



The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.rosedale.org

Volunteer Spotlight:

The Volunteers of Whitmore Playground

Talk to anyone who helps maintain Whitmore Playground about how it stays in such good condition, and they'll tell you the same thing: a lot of work, and some very dedicated volunteers. A small book celebrating Whitmore Playground's 25th birthday in 2002 puts it concisely:

"Over Whitmore Playground's 25 years, volunteer groups from across the United States have helped with painting and maintenance, and individuals from SCR [Sharing Community of Rosedale] have added their projects."

The need for volunteers is just as prescient today as it was in 2002 and the first 25 years of Whitmore Playground's existence. Since the Sharing Community in Rosedale has ceased to operate, the Rainbow Mennonite Church, a part of the Sharing Community, has assumed responsibility for maintenance of the playground.

Bernita Boyts, who has been involved with the playground since she was part of a "team ministry" group that helped bring the playground into being and who just retired from the Parks Committee which oversees the playground said that it was, "the most important thing we've done."

"It has the most long-lasting impact on the community." She said.

Most Rosedale residents know of the park and appreciate it, but not everyone understands that it takes a lot of volunteer work to keep it looking good. Boyts said that currently it is the Park Committee, people who take part in the "adopt a section" program, those who come for workdays and a variety of workgroups – such as out of town church youth groups – that maintain the playground for use by the community.



BERNITA BOYTS PHOTO

Noah Thomas often offered his help to Wendell Selzer, right, while he did repairs to the playground. Selzer and Thomas are two of hundreds of people who have volunteered to help keep the playground in good condition.

Boyts pointed to Judy and Wendell Selzer as the two who have contributed the most to the Parks Committee since the playground stopped relying on a hired person to oversee maintenance.

Boyts said that they welcome anyone with an interest in volunteering to help keep up the park. If you are interested in volunteering yourself, call Wendell Selzer at (816) 507-2313.

Besides maintaining the park, a lot of pieces within the park have been designed and constructed by volunteers.

The Amy Sculpture (by Will Nettleship), the bright red metal machine called "Da Vinci's Dream" (by Arlie Regier) and the multi-layered wooden big-toy with a fireman's pole (by Ken Peters) were all designed and built by specialists on donated time.

RDA's staff watches community people play at the Whitmore Playground and we are very appreciative of the service that all these volunteers do to keep the playground a great option for fun here in Rosedale. ☺

Special Thanks

As a non-profit organization, RDA depends upon grant money and the good will of local residents and businesses to survive. Donation's like these are deeply appreciated.

RDA would like to thank Tom Roberts of CFM Distributors (www.cfm distributors.com) for stepping forward to provide RDA with needed supplies and for his help in repairing our upstairs AC unit. Tom also recruited supply donations from Laser Cycle (www.lasercycle.com). Every donation is truly welcome and greatly needed.

RDA would also like to give a big thank you to our neighbor, Sol's Glass, for providing and installing a free new window in the back of our building. It looks great and will reduce our utility costs. ☺

HKI has a busy summer; utilizes help of interns

A summer full of activities recently came to an end for the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative (HKI). With gardens flourishing and kids out of school, summer was the perfect time for HKI to continue advocating for healthy changes in the community.

Heidi Holliday of HKI said that this summer they continued to try, “to create a community that makes it easy for kids, and adults, to make healthy decisions.”

To bring this dream alive, summer activities with HKI included the Rosedale Farmers Market, a Healthy Kids Camp, the Healthy Kids Carnival — joint with Freedom School — and continued work with community gardens.

To help with these projects, HKI enlisted the services of four summer interns. Kelly McDaniel, who worked with HKI the first half of summer, designed the Fresh Fest area at the farmers market that features recipes and cooking demonstrations with seasonal produce available at the farmers market.

Allison Edwards developed a guide to implementing a Healthy Kids Camp and gained first hand experience by serving as director of the Rosedale Congregational Church’s Healthy Kids Camp this year. This was the Church’s sixth year of implementing the kids camp which HKI hopes can serve as a helpful model for other churches to imitate.

Edwards said her guide shows how to implement a program so that, “the kids come away from camp with a greater sense of what it means to be healthy and how they can be healthy in Rosedale.”

Sarah Buller implemented the Fresh Fest curriculum, created an activities guide for use by other kids camps around Rosedale, helped with the planning for Healthy Kids Camp while she also interned part time at the Family Health Care clinic.

Rachel Markovich interned with the Rosedale Ministerial Alliance and developed a poison prevention curriculum for kids and adults.

Holliday said she enjoyed having the interns around this summer.

“I was very excited by the energy, creativity and enthusiasm our interns and volunteers brought to the Healthy Kids Initiative this summer”

Holliday is most excited, however, by the continued growth in the Rosedale Farmers Market. A Beans and Greens program there provides double value for SNAP and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Benefits (\$5 = \$10).

“The Rosedale Farmers Market it continues to grow and develop, and is attracting customers and local growers from around the metropolitan area while increasing access to healthy food in Rosedale,” Holliday said. ☞



ALLISON EDWARDS PHOTO

Nathalia Gallardo makes a fruit smoothie during Healthy Kids Camp. HKI intern Alison Edwards ran the camp and created a guide for anyone who wants to start a similar camp.

Cut’s hurt RDA:

RDA needs your help to survive. With large cuts in funding from various annual sources, RDA looks to the residents and businesses it serves for assistance.

Non-Profit organizations around the county have taken a financial hit, and RDA is no exception. Despite this, RDA continues to connect residents and businesses of Rosedale with needed resources, advocate for UG and federal resources to continue the Turkey Creek flood control project, run and support youth programming, organize dozens of volunteer beautification projects, assist homeowners with repairs, facilitate neighborhood groups, remove graffiti, work with the UG and Police Department to reduce crime and continually promote Rosedale in a positive manner through local media.

Meanwhile the scope of RDA’s work has expanded with continued developments such as the 39th and Rainbow project, the CVS project, the vision of the Healthy Kids Initiative (HKI) and the nascent Green Corridor Master Plan (GCMP). In short, our workload has increased and our income has decreased. While projects such as the GCMP and HKI are funded through grant money, like most grants, they do not provide sufficient funding for operational expenses.

RDA needs your support so that we can continue in our mission to make our neighborhood a better place for all those who live, work and play in Rosedale. To offer your donation to RDA, visit the office or send a check to the Rosedale Development Association at 1403 S.W. Boulevard, Kansas City, KS. 66103. Help us to keep working for you! ☞

RDA interns complete summer projects

Amanda Sommerville and Jeff Whorton worked with RDA through June and July through the Community Health Project to help RDA progress in creating its Green Corridor Master Plan.

The Green Corridor is a long-term project to revitalize Southwest Blvd/Merriam Lane by attracting green businesses, bringing multi-modal transportation to the neighborhood and promoting healthy living through community organization.

In the span of just two months Sommerville and Whorton – both students at KU Med – implemented an initial health survey around Rosedale, conducted two child focus groups to learn about barriers to children living healthy lives and created a guide to help residents save money on their energy bills.

“Through surveys with residents and focus groups with kids, we helped RDA to understand what the people living in Rosedale want to change in their neighborhood,” Sommerville said.

Sommerville and Whorton were happy to spend their summer helping RDA to get the planning process underway.

“The most rewarding part of the project was meeting the residents of Rosedale,” said Sommerville. Whorton said he was happy to feel like he had done something to make a lasting impact on the community.

Whorton and Sommerville received help in designing their survey from a three-person focus group of Rosedale residents. Whorton recalled how they kept telling him not to use the word “survey.” The focus group thought that the word would make it unlikely for residents to want to participate.

Dr. Cheryl Gibson of the KU Internal Medicine Department is compiling the results of the survey.

The two children’s focus groups that Sommerville assembled will also be helpful to RDA. One group, from Rosedale Ridge, did a “photovoice” project that allowed the children to take pictures of their community to show the places where they like to play and the things that make them not want to play. Sommerville felt the project was enlightening.

“I did notice a few themes in the discussion, including the kids awareness of maintenance and safety issues

and their desire to make improvements themselves. The current state of the playground also deters them from playing outside,” she said.

Whorton said that his resource guide will give people, “accessibility to information to remedy situations in their home.” ☞

Planning effort continues forward

You are invited to be part of our ongoing Community Planning effort! We are asking for public input and discussion on a variety of subjects as they relate to a vision for the future along one of Rosedale’s primary arterial corridors, Southwest Boulevard and Merriam Lane.

RDA will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, October 13 from 7 to 9pm at 1401 SW Blvd. as a part of its Green Corridor Master Planning efforts. This will be our initial public engagement meeting to assist our planning consultants in guiding the further expansion of the current Rosedale Master Plan adopted by the Unified Government in 2005. The Plan will guide future City decisions on development, urban design, housing, transportation and public infrastructure. Community input is most important as we build a stronger, healthy and sustainable community. ☞

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
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.lizardbrand.com

~~**Editing**, Cari Holliday~~

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

Remembrances

Lola Jean Turley

Lola Jean Turley, 82, and longtime resident of Rosedale, died Wednesday, September 8. Mrs. Turley was born in Colony, Kansas on March 12, 1928 and graduated from Lola High School. On April 10, 1948 Mrs. Turley married Jim H. Turley and soon moved to Rosedale. Lola and Jim were known for their care for the Whitmore Playground, which is adjacent to their home. Jim preceded Lola Jean in death on July 28, 2010. Mrs. Turley is survived by her 2 sons, Mark and Rick Turley, her daughter, Karen Kay Corbett, her half-sister and six grandchildren. We miss them and their care and concern for our community.

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:

Wheat State Pizza

Address: 2820 W. 47th Ave. Kansas City, KS, **Phone:** (913) 281-9000, **Website:** www.wheatstatepizza.com

Paul Davidson, owner of the newly opened Wheat State Pizza in Rosedale said “Even after six years, I’m still eating the pizza here by choice — It’s just that good.”

Davidson, who has been involved with Wheat State Pizza since it’s 2004 inception in Lawrence, relocated the shop to Rosedale from Strawberry Hill this summer. Davidson says business in Rosedale is already better than it was at the old location despite the “nearly invisible opening” on August 12, 2010.

A group of Mennonite Voluntary Service workers living in Rosedale were, according to RDA’s Jordan Penner, “blown away” by the “Veggie Dream” specialty pizza.

Specializing in whole grain crusts, a hand-tossed blend of whole wheat and white flour, Wheat State Pizza was founded based on a mission to create



ABIGAIL DENNIS

Paul Davidson and Erik Nelson hold one of their signature pizzas. Wheat State takes pride in their healthier version of the classic American pizza.

a better quality pizza that is healthier and more nutritious. Davidson claims the goal is to allow people to “enjoy it [the pizza] while eating it without ever having to regret it.”

Davidson credits two specific keys

that make Wheat State Pizza’s goal a reality, their whole grain crusts and the screens used to cook the pizzas. Not using pans eliminates a lot of grease.

Pick up a menu, and you’ll find many unique pizza creations featuring a combination of 10 different sauces and a plethora of toppings. Though Wheat State Pizza has selected some of their favorite combinations for the menu, Davidson says the experience is “all about creating your own masterpiece,” and

encourages customers to experiment with their orders.

Davidson’s parting words were honest and simple. “We really appreciate the opportunity to earn people’s business. If anyone ever has a question or concern I’m happy to hear from him or her directly. My cell number is (785) 760-1708. Thank you.”

—Abigail Dennis



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