

WOODSON TERRACE NEWS



Volume 49
WINTER 2025



From The Mayor's Desk



The Public Works did a great job removing the snow from our streets. They were working 12 hour shifts for the duration.

We recently had a turnover at City Hall. We have two new ladies and moved two other ladies to different jobs. It may be a transition, but to my knowledge they are doing a great job.

We started on a new road project last year. We will continue this year with some other streets. Our roads were evaluated by a road engineer and they are being done according to the worst roads first.

Remember when you are driving on our streets that they were built back in the 50's and 60's. At that time there were very few households with more than one vehicle. Parking on the street, with children darting out between cars when they are playing should make you realize that our speed limits should be obeyed. Our Police Department has been doing an excellent job. The transition from Dominic Orlando to our new Chief Brown has been seamless.

The Covid disease really hurt our City financially and it has taken some time to get back 100% on our feet. Our employees were not getting paid at the salary they should have been. We have recently been able to pay them and the rest of our employees what they are worth. We will now be able to make sure in the future that their raises will be available when the time comes.

Our Public Works Facility is approximately 60 years old and sometime in the future we will try to pass a Bond Issue to replace the facility. A Bond Issue will be put before the people of the City for a vote of Yes or No. A Bond Issue is just like any other loan except the residents will not be required to repay the loan, it will be repaid from taxes collected from the businesses in our city.

Since I was elected Mayor in 2006 we have had two Bond Issues passed by the vote of the people. The first was for the City Hall, the second was for the Community Center. The City Hall Bond Issue has already been paid off and in regards to the Community Center Bond Issue we will make the last payment next month.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence P. Besmer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mayor Besmer
314-427-2600

Comprehensive Plan

The City recently went out for bid to create a new comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan has significant benefits for our community as it helps to identify, define and protect important existing resources. Our present plan was created in 2011, and is outdated. In order for the plan to be effective, it needed an update. The new plan will detail a direction for City development. A committee of business leaders, residents, City officials, and consultants interviewed two candidates, i5 group and Steadfast. The lowest/best bid was from, i5 Group; they will assist us

in creating a plan exclusively for our City's development. Residents and businesses are encouraged to provide input on various ideas and proposals from i5 Group. The comprehensive plan is a valuable tool which enables developers to meet our expectations for the City. An updated and relevant comprehensive plan is a necessity for attaining success in acquiring funds and advice, available for projects from various funding entities. The plan provides an ideal blueprint for future growth that ensures equality for all stakeholders.

Waste Connections

The City has had a contract with Waste Connections since February of 2021. Initially many residents complained about recurring problems with their service. Waste Connections has shown improvement and they have resolved most of the past issues. Complaints from residents are minimal. We have considered, and approved an amendment to the present contract beginning December 1, 2024, through March 31, 2026.

Our research in the management of waste was indicating much higher rates from all carriers if we waited and went out for bids. The rates for the above term are listed on the City website or can be picked up at City Hall. The extension of contracts in waste collection is not new; we have used these extensions with previous haulers. The City is trying to keep costs as low as possible while providing this necessary service.



	Current	\$19.44	\$9.72
	A five year extension: Household waste, recycle and yard waste serviced one time per week curbside, including a container for trash and recycle provided by Waste Connections		
		Base	Senior
December 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026		\$23.44	\$11.72
April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027		\$24.61	\$12.31
April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2028		\$25.84	\$12.92
April 1, 2028 to March 31, 2029		\$27.13	\$13.57
April 1, 2029 to March 31, 2030		\$28.49	\$14.25
Additional Container Rental: Billed to the resident			
September 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026		\$8.00	
April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027		\$8.50	
April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2028		\$9.00	
April 1, 2028 to March 31, 2029		\$9.50	
April 1, 2029 to March 31, 2030		\$10.00	

Bulky and White Goods will remain a two item limit, called in and scheduled. There will be no additional cost to the residents or the city for this service.

City Administrator
Douglas Zaiz

Public Works

Winter has arrived, bringing with it ice and snow. Please remember to move all vehicles off the roadway during snow events, as this allows plow trucks to clear the streets effectively. In exciting news, our public works fleet has received three new Ford pickups equipped with plows and salt spreaders. As part of this update, we have retired and auctioned off two of the oldest trucks, and a third truck has been reassigned to the Code Enforcement vehicle. This addition is greatly appreciated and necessary for the department's operations.

You may have noticed construction at the shopping center between Guthrie and Bataan, where Dollar General is located. Future additions will include a grocery store and two restaurants, along with several open spaces for businesses.

Even though it may feel far away, spring will arrive sooner than you think. Now is the time to prepare for property maintenance. Remember to keep your fence lines clear and free of overgrowth. Code enforcement will be inspecting properties and issuing notices for any maintenance issues.

Thank you,

Doug Hill
Deputy Director of Public Works

FROM THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

Happy New Year, everyone. I want to take a minute and thank all the people that I have been fortunate enough to meet since being sworn in as the new Chief of Woodson Terrace. Since taking office, we have had several amazing events, the Halloween Open House/Trunk or Treat, the Christmas in the Streets Toy Giveaway and Christmas with Santa.

Community involvement is a key part in a successful relationship between the citizens and the police department. We will continue the Neighborhood Watch Meetings, with the hope of making them bigger every time. I encourage everyone to attend. Stop by, say hello and meet your officers.

I believe this winter is going to continue to be bad and I would ask that you help out Public Works by not parking on the streets so they can keep our streets clean and safe.

One last thing... I have an open door policy. If you have any concerns, or if you just want to meet me and introduce yourself, please feel free to stop by. I look forward to a great 2025.

Thank you,
Chief Danny Brown DSN 110

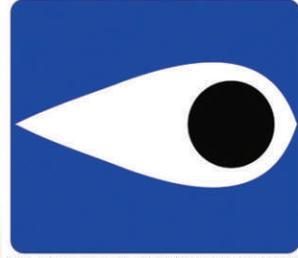


Woodson Terrace Neighborhood Watch

WELCOME TO 2025!

There are some changes coming this year to Neighborhood Watch. With Detective Anton being promoted to Detective Sergeant back in October of 2024, we are adding a new member to our Neighborhood Watch Program. Our newest patrolman, Officer Haynes, will be transitioning to take over for Detective Sergeant Anton as Neighborhood Watch Liaison for our department. Officer Haynes has a strong passion for community policing and loves interacting with the community. Officer Haynes joined our department in November of 2024 with previous experience working as a police officer in Illinois.

**NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH**



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

MEETINGS:

We will have four meetings this year for Neighborhood Watch:

February 27th
May 22nd
August 28th
October 23rd

All meetings will be held at the Woodson Terrace Community Center in John Brown Park, 4301 Calvert Avenue, and will begin at 6 P.M.

HOW TO AVOID A SCAM

While scammers' delivery methods and messaging can quickly change, a few basic security measures can help protect you from the latest and most common scams:

- Be skeptical when someone contacts you. Scammers can spoof calls and emails to make it look like they are coming from different sources, including government agencies, charities, banks and large companies. Don't share personal information, usernames, passwords or one-time codes that others can use to access your accounts or steal your identity.
- Don't click unknown links. Whether the link arrives in your email, a text or a direct message, never click on it unless you're certain the sender has good intentions. If the message says it's from a company or government agency, call the company using a number that you look up on your own to confirm its legitimacy.
- Be careful with your phone. Similarly, if you suspect a spam call, don't respond or press a button. The safest option is to hang up or ignore the call entirely. You can look up the organization and initiate a call if you're worried there may be an issue.
- Update your devices. Software updates may include important security measures that can help protect your phone, tablet or computer.

- Enable multifactor authentication. Add this feature to any accounts that offer it as an option, and try to use a non-SMS version to protect yourself from SIM swapping.

- Research companies before taking any actions. Before you make a purchase or donation, take a few minutes to review the company. Do a web search for its name plus "scam" or "reviews" and research charities on Charity Navigator and CharityWatch.

- Don't refund or forward overpayments. Be careful whenever a company or person asks you to refund or forward part of a payment. Often, the original payment will be fraudulent and taken back later.

- Look for suspicious payment requirements. Scammers often ask for payments via cash, wire transfer, money order, cryptocurrency or gift cards. These payments can be harder to track and cancel than other forms of payment, which can leave you stuck without recourse.

- Create a family password. Create a family password that you can all use to verify that it's really one of you on the phone, and not someone who created a deepfaked video or cloned voice.

Detective Matt Anton and Chief Danny Brown

Woodson Terrace Neighborhood Watch

Phone: (314) 427-5858

PARKS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Thank you to everyone who came to our first annual Christmas tree lighting. It was a good evening. Thank you to Doug Hill and Public Works for setting up, City Hall, Parks Committee and Caroline Martin for having a Marine light the Tree and Toys for Tots.



We like to see our residents homes look nice as well as the businesses. Woodson Terrace has been working hard on getting some of the businesses cleaned up.



PARKS

Check out our beautiful park and don't forget you can rent the pavilions for picnics and parties.

There is a nice walking path. We would like to put in some new exercise equipment. Let us know your ideas. Also, the Community Center in the park can be rented for big parties, events, and business meetings.

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. If we have enough teams interested, we will start planning to get the fields ready.

WOODSON TERRACE WAS ALL LIT UP WITH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS.

The following are winners of the Christmas light contest.

- Grand prize-9420 Harold**
- Ward 1-9740 Corregidor**
- Ward 2-9423 Bataan**
- Ward 3-9321 Tutwiler**
- Ward 4-4413 Boswell**

The grand prize received a \$50 gift card and the rest \$25 for Yesterday's Bar and Grill.



Thank you for nominating these residents. Beautification awards will start in April. If you know a house that is kept clean and looks nice please nominate them or your own house. We need to be able to see the address.

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 call City hall 314-427-2600.



SENIOR LUNCHES

November we had our Thanksgiving luncheon where we had a delicious meal. We played Thanksgiving Feud as our activity. December we had our annual Christmas Luncheon held at Woodson Terrace Community Center. We had most of the Woodson Terrace Staff attend including Public Works and the Police Department. We had a drawing of wine bottles decorated in Christmas themes. We will meet at the Community Center until Town Hall opens in the summer. Hope to see all seniors in this upcoming year. Pat Pinson 314-428-1168 or 314-435-5898. Happy New year to all.



ATTENTION! SENIORS OF WOODSON TERRACE

2nd Thursday of every month come join to socialize and have Lunch.

Place:

Woodson Terrace Community Center 4301 Calvert

Time:

11am-2pm

Price:

Free to Woodson Terrace Residents 60+ or \$8 for non-residents.

If interested Please call City Hall 314-427-2600 to sign up no later then the Thursday before at 12pm.



CITY CLERK

Happy New year Woodson Terrace! We had a great ending to 2024. We loved planning the Halloween Open House Party and Breakfast with Santa. We had a record amount of kids for both events this year. We had a great pancake breakfast and got to hang out with the Police Department, Santa, Aldermen and members of the VFW. We have a great Community and lots of Amazing Kids! We look forward to this coming year. Our Easter Egg Hunt at the Park is our next big event for the kids. Stay tuned to our Facebook, website and the Marquee in front of City Hall for details with the date and time.

Sarah Piel
City Clerk





Vietnam War Era Veterans



(November 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975)

Please Join Us for Our 2025 Welcome Home Celebration

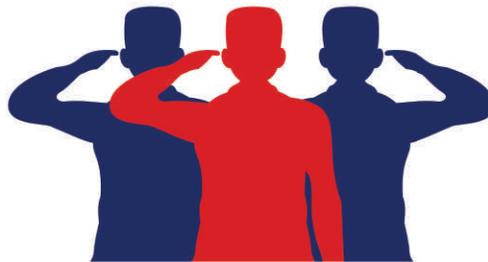
WHEN: March 22, 2025

WHERE: Woodson Terrace Community Center

4300 Calvert Avenue

Woodson Terrace, MO 63134

Doors Open at 1:00 P.M.



Please RSVP to:
Caroline at 314-324-6883

More information to follow

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 stays very busy. Everyone on the Committee has his/her own military "agenda" of activities and organizations, he or she is involved with outside of Woodson Terrace. Each member has a deep sense of "Service" to our Veterans. The activities our Committee members perform "collectively" is greatly enriched by their own years of experience of "Service". This is a benefit to our Committee. Several of our members are Veterans, themselves. This includes our own VFW #2365 and American Legion #143. We all work together to achieve our goals that benefit our Veterans.

The Committee meets as needed. Our Agenda consists of planning and organizing the Veterans Programs for Woodson Terrace, along with the Fund-raisers to accomplish our goals for our Veterans. We spend the time at each meeting initiating, finalizing and reviewing what is needed to make our Veterans Programs successful.

Some members of our Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee occasionally visit the Veterans from the Veterans Home on Lewis and Clark; when Alderman Caroline Martin is volunteering to serve them a fish dinner, she has the opportunity to see first-hand how the Veterans are doing.

Our Veterans Day Program was held on Monday, November 11, 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 Veterans

Day Program was held on a beautiful day. A big "Thank You" to VFW Post #2365 and American Legion Post #143 for their participation as 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 Program for numerous years. Thank you to each of the Veterans, residents, visitors, and Organizations that helped to make our Veterans Day Program successful. Please continue to keep coming.

One of our active duty Marines, Sgt. Fernando Sanchez graciously volunteered to light our first City Christmas tree. It was a beautiful colorful program.

If you would like to volunteer to be one of our members, please contact me. We welcome anyone who would like to give of their time to help our Veterans.

Caroline Martin

Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee Chair

Phone: (314) 324-6883





VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 2365
Missouri 12th District

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

POST 143



From left to right: VFW State Commander Richard DePontee, Student Collin Sorino, District Commander Gerome Cummins, and Auxiliary President Phil Wilson.

Collin D. Scorino, this year's representative for Woodson Terrace VFW Post 2365's Patriot Pen, wins 1st place at the District level. Collin will go on to represent Missouri's 12th District in competition for state title for the Youth Essay Award Citation. Each year Post 2365 scouts the community for students to participate in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen contests. Local educators are also sought out to compete for an annual VFW Teacher of the Year award.



As members of the Woodson Terrace Veterans Committee, the New Year's wish for both American Legion Post 143 and VFW Post 2365, is to better engage the Woodson Terrace community so that more of the city's residents will have greater opportunities to compete and benefit from awards and scholarships offered by both organizations.

Walter Lobster, Commander for American Legion Post 143, got a joyful workout punching tickets and handing out pancakes at this year's Woodson Terrace Christmas Party. Public city events like the Christmas party, in addition to annual Memorial Day, and Veterans Day ceremonies, offer welcomed opportunities for exchange, familiarization, and presences of veteran service organizations within the Woodson Terrace community. Such events also help to perpetuate a sense of pride and patriotism credited to our brave men and women in uniform serving to protect our country.





Starting Left: Post Surgeon General Valerie Moore, 12th District Sr. Vice Commander Cerebia Epps, Post Adjutant Stephanie Boykin

The Women of the Woodson Terrace Posts, are formidable with respect to their tremendous skills and abilities to lead and to serve. 12th District Sr Vice Commander Cerebia Epps, Post Adjutant Stephanie Boykin and Post Surgeon Valerie Moore dedicated their time to volunteering at the Veterans Home, performing in various veteran ceremonies throughout the community and promoting veterans causes at public events.

Cerebia Epps, was elected Sr Vice Commander for Missouri's VFW 12th District and is now a likely candidate for 12th District Commander.

Stephanie Boykin, was recently elected as a State Representative in a landslide victory.

Valerie Moore, has brought a new sense of awareness to post members regarding health concerns and key information on getting and staying healthy.

These women have set unprecedented standards for VFW post 2365, and serve as encouraging examples for other female veterans looking for a base established on values, fortitude, strength and integrity while making a real contribution.

VFW Post 2365 Commander
Cedric Gillespie



American Legion Post 143
Commander Walter Lobster



Final Words.

The Woodson Terrace VFW Post 2365 and American Legion post 143 have achieved notable recognition within their respective organizations over the past few years. The Posts have a unique relationship allowing both to bring their combined veteran services benefits to the community in a unique way. This robust collaboration enhances the utilization of talents and concentrated efforts that add to the success of both organizations thereby creating a sustainable base of development for a nexus of veteran's services in the City Woodson Terrace.

Community Fire District

Community Fire Protection District

WINTER SAFETY TIPS



* PERSONAL SAFETY

- * Drink warm fluids if it is difficult to drink cold water when it is cold outside.
- * Layer lightweight and warm clothing to stay warm in extreme temperatures.
- * Stay as dry as possible and limit wind exposure.
- * Keep hand warmers and emergency blankets in your personal vehicles.

* HOME SAFETY

- * Never run generators, propane heaters, or gas ovens indoors.
- * Open cabinet doors near pipes to circulate heat.
- * At night, use both hot and cold running water to help prevent freezing.
- * Make sure all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working and replacing batteries as needed.

* PET SAFETY

- * Always bring pets inside during extreme weather.
- * Provide warm shelter and provide adequate hydration.
- * Keep salt and “ice-melt” products away from their paws.



Francis Costello - Chairman
Michael Pestka - Treasurer
George Michael - Secretary
Sean Murray - Chief

Administrative Headquarters: 9411 Marlowe Avenue, Overland, Missouri, 63114

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

DONNA CONLON

3825 CALVERT (314) 428-8562

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
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
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.

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.

JANUARY

- 7 **Craft Club (1-4 PM)**
- 8 **Municipal Court**
 - Housing (2 PM)
 - Court (5 PM)
- 9 **Senior Luncheon (11 AM – 2 PM) (CANCELED)**
- 9 **Budget, Job & Wage Study Committee (7 PM)**
- 16 **Public Works Committee (6:45 PM)**
- 16 **Board of Aldermen (7 PM)**
- 20 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (City Hall Closed)**
- 21 **Craft Club (1-4 PM)**

FEBRUARY

- 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)**
- 17 **Presidents' Day (City Hall Closed)**
- 18 **Craft Club (1-4 PM)**
- 20 **Public Works Committee (6:45 PM)**
- 20 **Board of Aldermen (7 PM)**
- 27 **Neighborhood Watch Meeting (6PM at Community Center)**

MARCH

- 4 **Craft Club (1-4 PM)**
- 5 **Municipal Court**
 - Housing (2 PM)
 - Court (5 PM)
- 9 **Day light savings time**
- 13 **Senior Luncheon (11AM – 2PM)**
- 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)**
- 22 **Welcome Home Celebration for Vietnam War Era Veterans**

APRIL

- 1 **Craft Club (1-4 PM)**
- 2 **Municipal Court**
 - Housing (2 PM)
 - Court (5 PM)
- 10 **Senior Luncheon (11 AM -2 PM)**
- 10 **Budget, Job & Wage Study Committee (7 PM)**
- 12 **Easter Egg Hunt (Time TBD)**
- 15 **Craft Club (1-4 PM)**
- 17 **Public Works Committee (6:45 PM)**
- 17 **Board of Aldermen (7 PM)**
- 18 **Good Friday (City Hall Closed)**
- 20 **Easter**

MAY

- 6 **Craft Club (1-4)**
- 7 **Municipal Court**
 - Housing (2 PM)
 - Court (5 PM)
- 8 **Senior Luncheon (11AM – 2PM)**
- 9 **Budget, Job & Wage Study Committee (7 PM)**
- 11 **Mother's Day**
- 12 **Camp Sign Up (Residents)**
- 14 **Pool Passes available at City Hall**
- 15 **Board of Aldermen (7 PM)**
- 19 **Camp Sign Up (Non-Residents)**
- 20 **Craft Club (1-4PM)**
- 22 **Neighborhood Watch Meeting (6PM at Community Center)**
- 24 **Pool Opens**
- 26 **Memorial Day (City Hall Closed)**
 - **Memorial Day Celebration (9:30am)**



City Calendar of Events

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.