

# VOICE



## Public Works facility nears completion

Work on the reconstructed Prairie Village Public Works facility on Somerset Avenue is expected to be completed this summer.

The new facility will house approximately 40 employees from public works and building codes along with multiple bays for mechanics to perform repairs on the various vehicles in the Prairie Village Public Works and Police Department fleet.

As part of responsible construction, the Prairie Village City Council directed staff to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification within reasonable costs and implementation strategies.

LEED is the most widely-used green building rating system in the world. Available for all building types, LEED provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings.

LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership. There are several levels of LEED certification with the highest being Platinum.

These strategies include installation of solar panels to provide power, installation of an underground rain harvesting system for non-potable water use, and even recycling materials during demolition.

The project was at 90% recycled materials in April. This includes all of the haul off from the demolition of the site and the contractor's diligence in recycling their waste as well. Haul off from demolition includes concrete, asphalt and metal from the old building. The contractor maintains recycling streams on-site and tracks their recycling efforts for our LEED certification process.

Updates and photos can be seen on the City's website at [pvkansas.com/construction](http://pvkansas.com/construction).

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# A Message from the Mayor

## Elected Officials

### MAYOR

Eric Mikkelson  
913-385-4600 • mayor@pvkansas.com

### WARD I

Chad Herring  
913-383-8752 • cherring@pvkansas.com

Jori Nelson  
Unlisted • jnelson@pvkansas.com

### WARD II

Ron Nelson  
913-602-9003 • rnelson@pvkansas.com

Inga Selders  
913-648-5804 • iselders@pvkansas.com

### WARD III

Bonnie Limbird  
913-214-6127 • blimbird@pvkansas.com

Tucker Poling  
785-760-0686 • tpoling@pvkansas.com

### WARD IV

Sheila Myers  
913-645-8093 • smyers@pvkansas.com

Piper Reimer  
816-510-8573 • preimer@pvkansas.com

### WARD V

Courtney McFadden  
913-381-8089 • cmcfadden@pvkansas.com

Dan Runion  
913-648-8861 • drunion@pvkansas.com

### WARD VI

Terrence Gallagher  
913-642-4163 • tgallagher@pvkansas.com

Ian Graves  
816-665-9255 • igraves@pvkansas.com

Unsure which ward you live in?  
Visit [www.pvkansas.com/wardmap](http://www.pvkansas.com/wardmap).



Dear friends and neighbors,  
Prairie Village, you're on a roll.

Widespread vaccinations have us on a trajectory to normal in-person interactions. Our treasured tree canopy is greening and thickening beautifully, and is now more protected during construction with a new tree ordinance.

Our City has never been in better financial condition, allowing us to make major, long-term, sustainable investments in our infrastructure. This includes construction on our new LEED-platinum Public Works building, on track to be complete by early fall, and several major roads and drainage projects underway throughout the city.

Recently, a national rating agency named Prairie Village the #1 best suburb in Kansas and in the Kansas City metro, and the 27th best suburb in the United States. High honors, especially given the outstanding competition (though I think they got the 27 ranking a little low).

Our pools are scheduled to reopen safely. Beloved community events like VillageFest and JazzFest are adapting to return. Property values continue to rise. Crime is at historic lows. We are taking proactive steps, unprecedented in our history, to promote and encourage diversity and sustainability throughout our city, and to assist those in need. Our city has become significantly more bikable and walkable in recent years, with more to come. We enjoy some of the best, award-winning parks and schools in the country. New businesses are opening up all over town with several major new commercial investment and redevelopment projects in the pipeline.

Over the next few months we will be finalizing our 2022 City budget. That is always an exercise in balancing (1) the desire of our residents to enjoy high quality amenities, streets, parks, policing, services and more with (2) being efficiently responsible in minimizing the approximately 16% of your property tax bill that is within our City control. Each and every resident, and council person, brings a unique set of values, expertise and opinions to that process every year.

Unlike the hyper-partisan politics we often see grid-locking other levels of government, in Prairie Village we benefit from renewed dedication by most participants in local politics to non-partisan and good faith debate, mutual respect, truth, reason, compromise, fair process, listening, kindness and transparency: Hallmarks of our cherished local good government. That's why we routinely get such great results in Prairie Village, big and small. I encourage your participation and rededication to those principles that make us strong together.

Prairie Village is on track for one of its best years ever, not only because of the civic successes and accolades described above. This is also the year that everyone savors the little things more, such as the ability to shake your neighbor's hand as you ask how they're doing, and to gather together for arts shows, music events, government meetings, business dealings, social events, exercise and more. As increasingly safely allowed by health guidelines, those will all be a bit more special and appreciated than ever before.

I am grateful to emerge into this hopeful time in a city full of wonderful residents like you. Thank you for everything you do to make Prairie Village better each day.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EM', written in a cursive style.

-Eric

# Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
5/3	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD
5/4	Planning Commission Meeting	7 p.m.	TBD
5/17	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD
5/31	Memorial Day City offices closed	All day	City offices
6/1	Planning Commission Meeting	7 p.m.	TBD
6/7	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD
6/21	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD

As of April 19, City meetings are still taking place via online video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When in-person meetings resume, they will be in the Council Chambers. For a more comprehensive list of upcoming meetings and events as well as their locations, visit [pvkansas.com](http://pvkansas.com).



## Save the Date for JazzFest 2020

Plans by the Prairie Village Jazz Festival committee are tentatively underway for a September 11, 2021 event. Please save the date, and stay tuned for more details in future editions of the Village Voice and on the website at [pvkansas.com/jazzfest](http://pvkansas.com/jazzfest).

## Pool passes on sale now

The City of Prairie Village is excited to safely reopen the Prairie Village Pool Complex for the summer of 2021. Purchase your membership before May 19 to receive \$10 off. For information about the summer 2021 pool season, including memberships, complex hours, and COVID-19 precautions, please visit our website at [www.pvkansas.com/pool](http://www.pvkansas.com/pool).



## Skate park closed for construction

The skate park at Harmon Park closed for demolition in April. Throughout the summer, the park will be reconstructed with new elements based on community feedback gathered over the past several years. The new design will incorporate plaza elements, a street course, transitional elements, and an event stage integrated into the skateable territory. The final concept consists of approximately 10,000 square feet of skateable terrain. The park is scheduled to reopen in mid-August. Learn more at [pvkansas.com/pvskatepark](http://pvkansas.com/pvskatepark).

## VillageFest To Go to be held July 4

The Prairie Village VillageFest Committee invites residents to participate in VillageFest To Go (take two)! In the interest of public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, Prairie Village cannot host its traditional Independence Day event, which draws thousands of people to the municipal campus each year. VillageFest To Go will be a drive-through event, with even more giveaways and surprises than last year! More details will be coming soon online at [pvkansas.com/villagefest](http://pvkansas.com/villagefest).



## Supporting local pollinators

The arrival of springtime has seen the return of many of our familiar friends in the garden: pollinators!

Pollinators are a vital piece of our local ecosystem. While we commonly think of insects such as butterflies and bees as pollinators, other pollinators such as birds, bats, beetles, moths, and flies also play substantial roles in pollinating our trees, flowers, and gardens.

All of these pollinators compose a complex, interdependent ecosystem in our city. The last few decades have seen a precipitous decline in pollinator populations. This has long-term impacts on our ecosystem's ability to continue and thrive.

While the news may seem dire, we can do our part locally to help our pollinator populations. The first big step is to reduce or avoid the use of insecticides. Particularly broad-spectrum (think multi-bug) pesticides that include chemicals such as neonicotinoids and pyrethroids among others. Broad-spectrum pesticides can have negative impacts on the insects that are not being a nuisance to you, even on predators to the bug you may want less of. Read the labels of any insecticide you use to understand its contents and proper application.

Next, you can plant a pollinator garden. A variety of flowering plants in different shapes, sizes, and colors, particularly native plants, provide local pollinators of all kinds a different "station" at which to stop, feed, and pollinate. Variety is important as it will make the garden useful to a variety of species of pollinating creatures. Hummingbird feeders attract enjoyable hummingbirds to your yard, but also give the avid avian pollinators a chance to load up on energy while moving to the next set of flowers to visit.

Lastly, avoid light pollution that confuses nighttime pollinators like bats and moths. Explore light fixtures that shield the light source to reduce glare and redirect lighting out of the sky. For more information on pollinators and planting pollinator gardens, visit <https://www.pollinator.org/guides> for a guide for our local area.

## Norris wins Arbor Day poster contest

Leah Norris, a fifth grade student in Peggy Lawler's class at Highlands Elementary School, was named the 2021 winner of the Arbor Day poster contest by the Prairie Village Tree Board in February. The theme of this year's contest was "We All Need Kansas Trees for Resilient Ecosystems!"

The Tree Board looked at several criteria in judging entries including artistic merit, correct spelling, neatness and how well a work communicated the poster theme. Mayor Eric Mikkelsen appeared virtually by Zoom to the fifth grade class to congratulate Leah, and she was presented with a

certificate by the City.

Leah's poster has since been selected the winner in the Northeast District of Kansas and is now in the running to be a statewide winner. A tree will be planted in Leah's honor, and all her classmates will receive tree seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation.



## PV Foundation supports Johnson County Utility Assistance Program

The Prairie Village Foundation receives generous donations from the community throughout the year and, in turn, provides funding to help our community in need.

Johnson County Aging and Human Services is one organization the Foundation partners with to reach residents. The Foundation provides funding directly to the county for utility assistance.

The Johnson County Utility Assistance Program provides financial assistance to qualifying households who are past

due on utilities or unable to make a payment on a current payment arrangement.

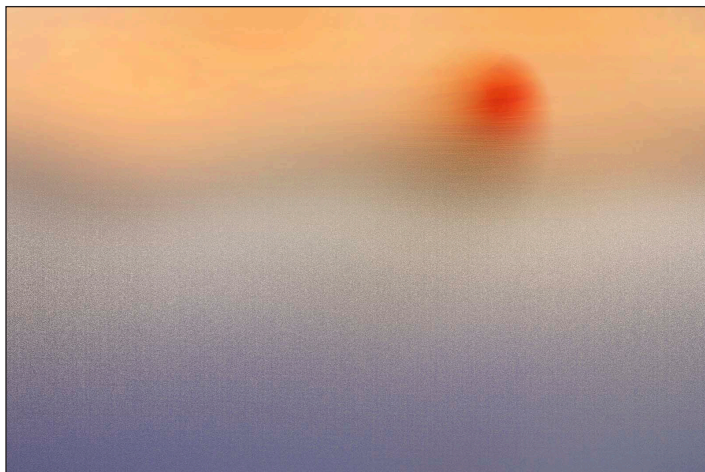
"Many residents live paycheck-to-paycheck and are one disaster or emergency away from needing assistance," said Johnson County Community Relations Manager Brandy Hodge. "We are here to serve those who are struggling to pay their utility bills and provide resources for additional services if needed."

Residents are extremely thankful for this extra help, whenever the need

arises. The Prairie Village Foundation is proud of our community response. We have always made Prairie Village residents our first priority. If you are a Prairie Village resident and need to access these kind of services, please call the County directly at 913-715-6653.

If you would like to donate to The Prairie Village Foundation so we may continue to help our community members, please go to [prairievillagefoundation.com](http://prairievillagefoundation.com).

# 2021 Art of Photography winners selected



Smoggy Sunset by Larry Hodes



Quarantine Isolation by Cornelia Kurtew

Prairie Village Arts Council's Fourth Annual Art of Photography juried exhibition—though it was virtual yet again – was another resounding success! More than 1,000 entries were submitted from 35 U.S. states, British Columbia, Ontario, and Germany. Visit [artspv.org/aop2021](http://artspv.org/aop2021) to view the virtual exhibit and winners until the end of May. Selecting the winners was tough for juror Aaron Smith, photographer and professor at JCCC. He selected 149 artworks for the exhibit, and awarded the following prizes for the top submissions:

**Best of Show** - \$750

*Smoggy Sunset* by Larry Hodes

**Best of Category** - \$500

People/Portraits of People: *The Bridge Walkers* by Darcy Dangremond

Landscapes and Architecture: *Iowa Winter 1* by Sarah Hill

Abstract/Non-traditional/Photo-collage/Highly digitally enhanced: *Abstract 2* by BJ Collins

**Honorable Mention** - \$200

People and Portraits of People: *When I was Young* by Edward Tepper and *Patriarchy Cook-off* by Cindy Hansen

Landscapes and Architecture: *Sunrise, Lake Charleviox* by Matt Zory and *Morning Fog* by Arlene Stanger

Abstract/Non-traditional/Photo-collage/Highly digitally enhanced: *Rust 1* by Ronald Rigge and *Flag* by Clare Dygert

**People's Choice Award** - \$250

*Quarantine Isolation* by Cornelia Kurtew

## Join the Arts Council for first PV Art Walk June 11

Please join Mayor Eric Mikkelson and Prairie Village Arts Council Members June 11 at 5:30 p.m. for the first Prairie Village Art Walk, beginning at our city's first public sculpture and gateway to Prairie Village: The Homesteaders at 69th Street and Mission Road. We will walk through the Village Shops to view our second sculpture, Fluid Form, and then continue south on Mission Road to 71st Street for a ribbon-cutting event at Fifties Freedom In The Village at 6 p.m. At this popular new "boy on a bicycle" sculpture, we will be joined by sculptor E. Spencer Schubert and donor Brad Johnson to officially welcome our city's newest commissioned sculpture.

The Prairie Village Art Walk will continue south on Mission Road to view four more public sculptures, ending at Corinth Square. Round-trip, the path is 3.6 miles. Grab your favorite walking shoes to celebrate spring and our city's public sculptures, or meet us at 71st & Mission for our ribbon-cutting event only. We can't wait to see, and walk with, you!

The sculptures' informational placards will be available throughout the summer for your self-guided art walks, too.



June 11th Schedule:

5:30 p.m. - Meet at Homesteaders, 69th Street & Mission Road

6:00 p.m. - Ribbon-cutting at Fifties Freedom in the Village, 71st Street & Mission Road



# Planting on traffic islands

Many Prairie Village residents contribute to the beautification of our community by planting flowers or other plants in urns and statuettes in traffic islands. It's important that there is no direct contact between plants and the statuary. Plant roots can grow into the pores of the stone and secrete acids, which can dissolve the stone leading to increased porosity. Water within the pores can freeze in the winter, expand, and cause additional deterioration of the stone. If you intend to plant in one of these urns or statues, please use a liner or pot to avoid direct contact. Pots can easily be removed when the flowers die or become dormant.

If you would like to volunteer to contribute to the maintenance and beautification of a traffic island in your neighborhood, please contact the Prairie Villlage Public Works Department at (913)385-4647 or [publicworks@pvkansas.com](mailto:publicworks@pvkansas.com).



## Things to know when replacing your driveway

Are you thinking about replacing your driveway? If so, here is a reminder of what the City requirements are:

- Any work in the right-of-way requires a right-of-way permit. The City right-of-way area is typically 10 to 12 foot from the back of the curb.
- The contractor that you have hired needs to obtain the Right-Of-Way Permit and meet the permit requirements as stated in the City's right-of-way ordinance. Please make sure your contractor obtains this permit prior to beginning work on your driveway. Also, if you are planning on widening your driveway, a proposed plan must be submitted for review to verify it meets City drainage regulations.
- City ordinances require that residential driveway entrances be no wider than 22 feet (not including the wings) and that the driveway entrance should be at least two feet from the adjoining property line.
- The City also has specifications on the requirements for the right-of-way portion of your driveway.
- If you want to vary the right-of-way portion of your driveway from the City specifications then you must get approval from the Prairie Village Public Works Department and also sign a driveway variance waiver.

Note that right-of-way permits are required for any work in the City right-of-way, which includes but is not limited to:

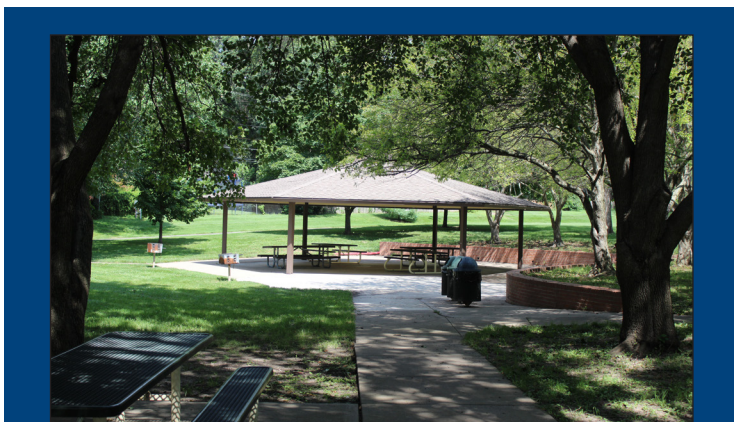
- Irrigation system installation
- Landscaping
- Tree planting
- Electric underground fences
- Utility work
- Driveways

If you have questions about replacing your driveway or any other work in the City right-of-way, please contact the Prairie Village Public Works Department at (913)385-4647 or [publicworks@pvkansas.com](mailto:publicworks@pvkansas.com).



## Library programs in the parks

To celebrate National Poetry Month in April, Johnson County Library set up a poetry walk in Franklin Park featuring poems and artwork by local poets and artists. The Library plans to hold a walk and read program in Franklin Park July 9-18 and Wassmer Park September 17-27.



## Weigh in on Taliaferro Park improvements

Improvements are on the horizon for Taliaferro Park. The shelter will be replaced, and a permanent restroom facility will be added. Check out the options for each project at <https://www.pvkansas.com/departments/projects/taliaferro-park-improvements> and use the survey link on that page to weigh in.

## #9PMRoutine

- ⚠️ Remove valuables from vehicles
- ⚠️ Lock vehicle doors
- ⚠️ Close the garage door
- ⚠️ Close & lock all exterior doors
- ⚠️ Turn on exterior light
- ✅ #9PMRoutine complete



## Don't forget the 9PM Routine

As we move into nicer weather this spring and summer, remember the 9PM Routine. We all stay out later and enjoy the outdoors. Make sure to close your garage doors, secure your vehicles, and remove valuables from your cars. Thieves are looking for easy targets and following the 9PM Routine is one way to keep your valuables protected and your families safe!

**NOW HIRING  
POLICE  
OFFICERS**  
APPLY TODAY AT  
PVKANSAS.COM/JOBS

For more information, contact Sgt. Porter at  
913.385.4623 or jporter@pvkansas.com

## Canine safety advice

Whether a dog is known or unknown to you there are plenty of ways to stay safe around dogs. Even a 'friendly' dog can bite. It is important to remember to respect a dog's personal space and attitude. Be mindful that reaching to pet a dog or grabbing their collar can be scary for them. Excited or quick movements may also frighten them. A dog who feels scared or threatened can lead to an unsafe situation. The best way to introduce yourself to a dog is to allow the dog to approach you while you remain calm and still while they sniff you. Of course, this should only be done with the consent of the owner. Part of being a responsible dog owner is maintaining a safe environment for other people and your dog.

### Protect yourself and others

- Always walk your dog on a leash
- Give other people and dogs space
- Ask before approaching a dog or allowing your dog to approach someone
- Pay attention- to your dog, the environment, and others
- Take precautions to ensure your dog doesn't run loose
- Dog waste transmits disease, please clean up after your pet
- Stay calm and enjoy time with your pet

## Staff Spotlight

Name: **Cindy Volanti**  
Position: **Human Resource Manager**  
Years with the City: **1**



Responsibilities: **Responsibilities of my position vary from day to day, and sometimes hour by hour! This position is responsible for personnel and employee relations, assisting with departmental recruitment, employee hiring/onboarding process, as well as employee benefits administration, just to name a few. Critical components of the position include personnel budgets, policy and procedure development and updates as they relate to federal and state employment laws, training programs, and being a positive resource for employees and City Administration.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **The work environment is outstanding! The employees of City of Prairie Village have welcomed me with open arms since my arrival in August of 2020! I enjoy my career as an HR professional, and the City of Prairie Village is an amazing fit for me.**

Name: **Stephen Tomlinson**  
Position: **Grounds Crew Lead**  
Years with the City: **5**



Responsibilities: **I work with six other maintenance workers and we are responsible for maintaining City-owned green spaces in parks and on some traffic islands. We take care of the City's landscape areas and do upkeep on park playgrounds through routine inspection and repairs as necessary.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **My favorite thing would have to be the people I get to work around on a daily basis. They keep things interesting, to say the least, and make it a pleasant place to work.**

Name: **Brady Sullivan**  
Position: **Investigations Division Commander**  
Years with the City: **17**



Responsibilities: **I oversee the Investigations Division at the Police Department which includes, Traditional Detectives, Special Investigations Unit, Crime Prevention Unit, School Resource Officers for Indian Hills Middle School and Shawnee Mission East High School and the D.A.R.E Program.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **My favorite thing about working for Prairie Village is all the great people I work with every day.**

Prairie Village Municipal Office  
7700 Mission Road  
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Reader Feedback  
Please send your comments to:  
info@pvkansas.com  
913-385-4674

## Grants available for energy efficiency improvements

The City Council recently approved a new residential sustainability grant program. This program will allow residents to receive a 20% match from the City for energy efficiency improvements. Projects eligible for grant funding include home energy audits, HVAC upgrades, solar installations, insulation, energy-efficient window and door replacements, geothermal heating and cooling, and duct sealing. The minimum project investment by the property owner must total at least \$2,500, and the maximum City match per property is \$2,500. There are no income requirements or appraised value maximums in order to qualify for this program. The City set aside \$20,000 for 2021, and funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis until all grant funds are exhausted. In order to qualify for the program, the property must be current on all property taxes and free of code violations. For more information or to apply, visit [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) or call the Prairie Village Codes Department at 913-385-4604.

## Yard waste reminders

In Prairie Village, yard waste is picked up weekly on trash day. Yard waste can be in bio-degradable yard waste bags, tied in bundles or in trash cans/rigid container of 33-gallon capacity or less. Residents are allowed 12 yard waste items per week, year round.

Cans must be marked “yard waste,” have holes drilled in the bottom to allow water to drain, and must have a lid. All items must be inside the container, not sticking out the top.

Do not put sticks and branches in rigid containers. They should be tied in bundles no larger than four feet in length, less than 18 inches in circumference, and less than 50 pounds. Bundles must be tied together with twine. Individual branches within the bundle cannot be more than three inches in diameter. Logs are not accepted.

Items picked up include only natural yard waste, i.e. grass, leaves, tree limbs, flower or garden plants (without their pots), walnuts, crabapples, Christmas trees, etc. All materials collected are taken to a licensed compost facility. This recycling facility does not allow for ANY trash, landscape, or construction materials. Animal waste is not collected.

## City Contact Information

913-381-6464 ■ [info@pvkansas.com](mailto:info@pvkansas.com) ■ [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com)

### CITY HALL AND MUNICIPAL COURT

7700 Mission Road  
Wes Jordan, City Administrator  
Jamie Robichaud, Deputy City Administrator  
Meghan Buom, Assistant City Administrator  
Tim Schwartzkopf, Assistant City Administrator  
Adam Geffert, City Clerk  
Nickie Lee, Finance Director

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

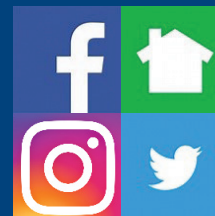
7710 Mission Road  
Byron Roberson, Chief of Police

### PUBLIC WORKS

7720 Mission Road  
Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you on social media? Follow the City of Prairie Village and the Police Department for the most up-to-date information on City happenings.



### DONATE

If you would like to make a donation to the Prairie Village Foundation, open your smartphone's camera and hover over this QR Code. A page will pop up directing you to the Foundation's website.



### EVERYONE MAY PARTICIPATE

If anyone requires an accommodation to participate in public meetings, contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 (TDD 800-766-2777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.