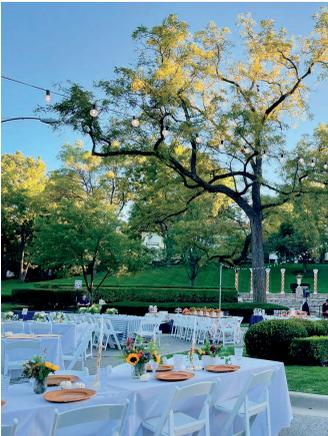


THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

August 2023

Visit us at
www.missionhillssks.gov



DINER à VERONA

**Saturday,
September 23**
6-10:30 p.m
@ Verona Columns

Rain Date: 9/24

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Fellow Residents:

The events of Friday, July 14th sent me back to the keyboard.

Public safety has always been our top priority, but that Friday was a frightening reminder that safety has many facets. We are sorry to all of you who had any damage or loss. Many homes in our City were impacted. Several cars were totaled, and our tree canopy suffered tremendously.

If you have not already, I would encourage all residents to re-assess their emergency plans for severe weather, including where in your house to be in a tornado, the location of your flashlights and what you would need to do if the power was out for multiple days.

And if you have any questions or additional concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to City Hall or our police for assistance and advice on emergency preparedness.

One final note on the severe weather. There were many beautiful trees that sustained catastrophic, yet visible, damage. In all likelihood, many more trees have damage that we cannot see and will not become clear until the next storm event. Jesse Kirk, the City Arborist, is a fantastic resource for any resident who would like an assessment of their trees – damaged or not. You can call City Hall or use SeeClickFix to make an appointment for Jesse to come to your home.

On a somewhat better note, we have continued to make progress on crime in our City. Burglary is down 10% through June, and theft is down 21%. A big thank you to every resident, our staff and police for continued diligence on reducing crime in our City. But as I have said many times before, we must be ever vigilant, so please keep using the non-emergency police dispatch line (913-642-5151), LOCK YOUR CARS, keep valuables out of sight and practice the 9pm routine:

- Garage door closed
- Doors locked
- Cars locked
- Alarm on



For more information, visit www.missionhillssks.gov

Letter from the Mayor

(continued)

On a much lighter note, we have had several wonderful community engagement events so far this spring and summer. Concert in the Park, Street Fair, and food trucks in sunken garden brought many residents together for fun and camaraderie. We have several more events later in the summer and fall which are listed on subsequent pages and I hope many of you will be able to attend and experience the wonderful public spaces we have in Mission Hills!

Halfway through the year the City is in strong shape financially and in maintaining our capital assets. At the June Council meeting, the Council preliminary approved a 2024 budget that keeps the mil levy flat again, but ensures we continue the high level of services and quality of infrastructure residents expect.

Should you ever be curious, our 5-year capital plan is available on the City website. It shows expected projects by year, estimated costs and sources of funds. We re-evaluate the plan annually to adjust for unexpected changes in our infrastructure, but the plan serves as a critical tool for the Mission Hills to stay current with capital.

Speaking of infrastructure and capital, to those residents on streets where we or other service providers are doing work, thank you for your patience. Living through a street project, or Water One digging through the right-of-way in your yard is never fun, but is a necessary part of maintaining a City that has parts more than 100 years old!

In addition to the projects already underway, we will be repaving State Line later in 2023, as well as Mission Drive. We will communicate further with all residents about the timing of these projects so you can plan detours accordingly. Finally, should you ever have questions about a project in Mission Hills, please contact City Hall as staff is happy to answer queries and receive feedback.

While not in Mission Hills, our neighbors in Prairie Village have embarked on a huge project on Mission Road at Tomahawk. As I mentioned in the Spring, they are raising Mission Road four feet to take the road and several homes out of flooding. At the same time, Johnson County Wastewater is replacing one of their main lines that runs along the creek. This work will take several months and keep Mission Road (and at times Tomahawk) closed. Staff have worked closely with Prairie Village on detour plans to ensure additional traffic is not sent through Mission Hills. Bottom line, this project will be very disruptive for the remainder of the year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, please stay safe and healthy, and, 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. You are always welcome to email me directly at mayor@missionhillsks.gov.

Enjoy!

Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

Jesse Kirk, *City Arborist*



Blue, Norway and dwarf Alberta have been hit hard by spruce spider mites the last two years. Spruce spider mites are a cool season mite so they're most active in spring and fall, so presently as the damage becomes apparent treatment is difficult. Thinning branches, discolored needles and needle drop are signs you may have a spider mite problem. To check for spider mites look for fine webbing at the base of the needles or during spring and fall you can tap the branch over a white sheet of paper and look for slow moving insects about the size of a bit of fine ground pepper. It will smear brown on the sheet when crushed. Spider mites are poor movers and on small trees a strong jet of water can dislodge them, but you'll need to ensure that you're hitting all parts of the plant. For larger trees systemic miticides may be your best option. A local plant health care professional can assess your spruce for treatment and make appropriate recommendations.

As we heat up, I'm noticing several trees that leafed out this spring with leaves scorching and branches dying off. This has been particularly apparent in sugar maples. Usually, I find a girdling root or squirrel damage associated with these issues. In spring when its cool and moisture is adequate the tree was able to produce leaves but as it heats up and available moisture decreases these vascular disruptions to the xylem manifest themselves. Squirrel damage is pretty much irreparable, but you can check your trees for potential girdling roots before they become an issue. A flat side on the tree is the most common indicator of a girdling root below ground. Stunted or discolored leaves on one side of the tree is another common symptom. Avoid planting trees too deeply or over mulching to minimize the potential for girdling roots. If you can't see a "flare" where the tree meets the turf your tree is planted too deeply. For small girdling roots you can excavate with a trowel and cut them cleanly with a reciprocating saw or chisel. For larger trees or more advanced root systems root collar excavation with an air excavation tool may be necessary.

Your irrigation system isn't calibrated to adequately water trees. Most of a tree's root system is in the top 12"-18" of soil but an irrigation system designed for turf is only wetting the top couple of inches where the grass roots are. New and stressed plant material will benefit from deeper watering. This can best be accomplished with a soaker hose, traditional sprinkler or simply by turning your faucet on a trickle and letting it run for a couple of hours beneath the drip line of the tree you are watering, set an alarm and go move it to a new location every thirty minutes or so. You can measure how deeply your watering using a long screwdriver or metal garden stake. Moist soil will be easier to penetrate than soil that hasn't been saturated.

Johnson County offers residents a free soil test through Kansas State University each year. Details on how to sample your soil are available at www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/soil-testing/free-soil-test. If you bring your soil sample to City Hall the week of September 4th-7th. I will run them to the Olathe office that Friday.

Door-to-Door Solicitation Reminders

The City Council passed a new ordinance modifying door-to-door solicitation in Mission Hills in 2022. According to the City's 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:

- For general solicitation complaints, such as a solicitor comes to the door when the home is posted with a "No Solicitors" display or the address is on the "No Visit" list, please call the non-emergency dispatch number at 913-642-5151. If it is an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.**
- 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.



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.

Remaining 2023 Capital Projects

August: The City of Prairie Village will be closing Tomahawk at Mission Road for 3-4 weeks in August. The intersection will also be closed to pedestrians and bicyclists.

September/October: The City will be milling/paving Mission Drive (56th to Tomahawk) and State Line Road (Shawnee Mission Parkway to 70th Terrace). The asphalt work will begin in September, but prior to that crews will be doing concrete patchwork to curbs and drive approaches in disrepair.

Helpful Tools to Stay Informed & Report Issues

SeeClickFix - seeclickfix.com

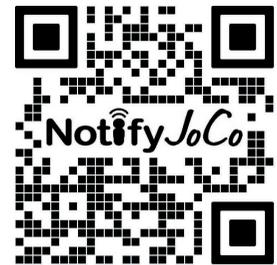
Mission Hills has partnered with SeeClickFix to allow residents to report quality-of-life issues and request Mission Hills services. Examples include requesting no parking signs, reporting a pothole, or requesting assistance for a tree issue.

The SeeClickFix mobile app is available for free download on Android and iPhone. In addition to the mobile app, residents can report issues through the Mission Hills website and seeclickfix.com.



Notify JOCO - www.jocogov.org

NotifyJoCo is a free mass notification system designed to keep Johnson County Kansas residents informed of emergencies and certain non-emergency events. The City utilizes it for non-emergency communication regarding events, road closures, trash pickup, etc.



Mission Hills Website Alerts - www.missionhillsks.gov

Similar to NotifyJOCO, Mission Hills Website Alerts informs residents of emergencies and certain non-emergency events.

Residents can sign up through the Mission Hills website. Click on the "Website Sign In" located on the upper right hand corner, and follow the prompts to sign-up. If you don't yet have an account, you will create one and then select the notifications you would like to receive.



Survey of Residents

In September, residents will receive a city wide survey by regular mail. You will have the option to complete the paper survey or go online for electronic submission.

In addition to satisfaction with various services, the survey will ask for input on specific topics such as solar equipment.

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to share your feedback.

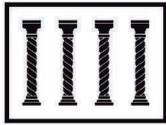
Other Surveys

JOCO Community Health Assessment: Your experiences and viewpoints inform our understanding of what makes our community healthy and will help make Johnson County a better place for everyone, every day.

<https://www.jocogov.org/departments/health/community-health-network>

Arts & Heritage Survey: Help us find the hidden arts gems in Johnson County! The Arts Council of Johnson County and ArtsKC are trying to identify and map ALL of the art assets in Johnson County.

<https://artsjoco.org/acjc/community-arts-mapping/>



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@missionhillssks.gov

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Upcoming Events



Yoga in the Park
Sat, August 26
9:00 a.m.
City Hall Park



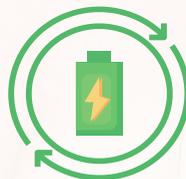
Bulky Item Pickup
Sat, September 16
Items to Curb by
7:00 a.m.



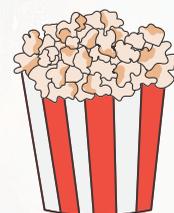
Go Green!
Environmental Fair
Sat, September 23
9:00-12:00 p.m.
Event Flyer Included



Diner à Verona
Sat, September 23
6:00-10:30 p.m.
Verona Columns



**Paper Shredding, E-Cycle &
Eyeglass Collection**
Sat, September 30
9:00-12:00 p.m.
Event Flyer Included



Movie in the Park
Sat, October 7
7:00 p.m.
City Hall Park

COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENT

Paper Shredding, Electronics Recycling,
Eyeglass Collecting

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 // 9 A.M.–NOON
9001 W. 67th St., Merriam, KS 66202

Fairway ▶ Merriam Mission Mission Hills Mission Woods Prairie Village Roeland Park ▶ Westwood

Proof of Residency is required (i.e.: driver's license, utility bill). This event is for residents only, not businesses.



PAPER SHREDDING

- ▶ Securely shred confidential documents for FREE.
- ▶ You can shred bank statements, tax returns, credit card receipts, and more!
- ▶ Maximum of 10 file storage boxes size 1' x 2'.
- ▶ All binders, containers, and cardboard boxes will be returned to you.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

- ▶ Secure e-Cycle will collect electronics for responsible recycling.
- ▶ There is a CASH ONLY \$20 fee for computers and \$40 fee for TVs.
- ▶ Everything else with a chord is FREE.
- ▶ List of acceptable items: securecycle.com/items

EYEGLASS RECYCLING

The Shawnee Lions Club will collect eyeglasses to support the Lions Recycle for Sight Program.

Contact your City Hall with any questions.



Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023
9 a.m. to Noon

Powell Community Center
6200 Martway
Mission, Kansas

Environmental Fair

Save the Date!

This FREE family-friendly environmental fair will show you how taking small steps to reduce your carbon footprint at home, school and work will help the environment and save money.

Highlights will include information and items from 40 local exhibitors to help you live a more sustainable life, a thrift store fashion show, PCs for People electronics recycling, a performance by Eco Elvis, children's activities and fun door prizes.