

# THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

**Fall/Winter  
2018**

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[www.missionhillssks.gov](http://www.missionhillssks.gov)

Save  
the Date



You're invited to attend the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at City Hall **Sunday, November 18, 2018! Festivities begin with Santa's arrival at 5:30!**

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## A Letter from Mayor Dickey

Happy Autumn!

I am very fortunate to be able to walk through our City three to four times a week. I try to vary my route as much as I can - it affords me the opportunity to continually be amazed at how beautiful Mission Hills is, particularly in the fall and spring. Whether it is marveling at the impossibly large pin oak on Tomahawk (that I am quite certain pre-dates our incorporation as a City!), the beautiful flowers on our islands (thank you Park Board!) or the wonderful plantings by our homeowners (thank you residents!), I enjoy taking in the beauty of our City this way.

Those same walks also make me think of safety. I see far too many runners, walkers and bikers who do not wear reflective clothing in the dark or follow safety protocols. If you run, walk or bike in our City (or know someone who does) please remind them of the following:

- 1) Most importantly, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE wear reflective clothing or carry a light at dusk or in the dark.
- 2) Walk and run on the left, against the flow of traffic.
- 3) Bike on the right, with the flow of traffic.
- 4) If you run or walk on one of our streets with a sidewalk, please use it.

Thank you in advance for helping keep everyone safe as they move through the City.

Staying on the topic of public safety, we held the first Mission Hills Emergency Preparedness Summit in early October. Our Police Chief, Fire Chief, Council, key staff and a representative from our Crime & Safety Committee participated. The summit was born out of the serious incident in Mission Hills that occurred in August on 69th Street, on and around the Indian Hills Country Club.

I can tell you with confidence that our public safety agencies and City staff have comprehensive, robust and thoughtful plans to deal with the myriad (and hopefully extraordinarily rare, if not non-existent) potential emergencies Mission Hills might face. The response to the August event was exceptional, but we also learned how to be better from the experience. We also discussed how crucial communication is in any emergency – and are working on a plan to improve this!

Dwight Eisenhower was once asked by a reporter, soon after D-Day, to comment on how brilliantly the invasion went – right according to plan. He replied, "Son, the plan wasn't worth a damn, it was the planning that made the difference."



Continued on page 2

**Letter continued from page 1**

If you ever have any questions about our plans or preparation for any emergency, please contact City Hall, our Chiefs or me directly – we are happy to answer any query you might have. If there is ever an emergency or concern in your neighborhood, please don't hesitate to call 911 (or the PV/Mission Hills non-emergency dispatch line at 913-642-5151); our public safety teams always want to know any information you can provide that will assist them in responding.

Finally, and I have said this before, every vote makes a difference. Our representatives in both Topeka and Johnson County matter a great deal. Whether it is maintaining the exceptional public schools around us, funding infrastructure, or a host of other policies, we are all impacted by decisions made far away. Please evaluate the candidates for state and local office carefully and make an informed decision.

As always, if you have feedback, please let us know. If we are doing well, we'd love to hear it. If we can do better, help us improve every day.

Thank you and enjoy the beauty of Autumn!

## Pick up After Fido

It is great to see how many people are still out walking with their dogs, even as the weather gets colder. Remember to have bags ready in case your dog needs to go to pick up his or her waste and dispose of in a proper receptacle. Please refrain from depositing the dog waste into another resident's trash bin or into the storm drain. There are many Doggie Pots and trash cans located throughout Mission Hills to dispose of the waste. You can access a map showing the waste receptacle locations at City Hall or the website at [www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov).

## Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control (Prairie Village Police)	913-642-6868	Municipal Court - Prairie Village	913-385-4680
Great Plains (Lost Pet & Intake)	913-742-7329	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	<b>Local Utilities</b>	
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	Southern Star Gas	1-888-816-3558
Vehicle Tags - Kansas	913-826-1800	Time Warner Cable	816-358-8833
Johnson County Sheriff Dispatch	913-782-0720	Water District No. 1 of Jo Co	913-895-5500

# Fall/Winter Safety Reminders

## MISSION HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

As you can imagine, police officers willingly put themselves at risk each and every day. Whether it's behind the wheel in a patrol car or responding to a disturbance, officers often deal with escalating situations and stress. The Mission Hills Police Department offers resources to its officers and staff which can benefit them in numerous ways. And we are excited about the most recent resource found in the new chaplain program at the Department.

Five local members of the clergy have volunteered their time to serve the Department. They have been introduced to some of the department staff and even presented to the Prairie Village City Council. The main goal for the chaplains is to be a resource to the officers, staff and their family members. Each has been given access to the PD and will occasionally be stopping by to interact with the staff, provide encouragement and even go on a ride-along during a patrol shift. Not only that, but they will also serve as a resource for officers to use during significant incidents in the City.

We are looking forward to the benefits brought about by the chaplain program, both for those in the department as well as the community!



Mission Hills continues to be a great place to live which is in part due to our amazing residents. That being said, it should be mentioned that everyone's needs to continue to do their part by stopping crime before it happens. This can be done by doing the following:

- Make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked, especially overnight and when the house is empty.
- Remove keys and lock all vehicles, even if they are in the driveway or garage.
- Ensure no valuables are visible in vehicles.
- Wear reflective material or light color clothing while walking at night. Reflective vests are available at City Hall at no charge.

# Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

With Jesse Kirk, City Arborist

**W**hile we've finally gotten some rain, the intervals haven't been ideal. Between October 5th and October 15th we received 11.27". This was plenty to achieve a deep thorough soaking but more water is needed to get plants through the winter. A good rule of thumb is to slowly water your woody plant material one inch per week. During wet periods no additional irrigation may be necessary. I use the Stormwatch website to monitor our precipitation at a very localized level. This free resource can be found at [www.stormwatch.com](http://www.stormwatch.com).

**A** common misconception I deal with is that automated sprinkler systems adequately water trees. Most of these systems are calibrated to water turf and if you think about where the roots of the turf are versus the roots of the tree you can start to get an idea of why this is inadequate. The majority of a tree's roots are found within the top eighteen inches of soil, so we really need to get the moisture below the turf roots. Infrequent deep waterings are preferred to frequent shallow waterings (most sprinkler systems) as they create deeper root systems which leave trees better acclimated to survive during low moisture periods. Second to watering properly, mulching your trees is probably the best way to maximize their health and survival.

**I**n 2016 we implemented an Urban Forestry License. This license is required by any company doing tree work (pruning, removals, spraying, etc.) within the City. The main requirements to obtain a license are adequate insurance coverages and a Certified Arborist on staff. Our goal is to ensure that residents are protected in case of an accident and the work is being overseen by knowledgeable professionals. We've seen instances where in one day a worker has come in and completely ruined or greatly reduced the lifespan of a resident's trees because they did not have an arborist advising them. It only takes a couple of hours to turn your tree assets into tree liabilities. Currently, there are approximately twenty companies licensed to work in the City, please call City Hall if you would like the current list with contact information for these companies.

**I**n 2019, we plan to prune all street and island trees in Tomahawk Roads Homes Association. Pruning will start the first week of January. Our goal is to achieve a three year pruning cycle meaning each tree is visited once every three years. Every year, additional pruning is necessary due to storms or hazardous limbs while we try to limit this kind of work as it's not as cost effective as bidding out large sections of work. If you see a dead limb or a sick tree next to the street, please give us a call so that we can evaluate the tree.

## Fall and Winter Checklist

- ✔ Continue to mow grass as long as it grows, as the weather cools cut it shorter. Keep leaves off the lawn during fall and winter. Remember to keep your blades sharp on your mower.
- ✔ You should not prune spring flowering shrubs now as they set their buds in the fall. Wait until after they flower in the spring.
- ✔ Clear overhead utility lines (house drops) of dead or hazardous overhanging limbs to prevent damage during storms. It is not KCP&L's responsibility to maintain the drops.
- ✔ Plant spring blooming bulbs. It is important to water them in at planting and during dry periods this winter and into spring.
- ✔ Before using your fireplace this season it is important to have a chimney sweep inspect it for creosote buildup to prevent a potential fire. Avoid burning pine to minimize residual buildup.
- ✔ Disconnect hoses from exterior faucets once freezing temperatures arrive to prevent freeze damage to plumbing.
- ✔ Do not blow or dump leaves or snow into the street or drainage channels as these are violations of City ordinances.

# Help Keep the Water Clean

With all of the recent rain, it is easy to see what ends up in the creeks and streams. A big way to keep the water clean is to properly drain pool water. Every pool needs to go through dechlorination before it can be drained onto a lawn or into the stormwater system. If that process is not done, then there will be fines issued to whoever is responsible for draining the pool. Below are ten additional ways to help keep the local water free of contaminants.

## 10 things you can do to protect local water



– 1 –

### Mulch mow your lawn.

This nourishes your lawn by leaving grass clipping on the lawn. Don't blow grass into the street or gutters where it can end up in the storm sewer.



– 2 –



### Sweep fertilizer pellets back onto your lawn.

Don't leave on hard surfaces where they can wash away into the storm sewer system.

– 3 –

### Only water should go in the storm drain.

Don't dump anything else down the drains.



– 4 –



Grab a bag before walking your dog to **clean up your pet's waste** and dispose of it at home.

– 5 –



**Apply the correct amount of product to your lawn.** Your grass and vegetation act like a sponge and keep the chemicals from reaching water.

– 6 –



This fall, **don't blow your leaves into the street or gutters** — or your neighbor's lawn. Mow your leaves with your grass when possible to provide nourishment for your lawn.

– 7 –

If you have a pond, instead of mowing to the water's edge, **leave a five-foot buffer that will help filter water.**



– 8 –



**Excess fertilizers** that wash into water supplies can cause algae to grow.

– 9 –

### Wash your car at a local car wash.

These facilities are designed to properly drain the water used there.



– 10 –



**Direct downspouts from your gutters back onto your lawn.** This keeps water away from paved surfaces where they can wash foreign items into the storm sewers.

**K-STATE** Johnson County  
Research and Extension



Contact Johnson County K-State Extension and follow them on social:

website: [johnson.k-state.edu](http://johnson.k-state.edu)

phone: 913-715-7000



@JohnsonCountyKStateResearchAndExtension



@JoCoKsExtension



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

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## Recycling and Yard Waste

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**C**ity Hall has received many calls about recycling, especially after the article in the last newsletter. One common question was regarding paper bags. While plastic bags cannot be placed in the curb side recycling (they can be recycled at many local grocery stores), paper bags can be. Paper bags can be used to collect recyclables inside the home and placed in the bin without needing to be emptied.

**T**here have been other calls regarding aluminum foil. Aluminum foil can be placed in the curb side bin, as long as it is clean. If there is food residue and grease on the foil, it cannot be recycled. This is the same with pizza boxes, which can be recycled if they are clean. For further information on what can and cannot be recycled, you can go to [www.jocogov.org/recycling101](http://www.jocogov.org/recycling101).

**W**ith fall upon us, many residents will have yard waste. This yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, and even tree trimmings. Yard waste is picked up every Monday and must be placed in paper bags or a rigid container no larger than 35 gallons with no plastic bags. Tree trimmings and small limbs must be bundled with twine or another biodegradable tie and cannot be longer than 3 feet. There is no limit to the amount of yard waste that can be put at the curb side as long as it adheres to these requirements.