



Westworth Village

Westworth Village News

December 2020

Calendar

December 1

- P & Z Meeting—6:00 PM

December 4

- Mayor's Blood Drive—9:00 AM—3:00 PM

December 5

- Santa Day—9 AM—12 PM

December 8

- City Council Meeting—7:00 PM

December 10

- BHE PTO Food Truck Fundraiser—4:30—8:00 PM

December 24—25

- Christmas—City Offices Closed



For the latest news, sign-up to receive email and/or text notifications from the city at:

<http://cityofwestworth.com/manage-notifications>

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Santa Claus will be visiting Westworth Village on **December 5th!** He will begin his ride through town on the route pictured on a Fort Worth fire engine at **9:00 AM** and will be escorted by Westworth Village PD to the City Hall, where he will be in his socially-distanced sleigh for photo opportunities until **noon!**

Families will receive a photo with Santa, a take-n-make Christmas craft packet, and a snack to-go.



December Blood Drive

Fellow Citizens:

Area blood supplies remain critically low as the Covid pandemic gears up. In fact, Westworth Village today has over 100 active cases.

I know Westworth Village will do its part, as we have before, so I have invited Carter BloodCare back in its mobile van to city hall again on Friday, December 4th from 9 AM—3 PM.

I gave blood for the first time at city hall in August, and I was apprehensive. It was a piece of cake! This time, I will be first in line, with my wife and family, along with senior city staff. I hope you can join us as our outstanding citizens answer the bell yet again for our neighbors in need.

As last time, appointments are requested to help maintain safety and social distancing. You may sign up by following the link below:

Westworth Village City Hall

https://ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/117580

As our family knows from our daughter-in-law needing eight units only four months ago, the life you save may be dear to your heart!

--Mayor Jones

Message from the Water Utilities Services

Residential Winter Sewer Averaging

Each year the City of Westworth Village averages the water consumption of the December, January, and February billing periods to recalculate sewer charges. These months are used because typically residents do not have a high outdoor water demand and are considered to be the lowest overall water use.

The new winter sewer average goes into effect on the March billing and that will be the new monthly sewer charge for the next twelve months.

Commercial

Sewer charges for commercial customers are based on the monthly water consumption.

Water Conservation Tips

- Residents should begin preparations to monitor for any water leaks, monitor water consumption and practice beneficial water conservation.
- Most grasses and vegetation are now dormant; watering of grass, plants, and landscaping should be kept to a minimum.
- Sewer cost could go up, down, or stay about the same depending on how much water is used during December through February billing.



Holiday Auto Theft Awareness



A reminder from the Westworth Village Police Department

Parking on Sidewalks

The Westworth Village Police Department has received questions and concerns about vehicles parked in private driveways that partially extend across the sidewalk, limiting pedestrian use of the sidewalk. Our office would like to clarify any confusion about the legality of this matter.

The Texas Transportation Code section 545.302 prohibits parking over a sidewalk. Despite crossing what some consider their private driveway, sidewalks are, in fact, considered part of the public right-of-way and are placed in public easements. This means that a vehicle parked on your driveway that effectively blocks the public sidewalk is a violation of the transportation code and may be ticketed.

The safety of our residents and motorists in Westworth Village is a priority of the Police Department. Vehicles blocking a sidewalk present a safety issue by requiring adult and child pedestrians (your neighbors) to walk into the street to navigate around the offending vehicle. Our goal is education and voluntary compliance, but enforcement action may be taken if necessary.

Cease the Grease—Holiday Grease Roundup

This year, from November 23—January 4, we will be participating in the **free** Holiday Grease Roundup. There will be a barrel outside the Public Works building at 128 Koldin Ln, available 24/7 to recycle your cooking oil and grease. (Motor oil and other automotive fluids are not accepted.)



Residents should never dispose of cooking grease or cooking oils by washing them down the plumbing system or the storm drain. Oils pollute our streams and creeks by forming a film on the water surface and preventing oxygenation for aquatic life. Polluted water runoff can lead to severe State and Federal fines. As sewer pipes back up, food and sewage particles accumulate to create a health hazard by attracting insects and vermin.

For more information, visit: www.ceasethegreasentx.com



December 1, 2020

Neighbors and Fellow Citizens:

While most of the world is rightfully eager to see 2020 in the rearview mirror, careful reflection will reveal that 2020 was a very good year for Westworth Village.

Allow me to take this occasion to congratulate our four new councilmembers, Mike Dingman, Brian Libbey, Abe Elizondo, and Dore Hendrix. While we lost a lot of council experience, these new councilmembers bring a wealth of new ideas and fresh perspectives to our governing body. I am already enjoying working with them as we try to build a better city.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our departing councilmembers, Tiffany Aller, John Davies, Sharon Schmitz, and Christina Cowden, for all their time and selfless efforts on your behalf.

So ... why was 2020 a good year for Westworth Village?

Seeking to address our citizens' needs, we completed a survey of the issues on your minds ... and we acted upon that input. We 1) lowered the speed limit on our residential streets, 2) adopted a drainage plan requirement for all new construction, 3) funded and began implementation of new streetlights, 4) instituted new street parking requirements, 5) updated and improved the Burton Hill Elementary crossing signal, and 6) not insignificantly, funded and have begun planning the first true city parks in our history.

Financially, the city's operation outperformed its budget, finishing fiscal year 2020 in the black. Our cash reserves continue to grow. We have improved our already enviable financial position.

Despite the pandemic, our sales tax revenue has continued to increase *vis-à-vis* the property tax, shifting the burden of paying for the city's operation away from our homeowners and property owners.

With a stronger bond rating, we refinanced our relatively low bonded indebtedness, saving our citizens \$360,000 in interest expense over the next decade.

After years of losing money and operating at a deficit, our golf course operation has turned around, and for the first time the budget contemplates the golf course operation breaking even. It is already outpacing current budget projections, and we now expect the golf course to show operational profit for fiscal year 2021.

For decades, the town's largest infrastructure deficiency has been stormwater drainage. We are at long last addressing this problem, as we will soon engage the city's engineers for a comprehensive master drainage study, and a long-term implementation plan.

In a similar vein, the council recently passed a moratorium on further high-density development, and its resultant increased drainage discharge. This gives our P&Z and the city council an opportunity to determine how these issues should be constructively addressed moving forward. New zoning regulations should be implemented shortly after the first of the year.

So ... as the world suffered through a once-in-a-century pandemic, in looking back, 2020 was still a fine year for Westworth Village.

I hope you enjoy the new holiday lights on City Hall. Our public works director Cody Morse and his team have done a marvelous job bringing Christmas back to City Hall. To my knowledge, the building has never been lit up for the holidays.

As 2020 draws to a close, and we look forward to a better 2021, on behalf of the city council and your excellent city staff, we all wish you a healthy holiday season, and our best wishes for a New Year of peace, health, and prosperity.



Mayor Kelly Jones