

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Good neighbor

The Voting Network wants you to vote on August 4th

By Lindsay Behgam

The Voter Network is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization based right here in Rosedale that works to make voting easier and more fun, when possible! Last year, we launched an innovative, state-wide voter education tool, ksballot.org, that gives voters a comprehensive look at the candidates that will appear on their ballots. Voters can also use the site to look up their polling place and find information about how to vote early.

The next Kansas election is on August 4. Most people are aware that there's a presidential election happening in November, but nearly 75 percent of Wyandotte County voters will sit out the primary election next month. This isn't surprising, or a problem specific to our community, because local elections can be hard to find information about.

So, let's break it down. The Primary Election is where you pick the candidate who

will represent your political party in the General Election in November. Democrats and Republicans are both narrowing down to one set of candidates. These races often see pretty low voter turnout, but are really important for determining the direction our community will take. In Wyandotte County for example, both candidates for District Attorney are running as democrats, which means the winner will be determined in August, not November.

If you're nervous about voting during a pandemic, we recommend you consider voting by mail, which has never been easier. First, check to make sure your voter registration is up to date at **KSvotes.org**. At that same website, you can now request both your primary and general ballot be mailed to you by filling out a simple form, no printer required! **The voter registration deadline for the pri-**



mary is July 14 and if you want to vote by mail you must submit the online application before July 28. If you turn in an application, the election office will mail your ballot to you, which you can fill out at home and mail back in.

If you have any questions as we move through this election season, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by emailing contact@thevoternetwork.org. No question is silly. We mean it. Happy voting!

Introducing our Rainbow Summer Program Team!

by Samanthe Burton-Bosket

When Rosedale Development Association started hiring for the 2020 Rainbow Summer Program, no one could have predicted how different this year's program would be. Fortunately, the summer program team is full of multitalented individuals that have shown great flexibility and innovation, and we are excited to introduce them to you!

Admin Team

"Last year, I had one of my best summers working with the Rainbow Summer Program. I loved it so much that I decided I wanted to come back because it felt like my summer home!"
— Ajhanae Franklin

"This is my second summer with RSP, I have two beautiful children who I love spending my days with."
— Qusha Barbee

"This is my second year with RSP and I love providing healthy meals for youth. I have three wonderful daughters and seven grandchildren."
— Denyale Brown

"My goal is to graduate with a bachelor's in chemical engineering in 2022. I am currently the Rainbow Summer Program Custodian keeping the site clean. Last year you may remember me as the Before/After Care Coordinator for the program."
— Juan Mendoza Medina

Classroom Facilitators

"This is my third year participating in the RSP. I have been involved with RDA since 2017, while working to get my Bachelor's by the end of 2021."
— Victor Michimani

"This is my third summer with RSP, and although I miss seeing the scholars I have gotten to know over the years in person, I am glad to interact with them remotely!"
— Henry Jantzen

"This is my second year with RSP, and my goal is to gain confidence in my skillset as an educator."
— Polly Carlson

"I decided to join the RSP team because I am interested in working with nonprofits and with youth. I am looking for-



RSP team poses outside Rainbow Mennonite Church where scholars receive meals each day.

ward to graduating in 2022."
— Eliza Sauerwein

"I am a cheerleader and communications major at Rockhurst University. I love

to help out in my community, especially with children. I also love to read and write to inspire young girls."
— Mariah Burnside

RDA receives grant to protect Rosedale mural

By Erin Stryka

The Rosedale mural at 42nd and Mission Rd. will be getting a protective coating this summer, thanks to a grant from the Neighborhoods Rising Fund. The mural has been a bright spot on Mission Rd., showcasing Rosedale's history and drawing positive feedback. Different sections depict different aspects of Rosedale; chapters of diverse history, community leaders past and present, the beautiful natural landscape, and

the Rosedale skyline. Unfortunately, the mural has also been tagged with graffiti three times since it's been painted. With the help of the mural artists, the graffiti has been quickly covered and the mural restored. Now, volunteers will apply an anti-graffiti coating to the mural to help prevent graffiti from adhering to the surface — and make any tags easy to remove without damaging the mural.

Thank you to the Neigh-

borhoods Rising Fund for protecting the Rosedale Mural, and thank you to our artists and volunteers for beautifully representing Rosedale!

🏠 *Volunteers are invited to join us to apply the coating on Saturday, August 22. Please RSVP by emailing erin@rosedale.org, so we can maintain a small event size where social distancing will be easy.*

Wyandotte County Residents Required to Wear Masks in Public

By Dave Reno, UG Interim Public Information Officer

Officials with the Unified Government Public Health Department issued a new Local Health Officer order requiring the public to wear masks when in public. The primary purpose of a mask is to protect others in case you may be carrying the virus — even if you don't have symptoms. If we all wear masks, we are all helping protect one another, especially those most vulnerable to serious illness.

"While our community has done a terrific job of helping slow the initial spread of the pandemic, like so many other areas around the country, Wyandotte County has experienced a recent spike in the number of COVID-19 cases," said Mayor Alvey. "In an effort to continue the re-opening of our community, we must continue to follow and adhere to the advice of medical experts. As such, Wyandotte County health officials will require individuals to wear masks in public to slow and contain the further spread of this virus.

UGPHD officials emphasize that wearing a mask is not a substitute for social distancing or excellent hygiene, including washing your hands several times a day with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time. "It's the combination of these actions that has proven effective at helping us slow and contain the spread of COVID-19," said Dr. Greiner.

"It's vitally important that everyone in our community take the increasing spread of COVID-19 seriously and wear a mask when in public," said Dr. Erin Corriveau, Deputy Medical Officer with the

Unified Government Public Health Department. "Even people who feel fine right now might be able to infect several people a day with COVID-19. We have solid evidence that people who develop symptoms from COVID-19 can be infectious for up to two days before their symptoms begin. That's why it's so important for everyone to wear masks, practice social distancing, and wash hands, even if feeling well."

Another key to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County is testing, according to Drs. Greiner and Corriveau. "This testing is . . . provided regardless of the individual's immigration status, health coverage, or ability to pay."

You should get tested for COVID-19 if you develop any symptoms, such as fever, dry cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, headache, chills, muscle/body aches, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste or smell. You should also get tested if you have been exposed to COVID-19 through close contact (within six feet for at least 10 minutes) with someone who has tested positive or through association with a known outbreak.

Testing is available for free to people who live or work in Wyandotte County at multiple community locations, including the UGPHD and a rotating weekly schedule of "pop-up" sites coordinated by the Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force. Find the latest testing schedule and locations at wycokck.org/COVID-19 or by calling 3-1-1.



Summer Youth Employees show up at their first day of work.

Interview with our Summer Youth Employees

By Je T'aime Taylor

Before our Summer Youth Program started, the Coronavirus pandemic struck and changed not only the shape of the program but also the lives of the seven youths in the program. We asked them about their unique and unusual summer.

How has Covid-19 changed your summer?

"I usually spend my summers traveling and hanging out with friends and family. This summer has prevented me from being able to do those activities." — Lydia (Sumner Academy of Arts & Sciences)

"My summer hasn't changed much at all, I still skateboard and play video games with my friends." — Diego (Holy Name)

"We cannot go to amusement parks like we used to. We can't do many of the things that we once did." — J'Toriyan (Turner)

What did you expect from the Summer Youth Employment program when you applied?

"I thought that I would be able to work with a company or organization in Rosedale. That is what a friend who participated last year told me." — Emilio (Bishop Miege)

"I figured that we would go site to site to work in Rosedale. We are doing that, we just work at building trails

in the Rozarks and working in the gardens." — Abby (Harmon)

Would you recommend this program to a friend?

"I don't think that my friends would like doing this work. I didn't like the work for a while, because we have to be outside in the heat. Now that I am used to the work, I like it and it doesn't hurt that we get a paycheck too!" — Diego

"Yes, I would recommend this program because it is fun, welcoming, inviting, and they [staff] guide us. I feel secure at work." — Lydia

What has been your highlight so far in the SYE program?

"Harvesting cabbage and potatoes. I have never done anything like that before." — Emilio

"Learning new things about gardening and being able to do something this summer." — Lydia

"I like that we all get along, it is a lot of work in the hot sun, but we work well together." — J'Toriyan

RDA will continue to meet the Rosedale community where it is. To learn more about our programs visit www.rosedale.org or contact Je T'aime Taylor at jetaime@rosedale.org

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

LIEAP Applications Open

Assistance for Electric Bills
1-800-432-0043

Rosedale Development Association

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

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Rosedale in times of crisis: a conversation with Wendy

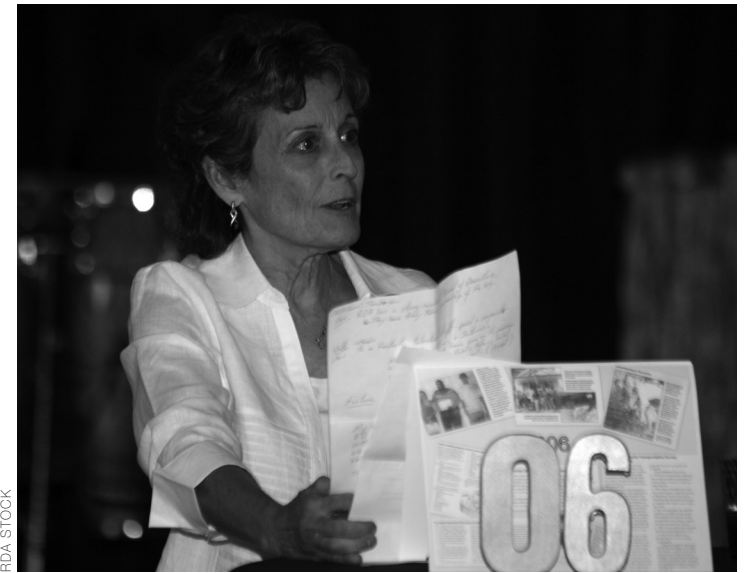
By Erin Stryka

"I really have no words of wisdom," Wendy Wilson wrote to me in her typically humble fashion, "except love those close to you, help your neighbors and others when possible, know it will get better, and most of all VOTE!"

I wrote to Wendy to learn more about Rosedale in other times of crisis. While we've never experienced anything like the COVID-19 pandemic before, Rosedale is no stranger to hard times.

"The floods were the worst time," said Wendy, "because there were more than one. They became more frequent, and each time they became a little worse." RDA and other community members started by mobilizing for cleanup after each flood. They provided tetanus shots to volunteers before they went to work.

Beyond the initial cleanup efforts, RDA and others were working hard to address the underlying issues causing the flooding. RDA documented the damage and kept records of which buildings were impacted. "We got together with the [Army Corps of Engineers], with KCMO, and with the UG," Wendy recalled. "Dan Fuhrman [with Shutte Lumber] was really involved. People went to Washington to advocate for the flood control project."



Wendy Wilson smiles at her retirement party.

Impacted businesses and residents went to County Commission meetings to advocate for the project. "We looked at what the businesses paid in sales tax, property tax, put those numbers together, and used that as advocacy to say 'this is what you're going to lose,'" Wendy said. Eventually, the federal government paid for the bulk of the Turkey Creek Flood Control Project, with Kansas City, MO and the Unified Government contributing as well.

As far as other hard times, "we always tried to connect people to existing resources,"

Wendy said of the economic crash in 2008. "The recession is one thing," she added, "people didn't have money, but they could still see each other. Since then, sidewalks have made all the difference in the world . . . The master plan and advocating for a close-knit community have built a sense of connectedness and being able to depend on others."

When asked what she wanted to say to Rosedalians now, Wendy didn't hesitate. "VOTE. Vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote. And wear your mask."

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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Contact person

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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.

