



The Rockhill Times

President's Letter

Spring 2019

Dear Rockhill Neighbors,

Here it is Spring and a chance to wish you a happy one after our never ending (and hard) winter. Robin Williams quote: "Spring is nature's way of saying, Let's Party!" is not the usual sentimental quote about renewal and rebirth. It is one that acknowledges the good times we have to look forward to this new season. We can leave our houses, work in our yards, move about and visit with one another. Thank goodness!

And this Spring newsletter also gives me a chance to ask that you please mark your calendars for a couple of important events happening soon. Here is a recap for those who may not have read an email I sent out earlier.

The first event is our annual meeting on May 15th. It will be held at Andre's this year and we are very excited about that. We are also thrilled about our guest speakers. Steve Waterman or Andy Goldsworthy will talk about the Walking Wall. And Rene Bollier will tell us about the history of Andre's. We will also get a chance to meet our newest neighbors and vote on a few new board members and officers. I hope you all can attend. We will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Later that week, there will be a big street party on May 19th in celebration of the Walking Wall beginning its walk. The street closure of Rockhill Road will begin May 13th. It will be closed for three weeks.

Spring seems to be the time of year that a lot of us feel motivated to spring clean or perform spring cleanup in our yards. Which is good since we will have more visitors come through our neighborhood this spring

more than most years. At the risk of sounding "suburbia", please do what you can to make your grounds "show ready" for visitors.

I constantly hear people say how much they love our neighborhood from those who learn I live in Rockhill or from those visiting open houses in the neighborhood. It is a unique and lovely area that I believe we are all proud to live in. Let's use the chance to get together and celebrate our uniqueness at the annual meeting and have some fun too!

Best Wishes for a Happy Spring,

Jamie
816-694-9409
jamiec@kansascityhomes.com



Neighborhood Yard Sale!

By popular demand, Rockhillians will hold a neighborhood-wide yard sale on June 7 and 8. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome. Set up your tables in your yard or driveway. Place a sign inviting passersby. Be sure everything is priced! Contact Jim Wanser if you have questions.

The Summer edition of the Rockhill Times will be distributed in early August. If you have information to share, or notices of recognition or events, please send them to
kmoninger@gmail.com

News from Historic Kansas City...

by Jim Wanser

As Board President for Historic Kansas City, living in one of the greatest historic neighborhoods in Kansas City, I wanted to share some of our efforts to protect the historic built environment that is essential to our sense of place. We work both to save significant historic buildings, but also initiate and support policy with City Planning and other stakeholders that protects the unique character of our city.

Protection of the Plaza has been one of our most significant efforts for several decades. In 2016, with the sale of the Plaza and the passage of the Midtown Plaza Area Plan, we were able to adopt zoning that placed height and use restrictions on what is considered the *base of the bowl* in the Plaza. Recently, with a unanimous vote of the City Council and the leadership of Councilwoman Shields, we were able to expand that zoning protection “up the bowl” on the north side of the Plaza. With the support of the majority of property owners, the adopted zoning has protection ramifications for decades to come.

Over the past eighteen months, we have also been diligently working with constituents in Westport to develop a plan of historical protection while outlining areas that support growth and change. As one of the oldest and most historically significant areas in the Kansas City, Westport had no historic protection. Our goal is to develop the draft plan for ordinance adoption through the city this summer. As you watch the huge OPUS project being developed at Broadway and Westport Road, the importance of scale and historical context are clearly evident.

At the individual/neighborhood level, we have also been diligently working with other

stakeholders to save the Satchel Paige home on the east side. Devastated by fire, we have been working with the city and the National Trust to stabilize the structure so that this important part of Kansas City's history has a future.

So, if you are not a member of Historic Kansas City, please think about joining our organization and supporting our efforts. Our Annual Membership meeting is Tuesday May 14th, just a few blocks away at Community Christian Church. Michael Kathrens is the presenter, speaking about his very popular book “Kansas City Homes 1885-1938”.

To the many Rockhillian supporters.....THANK YOU!!!

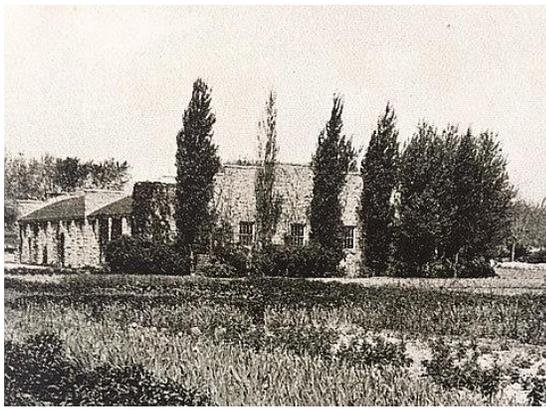
Meet the Neighbors

Scott Feaster moved to 47th Terrace just a few months ago while finishing his semester teaching Seniors Honors English at Olathe High School. He comes to Rockhill with his two dachshunds, Rusty and Bubba. In his spare time, Scott sings with the Heartland Men's Choir and his church. When the semester ends, he hopes to finish unpacking boxes. Please welcome Scott and his family to Rockhill!



From the desk of Libby Gordon

In the last Newsletter I wrote about the old stone Rockhill garage and in the photo was also pictured the area all around planted with nursery stock to beautify the neighborhood. In the early 1940s at the beginning of WWII that area was offered to create Victory Gardens and many neighbors happily filled them with vegetables and flowers. My father often came home with “a mess of beans” and mother with a lovely bouquet of the favorite, zinnias. The gardens were enjoyed several years after the war ended. My memory fails as to how it was used after that as I was off to college.



“Art deals with things forever incapable of definition, and that belong to Love, Beauty, Joy, and Worship, the Shapes, Powers and Glory of which are ever building, unbuilding and rebuilding in each man’s soul, and in the soul of the whole world.” (Plotinus inscription on north wall of the Nelson).

Andy Goldsworthy’s Walking Wall, a wonderful movable pile of stones, is like a living bridge; a gathering place for stones as well as stories, people and perceptions. A great opportunity to connect, stone by stone with a deeper way of seeing, while also seeing afresh, the beauty of our own rock walls.

Using weathered stones of the Flint Hills, Walking Walls character feels at home here, among the older dry stone walls that William Rockhill Nelson created from stone quarried on his property. The start of Walking Wall intentionally begins in the Rockhill neighborhood, as the artist, Andy Goldsworthy, wanted the wall to sit first and take root within the local people and spirit of a place, before walking the wall into the more public spaces of the museum. As the first phase completes, bridging Kenwood Avenue to Rockhill Road, the neighborhood to the museum, a beautiful new wall meanders between two older ones. Ebbing and flowing, we see a shape reminiscent of a meandering stream, the flow of water, time—nature—a beautiful shape in space. Moving closer, large flat stones sit atop, beckoning like the water’s edge. Weathered into softness, or rough and jagged to the touch, these particular stones are awash in subtle colors, textures and contours, as well as fossils, lichen and lines. Hosting Walking Wall here, in the neighborhood, has been a joy. Each stone, as gorgeous and different as the next, flow together in a song that is Walking Wall.

Deftly tended, the whole of Walking Wall is held together as much by pales of invisible stones and human energy, as by the visible stones. Gently tapping along the large flat top ones, hands playing the old felt stones like a big long drum, different nuanced sounds come forth; an older history laps against a new placement and pattern in time. When phase 2 begins, along with traces and memories, a bit of the wall’s taproot will remain here, attached at Kenwood Ave. Sitting silent yet full of expression, Walking Wall is solid, yet ephemeral, graceful and storied.

Regardless of weather, when Walking Wall's in progress, a jovial crew of wallers and stone carriers work in tireless rhythm. Intriguing and curious, the wall invites. Mud, rain, wind or sun, all elements add fuel to the creative reservoir. Welcoming and greeting this adventuresome project, chance encounters bring stories and laughter, silence and wonder. William Rockhill Nelson's vision of creating 'gathering places' reverberates on the land as diverse people and stones forge new relations.

Eons old, the stones of Walking Wall are resting now, but soon they will get up and move again.

By Laurel Hughes



Sarit Maulik Chaisanguanthum, neighbor



Wallers Edd Smith, Jason Wilton and support waller, Fife Gibson



Walking Wall, two of the top stones, phase 1



Walking Wall in progress, phase 1

