



City of Westwood Hills ***December 2019 Newsletter***



The City of Westwood Hills wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.



Michael Anfang was sworn in as a new City Council member at the December 9, 2019 meeting. Mayor Paula Schwach, along with Ed Gogol, Rosemary Podrebarac, Karen

Santa Claus Visits Westwood Hills

Despite the freezing temperatures and blustery wind, it was standing room only and a line out the door for Santa's annual visit to Westwood Hills. The Dickens Carolers added a special charm to the event. Thanks to Sheri and John Weedman of Annedore's Fine Chocolates for hosting our gathering, and thanks to our Community Association for sponsoring this wonderful occasion!





Snow Ordinance

Please remember not to park on the street during a snow storm and 24 hours after a 2 inch or greater snow so the plows can thoroughly clear the streets.

Violators will be ticketed, and any vehicle remaining on a street 2 hours following a snow accumulation of 2 inches or more may be towed from the street by the city at the expense of the owner of the vehicle.

Thank you for your cooperation in aiding the snow removal.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE WWW.EPA.GOV/NEWSROOM

Westwood Hills Receives EPA Recognition for Excellence and Innovation

Congratulations to our City! In November, Westwood Hills received the PISCES Recognition from the EPA for the recent rehabilitation of the City's 1920's stormwater collection system. The City received this national attention and recognition for its project involving the replacement of the stormwater drop inlets and the repair and upgrading of culverts, curbing and some stormwater pipes.

The Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund provided the funding for the project, and our project was that program's first time funding for a storm sewer project.

Click [here](#) to read the full press release from EPA's Region 7.

Sales Tax when Ordering Online

When shopping online or buying goods to be delivered to your home in Westwood Hills, be sure to choose your Westwood Hills address. There are many small cities in northeast Johnson County, and confusion over your specific city location can lead to the wrong sales tax rate being charged and paid.

All of Westwood Hills is in the 66205-zip code, but 66205 also includes several other northeast Johnson County cities. Each city has set its own city sales tax rate, which means there are five different city sales tax rates within 66205. These city sales tax rates are combined with the state of Kansas' rate of 6.5% and Johnson County's rate of 1.475% to arrive at the total sales tax rate that you end up paying.

There are two reasons as to why this is important.

First, Westwood Hills' city sales tax rate is 1%. Most of the time online retailers default

to "Mission" when you enter a zip code of 66205, and Mission's rate is 1.625%.

The second reason to look at which city's rate is being applied is that when retailers remit the sales taxes that they have collected to the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), they list the cities for which they have collected taxes, and then the KDOR sends the appropriate amounts to those cities. This means that if you paid Mission sales tax on a purchase, not only did you pay more than necessary, but the money ends up going to Mission, not Westwood Hills.

We want to be charged the correct rate and have our money go to the correct city, where it is used to fix streets, pay police salaries, and support other public services.

You can look up sales tax rates by address from the Kansas Department of Revenue on-line tool [here](#).

Construction and Other Vehicle Parking

Please ask your contractors and other visitors to park only on the authorized side of the street. If you see any illegal parking on your street, please ask the driver to move, or call the non-emergency line for Westwood Police. Violators will be ticketed.

There will not be a December Planning Commission Meeting.

Stormwater Management Plan and Annual Report

Click [here](#) to read the City's Stormwater Management Plan, and [here](#) to read the 2018 annual report. Citizens may send comments regarding the Stormwater Plan and Annual Report to whclerk@gmail.com.

Only Rain Goes Down the Drain - with Your Help!

Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, patios, curbs, sidewalks, and streets is a leading cause of impairment to our shared water resources. Every level of government has policies and requirements related to managing stormwater as evidenced by other articles in this newsletter. Ultimately city government needs responsible citizens to partner with it to pay for stormwater systems themselves and to cooperate in the ongoing maintenance of the system. Maintenance includes keeping the curb in front of your home free from debris of all types: sticks, leaves, rocks, sweetgum balls, peeling bark from sycamore trees, dog droppings, and the paper cup that a driver pitched out the window. If you have a stormwater inlet in your curbing, your cooperation is even more vitally important because the system directs all water flows towards the inlets. Because of the power of water or a snow plow, you may find the content of your neighbor's curb at your own and headed towards clogging the opening of the inlet. Clogged and impacted inlets increase the likelihood of flash flooding during heavy rains. Please help us protect the tax-funded investment in our new stormwater inlets by keeping the curb in front of your home clean and keeping debris from clogging the inlet openings. Only rain will go down our stormwater drains if we all help.

January Meetings

The January regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

The January Planning Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

Both meetings are held at Westwood City Hall - 4700 Rainbow Boulevard.

STAY CONNECTED



City Information

City Clerk/Administrator: Beth O'Bryan whclerk@gmail.com - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Paula Schwach - schwach3p@gmail.com

City website: www.westwoodhills.org

City Council

Michael Anfang - Budget and Finance - anfang@rocketmail.com

Ed Gogol - Landscaping - gogol.monday@gmail.com

Rosemary Podrebarac - Ordinances and Building - rpodrebarac1@kc.rr.com

Karen Shelor Sexton - Public Safety - kls@sextonandshelor.com

Ludwig Villasi - Public Works - lvillasi@kc.rr.com

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