

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Good neighbors

### Weatherize your home with assistance this winter

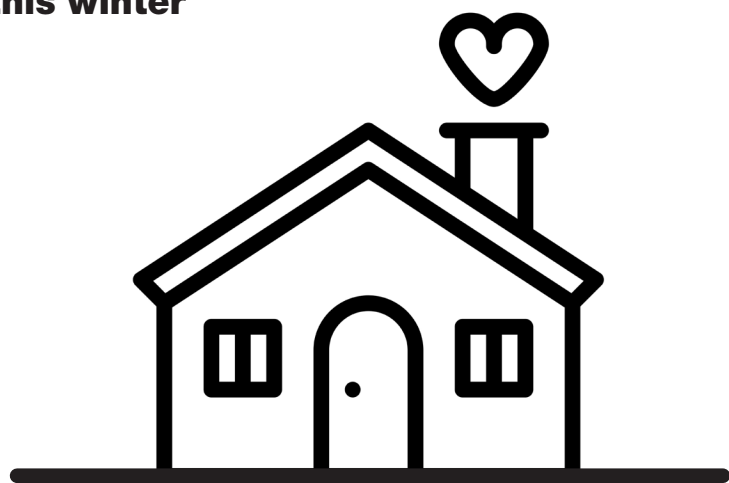
By David Mehlhaff

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 inefficien-



cies 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 contrac-

tors. This is a great opportunity to upgrade your home at no cost, so apply today!

 To learn more about home weatherization or to enroll, go to [www.ECKAN.org/weatherization/](http://www.ECKAN.org/weatherization/) or call 785-242-6413.



# THE ROSEDALIAN

R O S E D A L E   D E V E L O P M E N T   A S S O C I A T I O N   N E W S L E T T E R

### Volunteers needed in Rosedale

By Juanise Oliver

Rosedale Development Association is looking for volunteers. As a nonprofit we aim to keep Rosdaliens 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 help in our community 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 canvass 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 community events in Rosedale. Annual events include Rosedale Disc de Triomphe,

Healthy Halloween, and the Rozarks Luminary Hike. Volunteers will assist RDA staff prepare, set-up, and breakdown event materials.

Trail Volunteers help make sure Rosdaliens have a safe, beautiful place to be physically active and enjoy nature. They work in groups to maintain and improve the Rozarks Trails, which consist of three miles of single-track, natural surface trails in Rosedale. Duties include cutting back honeysuckle and other invasive species, removing trash, and maintaining trail signage.



Volunteers beautify the S. Early St. garden.

 To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit [rosedale.org](http://rosedale.org) or contact Juanise Oliver at [juanise@rosedale.org](mailto:juanise@rosedale.org).

### SYE participant shares his experiences with RDA


By Victor Michimani

After hosting another successful cohort of their Summer Youth Employment (SYE) program, RDA has expanded 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 make 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 in School Year Employment I got to see how Rosedale Development works with different businesses and around the community ranging from daycares to restaurants."*

 To learn more about SYE, contact Victor Michimani at [victor@rosedale.org](mailto:victor@rosedale.org) or 913-283-5495.



Alejandro Rodriguez is an all-star SYE participant.





Rosedalians walk through the Luminary Trail.

## 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 keep moving, but getting 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 neighbors together around a great community asset.”

The Rozarks are a three-mile trail system linking Fisher Park with Mount Marty/the Rosedale Arch. RDA built and maintains the trails with the support of many dedicated volunteers. A portion of the trail that begins at Fisher Park will be outfitted with glowing lights and decorations

beginning at dusk each day from Monday, December 13 through Saturday, December 18, 2021.

In addition, RDA is excited to welcome neighbors back in-person for an open house-style Annual Meeting. Guests will visit interactive stations to learn more about RDA, upcoming programs and events, outstanding volunteers, and more. In addition, RDA cannot wait to show off the renovated community room at 1401 Southwest Blvd.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 21 from 6-8 p.m. Visitors can come and go any time during that window, and will be asked to wear masks at all times.

**🏠** *To learn more about either of these events, please contact Alissa at the RDA office: 913-677-5097 or [alissa@rosedale.org](mailto:alissa@rosedale.org).*

## Healthcare Pros show up for Rosedale homes this fall

By Erin Stryka

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, veterans, 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 repairs included 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 outside and inside repairs next year.

**🏠** *To learn more about Christmas In October or how you can help, contact Juanise Oliver at [juanise@rosedale.org](mailto:juanise@rosedale.org).*



CIO volunteers repair Rosedale homes.

## 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 cen-

ter 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.

1401 Southwest Blvd.

#### Rozarks trail workday

9 a.m.

Fisher Park

November 25 & 26

#### RDA offices closed for Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

December 13-18

#### Luminary Hike

Dusk

Fisher Park

December 18

#### Community Yoga

9 a.m.

1401 Southwest Blvd

December 21

#### RDA Annual Meeting

6 p.m.

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](http://rosedale.org) or call 913-677-5097.*



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

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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](http://rosedale.org)

**Facebook.com/**

**RosedaleDevelopment**

**Twitter.com/RosedaleDA**

**Rosedale.org**

## Husband-and-wife team open Spittlebug Studios

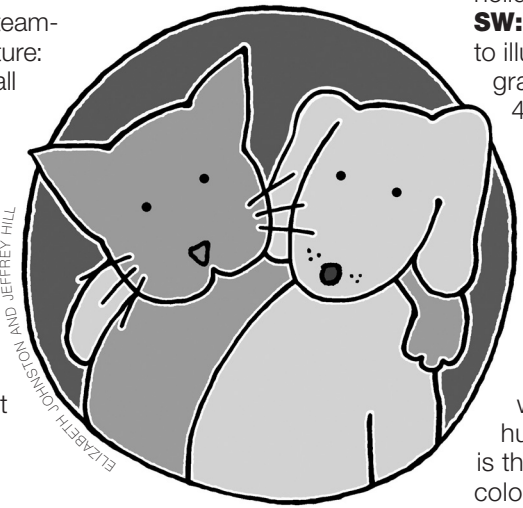
By Sarah Waggoner

If you have read the RDA newsletter, scanned one of our community mailings, or looked at our logo, then you are familiar with 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:** How did the idea for Spittlebug Studios come about?

**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’s beloved and mischievous cat, and Bob is just Bob. My colleague made the app but it didn’t go anywhere.

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.



**SW:** Did you use the original books from 10 years ago?

**EJ:** 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 the products?

**EJ:** We are trying to sell locally, or you can purchase them online at [spittlebugstudios.com](http://spittlebugstudios.com) or by emailing me at [spittlebugstudios@gmail.com](mailto:spittlebugstudios@gmail.com). For the upcoming holidays, we are featuring a Muffin and Bob three-book set and holiday cards.

**SW:** What is it like returning to illustrations after doing graphic design for over 40 years?

**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 illustrator and editor. We are feeling creatively inspired 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](http://spittlebugstudios.com) or contact Elizabeth at [spittlebugstudios@gmail.com](mailto:spittlebugstudios@gmail.com).*

## Let’s be rock solid together!

### Please accept my donation in support of RDA.

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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](http://rosedale.org/archclub)**.