

Westwood Park Homes Association

NEWSLETTER

 ♦
 Match 2025


Your March Update: Spring in Full Bloom

After a pretty grueling February, are you ready to welcome spring? Warmer days and longer nights are finally upon us—spring officially arrives in Westwood Park on Thursday, March 20 at 4:01 A.M. CDT. That means playdates in the park, walks to the fountain, and catching up with neighbors we haven't seen in months.

Our neighborhood is coming back to life, and there's plenty to look forward to this season. In this issue, you'll find everything you need to stay connected and make the most of spring near the Plaza. So open the windows, soak up the fresh air, and take a look—there's something for everyone this season!



Welcome to the neighborhood!

Corinne Scholes

 1621 West 50th
Street

Christian Stark

 1316 West 50th
Terrace

Paul Galbrecht

4924 Wyoming

**Kate & Lisa
Wallner**

 1407 West 50th
Street

**Brian
McCallister**

 1410 West 50th
Street

Stephen Spivey

 1440 West 50th
Terrace

**Michael Malin &
Susan Sharp**

 4960 Westwood
Road

John & Sara Waller

 4816 Westwood
Road

**David & Donna
Buck**

 4933 Westwood
Road

Kimberly Kearney

4951 State Line

Board Elections and Appreciation

New board members will be elected at the annual meeting. If you're interested in serving, email Margaret Smith at margaretjosmith@gmail.com.

A special thanks to David Belpedio for his service and for bringing the festive redbud tree lights to the fountain—a tradition we'll enjoy for years to come!

First Fridays at the Fountain Return May 2nd

Join neighbors at the fountain on the first Friday of each month, May–October, from 5:00–6:30 PM for a relaxed evening of conversation and community. Soft drinks and chips provided—just bring your favorite beverage. See you there!



What Do You Think? A Safer Trick-or-Treating Plan for Westwood Park

Halloween should be full of fun—not worry! With little ones darting between houses, cars can be a real hazard. That's why we're considering a temporary street closure Halloween evening on Bell St. (49th–50th) for safer trick-or-treating. Residents would still be able to access their homes, but traffic would be reduced for an hour or two.

To move forward, we'll need signatures from 60% of affected residents. We'll discuss this at the Annual Meeting, where we'll start gathering support. Let us know your thoughts or share other family-friendly ideas with Mackenzie Bromley at mackenziedavidson22@gmail.com.



Vote on our new Neighborhood Logo

It's time for an updated look! Kate Hayes, Westwood Parker, artist and graphic designer, has graciously agreed to provide options for an updated logo based on our fountain. Options will be posted on Facebook, and neighbors will be able to vote for their preferred logo. Be on the lookout for the options in late March.

Plaza District Council: Stay Connected

The Plaza District Council (PDC) supports and collaborates with Plaza district stakeholders to preserve this iconic area, extending from State Line to The Paseo, 43rd to 55th Street.

Join PDC's Coffee & Cocktail Connections to chat with board members and neighbors at Made in KC Marketplace (306 W 47th St.):

Coffee Connections – March 26, April 30, June 25 (8:30–9:30 AM)

Cocktail Connection – May 30 (4:30–6:00 PM)

Events are free, but registration is required at plazakc.org.



Join the 2025 Great Kansas City Cleanup – Let's Make Westwood Park Shine!

Grab your gloves and help us keep our neighborhood beautiful! On Saturday, April 19, we're rolling up our sleeves for the Great Kansas City Cleanup—a citywide effort to clear litter and beautify our shared spaces.

This year, we'll focus on:

- Westwood Park (State Line)
- The Fountain at the neighborhood entrance (Ward Parkway)
- The Island at Ward Parkway & Holly St.
- Ward Parkway median (Bellevue Ave to Shawnee Mission Pkwy)
- Sidewalks, streets, and curbs

Meet us at 9:00 AM at the Fountain (Ward Parkway entrance), where we'll provide trash bags, gloves, and cleanup assignments. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a picker if you have one!

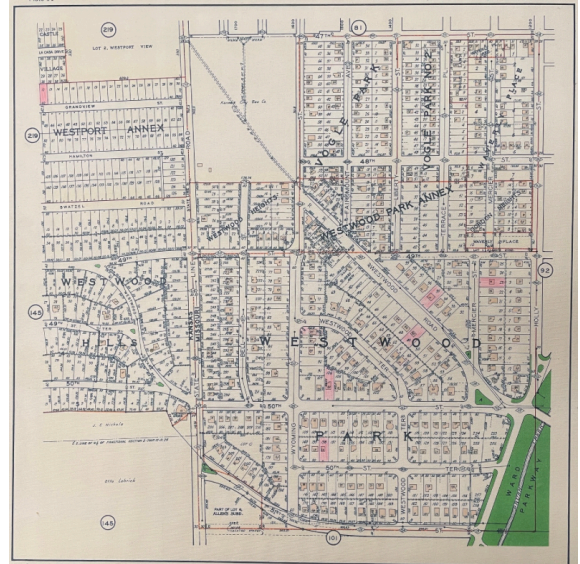
A Little History: How the Westwood Park Came to Be

Unlike many Kansas City parks, which were gifts from wealthy landowners or developers, Westwood Park exists because of its forward-thinking neighbors.

In 1947, residents of Westwood Park and West Plaza took matters into their own hands, agreeing to tax themselves to purchase 9.34 acres of undeveloped land. A petition signed by 573 homeowners led to the Parks Board approving the land purchase from the Gas Service Company for \$2,000 per acre—a small price for a lasting neighborhood gem. Each property owner contributed about \$15 (around \$220 today) to make it happen.

Plans for the park included baseball diamonds, a children's play area, and picnic grounds, with the Parks Department funding development. In January 1951, the park was officially named Westwood Park based on recommendations from local community groups.

Just two years later, after the passing of beloved neighborhood pharmacist Thomas F. Shuler, a petition with 2,000 signatures sought to rename the park in his honor. Despite strong community support, the Parks Board upheld its policy against renaming parks, ensuring Westwood Park kept its original name—a lasting tribute to the neighbors who made it possible.



Dates to Note

Sunday, May 18th

5-7 PM

Wine and cheese at Patterson Hall on the Pembroke Hill upper school campus.

Watch your mail for invitations to follow

Saturday, June 26th

9 - Noon (or when full - whichever comes first)

Two dumpsters provided for yard waste and another for other types of trash.

April - September

Home of the Month

We will begin in April and go through September. Winners are posted on Facebook. In addition to bragging rights, winners receive a Hi Hat gift card!

May - October

5/2, 6/6, 7/4, 8/1, 9/5, 10/3

The fun starts at 5:00 and wraps up around 6:30. Soft drinks and chips are available. BYOB.

Pembroke Hill Dates

Traffic or Parking may be affected

- **Mar 10 - 21** Spring Break (No School)
 - **April 4** Grand Friends Day During the School Day
 - **April 11** Global Cultural Celebration 5 - 7 PM
 - **April 18** Red Out 5 - 7 PM
 - **April 19** Ward Parkway Concert for Faculty 5 - 9 PM
 - **April 25** Showcase Musical 5 - 9 PM
 - **April 26** Showcase Musical 5 - 9 PM
 - **April 30** Upper School Award Ceremony 8 - 11 AM
 - **May 9** Upper School Spring Play 7 - 10 PM
 - **May 10** Upper School Spring Play 7 - 10 PM
 - **May 17** Upper School Graduation 5 - 9 PM
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Reminder: April 8 Elections

On April 8, residents will have the opportunity to vote on two important ballot measures:

- Public Safety Sales Tax Renewal – More details can be found at kcmo.gov/vote.
- School Bond Issue – Learn more at kcpublicschools.org/bond.

Your vote helps shape the future of our city, so be sure to mark your calendar and make your voice heard!

HOA Board Members

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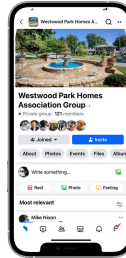
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Thank you for reading!