



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS NEWSLETTER

January through March 2017 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

“Never let your fear decide your future.”

Many changes have taken place over the last decade which has made our City stronger, more financially stable and more welcoming to new families. No doubt there will always be a fear of change, driven by the unknown here in Westwood. Sometimes people just don't like change. We've gone from a City that sued its own Board of Zoning Appeals, with a school under threat of closure to a City that attracts new families who want to raise their children here. With a new vision, property values went up, houses were renovated, and the SMSD owns the Entercom property with the hopes of a new Westwood View. The fear of change in the past was wrong.

Later people were afraid of Woodside Village, TIF, CID and what apartments would do to traffic, safety and costs. Phase I of the Village is 85% occupied, traffic is flowing and our police have everything under control. There are new businesses opening and people are coming to Westwood as a destination location (I just saw Alex Gordon - KC Royals eating at Blue Sushi). The school district and the fire district both support the project and we have new residents sharing our community. The fears have been wrong.

Still later people were afraid of a text amendment to the zoning ordinances which considered senior living or higher density residential. The result; two new zoning categories that entertain different types of housing was created. The outcome; no new projects, no hidden agendas, no rigged developments. The fears were wrong.

Now a new fear of the unknown has emerged; the Comprehensive Plan. The City is near the end of a nearly two year process and some are afraid this will invite changes to their street that they don't want. The fear of change is a powerful feeling when not being able to answer, “What If?” I can assure you, there is nothing to be afraid of. There is no threat to our way of life, our homes and our families. Do not let fear decide our future.

Recently, I had the privilege of giving a “*State of the City*” address at a Northeast Johnson County Chamber

of Commerce meeting. Westwood is in a great position and has an extremely bright future. I wanted to share some facts that should put to rest your fears and foster everyone's enthusiasm.

- From 2004-2008; prior to the recession, sales tax revenue had dropped more than -11%. The budgeted sales tax for 2017 compared to 2012 is up 44% and is expected to be higher than ever before.
- Over a ten year period the City will collect more than \$300,000 in payments in lieu of taxes from an area non-profit.
- Property valuations from 2004-2008 dropped -25% before the recession. From 2012-2016 valuations have gone up 9%.
- The SMSD purchased the Entercom property last May and intends to construct a new Westwood View. This cements area housing stock for family interests for the next three decades.
- Westwood will secure a first right on the old school property that is adjacent to the Joe Dennis park and 5050 Rainbow church property, with accessible acreage for City planning.
- We will soon begin a traffic study on 47th St. (County Line Rd) via a grant obtained through MARC.
- We recently began reserving for equipment and capital improvements, something we had never done before.
- We have acquired new police vehicles without going into debt.

The state of Westwood has never looked better. We are a leader in the Northeast and we have achieved all of this while not altering any residential streetscape. Residential housing and Westwood View still reign supreme as the pillars of our City.

So, step outside and say hello to the neighbors! We are approaching Spring and it's a great time to live and work in Westwood! As always, it is an honor to serve you.

John M. Yé
Mayor



WESTWOOD MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

One of the functions of the Westwood Planning Commission is to draft a Master Plan for Westwood. The City previously adopted plans in 1970 and 1997. The current process of drafting a new Master Plan began in July of 2015 when the City entered in to a contract with Shockey Consulting Services (SCS) to provide professional services to assist in the adoption of a new Master Plan. The tasks established for the process included engaging the community and stakeholders, establish a clear vision shared by the Governing Body, residents and stakeholders for the future of Westwood, incorporate a short term Strategic Plan element to assist the Governing Body in its efforts to allocate city resources, and satisfy the requirements of K.S.A. 12-747 for adoption of a long-term Comprehensive Plan.



SCS presented a draft of a Master Plan to the Planning Commission on November 7, 2016. The Planning Commission will be making revisions to the plan SCS presented, and is tasked with holding a public hearing for the document. The Planning Commission will ultimately make a recommendation to the Governing Body whether or not to adopt the document that has been composed. The Governing Body will then vote on the adoption of the proposed plan.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT WESTWOOD

A great way to keep up with City events and happenings between newsletters is to sign up for the City email list. To register visit the Stay Informed section of www.westwoodks.org. In addition to general interest emails, those interested in being notified by email of upcoming City meeting dates and agendas can elect to be added to the City's agenda email list. If you have any questions or difficulties please contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org.

AUTO BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

By Greg O'Halloran, Chief of Police

Warm weather is a key ingredient for thefts from vehicles. As the temperatures stay warmer people will have a tendency to leave windows down, sunroofs open and doors unlocked. After being cooped up during the winter months, we're all enamored by the chance to enjoy the outdoors more.

However, it's equally warm for those with ill intent. The warm weather allows them to be out walking day or night. These thefts are generally a crime of opportunity and when they see items of interest sitting in the vehicle

they will either break in or find the doors unlocked and take what they want. As a result of this crime the victim not only suffers the financial loss of the items taken, but also any damage done to the vehicle. Most importantly their personal sense of well-being is violated.

This is one of those crimes that truly doesn't have to happen. While there are many tips we could offer to prevent this crime here are the two most important:

- Anytime your vehicle is unattended it should be locked
- Take time to remove or at least hide all valuables from view.

We need your help. Working together we can dramatically reduce this crime and keep Westwood one of the safest around.

YARD WASTE PICK-UP PROGRAM RESUMES MARCH 8TH

WCA/Town & Country will be running its yard waste pick-up on March 8th and will continue collection every Wednesday through the end of the year.



When you are placing yard waste out for collection, make sure you are following the guidelines below to ensure it is collected:

- Do not place yard waste materials in plastic garbage bags. Place yard waste in paper bags or rigid containers designated for yard waste
- Bundled yard waste should be tied up with biodegradable twine—bundles should not exceed 4 feet in length or 18 inches in diameter
- No yard waste bag or bundle should exceed 60 pounds
- There is no limit on the amount of yard waste that can be collected per residence per week

If Town & County misses the pick-up of trash, recycling items, or yard-waste items on an entire street or block of homes in Westwood on a scheduled Wednesday, please leave the missed items at the curb to the following day, Thursday. Town & Country will follow-up on picking up missed items on Thursday or later in the week.

If you have any questions regarding yard waste collection, you may contact WCA/Town & Country at 816.380.5595 or kccustomer@wcamerica.com



COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT ON APRIL 15TH

The annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Joe D. Dennis Park on Saturday, April 15th at 3:00 p.m. More information about this event will be provided on www.westwoodks.org once details are confirmed.

SPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON MAY 6TH

The Spring Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 6th. Those who are interested in participating can register at <http://bit.ly/2mpkHF7> or by contacting Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550. The City will be advertising this event online, and participants are welcome to any additional advertising as they see fit. A listing of participants will be available on the City's website and at City Hall.

FREE SOIL TESTING FOR JOCO RESIDENTS

The first key to lawn and garden success is knowing soil fertility. Johnson County residents are encouraged to take advantage of a free routine soil analysis which tests the pH, phosphorus and potassium levels of the soil, offered by Johnson County K-State Research and Extension through a grant with Johnson County Stormwater Management. The basic fertility test, sufficient for most homeowner lawns and gardens, normally costs \$12. Johnson County homeowners are eligible to receive one free test per household per year.

It takes 2 – 3 weeks to get the results back from K-State labs. Samples need to be brought or mailed to the Johnson County Extension office at 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Suite 1500, Olathe, KS 66061.

To learn the specific procedures for collecting a proper sample, or to learn of additional tests that are available for a nominal fee, visit <http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/soil-testing/index.html> or call 913.715.7000.

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

Catherine McCrae—March 2017

Catherine enjoys using her imagination to create her paintings and takes delight in mixing her own special colors and textures. Catherine has been painting for over twenty years. While pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Arizona State University, little did she realize that she would develop her own personal style.

SKIP THE LINE AT THE JOCo DMV

In addition to getting in line at Johnson County's Motor Vehicle offices in person, you can also check-in online through their website or check-in by phone.

If the estimated wait time exceeds the DMV office's hours of operation (M-F 7:30 am-4:30 pm), you will not be able to check-in online or by phone until the following business day.



To check-in online:

- Go to <https://www.jocogov.org/dept/treasury-and-financial-management/home>
- Choose a Motor Vehicle location, Mission or Olathe on the homepage, under the "Get In Line at Motor Vehicle" heading.
- Read through the Information Disclaimer and accept or decline.
- Choose a language, English or Spanish.
- Enter your cell phone number, be sure to include the area code, then push Next.
- The next screen provides a brief explanation of what to expect. Please take time to read this screen.
- Continue to printable confirmation.

To check-in by phone:

- Dial phone number 1.888.956.2657
- Choose which location you would like to check into by pressing "1" for Mission or "2" for Olathe.
- Choose your language by pressing 1 for English or 2 for Spanish.
- The automated voice will give the current estimated wait time for the location selected and will tell you to press 1 if you would like to join the line.
- The last four digits of the phone number you are calling from will be your ticket number.

Shirley Stiles—April 2017

Shirley worked in many types of media: pen and ink, oil pastel, watercolors, acrylics, monotype and block and serigraph printmaking. Her subject matter was also diverse. While she can be described as a regional artist because she recorded the people and places of her beloved Kansas City and the trains her engineer-husband drove, she also responded deeply to nature in all its forms. Shirley found inspiration in the mountains of Colorado and the Sierra Nevada, the California coast, and in animals who never failed to touch her heart. Shirley was the driving force behind the establishment of a gallery at Westwood City Hall dedicated to showcasing the work of local artists.





CITY OF WESTWOOD

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Westwood Kansas 66205

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PHONE: 913.362.1550 **FAX:** 913.362.3308

WEBSITE: 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

MARCH 2017

6th: Planning Commission @ 7pm

9th: City Council @ 7pm

14th: Foundation @ 6:30pm

APRIL 2017

3rd: Planning commission @ 7pm

11th: Foundation @ 6:30pm

13th: City Council @ 7pm

15th: Community Easter Egg Hunt @ 3pm

MAY 2017

1st: Planning Commission @ 7pm

9th: Westwood Foundation @ 6:30pm

11th: City Council @ 7pm

For complete, updated information regarding formal meetings, schedule changes, announcements, and City information, please consult 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
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

