



# The Rockhill Times

## President's Letter

Summer 2021

Dear Rockhill Neighbors,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the lush green vegetation all around us. It is easy to take the beauty for granted and sometimes easy to take others for granted as well. In the winter, we crave the green when we don't have it, and when we lose those we love, we dearly wish we could see them again. A lot of us in Rockhill are feeling that way right now. We lost two much-loved neighbors recently and they are greatly missed.

Sarah Ingram-Eiser's service will be August 28th, 3:00, at Grace and Holy Trinity Church downtown. The address is 415 W. 13th Street. A reception will follow the service.

Jim Moninger's memorial celebration will be October 2nd, 2:00-5:00, at 4470 Rockhill Terrace.

In the middle of June, David and Sarah Green, our former next-door neighbors, visited all the way from England. Even though they moved out of Rockhill 18 years ago and only lived next door ten years, they have maintained friendships with many of us throughout the years. There are many Rockhillians who are still friends with their old neighbors from 40, 50 and even 70 years ago. That says a lot about our neighborhood and our closeness with each other.

Rockhill has welcomed a few new neighbors this summer and we are very excited to add them to our list of friends! At the end of March, Saskia Nislow and Jamie Cumby purchased 703 Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd. It is the amazing stone home formerly owned

by Suzanne Crandall who received a great job opportunity and had to relocate to another state.

Sarah Murphy purchased 528 Pierce Avenue in early May and is loving her charming house across from the Kauffman's Gardens. Lynda Payne and Bill Everett moved back to England to be close to Lynda's mother.

Barney and Cheryl White at 619 E. 46th Street sold to Garrison and Erika Vento-Gaudens in mid-June. They are the lucky new owners of the unique and beautiful Tudor next door to us and we are thrilled!

Sanjay and Ramaa Bhasin also had to relocate for a job. The new owners of 4700 Rockhill Road are Jen and Derek Elder. I have not had an opportunity to meet them as they recently closed on their fantastic home, but I am looking forward to welcoming them to the best neighborhood in Kansas City!

I hope you will all join us September 19th at 4:00 for our annual neighborhood picnic where we will have the opportunity to meet our new neighbors and reacquaint with many we haven't seen in a while. It is an old-fashioned block party/picnic with a cookout and delicious potluck dishes. We will send out more details later but please mark your calendars.

With Gratitude for all of you and for Rockhill,

Jamie Closson  
[jamiec@kansascityhomes.com](mailto:jamiec@kansascityhomes.com)  
816-694-9409

## Good News for Neighborhood Parks

by Jim Wanser

### **Theis Park & The Volker Fountain**

If you have been in Kansas City a long time, you will remember that Theis Park was previously known as Volker Park in honor of William Volker, a prominent citizen and philanthropist who had done much to enrich Kansas City. Placed squarely in the center of the park was a statue by Swedish sculpture Carl Milles in tribute to Volker. The central equestrian figure of St. Martin of Tours, a patron saint of France, also includes a touch of humor, where Milles has an angel playing the flute from the wrong end and another angel with a carved wristwatch.

In 1995, with the Brush Creek flood control project, the Parks Department decided to move the statue to its current location at the southernmost end of the park, next to Volker Blvd. The current Board of Parks Commissioners believes that while well intended, the move was a “mistake”. They have voted to return the statue to its original location in the center of Theis Park, with a circulating pool at the base. The statue will once again become the aesthetic center piece of the park and the decision has received very favorable feedback. Fundraising is the next phase of the project.



**Gillham Park** is a great asset to our neighborhood and has foregone major improvements over the past several years. Two significant additional enhancements are planned for the near future. The planning for the restoration of the upper trail and drainage solution for Gillham Road has been completed and approved by the Parks Department planning committee. The plan area is from approximately 43rd Street to the south stairs off Rockhill Terrace.

The planned street storm water structure and water junction box will mitigate erosion by slowing the speed of water entering the park and allow for easier cleaning. A modest stone base will also be created where the water exits the storm water structure.



[www.kcparks.org](http://www.kcparks.org)

Restoration of the upper trail will include a 5 foot wide concrete pad. The existing railroad ties will be removed, and some sections of the trail will be moved back west where the vegetation has pushed the trail/walk to the east. The plan also includes the restoration of two stairs that connect/reconnect to Rockhill Terrace.

Twenty-four (24) trees will have to be removed for the project, most of which are volunteer trees. The restoration plan calls for 39 replacement trees that will be added south of 42nd Street.

Identifying funding sources is the next part of the project.



[www.kcparks.org](http://www.kcparks.org)

## Welcome Baby McAlister

Sarah, Ryan, and big sister, Lillian, proudly welcomed Michael Morgan McAlister into the world on July 23rd. Weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz and 19 inches long, he is a healthy boy who is excited to meet the neighbors. Congratulations to all!



*The Fall edition of the Rockhill Times will be distributed in November. 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).*