

**April 2024**

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**CONCERT IN THE PARK**

May 18

@ City Hall Park

5:30-8 p.m.

\*rain date 5/19

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## A Letter from Mayor Dickey

*Fellow Residents:*

Spring in our City is just a fabulous time. Trees, shrubs and bulbs awaken bringing a rainbow of colors to our public spaces and your homes. It is a joy to walk the City and see the renewal yet again, and it never gets old (kind of like the Chiefs winning the Super Bowl)!

You should have (or will) received a separate crime and safety letter from me recently. As always, this is our most important priority and we had a better year in 2023. So again, thank you. But as I have said many times before, even one crime is too many, so please remain vigilant. We reduce crime through the efforts of our residents, our wonderful police force and our City staff. A summary:

- Lock your cars.
- Don't leave valuables in sight.
- Practice the 9pm routine.
- If you see something suspicious, please call the non-emergency line at 913-642-5151.

2024 marks Mission Hills' 75th anniversary as a city. Our Community Engagement Committee has a full calendar of events for the year (detailed later in this letter), many of which will celebrate this milestone. So, whether you have been a resident since our incorporation, or are new to Mission Hills, please come out and celebrate with us over the course of 2024!

We continue to have a robust capital plan to keep Mission Hills in great shape. This year you will see many projects from the undergrounding of the power lines on 65th Street, to curb, bridge and sewer work throughout the City, to the addition of another couple of sections of sidewalks on State Line. The full capital plan can always be found on the City's website, and if you ever have a question or concern about the health of your street, please don't hesitate to contact City Hall.

Fiscally, our Mission Hills continues to be in great shape. Home values continue to increase and our sales tax revenue (which primarily funds capital improvements) is strong. Our "Budget in Brief" can always be found on the City's website if you would like additional details.



# Letter from the Mayor

(continued)

A few more quick items to cover.

First, we have heard from many of you about your frustration with Evergy and service outages. This has always been a challenge in Mission Hills because our power comes in through three trunk lines that run through neighboring communities. Often outages in Mission Hills have nothing to do with conditions in our City, but something that happened across the State Line. We are always happy to take your feedback and pass it to our Evergy representatives, but a more powerful way to have your voice heard is to provide feedback directly to the Kansas Corporation Commission:

Kansas Corporation Commission Consumer Inquiries/Complaints

Phone: (800) 662-0027

Email: [public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov)

Second, election season is upon us. Please remember to keep any signs (whether political or otherwise) at least 10 feet from the curb and out of the right-of-way. Additionally, please be respectful of your neighbors who might have different views. We are a single community with a diversity of thought, but in the end, we are all neighbors.

Finally, I want to thank every resident who serves on one of our Boards or Committees. We function well in no small part due to the hard work of these volunteers who give of their talent and time. Thank you.

Enjoy the rest of the spring, 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@missionhillssks.gov](mailto:info@missionhillssks.gov). You are always welcome to email me directly at [mayor@missionhillssks.gov](mailto:mayor@missionhillssks.gov).

## Upcoming Events

Beverages with Byron  
Thurs, May 9  
5:00-7 p.m.  
City Hall

Concert in the Park  
Sat, May 18  
5:30-8 p.m.  
City Hall Park  
\*5/19

Keim Street Fair  
Celebrating Mission Hills'  
75th Anniversary  
Sat, June 1  
4:30-9:30 p.m.  
Belinder Circle  
\*6/2

Food Truck Pop-Up  
Thurs, June 6  
5:30-8 p.m.  
Verona Columns Park

Food Truck Pop-Up  
Thurs, June 20  
5:30-8 p.m.  
Sunken Garden

Yoga in the Park  
Sat, Aug 24  
9 a.m.  
City Hall Park  
\*rain date

## Tips to Safeguard Against Scams - PVPD

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In recent years, scamming has become increasingly sophisticated, targeting individuals of all ages and backgrounds. The Prairie Village Police Department is committed to safeguarding our community from these fraudulent schemes. Here are some essential tips to help you avoid falling victim to scams:



1. **Be Skeptical:** Always question unexpected emails, phone calls, or messages requesting personal information or money. Scammers often pose as legitimate businesses, government agencies, or even friends and family members.

2. **Verify Identity:** Before sharing any personal or financial information, verify the identity of the individual or organization contacting you. Legitimate entities will not pressure you to provide sensitive details over the phone or online.

3. **Secure Transactions:** When making online purchases or financial transactions, ensure the website is secure. Look for HTTPS in the URL and a padlock icon in the address bar. Avoid entering sensitive information on unsecured websites or public Wi-Fi networks.

4. **Protect Personal Information:** Safeguard your personal and financial information at all costs. Avoid sharing details such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, and passwords unless absolutely necessary and with trusted sources.

5. **Educate Yourself:** Stay informed about the latest scamming tactics and warning signs. Visit reputable websites, such as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or the Better Business Bureau (BBB), for updates on common scams and fraud alerts.

6. **Trust Your Instincts:** If something seems too good to be true or feels suspicious, trust your instincts, and proceed with caution. Take the time to research and seek advice from trusted sources before making any decisions.

## Yard Sign Reminder

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- You may have one yard sign made of sound structural quality on your property for any length of time. In addition, you may have one temporary sign made of flimsier material such as paper for any length of time.
- No more than three (3) temporary signs may be placed on any lot from June 15 through August 15 and September 15 through November 15.
- All signs on your property must be at least 10 feet back from the curb line and neighboring property lines and all signs must be maintained in good condition.

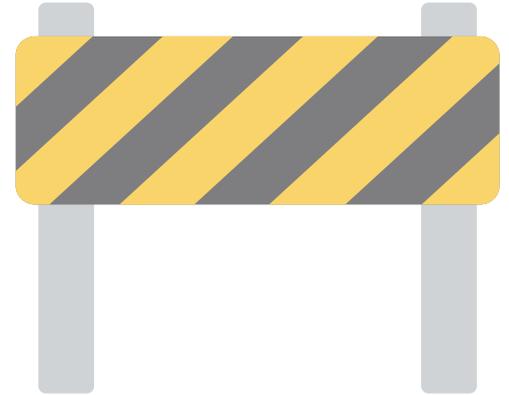
# City Hall Playground Improvement Project

The playground structure at City Hall has recently been enhanced. A circular swing was added and multiple pieces of the existing playground structure were updated. Mission Hills received a grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to replace the entire play surface with a soft, durable material made from recycled tires.



## Capital Investments – Several Detours Ahead

The City's 2024 capital improvement program includes the projects below. Our standard projects include replacing all the curb on the street, installing under curb drain, replacement of standard driveway approaches that are in disrepair, upgrading the stormwater system, and milling/overlaying the roadway with new asphalt. The City will communicate additional details to the residents who live adjacent to these projects. Several utilities, namely Kansas Gas and WaterOne, are planning improvements to their infrastructure along these stretches as well – their work has already begun in several locations.



- Mission Road (63rd to 67th Street) – Prairie Village is managing this joint mill and overlay project.
- Indian Lane (63rd to 66th Street) – This project includes significant stormwater work.
- 66th Street (Indian Lane to Mission Road) – This is a continuation of the above project from the wooden bridge to Mission Road.
- Overhill Road (59th Street north to Mission Drive)
- Eisenhower Pond – This will include an engineering firm evaluating the pond and making recommendations to improve its overall health.
- Undergrounding overhead utilities - 65th Street (State Line Road to Belinder Avenue)

Capital maintenance projects scheduled for this year include crack sealing streets as needed, applying a protective sealant to all new concrete, spot concrete replacement identified during our annual review process. Thank you for your patience as we make these important investments in our infrastructure.

Be on the lookout in 2025 when our major project is Belinder Avenue from Tomahawk Road south past 70th Terrace to the City's southern boundary.

# Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

Jesse Kirk, *City Arborist*



This year's pruning cycle encompassed Indian Hills Homes Association. The areas were awarded to two contractors, VanBooven Tree Care and KC Arborist. As I write this, KC Arborist is still working in their area. We strive to complete all cyclical pruning during the dormant season to minimize disease transmission. Oaks especially should only be pruned during dormancy, of course this isn't always possible because of storm damage. When oaks must be pruned outside the dormant season it is best to use pruning paint to seal the wounds. Early warm weather has trees coming out of dormancy weeks earlier than usual this year. We will likely adjust the pruning contract next year to reflect these shifting climate trends. It's the City's intention to prune all City owned trees in Tomahawk Roads Homes Association next year.

Over the last several years we have reduced our spraying program to only include pests we have problems with every year. This means that most of our spraying is of ornamental crabapples, pines, saucer magnolias and junipers. Occasionally we need to treat trees for sporadic disease or pests. These trees are typically stressed by a prior occurrence, usually construction, and we address these issues on a one-off basis.

Weather patterns in the Midwest are shifting towards higher precipitation events spaced further apart. Also, winter precipitation has been trending downward. These shifts from historic averages have meant more precipitation is running off and plant material is stressed due to decreased soil moisture. This stress along with quicker global trade is opening plant material up to increased pressure from both native and invasive insects and fungus. A recent online presentation I attended from a Missouri Department of Conservation entomologist painted a bleak picture. We strive to replace every tree we remove with a diverse palette of species adapted to tolerating these pressures. If you feel you have a suitable planting location within the right of way, reach out to the City. We'll assess the location and get you on the list for a tree in the subsequent planting cycle. This year we are scheduled to plant approximately 75-85 new trees in public spaces.

This will be my last Columns article. I've accepted a position starting/operating a Kansas City branch for Wellnitz Tree Care. I've learned so much over the last ten years working in Mission Hills and made innumerable connections between residents, contractors, utilities, and industry professionals. It's been an incredibly difficult decision on whether to give up such a great job and try something new. Mission Hills truly is a unique garden community, and I was fortunate to collaborate with a Council, Park Board and residents that truly value and prioritize the urban forest. I'll continue to be working within the Kansas City metro and look forward to opportunities to cross paths with you in the future!

The City is in the hiring process for a new City Arborist. If you have arborist related questions or issues, please call City Hall at 913-362-9620, as we have another arborist filling in on a limited basis.



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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:**  
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**City Council:**  
Bill Bruning  
Gregg Davidson  
Barbara Nelson  
Eden Thorne  
Andy Weed

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

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# JOIN US BEVERAGES

with  
*Byron*

On Thursday, May 9, Police Chief Byron Roberson and officers from the Prairie Village Police Department and residents can come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and enjoy a free beverage courtesy of the City. All residents are invited to attend. The event is from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at City Hall.