevard Family Fitness has affordable prices of \$10 per month for individuals and \$20 per month for families. The facility includes a gym with weights and cardio machines. Families also have the option to attend 30 different fitness classes each week, ranging from kickboxing to zumba. To stay fit, the fitness center staff encourage neighbors to drop in for a \$5 trial class, have a balanced diet, and workout at least three times per week for at least 30 minutes per workout. "Fitness," they say, "is a journey that takes time and dedication."

For several years, Wyandotte County Parks and Recreation has given families not only in Rosedale but throughout the community

an opportunity to participate in coed youth sports. This season, they are offering the following sports:

- Coed youth soccer for Grades K-8.
- Coed youth volleyball for Grades 2-7.
- Coed flag football for Grades K-5.

Registration for each sport is \$15. Each six-to-eight week season is full of fun and opportunities to build lasting relationships.

To register for a team, visit a local Wyandotte County Parks and Recreation community center.



In Rosedale, neighbors can choose from several active living opportunities.

Midtown Signs invites neighbors to open house

by Jada Escobar

Midtown Signs will host an open house on Friday, September 27, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. in honor of National Manufacturing Day. A Rosedale business that serves its community, they design and manufacture just about any kind of sign for any kind of business. Midtown Signs is located at 2416 S. 8th St.

When asked what it is like to work in the Rosedale community, Midtown Signs employee Tiffanni Sanstra says, "It's awesome! We really enjoy it here." For 16 years, Midtown Signs has been in Rosedale helping local businesses attract attention from Kansas consumers. Tiffanni explained that Midtown Signs believes

in 25 different values for doing business. "The first value is to lift up our people, so we can lift up our community," says Tiffanni. "Number two is to leave a business better than how it was when we got there. Our goal is to help."

To this end, Midtown Signs will host company tours open to the public and free of charge. Their main goal is to attract students and other community members to consider the manufacturing industry as a career. "Meeting everyone and having

kids see what we do" is what most excites Tiffanni about the open house. Individuals, families, and student classes are all invited to see the inside work of Midtown Signs.

To RSVP, visit eventbrite.com and search "Midtown Signs".





The local African American history panel depicts Crispus Attucks School, Deborah Allen, Mount Caramel Baptist Church, and the Springfield St. color line.

Multicultural community mural project continues

by Victor Michimani

This month, the Rosedale Mural Project continues through the creative collaboration of community partners. The mural, which sits at the corner of 42nd St. and Mission Rd., has involved neighbors of many ages and skill levels through paint-by-number community paint days. Each wall was designed by artists including Vania Soto, Billy Peters, Sam Hernandez, and Abigail Townsend. Artists and elders have worked together to transform local history into life-size, modern art through mural panels that highlight Rosedale's multicultural heritage, including stories from Wyandotte County's Delaware, Kansa, Wyandot, and African American communities.

Fellow Rosedalian Lydia Knopp is a community member working on the mural project. Lydia serves as an advocate for the mural by convening artists, communicating with residents, researching local history, and curating individuals' stories into a collective canvas. Her involvement with the project began in 2015, and from

there on she partnered with Rosedalians to enhance the development of the neighborhood. Lydia says, "Last year, we were overwhelmed by the love and support shown to us. Over 200 hands helped us create in community, and that process was magic." Such community support has created lasting effects, in-

RDA partners with Harmon High to pilot a semester-long internship program

by Kimberly Hunter

This summer, senior Jada Escobar joined the RDA team from Kansas City's J.C. Harmon High School. She and other Harmon scholars are piloting the internship component of USD 500's Diploma+ program, a district-wide initiative that helps students become college and career ready.

Jada's supervisor is Harmon High's College and Career Academy Facilitator, Tara Lindahl. Lindahl says of the pilot program, "Internships give students an opportunity to take the knowledge and skills they've learned and apply them in a real-world

cluding a significant decrease in litter and graffiti. In recent years, the mural has even become a safe meeting ground for youth programs like the Walking School Bus.

To learn more, contact Lydia Knopp at Lydknopp@gmail.com or 913-963-1128.

experience. Thankfully RDA was willing to host Jada as a Business Marketing Intern. She is learning valuable skills and is applying those in this neighborhood."

As a child, Jada grew up eating at classic Rosedale restaurants like Dagwoods and Rosedale Barbecue. Now with RDA, she is reaching out to some of those same Rosedale businesses to write newsletter profiles and gauge their needs and interests in hiring local workers. Jada plans to launch a neighborhood-based job board — one of RDA's 2019 annual goals.

Welcome to the Board, Brooke!

by Erin Stryka

Brooke Rodriguez is a Physical Scientist with the USDA/FGIS. Brooke first got involved in Rosedale through Rainbow Summer Program, where she joined a parent committee to help plan the Healthy Kids Carnival, and her kids are regular participants in Rosedale programs. She is a frequent organizer and presenter with Hispanic Heritage Month and Women's History Month events and volunteers with outreach programs for the USDA/FGIS. RDA is delighted to welcome Brooke to the Board!

To learn more about Board membership, write Erin Stryka at erin@rosedale.org.



Brook Rodriguez is one of RDA's newest Board members.

To learn more about the Rosedale Job Board, contact Jada at volunteer@rosedale.org.



Jada Escobar is serving as RDA's Fall 2019 Business Marketing Intern.

Community Calendar

ONE TIME EVENTS:

Friday, September 27
Midtown Signs Open House
9 a.m.-7 p.m., 2416 S. 8th St., KCK

Wednesday, October 9
Hispanic Heritage of KCK Schools Lecture
6 p.m., South Branch Library, KCK

Saturday, October 26
Healthy Halloween
11 a.m.-2 p.m. in/around the Hemenway Building on the KUMC campus

RECURRING EVENTS:

Mobile Libraries
Every other Monday
10-11 a.m., Rainbow Head Start
1444 Southwest Blvd., KCK

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

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

Sundays through September
Rosedale Farmers Market
9 a.m.-1 p.m., 4020 Rainbow Blvd., KCK

Fourth Mondays
Good Neighbor Training
5:30 p.m., 4953 State Ave., KCK

Second Tuesdays
Frank Rushton Neighborhood
6:30 p.m., 4326 Lloyd St., KCK

Second Wednesdays
Shawnee Road Neighborhood
5:30 p.m., 818 Shawnee Rd., KCK

Third Wednesdays
Rosedale Leadership Council
5:30 p.m., 1401 Southwest Blvd., KCK

Fourth Thursdays
Livable Neighborhoods
8:30 a.m., 4953 State Ave., 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.

1403 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, KS 66103
Phone: 913-677-5097
Fax: 913-677-3437
Email: info@rosedale.org
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Erin Stryka Executive Director

Kimberly Hunter Editor

Staff and Board of Directors
online at rosedale.org

Lizzardbrand Design/Illustration
[Facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment](https://www.facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment)
[Twitter.com/RosedaleDA](https://twitter.com/RosedaleDA)
Rosedale.org

A Hidden Legacy of Segregation: Mexican-American Children in KCK Schools, 1922-1951

By Daniel Serda, Ph.D.

Few residents realize the 1951 Flood not only united Rosedalians through the Rosedale Community Council (RDA's predecessor) but also helped desegregate Rosedale schools. While the legend of the 1951 Flood is a staple of local and regional history, its impact on racial and ethnic minorities has not been well documented. In the case of the Mexican Americans living in the Argentine and Armourdale neighborhoods of Kansas City, KS, the flood represented personal tragedy, but also helped bring to a close a dark chapter of publicly mandated school segregation that is largely absent from the historical record.

The segregation of Mexican students in Kansas City, KS was not confined to the immigrant barrios of Armourdale and Argentine. In September 1924 a mob of at least 200 Anglo parents surrounded Major Hudson Elementary School and refused entry to four Mexican children who had been permitted to attend regular classes at the newly built school in Rosedale. Over the course of the next 18 months, at the persistent urging of Mexican diplomats, the U.S. State Department intervened and eventually succeeded in requiring Kansas City, Kansas



Image shows Melville School/Major Hudson Annex (demolished) at 516 Shawnee Rd.

School District to educate the Mexican students. The State Department's intervention was prompted by entreaties from the Mexican Consul in Kansas City and the Mexican Embassy in Washington, which cited the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, as well as the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 (which guaranteed formal civic rights to Mexican Americans), insisting that the Mexican children be admitted to the city's public schools.

According to district records and local media accounts, the "racial problem" in Rosedale was "solved" in 1925, consistent with the Plessy v Ferguson Court decision that sanctioned "sepa-

rate but equal" education. It would not be until 1954, the same year that the Supreme Court overturned Plessy and Brown v Board of Education, that the Court would agree in Hernandez v Texas that minority groups other than African Americans are entitled to equal protection under the 14th Amendment. Mexican workers advocated on their children's behalf to open the doors to integrated public education for the children of immigrants throughout Kansas City, KS.

To learn more, attend Dr. Serda's 6 p.m. lecture at South Branch Library on Wednesday, October 9.

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