



# The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[www.rosedale.org](http://www.rosedale.org)

## Kids enjoy summer programs in Rosedale

It was a hot day in June when Diane Richardson asked a group of kids from Rosedale Ridge about what they thought would be a fun thing to do to cool down. The children didn't know what to say when she said she felt ice cream would be the perfect treat, but their smiles told the whole story.

Summer programs blossomed all around Rosedale this season with help from RDA. Whether it was RDA's Summer Youth Employment, Freedom School, the Healthy Kids Camp or Rosedale Ridge's Summer Youth program, good things have happened for a lot of our youth this summer.

Children attending the Rainbow Mennonite CDF Freedom School were particularly excited about their field trips. "Kaleidoscope!" said one, "the art museum was my favorite," said another. Another child said his favorite time was playing outside.

Mikail Mohd Zahiham and Chenyi Zhang were both adamant that lunch was their favorite time. While Amy Cardona listed several craft activities as her favorites.

While field trips and crafts were also part of the Rosedale Ridge program, the program also emphasized reading. One student, Jaron Byrd said he appreciated a particular youth volunteer, "because he helped me read three books."

Cherie McDonald, a teacher who has worked at the Rainbow CDF Freedom School since it began four years ago, said she has seen a "tilt towards reading" being a favored activity of the kids. While the kids clearly still like activities and field trips the most, she has been happy to see how much easier it has been to get the kids reading in comparison with her first years working there.

More than anything though, Mc-



LINDSEY SNYDER PHOTO

**Alexis Noel, Kyree Avis, Keyshawn Perkins, Ja'hawn and Ja'ron Byrd got to enjoy the spray park at Loose Park as part of their last field trip with the Rosedale Ridge Summer Youth program.**

Donald said, the kids enjoyed guests. Freedom School brings in volunteers to read to the kids and the kids welcome them warmly with a song.

The Rosedale Congregational Church's Healthy Kids Camp also received many visitors to help children learn to live healthy lives. Visitors included people from KU Medical Center, the Fire Department, and Ernie Miller from the Nature Center.

Besides learning about healthy lifestyles at Healthy Kids Camp (HKC), children there participated in many different types of activities to ensure that everybody would have a good time. Allison Edwards, who directed this year's HKC said that they sang, played and participated in theatre programs as well.

These activities across Rosedale ensured an enjoyable, safe and beneficial summer for kids throughout Rosedale. ☺

## *Remembrances*

### **Jim H. Turley**

**Jim H. Turley**, a close neighbor of RDA, died July 28, 2010. Mr. Turley lived a long life and was a conscientious, caring and important member of the Rosedale community. His life was honored on August 1 at Jalisco's restaurant, where he spent much time.

His funeral was held July 31. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Lola Jean Turley, his daughter Karen, sons Rick and Mark, 6 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

## Lessons learned with Summer Youth Employment

More confident expressions on the faces of the 11 youths ages 14 to 16 who fully participated in RDA's Summer Youth Employment (SYE) program attest to the program's efficacy.

"With this program and training we see the greatest short term impact on our youth," said Wendy Wilson, executive director of RDA. "Many of the kids just blossom, it is so heartwarming for us."

As youth arrived to pick up their first check, pictures were taken and one youth danced a bit. One mother said that while her daughter was receiving a paycheck, for her it was a "reality check" that her daughter is growing up.

As the mother's comment implies, SYE does not just provide paychecks to the youths, but can teach important lessons about growing into a responsible adult.

After his first week of work, Anibal Garza, who worked at Rosedale Middle School, said that he was getting a lot better at getting up early to get to work on time.

Natalie Hill, who worked at Little Angels Daycare, said she was learning a lot about how to work with others. She said, "everybody is different and has different ways of doing things." Learning how to work effectively together with a diverse group is an important lesson to learn for anyone who works with others.

Angel Perez, working in a janitorial position at Holy Name, believes that with all the cleaning he has done there, he will value cleaning his house more from now on. Angel has also taken lessons about money management given at the beginning of the program to heart, as he has saved all the money he has earned.

Martez Taylor, who is working at Carroll Seating, said, "working is fun! At least it is there." Taylor also said that he had learned from talking to all the workers at Carroll Seating how important his education was for getting the job he wants in the future.

The work arrangements have worked well for the work sites also. Mr. Reiff, at Holy Name, said that Perez is, "an excellent fit" and that he is a "hard worker." A teacher at the Rainbow Mennonite CDF Freedom School — where two SYE workers assisted in the kitchen — pointed to a "spotless"

kitchen to highlight their hard work.

As the youth arrived to pick up their last paycheck of the summer many were sad and looking forward to next

summer. Several youth have requested letters of recommendation to assist in securing another job which RDA has eagerly provided. ☒



JORDAN PENNER PHOTO

**Becky Mericle and Pat Milburn pause for a moment from folding the newsletters. Every month RDA is able to count on a core group of volunteers to fold, tape, label and organize over 600 newsletters to be sent around Rosedale.**

### Volunteer Spotlight

**T**he Newsletter Folders: Pat Milburn, Vicky Phillips, Becky Mericle and Deb Pintar.

Producing *The Rosedalian* month after month is no small task, and it is one that requires volunteer work all along the way through production. The final step of mailing the newsletters is a particularly labor intensive process for which RDA is lucky to have a core group of volunteers.

This group includes residents Pat Milburn, Becky Mericle, Vicky Phillips and Deb Pintar.

To prepare for mailing out 600 newsletters every month, volunteers add inserts, fold the newsletter, tape it together, label it, and finally count and organize them by zip code. All of these jobs are done by Milburn, Mericle, Phillips and Pintar.

In addition to putting in the hours needed to fold, tape, label and count the newsletters, these four women are invaluable to the process because they are often asked by RDA to do the folding with very little notice. Their flexibility is a big asset to RDA.

Although folding the newsletters is tedious work, perhaps these women come to help out at RDA because folding the letters has come to be a small get-together for them and the RDA staff. Most folding days involve a lot of laughter and story telling that keeps the

work light and the mood happy.

Milburn, Mericle, Phillips and Pintar are all a part of Rosedale and take part in building a good community here by being involved in community events, being active in their neighborhood groups and simply by being good neighbors. Being available to help with the newsletter is just one manifestation of their pride in Rosedale and their desire to make it a better place. ☒

### ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Working in partnership with residents, businesses, and institutions to build a strong and healthy community and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale.

1403 Southwest Blvd.

Kansas City, KS 66103

Phone: (913) 677-5097

Fax: (913) 677-3437

[www.rosedale.org](http://www.rosedale.org)

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Wendy Wilson**, Executive Director

**Linda Wright**, Office Manager

**Jordan Penner**, Community Organizer

**Design**, Elizabeth C. Johnston  
[www.lizzardbrand.com](http://www.lizzardbrand.com)

**Editing**, Cari Holliday

**Board of Directors**,  
[www.rosedale.org/who\\_board.htm](http://www.rosedale.org/who_board.htm)

## Healthy Kids Carnival a success

The second annual Healthy Kids Carnival was held July 20 with help from dozens of volunteers comprised mainly of parents of children participating in Freedom School. The event is a fundraiser for the Rainbow Mennonite CDF Freedom School meant to show an alternative style of carnival.

That alternative style focuses on healthy behaviors. Activities included sack races, jump rope, a bounce house, basketball, and even a ring toss with a tiered point system favoring bottles filled with water and 100% fruit juice over Gatorade and Coke.

The biggest difference, however, was the food. The kids, and adults, were treated to food that not only tasted great — it was prepared by numerous parent volunteers — but that was much more healthy than the customary oversized portions of greasy foods at most carnivals.

Rachel Hostetler, Community Outreach Coordinator at Rainbow Mennonite, said the national Freedom School theme this year was “Building healthy communities,” so working again with the Healthy Kids Initiative (HKI) made perfect sense. HKI is a program of RDA and the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance.

Hostetler said, “The Healthy Kids Initiative is a wonderful community resource. It was a natural partnership to make, mutually beneficial for both the Healthy Kids Initiative and our Freedom School.”

But while the partnership made such a unique carnival possible, Hostetler said, “The parents made the carnival happen.

“Freedom Schools recognize parents as important partners in educating their children.” She said, “Some parents went above and beyond what was expected in helping with the carnival.”

The parents were rewarded when the Freedom School youth took time out from games to sing a song they sang every morning of Freedom School. The kids sang and motioned along to uplifting words like, “something inside, so strong, so strong.” And then they sang a song by rap artist, Nas, *I can, I know I can be what I wanna be!*”

The Rainbow Mennonite CDF Freedom School is part of a larger body of twelve freedom schools in Kansas

City and many more nationally. With a unique curriculum, motivated interns and a caring church community, the Freedom School makes summer school fun and extremely beneficial.

The Healthy Kids Carnival raised

over \$1,200 so Freedom School can continue with low costs to parents. Perhaps more importantly, the children were given an extremely positive event, right in their home community, which taught and modeled healthy living. ☞

## Thanks to our volunteers!

In the month of July RDA was privileged to work with a number of volunteers to improve the community, including first year KUMC medical students with the Med 1 program, KU Phd/Md graduate students, a Mennonite youth group from Hutchinson, KS., and another Mennonite youth group from Whitewater, KS.

The KUMC first year medical students painted the home of an elderly resident; the Phd/Md students undertook the daunting work to clear off the sidewalk on Mill Street hill which had become unwalkable in some sections; the youth group from Hutchinson cleaned up a the KDOT property to the east of RDA; and the youth group from Whitewater helped with a variety of projects around Rosedale including cleaning up the triangle with flowers at Southwest Blvd. and Mission Rd. and providing staff for the Sunday Rosedale Farmers Market.

We want to thank all of these volunteers for their hard work and positive attitudes during a really hot spell. You really have given of yourselves to help others and improve this community!

A special thank you goes out to community members Ian Barnes, Lillian Nieto and Becky Mericle for serving as a small focus group to help our Community Health Project interns design and conduct a door to door survey. The group was “tough” on the interns and gave them valuable insight into the community and how to approach area residents to gain important information to help RDA improve the community. ☞



LINDA WRIGHT PHOTO

**A group of Phd/Md students helped clear the Mill Street hill.**

---

## Membership application

Annual business dues: \$100 ☞ Annual household dues: \$15

Name of business **or** name of household

Address

City

State

ZIP code

Contact person

Day phone

Evening phone

Fax

E-mail address

Please mail application, along with check made payable to:  
Rosedale Development Association  
1403 Southwest Blvd.  
Kansas City, Kan. 66103

*Rosedale Business of the Month:*

**Power Equipment Sales Company, Inc.**

**Address:** 1507 Lake Avenue, KC, KS. 66103, **Phone:** (913) 384-3848, **Website:** www.powerequipsales.com

Power Equipment Sales, Co. (PESCO) has been a staple in the Rosedale community since 1973, when a move from Kansas City, Missouri brought them across the state line. PESCO sells electrical products to contractors, utilities and municipal governments, providing equipment such as streetlights to Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Southern Illinois through four locations across the Midwest.

ABIGAIL DENNIS



The main branch is located in the heart of Rosedale, visible from the I-35 entry ramp at Southwest Boulevard. The company, founded as the Charles L. Ward Co., in 1920 celebrated its 90th year of continuous operation on July 1. According to a press release, the company, “evolved into its present operation through several mergers and acquisitions.”

Current President Tim Weeks has

**The Power Equipment Sales Company celebrated its 90th year of continuous operation on July 1, 2010.**

been with the company since 1970, and was appointed to his position in 1997. Weeks cited Kansas City, Kansas as a “great community,” and said, “the Association [RDA] does a lot working with the community. Vandalism has gone down.”

Though Weeks had only been

working at PESCO for a few years when the company purchased space in Rosedale, he believed that the move to Kansas City, Kansas was a “positive one.”

A comfortable, laid-back vibe permeates PESCO’s office space. However, Weeks says “materials are picked up at the warehouse daily.” Attached to the office is the warehouse, a cavernous room that houses supplies necessary for current projects. PESCO bids for new jobs on a

day-to-day basis, working closely with subcontractors and other customers who use their materials.

Power Equipment Sales, Co. is also involved in the community, not only are they a member of RDA, but they are involved with the Kansas City Electric League, The Kansas City, Kansas Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations. ☞

— Abigail Dennis



**1403 Southwest Blvd.  
Kansas City, Kansas 66103**

---

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 233  
Kansas City, KS

---

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**