



## ***City of Westwood Hills August 2019 Newsletter***

### **New to the City Council and BZA**

Welcome Ed Gogol, who joined the City Council, replacing Mary Becker, and Daniel Swint who joins the BZA, replacing Ed Gogol.



Ed Gogol being sworn in by Mayor Schwach.



Daniel Swint being sworn in by Mayor Schwach.

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

Congratulations to Patti and Mike Coffman for the August YOTM.



## 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.

### Public Notice Concerning Stormwater Permits

Click [here](#) for the Public Notice Concerning Kansas / Federal Water Pollution Control Permits and Applications and the draft new Westwood Hills Permit for the pending KS Water Pollution Control Permit and Authorization to Discharge under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Comments must be submitted, in writing, to KDHE by September 7, 2019. All comments regarding the draft documents or application notices received on or before September 7, 2019, will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding this public notice. Please refer to the appropriate Kansas document number (KS-AG-19-255, KS-Q-19-180/187) and name of the applicant/permittee when preparing comments.

## Community Paper Shredding & Electronics Recycling



On Saturday, September 21, 2019, the City of Westwood Hills will be participating in a paper shredding and eCycle event. The event will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at 4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway in Fairway, Kansas.

Proof of residency will be required to participate in this mostly free event. Click [here](#) for more information.

**The City needs two volunteers to work from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Please contact the City Clerk if you are able to help out**

## Johnson County Sewer Backup Program

Have the frequent and sizable recent rain events caused water related problems to the basement of your property? Johnson County Wastewater (JCW) has a program to help Johnson County residents better protect their homes during these rain events.

This program is voluntary and may provide funding to eligible home owners so that they may install a backup prevention device or make plumbing modifications on their property. JCW staff will investigate all calls to determine if water in the basement was due to a sanitary sewer back up or water from some other sources. Click [HERE](#) for more information about this program.

## Bagworms

**The following article was written by Dennis Patton, and printed in the Kansas City Star on June 28, 2019.** Although insecticides may not be effective at this time of year, our landscaper and some residents have noticed bagworms on landscape plants within the City. So, you might want to be on alert for these pests.

### **Bagworms hatchlings could be feeding our your plants. Here's how to control the pests**

It is one of the most easily identified insects found in our area — the bagworm. Bagworms are now munching their way through many landscape plants, and their favorites tend to be evergreens such as junipers, spruce and arborvitae. Because of the wide range of host material, give all landscape plants a quick glance to assess for damage. The young worm-like insects eat the foliage, resulting in an initial browning of the area. Under severe feeding, the plant will die.

Bagworms form a silken bag, mixed with plant parts, up to 3 inches long. Bagworms spend most of their lives attached to a branch or stem eating and never leaving the comfort of the bag. Only the males leave the bags to mate with the female, then they die, and the female lays eggs for next year's hatch.

Bagworms over-winter in the egg stage in bags attached to the plant. The eggs hatch in late May through mid-June. The hatchlings are tiny at first, about the size of a sharpened pencil tip.

They develop quickly, spinning a larger bag until mid to late summer. The bag is thick and about 2 to 3 inches in length. At that point the bagworms mate, eggs are laid, and the whole process starts over for next year.

Bagworm populations build up to damaging levels very quickly as each bag of eggs can produce more than 1,000 hungry little worms.

Control bagworms after they hatch in the early summer. Just about any insecticide will kill the worms while they are small and the silken bag not highly formed. The larger the bag

becomes, the less effective the control.

By late summer, chemical applications are worthless. At this stage, handpicking and destruction of the bags is recommended. This is a slow task that most people would prefer not to do.

There are many insecticides that are effective on bagworms at this time of year. Products to apply include spinosad, acephate, cyfluthrin or permethrin. An organic product called *Bacillus thuringiensis* is also effective. Thorough coverage of the plant is vital for full control.

Now is an excellent time to give your evergreen plants a close inspection for bagworms. I receive a number of calls each year from people attempting to identify this pest. They say something to the effect of, "they just appeared overnight."

But there are clues to their arrival. They can do a lot of damage in a short time, so identifying bagworms early is essential to their control.

*Dennis Patton is a horticulture agent with Kansas State University Research and Extension. Got a question for him or other university extension experts? Email them to [garden.help@jocogov.org](mailto:garden.help@jocogov.org).*

## **There will not be an August 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](mailto:whclerk@gmail.com).

### **Diaper Awareness Week**

HappyBottoms is the diaper bank for the Kansas City metropolitan area. Because diapers for babies are not covered by any assistance program like SNAP (food stamps), WIC, or Medicaid, HappyBottoms exists to provide diapers to babies throughout the metro.

Diapers for babies affect many things:

- Physical health of the baby or toddler
- Mental stress for parents
- Access to child care services (most require parents to bring their own diapers)
- Ability to attend school or work for the parents (many have to stay home if their child cannot enroll in child care)

From September 23 through September 29, 2019, the City of Westwood Hills is helping these families, babies, and HappyBottoms by declaring that week to be Diaper Need Awareness Week in Westwood Hills. Click [here](#) to view the proclamation.

More information can be found at their website at [www.happybottoms.org](http://www.happybottoms.org).

### **BMP 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, 2019, 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, 2019 to promote establishment. Native tree planting will be allowed until November 30, 2019. Click [here](#) for the application.

## September Meetings

The September regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on September 9, 2019. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

The Planning Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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](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

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)

John Weedman - Budget and Finance- [john@midwestbinding.com](mailto:john@midwestbinding.com)

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