



City of Westwood Hills November 2019 Newsletter



Thank you to John Weedman

The City thanks John Weedman for his service to the City. John was elected to the City Council in 2013. Since that time, he has been in charge of both Public Works and Budget and Finance. John has been instrumental in many of the City projects during his tenure, which include the stonework restoration and storm sewer and street repairs.

Welcome Michael Anfang

Michael Anfang joins the City Council and will be sworn in at the December meeting. Michael will fill John Weedman's seat.

A Note from WWPd - PB&J Border War

We need backup! We have a PB&J Border War breaking out with KCKPD!

If you haven't heard, the Westwood Police department has entered into a friendly competition with the Kansas City, KS Police Department in providing assistance with food over winter break to about 950 elementary students. In conjunction with L3 (Love, Literacy and Life), the two departments are going to see how much PB&J they can raise. KCKPD will collect Peanut Butter; WWPd is collecting Jelly.

There are three ways to contribute: Until November 20th there will be a barrel at Westwood City Hall, and a barrel at the Westwood Walmart, or a check made out to

"WWPD Cares" can be dropped off at the Westwood Police Department, and we will purchase jelly.

The parents who received the food last year were polled, and PB&J was one of their requests for this year. It's a great program, and such an important part of the process is to involve the recipients to better meet their needs. Please consider joining our officers, fellow city employees and elected officials to see how much Jelly we can raise.

<https://www.loveliteracylife.org/>



Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony

Join Santa and the Westwood Hills Community on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. on The Green. This event is put on by the Westwood Hills Community Association. More details to follow.

Evergy's (formally KCP&L) Restoration Process



Restoring power is complex. Learn how Evergy brings the community back online. Power sometimes returns in a different order than you'd expect. Evergy has a process in place to address critical needs first then the largest number of customers as quickly and safely as possible.

- As outage reports come in, troubleshooters and sometimes damage assessment crews are sent to investigate the outage cause. This is why you may see an Evergy vehicle come and leave your neighborhood without power being restored
- Crews then repair or replace equipment as needed, removing all hazards
- Many times, tree trimming crews must remove trees or tree limbs before power can be restored
- Following a major storm, sometimes it is a matter of completely rebuilding parts of the electrical system to restore services, which can take lots of coordination and many hours to complete

Evergy's goal is to restore power to the largest number of customers as quickly and safely as possible.

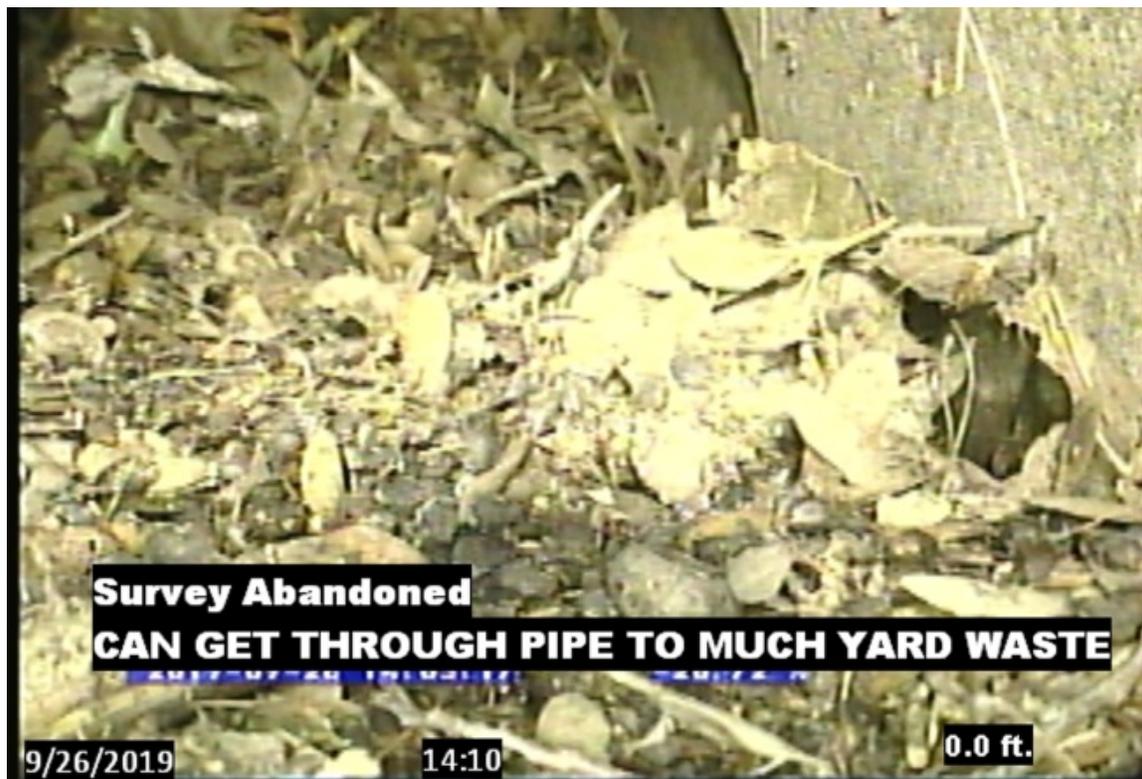
Residents should report outages (even if your neighbor has reported the outage) at www.evergy.com/outages or 1-888-LIGHTKC (1-800-544-4852).

The City Needs Your Help!

Does your curb look like this? If so, the City asks that you please clean your curb once a week this time of year. Leaves that enter the storm sewer can clog the pipes and impede the flow of water. Your downstream neighbors will thank you.



The City recently had the storm sewers inspected. The picture below shows how leaves entering the storm drains clog the system, impeding the flow of water. Your tax dollars are used to pay for cleaning out the pipes.



Construction and Other Vehicle Parking

Please ask your contractors and other visitors to park only on the authorized size 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.

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 online tool [here](#).

City Wide Leaf Collection

City Wide leaf collection will take place Sunday, December 8, 2019. More details to follow.

In Memoriam - Jim Berg



Jim Berg, formerly of Westwood Hills, passed away on October 20, 2019. Jim and his wife Becky were longtime residents of Westwood Hills and relocated to Manzanita, Oregon, about six years ago.

There will not be a November 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.

December Meetings

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

The December Planning Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 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 - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Paula Schwach - schwach3p@gmail.com

City website: www.westwoodhills.org

City Council

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

John Weedman - Budget and Finance - john@midwestbinding.com

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