



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS NEWSLETTER

April through May 2015 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As I sat down to write this newsletter article it occurred to me that with all the things going on in the world and in Westwood, our *identity* rarely gets discussed. It is said that the identity of a City bears the identity of its citizens. I often hear from people that “we don’t want to lose our identity” or that we need to keep our “sense of what Westwood is all about”. We hear phrases and refer to them often claiming to try and protect the “charm, character and integrity” of the neighborhood. It intrigues me that everyone has their own ideas of what those terms mean and how to define them. So it motivated me to try and understand just what those terms mean to me. It is not an easy task.

I think the common thread amongst those terms that most would agree on is that we live in one of the most neighborly areas of Johnson County. But then what does it mean to be neighborly? How do you be a good neighbor? Even being neighborly means different things do different people. So, where do I begin? I suppose being neighborly begins with compassion. It is easier to be compassionate during good times and much more difficult when there is crisis, stress or tension.

As I looked up the word, *Neighborly* was defined as: “the characteristic of a good neighbor, especially helpful, friendly, or kind”. Synonyms included were: obliging, amicable, pleasant, and generous.

I think being neighborly includes random acts of kindness at the most unsuspecting times. It has been a privilege to experience that while living in Westwood. It has made me realize that no act of kindness, regardless

of how small, is wasted. My life in Westwood has been blessed with families walking to school together, Easter egg hunts at the park, 4th of July fireworks, tennis in the sunshine, beers and grills over the backyard fence, Oktoberfest in the Fall, Santa having cookies with kids, weekend getaways and happy hours in the front yard. All of these memories have been made with neighbors.

I have learned a great many things while serving in an elected position. The feel of larger communities and transient homeowners alters the sense of a neighborly feel. But not here, not where we live. In other neighborhoods people barely know each other. Sometimes they don’t even care to know each other. There’s a lot of cynicism out there today. Negativity breeds mistrust and clouds opportunities for us to be neighborly. In Westwood, we are different. A core value of American culture is the commitment of being a good neighbor. It transcends so many differences we have and can be the building blocks for future leaders and community builders.

As I watch the continued development, growth and evolution of Westwood, I watch with a sense of pride, a sense of belonging and a commitment to protect and promote our identity. So shed your smart phones, turn off you computers, and tablets. Come outside, talk to your friends, make new friends and be neighborly. It’s Spring and this is WESTWOOD!

As always, it is an honor to serve you.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

After a recent move outside of Westwood, Ken Jagers stepped down from his duties as a Planning Commissioner. The City thanks Ken for his years of service on the Commission and wish him the all the best in his future endeavors.

Kevin Breer has been appointed by Mayor Yé to fill the vacated seat on the Commission during the April 9th

City Council Meeting. Kevin is a real estate, construction and general business litigation attorney at Breer Law firm. In addition, Mayor Yé reappointed Chris Ross and Trent Robinett to serve on the Commission. All three commissioners will serve three year terms.

During the April 2nd Planning Commission Meeting long time Planning Commissioner Rob Junk was voted by fellow members Chair the Commission. Chris Ross will serve as Vice Chair.



COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON MAY 2ND

The Spring Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2nd. Those who are interested in participating can contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or at abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org to register their address and provide hours of operation and a list of items that will be sold. The City will be advertising this event online. A listing of participants will be posted on the City's website and can also be picked up at City Hall. The Cities of Mission and Roeland Park will also be holding Community Garage Sales this weekend.

2015 SUMMER POOL PASSES

Westwood residents will be able to purchase summer pool passes to the Woodside pools starting May 4th. Pool pass cards from 2014 and prior cannot be reused this season as new cards will include a printed barcode for Woodside personnel to scan upon entrance. Photos for pool pass cards can either be taken at City Hall or sent via email to abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org.

The fees for Summer 2015 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

Applications will be available at City Hall and on the City's website. If you have any questions contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org

URBAN LAND INSTITUTE SET TO FOCUS ON WESTWOOD ON MAY 7TH

The City of Westwood has been chosen by the Kansas City Chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to provide assistance for future planning of the 5050 Rainbow property, Joe D. Dennis Park and the nearby Entercom property. A panel will provide their expertise in financial, real estate, design, land use and market feasibility. The panel will conduct a preliminary review to fully understand the issues before holding a one day work session at City Hall on May 7th.

The Technical Advisory Panel with ULI has been asked to address the following issues:

- Considering its proximity to the elementary school and the city's long term goal to increase school enrollment, what is the best and most innovative redevelopment options for 5050 Rainbow & the park property?
- What is the estimated fair market value (residential and commercial) for development of the two properties along Rainbow Blvd?
- What might be the estimated costs to rehabilitate the 5050 Rainbow building or tear it down?
- Estimated costs to update and expand the park including removal and/or rehabilitation of the 5050 building?
- What is the estimated fair market potential for redeveloping the 8-acre Entercom property into the different land uses?

FEATURED SHIRLEY STILES GALLERY ARTISTS

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 on these artists and the Gallery visit the Community section of westwoodks.org

Shirley Stiles - April 2015

Shirley Stiles is the local artist and patron of the arts for whom the Shirley Stiles Gallery City Hall is named. Shirley was a 55-year resident of Westwood. After the new Westwood City Hall was built, she was the driving force behind the establishment of a gallery dedicated to showcasing the work of local area artists that formed the basis for the City's well-deserved reputation as a unique venue for local artists to show without having to pay high commissions charged by commercial galleries.

Larry Butterworth - May 2015

Larry Butterworth grew up in Kansas and Nebraska and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at KU. Larry uses painting, drawing, and photography as a form of visual storytelling, which he cannot tell verbally. Larry believes that his work speaks to each person in a different way. Humor, whimsy, foreboding, spirituality all come in to play in Larry's visual narratives. A reception for Larry Butterworth will be held on Friday, May 1st from 5:00 pm to 7:30pm in the Community Room at City Hall.

Rhoda Powers - June 2015

Rhoda Powers is a Kansas native and a proud mother of three young men. Rhoda strives to communicate with the world through the universal languages of art and music. Rhoda is a full time glass and mixed media artist and entrepreneur living and creating in Parkville, Missouri. She finds ways to be innovative in style and process all the while being true to herself and her art. She sets herself apart by sequencing multiple mediums. Rhoda is also a musician and founding member of the Parkville Symphonic Band and a civic volunteer.



SPRING SAFETY TIPS

By: Greg O'Halloran, Chief of Police

After a long winter everyone wants to enjoy the fresh springtime air by leaving sunroofs and car windows open and car doors unlocked. The problem is when we leave wallets, purses, brief cases in plain view in an unsecured car they are susceptible to theft. In the past year the Westwood Police Department has tried to engage everyone to help cut down on auto burglaries. In 2014 working together we were able to drop auto burglaries 44% compared to the previous year.

Unfortunately, auto burglaries have started to trend back up - we've had six this year. We been fortunate to devel-

op a person of interest in all six of our cases, but those investigations are ongoing and they take a great deal of time, effort and resources to pursue. We always feel for the victims who have to cancel credit cards, contact insurance companies, and change locks. In the end, even if we catch the bad guy, the victim's property and peace of mind have been violated - and all of it could be avoided with a few simple steps.

We encourage you to remember a couple of simple rules: secure your car, remove valuables or at the very least completely hide them from plain view. Most importantly, don't wait to report suspicious activity, call 913.782.0720 or 911.

CROSSING GUARD TO STEP DOWN IN MAY

Jeff Martin will be stepping down from his position after ten years of service as Crossing Guard at 50th & Rainbow. We thank Jeff for his service to area students and their families and wish him all the best.

The City is seeking an individual to take over Crossing Guard duties. If you or anyone you know is interested please see the Employment section of the City's website. If you have any questions contact Lt. Don Brooks at the Westwood Police Department at 913.362.3737 or don.brooks@westwoodkspd.org.

Job Description:

To provide for the safe movement of children to and from school when crossing public roadways and intersections by observing gaps in the traffic and leading the children across the roadway or intersection. Crossing Guards are not to engage in traffic direction or control.

Job Scope:

Works approximately two hours per day, Monday through Friday, during the public school year (August through May). Specific hours will be set , and may vary according to demand and workload.

Principal Duties:

Assists children on their way to and from school in safely crossing roadways and intersections.

Watch for gaps in traffic and utilize the street crossing button, and walk children across the roadway or intersection while holding a " Stop " sign in such a manner as to be visible to approaching vehicles.

All Applicants :

Minimum age of eighteen (18) years

No Criminal Convictions

Good Physical and Mental health

Ability to read and write English

Ability to understand and follow directions

Applications can be picked up at the Westwood City Hall, Monday through Friday, from 8am until 5pm.

WESTWOOD PD PARTICIPATE IN AREA TRAINING EXERCISE

By: Greg O'Halloran, Chief of Police

On March 16th, 17th & 18th police officers from Westwood, Merriam, Mission, Fairway, Roeland Park, Prairie Village, Shawnee Mission School District, and Firefighters from Consolidated Fire District #2 participated in an active shooter joint training exercise. The training took place at a school that was vacant for Spring Break. During this event officers and firefighters had the chance to practice rescue techniques. It's great annual training that teaches officers the latest techniques on how to respond to an active shooter incident. Here in the NE and the metro emergency services have long standing relationships with open lines of communications. During this event officers and firefighters had the chance to practice rescue techniques.



Officer Penny Teddy (bottom right) participating in a joint active shooter training session at a vacant school.





CITY OF WESTWOOD

4700 Rainbow Boulevard
Westwood Kansas 66205

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PHONE: 913.362.1550 **FAX:** 913.362.3308

WEBSITE: www.westwoodks.org

MAYOR: John Yé

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Paul Day, Jason Hannaman,
Matt Jones, Sarah Page, Joe Whisler

CHIEF OF POLICE: Greg O'Halloran

LIEUTENANT: Don Brooks

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Jason Abel, Gary Baker,
Chris Bishop, Cliff Chaffee & Penny Teddy

COURT CLERK: Shelley Floyd

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: John Sullivan

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF: Richard Fatherley, James Rankin

CITY CLERK: Fred Sherman

BUILDING OFFICIAL: Eddie McNeil

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK: Abby Schneweis

NOTEABLE DATES

APRIL 2015

25th: Community Recycling Event - 8am - 11am

MAY 2015

2nd: Spring Community Garage Sale - All Day

4th: Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

12th: Westwood Foundation - 6:30 pm

14th: City Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

25th: Memorial Day - City Offices Closed

JUNE 2015

1st: Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

9th: Westwood Foundation - 6:30 pm

11th: City Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergencies	911
City Hall	913.362.1550
Public Works	913.432.1550
Police Administrative Office	913.362.3737
JOCo Sheriff 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
JOCo Wastewater.....	913.715.8587
Animal Control.....	913.782.0720
JOCo Information.....	913.715.1500
Driver's License Bureau	913.432.2266
JOCo Election Office.....	913.782.3441
JOCo Appraiser	913.715.9000
JOCo Transportation.....	913.782.2210
Shawnee Mission School Dist.	913.993.6200

