

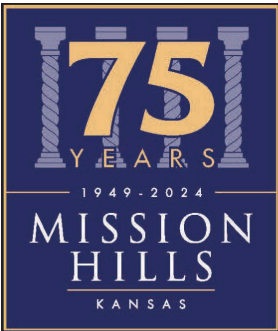


THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

August 2024

Visit us at
www.missionhillssks.gov



BULKY ITEM PICKUP
[September 14, 2024](#)

*See details in
included flier

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A Letter from Mayor Dickey

Fellow Residents:

Summer seems to pass faster than the other seasons. Perhaps it is the abundance of events abetted by long evenings, or the different patterns that come from students being out of school. Nonetheless, as Labor Day approaches, the season has flown by in our City.

As always, I begin with public safety and have continued good news to report.



Through the first half of 2024, residential burglaries are down 86% from 2023 and total theft is down 26%. The one negative mark is that we have had 2 more auto thefts through June in 2024 than in 2023, and unfortunately all but one of those has been from an unlocked vehicle with the keys left in it.

I have said this before, but your vigilance, combined with the work from our Police and Staff keep these numbers low. Please continue to practice the 9pm routine, lock your cars, don't leave valuables in plain view and if you see something amiss, please call the non-emergency police dispatch line at 913-642-5151.

Also on the public safety front, we need your help, particularly if you are a parent. E-bikes, e-scooters and e-everything have proliferated, and the Council and I have heard from many residents about their concerns on this topic. Unfortunately, many of our e-riders fail to follow the rules of the road and/or ride aggressively on our sidewalks. Often these riders are without helmets.

If you are a parent of a rider, please teach your young person that all manner of bikes and scooters, whether pedal- or e-powered, must obey traffic laws. Please have them refrain from riding on the sidewalk and insist they wear helmets. We will be working with our neighboring schools on education as well as looking at some ordinance changes that we hope will encourage safer use.

Finally on public safety as summer winds down and we transition to fall, remember to please wear reflective clothing or take a light with you if you walk, run or bike before dawn or after dusk. We all likely have stories of the near miss we've had with someone in dark clothing that was hard to see. Please help us keep everyone safe. Thank you!

For more information, visit www.missionhillssks.gov

Letter from the Mayor

(continued)

The summer has also seen a great deal of infrastructure work by the City as well as many other entities. Most notable is/was the work on Indian Lane and 63rd Street. Water One is replacing mains, and we had a storm sewer pipe fail. There have also been smaller projects throughout the City as we make sure to keep our roads, sewers and other assets in good repair.

Fiscally Mission Hills remains healthy. The Council and staff have been working on a 2025 budget that will fund our key priorities (public safety, infrastructure and great City services) while keeping the mill levy flat.

One question I get periodically is why we hold our reserve funds at particular levels. There are two drivers.

First, we always want to be prepared to respond to an unexpected event. As many of you know, this spring a tornado passed through Prairie Village and the corner of Fairway, ending at 63rd and Reinhardt. We hope to never have a tornado or similar event in our City, but our reserves would give us the ability to quickly tackle repairs.

Additionally, our reserve balances help us maintain our AAA credit rating as a City and thus keep our borrowing costs low.

We need your help on another topic as we head into the fall.

Election season is upon us and there are three things I hope you will all do:

1) Please vote. The news will be dominated by the national election, but we will vote for many state offices as well. Make your voice heard.

2) Please be respectful of your neighbors and fellow residents who may have different views than you.

3) If you choose to place signs in your yard, please keep them 10 or more feet from the curb out of the right-of-way.

Thank you in advance on all of these!

Have a wonderful final few days of summer 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.

Upcoming Events



Diner à Verona
Sat, September 21
6:00-10:30 p.m
Verona Columns



Movie in the Park
Sat, October 12
7:00 p.m
City Hall Park



Annual Tree Lighting
Sun, November 24
5:30 p.m
City Hall

Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

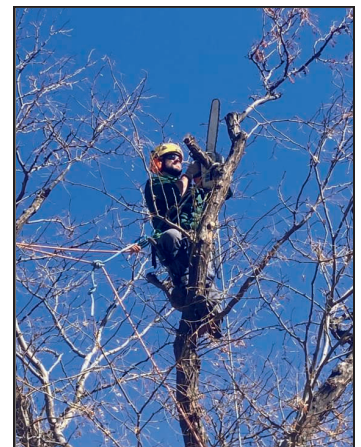
Cole Carmack *City Arborist*

My name is Cole Carmack, I just wanted to introduce myself as your new full-time Arborist for Mission Hills. I originally come from Illinois and moved out to Colorado a few years ago. I'm back in the Midwest now to be closer to my family. In Illinois I was working for my father's company trimming trees at a young age. I then went to college at Western Illinois University, where I received my masters in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration. This master's program was all encompassing and made me realize my passion for trees again and I moved at my first opportunity to Colorado.



In Colorado I was a climber for Davey Tree, I was the one removing trees and pruning them. I later moved up the ladder to a consulting arborist for a company called SavATree. I'm an avid outdoorsman, animal lover with two cats and hopes for a dog one day, I'm a traveler, and foodie so I know I am in the right place. I really enjoy being in a city that truly cares about trees and their surroundings. I have some big shoes to fill so hopefully I can exceed your expectations. I look forward to seeing you and hearing from all of you in the future. Do not hesitate to call and meet me either, I'd love to come out and chat about trees or just meet anyone new.

While I have your attention, I wanted to bring up our Urban Forestry Licenses (UFL) and its holders. In the month that I have been here I have found that not too many residents of Missions Hills know about this process and the list of individuals we have vetted. This list is on the city's website, and it offers companies that have passed out insurance requests and have been vetted for proper procedures. If you do have trimming that needs done and notice those individuals are not on the list, please, please tell them to come up to the City Hall and talk to us for a permit.



Finally, I have noticed many of the oak trees are having issues with browning patches and stress. I have confirmed that this is Kermes Scale. Kermes Scale can be harmful depending on its environment and the amount present in each tree. This isn't something that has to be treated annually because the amount of Kermes Scale is dependent on a lot of factors. I would recommend if your tree has more that 25% of the canopy browning, then you should have a licensed tree company fertilize and treat for at least 2 years.

Thank you all for your warm welcome and I will see you soon!

Cole Carmack

New Staff Member Joins Team

Jason Nickles *City Clerk*

My name is Jason, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new City Clerk for Mission Hills, Kansas. I'm originally from Lee's Summit, Missouri, but I've called Historic Northeast Kansas City home for the past eight years before recently moving to the lovely Armour Hills neighborhood.

My academic adventure started at the University of Missouri, where I earned a degree in Environmental Science. After spending five years in the biotechnical industry, I decided to

follow my passion for urban environments and completed a degree in Urban Planning & Design at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. This experience not only deepened my knowledge and skills but also sparked a keen interest in architecture and historic preservation.



When I'm not working, you can find me indulging in my love for gardening, biking, and fishing, or enjoying quality time with my dogs at the local dog park.

I'm excited to contribute to our community's ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the vibrant and desirable quality of life we all cherish.

Looking forward to meeting and working with you all!

75th Anniversary - Hats, Tumbler & Banner For Sale *supplies are limited

Join us in commemorating the City's 75th anniversary!

The City of Mission Hills was officially incorporated on June 15, 1949. This year's calendar of events has provided opportunities for residents to gather and celebrate this milestone. Residents can now purchase keepsake items with the 75th anniversary logo featured on the streetlight banners throughout the City.

Call or stop by City Hall to purchase your 75th anniversary memorabilia.



Items available for purchase include khaki, white, denim, and navy hats and single and box set Tervis tumblers, as well as streetlight banners. Note: Banner cost will be determined based on total number of orders.

Home Burglary Prevention Tips - Prairie Village Police Department

Overall, Mission Hills is a safe city to live in. It's also a very nice city to live in! Unfortunately, nicer homes, vehicles, and the like can sometimes attract burglars to the area. The Prairie Village Police Department is committed to solving crime, responding to crime, and doing its best to prevent crime. However, you play an important role in all of it. The following are tips on preventing home burglaries. While nothing can completely deter crime, these tips can significantly enhance the security of your home and property.



Controlling Access:

- Install deadbolt locks on your exterior doors, and other locking devices on sliding glass doors and windows. Install locks on your garages, sheds, and side yard gates. Consider installing a home security system with 24/7 monitoring (be sure to display the alarm system sign in a visible place as another deterrent).

Providing Visibility:

- Well-lit homes are less likely to be targeted by burglars. Install outdoor lights and leave them on after dark or have them controlled by motion sensors.

Protecting Your Home/Property When You Are Not Home:

- Nearly all burglaries occur when people are away from their homes. One of the most effective things you can do to deter a break-in is to make it look like someone is home. Use timers on lights, radios, and TV's. Program them to go on and off during the normal times you typically use them.
- Ask your neighbors to watch your home while you're gone. Have them pick up your mail and remove the delivered packages as soon as they arrive.
- If you're not comfortable leaving your vehicle parked outside in your driveway (locked and without any valuables inside, of course), ask if your neighbor would be willing to park their vehicle in your driveway while you're gone.
- It's also a good idea to avoid posting on social media your plans to be away from your home.

Overall, you want to create the illusion that you are home! Along with these tips, feel free to take advantage of the house watch program while you're on vacation or away. It can be found on the City of Mission Hills' website under the Public Safety section.



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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Barbara Nelson
Eden Thorne
Andy Weed

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Projects Requiring Building Permits

Please let this serve as a reminder that building permits are required for any projects besides new houses, additions, or interior remodels. Exterior projects that require building permits include but not limited to:

- Driveways and walkways
- Patios
- Pools and spas
- Outdoor kitchens
- Fences, walls and gates
- Deck, pergola and arbors
- Windows and doors
- Flagpole
- Generators and pad
- In-ground trampolines
- Invisible fences
- Most play equipment
- Sport courts
- Roofs
- Solar panels
- HVAC/generator units and pad
- Radon systems
- Irrigation systems
- New sump pumps
- Foundation repairs

Please don't hesitate to reach out to City Staff to discuss your upcoming project. City Hall can be reached at 913-362-9620.