

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Summer 2014

Visit us at
www.missionhillsks.gov



“The Shepherd”
at Tomahawk and
Mission Drive

INSIDE

- Solicitor Awareness p. 2
- EAB Update p. 3
- Out On a Limb p. 4
- Heavy Trash Pick-up p. 5

Signs! Signs! Everywhere a Sign!



Rick Boeshaar
Mayor

The 1970’s song, “Signs,” written by Les Emmerson and released by the Canadian rock group Five Man Electrical Band, was a statement of frustration about omnipresent directional signs – customs and traditions – restraining our society from more rapid change. Governments use a lot of signs! Most of us appreciate the assistance and increased safety the signs provide for direction (e.g. house numbers and street names) and to regulate traffic for

our safety (e.g. speed limits, stop and yield signs, etc.), however we also do not want signs that impair the beauty of our City or signs that, due to quantity or frequency, might impair property values and privacy. Mission Hills residents want their residential community to be safe, secure, and aesthetic!



Residents who don’t want to be bothered by door-to-door sales people may obtain a “No Solicitors” sign from City Hall to put on their front door. City ordinances uphold their right to privacy. See the article inside for more information.

The federal government has mandated, without funding, that we change all of our City’s traffic control signs to signs that will have better visibility at night. We must comply before January 1, 2015, so you will see contractors replacing traffic signs this summer. To comply, however, we lost some local control over lettering size and colors that some may feel better accommodated our aesthetics.

Some want to use signs to support people, places, or issues, or to advertise community events; however, others feel signs posted in our yards can be a blight on our aesthetics. The first amendment to our Constitution protects our right of free speech, but courts have supported cities that wish to balance the rights of people wanting to express themselves with the rights of others who don’t want the signs to interfere with other important functions such as safety or visibility. Our City ordinances limit the size, number, and placement of signs, but not the content. Our sign ordinance says residents may have one permanent sign and one temporary sign, placed on their property. A temporary sign must be not larger than 3 square feet. The ordinance also allows the placement of up to 3 temporary signs from June 15 to August 15 in election years to show their support of primary race candidates or issues and from September 15 to November 15 for general election candidates or issues.

continued on page 2

Mayor's Comments

continued from page 1

The ordinances require you to place the signs at least 10 feet back from the curb (out of the City's rights-of-ways).

To make sure the City rights-of-ways stay clear of signs, any sign within 10 feet of the curb is removed and disposed of by City staff. Please communicate with your lawn services to make sure that when they move your signs for mowing that they replace them at least 10 feet from back of curb. I encourage you to read the ordinance on our website to find out if a sign you want to place fits within our ordinances. ■

SOLICITOR AWARENESS

by Investigations Captain Tim Schwartzkopf
Prairie Village Police Department

We want to remind residents to be careful when making purchases from strangers. Recently, two citizens were victim to 'check washing' after purchasing bogus magazine subscriptions. The suspect(s) in this case simply altered the dollar amount after applying a chemical (such as nail polish remover) to remove the ink. The total loss was nearly \$5,000.00.

Remember, these solicitors can be pretty resourceful and use whatever tactic they feel is necessary to make the sale. They are not above stretching the truth and preying on your good nature and kindness. We encourage you to only purchase from local/reputable groups such as the Girl/Boy Scouts, or kids from the neighborhood versus strangers who have no vested interest in the community. Do not feel pressured to buy something you are not comfortable purchasing – politely say, "no thank you." No solicitor may stay on your property after being asked to leave, and they must solicit at the front door only.

City Ordinance does not require solicitors to register before knocking on your door. The time restrictions are as follows: April 1 through September 1, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. during other months. Solicitors are in violation if they knock on a door with a posted 'No Soliciting' sign. These decals can be picked up at City Hall free of charge. Solicitors must give you a signed receipt upon request or for contributions exceeding \$5.00. If you witness any violations of this Ordinance, call the Police Department at 913-642-5151. The sooner you contact the police department after witnessing a violation, the greater the chance of the police being able to catch up with the solicitor in violation.

If a solicitor knocks on your door, you have a couple of options. You don't have to answer. You can talk to them through the door or you can refuse their services and ask them to leave. Regardless of the weather, never let a solicitor inside your home. If they persist in knocking or will not leave upon your request, please call the Police Department.

The Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, in partnership with the Police Department, are collaborating together to keep our community safe and the crime rate low. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Police Department or City Hall. ■

Johnson County Property Information Available to the Public

Johnson County’s “Location Maps & Information” is a simple and quick portal into locating maps and information about addresses and locations in Johnson County. The application offers access to simple map interfaces built around the attributes of a location. Several pieces of information are available to the public for properties in Johnson County, including: legal descriptions, plat maps, owner(s) names, appropriate elected officials, zoning designations, tax and appraisal information, utility companies, special assessments, voting locations, year that current houses were built, and the nearest fire stations, libraries, post office branches and parks. The “Location Maps & Information” portal is located on Johnson County’s home page at www.jocogov.org. ■



EAB Update

by Jesse Kirk, Consulting Arborist

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle introduced to the United States from Asia and first detected in Detroit, Michigan in 2002. In 2013 it was identified in Wyandotte County and far northern Johnson County. Most recently it has been detected as close to Mission Hills as Kansas City, Missouri.

Based on the imminent infestation, the City of Mission Hills has begun taking proactive measures to minimize EAB’s impact on our urban forest. We recently removed 163 Ash (*Fraxinus*) that were poor candidates for treatment and began replanting the city with less abundant species in an effort to diversify our street trees and minimize the potential for catastrophic losses in tree canopy due to EAB or Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB). ALB attacks mostly Maple trees, but has been more effectively contained than the EAB. It has not been detected in the metro area.

The good news is that there are effective treatment options for EAB although there is still debate as to their prolonged effectiveness or the level of treatment that will be required after the initial wave of EAB eradicates all the untreated Ash. Homeowners who have Ash on their property will need to decide if they want to treat their Ash or lose them probably within 10 years. There are several treatment options but Emamectin Benzoate (Tree-äge) is the generally preferred treatment and has been shown to protect Ash trees for up to two years. It’s a systemic insecticide so the treatment cost is dependent upon the size of the Ash tree being treated. For an Ash to be successfully treated it needs to be in fair to good condition and actively transpiring to pull the insecticide up throughout the crown of the tree. Treatment should take place in late May to early June near the time the Honeylocusts (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*) are flowering. If you are unsure as to whether you have any ash or if their condition warrants treatment, George Eib and I are here for you to utilize for an unbiased opinion before hiring a tree care company to treat your trees. Please call City Hall at 913-362-9620 and schedule a time for one of us to visit your property. ■

Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

by George L. Eib, City Arborist



George L. Eib

Gratefully, we have received some moisture the past couple of months, but most of that has come in the form of hard rains and may not have truly soaked into the ground. Due to the drought of the past three years, we still need soaking rains for our plant material and lawns.

To compensate and for those with irrigation systems, we suggest watering once or twice a week, applying one inch of water in order to penetrate one to two feet deep where roots are located. Even with the increased rainfall of late, I am concerned that drought conditions will continue, so watering all plant life remains vital.

As many of you know, we planted 181 City trees this Spring and plan to add an additional 119 this Fall for a total of 300 trees. The City waters newly planted trees the first year and we ask residents to water the next two years every two weeks to help get them established. We also urge you to cut a two inch section of any ivy growth away from tree trunks, preferably at ground level as ivy can impact growth. We also recommend protecting City and private trees during construction.

Other issues we wish to address: We ask residents not to plant in City urns as continually damp soil and roots can damage fine urns. The City will only plant in urns protected by a liner.

Please also bear in mind that the City's right-of-way extends 10 feet behind the back of the curb. That being said, planting, landscaping, or removal of trees in the right-of-way must be approved by the City.

By the time we publish the next newsletter, autumn leaves will be falling, so we take this opportunity to remind everyone not to blow leaves into the streets or drainage channels, as they block catch basins and stormwater lines.

On a final note, the City celebrated Arbor Day on June 9, 2014 with the planting of a Northern Catalpa on City Hall grounds. The City of Mission Hills was named a 2013 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment of effective urban forest management. This is the 22nd year Mission Hills has earned the national designation.

If you have questions or concerns about private trees, I am happy to be of assistance. Please call me at 816-699-1025.

Summer Checklist

- ☑ Be sure to keep mower blades sharp. Dull blades shred the ends of the leaf giving the lawn a whitish look and making the lawn susceptible to disease.
- ☑ Watch for spider mites and bagworms on your evergreens, burning bushes and other plants. If found, spray twice approximately 2-3 weeks apart.
- ☑ Fertilize as needed any broad leaf evergreen plants and all acid-loving plants around the first of July.
- ☑ Dead head annuals to encourage late season blooms.
- ☑ Encourage a rapid burst of new growth on rose bushes by removing the blossoms on hybrid tea roses and pruning to the first five-leaflet leaf. Fertilize monthly and monitor for blackspot and powdery mildew. Your last application of fertilizer to roses should be mid-August to the first of September.
- ☑ August is the month to begin planning Fall bulb planting.
- ☑ August 15th through September is the best time to overseed your lawn. It is important to control weeds prior to seeding by spraying a herbicide four weeks earlier.
- ☑ Mow grass as long as it continues to grow. As the weather cools, begin to cut to a shorter height.
- ☑ Prune deadwood from trees and shrubs that were missed or were not pruned during dormant pruning.



TREE CITY USA

Protect Your Vehicles

Prairie Village Police Department

Over the last several months we have seen a slight increase in thefts from vehicles in Mission Hills. We have several reports this year of valuable items stolen overnight from vehicles and some vehicles were stolen as well. There are no specific types of vehicles targeted, except that most of them have valuable items inside or spare keys inside. Items taken from inside the vehicle are typically small electronics (iPods, GPS, cell phones, laptops... etc). Most of the victim vehicles were unlocked.

To help prevent these types of thefts in the future, follow these simple tips.

- Park vehicles in the garage. If you must park in the driveway, keep the vehicle well lit so neighbors and officers would be able to see anyone around the vehicles.
- Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle overnight. If you must leave items in the vehicle, lock them in the trunk out of sight.
- Do not leave a spare key inside the vehicle.
- Record serial numbers of your valuables and keep the numbers in a safe place (not in the vehicle).
- Lock vehicles when you leave them. If you get in the habit of doing it every time, you will not forget to do it overnight.
- Be aware of strange people or vehicles in your neighborhood.

Do not hesitate to call 911 or the non-emergency Police line (913-642-5151) immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious in your neighborhood. We need you as an extra set of eyes and ears to help us catch these thieves. If you have any questions, or comments, contact Crime Investigations Captain Tim Schwartzkopf at tschwartzkopf@pvkansas.com or (913) 385-4609. ■

Heavy Household Trash Hauling Day

Saturday, September 20, 2014

Place items at curb by 7:00 a.m.

Sign up with Notifyjoco.com to receive a reminder about this or any event.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Items that 2 people can lift
- Mattresses and box springs
- Furniture and other household furnishings
- Lawn mowers and other lawn care equipment
- Hot water heaters and appliances

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Tires and batteries
- Yard waste
- Construction material
- Hazardous waste such as gasoline, cleaning products, herbicides, insecticides, pool chemicals, paints and paint thinners, and items containing Freon

Yard Waste Pick-up Reminders

Picked up by Deffenbaugh on Mondays

Must be in paper bags or rigid container(s) marked "YARD WASTE"

NO PLASTIC BAGS

NO limit on volume of yard waste

Please put limbs in bundles no longer than 4 feet in length and no more than 18 inches in diameter.

Please bundle with string or biodegradable twine.



6300 State Line Road
Mission Hills, KS 66208

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

Mayor:
Rick Boeshaar

City Council:
Lisa Creighton Hendricks
David Dickey
Roy Farchmin
Barbara Nelson
Dan Sullivan

City of Mission Hills
Ph: 913-362-9620
Fax: 913-362-0673
www.missionhillsks.gov

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 619
Shawnee Mission, KS



Dog Walking 101

Even though many residents walk their dogs year-round, the onset of summer is a great time to revisit the City's dog-related ordinances and etiquette for the safety of your canine companion as well as the community: Your walk and outing will be much more enjoyable for everyone concerned.

- * *Always walk your dog on a leash.*
- * *Be sure your dog (or any pet) is current on vaccinations and licensing.*
- * *When walking your dog, please remove all feces. The City has provided conveniently located doggy pots for waste disposal.*
- * *Please do not let dogs (or children) play in the City fountains. The fountains contain electrical wiring as well as chemicals that may be harmful if ingested.*
- * *Encourage children not to pet stray dogs and to ask permission before petting a dog on a leash.*
- * *When walking early in the morning or after dark, be sure to add reflective gear such as a collar or leash.*
- * *If your dog has not been socialized, you may consider a regular leash over a retractable model for better control.*
- * *Be sure your dog is wearing identification (name tag with phone number) and rabies tag while on the walk. ■*