

Schedule of Important Events

Date

- c. 1000** Kansa Indians migrate to eastern Kansas.
- 1601** Juan de Onate, a Spanish explorer contacts the Kansa Indians.
- 1724** de Bourgmont, a French military commander contacts the Kansa Indians in what is now Doniphan County, Kansas.
- c. 1800** Kansa Indians migrate westward.
- 1829** The first 100 Shawnee Indians are settled on a reservation, a part of which is present day City of Roeland Park.
- 1831** About 900 Shawnee Indians are moved to the reservation.
- 1839** The Reverend Thomas Johnson opens the Shawnee Indian Mission near what is now Mission Road and Reinhardt Streets. Previously Reverend Johnson had attempted to open the Mission near Turner, Kansas.
- 1858** 160 acres near present day 53rd and Nall Avenue is awarded to Sim-e-to, also known as John Denny. The land is preempted and awarded to Mary Pinner who subsequently sells the land to Alexander Johnson.
- 1862** Shawnee Indians are relocated to Indian Territory, Oklahoma.
- 1865** Approximately 1,800 acres of land are issued to Rev. Thomas Johnson. Due to his death, title to the land is vested in the name of his children.
- 1865-1875** Title of some of the land passes to others.
- 1872** A school is constructed near the present location of St. Agnes Church.
- 1873** Shawnee Mission District No. 92 is split off from the Prairie School District No. 44.
- 1882** John Roe acquires land in the area that is now the City of Roeland Park.
- 1884 to 1893** John Roe expands his farm.
- 1905** John Roe grants an easement to William Strang for the Missouri-Kansas Railroad, better known as the Strang line.
- 1905** The Wornall family, descendants of Thomas Johnson, sell their farm to William Strang.
- 1906** The Strang Line begins operations.
- 1907** Herman Beers acquires 20 acres of land near 47th and Roe Avenue. Beers subdivides the land.
- 1909** William Strang subdivides the land now known as "Southridge."
- 1912** Natural gas is piped into the Southridge area
- 1912** United Brethren Church opens.
- 1916** First Roesland School opens.
- 1916** Southridge Presbyterian Church opens.
- 1921** Charles Roe, son of John Roe, subdivides the Mission Grove area. He sells the land to Frank Hodges.
- 1923** Frank Hodges subdivides the Mission Ridge area.
- 1930** Old Mission Golf Course opens.

- 1937** Charles E. Vawter begins the development of Roe Manor Heights, Roeland Park and Roe Highlands.
- 1937** The Pemland Heights area is subdivided.
- 1939** Argentine Transit Lines begin bus service.
- 1940** Strang Line ceases operations.
- 1940** Trinity Lutheran Church opens at 57th and Nall Avenue.
- 1943** St. Agnes Church is dedicated.
- 1947** Evangelical United Brethren Church opens at 51st and Cedar Street. Subsequently the name is changed to the United Methodist Church after the merger of the two denominations.
- 1947** Mission Township standardizes street names.
- 1948** St. Agnes School opens.
- 1949** The Roeland Park Homes Association considers incorporation
- 1949** Mission Main Sewer District opens its first treatment facility at 48th and Nall Avenue
- 1950** Charles Vawter begins construction of the shopping area at 51st and Roe Avenue.
- July 2, 1951** . . The City of Roeland Park is incorporated.
- Dec. 1951** . . . Roeland Park School is opened.
- 1952** Roeland Park State Bank is chartered
- 1952** Johnson County Library System is formed.
- 1953** The City of Mission rejects consolidation with the City of Roeland Park.
- 1953** Skyline School is opened.
- Oct. 20, 1953** Roeland Park becomes a Second Class City.
- 1954** Fairway Manor subdivision is platted and annexed by the City of Roeland Park.
- 1955** Old Mission Junior High School opens.
- 1957** The Roeland Park swimming pool is opened.
- 1958** Bishop Miede High School opens.
- 1964** The City of Roeland Park reaches a maximum population of 10,519 residents.
- 1969** Cedar Roe Library is opened.
- 1973** Nall Park is dedicated.
- 1973** Mission Fire District No. 1 is formed.
- 1975** Skyline School closes. It is subsequently used as a special education school.
- 1975** Venture Stores acquire and expand the facility occupied by Cooks Stores.
- 1985** The City acquires the Skyline School building and makes arrangements to use it as a community center.
- 1987** Price Chopper Grocers open in the Venture Plaza.
- 1988** Mission Fire District No. 1 is merged into Johnson County Consolidated Fire District No. 2.
- 1991** The redevelopment district is formed.
- July 1, 1994** . . The new City Hall at 4550 West 51st Street is occupied.
- May 1996** . . . Public gives approval to the construction of a new swimming pool near the Community Center.
- July 2, 1996** . . 45th Anniversary of Incorporation of the City of Roeland Park.

Roe'ling Thru the Years in Roeland Park, Kansas

A HISTORY

Prologue

The City of Roeland Park, Kansas was incorporated July 2, 1951 at a time when the people of much of Northeast Johnson County elected to exercise their right to self government. The result was the eventual incorporation of fourteen separate communities ranging in size from as small as four square blocks to the fourth largest city in the State of Kansas. The City's original boundaries were generally from the west property line of lots on the west side of Nall Avenue, from 58th Street to 51st Street; on 51st from Nall to Rosewood Drive, then south to Sycamore. The boundary then went west to between Rosewood and Juniper, then south to 55th, to Ash from 55th to Johnson Drive, then irregularly back to the point of beginning. Three weeks later the City annexed the area to the north known as Roe Highlands and to the east to an irregular line encompassing the real estate subdivisions being developed by Charles E. Vawter.

Subsequent annexations brought the City to its present boundaries. Generally the City of Roeland Park is bounded on the west by the back property line of lots on the west side of Nall Avenue; on the north by the Johnson/Wyandotte county line; on the east by Mission Road; and on the south by an irregular boundary consisting of 53rd Street, Buena Vista Street, 55th Street, Granada, Johnson Drive, Roeland Drive, and 58th Street. This area includes all or parts of 29 real estate subdivisions, the larger of which are Southridge, Fairway Manor and the combined subdivisions of Roe Highlands, Roeland Park and Roe Manor Heights. (See Annex A)

Much of the today's City of Roeland Park began to be developed just after the turn of the century. Previously the area was just farm land. But as the greater Kansas City area began to grow, a movement occurred which gave families a chance to "get out into the country" where a more relaxed life style was available.

Until the end of World War II most of the development of the area occurred east of Roe Avenue. Even though Charles Vawter began developing his subdivision of Roeland Park just prior to the war, the bulk of development in his area did not occur until construction materials became available, starting in 1947 and 1948. As late as the summer of 1948 many streets in the area had not been paved; some didn't even exist.

Today only isolated lots exist on which construction would be possible, The City has matured. As one long term resident commented - "the area has held up pretty well." At age 45, the incorporated City looks forward to the next millennium.

This history describes what was, is, and will be. A City's history includes it's heritage, it's people, it's institutions, it's government.

