



Monthly news & updates

May 2022 - CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS

Upcoming Events:

May - Parade of Hearts Display

May 21, 2022 - Native Plant Sale

June 8, 2022 - City-wide Codes Inspections

June 11, 2022 - Budget Workshop

June 13, 2022 - City Council Meeting

June 16, 2022 - Planning Commission Meeting

June - Systematic Codes Inspections



Mayor Schwach Resigns

After 22 years of public service, Mayor Paula Schwach has made the tough decision to resign as she will be moving from Westwood Hills. May 31, 2022 will be Paula's last day as our mayor. We will not only miss her as our mayor, but also as our neighbor. Pictured is Mayor Schwach's last State of The Cities Address, at which she received a standing ovation.



Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Lenexa Farmer's Market.

Johnson County Stormwater Management staff will be on-site to provide information on native plants for residents as well as information on the Contain the Rain Program. Two native plant suppliers will be providing a diverse array of native plants to purchase. Come early as supplies are limited. This is a great way to take advantage of the cost-share program (see below for more information).

For more information, and additional plant sale dates, go



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 \(KHAF\)](#), 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



Systematic Code Enforcement

The City will be conducting systematic city-wide code enforcement on June 8, 2022. The City partners with the City of Roeland Park for systematic and complaint-based inspections. The codes officer will be walking around the City to inspect residences as he will be identifiable wearing a Roeland Park shirt.

Please notify the City Clerk at clerk@westwoodhillsks.gov if you have work planned for summer or early fall.



Spring Egg Hunt and Arbor Day Celebration

A great time was had by all at the Spring Egg Hunt and Arbor Day Celebration! Thank you to the Community Association for putting on this always fun event!



2022 Occupation Licenses

If you operate a business from your home, please complete the [Home Occupation License form](#) and mail the completed application, with a \$25.00 check payable to the City of Westwood Hills, to the City Clerk. Home occupation licenses must be renewed annually.

PARADE OF HEARTS™

Don't forget to check out the Parade of Hearts. The hearts will be on display from March to May. 155 Hearts. 2 States. 1 Heartland!

Find more information and a map of the heart locations at <https://theparadeofhearts.com/>.



meeting

There will not be a May Planning Commission Meeting

Insulate Your Home - Winter, and Summer

In recognition of Earth Day on April 22, 2022, the 2022 Farmer's Almanac lists 15 practical steps toward a more sustainable environment that are also cost-effective. The Almanac's No. 1 suggestion is "Weather Seal Your Home".

If you are wanting to reduce your current energy costs, you may want to consider obtaining an Energy Audit. An audit is not a one size fits all service, i.e., an audit should possibly be considered before or as a part of a remodeling project; considered when a homeowner is replacing appliances or HVAC equipment; or when a homeowner wants a complete evaluation to make the home more energy efficient - and find out what will be the estimated ROI (return on investment). One consequence of having an energy audit in advance of replacement or remodeling projects is that you may find that, with simple repairs to seal escaping heating and cooling around doors and windows, you do not need as high powered and more expensive HVAC equipment (or in some cases two HVAC systems to heat or air condition your home (known as zoning).

A recommended source for obtaining the right company to perform an energy audit is the non-profit Metropolitan Energy Center. Please contact Mary English, Energy Program Manager, Building Performance, Mary@Metroenergy.org, 816.531.7383. The website is www.metroenergy.org. This organization has been in operation since 1983.

The cost for a typical audit starts at \$300.00, and an audit takes about 2-3 hours to perform. A report with recommended repairs or upgrades is prepared along with an ROI estimate if the repairs or recommended upgrades are completed. Once repairs are completed, the auditor will return and perform another blower test to ensure that the repairs to seal windows, doors, and attics have been completed as expected.

For additional information: Please go to the Metropolitan Energy Center website which is listed above or go to "What is a Home Energy Audit? A Guide" edited by Mary English –

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/professional-home-energy-assesstments>.



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:

| <u>Project Type</u> | <u>Project Reimbursement Cap</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 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

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



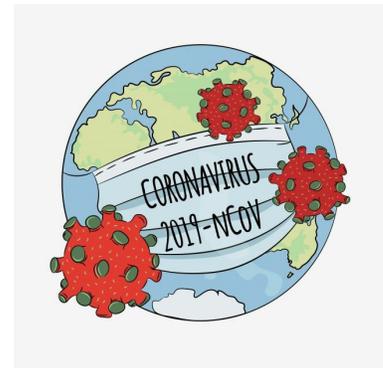
COVID-19 HELPFUL INFORMATION

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

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[Visit our Google Drive](#)



City Information

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City Council

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