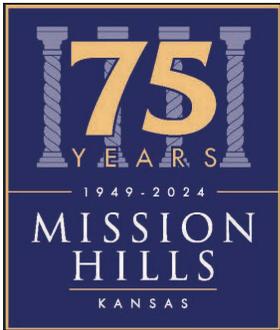


THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

December 2024

Visit us at
www.missionhillssks.gov



**Unlimited Trash
Week**

The week of
December 30th

See details on pg. 2

Contents

Letter from the Mayor
Con't / Upcoming Events
p. 2

Out on a Limb/New City
Arborist p.3

Solar Update p.4

Holiday Packages:
Preventing Thefts p.5

Pedestrian Safety
Reminder p.6

A Letter from Mayor Dickey

Fellow Residents:

The holiday season is upon us and festive decorations are appearing across our City!

As always, I will begin with public safety, and in particular some important holiday reminders. First, if you will be traveling this season, please take advantage of our Police house watch service. When you register, the Police will periodically drive by your property to ensure all is well and there is no unusual activity.

You can register via the Police Department website:

<https://www.pvkansas.com/departments/police-department/house-watch-program>

Second, tis the season for pirates, specifically porch pirates. Please try to retrieve packages from your porch quickly. If you see unusual activity at your house or your neighbors, please report it by calling 911 (if you see a crime) or 913-642-5151 (Police non-emergency). If you have cameras, particularly doorbell cameras, please register them with the Police Video Cooperative. If a crime is committed near your home, this lets the Police know that you can be contacted to see if you might have video that would be helpful in solving that crime.

Speaking of our crime and safety statistics, through September we are still having an overall good year. Burglary is down 44% from 2023. Theft is down 2.6%. We still have far too many thefts of and from automobiles that are unlocked. Please lock your car and DO NOT leave your keys in it or valuables in plain sight. Thank you for your continued vigilance on this (and please keep practicing the 9pm routine!).

I discussed this in the summer newsletter, but with the days shorter, please wear reflective clothing and/or lights when you walk, run or bike in the City. And as a driver, please be aware of pedestrians and cyclists.



For more information, visit www.missionhillssks.gov

Letter from the Mayor (continued)

A final note on public safety. The Council has spent a great deal of time on several ordinance changes to help address the challenges we have with scooters and e-bikes. Additionally, the Police have been doing extensive education in our local schools on this topic and our friends in Prairie Village are looking at some ordinance changes as well. We will stay on this topic and likely align our ordinances with Prairie Village to make enforcement straightforward.

Changing gears to infrastructure, we have completed the vast majority of our projects for the year. We had projects large and small, and I want to thank all of you for your patience when those projects impact you, your family and friends.

For 2025 we have a full slate of projects including redoing Belinder (Tomahawk south to City limit), 70th Terrace (Overhill to Belinder) and the addition of several more connecting sidewalk sections and trails. Look for more details in our Spring Newsletter.

Financially the City continues to be strong. The Council passed a budget for 2025 that maintains the mill levy flat and allows us to maintain the high level of Police protection, infrastructure and City services that we all expect.

As always, I want to thank all our volunteers that serve on our six Boards and Committees. They continue to do great work to ensure our City looks beautiful, is safe, and has wonderful events.

I want to congratulate our Police Chief, Byron Roberson, on his election to Johnson County Sherriff. While we will miss Byron, I am glad that he will still be a part of the public safety team that helps to keep us, and our neighboring communities, safe every day.

Finally, we have many wonderful service providers who help us all throughout the year (trash, recycling, etc.). If you would like to leave a card or small gift for any of them, City Hall is happy to safely collect them and ensure they reach the right recipient.

Have a wonderful holiday season and happy new year! 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.

Thank you!

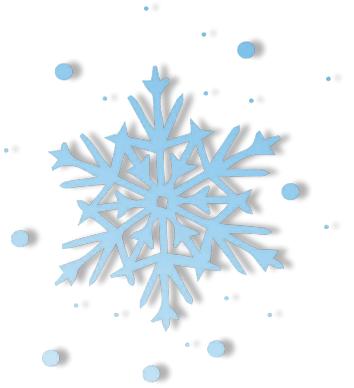
Holiday Trash and Tree Collection Update for the Week of December 23rd and the Week of December 30th

- If your normal trash and recycling occurs on Wednesday (12/25 and 1/1), or Thursday (12/26 and 1/2), or Friday (12/27 and 1/3) your pickup will be delayed one day.
- Additionally, the week of December 30th includes unlimited trash pickup. You do not need to purchase trash stickers for any additional trash that does not fit in your cart.
- Waste Management will be collecting live Christmas trees on Monday, December 30 and Monday, January 6. Please be sure to remove all decorations prior to placing at curb.

Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

Cole Carmack *City Arborist*

It's hard to say where winter will take us. Winter is a critical time for all trees and shrubs because they are using up their energy reserves in the winter. If you have any freshly planted shrubs or trees this year or just some plants you want to take care of, I recommend giving them water about once a week. If it snows, I would hold off or if it is below freezing, I would hold off. Do not put water directly up against the plant, this is to avoid cracking on the bark and cracking of the internal wood of the tree or shrub. I would recommend getting a five-gallon bucket and drilling 2 to 4, ¼ inch holes in the lower base of the bucket and then place it in proximity to your plantings. This is a way to give your planting or trees in general a nice slow watering in the winter. The bigger the tree the more water needed, keep that in mind but any water will go a long way to help our plants out from this drought we are experiencing.



If you are looking to get your trees pruned in the winter that is a very good time to do so. The trees will respond favorably to this, and it is the best time to trim for some species. This includes oaks, fruit bearing trees, and crabapples. Winter pruning also reduces the risk of disease transmission and that is something to keep in mind for oak wilt especially.

A good portion of you will be receiving letters from me if you had a tree removed this year by the City. Make sure to look at that so you can have a say in what tree you would like on your property, I will do my best to get you the tree you want but there will be some caveats with this. If you have been missed in the arborist transition, please give me a call so I can look at getting you a new tree or even if it is just to meet you and give you a tree consult!

Finally, the City will be pruning the street trees in the THRA / Tomahawks Road Homes Association area starting January. I will be sending our notices for that soon as well. I hope you all have a great fall and winter and get to enjoy the holidays!

Fall and Winter Checklist

- 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.
- If we are experiencing dry weather this fall and winter it is important to continue watering your trees and shrubs. Concentrate your watering efforts on the area within the dripline of the plant.

Solar Update

Jill Clifton *City Planner*

In the Fall of 2023, the City commissioned the Wiese Research Group to conduct a city-wide survey of residents to gauge feedback on a number of topics including the current guidelines and potential installation of solar structures on roofs. The City's Design Guidelines at that time recommended solar panels not be installed on roofs facing the street. Forty-six percent of survey respondents indicated they would like the current Guideline to remain as is, 42% indicated they would like to allow solar panels on street facing roof facades with some aesthetic standards, and 12% indicated they would like to allow solar panels anywhere on the roof.



After multiple discussions at the City's Planning Commission and City Council meetings during the past year, a new Design Guideline recommendation was adopted that states:

Solar panels are not allowed on street facing roof facades. Integrated solar roof systems and solar shingles may be allowed on street facing roof facades if the Architectural Review Board finds that they meet the following criteria: 1) installed to cover all roof facades to create a uniform appearance; 2) have anti-reflective surface, and 3) solar shingles to be rectangular in shape.

This recommendation distinguishes between solar panels and solar shingles/integrated solar roofs. The City's Zoning Regulations only allow solar structures that are directly mounted against the roof or integrated into the roof of a building. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions about possible solar installations on your roof.

As Winter Approaches

Before the first flakes fall we wanted to take the time to share information with you regarding your snow removal.

- When clearing snow from your driveway, do not place the snow from your driveway back into the street as it causes problems for drivers on the street and is a violation of City ordinance. Additionally, if you have a private contractor remove the snow from your driveway and they push the snow to the street opposite your driveway please ask them to be sure and clean up all snow left on the roadway.
- If you are using a snow blower to clear your driveway or sidewalk, please do not blow the snow onto the street, as this too is a violation of City ordinance.
- When snow is expected, we always encourage residents to park their vehicles in the driveway and do not allow vehicles to extend into the roadway. Cars in the roadway slow snow removal operations and results in cars being buried behind the plowed snow.

We certainly understand that snow removal can be a challenge, but helping us keep additional snow off of the roadway ensures safer travel conditions and eliminates additional snow removal costs.

Holiday Packages: Preventing Thefts - Prairie Village Police Department

The holiday season is here! This season brings lots and lots of joy as we spend time with family and celebrate the different holidays. Unfortunately, this means that we'll see an uptick in package thefts. Online shopping is very popular, and thieves often seize the opportunity to steal deliveries left on doorsteps or around the house. They often target homes with visible deliveries and sometimes, the crime occurs within a few minutes of the packages being dropped off.



While not entirely theft-proof, here are some practical tactics to help you safeguard your packages throughout the holiday season:

Tips to Help Prevent Package Theft

Schedule Deliveries

Consider having packages delivered when you know you'll be home. If possible, use delivery services that allow you to specify a time or date for drop-offs.

Setup Delivery Notifications

Sign up for notifications from your delivery service. This way, you'll know exactly when a package is arriving and can bring it inside or have someone such as a neighbor bring it inside.

Choose Secure Delivery Locations

Many carriers offer options to deliver packages to secure locations such as Amazon Locker. Also, some local retailers partner with delivery services to hold packages for pick-up.

Invest in a Security Camera

Installing a security camera can act as a deterrent. Visible cameras can discourage potential thieves, while recorded footage can assist the police department if a theft occurs. Disclaimer: cameras seem to rarely serve as a deterrent as many criminals wear masks when approaching a house.

Use a Smart Doorbell

Smart doorbells with video capabilities allow you to monitor your front porch and communicate with delivery drivers. You can check in on your deliveries in real time.

Engage Neighbors

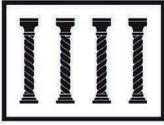
Ask your neighbor to pick up your package if you're not home when they're delivered. They can bring in packages if you're away, or at least keep an eye out.

Require a Signature for Delivery

If possible, choose delivery options that require a signature upon receipt. This ensures that packages are handed directly to someone, rather than just left on a porch.

Monitor Your Packages

If you notice suspicious activity around your home, such as someone loitering, call the police department immediately. Chances are that we have someone in the area! **Please keep using the non-emergency police dispatch line (913-642-5151), or dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.**



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.

Mayor:

David W. Dickey

City Council:

Bill Bruning
Gregg Davidson
Barbara Nelson
Eden Thorne
Andy Weed

City of Mission Hills

Ph: 913-362-9620

info@missionhillssks.gov

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 619
Kansas City, MO

Pedestrian Safety Reminder

To ensure everyone's safety, pedestrians and drivers should keep these key laws and tips in mind. For pedestrians:

- Stay as far from the road as possible when walking, especially on narrow streets.
- Face traffic on two-way roads if walking on streets without sidewalks, to better see and avoid oncoming vehicles.



Drivers, please remember that speed limits are not suggestions—they're set specifically to protect all road users. When driving in neighborhoods, keep a close eye out for children near parks, school zones, and residential areas.

For increased visibility, City Hall and the Police Department now provide free reflective vests for residents. These are available for pickup—just visit either office to request one!