



COLUMNS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MISSION HILLS

A Letter from Mayor Dickey



Fellow Residents,

Thank you.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your mayor for the past 8 years, and as a Council Member and Treasurer for the previous 12. I certainly have a new perspective on term limits as I reach the end of my two terms!

To all of the wonderful residents who have volunteered on our boards and Council these past 20 years, thank you for your service. Our City is better for the time these neighbors dedicate to our community.

To our staff, present and previous, I thank you. We have (and have had) wonderful people who help ensure our City runs effectively every day.

And finally, a special shout out to former Mayor David Fromm. David was willing to appoint a young-ish resident to the treasurer role two decades ago, and then encouraged me to run for Council two years later. Thank you, David!

Thank you for indulging me. Now on to Public Safety.

Through August, all types of burglary are down 60%. All thefts are down 58%. This is no accident, and not luck. The work every resident does to practice the 9pm routine, ensure their cars are locked (with no keys in them!), and report suspicious activity helps make our City safer.

And the work our police and staff do daily to patrol, deter and investigate plays an equally critical role. For my final time, I encourage you to put 913-642-5151, the PV police non-emergency phone number in your speed dial!

Staying on the public safety front, the City took an important step earlier this year by passing a comprehensive set of ordinances regulating e-scooters / bikes / skateboards.

I thank the Council for taking this initiative – Prairie Village quickly followed and improved on what we had passed. We quickly matched their improvements. I have also encouraged other cities in Northeast Johnson County to take action as well.

There is still more work to do, and frankly, we need the state to take action. I find it crazy that Kansas requires you to be 14 to ride a moped with a max speed of 30-

mph, but there is not a similar age requirement for a class 3 e-bike with a max speed of 28 mph, or any requirement for e-bikes that exceed 28 mph.

My final thought on this topic is directed to parents. If you have a child who rides any type of bike, scooter or skateboard, whether powered or not, **please** teach them the rules of the road. I hear from so many residents who have had a close call and never want to hear about an accident because someone failed to follow those rules.

A few more safety items.

This summer the Council agreed to fund a one-year trial of a drone-as-first-responder (DFR) in partnership with Prairie Village. This is a specialized drone that can launch from the Prairie Village Police HQ and be on site in Mission Hills in minutes. The drone can be piloted by dispatch, and has a variety of capabilities including thermal cameras. Lenexa is currently deploying 9 of these DFRs which make it safer for all first responders. Imagine the fire department knowing that a structure is fully engulfed before arrival or our PD being able to more safely guide Blaze, our police dog, to a suspect! We will learn a lot in the next year, and I am confident it will be a long-term addition to our public safety infrastructure.

There are also plans to add cameras and/or license plate readers (LPRs) at the rest of the ingress/egress points in the City that currently do not have them. As

Continued...

A Letter from Mayor Dickey, *Continued*

you will recall, several years ago we started small, with just a few cameras and LPRs, and now have them at about 80% of entry and departure points in the Mission Hills, as well as a few interior points in the City. Almost every Council meeting our Chief of Police is able to cite how these tools have helped us solve crimes and put offenders in jail. And I am confident they deter crime as well.

We bought a church. :-)

As I mentioned at the Joint Homes Meeting in January and in the Spring Newsletter, the City was approached by the Lutheran Church across from City Hall late last year about acquiring the property. After nearly a year long study and analysis, we closed on the property in August. In the Summer Newsletter I mentioned that Council President Andy Weed is leading the committee and public discourse on what comes next for this property. There will be multiple open houses and similar public dialogue, so please be participatory!

With fall now upon us, I want to again thank the Community Engagement Committee for their wonderful slate of events over the summer. Every event was fabulous, and I was so happy our weather for Dinner a Verona was absolutely beautiful. And the new Fall Fest event at Colonial Court in early October was a fantastic addition. Please join us for the tree lighting ceremony at City Hall, our final event of the year.

Fiscally the City is in excellent shape. The Council passed the 2026 budget in the September meeting. Once again, the mil levy is flat (now for more than 20 years), all key services are funded to the level you expect as a resident, and we maintained our AAA bond rating.

A city's comprehensive plan is its guiding strategic document. It lays out a city's history, where it has been and where it wants to go. It must be reviewed annually by the Planning Commission and updated every decade by state law. In December, a steering committee began work with a consultant to update the Mission Hills Comprehensive Plan. There have been public meetings, a public visioning session, and a lot of work. Last month the Steering Committee hosted an open house to present the first draft of the revised City Comprehensive Plan to all residents.

I want to thank the Steering Committee and all of the residents for their work and input thus far. Please know there is much more work to be done, public input to be had and revisions to be made as the Planning Commission works through this proposal. Make your voice heard as this process continues through the year (and maybe into next). All of this material can be found on the City's website.

Finally, please vote on November 4th. In addition to the City's mayor and council races, we have several other County elections to decide. Please make your voice heard!

Even after the election, please keep providing our new mayor, City Council and boards with feedback, regardless of your position on a particular topic. We are fortunate to have thoughtful, smart, engaged residents whose feedback is incredibly helpful to decision-making. Please help the City's next 75 years be as good or better than our first 75+!

Happy autumn. Enjoy our beautiful public spaces! I have appreciated your feedback the last 8 years and am confident the mayor elected in November will want to hear from you as well!

You are welcome to call City Hall at 913-362-9620 or email info@missionhillssks.gov. You are always welcome to email me directly at mayor@missionhillssks.gov.

All the best!

Important 2025 Election Dates

- October 14 : Voter Registration Deadline for the November 4th General Election
- October 25 : In-Person Advance Voting Begins
- October 28 : Mail Ballot Application Deadline
- November 4 : General Election

Out on a Limb; Tree Talk

As we head into winter, our annual pruning season is just around the corner. Pruning for the Mission Hills Homes Company will begin January 2, 2026. Contractors will be finalized by December 2, 2025, and residents will receive a postcard with details shortly after. This past year, we've seen several insect issues affecting our trees. Kermes scale continues to spread in our oak population and often leads to secondary fungal infections. I highly recommend having oaks treated in the spring. Treatments typically last 2-5 years, depending on environmental conditions and products used. While infestations can return, treatment is not needed for the lifetime of the tree.

We also saw a rise in mimosa webworm on honey locusts, likely due to this summer's heavy rainfall. While webworms generally cause aesthetic damage and rarely kills a healthy tree, it can be fatal when combined with other stress factors. Treatments are usually done in July. Although it is not required long-term, some residents choose to treat regularly for cosmetic reasons. A reminder: if you hire a tree company, please ensure they are licensed with the City of Mission Hills. A UFL (Urban Forestry License) costs \$60 per calendar year and ensures that companies are bonded, insured, and staffed with a certified arborist. This protects both residents and our community's trees.

Please if you are looking at getting trees removed or worked on contact me, I am more than happy to offer my opinion and assess your trees as a non-biased 3rd party.

Fall and winter Tips

- Wrap your younger trees through the winter and unwrap them in the spring when we are maintaining temperatures over 50 degrees.
- Prune out smaller dead branches when you can.
- 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.

Cole Carmack, City Arborist

HOLIDAY TRASH & TREE COLLECTION

 Unlimited Trash pickup week of December 29th

 Live Christmas tree pickup Monday, December 29th and Monday, January 5th

HELPFUL REMINDERS

- 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.
- As leaves begin to fall please remember you may not blow your leaves into the streets/curb inlets, creeks or pond.
- 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 home.

Capital Improvement Updates

Belinder Road Project*

Join us for an open house at City Hall on Tuesday, October 21 between 5:30 – 7:00 pm to review plans for the project and visit with representatives from the utilities. Utility work will likely be underway on Belinder when you receive this. There will be a break in construction from Thanksgiving to January 1. Utility work will resume in early January, and the City's portion will begin in March/April 2026. Please scan the QR code below to visit on the Belinder Project page of the Mission Hills website. This will be updated periodically.



**Note: This project includes street and stormwater improvements on Belinder Road from Tomahawk south to the City limits, a portion of 68th Street west of Belinder, behind the homes on the south side of 69th Street just west of Belinder and on 70th Terrace from Belinder to Overhill.*

Milling/Paving Several Roads this Fall

The City has contracted to put down new asphalt on several streets this fall (the list and schedule are available at www.missionhillssks.gov). Prior to milling/paving spot concrete replacements will also be completed on these streets. All residents affected by the project will receive a letter by mail.

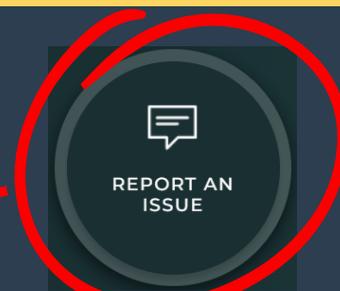
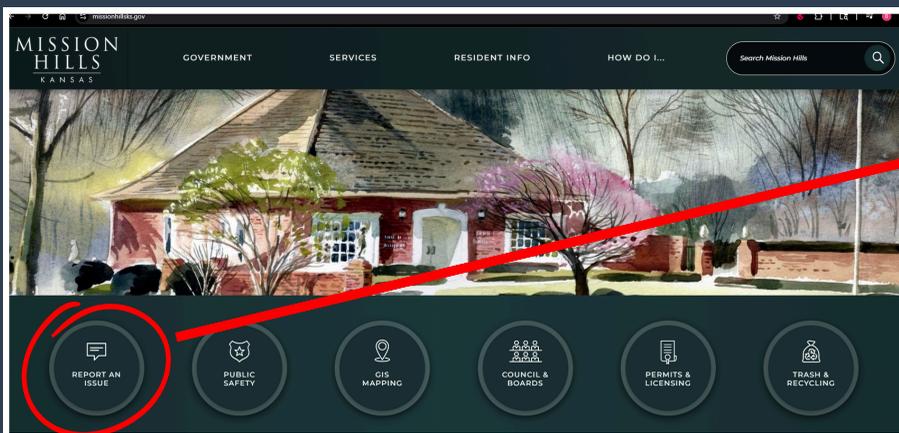
Emergency Access Notification

When an entrance(s) to your property may be closed (i.e. one of your driveways, if you have two) please share that closure information directly with the Prairie Village Police dispatch. They will then share that information with all appropriate agencies to ensure quick response times if there were an emergency situation. We would prefer the closure notification be sent in writing, but if that's not possible you may also call. We understand this may not affect many properties in Mission Hills, as most only have one entrance, but we wanted to make all residents aware.

Here's the contact information for dispatch:

- pddispatch@pvkansas.com
- 913-642-5151 (non-emergency #)

Mission Hills Online 311 Service



Request no parking signs and report issues in your neighborhood quickly and easily with SeeClickFix—help us keep Mission Hills safe, clean, and beautiful.

www.missionhillssks.gov

The Future is Now: Drones as First Responders

Get ready for a new era of public safety in our city! The Prairie Village Police Department will be launching a **Drones as First Responders (DFR)** program, a groundbreaking initiative designed to enhance emergency response and improve outcomes for our residents.

While the idea of drones flying overhead might seem futuristic, this program is rooted in a simple goal: to get critical information to our first responders as quickly and safely as possible. When a 911 call comes in for a serious incident—such as a structure fire, a reported crime, a missing child, or a multi-vehicle accident—the drone will immediately be launched from the roof of the police station.



How It Works

The Drone as First Responder (DFR) program provides a vital, live perspective within minutes—often before officers arrive. A camera streams video to dispatch and officers, giving them tactical insight and helping plan safer responses. For incidents like house fires, dispatch can relay exact details to firefighters before they reach the scene.

Enhancing Safety and Efficiency

DFR doesn't replace officers—it gives them a powerful tool. Key benefits include:

- **Faster Response:** Drones often reach scenes before vehicles.
- **Better Awareness:** Real-time video improves decision-making.
- **Safer Entry:** Aerial views reduce risk to first responders.
- **Smarter Deployment:** Dispatch can allocate resources more effectively.

Community and Privacy

The program will only be used for emergency calls, with flight paths limited to incident areas. All video will follow strict security protocols and be used only for official purposes. This program represents a major step forward in creating a safer community in Mission Hills and Prairie Village. Installation and implementation are planned by October 2025.

For questions, contact the Prairie Village Police Department.

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MISSION HILLS



FALL 2025



**MISSION
HILLS**
K A N S A S

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The Columns is published three times a year for the residents of Mission Hills.

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Mission Hills

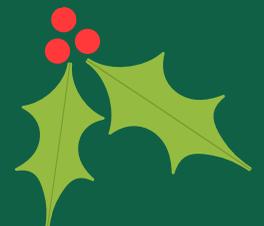
Holiday Tree Lighting



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



*Santa
&
Mrs. Claus!*



Mission Hills, City Hall, 6300 State Line Rd

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM PRARIE VILLAGE POLICE

Holiday Packages: Preventing Thefts

The holidays bring joy—and more package thefts. Thieves often grab deliveries within minutes, especially when boxes are visible on porches. Here are some simple ways to protect your packages:

- **Schedule Deliveries:** Pick times when you'll be home.
- **Get Notifications:** Sign up for alerts so you know when a package arrives.
- **Secure Locations:** Use Amazon Lockers or store pick-up options.
- **Use Cameras/Doorbells:** They won't stop all thefts, but they provide useful footage.
- **Ask Neighbors:** Have a trusted neighbor grab packages if you're away.
- **Require Signatures:** Ensure packages are handed directly to someone.
- **Stay Alert:** Report suspicious activity right away.

For non-emergencies, call 913-642-5151. In an emergency, dial 911.



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

POWELL COMMUNITY
CENTER, 6200
MARTWAY, IN
MISSION, KANSAS

ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR
Save the Date!