



The Rockhill Times

President's Letter

Winter 2021

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing this the day after the Chiefs won the AFC Championship. Now I can say (exclaim) We are going to the Super Bowl!!! Last year when the Chiefs played in the Super Bowl and won, most of us thought the year couldn't get any better! How true that was. So not to dwell on the negative, let's talk about our wonderful neighborhood and neighbors.

We have added several new neighbors since we have met in person at our annual meeting in 2019. We didn't get to introduce them in person this last May, and we haven't had many activities to get acquainted. But we are looking forward to things getting back to normal when this place will be jumping with activities and social events again. I won't steal Jeffie Mussman's job as Welcome Chair or Karen Moninger's newsletter editor job by introducing the neighbors here, but I am looking forward to everyone meeting and getting to know each other.

Some of our new neighbors and other not so new neighbors are expanding their household with children. It is heartwarming to see so many children in Rockhill or to know of those who have recently arrived. Children are what make a neighborhood vibrant.

It is also exciting to see many homeowners making improvements to their homes. Investing in Rockhill shows confidence in one's home value and neighborhood. Plus it is a good feeling to be a caretaker for one's old home.

Which brings me to the discussion again about the cars that were stolen recently in Rockhill. They both belonged to someone working at a house in the neighborhood and both had left their keys inside. We don't want to seem like an easy target so please remember to tell your visitors to lock up! I could go into detail about all the other measures one should do like not having valuables in sight, but I think you all know the safe guards.

After the email I sent out about the auto thefts and the auto break-ins, I received a message from Tony Jones, KCAI's President. He said they too are having an increase in incidences. This is what his security chief sent, "During the month (12/6-1/5) there were a total of 14 auto related crimes (5 auto theft incidents, 9 reported incidents of theft from an auto and 2 stolen parts reports). The stolen parts classification is a new statistic put out to show the recent rise in theft of mostly catalytic converters from cars. This is a 10% decrease from the previous month."

I also received a link from Marshall Miller of a Kansas City Star article. It was titled "Vehicle thefts up 87% in one Johnson County city." Are lax prosecutions the problem? That is a huge increase! As Marshall said, "We are not alone."

Then last night, Jim Wanser sent an update from Rockhurst University's security department with this crime alert. "During the last month (12/23 - 1/23), The Department of Safety and Security's Intelligence platform confirmed the number of thefts involving autos. The crime trends are primarily in the neighborhoods just

outside the University's geographic patrol area." I realize it doesn't make it better knowing that auto crime problems are everywhere, but it does make us extra cautious.

On a more pleasant subject our book club, Rockhill Reads, is going well and we would love anyone to join us anytime. Please let me know and I will put you on the list. We meet once a month and right now it is usually on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Our last book was "A Gentleman in Moscow." The next book is "Biased" by Jennifer L. Eberhardt. The books vary from lighter entertaining reads to serious topics. We always learn something from each book and have wonderful discussions. Even though we have only women in the club right now, we would welcome and enjoy men's thoughts too!

Lastly, during this cold weather I thought you might like to know of a good boiler professional. Brian Ball had a good experience with one recently and gave me his recommendation for this person. Boiler service technicians are becoming a lost breed, so this name is great to keep handy.

Steve Chontos
Heating & Air Conditioning
901 North 52nd Street
Kansas City, KS 66102
913.287.0403 office
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Here's to another Super Bowl win and a truly much better year!

All my best,

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Community Called Rockhill by Jim Wanser

In my community service roles with Historic Kansas City and the Public Improvement Advisory Committee for the City, I have the opportunity to interact with a wide range of neighborhoods and learn about their successes and challenges. There are some wonderful neighborhoods in Kansas City, but I am always grateful and proud of the close and vibrant sense of community we have in Rockhill. Most of us initially fall in love with a house, but soon learn there is an open, progressive, and inviting pride in what it means to be a Rockhillian.

Central to our sense of community is that we simply have *people who show up*. Whether for Board service, lending professional skills, attending our picnic or helping out a neighbor, we have a neighborhood that cares. We get to know each other and perhaps most importantly, *we problem solve together* and support each other in the journey. Rockhill has a reputation of being smart, tough, and united. Others see us as highly invested, not only in our neighborhood, but our surrounding area and all of midtown. We have a reputation that merits our pride.

When you meet people who have moved from the neighborhood, they frequently reference the sense of community that is unique to Rockhill, with warm memories of people and experiences in our diverse and eclectic "village." Our sense of community has been built in layers, over many decades and several generations. In learning the history of our neighborhood, one will note both the many challenges we have faced, but also the leadership of many individuals who united us to keep our neighborhood one of Kansas City's very best.



Meet the Neighbors Part 1



Two new families moved onto Pierce street this last Fall and one of them is the Rios family; Jay, Ryann and Chief. They come to us from the Plaza/Westport area. Jay studies environmental engineering and Ryann works in marketing. Together they enjoy hiking, camping, art, and music. They're passionate about sustainability and social justice issues in the community. The couple got engaged in 2017 and were married in 2018. Jay proposed while they were on a helicopter tour of Kansas City, telling Ryann they were going on a bucket list date. As they flew over her favorite spot (The Nelson Atkins Art Museum) Ryann looked down at the shuttle cock lawn at a banner that read "will you marry me?" It was being held by their closest friends and family, and when she turned back to look at Jay he had a ring in his hand. Ryann says it feels like fate that they moved to this neighborhood so close to the museum! Please welcome Jay, Ryann and Chief Rios!



Meet the Neighbors Part 2



Also arriving recently on Pierce street are Kiloh McDowell and Emma Kelley with their dogs Penny and Willow and cat, Esme (pronounced ehz-may but she answers to "kitty"). Kiloh and Emma are Kansas City natives; Kiloh went to Rockhurst and Emma went to St. Teresa's. Kiloh works as a server in Westport and will be starting a record label soon. Emma works as a research assistant and as a nanny and is working on her Master's and eventual PhD in policy and research. They love the neighborhood's parks and the walkability of the outdoor space. Kiloh enjoys music, grilling, and motorcycles. Emma enjoys yoga, reading, and traveling. Please welcome Kiloh McDowell and Emma Kelley, Penny, Willow and Esme!



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