

## Monthly news & updates

### July 2022 - CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS

#### Upcoming Events:

See the Covid-19 information below regarding free at-home antigen tests

July 16, 2022 - 988 Suicide Hotline Rollout

July 19, 2022 - Mayor Schwach's Retirement Reception

August 8, 2022 - City Council Meeting

August 18, 2022 - Planning Commission Meeting

September 17, 2022 - Environmental Fair

September 17, 2022 - Paper Shredding and e-Cycle Event



On July 16, the National Suicide Prevention Line will be reachable at 988 and will direct callers to local crisis centers for assistance.

- The switch to the new three-digit number was **federally approved** in July 2020,



#### 4th of July Celebration



establishing a new “911 for mental health.”

- Mental health center officials noted that anyone who has a medical emergency should still call 911.

The existing crisis line for Johnson County Mental Health Emergency Services is still accessible at (913) 268-0156.

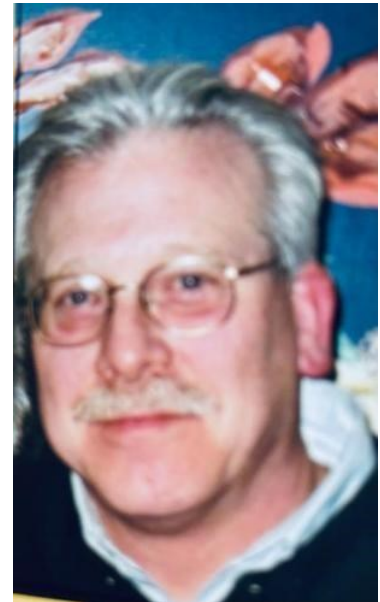


As usual the 4th of July Celebration was a hit! Thank you to the Community Association for putting on this fun event!

### **In Memoriam**

Dale W. Prout, May 15, 1948 - June 15, 2022, was born on May 15, 1948, in Kansas City, Mo. Growing up his family moved to Harrisonville and Independence. He graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a degree in Public Relations. Dale enjoyed meeting people, and so a job in print sales was a good fit for someone who had his friendly demeanor & charming personality. Dale had a passion for fishing, cars, & history. Dale leaves behind his partner of 22 years, Pauline Freeman, & 5 siblings, Julia Kunesh, John Prout, Carolyn Ross, Michael Prout, and Lisa Graves as well as several nieces & nephews.

His "Celebration of Life" will be on November 5th, 2022 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Heartland, 6113 Blue Ridge Blvd. Raytown, Mo.



**There will not be a July Planning Commission Meeting.**

### **YOTM**

Congratulations to Dustin Neel for the July Yard of the Month!



If you read Westwood Nextdoor, you will see a lot of posts regarding crime, specifically porch thieves and auto break-ins and thefts. Our little city is not immune to these crimes. Please follow the guidelines laid out in the @9PMRoutine for ways to prevent these crimes. In addition, the City of Westwood has many great tips on its website. You can find them [here](#).

# JOIN US!

## @9PMRoutine

Here's how:

Every night @9PM adopt these habits:

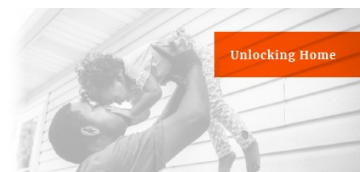
1. Remove valuables from vehicles
2. Lock vehicles' doors and windows
3. Take in mail, newspaper and door solicitations
4. Close windows, garage & exterior doors
5. Turn on exterior lights
6. Call 913.782.0720 or 911 if you see suspicious activity!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT: Westwood KS Police Department

FOLLOW US ON: Nextdoor.com

### Kansas Housing Launches Mortgage Relief Program

*Assistance supports homeowners facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic*



The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) has launched the [Kansas Homeowner Assistance Fund \(KHAFF\)](#), providing mortgage and utility assistance to Kansas households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, we’ve provided more than **\$190 million** in assistance to keep Kansans stably housed and connected to vital services,” said Ryan Vincent, Executive Director of Kansas Housing. “We’re so pleased to extend that support to homeowners with KHAF. We know that the economic impact of the pandemic is far from over, and these dollars will be vital in ensuring Kansans can remain in their homes.”

The KHAF program, supported through funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and administered by KHRC, will help qualifying Kansans get current on their mortgages and property taxes and avoid foreclosure.

The KHAF program provides:

- Mortgage payments
- Property taxes and charges
- Utility, internet, and broadband fees
- And more

To qualify for assistance, applicants must:

- Own their primary residence in Kansas;
- Provide valid proof of identification;
- Meet income guidelines;
- Be at risk of losing their home; and
- Experience a documented financial hardship during the COVID pandemic.

Households earning up to 150 percent of their area’s median income are eligible to apply. For example, a family of four living in Johnson County could earn up to \$145,200 to qualify for assistance. Eligible hardship must include a reduction in income or an increase in living expenses associated with the pandemic.

Applications are accepted online, and assistance is paid directly to the lender or service provider. Eligible homeowners may receive up to \$35,000 in mortgage assistance and up to \$10,000 in property charges and utility assistance.

The KHAF program was developed in consultation with housing stakeholders and community members through a [public feedback process](#). The program will operate until the state’s \$56.6 million KHAF allocation is fully expended. Homeowners are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to ensure that they receive assistance in a timely manner. Applicants may check the status of their application at any time by logging in to the KHAF portal.

To learn more and apply, visit [kshousingcorp.org](http://kshousingcorp.org)



### Stormwater Cost Share Program

The City of Westwood Hills encourages individual homeowners to incorporate Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) on their properties to aid in the improvement of local and regional water quality.

At the same time, the City encourages planting native plants and trees to support the natural ecosystem and provide food for pollinators like bees and butterflies. The BMP Cost Share program will reimburse applicants up to 50% of eligible expenses, not to

exceed a project reimbursement cap for the proper installation of the following best management practices:

Project Type	Project Reimbursement Cap
Rain Barrel	\$75 per barrel, up to two
Native tree planting	\$150 per tree, up to two
Rain garden/pollinator garden	\$1000

Go to [containtherainjoco.com](http://containtherainjoco.com) for the application.

Start planning your garden now. Visit the [K-State Research and Extension Online Gardening Calendar](#) to help with your planning.

## Johnson County Severe Weather Guide

Severe weather is possible in Johnson County throughout the year. This hazardous weather can put people's safety at risk and cause damage to property. Johnson County Government has [created an online guide](#) to help residents prepare for and monitor severe weather.



## COVID At-Home tests are now available at the JCDHE Olathe Offices, Joco libraries, and SMSD and Olathe Public Schools Summer lunch sites.

Residents can order up to 4 **additional** free at-home COVID-19 tests at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) is distributing free, at-home rapid (antigen) testing kits at its Olathe office, 11875 S. Sunset Drive, via drive-thru only. The drive-thru is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., no appointment needed, while supplies last. Rapid tests are self-administered, and results are available within 15 minutes. PCR saliva test kits are available upon request.

JCDHE has partnered with the Johnson County Library to distribute at-home rapid (antigen) testing kits at each of the library's 14 locations. Click [here](#) for a list of library locations.

JCDHE will distribute free at-home rapid (antigen) COVID-19 tests at Shawnee Mission School District and Olathe Public Schools summer lunch sites. Test kits will be available at each location while supplies last. Families are encouraged to take home a free test kit for each member of their family and use it when needed.

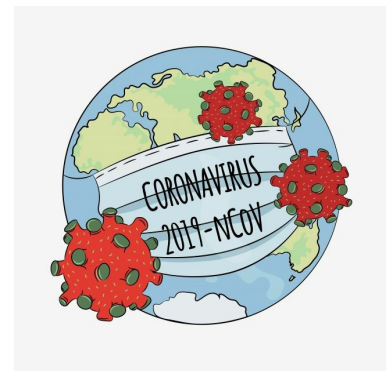
## COVID-19 HELPFUL INFORMATION

### COVID-19 Vaccinations:

Schedule an appointment with the County at <https://jocovaccine.rsvpify.com/>.

### COVID-19 Testing:

Ongoing - COVID-19 saliva testing at various locations around the area. Find testing sites and sign up at: <https://www.gogettested.com/kansas#booking-widget>



Free COVID-19 testing for Johnson County residents is available at the Department of Health and Environment's **Olathe location**. Go to <https://www.jocogov.org/schedule-covid-19-test> for more information or to schedule a test.

### Johnson County COVID-19 Webpage

Did you know that Johnson County has a COVID-19 webpage? Go to <https://www.jocogov.org/coronavirus-covid-19-update> to schedule a free COVID-19 test, view the COVID-19 dashboard, locate vaccine information, and more!



## Stormwater Management Plan and Annual Report

Click [here](#) for the new 2021 Stormwater Management Plan and [here](#) for the 2021 SMP Annual Report.

CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS, KS | [www.westwoodhillssks.gov](http://www.westwoodhillssks.gov)

[Visit our website](#)

[Visit our Google Drive](#)



### City Information

City Clerk: Beth O'Bryan - [clerk@westwoodhillssks.gov](mailto:clerk@westwoodhillssks.gov) - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Rosemary Podrebarac - [mayor@westwoodhillssks.gov](mailto:mayor@westwoodhillssks.gov)

#### City Council

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

Karen Sexton - Public Safety - [kls@sextonandshelor.com](mailto:kls@sextonandshelor.com)

Dave Schmitz - Public Works - [daveschmitz@gmail.com](mailto:daveschmitz@gmail.com)