



The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Community benefits from RDA partnership

An essential piece of healthy infrastructure was installed in Rosedale, thanks to a joint effort by RDA and Bank Midwest. Those who walk or bike around Rosedale may have already noted the new piece of sidewalk in front of Bank Midwest. This was the only missing piece of sidewalk along Rainbow Boulevard, which stretches almost 10 miles from Southwest Boulevard to Shawnee Mission Parkway. It is also the site of a bus stop, one of very few in Rosedale.

Bank Midwest, chartered in 1903, has a long history in this neighborhood. Rosedale State Bank, as it was originally known, was located at 726 Southwest Boulevard, before it erected a new building at 722 Southwest Boulevard in 1908. It moved to its present location at 3500 Rainbow Boulevard in October 1971. The bank was acquired by Bank Midwest in 1995, and by NBH Holdings Corporation in 2010.

The new sidewalk can be taken as a reflection of the new operational standards under NBH Holdings. Sharlene Leonard, Vice President and Banking Center



STEPHANIE KOLLMANN PHOTO

The brand new sidewalk in front of Bank Midwest makes the bus stop there safer and more accessible for bikers and pedestrians.

Manager, has been at Bank Midwest for 32 years, and explained that NBH has brought a stronger customer focus to the institution: “Their goal is to meet the needs of large and small businesses and the community

with products and services that best suite those needs.” Under NBH, Bank Midwest is very focused on becoming “a leader of small, local businesses,” though they also aim to become one of the strongest banks in the Midwest and hope to double in size in the next ten years. Sharlene explained that Bank Midwest appreciated RDA bringing the sidewalk issue to the forefront, because “it gave us the opportunity to do the right thing, making our site more accessible to the community, to walkers and bike riders. It was a great opportunity for us.”


Wendy Wilson brought the issue to the bank’s attention two years ago, but it is only recently that the bank has been in a financial position to take the project on. With stronger support from NBH, Bank Midwest was delighted to get behind the project, and they couldn’t be happier with the results. RDA staffers are equally pleased, and look forward to teaming up with Bank Midwest for future community projects! ☺



STEPHANIE KOLLMANN PHOTO

Josh Hoffman and members of the Rosedale Walking Club pose by the new sign in Fisher Park. RDA has been working with the Parks and Recreation Department to improve infrastructure in the park through a Healthy Communities Wyandotte grant that RDA received earlier in the year. The new park sign is just one of the additions that the Parks Department has contributed to the project. Look for more improvements to the park this fall.

When in Rosedale: 1872-1880s

Introducing “When in Rosedale,” the new Rosedale history corner, a place to read about the humble beginnings of our fair neighborhood: “The Rosedale Post Office was established Aug. 17, 1872. It was described as ‘a new town—just building with about 50 inhabitants. The population to be supplied by the Rosedale Post Office was 150.’ [...] The Kansas Rolling Mill was established in 1875. The major product of a Rolling Mill was iron railroad rails. [...] About 100 families came to Rosedale with The Kansas Rolling Mill Company. After the Mill was located, Rosedale became a ‘boom’ town. By 1877, having the necessary population of 600, Rosedale was authorized to become a City of the Third-Class. [...] Early records describe the Mill as being an attraction for sight-seers. The roaring furnaces, the clanging noise of the machinery and flying sparks presented a colorful show. 1883, The Kansas Rolling Mill closed due to a depressed economy and financial difficulties due primarily by the railroads changing from iron rails to steel rails. [...] The closing of the Rolling Mill was a big loss to Rosedale. Many families moved away, leaving Rosedale a struggling little city. In the late 1880’s, a business boom that started in Kansas City, Missouri spread to Rosedale. New industries and new families moved to Rosedale, bringing better times.” (Landis, Margaret. *The Winding Valley and the Craggy Hillside, a History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas*, pgs. 9-14). 



The Auto Parts building at 1000 Southwest Boulevard was the Rosedale Post Office from 1889 to 1910. The building in the photograph no longer is standing.




STEPHANIE KOLLMANN PHOTO

A volunteer from J.C. Harmon High School helps a Noble Prentis Elementary student water the garden. The Noble Prentis garden club is just one of many volunteer opportunities available in Rosedale.

Volunteers needed!

Full is always a busy time in Rosedale, and the RDA office is absolutely buzzing with garden, youth and safe routes projects. Many of these projects are in need of community volunteers, and whether you’re a student in need of volunteer hours, a local professional trying to connect to the community or a retiree looking for a new project, we’d love to have you come out and help! Many of these projects are local and some may only require an hour of your time each week.

- Noble Prentis Schoolyard Garden —

- Noble Prentis Elementary
- Frank Rushton Schoolyard Garden — Lloyd Street
- Frank Rushton Fall Soccer League — Frank Rushton Elementary
- Healthy Kids Club — Rosedale Congregational Church
- Walking School Bus — from AMC Zion Church to Frank Rushton Elementary
- Graffiti response — location varies
- Newsletter mailings — Rosedale Development Association
- Girls & Moms on the Move — Rosedale Congregational Church 

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/who_board.htm

For more information on how you can get involved, call RDA at (913) 677-5097.

To keep up with RDA staffers, follow our activities in real time and get access to great pictures from around the neighborhood, “like” us on Facebook at [facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment](https://www.facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment) and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/#!/RosedaleDA. 



Rosedale Briefs

Thanks to everyone who came out for the September 11 day of service. Neighbors came together to commemorate the tenth anniversary of September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Community members gathered at Rosedale Park for a trash pick-up followed by a potluck, where they shared delicious dishes cooked up by neighbors.

The final market day for the Rosedale Farmers Market was Sunday, September 25. There was line dancing, fresh apple cider, barbecued chicken, live music and, of course, delicious, local produce! Look for the market again beginning in May, on Sundays from 12-3 p.m. at the Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care Clinic.

The second annual International Walk to School Day kicked off another year of safe walking to school. A parade of community members, including students, teachers and parents, walked from the mural wall at 42nd Street and Mission Road to Frank Rushton Elementary. Commissioners Ann Muguia and John Mendez came to show their support for active student lifestyles.

The new CVS store on Rainbow Boulevard had its soft opening on Sunday, September 25. Stop by their pocket park near Adams Street and look for the beautiful bike rack, donated by RDA, in front of the store.



STEPHANIE KOLLMANN PHOTO

RDA donated a bike rack, designed and constructed by local artists at Wholesale Sheet Metal and 3 Axis Inc., that adorns the new CVS storefront.

The Rosedale Business Stakeholders want you!

The Rosedale Business Stakeholders (RBS) group, which formed in March of this year, has been recruiting new members from around the business community. The aim of RBS is to organize and connect the business community of Rosedale and the surrounding area “to improve the business environment in Rosedale.” Their activities include interacting with local government and residents, addressing business-specific issues and promoting existing businesses while encouraging new business development. RBS has hosted guests ranging from Mayor Joe Reardon, to Amy Allen, community policing officer, to a representative from the Central Industrial District Association. The group has grown significantly in the last six months

and is ready to take on new members.

RBS would like to open an invitation to business owners and managers for the upcoming fall meetings. The October 6 meeting hosted Gil Pintar, speaking about the Green Corridor Master Plan along Southwest Boulevard and Merriam Lane and Lew Levin speaking about the Mill Levy Tax increase. November’s meeting (on Nov. 3) will host Commissioner Ann Murguia, speaking about the particulars of her office and how businesses can take the opportunity to work with her to help create a better community. The meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, 12 p.m. at Taqueria Mexico (3300 Rainbow Boulevard). Come check the meetings out before you decide to become a member; lunch is only \$15! ☎

Call for donations

Excellence in Education, an academic encouragement program in operation at T.A. Edison and Frank Rushton elementary schools is entering its twelfth year, and needs your donations! Excellence in Education recognizes 1st through 5th grade students each quarter who have perfect attendance, a good citizenship recommendation from a teacher and a combination of As and Bs. Students receive trophies during the award ceremony, attended by parents, teachers and community members. There are also several small prizes raffled off each quarter.

The program relies on the community for these prizes and is in need of donations for the 2011-2012 school year.

The Rosedale Development Association is also in need of donations for the office. Our first priority is a refrigerator. Our second priority is a recycling receptacle for the corner of South 8th Street and Southwest Boulevard, in front of our office. ☎

Contact RDA with donations of small toys, movie passes, gift cards, books, sports equipment, etc. RDA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, and your donations are tax-deductible.

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

Volunteer Spotlight

Though not a Rosedale resident herself, our volunteer extraordinaire this month has devoted countless hours to the neighborhood (especially to the cause of neighborhood health) through her work with the Rosedale Health Kids Initiative (RHKI).

Kay Johnson, who has a background in literature and law and has been a member of the Ranoke neighborhood for 27 years, first heard about Rosedale when she was invited to write a grant for KC Healthy Kids seeking VISTAS for RHKI, a new program at that time. Kay began to attend the RHKI steering committees to inform her grant writing, where she met Wendy Wilson, Jane Heide, Heidi Holliday, and Erika Devore. Together, these women crafted the vision for RHKI, and continue to reshape and redefine it today. Kay says she was immediately impressed with the RHKI staffers and their “creativity, dedication, enthusiasm, leadership, expertise, competence, intelligence and spirit. I also loved the mission and method of RHKI and of KC Healthy Kids.” The VISTA grant they collaborated on eventually led to the hiring of Josh Hoffman, Stephanie Kollmann and



Kay Johnson poses at the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative Expert Panel luncheon. Kay lends her prestigious writing skills to RDA and RHKI's grant processes.

Erin Straughan, who support the mission to prevent childhood obesity in the area.

Kay became an important part of the grant writing team for RHKI and was integral to the CMAQ and Transportation Enhancement/KDOT grants for the UG and several Health Care Foundation grants to fund the Green Corridor Master Plan, strategic planning for RDA and the RHKI

budget. Kay continues to serve on the RHKI steering committee and expert panel, besides attending many Rosedale events and volunteering for RHKI functions. She's also a regular attendant at the Rosedale Farmers Market.

As for the future of RDA and RHKI, Kay has this to say: “Certainly RDA and RHKI, like most nonprofits, face financial challenges and the challenge of a low socio-economic community with many serious challenges, but I think and hope RHKI is in the right place at the right time — it fits in so well with the increas-

ing local, regional and national focus on green, sustainability and environmental issues, as well as on the related issues of health and childhood obesity.” She goes on to say that the team at RDA and RHKI, with the support of KC Healthy Kids, has “developed RHKI into a living, breathing initiative that is evolving into a sustainable program that is accomplishing a great deal and enabling so many connections.” RDA and RHKI are both immensely grateful to Kay for all the wonderful work she does for us! 



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