

## CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood [www.westwoodks.org](http://www.westwoodks.org)

### A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR WATERS

Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome to Summer/Fall 2021 in Westwood! Since our last newsletter, so many things have happened, and there are still so many things left to complete in 2021. In addition to those topics contained in this newsletter, please allow me to share just a few of the important matters on which your City is working. 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!

**Covid-19:** We have unfortunately seen a new up-tick in Covid-19 infections. This is certainly disappointing, especially as we are hopeful to have our children return to school soon. As of this writing, Johnson County reports that only 50.1% of the County's eligible population has been vaccinated. For our zip code, 66205 (which includes cities outside of Westwood), that percentage is 52.5%. (Disclaimer—the County only has the ability to report vaccinations that were given in Kansas; these percentages may be higher, given that County residents may

have received vaccines in Missouri). We are currently planning a vaccination event for our area, in partnership with Woodside and the County—again, please sign up on other City media channels for the latest information on this. Most importantly, if you are able, please get vaccinated as soon as possible!

**New City Council, Planning Commission and Foundation Members.** I would like to welcome several new members to your City Council and Planning Commission, and also to the Westwood Foundation.

**Andrew Buckman** has lived in Westwood for nearly ten years, and is a contractor with Booz Allen Hamilton at Fort Leavenworth. Please read further in this newsletter for more about Andrew. For the Planning Commission, I have recently appointed **Mark Neibling**, **David Kelman**, and **Clay Fulghum**. Many thanks to our departing members Rob Junk, Ken Low, and Trent Robinett for their years of wonderful service to our Planning Commission, and to Sarah Page—our new Planning Commission Chair—for her help and guidance during the appointment process. *(continued on page 2)*



*Past and present Governing Body and staff members at the Westwood View Elementary Groundbreaking Ceremony on May 26th. Left to Right: Former Councilmember Lisa Cummins, Councilmember Laura Steele, Councilmember Holly Wimer, Former Mayor John Ye, Mayor David E. Waters, Councilmember Andrew Buckman, councilmember Hannaman, Former City Clerk Fred Sherman, City Clerk Leslie Herring, Public Works Director John Sullivan*

(A Message from Mayor Waters continued from page 1) Finally, please welcome **Rita Zeller, Justin Bridges, and Thomas Scott** to the Westwood Foundation board! Thank you to all of these people in particular, but also to all who volunteer their time and talents for our City. building, the existing Westwood View will be used to house students from Rushton Elementary, which is planned to be rebuilt. That means Westwood View will still be used as a school for the next several years. However, we are beginning to look at the future, of course, to consider appropriate uses for the Westwood View site, the interest and ability for development (whether for housing, park space, municipal purposes, or other uses), and the best ways for us, as a City, to approach what new opportunities may come.

**Westwood View:** As you can see, construction of our new Westwood View is well underway! I have received several questions about, "What happens now to the existing Westwood View"? At this time, the only "plan" is that of the School District's, that when the new Westwood View opens, and the children move to the new building, the existing Westwood View will be used to house students from Rushton Elementary, which is planned to be rebuilt. That means Westwood View will still be used as a school for the next several years. However, we are beginning to look at the future, of course, to consider appropriate uses for the Westwood View site, the interest and ability for development (whether for housing, park space, municipal purposes, or other

uses), and the best ways for us, as a City, to approach what new opportunities may come.

**Other:** The City Council and the Planning Commission will soon be engaging in some long overdue work (especially after Covid has separated so many of us for so long) with a facilitator team on our goals, purposes, and responsibilities in the coming months and years; your Council meetings are back in-person, but we are continuing to provide a hybrid option for those that would feel more comfortable participating remotely; and our 2022 budget is in the final stages of development, and we invite you to attend our upcoming public hearings so you can see our plan for capital improvements and other programs.

Let me finish by saying how nice it has been this summer to be able to see so many of you. Whether at the pool, or 4th of July block parties, or simply out jogging or biking, it has felt so good to be able to share "community" again. We have several other opportunities coming up (Movies in the Park, Oktoberfest, and others!), and I certainly hope our City's Covid response will allow us to hold those safely. Please do your part!

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



Mayor David E. Waters

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### **WESTWOOD'S NEWEST COUNCILMEMBER READY TO SERVE COMMUNITY**

Andrew Buckman was appointed by Mayor Waters during the May 13, 2021 City Council meeting to fill a City Council seat vacated by Lisa Cummins. Andrew is



*Above: Councilmember Andrew Buckman (left) is sworn in by City Clerk Leslie Herring on May 13th.*

running for Westwood City Council in the November 2021 election and is looking forward to serving the City for the next four years. Andrew serves as the Chair of the Business and Community Affairs Committee and Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Andrew looks forward to contributing to the 47th Street Project and helping maintain the charm that makes Westwood a special place to live.

Originally from Philadelphia, Andrew has lived in Westwood for over 10 years with his wife Laura and their 2 kids, Will (8), and Ella (2). Andrew has worked at Fort Leavenworth for the last 7 years as a contractor supporting the United States Army's simulation and training efforts. He had previously served in the U.S. Army for 5 years of Active duty and is a Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

In his spare time Andrew enjoys Philadelphia Eagles football, fly fishing, fly tying, golfing, and walking his Dutch Shepherd, Chuck.



**A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**  
**CITY WELCOMES CURTIS MANSELL**  
**AS NEW CHIEF OF POLICE**

I am so pleased to be able to introduce to you our next Westwood Chief of Police, Curtis Mansell. As has been announced at the last several City Council meetings, former Chief Greg O'Halloran has just now retired, after having served the City wonderfully since January 2014. Mr. Mansell was selected after an open recruitment and selection process among many highly-qualified candidates, and I have no doubt that, with new Chief Mansell, your Police Department will be in tremendous hands, and ready to continue to serve our community in all ways our residents deserve.

Mr. Mansell is a 32-year law enforcement veteran with 13 years' experience in upper management and executive leadership. Serving the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri since 1991, he has provided oversight as a Division Commander in all three major divisions and every unit in the department, including patrol, traffic, K9, SWAT, communications, detention, investigations, DARE, records, community interaction, accreditation, fleet management and the annual budget.

Mr. Mansell holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Central Missouri State University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He is also a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command where he served as class president. He is the President of the Missouri Polygraph Association, a member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, a member of the Missouri Police Chief's Association, and has served as a liaison to several civic and community organizations.

To me, Curt has demonstrated a wealth of experience in all aspects of law enforcement, a true commitment to community policing, a neighborhood-oriented focus, and the leadership qualities that are needed for today's officers and residents. In Chief Mansell, you will find a

warm and personable leader, but one who also understands the expectations we have today for our police departments. Curtis asked that I share with all of you the following, on joining our Westwood community: "I am honored to be asked to serve as Westwood's Police Chief. This is

an enormous responsibility and I truly look forward to the challenges ahead. I have already had an opportunity to meet some of the talented professionals who serve the City. I am excited to expand on my experience and work with the members of this Department in order to continue building community connections."

Curt's wife, Katie, is a dental hygienist. They have been married 29 years and have two children, Ryanne and Ryley. Ryanne just completed her 3rd year in the College of Architecture at Kansas State University. Ryley will begin as a freshman in the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas in August.

New Chief Mansell's appointment will be come before the Westwood City Council for confirmation on July 29, 2021. It is anticipated that Chief Mansell will begin his new position with the City of Westwood on August 2, 2021. We also have several upcoming community events—including Movies in the Park on August 7 — and I hope many of you will take the time to come meet Curt and introduce yourselves!

Please join me in welcoming new Chief Mansell to Westwood!

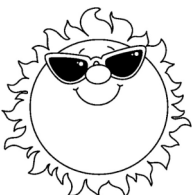


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**SUMMER FUN WITH WESTWOOD**  
**PARKS & RECREATION**

*Article by Councilmember Holly Wimer*

The Parks and Recreation Committee is pleased to be able to hold many of Westwood's favorite city events this summer and fall.



On Saturday, August 7th come join us for our next movie in the park. *Raya and the Last Dragon* will start at 8:45. Bring some money along if you'd like to enjoy

some Kona Ice at this event, they will be there!

Come cool off with us on Saturday, August 28th at our Sprinklers and Squirt Guns event at the big open space next to Joe D. Dennis Park from 4:30-6:00 pm. Big sprinklers will be set up and we'll have buckets of water to refill squirt toys.

Oktoberfest is back! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 2nd. Dinner, music and fun will be served up at Joe D. Dennis park.

## **THE BEST WAY TO SCHOOL**

*Article by Councilmembers Jeff Harris & Laura Steele*

During a recent survey of Westwood View Elementary parents, we learned that of the respondents, two thirds of students already walk or bike to school, and more than three-fourths think walking and biking are healthy and fun. Those are great results! So as we approach the new school year, please take a few moments to learn about the best ways for your students to walk or bike to and from Westwood View.

If you live east of Rainbow Boulevard, the safest place to cross west to school is the intersection at W 50th Street. This intersection was designed with safety in mind. The four-way traffic light has a built-in delay of five seconds between green lights, meaning that every time the light and traffic flow change, there are five seconds when all signs are red to allow traffic to clear. And on school days, a crossing guard guides walkers and cy-

clists across the intersection in the morning and afternoons. If you live east of Rainbow, please learn how to guide your students to this intersection.



If you live south of Shawnee Mission Parkway, there are lighted crossings at Mission Road and Belinder Avenue. There is also a pedestrian tunnel passing underneath Shawnee Mission Parkway on the west side of Belinder. If you live south of Shawnee Mission Parkway, explore these options with your students before school starts to determine their best way to school.

And for all residents and visitors in Westwood, remember: the start of school brings more students walking and biking on our sidewalks and along our streets. Be mindful of your driving speed and keep Westwood welcoming and safe for all!

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## **PUBLIC WORKS SUMMER UPDATE**

*Article by Councilmember Laura Steele*

City Staff and the Public Works Committee just wrapped up 6 weeks facilitating a specially called Complete Streets task force. The purpose of our meetings was to hear from a diverse group of stakeholders, mainly Westwood residents, regarding the potential of our streets to more fully accommodate active lifestyles and modes of transportation options beyond typical vehicle usage. With the adoption of the Complete Streets Policy in October 2020, the City was directed to form the task force and work with them to further define three key pieces of the policy.

- 1) help create a map/plan of desired Complete Streets applications;
- 2) help name diverse road users and areas of disadvantage, disparity and underrepresentation; and
- 3) set performance measures for various infrastructure related projects.

The completed final draft of the plan is still under review from task force members and will next be presented to a Public Safety Committee meeting and finally to the full City Council and Planning Commission in later July/August.

The PW Committee is also working with a consultant team made up of engineers, city planners and landscape architects regarding the striping project on 47th Street. The month of June was busy with promoting and hosting the public comment phase for this corridor and responses will figure into the final design elements that are

actually constructed in 2022. More history and project updates for this project can be found on the City's website.

## **WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB**

*Article by Linda Horn*

*Westwood Women's Club Publicity Chair*

The "Belinder Beautification Project" continues this spring. Look for new landscaping at the entrance to Westwood on the west side of Belinder and 51st Terrace.

Signage will be provided to designate the area.

Donations are graciously accepted to help finance the project.



Barring any extension of COVID restrictions we will convene on September 15, 2021 at our first meeting of the 2021-22 season. "Meet and Greet" will welcome new members and guests while renewing friendships. Goody bags, door prizes and a slide presentation of last year's accomplishments will be presented. A "touchless" lunch will be served.

Informative and interesting programs have been scheduled for each month of the upcoming season, many featuring local residents. "Themed" lunches have been planned.

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

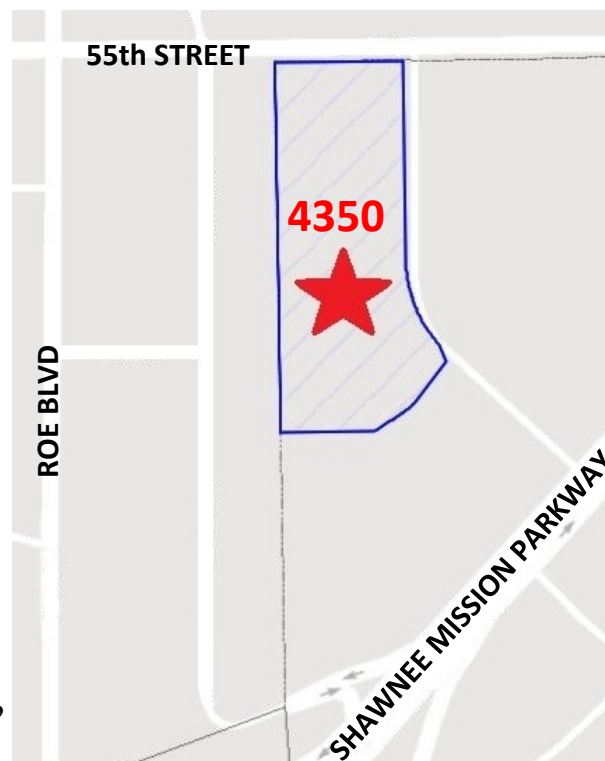


# COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

**Saturday, September 25, 2021  
9:00 a.m. – NOON**

**4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway**

**Participating Cities: Fairway, Mission,  
Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Roeland Park,  
Westwood, & Westwood Hills.**



**PROOF of RESIDENCY is required to participate (i.e.: Driver's License, Utility Bill)**

Note: This event is for residents of the participating cities and not businesses.

PROSHRED's mobile shredding trucks will be onsite to securely shred your confidential documents for **FREE**.

- Suggested materials to shred: bank statements, canceled checks, tax returns, junk mail, credit card receipts and more!
- Maximum of 10 file storage boxes size 1'x 2' is a guideline for the estimated amount of paper you may bring in cardboard boxes, plastic bins, plastic bags, etc.
- Paper **MUST BE** removed from 3 ring binders.
- All 3 ring binders, containers, and cardboard boxes will be returned to you.



Secure e-Cycle will be onsite collecting electronics for responsible recycling.

There will be a small fee (cash or check) for CRT Monitors \$25, TV's \$35  
and **EVERYTHING ELSE WITH A CORD IS FREE.**

An extensive list of acceptable items is available at <http://secureecycle.com/items.asp>



If you have questions please contact City of Fairway's Assistant City Clerk Abbie Aldridge  
913-262-0350 x5200 or [aaldridge@fairwaykansas.org](mailto:aaldridge@fairwaykansas.org)



# AUGUST 2021

SUN

MON













TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Planning Commission @ 7pm		Bulk Item Pickup   			Movie in the Park @ Dusk
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			  	City Council @ 7pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Bulk Item Pickup   			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			  			
29	30	31				



# SEPTEMBER 2021

SUN

MON





TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1	2	3	4
			Bulk Item Pickup 			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Planning Com- mission @ 7pm				City Council @ 7pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Bulk Item Pickup 			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27	28	29	30		



## CITY OF WESTWOOD NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021

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**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 Schneeweis

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**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 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