

OPENINGS & CLOSINGS

# After 78 years in Kansas City, this business is closing Thursday: 'Tough to leave this'

By David Hudnall

October 30, 2024 11:59 AM



Goodden Jewellers is closing at 1000 Grand Blvd.

Less than a year after World War II ended, Frank and Della Goodden founded Goodden Jewellers Inc. at 12th and Walnut streets in downtown Kansas City.

The shop, which specialized in the sale and repair of custom jewelry, bounced around downtown over the next several decades following its 1946 opening. It leased space at the Shukert Building at 1115 Grand, the Mason Building at 1110

Grand, the Dwight Building at 1004 Baltimore and the Mark Twain Tower at 11th and Baltimore.

The Gooddens — and later their son Ricki and daughter-in-law Elizabeth, who took over the business in 1995 — lived through an era in which many downtown businesses fled to shopping malls in the suburbs. Not Goodden Jewellers.

“We’re proud to have been down here so long,” said Ricki Goodden. “We’ve always had a wonderful clientele. Never saw a real reason to leave.”

Till now. On Thursday, the Gooddens are closing their 78-year-old shop, which has been located at 1000 Grand Blvd since 2017. They’re retiring.



The shop specialized in the sale and repair of custom watches and jewelry.

On Tuesday afternoon, the shop was still open, though movers were clearing the place out. Elizabeth was in a room in the back repairing a ring, an [OptiVISOR](#) headband magnifier covering her eyes and a mask over her mouth.

The space was cluttered with not only vintage jewelry and watches, but also fossils collected by Ricki on a farm in Gove County, Kansas, and artwork (one of their former locations was home to an art gallery).

“We’re trying to sell some of the display cases and cabinets, the chandelier, some work benches,” Ricki said. “We’ve got a few benches. That one over there, my dad probably made that in 1945.”





Goodden Jewellers was founded in 1946.

The Gooddens plan to take a few months off after they close, but they don't expect to fully exit the jewelry business. They might continue to do business online — on Etsy, or maybe Instagram.

“We’re going to see what retirement is actually like,” Elizabeth said. “Some friends of mine, we’re going to start a women’s art collective — metalworking, fiber crafts, sculpting, painting. We’ll stay active.”

“It’s going to be tough to leave this,” Ricki said. “It makes me sad. But it was a good run. And we’re thinking of it like it’s a whole new chapter opening up.”

Want to see more content like this?  



## Let's Dish

If there's one thing about our city, it's that we love to eat — and not just barbecue. Subscribe to learn about local dishes that you should try, plus latest restaurant updates.

**SIGN UP**

By submitting, I agree to the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

## Related Stories from Kansas City Star

### OPENINGS & CLOSINGS

**Kansas City area restaurant closes after 8 years, blaming rising costs and inflation**

October 29, 2024 12:03 PM

### BUSINESS

**At Kansas City International Airport, political merchandise drives an online furor**

October 28, 2024 5:48 PM

---



**David Hudnall**    *The Kansas City Star*    X    ✉    ☎    816-234-4172

David Hudnall writes about food and business for The Star. He is a Kansas City native and a graduate of the University of Missouri. He was previously the editor of The Pitch and Phoenix New Times.



Part of the McClatchy Media Network

## ABOUT

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Archives](#)

Connect with us:



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

[Customer Service](#)

[Start a Subscription](#)

[Cancel a Subscription](#)

[Make a Payment](#)

## ADVERTISING

[McClatchy Advertising](#)

[Place an Ad](#)

[Place a Classified Ad](#)

[Place an Ad - Celebrations](#)

[Place an Obituary](#)

[Staffing Solutions](#)

[Political | Advocacy Advertising](#)

## EXPLORE

 [Read Today's Edition](#)

 [Mobile Apps](#)

 [Newsletters](#)

 [Puzzles & Games](#)

 [Horoscopes](#)

[COPYRIGHT](#)

[COMMENTING  
POLICY](#)

[PRIVACY  
POLICY](#)

[COOKIE  
PREFERENCES](#)

[YOUR  
PRIVACY  
CHOICES](#)

[TERMS OF  
SERVICE](#)