

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Good neighbor

### The Most Recognizable House in Spring Valley

By: Kelly White

In a second Rosdalian oral history interview, Spring Valley President Kelly White sat down with long-time Rosedalian couple Annie and “Froggie” Ferguson. They have occupied one of the most stunning houses in Spring Valley since 1968.

They are both graduates of Westport High School, and they first met in a drafting class. Annie was the only female in the class, and throughout the year, all the males in the class made a pass at her except for Froggie! Out of this, a mutual respect and friendship was born, which turned to love.

Froggie followed his father’s footsteps into the printing trade, while Annie worked off and on for the IRS. When it was time to put down roots, the Fergusons chose Spring Valley because Froggie was looking for a home for under \$10,000. Today, they cringe

at the \$15 per month Netflix cost, noting that used to be the amount of their weekly grocery bill. Both Annie and Froggie’s fathers approved of the house, citing the strong joists and the brick exterior, which has aged beautifully.

When the Fergusons decided to renovate their backyard, they decided to do most of the work themselves. Froggie laid each stone in his beautifully terraced backyard reminiscent of an Incan ruin, with a curved concrete stairway that he designed himself. He put in 20-30 years of commitment to home improvement. The couple had four children, two boys and two girls, and at one point the backyard featured a 27-foot round pool for the children to swim in. They have hosted three weddings on their property with another wedding set for this year.

After interviewing the

couple, they showed off their player piano collection; they have a total of eight! The pianos play rolls that are stacked throughout the Ferguson home, so no lessons are

required. Some necessitate a good workout because they are hand-fed and operated via a pump. Mr. Ferguson plans on repairing the pianos during his retirement.



Annie Ferguson inserts a new roll into the player piano.



# THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### What to expect when you get vaccinated through the UG

By: Erin Stryka

Across the country, more people are getting vaccinated for Covid-19 each day. While it seems like a slow progress, especially if you are still waiting on your time to receive the vaccine, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and the process is improving each day. As Wyandotte County is now officially in Phase 2 of vaccinations, more and more Dottes are heading down to the old Kmart to get their first shot.

When you receive the notice that it is your time to get vaccinated, here is what you should expect. The vaccination headquarters are at the old K-Mart at 78th and State Ave, which is the same place as the Covid-19 testing center. The two areas are completely separate, ensuring safety for all those receiving the vaccine. The doors open at 9 a.m.; if you arrive early, you will have to wait outside. Once the facility opens, you will be expected to wait in a line inside, wearing a mask and 6 feet away from others. For those unable to stand for long periods of time, you can call ahead and

request a wheelchair, even if you don’t normally use one. A recent Rosedalian who received the vaccine reported she waited in line for an hour.

You will then have to fill out some medical forms, after which a nurse will lead you into a small cubicle. Then you will receive the shot! Afterwards, you will be instructed to wait in a large and socially-distant waiting area for 15 minutes to make sure there are no adverse reactions. On the way out, you can sign a big wall and say thank you to the people working to get Wyandotte County vaccinated! This is a really impactful way to end the experience; seeing so many names of all those Dottes who have gotten their first vaccine! We will get through this together, Rosedale.

Individuals and employers should sign up to receive the vaccine online at [wycokck.org/covid](http://wycokck.org/covid), or by calling 311. No computer access is needed — those who sign up over the phone will also receive vaccine notifications by phone.



The Early St. garden thrives on a sunny day.

### Garden with us on Early St.

By Samanthé Burton-Bosket

It is once again time to garden! Rosedale Development Association continues to support gardens and orchard programs, as they increase residents’ access to healthy foods and foster a strong and healthy community, which improves the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale. This year we are offering community garden plots at the South Early St. garden location, which you can rent for \$15 for the entire season. In addition, any community member with a home or community garden can

request to borrow tools from RDA throughout the growing season. If you need shovels, rakes, loppers, or shears, we can help. These tools and more are available to check out from our office by appointment. For those familiar with the 45th St. and Christopher Webb gardens, we are sad to report that those community gardens are closed indefinitely.

To rent or donate a plot in the community garden, visit [rosedale.org/gardens](http://rosedale.org/gardens) or contact Samanthé at [samanthe@rosedale.org](mailto:samanthe@rosedale.org).



Programs such as the Rainbow Summer Program and Summer Youth Employment rely on grants and donations from the community.

## Community help propels RDA into 2021


By Alissa Workman

Raising funds to support RDA's work in Rosedale during any time can be a difficult task; raising funds during a global pandemic and uncertain economy is especially challenging. Recently, RDA received a much-needed boost from donors and local foundations.

In December, RDA received grants from Prime Health Foundation and the Kansas Volunteer Commission, helping to fund the brand, new Adult Program and Volunteer Coordinator position and allowing RDA to expand programming beyond youth. An additional grant from the KC Covid Recovery and Response Fund will provide much-needed emergency assistance and food to Rosedalians over the next six months.

In November, RDA received grants from Health Forward Foundation and the John W. and Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust to support our operations and continuation of the ARCH project. Generous year-end donations from individuals (households), businesses, and churches ensure that RDA can remain adaptable to changing community needs as the pandemic continues to grip our region.

As a not-for-profit organization, RDA relies on donations, grants, and limited income from the rental of community spaces to sustain their mission in Rosedale. In a year unlike any other, RDA is incredibly grateful for such exceptional support from this community!

 For more information about how to donate, email [alissa@rosedale.org](mailto:alissa@rosedale.org). For a full list of donors and funders, visit: [rosedale.org/archclub](https://rosedale.org/archclub).

## Thank you, Kerry!

By Erin Stryka

Kerry Gordon, CPA, joined the team in 2019 with over 25 years of accounting experience. She graduated from Indiana State University School of Business and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and most recently worked for Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City as the vice president of finance.

Kerry now works as a consultant with organizations all over the KC Metro area, providing accounting, budgeting, financial analysis, banking, HR and benefits, risk management, and operations. Kerry is an avid pickleball player, a delighted grandmother, and a big fan of the disc golf course at Rosedale Park. Thanks for all you do, Kerry!

## Do you want to be our office neighbor? Rent space from RDA

By Sarah Waggoner

RDA has office space for rent on the second floor of our historic office building at 1403 Southwest Blvd. Once a doctor's office, our building now serves as a central location for nonprofit businesses serving the KCK area, and we are looking for new neighbors to share our space with.

We are renting out two offices, with one measuring 150 square feet, and the other 180 square feet. Both have great natural lighting and are fully furnished, with access to a shared, fully equipped kitchen and conference room. Also included is access to our small event space next door; great for

community meetings, at no additional cost! Two other nonprofits are housed in the same building, providing a friendly work environment with opportunities for collaboration. Close to I-35, this location provides quick access to both downtown KCK and KCMO, and many nearby local businesses.

The offices are available for \$350 a month each, and all utilities (including wireless internet access) are included in rent. You will also have full access to our copier. The offices do not meet ADA accessibility guidelines and do require climbing up a set of stairs upon entry.



SARAH WAGGONER



Kerry Gordon disc golfs at Rosedale Park.

## Resources

### COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS

Monday-Friday

**UG Public Health Department (Former Kmart building)**

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

7836 State Ave. KCK

Mondays

**Oak Ridge Baptist Church**

8 a.m.-1 a.m.

9301 Parallel Pkwy., KCK

Tuesdays

**All Saints Parish/Todos los Santos**

3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

811 Vermont Ave., KCK

Thursdays

**Vibrant Health - Argentine Location**

3 p.m.-6 p.m.

1428 S. 32nd St., KCK

### COVID-19 VACCINES

Individuals and employers should sign up to receive the vaccine online at [wycokck.org/covid](https://wycokck.org/covid), or by calling 311. No computer access is needed. Those who sign up over the phone will also receive vaccine notifications by phone.

### 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](mailto:info@rosedale.org)

Hours: Monday-Friday,

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Erin Stryka** Executive Director  
**Sarah Waggoner** Editor  
**Lizzardbrand** Design/illustration  
**Staff and Board of Directors**  
online at [rosedale.org](https://rosedale.org)

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

## Dr. Sharon Lee leaves a legacy in Rosedale

By Sarah Waggoner

In 1989, when Dr. Sharon Lee made the decision to open a health clinic in Kansas City, KS, she had no idea of the scale of the impact it would make not only to residents of Rosedale, but to the Kansas City community and health-care at large. As she finalizes her retirement from the clinic she founded, let's take a look at how it all came to be.

Throughout her time in medical school and later in her residency at The University of Kansas Medical Center, Dr. Lee realized that people who did not have insurance had very limited access to healthcare. Originally, she sought to open a low-cost clinic farther away from home but realized that she knew the culture and the people here, and would be a bigger asset to her community at home. Thus the Family Health Clinic was started, providing services to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay or whether or not they were insured.

This inadvertently led to the clinic serving a high number of patients who were HIV positive during the HIV and AIDS epidemic, which peaked in 1995. Often those suffering with HIV had very little access to treatment through hospitals or other conventional channels of healthcare, and when Dr. Lee saw another population in




Dr. Sharon Lee


need, the Family Health Clinic opened its doors and decided to expand, becoming one of the first providers in the area offering HIV treatment and supportive services. Through this experience, Dr. Lee worked internationally on HIV treatment along with other infectious diseases, and actually came to know Dr. Anthony Fauci!

Since then the clinic has continued to expand, each time offering solutions to the community and patient needs. Today the clinic offers everything from GED test-prep to a daily line-up of fitness classes. Now named the Sharon Lee

Family Health Care clinic in her honor, Dr. Lee has retired from the clinic, taking a much-needed rest, but still doing some work with infectious disease treatment.

"As a Rosedalian for over 40 years, it has been an honor and privilege to serve this community", said Dr. Lee. While her presence and care will be missed in this community, her legacy will forever be a part of Rosedale.

 To become a patient at the Sharon Lee Family Care Clinic, visit [swbfhc.org/](https://swbfhc.org/) or call 913-396-7070.



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