

O'Connor Receives Volunteer Award



Maeve O'Connor

Maeve O'Connor, a sixth-grader at Belinder Elementary School, is living proof that you're never too young to help others. Maeve was recently chosen as one of only two youth volunteers in Kansas by the **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** program. Next month, she will travel to Washington D.C for a

series of national events recognizing her volunteer efforts. Mayor Shaffer and the City Council honored Maeve and her accomplishments at a recent City Council meeting

Maeve's volunteer career began at the age of seven, when she tried to volunteer at a local hospital, but was told she was too young. Undaunted, Maeve and her siblings **Aishling, Comrac, and Dara O'Connor** set a goal of collecting 5,000 crayons over the Summer. The end result was the collection of **half a million crayons!!**

From this beginning, her efforts expanded into several other "**Kids Helping Kids**" projects which included helping hurricane victims, collecting Christmas toys for

children with HIV, selling 10,000 lollipops to fulfill the wish of a terminally ill child, and raising money to build an intergenerational playground and garden for a geriatric center in Kansas City, Missouri.

But Maeve is quick to note that these projects require a team effort. Friends that have been active participants in Kids Helping Kids include: **Kelly, Tom, Emma, Bridget, and Alex Bergin** and **Elizabeth, Haley, and Caroline Beck.**

Maeve, her siblings, and friends are currently working with a group of students from St. Monica's Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri to help them design, raise funds for, and build a playground for their school. One of the goals of this project is to get the students at St. Monica's involved in not just helping themselves, but in learning how to help others in the future.

When asked about her desire to volunteer at such a young age, Maeve replies, "Children are not only our future, we can be the driving force of today. Whoever said that a 7-year-old was too young to volunteer was mistaken!"

Mistaken, indeed.

Citizens Police Academy Graduation

For the past several months, a dedicated group of Prairie Village residents spent one evening a week learning about the Prairie Village Police Department through the City's **Citizens Police Academy**. These class members participated in interactive sessions with Department personnel dealing with a variety of issues including: Traffic Enforcement, Communications, Officer safety tactics, and more.

The next Citizens Police Academy is planned for this Fall. If you're interested in learning more about your Police Department, contact Sgt. Steve Hunter at 913-385-4617 or shunter@pvkansas.com. More information about the Citizens Police Academy, including an application form, is available on the web at www.pvkansas.com/police.



(Left to right) Sgt. Steve Hunter, Logan Richard, Paul Howery, Bruce Kelly, Patricia Gallagher, Kathy Frankum, Amy Rardin, Kathy Adamson.

Mayor's Message



Sometimes the words “city” and “community” get confused. Although city government provides services and helps provide a sense of community, the soul and vitality of a community rests in the relationships formed between friends, family, and neighbors.

These relationships, I believe, are one of Prairie Village’s greatest strengths and can always be more fully developed.

In Prairie Village, our social, civic, and community networks include homes associations, church groups, City committees, and individuals who identify others in need, then work to help them. There are close to 150 Prairie Village residents who volunteer their time and talents on City boards and committees to help maintain and improve the quality of life we all enjoy.

Last month I had the pleasure to honor Maeve O’Connor, a Prairie Village resident who started volunteering when she was only seven years old. Now in sixth-grade, Maeve continues to seek out opportunities to help others. Most recently, she has started teaching other children how to become involved in their communities by raising funds for a playground. This energetic spirit and willingness to serve others is the hallmark of a community leader. All of

us, regardless of age, can learn from the example set by this young woman.

You may ask, “**How do I get involved?**” There are literally hundreds of volunteer opportunities available in Prairie Village, Johnson County, and elsewhere in the metropolitan area. If you’re interested in getting involved, here are a few suggestions:

- Contact the City Clerk’s office for a listing of current volunteer opportunities with the City. We currently need volunteers to help with Prairie Village’s annual Villagefest celebration on July 4th.
- Contact the Volunteer Center of Johnson County at 913-341-1792 or on-line at www.vcjc.org.
- Check with your church or synagogue. Many of these organizations provide volunteer opportunities for their members.

We all want our communities to thrive. This doesn’t happen on its own. It requires the active involvement of all citizens. I encourage all Prairie Village residents to seek out and take advantage of volunteer opportunities.

Ron Shaffer
Mayor

Tornado Safety Tips

Throughout the Spring and Summer, the potential for severe weather is present. The National Weather Service indicates that April to June is the peak tornado season for both Kansas and Missouri.

Johnson County Emergency Management offers this advice for helping protect yourself and your family in the event of a tornado.

If you are in your home:

• Go to the lowest level possible. If you are in a basement, choose an area where there are no heavy appliances or other objects above you.	
• Avoid all windows and glass	• Stay away from outside walls
• Close doors, if possible	• Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible
• Choose small rooms over large rooms, as possible	• Do not open windows

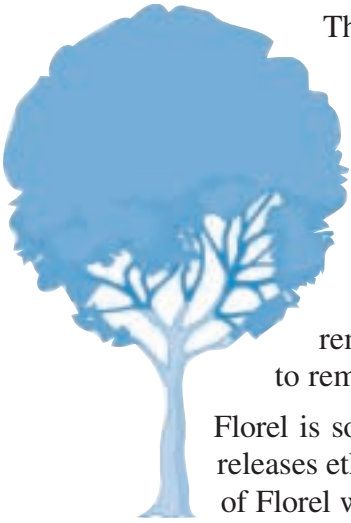


If you are outdoors:

If you can not get to adequate shelter, go to a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine. Lie flat and cover your head. **The basement of the Prairie Village Municipal Offices is a designated shelter area located at 7700 Mission Road.**

For more information about severe weather safety, call the Johnson County Emergency Management Department at 913-764-8484 or visit www.jocoem.org.

Eliminating Unwanted Fruit From Trees



The City has received several calls recently from residents asking how to keep trees, such as crabapples and sweetgum, from bearing unwanted fruit that can be messy and hazardous. Crabapples are the easiest to control by applying the common insecticide Sevin (carbaryl) soon after the blossoms have dried on the trees. DO NOT apply Sevin during bloom because it is extremely toxic to bees.

Spray the trees thoroughly with two tablespoons of Sevin per gallon of water. Stems on the fruit should turn yellow and wrinkle, and the tiny apples should start to drop in 7 to 10 days. If drop hasn't started in two weeks, a second application may be needed. Sevin remains effective for about 35 days after full bloom, but the fruit will become more difficult to remove as it increases in size.

Florel is sold in many stores as a fruit eliminator. The active ingredient is ethephon, a chemical that releases ethylene, which causes fruit to drop before it sets. According to the label, a foliar application of Florel will reduce or eliminate undesirable fruit development on many ornamental trees and shrubs such as apple, cottonwood, crabapple, elm, flowering pear, horse chestnut, maple, oak, pine, sweetgum, and sycamore. But how well it works and potential damaging effects depend on the dose and temperature. Activity slows if the temperature is below 60° or above 90° Fahrenheit. Because Florel degrades quickly in water, applications should be completed within four hours of mixing. Timing of the application must coincide with full bloom, a stage that requires close observation to determine with many of our trees.

Researchers at K-State's John C. Pair Research Center near Wichita have gotten mixed results using Florel on treated crabapples. With some varieties, fruit was substantially thinned. Others showed no effect. We cannot make firm recommendations on the use of this product without research results on other tree species.

Information supplied by: (WU) Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension Horticulture 3601 Throckmorton Hall Manhattan, KS 66506. Phone: 785-532-6173 FAX: 785-532-5780. For questions or further information contact: cmarr@oznet.ksu.edu or cdipman@oznet.ksu.edu.

Mayor Shaffer Named to MARC Office

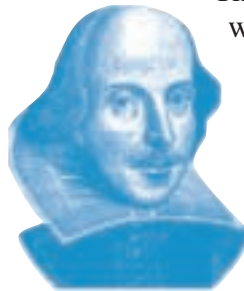
Mayor Shaffer was recently selected to represent the Johnson and Wyandotte County Mayors on the Mid America Regional Council's (MARC) Board of Directors. After serving only one year, he was elected Secretary of the Board.

It is an honor to be elected an officer of the Board and a particular honor for someone who has been a member of the board for only one year.

The Mid-America Regional Council, commonly referred to as MARC, serves as the association of city and county governments and the metropolitan planning organization for the bistate Kansas City region.

MARC seeks to build a stronger regional community through cooperation, leadership and planning. Through MARC's leadership, area jurisdictions and diverse community interests work to address the region's problems and identify opportunities for cooperative solutions. These efforts, in turn, enhance the effectiveness of local government throughout the metro area. To learn more about MARC visit www.marc.org.

Reel Bard Film Festival Wednesday, April 30th



The **Corinth Library**, in cooperation with the **Prairie Village Arts Council**, will be part of the "**Reel Bard Film Festival**" presented by the **Friends of the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival** on Wednesday, April 30th, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

We will show the 1990 film version of one of Shakespeare's well known tragedies. The Prince of Denmark will be portrayed by a famous Australian actor.

A volunteer from the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival will provide information regarding the film and will answer your questions.

For more information, call the Corinth Library at (913) 967-8650.

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2003 Park & Recreation Brochure Coming in May

The 2003 edition of the Prairie Village Park & Recreation Brochure will be published next month. The brochure will contain information on pool memberships, swim lessons, tennis lessons, swim teams and Junior Tennis League, park facility reservations, and non-City sports programs.

Pool memberships will go on sale May 1st – beat the rush and get your membership early!



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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.



Help Wanted: Concession Workers for Prairie Village Pool

The City of Prairie Village is accepting applications for concession workers for the 2003 pool season. Concession workers' pay begins at \$5.50/hour. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older at time of hire; applications should be submitted as soon as possible. Returning concession workers must also submit an application.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office at 7700 Mission Road or on-line at www.pvkansas.com. If you have questions, contact Brett Wise at 913-281-6464 ext. 4206 or email to bwise@pvkansas.com.

Celebrate TV Turn-Off Week: Read a Book!



April 21st-27th is **National TV Turn-Off Week**. So turn off your television and surprise your children with fun activities each day of the week.

Also, be sure and check out the other activities at the Corinth Library during April and May by calling the Library at 913-967-8650 or visit the Johnson County Library's web site at www.jocolibrary.org.

Pool Repairs Underway

Recent inspections of the Pool Complex have revealed that most of the tiles that line the walls of the Leisure, Wading, and Slide Pools need to be replaced. In a special City Council meeting on March 25th, Public Works Director Bob Pryzby showed pictures of the tiles that are loose in pools, and the "pot-hole" like problems with the special surface.

In order to complete these repairs in time for the scheduled pool opening on Saturday, May 24th, the City Council approved a contract with Picture Perfect Pools to repair the expansion tiles and special surfacing in the Wading, Slide and Leisure pools. The repair cost is \$176,705.

The contractor plans to begin work on April 1st, and the repairs will take 10 to 14 days depending on the weather.

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