

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Sign up For *Notify JoCo* For City News and Events Delivered Straight to Your Phone or Email.

See Page 5 for More Information

Spring 2014

Visit us at
www.missionhillsks.gov



Join us for the Annual City of Mission Hills Keim Street Fair on Saturday, June 7th, at Belinder Circle. Please note: the Keim Street Fair is normally held the first weekend after Memorial day. For 2014, it will fall on the second weekend after the holiday.

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Notify JoCo



Rick Boeshaar
Mayor

Communication is a critical element of any relationship! It is particularly true of the relationship between citizens and their elected officials. The residents of Mission Hills have confidence in their mayor and city council because they believe we will communicate about potential problems such as changes, interruptions to services, or issues the City is facing. It is also important for us to communicate about the good things, such as the Street Fair, Tree Lighting, large item trash days, awards that the City has earned, and exceptional performances by our staff. Communication is the foundation of trust. Effective communication is dependent upon both parties, the sender and the receiver, doing their part.

Here is how we do our part. Our City's newsletter, *The Columns*, plays a key role. Typically we use the newsletter to communicate about seasonal issues. We also provide information on our City's website (www.missionhillsks.gov) that is both long-term and more immediate news. The website will keep you up to date on all our City services, including trash and recycling, special events, ordinances, building design guidelines, road construction, all with dates, times, minutes of City meetings and much more. Our City also will send you an email alert about information that you care most about if you call City Hall, give us your email address, and tell us what you wish to be notified about. In addition to the newsletter and website we have used mailings, both letters and postcards, to notify you in a timely manner about more urgent activities such as road construction and home remodeling projects that may affect you, and special events such as tree pruning or storm damage pickup.

The cost of mailings (printing and mailing) has risen dramatically in a short period of time. Mailings are also limited by the time it takes to prepare them and get them to you. For emergency information that many people need "right now" we utilize what is referred to as a reverse 911 system to send messages via the phone.

To make wise use of your tax dollars, we must change the way we communicate our short time frame, non-emergency, administrative notices and make less use of mailings. For these communications we will utilize the *NotifyJoCo* system. For this method to be effective, we need you to sign up for NotifyJoCo. About 500 of our residents are already signed up, but we are asking the rest of you to do so as well.

Please go to the NotifyJoCo website at www.notifyjoco.org. Create an account (username and password) and a complete profile (name, phone numbers, email address, etc.). By creating an account and keeping it up to date, you will receive all emergency notifications (crime and safety alerts) and whatever administrative notices that you elect to receive.

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For more information, visit www.missionhillsks.gov

Tree Lined Streets of Mission Hills

The mature tree canopy in Mission Hills is certainly one of the community's defining characteristics. The year ahead is full of activity related to the City's street trees. Street trees are generally those trees within 10 feet from the back of the curb, often referred to as the right-of-way. The City includes in its annual budget funds to spray, prune, plant and remove street trees. In 2013, the City enlisted the help of the state forester in completing a street tree inventory. The inventory, which includes about 3,800 street trees, is a tool that will help the City better manage these assets and provide a base of information on which the City can begin valuing the contribution the street trees make to the Mission Hills community. Below is the breakdown of the most common tree species along City streets and in City parks:

Top 5 Street Tree Species for Mission Hills

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Maple | 23.1% |
| Oak | 18.9% |
| Ash | 10% |
| Linden | 8.8% |
| Sycamore | 4.9% |

Many variables can impact the health of our street trees, most notably the weather, insects/disease and construction activity. Fortunately, we have not had a severe ice storm since 2002, but the effects of the drought over the last two years, coupled with the anticipated impact of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has the City making big plans to bolster its tree canopy in 2014. As you will read in George Eib's article, the City has aggressive plans in 2014 to plant 270 street trees. A rule of thumb in forestry is to diversify your tree inventory as much as possible, so that when a particular species is struck by insect or disease there is less impact on the overall canopy. As Maples and Oaks make up over 40 percent of our current inventory, our plantings in 2014 will rely more heavily on trees outside those species. The City maintains a list of recommended tree species for street and park trees. The list is developed from several sources, including, but not limited to, the Park Board, state forestry office and the K-State extension office in Johnson County.

In response to the detection of the EAB in Johnson County last year, the City is planning to remove nearly half of the Ash street trees in 2014 (approximately 165 trees). These removals are marked with a large red X at the base of the tree on the side facing the street. A small number of Ash, about 15, will be treated when the time is appropriate. This is a treatment that must occur indefinitely to insure the survival of the trees. The remaining Ash will be pruned on our regular schedule and their health monitored, eventually these trees are likely to be removed (perhaps in 2-5 years, depending on the spread of the EAB).

Finally, with the improved economic activity in Mission Hills resulting in large numbers of building projects, the City is instituting a right-of-way permit for tree and plant removal and planting. Approved by the Council at their March meeting, the free permit creates a more formal process for managing those trees affected by building projects. The permitting process will allow the identification of trees and plant material that may be negatively impacted by a construction project and help the City to decide what course of action should be taken to protect those plantings. The process will also allow a valuation to be calculated for all trees and plants in the City right-of-way so that should they be damaged or removed without permission, the City may receive compensation for the lost benefit to the Mission Hills community.

City of Mission Hills Announces New Consulting Arborist



Jesse Kirk

In February Jesse Kirk was hired as a Consulting Arborist for the City of Mission Hills to assist George Eib, Consulting Arborist, with a variety of upcoming urban forestry projects.

Jesse graduated from Kansas State University in 2010 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Conservation Biology. Prior to working for Mission Hills Jesse was working as a Site Manager for Davey Resource Group where he traveled the eastern half of the United States creating digital databases, mapping and rating trees for risk, taking trees through the systems, and creating annual budgets for municipalities to proactively manage their urban forest.

Jesse is a certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture. He looks forward to the upcoming projects throughout Mission Hills and is excited to work towards expanding the City's urban forest. ■

Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

by George L. Eib, City Arborist



George L. Eib

We have had an abundance of snow this winter. The snow has helped insulate plant material from the cold. While melting snow does provide some moisture to the ground, the intense cold has frozen the soil to the point that much of the melting snow is not being absorbed. Unless we have a very wet spring, please assume that we are still in drought conditions and water your plant material accordingly.

Due to the drought, the City has postponed street tree planting for the last two years. In spite of the continuing drought, the City is planning on planting 270 new trees in 2014. Approximately 70 trees will be planted this spring with the remaining 200 planted this fall.

New tree planting locations will be marked with a stake in the right-of-way and a pink dot on the curb. Letters will be sent to each abutting property owner letting them know the City's plan to plant a tree in the right-of-way adjacent to their property. Included in the letter will be a request for property owners to help maintain these new trees by protecting them from mowers and weeding equipment and watering the trees regularly. The rule of thumb for watering an established City tree is one inch every two weeks. If you are watering with an oscillating sprinkler, one inch would be equivalent to 1.5 hours. New trees require more frequent water. ■

Spring & Summer Checklist

- ✓ Water any spring blooming bulbs as temperatures warm up for a more beautiful display.
- ✓ Be sure to keep vines and ivy trimmed from growing into the interior of your plants or up into the tree canopy as this can stunt development of the plants and trees.
- ✓ If you will be adding any new trees to your property remember that the dogwoods, redbuds, oaks, beech, and bald cypresses transplant best in the spring.
- ✓ April is the perfect month to apply your pre-emergent to your lawn to reduce spring germinating weeds.
- ✓ Wait to cut back your ornamental grasses or Liriope until the end of March or first of April.
- ✓ Avoid pruning spring blooming plants as this will remove the buds. Prune after they have bloomed.
- ✓ Do not be alarmed if spring pruned trees weep sap as this is common this time of year particularly in Maples.

Sign Up With Notify JoCo

In an effort to conserve on paper and postage, the City of Mission Hills will no longer send out regular postcard announcements. Instead, the City encourages everyone to utilize *NotifyJoCo* - a free public notification system made possible by a partnership of local governments and public utilities in Johnson County, KS.

NotifyJoCo is designed to keep Johnson County residents and businesses informed of news including City wide events, street closures, trash pickup reminders, and emergencies. Getting started is easy. Simply go to www.notifyjoco.org. You will be asked the following:

1. To create a username and password, your name, and your email address (if applicable)
2. Choose one or more locations you would like to receive news about including home, work, or children's schools.
3. How you would like to receive your alerts and news - phone, email, or text.

You may choose any combination of notification methods. You do not need a computer to sign up for this service - you may opt to receive news by phone only. If you do not have computer access, you can also call City Hall at 913-362-9620 for assistance in registration. We will be more than happy to help you stay *in the loop* on City news and events.

Spring and Summer Reminders



Safety

When running or walking in the early morning or after dark, be sure to wear reflective clothing or accessories so drivers will see you. You can find reflective gear at stores including *Dick's Sporting Goods*, *Home Depot*, and *roadrunnersports.com*.

Noise

Normal construction noise is allowed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Heavy construction equipment is allowed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Such noise is prohibited on Sunday and on legal holidays.

Gas-powered lawn care equipment noise is allowed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. any day of the week. Country clubs are permitted to run equipment from sunrise to sunset any day of the week.

As long as the volume does not annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons inside any dwelling, noise from sound equipment or musical instruments is permitted from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 12:30 a.m. Friday, Saturday and legal holidays. This noise is not allowed to be played (at any time) in a manner and volume which annoys or disturbs the quiet and comfort of persons inside any dwelling. If you experience noise outside of the established time limit, call the Police Department at 913-642-5151.

Pets

Dogs are considered "running at large" when found on public property or private property other than that of their owner without being on a leash and under the effective control of a person.

Dogs are also considered "running at large" when on own property without a leash unless they are in the physical presence of the owner and under the demonstrated voice control of the owner, or they are confined by a fence/wall/electric fence.

Noisy Dogs: No person shall keep or harbor within the City any dog which by loud, frequent, or habitual barking, yelping or fighting, annoys or disturbs the public peace.

If you witness a dog running at large or barking habitually, call the Police Department at 913-642-5151.

Lawns

Please keep your lawn mowed. It is a violation of the nuisance ordinance to have grass taller than 8".

Mayor's Article from Page 1

You can select the notifications you want to receive by City and by type. You can also select the method – phone call, text, and/or email.

Your profile and email information will not be released or sold to any outside entities.

Our commitment is to continue making a lot of information available and to listen to your feedback. We ask that you sign up to receive what you want to read or listen to, and continue to give us your valuable input!

City Calendar at a Glance

| | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| April 19 | Spring Heavy Trash Pickup |
| April 26 | Northeast JoCo Recycle Event |
| June 7 | Keim Street Fair |
| June 9 | Arbor Day Celebration |

Frequently Called Numbers

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Animal Control (Prairie Village Police) | 913-642-6868 |
| Animal Shelter - Great Plains | 913-831-7722 |
| City Hall | 913-362-9620 |
| Deffenbaugh Trash & Recycling | 913-631-3300 |
| Dig Safe (Kansas) | 1-800-344-7233 |
| Driver's Licenses | 913-432-2266 |
| Fire Dispatch (non-emergency) | 913-432-1383 |
| Hazardous Waste (JoCo Env Department) | 913-715-6900 |
| Homes Associations of Kansas City | 913-385-2440 |
| Johnson County Appraiser | 913-829-9500 |
| Johnson County Automated Mapping | 913-715-1600 |
| Johnson County Clerk | 913-715-0775 |
| Johnson County Government | 913-715-5000 |
| Johnson County Election Office | 913-782-3441 |
| Johnson County Records & Tax Admin | 913-715-0775 |
| Johnson County Sheriff Dispatch | 913-782-0720 |
| Municipal Court - Prairie Village | 913-385-4680 |
| Poison Control (KU Med) | 913-588-6633 |
| Police Dept Switchboard - Prairie Village | 913-642-6868 |
| Police Dispatch - Prairie Village | 913-642-5151 |
| Post Office - Prairie Village | 913-362-6931 |
| Johnson County Health Department | 913-826-1200 |
| Vehicle Tags - Kansas | 913-826-1800 |
| LOCAL UTILITIES | |
| AT&T | 1-877-722-3755 |
| Johnson County Wastewater | 913-715-8500 |
| KCP&L Customer Service | 816-471-5275 |
| KCP&L Power Outages | 1-888-544-4852 |
| Kansas Gas Service | 1-800-794-4780 |
| Time Warner Cable | 816-358-8833 |
| Water District No. 1 of Jo Co | 913-895-5500 |

2014 Capital Improvement Projects

Overbrook (67th to Sagamore)

This project includes updating the stormwater system on Overbrook Road, as well as replacement of the street. Reconstruction includes new curbs, drive approaches and sidewalks (as needed) and a new road surface. The stormwater portion of the project will affect 65th Street to Overbrook to State Line Road as well as a portion of Overbrook north and south of the 65th Street intersection. Portions of 65th Street and Overbrook will be closed intermittently during construction. This project began in January and will be completed, weather permitting, in May/June.

69th Street (Belinder to Tomahawk)

Reconstruction includes new curbs, drive approaches, and a new road surface. Two stormwater pipe crossings will be updated. These small improvements will require a complete road closure at the construction area. Due to the short length of pipe being laid each closure should last less than a week. This project will begin in late summer or early fall as Water One has announced its plan to replace the water main on this section of 69th Street prior to the City's project beginning. Water One's work should begin by early spring and last through the summer.

Pembroke Lane

Reconstruction includes new curbs, drive approaches, and a new road surface. Beginning in the spring, this project will also include some creek work in the City right-of-way.



6300 State Line Road
Mission Hills, KS 66208

The Columns is published three times a year for the residents of Mission Hills.

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Community Reinvestment

The building activity in the City of Mission Hills in 2013 was unprecedented. The value of the construction for the 444 building permits issued in 2013 was \$49.5 million. One of the most notable aspects of the permit activity was the number of new houses that are in various stages of the application, approval and permit processes. Since January 2013, permits for nine new houses have been issued and there are an additional nine new homes that are in the pipeline.

| | |
|---|---|
| Permitted | 9 |
| Approved by the Architectural Review Board | 2 |
| In the Review Process | 4 |
| Anticipated New Applications for Review Process | 3 |

In addition to new homes, the development activity includes everything from substantial additions to new windows – some of you may have already noticed the activity in your neighborhood. With the influx of new homes, it is becoming evident that some neighborhoods are becoming popular areas for redevelopment. While the City does not have the right to deny building permits based on the number issued in a particular neighborhood, the City Council has adopted several ordinances over the last few years that create more of a balance between those residents involved in building projects and the neighbors impacted by such projects (especially when there are multiple substantial projects in close proximity to one another). The City does notify residents of matters before the Architectural Review Board by letter. Looking to 2014, early information from the Johnson County Appraiser’s office indicates Mission Hills’ overall valuation has increased 3.67 percent based on the 2013 appraisal process. The increase in valuation in 2013 is significant compared to our recent valuation growth history.