



The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.rosedale.org

Southwest Boulevard to become bicycle/ pedestrian friendly

After a lot of hard work, patience, and support from the community, RDA won a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant on behalf of the Unified Government (UG) of Wyandotte County and Kansas City. The grant will provide funding to create 1.8 miles of dedicated bicycle lanes on Southwest Boulevard/Merriam Lane.

RDA has also made an application to the State of Kansas on behalf of the UG, to extend the bike lanes all the way along Merriam Lane to the Johnson County line. This would provide an additional 3.6 bike lane miles.

It is apparent to RDA that a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly street system could improve our image and create a richer community. Good bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure will help residents without cars gain access to more resources and job opportunities, help families maintain healthy lifestyles, support growth in local businesses, ease the bicycle commute to midtown and facilitate reduction in carbon emissions.

In addition to the new bicycle lanes on Southwest Blvd., RDA is working with a coalition on plans for a Turkey Creek Trail that would increase connectivity to Rosedale, provide opportunities for recreational cycling, running and walking, and also make business opportunities in Rosedale more attractive.

RDA has already begun working with community leaders and a KU Urban Design class to bring these ideas together to create a cohesive plan for what is being called the Green Corridor.

KC Healthy Kids provided assistance in the grant writing process. The




JORDAN PENNER PHOTO

Leslie Hammer, a Mennonite Voluntary Service worker, enjoys riding her bicycle and is excited for Rosedale to become more bicycle friendly.

Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative (HKI), through its programming, provides evidence that Rosedale has the programs in place to make sure that these improvements are utilized. The HKI organized a bicycle ride on Southwest Blvd./ Merriam Lane and advocated to the

Board of Commissioners for a resolution supporting bicycle lanes.

RDA and HKI will offer community training sessions to teach safe bicycling practices and increase interest in bicycling in Rosedale as a form of recreation and transportation. 

Special Thanks

RDA would like to send a special thanks to Sean Tucker and Angel Dew for leading the effort to cleanup the 42nd street mural with 15 volunteers, most of them from the KU Student Governing Council; and to Strasser True Value Hardware and Mark's Produce for supplying plants, mulch, top soil and trash bags. It is fantastic to see all the volunteers and businesses stepping up to improve Rosedale.

Strasser True Value Hardware and RDA joined together to provide materials for a mural at Rosedale Middle School that was designed by the KU Community Outreach Program. The KU students worked with middle school students to complete the mural during the KU Street Fair on April 10. It is visible on the wall that forms the west side of the school track. We thank Strasser Hardware for their ongoing community support.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Gladys Wilson and Lillie Greer

When Lillie Greer and Gladys Wilson remember a time in Rosedale when residents walked almost everywhere, and if they think fondly of a time when people did not lock their doors at night, they are not just remembering the past, but dreaming of the future. Greer and Wilson are very involved with the community today, working to make it better for future generations.

Living in the Hilltop neighborhood, Greer and Wilson regularly check on their neighbors, particularly some of the older residents. Neighbors often come to them to talk about community issues and work with them checking up on others.

Wilson says that Greer, "looks after everybody."

Greer and Wilson say that although they have seen a lot of changes in their time, some for the worse, their neighborhood still has plenty of camaraderie. They like to be part of a community where people ask about what's going on, and they are determined to continue to look after their neighbors.

A few years ago, Greer and Wilson

began a community garden. They say that community gardens foster good relationships in the neighborhood and encourages healthy eating. Wilson said she had the experience for the project because she always had a garden.

Now the garden is a joint project between their St. Paul AME Zion, the Rosedale Congregational Church and the Rainbow Mennonite Church. Wilson says that it's a great fellowship and she believes it's a way she can help the younger generation.

But the community garden is just the most recent example of the teamwork and leadership that Wilson and Greer have provided for their neighborhood over the years.

Not long after getting to know each other while attending St. Paul AME Zion, they began a social club for young women to get together. Soon they were in charge of the Youth Department at the church and were busy organizing activities for the kids.



BERNITA BOYTS PHOTO

Lillie Greer has volunteered and organized in her neighborhood for many years. Here she is working on one of her newer products, a community garden.

Wilson and Greer have been working together ever since. People like Greer and Wilson are the basis of strong, healthy communities and we commend them for the example they have set. ☑

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.
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www.rosedale.org
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wendy Wilson, Executive Director

Linda Wright, Office Manager

Jordan Penner, Community Organizer

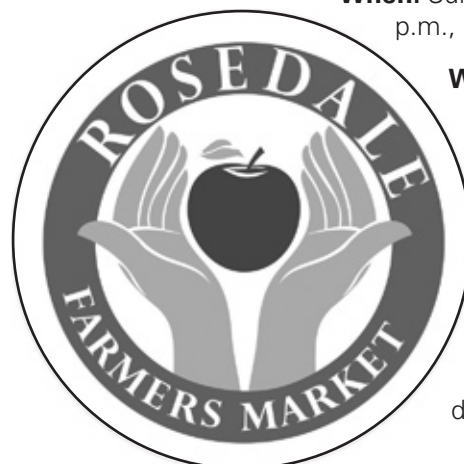
Design, Elizabeth C. Johnston
www.lizzardbrand.com

Editing, Cari Holliday

Board of Directors,
www.rosedale.org/
who_board.htm

Come out to the Rosedale Farmers Market

When: Sundays, May 16 – October 17, Noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine



Where: Parking lot of Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care, 340 Southwest Boulevard, Kansas City, KS

Debit cards, EBT/Vision cards and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Benefits accepted.

The Rosedale Farmers Market is a participant in the Beans and Greens program, which will allow SNAP users to receive double value at the farmers market!

Healthy Kids Initiative springing with activities

With the arrival of spring, the Healthy Kids Initiative (HKI) is moving into high gear. Besides planning a farmers market to start in May, signing children up to play soccer, continuing advocacy for programs such as Walking School Buses, gardening, and after school activities, HKI is planning a number of events to encourage community support for walking to school and safe bicycle practices.

A Safety Ambassador training session cosponsored by HKI will be held at Shawnee Blvd. Christian Church, 818 Shawnee Road, on April 30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This program, developed by Mid-America Regional Council and partner organizations, trains motivated individuals in pedestrian and bicycling safety education. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply.

Trainees of the Safety Ambassador training will have the opportunity to help at another HKI event. A Bike Rodeo will be held on May 8 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the University of Kansas Medical Center off-site parking lot located between 35th and 38th Streets and Booth/Springfield, near Rosedale Middle School. It will give important safety training to children wanting to ride their bikes. A limited supply of free refreshments, helmets and reusable water bottles will be available for first comers.

HKI and RDA see bicycling as a great, fun activity for kids and adults to stay physically active, and both organizations want to promote the safe practices of riding. RDA has advocated for bicycle lanes and HKI is teaching safe bicycling.

In order to encourage further activity, HKI has helped organize a weekly Walking School Bus route to Frank Rush-ton Elementary School that will start the end of April and will involve parents, community members, and students.

“Walking School Buses are an important tool in promoting healthier lifestyles, as they can add relatively easy and fun physical activity into a daily routine, and promote pedestrian safety,” Heidi Holliday, community organizer for HKI, says.

As reported in the March newsletter, HKI continues to work on organizing a farmers market in Rosedale. This project is taking shape and Rosedalians

can look forward to increased availability of fresh produce in the neighborhood beginning Sunday, May 16 at Southwest Blvd. Family Health Care, 340 Southwest Blvd.

HKI reminds all Rosedalians that their involvement would be greatly appreciated in any of the aforementioned activities or in their advocacy teams. The teams meet regularly, with the Garden team on the first Tuesday of the

month, the Out of School Activities team on the second Tuesday, and the Safe Routes to School team on the third Tuesday. All strategy team meetings are at 6:30 p.m. at Rosedale Congregational Church, 4326 Lloyd St. HKI also is looking for volunteers for the weekly Rosedale farmers market on Sunday afternoons from May 16- October 17. For more information, call (913) 645-7826. ☎

Community planning draws attention

The community planning of RDA has drawn attention recently as a result of its work with the 39th and Rainbow project. The development will be a mixed-use building for retail, hotel, and housing.

RDA will ensure that this development complies with our long-term vision for the community, specifically with the Rosedale Master Plan, which helps bring positive business development to Rosedale. This planning has brought the attention of others.

In a written copy of his State of the Government speech, Mayor Joe Rardon noted that the 39th and Rainbow and CVS projects, “not only will put people to work but they fulfill the long-term vision of the Rosedale Master Plan. Proving with thoughtful, collaborative neighborhood and business planning, reality can match the vision.”

A front-page article in the *Kansas City Star* also brought attention to the project and RDA’s involvement. Dennis McCulloch of KU Medical Center was quoted saying, “we’re following the lead of the Rosedale Development Association,” and that “any plan consistent with their development plan, which we think this will be, is great.”

RDA advocates for this development as a manner of keeping retail dollars in Rosedale and to provide a quality hotel near KU Medical Center. Furthermore, this development should encourage additional economic development in Rosedale.

The buildings, on the west side of Rainbow, will extend from 39th Street south to Taco Bell, which will remain, and from Rainbow Blvd. west to Adams street. ☎

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, KS 66103

Rosedale Business of the Month:

Gladstone Associates

Phone: (913) 236-8101, **Address:** 2710 W. 43rd St., Kansas City, KS 66103
E-mail: fe gladstone@yahoo.com

Although both Gene and his son, Brian Gladstone, might at first insist that their business is boring, after a little prying, you will see that their business is more interesting than one might imagine. Gladstone Associates, a long time member of RDA, has completed 40 years working as independent factory representatives for manufacturers that make hotel furniture, such as Sealy.

According to Gene Gladstone, Gladstone Associates can provide almost anything you see in a hotel room. As independent representatives for 40 years, they have the experience to help hotels and other large commercial venues find the perfect pieces of furniture that fit the desired aesthetic and accommodate the buyers price-range.

Their office in Rosedale has a wide variety of beds, chairs, stools, car-



JORDAN PENNER PHOTO

Gene and Brian Gladstone stand in front of an assortment of chairs in the back of their office where they can show off the wide variety of options available to their customers

pet, desks, tables and lights on display. Even this large display room, however, does not come close to representing the variety of products available through the manufacturer.

Because clients can change many different aspects of even a single chair design, Gene says that they “may

never sell the same chair twice.” On the other hand, Gladstone can work with the manufacturer and the client to create new furnishings from scratch.

Although Gene and Brian might denigrate the excitement of their work, they admit that it has provided them the opportunity to travel. Gladstone Associates has helped furnish hotels and entertainment venues around the country.

Besides traveling, the variety of needs they must meet gives the

Gladstones a new challenge every day and makes for an exciting work experience. Furthermore, the Gladstones fill the office with a natural friendliness and congeniality that must make working there easy.

So the next time you settle down for a good nights sleep in a hotel room, know that you might have the Gladstones to thank for it. ☺



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