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## 'Rockin' Ron' street proposal facing barriers

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One Lawrence street shares a name with a former fraternity house mother, who members still hold in high regard.

However, some students are attempting to change the name of Stewart Avenue, which is home to five greek houses, to remember a former KU on Wheels bus driver.

A petition is circulating to officially change Stewart Avenue to Rockin' Ron Avenue, after "Rockin' Ron" Gleason who died Feb. 27 of a heart attack.

Lawrence city traffic engineer, Dave Woosley said the street was probably named when it was originally plated.

He also said that when the developers filed a plat they determined what the name of the streets would be.

"City staff double checks and approves that a developers suggestions make sense and are appropriate," Woosley said.

The Kansas University Endowment Association platted the area, Fraternity Place, and were most likely responsible for selecting the name Stewart, Woosley said.

John Scarffe, director of communications at the Endowment Association, said that officials at the association could not pinpoint the reason that the street took the name Stewart.



But members of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity can.

Michael Hurley, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity educator, said that the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house was the first house to be built on Stewart Avenue and that "Mom" Stewart was the first house mother to serve in the area.

Stewart served as the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house mom until 1960, before the house at 1918 Stewart Ave., was built. Members of the fraternity said that a photograph of Stewart and an urn with her ashes were on a mantle in the house, as a tribute to their first house mother.

Some members of the fraternity said that they were hesitant about the possible change of name and that they didn't support the idea.

"As it is, it is a tribute to the first house mom on that street," said Josh Cox, Long Island junior. "And, house moms play such an important part in a fraternity house."

Hurley said that although members of the fraternity respected Gleason and had contributed money to a trust fund set up for his children, some members didn't think the name should be changed to Rockin' Ron Avenue.

"We don't want our mail coming to Rockin' Ron Avenue," he said. "It just doesn't seem like the most appropriate name."

-- Edited by Aerica Veazey

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