

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Summer 2018

Visit us at
www.missionhillssks.gov

Save the Date



You're invited to attend the 20th annual City of Mission Hills Keim Street Fair on **Saturday, June 1, 2019!**

Please mark your calendars now.

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A Letter from Mayor Dickey



Fellow Residents:

We are off to a wonderful summer in Mission Hills! The Keim Street Fair celebrated its 19th year with a fabulous crowd – replete with so many young children – it was exceptional. Thank you to the residents who attended and the staff who make it happen. The Fair is an outstanding way to kick off the summer!

On June 28th, we had our first Party in the Park. I want to give a huge thanks to the residents who thought of this idea and spearheaded it to fruition. They have planted a seed that we will nurture. There is a great opportunity for more community engagement in Mission Hills and I look forward to working with them in the years to come.

I want to touch on four important things that impact our City.

First, as I write this, the City Council will be considering (and hopefully approving) a budget that, for the second straight decade, keeps the mil levy flat. For many years the Council has made it a priority to be fiscally prudent and conservative, while maintaining City services and infrastructure at top levels. And over multiple Councils and mayors, we have succeeded. We will continue to do everything we can to keep costs low, while maintaining the high level of services all residents expect!

Second, as I said in my first message, we constantly need your help on crime. We are so very fortunate to live in a community with low crime, but we still have a few bad actors nearby. Those bad actors have an easy time when “suspect entered unlocked vehicle...” or “suspect removed visible laptop and phone from vehicle...” Please help our awesome police department: lock your car, put away your valuables, call if you see something suspicious and sign up for the Community Video Cooperative.

What is the Community Video Cooperative? Please go here, learn more, and if you have cameras, I encourage you to sign up and make a difference: <https://www.pvkansas.com/city-government/departments/police-department/village-video-cooperative>.

Third, thank you for your patience with infrastructure construction. We are at the height of the season and not only is the City doing work, but many other entities like Water One, Kansas Gas, Google and others are also. We do our best to coordinate with the other entities, and minimize the impact on residents, but we also know the work is disruptive and sometimes frustrating. So again, thank you.

Finally, we are approaching a primary election in August, followed by a general election in November. At the state level, who represents us in Topeka matters. Mission Hills has a long tradition of being at the top of the list for voter turnout. Please take the time to learn about the candidates, what they really stand for, and how they will vote. Decisions made in Topeka impact our City – for good and bad. Your vote matters!

Thank you all for your work to make Mission Hills better every day. If we can improve, please feel free to provide that feedback to me directly (mayor@missionhillssks.gov) or to staff at City Hall.

Have a great, happy and safe remainder of the summer!

For more information, visit www.missionhillssks.gov

Community Information

Whether you are walking, biking, or driving along Indian Lane, specifically north of 63rd Street, please exercise caution. If the gates at the low water crossing signs are closed, please do not attempt to enter the area. Also, please help others to see you by wearing reflective clothing. Free reflective walking vests are available for residents at City Hall or in police vehicles, just ask.

Residents are responsible for maintaining their private service lines. The private service line is the portion of an underground utility that connects the home to the main utility line that is often located in or along the street. These private service lines include, but are not limited to, water, wastewater, gas, and if you power is underground, electric. In the case of wastewater service lines, the meter is often located underground at or near the property line. The wastewater pipe from the meter box in the rights of ways to the house is the private service line that is owned and maintained by the homeowner. A building permit is required for work on private utility service lines. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions regarding replacements or maintenance of these private lines.

Congratulations to Larry Martin! Mr. Martin is a long tenured second-grade teacher at Belinder Elementary School in Prairie Village who recently won the "Jeopardy!" Teachers Tournament. In addition to his personal winnings, Mr. Martin's classroom received a \$2,500 educational grant for classroom projects. This donation will help grow The Marvel News, which is an interview focused newspaper that Mr. Martin publishes with his second-grade students.

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 (non-emerg)	913-642-5151
Fire Dispatch (non-emergency)	913-432-1383	Local Utilities	
Hazardous Waste (JoCo Envir. Dept)	913-715-6900	AT&T	1-877-722-3755
Homes Associations of Kansas City	913-385-2440	Deffenbaugh Trash & Recycling	913-631-3300
Johnson County Appraiser	913-829-9500	Dig Safe (Kansas)	1-800-344-7233
JOCO Courthouse (Olathe)	913-715-5000	Google	866-777-7550
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

Summer Time Safety Reminders

MISSION HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission Hills continues to be a great place to live which in part is due to our amazing residents making the city a safe and enjoyable place. This being said, it should be mentioned that we all need to continue to do our parts by stopping crime before it happens. This can be done simply by making sure our house doors, garage doors and windows are locked. It's important to do the same in regard to any vehicles you own, whether in the driveway or the garage. Keeping valuables out of sight and locking your car doors can help with crimes of opportunity. We are asking our residents to help reduce crime in the community by taking these simple steps.

Be sure to take advantage of the city's great House Watch program when travelling this summer or anytime year round! The House Watch program can be completed through the city's website and is for residents who would like an officer to periodically check on your home while you are away. During your time away, an officer will come to your home and make sure the doors and windows are all secure and help prevent criminal activity in your absence. A short questionnaire is required to complete a house watch application, but is well worth your time. You can complete your house watch request at the following link: <https://www.pvkansas.com/resident-resources/public-safety/house-watch>.

A promotional poster for the Prairie Village Police Department Open House. The background features a line of police officers in uniform standing outdoors. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "Prairie Village Police Department" in black and "OPEN HOUSE" in large blue letters. Below that is a bulleted list of activities: "Meet & Greet your local Police officers", "Tours of the Police Department", "Public Safety & Crime Prevention Tips", "Equipment Displays", "Picture Opportunities", and "Light Refreshments". To the right of the list is a starburst graphic that says "SAVE THE DATE!". At the bottom, a dashed blue box contains the date and time: "Saturday, August 25, 2018", "11 a.m. - 2 p.m.", and the location: "7710 Mission Road". It also says "All are welcome, see you there!!".

Prairie Village Police Department
OPEN HOUSE

- Meet & Greet your local Police officers
- Tours of the Police Department
- Public Safety & Crime Prevention Tips
- Equipment Displays
- Picture Opportunities
- Light Refreshments

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 25, 2018
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
7710 Mission Road
All are welcome, see you there!!

Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

DROUGHT...DROUGHT... JAPANESE BEETLES

What a Time to Be a Tree

So far the nation is off to an extremely hot summer. It seems we're stuck in a hot dry vortex. At the writing of this article (2nd week of July) we are nearly six and a half inches short of our annual average precipitation. Nearly all plant material needs water at this point, especially recently planted trees that haven't had time to develop adequate root systems to exploit larger areas of soil moisture. While sprinkler systems set to irrigate turf may offer minor benefits to these trees what they really need are deep soakings approximately once a week. Trees grow their roots where the conditions are appropriate, daily shallow watering creates shallow root systems that in periods of drought may dry out and die. Infrequent soakings to twelve or more inches in depth encourage trees to grow a healthy root system that can support them in times of minimal precipitation.

Unfortunately this isn't our first summer of heat and drought and the damage is starting to become apparent. It's especially noticeable in the sugar maples who were probably never thrilled to be here in the first place. We're seeing sugar maples finally crash after years of harsh conditions, they're showing thin canopies and wilting leaves. If you have a sugar maple you should make sure you're watering it as discussed above. So far this year we're actually removing more sugar maples than ash which is surprising given the devastating effects of the emerald ash borer.

Japanese beetles are another recently introduced pest from Asia terrorizing our plants. They seem to especially enjoy lindens and roses however they're not a picky insect. The good news is by the time this is printed they should be entering the next phase of their life cycle and their feeding on foliage will be dying down. There are multiple options for treatment that need to be tailored to their current life cycle stage. They can be treated in your yard as grubs but since they're good fliers that will only keep them from emerging on your property. There are sprays that are appropriate for young, small, and highly valued plants while they're feeding on the foliage. And probably the best management approach to all pests is to keep a healthy plant free from stress. Most pests are attracted to weakened plants so by mulching appropriately, providing adequate water and keeping your plants in good general health you can make your plants less desirable than those that neglect their plants.

Lastly, reconsider your mowing schedule. Recent studies on bees have found that bees benefit from a lawn that is mowed every two weeks versus every week. With the bee crisis effecting plant health anything you can do to create a hospitable environment for bees can help our ecosystem.

Summer Checklist

- ☑ Watch for spider mites and bag worms on your evergreens, burning bushes, and other plants. If found, have them sprayed twice approximately 2-3 weeks apart.
- ☑ 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 prior.
- ☑ Be sure to keep vines and ivy from growing up into the interior of trees, pines, evergreens, and other plants as they can damage the full growth of the plants. It is best to cut the vine and let die and then remove.
- ☑ Do not let your dogs urinate on plant material as it will kill the plants.
- ☑ Fertilize as needed any broad leaf evergreens and all acid-loving plants in July.
- ☑ Mow grass at least 3" as long as it continues to grow. As the weather cools, begin to cut to a shorter height. Grass longer than 1.5" can mat under snow cover, making it more susceptible to damage. Fertilize early to mid-fall with a fall formulated brand.
- ☑ Keep mower blades sharp. A dull blade shreds the ends of the leaf blades giving the lawn a whitish look and making the lawn susceptible to disease.

Help Us "Ditch the Bag"

The Kansas Department of Health and Education awarded a grant to Johnson County this year for a recycling education campaign. The City of Mission Hills has partnered with other cities in Johnson County to provide residents with the tools for better recycling practices. The City of Mission Hills had the highest percentage of recycling participations of the cities surveyed! The number one contamination issue for recycling in our region is bagging recyclables. Whenever recyclables are placed in a bag of any material the bag and its contents are sorted into trash and the items are not recycled. Please see below for the most comprehensive list of items that can and cannot be recycled. Thank you for recycling and please "ditch the bag!"

recycle **more**  recycle **better**

Every little bit counts.

YES

These items go in your curbside recycling bin!



- Keep items loose, do not put in bags or boxes.
- Rinse all containers (plastic, metal, etc.).
- Collect metal caps and lids in steel (tin) can and squeeze shut.
- Put caps and lids back on plastic bottles and containers.

- Break down or flatten boxes.
- No liquid.
- No plastic bags or film.
- No food.



These items do NOT go in your curbside recycling bin!



*Other recycling options available, visit RecycleSpot.org



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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Mark your Calendar!

Bulky Item Pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2018.

Community Paper Shredding & Electronic Recycling is scheduled, weather dependent, Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 9am – Noon at 4350 Shawnee Mission Pkwy.

Please visit the website for more information about both of these events and sign up for notifications from City Hall at www.notifyjoco.org.

The City celebrated Arbor Day July 18th



Mayor Dickey, Councilpersons Bruning, Perry, Nelson, and Weed with the bald cypress planted at City Hall Park for Arbor Day