

THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Winter 2019

Visit us at
www.missionhillssks.gov

Save
the Date



You're invited to participate in the Biannual Mission Hills Heavy Item Bulk Pickup!

Saturday, March 30, 2019 (more info inside)

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A Letter from Mayor Dickey



We had a tumultuous January; three significant winter events, limbs down, and many of you without power for days. Thank you for your resilience and patience.

The City works actively with KCP&L and other utilities in situations like these to help get residents back up and running as fast as possible. Unfortunately, KCP&L was overwhelmed by the quantity of snow and downed trees. In times like this, if you believe there is any dangerous situation, and KCP&L is unable to respond, please report that danger to our police or fire. The public safety teams that serve our City are happy to assess and help.

The many downed and damaged trees also make me reflect on the life and service of our long-time arborist, George Eib, who recently passed away. George served our City for almost two decades, was wonderfully helpful to our residents, and advocated for our canopy and greenspaces. The Park Board and City are working on a memorial to honor George and we will provide updates once plans have been finalized.

On a brighter note, I am pleased to let you know that Mission Hills was rated the #1 safest city in Kansas by Safewise. Kudos to all of our residents, our police department and City staff. This partnership succeeds because everyone works together!

I am also happy to announce the creation of a new ad hoc committee on community engagement. Two of the wonderful residents who spearheaded last summer's Party in the Park are co-chairing, and Councilman Andy Weed is serving as liaison. This committee will be looking at the range of activities we currently offer (e.g. Street Fair, Party in the Park, Holiday Tree Lighting, Compost and Coffee, Recycling Events) and evaluating other activities that will further engage residents (for example, how do we take advantage of the beautiful new Sunken Garden?). If you have any ideas or input, you may certainly send them to City Hall, or me directly, and I will pass it on to the Committee!

We are making some interior safety changes to City Hall. The world continues to change, and we wanted to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors to City Hall, while maintaining as much of the charm and openness that defines our community. Next time you stop in, you will see some new additions. Many other communities around us have already done similar work, or will be doing so in the near future.

Letter continued on Page 2

For more information, visit www.missionhillssks.gov

Letter continued from Page 1

Also, please take a moment to read the article inside on recycling and how you can help. Mission Hills has one of the highest recycling rates of KC metro cities, but there are some small things we can all do to help keep costs down, and ensure more of the materials find a second life and not a home in the landfill.

Be safe this winter!

Severe Weather Safety Reminders

Year-round we face the potential of property damage from storms. With snow and ice in the winter or damaging winds and hail during summer thunderstorms, it's important to know how to prepare for inclement weather and what to do after a storm has passed.

Be Prepared: Every family should have a handy backpack filled with “emergency essentials” that will help you cope for at least several days following a storm. In order of importance, these items include water, food, matches, blankets, a fully-charged cell phone, a flashlight, and a first-aid kit.

Stay Informed: The City of Mission Hills has lots of easy ways to stay up to date on topics such as power outages, how to handle storm debris, and City services occasionally being delayed by severe weather. Sign up to receive text or email notifications on the City website at www.missionhillsks.gov/list.aspx or Notify JoCo by calling 913-826-5555 or online at NotifyJoCo.org

Report an Outage: As soon as possible after a power outage, report your location and outage to KCP&L on their website at www.kcpl.com/report-outage or by phone at 1-888-544-4852. During high volume outages following a storm, KCP&L will prioritize sending work crews to the outages that affect the largest number of customers first. Alternatively, from time to time WaterOne crews may be working in your area, flushing hydrants, or attending to a water main break that can lead to a loss of service. Questions regarding your water service can be directed to WaterOne's 24-hour Customer Service at 913-895-1800. If you're unsure about which service handles your outage, please contact us at City Hall to assist in directing you towards the appropriate utility.

Storm Debris: With all of these beautiful old trees throughout the city it's inevitable that some will have damage after a storm. Residents are responsible for the cleanup of any limbs on their property outside of the City easement. If a City tree or limb has fallen on your property, please call City Hall to schedule a visit from the City Arborist and his team. In the event that a citywide storm debris pickup is scheduled, notice will be posted on the front page of the City website, and alerts sent via text or email if you are signed up for City notifications. As always, if a limb is down on a power line, leave it to the professionals and call KCP&L at 1-888-544-4852.

A Tribute to George

George Eib, Consulting Arborist for the City of Mission Hills for 18 years, passed away on Christmas day after suffering a massive stroke on December 20th. George was doing what he loved; smoking his pipe, being outdoors and caring for a friend, when the stroke occurred. Mission Hills lost a true friend to the community and the staff. As I drive through the City's streets I am reminded of the legacy that George has left in Mission Hills. Our urban forest bears the fruit of his efforts: increasing the number of publicly owned trees, creating the performance measures that allowed the City to begin bidding tree work, providing free consultations to the residents on their private trees, helping to identify the City's ash trees so that staff could form a plan to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer, and working with Kim Bomberger, Kansas Forester, to create a comprehensive inventory of all public trees, their location, size and condition. George graciously agreed to work with a new, younger arborist, sharing his information and knowledge about the City's urban forest. George semi-retired as the City's consulting arborist at the beginning of 2017. He continued to provide services to the residents, consult with City staff and participate in city events including the staff holiday luncheon. When I went to visit him in the hospital I told him how much we would miss him at the annual holiday luncheon for contractors at City Hall to be held the next day and he responded he'd be there!

George's memorial service was well attended by people from all of the areas of his life; his church, the city of Kansas City, Missouri where he worked his entire career, fellow arborists and many, many people from his time in Mission Hills. I know he was greatly honored. George is survived by his wife of 65 years Marlene, four sons, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The City has received several inquiries about a memorial for George. We have worked with the Kansas Arborist Association (KAA) to create a scholarship in George's name to provide an annual opportunity for a K-State student studying forestry to attend the KAA conference. If you would like to contribute to George's scholarship you may drop off your donation at City Hall. Gift receipts will be available. Further, we were already working on a wood bench in honor of his retirement that will be placed in Hiawassee Park, his favorite City park. The Park Board has committed to planting a tree in his honor and the 2019 Arbor Day tree will be planted in his honor as well, two trees providing shade for his bench so that all may enjoy the beauty and respite that a tree gives us. George will be sorely missed by us all.

By Courtney Christensen
City Administrator



Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

With Jesse Kirk, City Arborist

Mission Hills City Arborist Consulting Services

In 2016 the City Council implemented an Urban Forestry License. It is similar to an Occupational License and sets forth minimum qualifications of contractors engaging in any tree work within Mission Hills City limits. The licensing procedure allows the City to ensure that the tree company carries adequate insurance as well as being knowledgeable in current best management practices in arboriculture. This application is available on the City website so before you have your contractor out to do any work, you should check with them to make sure they are licensed with the City. The annual fee for the license is only \$25 and any company working without a license may be stopped and ticketed until compliant.

You are likely already aware whether or not you have an ash tree on your property. If you're not sure then give City Hall a call and I'll set up an appointment to review your property. If you do have an ash tree and haven't already started treating it, it's likely it may not longer be a suitable candidate for treatment. My preferred method of treatment is a systemic injection of emamectin benzoate, available under multiple trade names. This method provides at least two years of adequate protection when applied correctly. The ideal time for treatment is right after the leaves become fully developed in the spring, so now is a good time to check your records and contact your licensed arborist to schedule your treatment.

You may have noticed little green trees painted on you or your neighbor's curb. These trees indicate that the adjacent space has been identified as an appropriate site to plant a new street tree. We try to replace every tree we remove. However because we can't plant directly on the removal site, sometimes there are infrastructure conflicts, or the original planting site was less than ideal, not all removed trees can be replaced. We've already sent out our initial letters for this spring's planting, but if you feel you have a good planting site and would like a tree please call City Hall so that I can assess your site.

You can contact the City Arborist at:

Jesse Kirk

(913) 207-0012

jkirk@missionhillssks.gov

- Tree Identification
- Pest & Disease diagnosis and treatment options
- Planting site evaluation
- Emerald ash borer consulting
- Hazard diagnosis and remediation options
- Tree and hardscape conflicts
- Fruit reduction
- Aeration and fertilization needs
- Post construction tree health consulting
- Tree maintenance needs
- Appropriate species for planting
- Cabling and bracing options
- Landscape planning
- Screening
- Utility pruning
- Tree preservation and retention during large construction projects

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

It can be hard to determine what can and cannot be picked up in your curbside recycling, so we've included a handy cheat sheet! While most of us are familiar with the basics like newspaper, cereal boxes and plastic 2 liter bottles, did you know that you should only put the clean, top portion of your pizza box out for recycling? Be sure to only put out the approved recyclable items to streamline the sorting process. If you aren't sure if an item can be picked up in curbside recycling, call Recycle Spot at 816-474-8326. For large items that cannot be put out for curbside pickup, Mission Hills is holding the first of their biannual Bulky Item Pickup events on Saturday, March 30. Residents are asked to place their items at the curb no later than 8am Saturday morning. Acceptable items: Appliances, furniture, disassembled swing sets, and carpet cut into 4'x4' sections. Items that cannot be accepted: Items weighing more than 150 lbs, yard waste, hazardous materials, construction demolition materials, and compressed gas cylinders.

YES These items go in your curbside recycling bin!



NO These items do NOT go in your curbside recycling bin!



- Keep items loose, do not put in bags or boxes.
- Rinse all containers (plastic, metal, etc.).
- Collect metal caps and lids in steel (tin) can and squeeze shut.
- Put caps and lids back on plastic bottles and containers.
- Break down or flatten boxes.
- No liquid.
- No plastic bags or film.
- No food.

*Other recycling options available, visit RecycleSpot.org

Visit RecycleSpot.org or call 816-474-TEAM
Greater Kansas City's one-stop spot for recycling information



Information verified as of March 2019



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

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Winter Care Tips for Your Dog

During the winter our skin can become dry and irritated, and it's no different for your pet. Winter walks and extended outside play time can be potentially stressful or dangerous for dogs, with low temperatures and a variety of chemicals used for de-icing. There is a wide range of products for use in de-icing, with benefits and drawbacks of each.

Rock salt is easy to come by, universally available, and the cheapest option. However, it can be irritating on your dogs paws as well as causing stomach irritation in some cases. Ethylene glycol-based ice melts contain the same active ingredient as antifreeze and can be dangerous if ingested. Try to keep your dog from licking or eating ice and snow when you're out on walks. Look for ice melt that is advertised as "pet friendly".

Booties can help your dog when temperatures outside drop. They protect against freezing cold sidewalks and prevent salt and chemical ice melting agents from getting stuck between bare toes. If your dog isn't a fan of wearing booties you can massage petroleum jelly onto their paw pads before a walk.

Regular brushing will not only get rid of loose hair but also stimulates circulation which will improve the health of your dogs skin. Just like us, your dog is working harder than usual to stay warm in the winter. It's a good idea to make sure they have a bit of extra food than usual, and plenty of water to stay hydrated and help with dry skin.