



# COLUMNS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MISSION HILLS

## A Letter from Mayor Dickey



### *Fellow Residents,*

The end of spring and first half of summer always seems to fly by.

There are so many activities to enjoy - wonderful weather, beautiful flowers, fabulous community activities, graduations and so much more!

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July behind us, I'd like to, as always, start with public safety.

As you have heard me say many times, successfully keeping crime at bay is a team effort between residents, our police and staff. I am pleased to say the first five months of 2025 show the positive impacts of that effort!

Burglary is down 33% year-to-date through May, and theft is down an

amazing 60%. This is not luck. Through the end of May we have had ZERO thefts of items from motor vehicles compared to 10 through May of 2024. Locking cars, not putting valuables in plain sight and just being smart helps to make this happen. Thank you.

Our police continue to vigorously patrol and use our expanding license plate reader (LPR) and camera system to deter crime as well as arrest criminals. So please thank them if you have a chance as well.

At the risk of being repetitive, this is an infinite game; please continue your vigilance! Lock your car. Don't leave valuables in sight. Practice the 9pm routine. Use the non-emergency police number (913-642-5151) when you see something suspicious that does not rise to the level of emergency.

We have also taken two important actions that I know are important to many of you.

First, the Council passed a comprehensive set of ordinances aimed at electric bicycles, scooters, skateboards and the like. It builds on action the Council took last year, and hopefully provides a template for our neighboring communities to also take action. The June Council packet on the City's website has the details.

I have received more concerns and comments on this topic in the last two years than almost any other. We all worry about kids on these vehicles not obeying traffic laws, not wearing helmets, riding aggressively on sidewalks and more.

The actions we've taken are a next step, and build on the ordinance the Council passed last year, in addition to the education that our Police Department has been giving in the elementary and middle schools that serve our City.

As always, we need your help. If you are a parent of a young person who uses one of these electric vehicles, PLEASE teach them proper riding habits, including the rules of the road. Have them wear a helmet. Tell them either not to ride on the sidewalk, or if they do, to be respectful of walkers.

Second, the City installed a new crosswalk at Belinder and 63<sup>rd</sup> with enhanced striping and signage. This was based on recommendations from our engineers as well as public input and we believe it will make crossing 63<sup>rd</sup> safer for walkers.

Let's talk community events.

Thank you to our Community Engagement Committee for another wonderful start to our year! From our fabulous Street Fair, to our pop-up in Sunken Garden, to Pizza with the Police, we have already had a great set of events.

We have several more events to look forward to in 2025. Please reference the dates in this newsletter and on the City's website. Please note, Stroll magazine published a list of community events in their June issue that seems to have been an AI hallucination, so please don't rely on that!

*Continued...*

## A Letter from Mayor Dickey, *Continued*

Exciting news on the capital front.

We will soon close on our purchase of the Lutheran Church across from City Hall. As I mentioned in our Spring Newsletter, the City had the opportunity to acquire this property, which is one of five non-residential properties in our City. The Council appropriately felt this was a unique opportunity given the proximity to City Hall and was unanimous in support of acquiring the site.

The Council President, Andy Weed, will be chairing a committee to evaluate, with extensive public input, what comes next with the acquisition. The church congregation will continue to operate from the building for the next 18 months. The evaluation will be deliberate, transparent and make use of the time we have.

Also on the capital front, our largest project of the year, the repaving and new curbs on Belinder, had to be pushed to 2026. The City always tries to coordinate with other infrastructure providers like Water One and Kansas Gas, and the timing of their work necessitated the push-back of one year.

You will still see a lot of work over the summer and fall. As always, thank you for your patience when the work we do impacts your commute or your front yard!



*Belinder Court before the Annual Keim Street Fair*

A few final thoughts.

One of the defining characteristics of Mission Hills is the amazing, beautiful tree canopy. We have an exceptional arborist who can consult with you at your home about the trees on your property and provide recommendations.

This service is particularly important now that we have some modest infestation of disease in our Pin Oak population. Unlike the Emerald Ash Borer, this condition is treatable, and I encourage you to call City Hall to request a consultation.

Financially, the Council has preliminarily approved a balanced budget for 2026 that once again does not raise the mil levy. The Council will work over the rest of the summer to finalize it, and I am confident the core elements of the current draft will become our budget for 2026.

**Happy summer** – enjoy our beautiful public spaces! 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](mailto:info@missionhillsks.gov). You are always welcome to email me directly at [mayor@missionhillsks.gov](mailto:mayor@missionhillsks.gov).

*Thank you!*

## 2025 Comprehensive Plan Open House

We need **your feedback** on the draft comprehensive plan components!

**Thursday, September 25th**  
**5:00-7:00 PM**  
**First Lutheran Church**  
**6400 State Line Road**

## | Contain the Rain

The City of Mission Hills participates in Johnson County's *Contain the Rain program*. This program was created to encourage individual homeowners and businesses to incorporate **sustainable landscape solutions** on their property to aid in the improvement of local and regional water quality.

The **reimbursement program** will pay applicants up to **50% of eligible expenses**, not to exceed a project reimbursement cap for the proper installation of the following: Pollinator/native gardens, rain barrels, native trees or rain gardens.

If you are interested please call City Hall at 913-362-9620 or visit [www.missionhillsks.gov/354/Contain-the-Rain](http://www.missionhillsks.gov/354/Contain-the-Rain) for more information.

## | Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

Pin oaks have been hit hard in the past year by Kermes scale; an insect closely related to other scale insects such as soft scales and armored scales. Their primary hosts are trees in the oak family, particularly those in the red oak group, although they can infest other oaks as well. Kermes scales feed by inserting their straw-like mouthparts into the phloem tissue of twigs, small branches, and buds to suck out plant sap. This feeding causes significant damage, including twig and branch dieback, premature leaf drop is due to stress, and a general reduction in tree vigor. Eggs are laid in late spring to early summer, and the crawlers (the only mobile stage) disperse during this time to find feeding sites. Once they settle, they remain stationary. Indirect damage includes the secretion of honeydew, which leads to the growth of sooty mold that can block sunlight from reaching leaves. The honeydew also attracts ants and wasps. To manage infestations, the best treatment window is during the crawler stage in late spring. Insecticidal soaps or horticultural oil sprays are effective currently. With the size of most of the oaks you will have to use a systemic insecticide such as imidacloprid or dinotefuran and that can be applied in the fall or early spring for longer-term control. Please call me if you have any questions or need a diagnosis on your oak tree.

This spring provided excellent conditions for our

trees, with abundant rain and moisture promoting healthy growth. However, with the onset of June's heat, we've noticed several trees, such as lindens, starting to lose their leaves. Don't worry, this is a natural response. The trees are adapting to the sudden weather change and managing stress. Shedding leaves is a way for trees to reduce transpiration by which water evaporates from leaf surfaces. By dropping some foliage, the tree minimizes water loss and increases its chances of surviving until conditions improve. To support your trees during this transition, apply mulch around the base (2 to 4 inches thick) to help retain soil moisture, but keep it away from direct contact with the trunk. Deep watering during dry spells, especially in June and July, is highly beneficial. Additionally, pruning deadwood in winter or early spring can reduce stress, and avoid excessive fertilization. If you observe entire branches dying back, a lack of new buds forming, heavy fungal spotting or blackened leaves, or repeated defoliation year after year, it may indicate a more serious problem.

**Cole Carmack, City Arborist**

BULKY ITEM  
PICK UP

2025

SEPTEMBER 13

# New Rules for Electric Bike/Scooter Safety

With the prevalence and proliferation of electric bikes, scooters and more there is a substantive concern for safety of all users of City streets and sidewalks. The City has passed an ordinance specifically to address this. Highlights from Ordinance No. 1677 include:

1. All minors, including non-operators, on electric-assisted bicycles, electric-assisted scooters, motorized bicycles and motorized skateboards within the City are required to wear a secured helmet while riding.

2. Electric-assisted bicycles, electric-assisted scooters, motorized bicycles and motorized skateboards shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

3. Electric-assisted bicycles and motorized bicycles shall not be operated on sidewalks within the City.

**Parents, PLEASE share with your children.**

## PEDESTRIAN & ROAD

### Safety Tips

**1**

#### E-BIKE & E SCOOTER

When you ride your E-Bike on streets and roads, you're a vehicle in the eyes of the law.



- *stop at stop signs and red lights*
- *use appropriate lanes*
- *yield when you don't have the right of way*
- *use turn signals or hand signals when appropriate*
- *use required lights in dim or dark conditions*
- *be respectful of pedestrians*

**2**

#### HELMETS

All minors, including non-operators, on electric-assisted bicycles, electric-assisted scooters, motorized bicycles and motorized skateboards within the City are required to wear a secured helmet while riding.



**3**

#### RIDING ON A STREET

If going less than the normal speed of traffic, bicycles and e-scooters must be operated as near to the right side of the roadway as is practical with these exceptions: when passing another vehicle going in the same direction; when preparing for a left turn; or when reasonably necessary to avoid obstacles and surface hazards.



# 2025 Elections

- August 5 : The primary election in Johnson County will be held for only one (1) contest race: the City of Lenexa - City Council Ward 1 position, so **no primary election for Mission Hills voters.**
- October 14 : Voter Registration Deadline for the November 4<sup>th</sup> General Election
- October 25 : In-Person Advance Voting Begins
- October 28 : Mail Ballot Application Deadline
- November 4 : General Election

# 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Due to extensive work by the utilities (main replacement and relocations), the City's major capital project for 2025 has been pushed to early 2026. Belinder Road (south of Tomahawk to the City limit just south of 70<sup>th</sup> Terrace) was scheduled to receive major stormwater upgrades and a new roadway, sidewalks, curbs and driveway approaches (as needed). All that work is now slated to be completed in 2026.

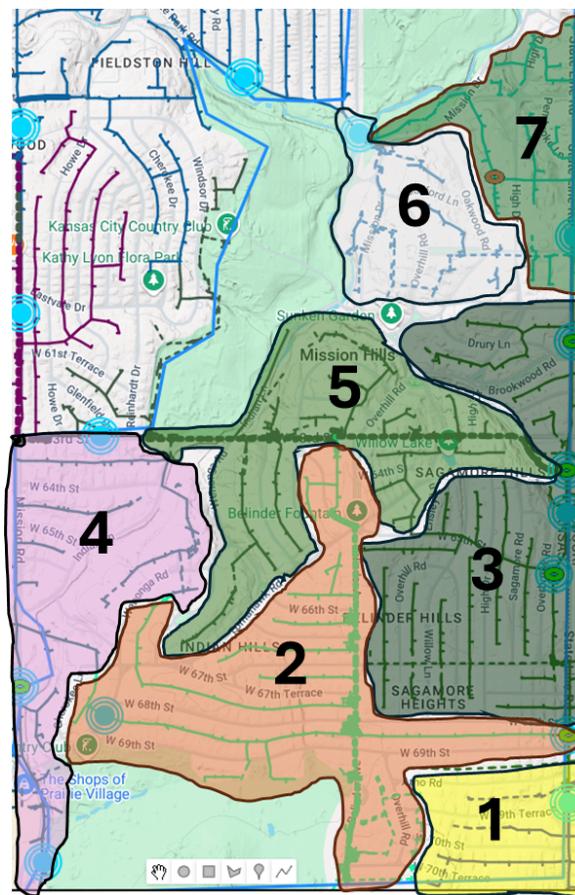
The utility work should begin in the fall and we are asking them to conclude work prior to Thanksgiving so residents can enjoy the holiday season. WaterOne and Kansas Gas are both planning to replace a large portion of their infrastructure along Belinder, which will displace Google and require their relocation as well.

Since the City project will not immediately follow the utility work some of the restoration will be temporary in nature, but all areas will be completely restored following the City's project in 2026. We thank you for your patience as these important infrastructure investments are completed.

With the delay of the Belinder project the City is planning to replace the creek wall along Indian Lane (near 65<sup>th</sup> Street) that failed in 2024. The City will also be doing several small mill/pave projects throughout the City. Those affected will receive more information about the timing of those asphalt projects as it will impact access to driveways on paving days.

# Tree Trimming Cycle

The map below shows Evergy's planned tree trimming schedule around their transmission lines and equipment. Evergy generally prunes to provide at least 10 feet of clearance around their lines to reduce outages during thunderstorms and winter weather. Evergy's normal procedure is to leave the removed limbs onsite for the property owner to remove. The City Arborist works with Evergy's pruning contractors to try and address issues and questions from residents. Please contact City Hall if you need any assistance.



Circuit	Previous trim	Next trim *
1	2020	2025
2	2020	2025
3	2022	2026
4	2018	2025
5	2023	2027
6	2024	2028
7	2020	2025

\*Subject to change

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS ANDERSON

# COLUMNS

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Event Flyer included

LION (WENONGA, SENECA ROAD ISLAND)

SUMMER 2025



**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.

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# COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENT

Paper Shredding, Electronics Recycling,  
Eyeglass Collecting

**SATURDAY, OCT. 11 // 9 A.M.–NOON**  
Nations Holding, 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.



## EYEGLASS RECYCLING

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

## 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 \$25 fee** for computers and **\$40 fee** for TVs.
- ▶ Everything else with a chord is **FREE**.
- ▶ List of acceptable items: [securecycle.com/items](https://securecycle.com/items)

Contact your City Hall with any questions.



9 A.M. TO NOON ON  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER  
18, 2025

POWELL COMMUNITY  
CENTER, 6200  
MARTWAY, IN  
MISSION, KANSAS

# ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

## Save the Date!

### 2025 Save the Dates!

Diner  
à Verona



**Sept. 13**  
Saturday  
6-10:30 p.m.  
Verona Columns

Revel in a Slim Aarons themed adult soirée with alfresco dining and live music from The Crayons Band. Details in formal invite to come.

Dress attire: 1960's

Rain Date: Sept. 20

Fall  
Festival



**Oct. 4**  
Saturday  
4:30-8 p.m.  
Colonial Court

New this year is the City's first annual Fall Festival - perfect for the family! Live tunes from the Travis Gibson Band, Oktoberfest fare and nostalgic games are on tap.

Tree  
Lighting



**Nov. 23**  
Sunday  
5:30 p.m.  
City Hall

Ring in the holiday season with caroling, cookies, cocoa and ... SANTA!

