

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Spring 2016

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Join us for the annual City of Mission Hills Keim Street Fair on Saturday, June 4th, at Belinder Circle.

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Storm Warnings



Rick Boeshaar
Mayor

Spring is the season of storms – and occasionally severe weather. Being prepared, watching the forecasts, and taking appropriate actions are the best ways to deal with storms. Not all storms, however, are weather related. A storm in Kansas, brewing for several years now, is of a political and financial nature. What is threatened by this storm, is the extent and quality of the services we expect from the state - public education, transportation systems that facilitate our personal mobility and our economic livelihoods, sufficient public safety officers, an independent judiciary selected on their merits, and a safety net of medical and mental health services. Also threatened are the fundamentally democratic tenants of local control for local issues, transparency, open debate, public input, and citizen involvement in selecting our various governing bodies.

The current Kansas Legislature is dominated by a viewpoint that believes government (at all levels) is too big and too expensive. Their rhetoric castigates government, encouraging citizens to reject its institutions and its procedures rather than getting involved to find more efficient and effective ways to provide necessary services. This faction has grown through recent election cycles to such a majority that they now control those institutions and procedures. Their control is so dominant that they routinely use questionable procedures to bypass scrutiny and avoid hearing input from opposing views. They do this to quickly enact new laws. Speed works in their favor by limiting opposing viewpoints.

The problem (the storm) as I see it is twofold: (1) they don't represent the majority viewpoint; and (2) without proving that their solutions work at the state level, they are now forcing their methods upon counties, cities, school districts, and other locally controlled organizations. Government works best when policies are formed in a deliberative process, with input from many to determine what works best for the majority. Before our party system became so polarized and funded by relatively few, our leaders listened, debated, and compromised to find the best solutions.

The current legislative leaders don't represent the majority viewpoint because too few citizens were involved in funding and electing them.

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Storm Warning

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Our representatives in Topeka must have five things to represent us well: (1) money to communicate their credentials and viewpoints; (2) votes to win election; (3) input and feedback from enough citizens to understand the priorities and the majority viewpoint of all citizens; and (4) a willingness to serve and (5) a moral compass to serve honorably and in the best interests of the State.

The cost of campaigning today is so great that a few, big money donors hold too much influence and work to limit access by others. And when too few citizens actually work to understand issues and vote, the majority viewpoint can be easily ignored. Only 18% of all registered voters in Johnson County (20% statewide) participated in the 2014 August primary election. Only 17% participated in the 2012 August primary (23% statewide). Participation varies by election, but it is certainly down significantly from 40% in 1992. Extreme viewpoints and personal attacks (negative campaigning) activate certain constituencies and repulse others. The lack of transparency and difficulty in finding unbiased data further dissuades many from getting involved. Republicans outnumber all the other parties by such margins that the general elections are most often won by the winners of the republican primary. These factors result in a small minority determining who represents us in Topeka.

Melissa Rooker and Barbara Bollier represent the residents of Mission Hills in the Kansas House of Representatives, and Kay Wolf represents us in the Kansas Senate. Each of them has worked hard to represent our views. They have communicated with us via their email newsletters, their websites, and public forums. They have been supported by the great citizens of Mission Hills, both financially and at the ballot box, but their effectiveness is limited by the extreme viewpoints of so many other legislators. We must help them, and our state in general, by continuing to study the issues, helping to fund the campaigns of like-minded candidates, and getting to the voting booth – especially for the primary elections. You can also help by supporting groups that strive to increase voter education and turnout in other districts – groups who can recruit and fund good candidates across the county and state who are dedicated to a transparent and deliberative process that seeks the best solution for the majority of the people. Together we can calm this storm! I urge you study the issues and VOTE in August.

Frequently Called Numbers

| | | | |
|---|--------------|---|----------------|
| Animal Control (Prairie Village Police) | 913-642-6868 | Johnson County Sheriff Dispatch | 913-782-0720 |
| Great Plains (Lost Pet & Intake) | 913-742-7329 | Municipal Court - Prairie Village | 913-385-4680 |
| 9800 W. 67th St., Merriam, KS | | Poison Control (KU Med) | 913-588-6633 |
| City Hall | 913-362-9620 | Police Dept Switchboard - Prairie Village | 913-642-6868 |
| Driver's Licenses | 913-432-2266 | Police Dispatch - Prairie Village | 913-642-5151 |
| Fire Dispatch (non-emergency) | 913-432-1383 | | |
| Hazardous Waste (JoCo Env Department) | 913-715-6900 | Local Utilities | |
| Homes Associations of Kansas City | 913-385-2440 | AT&T | 1-877-722-3755 |
| Johnson County Appraiser | 913-829-9500 | Deffenbaugh Trash & Recycling | 913-631-3300 |
| JOCO Courthouse (Olathe) | 913-715-5000 | Dig Safe (Kansas) | 1-800-344-7233 |
| Johnson County Clerk | 913-715-0775 | Johnson County Wastewater | 913-715-8500 |
| Johnson County Government | 913-715-5000 | KCP&L Customer Service | 816-471-5275 |
| Johnson County Election Office | 913-782-3441 | KCP&L Power Outages | 1-888-544-4852 |
| Johnson County Records & Tax Admin | 913-715-0775 | Kansas Gas Service | 1-800-794-4780 |
| Johnson County Health Department | 913-826-1200 | Time Warner Cable | 816-358-8833 |
| Vehicle Tags - Kansas | 913-826-1800 | Water District No. 1 of Jo Co | 913-895-5500 |

Calling for Police Assistance

by Tim Schwartzkopf, Chief of Police at
Prairie Village Police Department

Don't Hesitate to Dial 911 If:

- 1. A fire breaks out.** Any Fire — even a tiny grease fire in your kitchen — merits a 911 call. A fire can grow and spread rapidly, so call right away even if you think you can put out the flames on your own.
- 2. A medical emergency happens.** Call 911 immediately for any life-threatening medical problem. These include chest pain, choking, difficulty speaking, drowning, numbness, poisoning, sudden intense pain, severe burns, a suicide threat, or unknown medical emergencies.
- 3. You witness a crime or possible crime.** If you see an assault, a burglary, or even a suspicious person lurking, call 911. Go with your gut feeling, because it is better to call for help now than to have police show up later to ask if you saw anything because they're investigating a break-in up the street. If you call, an officer might catch the criminal in the act and foil the crime.
- 4. If you're in or you see a car crash.** Call 911 especially if someone is hurt or feels dizzy or unwell. For a fender bender, where you're 100 percent sure everyone is OK, you can call the police directly on the non-emergency line.

If You Have to Call 911, Here's What to Do:

- **Know your location.** "Where is your emergency?" is the first question dispatchers ask, because location is the most information they need to send help. That's especially important if you're calling from your cell phone, because the dispatcher might not be able to pinpoint exactly where you're calling from. If you don't know where you are, look for buildings, landmarks and street signs.
- **Answer the dispatcher's questions.** Dispatchers ask a lot of questions, but they have important reasons. It's not because they're nosy. Your answers help the dispatcher determine what kind of help you need, and how much. For example, a dispatcher might send an advanced life support ambulance staffed with a paramedic and special equipment (compared to a basic life support ambulance with EMTs) for a possible heart attack. Or, they might send three squad cars if a suspicious person(s) are reported to be armed.
- **Follow instructions.** The dispatcher is trained to help keep you safe and explain how to do first aid while help is on the way. For example, he/she can instruct you on how to do CPR, walk you through the Heimlich maneuver to help a choking victim or tell you how to stop bleeding.

When not to call 911 – Call the Police Non-Emergency line (913) 642-6868

Never call 911 for any situation that's clearly not an emergency. That seems obvious, but 911 centers get callers who ask about the weather, current road conditions and even the number for the local pizza joint.

Call the non-emergency number for the following types of incidents:

- To report a crime that is not in progress and no one is in danger
- Parking problems
- Minor traffic accident
- A loud party or barking dog
- Water main break
- Questions about police reports or tickets
- To speak with an officer or detective

Be prepared to answer similar questions that you would if you dialed 911. Our dispatchers need the most accurate information to provide you with the services required in a given situation.

Our 911 center often times operates with one dispatcher, so if you call for the wrong reasons, you could delay help for someone with a real emergency.

Out on a Limb: Tree Talk



George L. Eib



Jesse Kirk

by George L. Eib and Jesse Kirk,
Consulting Arborists

As this article comes out many of you are probably starting to think about doing some spring cleaning, getting outside and enjoying the weather, and possibly maintaining and enhancing the

the outdoor environment around your home. As an arborist for the City this is a very busy time of year. Our annual pruning cycle is nearing completion in the Tomahawk Roads Homes Association. The current policy is to prune one homes association each year. This proactive maintenance greatly increases safety, tree health, and structure. That being said, this pruning cycle has revealed that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is well established throughout the City. With contractors up in the canopy we have gotten a better idea of the EAB infestation within the City.

Our policy regarding Emerald Ash Borer remains the same. We will continually treat a small percentage of our healthiest ash tree and aggressively remove untreated ash in the right-of-way (ROW) as we find them infected. Homeowners will still have the option of treating the ash trees in the ROW adjacent to their property, however they will be assessed annually for condition and risk. If the condition report finds that the ash tree begins to dieback or poses a significant risk, then it will be removed regardless of whether or not the tree has been treated for EAB. The ideal time to treat is after the tree has full leaves, usually April to May. Part of this year's inspection will include tagging each ash tree with a unique identification number, in order to record which ash within the ROW have been treated.

Spring & Summer Checklist

- Do not neglect watering your spring bulbs you planted last fall. Trees, evergreens and shrubs need about one inch each week, but take care not to overwater.
- Do not allow vines and ivy to grow up into the interior of plants as this can be damaging to the full development of trees and evergreens.
- It is best not to cut back ornamental grasses or Liriope until the end of March or April.
- Keep gutters clear of debris that can cause water to spill or pool which may cause dams. Dams will cause water to backup under shingles resulting in interior leaks.
- In Spring, spray Crabapples and Hawthorns for rust and scab diseases. This requires two applications starting with the first when leaves begin to emerge (April-May), with an additional application 3-4 weeks later.
- Do not be alarmed if recently pruned trees begin flowing sap from pruning wounds since this is common this time of year.

Reminder: Trash and Recycling Bins

As you know, Mission Hills' residents take a great deal of pride in the loveliness of their city. Therefore, the City has a few policies and ordinances in place to maintain its beauty. Please review the guidelines provided below.

STEPS TO HELP ENSURE COLLECTION.

Please position your trash and recycling cart with the handles facing your house and the arrows facing the street.

Please place carts side-by-side at least 3 feet apart and 1 foot from the curb by 7 a.m.

All trash should be placed in bags inside the cart with the black lid. Use trash bags please.

All recyclables should be placed loosely inside the cart with the yellow lid. No bags please.

Please place yard waste items in paper bags, or rigid containers, with branches in bundles beside your carts.

Trash bags that cannot fit inside the cart with the black lid must have a sticker.

Defienbaugh
INDUSTRIES



Animal Control Services

Recently a handful of Mission Hills' residents have noticed one, or potentially two, coyotes within City limits. These recent sightings may be due to the fact that coyotes usually mate in February or March. Coyotes have become increasingly adapted to urban life. Remember, keeping pets and pet food inside is the best way to keep coyotes out of your yard. Please do not attempt to trap a coyote on your own. Along this topic, City staff would like to remind all residents and readers about the role of the Prairie Village Police Department's Community Officers, specifically the Animal Control Officers who serve the City. Their main job functions are to:

- Respond to complaints concerning animals.
- Capture animals and deliver them home or to our designated shelter for safekeeping.
- Assist citizens with complaints and inquiries about domestic animals, wildlife, and animal control.
- Suggest alternative measures for instances outside of our jurisdiction, such as wildlife inquiries.
- Assist residents with animal related issues, as well as providing guidance on being responsible pet owners.
- Enforce the City ordinances governing pets in public.

With that in mind, you may always contact the Police through their non-emergency dispatch number in order to speak with an Animal Control Officer. The phone number is (913)642-5151. A final reminder is to always be aware of your surroundings and supervise all pets and children while outdoors.

Spring and Summer Reminders



Spring Bulky Item Collection Day: April 23, 2016

Annual Community Paper Shredding and Electronic Recycling Event: April 30, 2016 at City of Fairway City Hall Parking Lot

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. All construction 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. The 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, or 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 inches.



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:
Beverly Brooks
David Dickey
Barbara Nelson
Braden Perry
Dan Sullivan

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

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2016 Capital Improvement Projects

The City's 2016 Capital Improvement Program includes replacing the 63rd Street Bridge and 63rd Street from State Line to Mission Road. As updates become available they will be posted on the City's website, www.missionhillsks.gov. If you would like to receive updates, please email info@missionhillsks.gov to receive notifications or download the City's phone app "Mission Hills Official" from either the Google Play or Apple Store.



Adopted rendering of the 63rd Street Bridge