

# THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

## Winter 2014

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Holiday Tree Lighting  
Ceremony Sunday,  
Nov. 23 at 5:30pm

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## The Good! The Bad. The Ugly?



Rick Boeshaar  
Mayor

**T**he Good! Your City is partnering with the Mission Hills Homes Company and the Mission Hills Homes Company Foundation to beautify three entryways into our City. New monuments at 56th and State Line and 59th and State Line have been approved by the ARB, Park Board and the City Council. The monument at 56th and Pembroke Lane is being restored.



New stone monument at 56th &  
State Line Road

Nearly two years of design, private fundraising, and collaboration are coming to fruition.

Also Good! The City Council approved the 2015 budget and a five-year capital improvement plan that holds the property tax mill levy flat and anticipates eliminating the Stormwater Utility Fee when the current ordinance “sunset”. If the utility fee sunsets, the last property tax bill, to reflect the fee, will be mailed in 2015 with the funds being received by the City in 2016. Budget summaries are available at City Hall.

The Bad. Burglary and theft statistics are starting to creep up. We have enjoyed nearly 10 years of unusually low crime rates in our City. Our terrific Police Department has apprehended suspects in crimes from this past summer, but none of us want the crimes to occur in the first place. The Crime Prevention and Safety Committee is studying the trends and communicating directly to residents about what we can ALL do to keep these crime rates low. Be vigilant! Keep your doors and cars locked and your garage doors closed! Don't leave valuables in sight when your car is parked! Ask your holiday party guests to do the same! If you are going to be away from home, visit the City's website [www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov) or call the Police Dept. to sign up for the House Watch program!

The Ugly? We are in the midst of general election campaigns. At the time I am writing this, they have not yet turned ugly, and I hope they won't! Remember to vote, Tuesday, November 4th or at one of the many opportunities to vote early. It is important that you study the issues and vote for the candidates you want to see in office for the next two or four years! We need the best people to lead us in our Federal, State, and County governments. The responsibility we have in a free society is to study the claims made by candidates (fact check) and vote for the representation you want.

It is my honor to serve as your mayor. Thank you for your trust! ■

For more information, visit [www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov)

## 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

As mentioned in the Mayor's article the City Council adopted the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan on August 11, 2014. The projects approved for 2015 are as follows:

- 64th St. – Indian Lane to Mission Rd., the work will include upgrading the stormwater system, replacing all curbs and gutters and all drive approaches in need of repair. Followed by the milling and paving of the roadway.
- Verona Terrace – work will include the replacement of all curbs and gutters along the street plus any drive approaches in need of repair followed by the milling and paving of the roadway.
- Sagamore Rd. – Tomahawk to 65th St. , due to the steep hill that this section of the street encompasses water damage to the curbs, gutters, and asphalt occurs more quickly than is typical for a city street. The curbs, gutters, and where needed, drive approaches will be replaced and the asphalt road will be milled and paved.
- The intersection at 63rd St. of Verona and Norwood – this intersection was left out of the street work that has occurred on both Verona and Norwood. This small intersection will have its curbs and gutters replaced and the asphalt milled and paved.
- 64th St. – Ensley to Belinder, this street has been identified for milling and paving of the roadway. Spot repairs of the concrete will be made where needed.

Engineering of 63rd St. and the 63rd St. bridge at Indian Lane / Wenonga Rd. is ongoing with the intent of building the new bridge and roadway in 2016. The City was awarded \$780,800 of KDOT funds for this project with the remaining cost of the project being split 50/50 with Johnson County.

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## Before the Snow Comes Autumn Leaves



By the time you have received this newsletter, autumn leaves will have started falling in the City and will continue to do so for weeks to come. We ask residents to observe the City ordinance by not blowing or dumping leaves into the streets or drainage channels as this will cause back-ups and flooding.

If you use a lawn service, we ask that you remind your service to bag collected leaves rather than blowing them into the streets and gutters.

Also bear in mind you may set your yard waste out for collection by Deffenbaugh anytime after 3:00 p.m. Sunday for Monday collection.

The City wishes to thank everyone for their cooperation in this matter. By observing the ordinance, we will keep our drains and channels clear while enjoying the spectacular fall foliage. ■

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## Mission Hills Welcomes Visiting Haitian Student

We'd like to welcome Samuel Simon to our community! Samuel is a Haitian student studying at Penn Valley Community College to earn a Physical Therapist Assistant certificate. His program of study is expected to take up to four years.

While Samuel is working on his degree, he will be living with Ted and Kim Higgins and their family. Dr. Higgins met Samuel during a medical mission trip to Haiti where Samuel served as a translator for the group. Samuel will be attending the ESL program at Penn Valley Community College for the next year.



If you are hosting a special guest or international exchange student, let us welcome her or him to our City!

# Everything You Need To Know About Snow in the City

by Jennifer Lee,  
Assistant City Administrator

No sooner than the last leaf is bagged we will begin to see snowflakes. That, of course, raises the question - *where do I put all that snow?* Below you will find a Mission Hills snow guide divided in two parts - *how the City deals with snowfall* and what you, the resident, will need to do to keep snowfall manageable.

## ***City Snowfall Removal Guidelines***

- √ Plowing generally begins after 2 inches of snowfall.
- √ When there is ample warning, and rain is not expected prior to the snow the City streets are pre-treated.
- √ 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 Avenue, 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. Generally within eight hours after a three to four inch storm has ended, these streets should be cleared from curb to curb. In the case of heavy snowfall, it may take longer than eight hours to plow the snow on every street in the City. Keeping all parked cars off the street when snow is expected speeds up the plowing efforts and this saves tax dollars.

## ***Resident Snowfall Removal Guidelines***

- √ When clearing snow from your driveway, do not place the snow in the street as it causes problems for drivers and is a violation of City ordinance. Additionally, if you have a private contractor remove snow from the driveway and they push snow to the opposite side of the street from your driveway, please ask them to clean up any snow left on the roadway.
- √ If you are using a snowblower to clear your driveway or sidewalk, please do not blow snow out into the street as this is also a violation of City ordinance and is dangerous for drivers and other users of the street.
- √ When snow is expected, we encourage all 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 result in cars being buried behind the plowed snow. If parking on the street is unavoidable, please park on the opposite side of the street from the fire hydrants; typically you will park on the odd 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 the roadway ensures safer travel conditions and eliminates additional snow removal costs. ■



The mailbox located just outside City Hall on Tomahawk Road has been removed due to low volume usage.

The nearest scheduled collection box in the area can be found at 6917 Tomahawk Drive in the Prairie Village Shopping Center.

If you have questions, you may contact the Postmaster, Shawnee Mission, at 913-831-5300.

## Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

by George L. Eib, City Arborist



George L. Eib

**R**ain, Rain, come again! Finally we are seeing some return toward normal rainfall numbers, but 2014 is still overall below the average for this point in the year. So once again I wish to remind you to keep watering your trees and shrubs so that they have sufficient moisture heading into what is predicted to be a hard winter. My recommendation is to water twice a week for one hour whether with an irrigation system or an

oscillating sprinkler. In spite of the continuation of the drought the City planted 228 trees this spring and has plans to plant an additional 50 – 60 this fall. Please help us and water these new trees whenever possible this winter.

The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Roeland Park. The City continues to monitor for the borer but so far no signs of it have been found in Mission Hills. Should you suspect the presence of EAB in a private ash tree please advise City Hall of this concern so that we can keep track of the spread of the borer and report it to the State of Kansas when it is confirmed.

As we quickly slide into fall and the temperatures cool at night, we enter the fall planting and leaf removal seasons. September is a great time to over seed your yard and plant your smaller spring blooming bulbs. October and November, once the soil temperatures have cooled, is the perfect time to plant larger bulbs, such as hyacinths, tulips, etc. Adding bone meal to your soil will help with rooting of the bulbs. Water is important in establishing these bulbs and the new grass. Keeping leaves off of the lawn will help the grass to establish. Please remember to keep all leaves out of the street as they get into the catch basins and creeks causing back-ups. Have a wonderful Fall and feel free to call me if I can offer any advice on your private trees.

## Fall & Winter Checklist

- ✔ 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.
- ✔ Plant spring blooming bulbs. It is important to water spring blooming bulbs that you plant this fall during dry periods this winter and into spring.
- ✔ If you have overhead utility lines from your house to the power pole (called house drops) now is the time to have those cleared of overhanging limbs to prevent them from falling onto lines during a storm. It is not the responsibility of KCP&L to clear them. You will need to have a private tree company do this.
- ✔ 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.
- ✔ It is a violation of City ordinance to blow or dump leaves or snow into the street or into drainage channels.
- ✔ Mow grass as long as it continues to grow and as the weather cools, cut shorter.
- ✔ It is important to have a chimney sweep check to make sure you do not have creosote buildup that can cause a fire. It is important that you not burn pine.

## 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. ■

# WINTER CRIME PREVENTION

by Investigations Captain Tim Schwartzkopf  
Prairie Village Police Department

With the Holiday travel season soon approaching...the Police Department wanted you to be aware of some hotel scams that have occurred across the country over the last few years. Nothing spoils a trip more than a compromised credit card.

## ***Phony Restaurant Flyers***

Many budget-conscious travelers will opt for ordering from a nearby restaurant -- grabbing the first menu they see wedged in their door. The problem is that some of these flyers are not restaurants at all. When you place your order and provide your credit card over the phone, your meal will not arrive and your credit card number may be used for fraudulent charges. Do yourself a favor, either spend a little more money and order room service, or take some time and research the restaurant online to make sure it is an actual business.

## ***Fake Wi-Fi***

Free Wi-Fi is great, but just make sure when you access a network, it is legitimate. The network may be labeled "Free Hotel Wi-Fi" but it could be a cyber thief who is nearby waiting to grab your personal information. To avoid this scam, confirm with the hotel the correct Wi-Fi network name.

## ***Phone Phishing***

You check into the hotel and hours later you receive a phone call from a person posing as hotel staff from the front desk. The person makes a statement that the hotel computer systems are down and they need to run your credit card again. The problem is the caller is only posing as an employee at the front desk...you have just provided a criminal with your credit card information. In these instances, tell the caller you will contact the front desk in person and hang up. Most hotels are aware of this scam and have put countermeasures into place by not transferring a call into a room unless the caller knows the name and room number. Do not become a victim to this scam...contact the front desk in person to clear up any issues and report any suspicious phone calls to hotel staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Investigations Captain Tim Schwartzkopf at [tschwartzkopf@pvkansas.com](mailto:tschwartzkopf@pvkansas.com) or 913-385-4609. ■

## **Reminder: Unlimited Trash the Week After Christmas and Christmas Tree Pick-Up**

The week of December 29, 2014 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. This includes large boxes and packing materials.

Deffenbaugh will be collecting live Christmas trees on both Monday, December 29, 2014 and Monday, January 5, 2015. Please be sure to remove all decorations prior to placing your tree at the curb.

## **Holiday Safety Tips**

- Do not put large gift displays in view of your windows
- Do not leave your car warming unlocked and unattended
- Be discreet about gifts you received. Flatten empty boxes and place them in trash receptacle
- Do not leave items of value in your car where they can be seen



6300 State Line Road  
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*The Columns* is published three times a year for the residents of Mission Hills.

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## Notify JoCo Making a Difference

Mission Hills City Hall recently posted the *Crime Update and Safety Tips* on the City website utilizing *Notify JoCo* as the initial point of contact. The City learned that 90 percent of those who received the message via email or text immediately visited the City website to read more regarding the latest spate of burglaries.

That being said, we encourage everyone to not only sign up with *Notify JoCo*, but to also add an email or phone number to your contact information so you may be emailed or texted. The City message may refer you to [www.missionhillsks.gov](http://www.missionhillsks.gov) to receive more information about a given event or situation.

To register with *Notify JoCo*, you may go to [www.notifyjoco.org](http://www.notifyjoco.org) or call at 913-826-5555.

## City Calendar *at a glance*

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| November 23    | Tree Lighting Event                        |
| November 27-28 | Thanksgiving Holiday<br>CITY HALL CLOSED   |
| December 25-26 | Christmas Holiday<br>CITY HALL CLOSED      |
| January 1      | New Year's Holiday<br>CITY HALL CLOSED     |
| January 19     | Martin Luther King Jr.<br>CITY HALL CLOSED |