



## ***City of Westwood Hills August 2016 Newsletter***

### **Tree Reimbursement Program**

The City received a grant from the County to encourage residents to plant new trees, and we encourage residents to consider whether a new native tree planting would benefit their landscapes. Prior to any planting, the homeowner must submit an application to the City, describing the planting project. If a homeowner's application is approved, the City will reimburse half the cost of the tree, up to \$150.00. There is a limited amount of money, and first come, first served. Click [here](#) for the application.



### **School Starts August 12**

Classes start for the Shawnee Mission School District, which includes our neighborhood school, Westwood View, on Friday, August 12, 2016. Please keep the kids safe by watching out for children crossing the streets.



### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Fall Clean-up at The Green**

Calling all volunteers! It's time for the fall clean-up at The Green and your help is needed. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 24th, from 8:30 -11:00 am. The Rain-out date will be October 1, 2016, same time.

Please contact Renee' Miller at 404-403-6587 or millerrenee04@gmail.com if you are able to help.

#### **Calling all WWH Community Service Volunteers**

Friends Helping Friends Helping Neighbors is a community service program here in Westwood Hills; and has two aspects.

1) Are you one of our neighbors who has either health or physical limitations that prohibit you from keeping up with the yard work? We understand and want to help.

2) Join a team of volunteers to help your neighbors. It's a great way to get to meet fellow residents, and your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

The projected work date is October 15, from 9:00-11:00 am.

If you would like some help or want to volunteer, contact Renee' Miller at 404-403-6587 or millerrenee04@gmail.com.

## **2017 Budget**

The 2017 City budget, in which the mill levy increased by 4.5 mills, was adopted on August 8, 2016.

## **Voters to decide on public safety issues November 8**

### **The following information is from the County Manager's Office**

Johnson County voters will be asked on November 8 to vote on a quarter-cent public safety sales tax to fund a new courthouse to address safety and security issues for victims, families, and jurors; accessibility challenges, and overcrowding due to the growing population.

The sales tax will sunset in ten years. It will also fund a coroner facility. Currently, the county pays to use a lab in Wyandotte County.

The current courthouse design makes it difficult to keep inmates separated from victims, jurors and families. This leads to close contact between victims and their alleged perpetrators in hallways and courtrooms, and between jurors and inmates during trial and deliberation. Numerous remodels and renovations have been completed to try to address these issues in the 64-year old courthouse, built for a population of 63,000 and now serving 575,000 people.

Construction of a new courthouse is less expensive than renovation and expansion of the current courthouse due to the significant design changes needed to improve security and accessibility and plan for growth. Renovating and expanding the existing building will cost approximately \$34 million more than a new courthouse. Over the next 20 years, operating and maintaining the current courthouse will cost an estimated \$155 million more than a new courthouse due to the age of the current building and its inefficiencies.

A new coroner facility would provide an accredited location to evaluate evidence and prevent cross-contamination of evidence. It would ensure autopsies are done in a timely manner.

Under state statute, cities in Johnson County would split 34% of the total sales tax revenue for needed resources such as police, fire, streets and other improvements.

The city of Westwood Hills would receive approximately \$ 104,000 in revenue over 10 years.

The public safety sales tax would add a quarter to a \$100 retail purchase. Public tours of the existing courthouse are being offered July 26 - Nov. 1. For more information, [www.jocopublicsafety.org](http://www.jocopublicsafety.org).

## CFD2 Monthly Activity Report

Click [Here](#) for Consolidated Fire District #2's monthly activity report.

### A Note from the HOA Regarding Trash and Yard Waste

Yard waste collection has resumed; and will continue until December 31, 2016. Leaves and yard waste should be placed curbside in brown yard waste bags. Twigs and branches should be tied and bundled in no longer than 3 foot bundles.

Did you know that each home is allowed one large item per month for complimentary pick up? You must call WCA (formerly Town & Country) to schedule the pick up. Appliances are not included in the monthly pick up.

**There will be a large trash pickup this fall - either September or October. Watch the newsletter for more information.**

All residents may call the Homes Association Trash Liaison Board Member, Lizann Kesse, at 816 289 4379 with any questions.

### 2016 Home Occupation Licenses

If you operate a business from your home, please complete the [Home Occupation License](#) form and mail the completed application with a \$25.00 check payable to the City of Westwood Hills. Home occupation licenses must be renewed annually.

### Yard of the Month (YOTM)

Congratulations to David Ochoa and Emily Horner at 2113 W. 49th Terrace.



### Pet Registration

Please register your animals living in Westwood Hills. Beginning in 2010, the city provided each pet owner a pet tag with an identifying number, good for as long as you have your animal, rather than issue annual tags. Please ensure that all your animals are always current on their proper vaccinations. Also, when circumstances change, for

instance, getting a new pet, or losing a tag, please apply for a new tag. Therefore, if a pet is lost, there is a better chance of helping reunite the pet with its owner. If you need to register a pet now, please fill out the [Pet Registration Form](#) and return to Beth O'Bryan. Westwood Hills allows two cats and two dogs per residence.

## New RideKC Program

Seniors and riders with disabilities will have more freedom to get around with a new pilot taxi voucher program that started July 5. Johnson County and the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority are piloting a regional taxi voucher program similar to ones operated in Olathe, Lenexa and Shawnee.



The pilot program means that for the first time countywide, Johnson County seniors 65 and older will enjoy a special transportation option giving them more freedom to travel when they want and where they want. Find out more information [here](#). Questions? Call 816-221-0660 or email [ridekcondemand@kcata.org](mailto:ridekcondemand@kcata.org).

## House Watch Submission Form

The Westwood Public Safety Department can help monitor your property while you are out of town. To begin this service, complete and submit the [Online Form](#) at least two business days before you depart.

## Construction

If you are considering any work around your property, you may need a permit. Check with the City Clerk at [whclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whclerk@gmail.com) before starting any work.

## The August Planning Commission Meeting

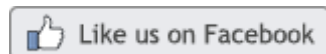
There will not be an August meeting.

## September Meetings

The September regular City Council meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2016. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

The September Planning Commission Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on September 15, 2016, at Westwood City Hall. Please contact Beth O'Bryan at [whclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whclerk@gmail.com) if you have an agenda item.

STAY CONNECTED



## City Information

City Clerk/Administrator: Beth O'Bryan [whclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whclerk@gmail.com) - 913-262-6622  
 Mayor: Paula Schwach - [serenity\\_01@prodigy.net](mailto:serenity_01@prodigy.net)  
 City website: [www.westwoodhills.org](http://www.westwoodhills.org)

### City Council

Vacancy - Budget and Finance

Rosemary Podrebarac - Ordinances and Building - [rpodrebarac1@kc.rr.com](mailto:rpodrebarac1@kc.rr.com)

Karen Shelor Sexton - Public Safety - [kls@sextonandshelor.com](mailto:kls@sextonandshelor.com)

Ludwig Villasi - Landscaping - [lvillasi@kc.rr.com](mailto:lvillasi@kc.rr.com)

John Weedman - Public Works - [john@midwestbinding.com](mailto:john@midwestbinding.com)

Meetings are held at Westwood City Hall - 4700 Rainbow Blvd.

City of Westwood Hills, 2216 West 49th Street, Westwood Hills, KS 66205

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