

# THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Fall 2017

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[www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov)



Join us for the *Holiday Tree Lighting Event*  
Sun. Nov. 19th  
at 5:30 pm

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## Vote!



Rick Boeshaar  
Mayor

Tuesday, November 7, is Election Day! This election will determine your City's governing board for the next two years, your water district representative, and a new member of Shawnee Mission's school board representing our SM East district. There will also be a question on the ballot asking you to approve an additional ¼ cent to our City's sales tax (currently 1%) for the next five years. Sample ballots are available at [www.jocoelection.org](http://www.jocoelection.org), and candidate profiles and statements are on page 5 and posted on Mission Hills' website, [www.missionhillsks.gov/City Council/Election](http://www.missionhillsks.gov/City Council/Election).

Sometimes considered the "off" year general elections, I think you should consider this election every bit as important as the November elections in even-numbered years, primarily because these elections affect you closer to home. They affect the value of your home, the upkeep of the roads you drive everyday, the water you drink, and the schools your children attend. They are important and they deserve your time and research into the candidates and issues. Mission Hills' residents have generally turned out to vote in greater numbers than most other precincts and I think this reflects their understanding of the importance in participating in our representative governments. I trust this election will be no different.

Approving the additional sales tax is important for your City. As I explained in the summer newsletter, the additional revenues will help cover the rising costs of maintaining our safety and security and our infrastructure (roads and sewers). The additional tax will be "sunsetting," meaning it will terminate in five years. Only another majority vote by our citizens would make it continue. Your City Council and I believe this is necessary and that a sales tax, rather than a property tax increase, is the best way to finance those needs.

As you may know the mayor of Mission Hills is a term-limited position. I will complete my second and last term this year and a new mayor will be elected. David Dickey is the only candidate running for mayor, and I want you to know that I believe he will do an excellent job. I have worked with David since 2005 and I know his experience and skills will serve us very well.

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## Vote

continued from page 1

It has been a great honor to serve the residents of Mission Hills, to represent you in the various forums of County and municipal elected officials, and to speak for you before the Kansas Legislature, the Mid-America Regional Council, and the community in general. I am grateful that prior leaders set up a very appropriate form of local government, with the entire Council representing all of our citizens, and that we have a small, but excellent and very competent City staff. It has been particularly gratifying to witness the great interest and high degree of involvement of our citizens in our local government. It is that willingness to be involved and to bear responsibilities for good government that will continue to make Mission Hills one of the finest residential cities in America. Thank you for your support! ■

## Building Permits : When in Doubt Ask

A note from the City's Building Inspector, Steve Crull

The holidays are coming up and many residents may be considering projects to spruce things up before their visitors arrive. This "sprucing up" may involve projects that require a permit. Painting and new floor coverings typically do not require a permit. Projects that involve plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling, framing, driveways, and fences typically do require permits. If there is any doubt please call us at City Hall and we will let you know if a permit is required or not.

You might be asking yourself "How will City Hall know?" Truthfully, Mission Hills is a fairly small community. The building inspector conducts inspections every day and looks for the yellow placard that is issued when a permit is purchased as he is driving throughout the City. Any construction activity at a house typically draws the inspector's attention. We have issued "Stop Work" orders for projects that were started without a permit. Unfortunately when this happens the contractors must stop what they are doing until a permit is issued.

If a contractor tries to convince you that it is ok to do work without a permit please check with us first. Contractors must be licensed through Johnson County Contractor Licensing and they must also have an Occupational License issued by Mission Hills in order to work in the City.



The City has recently installed new permitting software called Viewpoint. It is now possible to obtain permits online for smaller projects.

At various stages during the project the contractor will contact City Hall and make an appointment for the building inspector to take a look at the work completed to ensure that it complies with the Building Code. It does cost money to pull a permit, the permit fee will be based on either square footage, cost of the project or both depending on the project. Typically a contractor will work the permit fee into the bid for work. There is a plan review turnaround time to take into consideration. Typically it is 48 hours unless it is a larger project and requires construction drawings completed by an architect or engineer. Those reviews typically take two weeks to complete.

Permits are intended to help protect the consumer. It can add time to the overall process but it does ensure that work is done to the current adopted building code.

# Can I Use a Toy Vehicle on City Streets?

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



Riding skateboards, motorized scooters and similar conveyances is welcomed in Mission Hills as long as it is done in a safe and legal manner. Over the summer both City staff and police have received questions about the use of toy vehicles on City streets. There are several restrictions that are put in place by City Ordinance, which serve to protect both riders and motorists.

Section 136 of the Standard Traffic Ordinance and Mission Hills City Ordinance 4-129, Section 10.34, both prohibit any type of skateboard, roller skate or other type of “toy vehicle” use on City streets. While it can be tempting to let your child ride their scooter down the “big hill,” a small child moving at a relatively high speed can surprise a driver and afford little opportunity to react to prevent an accident. If you are looking for someplace (other than your local sidewalk) to let your child ride their skateboard or scooter, you are welcome to use the Prairie Village Skate Park, located at Harmon Park behind the City of Prairie Village complex on Mission Road. Additionally, skateboards are more than welcome at any of the other Prairie Village parks, especially when ridden with consideration toward any children who might also be enjoying the park. Mission Hills, in conjunction with the Prairie Village Police Department, hopes that this safety tip will help you to enjoy this beautiful time of year.

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## Election Guide

**Johnson County voters will hold to the polls on Tuesday November 7, to cast their ballots on local and county issues.** Mission Hills residents will vote for mayor and two seats on the City Council. Bill Bruning, Barbara Nelson, and Charles Payne have filled their candidacy for the City Council posts. David Dickey is running uncontested for mayor. A one-quarter (0.25%) sales tax increase to fund City infrastructure improvements, with a five year sunset provision, is also on the ballot. The sales tax if passed will continue the City’s capital improvement program at its current pace and will allow the City’s mill levy rate to continue to be maintained at its current level. The City’s property tax rate has not been increased since 2004, when the State dropped the LAVTR program.

### Voting Locations

Residents in Precincts 1 and 2 will cast their votes at First Lutheran Church, 6400 State Line Road. Precincts 3 and 4 will vote at Colonial Church, 7039 Mission Road. Advance in-person voting is available at the Johnson County Election Office, 2101 E. Kansas City Road in Olathe, beginning October 30 and ending November 4. For additional information about advance voting locations and times visit [www.jocoelection.org/voters/advancevoting.htm](http://www.jocoelection.org/voters/advancevoting.htm). Contact the Election Office at 715-6800 if you are unsure about where you should vote or check your voter registration status.

# Out on a Limb: Tree Talk



Jesse Kirk



George Eib

As fall arrives and winter approaches you may notice yellowing needles on the interior of your pines, this is a natural thing that takes place this time of year. However valuable Scotch and Austrian pines will require applications of fungicide in the spring to protect them from tip blight.

It is very important to protect private trees as well as City trees during construction. Through our site plan review we are trying to ensure that both contractors and homeowners are aware of the damage that can occur. Trees are slow growing valuable assets where “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Tree protection starts with the soil. Protective fencing around trees as well as designated access roads avoids unnecessary compaction of soils within the root zone. Additional best management practices are available to further minimize damage to existing plant material, these are more site specific and much benefit can be had from meeting with an Arborist during the design phase.

The City has a process for any landscaping activities within the City ROW (approximately 10’ behind the curb). This includes planting, pruning and removal of any plant material. An application is available at City hall or on the City’s website.

You may have noticed a general decline in the health of sugar maples around your property. It appears to be caused by several variables over the last couple years, poorly timed rapid temperature changes before the trees had a chance to harden off and successive years of drought stress have opened the trees up to additional pests and diseases, this process is known as the “mortality spiral.”

We’ve recently removed another thirty nine of the poorest ash in the City ROW. We’re evaluating the canopy decline annually and removing the poorest specimens. Each site where we remove a tree is evaluated for its suitability for planting a replacement the following spring. If you think you have a good location for ROW tree planting you can call City Hall and ask to have the location evaluated by the City Arborist and you can be added to the future planting list. The number of sites that will be planted is dependent on annual budgets.

The City is on a three year pruning cycle, meaning each tree is visited for pruning once every three years (also dependent on budget). Starting January 1, 2018 we will begin pruning in the Indian Hills Homes Association.

## Fall & 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 to your home 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 KCP&L’s responsibility to maintain the lines to your home.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Before using your fireplace this season it is important to have a chimney sweep inspect it for creosote buildup to prevent a potential fire. Avoid burning pine to minimize residual buildup.
- ✦ Keep gutters clear of debris that cause water to spill or pool. Debris buildup can force water under shingles resulting in interior damage.
- ✦ Disconnect hoses from exterior faucets once freezing temperatures arrive to prevent freeze damage to plumbing.
- ✦ Do not blow or dump leaves or snow into the street or drainage channels as these are violations of City ordinances.
- ✦ It is important not to allow vines and ivy to grow up into the interior of plants as this can be damaging to the full development of trees and evergreens.

## City Council Candidates: Bill Bruning, Barbara Nelson, and Charles Payne



**Bill Bruning** was appointed to the City Council in May and is now running for a full term. He is currently president of Tomahawk Road Homes Association. During his 13 years in Mission Hills he has served on the Architectural Review Board and Planning Commission.

Holding BS, MBA and law degrees from the University of Kansas, Bill is a health care and real estate attorney. Active in the community, he is currently board chair of UMKC's department of Architecture and Urban Planning and previously served as board president of Truman Medical Center and REACH Healthcare Foundation. He believes the City has been well run and open to citizen engagement; his goal is to protect our housing investment by maintaining the City's traditional standards and focus on three issues he has heard from residents:

- Protecting Mission Hills's unique sense of place while accommodating changes in building patterns,
- Maintaining open spaces and tree canopies,
- Increasing accessibility to the City's amenities and surrounding resources.



**Charles Payne** and his wife, Amy, have only lived in Mission Hills since 2014 but have grown to love this tight-knit community.

Charles' main objectives for the City include a focus on infrastructure, proper maintenance of city services and appropriate application of tax dollars. Charles is a small business owner, Image360, and supports local not-for-profits such as Sleepyhead Beds, Kansas City Games for Good and Growing Futures Early Education Center. He earned a BA degree from Eastern Illinois University and an MBA from Clemson University. Charles and Amy live on Tomahawk Road with their two young daughters, Ryan and Eleanor.



**Barbara Nelson** has lived in the City for over 25 years and served on City Council for eight. She worked in public relations and as a journalist in London for Business Week. Barbara served as the first female chair of KCPT, chaired CCVI and held executive positions on Starlight Theater,

Kansas City Convention Association and Kansas City Sports Commission with an emphasis on women and girls in sports. She is presently the Honorary Consul for Slovenia and on the Advisory Board of the KU school of Languages Literature and Cultures. Honors include the Yates Medallion for public service, Honorary Doctorate from St Mary's University and UMKC Kreamer Award. As a Council member she proposed a Professional Review Panel for new construction and championed recycling with Coffee and Compost meetings. She cares deeply about the integrity of Mission Hills and is an outspoken voice addressing drainage problems, street maintenance and safety. The grandmother of five she feels that preserving the City's heritage and beauty is the finest legacy we can leave.

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## Mayoral Candidate: David W. Dickey

Serving our unique, wonderful City this past decade has been an honor. I was recruited to be Treasurer by former Mayor Fromm in 2005, and have been privileged to represent all Mission Hills residents on the City Council since 2007. We have a fabulous, small community.



We do many things well and have wonderful volunteers and staff who help make that a reality every day. We also have continuing opportunities and challenges. My focus as mayor would be consistent with my service on Council:

- 1) creating better balance for residents impacted by construction (particularly parking!) and residents looking to redevelop and/or enhance their property,
- 2) continued fiscal discipline, and
- 3) maintaining excellence in public safety, services, and green space. We live in a special community. Other small communities around us have struggled mightily at times. We are far from perfect, but I hope to make us better every day and keep Mission Hills the best small community in Kansas City.



6300 State Line Road  
Mission Hills, KS 66208

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

**Mayor:**  
Rick Boeshaar

**City Council:**  
Beverly Brooks  
Bill Bruning  
David Dickey  
Barbara Nelson  
Braden Perry

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## Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

*The annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Sunday, November 19th at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The tree lighting will occur immediately after Santa Claus arrives on a fire truck. Santa will be available for pictures with the kids. Please join us for live music and cookies as we ring in the holidays!*

## City Calendar

*At a Glance*

- November 7** - General Election
- November 10** - Veteran's Day Observed  
CITY HALL CLOSED
- November 19** - City Tree Lighting  
City Hall 5:30 p.m.
- November 23 to 24** - Thanksgiving Holiday  
CITY HALL CLOSED
- December 25** - Christmas Holiday  
CITY HALL CLOSED
- January 1** - New Year's Holiday  
CITY HALL CLOSED
- January 15** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
CITY HALL CLOSED
- January 18** - Annual Joint Homes Association Meeting at Kansas City Country Club