



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome to Spring 2022 in Westwood! Our trees are beginning to blossom, more-and-more our neighbors can be seen taking their walks outside, and the birds are announcing themselves in the mornings outside our windows. Your city government and city staff continue to work hard for you, and as described in this newsletter, 2022 will prove to be an exciting year here in Westwood. In addition to those topics, please allow me to share just a few important updates for our city. As always, please follow the City on Facebook, or make sure you are signed up for the weekly "Buzz", for updates on community news and future events!

School Resource Officers: I would like to start by acknowledging the tragic events of this past month in our Johnson County Community, and especially for our friends, neighbors, and colleagues in Olathe, with the shooting at Olathe East. It is little comfort that no lives were lost, as this senseless gun violence has caused physical injuries that will last lifetimes, as well as mental and emotional pain and suffering. Our sense of peace and security has been shaken, and that extends to those of us here as we send our own children off to school.



One of the victims, and also the hero, was School Resource Officer Erik Clark. One of Westwood's own officers—Phil Lofflin—also serves with the Shawnee Mission School District, which has its own police department. Officers such as Officer Lofflin receive specialized training to be a school-based police officers from the National Association of School Resource Officers, and help provide safe learning environments in our schools, provide valuable resources to staff, foster positive relationships with students, develop strategies to resolve problems affecting youth, and protect all students, so that they can reach their fullest potentials. As seen in Olathe, our school resource officers may be called to service at any time. Please join me in a moment of appreciation for the roles our officers play in protecting our community.

COVID-19 Update: Our COVID-19 situation has seen dramatic improvement in recent weeks. At this time, I have removed the temporary COVID protocols I put in place regarding masking in City facilities, and our Planning Commission, City Council, and other meetings have returned to "in-person". Please see our online calendar and our weekly emails and social media postings for information on all city meetings. Thank you all for your continued patience as we continue to navigate how best to work for our community and accomplish our goals, while ensuring we stay as safe as possible.

County Appraisals: All residents should now have received their annual property appraisals. In late February, I was able to meet with the County Appraiser's office, and they provided a wealth of context and information. For Westwood, the value of residential properties (including apartments) increased by an average of 9.70%. For single family homes only, in Westwood, the increase was 8.23%. 97.5% of homes in Johnson County increased in value. Overall, residential value growth in the whole of the County was 11.23%. The average sales price in Johnson County for a residential home in 2021 was \$426,856. Over the last several years, housing affordability in Johnson County has continued to present a challenge, as the number of homes sold between \$150,000 and \$300,000 has continued to decline, while the number of homes sold over \$300,000 (and over \$500,000) has steadily increased. The full reappraisal report is available online at the County Appraiser's office, and I would encourage residents to review it in full.

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Facilities Assessment: As has been discussed for some time, the City of Westwood is in the midst of a multi-step process to gather data, information, and community sentiment to allow the Governing Body to make well-informed decisions about future land use in Westwood, including for parcels of property on which City buildings and facilities currently sit. Following receipt of the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel report, I have convened a steering committee to assist the City in executing the next step, conducting a facilities assessment and feasibility analysis of City facilities.

That committee consists of myself, Holly Wimer on behalf of the Council, David Kelman on behalf of the Planning Commission, Sean O'Brien on behalf of the Foundation, our Department Heads, and also Westwood resident Lisa Fielden. That committee has met, requested proposals from local architecture and engineering firms, considered responses, conducted interviews, and either has made or will soon be making a recommendation to the City Council to engage a qualified firm. The committee will then be meeting again to review the responses, and hopefully make a recommendation to the City Council on a firm to engage to conduct these studies. From there, we should be in a good position consider the best next steps for our community. In

short order, some of these matters might include: Acquisition of the current Westwood View, and whether or how we want to proceed in creating a feature park and additional green space for our community; how best to provide our other municipal needs, including city hall, public works, and police, and whether our facilities should be improved or relocated; and considering opportunities to address needs in housing and in diversifying and strengthening our City revenues.

As our weather warms up, I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming community events, including our Easter Egg Scramble, the Westwood View FUNnel Ball, and then later, our Movies in the Park and our days at the Woodside pool!

Thank you for all you do for our City, and please continue to take care of each other.



Mayor David E. Waters



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 1ST ANNUAL
**WESTWOOD
HOMES TOUR**

HOSTED BY THE WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB

JUNE 26, 2022

1-4 p.m. | Tickets \$20

- Showcasing 4 beautiful homes in Westwood, Kansas
 - All proceeds benefit the WWC Belinder Beautification Project
 - Ages 16+ are welcome, including non-Westwood residents
 - Tour at your own pace | 1-2:30 p.m. or 2:30-4 p.m.
 - Maps and locations will be presented at ticket pickup
 - **Tickets go on sale May 15** | Limited tickets available
- To purchase, email Marissa Mackay at marissa.k.mackay@gmail.com

EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

Grab your baskets and hop over to Joe D. Dennis Park on Saturday, April 16th for the return of Westwood's Annual Easter Egg Scramble! Balloon twisters and emergency vehicles will be on site starting at 2:45 pm to meet with kiddos. The Easter Egg Scramble will begin at 3 pm sharp! We hope you can join us for this fun spring event!

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

A community garage sale will be held on Saturday, May 21st. Those who are interested in participating can fill out an online form at <https://bit.ly/3whzYPy> 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. Participants are always welcome to advertise additionally as they see fit.

If you have any questions please contact Abby Schneweis by calling 913.362.1550 or by email at abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org

2022 SUMMER POOL PASS PROGRAM

Pool passes to the Woodside pools will be available to Westwood residents for the 2022 summer season. The City of Westwood will be processing and issuing pool cards this season. Full details about how to obtain a pool pass will be posted online in early May at westwoodks.org/poolpass.

WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB

Article by Linda Horn, Publicity Chair

The Westwood Women's Club meets on the third Wednesday of the months September thru May, at 12:00 noon in the Community Room at City Hall.

The April 20th program will feature local artist, Bernadette Lee who started "Art from Architecture" in 2015. She creates lasting memories of places people hold dear to their hearts.

Her medium is pencil, pen and bold watercolors. Acrylics on stretched canvas can also be requested. She will showcase examples of her artwork at the meeting.

Dress for a garden party and wear your favorite hat...what fun! On May 18th, from 4:00 to 5:30pm Jan Kyle will host an indoor/outdoor garden party for members at her lovely home.

On May 21st the Club will take part in the Westwood Spring Garage Sale. The Women's Club sale will be held at 4952 Norwood and will benefit the Belinder Beautification Project.

The Club's first ever "Westwood Homes Tour" will be held on June 25th, you will have an opportunity to tour the inside of several beautiful homes in Westwood. Watch for further details.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or seeking more information go to: westwoodwomensclub@gmail.com

PARADE OF HEARTS USES ART TO BRING KANSAS CITY TOGETHER

The Parade of Hearts is a public arts experience located in the Heartland of America. Original artwork based around the historical and iconic KC Heart have been placed in 154 locations throughout the Kansas City region as an example of unification and to make our communities stronger.

The purpose of the Parade of Hearts is to make our region stronger together by providing grants to organizations who help those who have been greatly affected by the events of the last few years and today: Health & Wellness (The University of Kansas Health System), Education (MARC), Small/Minority Owned Businesses (AltCap), Arts & Culture (Local Artists), and Hospitality & Tourism (Visit KC).

Westwood residents can find these five foot tall hearts in our neighborhood at 47th & Mission Road, 50th and State Line Road, and at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Belinder Ave. Snap a photo and use the hashtags #paradeofhearts #myfivefoohart and #paradeofheartskc when posting to your social media feeds! For more information about the Parade of Hearts visit theparadeofhearts.com

.JOHNSON COUNTY CONTAIN THE RAIN PROGRAM

The City of Westwood is pleased to announce Contain The Rain JOCO, a resource to help homeowners and businesses find information on sustainable landscape solutions. You may be eligible for up to 50% reimbursement of materials and installation costs by planting native trees, installing pollinator and native plants, planting rain gardens and adding rain barrels.

Visit containtherainjoco.com for more information and to apply for reimbursement.

WESTWOOD WALKING TOUR

The weather is warming up and it is a great time to get out and explore your neighborhood! The City of Westwood is full of history. There are interesting facts and finds around just about every corner of the city.

To promote that history and to provide a fun, engaging way for residents and visitors to experience the depth of Westwood's past, the Westwood City Council Parks & Recreation Committee and former Westwood Mayor Karen Johnson joined forces to create a historic walking tour.

To take the self-guided tour, visit westwoodks.org/historical to access the printable map and notes, or go paperless and use the interactive Google map.

MISSION RD. COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

The cities of Westwood and Roeland Park are partnering together to make improvements to Mission Rd. from 47th to 53rd Streets, a shared boundary for both cities. This project is scheduled for completion in 2024 as part of a joint application by both cities to the Johnson County CARS funding program. Although the construction is scheduled to occur in 2024, the design work will occur in 2023, and the elements to be designed by a professional engineer will be determined and estimated for budgeting purposes by the cities in 2022.

The cities would like to inform residents about the project and receive additional, updated input and questions or concerns from our citizens on both sides of the Mission Rd. boundary. To learn more about this project and to tell us what you think visit <https://bit.ly/3wyDc1r>

FEATURED STILES GALLERY ARTISTS

The Stiles Gallery is dedicated to the memory of Art Coordinator Shirley Stiles. For almost ten years Ms. Stiles arranged for a monthly display of works by a different artist to hang in the art gallery in Westwood City Hall. Ms. Stiles was an accomplished artist and each Friday would meet at City Hall to paint and share techniques with a circle of fellow artists and friends. The City of Westwood and the arts community lost a remarkable person when Ms. Stiles passed away in 2006 following a brief illness. Her memory lives on in her art, the gallery, and the remembrances of her family, friends and fellow artists.

Kathy Butler, Ms. Stiles' daughter, continues the work of showcasing local area artists. Thank you Kathy for your dedication to the Gallery and helping make Westwood beautiful!

April – Shirley Stiles

April is the month you can get to know Shirley Stiles, the local artist and patron of the arts for whom the Shirley Stiles Gallery in Westwood City Hall is named. Shirley was a 55-year resident of Westwood, where she moved with her husband and young family in 1952. Over the years as an active member of the Kansas City art community, Shirley served on boards and held office in art organizations such as the Kansas City Art Association and the Senior Arts Council. She was instrumental in setting up links between artists and local businesses and community organizations - making art part of the daily life of all who passed through their doors.

Shirley's creativity and artistic ability blossomed at a very early age when, as a young girl growing up in Depression-era Kansas City, she would use whatever materials were at hand to create pencil drawings. As time passed, her own art matured and she began experimenting with other 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, farmhouses, bridges, roads, rivers and bridges of her beloved Kansas City, and the trains her

engineer-husband drove, she also responded deeply to nature in all its forms

May - Andy Li

Andy Li is a Boston based artist who focuses on the power of now. His work is a reflection of the day to day mundane and the moments of greatness that we perceive in an instant. He is a Mass. Art graduate with a BFA in Media and Performance Art with a focus in Film/Video and 3D Sculpture with a focus in Fibers and Soft Sculpture. These two mediums have provided him with an understanding for the value of time and patience. Some days you will see him hunched over a single thread for hours on end, and other days you will see him running back and forth with three different cameras trying to find the best light. A believer in the suggestive nature of positivity, more often you will see him encouraging those around him to keep failing in order to keep getting better. Always trying to adapt and evolve, his work and his personal attitude is the visual exploration to the saying, "You can't make an omelet without cracking a few eggs."

June – Gadine Acton & Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor started painting later in life when she discovered the healing properties of self expression. Ms. Taylor considers painting a therapist and color the motivation. Ms. Taylor soon began attending workshops and classes with locally and nationally known artists. While capturing floral arrangements, pets and landscapes in colorful, loose brush strokes, Ms. Taylor developed a style all her own.

Gadine Acton enjoys working with watercolors, she said she loves the colors, the challenges, and sometimes, even the happy little accidents. One thing the pandemic taught Ms. Acton is this: it's more fun to paint with others. So last summer, Ms. Acton & Ms. Taylor began painting together. That's when the idea of a joint exhibition came about. Both Ms. Acton & Ms. Taylor are gardeners and are inspired by the beauty of nature. They hope you enjoy their interpretations of God's beautiful creation and that it makes you smile.



CITY OF WESTWOOD NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2022

CITY OF WESTWOOD
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MAYOR

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CHIEF OF POLICE: Curtis Mansell

SERGEANTS: Gary Baker, Marcus Burke

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Chris Bishop,
Timothy Filson, 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: Leslie Herring

BUILDING/CODES OFFICIAL: Eddie McNeil

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK: Abby Schneweis

CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergencies.....	911
City Hall.....	(913)362-1550
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Public Safety.....	(913)362-3737
JoCo Sheriff 24-Hour Dispatch.....	(913)782-0720
Municipal Court.....	(913)362-3737
GFL Disposal.....	(816)380-5595
Kansas Gas Service.....	1(800)794-4780
Evergy.....	(816)471-5275
WaterOne.....	(913)895-5500
JoCo Wastewater.....	(913)715-8590
Animal Control.....	(913)782-0720
JoCo Commissioner Becky Fast.....	(913)715-0725
JoCo Information.....	(913)715-5000
Driver’s License Bureau.....	(913)826-1800
JoCo Election Office.....	(913)715-6800
JoCo Appraiser.....	(913)715-9000