

- **LGBTQ+ Pride Month.** At the June 1st meeting the council issued a proclamation declaring June, 2021 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month. The proclamation urges residents to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ+ community and to actively promote the principles of equality, liberty, and justice. The full proclamation can be seen on the city website.
- **Large Trash Pickup.** The annual pickup for large items is scheduled for Saturday, August 14th. Items must be at curbside by 7 A.M. Construction materials and hazardous waste materials are not eligible for pick up.
- **2021 Paper Shredding & E-cycle Event.** This will be held on Saturday, September 25th from 9 A.M. to noon at the KU Medical Center parking lot at Rainbow and SM Parkway.
- **Island Planting.** A special thanks to Tara Light for working with Michael Ludwig to refresh our Spring/Summer look with a varied display of blossoming pollinators.
- **City Website.** The city has contracted with GovOffice to upgrade our website with a focus on increased content and improved ease of use, especially as it pertains to mobile devices. The contract was signed in May and work will begin soon. Lauren Aleshire and Chris Brent are leading the project.
- **Connected Community Sidewalk Project.** The City has the full support from all property owners along the proposed routes: a sidewalk northside of SMParkway from Rainbow to State Line and one northbound State Line to 50th Terrace. In the 1st Quarter of 2022 application will be made to various funding organizations with the amount of funds available for use to be known by mid-2022. These new sidewalks will promote walkability, increase pedestrian safety, and improve sustainability in Mission Woods.

- **Mission Woods Terr/SMParkway/Rainbow Intersection.** A city stone wall was damaged last month by a southbound vehicle on Rainbow Ave that failed to correctly navigate this intersection. Recurring damage to this wall is emblematic of a situation that presents a safety hazard to residents on that corner and impacts the safety of pedestrians in the crosswalk at SMParkway. The council supported contacting Continental Consulting Engineers to determine any improvements/changes that can be made to the intersection to address important safety concerns. Councilperson Selina Bur and I met for an initial evaluation with the engineers from Continental Consulting on June 4th. Information will be provided to all residents following the discussions.
- **New City Streetlights.** In 2019 residents approved a new style streetlight. In March 2021 Evergy replaced our streetlights (except for one island and the lights on SMParkway) with the new design. Since the installation I've received complaints about the 360° light pattern, the brightness of light shone into homes' interiors, and atmospheric light pollution created by the new design and bulbs. Residents may have voted in favor of the new lights based on the outward aesthetics of the prototype with no consideration given to its efficacy as a streetlight. Contact with Evergy has confirmed the lights do not have field-adjustable output and there is no way to adjust the overly bright lumen level. Evergy's solution is the installation of 180° shields that will lessen almost all the back light. These shields will be placed on three of the most problematic lights. Once installed, the effectiveness of the shields in combination with light necessary for safe sidewalks and streets -without creating a nuisance-will be determined. The project has revealed an inconsistency in the number and placement of streetlights in the city- for example, Mission Woods Terrace has only one streetlight. Once the current lights have been refitted to address requested changes, the council recommends a lighting consultant be hired to review number and placement of streetlights throughout the city.
- **Mission Woods Comprehensive Plan.** A Community Comprehensive Plan is a guide for private and public development decisions within a city. Our plan was last developed in 2005 and 2006 and approved by the council in 2007. The plan is fifteen years old, and the

council agrees it is time for it to be reviewed for changes that more accurately reflect the status of the city. More information to follow in the months ahead.

- **City Council meetings.** In-person meetings of the council will resume July 6th. We have been meeting virtually on Zoom since April 2020. The council meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M. in the Community Meeting room at Westwood City Hall.
- **Mission Woods election November 2, 2021.** The filing deadline for the November city election was noon, June 1st. Here are the candidates that filed:

Mayor

Darrell Franklin

Council Member-At-Large

Lauren Aleshire, *incumbent*

Chris Brent, *incumbent*

Selina Bur, *incumbent*

Jason Eubanks

Don Greenwell III

Robert Tietze

There will be six candidates vying for five council seats.

Mission Woods, like the rest of Johnson County, is emerging from a time of sacrifice and changed behaviors. May we continue to enjoy a return to normal with best health practices in mind as we seek out social gatherings and friendship in our wonderful neighborhood that is the city of Mission Woods. Have a safe and happy summer and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Darrell Franklin

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