

# WOODSON TERRACE NEWS



Volume 51  
**FALL 2025**





# City of Woodson Terrace Public Works Department

*As the leaves begin to turn and the temperatures drop, the City of Woodson Terrace Public Works Department is hard at work making sure our streets, parks, and public spaces are ready for the season ahead. Fall is a busy time for our crews, with projects shifting from summer maintenance to preparing the city for winter weather.*

**Leaves & Yard Waste** Falling leaves are beautiful, but they can also clog storm drains and create slippery conditions. Residents are encouraged to rake and bag leaves for scheduled yard waste pickups and to **avoid blowing leaves into the street (this is against our Code: Chapter 215.090 and you will get a ticket for littering.)** Our crews will be out regularly, ensuring that stormwater systems remain clear.

**Street & Sidewalk Maintenance** - Before freezing weather arrives, our team is inspecting and repairing roads and sidewalks. This helps prevent hazards during icy conditions and reduces costly repairs in the spring. If you notice potholes or uneven pavement, you can report them to Public Works so we can address them promptly.

**Seasonal Chipping Program & Tree Trimming** - Our seasonal chipping program begins October 1st and will run through the end of June 2026. The Public Works department will be out trimming trees and vegetation around the city's roadways this fall. Trimming back branches not only keeps our streets looking neat but also ensures that emergency vehicles, school buses, and snowplows have a safe and clear path in the months ahead.

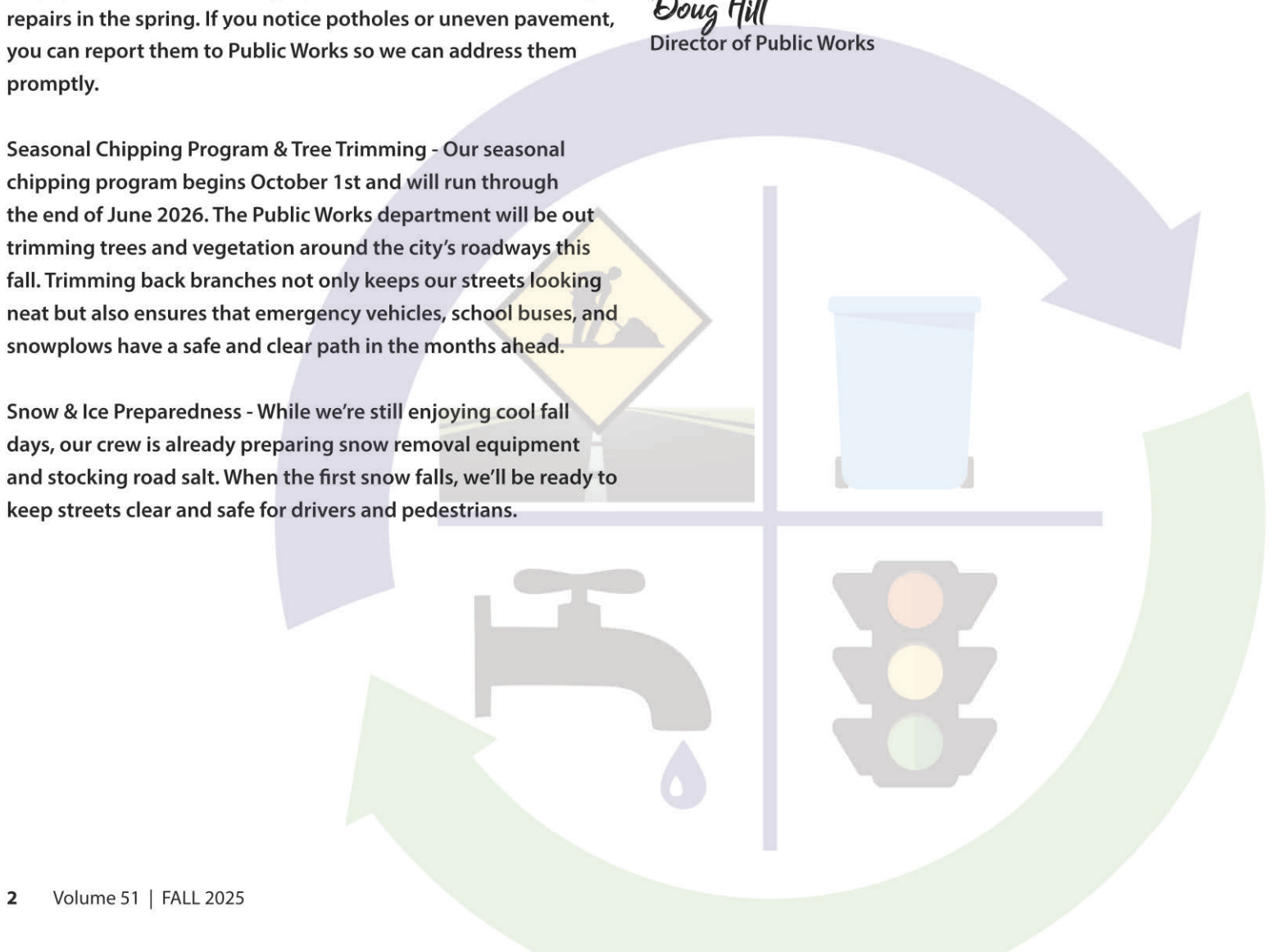
**Snow & Ice Preparedness** - While we're still enjoying cool fall days, our crew is already preparing snow removal equipment and stocking road salt. When the first snow falls, we'll be ready to keep streets clear and safe for drivers and pedestrians.

## How You Can Help This Fall

- Keep leaves, branches, and debris out of the streets and away from storm drains.
- Trim back vegetation on your property that may obstruct sidewalks or roadways.
- Park vehicles off the street during snow events to give plows more room to work.
- Report any streetlights that are out—shorter daylight hours make lighting even more important.

*The Public Works Department thanks our residents for their cooperation and community pride. Together, we can make sure Woodson Terrace stays safe, clean, and welcoming throughout the fall and winter seasons.*

*Doug Hill*  
Director of Public Works





# FROM THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a great Summer, however, the new school year is upon us and that means more foot traffic from our children heading to the bus stops every morning and home in the afternoon.



The police department will be out there as much as we can to ensure the safety of the children, but we also need your help in following the rules of the road. Be aware of your surroundings, obey the speed limit and please do not attempt to go around a bus that has stopped to pick up the children. During these times, we will have a zero tolerance approach to your behavior if you fail to comply with any traffic laws that could put the safety of the children in jeopardy.

On a lighter note, Halloween will be here before you know it and once again, the Woodson Terrace Police Department and City Hall will have our Trunk or Treat Open House, which offers a safe environment for the kids to come get candy and snacks and meet the officers and staff.

Chief Danny Brown







YOU ARE INVITED TO

THE CITY OF WOODSON TERRACE & WOODSON TERRACE POLICE  
3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

# HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE PARTY

SATURDAY  
4PM - 7PM

18

OCTOBER  
2025

4305 WOODSON RD,

MEET THE POLICE OFFICERS  
AND CITY HALL  
~ FREE CANDY  
~ FREE HOT DOGS & CHIPS





# PARKS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS



Thank you to everyone who has kept their houses clean and picked up. From April to October, we give out Beautification awards to each ward. Please nominate someone or your own house. We need to be able to see the address.

We will also be judging Christmas decorations in December.

There is a container in city hall where you can drop off things for Ritenour Food Pantry. Some items are paper goods, can goods, peanut butter and jelly and other items. No glass items. Please help those in need.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

This year we will move our **Christmas tree lighting to the park**. We will light up the park! There will be food and other exciting things.

Look for the date in our winter newsletter.

**We also are looking forward to Halloween and Christmas parties along with an event in the spring.**

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](mailto:jwilley@woodsonterrace.net) or call City Hall 314-427-2600.



## ATTENTION! SENIORS OF WOODSON TERRACE

*Come join us on the 2nd Thursday of every month for our senior's luncheon.*

**Place: Town Hall – 9351 Guthrie**

**Time: 11am – 2pm**

**Price: Free to residents 60+ \$8 for non-residents**

**Must call City Hall to register 314-427-2600**

The deadline to register is the Thursday before the lunch. This is a time to socialize with one another, we play games and hear from community speakers of interest. If you have any questions or miss registration cut off you can call Pat Pinson at 314-435-5898.

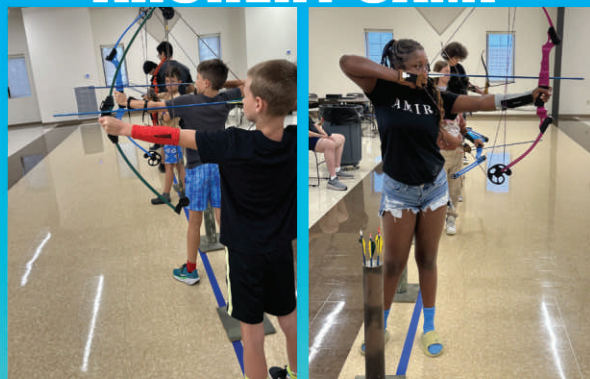
## CRAFT CLUB

It is another great activity where you can come bring your own craft and socialize with other seniors.

~ Free and you do not have to register, just show up.

~ 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month at Town Hall from 1pm-4pm

## ARCHERY CAMP





City of Woodson Terrace included in expanded RECA coverage for cancer victims. Earlier this year, the federal RECA program was expanded by Congress to include certain North St. Louis County and City zip codes as eligible to receive compensation due to illness from certain cancers. The radioactive exposure is the result of uranium processing and disposal in St. Louis as part of the WW II Manhattan Project. You can find more information on this exposure, covered zip codes and cancers, as well as access an application at St. Louis County - RECA Missouri Resources (<https://reca-missouri-resources.org/impacted-area/st-louis-county>).

Individuals who have one of the listed cancers, and lived/ worked/attended school or other frequent activity in one of the zip codes, may receive a tax free payment of \$50,000. If a relative suffered one of the cancers their closest relative(s) may receive a payment of \$25,000. Documentation, ie, proof of residency, work or school, evidence of death and cancer diagnosis are required. The resources page will help work through those questions and requirements.

City Officials receive update on Lambert Airport and I-70 Improvements. On August 13, the City of Woodson Terrace hosted a meeting with Lambert Airport and Missouri Department of Transportation (MO-DOT) to provide a detailed update to the City, the Gateway Airport Communities Coalition, local business and government stakeholders on plans for improvements at the airport and on I-70. The briefing focused on the recent approval by the Federal Aviation Administration for the airport to proceed with plans to modify the airfield configuration, and connecting runways and roadways, from a two-terminal to a single combined terminal configuration.

At the same time, MO-DOT is finalizing a scope of work for Segment 2 of the I-70 STL Conceptual Study on improvements between Lindbergh Blvd and N. Hanley. Part of this will be consideration of airport connections and other modifications proposed by local municipalities and stakeholders, such as improved connections and wayfinding for Woodson Road and other key connecting corridors. You can get more information about this activity at [www.modot.org/projects/improve-i-70-stl-conceptual-study](http://www.modot.org/projects/improve-i-70-stl-conceptual-study).

## **SOME KEY MEETING TAKEAWAYS:**

- Airport modifications will use the existing footprint and not require property acquisition or encroachment.
- They report “no significant impact” from noise under this new configuration. The City raised concerns that noise has increased and that past mediation may not be enough. If you are experiencing increased noise, we encourage you to contact the Noise Information Office at (314) 551-5070 or [noiseinformation@flystl.com](mailto:noiseinformation@flystl.com).
- Roadway plans include shifting the west airport entrance from Airflite Drive to Cypress Road. Public access at Airflite will close but access to I-70 will continue. Earlier input from city officials convinced the airport to include direct access for airport business shuttles and service providers at Airflite Drive rather than forcing them into the public queue. Most public access to the airport terminal will be directly from I-70 into a queue line to the combined terminal. It is unclear if Brown Road/Cargo Drive may provide local access.
- Terminal 2 metro will remain open. The City is talking with Bi-State Metro, MO-DOT and others about a Woodson Road connection by road or walkway. We were pleased to learn that MO-DOT plans to begin a Woodson Road Study that will consider ideas generated by the City of Woodson Terrace and local stakeholders.
- Future use of the Southwest terminal, which is directly adjacent to Woodson Road, is yet to be determined. It is of keen interest to the City to work with the airport, MO-DOT, citizens and stakeholders to improve connections to the airport, metro station and I-70 as part of this project, in ways that support plans to increase economic opportunity along the high priority Woodson Road Gateway Corridor. We always appreciate input from local residents and businesses on how these and other ideas could positively or negatively impact you. If you would like to submit questions or comments on these issues, please send them to Laura at [gatewayairportcommunities@gmail.com](mailto:gatewayairportcommunities@gmail.com).

Laura Madden



# Woodson Terrace Neighborhood Watch

## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

*It's hard to believe that school is already back in session and the summer has come and gone. If you have not done so already, now would be a great time to think about school safety for you and your children.*

### TEACH OR REPEAT STRANGER DANGER:

- If you have not already had cause to teach your children about strangers and the dangers that accompany them, now is the time. Children should not go off to school without understanding the need to stay away from strangers and not to be fooled. Discussing the types of things that are okay and the types of things that should be avoided is vital. Talk about the rules of who will pick them up from school. The list should be short and limited to only the people they know well.

### HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE

- Children always feel safer when they know what to do in the event of different situations. For example, what would they do if the school had an emergency and they needed to get someplace safe outside the school? In a world where significant events are now more common it is imperative that parents and children have a plan. It is far better for them to know what to do and what not to do should an emergency happen. Have a primary place to meet and a backup in case of an emergency. Meeting locations could be a specific part of the school grounds or a trusted home close by.

### MAKE A SAFETY CARD

- Your child should have a laminated card on them that gives their name, address, phone number, emergency contacts and medical conditions at a minimum. This information can be extremely important should they become lost or sick away from home or school.

### DISCUSS BULLYING AND SOCIAL ISSUES

- Bullying has taken the forefront, but the other issues are out there as well (drugs, peer pressure, smoking, etc.). Discuss all these things with your children no matter how uncomfortable it might seem. Over time you will build a trustworthy line of communication that your kids will value as much as you. Bullying is not something you can ignore as a parent. Give your kids real solutions and the power to defend themselves.

### DISCUSS CYBERBULLYING

*Cyberbullying is similar to other types of bullying, except it takes place online and through text messages. Cyberbullies can be classmates, online acquaintances, and even anonymous users, but most often they know their victims.*



- Talk to your child: Caution them about responding to the cyberbully. This is not a time for them to lash out or start a cyberwar themselves. This is not a time to "try to get even." See if they think they know the identity of the cyberbully or cyberbullies. See if this is related to an offline bullying situation, and deal with that quickly. And don't confuse the language most kids use online with cyberbullying. It may be shocking to us, but unless it is shocking to your child, it's not cyberbullying.

- Ignore it: A one time, seemingly unthreatening act, like a prank or mild teasing should probably be ignored. (If it's a threat, you must report it.) At the same time, you may want to consider using some preventive measures.

- Restrict the people who can send you communications: Consider restricting all incoming communications to pre-approved senders, such as those on your child's friend list. (If the cyberbully is someone on his or her friend list, though, this method won't help. In that case the cyberbully will have to be removed from the friend list and/or blocked.)

- Google your child: Make sure that the cyberbully isn't posting attacks online. When you get an early warning of a cyberbullying campaign, it is essential that you keep an eye on your child's screen name, nick names, full name, address, telephone and cell numbers and websites. You can also set up an "alert" on Google to notify you whenever anything about your child is posted online.

- Block the sender: Someone who seems aggressive or makes you uncomfortable and does not respond to verbal pleas or formal warnings should be blocked. This way, they will not be able to know when you are online or be able to contact you through instant messaging. Even if the communications are not particularly aggressive or threatening, if they are annoying, block the sender. (Most ISPs and instant messaging programs have a blocking feature to allow you to prevent the sender from getting through.)

These back-to-school safety tips are far from the only ones, but they will get your kids off to a good start. Talk to them about what they might be concerned with. This often reveals other conversations that need to be had as well.

Have a great school year!

Detective Sergeant Matt Anton







# OUR FUTURE

WOODSON TERRACE

Woodson Terrace is updating its comprehensive plan! An advisory committee is helping guide the process. This Fall, watch for the *Discovery Report*, which will summarize existing conditions and share the results of this Summer's community survey.

Next steps include scenario planning later this Fall. More details about the next community open house will be announced later this year.

The comprehensive plan is expected to be completed by Summer 2026.



**April 21st  
Advisory Committee #1**



**June 12th  
Senior Focus Group**



**July 8th  
Open House #1**

**Thank you for taking the  
community survey!**



Thank you to everyone who participated in the community survey this summer! The survey closed on July 31, but if you missed it, you can still share your comments through the website below.







# OUR FUTURE

WOODSON TERRACE

¡Woodson Terrace está actualizando su plan integral! Un comité asesor está ayudando a guiar el proceso. Este otoño, esté atento al Informe de Descubrimiento, que resumirá las condiciones actuales y compartirá los resultados de la encuesta comunitaria realizada este verano.

Los próximos pasos incluyen la planificación de escenarios más adelante este otoño. Más detalles sobre la próxima jornada de puertas abiertas comunitaria se anunciarán más adelante este año.

Se espera que el plan integral esté finalizado para el verano de 2026.

**¡Gracias por participar en la encuesta comunitaria!**



¡Gracias a todos los que participaron en la encuesta comunitaria este verano! La encuesta cerró el 31 de julio, pero si no pudo participar, aún puede compartir sus comentarios a través del sitio web que aparece a continuación.



**21 de abril  
Comité Asesor #1**



**12 de junio  
Almuerzo para personas mayores**



**8 de julio  
Reunión comunitaria #1**





**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**Post 2365**  
Missouri 12<sup>th</sup> District

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**POST 143**

## Honors and Achievements

Woodson Terrace is home to two thriving veteran service posts: VFW Post 2365 and American Legion Post 143. These organizations are not only growing in membership but also earning statewide and national recognition for their outstanding service and dedication.

VFW Post 2365 was awarded the coveted All-American award for the award year of 2022–2023 and again for 2024–2025. The Post also earned All-State honors for the award year for 2023–2024 and again for 2024–2025. These awards are a distinguished honor reflecting achievements in leadership, active community engagement, and tireless efforts of our members standing for veteran support.

Membership in both VFW Post 2365 and American Legion Post 143 continues to rise, as more veterans and community members recognize the meaningful impact these posts are making in Woodson Terrace and beyond.



## Upcoming Event – September 20, 2025

The Posts will host their second Informal Open House 10:AM - Noon on Saturday, September 20, at 4301 Calvert, the Woodson Terrace Community Center in the park. We are inviting veterans, families, and community members to learn more about the VFW and American Legion. Attendees will discover a wide range of programs, including:

- Scholarships and youth awards
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Veteran benefits and claims assistance

Our Veteran Service Officer and State Representative will be present—not just to answer questions, but to actively pursue concerns and work to help protect the benefits and entitlements earned through service, ensuring veterans and their survivors receive the support they deserve.

This event is open to all, and promises valuable information, meaningful connections, and a warm welcome from both Posts.





## Community Engagement

VFW Post 2365 sets the pace with hands-on service and heartfelt outreach. This year, members proudly served 200 burgers to residents of the Missouri Veterans Home in Bellefontaine Neighbors, bringing smiles and camaraderie to those who served before them. The Post also plays a central role in the Memorial Day ceremony at John L. Brown Park. Additionally, their presence extends to neighboring St. Louis communities, where they participate in Memorial Day events and veteran-focused initiatives paying tribute to and honoring fallen heroes.



American Legion Post 143 complements these efforts with its own brand of compassionate service such as the recent work with VFW Post 3944 Auxiliary to assist in their monthly luncheons for veterans and their loved ones at the same Veterans Home. These gatherings offer more than just a meal—they foster connection, gratitude, and community. Post 143 also takes pride in its role during Memorial Day observances at Laurel Hill Cemetery, standing shoulder to shoulder with fellow veterans to honor those who gave their all.

## Youth Outreach

American Legion Post 143 is actively seeking Woodson Terrace youth interested in careers in law enforcement, military service, or government. There may also be opportunities to participate in sports and leadership programs, helping young people build character and explore future paths.



## A Grateful City

The continued success of VFW Post 2365 and American Legion Post 143 brings well-deserved recognition to the City of Woodson Terrace. Their efforts reflect the city's deep commitment to supporting veterans and their families, and fostering community spirit. Together, these Posts exemplify the spirit of service and unity that defines Woodson Terrace.

Special thanks to Mayor Lawrence Bessemer and Alderwoman Carolin Martin for their steadfast support. Your leadership makes a difference—and we are grateful.



# Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee

**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.**

Every Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee Member keeps 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 Memorial Day Program was held on Monday, May 26, 2025 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. 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 Honor Guard in the "Posting and the Retiring" of Colors, the Gun Salute, and TAPS. They have performed this voluntary "Service" for our Woodson Terrace Veterans Day Memorial Program for numerous years. Sherrie Gerrein sang beautifully and led everyone in singing: the National Anthem, America the Beautiful, and God

Bless America. Her uplifting voice also sang the "Salute to the Armed Forces". These are the designated songs for each branch of the Military: Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Merchant Marines). "Sherrie" invited any Veteran to stand when their song was sung to salute their military branch that they "served" in. Many Veterans were very proud to stand for this "honor". A grateful "Thank You" to "Sherrie" Gerrein who has performed this voluntary "Service" numerous years for all of our Veterans Programs held in Woodson Terrace. Many attending Veterans and some in attendance conducted the "Penney Ceremony". We had many residents, non-residents and Veterans attend and participate to make our Memorial Day Program very beautiful. The weather was beautiful. Thank each of the Veterans, residents, visitors, and Organizations that helped to make our Memorial Day Program successful.

Our Veterans Day Program will be Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at the Robert J. Madden Veterans Memorial located in John L. Brown Park at 9:30 A.M. Please watch the marquee for the date.

*Caroline Martin*

**Veterans Committee Chairperson**

Phone: (314) 324-6883







# 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

CAROLINE MARTIN  
9648 AMITY COURT (314) 324-6883

## WARD II ALDERMAN

STEPHEN STEWART  
9841 GUTHRIE  
sstewart@woodsonterrace.net

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  
mzaiz@woodsonterrace.net

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

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

NATOSHA FOLEY  
COURT ADMINISTRATOR (314) 427-2600  
EXT 1667

## Frequently Asked for Phone Numbers

### EMERGENCY

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

### CITY HALL

### WOODSON TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### ST. LOUIS COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

### POISON CONTROL

### ST. LOUIS COUNTY

### WASTE CONNECTIONS

### AMEREN

### SPIRE

### MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER

### METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT

### BI-STATE WILD LIFE HOTLINE

### 911

(314) 428-1122

(314) 427-2600

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

(314) 831-6500

(800) 222-1222

(314) 615-5000

(636) 321-2100

(314) 342-1000

(314) 621-6960

(866) 430-0820

(314) 768-6200

(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.



# 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

- 1 Labor Day (City Hall Closed)
- 2 Craft Club (1-4 PM)
- 3 Municipal Court
  - Housing (2 PM)
  - Court (5 PM)
- 11 Senior Luncheon (11 AM – 2 PM)
- 11 Budget, Job & Wage Study Committee (7 PM)
- 16 Craft Club (1-4 PM)
- 18 Public Works Committee (6:45 PM)
- 18 Board of Aldermen (7 PM)
- 25 Parks & Special Projects Meeting (7 PM)

## OCTOBER

- 1 Municipal Court
  - Housing (2 PM)
  - Court (5 PM)
- 7 Craft Club (1-4 PM)
- 9 Senior Luncheon (11 AM – 2 PM)
- 9 Budget, Job & Wage Study Committee (7 PM)
- 13 Columbus Day (City Hall Closed)
- 16 Public Works Committee (6:45 PM)
- 16 Board of Aldermen (7 PM)
- 18 Halloween Trunk or Treat (4-7 PM)
- 21 Craft Club (1-4 PM)
- 23 Neighborhood Watch Meeting (6 PM)
- 31 Halloween

## NOVEMBER

- 4 Craft Club (1-4 PM)
- 5 Municipal Court
  - Housing (2 PM)
  - Court (5 PM)
- 13 Senior Luncheon (11 AM – 2 PM)
- 13 Budget, Job & Wage Study Committee (7 PM)
- 18 Craft Club (1-4 PM)
- 20 Public Works Committee (6:45 PM)
- 20 Board of Aldermen (7 PM)
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday (City Hall Closed)



# Get Connected

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

Phone: 314 427 2600

Fax: 314 427 0571

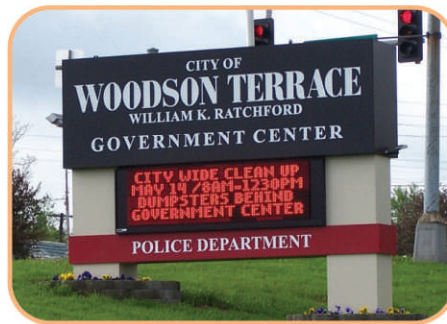
Email: [cityclerk@woodsonterrace.net](mailto:cityclerk@woodsonterrace.net)

[www.woodsonterrace.net](http://www.woodsonterrace.net)

[www.woodsonterrace.net/Facebook](http://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.**