



Monthly

news & updates

December 2025 - CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS

Upcoming Events:

December

- No Planning Commission Meeting
- 16 Stormwater Inlet Cleaning
- 24 City Offices Close at noon
- 25 City Offices Closed
- 26 City Offices Closed
- 31 City Offices Close at noon

January

- 1 City Offices Closed
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - City Offices Closed

Stormwater Inlet Cleaning

A-1 will be cleaning the city's stormwater inlets on December 16, 2025. Please make sure your vehicle is not parked in a way that blocks any stormwater inlet so crews can access them safely and efficiently. Thank you for your cooperation.



Online House Watch Request Form

The House Watch Program provides residents with a helpful service

when planning vacations. The Westwood Police Department will regularly check the homes registered in the program, usually on a multi-shift schedule. If any issues arise with a property, all necessary steps will be taken. To complete and submit a House Watch Request form before your next trip, visit <https://www.westwoodks.org/police/page/house-watch-request-form>

Winter Yard Waste Collection

There will be no yard waste collection in December, January, and February. For questions or issues regarding this policy, please contact the HOA Treasurer, Richard Carey at richard.carey193@gmail.com



Thank You

Thank you, Ed Gogol!

Many thanks to Ed Gogol for his years of service on the City Council. Ed's focus was on Landscaping, and with his leadership, The Green looks better than ever!

New City Council Member - Laura Carey

Welcome, Laura Carey, to the Westwood Hills City Council. Laura will serve a two-year term that began on December 8, 2025. Laura's focus will be on budget and finance. Laura can be reached at

hnc1140@gmail.com.



County Commissioner Becky Fast (far left) swore in the Mayor and City Council members (pictured from left to right) John Weedman, Laura Carey, Karen Sexton, Adam England, and David Schmitz (not pictured, Mayor Rosemary Podrebarac) at the December 8, 2025, meeting.

Photo courtesy of Spencer Carey Photo

Holiday Lighting

The Annual Santa Holiday Lighting took place on November 30, 2025. Thank you to John and Sheri Weedman (Annedore's) for providing the hot chocolate for the event.



Johnson County Winter Weather Guide

Snow and ice are typical features of Kansas winters, often combined with freezing temperatures. These conditions not only increase travel risks but also pose health risks due to extreme cold. Johnson County Government aims to prepare residents for various winter weather challenges. Their guide provides the latest information on closures and cancellations, along with practical tips to help people stay safe and warm in cold weather. Find Johnson County's Winter Weather Guide at <https://www.jocogov.org/winter-weather-guide>.

Every Urges Space Heater & Electric Blanket Safety

Winter is coming, and cold nights are here. Many Every customers will turn to portable space heaters and electric blankets to help stay warm. If not used correctly, space heaters and electric blankets can pose a fire hazard to you and your family. The Electrical Safety Foundation reports that heating equipment causes more than 65,000 home fires each year.



Every reminds customers how to use electric blankets and heaters safely this upcoming winter.

Space Heaters

- Always review and follow any safety instructions on your specific space heater.
- Plug your heater into a wall outlet. Never plug a portable space heater into a power strip or extension cord.
- Heaters should be placed on flat surfaces, such as the floor. Do not leave them anywhere where they could fall.
- Keep them three feet from other items, especially blankets and curtains.
- Make sure they have the proper certifications, for example, UL-approved. This means the product has been tested and meets specific safety requirements.
- Do not use them while sleeping. Choose a space heater with a timer.
- Choose a space heater that is the proper size for the room to avoid wasting energy or overheating.

Electric Blankets

- Throw out electric blankets or heating pads with dark, charred, or frayed spots, or with cracks or frays in the electric cord.
- Do not allow anything on top of a heating pad or electric blanket when it is in use, including other blankets or even pets. Electric blankets may overheat.
- Never fold electric blankets when in use. Folded or tucked in blankets could overheat and cause a fire.
- Do not use electric blankets or heating pads while sleeping.
- Turn them off when not in use.



Johnson County Expands Lithium Battery Disposal Options at Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Johnson County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility has introduced a new no-appointment drop-off option for lithium batteries to address growing safety risks from improper disposal.

Lithium batteries—commonly found in cell phones, laptops, power tools, e-scooters, e-cigarettes, and similar devices—differ from standard alkaline batteries. They are rechargeable and often marked with an “Li” symbol and a crossed-out trash can icon. When damaged, overheated, overcharged, or defective, these batteries can enter thermal runaway, creating a significant fire hazard. Because lithium is water-reactive, water should not be used to extinguish lithium battery fires, further underscoring the need for proper disposal.

“Lithium batteries are everywhere, and they can pose a danger to people and property when proper care and disposal procedures aren't followed,” said Trent Thompson, Environmental Program Manager for Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. “The Household Hazardous Waste facility is one of many options for safe disposal of these batteries so that they aren't improperly tossed in the trash.”

New Drop-Off Procedures

Location: HHW Facility, 11231 Mastin St., Overland Park, Kansas
No appointment required

Damaged or recalled lithium batteries

Accepted Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Use the gate call button to enter; HHW technicians will assist.

Batteries should be placed in an airtight plastic bag and kept away from water.

Non-damaged lithium batteries

Accepted without appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Appointments remain required when dropping off additional battery types or other hazardous materials.

Residents may schedule appointments [online](#), with new times added daily—often allowing same-day availability.

Additional lithium battery recycling options are available through the county's electronic waste listings, [RecycleSpot.org](#), and [Call2Recycle.org](#).

The County also encourages residents to purchase lithium batteries that meet recognized standards. Find more information [here](#).

Westwood Police Department Supports Northeast Elves Program

The Westwood Police Department is proud to once again partner with local first responders to support the Northeast Elves Program, helping make the holiday season a little brighter for families in need.

Each year, the Northeast Elves Program provides gifts and assistance to children and families across the region, spreading cheer and reinforcing the spirit of community. This holiday season, Westwood PD invites residents and community members to join this effort by donating money or gift cards.

Donations can be dropped off at the Westwood Police Department, located at 4700 Rainbow Blvd., Westwood, KS.

Find more information [here](#) or contact Officer Gianfranco Roque at [913-362-3737](tel:913-362-3737) or gianfranco.roque@westwoodkspd.org

Your generosity will help ensure that local children and families experience a joyful holiday season. Thank you for supporting this important community initiative!





Stormwater Management Plan and Annual Report

The 2021 Stormwater Management Plan and the 2024 SMP Annual Report, filed in February 2025, are available on the City's [website](#).

CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS, KS | www.westwoodhillssks.gov

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City Information

City Clerk: Beth O'Bryan - clerk@westwoodhillssks.gov - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Rosemary Podrebarac - mayor@westwoodhillssks.gov

City Council

Laura Carey - Budget and Finance - hncl140@gmail.com

Adam England - Landscaping - adam.n.english@gmail.com

Karen Sexton - Public Safety - kls@sextonandshelor.com

Dave Schmitz - Building and Ordinances - schmittyorfortheCity@gmail.com

John Weedman - Public Works - john@midwestbinding.com

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