



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As most of you know, and as we have shared throughout the past year, the City has undertaken significant work in planning for the future of our City. I am so appreciative of our City Staff and all of our volunteers that have worked to help the City navigate our best path forward. These efforts have been broad in nature, encompassing not just any one idea or any one project. At times the various considerations to take into account, the various needs and wants of our community, and the options that may come before us can seem disparate and even formidable. With this newsletter, I would like to provide the community with a brief update on this work.

Certainly, an important consideration for planning is our City budget, to ensure that we can continue to provide the City services our residents expect, and hopefully provide even more services our community desires. However important budgetary considerations may be, they must be in service to the needs and wants of our residents. Two things our City Council has recently heard much about in discussions with the community are housing opportunities and increased parks and green spaces.

When it comes to housing, I share the concerns of many residents that Westwood could become a location that is unaffordable for new homebuyers and younger families whose children would love to attend our new Westwood View Elementary school. On the other end of the spectrum, Westwood may not offer good options for current residents looking to downsize, or enjoy a more maintenance-provided lifestyle, while being able to remain members of our community. That being said, the City also recognizes the primary nature of Westwood as a single-family-housing community, and the importance of keeping our single-family neighborhood strong.

As for parks and green space, many residents have expressed the desire for us to expand those offerings. Our current Dennis Park does not offer much in terms of amenities for residents. Playground equipment is outdated, there are no facilities for older children or teenagers, and there are no real options for adults for walking, or for days out with pets. There are no restrooms, and the park is not accessible under the Americans with Disabili-

ties Act. My sense of the community is that Westwood would appreciate more green space and park space. Improved park offerings may also help retain residents and attract new ones (especially for our new elementary school, to ensure its continued viability).



In addition to these, it is also important that the City address “how” it can best provide services to its residents. In considering these issues, and in preparing to make decisions on these issues, the City Council and Planning Commission have been and will be guided by the work that has come before this moment, including the 2015 Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Panel Study, our 2017 Comprehensive Plan, and the 2021 Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel Study (all of which are available on the City website).

This year, I also appointed a Facilities Study Steering Committee to help conduct a City facilities analysis of existing buildings, including an assessment and cost estimate for necessary improvements and deferred maintenance. I would like to thank Holly Wimer, David Kelman, Sean O’Brien, Lisa Fielden, City Administrator Leslie Herring, Police Chief Curt Mansell, and Public Works Director John Sullivan for serving on this committee. Ultimately, the Steering Committee recommended, and the City Council approved, Multistudio to perform this work.

At the September 8, 2022, City Council meeting, Multistudio submitted its findings, which are available on the City’s website (<https://westwood.govoffice2.com/facilitiesassessment>). Among other recommendations, Multistudio determined that—even if no other development work were to occur in the City—the Westwood City Hall, Public Works building, and Dennis Park would need several million dollars’ worth of repairs only. These dollars reflect simply the baseline amounts needed to bring our City facilities—where our employees work, and from where your City services are provided—up to today’s standards. *Continued on page 2*

(A Message from the Mayor continued from page 1) In addition to providing “baseline” estimates for the work (and associated costs) needed to bring our City facilities and park up to date, Multistudio prepared several scenarios that included options for relocating City facilities, expanding our park, and welcoming new development on currently-tax-exempt properties. I would encourage all residents to review the scenarios presented. To be clear, the City Council is not currently approving any one scenario, and if any projects are considered, they may certainly differ in details from these example scenarios.

At this time, there is no formal process for consideration of any scenario. The Facilities Study Steering Committee will likely meet this fall (in an open public meeting) to review the City Facilities Assessment and Feasibility Analysis, and possibly make recommendations on strategic direction to the City Council. The City Council and Planning Commission will also likely hold work sessions (again, in an open public meeting) to discuss the results of the final report. Community surveys may also

be prepared and issued. With the final report’s publication, we also expect that third-party developers will request that proposals be considered. The City may also consider whether or not to issue any requests for proposals (RFPs), depending on the strategic direction ultimately chosen by the City.

The City will continue to keep residents updated, as it has been through our City Newsletter, weekly “Upcoming Meetings” emails, the Westwood Buzz, and other social media channels. In the meantime, the City would welcome your input, and I again encourage all residents to read the full reports summarized above. To be sure, we need to hear from you. I look forward to continuing this conversation with all of you, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the City.



2022 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 will begin on Tuesday, November 1st.

Westwood Public Works will conduct leaf pick up operations in Westwood the entire month of November through early to mid-December of 2022. Public Works personnel will make 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 depending on the volume of leaves to be gathered, the weather, and/or unforeseen issues.

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.

COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES COMMUNITY MEETING ON OCTOBER 8TH

Join us on Saturday, October 8th for a Communities for all Ages meeting from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Westwood City Hall. We look forward to your participation in this

special event. Join fellow residents to envision our community as a place to live and age well. You will have the opportunity to share experiences and successes, and explore opportunities to enhance Westwood’s Communities for All Ages efforts.

“MY CITY, MY HOME” ESSAY CONTEST

The League of Kansas Municipalities invites all Kansas 7th graders to join their essay contest. Please submit an essay describing what you enjoy about your community for a chance to win \$125 and have your idea published in the Kansas Government Journal. One young leader will be named the overall winner for the state of Kansas and win \$250. The winners and their teacher will be invited to Topeka for a special ceremony with local leaders and state legislators in January 2023.

Become an active participant in your community, better the lives of your fellow citizens, and discover the rewards it provides.

Contest Rules

- Who: All Kansas students enrolled in the 7th grade during the 2022-2023 school year.

- What: Each student may submit one essay not to exceed 500 words. Memos must be typed.

- When: Deadline is November 23, 2022.

- Where: Upload essays at www.lkm.org/EssayContest

- How: Essays will be evaluated based on creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, and proper grammar.

For more information visit <https://www.lkm.org/page/ActiveCityMyHome>



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.

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

Joanna Marshall—October 2022

Since retiring from the University of Puerto Rico as a professor of literature and cultural studies, Joanna Barzewska Marshall has been pursuing the visual arts. She has spent the last 10 years painting, making ceramics, and doing photography. Her most recent project was installed in the art gallery at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. “Cultivating Joy: The Gift of Looking Closely” reshapes, interconnects, and transforms images of orchids that she photographed while confined to her home during the pandemic. She has also spent the past two years making cyanotypes, a 19th century photographic technique.

Making her residence in Northeast Missouri, she is also a co-owner of Gallery 104 on the square in Kirksville, which features the work of local and regional artists from northern Missouri.

Senior Arts Council—November 2022

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 its meeting the last Monday of each month at the Roeland Park Community Center. Election of officers is done annually. The group includes oil, acrylic and watercolor artist, along with photographers and various other art mediums. The group puts on a number of exhibits each year and has had exhibits at the Tim Murphy Art Gallery at the Merriam Community Center, The Endres Art Gallery in Prairie Village, The 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 please contact Bryce Moore at 913- 642-1447.

Bob Walkenhorst—December 2022

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."

TOURS OF THE NEW WESTWOOD VIEW

BUILDING AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC

Westwood View Elementary Principal Kathy Keith will be providing tours of the new school building on Thursdays at 3:15 p.m. Interested community members and prospective Westwood View families can arrange a tour by contacting Principal Keith at 913.993.5801 or Kathykeith@smsd.org.



MAYOR'S HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Join us on Thursday, December 1st to celebrate the holiday season with the Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. This event will begin at 6 p.m. and will be held at Westwood City Hall. More details about this event will be posted on the City's website once they are confirmed.

CFD2 HOME INSPECTION PROGRAM

Did you know Consolidated Fire District #2 offers personalized fire safety plans for your home? The CFD2 Home Inspection program offers District residents the opportunity to have a CFD2 inspector visit their home and evaluate the existing level of fire safety. This voluntary inspection assists residents by providing information on how they can prevent and escape fires within their home. Topics discussed during the inspection will include: candle safety, electrical hazards, heating systems and appliances, household hazardous materials, exiting and escape routes, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers. The inspector will also answer residents' questions regarding their particular home. To schedule a home fire inspection, call 913.432.1105 or email at ContactUs@cf2.org.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION INFORMATION

With the holiday season approaching, it is important to keep the following information regarding GFL waste collection in mind:

- GFL will collect trash, recycling and yard waste on the regularly scheduled collection day of Wednesday, November 23rd.
- GFL will collect trash, recycling and yard waste on Wednesday, December 28th.
- Wednesday, December 28th will be Amnesty Day.

Westwood residents will be able to exceed the normal 96-gallon limit of solid waste pick-up without having to purchase a \$1.25 extra bag tag. Please note that Amnesty Days do not apply to



Bulk Item pick-up.

- GFL will collect trash, recycling and yard waste on Wednesday, January 4th.
- Holiday trees can be set out by the curb on any collection day. Trees must be cut into 4 foot segments, and all lights and decorations must be removed.

NOVEMBER 8TH GENERAL ELECTION

ADVANCED VOTING AT CITY HALL

All Johnson County voters will be able to vote in person at Westwood City Hall October 29th through November 5th for the November 8th General Election.

Poll hours are as follows:

- Monday through Friday—9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday—9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Sunday—Closed

For more information and additional polling sites visit

<https://www.jocoelection.org/voting-election-info/advance-voting-sites>



Voting on Election Day, November 8th

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8th at City Hall. Voters registered in the L001, M001, R001, R002, and S001 precincts of Johnson County can only vote at City Hall on Election Day.

WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB UPDATE

The Westwood Women's Club would love for you to join us at our meetings these upcoming months. Please see information below for our monthly programs.

- **October:** Join us on Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. for an outdoor fall social. Connect with some great people while enjoying the beautiful fall weather!
- **November:** We look forward to welcoming Mae Christian from the K-State Extension Service, who will present a program titled "Herbs 101." Please join us on Wednesday, November 16th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the community room at Westwood City Hall.
- **December:** Our annual holiday luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 21st from 12:00-2:00 p.m. We will meet at The Classic Cup's "Cellar" on the Plaza. Join us and soak up all the holiday spirit!

As always, guests are welcome. Contact us at westwood-womensclub@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to seeing you at any or all of these events! - Paige Reese, Publicist.



CITY OF WESTWOOD NEWSLETTER
FALL 2022

CITY OF WESTWOOD
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MAYOR

David E. Watersdavid.waters@westwoodks.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Jason Hannamanjason.hannaman@westwoodks.org

Jeff Harrisjeff.harris@westwoodks.org

Laura Steelelaura.steele@westwoodks.org

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

CHIEF OF POLICE: Curtis Mansell

SERGEANTS: Gary Baker, Marcus Burke

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Chris Bishop, Tim Filson,
Chase Metcalf, 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 ADMINISTRATOR: Leslie Herring

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
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