

VOICE



You're invited: VillageFest To Go July 4

The Prairie Village VillageFest Committee invites residents to participate in VillageFest To Go on July 4. 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. As the COVID-19 situation continues to improve and vaccinations become widespread, the committee hopes to host the VillageFest residents have come to know and love in 2022.

VillageFest To Go will be a drive-through event that will take place from 10 a.m. to noon. Residents are invited to decorate their car and parade through the municipal campus, 7700 Mission Road to see emergency vehicles and public works vehicles. Each child over the age of two will receive a bag of goodies, while supplies last. Please remain in your vehicle. New surprises are in store for the 2021 event!

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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
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WARD III

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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

A Message from the Mayor

Dear friends and neighbors,

It's refreshing to return to a more "normal" summer and see each other in-person again. We enjoy so many blessings in Prairie Village; many of those simple joys are more appreciated now after what the world endured last year.

Please join us for the many upcoming community opportunities described in these pages, including July 4th VillageFest To Go, to re-connect, re-engage and re-establish that important part of our civic fabric that best comes in-person rather than via emoji or Zoom.

On the heels of our Planning Commission and Governing Body's recent adoption of Village Vision 2.0 (our updated twenty-year comprehensive plan), we are now considering a 2022 budget that reflects those core visionary values. In the coming weeks your City Council will be reviewing and finalizing that proposed 2022 budget.

We are fortunate to start from an exceptionally strong financial position. We have the second-lowest City property tax rate of any of the 26 first-class cities in Kansas. Our debt-to-appraised value ratio is also at the low end of that spectrum.

Increasing property values and strongly rebounding commercial activity contribute to a rosy 2022 outlook. Our 2022 budget focuses investment primarily into the "nuts and bolts" basics. Our general fund budget, the main fund for most operating expenses, has a 5% proposed increase compared to the 2021 budget, primarily reflecting increases in personnel costs, health insurance premiums, and road maintenance.

A few highlights of the \$44,142,958 proposed 2022 budget (\$25,638,229 of which is the general fund) include:

1. Full funding our Police Department, including a new canine unit (ideas for dog names?), new equipment, and increased officer salaries. Support for our outstanding police accounts for 43% of the overall general fund.
2. Full funding of Public Works (34% of general fund), including a material increase over last year's roads budget. We've recently improved a higher percentage of our streets, moving more than usual from "fair/poor" into "excellent/good" condition. Other capital infrastructure investment includes drainage projects, park improvements (Windsor restrooms, Taliaferro tennis, Harmon playset), and city hall renovations.
3. Administrative staff salary increases bench-marked to market to ensure we continue to recruit and retain top-tier City staff.
4. Sustainability investments projected to return more than their cost such as LED lights, HVAC efficiency, carbon measurement software, cleaner energy, and more.
5. Historic first funding of our City's new Diversity Committee.
6. Ample surplus contingency and "rainy day" fund balances.

Some members of the Council's Finance Committee and I also recommended a property tax rate reduction for 2022 for all residents. While that did not pass, we appear to have consensus to provide some relief to our lower-income residents. Similarly, several of us sought an allocation for public engagement to improve our aging aquatic and fitness community centers, but that proposal also fell short of majority Council support for now.

Despite those misses (0.23% of the total budget), this proposed 2022 budget will serve PV well in 2022 and beyond. It represents an efficient plan to effectively spend that 16% city sliver of your overall property tax in order to continue providing the high level of public safety, infrastructure, services and amenities that make our City exceptional.

I am, and we should all be, grateful to City staff expertly led by City Administrator Wes Jordan, Finance Director Nicole Lee, our Finance Committee, the City Council, and most of all to you: Resident taxpayers who make our civic success possible.

Through 2022 and beyond, our Prairie Village future looks brighter than ever.

Best regards,



-Eric

Unsure which ward you live in?

Visit www.pvkansas.com/wardmap.





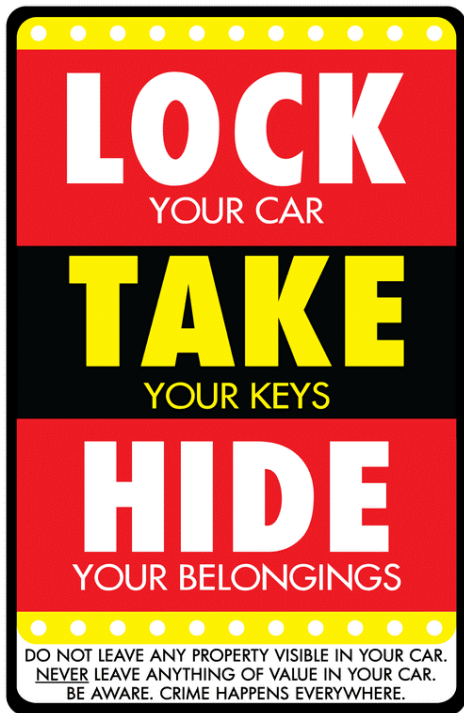
Team ball field reservations due

Applications for soccer and baseball fields for the fall season will be accepted until July 13. If you're a returning coach and do not receive an application via e-mail by July 9, contact Barb Fisher in the City Clerk's office at bfisher@pvkansas.com or visit pvkansas.com for more information.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
7/4	VillageFest To Go	10 a.m.	Municipal Campus
7/5	City offices closed	All day	City offices
7/6	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD
7/13	Planning Commission Meeting	7 p.m.	TBD
7/19	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD
8/2	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD
8/3	Planning Commission Meeting	7 p.m.	TBD
8/16	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	TBD

As of June 7, 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.



Remove valuables, lock car every night

The area has seen an increase in theft of valuables taken from vehicles left parked and unlocked in driveways overnight. Don't set yourself up to be a victim. Make sure to remove valuables and lock your car doors.



JazzFest to return for 2021

Plans are well underway for the 2021 Prairie Village Jazz Festival. The annual event, which was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, brings people together to enjoy an evening of music, artistry, food, drink, and fun! More details, including the festival lineup, will be published in the next issue of the Village Voice. If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring the event, please contact City Hall at 913-381-6464.

Consider alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers

If you haven't always worked from home, then over the past year you may have noticed that peaceful Prairie Village can be a noisy place. Lawn maintenance, while necessary most of the year, can cause noise pollution and can be bad for the environment.

One type of such tools regularly used in Prairie Village are gas-powered leaf blowers, particularly those with two-stroke engines. The two-stroke engine, which completes one cycle of internal combustion in two movements of the piston, is lightweight, cheap, compact and simple, which makes it a convenient motor for leaf blow-

ers, chain saws, lawn mowers, jet skis, etc. However, while it's cheap and handy, it also has a reputation as an environmental hazard.

Because the engine lacks an independent lubrication system, fuel has to be mixed with oil. Approximately 30-40 percent of the fuel the engine uses fails to undergo complete combustion; as a result, the engine emits a number of air pollutants. Carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons escape from the engine in large quantities.

According to the EPA, the carbon monoxide emitted from a typical gas powered leaf blower in one hour is equal to that from the tailpipe

of a current-year automobile operating more than eight hours.

Leaf blowers stir up pollen, mold, animal feces, heavy metals, and chemicals from herbicides and pesticides, turning them into breathable particulates can be dangerous, especially to sensitive populations. When used on grass and soil to move leaves, blowers disturb the materials that shelter beneficial insects, and ultimately create topsoil, leaving soil less permeable to roots and thereby increasing water runoff.

Though tempting, the solution is not to abandon all lawn care. Instead, try to limit the use of leaf blowers and other

gas-powered lawn equipment. For those who use landscaping companies, consider directing yours to forgo the use of leaf blowers on your yard. If you're considering the purchase of new lawn equipment, local hardware stores offer electric options that are quieter and more efficient than gas-powered options. You may find, however, that using a rake or a broom is a more effective, and environmentally friendly, way to work.

The Environmental Committee strives to educate residents on a variety of environmental issues. For more information, contact Councilmembers Ian Graves or Piper Reimer using the contact information on page 2.

Construction season Allowable construction hours & how to report a violation

There is a lot of construction activity in Prairie Village. While construction is necessary for property maintenance and investment, it also can be disruptive to neighborhoods. To help mitigate the negative impacts construction has on neighborhoods, the City Council passed a new construction noise ordinance in 2020.

During the summertime (from May 15 – September 15), construction noise is now permitted from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Construction noise is also permitted from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and on federal holidays.

Between September 16 and May 14, construction noise is limited to 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Sunday.

It is important to report noise ordinance violations to the City when they are occurring. The City can only effectively address a violation if it is reported promptly. Noise violations should be reported to the non-emergency police number at 913-642-6868. Don't worry – calling this number will not take our police officers away from more pressing emergency issues. It is okay to call this number to report a noise violation. Our police department is expecting these calls and prepared to respond.

New construction requirements went into effect June 1

The City Council continues to be mindful of the negative impacts construction has on neighborhoods and is continuously looking at reasonable solutions to address these issues. The Council

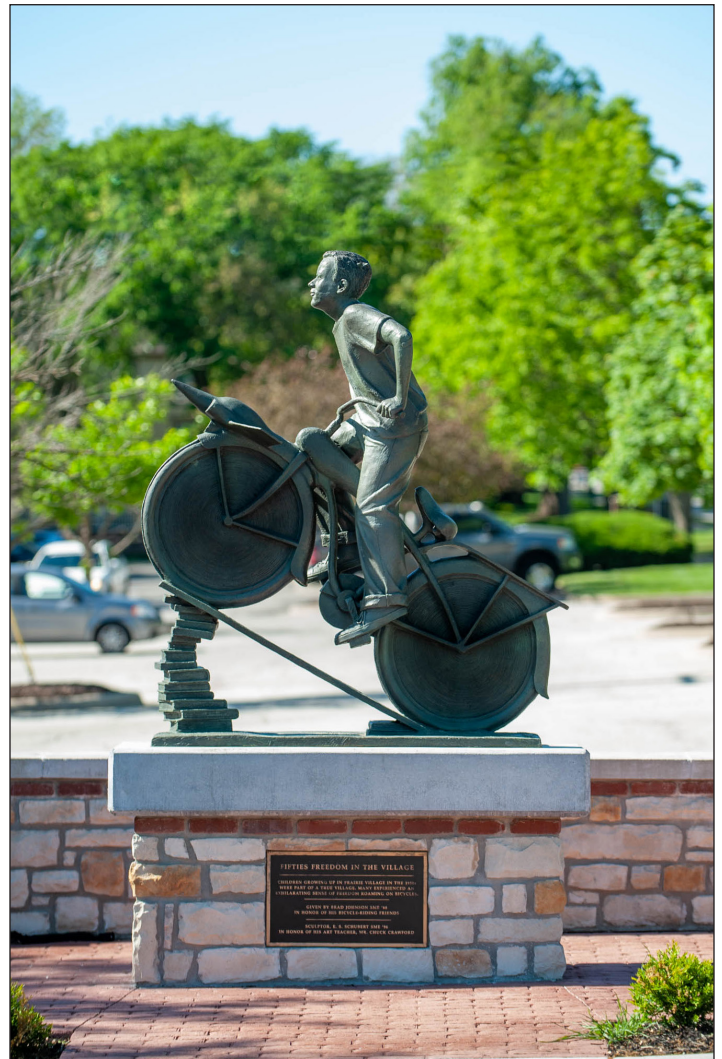


recently adopted several new ordinances that went into effect on June 1 that affect construction throughout the City:

- A tree protection ordinance was adopted through collaboration with the Prairie Village Tree Board and Planning Commission to put additional requirements in place to protect the City's tree canopy during construction.
- A new construction fencing ordinance was adopted to require better screening of construction sites throughout the City.
- New property maintenance ordinances were adopted to better address overgrown vegetation and nuisance properties.
- Updated building codes were adopted to ensure the most updated fire, life safety, and environmental requirements are in place for construction projects.

Arts Council establishes first Prairie Village Art Walk

The Prairie Village Arts Council is celebrating Prairie Village's newest piece of public art – Fifties Freedom in the Village – with an art walk available all summer. Fifties Freedom in the Village, which depicts a child on a bicycle, was sculpted by E. Spencer Schubert and donated by Brad Johnson. It is located at 71st Street and Mission Road. Grab your favorite walking shoes and your smartphone and enjoy the self-guided art walk. Download the Otocast app to hear directly from the artists themselves. When you open the app, it will geolocate and show you the Prairie Village Art Walk. A popular starting point for the art walk is the city's first public sculpture, The Homesteaders at 69th Street and Mission Road. Following the map available in Otocast, participants will view art near the Shops at Prairie Village, on the municipal campus, at Corinth Square and at Corinth Quarter. Round-trip, the path is 3.6 miles.



PRAIRIE VILLAGE
KICK-OFF FESTIVITIES:
JUNE 11 @ 5:30PM!
WALK ALL SUMMER! **ART WALK**

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Use your phone's camera to scan this QR code. It will open up a link to Otocast, which will give you more information about each piece of artwork.



Otocast

2022 BUDGET

Work is well underway on the 2022 budget. Learn more and view the budget calendar online at: pvkansas.com/budgetcalendar



Ceremony held to remember fallen law enforcement officers

On May 12, the Prairie Village Police Department held its annual National Police Week Memorial Ceremony. The event was an opportunity to remember those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty while protecting their communities. It was also a chance to pray for the safety of all officers protecting their communities on a daily basis. Thank you to city staff, guest speakers, and city leaders who took time out of their day to attend the ceremony. We would also like to thank Taking It To The Streets who generously provided breakfast to our staff at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Staff Spotlight



Recent graduates named Arbor Day Honorees

Shawnee Mission South graduates Chase Horner and Harley Witbrod have become the youngest people to be named Arbor Day honorees by the Prairie Village Tree Board. The two planned and organized a large-scale tree-planting service project titled “SMSD For Trees.”

The project took place on Global Youth Service Day, April 24, with more than 300 volunteers involved in planting 223 15-gallon trees across Johnson County including the grounds of seven schools in Prairie Village.

Travis Gatewood, a teacher and National Honor Society sponsor, at Shawnee Mission South said, “In all my years of teaching, I’d never seen students take on such an ambitious project and execute it as well as Harley and Chase.”

Horner and Witbrod attempted to launch the project in February 2020 but the pandemic stymied their efforts. The project gained traction in the fall of 2020 when the students contacted Sarah Crowder at the Heartland Tree Alliance to find out more about volunteer tree planting projects. Witbrod checked many nurseries and found a reputable St. Louis nursery with an extensive tree inventory that could deliver the trees at a reasonable price. He and Horner raised nearly \$20,000 to cover the cost of the trees with some of the money coming from students from other schools in the district including Shawnee Mission East.

The Public Works Department planted a Sango Kaku Japanese maple in Brenizer Park this spring for the Arbor Day honorees. Located across from the Prairie Village Shopping Center at 4000 Tomahawk Road, the park is named after the first Mayor of Prairie Village, Ralph A. Brenizer (1951-1955). Public Works had earlier cleared invasive honeysuckle bushes from the park and half-dead evergreens, replacing them with fragrant Juddi viburnums in the shaded areas and native Taylor upright junipers in sunnier spots.

Arbor Day offers an opportunity for the Prairie Village Tree Board to recognize the efforts and contributions of outstanding individuals, or organizations, who have made a difference in Prairie Village. If you would like to nominate someone as an Arbor Day honoree, a nomination form is available on the City’s website.

Name: **Deana Scott**
Position: **Court Administrator**
Years with the City: **5**



Responsibilities: **I manage all daily functions of Prairie Village and Mission Hills Municipal Courts. I am fortunate to work alongside four fabulous court clerks. Together we work closely with three municipal judges, two prosecutors, two public defenders, and a part-time bailiff to ensure all defendants are treated with respect and are granted their right to the due process of law.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **No day is the same! Although there are daily, weekly, and monthly required tasks, each day brings its own unique challenges. I love that the court team is adaptable and make each day/challenge fun. Prairie Village has an incredible team of employees and I am grateful to be a part of this establishment.**

Name: **Cliff Speegle**
Position: **Stormwater Project Manager**
Years with the City: **3**



Responsibilities: **I am responsible for the design and construction of capital improvement projects related to stormwater. I also coordinate with our public works crews on the maintenance of our existing stormwater infrastructure system.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **The variety of work keeps it interesting. Stormwater captures all facets of the city. Projects can range from individual residential raingardens to large scale flood control projects. It keeps me busy but I get great support from co-workers. Whether big or small, it is satisfying to work on projects that improve our City.**

Name: **Eric McCullough**
Position: **Captain, Patrol Division Commander**
Years with the City: **18.5**



Responsibilities: **I oversee the entire patrol division, including uniformed patrol for Prairie Village and Mission Hills, the traffic unit, directed patrol unit, and the animal control unit.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **My favorite thing about working for Prairie Village is the great people I get to work with every day, and the supportive community that we work in.**

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

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

Pool memberships discounted July 13

Beginning July 13, pool memberships are half-price. Stop by the city clerk's office in City Hall, or purchase your memberships online.

Resident	Non-Resident
Individual \$25	Individual \$40
Senior Citizen \$22.50	Senior Citizen \$35

Reduced pool hours

Weekday pool hours will be reduced beginning in August as lifeguards head back to school. The pool will close for the season at 6 p.m. September 6.

August 2-6	Aug. 9 - Sept. 3
Pool complex opens at 2 p.m.	Pool complex opens at 4:30 p.m.



City Contact Information

913-381-6464 ■ info@pvkansas.com ■ www.pvkansas.com

CITY HALL AND MUNICIPAL COURT

7700 Mission Road
Wes Jordan, City Administrator
Jamie Robichaud, Deputy City Administrator
Meghan Buum, 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.