



# CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

# NEWSLETTER

January through March 2019 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY

*Article by Jeff Harris, Council Member*

Friends and Neighbors,

In our last newsletter, we shared that work was progressing fast on the city's Capital Improvements Plan. The Public Works department has now finished project plans with our engineering firm, Uhl Engineering, Inc., and the first ten projects have gone out to bid. If all goes well, the City Council will review and potentially approve a bid in its March 14th meeting.

Residents who live on the project streets will receive special notice via mail about what to expect, and the city held another community event on February 23 to answer questions and help everyone prepare. If you were not able to attend and have questions or need more information please call City Hall at 913.362.1550, visit the city website at [www.westwoodks.org/projects](http://www.westwoodks.org/projects), or contact any of your elected officials.

In parallel, the city has taken steps to fund the projects. In February of 2018, the City Council resolved to ask Westwood voters to decide on a ½ cent increase to our sales tax to create a new line of funding dedicated to street and storm water projects. In May, Westwood residents turned out in strong numbers (> 81%) to approve the increase, and it went into effect in October.

Now that a dedicated funding source is established, city Administration has worked with our municipal financial advisor Springsted, Inc., and our bond counsel Gilmore & Bell to issue municipal bonds. The City Council approved a resolution to issue bonds to secure better pricing by bidding multiple projects at once, instead of drawing them out over many years.

In an effort to get the lowest borrowing costs, the city asked Standard & Poor's to provide a debt rating (an assessment of the credit worthiness of a borrower). Westwood received a rating of SP-1+, the highest rating for Municipal Short-Term Notes. This rating indicates the city has a very strong capacity to service the debt.

With project planning done, funds in place, bonds sold, and bids secured and approved, the long-anticipated work to improve our city's streets and storm water systems may begin as soon as April.

Westwood is positioned to make these improvements after years of careful planning and action to diversify the city's lines of revenue. Along the way, there has been no reduction to city services, we have added to our Public Safety and Public Works departments, purchased updated equipment, and held the mill rate steady four years in a row.

Westwood has not embarked on this scale of improvements in decades, and infrastructure projects always have temporary changes and inconveniences, and even surprises. The city asks for your flexibility and patience through 2019 as projects get underway. Your city Administration, Public Works, and Public Safety departments, and your elected officials, are ready to serve.

As always, if you have questions or need more information please call City Hall at 913.362.1550, visit the city website at [www.westwoodks.org/projects](http://www.westwoodks.org/projects), or contact any of your elected officials. Additionally, if you are not signed up on the city email list visit [www.westwoodks.org/stayinformed](http://www.westwoodks.org/stayinformed), it is a great way to stay updated on construction projects and city events.

One of the best ways to stay in touch and understand city planning is to visit in person. All are welcome to attend city meetings. The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00 pm, and the City Council the second Thursday also at 7:00 pm. Meetings are at City Hall at 4700 Rainbow Boulevard.

### **Street Projects**

- 48th Street, Mission Road to Belinder Avenue
- 49th Street, Adams Street to Rainbow Avenue
- 49th Terrace, Mission Road to Belinder Avenue
- 49th Terrace, Belinder Avenue to Adams Street
- 50th Terrace, Mission Road to Belinder Avenue
- Booth Avenue, 50th Street to 49th Terrace
- Adams Street, 48th Terrace to 50th Street

### **Stormwater Projects**

- The intersection of Adams Street and 49th Street
- The intersection of Belinder Court and 48th Terrace
- Between 50th Street and 51st Street, between Belinder Avenue and Mission Road



**WESTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD VIDEO PARTNERSHIP**

*Article by Greg O'Halloran, Chief of Police*

"The people are the police and the police are the people". This 1800's law enforcement philosophy is as true today as it was then. Our Neighborhood Video Partnership is a modern extension of that philosophy. Video cameras are one of the better tools law enforcement has at their disposal for detecting and apprehending criminals. The Westwood Police Department would like to partner with you to help us solve crime if it occurs.

Should you voluntarily choose to register your security cameras that captures any publicly accessible area (sidewalks, streets, driveways, parking lots, etc.) we will keep that information on a secure log. In the event there is a crime or suspicious activity in your area we might contact you to see if your camera(s) may have captured

helpful footage related to the incident. If so, we may ask to review or get a recording of that footage. Potentially, the footage may be used to apprehend and prosecute those involved in the incident.

If you are interested in joining with us in this collaborative effort please fill out this short online form at <https://bit.ly/2BM9FE5> or stop by City Hall to fill out a hard copy.

If you have any questions about this program you are welcome to contact the Westwood Police Department at 913.362.3737. Working alongside each other we can continue to make Westwood, Westwood Hills and Mission Woods some the safest cities around.



**CONTAIN THE RAIN**

The Johnson County Stormwater Management Program encourages individual homeowners and businesses to make improvements on their properties to improve



stormwater quality. Contain the Rain in Johnson County is a reimbursement program for most JOCO

residents who install sustainable landscape solutions that benefit stormwater.

Installing sustainable landscape solutions, like native trees and plants or rain barrels, on your property will help "contain the rain" where it falls, which reduces the amount of stormwater going into storm drains. Water from rain and melting snow that enters storm drains will eventually find its way to our streams, rivers, and lakes carrying all the pollutants it picked up along the way.

When you install a qualifying garden, rain barrel, or native tree in your landscape, you are not only helping the environment by reducing stormwater runoff and creating natural habitats for pollinators and other wildlife, you could also be eligible to receive a refund for up to 50% of the installation and material cost. Visit [www.containtherainjoco.com](http://www.containtherainjoco.com) to learn more about sustainable landscape solutions featured in this program.

**ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES**

Beginning January 1, 2019 the Mission Police Department, through their new civilian Community Service Officer program, took over responsibilities for animal control services for the cities of Fairway, Mission, Mission Woods, Roeland Park, Westwood, and Westwood Hills.

Northeast Animal Control Commission (NEACC) had been comprised of the noted member cities since 1983. NEACC was its own separate entity, but the day-to-day administrative function has always been handled by the Mission Police Department and the City of Mission. For well over a year, there has been an evaluation process conducted by the member cities to determine the best course of action moving forward. The decision was

made to dissolve NEACC. The group consensus was that animal control services could be delivered more efficiently through this new program. There are two Mission Community Service Officers filling this new role; the same number of full-time positions NEACC had. Shortly after the first quarter of 2019, you will see a Mission Police Department truck driving down our streets to answer animal control calls for service.

If you need animal control services, just like before, call Dispatch at **913.782.0720** and the Community Service Officers will be dispatched on a priority basis. As with any new program there may be some adjustments, but given the long experience that Mission has with administering animal control services we believe this new arrangement should serve us well.



**WESTWOOD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**  
**APPLICATION AVAILABLE**

During its February 2019 meeting the Westwood Foundation Board of Directors voted to award a Westwood Foundation Merit Scholarship. The awardee will receive \$5,000 per academic year for a total of four (4) years.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Westwood resident
- High school senior
- Full time enrollment status of 12 or more credit hours for the 2019-2020 academic year
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher



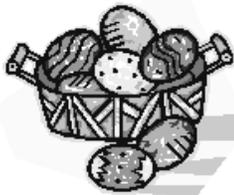
Scholarship applications are available online at <http://www.westwoodks.org/westwoodfoundation> and at City Hall. All applications must be received by 5 pm on Monday, April 1, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or at [abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org](mailto:abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org)

Directors of the Westwood Foundation and their immediate families are not eligible for this scholarship program.

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**EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE ON APRIL 20TH**

Gather your baskets and hop over to Dennis Park (50th & Rainbow) on Saturday, April 20th to join us for a Community Easter Egg Scramble. The scramble will



begin at 3pm sharp, the eggs are collected quickly, don't be late!

Details about this event will be posted at [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org). If you have any questions you can contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or at [abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org](mailto:abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org)

**SPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON APRIL 27TH**

The Spring Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 27th. Those who are interested in partici-

pating can register at <http://bit.ly/2mpkHF7> or by contacting Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550. The City will be advertising this event online, and participants are welcome to any additional advertising as they see fit. A listing of participants will be available on the City's website and at City Hall.

**NEW LOCATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES**

Blue Valley Physical Therapy is now open in Woodside Village at 4713 Rainbow Boulevard. Don't let pain or injury keep you from living your life to the fullest. Let our therapists be your experts in diagnosing and managing all of your musculoskeletal injuries. Referrals are not required, and most insurance policies are accepted. Call today for your appointment 913.789.0888.

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**FEATURED SHIRLEY STILES GALLERY ARTISTS**

Stiles Gallery Coordinator Kathy Butler, Shirley Stiles' daughter, continues to line up talented artists who share their works with our community. 2019 is a special year for the Gallery, as it is the 100th anniversary of Shirley's birthday.

Thank you Kathy for your dedication to the Gallery and helping make Westwood beautiful! For more information about these and future artists visit [www.westwoodks.org/stilesgallery](http://www.westwoodks.org/stilesgallery)

**Studio Art Quilt Associates—February 2019**

Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. (SAQA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the art quilt through education, exhibitions, professional development, documentation, and publications. SAQA defines an art quilt as "a creative visual work that is layered and stitched or that references this form of stitched layered structure."

Founded in 1989 by an initial group of 50 artists, SAQA now has over 3,400 members: artists, teachers, collectors, gallery owners, museum curators and corporate sponsors. A dedicated core of volunteers and staff keep the organization vibrant, dynamic, and progressive.

**Candi Ayers-Phillips—March 2019**

With artists on both sides of her family tree, it was inevitable that Candi Ayres Phillips would have art materials always at hand. She attended Kansas City Art Institute; years later she developed an original jewelry and wearable art line. Her creations were sold at stores throughout the Kansas City metro area.

Her paper mosaics have been shown at the St. Luke's parish gallery, the Tim Murphy Gallery and various public areas throughout northeastern Kansas. "Occasionally I've used die cut punches, metallic powders, brush markers and colored pencils. It amuses me to create little surprises within the piece," she said.





CITY OF WESTWOOD
JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

CITY OF WESTWOOD
4700 Rainbow Boulevard
Westwood KS 66205
913.362.1550
info@westwoodks.org

MAYOR

John Yé ..... westwoodmayor@sbcglobal.net

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lisa Cummins ..... lisa.cummins@westwoodks.org
Paul Day ..... paul.day@westwoodks.org
Jason Hannaman ..... jason.hannaman@westwoodks.org
Jeff Harris ..... jeff.harris@westwoodks.org
David Waters ..... david.waters@westwoodks.org

CHIEF OF POLICE: Greg O'Halloran

SERGEANT: Gary Baker

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Chris Bishop, Marcus Burke, Timothy Filson, Ruth Peter, Kurtis Stone, Sharon Taylor

COURT CLERK: Shelley Floyd

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: John Sullivan

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Mitch Landis

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF: Richard Fatherley, James Rankin

CITY CLERK: Fred Sherman

BUILDING/CODES OFFICIAL: Eddie McNeil

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK: Abby Schneweis

CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergencies ..... 911
City Hall ..... 913.362.1550
Public Works ..... 913.432.1550
Public Safety ..... 913.362.3737
JOCo Sheriff 24 Hour Dispatch ..... 913.782.0720
Municipal Court ..... 913.362.3737
WCA Disposal ..... 816.380.5595
Kansas Gas Service ..... 1.800.794.4780
KCPL ..... 816.471.5275
WaterOne ..... 913.895.5500
JOCo Wastewater ..... 913.715.8590
Animal Control ..... 913.782.0720
JOCo Information ..... 913.715.2300
Driver's License Bureau ..... 913.826.1800
JOCo Election Office ..... 913.782.3441
JOCo Appraiser ..... 913.715.9000
Shawnee Mission School Dist. .... 913.993.6200

