El Centro offers career-building opportunity
by Sasheen Cutchlow

El Centro recognizes the importance of working in a focused career that provides a livable wage, and the impact this can have to revitalize a community. For these and other reasons, El Centro is excited to offer an exciting new opportunity: the “Go Green to Get Green” job training program, which is funded by a $200,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Upon completion of the four week training, trainees will earn five industry-recognized and in-demand certifications, including HAZWHOPER, and in-demand certifications, and training in environmental remediation, skills that our program offers.

Veterans, women, unemployed, underemployed, bilingual individuals and adults looking for a career change are highly encouraged to apply. To qualify for this program one must have a high school diploma or equivalent, be a Wyandotte County resident, pass a drug test and commit to the four-week, full-time free job training program.

This is an amazing opportunity that is being offered at no cost. Registration for this training session will be closing soon, however there will be a waiting list for additional upcoming training dates. Don’t let this life and career-changing opportunity pass; sign up today!

For more information and to get started on your new career path, contact Sasheen Cutchlow at 913-677-0100 ext. 250 or scutchlow@elcentroinc.com

Please Complete the US Census
by Erin Stryka

It’s time to complete the 2020 US Census! The census has a major impact on how political and economic resources are distributed, and it’s essential for Rosedaleans to be well represented.

Census data determines how seats in Congress are allocated. When the 2020 Census reveals where the population has grown or shrunk, many states may experience changes in the number of Congressional seats they have. Census data also determines how funds are allocated for Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Head Start, WIC, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other important programs, totaling about $4.5 billion in Kansas. On a neighborhood level, businesses and developers may use census data to make decisions about where to invest, whether to build new homes, and whether to open new businesses.

For every adult and every child not counted in the census, Kansas will lose $1,526 in federal dollars that are badly needed in our communities. It is estimated that an undercount could cost Wyandotte County $4.7 million.

Some communities are referred to as “hard-to-count” and are at high risk of not being captured in the census. Communities of color, immigrants, young children, and low-income people are especially at risk. Without an accurate count, Rosedale risks losing out on important financial and political resources that can help our community.

Your home, along with every other home in the United States, will receive an invitation to complete the US Census in the mail between March 12-20. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. It shouldn’t take more than 10 minutes.

Please help make sure Rosedale is fully represented by making sure everyone in your household, no matter their age, is counted, and make sure your neighbors do the same.

Spring Cleaning in Rosedale
by Je T’aime Taylor

On April 18, elders, youth and all those in between will gather at Fisher Park (5800 Springfield St.) for the third annual All Rosedale Cleanup. Those interested can register with RDA as an individual or with a neighborhood, school, church, or organizational team. Participants should meet at Fisher Park at 9 a.m. for orientation, where each team will receive water, gloves, snacks, trash bags and other material they will need for their cleanup location.

After all the cleaning, we are sure that volunteers will work up quite the appetite! The University of Kansas Health Systems’ Otolaryngology Department will be providing food and materials for this community event. As each team completes their tasklist we invite everyone back to Fisher Park for a shared community meal; lunch will be served at 11 a.m.

We will wrap-up the All Rosedale Cleanup at noon. We are asking you, our Rosedalians, to assist us between now and the event. RDA is not able to see all of the spaces in our community that need to be addressed. If you see problem spots in our neighborhood, please give us a call with what needs to be addressed and the location of the site. Our master list may include tasks such as picking up trash, cleaning graffiti, as well as hauling materials to the dumpster.

To learn more about the census and how to respond, visit https://2020census.gov/
Save the date for Rainbow Summer Program

By Erin Stryka

The program staff at RDA have been working hard all winter to prepare an amazing summer program for Rose- dalians of all ages. This year, the Rain- bow Summer Program will run for six weeks, from June 14 to July 24, 2020. This year we are preparing for two enrollment nights for those in- terested. The first night will be for returning families, and will be held on March 30 at the Rainbow Mennonite Church (1444 Southwest Blvd.), from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. New parents interested in the pro- gram, the enrollment night will be April 20, 2020, also at the Rainbow Mennonite Church, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. All enrollment is on a first come, first served basis, and the program has a limited number of spots available, so please arrive early. Those who are interested in the program will need to come prepared, and should plan on bringing the enrolling scholar’s medical card (if applicable) and the required registration fee for the program. Registration fees are as follows: $35 for one child, and $70 for two or more children in the same house- hold. Your child(ren)’s spot in the program will only be held once the fee has been paid.

Welcome to New Board Member Carlos Casas

By Erin Stryka

RDA began working with Carlos Casas in 2018, when he was the board chair of Sharing Community in Rose- dal (SCR), Carlos and SCR partnered with RDA to run Rainbow Summer Program and Rosedale Future Profes- sionals in 2019, and ultimately transferred both programs from SCR to RDA in 2020. Carlos is Head of Sales with Google Fiber Kansas City. He graduated from the University of Kansas, and has served with many other nonprofits including The Rose Brooks Center, Unbound, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Goodwill of Greater Kansas City, and Nonprofit Connect. Join us in welcoming Carlos to our Board of Directors!

Sign up for Spring events!

By Erin Stryka

Spring is always an exciting time in Rosedale! For growers, community garden applica- tions are now open, with plots available at the 45th and Rainbow, S. Early St., and Christopher Webb community gardens. To get your plot, stop by RDA for an application or contact jetaime@rosedale.org.

For young people, Summer Youth Employment (SYE) applications are due on March 27. Youth aged 14-17 will be placed at a Rosedale busi- ness for their first summer job, and receive job training and coaching throughout the sum- mer. To apply, stop by RDA, email jetaime@rosedale.org, or grab an application at your high school or middle school.

For seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities, Christ- mas in October applications for minor home repair will be open in the fall. To apply, visit christmasinoctober.org, stop by the RDA office, or call Erin at 913-677-5097.

Finally, the third annual Rosedale Disc de Triomphe disc golf tournament is Saturday, April 2, at Rosedale Park. Proceeds from the tourna- ment support RDA’s work throughout the year on youth programs, neighborhood beautification, and advocacy for development that meets neighborhood needs. Area businesses are invited to join the fun by becoming event sponsors, putting their logo and company name in front of 150 volunteers and residents from around the area. If you would like to play, sponsor the event, or donate prizes for players, visit rosedale.org/discgolf.

To see our full list of upcoming events, check out our events calendar at rosedale.org/events/

Rosedale Development Association

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

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Let’s be rock solid together!

Please accept my donation in support of RDA.

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Please mail or bring this form along with your gift to: Rosedale Arch Club, 1401 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103. OR contribute online at rosedale.org/archclub.

Memory Lane: One more way to get Rosedale moving

By Erin Stryka

Fisher Park is a relatively unobstructive park on Fisher Street and W. 39th. It’s 4.16 acres, complete with playground equipment, an exercise area, an outdoor basketball court and picnic tables. There’s nothing par- ticularly special about Fisher Park to look at, but the Kansas Health Institute has $8000 that says we can make it spectacular!

RDA recently won a Wyandotte Healthy Com- munities Mini-Grant to start a community walking club and urban trails program in and around Fisher Park. Designed by Josh Hoffman (Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative) and Stephanie Kolmann (RDA), the aim of this project is to increase physical activity in the population surround- ing Fisher Park by creating a social support network. The proposed plan is for the club to meet Tuesday and Thurs- day evenings at Fisher Park. Tuesday sessions would host a community speaker, whereas the walk, focusing on health, community or exercise. The last Thursday session of each month would incorporate a community give-back event, such as trash pickup or graffiti cleanup. RHK has made huge strides in making physical activity a special priority for residents! Call RDA or contact Josh Hoffman (jhoffman@rosedale- .org) or Stephanie Kolmann (skolmann@gmail.com) to get involved.

We are still finding creative ways to get all Rosedalians on the move! If you are interested in the #moveyourway campaign, please visit https://gov.kckcity.org/health/moveyourway. If you are interested in our Rosedale task system, please visit http://rosedale.org/recreational-trails/