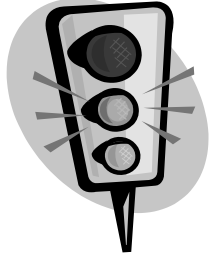


Opticom System

The City recently completed installation of the 3M "Opticom" Priority Control System at several signalized intersections within the City. This system will give Police, Fire, and Med-Act vehicles responding to emergencies priority upon approach to these particular intersections.



The "Opticom" system will recognize the approach of an authorized

emergency vehicle and then provide it a green light right-of-way and at the same time provide a red light for traffic approaching from other directions. The changing of the traffic signals will be done within timing parameters set by traffic engineers so it appears as a normal change of the traffic lights to other motorists. The use of this system will provide a quicker and safer response by authorized vehicles in route to any emergency within the City.

Winter Reminders

With winter upon us, the snow and the ritual of plowing and salting streets and shoveling driveways has begun. These weather extremes and changes bring a special challenge to Public Works employees who strive to keep your streets usable in the winter months.

When a storm is forecast, Public Works staff develops an operation plan considering time of day, type of weather, temperature, wind, length of storm, etc. Crews work in 12 hour shifts to clear streets using these priorities:

1. Maintain bare pavement on arterial streets
2. Maintain bare pavement on collector streets
3. Maintain public building sidewalks
4. Plow or salt one lane on residential streets
5. Maintain sidewalks at the parks.

The City does not remove ice or snow from private property. Property owners are responsible for removing ice and snow from the sidewalks abutting their property. The best time to do this is after the street has been plowed.

If you have any questions about the City's snow removal program, contact the Public Works Department at 913-385-4647 or send an e-mail to publicworks@pvkansas.com.

Animal Licensing Reminder

The licensing year for cats and dogs is January 1st to December 31st. The City asks that you license your pets in January and February. After February 28th penalties will apply.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW CHANGE: An animal may be licensed if its rabies vaccination is current at the time of licensing, unlike previous years when the vaccination had to be valid the entire licensing year.

The 2002 fee schedule for licensing your animals is as follows:

January – February

\$6.00 (neutered/spayed)

\$12.00 (not neutered/spayed)

March 1 – March 31

\$7.00 (neutered/spayed)

\$14.00 (not neutered/spayed)

April 1 – April 30

\$8.00 (neutered/spayed)

\$16.00 (not neutered/spayed)

May 1 – December 31

\$18.00 (neutered/spayed)

\$26.00 (not neutered/spayed)

Mayor's Message



The fifteenth annual Lighting of the Mayor's Holiday Trees ceremony was held on November 26th, with residents, families and friends joining in the festivities. With a little help from Santa Claus, the switch was flipped to light the Mayor's Holiday Trees, which are located in front of the Municipal Building, in Porter Park, and at 75th Street and Cherokee.

St. Ann's School choir entertained those in attendance with a selection of Holiday songs, and many children came prepared to visit with Santa! A special thanks goes to Mely Ballard, owner of **Mely's Yogurt & Ice Cream** for donating a gingerbread house to be raffled off. The raffle raised \$100 for the Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund! Mely has donated a gingerbread house for the past several years and we greatly appreciate her support for this cause.

The Prairie Village Municipal Foundation sponsors this annual event, which serves as a reminder that there are many in our community who need assistance paying their utility bills during these cold winter months, or making much-needed repairs to their homes. The continued generosity of Prairie Village residents and businesses enables the Municipal Foundation to provide this type of assistance. Total contributions from the Municipal Foundation for utility assistance for the 15-year period is \$36,148.93. Total gifts for assistance to Prairie Village residents in need from Holiday Tree contributions and City Funds is \$66,641.48. **More than \$7,000** has been contributed this holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support of the Prairie Village Municipal Foundation.

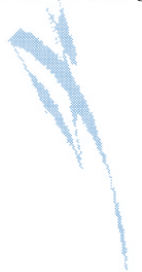
Ron Shaffer
Mayor

Jim Hamil Returns to the R.G. Endres Gallery

The **Prairie Village Arts Council** is excited to welcome back local artist and area resident **Jim Hamil** this month in the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery. His exhibit will include original paintings and prints. The exhibit will be on display in the R.G. Endres Gallery located at the Prairie Village Municipal Offices at 7700 Mission Road from January 2nd – January 31st, 2002. Gallery hours are Monday – Thursday 8am – 7pm & Friday 8am – 5pm.

An opening reception will be held on **Friday, January 11th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Municipal Offices to honor Jim Hamil and his work.

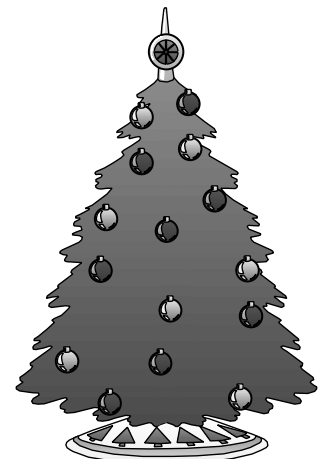
Arts
COUNCIL
Prairie Village



Holiday Tree Recycling Program

The City will once again sponsor a Holiday Tree Recycling Program for Prairie Village residents. Trees may be dropped in the designated areas of **Porter, Franklin, and Meadowlake Parks**, and in the **Harmon Park parking lot near the water tower**. The trees must be free of all lights, ornaments, stands, and any metal nails, etc. as these items will damage the chipping machine. Residents may take the chips for their own use.

The program will continue until Sunday, January 13th.



Consolidated Fire District No. 2 Safety Tips when burning candles



Last year, most Fire Departments in Johnson County noticed a marked increase in the number of fires caused by candles. Not only were the incidents last year increased, but the number of home fires caused by candles over the last 10 years doubled. Research into this problem indicates that it is due to the popularity of decorative and scented candles.

Data collected by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) revealed that in 1998 there were 11,600 home candle fires reported. Approximately one third of those fires began when candles were left unattended. If you use candles, please remember that a candle is an open flame. It can easily ignite anything combustible nearby.

Consolidated Fire District #2 and the NFPA offer the following tips for the safe use of candles:

- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles well away from items that can catch fire, such as flammable decorations, clothing, books, paper, curtains, etc.
- Make sure candles are placed on a secure piece of furniture, in sturdy holders that will not tip over. Make sure candleholders are non-combustible and big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- Keep wicks trimmed to 1/4 inch, and extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of the holder.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Do not use candles in places where they can be knocked over by children or pets.
- Try to avoid carrying a lit candle.

Where young children are present:

- Keep candles up high, out of reach of children.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Keep all matches and lighters up high and out of the sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Please be safe

Consolidated Fire District #2

Councilmember Ruth Hopkins Named to NLC Policy Leadership Post



Ruth Hopkins, councilmember, Ward II has been appointed **Chairman** of the **Community and Economic Development Policy and Steering Committee** of the National League of Cities (NLC) for the year 2002. The committee is one of NLC's seven

standing committees that develop policy positions on national issues involving municipal governments. Each NLC policy committee has a membership of approximately 250 officials from cities and towns throughout the nation. The full committee identifies specific policy issues to be addressed during the year. A smaller group, working as a steering committee, examines and develops positions and makes recommendations on those issues. The steering committee, made up of approximately 35

elected municipal officials, submits its recommendations to the full committee for further consideration at the 2002 Congress of Cities. After review by the full committee, policy amendments are brought before the NLC membership at the annual business meeting. Once approved by the League's membership, the NLC National Municipal Policy serves as the basis for the League's advocacy on behalf of all local governments.

The League, headquartered in Washington D.C., is the nation's oldest and largest municipal organization, with a membership of more than 1,700 cities and towns and a national representation of more than 15,000 municipal governments throughout the United States.

Congratulations Ruth!

January Trash Holidays

- Deffenbaugh will not be picking up trash on Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 21st. If your regular trash day falls on this holiday or after, your trash and recycling will be picked up **one day late**.
- Municipal Offices will also be closed on January 21st. *Police, fire & emergency services offices remain open through all holidays or call 911.*

Community Profile Available

The 2001 Prairie Village Community Profile is now available. The Community Profile is full of information including the history of Prairie Village, City departments, frequently needed phone numbers and much more! Stop by City Hall and pick one up today.



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.



Corinth Library Poetry & Tea

Wednesdays, Feb. 6th – 27th, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Participate in the imagination and feelings of poetry by contemporary poets in a discussion led by Michael L. Nelson, adjunct faculty at UMKC and editor at Bkmk Press. Poetry and Tea will be held at the Prairie Village Community Center, 7700 Mission Road. Participants can enrich their knowledge of the poets that will be discussed by picking up program materials at Corinth Library prior to the beginning of the series. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information or to register, call (913) 967-8650.

Take the Prairie Village Park Survey and Share Your Thoughts with Us

What do you think about the City's parks? Do the park facilities have the equipment you and your family want? Do the City's Swimming and Tennis programs offer the activities you're seeking? How can Prairie Village improve its park & recreation programs for residents?

To help the City's Park & Recreation Committee plan for the future, take a few moments to fill out the attached survey and return it to City Hall. The survey is also available on the website at www.pvkansas.com.

You can also share your opinions with the Park & Recreation Committee at a **Public Forum on Wednesday, February 13, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **City Council Chambers**.

For more information about the Public Forum, contact Brett Wise at 913-381-6464 ext. 4206 or send an e-mail to bwise@pvkansas.com.

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