

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

March 2020

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www.missionhillssks.gov

Save
the Date



You're invited to the
2nd Annual Verona
En Blanc Dinner at
Verona Columns.

May 16th, 2020
7pm-10pm

**(Rain date is May
30th)**

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A Letter from Mayor Dickey



Late February & early March are the times of the year when my walks through the City are full of anticipation. In just a few weeks, thousands of bulbs in our parks and your yards will emerge and signal the beginning of spring. Our now barren tree canopy will begin to paint a green backdrop, and we can all pack away our winter jackets! If you would like a consultation on your trees or yard, Jesse Kirk, the City Arborist is happy to help at no cost to you. Just give City Hall a call to speak with him.

Chief Schwartzkopf and I were invited to speak at the annual Joint Homes Association meeting last month. In our talks, we both emphasized that our City continues to have low levels of crime. Wish as we might, we still have some. Any one incident is too many and we need your help. The most common crimes are auto burglary and auto theft. In 2019, more than 90% of those crimes involved vehicles that were unlocked with the keys inside. These are the ultimate crimes of opportunity, and if we give the bad guys less opportunity, they will go somewhere else. So please, lock your cars!

As an aside, if you have never attended the annual Joint Homes' Association meeting, I would encourage you to do so. It is a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and learn more about what is happening in the City and your neighborhood.

Another area where you can help is to sign up for the Village Video Cooperative. If you have security cameras (like Ring doorbells) you can sign up at no cost on the Prairie Village Police Department website. This program simply lets them know you have a camera. The police only have access to the video footage if you give it to them. If there is a crime or suspicious activity near you, officers can quickly contact you to see if you might have video footage that could help them solve a case. Sign up at www.pvkanas.com/city-government/police-department/village-video-cooperative.

The City's five standing Boards and three ad-hoc committees are hard at work as well. I want to touch on some of the work that three of them are doing right now.

Letter continued on page 2

Letter from the Mayor (continued)

Our Community Engagement Committee is putting the final touches on our event calendar for the year. You will find the full set of dates below. Please mark them on your calendar and plan on attending as many City events as you can. This Committee did a fabulous job in their first year of bringing residents together in our beautiful public spaces, and 2020 will build on that success.

The Tomahawk Road Safety, Beauty, and Connectivity Committee (Tomahawk SBC) is moving forward as well. As a reminder, we will be re-doing Tomahawk as part of the 2022 capital improvement plan. This committee is evaluating whether we can improve Tomahawk:

- Safety (e.g. a crosswalk to our City playground?)
- Beauty (do we need/want more power or irrigation on some of our islands?)
- Connectivity (should we make the current bike paths conform to published standards?)

Tomahawk SBC will be holding a community meeting as well as public hearing later this year prior to bringing recommendations to the City Council. You can find the schedule of their meetings (which are open to the public) and minutes on the City's website.

In 2019 we put together the ad-hoc Comprehensive Water Committee with the intent of improving our strategic and holistic approach to dealing with stormwater. This Committee is trying to tie together the work the County is doing with stream reaches, our ongoing improvements to our stormwater system, the continuing redevelopment of the City, and the changes in our rainfall patterns.

Finally, I want to let you know that our long-time City Administrator, Courtney Christensen, has announced her retirement effective December 31st of this year. Courtney has served our City for two decades and done a fantastic job. We thank her for everything she has done, and for giving us a year to find a new City Administrator. If you see Courtney over the next several months, please thank her and wish her well.

Enjoy the spring, be safe, and please keep giving us feedback so we can get better every day. My email is mayor@missionhillsks.gov if I can be of help. Thank you.

2020 City Events Calendar

May 16th - 2nd Annual Verona En Blanc Dinner (rain date is May 30)

June 6th - 21st Annual Keim Street Fair (rain date is June 7th)

June 11th - City Hall Park Food Truck Pop-up

June 25th - Sunken Garden Ice Cream Truck Pop-up

September 12th - City Hall Party in the Park

November 29th - Annual Holiday Tree Lighting at City Hall Park

A City-wide postcard will be mailed out for you to put on the fridge or family bulletin board for easy reference throughout the year! You can also sign up for text notifications at www.notifyjoco.org

Out on a Limb; Tree Talk By Jesse Kirk, City Arborist

As this article comes out you're probably starting to think about what you want to do with your yard this year and looking forward to warm spring evenings on your patio. We've had fairly adequate moisture throughout the winter with some precipitation events that required treating roads and sidewalks for snow and ice, so keep an eye out for plant damage adjacent to treated hardscapes. Although we had a wet summer and sufficient winter moisture, we still had several years of drought prior to that. Trees are slow to grow and slow to show stresses. I'm still seeing continuous decline, especially on sugar maples, which I attribute to the extreme drought of 2012. Also, any large ash trees that are untreated for emerald ash borer, are starting to show major dieback and becoming brittle. If you think you have a stressed or hazardous tree, call City Hall to schedule a time for your tree to be assessed.

In January we started our annual pruning cycle and are wrapping up. We're fortunate to be on a three year pruning cycle, meaning we provide the necessary pruning on all park and right-of-way trees once every three years. We divide the pruning cycle by homes association. By routinely visiting each tree we greatly increase safety and reduce the money spent repairing storm damage, plus it gives us a chance to "train" young trees to promote good structure at maturity. An investment in a young tree pays great dividends as it grows. This year we pruned Mission Hills Homes Company and will be pruning Indian Hills Homes Association in 2021.

With few exceptions, the dormant season is the ideal time to prune. Regardless of season, any company doing tree work within the City of Mission Hills is required to have an Urban Forestry License. Unlicensed companies doing tree work in the City is a troublesome issue. The license ensures that they have the appropriate insurance, as well as a knowledgeable Certified Arborist on staff. If there is a question regarding your chosen company's license, please call City Hall to verify. All unlicensed contractors will be stopped, creating an unsightly hassle for you, the company involved, and the City. Ultimately the ordinance requiring the licensing was adopted to protect our residents.

Our goal again this spring is to plant approximately 50 new trees. We strive to replace every tree removed where appropriate. The undergrounding of utilities along the north side of 67th Street will open up several new sites for large canopy trees, so be watching your mail for a letter regarding tree planting. Our process starts with painting a green tree on the curb perpendicular to the planting site.

We often observe trees that are improperly mulched. "Volcano Mulching" is not a healthy practice for three reasons: it can stimulate basal shoot growing and girdle roots, it provides habitat for rodents that feed on the conductive tissue of the trees, and the constant moisture and lack of air circulation can promote rot and fungal disease. It is best to allow two to three inches of space between the stem and the mulch, and not apply mulch to a depth greater than three inches.

Mission Hills was designed as a garden community with many parklets. These parklets are part of what sets Mission Hills apart from so many other communities, both throughout the metro area and the Country. Sunken Garden has recently been renovated and we're working to remove invasive species and improve riparian habitat in Peetwood and Hiawasee Parks. There are wonderful greenspaces throughout the City with secluded seating to stop and enjoy a beautiful spring day. It's a well-accepted fact that being near nature improves mental and physical health, improves children's test scores, and increases an individuals' overall well-being. I encourage everyone to get out and explore your parks.

Spring & Summer Checklist

-  Water your spring blooming bulbs that you planted last fall during dry periods
-  It's best not to cut back ornamental grasses or liriopé until the end of March or April
-  April is the perfect month to apply a pre-emergent on your lawn to reduce spring germinating weeds
-  Spray Austrian & Scotch pines for tip blight & spruce for needle cast. First application when candles begin to elongate (March-April) and the second application approximately four weeks later
-  Spray juniper for spider mites & bagworms. First application around mid-June and the second application towards the end of July
-  Spray crabapple & hawthorns for rust & scab diseases. First application when leaves begin to emerge (April-May) and second application 3-4 weeks later
-  Do not be alarmed if spring pruned trees weep sap as this is common this time of year, especially on maples
-  If you plan to plant dogwoods, redbuds, oaks, beech or bald cypress, they are best transplanted in the spring
-  Do not allow vines & ivy to grow up into the interiors of plants, as they can be damaging

2020 Capital Improvement Projects

Restoration projects including stormwater and/or street work:

Sagamore between 65th Street and 67th Street

Belinder and Overhill between Tomahawk and Mission Drive

68th Street between Belinder and Tomahawk

69th Street from Belinder to Tomahawk will have three stormwater crossings replaced and will be milled and paved as well.

Tomahawk Safety, Beauty and Connectivity ad hoc Committee (SBC)

The Tomahawk SBC meets at Mission Hills City Hall on the first week of each month at 5:00pm. The goal of this Committee is to assess what, if anything, should be done to enhance or improve this important stretch of Mission Hills. Tomahawk is scheduled to be completely re-done in 2022 including asphalt, road bed and curbs.

All residents are welcome to attend these meetings.

2nd Annual Verona En Blanc Dinner

This year we're excited to introduce a more streamlined way to make your reservation for the 2020 Verona En Blanc Dinner!

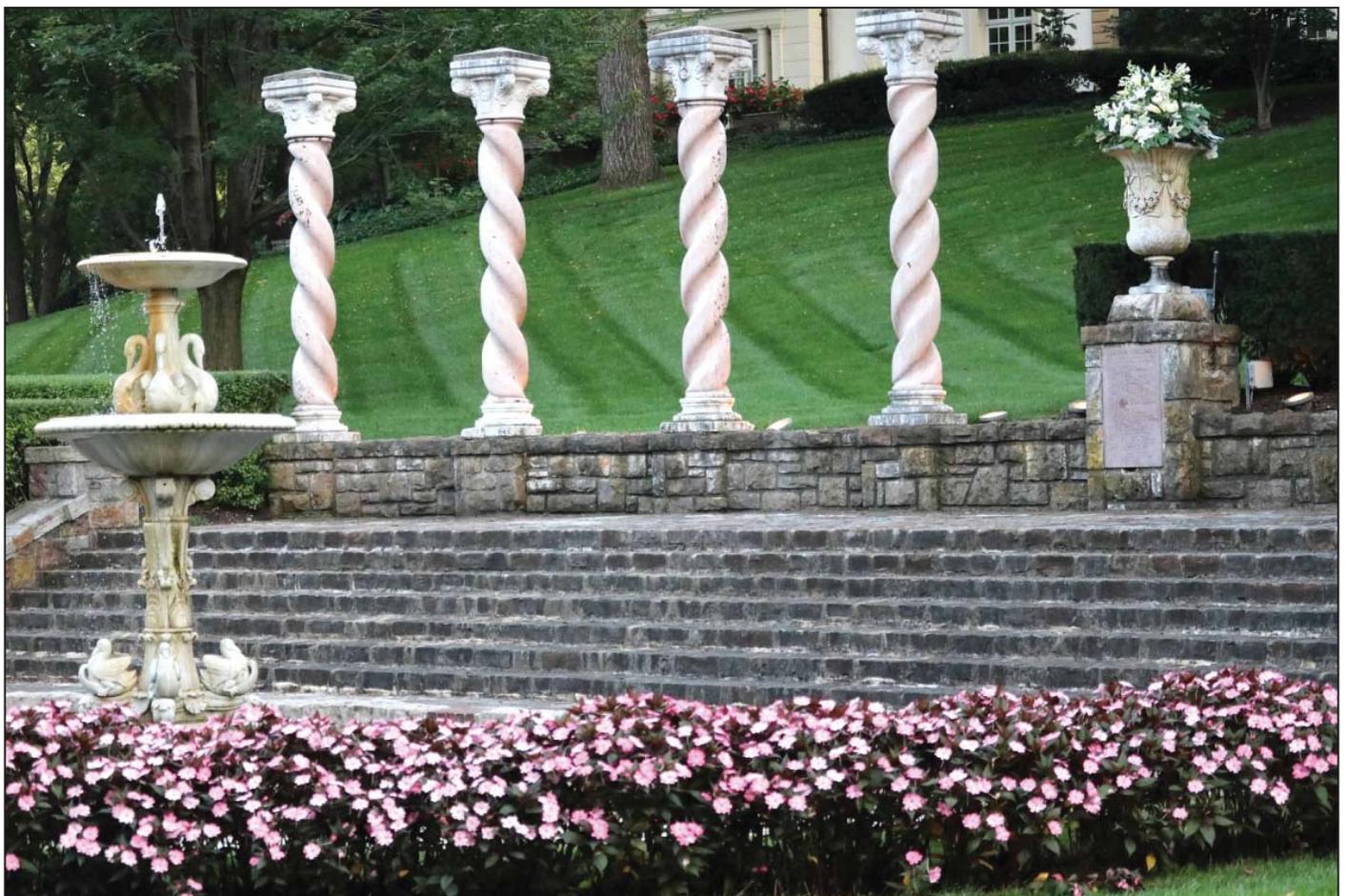
Go to www.eventbrite.com/e/verona-en-blanc-tickets-92040813551

Celebrate the spring season by bringing your own dinner party to the Verona Columns. The City will provide the ambiance and live music by the Emily Dix Collective Band.

For \$25 plus a small service fee from Eventbrite, the City will provide white tables, chairs and linens. Residents and their guests are responsible for bringing all food, drinks, silverware, glassware, plates, and table decor. The tables will be set up end-to-end for communal seating, radiating out surrounding the island.

All reservations and payment will be recorded and processed online through Eventbrite. Requests for seating preferences can be made in your online reservation. Any changes, additions or modification to your party size or guests can be changed through your Eventbrite reservation

All RSVP's must be received no later than May 8th, 2020.





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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New Ordinances: Drones & E-Scooters

In January 2020, Mission Hills City Council voted to pass Ordinance 1546 as an amendment to the existing Ordinance on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and other remote controlled devices. It is unlawful to fly a UAV on or over private property not belonging to you. Further, it is unlawful to fly a UAV on or over public property without an approved permit granted by the City Clerk, available at City Hall. As stated in the Ordinance, no person shall operate a UAV between sunset and sunrise the next day, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, for the purpose of conducting surveillance, having the drone equipped with a firearm or weapon, or with the intent to cause harm to a person or property.

City Council has also adopted a recent Ordinance regarding the disposal or abandonment of a vehicle (including e-scooters) on any public property. Any e-scooter left in the roadway, between the property line or sidewalk and the curb line, or on any public property including parks or traffic islands, may be removed and impounded. To recover an impounded e-scooter a fee of \$100 will be assessed for the removal and storing of the scooter. Any e-scooter that is impounded for 30 days or more will be disposed of or donated.

For questions regarding the updated Ordinances, please call City Hall at (913) 362-9620 or email info@missionhillsks.gov