

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 Thomás 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 Miege 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.

