

# THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Summer 2016

Visit us at  
[www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov)

*A landscape devoid of trees offers no haven for those seeking rest and repose.*  
- Arbor Day

## INSIDE

Community Reminders	p.2
Mosquito Awareness	p. 2
Safety Tips	p. 3
Out on a Limb	p. 4
Vote on County Courthouse and Coroner Facility	p. 5
Arbor Day	p. 6

## You Have the Right to Ask!



Rick Boeshaar  
Mayor

If you weren't convinced from my article in the last Columns, let me share with you the latest example of why we need a more reasoned, deliberative, and balanced legislature in our home state.

Two months ago the Legislature passed House Bill 2502 that amended the Kansas Concealed Carry and Open Carry gun laws. In general these amendments gave greater permissions to carry guns and did little to increase the training, qualifications, or permits required. These new laws come from a philosophy that we are all safer in our communities when more people have guns to defend themselves.

Beginning July 1 "no public employer shall restrict or otherwise prohibit by personnel policies any employee, who is legally qualified, from carrying any concealed handgun while engaged in the duties of such employee's employment outside of such employer's place of business, including while in a means of conveyance."

The new laws allow public employers to prohibit employees from carrying weapons in the open (Open Carry), but they went on to prohibit employers from asking whether an employee is carrying a concealed weapon. That prohibition from asking DOES NOT apply to you as a resident.

These new rights to carry in public places DO NOT extend to private property. If a City employee (or any other person regardless of who they work for) were to come to your house, you have the right to ask whether he or she is carrying a weapon. If you ask and deny him or her the right to carry onto your property, regardless of whether that person has a permit to do so, he or she must remove it and put it back in their vehicle, before being allowed to be on your property or in your home.

Let me now assure you that Mission Hills City employees are terrific people, interested in your welfare, and very dedicated to providing the services we have all come to expect. They are courteous and professional, and those who interact with our residents on an occasional or routine basis have earned many compliments for their courtesy and professionalism. Our City policies have, up until now, prohibited concealed or open carry and we will continue to prohibit open carry, but as of July 1 we (and all other public employers) will no longer be able to prohibit concealed carry

continued on page 2

## You Have the Right to Ask!

continued from page 1

by those who have a permit. Let me also share that our current representatives in the House and Senate voted against these changes and have long been voices of moderation and reason. I certainly endorse both Barbara Bollier and Melissa Rooker in their attempt to be elected to the Kansas Senate (Barbara) and re-elected to the Kansas House (Melissa). That should not keep us from helping other candidates around our County and State who are running against the candidates who support the more extreme policies enacted over the past several years.

I urge you to vote in the August 2 primary elections. You may vote in advance in person or by mail up to two weeks prior to the election date. You can do more than that to effect change by joining with others to volunteer for the candidates you support and for the organizations that are working to get like-minded candidates elected.

## Community Reminders

- **September 5, 2016 - Labor Day** City Hall closed and waste collection will be one day later than regularly scheduled pick-up day
- **September 17, 2016 - Heavy Trash Pick-up Day**
- **Pool Water Drainage** - When pool season is over, please take the proper steps before draining your pool. Chlorinated water, if discharged into the storm drain system, can be toxic to aquatic life. Do not discharge chlorinated water into a street or storm drain when draining pools or fountains. If water is dechlorinated with a neutralizing chemical or by allowing chlorine to dissipate for 7-10 days the water may be drained into your yard or the stormwater system. You must test the pool water prior to discharge to ensure that chlorine is not present.
- **October 8, 2016 - Community Recycling Extravaganza** from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm at Black & Veatch 11401 Lamar Ave. Overland Park. Visit [www.opkansas.org/events/recycling-extravaganza](http://www.opkansas.org/events/recycling-extravaganza) for updates.

## Mosquito Awareness

With summer in full swing, please help protect yourself, family, and community from mosquito bites. On June 18, 2016 the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) received test results that confirm the first travel-associated case of Zika Virus in Johnson County. Because this case was acquired while traveling, the risk of contracting Zika is extremely low, but avoiding mosquito bites can prevent the further spread of the virus. Zika Virus is spread primarily through the bite of an *Aedes* mosquito. If an individual with Zika virus is bitten by this type of mosquito, the mosquito can bite another individual and spread the virus. The virus can also be transmitted through bodily fluids, unprotected sexual contact, and blood transfusion. At this time, JCDHE is recommending pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant consider postponing travel to areas where Zika virus is circulating due to the increased risk of the baby developing microcephaly - a condition in which a baby's head is significantly smaller and brain development is impacted. Please see the tips to prevent mosquito bites and decrease the potential for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile and Zika.

### TIPS TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES:

1. Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients; DEET, Picaridin, Bayreple, Icaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or Para-menthane-diol.
2. If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
3. Use screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
4. Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in and near standing water by emptying or turning over planters, tools, birdbaths, flower pots, and trash containers.

For more information visit [www.jocogov.org/dept/health-and-environment/resources](http://www.jocogov.org/dept/health-and-environment/resources).

# Walking Safety Tips

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

Thinking of going for a walk during nice weather? Make sure you keep yourself safe using these tips!

- Always wear bright or reflective clothing to make yourself visible to surrounding traffic, especially after dark. You can purchase lights to attach to your clothing or shoes for added visibility.
- Pay attention to the traffic flow when approaching intersections and vehicles backing out of driveways. Just because you see the vehicle, does not mean they see you. Try to make eye contact with the driver to ensure they see you before walking or biking in its path.
- Walking in groups is always a good idea for safety and to enjoy someone's company.
- If you want to listen to music while walking, make sure you would be able to hear someone approach you from out of eyesight and always watch your surroundings.
- Always carry a cell phone with you -- you never know when an emergency could occur.



Mission Hills Police Officers are now carrying reflective vests to hand out to citizens who are walking or biking. If you see an officer out in the field, be sure to ask for one!

## Scam Alerts

Financial scams are becoming more prevalent in today's society and this calendar year the Police Department has seen these scams:

**IRS Collecting Taxes:** You receive a phone call, email or message via social media, claiming you have not paid your taxes and that you owe "X" amount of dollars. The IRS will not initiate contact via email, text or other social media outlets. If you receive any contact from someone claiming to be with the IRS, do not give out any personal or financial information. The IRS has set up a website for determining whether a contact attempt is legitimate or a scam, and how to report it if it is a scam. This page can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/uac/report-phishing>.

**Your Grandchild is in Jail and Needs to be Bonded Out:** You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be with a certain police or sheriff department claiming your grandchild has been arrested for a crime and needs money to be bonded out. They will usually ask for either checking account information or for you to go out to a store, purchase certain gift cards (ex. iTunes, Target, Green Dot cards) and then call their number back to give the gift card number information. Police or sheriff departments will NEVER take bond over the phone, even if it is an out of state department, and they will NEVER accept any gift card as a bond payment. If you receive this call, hang up immediately and if possible, block the number.

### *The IRS wants citizens to know that the IRS will never:*

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill;
- Demand you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe;
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card;
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone, or
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

# Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

by George L. Eib and Jesse Kirk, Consulting Arborists



George L. Eib



Jesse Kirk

As trees have leafed out this spring, the extent of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation in Mission Hills has become more apparent. We appear to be in year three or four of infestation with most untreated ash likely to die off by year seven or eight. The optimal time for treatment this year has passed. If you have a question about an ash or any private tree, please call City Hall or one of the City Arborists to schedule an appointment. The 2016 tree planting process has been completed, with 117 trees being placed on public property.

The City strives to plant less common species to diversify our urban forest and mitigate future catastrophic losses due to invasive species, such as the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) whose preferred host are maples. Our goal, by planting less common species, is to keep any genus below 20% of our total street and park tree population. For this reason, we are not currently planting maples and are only planting white oaks in rare cases. *Ulmus*, the genus containing all species of elms, has increased in the last three years as we have planted several cultivars resistant to Dutch Elm Disease (DED).

Genus (Common/Latin)	Number of Trees	2016 Inventory Percentage
Maple ( <i>Acer</i> )	867	20.8%
Oak ( <i>Quercus</i> )	803	19.2%
Linden ( <i>Tilia</i> )	338	8.1%
Ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> )	181	4.3%
Elm ( <i>Ulmus</i> )	175	4.2%
Sycamore ( <i>Platanus</i> )	175	4.2%

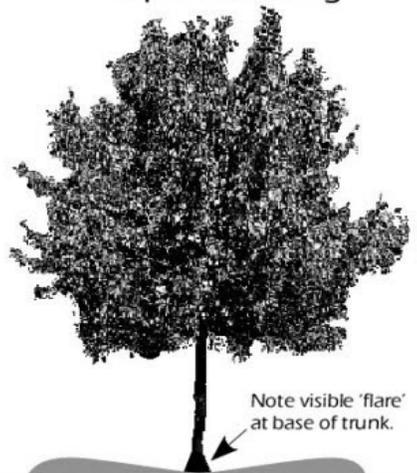
Ginkgos (*Ginkgo biloba*) and blackgums (*Nyssa sylvatica*) were planted most frequently this year, but they are still not very common species. Because it takes decades for a tree to mature and because trees on private property are an important component of our urban forest, we are working with contractors to protect existing trees and shrubs during remodels, additions, and new home constructions. In addition, we are discouraging, through site plan review process, the clear cutting of lots for ease of construction.

To further care for our beautiful canopy, the City prunes all street trees every three years. Typically this is done by Homes Association, for example all street trees in the Tomahawk Road Homes Association were pruned this year and the trees in Mission Hills Homes Company will be pruned next year. The pruning or removal of trees or shrubs in the City's right-of-way is prohibited without first receiving a permit from the City.

Mulch Volcano - BAD



Proper Mulching



Note visible 'flare' at base of trunk.

## How to Properly Mulch Your Trees

Mulching your trees offers many benefits to both young and old trees. It improves soil structure, keeps soil temperatures cooler and retains moisture. Mulch should be 2"-4" in depth, and should not come into contact with the stem of the tree.

# Johnson County Voters to Decide on Public Safety Issues November 8, 2016

Johnson County voters will be asked on November 8 to vote on a quarter-cent public safety sales tax to fund a new courthouse to address safety and security issues for victims, families, and jurors; accessibility challenges, and overcrowding due to the growing population. The sales tax will sunset in ten years. It will also fund a coroner facility. Currently, the county pays to use a lab in Wyandotte County. The current courthouse design makes it difficult to keep inmates separated from victims, jurors and families. This leads to close contact between victims and their alleged perpetrator in hallways and courtrooms, and between jurors and inmates during trial and deliberation. Numerous remodels and renovations have been completed to try to address these issues in the 64-year old courthouse, built for a population of 63,000 and now serving 575,000. A new courthouse is less expensive than renovation and expansion of the current courthouse due to the significant design changes needed to improve security and accessibility and plan for growth. Renovating and expanding the existing building will cost approximately \$34 million more than a new courthouse. Over the next 20 years, operating and maintaining the current courthouse will cost an estimated \$155 million more than a new courthouse due to the aging building and its inefficiencies.

A new coroner facility would provide an accredited location to evaluate evidence and prevent cross-contamination of evidence. It would ensure autopsies are done in a timely manner. Under state statute, cities in Johnson County would split 34% of the total sales tax revenue. In Mission Hills these funds would be used for infrastructure improvements. The City of Mission Hills would receive approximately \$1.7 million in revenue over 10 years. The public safety sales tax would add a quarter to a \$100 retail purchase. Public tours of the existing courthouse are being offered July 11 - November 1. For more information, see [www.jocopublicsafety.org](http://www.jocopublicsafety.org).

## How much will a new courthouse and coroner facility cost?

Building a new courthouse	\$182 million (today's dollars)
Building a coroner facility	\$19 million (today's dollars)
Renovating/adding onto existing courthouse (no county coroner facility)	\$216 million (today's dollars) <b>\$34 million more than building a new courthouse</b>

When comparing costs over a 20-year period, the continued use and maintenance of the current courthouse facility **will cost \$155 million more than building a new courthouse.**

- Operating expenses
- Capital Replacement Program costs
- Interest on debt and other costs
- Capital costs

Estimates are in today's dollars.





6300 State Line Road  
Mission Hills, KS 66208

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

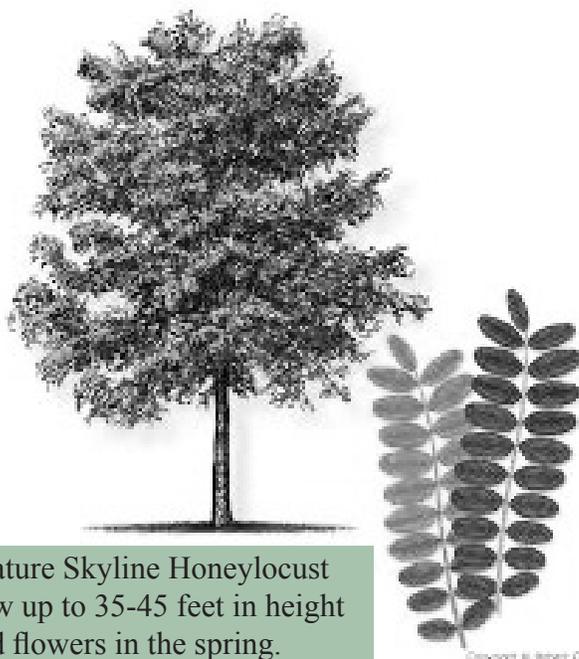
**Mayor:**  
Rick Boeshaar

**City Council:**  
Beverly Brooks  
David Dickey  
Barbara Nelson  
Braden Perry  
Dan Sullivan

City of Mission Hills  
Ph: 913-362-9620  
Fax: 913-362-0673  
[www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov)

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

## The City of Mission Hills Celebrated Arbor Day on by planting a Skyline Honeylocust



The mature Skyline Honeylocust can grow up to 35-45 feet in height and flowers in the spring.

Copyright © Robert Ober

### Trees by the Numbers

- 24**  
Years Mission Hills has been recognized as a "Tree City USA"
- 117**  
Street trees planted in 2016
- 39**  
Street trees removed in the first half of 2016
- 202**  
Ash trees removed since 2014
- 4,177**  
Trees located within the City's Right-of-Way and public spaces