



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS NEWSLETTER

January through March 2016 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

WESTWOOD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

By Jason Hannaman, Council Member

In accordance with Kansas state law, Westwood has a guiding policy document known as a **comprehensive plan**. However, the comprehensive plan does not exist simply to fulfill statutory requirements. It represents Westwood's collective effort to define a vision for the future, as well as the strategies that will help make that vision a reality. The goal is to gather input from residents, businesses, the Shawnee Mission School District, and other community stakeholders to craft a broad policy guide that provides context and guides decision-making for Westwood, now and for the future. While the document itself is necessary and valuable, the process of getting to that final document may be even more important.

This is a very exciting time of evolution, prosperity and growth for Westwood. The City has engaged Lenexa based [Shockey Consulting, LLC](#) to help facilitate the comprehensive plan update. The members of the Shockey team have years of experience assisting cities in charting a course for their future. Shockey has helped outline several in-person meetings where residents can come

together and share ideas in a fun and interactive way. Knowing that some people can't devote the time to additional meetings, we will also be gathering input electronically and by mail. We want to make sure that **every-one** in Westwood has a voice in the process, even if they've never been to a meeting or heard of a comprehensive plan. In fact, if this sounds like you, we want you to feel invited and welcomed to participate.

Westwood has drafted new comprehensive plans in [1970](#) and [1997](#), and updated the 1997 plan in 2002. As the city and neighboring areas have grown, developed, and matured, the goals and desires of residents often change as well. While some of you were involved in drafting previous versions of the comprehensive plan, many of you were not. This is your chance to make your voice heard about what you want Westwood's future to look like, so please take it, join in, and help us! The date for the first public meeting will soon be finalized and communicated to all residents. Please make sure you are on Westwood's email contact list by [signing up online](#). Also feel free to contact City Hall directly by phone at (913) 362-1550 or you may reach out to any of your [elected officials](#).

JOHNSON COUNTY PROPERTY PHOTO PROJECT

The Johnson County Appraiser's Office has contracted with Tyler Technologies, Inc. to provide detailed, high-resolution street level images of the exterior of every property in the county.

Kansas law requires counties to update property information every six years in an effort to maintain accurate data on every parcel in the county. This project is expected to take several months.

Please note the following:

- Imagery will be captured from customized white vans that will be clearly marked with signs indicating they are conducting an imaging and address verification project for the county.
- All personnel assigned to this project have been issued photo identification badges that must be visible at all times.

- Photographs are taken from public right-of-way whenever possible.



This project is slated to begin

January. 4, 2016, or as soon as there is no snow on the ground. The web page www.jocogov.org/countypropertyphotoproject was established to post weekly schedules on where the vans plan to be in the county. Anyone with questions can call the county Appraiser's Office at 913-715-9000.





POLICE STAFF RETIREMENT

After 41 years of serving the public in the field of public safety and most notably just short of 20 years with the City of Westwood, Lieutenant Don Brooks decided to retire effective November 1, 2015. Although this leaves a great temporary void at City Hall, we couldn't be happier for Don and his family. Better known as

"Officer Mustache", Don is well known and has endeared himself to the community. The Westwood community wishes Don good health, safety and prosperity.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON APRIL 30TH

The Spring Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 30th. Those who are interested in partici-

pating can register at <http://bit.ly/1T8RniN> or by contacting Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550. The City will be advertising this event online. A listing of participants will be available online and at City Hall.

UPCOMING WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB MEETINGS

The Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month, September thru May, at 12:30p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall. Dessert is served followed by a program and a short meeting. On February 17th Karen Johnson and a panel will present a program entitled "History of Westwood". On March 16th Majorie Sherard with Johnson County Park & Recreation will present a information on travel, day trips, and special events. On April 20th the spring luncheon will be at Bloomsbury Bistro in the Antique Mall at Corinth Square. An arboretum tour at the Linda Hall Library will be on May 18th. Guests are welcome to attend and residents are encouraged to join. If you have questions contact Linda Horn at 913.677.4389 or linda_335@msn.com.

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE

AARP will hold a two-day Smart Driver course in the Community Room at Westwood City Hall on February 20th & 27th, both sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m. This refresher course is open to anyone, you do not need to be an AARP member to attend. This course offers tips to improve driving including defensive driving techniques and new traffic laws. There are no tests at the conclusion of the course. The registration fee for this event is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Attendees will need to bring a valid driver's license and AARP card, if applicable. For more information visit www.aarp.org/drive. To register for this course contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550.

KCATA EXTENDS BUS SERVICE

A new major regional expansion of bus service will give Johnson County residents commuting to the University of Kansas Medical Center complex more transportation options.

The new weekday service, starting Jan. 4, 2016 will provide more trips from the Mission Transit Center on Johnson Drive to the KU Medical Center at 39th and Rainbow streets in Kansas City, Kansas. The service will continue north into downtown Kansas City, Kansas from the medical center.

The new service from Mission to the Med Center will operate hourly from 5:39 am until 8:38 am each morning. Afternoon service from the Med Center to Mission

will operate hourly from 2:45 pm to 5:44 pm. Scheduled Route Stop Times

The expanded service will offer Johnson County four roundtrips during the morning rush hour and four more during the afternoon rush hour to the KU Med area.

Currently, there are only two, one-way northbound trips in the morning to the medical center from Mission and two, one-way southbound trips in the afternoon. A study three years ago called for enhancing service between northeast Johnson County and the area encompassing the medical center at 39th Ave and Rainbow Blvd.

The area serves an estimated 10,000 employees, staff and students every day, many who live on the Kansas side of the state line in parts of northeast Johnson County, including Overland Park, Mission, Roeland Park, Merriam, Westwood, Prairie Village and Fairway.

Parking can be difficult since there are only 5,000 parking slots in the KU Medical Center area and many riders depend on a shuttle service to get around within the medical center campus.

The new service to KU Med was financed partly by Johnson County's 2016 budget, which allocated money for libraries, parks, transit and other taxpayer services. Wyandotte County's Unified Government also is sharing in the cost of the regional project.



JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORY: **THE STRANG LINE**

In 1906 a unique commuter railroad opened between Kansas City and Johnson County. The Strang Line, as it was commonly known, connected Johnson county residents to jobs and stores in Kansas City and offered city residents the opportunity for leisure in the country.

Named for its developer and the founder of Overland Park, the Strang Line carried many of Johnson County's first suburbanites to Kansas City on a route that paralleled the Santa Fe trail until 1940.

The Strang Line interurban system ran adjacent to what is today the City of Westwood. Crossing near the intersection of today's 47th Street and Mission Road, the interurban railroad route ran just north of where Joe's Kansas City Bar-B-Que and the Fairway North Shopping Center in Kansas City, Kansas is located, connecting the far suburban reaches of Johnson County and Olathe to Kansas City proper.

By 1911, the Strang Line was primarily serving suburbanites who lived in subdivisions such as Overland Heights, Overland Hills, or Milburn Place. They rode the Strang Line to work or shop in Kansas City; and



Kansas City residents traveled to Olathe to shop for groceries or to attend social events in Overland Park. As was expected, Strang's speculative development of Overland Park greatly increased the value of farm land located along this interurban line.

The Strang Line continued to prosper until 1916, as automobiles and trucks became the preferred methods of transportation and shipping. Between 1916 and 1940, the Strang Line struggled to compete with an expanding trucking industry and the automobile. By 1925, a paved highway connected Olathe with Kansas City and steadily reduced passenger service on the Strang Line.

Despite their efforts to continue passenger service, the Strang Line could not compete with new highways and the prestige and convenience of commuting to the city in one's own automobile. By November 1937, commuters could drive along two new concrete roadways — US 50 and K-10 — from Olathe to southeast Kansas City in half the time it took on the Strang Line.

When the Strang Line made its final run on July 9, 1940, it was the sole survivor of numerous interurbans that once operated out of Kansas City.

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 <http://bit.ly/1KsX7gd>

Sue Chaffee - January

Sue Chaffee's journey into quilting has stretched to encompass friends from the quilting world, especially her sister, Cathy Audley. Together they have taught in the Midwest, as well as Texas and Arizona. Sue also likes to enter shows. Mystique, a whole cloth quilt, was juried into Road 2 California and the AQS show in Paducah. She has had quilts juried into the Denver National Quilt Show, and the AQS show in Nashville. In addition, she has won Best of Show for quilts in local guild shows.

Patrick Schlotterback – February

Patrick Schlotterback has been teaching art for 23 years and painting portraits for over 10 years. He is greatly influenced by classic artists such as John Singer Sargent and Norman Rockwell as well as current artists such as Richard Schmid and Jeremy Lipking. Patrick works mainly from photographs, many of which he takes himself striving to create portraits that show the human emotion of the individual. Patrick resides in Lawrence Kansas with his wife Jacqueline and son Jackson.

Kathy Namati – March

Kathy's artistic journey began in childhood, where she learned the joy of making from her mother. Her curiosity led her through drawing, painting, fiber, sculpture and print-making. She earned a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute. As a child, Kathy loved science. Looking at ordinary things through a microscope, she could see an entire universe in tiny objects. Creating draws on that memory; and allows Kathy to focus in on the microcosm contained in each part of the whole.





CITY OF WESTWOOD

4700 Rainbow Boulevard
Westwood Kansas 66205

E-MAIL: info@westwoodks.org

PHONE: 913.362.1550 **FAX:** 913.362.3308

WEBSITE: www.westwoodks.org

MAYOR: John Yé

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Lisa Cummins, Paul Day,
Jason Hannaman, Matt Jones, Joe Whisler

CHIEF OF POLICE: Greg O'Halloran

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Gary Baker,
Chris Bishop, Cliff Chaffee, Kurtis Stone, 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

JANUARY 2016

- 12TH:** Foundation Meeting - 6:30pm
- 14TH:** City Council Meeting- 7pm
- 18TH:** City Offices Closed - All Day
- 18TH:** Planning Commission Work Session - 7pm

FEBRUARY 2016

- 1ST:** Planning Commission Meeting- 7pm
- 9TH:** Foundation Meeting - 6:30pm
- 11TH:** City Council Meeting- 7pm

MARCH 2016

- 7TH:** Planning Commission Meeting - 7pm
- 8TH:** Foundation Meeting - 6:30pm
- 10TH:** City Council Meeting - 7:00pm
- 26TH:** Community Easter Egg Hunt - 3pm

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
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

