



The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.rosedale.org

What's happening with the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative?

Moving into its next phase, the Healthy Kids Initiative (HKI) has hired a talented community organizer, started collecting baseline data, and begun forming work teams to guide and propel the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-supported project.

Formed from a partnership between RDA, the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance, KC Healthy Kids, and the University of Kansas Medical Center-Internal Medicine Foundation, the HKI is a faith-based advocacy effort to reduce childhood obesity in the community — a major issue considering that a whopping 51 percent of elementary school students in Rosedale are overweight or obese.

One of the first steps of the Initiative was to hire a community organizer. Seeing that Barack Obama was not available, HKI leaders recently hired Heidi Holliday — a young woman with a passion for building healthy communities.

Heidi graduated from Bethel College (Kan.) in 2006 with a B.A. in

Global Peace & Justice Studies and Spanish (yes, she's fluent). While young, she has already had several community organizing positions, including at two different social action agencies in south central Kansas.

An avid cyclist, vegetarian and gardener, Heidi understands the challenges in addressing the issue of childhood obesity but is optimistic about prospects for success.

"The epidemic of childhood obesity should concern all of us as this generation will face more health problems sooner than any previous generation, with tremendous expense and decreased quality of life," she says. "With the Healthy Kids Initiative, we have a chance to inspire a new generation to enjoy and value nutritious foods and the outdoors, ultimately improving the health of the entire community."

Through conversations with area stakeholders, the Initiative is gathering baseline health data for the Rosedale community. Information is also being collected through surveys conducted by KU Med Center students. This initial data will be used to track progress on meeting the goals of the HKI.

To drive the project, several work teams consisting of residents, church members, and others have been, or will be, created. The teams will be structured around the Initiative's two broad focus areas: healthy eating and active living. Examples of the specific work teams include:

Gardening — grow produce at community gardens throughout Rosedale

Use of Physical Space — expand the use of churches, schools, and other buildings, along with parks and outdoor areas, for physical activity for children

After-School Activities — devel-



MATT McKITTRICK PHOTO

Heidi Holliday

op and/or enhance after-school programs for children that emphasize physical activity

Transit Options — make the area more bike- and pedestrian-friendly

Infrastructure/Safety — advocate for new or improved sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting at parks, traffic signs, graffiti abatement, crime prevention, etc.

Healthy Foods — improve access to healthy foods at area grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets and community gardens, etc.

Persons interested in any of the work teams are invited to contact Heidi and sign up to help. The success of the HKI depends on the entire community's participation — childhood obesity is not just an individual problem, it is a public health issue with wide-ranging impact.

For more information or to sign up for a work team, contact Heidi: (913) 236-6337 or rosedalehealthykid@att.net.

Healthy Kids Initiative Official Kick-Off

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

2:00 p.m.

at the "Healthy Kidz Garden" (4100 block of S. Minnie St.)

Guest speakers, spring planting, garden activities, and more.

Come celebrate the beginning of this innovative new project in Rosedale to reduce childhood obesity and create a healthier community!

Bi-state partners cheer progress made on Turkey Creek flood control

For decades, the periodic floodwaters of Turkey Creek have wreaked havoc on Rosedale businesses and property owners along Merriam Lane and Southwest Blvd. Now, thanks to the efforts of federal and local elected officials, along with other area stakeholders, significant advancements have been made in reducing the threat of future flood events.

On March 27, more than 100 people gathered at the Schutte Lumber Co. headquarters to celebrate the near-completion of repairs to the Turkey Creek diversion tunnel, which drains the excess waters of Turkey Creek into the Kansas River. The 1,300-ft.-long and 28-ft. diameter tunnel, originally constructed in 1919, had deteriorated in recent years to the point that it could have collapsed — with catastrophic consequences for Rosedale and surrounding areas.

The federal government (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), City of Kansas City, Mo., and the Unified Government of Kansas City, Kan./Wyandotte County joined together to provide the funding for the tunnel repair project — and the funding for other flood control measures along the Turkey Creek basin.

By its projected completion in 2014, the entire Turkey Creek project is



JOEL GOERING PHOTO

The entrance to the Turkey Creek tunnel, located beneath the 7th St. on-ramp to I-35.

expected to cost about \$90 million — of which the U.G. is slated to contribute approximately \$12 million (less than 15 percent of the total). The other government entities will cover the remaining 85 percent of the cost.

In addition to the tunnel repairs, other flood control efforts for Turkey Creek include: construction of a 2,800-

ft. levee, deepening and widening of the creek channel, replacement of railroad bridges, installation of large hillside interceptors to more quickly drain runoff, and environmental enhancements such as bike and walking trails and planting of native vegetation.

RDA is proud to have worked with other members of the Turkey Creek stakeholders group during the past several years to advocate for the necessary resources to implement the flood control measures. While the tunnel repairs and other flood-reduction efforts are not cheap, they represent a long-term investment in the future growth and economic development of the area.

At the celebration event, many speakers praised the bi-state cooperation and bi-partisan support for the project. U.G. Mayor/CEO Joe Reardon said of the regional approach and collaboration across state and county lines, “We ought to have more of these types of celebrations.”

Other speakers and dignitaries present at the March 27 celebration included Sen. Sam Brownback, Rep. Dennis Moore, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, and KCMO Mayor Mark Funkhouser. ☞

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.

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

Wendy Wilson, Executive Director

Linda Wright, Office Manager

Joel Goering, Community Organizer

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

Newsletter design by Elizabeth Johnston, www.lizardbrand.com

42nd St. mural project “Spring clean day”

On April 25, starting at 10:00 a.m., come plant flowers and trees and clean up the lot in front of the 42nd St. mural, near the intersection of 42nd and Mission Rd. Sponsored by the Clinical Lab at KU MED, this volunteer event is part of the annual “Lab Week” to recognize the work of medical technologists and technicians. During the week-long celebration, service projects are chosen to renew the commitment to the community surrounding the hospital.

Thus, RDA’s 42nd St. mural project was selected. Anyone is welcome to participate . . . lots of volunteers are needed.

If you help, you’ll also have the chance to see up-close the exciting new art work that’s been painted on the wall in recent weeks.

For more information, contact Sean Tucker (stucker@kumc.edu), Mikey Fletcher (mikey141414@gmail.com), or Angel Dew (angelbutterfly-dew@gmail.com). ☞



JOEL GOERING PHOTO

One of the newest completed panels on the 42nd St. mural.

Rosedale Briefs

2nd Annual Petpalooza — May 2

Bring your pet and the whole family to the University of Kansas Medical Center "Neighborhood Petpalooza," which will be held on May 2, from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the NE corner of 39th and Rainbow Blvd. There will be low-cost vaccinations and microchips available. The purpose of the event is to promote responsible pet ownership and to celebrate the special bond between humans and animals. See you there!

Got Ghosts?

Do you know any ghost stories involving Rosedale people and places? Have you heard of haunted buildings or paranormal activity in Rosedale? If so, we want to hear about it. Ghost Tours of Kansas, a company providing guided visits to haunted locations around the state, is interested in starting a Rosedale ghost tour. It's not just about ghosts...it's also an exciting new tourism opportunity and driver of economic development. Downtown KCK has had ghost tours that have provided a boost to area businesses, and there's no reason Rosedale can't do the same. Call Janet Reed with your ghost stories: (913) 231-7848. For more information, visit: www.ghost-tourkansas.com.

Summer Youth Employment

RDA is recruiting community-minded Rosedale businesses that are interested in supervising a 14-16-year-old youth employee for 6-8 weeks this summer. The program is a great way for businesses to gain some extra help for the summer at no extra cost (since RDA pays the youth through a grant from the BPU), in addition to providing an opportunity for young people to learn valuable job skills and develop a solid work ethic. To learn more or to sign up, contact the RDA office: (913) 677-5097.

Thank you...

... to Bill Stalder at Heinen Landscape & Irrigation – a Rosedale-based business – for eradicating the weeds at a prominent grassy area near one of Rosedale's main entryways. Heinen's work will make the area more attractive and welcoming. Due to its location, the beautified lot will make a positive statement about Rosedale as people drive into the community. Kudos to Heinen for giving back to Rosedale!

Rosedale History Quiz

In each issue of *The Rosedalian*, we will publish a Rosedale historical photograph along with an accompanying question. The first person to answer the question correctly will receive a prize. Submissions must be e-mailed to: rosedalehistoryquiz@yahoo.com or called in to the RDA office: (913) 677-5097. Please provide your name, address, and phone number. If you enjoy these historical photos, please visit: www.rosedale.org to see more.

Last month's photographs & question:

Question: This is a photo of the "welcome home" celebration for soldiers returning after the end of World War I, hosted by the Rosedale community. What was the nickname of the U.S. Army Division honored at the celebration?



Answer: Officially, it was the 42nd Division, but it became known as the "Rainbow Division" because it consisted of servicemen from around the country. It is also the namesake for Rainbow Blvd., one of Rosedale's main thoroughfares. The celebration took place on May 12, 1919 – almost 90 years ago to the day.

Winner: Several people answered correctly, including Virginia Hughes, Twila Williams, and Joann Ingold. However, Hilltop neighborhood leader Forrest Rhea was the first.

This month's photograph & question:

Question: This image depicts the construction of Rosedale's most-recognized landmark, the Rosedale Arch. What is the name of the hill on which the Arch stands?



LARRY ROLLINS PHOTOS

The answer will be provided next month.

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:

DB² Services (formerly Hennessey Sheet Metal)

Address: 1141 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, Kan. 66103, **Phone:** (913) 677-2408
Website: www.db2services.com (under construction)

There are changes taking place along Southwest Blvd. in Rosedale. Not only has the road been re-paved in recent years and the threat of flooding from nearby Turkey Creek been significantly reduced (see article on page 2), but several businesses have also made major upgrades to their facilities.

One such business is DB² Services, formerly Hennessey Sheet Metal.

The investments in the company's facility are noticeable. There is a new driveway, which will provide additional parking spaces and loading areas. There is also a new retaining wall and new roof on both company buildings. Furthermore, the interior was painted a different color and the company will soon acquire new machinery, expanding its service capabilities.

Pat Hennessey, the owner of Hennessey Sheet Metal and a presence in Rosedale for more than 25 years, decided to sell his business in January this year. After a long, productive

JOEL GOERING PHOTO



For all of your sheet metal needs, call DB² Services.


career, Pat decided it was time to move on. He sold the company and its assets to Delta Innovative Services, an Armourdale-based roofing contractor owned by Danny and Sabina Boyle.

The Boyle's, who had worked with Hennessey for many years, named the new company DB² Services — a play on Danny's name. The new outfit will offer many of the same products and

services as Hennessey: standing seam metal roofs, exterior metal wall panels, gutters and downspouts, composite panels, and custom-fabricated roof flashings. The company will work primarily with pre-finished steel, but will also use stainless steel, copper, aluminum, and galvanized metal.

Most of DB²'s clients are commercial in nature, but the company is open to large custom-fabrication orders from other types of clients, as well.

Like Hennessey, DB² will continue to employ union workers, primarily from Sheet Metal Workers Local #2. Currently, the company has 15 employees.

While the economic downturn has had an impact on the sheet metal industry, DB² Services is excited about the future. Building on the solid foundation and legacy of Hennessey, the company has plans to grow and get to the next level. "It's definitely headed in the right direction," says Patrick Wank, general manager. 



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