

# THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

**October 2022**

Visit us at  
[www.missionhillssks.gov](http://www.missionhillssks.gov)



## ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

November 20  
5:30pm  
@ City Hall

**Santa arrives by  
firetruck between  
5:15-5:30pm**

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## A Letter from Mayor Dickey

*Fellow Residents:*

Autumn is a fabulous time in our City. The tree canopy begins to brighten into fall colors, the weather is cool, but comfortable and Halloween decorations make their appearance. I encourage you to take it all in on a walk or ride (and if you do so at dawn or dusk, please wear reflective gear!).

Let me start with an update on crime in our City. As I noted in my mid-summer update, we have made progress on home burglaries – down 20% from last year. Please don't let up on the 9pm routine of making sure doors are closed and locked, alarms set, etc.

Unfortunately, like almost every other Northeast Johnson County city, our auto burglaries continue to be high. As you have heard me say before, we need EVERYONE'S help here. In August, every car broken into or stolen was unlocked (and those stolen had the keys in them). Smash and grabs are, thankfully, exceedingly rare in our City, but bad actors do pull into parking lots or walk streets at night trying door handles. Please, please, please lock your cars no matter where you are and don't leave valuables in plain sight. Most criminals want easy, so if Mission Hills is hard, they will go somewhere else!

Also on the Crime & Safety front, the installation of our Phase I & II cameras and license plate readers is almost complete and already providing our police with useful information for investigations. This will only improve over time.

We still have coyotes in our City. Earlier in the year we began a trapping effort which helped, but not as much as we want or need. This fall we are intensifying our trapping efforts and are working to coordinate with Fairway, who is experiencing similar problems. Please know we will stay on this.

Finally, and many of you may tire of me saying this, please put the police non-emergency number – 913-642-5151 – in your smartphone speed dial. If you see something suspicious that does not rise to the level of an emergency, please call it in. A 911 call will never be interrupted or delayed because of a non-emergency call, but your non-emergency call could stop a crime before it starts!



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

# Letter from the Mayor

(continued)

On a different note, in the November 8th election, the City is asking you to renew our 0.25% sales tax dedicated exclusively to infrastructure for another 5 years. Over the past 5 years this money has been put to good use for our roads, sewers, curbs and bridges, and if you elect to renew, we will continue to be great stewards of our tax dollars. As you may have already read, almost one-third of the sales tax is collected from non-residents who use our roads. Another large portion comes from the delivery of goods to our City, which also puts wear and tear on our roads. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this renewal!

Speaking of infrastructure, Tomahawk Road is complete with just a few small mitigation items to finish up. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the project from the Committee that started looking at our approach more than 2 years ago, to the residents who provided feedback and to staff for managing the project really well. I believe it looks great and the changes we made have enhanced safety for everyone who uses it.

Finally, a thank you again to all of our Boards and Committees. These residents give of their time and energy to help keep our City a fabulous place to live.

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@missionhillssks.gov](mailto:info@missionhillssks.gov). You are always welcome to email me directly at [mayor@missionhillssks.gov](mailto:mayor@missionhillssks.gov). Have a great autumn and hope to see many of you at our annual tree lighting on November 20th and please vote on November 8th!

## **A REMINDER FROM PRAIRIE VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**



HIDE YOUR THINGS



LOCK YOUR CAR



TAKE YOUR KEYS

IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, CALL 911

# Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

Jesse Kirk, *City Arborist*



As we transition from a hot dry summer to a hot dry fall, I'm seeing stressed plant material all over the place. Irrigation for turf is usually insufficient for your larger shrubs and trees. Even if you run your irrigation twenty minutes every day it doesn't penetrate the soil to a depth of 12"-18" where the majority of your tree and shrub roots reside. They need prolonged, steady, soaking rain events to really replenish that soil moisture. Turning your lawn hose to a trickle and moving it around your plants over a period of several hours is a great way to reduce the stress on your landscape investment. This is especially important for plants that have been planted within the last couple of years and have yet to establish sufficient root systems. If we experience another dry winter, it's important to continue to get water to your plant material, especially evergreens, that continue to transpire while deciduous plants are dormant.

Winter and very early spring prior to bud break are great times to prune your trees. Without a canopy full of foliage it is easier to spot and address defects. You're also not depleting your tree of the energy investment it has put into pushing out those leaves. It is also particularly important that you prune your oaks during dormancy to minimize the transmission of oak wilt.

Consistent heat, winter drought, root defects and squirrels seeking moisture during the winter have particularly stressed our shallow rooted red and sugar maples. These factors along with emerald ash borer over the last several years have resulted in the removal of a substantial portion of the City's tree canopy. We strive to replant every street tree removed, where appropriate. If you've removed a tree outside of the right of way and possibly created a quality location for a street tree, reach out to me as I have a list of future planting sites.

In 2023, Mission Hills Homes Company is on the schedule to be pruned. We've broken up the area into four sections that Contractors bid on. It's always our goal to prune each homes association in its entirety every winter but it's dependent on the bids we receive.

## **Fall and Winter Checklist: By George L. Eib, Posthumously**

- Do not blow or dump leaves or snow into the street or drainage channels as these are violations of City ordinances.
- 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. You will need to hire a licensed tree contractor to perform this work. It is not Evergy'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.

# 2023 Capital Improvement Projects

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There are four streets on the City's 2023 capital improvement project list:

- 70th Terrace (State Line Road to Overhill)
- 70th Street (State Line Road to Overhill)
- 66th Street (Belinder to Tomahawk)
- Indian Lane (Wenonga Road to 66th Street)



The City's standard street projects include updating the stormwater system (if needed), new curbs, replacing standard drive approaches in need of replacement and a new asphalt roadway. The 70th Terrace project is a little more substantial as the road base is failing so that project will take a little longer and involve more work than a typical road project.

As with all capital projects, the City coordinates with the utility companies to be sure there are no conflicts with their existing facilities. The utilities often use City capital projects as opportunities to upgrade their infrastructure. As we learn more about the plans of the utility companies we'll communicate with residents affected by the projects.

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## Trash Reminder

With the holidays approaching, we wanted to give residents some helpful trash and recycling reminders for the upcoming holiday season.

- All cardboard boxes must be broken down in order to be picked up with your recycling (this is a year round requirement). Excess recycling outside the recycling cart will be picked up but must be properly prepared accordingly. Additionally, Waste Management does offer a 2nd recycling cart for all residents free of charge. Please call **913-631-3300** if you'd like another cart and indicate you are a Mission Hills resident when scheduling a delivery.
- During the first full service week after Christmas Day, residents can utilize unlimited solid waste pickup without purchasing additional trash stickers.
- Free disposal for any Christmas tree left curbside for the first two weeks beginning on December 26th.



# In-person Advance Voting: General Election

*Johnson County Election Office*

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In-person advance voting is a great option for voters who prefer to vote in person but want to enjoy the convenience of voting before Election Day. Locations are available throughout the county and are open during the week and on Saturdays. Like advance voting by mail, in-person advance voting is available to all registered voters in Johnson County. You do not need a reason to vote early, nor do you need an application if voting at one of the advance voting locations.

For the November 8th General Election opening dates and locations closest to Mission Hills for advance voting are as follows:

## **Arts and Heritage Center**

**October 22 - November 5, and November 7th Until Noon**

8788 Metcalf Ave.

Overland Park, KS 66212

## **Westwood City Hall**

**October 29 - November 5**

4700 Rainbow Blvd,

Westwood, KS 66205

## **Leawood City Hall**

**October 29 - November 5**

4800 Town Center Dr.

Leawood, KS 66211

## **Oak Park Library**

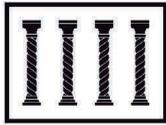
**October 29 - November 5**

9500 Bluejacket St.

Overland Park, KS 66214



Find your assigned polling location, and view a sample ballot through the voter lookup at [www.voter.jocoelection.org](http://www.voter.jocoelection.org).



# MISSION HILLS

KANSAS

6300 State Line Road  
Mission Hills, KS 66208

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

**Mayor:**  
David W. Dickey

**City Council:**  
Bill Bruning  
Barbara Nelson  
Braden Perry  
Eden Thorne  
Andy Weed

**City of Mission Hills**  
**Ph: 913-362-9620**  
[info@missionhillsks.gov](mailto:info@missionhillsks.gov)

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## Planning and Building Guide

City staff have created a new digital Planning & Building Guide to assist residents and contractors in the application, approval, and permitting processes for all types of building and improvement projects.

The link to the Guide is located on the City's website under "Services" in the Building Permits and Codes section. The Guide is a pdf document that contains building information and links to many resources on the City's website such as Zoning Regulations, Design Guidelines, ARB Schedule and Checklists, BZA Schedule, Online Permitting, Comprehensive Plan, Comprehensive Water Policy, and requirements for a Floodplain Permit, Stormwater Drainage Study, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, and the Tree Protection Plan.

**Planning & Building Guide**

City of Mission Hills, Kansas | 913-362-9620 | [www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov)

**WELCOME**

We are pleased that you are considering investing in a property in Mission Hills, a unique city known for its abundance of greenspace and architectural excellence.

The Planning & Building Guide provides helpful information about the application, approval, and permitting processes for all types of building and improvement projects you may wish to undertake. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Permits & Licensing**

The City Clerks manage the permitting and licensing process which includes receiving applications, permit fees, and scheduling inspections.

**Planning & Zoning**

The City Planner provides assistance in determining applicable Zoning Regulations and Design Guidelines, and manages the Architectural Review Board process. The part-time City Architect reviews all applications and plans submitted for Architectural Review Board approval.

**Professional Review Panel**

The Professional Review Panel reviews proposed plans for new homes and substantial additions before the plans are reviewed by the ARB.

**Architectural Review Board**

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) approves building permits for exterior alterations. The ARB's purpose is to ensure that all structures within the City conform to certain minimum architectural and aesthetic standards of appearance.

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

The Board of Zoning Appeals hears all appeals related to variances from the Zoning Regulations and appeals of decisions made by ARB or City staff.

**Building Code/Inspections**

The Building Inspectors ensure that construction projects comply with all City building codes. They review construction drawings, land disturbance permits, stormwater drainage studies, and inspect building projects.

**MISSION HILLS KANSAS**

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**IMPORTANT LINKS**

- Zoning Regulations
- Design Guidelines
- Building Code
- Comprehensive Plan
- Online Permitting
- ARB Schedule
- Drainage Study Requirements

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