



## Westwood Park Homes Association

### *A Great Place to Live for 100 Years and counting!*

Westwood Park is a great neighborhood! It's not just the location, the houses, the trees, and the hills that make it great, it's also the neighbors. Neighbors get to know each other while walking (with or without dogs), playing in the park, or working in their yards. We also get to know each other by participating in homes association activities. You can meet a new neighbor at a First Friday at the Fountain, compare your "donations" at Dumpster Day, or socialize at the picnic or the annual meeting. This newsletter includes many opportunities to volunteer. You can spend a few hours participating in the Great Kansas City Cleanup or planting and tending flowers at one of the neighborhood markers or islands.

If you have more time, you may decide you want to serve on the Homes Association Board. The board is made up of nine Westwood Park residents. Directors serve three-year terms or until their successors are elected and qualified. We have some members who have served on the board for years providing history and insight. Ann Nixon recently received the Jim Gerry Neighborhood Spirit Neighbor Award from the Homes Association of Kansas City which includes 73 area homes associations. Ann was chosen because of her long-time commitment to Westwood Park and its public spaces. We also have new members who bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Our new members include David Belpedio, Julie Tozier and Mackenzie Bromley. Two Board positions are opening up this year. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on Sunday evening, April 28 at Patterson Hall on the Pembroke Hill campus. More information to follow. If you are interested in serving on the board or would like to know more about what the board does, please contact Margaret Smith at [margaretjosmith@gmail.com](mailto:margaretjosmith@gmail.com) or 816-651-6125.

### Welcome to new neighbors

- Since August of 2023, the following neighbors have joined our community. Please add the new folks and their addresses to your Neighborhood Phone Directory.

Date	Address	Owner	Owner
8/15/2023	4812 Wyoming	Dalton Rowe	Paxton Kostos
8/22/2023	4936 Holly	An-Lin Cheng	
8/28/2023	4917 Mercier	Audrey Markaway	Mark Marek
8/29/2023	4825 Fairmount	Janice Pancake	
9/28/2023	4915 Mercier	Tom Pollock Jr	Nicole Johnson-Phillips
10/9/2023	4908 Mercier	John & Lucy Malone	
11/28/2023	4905 State Line	Jef Sloan	
12/20/2023	4815 Fairmount	Margaret J Regan	
1/11/2024	4817 Fairmount	Paul Freeman	Allison Baxter

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Neighborhood Leaf and Brush Pickup by the City-March 29, November 8, and December 20**

They pick up to 20 bags per house. The website is [www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/trash/leafandbrush](http://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/trash/leafandbrush)

### **Great Westwood Park Neighborhood Cleanup --April 20---9:00 am to Noon**

Have you noticed trash accumulate along Ward Parkway or other areas in our neighborhood? In conjunction with the Great Kansas City Cleanup 2024 scheduled for Earth Day weekend, Westwood Park is organizing neighborhood volunteers to pick up trash on Saturday morning, April 20. Meet at the fountain at 9:00 a.m. for trash bags, gloves, and assignments. Thank you for making our part of the world a little cleaner!

### **Annual HOA Meeting-Patterson Hall on Pembroke Campus-Sunday, April 28**

5:00 Social Hour, 6:00 Business Meeting, which will include board elections, Adopt a Neighborhood Monument, proposed PIAC initiative, and Plaza District Council discussions.

### **First Fridays at the Fountain are starting up again--Friday, May 3rd ---From 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm**

This is an informal opportunity for neighbors to get together over snacks and beverages. Meet new friends and catch up with old ones. First Friday will occur monthly through October, weather permitting.

### **Westwood Park Garage Sale-June 15**

### **Dumpster Days-Requested Dates-June 22, October 26---New Hours---9:00 am until full or 1:00 pm**

One dumpster will be for unwanted items, the other for yard waste. Metal recycling will be available. Please no hazardous waste, appliances or mattresses.

### **Westwood Park Picnic-Mid-September-More info to come!**

### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Mike Nixon, who lives at 1423 W. 50<sup>th</sup> Street, took it upon himself to surprise his neighbors during the snow storm on January 9. He shoveled driveways on 50th Street from Ward Parkway to Wyoming and Westwood Terrace! He said, "Well, the gym was closed, and I thought it would be a neighborly thing to do. It also gave me a chance to exercise! This is such a great place to get to know your neighbors." If anyone wants to share other Neighbors Helping Neighbors stories, please send us an e-mail or contact us on the Westwood Park Facebook page. Thanks again, Mike!

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

If you would like to help maintain our beautiful fountain and/or monuments around the neighborhood, please contact Ann Nixon or Margaret Smith.

### **Speed Hump on Westwood Road Update**

A speed hump was installed last September near the east end of Westwood Road to slow traffic entering the neighborhood from Ward Parkway on the east, as well as to slow traffic on Westwood Road from the west heading toward Ward Parkway. Based on observation, it seems to be working to slow the traffic in that critical intersection of Ward Parkway, Westwood Road and 50th Street.

### **FYI--If you wish to comment or complain about KC issues such as trash pick-up or sidewalks**

Call 311 or 816-513-1313; Visit the myKCMO website for Kansas City, or use the MyKCMO phone app.

### **Kansas City's Public Improvements Advisory (PIAC) Projects**

Kansas City's PIAC Committee selects community improvement construction project requests from residents. The projects are funded from 1% of our city sales tax and funding is distributed equally among the six council districts. Westwood Park resident Aryn Roth has been successful in receiving PIAC funding for several major Westwood Park improvements over the years. These include the small shade shelter on the hill, the new trees in Westwood Park, the beautiful Childrens' playground, as well as sidewalk replacements.

A group of Westwood Park residents is interested in submitting an application for a PIAC project to convert the tennis courts between east and west-bound Ward Parkway into dual use pickleball and tennis courts. If you are interested in helping with this or in signing a petition of support, contact Margaret Smith at [margaretjoshsmith@gmail.com](mailto:margaretjoshsmith@gmail.com).

### **New Trees in Westwood Park!!!**

If you have visited the Park lately, you have noticed over 25 new healthy young trees planted throughout!

Aryn Roth initiated this successful effort through a public PIAC grant she and her husband, Richard, submitted to the City years ago. Aryn said, "Since we built our house, we always have considered the park our front yard. The park and trees are for everyone to enjoy and improve the quality of our lives and climate. We should all be cognizant of the 9.3 acres in this community as special, not every neighborhood is fortunate to have the space. PIAC Grants are KCMO's way of offering back. It takes years from beginning to end for some projects with a number of community programs working together."

When it came time for the City to deliver and plant the new trees, HOA Board Members, David Belpedio and Aryn Roth coordinated closely with the City to ensure their successful planting and placement. They continue to be the conduit with the City while they monitor the ongoing success of these wonderful additions to our neighborhood!

The 25 + new trees include London Plane Trees, along with large maturing shade trees such as Swamp Oaks, Linden, and Bald Cypress; medium statured trees such as American Hornbeam and Sugar Maple; and small flowering trees such as Red Buds and Fruitless Crabapple.

**Thank you, Aryn and David for all your efforts!**

### **Partnership with Heartland Tree Alliance-Spearheaded by David Belpedio**

We're thrilled to announce that we're partnering with the Heartland Tree Alliance to bring FREE street trees to our beautiful neighborhood!

Adding trees to our streets not only enhances the beauty of our community but also brings numerous environmental benefits, such as cleaner air, shade, and increased property values. Plus, who doesn't love the sight of lush greenery lining our sidewalks?

If you're interested in welcoming some new trees along your street, it's super easy! Just fill out the form linked below, and we'll take care of the rest!

<https://www.tfaforms.com/442450>

Let's work together to make our neighborhood even more beautiful and environmentally friendly!  
Spread the word and let's get those trees planted!

### **Plaza District Council**

The Plaza District Council is a new organization that has been established to represent the needs and concerns of residents, nearby neighborhoods, tenants, merchants, business owners, organizations, and visitors. The mission of the 501(c)3 organization is to serve as a community convener, building an inclusive, activated and engaged Plaza district. To learn more, their website is [www.plazakc.org](http://www.plazakc.org).

### **Pembroke Hill upcoming events that could increase neighborhood traffic:**

Alumni Gathering: April 2

Commencement Dinner: May 16

Graduation: Saturday, May 18th

Lacrosse Districts: Week of 20 May



### **Who Are We?**

Westwood Park includes 310 properties. State Line borders Westwood Park on the west, 48th and 49th Streets on the north, Holly and Ward Parkway on the east, and 51st Street on the south. Westwood Park Homes Association is a member of Homes Associations of Kansas City (HAKC), a not-for-profit entity with a staff that provides accounting and administrative support for the volunteers who serve on member HOA boards on both sides of State Line. HAKC posts our bylaws, financials, board meetings and newsletters on their website, [HA-KC.org](http://HA-KC.org). Select "Westwood Park" under Missouri Associations.

### **Homes Association Board**

President--- Margaret Smith; [margaretjosmith@gmail.com](mailto:margaretjosmith@gmail.com)

Vice President/Fountain & Island Maintenance—Ann Nixon; [Ann@reecenichols.com](mailto:Ann@reecenichols.com)

Secretary—David Belpedio; [davidbelpedio@gmail.com](mailto:davidbelpedio@gmail.com)

Treasurer and Facebook Administrator--Julie Tozier; [julie.tozier@gmail.com](mailto:julie.tozier@gmail.com)

Director, Overlay Review—Steve Weneck; [steveweneck@gmail.com](mailto:steveweneck@gmail.com)

Director, Newsletter—David Evans; [sammyjan68@gmail.com](mailto:sammyjan68@gmail.com)

Director-- Mackenzie Bromley; [MackenzieDavidson22@gmail.com](mailto:MackenzieDavidson22@gmail.com)

Director--Aryn Roth; [arynroth1@me.com](mailto:arynroth1@me.com)

Director--Marita Wesely; [marita.wesely@gmail.com](mailto:marita.wesely@gmail.com)



## Westwood Park Fun in All Seasons!!



Ward Parkway-Westwood Road Neighborhood Entrance



Our newest entry marker at 50th Street & State Line



Jan Evans enjoying the sleds



Mike Nixon shoveling re-enactment



Kelley & Ken cutting the rug at the annual picnic



David Belpedio & Aryn Roth with new trees!!!



Busy Playground!!!