



# The Rockhill Times

## President's Letter

Winter 2022

Dear Neighbors,

As I write this on the gloomy 5th day of the new year, I feel a bit downhearted. We just lost our dear Libby. Losing a pillar of Rockhill is difficult especially since we are still missing other treasures of Rockhill that we lost in 2021.

How do people get out of a funk? I've heard to count one's blessings and to be grateful for those blessings will do the trick. And it does!

Sure it is a freezing and cloudy day, but we have cozy and beautiful homes to keep us warm. And we have delicious warm food to help comfort us.

And if we weren't sad to lose our neighbors that means we didn't have the opportunity to love them. The poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson says it best:

"I hold it true, whate'er befall,  
I feel it, when I sorrow most;  
'Tis better to have loved and lost  
Than never to have loved at all.

I could add the lyrics to the Circle of Life, but I will spare you my sentimentality. I will just say that Rockhill had lost pillars before my time here, since my time here and will continue to do so. But we have gained many new wonderful new neighbors who will carry on the essence of what it means to be a Rockhillian. It is our own little circle of life here.

Just like I feel we are stewards of our Rockhill homes and not merely owners, I feel we are all good stewards of beautiful,

historic Rockhill. This makes me so proud to live here.

To end on an uplifting note, I will use one more quote. "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" Yes, spring comes next! Spring is a time of budding new life but so is a new year. We have hope for better weather, better choice-making, better life circumstances, better health and so on. Hope gives us a sense of vigor.

Best wishes to you all for a 2022 filled with love, happiness and good health!

Jamie

[jamiec@kansascityhomes.com](mailto:jamiec@kansascityhomes.com)

816-694-9409

---

## Councilwoman Shields Serves Rockhill by Jim Wanser

A big THANK YOU to Katheryn Shields for keeping Rockhill united within the 4th District.

As reported in the last edition of the Rockhill Times, the Redistricting Commission of Kansas City was about to submit their final recommendation to the City Council, changing district boundaries to reflect the growth and shifts in residents throughout the City. Three maps were being considered, all of which used 43rd street to divide the fourth and sixth districts, which is currently 59th street. But the maps being considered all divided the neighborhoods of Southmoreland and Hyde Park into two different districts. In a well-intended attempt to keep neighborhoods whole, the Redistricting Commission recommended that the southern edge of the 4th District be

moved to Cleaver II Blvd. However, the adjustment then divided Rockhill by placing the 34 homes south of Cleaver into the 6th District and everything north of Cleaver into the 4th.

When Councilwoman Shields learned of our concern, she immediately set about the task of adjusting the southern boundary of the 4th District to keep Rockhill whole within the 4th. She directed me to the City legal department to draft an ordinance that would extend the 4th District to Volker between Oak and Troost. She introduced the ordinance when the Council was considering adoption of the recommended redistricting map and it was quickly adopted by the Council.

The daily good work of Council members can easily go unnoticed, but Councilwoman Shields, who has served Kansas City for decades, was quick and efficient in serving the interest of Rockhill. We are fortunate to have her leadership.

---

### **Remembering Libby Gordon**

Back in 1997 when Jim and I were new to Rockhill, the Welcome committee, Todi and Sylvia, dropped by and rolled out the red carpet for us. We were thrilled to be made to feel so at home! It wasn't long after that when Libby came around in her Jeep, window down, introducing herself as she made her rounds checking on the neighborhood. It was with that smallest gesture that she charmed her way into our lives.

Libby Irwin Gordon spent nearly her entire life in Rockhill, moving away as a child with her parents for a brief stint in Atlanta and then later going back east to college. She served as the first secretary for the Rockhill Homes Association and kept the position for over thirty years. She remained on the Board as Historian and was always ready with an anecdote about the good old days and the interesting people of Rockhill.

A few of her stories are captured in back issues of this newsletter.

Libby was both an artist and a patron of the arts. She was an accomplished water colorist. She held a position at the Missouri Rep for many years and always kept season tickets to the symphony. Going with her to the symphony you got a sense of the vastness of her circle of friends as she'd stop to chat with this or that acquaintance.

At age 75, she met the love of her life, Edward Gordon. Their's was a whirlwind romance of epic proportions. Sadly, Ed fell ill shortly thereafter and as a result their life together lasted a brief 18 months.

More than anything, Libby was a nature lover. For years Jim and I saved a corner of our vegetable garden for her use. She grew lovely flowers as well as tomatoes and eggplant. (We were always envious of her knack for growing eggplant.) One of my earliest memories of Libby was upon finding a spider in the house, she insisted on capturing it in her hands and releasing it outdoors. Libby made sure her bird feeders were always full, even if they were also feeding the squirrels and racoons. Of course we all know how she loved her Scotties as if they were her children.

Libby always had a witticism for any situation. But mostly, I will remember her favorite phrase "We'll see" which she seemed to pull out for every occasion and which seems appropriate just now.

---

*The Spring edition of the Rockhill Times will be distributed in early April. If you have information to share, or notices of recognition or events, please send them to [kmoninger@gmail.com](mailto:kmoninger@gmail.com). Previous issues of the Times can be found at [www.rockhillkc.org/archives.html](http://www.rockhillkc.org/archives.html).*

