



# CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

# NEWSLETTER

July through September 2015 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you are having a great summer and staying cool in the summer heat.

At the July 9th City Council meeting your Council voted unanimously to approve an amendment to the current ordinances. This created two new zoning district categories in Westwood that didn't exist before. Although this would allow applicants to seek re-zoning of property (like Entercom and others), it does not grant anyone an approval before a complete and formal public hearing. The unanimous recommendation was made by the planning commission the week before. This was the completion of a nine month process that began November 2014 culminating in more than twenty public meetings, four work sessions, technical panel work from the Urban Land Institute and lots of public scrutiny.

There was much discussion about a petition that was circulated asking the City to complete a Comprehensive Plan review before moving forward with the amendment. Fundamentally, the concerns targeted protecting residential property values and above all else, preserving Westwood View Elementary School as the cornerstone for Westwood families.

There was a level of distrust that ensued and some were dissatisfied with the Council decision. Westwood has been through some rocky times in its past, but has always managed to collect itself and move forward. It is built on the bedrock of fantastic residents, a bright future and committed staff, elected officials and volunteers. Along those lines, I feel it is important when there is any disharmony, to address it and do everything possible to bring the community back together as one.

Regardless of your understanding of the text amendment situation, I am asking everyone for their support. You may not agree with your neighbor but harboring ill will or bad feelings is not what Westwood is about.

I want to thank the dozens of residents I have spoken to who have shared so many supportive words about the City's progress. Please know that the City's current culture is one of service and progressive sustainable

steps to protect Westwood's future. That starts with Westwood View Elementary and improving the residential housing stock. There have been so many good things that have been done to earn the resident's trust, but we know that trust can be lost in a heartbeat if we don't nurture it.

Westwood is in a stellar position for new home renovations, has a first class relationship with the Shawnee Mission School District and has the most stable financial foundation that we have seen in years. We are becoming more self-sufficient, even in the light of cuts from both the State and County. The staff is committed and works hard every day to make Westwood the premier leader of the Northeast. Our future is bright I am committed to each of you.

The City has received seven proposals from qualified consultants to facilitate a review of our **Comprehensive Plan**. After a thorough vetting, soon a consultant will be chosen to begin the process of inviting public input and interaction to plan for the long term future of Westwood. We want to hear your voices and want ALL of you to participate. There is not enough space here to list all the positives happening in Westwood, so perhaps a letter under separate cover is appropriate. It has been suggested that City Hall needs to communicate more with you and I completely agree with that sentiment.

Until then, know that you can reach out to any member of the Council anytime. I can be reached at 913.220.6669 and welcome all to learn as much as possible about what is happening in Westwood. Whether you are new to Westwood or have spent your whole life here, like many of us, this City is the place for families to live life to the fullest. Enjoy what's left of your summer and live a Westwood Day!

As always, it is an honor to serve you.



## **LOSS OF A WESTWOOD BOOSTER**

*Article by Karen Johnson and Bill Plant*

In April Marion Leeper, a former Westwood resident, passed away. Marion was one of those wonderful people who worked diligently, but quietly, to bolster her community. She wanted no public recognition so there was no service at her passing. But for those who knew her and what she did, there must be mention of her contributions to our community. Marion, and later her daughter, ran a pre-school which became a Montessori Day Care, The Sunshine School Day Care, for 20 years. The school, located in Westport Annex, closed in 1989.

After the school closed, Marion took on other duties. She was President of the Westwood Neighborhood Association from 1997-1999; then she became President of the Westwood Women's Club from 1999-2001. Appointed to the Westwood Foundation, by Mayor Kostar, she served the city for several years. She often could be found at city hall helping ready the city newsletters for mailing and doing other volunteer activities.

Marion volunteered at the Cross-Lines store and initiated a Women's Club sponsored luncheon for Cross-Lines volunteers at their Christmas Store, and she assisted at the Village Presbyterian Food Pantry weekly. If anyone needed a helping hand, Marion was there for them. She will be missed.

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## **WESTWOOD BY THE NUMBERS**

- There are **732** homes in Westwood
- Westwood has **3** parks - In addition to Dennis Park at 50th and Rainbow, the City has **2** pocket parks located at the corner of 47th Terrace and Belinder, and behind FMA Animal Hospital
- Westwood Public Safety staff is comprised of **5** full time officers, **5** part time officers, a Chief, Lieutenant, and a Court Clerk. This staff serves **3** cities - Westwood, Mission Woods, and Westwood Hills
- **27,509** students were enrolled in the Shawnee Mission School District during the 2014-2015 academic year
- **19** individuals have served as Westwood's Mayor
- There are **8.6** miles of streets in Westwood, which is comprised of **2.4** miles arterial, **1.2** miles collector, and **5** miles of local streets
- The oldest house in Westwood is **118** years old, it predates the City's incorporation by **52** years
- **99** dogs and **27** cats have been registered with the City this year
- Westwood borders **7** different municipalities - Fairway, Roeland Park, Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Westwood Hills, Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri
- Westwood City Council has **5** committees - Public Safety, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Administration & Compensation, and Business & Community Affairs
- The Westwood Women's Club, founded in 1969, had 8 charter members
- Westwood Police drive **5** patrol vehicles - **2** Crown Victorias, **2** Explorer Interceptors, and **1** motorcycle

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## **CROSSING GUARD POSITION OPENING**

The City is seeking to fill a Crossing Guard position. If you or anyone you know is interested please see the Employment section of the City's website. If you have any questions contact Lt. Don Brooks at the Westwood Police Department at 913.362.3737 or [don.brooks@westwoodkspd.org](mailto:don.brooks@westwoodkspd.org).

### **Job Description:**

To provide for the safe movement of children to and from school when crossing public roadways and intersections by observing gaps in the traffic and leading the children across the roadway or intersection. Crossing Guards are not to engage in traffic direction or control.

### **Job Scope:**

Works approximately two hours per day, Monday through Friday, during the public school year ( August

through May). Specific hours will be set , and may vary according to demand and workload.

#### **Principal Duties:**

Assists children on their way to and from school in safely crossing roadways and intersections.

Watch for gaps in traffic and utilize the street crossing button, and walk children across the roadway or intersection while holding a " Stop " sign in such a manner as to be visible to approaching vehicles.

#### **All Applicants :**

Minimum age of eighteen (18) years

No Criminal Convictions

Good Physical and Mental health

Ability to read and write English

Ability to understand and follow directions

Applications can be picked up at the Westwood City Hall, Monday through Friday, from 8am until 5pm.





# AUGUST 2015

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

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2		3		4		5		6	7	8
	Planning Commission @ 7pm					City Council @ 7pm				
9		10		11		12		13	14	15
16		17		18		19		20	21	22
23	24		25		26		27		28	29
30		31								



# SEPTEMBER 2015

**SUN****MON****TUE****WED****THU****FRI****SAT**

			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8		9	10	11	12
	Labor Day - City Offices Closed						
	Planning Commission @ 7pm				City Council @ 7pm		
13	14	15		16	17	18	19
20	21	22		23	24	25	26
27	28	29		30			

## **2015 SUMMER POOL PASSES MIDSEASON RATES**

Starting July 13th pool passes will be available at a discounted rate for Westwood residents and their families to the Woodside pools. The fees for Summer 2015 passes are as follows:

- Individuals: \$25.00
- Family (up to 4 members): \$45.00 - Each additional family member: \$5.00
- Individual Day Pass: \$10.00
- Pool Pass Card: \$3.00 per card

Pool pass cards from 2014 and prior cannot be reused this season as new cards will include a printed barcode for Woodside personnel to scan upon entrance. Photos for pool pass cards can either be taken at City Hall or sent via email to [info@westwoodks.org](mailto:info@westwoodks.org). Applications will be available at City Hall and on the City's website. If you have any questions contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or [info@westwoodks.org](mailto:info@westwoodks.org)

## **OKTOBERFEST IS OCTOBER 3RD**

The City will celebrate the beginning of fall on October 3rd at Dennis Park, located at 50th and Rainbow Boulevard. Dinner, dessert, and drinks will be provided, and there will be live music and activities for children to enjoy. All Westwood residents and businesses are welcome to attend! More details about this event will be provided on the City's website once they are confirmed.

## **COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON**

### **SEPTEMBER 12TH**

The Fall Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, September 12th. Those who are interested in participating can contact Abby Schneweis at 913.362.1550 or at [info@westwoodks.org](mailto:info@westwoodks.org) to register their address and provide hours of operation and a list of items that will be sold. The City will be advertising this event online. A listing of participants will be posted on the City's website and can also be picked up at City Hall.



*Participants line up for the Community Easter Egg Hunt, held on April 4th. Girl Scout Troop 502 helped stuff hundreds of eggs for the event, Walmart for donated all of the candy.*

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## **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 the Community section of [westwoodks.org](http://westwoodks.org)

### **Victoria DeBlase Youngblood - July 2015**

Vicki taught Art and English for 35 years, 20 years of which were in Greece, Turkey, Germany and Italy. Vicki is now retired and is continuing her love of making things by working with Red Star Studios.

In Turkey Vicki learned the traditional craft of Ebru, paper marbling, and creates sculpture from marbled papers. To create 2 dimensional works in marbled paper, Vicki also continues to make oil paintings which are inspired from sights she has seen in other lands.

### **tArvis - August 2015**

tArvis moved to Kansas City in 2002 to attend the Kansas City Art Institute. After graduating from the School of Design in 2005, he began designing for a local apparel company designing screen prints. Over the last two years, he has designed a collection of prints he calls "Concurrent Perspectives." These Concurrent Perspectives are abstract screen prints that explore perspective by layering multiple images into a single composition. Though abstract, these screen prints reveal beauty in many of the landmarks of Kansas City.

### **Cathie Thompson - September 2015**

Living in rural Kansas for most of her life has given Cathie a great appreciation for the outdoors and nature. Cathie and her husband now reside in Kansas City. She enjoys painting outside whenever possible. Cathie is a member of the Greater Kansas City Artist's Association, Missouri Valley Impressionists Society, and an Associate Member of Oil Painters of America. Cathie was one of 10 Kansas artists commissioned by the Kansas Lottery to commemorate the state's 150th birthday with





## 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:** Paul Day, Jason Hannaman,  
Matt Jones, Sarah Page, Joe Whisler

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** Greg O'Halloran

**LIEUTENANT:** Don Brooks

**PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS:** Jason Abel, Gary Baker,  
Chris Bishop, Cliff Chaffee & 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

### AUGUST 2015

**7th:** Movies in the Park - The Princess Bride - 9:00 pm

**11th:** Westwood Foundation Meeting - 6:30 pm

**13th:** City Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

### SEPTEMBER 2015

**7th:** Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

**7th:** City Offices Closed

**8th:** Westwood Foundation Meeting - 6:30 pm

**10th:** City Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

**12th:** Community Garage Sale - All Day

### OCTOBER 2015

**3rd:** Oktoberfest - TBA

**5th:** Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

**8th:** City Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

**13th:** Westwood Foundation Meeting - 7:00 pm

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergencies .....	911
City Hall .....	913.362.1550
Public Works .....	913.432.1550
Police Administrative Office .....	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

