



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

NEWSLETTER

October through December 2019 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Friends & Neighbors,

This will be my last message in the City Newsletter. As most of you know, January ends my 3rd term on the Governing Body, I have been serving Westwood since 2008.

It is with sincere and emotional sentiment I extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to the citizens, businesses, property owners and leadership throughout Westwood. I am especially grateful to the staff and volunteers for their consistent pursuit of excellence throughout the years, even during times when I didn't make life easy for them. That gratitude extends to members of the Johnson & Wyandotte Council of Mayors, Northeast Johnson County Mayors Association and the Mid-America Regional Council board of directors. It includes the board members and Superintendent(s) of the Shawnee Mission School District and Consolidated Fire District #2. If I attempt to mention names I will surely leave people out, so I will instead include the many people that have supported me and helped me serve the City. You have indeed touched my life.

Most of all I want to thank my family; my wife Christine and my children Jacob and Caylen. They have been the support that fed my soul and kept me strong during my years serving on the Governing Body. To be sure there were times I felt compelled to give up or become a victim when negative voices tore down my spirit. And there were plenty of times when I should have given focus to my family and I didn't. Both of my children are now in college and their unwavering patience and love since they were 6 and 10 years old is more than I deserve.

Serving elected office is so rewarding when it works and so damning when you make mistakes. Accepting criticism at the same time others compliment you, humbles you and helps maintain a bond with reality.

By the time this is published, the election will be history and everyone will know who will be sworn in at the January 9th Council meeting as your two Council Members and Mayor. I will do everything I can to offer my services to make the transition of local governance as smooth and seamless as possible.

In 2008 the worst recession since the Great Depression hit the country, and Westwood was not immune. There were vacated commercial buildings, abandoned homes taken over by banks, the single largest tax base (Sprint) had already gone to zero, and the City was divided by factions that pitted ordinary citizens against local leadership. Those days are gone. Those days are history. Don't relive those days. Optimism and a solution-based enthusiasm took hold throughout our community. Leveraging an amazing volunteer force and talented staff, Westwood is the pride of Northeast Johnson County. According to NICHE rankings (<https://www.niche.com/places-to-live/westwood-johnson-ks/>), we are ranked nationally. Of over 6,800 suburbs we are ranked #79 Best Suburb to live in America, #37 Best Suburb to buy a house in America. In the State of Kansas of 111 ranked, Westwood is #2 Best public schools. And in the KC area, of 48 suburbs ranked we are #3 Best Suburb to raise a family. In Johnson County, Westwood is ranked #2 Best Suburb to buy a house, #2 Best public schools, #4 Best Suburb. This could not have happened without teamwork, respect, patience and perseverance. All of which will be needed going forward.



We have new businesses, new residents, new homes, new renovations, new streets, new storm water repairs, new relationships, and a new identity on 47th Street (*The 47*), and we lead the drive toward **a new Westwood View Elementary school!** The future is bright, the vision holds hope and the stage is set for new leadership to keep us on our journey. We must work hard for a sustainable, walkable, bikeable and cherished friendly neighborhood that will remain forever **'Westwood'**. I leave you in great hands with great hope. Thank you everyone; for each day in office; good and bad alike, it's been my honor to serve you.

Farewell,

John M. Yé
Mayor



2019 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 began on Monday, November 4th.

Due to a change in service the city of Westwood will no longer be contracting final leaf pick up operations with Roeland Park. Instead, Westwood Public Works will be conducting all leaf pick up operations in Westwood all of November and early to mid-December of 2019. This change will no longer require residents to rake their leaves in to the streets in order to be collected during the final days of leaf collection operations.

Public Works personnel will be making 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 amount of leaves to be gathered, the weather, and/or mechanical difficulties with the equipment.



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 trees, 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, not onto the sidewalk which forces pedestrians into the street, and not into the streets or gutters.

After the final pass through the city Westwood staff will sweep the streets and gutter lines a final time. Residents may still use WCA'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 WCA.

HOW WESTWOOD'S TRAFFIC TRAILER INFORMS LAW ENFORCEMENT

You've likely seen Westwood's Traffic Trailer around town helping direct traffic, making you aware of school, construction, or other street activity, or publicizing city events. Did you know it also collects traffic information, including number of vehicles and vehicle speed?

The Westwood Police Department (WWPD) deploys the trailer to collect this information, especially in response to citizen concerns about traffic volume or excessive speeding.

Here are some recent examples.

- The trailer collected data on vehicles travelling on 48th Terrace between Rainbow and Belinder from Monday August 26 to Friday August 30, and on 47th Terrace between Rainbow and Belinder from Tuesday September 3 to Tuesday September 10.
- The speed limit on both streets is 25 mph.
- On 48th Terrace, the average speed of 1,358 westbound vehicles was 19 mph. The highest speed was 34 mph. The average speed of 1,247 eastbound vehicles was also 19 mph. The highest speed was 41 mph.
- On 47th Terrace, the average speed of 1,928 westbound vehicles was 24 mph. The highest speed was

46 mph, with the next highest at 38 mph. The average speed of 1,229 eastbound vehicles was 24 mph. The highest speed was 41 mph.

- Of the 5,762 vehicles monitored on the two streets, over 11 days, 1/2 of 1% would have received a citation. The vast majority of those were on 47th Terrace.

It's fully understood that any vehicle speeding down your street is unacceptable. However, the data allows WWPD to look for patterns and more strategically increase their presence at times when they're more likely to contact violators; having a greater overall impact. Officers have already begun to increase their presence in the area.

Studies have shown that when people are standing still, they can overestimate the speed at which a moving vehicle is travelling. Topography plays role in those observations. The trailer is a very good tool to provide objective traffic data. Additionally, it seems to psychologically causes drivers to observe and control their travel speed, similar to when they see a police vehicle. So, the trailer pulls double duty in that regard by naturally tempering drivers. As the trailer is available, WWPD plans on deploying it on most streets in Westwood to help them serve you better.



MAYOR'S HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Join us on Thursday, December 5th to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season! This event will begin at 6pm on the grounds of City Hall. Holiday music will be performed by the Westwood View Honor Choir and cookies and punch will be served. Santa will be meeting with kiddos to hear holiday wishes - be sure to bring a camera!

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION INFORMATION

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

- WCA will collect trash, recycling and yard waste on the regularly scheduled collection day of Wednesday, November 27th.

- WCA will collect trash, recycling and yard waste on Thursday, December 26th.
- Thursday, December 26th 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.
- WCA will collect trash, recycling and yard waste on Thursday, January 2nd.
- Holiday trees can be set out by the curb on any collection day. Trees must be cut in to 4 foot segments, and all lights and decorations must be removed.



WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB

The Westwood Women's Club (Cultural and Garden) was organized October 1969 to provide social contact among Westwood residents with similar interests. The



Club meets on the third Wednesday of the months of September through May, at noon in the Community Room at Westwood City Hall. Lunch is served followed by an interesting program or outside tour and

a short meeting. After lunch on November 20th a guided tour will be provided of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum in Westport. A luncheon to celebrate the holiday season will be held on December 18th at the Grand Street Café on the Plaza. The newly elected Mayor of Westwood will give an update on the state of the city on January 15, 2020. Guests are welcome to attend the programs/events and residents are encouraged to join the club. If you have questions contact Special Projects/Publicity Chairman, Linda Horn at 913.677.4389 or linda_335@msn.com.

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. 2019 is a special year for the Gallery, as it is the 100th anniversary of Shirley's birthday.

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

Matt Iverson—November 2019

Matt Iverson grew up in Prairie Village, Kansas. He spent most of his youth drawing and playing soccer. After studying at the Illustration Academy in Richmond, Virginia and working as a studio apprentice for famed artist Mark English, he attended Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. He graduated from there with a degree in Fine Arts. Matt continues to pursue his two passions in life: working as a Director of Coaching for the Kansas City Legends Soccer Club, and painting at his studio

every day. In addition to being a painter and illustrator, Matt has recently added Digital Art as a medium.

Bob Walkenhorst—December 2019

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."



2020 CITY ISSUED LICENSES

All owners of pets, businesses, residential rental property, those who rent out rooms in their home, and massage therapists are required by City Ordinances to apply for a license on a yearly basis. On January 15, 2020 all licenses issued by the City during 2019 will expire. All renewal forms are available at westwoodks.org/forms. The City will mail renewal forms to businesses, rental owners and massage therapists. If you have any questions regarding any of these licenses contact Abby Schneweis at abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org or call 913.362.1550.

Pet Licenses

Dogs and cats over six months of age are required to be licensed on a yearly basis in Westwood. To license your pet complete, detach, and return the application below to City Hall with the appropriate fees. Your pet's tag(s) will be mailed to you along with your paid receipt.

Pet license fees have been increased to the following amounts:

- \$5.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and cats and
- \$10.00 for unaltered dogs and cats.
- No charge to senior citizens age 60 & over.

2020 DOG AND CAT LICENSE APPLICATION

Owner Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: Primary _____ Alternate _____

Email Address: _____

Veterinarian name: _____

Veterinarian Address: _____

Veterinarian Phone Number: _____

<p>Pet #1</p> <p>Name: _____ Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Breed: _____ Color: _____</p> <p>Has this animal been spayed/neutered? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of most recent rabies vaccination: _____ Vaccination expires in: 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Pet #2</p> <p>Name: _____ Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Breed: _____ Color: _____</p> <p>Has this animal been spayed/neutered? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of most recent rabies vaccination: _____ Vaccination expires in: 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Pet #3</p> <p>Name: _____ Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Breed: _____ Color: _____</p> <p>Has this animal been spayed/neutered? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of most recent rabies vaccination: _____ Vaccination expires in: 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Pet #4</p> <p>Name: _____ Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Breed: _____ Color: _____</p> <p>Has this animal been spayed/neutered? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of most recent rabies vaccination: _____ Vaccination expires in: 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/></p>





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OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

CITY OF WESTWOOD
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MAYOR

John Yé westwoodmayor@sbcglobal.net

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Paul Day paul.day@westwoodks.org
Jason Hannaman jason.hannaman@westwoodks.org
Jeff Harris jeff.harris@westwoodks.org
David Waters david.waters@westwoodks.org

CHIEF OF POLICE: Greg O'Halloran

SERGEANT: Gary Baker

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Chris Bishop, Marcus Burke, 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, James Rankin

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
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