Weatherize your home with assistance this winter
By David Mehlhaff
Do you have a drafty, older home? You might be eligible for home weatherization assistance. With the average U.S. home almost 40 years old, weatherizing a home to protect it from elements like the cold and rain can increase energy efficiency and lead to savings on utility bills, by up to 30 percent. Weatherizing reduces leaks around the perimeter of a home, which includes sealing air ducts, bypasses, recessed lighting, as well as cracks around windows, doors, etc.

For those that might not be able to afford the upfront costs of weathering a home, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has weatherization assistance programs in all 50 states, helping more than 30,000 homeowners get weatherization assistance annually. Locally, the Kansas Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income households cover the cost of heating, cooling, and energy efficiency improvements — free of charge. It’s funded by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and is regulated by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation.

At no charge, income-eligible families can receive a comprehensive home energy audit, assessing their entire home. Certified energy auditors will search a home, inside and out, looking for inefficiencies and safety concerns using advanced equipment and identify a customized account of areas for cost-effective improvements. The improvements will be provided free of charge by a network of professional crews and contractors. This is a great opportunity to upgrade your home at no cost, so apply today!

Volunteers needed in Rosedale
By Juanes Oliver
Rosedale Development Association is looking for volunteers. As a nonprofit we aim to keep Rosedale safe and engaged in all of our events, programs, and daily activities. One of the best ways to stay involved is through volunteering. Some benefits and opportunities of volunteering with RDA include beautifying our neighborhood, gaining hands-on skills necessary for healthy living, such as gardening, and learning about native plants and urban trails.

Below we have listed some of our current volunteer opportunities with a brief description of the position.

**Garden Angels**

Do our current volunteers opportunities to work on the garden located at S. Early St. and 37th Ave. Volunteers are needed from March until November, and help with tasks such as mowing, watering, weeding, planting, harvesting, painting, building, composting, and communicating any needs or concerns to RDA staff.

Flier Distributors will help us spread the word about upcoming events and local news by handing out fliers in neighborhoods and posting them to community bulletin boards. Volunteers will canvas a specified area/neighborhood, handing out materials door-to-door for upcoming events and RDA programs.

Event Extraordinaires help RDA staff plan and carry out events in Rosedale. Volunteers will assist RDA staff prepare, set-up, and breakdown event materials.

Trail Volunteers help maintain trails in Rosedale. Duties include cutting back honeysuckle and other invasive species, removing trash, and maintaining trail signage.

SYE participant shares his experiences with RDA
By Victor Michimani
After hosting another successful cohort of their Summer Youth Employment (SYE) program, RDA has continued its programming to School Year Employment with the assistance of KC CAN. With this expansion, youth have the opportunity to continue working in the community in the evenings after school and on the weekends.

Alejandro Rodriguez, a longtime participant of youth programs at Rosedale Development Association was one of the nine students selected into the SYE cohort this past summer. During his time in the program, he got to work with the Rainbow Summer Program and assisted with projects at RDA. Below is his testimony on the experience.

“My experience with Summer Youth Employment and School Year Employment was fun and very helpful. I learned a lot of different skills that helped me become a better worker and I also got to learn what RDA does for the community. During my time working with RDA, I got to see all the different things they do such as cleaning trails, organizing events in Fisher Park, and organizing programs for the community. Lastly, during my time with RDA, I got to see how Rosedale Development works with different businesses and around the community ranging from daycares to restaurants.”

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit rosedale.org or contact Juanes Oliver at juanes@rosedale.org.

The Rosedalian
Rosedale Development Association Newsletter
November 2021
Our neighbors at the University of Kansas Health System, University of Kansas Medical Center, and Christmas in October once again showed up this year to conduct minor home repair for Rosedale seniors, and residents with disabilities. Despite the ongoing pandemic, increased stress for healthcare workers, and working only outdoors at a distance from others, 95 volunteers worked to repair eight Rosedale homes on October 9th. Volunteers had the support of Christmas in October, which provides tools and supplies as well as dumpsters and portable toilets for the event. This year repaired include painting, gutter cleaning and repair, vegetation removal, a wheelchair ramp, porch and step repairs, siding repair, some roof patching, and replacing many rotten eaves. Since work this year was limited to outside, some volunteer groups took on two houses, switching to a second location in the afternoon.

RDA has worked with The University of Kansas Health System, the University of Kansas Medical Center, and Christmas in October since 1993 to repair homes in Rosedale. We are so grateful for the volunteers and partners that keep showing up for our residents during the pandemic, and we are hopeful to return to doing both inside and inside repairs next year.

To learn more about Christmas in October or how you can help, contact Juanise Oliver at juanise@rosedale.org.

Thank you
By Erin Stryka

A big thank you to all those who filled out our recent survey about what residents want to see in a Rosedale community center! The survey is now closed, and we are carefully studying the results. One thing is clear — a huge number of Rosedalians want to see a community center happen, with 77 people asking to be added to the stakeholder group working toward a community center! Rosedalians continue to work hard and show up for a better neighborhood. Keep an eye on the newsletter for next steps while we get started planning a capital campaign.

Community calendar

**NOVEMBER**

- November 20
  - Community Yoga: 9 a.m. at 1401 Southwest Blvd.
  - Rozarks trail workday: 9 a.m. at Fisher Park
  - RDA offices closed for Thanksgiving

**DECEMBER**

- December 13-18
  - Luminary Hike: 9 a.m. at Fisher Park
  - Community Yoga: 9 a.m. at 1401 Southwest Blvd.
- December 21
  - RDA Annual Meeting: 6 p.m. at 1401 Southwest Blvd.
- December 24-January 2
  - RDA offices closed for the holidays

To learn more about upcoming events and other community happenings, visit rosedale.org or call 913-677-5097.

RDA excited to offer two opportunities to connect with neighbors this winter
By Alissa Workman

This winter the Rozarks will be aglow once again! Following the success of the first Luminary Hike in 2020, RDA is thrilled to recreate the popular illuminated trail hike in December.

“As the days grow shorter and colder heading into winter, it’s hard to find the motivation to go outside, especially when you are in a space that is not as well lit,” said Erin Stryka, RDA’s executive director. “The addition of the luminaries is a fun way to bring life into the Rozarks is one of my favorite things to do in Rosedale year-round,” said Erin Stryka, RDA’s executive director. “The addition of the luminaries is a fun way to bring life into the Rozarks is one of my favorite things to do in Rosedale year-round.”

This winter’s 6 mile trail system linking Fisher Park with Mount Marty/the University of Kansas Medical center begins at Fisher Park with Mount Marty/the University of Kansas Medical center and ends at Mount Marty/the University of Kansas Medical center. The trail is expected to be aglow once again! Folks can explore the trail on their own or in groups as they enjoy the outdoors in December.

This winter the Rozarks will be aglow once again! Folks can explore the trail on their own or in groups as they enjoy the outdoors in December.

By Alissa Workman

By Sarah Waggoner

Husband-and-wife team open Spittlebug Studios

If you have read the RDA newsletter, scanned one of our community mailings, or looked at our logo, then you have likely been part of the creative design of Elizabeth Johnston. A resident of Rosedale for 18 years, Elizabeth has served as KCK’s top graphic designer for the nonprofit sector. Now Elizabeth, along with her husband Jeffrey Hill, are teaming up to start a new venture: Spittlebug Studios, a small business offering Muffin and Bob, a set of early reader children’s books, and digital downloads of art from both Jeffrey and Elizabeth. Recently I was able to talk to Elizabeth about their new business, and how she changed her focus from graphic design to art and illustration.

SW: Did you use the original books from 10 years ago? JS: We revisited the illustrations and simplified the language. We printed a few copies and tested them. We received helpful feedback. They are being printed by Quality Litho, a Rosedale printer. The books are so cute with friendly rounded corners and playful illustrations.

SW: How is one able to purchase these books? JS: We are trying to sell locally, or you can purchase them online at spittlebugstudios.com or by emailing me at spittlebugstudios@gmail.com. For the upcoming holidays, we are featuring a Muffin and Bob three-book set and holiday cards.

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
Phone number
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/charthouse.

We made about $1 from it. About a year ago, a friend (retired teacher) took a look at the books and said they would be great for early readers. Jeff and I decided to open a business together, focusing on these children’s books as our first product, and Spittlebug Studios was born.

EJ: Ten years ago, a colleague of mine who is a software engineer asked us to write a children’s book and he would make an app for it. Jeff wrote a series of stories about a kitten and a puppy. The kitten is named Muffin after Elizabeth’s brother and the puppy is mischievous cat, and Bob is just Bob. My colleague made the app but it didn’t go anywhere.

We are trying to sell locally, or you can purchase them online at spittlebugstudios.com or by emailing me at spittlebugstudios@gmail.com. For the upcoming holidays, we are featuring a Muffin and Bob three-book set and holiday cards.

EJ: When I was little, all I wanted to do was draw pretty pictures and make a living. And 57 years later, that is exactly what I am doing! If my drawings can make people smile, that is all I could ever want. Working with my husband is exciting — he is the author, art director, and colorist, and I am the illustra- tor and editor. We are feeling creatively and are a great team. The whole process is local: we are Rosedale local artists, using local printers, and we love spreading love in this community.

To learn more about Spittlebug Studios, visit spittlebugstudios.com or contact Elizabeth at spittlebugstudios@gmail.com.