



# CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org)

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY

Friends and neighbors:

This fall and into next year, the City is embarking on several strategic initiatives surrounding infrastructure and land use planning with an eye toward the very vibrant present and bright future of our great community. We are excited to share with you the exciting work being done by our appointed and elected officials and our City staff.

#### **Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel**

In October, ULI will conduct a TAP to collect community input and to provide professional guidance and recommendations for evaluating the future of the southwest corners of both 47th St. & Rainbow Blvd. and 50th St. & Rainbow Blvd. This panel of experts will produce a report with recommendations on how these corners could best be used to provide civic spaces and facilities (including parks), additional retail and restaurants, and additional housing options. This 2021 TAP will build upon the 2015 TAP conducted by ULI, which is available on the City's website. The public presentation of the TAP's work will be held in a hybrid format the evening of Thursday, October 21st and all in the community are welcome and encouraged to attend.

#### **City Facilities Assessment**

The adopted 2022 budget includes a facilities assessment to study the existing condition of City Hall and the Public Works building and to identify any deferred maintenance issues that might be present and/or retrofits needed to operate at a level of service adequate for current and future City use or if new facilities should be planned based on the findings of the ULI TAP.

#### **Zoning Regulations Review**

Over the course of the past year, the Planning Commission has been reviewing the City's zoning ordinance and is recommending several changes, especially to the provisions in the single-family zoning district. The Planning Commission is set to wrap-up its work on these recommendations and to hold public hearings on the text amendments this fall. Planning Commission agendas, meeting packets, and minutes are all

available on the City's website should you wish to review the discussions and to see how the recommendations have been discussed to-date.

#### **Bike and Pedestrian Improvements**

Following passage of the City's Complete Streets Policy and Plan this past year, several bike/ped improvement projects and planning are underway. In 2022, 47th St. will undergo reconstruction to add bike lanes and off-street pathways and to add pedestrian-level street lights and new landscaping and bike-related equipment. Also in 2022, pedestrian safety improvements will be made to 50th St. & Belinder Ave. to support the new home of Westwood View in anticipation of its 2022/2023 opening to students, and the City will begin the process of working with our neighboring jurisdictions to evaluate whether bike and pedestrian improvements should be added to Rainbow Blvd. and Mission Rd.

#### **Pavement Condition Study**

The City Council budgeted for a city-wide pavement condition study to be conducted in 2022, to report on the structural condition of all our streets and to provide a recommended prioritization for capital planning and budgeting.

#### **City Website Redesign**

The City has planned and budgeted for a 2022 website redesign to modernize the website and to make it more accessible and user-friendly. We will need lots of great photos of the community and the people and places within it for the new site and welcome photo donations from individuals willing to have their photography and images on the new website. If you have high resolution photos you would be willing to share with City staff, please email [info@westwoodks.org](mailto:info@westwoodks.org) to coordinate submission.

## **2021 LEAF PICK UP GUIDELINES**

Fall is here and with it brings the Westwood leaf pick up program, those who wish to participate please take note:

Leaf pickup began on Monday, November 1st.

Westwood Public Works will be conducting leaf pick up operations in Westwood the entire month of November through early to mid-December of 2021. Public Works



personnel will be making passes through the City starting at 51st Terrace and will work their way north to 47th Street. Once they have passed your residence, City staff may not be back for a week or more de-

pending on the volume of leaves to be gathered, the weather, and/or mechanical difficulties with the equipment.

To ensure the collection of your leaves, please remember the following:

- No sticks or trash - only leaves. Piles containing an abundance of sticks will be left until the sticks are removed
- Please rake leaves into as narrow a pile as possible
- Please avoid raking the leaf piles directly under low-hanging tree branches as the leaf collection equipment gets tangled in the low overhanging limbs. A minimum of 14 feet in height, from the ground to the lowest limb is needed to operate the equipment. If this condition is found to exist, your leaves will be left until the pile is moved to a location that is accessible
- Rake just to the curb or edge of the sidewalk but not into the streets, gutters, or onto the sidewalk so as to not force pedestrians into the street

After the final pass through the city, Westwood staff will sweep the streets and gutter lines a final time. Residents may still use GFL's yard waste program by bagging leaves in paper bags or rigid containers designated for yard waste. Yard waste collection runs year round and there is no limit on the amount of yard waste that can be collected on a Wednesday per residence per week by GFL.

### **KC SYMPHONY TO RETURN TO WESTWOOD**

After a very successful event during the fall of 2020, the Kansas City Symphony will return to perform a live concert with their Mobile Music Box in the parking lot of Westwood City Hall on Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this great fall community event!

## **WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB**

*Article by Linda Horn,*

*Westwood Women's Club Publicity Chair*

The Westwood Women's Club meets on the third Wednesday of the months September thru May, at 12:00p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall.

On October 20th Kirsten Christian and Lisa Foley will introduce their local business that launched in 2015 "Bee Organized" specializing in helping clients "simplify their hives". At our 2nd annual Halloween drive-thru, early evening on October 31st children will be greeted by members in costumes handing out goodie bags. On November 17th creator of graze boards and Westwood resident Sarah Juenemann, "Grazing KC" will craft an enticing board for the Club to enjoy for lunch. A luncheon to celebrate the holiday season will be held on December 15th at The Restaurant at 1900 in Mission Woods.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or seeking more information go to: [westwood-womensclub@gmail.com](mailto:westwood-womensclub@gmail.com)

### **NEW STREET BANNERS DESIGNED**

#### **BY WESTWOOD RESIDENT COMING SOON**

This spring the Business and Community Affairs Committee put out a call to the community for new street banner designs. The Committee received multiple submissions by residents showing their Westwood pride, and after close consideration the Committee chose the designs created by Trish French.

Trish French has been a resident of Westwood since 2014. She grew up in New York and moved to the Kansas City Metro area in 2011. Trish operates her own graphic design business, TF Design, and is also currently contracted with Hallmark as a production designer. She is a mom of two girls, three Siberian Huskies and wife to husband, Mike. Trish and her daughters', Lina (5 yrs. old) and Ana (3 yrs. old) are honored to create the banners of Westwood. They hope the banners bring a smile to each person who passes by.

The banners with Trish's design will be installed around the main streets of Westwood this fall.

### **MAYOR'S HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING**

We are excited to plan this year's Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting event. We will be watching public health guidance in the coming months but do plan to host the event this year. For details and the date, please watch The Buzz weekly e-blast and the City website for details as we get closer to the holidays or call us at City Hall for up-to-date information!

## **OKTOBERFEST IS OCTOBER 2ND**

Join us in celebrating the beginning of fall with the return of Oktoberfest in Joe D. Dennis Park on Saturday, October 2nd from 4 pm to 8 pm.

- All Evening: Inflatable moonwalk and pumpkin decorating station
- All Evening: Beverages for kids & adults will be available
- 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Entertainment provided by Distant Cousins
- 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Dinner provided by Broadmoor Bistro

All Westwood residents and businesses are welcome to attend!



### **FEATURED STILES GALLERY ARTISTS**

The Stiles Gallery is dedicated to the memory of Art Coordinator Shirley Stiles. For almost ten years Ms. Stiles arranged for a monthly display of works by a different artist to hang in the art gallery in Westwood City Hall. Ms. Stiles was an accomplished artist and each Friday would meet at City Hall to paint and share techniques with a circle of fellow artists and friends. The City of Westwood and the arts community lost a remarkable person when Ms. Stiles passed away in 2006 following a brief illness. Her memory lives on in her art, the gallery, and the remembrances of her family, friends and fellow artists.

Kathy Butler, Ms. Stiles' daughter, continues the work of showcasing local area artists. Thank you Kathy for your dedication to the Gallery and helping make Westwood beautiful!

### **Dennis Broockerd - October 2021**

From the time Dennis Brockerd got that first whiff of Crayola in first grade he has been fascinated by the creative process. Dennis believes if 100 artists were given the same materials and asked to paint a picture each painting would be different and unique.

The process of creating art is always special to Dennis, and he tries to paint at least 12 hours a week because Dennis loves bold colors, lost edges, and exaggerated themes. Dennis often paints old cars, animals, pets, cowboys, indians, and whatever interests him during the creative process. In addition to painting, Dennis has been a wood carver for over 45 years, and has learned from some of the best carvers in the country.

Dennis is a member of the Images Gallery in Overland Park and the Senior Arts Council, and he was published in the October 2018 "Johnson County Lifestyle" magazine.

Dennis has been married to Jo, the love of his life, for almost 50 years. It has been through her encouragement that he continues to learn and grow as an artist. Dennis and Jo have two sons, Bronson and Brad, and their fam-

ily has expanded to now include two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. Dennis and Jo have lived in Stilwell for 37 years.

### **Senior Arts Council - November 2021**

The Senior Arts Council of Kansas City was founded in 1977 is an organization of artists over 50 years of age. There are some 60 members. The group holds meetings the last Monday of each month at the Roeland Park Community Center. Election of officers is done annually. The artists in the group include oil, acrylic and watercolor artists along with photographers and various other art mediums. The group puts on a number of exhibits each year and have had exhibits at the Tim Murphy Art Gallery at the Merriam Community Center, The Endres Art Gallery in Prairie Village, Johnson County libraries, Wyandotte County libraries, Unity Spot Light Gallery, and many other locations in the Kansas City area. For those wanting further information on joining the group they can contact Bryce Moore at 913- 642-1447.

### **Bob Walkenhorst - December 2021**

Bob Walkenhorst has been drawing and painting for as long as he can remember, and as long as he's not interrupted.

After receiving a BFA from Northwest Missouri State University in 1978, he exhibited in national competitions at the Nelson Art Museum in Kansas City, the Albrecht Art Museum in St. Joseph, and in juried exhibitions in Cincinnati and Little Rock. But his efforts in painting were interrupted in 1983 by a detour into the world of rock n' roll. As lead singer and songwriter for the rock group The Rainmakers, Bob released five critically-acclaimed albums and toured extensively in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. After getting that out of his system, and finding a real life with his wife and daughters, Bob rediscovered his love for painting in 2007.

An unapologetic traditionalist, Bob says his watercolors are "a moment, a place, a sharing of an observation that is, hopefully, also the sharing of a meditation on the beauty around us."



## CITY OF WESTWOOD NEWSLETTER FALL 2021

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### CITY OF WESTWOOD

4700 Rainbow Boulevard  
Westwood KS 66205  
(913)362.1550  
info@westwoodks.org

#### MAYOR

David E. Waters .....david.waters@westwoodks.org

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Andrew Buckman..... andrew.buckman@westwoodks.org

Jason Hannaman .....jason.hannaman@westwoodks.org

Jeff Harris .....jeff.harris@westwoodks.org

Laura Steele .....laura.steele@westwoodks.org

Holly Wimer.....holly.wimer@westwoodks.org

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** Curtis Mansell

**SERGEANTS:** Gary Baker, Marcus Burke

**PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS:** Chris Bishop,  
Timothy Filson, 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, Nick Finck

**CITY CLERK:** Leslie Herring

**BUILDING/CODES OFFICIAL:** Eddie McNeil

**ASSISTANT CITY CLERK:** Abby Schneeweis

### 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
GFL Disposal .....	(816)380-5595
Kansas Gas Service.....	1(800)794-4780
Evergy .....	(816)471-5275
WaterOne .....	(913)895-5500
JoCo Wastewater.....	(913)715-8590
Animal Control.....	(913)782-0720
JoCo Commissioner Becky Fast .....	(913)715-0725
JoCo Information.....	(913)715-5000
Driver's License Bureau .....	(913)826-1800
JoCo Election Office.....	(913)715-6800
JoCo Appraiser .....	(913)715-9000