

Start Planning for that Summer Job NOW!!

If you will be at least 16 years old by August, 1999 and would like to be a lifeguard at the Prairie Village Pool this Summer, here's your chance. The City is sponsoring a **Lifeguard Training Program** for new lifeguards. If you worked at the Prairie Village Pool last Summer and would like to return, apply now and try to lock-in that Summer job.

For more information or an employment application, call 913-381-6464.

Holiday Office Hours

In observance of the President's Day holiday, City offices will be closed on Monday, February 21st. As always, emergency services will be available by dialing 9-1-1.

Due to the holiday, trash service will also be delayed by **one day** the entire week.

Everyone May Participate



If any individual requires an accommodation to participate in public meetings, contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464 (TDD 1-800-766-3777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.

Safety Tips from the Fire District

With the safe and orderly passing of the New Year, many Y2K fears have been put safely to rest. During the past several months, Fire District employees fielded many inquiries regarding the proper storage of gasoline and other flammable liquids. The uneventful passing of the New Year means that many of you may still have some of these flammable materials on hand. You have probably heard some of the safety tips about dealing with flammable liquids. In case you haven't, now is a good time to review them.

- One gallon of gasoline equals six sticks of dynamite.
- Gasoline does not have to contact a flame to ignite. The fumes may be ignited by a pilot light or spark which is several yards from the gasoline container.
- Static electricity or a static spark is capable of igniting gasoline vapors.
- Gasoline is intended as a **motor fuel only**.
- Children should **NEVER** use gasoline.
- Gasoline or other flammable liquids must be stored in approved containers with an airtight cap in place. The container must be stored in a dry, well ventilated area, away from all ignition sources and out of the reach of children.

Fire District No. 2 continues to provide free home safety inspections. If you would like to make an appointment please contact us during regular business hours at 913-432-1105.

Welcome to the New Crime Prevention Officer



Officer **Dawn Richardson** has been selected to be the City's new Crime Prevention Officer. She is taking over the reins from Officer Dan Robles, who has been in this position for the past four years. Officer Robles has been transferred to the Patrol Division, so you still may see him around your neighborhood.

Officer Richardson has been with the Prairie Village Police Department since 1997, and says she is looking forward to her new role as Crime Prevention Officer.

For more information about the City's Crime Prevention program, give Officer Richardson a call at 913-385-4613.

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Help Plan OUR Future in Prairie Village Strategic Planning Meeting on February 15th

Over the past several months, the City Council has been working to develop a Strategic Plan to provide direction and guidance for the City over the next five to ten years. As mentioned in last month's *Prairie Village Voice*, Prairie Village residents have completed a survey regarding their satisfaction with City services and been asked where the City should focus its resources in the coming years. The Mayor and City Council, members of the Planning Commission, and the City's appointed officials have completed a strategic profile questionnaire to identify issues they feel should be addressed in the coming years. While the citizen survey results indicated that the vast majority of Prairie Village residents are currently satisfied with City services, the City must look to the future to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Prairie Village into the 21st century. The ultimate goal is to make life better in Prairie Village than it has been before and is now.

So far, surveys have been conducted, results tabulated, and lots of paper generated. Now it's time to put faces

and voices to the City's developing strategic plan at the first of two city-wide public forums. The first forum will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15th** in the City Council Chambers. The purpose of this forum will be to identify and define critical issues facing the community, then rank them in order of their importance. A list of issues identified by the surveys which have already been conducted will serve as the starting point for the community-wide discussion. Additional issues will be defined and all issues will be refined as necessary.

A second city-wide public forum will be held in March to develop strategies that address the issues identified in the first forum. The better the participation, the better the plan, so please get involved.

Mark your calendars now!! Be part of the plan by attending and participating in this process to help shape the future of our community.

Meet The Author Series Continues

Come meet Donald Walton, author of *Our Weird Wonderful Ancestors: Soap Operas of Life and Love* on Sunday, **February 27th, 3:00 p.m.** at **Claridge Court, 8101 Mission Road**. During this program Mr. Walton will tell you what your teachers never did. You will learn about the escapades of the movers and shakers of 1776 and the American Revolutionary period. Books will also be available for purchase and signing by the author. This

program is sponsored by Corinth Library, Claridge Court, and the Friends of the Johnson County Library. Parking is available at Corinth Library and First Bank of Kansas, 81st and Somerset.

For more information or to request an accommodation, please call 913-967-8650.

Mayor's Message

On Tuesday, February 15th Prairie Village will take its next step toward developing a strategic plan for the City's future. So far, a citizen survey has been conducted and elected officials, members of the Planning Commission, and City department managers have completed a similar survey and discussed their ideas for the City's future. While these comments and discussions provide useful information, I know there are other Prairie Village residents and business owners who may also have thoughts, ideas, and suggestions about the City's future. Your thoughts are important, and we must hear them to consider them. We know there is a wealth of interest in Prairie Village, and I would like to encourage anyone in the Prairie Village community who is willing to share their thoughts to participate in a **City Wide Public Forum**.

If you haven't read the article about the **City Wide Public Forum** scheduled for **February 15th**, please turn back to the front page of this *Prairie Village Voice*, to review the invitation and mark your calendar. This evening is designed to bring the public into the strategic planning process. City officials can meet and discuss issues. They can develop strategies and action plans. But, if these plans don't reflect the overall goals of the community, they will simply sit on a shelf and collect dust. This is why it's so important for you to participate in the strategic planning process. After all, it is *our* city.



Hope to see you on February 15th!!

Ronald L. Shaffer, Mayor

Winter Driving Tips

It's that time of year when the weather can turn nasty with little or no warning. With the holiday season past and Winter weather upon us, it's time to review the "Rules of the Road" for Winter driving.

- **Slow Down!!!** A road that looks clear may have a thin layer or patches of ice on it.
- Make sure you can see the road. Scrape ice and snow from your windshield and all windows and outside mirrors. Keep your windshield wiper fluid full and make sure your wiper blades work properly.
- Keep a set of chains, a large bag of cat litter (in case your car gets stuck in snow or ice) and an ice scraper in your car at all times.
- Make sure your car is properly winterized and has a good set of all-season tires.
- Drive cautiously on side streets. Road crews concentrate on clearing main streets first. So even if the thoroughfares are clear, your neighborhood streets may still be slippery.

50+ Announces Spring Schedule



The Johnson County 50+ Program has just released its Spring Schedule, and for the next few months the following courses/programs will be offered at the Prairie Village Municipal Offices:

Low Impact Aerobics – morning class	Begins Feb 28th
Low Impact Aerobics – evening class	Begins Feb. 29th
Mother of the Bride – just in time for the “wedding season”	March 2nd
Bridge in One Month	Begins March 6th
Intermediate Lip Reading	Begins March 30th

For more information about these and other programs offered by Johnson County 50+ call 913-236-4343. Call now to register as space is limited.

Come to a Council Meeting!

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Offices. At the beginning of each meeting, residents and others who wish to address the Council may participate in the public portion of the meeting. If you have issues you would like to share with your Mayor and City Council or questions you would like to ask, please come to a meeting and make your voice heard.

City Council meetings for the next few months will be held on:

- Feb. 22nd – (Tuesday)
- March 6th
- March 20th
- April 3rd
- April 17th



If any individual requires an accommodation to participate in public meetings, please contact the City Clerk to make appropriate arrangements at 913-381-6464 or TDD 1-800-766-3777.

Police Citizens Academy Announcement

Applications are now being accepted for a Spring Police Citizens Academy, to begin March 1st. Classes are scheduled on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for a ten-week period.

Past participants have been leaders in the community, interested and concerned citizens, and business and academic professionals. The Academy takes a hands-on approach to learning, and classes offer a unique opportunity to involve participants in discussing the Department's methods of operation, philosophies, and goals. Some of the topics covered include Traffic Enforcement, Officer Safety Tactics, Shoot/Don't Shoot, Kansas Law, and Crime Scene Processing.

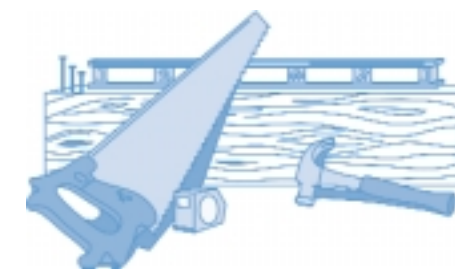
For more information, please contact Sgt. John Womer at 913-385-4623. Applications are also available at the Public Safety Center.

Do I Need a Permit for That?

Winter is the time of year when many of us think about home improvement projects we would like to do in the Spring and Summer months. Many projects that may improve your home's appearance and value do not require construction permits, such as painting, carpeting, replacing kitchen cabinets, and replacing plumbing and electrical fixtures. Other projects do require permits.

Typical construction projects that require permits are:

- Fences
- Re-roofing
- Room additions
- Electric service upgrades
- Rebuilding foundation walls
- Replacing furnaces & air conditioners
- Re-wiring electrical systems
- Replacing water heaters



Some of these projects also require you to provide construction drawings for review before the permit can be issued. Please call the Codes Administration Department at 913-381-6464 before starting your project to make sure you get all the necessary permits. The Codes Administration staff will do their best to help guide you through the permit process.

Pave the Patio!!!

The Prairie Village Arts Council is selling bricks you can personalize which will be installed in the patio of the Community Center in June. Prices for individual bricks are \$35, and corporate sponsorships begin at \$100. Funds raised through the "Pave the Patio" project will cover the costs of engraving and installing the bricks, and help support continued cultural arts programming for the community.

"Pave the Patio" order forms are available at the Municipal Offices or by calling 913-381-6464.

