Good neighbors

Wyandotte County Public Health Department delivers masks

By Alissa Workman

In January, Rosedale Development Association partnered with the Wyandotte County Public Health Department to set the RDA office as a distribution site for free KN-95 masks. 15,000 masks were delivered by Health Department staff to distribute into the Rosedale community. For weeks after the delivery, RDA staff excitedly shared information about the masks with their neighbors and through their social media outlets. Neighbors stepped up to ensure there were plenty of masks to go around. The entire process has been a welcome reminder of what it means to be “in community” and work together to address common problems here in Rosedale!

In addition to wearing masks in public or crowded places, RDA encourages folks to follow local guidance from local health departments to further prevent public spread. Their COVID Hub provides a wealth of information and resources: wyandottecounty-covid-19-hub.unifiedgov.hub.arcgis.com/

RDA is grateful for the opportunity to get the masks to people who needed them as the community continues to adjust to the challenges of the pandemic. Many of the masks are still available for anyone in the community, including businesses or organizations that wish to hand out large quantities.

Wyandotte County Public Health Department delivered masks to the Rosedale Development Association office, where they were distributed to the community. Neighbors and businesses were encouraged to wear masks in public places and follow local health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

RDA develops youth advocacy guide for young Rosedalians

By Samantha Burton-Bosket

We know Rosedalians of all ages have strong opinions about the future direction of our neighborhood. That’s why we’re delighted to share that an easy-to-approach guide to advocacy for all Rosedale youth, Make change happen: a youth guide to advocacy in Rosedale, is now available.

Last year, RDA created a guide to advocacy in Rosedale to help advocate of all experience levels create change in Rosedale. Last summer, youth scholars in the Rainbow Summer Program tested out the guide and gave feedback on adapting it for the next generation of youth using that feedback, RDA staff worked with local graphic designer and community organizer Elizabeth Johnston to create a guide specifically for middle school-aged youth, breaking down the basics of advocacy at the local level.

Make change happen: a youth guide to advocacy in Rosedale is a fun and easy-to-understand guide for middle school youth. The guide motivates youth to address community issues that matter to them and instructs them on how to work within their own beliefs and passions to make change happen.

“Youth will build an advocacy campaign by focusing on an issue, thinking through solutions to their issue, building a coalition of other people who care, and making a plan to influence the decision makers. The guide goes into detail about different ways to contact decision makers from written messages to social media campaigns.”

This guide was used for the first time during our RISE event in January, with 435 guides handed out across four schools in Rosedale.

“I almost think this is the version adults should use too,” said Elle Haire, RISE volunteer. “It made everything super clear and easy.”

Rosedale kids will also encounter the guide at the Rainbow Summer Program and in Rosedale Future Professionals, where youth use their voices to stand up for issues they believe in. The youth advocacy guide can be found at rosedale.org/r2c/ along with an instructional video created by our RISE volunteer, Sara Swearingen.

To learn more about the youth guide, RDA’s youth programming, reach out to Samantha at samantha@rosedale.org.

You are cordially invited...

... join us on Thursday, March 10, at 5 o’clock in the usual food and slideshow meeting, allowing guests to see our successes and stories of our successes and stories of 2021 RDA Annual Meeting. Rainbow Mennonite Church is graciously lending their space for the event so that we will have plenty of room to comfortably gather.

We have quite an evening planned for you all! In lieu of the usual food and slideshow, we will have a video created by our RISE volunteer, Sara Swearingen. While the usual food and slideshow will be “in community” and work together on an issue, thinking through how to work within their own beliefs and passions to make change happen.

Youth will build an advocacy campaign by focusing on an issue, thinking through solutions to their issue, building a coalition of other people who care, and making a plan to influence the decision makers. The guide goes into detail about different ways to contact decision makers from written messages to social media campaigns. This guide was used for the first time during our RISE event in January, with 435 guides handed out across four schools in Rosedale.

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To learn more about the youth guide or RDA’s youth programming, reach out to Samantha at samantha@rosedale.org.

To learn more about the RDA annual meeting, visit fb.me/e/vZxItjrTS.

— Sarah Waggoner
Sprin is in the air, which means that spring cleaning season is upon us. For RDA, this means the return of the All-Rosedale Cleanup event this April. Currently we are planning for the cleanup to take place on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., with a rainout day scheduled for the following Saturday, April 23. Similar to previous years, we want to know what areas in our Rosedale neighborhoods are in need of some attention and sprucing up. In past years, volunteers have tackled tough to reach areas like the hill near I-35 and Rosedale Park, as well as cleaning up the Mural and removing graffiti. No task is too big or small, so please contact our office to submit an area in Rosedale you would like to see cleaned this spring.

We are in need of volunteers for the cleanup! Hard work is made easy by many hands, and this is a family-friendly event that welcomes all ages and abilities. Additionally, if you are interested in leading a team during the cleanup, please reach out. Neighborhood cleanups are one of the easiest ways to show some love to our awesome Rosedale community, so sign up today.

To learn more about the All-Rosedale Cleanup or to sign up to volunteer, contact Juanise Oliver at juanise@rosedale.org.

RDA is hiring youth program team
By Samantha Burton-Booket
Do you love working with youth and have a heartbeat for RDA’s mission? Then you are in luck, because RDA is hiring for multiple positions. We are looking for a full-time youth program coordinator who will run youth programs in response to community-identified needs. Current programs include financial literacy, youth summer employment and job training, and youth sports. This is a position with flexible hours and office time, as the youth programs require working some afternoons and evenings.

Love youth, love Rosedale, but not ready to commit full-time? We are also hiring for the Rainbow Summer Program! We are in search of classroom facilitators to guide scholars in learning gardening basics, financial literacy, engage in summer reading, and learn some basics for various sports, learn about nutrition, and more. Classroom facilitators are also expected to deliver curriculum, facilitate a social action project, engage in safe and educational activities, and create an environment where scholars are encouraged to use problem solving skills. This is an AmeriCorps team member position.

We are also hiring for the positions of culinary manager, culinary assistant, and before and after care coordinator. The culinary manager and assistant provide the program with nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the day. The before and after care coordinator provides a safe, fun environment for scholars for one hour before and two hours after the regular program.

To learn more, contact Samantha Burton-Booket at samantha@rosedale.org or visit rosedalejobs.org for full job listings.

Rosedale business owner joins board
By Erin Styoka
Deitra Nealy-Shane, assistant director of Little Angels Daycare, has joined the RDA Board this year. Deitra holds an MPA in nonprofit management and an MS in early childhood education. She is excited to join the board after working with RDA to host youth through the Summer Youth Employment program and to build a schoolyard garden at Little Angels. “I am passionate about community, family, and youth development,” says Deitra. “I am a small business advocate. I am committed to helping make Rosedale an even better community for all who live and work here.” Welcome to the board, Deitra!

Summer AmeriCorps team members form a strong bond throughout the summer.

Rosedale Development Association
Our mission is to work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.
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OR contribute online at rosedale.org/archclub

By Juanise Oliver
Volunteer for Rozarks trails workdays this spring
The Rozarks trails are one of the most-loved natural attractions in the Kansas City metro area, visited by nature lovers near and far all year round. The Rozarks trail system is a series of cleared paths totaling 4.5 miles located in the woods of Rosedale, with trailheads at Mt. Marty Park, Fisher Park, and Minnie St. To keep the trails beautiful requires continual maintenance, organized and hosted by RDA.

This spring we are inviting you to volunteer for a series of Rozarks trail workdays. This volunteer opportunity is a great fit for those who already love the outdoors and don’t mind getting a little dirty! During our first trail work day on March 26, volunteers will assist in cutting back overgrowth on the trails and picking up any litter that may have accumulated during the winter. Tools and gloves will be provided, along with explanation on how to use which tool at the beginning of the workday.

Water and snacks will be provided, and we ask that you wear long pants and sturdy shoes.

Join us on Saturday, March 26 at the Mt. Marty Park trailhead from 9-11 a.m. to kick off our volunteer season in the woods this spring!

To learn more or to sign up to be a trail steward, please contact Juanise Oliver at juanise@rosedale.org.