



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

NEWSLETTER

January through March 2020 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Friends and Neighbors,

When I initially wrote this column for our newsletter, our City and world were still "pre-COVID-19". Since then, so much has changed, and I have provided several "Messages from the Mayor" regarding this pandemic. Please visit our website, www.westwoodks.org for updated messages on this, and sign up for email updates at <https://www.westwoodks.org/stayinformed>. I hesitate to devote this column to that topic as well, and I would like to instead take this opportunity to share most of the previous thoughts I had written down, with eyes toward all of the good that has happened for our City, and the good that is yet to come!

As the first signs of Spring finally appear in Westwood, I want to welcome you all to several new beginnings in our City. Let me start by again thanking all of you for the opportunity to serve Westwood. I must also thank Mayor John Yé for his selfless dedication and the integrity with which he served our City for eight years. I am so honored by the trust you have placed in me to help lead Westwood, and I approach my new role with the hope that I can do right by the City, helping guide it through new opportunities, while also helping to consistently improve our service to you, our residents.

We also enter this new year welcoming two new members to the City Council, Laura Steele and Holly Wimer. Laura will now chair our Public Works Committee, and Holly our Parks and Recreation Committee. Thank you, Laura and Holly, for devoting so much of your time and energies into our neighborhoods, our school, our community.

As many of you know, our Chief Administrative Officer and City Clerk, Fred Sherman, has moved on from the City to serve as the Deputy Election Security Commissioner, and then the full Elections Commissioner for Johnson County, Kansas. In his nearly eight years with Westwood, Fred helped the City modernize its budget practices, and oversaw significant redevelopment projects (Woodside Village, 47th Street, our new Comprehensive Plan, among others). Fred dedicated a tremendous amount of time and expertise serving our City, and we look forward to working with him in his new role.

Of course, this presents another new beginning for Westwood, and we are currently in the process of receiving and reviewing applications for our next CAO and City Clerk. We will welcome that new person to our City soon!

The arrival of Spring also reminds me of the work of our Westwood Women's Club, which originated as a gardening society for the City. This new year has seen a significant increase in membership for the Club, with programming and service opportunities throughout the year. Thank you to Club President, Jayme Tebow, for her continued service leading these efforts for our City.

Among these fresh starts, we also recognize the completion of our recent street, sidewalk, streetlight, and storm-water projects. Thank you to our Public Works Director, John Sullivan, for his handling of these complex and multiple projects, and his attention to detail. Thank you also to our residents, for their understanding and patience as we worked to make our streets and infrastructure safer and more attractive. We are pleased that the vast majority of our residents have expressed their pleasure with and approval of these improvements. To be sure, we understand there remain some issues to possibly work on, to ensure the final product is in line with our adopted plans; but please be assured your Governing Body and City Staff are continuing to review and work on any remaining issues to provide the best quality of life possible, consistent with our residents' wishes.

Finally, with warmer weather on the way, I know all of us are anxious to open our windows, take to our sidewalks and bicycles, enjoy our park, and grab some sun and R&R at our Woodside pool. It certainly remains my hope that we are able to do all of those things. First and foremost, please continue to take care of each other, especially those most at risk or in need of care. If you are aware of residents that do need additional services, please do not hesitate to let us know,

And FINALLY finally, for new Spring beginnings, if you are out, please say hello to the newest member of our family, our English Springer Spaniel puppy Harrison (Harry)! Happy Spring, Westwood!



2019 FALL GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

During the fall general election Westwood residents went to the polls and voted for a new Mayor and two new City Councilmembers. The election was held on Tuesday, November 5th. Mayor John Yé and Councilmember Paul Day did not seek reelection, and their terms ended in January 2020.

John Yé was elected to City Council in 2008, and then to serve as Mayor of the City of Westwood, in 2012, and was reelected as Mayor in 2016. In addition to his service as Mayor, John Yé represented Westwood through the board of the Mid-America Regional Council, as Chair of the Johnson & Wyandotte County Council of Mayors, the Westwood Foundation, and other local and regional organizations.



During his years on the Governing Body John Yé diligently promoted Westwood's interests and strong working relationships with regional organizations, the Westwood business community, Shawnee Mission School District, and neighboring municipalities. John Yé sought to find pragmatic solutions to Westwood issues, placing importance on stewardship of taxpayer dollars, maintaining public infrastructure, and ensuring that Westwood could be, at all times, self-sufficient;

Councilmember Paul Day was elected to the Westwood City Council in 2008, and was reelected in 2012. In 2017, Paul Day was called back to service for the City, and he answered the needs of the community by returning to the Westwood City Council.

As a member of the City Council, Paul Day was an active participant in City committees, including as Chair of the Public Safety Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee. In addition to his service on the City Council, Paul Day represented Westwood through the board of the Westwood Foundation and has led the local Westwood View Boy Scouts Pack 3193.

Councilmember Day brought his intelligence, his legal acumen, and his expertise to bear on matters of importance to our City, including the Woodside Village redevelopment and the Midwest Transplant Network project. He has provided a firm voice, principled reasoning, and a perspective and appreciation for the larger picture and the manner in which individual City decisions may impact all other aspects of City operations and community cohesion.

The Governing Body, City Staff, volunteers and other

community members thank Mayor Yé and Councilmember Day for their hard work and dedication to the community, and leaving Westwood with the building blocks for a bright future.

Election results are as follows:

Mayor

David E. Waters 418 (93.93%)

Write-In: 27 (6.07%)

Council Members

Holly Wimer 351 (40.39%)

Laura Steele 312 (35.90%)

Jayme Tebow 206 (23.71%)

Write-In Totals 0 (0.00%)

Mayor Waters and Councilmembers Laura Steele and Holly Wimer were sworn in to office during the regular City Council Meeting on January 9, 2020 by City Clerk Fred Sherman.

Mayor David E. Waters

David Waters is a partner with law firm Lathrop GPM LLP. David has been with the firm since 2002 and specializes in real estate, business, healthcare, startup/entrepreneurial, municipal, and architecture/construction law.

David's volunteer work includes serving on the Westwood City Council, Westwood's Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, the 47th and Mission Road Area Development and Management Committee, and the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



He currently serves as the Chair of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Council Kansas State Affairs Committee. He was selected to the Leadership Kansas Class of 2017, and in 2019 was named by Ingram's Magazine as one of the "50 Kansans You Should Know".

David and his wife Mandy have lived in Westwood since 2003. The couple have two sons: Matthew (12) is a sixth grader at Westwood View; and Andrew (8) is a third grader.

David says that he first and foremost hopes to be a Mayor for all of Westwood—longtime residents, young families, aging-in-place population, and businesses.

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

David says that he first and foremost hopes to be a Mayor for all of Westwood—longtime residents, young families, aging-in-place population, and businesses. He also believes that "Westwood must continue to ensure that we have a properly-balanced base of revenue, among property taxes, sales taxes, franchise fees, service fees, and the like, in order to ensure that we can continue to provide the services and amenities our residents expect." Finally, David believes it is time for our City to take concrete steps in securing the future of Westwood View, expanding our park facilities, and improving our streetscapes and community walkability and feel.

Council Member Laura Steele

Laura and her family moved to Westwood in 2019 and three weeks later, she decided to run for City Council. Drawing on her professional experience of working on cross sector workgroups all over the metro, Laura is excited to put those skills to use for the benefit of Westwood residents.



As Director of Education at BikeWalkKC, Laura oversees the education team and works to ensure program sustainability through cultivating strong relationships with numerous community organizations, school districts, public health-focused workgroups and others across the Kansas City Metro. She is also involved with the Women Bike KC initiative and coordinates the KC Women's Bike Summit and the Greater KC Safe Routes to School Summit.

Laura is a League Cycling Instructor, 2017 alumni of the Healthy Communities Leadership Academy, frequent bike commuter, and a graduate of the University of Mis-

souri-Columbia. She is co-chair of the Healthy Communities Alumni Networking and Communications Team. In her free time, Laura enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and reading.

Council Member Holly Wimer

Holly Wimer moved to Westwood with her family in May of 2013. She is married to Phil and is a mother of three. She and her husband both grew up in Kansas, but moved to Wisconsin right out of college. When they moved back to Kansas in 2012, the search began for the area they wanted to call home. Westwood was desirable to them due to the location, charm of older homes, walkability and neighborhood school.



Holly has loved being involved in the PTA at Westwood View Elementary and served as a Girl Scout troop leader for four years. She decided to run for City Council after working with city staff on a couple of different projects. Holly is honored to serve her city and neighbors in this role, and looks forward to collaborating with city staff, elected officials and residents towards a thriving and connected Westwood. She is also eager to partner with the school district in support of our outstanding neighborhood school and local businesses as well. Holly loved meeting more Westwood residents during the campaign process and looks forward to meeting more residents in the years to come.

Holly worked as a public high school teacher for six years and now is a Senior Manager with Noonday Collection. When she is not working you'll find her enjoying time with family and friends outside and walking everywhere she can.

2019 STREET PROJECTS WIN METRO AWARD

In the category for Public Works Project of the Year for Small Cities/Rural Communities, specifically Transportation Projects under \$5 million, the award goes to Westwood Public Works!

At the start of each year, the American Public Works Association Nationals calls for nominations for Project of the Year and Outstanding Leadership awards from the previous year. The KC Metro chapter of APWA recognizes these awards at the Chapter level and submits the winners to Nationals for their consideration. Westwood's 2019 Street & Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project was submitted, accepted and awarded. The project is now being considered at the National Level.

The APWA award had several criteria that projects are graded on, these include meeting a need in the community, use of alternative funds, techniques and resources, unique challenges, economic challenges, creative community benefits, construction efforts to minimize impact to the public and environmental preservation.

The consultant on this project, Uhl Engineering, recommended Westwood's project for the effort made utilizing new funding techniques, improving older infrastructure, improving safety and accessibility to pedestrians and minimizing the impact to mature trees and the environment.

The award represents recognition for the community, city, engineer and contractor on a job well done.



2020 FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

One of the Westwood Foundation's goals is to help facilitate a bright future for the City of Westwood. A great way to achieve this is by investing in the education of our youngest residents. During its March 2020 meeting the Westwood Foundation Board of Directors voted to award a Westwood Foundation Merit Scholarship.



The awardee will receive \$5,000 per academic year for a total of four (4) years.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Westwood resident
- High school senior
- Full time enrollment status of 12 or more credit hours for the 2020-2021 academic year
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher

Scholarship applications are available to download at <https://bit.ly/2QLIjW6>. All applications must be received by 5 pm on Friday, May 15, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or by email.

Directors of the Westwood Foundation and their immediate families are not eligible for this scholarship program.

CITY CLERK FRED SHERMAN CONTINUES PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER AT JOCO ELECTION OFFICE

After eight years of serving Westwood, Chief Administrative Officer Fred Sherman will be leaving Westwood City Hall to serve Johnson County residents in a new role. Mr. Sherman was appointed by Secretary of State Scott Schwab to serve as Deputy Election Security Commissioner through 2020, and will become the Johnson County Election Commissioner after the 2020 election cycle. Connie Schmidt was appointed to serve as Johnson County Election Commissioner until that time. Connie Schmidt served as Johnson County Election Commissioner previously from 1995 to 2004.

Johnson County is one of the four most populous counties in Kansas to have Election Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State. In the remaining 101 counties in Kansas the County Clerk oversees elections.

During his time as Chief Administrative Officer Fred Sherman has assisted Westwood leadership with adopting a new Comprehensive Plan, planning and funding

infrastructure improvements, and oversaw residential and commercial reinvestment throughout the Westwood.

The Governing Body, staff and volunteers of Westwood thank Fred Sherman for his professionalism and dedication to public service and wish him well in his new role.

WESTWOOD DESIGNATED AS 2019 TREE CITY USA

The Arbor Day Foundation has named Westwood a Tree City USA for 2019. Westwood achieved this recognition by meeting the four requirements set out by the Arbor Day Foundation to earn this designation. The requirements are a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. This designation is given to more than 3,600 communities with a combined population of 155 million. More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB UPDATE

By Jayme Tebow and Beth Springgate

The Westwood Women's Club remains active, staying engaged, serving, and helping beautify our City!

On March 25th, on behalf of the Club, Linda Horn and Jayme Tebow delivered lunch to police, administrative staff, and public works employees at Westwood City Hall. To all of our public servants who support us every day and continue to serve us in these difficult times, thank you one and all.



The Westwood Women's Club is also in the process of starting a "Belinder Beautification Project" this spring/summer. We will begin with a makeover of the traffic island at 48th Terrace and Belinder with shrubs and perennial flowers. We will continue to add other sites along Belinder as funds are available. Club members met with the Parks and Recreation Committee to present our proposal. The City has given the Club the "green light" to proceed (subject to our new required physical distancing) and has agreed to water the beds. We will put together a landscape plan working with local nurseries. We encourage members to participate in this project by volunteering to plant and maintain the beds or by making monetary contributions which will be earmarked for this project.

We are still welcoming new members! If you are interested in joining the Westwood Women's Club, please contact Linda Horn at linda_335@msn.com!





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CITY OF WESTWOOD
4700 Rainbow Boulevard
Westwood KS 66205
913.362.1550
info@westwoodks.org

MAYOR

David E. Watersdavid.waters@westwoodks.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lisa Cumminslisa.cummins@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: Greg O'Halloran

SERGEANTS: Gary Baker, Marcus Burke

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Chris Bishop,
Timothy Filson, Ruth Peter, 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: Fred Sherman

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
WCA Disposal 816.380.5595
Kansas Gas Service..... 1.800.794.4780
KCPL 816.471.5275
WaterOne 913.895.5500
JOCo Wastewater..... 913.715.8590
Animal Control..... 913.782.0720
JOCo Information..... 913.715.2300
Driver's License Bureau 913.826.1800
JOCo Election Office..... 913.782.3441
JOCo Appraiser..... 913.715.9000
Shawnee Mission School Dist..... 913.993.6200

