

WOODSON TERRACE NEWS



Volume 48
FALL 2024



From The Mayor's Desk



We have not written a Newsletter since COVID. We will have one quarterly in the future.

Recently Chief Orlando decided he no longer wanted to be the Chief because he missed patrolling on the street. He made some very good changes while he was our Chief. He was held in high esteem by his department and by City Hall. He took a job in Kirkwood and they will see firsthand just how good he is as a man and as a Police Officer. He will be missed by all! Dominic will be replaced by Chief Danny Brown. He has had an impressive career as a Policeman and he will make a great Chief.

We have a Deputy Public Works Director named Doug Hill who is learning the Position. If he continues on the path he is traveling he will eventually be the Director of Public works.

We have had a turnover in our City Hall Staff. We have a new City Clerk. She is new but is already doing some great things. Her name is Sarah Piel.

We have a new City Collector whose name is Lindsey Buxman-Serna.

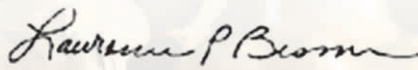
We also have a new Court Clerk whose name is Natosha Foley.

They are all performing very well and have learned their jobs quickly.

This summer we had another great year for our City Camp with the kids of our city. People were waiting in line this year to sign up their children.

I have been teaching Archery for the kids from our city for 16 years. I am a certified instructor by the United States Archery Association. I really enjoy teaching the kids and I am pretty sure they enjoy it too.

We are going to rebuild the Restroom Building in the upper park Summer of 2025. The current one is really outdated and the new one will be more comfortable for all.



Lawrence P. Besmer

Mayor Besmer
314-427-2600

Public Works

The Woodson Terrace Public Works Department would like to welcome **Hector Nuno, Larry Roth, and Mike Pelsor** to the staff. Hector and Larry are additions to the Parks department and have become valued members of the crew. If you see the guys out give them a wave. Mike Pelsor has taken over the Code Enforcement duties for the city. His 20-plus years of experience are a welcome addition and are a great asset in maintaining high standards throughout the city.

As a reminder chipping will resume every Thursday, weather permitting, starting October 3rd and run through the end of June 2025. Please place limbs at the curb with the cut ends towards the street. Limbs over six inches in diameter are not accepted, however, please leave the limbs as long as possible. They are much easier to load into the chipper when longer.

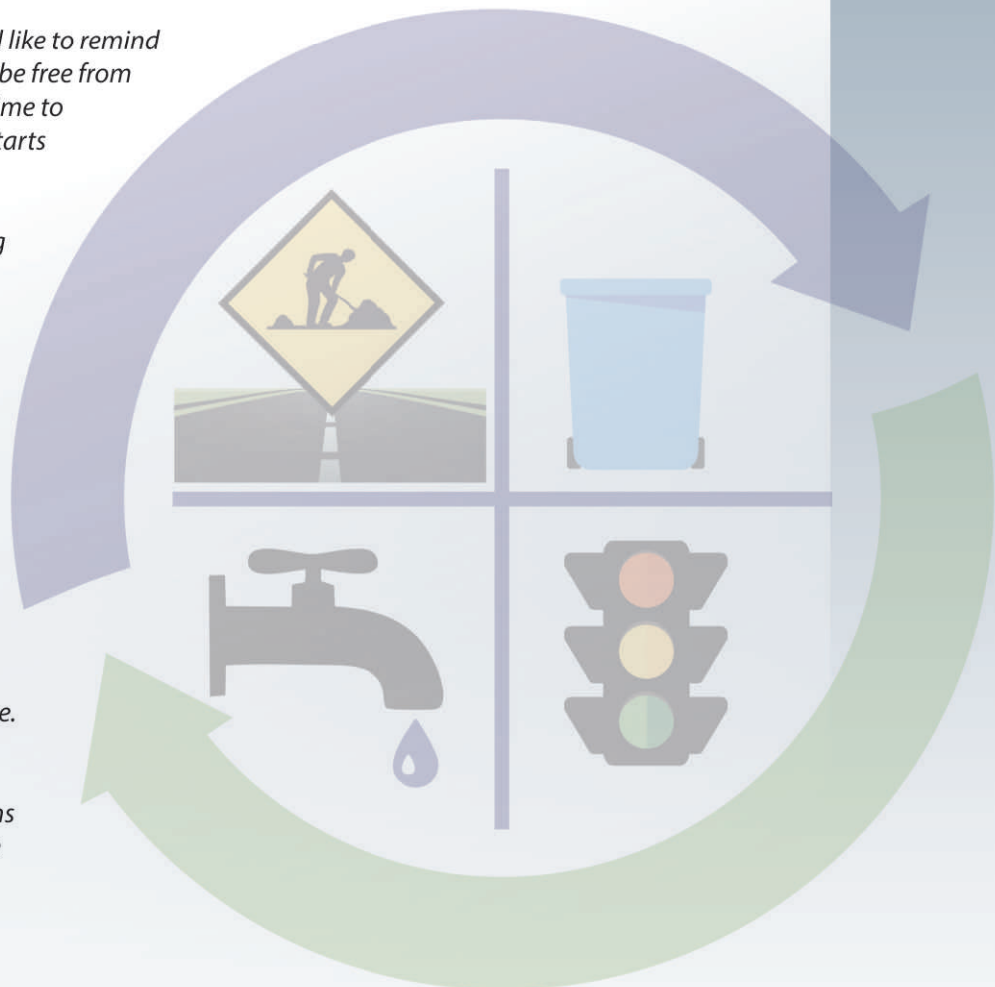
Street paving will begin mid to late August on select streets throughout the city. The first round of paving will be done on Guthrie Avenue, from Edmundson Road to the Berkely city limit, Corregidor Drive from Edmundson Road to Woodson Road, Leith Avenue, and Herbert Avenue from Leith to Macon Avenue. Additional paving will continue in 2025. Watch for parking restrictions so the paving crews can perform the work quickly and safely.

The code enforcement office would like to remind everyone that the fence lines must be free from vegetative growth. Fall is a great time to get them clean as the vegetation starts to die off for the winter.

The Public Works facility is showing its age after 50-plus years and is tentatively scheduled to be replaced by 2026 with a modern facility to better serve the public. The entire Public Works department would like to say thank you for your past and continued support.

On a personal note, I would like to thank each resident of Woodson Terrace for continuing to do your part in keeping the city a great place to live. As a resident of Woodson Terrace myself, I value each person and welcome all questions and concerns from every resident who would like to contact me.

Thank you,
Doug Hill
Deputy Director of Public Works



FROM THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

There have been quite a few changes in the City's Police Department since our last newsletter. As many of you may know, long time Woodson Terrace Police Officer, Randy Halstead has retired. Randy started in 1986 and made his way through the department where he ended his time as the Chief.

Throughout his career, Chief Halstead worked in many different positions in the department. He finally came to the decision to retire and his last day was February 15, 2023. On the next day, the Mayor and Board had decided to make a new appointment to Chief. They appointed myself to lead the department officially at the February 16th Board Meeting. I lead the department until I decided to make a change and sadly, I am moving onto another department. The mayor has decided to appoint Danny Brown to be my replacement and was sworn in at the August Board Meeting.

Some officers have been promoted to fill spots as needed. We have also been able to bring back our K9 program and have acquired a wonderful Dutch Shepard named Diesel that will be handled by PO K. Gregg. We were finally able to get to fully staffed with 18 officers. I can assure you that our services have never stopped and we will always be available to serve our awesome residents, businesses, and visitors with professional services.

A few other changes that you may have noticed is the newly updated City Website, police department. We are also still working to become an accredited agency with the CALEA Commission.

The Woodson Terrace Police Department and the City of Woodson Terrace would like to announce our next Chief of Police: **Danny Brown, DSN 110.**

Chief Brown began his career in law enforcement with the Lake St. Louis Police Department in 1989 after graduating the St. Charles County Police Academy. After spending a few years at the rank of Sergeant, Chief Brown joined the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department in 1997 where he was a member of the St. Charles County Regional SWAT Team for 5 years. In 2007, Chief Brown decided to take a few years off of police work to spend time with family until joining the Moscow Mills Police Department in 2009 and was quickly promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In 2015, Chief Brown joined the North County Police Cooperative Police Department where he held the rank of Lieutenant

An assessment of the department's policies will be conducted sometime in the fall.

A few things will remain the same. As stated our services will continue to be the same as they are now. We are here for you at any time of the day, year round. Please contact us at 314-427-5858 or if you need an officer dispatched, call 636-529-8210. We are also working very closely with our Code Enforcement and making sure our residents are complying with our ordinances. We are aware of many of the issues which not only plague us, but other surrounding communities as well. Speeding vehicles, stop sign violations, and expired license plates/ temp tags are an issue all over the area. Unfortunately, like fishing, we cannot catch them all but we will do our best.

Since I have decided to leave, I would like to thank every one of my co-workers, City Hall staff, and the Board of Alderman for all that they have done. To the residents, thank you as well for all the support you show our officers. Please stay safe!

Thank you.
Chief Dominic Orlando DSN 98
314-427-5858



and was a member of the St. Ann Special Response Team for 5 years.

In 2020, Chief Brown made the move to the Woodson Terrace Police Department as a patrol officer and has since been promoted through the ranks, including duties such as Corporal, Sergeant, Neighborhood Watch Liaison, Evidence Custodian, and now Chief of Police.

Congratulations Chief Brown.

City Consultant

Last week the airport held a public meeting to update the community on their review of environmental impacts that may arise as part of planned airport terminal consolidation and master plan update. This will greatly modify roadway and facilities connections as part of this airport-centric improvement plan. It will shift airport access primarily to a highway access via a new proposed terminal loop. I encourage you to listen to this 40 minute presentation.

There is no question that airport improvements are sorely needed and the single terminal plan seems like a good one and should be supported. But, as they say, the devil is in the details. We still have time to recommend some considerations on how their growth can also support the growth and opportunity of surrounding communities.

Things you should be looking at:

What is the noise impact on surrounding areas from what is reported to be an accommodation of larger and larger plane size, and an increase in passengers to 21 million annually? As part of the last airport expansion/update, homeowners were offered updated noise buffering windows to help mitigate increased noise from bigger planes and more frequent flights. In exchange, homeowners needed to accept a deed restriction against future damage claims. Due to this noise and traffic increase, homes and structures have continued to deteriorate and the windows have certainly depreciated their useful life. Will there be a new program to allow homeowners to address increased noise and vibration from these larger and more frequent flights?

As the reconfigured airport cuts off traditional access points for airport users to enter our communities at Airflight Drive and possibly Brown/McDonnell Roads, how will the airport improve signage and wayfinding, as well as provide alternative roadway connections that will bring travelers to parking, rental car, hotel and other amenities in our communities?

Given that the airport plans to move away from terminal 2, how will the new footprint allow for better public and community access to the metro station there?

The airport plans include building a new on-airport parking facility that will increase on-airport capacity 47%, as well as building a new Consolidated Receiving and Distribution Facility. Our communities have a history of providing these facilities and amenities to airport users. The airport's plan to move all of this on-airport will displace jobs and revenues that our communities depend on. It will continue a pattern of driving travelers away from our main streets rather than to them.

Laura Madden
City Consultant



PARKS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

PARKS

Check out our beautiful park and don't forget you can rent the pavilion for picnics and parties. Also, the community center in the park for big parties, events, and business meetings. You can also rent the Town Hall. We are looking for baseball and soccer teams who would be interested in using our park. One person on the team would have to be a resident. We have two great baseball diamonds and a nice field for soccer. There is plenty of parking too. Please call City Hall for questions.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

HALLOWEEN

The Police and City Hall will have their doors open for the 2nd Annual Indoor trick or treat on October 19th from 4 to 7 pm.

CHRISTMAS

This year we will have a Christmas tree lighting ceremony to start the holiday season. It will be outside at the Town Hall. We hope you can join us.



We are also having our annual children's Christmas party on December 21st. Watch Facebook and the Marquee for updates and reminders.

Thank you to the residents who accepted our beautification awards for the summer, also for taking care of your home. We will be picking homes for September and October. Our annual Christmas decorating contest will be in December. If you would like to nominate your home or a neighbor, call City Hall or someone on the committee. We will need phone numbers to ask permission to put a sign in the yard. The only way you can win is to call in a nomination. You can win gift certificates if your home is picked. We will pick 4 homes and a grand prize winner. They will be picked by Dec. 18th. Don't forget to have your address number in view.

Look on the website, Facebook and marquee for other events in the city. Please contact the parks committee if you have any suggestions for classes, ideas, or beautification award nominations. jwilley@woodsonterrace.net or mzaiz@woodsonterrace.net. City hall 314-427-2600.

PLEASE HELP!

Please help the Ritenour food pantry fill their shelves. You can drop off canned goods, peanut butter and jelly, paper products and other items in the container at city hall.



ATTENTION! SENIORS OF WOODSON TERRACE

Come join us on the **second Thursday of every month** for our Senior Luncheon.

Place:
Town Hall - 9351 Guthrie Ave.

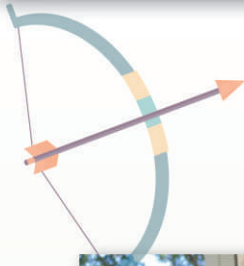
Time:
11am - 2pm

Price:
Free for WT Residents 60+ or \$8 for non-residents

If interested Please call City Hall 314-427-2600

The deadline to sign up to get lunch is the Thursday before the luncheon.

This is a time to socialize with one another, play bingo, trivia quiz, and to hear community speakers of interest. If you have any questions call Pat Pinson at 314-428-1168 or 314-435-5898.





TRICK OR TREAT!



City of Woodson Terrace & Woodson Terrace Police
2nd Annual
Halloween Open House Party.

October 19th, 2024



4 P.M. to 7 P.M.



4305 Woodson Road

Bring your family dressed in your best costumes and walk through the Woodson Terrace Police Department and City Hall for a safe and fun trick or treat event for your entire family!



Free Candy



Free Hotdogs



Meet City Hall and Police Staff



Meet St. Ann SRT Members



This is a free event put on by the City of Woodson Terrace and the Woodson Terrace Police Department

Woodson Terrace Neighborhood Watch

MAKE LIFE HARDER FOR CRIMINALS

These tips can help you avoid becoming a victim of a crime when you are out and about or at work. By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself, and also discourage those who commit crime.

BE PREPARED

- Always be alert and aware of the people around you.
- Educate yourself concerning prevention tactics.
- Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.

CAR SAFETY

- Lock your doors immediately after entering or leaving your car.
- Park in safe areas, making sure there is adequate lighting and that your car is in public view. When you park, look around for suspicious persons or vehicles near your car.
- Don't carry too many things in your arms going to and from the vehicle.
- Have your car keys in your hand so you don't have to linger before entering your car.
- Check the back seat before entering your car.
- Don't linger in your car (reading, eating, napping, etc.).
- Keep the windows rolled up more than half way.
- Don't leave any valuables inside the vehicle, including firearms, cell phones, and GPS devices.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to a public place or a police, sheriff or fire station..
- Don't stop to aid motorists stopped on the side of the road. Go to a phone and request help for them.

WAITING FOR A BUS

- Avoid isolated bus stops.
- Stand away from the curb until the bus arrives.
- Don't open your purse or wallet while boarding the bus.
- Have your pass or money already in your hand.
- Keep jewelry out of sight; don't flash your jewelry; and turn your rings around so the stones don't show.

IF A CRIME OCCURS - REPORT IT!

Everyone should consider it his/her responsibility to report crime. Many criminals target favorite areas and have predictable methods of operation. When you report all the facts about a crime, it helps the police assign officers in the places where crime are occurring or where they are most likely to occur. At least one out of two crimes in the United States goes unreported, either because people don't think the police can do anything about it, or because people don't want to get involved. If you don't report crime, this allows the criminal to continue to operate without interference.

In many cases, it is the information provided by victims and witnesses that leads to the arrest of a criminal. So tell the police as much as you can; no fact is too trivial. The police need the eyes and ears of all citizens.

- Report all suspicious people and activities to the proper authorities: office manager, building security, law enforcement.
- Be aware of escape routes for emergencies, and post the phone numbers of the police and fire departments near telephones. Call 911 if the situation is life-threatening.

Detective Matt Anton and Chief Danny Brown

Woodson Terrace Neighborhood Watch

Phone: (314) 427-5858

**NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH**



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee



We welcome back our Woodson Terrace newsletter!!

It has been a long time since we could keep our residents informed of our Veterans Committee activities. We happily do that again.

The Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee is self-funded....we DO NOT receive any monies from the City of Woodson Terrace to fund any of the programs, organizations, activities, etc., that we support.

Each Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee Member has kept quite busy. Everyone on the Committee has their own "agenda" of activities and organizations, he or she is involved with. Each member has a deep sense of "Service" to our Veterans. The activities our Committee Members do "collectively" is greatly enhanced with the years of experience of "Service" each member does and this benefits our Committee.

Our Committee met on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. Both Commanders for our City's VFW Post #2365, Commander Cedric Gillespie and Our City's American Legion Post #143, Commander Walter Lobster were in attendance. Our Agenda consisted of planning and organizing both Veterans Organizations with their Services to our City of Woodson Terrace and the City's support to their Organizations. It was a very productive meeting with very nice Commanders. Please read their article in our newsletter introducing their Organizations' of members and who they are. They have been meeting in our city for many years. Please look for these two Veterans Organizations doing services and Fund Raisers in our community. The city has been supporting them for years and will continue to do so going forward.

Our Memorial Day Program was held on Monday, May 27, 2024 at 9:30 A.M. at the Robert J. Madden Veterans Memorial located at 4301 Calvert Ave. in our John L. Brown Park. The Memorial Day Ceremony included the "Bell Ceremony". The names were read for 72 deceased Woodson Terrace Veterans. Mayor Lawrence Besmer "called out" each of the 72 names individually; along with a brief military history synopsis of each Veteran. An active duty Marine, Sgt. Fernando Sanchez rang the bell for each Veteran's name read. Cpl. Darrion Rodgers stood honorably under our Marine Flag for our program. A huge "Thank You" to American Legion Post #143 and VFW Post #2365 for their participation as Honor Guard in the "Posting and the Retiring" of Colors, the Gun Salute, and TAPS.

Caroline Martin

Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee Chair



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 2365
Missouri 12th District

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
Post 143

VFW Post 2365 has grown in the past three years achieving All-American in 2022 and the All-State Awards for 2023 and 2024. As a result, the Post's participation and involvement at the local, state, and National levels has brought more attention to the fact that VFW Post 2365 is a proud community Member of the City of Woodson Terrace.

As Members of the Woodson Terrace Community, VFW Post 2365 and American Legion Post 143 are honored to be a part of the Woodson Terrace Veterans Day Programs and are grateful to Mayor Lawrence (Butch) Besmer and the Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee Chair, Caroline Martin, for the opportunity to participate in community events.

In recent years, Post 2365 made a donation to a local food pantry, participated in Veteran's and Memorial Day celebrations, and parades, and held a fund-raising barbeque & Corvette rally at the Woodson Terrace Town Hall. The Post's presence at these events, and especially events like the barbeque/rally, offers greater exposure within the community, contributing to outreach efforts to assist veterans, veteran families and their children.



Both the VFW Post 2365 and American Legion Post 143, sponsor annual programs that acknowledge deserving teachers and students in the education community, Fire and Police men in the first responder community, and other community leaders. Having similarly related missions to serve, the combined efforts of VFW Post 2365, American Legion Post 143, and the Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee, plan to explore ways of becoming more involved and helpful, relating to veteran and community affairs, in and around the City of Woodson Terrace.



Thank You



For Your Service



Community Fire District

The Community Fire District is proud to serve the citizens of Woodson Terrace. Your fire district provides fire and EMS services to not only Woodson Terrace but also: St. John, Overland, St. Ann, Charlack, St. John, Breckenridge Hills, Sycamore Hills and part of Unincorporated St. Louis County. This keeps the men and women of the district busy with an average of 27 calls for service every day.

Providing the residents with the best possible service is our #1 priority. Every five years fire districts receive a public protection classification number. They are rated 1-10, with 1 being the best. This number is used by insurance companies when figuring out insurance rates for residents and businesses. Recently, the district received a class rating of a 2. Class 2 is the best rating in the history of the district and serves as a reminder that the district is always trying to increase our level of service.

In addition, there have been more heavy rain events in recent years. This has added a new need for water rescue to the fire district. In response we have sent multiple employees to receive water rescue training. When a need arises, we are always looking at how we can meet that need and serve our residents.

If ever there is a concern or need, please reach out to the district at 314-428-1128.



NOW A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:

- * install smoke alarms on every level of your home inside and outside sleeping areas**
- * test smoke alarms monthly**
- * test Carbon Monoxide detectors**
- * talk with your family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year**
- * if a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT, AND CALL 911**



City Calendar of Events

Please note that the planning & zoning and economic development meetings are scheduled as needed. Please call or check online for details and meeting days.

September

- 2 Labor Day (City Hall closed)
- 3 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 4 Municipal Court
 - Housing Tickets (2:00pm)
 - Court (5:00pm)
- 12 Senior Luncheon (11:00am - 2:00pm)
- 12 Budget Committee (7:00pm)
- 17 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 19 Board of Alderman (7:00pm)

October

- 1 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 1 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 2 Municipal Court
 - Housing Tickets (2:00pm)
 - Court (5:00pm)
- 8 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 10 Senior Luncheon (11:00am - 2:00pm)
- 10 Budget Committee (7:00pm)
- 14 Columbus Day (City Hall closed)
- 15 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 15 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 17 Board of Alderman (7:00pm)
- 19 Halloween Trunk or Treat (4:00pm - 7:00pm)
- 22 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 24 Neighborhood Watch Meeting @6pm @ the community center
- 29 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 31 Halloween

November

- 5 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 5 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 5 Presidential Election (6:00am - 7:00pm)
- 6 Municipal Court
 - Housing Tickets (2:00pm)
 - Court (5:00pm)
- 11 Veteran's Day (City Hall closed)
- 12 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 14 Senior Luncheon (11:00am - 2:00pm)
- 14 Budget Committee (7:00pm)
- 19 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 19 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 21 Board of Alderman (7:00pm)
- 26 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday (City Hall closed)

December

- 3 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 3 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 4 Municipal Court
 - Housing Tickets (2:00pm)
 - Court (5:00pm)
- 4 Christmas Tree Lighting @ Town Hall (6pm)
- 10 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 12 Senior Luncheon (11:00am - 2:00pm)
- 12 Budget Committee (7:00pm)
- 17 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 17 Craft Club (1:00pm - 4:00pm)
- 19 Board of Alderman (7:00pm)
- 21 Christmas Party
- 24 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 24 Christmas Eve (City Hall closed)
- 25 Christmas Day (City Hall closed)
- 31 Yoga (8:45am - 10:15am)
- 31 New Year's Eve

Woodson Terrace Officials

4323 Woodson Road, Woodson Terrace, Missouri 63134
314-427-2600 • 314-427-0571 (Fax)

MAYOR

LAWRENCE "BUTCH" BESMER
9848 GUTHRIE AVE
(314) 427-2600

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

DOUGLAS ZAIZ
(314) 427-2600

WARD I ALDERMAN

DONNA CONLON
3825 CALVERT (314) 428-8562

CAROLINE MARTIN

9648 AMITY COURT (314) 324-6883

WARD II ALDERMAN

ROBERT MC CABE
9827 GUTHRIE (314) 279-1651

ROBERT WELBY

9468 HAROLD (314) 429-7017

WARD III ALDERMAN

GREG MILLS
9257 STANSBERRY (314) 276-4633

JOAN WILLEY

9523 GUTHRIE (314) 239-1705

WARD IV ALDERMAN

MARYANNE ZAIZ
9222 MACON (314) 429-5762

JOHN "JACK" BELFORD

9347 STANSBERRY (314) 427-1105

CHIEF OF POLICE

DANNY BROWN
(314) 427-5858



CITY HALL

SARAH PIEL
CITY CLERK (314) 427-2600 EXT 1675

LINDSEY BUXMAN SERNA
CITY COLLECTOR/P.A. ASSISTANT
(314) 427-2600 EXT 1674

KYLA HILL
FINANCIAL MANAGER (314) 427-2600
EXT 1669

DOUG HILL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
(314) 427-2600 EXT 1373

MIKE PELSOR
CODE ENFORCER (314) 427-2600 EXT 1673

AMANDA MOORE
COURT ADMINISTRATOR (314) 427-2600
EXT 1667

NATOSHA FOLEY
COURT CLERK (314) 427-2600 EXT 1670

Frequently Asked for Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY

911

FIRE DEPARTMENT

(314) 428-1122

CITY HALL

(314) 427-2600

WOODSON TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT

(314) 427-5858 STATION • (636) 529-8210 DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

(314) 831-6500

POISON CONTROL

(800) 222-1222

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

(314) 615-5000

WASTE CONNECTIONS

(636) 321-2100

AMEREN

(314) 342-1000

SPIRE

(314) 621-6960

MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER

(866) 430-0820

METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT

(314) 768-6200

BI-STATE WILD LIFE HOTLINE

(855) 945-3435

Please keep an eye on the marquee sign in front of City Hall for information on classes, chipping, plowing, meetings and other city news.

Get Connected

There are many ways to connect with and contact the City of Woodson Terrace.

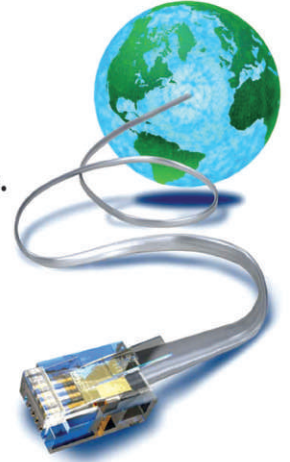
Phone: 314 427 2600

Fax: 314 427 0571

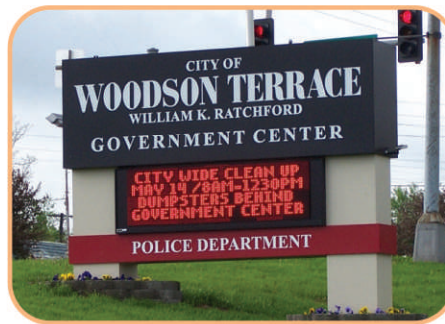
Email: cityclerk@woodsonterrace.net

www.woodsonterrace.net

www.woodsonterrace.net/Facebook



And as always, check the marquee in front of City Hall for the most up to date information.



**CITY OF WOODSON TERRACE
4323 Woodson Road
Woodson Terrace, MO 63134
314 427-2600**

**OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
EXCEPT 1ST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH CLOSE AT 4:00 P.M.**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH
MONTH – 7:00 P.M.**