

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Spring 2017

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Join us for the annual City of Mission Hills Keim Street Fair on Saturday, June 3rd, at Belinder Circle.

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Planning Ahead - 2018 Budget



Rick Boeshaar
Mayor

Most of us are probably aware of the struggle Kansas legislators are having to fund the services residents of the state expect such as education, transportation, mental health, etc. without the income to do so. The tax lid imposed by the state on municipalities and counties is forcing the same challenge on your City's elected officials.

In 2015, the Kansas Legislature passed a tax lid on property taxes. In 2016, the Legislature amended and clarified that law. The resulting rules now say that, unless approved by an election of the residents, property taxes collected by the City cannot exceed last year's collections adjusted by a five-year rolling average of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U). For the upcoming budget year, that CPI-U will allow a 1.4% increase.

The CPI-U measures price inflation on food, energy, apparel, vehicles, alcohol, tobacco, rents, physician and hospital services, and airline fares. Notice that it does not include many of the materials and services that a City must purchase, such as employee salaries and benefits, labor, concrete, steel, and asphalt to repairs roads and bridges, IT services and equipment, etc.

Some exemptions from this tax lid are permitted, such as increased costs for law enforcement or bond and interest payments, but most of them would not help Mission Hills. We are a land-locked, fully built out community. Nearly 50% of our revenues come from real property taxes. The exemption for bond and interest payments has already steered other communities on a destructive path of added debt. The "pay as you go" methods used by your City Council to fund road improvements, bridge replacement, and sewer repairs over the years have garnered for us a Triple-A debt rating. But that approach will be more difficult to continue into the future if we cannot build our reserves in advance of large projects.

Over the next few months, your City Council will be discussing the budget for 2018, including the needed capital improvements. Our City has always been run with a small, very competent staff. We contract for nearly all the services our resident enjoy. We will be receiving bids for those services and deciding whether we will need to hold an election (most likely via mail-in ballots sometime this summer) in order to authorize expenditures above the tax lid.

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Planning Ahead

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For the past eleven years, the Mission Hills mill levy has not been increased. Price increases have been accommodated through productivity improvements and property value appreciation. Properties in Mission Hills appreciated by 5% in 2016, but the tax lid rules will not allow us to share in that appreciation without an election in which our residents approve exceeding the tax lid. We may not have to have an election every year, but consistently staying under the tax lid allowances can only be accommodated by deferring needed maintenance, reducing the services you have come to expect, or taking the City deeper in debt to maintain all of that. None of those options would be considered good stewardship! So stay tuned!

2017 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

The three streets listed below will be completely rehabilitated. The stormwater system will be upgraded and replaced, as well as all of the curbs, drive approaches, and asphalt. The construction is currently planned for this spring and summer. This includes:

- **Drury Lane**
- **State Park Road (west lane)**
- **High Drive - 59th South to Mission Drive**

Sunken Garden Park Rehabilitation

Spot Curb Replacement Program:

The City will also conduct its annual assessment of the curbs, gutters, and sidewalks in the City to determine a list of areas for priority replacement in 2017.

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control (Prairie Village Police)	913-642-6868	Johnson County Sheriff Dispatch	913-782-0720
Great Plains (Lost Pet & Intake)	913-742-7329	Municipal Court - Prairie Village	913-385-4680
9800 W. 67th St., Merriam, KS		Poison Control (KU Med)	913-588-6633
City Hall	913-362-9620	Police Dept Switchboard - Prairie Village	913-642-6868
Driver's Licenses	913-432-2266	Police Dispatch - Prairie Village	913-642-5151
Fire Dispatch (non-emergency)	913-432-1383		
Hazardous Waste (JoCo Env Department)	913-715-6900	Local Utilities	
Homes Associations of Kansas City	913-385-2440	AT&T	1-877-722-3755
Johnson County Appraiser	913-829-9500	Deffenbaugh Trash & Recycling	913-631-3300
JOCO Courthouse (Olathe)	913-715-5000	Dig Safe (Kansas)	1-800-344-7233
Johnson County Clerk	913-715-0775	Johnson County Wastewater	913-715-8500
Johnson County Government	913-715-5000	KCP&L Customer Service	816-471-5275
Johnson County Election Office	913-782-3441	KCP&L Power Outages	1-888-544-4852
Johnson County Records & Tax Admin	913-715-0775	Kansas Gas Service	1-800-794-4780
Johnson County Health Department	913-826-1200	Time Warner Cable	816-358-8833
Vehicle Tags - Kansas	913-826-1800	Water District No. 1 of Jo Co	913-895-5500

A Guide to Safe Bicycling in Our Community

by Tim Schwartzkopf, Chief of Police at
Prairie Village Police Department



As residents enjoy the beautiful weather this spring, the Police Department would like to provide a few reminders to bicycle riders. Bicycle riders are not only granted the same rights as drivers or vehicles, but also are subject to all of the same responsibilities as drivers. This guide is intended to remind riders to ride safety.

Stop Signs:

- Make complete stops.
- Up to 10 riders may proceed as a group after stopping together.
- Each group shall be small enough to not impede cross traffic.
- Don't swarm or creep past either side of stopped cars.

Traffic Signals:

- Individual riders can enter the intersection on yellow, but not red.
- Trailing riders in a group may be cited if they enter on a red light.
- Riders may consolidate in a group at a red light in order to clear the intersection faster when it turns green.

Riding Single and Double File:

- Never ride more than double file except when passing.
- Merge single file on two-lane streets when cars approach from behind.
- Ride single file on busy two-lane streets.
- Ride as far right as practicable, whether in single or double file.

Passing:

- Complete the pass promptly
- Do not impede trailing cars
- Pass all the way to the next break in the group

Save the Date

Spring Bulky Item Collection Day: April 22, 2017

Annual Community Paper Shredding and Electronic Recycling Event: April 29, 2017 at 4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway Fairway, KS 66205. Please bring proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill, as this service is for residents of Fairway, Mission, Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Roeland Park, Westwood, & Westwood Hills. There will be a small fee (cash or check) for PC Monitors \$15 and TV's \$25. Everything else with a cord is *free*.

Out on a Limb: Tree Talk



Jesse Kirk



George Eib

by Jesse Kirk, City Arborist and George Eib, Consulting Arborist

We have received very little moisture since last summer. Most likely we will see some plant material suffer under these arid conditions.

We encourage you to water your trees, evergreens, shrubs, bulbs and lawns when the ground is not frozen and the temperature is near forty-five degrees. We recommend aeration of your trees due to the drought conditions we have experienced over the past several years. Trees provide numerous benefits that may not be readily apparent; they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and produce oxygen, sequester carbon, and mitigate storm water runoff. Correctly placed trees buffer cold winds and shade homes and streets to reduce energy use, provide refuge and food for wildlife, as well as provide an aesthetic characteristic to the park like setting in Mission Hills. The value of a home with mature trees and landscaping can be over 15% higher than a comparable property without. These are many of the reasons we work so hard to protect and maintain our right-of-way trees as well as encourage our residents to plant shade trees on their private property. We often observe trees that are improperly mulched. “Volcano mulching” is not a healthy practice for three reasons: It can stimulate basal shoot growth and girdling roots, it provides habitat for rodents that feed on the conductive tissue of the trees and the constant moisture and lack of air circulation can promote rot and fungal diseases. It is best to allow two to three inches of space between the stem and the mulch and not apply mulch to a depth greater than three inches.

The City is planting approximately 50 new trees this spring, residents receiving trees have already been notified via mail regarding the process. As this newsletter is arriving we will be in the process of spraying select trees for disease control. We will also be concluding our annual pruning cycle. Currently we are pruning Mission Hills Homes Company and will be pruning Indian Hills Homes Association in early 2018. Remember, if you wish to preserve the health of your ash tree it will need to be treated to prevent emerald ash borer. For most treatments, spring, right after leaf out, is the best time for treatment. The City will observe Arbor Day on June 12th at 6:15 pm prior to the City Council meeting. Please join us as we plant a tree on the City Hall grounds. This will be the 24th year for Mission Hills to be certified as a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Spring & Summer Checklist

- Water Spring blooming bulbs that you planted last fall during dry periods.
- It is best not to cut back ornamental grasses or liriopie until the end of March or April.
- April is the perfect month to apply a pre-emergent on your lawn to reduce spring germinating weeds.
- I recommend spraying Austrian and Scotch pines for Diplodia Tip Blight and needle cast. This requires two applications. First when candles begin to elongate (March-April) and the second approximately four weeks later.
- Spray Junipers for spider mites and bagworms. This requires two applications starting with the first around mid-June, with the second application towards the end of July.
- In spring spray crabapple and hawthorns for rust and scab diseases. This requires two applications, first when leaves begin to emerge (April-May), and an additional application 3-4 weeks later.
- While pin and red oaks are dormant, spray horticultural oil to control obscure scale, exposed eggs, and certain fungi. Also apply to male ash for male ash gall if you are treating for EAB. Apply one application on a calm day when temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Do not be alarmed if recently pruned trees weep sap as this is common this time of year especially on maples.
- If you plan to plant dogwoods, redbuds, oaks, beech or bald cypress, they are best transplanted in the spring.
- Do not allow vines and ivy to grow up into the interiors of plants as they can be damaging.

Spring and Summer Reminders



Noise

- Normal construction noise is allowed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Heavy construction equipment is allowed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. All construction noise is prohibited on Sunday and on legal holidays.
- Gas-powered lawn care equipment noise is allowed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. any day of the week. The country clubs are permitted to run equipment from sunrise to sunset any day of the week.
- As long as the volume does not annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons inside any dwelling with the windows closed, noise from sound equipment or musical instruments is permitted from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 12:30 a.m. Friday, Saturday and legal holidays. This noise is not allowed to be played (at any time) in a manner and volume which annoys or disturbs the quiet and comfort of persons inside any dwelling. If you experience noise outside of the established time limit, call the Police Department at 913-642-5151.

Pets

- Dogs are considered “running at large” when found on public property or private property other than that of their owner without being on a leash and under the effective control of a person.
- Dogs are also considered “running at large” when on own property without a leash unless they are in the physical presence of the owner and under the demonstrated voice control of the owner, or they are confined by a fence, wall, or electric fence.
- Noisy Dogs: No person shall keep or harbor within the City any dog which by loud, frequent, or habitual barking, yelping or fighting, annoys or disturbs the public peace. If you witness a dog running at large or barking habitually, call the Police Department at 913-642-5151.

Lawns

- Please keep your lawn mowed. It is a violation of the nuisance ordinance to have grass taller than 8 inches.
- If you are having difficulty growing grass, Johnson County offers free soil testing for residents through the Kansas State Research and Extension office. To learn more call 913-715-7000 or visit johnson.k-state.edu.

10 Things: Can I recycle this? The ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ of Curbside Recycling

1. Receipt paper - No. All Thermal printed receipts belong in the trash.
2. Plastic bags - No. These bags are recyclable, but are not accepted in your curbside bin.
3. Pizza boxes - Yes. Please completely empty the container. If the box is too greasy, tear off the top for recycling and trash the rest of the box.
4. Plasticwear and paper plates - No. Due to the odd shape of the plastic wear and lower paper quality, these items cannot be recycled.
5. Paper milk and juice cartons - Yes. Simply rinse and place into your recycling.
6. Styrofoam - No. Styrofoam is not accepted because it can break into thousands of small pieces and contaminate other recyclables.
7. Shampoo bottles - Yes. Simply rinse and place into your recycling.
8. Red solo cups - Yes.
9. K-Cups - No. The size and material components cannot be recycled and belong in the trash.
10. Aluminum foil - No. While aluminum foil is recyclable, it is not accepted in your curbside recycle bin.



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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City of Mission Hills Hosts Two International Interns



Lisa Krauss and Martina Böhringer
at City Hall

The City of Mission Hills is excited to welcome Lisa Krauss and Martina Böhringer as interns from the University of Applied Sciences Ludwigsburg in Germany. Lisa and Martina are completing bachelors of public management with study in state and municipal administration. Their program requires three years of study that must be preceded by fourteen months of combined domestic and international internships to provide an opportunity for them to gain practical professional experience. Lisa is pursuing an emphasis in Community Services at the County level and Martina is pursuing an emphasis in Financial Administration at the City level. Lisa and Martina started their internship with the City by traveling to the state capital in Topeka to learn more about state government. They will spend three months in Mission Hills learning about local government, the City's budgetary procedures, attending educational and professional education sessions and city-wide meetings. In addition, they will visit other governmental organizations in the area.