



# CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS NEWSLETTER

April through June 2017 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org)

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## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

*Article by Councilmember David E. Waters*

Last year, residents of our city were asked to participate in a community survey, the results of which have been used to help guide development of a revised comprehensive plan. In that survey, respondents were asked to select, from among several different options, what the most important issues facing Westwood would be in the next ten years. The number one response, with over 55%, was "Aging Infrastructure (streets, water, etc.)." Our community has also strongly supported walkability, bikeability, and safety, all of which are impacted by the strength of our infrastructure and public works.

And, Westwood has a variety of infrastructure needs. For example, the City owns and maintains our storm water sewer system, which was originally constructed with corrugated metal pipes, many of which are 80-90 years old. Though we have been able to rebuild or overlay several streets in recent years, there remain many that need attention. Many of our streets lack sidewalks, and most that we do have do not meet modern standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Important areas of our city are underserved or not served at all by our storm water system.

Safe, modern, attractive, and well-maintained infrastructure enhances curb appeal and improves the quality of life in a city. The City Council, its Public Works Committee, and our Public Works Department is committed to ensuring that your streets, your sewers, your sidewalks, your street lights, and your other public facilities remain in good repair, and that maintenance is not unnecessarily deferred.

In recent years, the City has taken a more proactive approach to ensure that monies are available for our important projects. For example, in 2014, and for the first time, the City began utilizing a separate capital improvement plan (CIP) fund and began dedicating resources to that fund, specifically for our infrastructure needs. Another option the City Council is exploring is whether the time is appropriate for a bond issue. As you may have read, in April of this year, our neighbors in Kansas City, Missouri, approved a significant bond issue for streets, bridges, sidewalks, and flood control. A similar approach could be taken in Westwood.

The City continues to plan for our future needs and to provide those amenities that you, our residents, tell us you would appreciate having. The City was recently awarded a grant from the Mid-America Regional Council to conduct a "Complete Street Plan" study for 47th Street. BikeWalkKC was the successful proposer for this study, and will look at such improvements as sidewalks, bike lanes, parking, and possible lane reductions/road-diet. BikeWalkKC has also approached Westwood about it being the first location on the Kansas side of the state line to have a bike-sharing station. These initiatives should help Westwood continue to attract new residents and businesses.

We welcome and appreciate your thoughts on how to best address our city's infrastructure needs, from both a planning and a funding perspective. Please feel free to contact Mayor Yé or any of your councilmembers if you have ideas or would like to discuss these opportunities further.

As always, thank you for allowing us to serve you.

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## **THINK WESTWOOD WHEN ORDERING ONLINE**

*Article by Councilmember Jason Hannaman*

When shopping online or buying goods to be delivered to your home or business in Westwood, most retailers will ask for you to enter a zip code to determine the amount of sales tax that you have to pay. However, because we have so many small cities in northeast Johnson County, this can lead to the wrong rate being charged and paid. All of Westwood is in the 66205 zip code, but

66205 also includes all of Westwood Hills, Mission Woods, Fairway, Roeland Park, and parts of Mission and Mission Hills. Each of these cities have set their own city sales tax rate, which means there are five different city sales tax rates within 66205. These city sales tax rates are combined with the state of Kansas' rate of 6.5% and Johnson County's rate of 1.475% to arrive at the total sales tax rate that you end up paying.

*Continued on page 2*



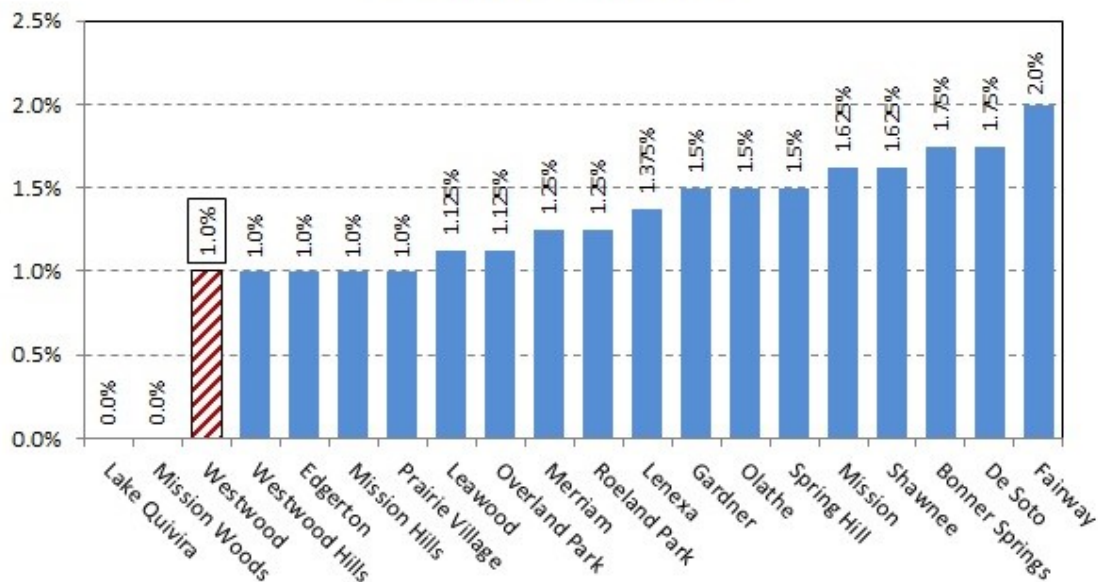
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Why should you take the time to care about this topic? There are two good reasons. First, Westwood's 1% city sales tax rate is one of the lowest city rates in Johnson County. Most of the time online retailers default to "Mission" when you enter a zip code of 66205, and Mission's rate is 1.625%, as you can see in the chart below. That may not seem like much of a difference, but if you spend a lot of money online, that can add up.

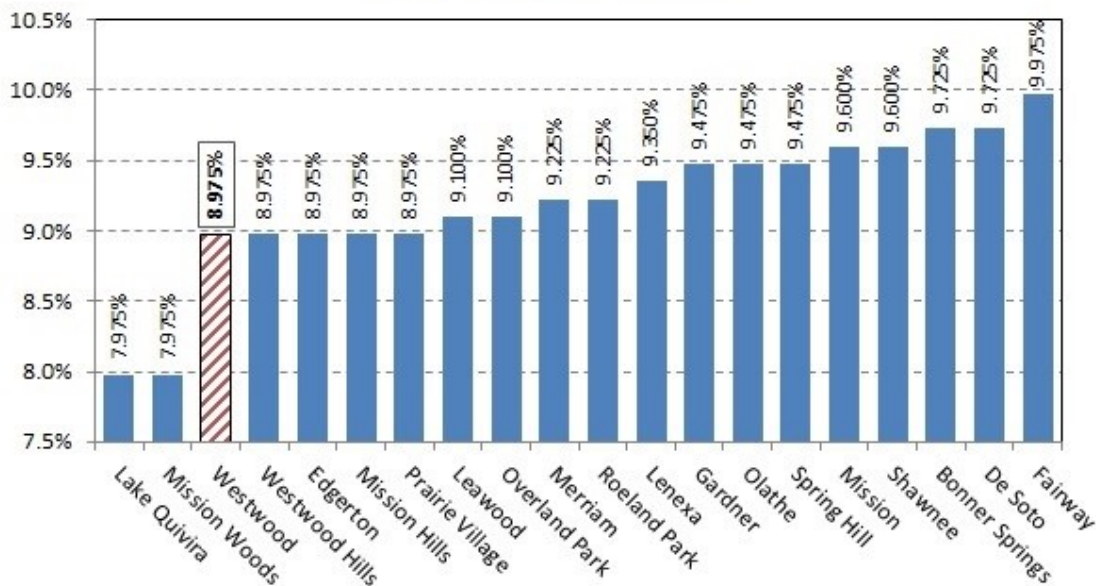
The second reason to look at which city's rate is being applied is that when retailers remit the sales taxes that they have collected to the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), they list the cities that they have collected taxes for- and then the KDOR sends the appropriate amounts to those cities. This means that if you paid Mission sales tax on a purchase, not only did you pay more than necessary, but the money ends up going to Mission, not Westwood.

While we like our friends in Mission, I think we would all agree that we want to be charged the correct rate and have our money go to the correct city, where it is used to fix streets, pay police salaries, and support other public services. So the next time you buy something online, take a second to make sure that you are specifying that your purchase is being shipped to Westwood so that you aren't paying more than you have to, and keep your money in your community.

### Local Sales Tax Rate



### Total Sales Tax Rate





*Mayor Yé directs Easter Egg Hunt participants to line up on April 15th in Joe D. Dennis Park. Photo credit - John Parker*

### **2017 SUMMER POOL PASSES**

Westwood residents are able purchase summer passes to the Woodside pools for the summer season. Pool pass cards issued during 2014 and prior cannot be reused this season as new cards will include a printed barcode for Woodside personnel to scan upon entrance. Cards issued during the 2015 & 2016 seasons can be reused. Photos for pool pass cards can either be taken at City Hall or sent via email to [info@westwoodks.org](mailto:info@westwoodks.org).

The fees for Summer 2017 passes are as follows:

- Individuals: \$40.00
- Family (up to 4 members): \$85.00 Each additional family member: \$5.00
- Individual Day Pass: \$10.00
- Pool Pass Card: \$3.00 per card

Midseason rates will be available starting Monday, July

10th. Applications will be available at City Hall and on the City's website. Please note that pool passes are issued during regular business hours—Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. If you have any questions contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or [abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org](mailto:abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org).

### **FALL 2017 ELECTION FILING DEADLINE ON JUNE 1ST**

three (3) City Council positions will be elected on November 7, 2017 in the City of Westwood. Those interested in running for a seat will need to file by noon on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at the Johnson County Election Office (2101 E Kansas City Rd; Olathe KS 66061). For more information contact City Hall at 913.362.1550 or the Johnson County Election Office at 913.715.6800.

### **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. 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)

### **Amanda Davis—May 2017**

Amanda Davis got her start as an artist when she was just 5 years old. She strives to learn and push her boundaries and explore the world of art. She runs her own art-works company, Mandolin Artworks, established in

2007. Amanda received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications with an emphasis in graphic design and photography in 2010.

### **Larry Butterworth—June 2017**

Larry Butterworth grew up Kansas and Nebraska and earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Kansas in 1975. Painting and drawing have always been his favorite traditional media since he discovered them as a child. Larry has been working with Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and photography. Larry enjoys all the media he works with as path of discovery.



### **A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF O'HALLORAN**

You all have been doing a great job looking out for one another and calling us as needed...please keep that going.



As many of you know we have had a few solicitors in the area lately. Please remember if you're not expecting anyone and the doorbell rings, you don't have to answer it, despite what polite society says. Please think about looking out a window, if possible, to see who is there before you engage. If need be, you can always talk to them through the door while it is closed.

Ask them how you can help them. If there selling something tell them you're not interested, send them on their way and call us.

By the way, if you are calling us, the fastest non-emergency way to get in touch with us is 913.782.0720. Please take a moment to put that into your cell phone. A call taker records all of your information and while they are talking to you, a separate dispatcher is radioing a Westwood officer. This process helps the officer respond faster and we're all about trying to get to you sooner. Thanks, and keep looking out for one another.

### **2017 MOVIES IN THE PARK**

Grab a blanket or lawn chair and join us at Dennis Park on the following dates for Movies in the Park:

- Saturday, June 10th
- Saturday, July 15th
- Saturday, August 12th

Admission is FREE for all ages!

Movie titles and details about these events will be provided on the City's website once they are confirmed.



### **COMMUNITY SHREDDING AND eCYCLE EVENT RESCHEDULED**

Due to inclement weather on the original April 29th date, the community shredding and eCycle event has been moved to Saturday, September 16th. Details about this event will be provided on the City's website once they are confirmed.

### **JoCo ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTER TO OPEN IN JUNE**

The transformation of the former King Louie building into the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center is almost complete! A grand opening event will be held on

June 10th from 9 am to 5 pm at the Center, located at 8788 Metcalf. A day full of free events includes museum tours, KidsScape, drop-in dance classes, music, and entertainment. For more information about this event visit <https://www.jocoahc.com/>

The Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center is under the management of Johnson County Park & Recreation District, and will be home to The Johnson County Museum, The Theatre in the Park productions (during fall, winter and spring), Fine and Performing Arts programs, and so much more!

### **GARDENING CALENDAR**

Great gardens don't just happen. They take careful planning. K State Research & Extension's garden calendar can help with your planning and maintenance process. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2qKrizZ>

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE AVAILABLE**

JoCo72 is your hub for emergency preparedness. You'll find information about what to do in an emergency, simple steps to get connected, and useful guides to help you get prepared. Share JoCo72 with a friend—and help your loved ones and your community get prepared. Actual emergencies look more like people coming together than cities falling apart. JoCo72 is about encouraging county residents to get connected before an emergency—so we can be that much better off when something happens.

# JOCO72

Why 72? In a serious emergency, community services will be impacted, so a basic rule of thumb is for people to be able to take care of each other for 72 hours before help arrives. That's just three days—think of it as a long weekend—or nine meals.

### **JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

The Johnson County Library will be holding a summer reading program from May 15th through July 31st. Visit a Johnson County Library Location and grab a free prize book and a reading log. Turn in your reading log in July to enter for Grand Prize drawings. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2qRs52k>





## CITY OF WESTWOOD

4700 Rainbow Boulevard  
Westwood Kansas 66205

**E-MAIL:** [info@westwoodks.org](mailto:info@westwoodks.org)

**PHONE:** 913.362.1550 **FAX:** 913.362.3308

**WEBSITE:** [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org)

**MAYOR:** John Yé

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Margaret Bowen, Lisa Cummins,  
Jason Hannaman, David Waters, Joe Whisler

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** Greg O'Halloran

**SERGEANT:** Gary Baker

**PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS:** Chris Bishop, Marcus Burke,  
Ruth Peter, Kurtis Stone, Penny Teddy

**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 OFFICIAL:** Eddie McNeil

**ASSISTANT CITY CLERK:** Abby Schneweis

## NOTEABLE DATES

### MAY 2017

**1st:** Planning Commission @ 7pm

**9th:** Westwood Foundation @ 6:30pm

**11th:** City Council @ 7pm

**29th:** Memorial Day—City Offices Closed

### JUNE 2017

**5th:** Planning Commission @ 7pm

**8th:** City Council @ 7pm

**13th:** Westwood Foundation @ 6:30pm

### JULY 2017

**3rd:** Independence Day Fireworks Display—DUSK

**3rd:** Planning Commission @ 7pm

**11th:** Westwood Foundation @ 6:30pm

**13th:** City Council @ 7pm

*For complete, updated information regarding formal meetings, schedule changes, announcements, and City information, please consult [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org), contact City Hall, or reach out to any one of your Council Members or the Mayor.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergencies .....	911
City Hall .....	913.362.1550
Public Works.....	913.432.1550
Public Safety.....	913.362.3737
JOCosheriff 24 Hour Dispatch .....	913.782.0720
Municipal Court.....	913.362.3737
Town & Country Disposal.....	816.380.5595
Kansas Gas Service .....	1.800.794.4780
KCPL .....	816.471.5275
WaterOne .....	913.895.5500
JOCOWastewater.....	913.715.8587
Animal Control .....	913.782.0720
JOCosInformation.....	913.715.1500
Driver's License Bureau .....	913.432.2266
JOCosElection Office.....	913.782.3441
JOCosAppraiser .....	913.715.9000
JOCosTransportation.....	913.782.2210
Shawnee Mission School Dist. ....	913.993.6200

