

# Monthly news & updates

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## May 2021 - CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS

### Upcoming Events:

May 25, 2021 - May Planning Commission Meeting

May 26, 2021 Johnson County Charter Commission Meeting

June 1, 2021 - Election Filing Deadline

June 5, 2021 - Budget Workshop

June 14, 2021 - City Council Meeting

June 19, 2021 - Westwood Hills Garden Tour

### **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!

### **May Planning Commission Meeting - Date Change**

The May Planning Commission Meeting will be held remotely at 7:00 p.m. on May 25, 2021. The Zoom link will be on the [City's Google Drive](#) closer to the meeting.

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### **2022 Budget Workshop**

The 2022 Budget Workshop will be held at the offices of Higdon and Hale, 6310 Lamar St. #110, on Saturday, June 5, 2021, with a virtual option available. Due to spacing issues, we ask that citizens attend the meeting virtually.

Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97298315153?pwd=R2hyR2tYOGtZWnVDclp3amNaSHNGZz09>

Meeting ID: 972 9831 5153

Passcode: FLK5C7

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### **Johnson County Elections Filing Deadline**

Five City Council positions and the Mayor position will be elected on November 2, 2021 for the City of Westwood Hills. If you are interested in serving our city, you must file in person at the Johnson County Election Office (2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS), by noon on Monday, June 1, 2021. If needed, the primary election will be held on August 3, 2021.

### **Stormwater Best Management Practices Program**

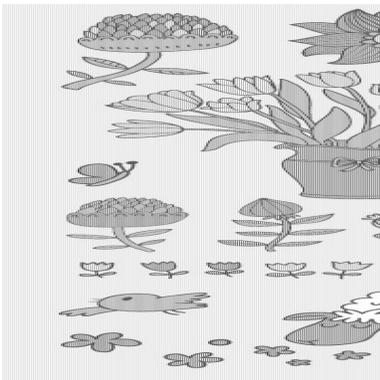
The City of Westwood Hills encourages individual homeowners to incorporate Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) on their property to aid in the improvement of local and regional water quality.

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

This year, Bridging the Gap will administer the program on the City's behalf. All applications must be completed online and be approved **prior** to starting the project.

For more information about this program [click here](#).



### **Westwood Hills Garden Tour**

The Westwood Hills Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, June 19, 2021. We will have eight beautiful and diverse gardens to tour. The tour will be open only to Westwood Hills residents and their invited guests. We hope to share and inspire by sharing examples of sun and shade gardens, perennial and annual gardens and raised gardens. This event is being sponsored by the Westwood Hills Historic Foundation and Westwood Hills Homes Association and Community Association.

### **YOTM**

Congratulations to 1918 West 50th St. for the May Yard of the Month!



### **In Memoriam - Charlie Speer**

Longtime resident, Charlie Speer, passed away on April 11, 2021. His full obituary can be found at: [https://www.porterfuneralhome.com/ObituaryDetails.aspx?id=60628&Name=Charles\\_Frederic\\_](https://www.porterfuneralhome.com/ObituaryDetails.aspx?id=60628&Name=Charles_Frederic_)

Charles Frederic Speer "Charlie" was born on April 21, 1953 in Kansas City, Kansas. He attended Wyandotte High School, right across the street from his childhood home, where he excelled at swimming. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas. Charlie received his MBA and law degree from the University of Kansas and spent the early years of his career with Ford Motor Company and at several law firms in Kansas City. In 2002, he ventured out on his own, opening Speer Law Firm, where he practiced mainly environmental law. Most important to him was his lifelong and selfless fight to protect small family farmers. He will forever be remembered by his family for his generous and unselfish spirit and his unfailing love and support. Charlie is survived by wife Martha, daughter Annie (Nick), daughter Katie (Scott), and son Sam, siblings Robert, Andrea, and George and grandchildren.

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Longtime resident, Hugh Brown, age 93, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, April 18, 2021. His full obituary may be found

at <https://www.johnsoncountychapel.com/obituary/HughMerryman-Brown>

Hugh was born in Los Angeles, CA, and began violin studies there at age 5 with Wort S. Morse. By age 9, he was a WDAF radio artist playing the likes of the Mendelssohn violin concerto and Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen." Around this time, Hugh and his mother moved to New York, settling in New York City when Hugh was 10 years old. Graduating in 1944, he planned to pursue studies in chemical engineering.

Hugh continued with his musical studies as well. He attended the National Institute of Music in New York and later attended the Juilliard School, where he studied violin with Frank Kneisel. In both 1944 and 1946, Hugh was a finalist in the prestigious Naumburg Foundation competition.

But high expectations for musical greatness became an intolerable burden. Hugh dropped out of Juilliard and turned to other occupations. The Latin rhythms that were finding their way into popular music of the time provided the spark Hugh needed to return to music.

In 1951, Hugh auditioned for a tour with then little-known Robert Shaw and his chorale, and was hired as a concertmaster. After the tour, his stand partner, Dorothy McConnell, became his wife, when they married on April 14, 1951.

In 1951, after marrying Dorothy, Hugh took the position of assistant concertmaster in the Kansas City Philharmonic and later moved to principal second violin, a post he continued to hold when the orchestra reorganized as the Kansas City Symphony. He also performed with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and was concertmaster of the Starlight Theater orchestra for two decades.

In the mid-1960s, Hugh was named to the faculty of the Conservatory of Music at UMKC. He retired from the Conservatory in 1989 and from the Symphony in 1999.

For years, a favorite activity was the Tuesday morning get-togethers with a group of friends dubbed "the Coffee Boys" by the wife of one of the members.

Hugh is survived by his children, Carole and Chuck (Eve), and grandchildren and great grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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# BIKE MONTH CHALLENGE • May 1-31, 2021

Celebrate bike month with a fun, friendly challenge



1

Log bike and walk trips at [RideshareKC.org](https://RideshareKC.org)



2

Encourage your friends to join



3

Win prizes all month long

[RideshareKC.org](https://RideshareKC.org)



## 5 Reasons to Choose Battery-Powered Lawn Tools

1. The Motor Produces Zero Emissions
2. Battery-Powered Tools Are More Efficient
3. You Can Recharge Them
4. There's No Risk of Spilled Gasoline
5. Battery-Powered Tools Are Reliable

Read the article [here](#)

## Johnson County Charter Commission Meetings

Mayor Schwach is a member of the Johnson County Charter Commission. Meetings are held the second Monday and the fourth Wednesday of the month. The purpose of the decennial Charter Commission is to study and evaluate the operations of county government and recommend changes as needed.

## Children Playing

Summer is almost here, and that means children will be out and about more often. Please remember to SLOW down and watch out for the children.

## Illegal Parking in the City

City ordinances limit parking to one side of each of our city streets. Except for 48th Terrace where parking is allowed only on the north side of the street, parking is allowed only on the south side of the other east-west city streets. On Glendale, parking is allowed on the east side. Increasingly, passage along city streets is being obstructed by vehicles, including trucks belonging to contractors, which are parked without regard to the parking limitations. This poses a safety hazard at worst and an inconvenience to neighbors at best. Please anticipate enforcement of the city's ordinances and voluntarily comply with the parking limitations.

## Stormwater Management Plan and Annual Report

Click [here](#) for the new 2021 Stormwater Management Plan and [here](#) for the 2020 SMP Annual Report.

[Visit our website](#)

[Visit our Google Drive](#)



## City Information

City Clerk: Beth O'Bryan - [whclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whclerk@gmail.com) - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Paula Schwach - [schwach3p@gmail.com](mailto:schwach3p@gmail.com)

### City Council

Michael Anfang - Budget and Finance - [anfang@rocketmail.com](mailto:anfang@rocketmail.com)

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

Rosemary Podrebarac - Ordinances and Building - [rpodrebarac1@kc.rr.com](mailto:rpodrebarac1@kc.rr.com)

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

Ludwig Villasi - Public Works - [lvillasi@kc.rr.com](mailto:lvillasi@kc.rr.com)