



Winter 2017

### President's letter

#### Spring Cleaning

Greetings, Rockhillians. Here are a few new things and follow-up on a few old things for your consideration.

**Kansas City Art Institute Development:**  
Neighbor Tony Jones, President of KCAI, recently announced a \$10 million donation to build a new "state of the art" residence hall on campus. Tony has been meeting with neighborhood leaders to explain the process and entertain questions about it. Subject to final City approval and coordination with the KCAI master planners, the initial proposal is to locate the new residence hall on the southwest corner of the campus where the outdoor basketball court is currently. Many details to follow.

**Kansas City Central Patrol Division:**  
Major Richard Smith hosted an open house on February 25th. I am happy to report many Rockhill residents took advantage of the opportunity to meet Major Smith, meet and talk with shift commanders as well as officers who patrol Rockhill and other parts of the district, plus meet neighbors from other nearby neighborhoods. The entire morning was enjoyable. The officers were friendly and very interested in things that affect us. One major point, the

department is serious about ways to address challenges resulting from the foot traffic of young people to and from the Plaza, especially during warm weather. Major Smith is also planning to start a "neighborhood patrol" car, depending on staffing, on week-ends that will focus on preventing problems in neighborhoods near the Plaza. There are also plans for a meeting of security personnel from affected neighborhoods as well as interaction between the Central Patrol Division's social services coordinator. The coordinator is interviewing youngsters on the Plaza and getting their ideas for ways to improve the situation, plus visiting schools and social service organizations to get feedback and offer suggestions.

**Short Term Rentals:** You may recall an article in the newsletter several months about short term rentals in our area and across Kansas City. The City has drafted a proposed ordinance and is receiving input. Until an ordinance is passed, the City is not pursuing any enforcement of existing code addressing short term rentals. In the meantime, the state of Missouri is considering legislation that might supercede local ordinances. Here is a link to a recent story from a Springfield news source about that possibility:  
<http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/politics/2017/02/24/missouri-legislators-meet-springfield->

[expedia-facility-tout-short-term-rental-bill/98300996/](http://expedia-facility-tout-short-term-rental-bill/98300996/)

This article gives insight into the "pros" and "cons" of short term rentals. Based on a recent hearing I attended, Kansas City's short term rental advocates are becoming better organized and face little organized opposition. I am encouraged that the national operators of the platforms that coordinate short term rentals have not only been open to, but encourage input from, neighborhoods. These organizations may ultimately prove to be the best way for neighborhoods to see that these rentals operate responsibly since enforcement from a short-handed codes enforcement department will be a challenge whatever is passed.

Nelson-Atkins Master Plan District: The Museum has continued any City hearing on its application for a Master Plan Development District while Museum representatives meet with representatives from Southmoreland and Rockhill. The tone of the meetings continues to be encouraging and the number of issues upon which we disagree is narrowing. The guidelines Rockhill neighbors developed last summer in the series of open meetings have proven to be a tremendous asset to guide our discussions. I know long-time residents may be skeptical and new neighbors may wonder why this is taking so long. To those and anyone whose view is somewhere in the middle, I assure you both sides are communicating and the trend remains very encouraging. Time will tell and we hope sooner, not later. For now, we are still talking and we hope, moving toward a resolution that works for the Museum and the neighborhoods.

Enjoy the great weather and do what you can to help make and keep Rockhill beautiful.

Thanks for being such great neighbors.

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### Meet the Neighbors



Connie McCabe and Ivan Pedreros with Leila (14) and Max (11) moved into the neighborhood February 2016. They have spent the last year making major renovations to their home at 611 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ivan, originally from Chile, works in the international mining business with contacts in Colombia, Chile, and Cuba. Connie is a former teacher and a journalist for food and travel magazines. Both are also involved with buying and renovating other homes. Leila is an avid reader and Max is involved in many sports.

They all are very happy to be living in Rockhill. They enjoy the neighbors and the proximity to so many cultural and commercial opportunities.



Annual homes association dues of \$325.00 are due. If you haven't already paid, you may send a check made out to Rockhill Homes Association to 627 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street.

There are still Rockhill caps for sale. The baseball caps with Rockhill written across the front are \$15.00 each. If you are



interested in buying one, contact Joy Payne at 816-916-4071.

*The Spring Rockhill Newsletter will be distributed in early March. If you have information to share, or notices of recognition or events, please send them to [kostnerlinda@gmail.com](mailto:kostnerlinda@gmail.com)*