

# THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

**MARCH 2022**

Visit us at

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



**BULKY ITEM PICKUP**

April 9, 2022

Items must be placed  
at the curb no later  
than 7:00am

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## A Letter from Mayor Dickey

*Fellow Residents:*

The very early signs of Spring are evident in our City! February weather was certainly a yo-yo, but the warmth of early March has awakened the tree canopy and many of the beautiful park and island spaces in Mission Hills.

Public Safety continues to be our top priority. It was addressed comprehensively in a dedicated letter mailed to all residents in late February. In case you did not see it, you can find it at the link below on the City's website. One quick update: the installation of the cameras and license plate readers has begun, so you will see those popping up in the coming weeks. <https://www.missionhillssks.gov/blog.aspx>

Returning to our tree canopy, the Park Board recommended, and the Council approved additional protections for trees in our City over the winter. Managing and maintaining our trees and the beautiful open spaces is important to the long-term beauty and health of the City, and the Park Board will continue to refine these protections as we move forward.

Spring will also bring capital improvements to the City, including our largest project in many years: Tomahawk Road. As I'm sure you all have seen, Water One and Kansas Gas have been working through the winter on replacing their lines along Tomahawk in preparation for the rebuilding of the road later this year.

As many of you will remember from the rebuilding of 63rd Street several years ago, this project will be disruptive. We have a great contractor hired to do the work, and they work very well with residents, but please be patient. There will be detours, closures, and such throughout the bulk of the year as we wind west to east. Thank you in advance!

Spring also brings us a new 2022 Community Engagement calendar which is detailed later in the newsletter. The Committee has built on last year's great events and added several new ones. Please mark your calendars and I hope to see many of you at these wonderful, fun events this year.



For more information, visit [www.missionhillssks.gov](http://www.missionhillssks.gov)

# Letter from the Mayor

(continued)

Late last year we launched “See, Click, Fix” as a new tool for residents to report problems such as potholes and broken streetlights, and monitor our progress resolving them. If you have not had the opportunity to use See, Click, Fix, you can find it on the City’s homepage, at the bottom when you click on “Report an Issue.”

A quick financial update. We continue to be very healthy financially with a balanced budget, AAA bond rating and very little debt. We also continue to stay up to date on our capital projects, which is important for a City of our age. As I mentioned previously, the budget for 2022 kept the mil levy flat which has been a long-standing approach.

Later this year we will be sending all residents additional information on the renewal of the City’s 0.25% sales tax. This was passed by the Council several years ago to enable us to stay current on our capital maintenance with a five-year renewal period.

Finally, I want to once again thank all of the residents who serve on our Boards and Committees. As I have said before, these residents give of their time and talent to make our City great and better every day. Thank you all again.

As always, please continue to provide us feedback on how and where we can do better. You are welcome to call City Hall at 913-362-9620 or email [info@missionhillsks.gov](mailto:info@missionhillsks.gov). You are always welcome to email me directly at [mayor@missionhillsks.gov](mailto:mayor@missionhillsks.gov).

Thank you.

P.S. If you have not put the Police non-emergency number in your speed dial, **please do it now – 913-642-5151**. Thank you again!



**MISSION HILLS**  
*Events*

<b>5/21</b> Concert in the Park	<b>8/27</b> Yoga in the Park
<b>6/4</b> Keim Street Fair	<b>9/24</b> Diner à Verona
<b>6/16</b> Food Truck Thursday	<b>10/1</b> Movie in the Park
<b>6/23</b> Food Truck Thursday	<b>11/20</b> Annual Tree Lighting

# Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

Jesse Kirk, *City Arborist*



If you live in the Tomahawk Roads Homes Association, you may have noticed contractors pruning trees within the right of way (generally within 10' back of curb). This year the pruning contract was divided into four areas and awarded to two contractors, KC Arborist and VanBooven Tree Care. By the time this edition of the Columns lands in your mailbox, this year's pruning cycle should be mostly complete. The tentative pruning schedule, budget dependent, is Mission Hills Homes Company in 2023 and Indian Hills Homes Association in 2024. We prune during the dormant season to minimize stress on the tree as well as disease transmission, particularly in oaks. All oak pruning outside of storm damage or risk mitigation should be performed while the trees are dormant. Some people worry that because there aren't leaves on the tree, dead limbs may be missed. Trained arborists are skilled at recognizing the dead or diseased wood from a distance and significant dead limbs are rarely missed. Before you hire any company to prune or remove your trees, make sure they are licensed to do tree work within the city.

Over the last several years we have reduced our spraying program to only include pests we have problems with every year or the occasional outbreak. This means that most of our spraying is of ornamental crabapples, pines, saucer magnolias and junipers. Towards the end of last summer, we saw lots of browning and wilting on honeylocust, this was mimosa webworm. Generally, this pest causes minimal damage to the tree because the defoliation occurs late in the growing season. The time to treat is right when you begin to see any webbing, by the time the browning is readily apparent, treatment will do little good. If you have a honeylocust that looked poor last year, you'll want to be on the look out as we move into summer.

There seems to be an increase in resident/wildlife conflicts this year, particularly with coyotes. The city is consulting with wildlife biologists to come up with a strategy to move these animals out of the neighborhood. If you see a coyote, please report it to City Hall so we can better monitor the areas they are using. Also, don't leave your pets out unattended or walk small dogs around dawn or dusk as these are times coyotes are most likely to be aggressive. Survey your property for any possible den sites, these will likely be burrows with an opening roughly the size of a basketball.

# Tomahawk Road Project - Update



No doubt you have been on Tomahawk Road in the last few months and seen the improvements Kansas Gas and WaterOne are making to their infrastructure. Some of their lines were 100 years old! They continue to work their way east and plan to finish their work in early summer. The City has awarded the contract for street and stormwater improvements to LMCC.

As a reminder, our standard street projects include stormwater improvements, new curbs, standard drive approaches in need of replacement and a new asphalt roadway.

The project also includes reconfiguring the island at Mission Drive and Tomahawk to slow traffic near the playground, the addition of a pedestrian-activated crosswalk to City Hall property, restriping and improved signage for the two existing crosswalks. The City's project is tentatively scheduled to begin April 1 and be substantially complete by October.

If Tomahawk Road is your route of choice for getting around town, we encourage you to use a different route to avoid detours and delays. Additionally, if it is on your walking or biking route, we ask that for your safety you avoid this area if possible. For continued updates on the Tomahawk Road project, please visit the City's website, [www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov), where we have a page dedicated to project updates/news or scan the QR code on this page which will take you directly to our website.



## PROPERTY CRIME HELP PREVENT IT



### Lock It

*lock your cars and homes*



### Close It

*keep your garage door closed*



### Remove It

*do not leave car keys, valuables and garage door openers in your car*



### Light It

*leave exterior lights on at night use motion detecting lights*



### Report It

*report all suspicious activity*

**Prairie Village Police  
Department**

**913-642-5151**

# Door-to-Door Solicitation Ordinance Update



The City Council recently passed a new ordinance modifying door-to-door solicitation in Mission Hills. According to the City's new ordinance, solicitors:

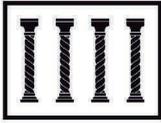
- May call on residence between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Must obtain a permit from the City and display it while soliciting in the City.
- May not call on or approach any residence displaying a "No Solicitation", "No Trespassing" or any other similar notice.
- May not call on or approach any residence on the City's "No Visit" list.
- Must possess a government issued photo I.D. at all times.

## Residents MAY:

- Register their address on the City's "No Visit" list (just fill out the form on the webpage : <https://missionhillsks.gov/380/Solicitation> to sign up)
- Require a solicitor to present his or her permit and photo identification.
- Obtain "No Solicitation" stickers free of charge at City Hall
- Require the solicitor to provide a receipt for any purchase exceeding \$5.00.
- Contact the Police Department by dialing 9-1-1 if a solicitor comes to their door when the home is posted "No Solicitors" or the address is on the "No Visit" list. For general solicitation complaints, please call the non-emergency dispatch number at 913-642-5151.

## Solicitors MUST:

- Submit a Door to Door Solicitation permit application online.
- Pay a fee of \$25 per application (each approved application is good for up to fourteen days).
- Pass a criminal history check.
- Display permit at all times when soliciting within the City.
- Wear photo identification at all times.
- Leave a resident's property when directed to do so by the resident.
- Not approach any residence on the City's "No Visit" list which is provided when the application is approved.
- Not call on any residence posted with a "No Solicitation" sticker or similar notice.



**MISSION  
HILLS**  
K A N S A S

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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David W. Dickey

**City Council:**

Bill Bruning  
Barbara Nelson  
Braden Perry  
Eden Thorne  
Andy Weed

**City of Mission Hills**

**Ph: 913-362-9620**

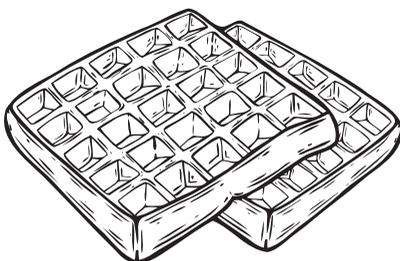
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Kansas City, MO

**W A F F L E S  
&  
( S t o r m ) W A T E R**

**S a t u r d a y ,  
A p r i l 2 3 r d  
8 : 3 0 - 1 1 a m**

(rain date April 24)



Join us at City Hall for FREE waffles (and a few other breakfast items) and an educational open house on all things stormwater, including: water issues and City policies, how to schedule a complimentary consultation with a stormwater engineer, rain gardens, and the City's environmental grant program. Bring your (Storm)Water questions and we'll provide the waffles...be on the lookout for a postcard with more information.