



## ***City of Westwood Hills August 2020 Newsletter***

### **Special Council Meeting - August 24, 2020**

There will be a Special Council Meeting on August 24, 2020. The sole purpose of the meeting is to discuss and finalize traffic calming improvements at 50th & State Line Road.

Mon Aug 24, 2020 7pm – 8pm Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147430832>

Meeting ID: 841 4743 0832

Dial in number

+1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 841 4743 0832

### **The Green Team**

The members of The Green Team (formerly the Ad Hoc committee for The Green) have been busy volunteering on The Green. Ed Gogol, Cheryl Hill, Ben Hobert, Christy Miller, Renee Miller, Janet Monday and Nancy Ralston weeded and pruned, removed the invasive Tree of Heaven, power washed the wooden fence, bridge and benches, replaced worn boards on the bridge deck, sanded and painted all the wood with a protective preservative. The loose sandstone in the path has also been reset and secured. A big thank you to this group for all the work they've done!





## **Bob Larson - In Memoriam**

Longtime resident Bob Larson passed away on July 24, 2020. See the obituary below.

Robert Harold Larson (Bob) Westwood Hills, Kansas passed away July 24 at KU Medical Center. He was born March 26, 1943. He was the son of Harold and Anne Larson and had one brother Bruce. He graduated from Clay Center, KS High School in 1961. He graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in electrical engineering. He was a member of Sigma Chi. He joined IBM in Kansas City. In KC he was an active member of Jaycees, Junior Achievement and the Kansas City Ski Club. He will be greatly missed by cousins and many friends including Ellen Johnson.

**The August Planning Commission Meeting will be held virtually on August 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting URL:**

[https://populous.zoom.us/j/92184657567?  
pwd=Q0JJcWdCb0tXNVQ3N1NBY2tEbUNPZz09](https://populous.zoom.us/j/92184657567?pwd=Q0JJcWdCb0tXNVQ3N1NBY2tEbUNPZz09)

Meeting ID:

921 8465 7567

Passcode:

457793

**Join by Telephone**

+1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID:

921 8465 7567

Passcode:

457793

## ***A Not-so-Heavenly Tree***

A few years back, WWH resident David Welty pointed out an invasive tree has found its way into Westwood Hills. Well folks, it's also growing at The Green, and everything one reads about it is true. It's one tough plant to get rid of due to its growing habits.

**Interested in an introduction to the 'tree-of-heaven'? Stop by 'The Green' on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm to see (and smell) this menace. In addition, some members of the Green Team have offered to make a 'house call' to help WWH residents identify and remove/treat trees on their property. (No costs associated with this offer.) Contact Renee' Miller if you have questions or to set up a consultation.**

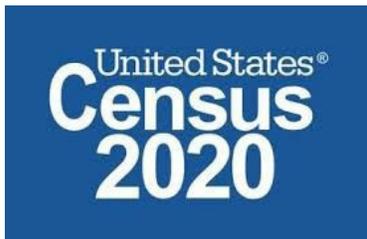
"The 'Tree-of-heaven', or *ailanthus altissima*, is a fast growing, weak-wooded tree, native to China that can grow 60 ft tall. It grows in colonies that spread quickly as new shoots arise from the root system. Because of its size and rate of spread, it is an acute hazard and poses a threat to adjacent properties as well."

The key to controlling *ailanthus* is controlling the root system. Remember the sinking of the titanic? Well, with the 'tree-of-heaven' what you see is only the tip of the iceberg! Sources state that anyone looking to eradicate this invasive tree should use as many methods as possible in a manner where each operation adds to the effect of previous operations. I'm not one to promote the use of chemicals unless it's serious problem, but this tree fits that bill. In other words ... you have to hit it hard, and then follow up every month until there is no evidence it ever existed. *It won't go away without a fight!!!*

Read the rest of the article [here](#).

## **August Yard of the Month (YOTM)**

Congratulations to [2113 West 49th Terrace](#) for the August YOTM.



## 2020 Census

Every home should have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. There are three ways to respond: Online, by phone, or by mail. Learn more [here](#)

**At present, 84.7% of Westwood Hills residents have responded. Westwood Hills is currently ranked #5 in Johnson County, and #28 in KS for responses. Let's try to get 100% participation!** If you have not done so, please respond to the 2020 Census today!

**Due to the coronavirus, the deadline to participate has been moved up to September 30, 2020.**

## 2020 Cost Share Program

The City received a grant from the County to encourage residents to plant new trees and native plantings (on buffers/swales). We encourage residents to consider whether new native plantings 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 a native tree, up to \$150.00, half the cost up to \$1,000 on native plantings and buffers/swales and rain gardens, and half the cost up to \$1,000 for permeable pavement. All are limited to a maximum of one application per resident. However, homeowners may apply for an additional native tree after October 20, 2020, if funds remain. There is a limited amount of money, and first

come, first served. **Projects requiring vegetation must be installed and completed by October 31, 2020 to promote establishment of the plantings. Native tree planting will be allowed until November 30, 2020.** Click [here](#) for the application.

**As of now, we've had two residents get approved for funds! There is still \$3,000.00 remaining to be claimed. If you are thinking about doing any landscaping that involves native plantings, don't forgot about the reimbursement!**

## Johnson County Mask Mandate

The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners voted to endorse the Kansas [Governor's Executive Order 20-52](#), requiring masks. The order is currently in place until Sept. 15. Pursuant to House Bill 2016, the duration of this executive order would only change if the order is rescinded by the Governor, the order is revoked by concurrent resolution of the Kansas Legislature, or the state of disaster emergency (currently set to terminate on Sept. 15) is extended in time by the Kansas Legislature.

Complaints concerning violations of the Executive Order are to be made to the District Attorney's office at 913 715 3003.

## 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 the vehicle, or call the non-emergency line for Westwood Police. Violators will be ticketed.

## Stormwater Management Plan and Annual Report

The City has filed its 2019 annual report to KDHE on the City's Stormwater Management Plan activities. Click [here](#) to read the City's Stormwater Management Plan, and [here](#) to read the 2019 annual report. Citizens may send comments regarding the Stormwater Plan and Annual Report to [whclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whclerk@gmail.com).

## Google Drive for City Council Meeting Documents

The City has a Google Drive where the City Council Meeting Documents are available to view. Click [here](#) for the drive. The link to the drive is also available via the Westwood Hills Website <http://westwoodhills.org>.

## September Meetings

The September regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

The September Planning Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

**Until further notice, meetings will be held virtually.**

STAY CONNECTED



# City Information

City Clerk: Beth O'Bryan [whclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whclerk@gmail.com) - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Paula Schwach - [schwach3p@gmail.com](mailto:schwach3p@gmail.com)

City website: [www.westwoodhills.org](http://www.westwoodhills.org)

## City Council

Michael Anfang - Budget and Finance - [anfang@rocketmail.com](mailto:anfang@rocketmail.com)

Ed Gogol - Landscaping - [gogol.monday@gmail.com](mailto:gogol.monday@gmail.com)

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 - Public Works - [lvillasi@kc.rr.com](mailto:lvillasi@kc.rr.com)

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