



City of Westwood Hills October 2019 Newsletter

Happy Halloween!

Just a reminder that our city streets will be temporarily closed on Halloween evening to allow for safe and fun trick-or-treating. Barricades will be in place at both Rainbow and State Line on all streets, exclusive of 50th Terrace, and inclusive of the shops parking lot, on Halloween evening from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, and Westwood Police will be on hand and "armed" with candy for the kids. Have a safe and fun Halloween!



A Message from The Chief of Police

Halloween is a special time of year in Westwood Hills. The City, in cooperation with the Westwood Police Department, always strives to make trick or treating a safe and happy activity for both residents and non-residents. We will continue to close most of our streets to car traffic at 6:00 p.m. and do our best to make sure that pedestrians are safe.

We are asking residents once again to observe a uniform time to end trick or treating at 8:00 p.m., at which time the street barricades will be removed. Certainly, we cannot mandate that individual residents comply with this time-frame, but we would like your help in giving it a try. We think, as people are entering the city, if we can give them an ending time in advance, they might be able to plan their route a little more efficiently. At the end of the night, we won't have quite as many people standing around wondering whether or not they should continue trick-or-treating.

We appreciate your help and consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us or any member of your City Council.

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](#).

The Annual Community Association Event was held on Monday, October 7, 2019. A good time was had by all!





City Wide Leaf Collection

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

October Yard of the Month (YOTM)

Congratulations to Sherrill Mulhern for the October YOTM.



Leaf Blowers

Did you know??

- Gas powered leaf blowers emit as much pollution in one hour as driving a 2016 Toyota Camry 1100 miles
- More than 170 US cities in 31 states have enacted some kind of leaf blower restrictions
- Using a commercial grade, gas-powered leaf blower for only two hours can cause hearing damage

(Above statistics from an article published on October 24, 2018, by Green Energy Times. Click [here](#) for the entire article).

Fall is here, and falling leaves are soon expected. Each year the city hears concerns from residents about the noise from gas-powered leaf blowers, as well as the smog emissions resulting from use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Please be considerate to your neighbors and consider minimizing the air pollution and noise intrusion on others as you gather those leaves from your yard.

Community Paper Shredding & Electronics Recycling Results



During the September 21st Recycling Event, the Cities of Fairway, Mission, Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Roeland Park, Westwood and Westwood Hills shredded and recycled 26,100 pounds of paper and saved 221 mature trees from destruction.

The Cities also recycled and kept 9,286 pounds of computer electronics out of the landfill.

There will not be an October 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.

BMP Cost Share Program - Last Call

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.

November Meetings

The November regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2019. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

The November Planning Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 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.