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# THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Beautifying Rosedale one neighbor at a time

### Working Wednesdays challenge

by Sarah Waggoner

As the days start to get longer and the weather gets warmer, it seems like nature is at odds with what is happening around the world with the global pandemic. Many spring activities and programming have been cancelled or altered due to the stay-at-home order and the importance of “flattening the curve.”

One of these activities is the All Rosedale Cleanup, which usually takes place annually in April. But due to the stay-at-home order and safety of the residents in Rosedale, this year’s event had to be postponed. With the weather warming and the need for connectivity during social isolation growing ever more apparent, RDA is happy to announce a new beautification campaign: Working Wednesdays. Through Working Wednesdays, RDA is challenging Rosedalian to lend a hand each Wednesday in April by picking a spot of

their choice that needs some extra care, and spending some time alone each week making it beautiful. Whether it’s a little garbage pickup while you are on a walk, clearing sticks off the sidewalks or your own yard, or removing graffiti, we can individually contribute to the greater goal of keeping Rosedale a beautiful place to live! Working Wednesdays is a safe and individual call to action that promotes being outside, caring for your community, and being active. Along with the physical aspect, RDA is asking everyone who participates to share their hard work on social media with the hashtag “#trashtag” and to tag RDA. They will be sharing the photos on their social media as they come in. Limited supplies of trash bags and gloves will be available outside at 1401 Southwest Blvd. Please respect the guidelines of staying 6 feet apart from others while gathering supplies and during




ERIN STRYKA

Erin Stryka picks up trash for Working Wednesdays.

the cleaning activity.

We have so many “helpers” in our community who are wanting to contribute and lessen the impact this pandemic is having on our world. Through Working Wednesdays, RDA is offering a small way to participate in commu-

nity beautification, while also connecting and sharing in a digital, safe way.

 Share your participation in Working Wednesdays by tagging RDA and using the hashtag #trashtag on social media.



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Scholars play outside during RSP.

### You can find it online

by Je T'aime Taylor

Rosedale Development Association has moved all of its spring and summer applications, including the Community Gardens, Summer Youth Employment, and Rainbow Summer Program to our website. Now you are able to register for our programming online from the safety of your own home.


Are you interested in growing your own food? Rosedale Community Garden plots are located at the corners of 37th and South Early St. and 45th and Rainbow. Those who are interested can fill out the application and submit a payment of \$15 online. Within 1-2 business days, RDA will contact you with your garden plot location.

Do you know of a youth between the ages of 14-17 who is interested in their first summer job experience? Summer Youth Employment is a job readiness program for youth

living in Rosedale (66103). It is an eight-week program from June through July.

Do you have children who are looking for fun, educational summer programming? Youth in Rosedale who are interested in reading, sports clinics, gardening, advocacy and financial literacy may be interested in Rainbow Summer Program. RSP is for youth who have completed grades K-8. This is a six-week program from mid-June through July.

RDA cannot say for certain if SYE and RSP will be held this summer, but as of now we are preparing for a full summer and are committed to being adaptable to the needs of the Rosedale during this time.

 If you are interested in any of these programs please register at [rosedale.org](https://rosedale.org) or contact Je T'aime at [jetaime@rosedale.org](mailto:jetaime@rosedale.org)

### Staying connected during pandemic

by Erin Stryka

Fran Sharon, President of the Rosedale Towers Tenant Association, has been through many years with the group. “I first got involved in 2010,” she said. “At that time, they asked us to join the council and we got the garden going. We had three garden beds right then.”


The group holds regular fundraisers, and hosts dinner and celebrations for holidays. “We couldn’t do St. Patrick’s Day; that was hard,” Fran commented, “and now Easter. We might do something, especially for the older ones, like hang something on their doors or maybe drop off a dinner.”

Rosedale Towers members work hard, from the garden to the All Rosedale Cleanup to local advocacy. One of Fran’s earlier projects with her late husband, Mike, was to advocate for the sidewalk at the corner of the building to be fixed. Working with the Unified Government and the Housing

Authority, Mike and Fran kept calling and advocating until the sidewalk was repaired and made safe for walkers and wheelchair users.

During the pandemic, Rosedale Towers residents are still working hard to stay safe and connected. “We’re trying to stay safe, keeping everything sanitized, spraying things down with disinfectant, and keeping our distance. It’s hard, but we’re doing it,” Fran shared.

“All the people are just wonderful,” Fran said. “Right now it’s just checking on people who you know can’t get out. Give your neighbors a call, see if they need anything. If you know they need a meal, just drop one off.”

 Rosedale Towers meetings are on pause, but residents of Rosedale Towers can contact RDA to learn how to get involved once the stay-at-home order is lifted.



ERIN STRYKA

Fran Sharon and Carmen Siers stand by the community garden at Rosedale Towers.

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Hanover Heights proudly displays their signage.

## A letter from Gil Pintar, Hanover Heights President

Hello Rosedale neighbors. I hope you are all staying home and taking extra safety precautions during this difficult time. Keep washing your hands and not touching your face. As a lifelong Rosedale native, born at the KU Medical Hospital, I have been fortunate to represent Hanover Heights neighborhood for many years. Hanover Heights lies directly south of the medical center and my family has resided some 35 years in the former residence of Dr. (P.J.) Paul James O’Connel, his wife Mary Louis (Gangel) and their nine children. The house was built in 1921; I know several Rosedalians who remember years ago visiting our side entry door that gave access to the in-home doctors’ office. Our two children grew up with midtown values, friendships, and experiences. While both are grown and we’re now empty nesters, my wife and I continue to love our home and neighborhood.

As a professional urban planner, I have been most fortunate to work with neighborhood leaders and volunteers to implement many local community projects. Most notably was our effort to obtain State and National Historic Register designation to preserve our area from further nonresidential devel-

opment and encroachment. Through the years we’ve partnered with RDA and University of Kansas Medical Center students to plant trees and help sponsor 5K runs. We’ve had collaborations with many local groups such as the Boy Scouts and other neighborhood groups on several communitywide projects. Most recently we were awarded Neighborhood Rising Fund assistance to design and install ‘Rosedale Welcomes You’ signage at key neighborhood entry points. Our neighborhood has assisted with the establishment of our pocket park, resident lending tool shed, and area traffic calming measures. Staying connected through Rosedale Leadership Council has been most beneficial throughout these many years; many thanks go to them. While our neighborhood meetings are temporarily on hold during this time let’s all stay healthy so we can resume our communitywide activities and efforts once we safely can.

*Connecting to community is more important now than ever; to see if your Rosedale neighborhood has a neighborhood association, visit [rosedale.org/neighborhood-groups/](http://rosedale.org/neighborhood-groups/)*

## Wear your Rosedale pride!

by Erin Stryka

Thanks to the design by Elizabeth Johnston of Lizzardbrand, we are excited to offer a Rosedale T-shirt. The arch image is surrounded by greenery reflecting the beauty that Rosedale holds, and the heart depicts the dedication and commitment of Rosedalians to create community. We are proud to promote this shirt as a reflection of Rosedale.



*The Rosedale T-shirt can be purchased at [www.bonfire.com/rosedale-development-association/](http://www.bonfire.com/rosedale-development-association/) for \$20.*

## Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association goes virtual

by Erin Stryka

Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association will meet virtually this month, using the online meeting platform Zoom. Neighborhood association officers Annette Rude, Ljupka Schwantes, and Harold Hepfer arranged the meeting to keep the neighborhood connected and active during this time.

Erin Stryka will be present from RDA, giving updates on the Working Wednesday individual cleanup project, BackSnack distribution, and resources available to help people cope with the pandemic. Officer Steve Kopp from Community Policing will also be present, sharing information on crime in the area and advice for staying safe.

Annette is getting the word

out using NextDoor.com and her neighborhood contact list. To participate, it’s best to have a device with a microphone and a camera; however, you can call in using your phone. “I have participated in Zoom meetings recently,” said Annette, “and it was easier and more fun than I expected.”

Frank Rushton Neighborhood Association has created neighborhood cleanup projects, block parties and barbecues, and a strong culture of knowing and looking out for your neighbors. In times of crisis, their many years of work continue to bear fruit.

*Residents of the Frank Rushton Neighborhood can contact RDA to learn how to get involved.*



ERIN STRYKA

Frank Rushton residents participate in the Master Plan process

## Helpful Resources

### FOOD:

#### Cross-lines Community Outreach

*Sack breakfasts and lunches, food pantry*  
736 Shawnee Ave, KCK  
913-281-3388

#### Bridges of Hope

*Food pantry*  
933 Argentine Blvd, KCK  
913-602-0660

#### Our Saviour

*Food pantry*  
4153 Rainbow Blvd, KCK  
913-236-6228

#### Franklin Center

*Mobile food distribution*  
1403 Metropolitan Ave, KCK  
913-213-3250

### UTILITY ASSISTANCE:

#### Rosedale Development Association

*Funds for electricity, water, and gas bills*  
913-677-5097

#### Salvation Army

*Funds for electricity bills*  
816-756-1455

#### Economic Opportunity Foundation

*Funds for electricity, water, and gas bills*  
913-371-0848

## Rosedale Development Association

**Our mission is** to work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.

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**Facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment**  
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**Rosedale.org**

## RDA seeks community support to continue meeting changing needs

by Alissa Workman

For 42 years, RDA has provided a steady response to changing community needs and priorities. In the past, this included convening task forces that address crime, creating community-centered programs aimed at improving health, and placing youth in summer jobs to develop their skills. Now, we are working to ensure that all

Rosedalians emerge from our current crisis intact.

Throughout, RDA’s goal has remained the same: to provide Rosedalians with valuable programs and resources while continuing to work in partnership to build a thriving Rosedale for all who live, work, and play here.

In response to the uncer-



RDA STOCK

tain times, RDA is determined to continue adapting to meet the many challenges the COVID-19 community health crisis presents, both current and long after shelter-in-place orders have passed.

Right now, a donation to RDA helps provide the following support in the community:

- Continuation of programs and services with as little interruptions as possible.
- Supporting individuals and families during this crisis, including facilitating grocery delivery, working with partners to provide supplemental food to children, and providing emergency assistance for utilities and groceries.

We are creating new ways for neighbors to work together while maintaining safe physical distancing and strengthening our organization internally so that when this crisis ends, RDA is prepared to best meet the emerging needs of the community.

*During this time of crisis, your support to RDA is more valuable now than ever. We invite you to join our efforts by making a gift to RDA online at [www.rosedale.org/donate](http://www.rosedale.org/donate) or by mailing your donation to: 1403 Southwest Blvd., KCK 66103.*



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

