

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Winter 2016

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www.missionhillssks.gov



Join us for the *Holiday Tree Lighting Event*
Sun. Nov. 20th
at 5:30 pm

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Protecting the Aesthetics of Mission Hills



Rick Boeshaar
Mayor

Your City Council and I, as mayor, work continuously to preserve and enhance the attributes of our City which contribute to the value of living in Mission Hills – low crime rates; safety of buildings, streets, and public utilities; responsive City services; supporting the rights of private property owners while balancing the overall needs of neighbors and the community; and preserving the beauty and diversity of our green spaces and views. The City's committees, led by many interested and involved residents, support this work.

During the most recent session of the Kansas Legislature a bill supported by telecommunications companies was passed, signed into law by the Governor, and became effective October 1. The effect of this law is to significantly restrict the rights of local governments to control the placement and appearance of cellular and Wi-Fi network equipment. For the lengthy details, look up S Sub for HB2131 on the Kansas Legislature's web site. The law prohibits the "unreasonable use" of permits, board approvals, tariffs, and fees, in placing their equipment on City-owned property, utility easements, or rights-of-way. Every one of our homes has a right-of-way along the street as well as one or more utility easements around or through our properties.

The concern your City Council and I have with this new law is that, as technology continues its rapid rate of change, and as the demand for communications and data services continues to grow, laws such as this, restrict local governments from bringing a service provider to the bargaining table to ensure that the wants and needs of a community are factored into design, construction, and delivery of their service. This new law empowers those companies to design equipment appearance, placement, and safety without regard for aesthetics. Can you imagine antennae or other transmission equipment in boxes in your front yard or attached to streetlight poles in your neighborhood with the only restriction being a size limited to six cubic feet?

I have been a manager in a telecommunications company as well as a business owner, so I can appreciate the difficulties and the costs of considering and conforming to the individual restrictions of so many local communities. But the answer is not to force it without input or discussion, rationalizing that they must ensure that everyone has "true access to broadband and other advanced technology and information."

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For more information, visit www.missionhillssks.gov

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We are concerned that this legislation was so quickly considered and approved by such large majorities in both the House and Senate. It is difficult not to be cynical about how much telecommunication companies contribute to political campaigns.

Your City Council, along with others in the County, has adopted a revised ordinance concerning rights-of-way use as well as a resolution directing an administrative delay on the processing of applications for new wireless telecommunications facilities until the City has carefully considered its zoning regulations and what it can do to preserve and enhance your property values. ■



Community Reminders

Unlimited Trash the Week After Christmas and Christmas Tree Pick-up

The week of December 26th there will be unlimited trash collection – no overage stickers are required for trash items that are outside the rolling cart on your pick-up day that week. Deffenbaugh will be collecting live Christmas trees on Monday, December 26th, Monday, January 2nd and January 9th. *Please* be sure to remove all decorations prior to placing at curb.

“No Solicitation” Decals Available at City Hall

Door-to-door solicitors are **not** required to obtain a permit from City Hall. Solicitation is allowed at residences unless there is a “No Solicitation, Pedaling or Canvassing” decal posted. Residents not wanting solicitors can obtain decals that stick to wood or glass at City Hall. If you have a decal posted and a solicitor comes to your home, call the Prairie Village Police Dispatch at (913) 642-5151 and the individual will be cited for an ordinance violation.

Frequently Called Numbers

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

Snow and Ice Control on City Streets

Please remember the following regarding the City's snow and ice control efforts:

- Every snow/ice event is unique and the plan for each storm is directly related to the duration and severity of the storm.
- When we have enough warning and it is appropriate, the City streets are pre-treated.
- Plowing will generally begin after 2" of snow has fallen.
- All streets in the City have been prioritized for snow/ice removal. Priority one streets are the arterials and will be cleared first. Arterials include: 63rd Street, Mission Drive, Tomahawk Road, Mission Road, Belinder, State Line Road and Indian Lane (Mission Road to 63rd Street).
- The remaining streets and cul-de-sacs will have one lane cleared after the priority streets are completed, and then generally within 8 hours after a 3-4 inch storm has ended these streets should be cleared curb to curb. In the case of heavy snowfall, it can take longer than 8 hours to plow the snow on every street in the City.



What should I do with that snow on my driveway?

With a lower amount of snowfall last winter, we thought you might be out of practice so we wanted to take the time to share with you some information regarding snow removal.

- When clearing snow from your driveway, do not place the snow from your driveway back into the street as it causes problems for drivers on the street and is a violation of City ordinance. Additionally, if you have a private contractor remove the snow from your driveway and they push the snow to the street opposite your driveway please ask them to be sure and clean up all snow left on the roadway.
- Similarly, if you are using a snow blower to clear your driveway or sidewalk, please do not blow the snow onto the street, as this too is a violation of City ordinance.
- When snow is expected, we always encourage residents to park their vehicles in the driveway and do not allow vehicles to extend into the roadway. Cars in the roadway slow snow removal operations and results in cars being buried behind the plowed snow. If parking on the street is unavoidable, please park on the side where the addresses are odd numbered (on some streets the fire hydrants are on the odd numbered side of the street so you will have to park on the even numbered side). Having cars parked on just one side of the street will allow the plows to at least clear one lane.

We certainly understand that snow removal can be a challenge, but helping us keep additional snow off of the roadway ensures safer travel conditions and eliminates additional snow removal costs. ■

Holiday Cards/Gifts for Deffenbaugh Driver

Many residents show their thanks to the Deffenbaugh driver for his excellent service by leaving checks or cash taped to their trash/recycling bins during the holiday season. Unfortunately, over the past several years, many envelopes with financial gifts have been stolen from the cans. In an effort to curb this type of theft, the City has offered to allow residents to drop off holiday cards and gifts for the Deffenbaugh driver at City Hall. City staff will hold the gifts for the driver to pick up at his convenience.

Out on a Limb: Tree Talk



George Eib



Jesse Kirk

Companies Doing Tree Work Must Be Licensed with City

Any company engaging in pruning, trimming, spraying, treatment or removal of a tree on any property within the City of Mission Hills is required to have an Urban Forestry License. The annual license, which costs \$25, is also intended to provide the City a list of tree care businesses doing work in the City so that we can better communicate with them about City policies and processes. The license does not apply to homeowners doing tree work on their own property. Before hiring a tree service to work on your private trees, please ask them to apply for an Urban Forestry License with the City. If you would like to check and see if the company you use is licensed or if you have any questions, please contact City Hall.

3-Year Pruning Cycle – Next Up Mission Hills Homes Company

As a means of preserving and caring for the City's tree canopy, our street tree maintenance program includes pruning one third of the City's street trees each year. The area due for pruning in 2017 is the Mission Hills Homes Company (MHHC). The pruning includes all trees in the right-of-way (ROW) which is generally the area within 10 feet of the back of the curb, as well as all parks and traffic islands. The pruning company will be selected through a competitive bid process. If the winning bid is within our budgeted amount the entire MHHC area will be pruned. Pruning will begin in January 2017, with the goal of completing the pruning by May 1st. ■

Fall & Winter Checklist

- ✓ If you have not had your lawn aerified in the past two years, we recommend you consider having this done.
- ✓ Continue to mow grass as long as it grows, as the weather cools cut it shorter. Keep leaves off lawn during fall and winter. Remember to keep your mower blades sharp.
- ✓ We recommend you consider applying a fall fertilizer.
- ✓ Do not blow or dump leaves or snow into the street or into drainage channels as this is a violation of City Ordinances.
- ✓ Disconnect your hoses from your faucets once freezing temperatures arrive in order to prevent freeze damage to your plumbing.
- ✓ You should not prune spring flowering shrubs now as they set their buds in the fall. Wait until after they flower in the spring for shaping.
- ✓ It is important to have a chimney sweep check to make sure you do not have creosote buildup that could cause a fire. It is also important that you do not burn pine in your fire place.
- ✓ Keep gutters clear of debris that can cause water to spill or pool. Debris buildup can cause water to backup under shingles, resulting in interior damage.
- ✓ Clear overhead utility lines of overhanging limbs to prevent damage during a storm. You will need to have a City licensed private tree company do this.

Holiday Tips

By: Chief Schwartzkopf
Prairie Village Police Department

The winter time presents some new challenges to protect yourself and your property. Unfortunately your home can become a target during the holiday season so please take a moment to review these simple but important safety measures.

Lock your doors and windows at all times - even if you are away for only a few minutes. Remember, if you can get into your home without using a key so can burglars. Outside security can be as important as inside security. Do not keep a spare key in a hiding spot around your house; burglars know these hiding spots. Keep all sheds, gates, and garages locked when not in use. Use security lights to help light the outside and warn away intruders - burglars will often bypass the well lit home for the residence with poor lighting.

If you are expecting a package delivery, have someone home to accept it, leave it with a trusted neighbor, or have the delivery person hide it out of sight from the main roads. A package left outside for a few hours is not only a target to be stolen, but an indication to a burglar that no one is home.

When you go on holiday trips or to visit family and friends, do not forget to take a few easy steps to protect your property. Tell someone close to your home where you are going and when you will return. Call the Police Department at **913-642-5151** for a house watch on your residence. Cancel paper, mail, and any other regular deliveries to the home. A pile of newspapers is a sure sign that someone has not been home for a while. Set timers on lights, radios, or TVs to give the appearance that someone is home and moving around the residence. Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you are away. Ask a neighbor to make tire tracks in the driveway when it snows to give the appearance someone is home. Do not post your travel plans on social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter. You want only people you trust to know when your home will not be occupied.

After the season is over don't let your guard down because all of the presents have been opened. When you take the trash out after the holidays, avoid taking large product boxes out to the curb. Cut the boxes up and turn the labels inside out so no one knows what was in the box. Leaving a large flat screen TV, computer, or laptop box on the curb tells everyone that drives by what there is to steal in your home. Please take a few minutes of your time now to help safeguard your home and your family. Please be safe and have a happy holiday season! ■

Preparing for Power Outages

- If you are able, call 1-888-LIGHT-KC (544-4852). This is the fastest way to get your information to KCP&L crews who are working to restore power.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, and other equipment. Always assume a downed power line is still energized and do not approach it.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines if you use a generator and only operate it outdoors. If used indoors or in a garage, carbon monoxide fumes can build up and cause serious injury or death.
- Turn off most of your lights and unplug appliances and other electronic equipment to avoid overload damage when power is restored.
- Unplug any heat-producing devices, like irons and stoves, to reduce the danger of fire if power is restored while you are away.
- Avoid opening your freezer and refrigerator doors. A full freezer will keep its temperature for about 48 hours if the door remains closed.

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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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Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

The annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Sunday, November 20th from at to 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 Christmas cookies as we ring in the holidays!

City Calendar

At a Glance

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| November 24-25 | Thanksgiving Holiday
CITY HALL CLOSED |
| December 26 | Christmas Holiday
CITY HALL CLOSED |
| January 2 | New Year's Holiday
CITY HALL CLOSED |
| January 16 | Martin Luther King Jr.
CITY HALL CLOSED |
| January 18 | Annual Joint Homes Association Meeting at Indian Hills Country Club at 5: 45 PM |