



CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023 4700 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood www.westwoodks.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

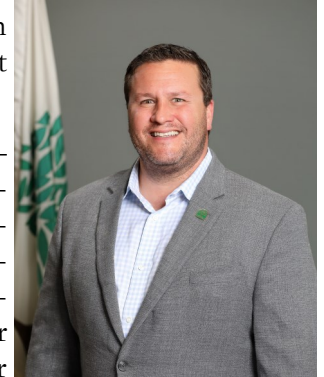
As we approach the end of 2022, I would like to reflect on all that this past year has brought us, as a City, and offer my thanks for all of you that helped make our year possible. We have many things to be grateful for in Westwood, and 2023 will be sure to be another exciting year.

I would like to start with our amazing City Staff. This year, we welcomed Leslie Herring as our new City Administrator (having previously served as our City Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer); Public Works Director John Sullivan; Police Chief Curt Mansell; Assistant City Clerk Abby Schneewis; Building and Code Official Eddie McNeil; Court Clerk Shelley Floyd; City Attorney Ryan Denk; City Treasurer Michelle Ryan; our Public Works team, Mitch Landis, Richard Fatherley and Nick Finck; and our Public Safety Sergeants Gary Baker and Marcus Burke, and Officers Chris Bishop, Tim Filson, Phillip Lofflin, Chase Metcalf (to be sworn-in on January 12, 2023), Howard Scott, Kurtis Stone, Sharon Taylor and Leon Whittington. Each individual member devotes so much time and attention to our City—please be sure to thank them when you see them working hard for Westwood!

Westwood has wonderful volunteers as well! Our City Councilmembers, Jeff Harris, Holly Wimer, Jason Hanaman, Laura Steele, and Andrew Buckman all share their time and talents with you and the City, and serve both as responsible stewards of our history, and visionaries for what Westwood can be. These traits are shared by our Planning Commissioners, Sarah Page, Kevin Breer, Clay Fulghum, Ann Holliday, Samantha Kaiser, David Kelman, Mark Neibling, Matt Prout, and Scott Weaver. Westwood is further blessed to have Sean O'Brien, Kumud Pyakural, Robert Thompson, Thomas Scott, Rita Zeller, and Justin Bridges volunteer their time for our Westwood Foundation. Our streets continue to be beautified by the Westwood Women's Club (especially Jayme Tebow and Beth Springgate), and the Club continues to foster friendship and education in the City. Westwood resident Riu Xu serves our community in the Kansas Legislature; Jill Westra on the Water

Board; and Jim Donovan on the Consolidated Fire District Board.

Finally, there are all of you—hosting street parties, volunteering on ad hoc committees, serving on our Westwood View PTA and Educational Enhancement Fund, or simply checking in on your neighbors, helping with lawn care, buying that Boy Scout popcorn or the Girl Scout Cookies—that have helped Westwood be not just a city, but a community this year. Thank you all!



There are so many highlights from this past year to recognize, but among the most important have been the opening of our new Westwood View Elementary School; the completion of our City Facilities Assessment and Feasibility Analysis; the return of our Fourth of July Celebration; Oktoberfest; the 47th Street Foodie Fest; the dedication of Midwest Transplant Network's Donor Care Unit and memorial garden; and the annual Tree Lighting (with fire pits and s'mores). Our forward momentum will continue in 2023, as we construct the permanent street improvements (with bike lanes and new lighting) for 47th Street, and work with our neighbors on a Rainbow corridor study. The City has also recently learned that we will be recognized by the Mid-America Regional Council and First Suburbs Coalition as a bronze-level Community for All Ages, which will be awarded in January.

Perhaps most importantly, 2023 will be the year where the City will have to make several important long-term decisions regarding the former Westwood View school site and other City-owned properties, following up on the results of our City Facilities Assessment and Feasibility Analysis, resident surveys, our open house meeting, and Council work sessions. Feedback provided to the City was overall consistent that residents would like for the City to find ways to expand and improve green space and our park offerings and provide additional sources of revenue to help ease the burdens on our residents. *(continued on page 2)*

(A Message from the Mayor continued from page 1)

As we have shared, there is significant interest in the development community looking to partner with Westwood on these and other goals, and beginning in early 2023, look for proposals and presentations to be brought to the Planning Commission and City Council for input. The City will continue to keep residents updated, as it has been through our City Newsletter, weekly "Upcoming Meetings" emails, the Westwood Buzz, and other social media channels.

We hope you will continue to join us and your neigh-

bors in 2023 to share and participate in these events, projects, and activities. As always, please feel free to reach out and let us know how we, as a city, can continue to support you and your families, and make Westwood the best play to live, work, and play. Thank you for all you do for our City, and please continue to take care of each other.



Mayor David E. Waters

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 salt mixture is applied to the primary routes, hills, curves, and approximately 60 feet from intersections when there is a light accumulation of snow.

With an accumulation of about 2" of snow, Westwood Public Works staff begins plowing, concentrating on the primary routes until the snow fall has stopped or the accumulation reaches 6".

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 before the secondary routes are plowed 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 provides 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 upon us, our crews have inspected vehicles and are ready 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 traversable.



Many of Westwood's streets are residential and can be somewhat narrow. Parking along city streets makes 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 of things such as trash cans, recycle carts, basketball goals, etc. placed in the street rather than curbside or at the end of residential driveways. Our drivers always stive to 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.

FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

Once the Shawnee Mission School District released news in the Fall of 2020 that Westwood View would be rebuilt in Westwood on the site of the former Entercom radio station, and after it won approval from the Governing Body on its site plan for the school in the Spring of 2021, the Governing Body embarked on deliberate study of past community planning efforts (including but not limited to the 2013 Park Master Plan, 2015 ULI TAP, and 2017 Comprehensive Plan) and data gathering about the [now very near] future use of public land in Westwood.

This data gathering included conducting a Facilities Assessment and Feasibility Analysis, which was ultimately performed by consultant Mulistudio. This formal study



concluded with a September 8, 2022 presentation of to the Governing Body, after which, Council directed staff to coordinate a public comment period and opportunities to gather feedback from the community on the planning efforts to date and on the opportunities ahead of the City. Members of the public were able to share their thoughts via emails shared with all members of the Governing Body, an online survey, and a community open house event. All public comments and survey results were compiled and included in the November 10, 2022 meeting packet. The Governing Body then held a work session to discuss all the efforts to-date. In the coming months, the Governing Body will continue its deliberation on these topics in an effort to determine the strategic best path forward for the city now and into the future.

RUSHTON STUDENTS TO BEGIN CLASSES AT OLD WESTWOOD VIEW BUILDING

Beginning January 5, 2022, students from Rushton Elementary School in Mission, Kansas, will be attending classes in the former Westwood View school building while the current Rushton School is demolished and rebuilt on its current site. Please be aware that starting January 5, 2022, more vehicle traffic should be expected. Please exercise pa-



tience as Public Safety and SMSD officials work to optimize traffic flows during the start and end of the school day.

WEBSITE REDESIGN COMING SOON!

A redesign of the City's website, westwoodks.org, is currently underway. City staff are working with Manhattan, Kansas-based software vendor CivicPlus to give the City's website an updated, more navigable design. The update will go live in the coming weeks, we look forward to sharing it with you!

2023 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, 2023 all licenses issued by the City during 2022 will expire. All renewal forms are available online. If you have any questions about any of these licenses contact Abby Schneweis by calling 913.942.2127 or abby.schneweis@westwoodks.org.

Pets: Dogs and cats over three months of age are required to be licensed on a yearly basis in Westwood. Each Westwood household is permitted to keep up to three dogs, cats or any combination of both animals. Upon receipt of your pet license application, your pet's tag(s) will be mailed to you along with your paid receipt. The fee is \$5.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and cats and \$10.00/each for unaltered dogs and cats. There is no charge to senior citizen pet owners age 60 and over. Pet license applications can be found at the URL below. westwoodks.org/petlicenseapplication

Businesses: Fees for business licenses vary depending on the nature of service the business is providing as well as the square footage of the business. A fee table is included on the renewal application. Business license applications can be found at the URL below. westwoodks.org/occ_businesslicense

Rental Properties: Rental license fees are \$30 per property. In addition to licensure, rental properties are subject to an annual code inspection by Westwood's Building Official. This inspection should be conducted before January 15, 2024. Rental license applications can be found at the URL below. westwood.govbuilt.com/AdvancedForms/Rental-License-Application

Massage Therapy: Fees for massage therapy license are \$25.00 for a practitioner and \$50.00 for an owner/manager. Massage Therapy license applications can be found at the URL below. westwood.govbuilt.com/AdvancedForms/Massage-Therapy-License-Application



JANUARY 2023

SUN

MON





TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	City Offices Closed		Bulk Item Pickup 			
8	Planning Commission @ 7pm	10		11	City Council @ 7pm	14
15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day— City Offices Closed	17	Bulk Item Pickup 	18		21
22		24		25		28
29		31				



FEBRUARY 2023

SUN

MON





TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Bulk Item Pickup 	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 	9 City Council @ 7pm	10	11
12	13	14	15 Bulk Item Pickup 	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 	23	24	25
26	27	28				



MARCH 2023

SUN

MON




TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Bulk Item Pickup 	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 	9 City Council @ 7pm	10	11
12	13	14	15 Bulk Item Pickup 	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

Grab your baskets and hop over to Joe D. Dennis Park on Saturday, April 8th for Westwood's Annual Easter Egg Scramble! Balloon twisters and emergency vehicles will be on site starting at 2:45 p.m. to meet with kiddos. The Easter Egg Scramble will begin at 3 p.m. sharp! We hope you can join us for this fun spring event!

WESTWOOD EARNS BRONZE LEVEL RECOGNITION FROM THE COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES PROGRAM

Earlier this year, Mayor David Waters, Council President Jeff Harris, and City Administrator Leslie Herring took the lead in partnering with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for Westwood to be recognized as a Community For All Ages. The Communities For All Ages program is comprised of three levels of recognition – Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The Bronze level represents a community's awareness, Silver a community's assessment, and Gold a community's implementation or action.

A Community For All Ages seeks to meet the needs and interests of the very old, the very young, and everyone in between. A key driver for this work is the rapidly changing older adult demographics. This program is framed by six topic areas including:

- Public outdoor spaces and buildings;
- Housing and commercial development;
- Transportation and mobility;
- Social inclusion, communication, and participation;
- Civic participation and employment; and
- Community and health services.

Westwood is proud to have achieved Bronze level recognition in 2022, which will be celebrated at the January 12, 2023 regular City Council meeting. The City has already begun working toward Silver level recognition. A task force will meet during the first quarter of this year to assess the impacts City policies and actions are having on the six topic areas named above. Watch the City calendar and Westwood Buzz for updates on this work.

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 artists 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.

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

DAVID ALSTON—JANUARY 2023

David Alston has been practicing art since his early childhood and for many years creating art served as a moment of relief from the outside world. David studied art throughout this childhood and upon graduating from Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Baltimore, he joined the United States Army. After four years of service in the military, David joined the civilian workforce and rediscovered his love of art by watching The Joy of Painting with Bob Ross. David practices realism, spontaneous realism and hyperrealism.

MATT IVERSON—FEBRUARY 2023

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. Matthew 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.

CATHERINE KIRKLAND—MARCH 2023

Prior to returning full-time to visual arts in the form of fine art painting, Ms. Kirkland enjoyed a 35+ year career in advertising and publishing, as an award-winning art director, illustrator, graphic designer and production manager. Before embarking on her professional art and design career, Ms. Kirkland was a Studio Art major at UMKC, where she studied illustration, painting and metal sculpture, as well as theater set design and film language. Catherine's painting style has evolved from representational landscapes and figural works to vivid abstracts with thousands of individually applied colorful dots. Recent paintings explore outer, inner, and open spaces, with subjects as diverse as the vastness of an extraterrestrial nebula and the microscopic inter-cellular spaces of the human body. Other collections are comprised of mid-century inspired hard-edged abstracts expressed in a limited Zorn palette of muted earth tones and metallic paint.



CITY OF WESTWOOD NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2023

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

MAYOR

David E. Watersdavid.waters@westwoodks.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Jason Hannamanjason.hannaman@westwoodks.org

Jeff Harrisjeff.harris@westwoodks.org

Laura Steelelaura.steele@westwoodks.org

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

CHIEF OF POLICE: Curtis Mansell

SERGEANTS: Gary Baker, Marcus Burke

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS: Chris Bishop, Tim Filson,
Chase Metcalf, 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 ADMINISTRATOR: 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