



THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

November 2023

Visit us at
www.missionhillssks.gov



ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

November 19
5:30pm
@ City Hall

**Santa arrives by
fire truck between
5:15-5:30pm**

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A Letter from Mayor Dickey

Fellow Residents:

Autumn is so wonderful in Mission Hills. The leaves begin to change, our green spaces look outstanding, the weather lends itself to walks throughout our community. We are very fortunate.

I want to start with public safety. At our October Council Meeting, Chief Roberson gave us continued good news. Residential burglary is down 13% from last year. Auto theft is down 71%. Almost all other categories of crime are also down.



Crime in our City is multi-faceted, but I would quote the Roman philosopher Seneca, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." Our residents, our police and our staff have been exceptionally focused on public safety these past two years, and our work appears to be paying off. That said, this is, as Simon Sinek likes to say, an "infinite game." Criminals are not going away, so please stay vigilant. Call the non-emergency police dispatch line at 913-642-5151 if you see something suspicious, and follow the 9pm routine:

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

Oh, and by the way, of the lower number of vehicles stolen or broken into this year, the VAST MAJORITY ARE UNLOCKED. Please lock your cars.

Another important item on the public safety front as we move into winter are lights and reflective clothing if you walk (or bike) in our City. Please, please, please keep yourself safe by wearing and carrying appropriate reflective clothing and lights now that the sun rises later and sets earlier.

Finally, I have fielded many questions on two topics related to public safety. Yes, Mission Hills requires your dog to be on-leash when walked outside of your property. Please be respectful of your fellow residents and follow this ordinance – even the best dogs have a bad day. Secondly, the City is not actively trapping coyotes currently – all the more reason with less light to keep your pets on leash please.

For more information, visit www.missionhillssks.gov

Letter from the Mayor

(continued)

On the capital project front, we had a busy summer and early fall! To those residents whose streets we re-paved, thank you for your patience. By the time you read this, our mill and pave of State Line and Mission Drive are likely to be complete (and wonderful!). Our friends in Prairie Village anticipate being done with Mission Road sometime around Thanksgiving. Finally, the Council adopted our updated 5-year capital plan which details all expenditures and funding sources. This can be found on the City's website.

We are very fortunate to have residents who volunteer of their time and talent to our 6 boards and committees. To all of them I say "thank you" for a job well done. Whether it is the Planning Commission, ARB, BZA, Crime & Safety, Park Board or Community Engagement, we have talented people who give time to make Mission Hills awesome.

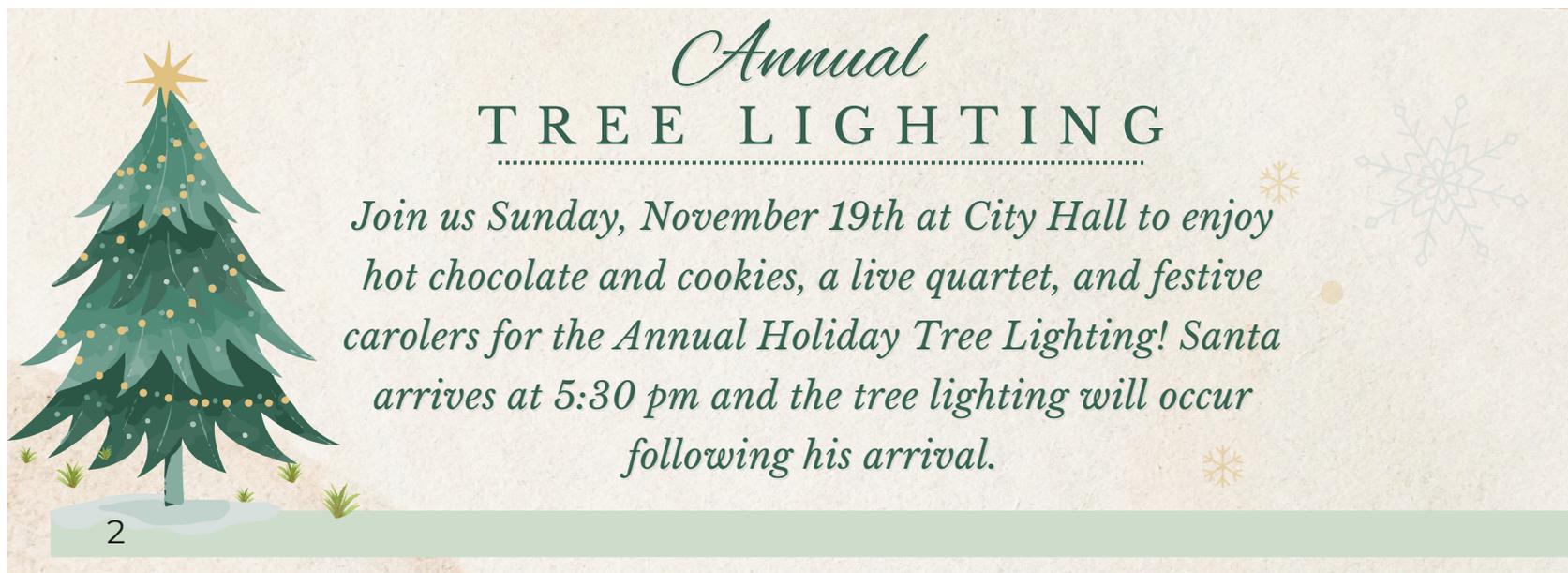
As we conclude 2023, I do want to give a special shout-out to the Park Board and Community Engagement Committee. Their work is the most immediately visible in our City. Our parks, islands and parklets were beautiful all year. Our many events from the pop-ups in Sunken Garden to the Movie in the Park were outstanding. Thank you!

On the fiscal front, Mission Hills is in a strong position. The Council chose again to keep the mill levy flat for the 20th+ straight year. The staff continues to do a great job ensuring tax dollars are spent thoughtfully. The full budget can be found on the City website.

Finally, please vote this fall. We do not have many topics on which to opine, but voting is an incredibly important civic duty, and Mission Hills residents are always among the leaders!

Enjoy the rest of the fall, 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.

P.S. We hope to see you at the Holiday Tree Lighting on Sunday, November 19th!

The poster features a green Christmas tree on the left with yellow lights and a gold star on top. The background is a light beige color with faint snowflake patterns. The text is centered and reads: "Annual TREE LIGHTING" in a mix of cursive and serif fonts. Below this, it says: "Join us Sunday, November 19th at City Hall to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, a live quartet, and festive carolers for the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting! Santa arrives at 5:30 pm and the tree lighting will occur following his arrival." There are small gold snowflake icons scattered around the text. A small number "2" is in the bottom left corner.

Annual
TREE LIGHTING

Join us Sunday, November 19th at City Hall to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, a live quartet, and festive carolers for the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting! Santa arrives at 5:30 pm and the tree lighting will occur following his arrival.

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Meet Your Mission Hills Officers!

The City of Mission Hills contracts with the City of Prairie Village (PV) for police services. While the entire Prairie Village Police Department (PVPD) provides services and support to Mission Hills, four of the PV officers are officially assigned to Mission Hills. These assignments generally last four years, so there's a good chance you might cross paths with one of them during their time with us. The City of Mission Hills is thankful for the commitment and dedication shown by all of the officers serving our community.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your current position with the PVPD:

I was born and raised in Prairie Village I attended St. Ann Catholic School (1-8), Rockhurst High School (9-12), and then graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S. in Journalism. My current position with PVPD is Patrol Officer.

How many years have you been an officer?

I have been an officer for almost 14 years now - three of which in Mission Hills.

What are you most proud of?

Being a Father... nothing tops that.

Who is your hero and why?

My father. He came to the U.S. from Germany towards the end of WWII. He never finished high school, yet he built his own painting and contracting business and was quite successful. He raised five children and provided for them until the day he passed.

What is your favorite movie or favorite book or TV show?

I have to say my favorite book is "There's a Wolf in My School" because I wrote it. The book was over two years in the making and finally released on Amazon November 1st of this year. It's a children's book based on my experiences teaching the D.A.R.E. Program at our local elementary schools. The book is for the kiddos ages 4-9.



OFC. BRIAN WOLF

Tell us a bit about yourself and your current position with the PVPD:

I grew up in northwest Missouri in between St. Joesph and Maryville. I went to North Andrew K-12 and then went to college at Missouri Western State University where I earned my bachelor's in criminal justice. I am currently in the Mission Hills assignment and on the CIRT team, where I am also a specialty munitions instructor.

How many years have you been an officer?

I have been an Officer for 4 years now and have been a Mission Hills Officer for 2 of them.

What is one thing that instantly makes your day better?

One thing that makes my day better is getting a workout before work. After work, being able to go home and relax and watching my favorite shows. I also have a 4-year-old labradoodle named Arya and she always makes me happy whenever she gets excited when I walk in the house.

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of being in the Military and making that a second career. I was in the Marine Reserves for 6 years and now I am in the Air National Guard.

Do you actually like donuts? If so, what is your favorite?

Of course, I like donuts and the blueberry ones from Krispy Kreme are my favorite with a glass of chocolate milk.



OFC. SETH DITTMORE

Meet Your Mission Hills Officers!



OFC. ERIC GRENIS

Tell us a bit about yourself and your current position with the PVPD:

I grew up in Owings, Maryland and went attended Huntingtown High School. I was an EMT Firefighter in Maryland before joining the Air Force in Security Forces in 2017. I finished active duty and continued service in the Air Force Reserves and was a police officer at the University of Kansas Medical Center Police Department. I joined Prairie Village Police in January of 2023 and now I am assigned to Mission Hills.

How many years have you been an officer?

I have been in law enforcement for 6 years and assigned to Mission Hills for a month now.

What is one thing that instantly makes your day better?

Having a positive contact with citizens and when young children want to see my car and I get to show them around and let them turn on the lights.

Activities outside of work?

I love to golf and am a season ticket holder to the KC Mavericks Hocky.

Do you actually like donuts? If so, what is your favorite?

Everyone likes donuts. I like them so much that I convinced my wife to work for QuikTrip distribution where she now makes donuts (and brings extras home).

Tell us a bit about yourself and your current position with the PVPD:

I grew up in the Northland and graduated from Missouri Valley College where I studied criminal justice and played baseball.

How many years have you been an officer?

I was recently given the opportunity to work in Mission Hills in August. I have been with the department for just over 6 years.

What is one thing that instantly makes your day better?

The one thing that could make my day, as well as anyone's day better, is seeing the joy on my son's face every day.

Aside from necessities, what is one thing could you not go a day without?

The biggest necessity in my life is caffeine, being a father of a one-year-old and predominantly working night shift - sleep is not really an option most days.

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time aside from work and dad life, I enjoy playing golf and billiards.



OFC. ZACARIA BLAKEMORE

Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

Jesse Kirk, City Arborist



If this winter’s precipitation is like the last several, it will be important to water your woody plant material. Recently planted trees and particularly evergreens will benefit from a few deep soakings this winter. Evergreens photosynthesize using their needles, this means that even during winter they are transpiring through that evergreen foliage. For this reason, they require more water during fall and winter than your deciduous trees. Deciduous trees will still benefit from additional water if we’re dry this winter but it’s for a different reason. When soil dries out, at a certain point the fine root hairs responsible for up taking moisture and nutrients desiccate and die. This loss of the fine roots means trees must re-grow these roots and they’re less equipped to take advantage of spring moisture when it arrives.

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.

Our aging tree canopy, years of drought and severe storms this summer have resulted in an above average number of removals for the year. 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 and I have a list of planting sites for when there is excess money in the planting budget.

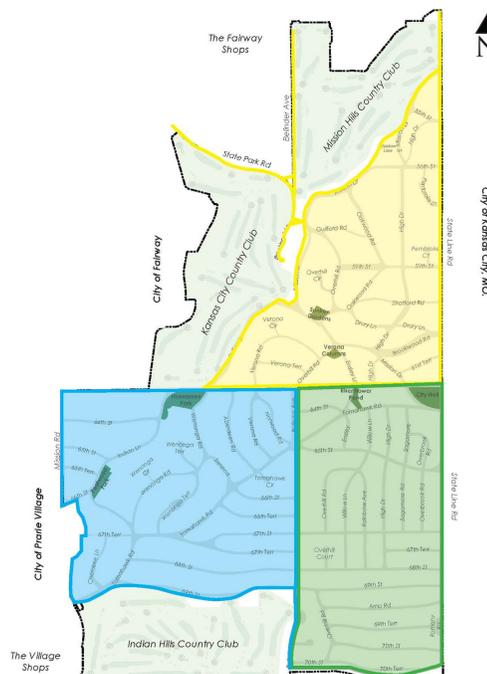
Starting in January Indian Hills Homes Company is on the schedule to be pruned. It’s always our goal to prune each homes association in its entirety every winter but it’s dependent on the bids we receive.

Mission Hills Planned Right of Way Tree Pruning Schedule

 **2024**
Budget dependent

 **2025**
Budget dependent

 **2026**
Budget dependent





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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Braden Perry
Eden Thorne
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HELPFUL REMINDEES

- As leaves begin to fall please remember you may not blow your leaves into the streets/curb inlets, creeks or pond.
- Don't forget to request no-parking signs for holiday events at your home that will have a minimum of 12 cars. Also, encourage your guests to lock their vehicles and remove valuables from plain sight.
- Should we have heavy snowfall please try to refrain from parking in the street to aid with snow removal.
- Annual pet registration information will be sent to all residents at the end of December.
 - Please renew online, but call City Hall if you have any questions.
 - Puppies or new pets may be registered throughout the year as you welcome them to your new home.