



# Westwood Park News

June-July 2013

## A Few Words from the President

When I'm asked what I enjoy about living in Westwood Park, several things come to mind: Convenient location; unique mix of architecture; diversity in age and careers of our neighbors; the park and retail businesses within walking distance. A congenial environment exists among us. We are a 300-house neighborhood in an ever-expanding community.

The more I familiarize myself with adjoining associations, the more I recognize that additional opportunities exist for a larger network of communication. Awareness of problems and solutions expands. Indi-

vidually we can make a difference, and together we can make a larger one—hopefully toward a more meaningful life in our area and this city.

*Nextdoor Westwood* is our online interactive neighborhood site for quick info on crime, meetings, and issues of concern to homeowners. This is a good way to stay in the loop. It's free and it's easy to sign up. Once on our homepage, a map will allow you to view who lives on your street and where other neighbors are located.

We will soon be updating our Westwood Park Homes Association address and information booklet; it will be sent to all neighbors. It is important to update your current information with the Homes Association main office: 913-385-2440. If there are no changes, we will print the existing information from the 2010-11 version.

Please support your local growers and neighborhood markets. Brookside, Badseed and Westport Market are easily accessible to Westwood Park. For dates, times and locations, visit: <http://www.kcfoodcircle.org>.

Aryn Roth

## Clean Up with Our Garage Sales and Dumpster Day

Start getting your old unwanted stuff together and make some money during the Westwood Park garage sales. Set up your sale in your own yard and open up at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 1. You can stay open until everything's sold or until you're worn out—as you choose.

And if you don't sell it all at the garage sale, you can bring it on Saturday, June 8 to Westwood Park's annual dumpster day. Two dumpsters, one for yard waste and one for trash collection, and a Goodwill truck will be at the fountain at Westwood Road and West 50th Street, from 8 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed the morning of dumpster day. Please volunteer to help by going to the Nextdoor Westwood website. ☺

## Sign Up for Nextdoor Westwood Online

If you're not signed up at Nextdoor Westwood, you should be. It's an invaluable resource for Westwood Park residents. The website lists neighborhood events, provides a forum for networking with neighbors, and gives important announcements from KCMO city government. There is also a lost and found, a classified ads page, crime and safety information, recommendations for contractors and other businesses, and a special section for pet owners.

To join, copy and paste the following into your computer search engine: <https://westwoodjackson.nextdoor.com/invite/cc5118a0ef73a4adc0aa> You will need to provide proof of residency in Westwood Park when you sign up. ☺

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## Wild about Birds



Join members of the Westwood community who will have birdhouses and birdfeeders on sale on behalf of Charlie from Topeka during the annual garage sales on June 1. Featured will be over 200 birdhouses/feeders, bat, butterfly, squirrel, and toad houses. These were made by a retired plumber whose hobby and passion began when his wife Gladys wanted him to build a birdhouse and feeder to attract birds to her garden. He used the book *Birds and Blooms* for his initial design. Next, he built one for his daughter and she took it to work ... others saw it and then *everyone* wanted Charlie to build another birdhouse/feeder! Thus the nickname “Wild about Birds” was proclaimed.

Charlie used to set up a booth in Topeka’s City Market and sell them on Saturdays. Charlie has a leg injury and now does not have the stamina to set up and sell items at the market. A representative from an elder care agency contacted a resident in our Westwood Park community, and arrangements have been made to sell them at the Westwood Park Pavilion on Saturday, June 1.

Charlie’s desire is that the items will be sold to individuals who share his interest and passion for birding. He has priced the structures reasonably, ranging from \$2.00 - \$25.00. His ingenuity, craftsmanship, and love for birding make

his products unique and enjoyable. The hardware includes brass screws and hinges.

A “Legacy Scrapbook” has been started, and people who purchase the birdhouses are encouraged to send a picture by email and write a brief description of the location where the structures are placed. The scrapbook pages will serve as a tribute to Gladys and Charlie for sharing their passion for birding. ♪

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## Neighborhood Housing Services Renovates Westwood Park Home



Neighborhood Housing Services of Kansas City, Inc. (NHS), a community development corporation, was founded with the goal of improving the condition of the housing stock in the 49/63 Neighborhood, a group formed by five neighborhoods. Since that time, NHS has grown to serve 10 neighborhood groups, which include dozens of neighborhoods. NHS continues to promote the improvement of neighborhoods by providing a variety of housing-related services.

When Ann Nixon brought a house at 4832 Westwood Dr. to the attention of NHS, they decided to renovate it. After several months of construction, they have created a practically new house, which will be on the market in June. NHS plans to hold an open house soon. For more information on NHS, visit [www.nhsokcmo.org](http://www.nhsokcmo.org)

## Welcome, New Neighbors!



We welcome the following new neighbors to the Westwood Park community:

Margaret Stewart, 4801 Liberty  
John Mark Hardy, 4817 Westwood Road  
Nicholas Helfrich & Margaret Huber,  
4816 Liberty  
Cynthia Wren, 4952 Bell  
Joseph Schuster, 4825 Westwood Road  
Angela Kussman, 4901 Mercier  
Brandon Haverty, 4907 Holly  
Oliver Gans, 4914 Holly  
James Robertson & Dean Ennis, 4824 Bell  
Todd Wilson, 1406 W. 50th Terrace  
Stephen Voorhees, 4911 Mercier  
Tosha Kingore, 4946 Westwood Road  
Bill Edgerly & Richard Silcox, 1621 W. 50th  
Street ☺



May's Home of the Month is the home of Warren Stark at 1203 West 50th Street.



Not so long ago, the late-season snow extravaganza brought out the sleds, snowboards, and saucers in Westwood Park!

## Q&A with Jan Marcason at Annual WPHA Meeting

**Q:** The pervious sidewalks in Westwood Park do not seem to be holding up well. There were problems with the trash trucks running over and cracking the sidewalk. Will they be repaired?

**JM:** Frank Gibbs, the landscape architect for Westwood Park, has contracted with a business to repair the sidewalks as weather allows.

**Q:** How can we change the election cycle to prevent single issues from being on the ballot during off times when few people vote? What does the City Charter say about election cycles?

**JM:** The City Charter doesn't set up election dates except for the primary and general elections every four years. Issues cannot be on those election dates, just the Mayor and Council election and the Municipal Judge retention questions. The election dates are set by statute. Section 115.123, RSMo. sets up the following election days:

- First Tuesday after the first Monday of April, August and November;
- Any date established by Charter. (This is a new part of the statute and hasn't been used yet to set election days.)
- First Tuesday after the first Monday of February for bond elections only.

**Q:** There were banners along State Line (State Line Link) from I-435 to Southwest Boulevard to indicate the cooperation between Kansas and Missouri. Two of the banners in the Westwood area were removed to accommodate the Google poles that were installed. Jim Donovan saved the two banners, but one of the poles is now next to a tree, so if the banner is put back up (which he would like the city to do) the view would be blocked. What is the process to determine if a tree should be removed? Would the city re-attach the banners?

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## Westwood Park Homes Association Board Members

Aryn Roth, President, Social Media, Special Events - [arynroth1@me.com](mailto:arynroth1@me.com), 753-1134h / 599-0544c, 4801 Wyoming

Ann Nixon, VP, Neighborhood Beautification, Problem Properties - [anixon3030@aol.com](mailto:anixon3030@aol.com), 561-6125, 1301 W. 50th

Ann Schleih, Secretary, Social Media - [aschle1@hallmark.com](mailto:aschle1@hallmark.com), 561-6340, 4804 Bell

Kirby Upjohn, Treasurer - [kirbyup@aol.com](mailto:kirbyup@aol.com), 931-8959, 1400 W. 50th Street

Theresa Larson, Security - [larsont4810@yahoo.com](mailto:larsont4810@yahoo.com), 561-3246h, 210-0196c, 4810 Wyoming

Martha Negley, Neighborhood Beautification - [mnegley1@kc.rr.com](mailto:mnegley1@kc.rr.com), 561-8236, 1630 W. 51st Street

Dick Nelson, Newsletter Liaison - [dicknelson459@gmail.com](mailto:dicknelson459@gmail.com), 416-6361, 4922 Bell

### Additional Contacts

Block Captains - Joan Gastinger, [jgastinger@gmail.com](mailto:jgastinger@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor - Julie Tenenbaum, [jatkc@aol.com](mailto:jatkc@aol.com)

West Plaza Neighborhood Association President - Joe Montanari, [montanarijewelers@swbell.net](mailto:montanarijewelers@swbell.net)

HAKC Office - Pam Garrett, [pgarrett@ha-kc.org](mailto:pgarrett@ha-kc.org), [www.ha-kc.org](http://www.ha-kc.org), (913) 385-2440 Fax: (913) 385-2441

4200 Somerset Drive, Suite 21, Prairie Village, KS 66208

**Terms** (10 people maximum; 3-year terms)

2013: Kirby Upjohn, Dick Nelson, Aryn Roth

2014: Ann Nixon, Ann Schleih

2015: Theresa Larson, Martha Negley

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## Q&A with Jan Marcason

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**JM:** I have asked David Panek, the supervisor of LDD permitting, for a response.

**Q:** Woodside is planning a huge residential development to adjoin the health facility. How do we know that the sewers in Kansas City can manage the increase in sewage that will come as a result? Woodside has been asked, but there has been no response. What are the procedures in the City when a development in another state will impact our infrastructure?

**JM:** JCW would be reviewing construction of any sewer, which would most likely be built by the developer. JCW would look at the capacity of the sewer system and coordinate with KCMO Water Services should there be any concerns. ☺