

# CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Friends and Neighbors,

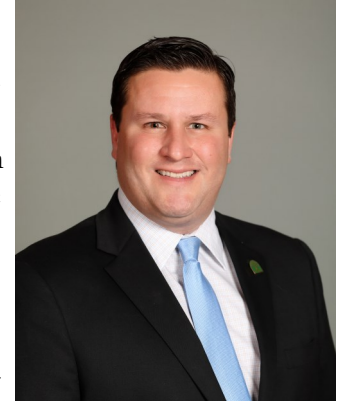
Happy New Year to you all! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season, filled with loved ones, friends, and family, and this new year will continue to bring blessings to you and yours, and to our City.

2021 was such an eventful year for our City. We have seen the approval and now the construction of our new Westwood View Elementary School; we welcomed to our community our new Police Chief, Curt Mansell; Andrew Buckman joined our City Council, and together with Jeff Harris and Jason Hannaman; were elected to your City Council; several new volunteers joined our Planning Commission and the Westwood Foundation; the Westwood Women's Club worked hard on its Belinder Beautification Project; we gathered for Movies in the Park, Oktoberfest, Slip N' Slides, and the annual tree lighting; the City Council and Planning Commission undertook goal-setting and strategic planning initiatives; we continued to plan for our future with an updated Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel project; and we gathered to reimagine what 47th Place could be for our community.

Of course, through it all, we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic together. Although we were able to return to in-person City Council meetings, we know that for our residents, our neighbors, and our school-aged children, we must continue to be cautious, get vaccinated (and boosted), and help each other safely through to the other side.

2022 will prove to be another busy year for our City, and one that can truly propel our City to its goals. Just as examples, the new Westwood View will open to students; following the ULI panel, we will be working in

earnest to improve our park offerings, as well as consider ways to provide more housing choices to both current and new residents; our Foundation is considering ways to become even more involved in community support; and 47th Street will receive its permanent road-diet improvements, with new sidewalks and street-lighting.



Even so, during these winter months, let us also make sure that—beyond high level policy decisions and projects—that we keep our hearts and eyes open door by door. For the neighbor that might be home alone during the cold; the neighbor that may need help shoveling a driveway or a sidewalk; those working outside in sometimes unpleasant conditions. The measure of our City can be in how well we take care of each other during these darker and colder months. As always, if you—or someone you know—needs assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to your City for support.

Please continue to follow the City on Facebook, and make sure you are signed up for our weekly "Buzz" email updates, so that you can keep informed on all we will be working on in this new year!

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

David E. Waters  
Mayor

## KANSAS CITY URBAN LAND INSTITUTE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PANEL REPORT FOR WESTWOOD AVAILABLE ONLINE

In October 2021 the Kansas City Urban Land Institute (ULI) conducted a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) for the City of Westwood to assist with planning for the future of City-owned land. A full report of the ULI TAP can be accessed at [.https://bit.ly/3s8yu8h](https://bit.ly/3s8yu8h)

Special thanks to the Westwood Foundation for its sponsorship of this work!

**CITY CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE  
WESTWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION**

The City is currently accepting applications from Westwood residents interested in serving on the Westwood Planning Commission. The Planning Commission in Westwood meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month and is responsible for:

- review and amendment of the city's comprehensive land use plan;
- making recommendations on zoning regulation text amendments, zoning changes, and special use permits to the City Council;
- review and consideration of site plans and plats; and
- acting as the Westwood Board of Zoning Appeals to review and act upon variance requests.

Interested individuals should submit a statement of interest either electronically to [info@westwoodks.org](mailto:info@westwoodks.org) or physically to City Hall, 4700 Rainbow Blvd. by Friday, January 21st. The statement of interest should include the following information:

- Name, address, phone number, and email address;
- Reasons for interest in serving on the Planning Commission;
- Length of residence in Westwood and applicant's favorite aspects of the community; and
- Qualifications or relevant experience with planning/land use topics.

Questions may be directed to City Clerk Leslie Herring by phone (913.942.2128) or email ([leslie.herring@westwoodks.org](mailto:leslie.herring@westwoodks.org)).

**SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES IN WESTWOOD**

When snow begins to fall it is important to help keep Westwood and the northeast Johnson County region accessible for all, including emergency vehicles and essential workers. Please keep this in mind when winter weather blows into the Kansas City region.

**A Message from Public Works Director  
John Sullivan**

If snow has reached 6" and is still falling, staff will plow two passes down each secondary route. Once the snow has ended, the primary routes are plowed once more and then crews plow the secondary routes at full width. At that time Westwood Public Works staff will treat the streets with de-icing or traction materials as needed.

**Primary routes are:**

- Belinder Road
- Mission Road
- Rainbow Boulevard
- State Line Road
- 47th Place
- 47th Street
- 50th Street
- 51st Terrace
- All other streets are defined as secondary routes.

**A Message from Chief Mansell**

Whether you live or work in the City of Westwood, you are using the services of our Public Works Department daily. Some of the services Public Works provide are street repair and maintenance, traffic sign and signal maintenance, park mowing and maintenance, storm drainage, staffing after work hour events and clearing city streets, bike paths, parking lots and some of the sidewalks of snow.

With winter quickly approaching, our crews are inspecting and readying vehicles for plowing. The City of Westwood snowplow drivers are trained professionals. These drivers are hardworking, safe, and reliable. They strive to keep your streets clear and travelable.

Many of Westwood streets are residential and can be somewhat narrow. Parking along city streets make plowing efforts difficult. Our drivers occasionally run into problems with on street parking. Because of this, I would like to take the time to remind you that Westwood has an overnight parking ordinance which restricts parking to two hours on the streets between 12am and 6am. Additionally, we ask that during snow events you be cognizant that things such as trash cans, recycle carts, basketball goals, etc. placed away from the street rather than curbside or at the end of residential driveways. Our drivers always plow as close to the curb as possible but if parked cars or other objects are in the street, they must drive around them to avoid damage.

Additionally, for those with parking permits, when snow accumulation of two or more inches is expected, we ask you to try to park your vehicles in your driveway.

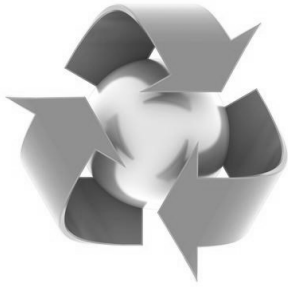
Our drivers can be plowing for up to 12 hours at a time and are called away from their families on evenings, weekends, and holidays. Please help show your appreciation by following city guidelines regarding on street parking and by exercising patience and understanding.



## **WESTWOOD RECYCLE RIGHT CAMPAIGN RESULTS**

*Article by Brandon Hearn, Johnson County Department of Health & Environment*

Thank you all for your help with the Recycle Right campaign and for helping us improve recycling in Westwood and in Johnson County. Because of you, our efforts



were a huge success. After our follow-up walkthrough at the end of November we did see a few houses that were still bagging their recycling. Bagged recycling materials end up going to the landfill. Some homes had items like plastic bags and packing pouches that aren't recyclable curbside, these materials

can be taken back to grocery stores for recycling. Overall, we saw a massive reduction in contamination and that is thanks to you.

Here are the results from our April and November recycling surveys in Westwood:

- Visited 743 houses
- 153 homes had no recycling out in November, compared to 175 in April
- 91 Oops Tags given out in November, compared to 297 in April
- 18 homes bagged their recyclables in November, compared to 67 homes in April

Because of these efforts, we are planning to do this same campaign in Mission and are also talking with other cities and HOAs around Johnson County to raise awareness about best recycling practices.

The most common contaminants that we saw when we surveyed Westwood back in April were:

- Plastic bags, product wrap, Ziploc bags, shrink wrap: these can be taken back to grocery stores for recycling or should go in your trash, these materials can get wrapped in the equipment at the recycling facility
- Paper towels and Kleenex: These items should go in your trash can
- Glass: glass is recyclable, but not in your curbside bins, glass can be taken to the purple Ripple Glass bins picked up through a separate curbside service
- Styrofoam: these items go in the trash

Remember if you recycle your cardboard, mail, magazines, and paper, paperboard boxes (cereal type boxes), aluminum and tin cans, and plastic bottles and containers that are free of food waste and have the #1-7 plastic code, then you will be doing an incredible job recycling.

For more information visit [jocogov.org/recycling101](http://jocogov.org/recycling101). If you have any questions or concerns you can contact Brandon Hearn by phone at 913.715.6936 or by email at [brandon.hearn@jocogov.org](mailto:brandon.hearn@jocogov.org).

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## **WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB**

*Article by Linda Horn,  
Westwood Women's Club 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.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> the Club will celebrate National Soup Month. Westwood View 6<sup>th</sup> grade student council members will serve samples of a variety of soups prepared by Women's Club members for lunch.

February 16<sup>th</sup> Victoria Patrick, Director of Community Engagement for Girls on the Run will highlight the non-profit organization. The 10-week program is offered twice a year to help girls 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, recognize how building physical strength directly impacts their inner strength. The program is offered in the Greater KC area and Westwood View participates.

Featured speaker on March 16<sup>th</sup> will be Dennis Patton, Horticulture Agent with K-State Research and Extension of Johnson County. He will deliver research based information about plants that are localized to our area as well as answer questions concerning gardening.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or seeking more information go to: [westwoodwomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodwomensclub@gmail.com)



**WESTWOOD  
WOMEN'S CLUB**  
(CULTURAL AND GARDEN)  
WESTWOOD, KANSAS

## 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!

### **Sed Roy Obi—January 2022**

Originally, I'm from Cameroon but I've only lived in Kansas City for a year. When I moved to the United States and started my junior year of high school, I took on painting as a way of expression. With the guidance of my teacher at that time, I started out with acrylic and have expanded into oil this year.

Life experiences, the people that are around me, and my environment all play large roles when it comes to inspirations for my paintings. In general I focus on culture, with the intent of sending a message while also giving these paintings their own voice. Experimentation is a tool that I use to help me expand and grow as an artist; I challenge myself with each painting, and everything else that I do essentially. There have been times where I went back to a painting to create a new challenge just to see how far I can push that piece, whether that be with scale, medium, or subject matter.

Evolving as an artist and a person is a constant goal that can be both exciting and prosperous. My skills and my time are a valuable asset to representing children that come from a similar background as myself. I want them to see that there is a place for them to escape the real world, a space where they can create whatever they want, and dream as big as they want. With no limits.

### **Jill Sullivan—February 2022**

Photography has been a part of my life over the past 40 years. I use art to tell my story. My photography brings my AWE to life. My conceptual view on photography reflects my positive point of view on beauty. In late June, 2021 a story on NPR came titled, "Awe appears to be Awfully Beneficial" This story spoke to me and helped me focus. Just a few AWE moments can change you and the focus of others as you share.

I urge you to try this out in my photos. Do you catch yourself reflecting on AWE or the wow factor in beauty. Look at it closely and at a distance at a glance some AWE is subtle and fleeting in your thoughts. Not every picture will give you AWE! Everyone's AWE is different.

When you live in AWE, you search every object to find more awe. Awe can be that ray of sunshine flashing a wash of light filled with color. In a flower look closely and you can see parts that glitter and sparkle calling you to wonder wow. In my conceptual view I am attempting to share my Awe. All of these photos were taken in the City of Westwood with a camera, most came from my cellphone.

Through covid 19 I found myself living more and more inside finding the negative energy, with awe I was able to get back my positive view on life and beauty. Check out NPR "Awe appears to be Awfully Beneficial. Find your AWE!

### **Andy Li—March 2022**

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."



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WINTER 2022

**CITY OF WESTWOOD**  
4700 Rainbow Boulevard  
Westwood KS 66205  
(913)362.1550  
info@westwoodks.org

**MAYOR**

David E. Waters .....david.waters@westwoodks.org

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Andrew Buckman..... andrew.buckman@westwoodks.org

Jason Hannaman .....jason.hannaman@westwoodks.org

Jeff Harris .....jeff.harris@westwoodks.org

Laura Steele .....laura.steele@westwoodks.org

Holly Wimer.....holly.wimer@westwoodks.org

**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
Public Works.....	(913)432-1550
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