

October 2004



# THE PRAIRIE VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter published for the residents of the City of Prairie Village

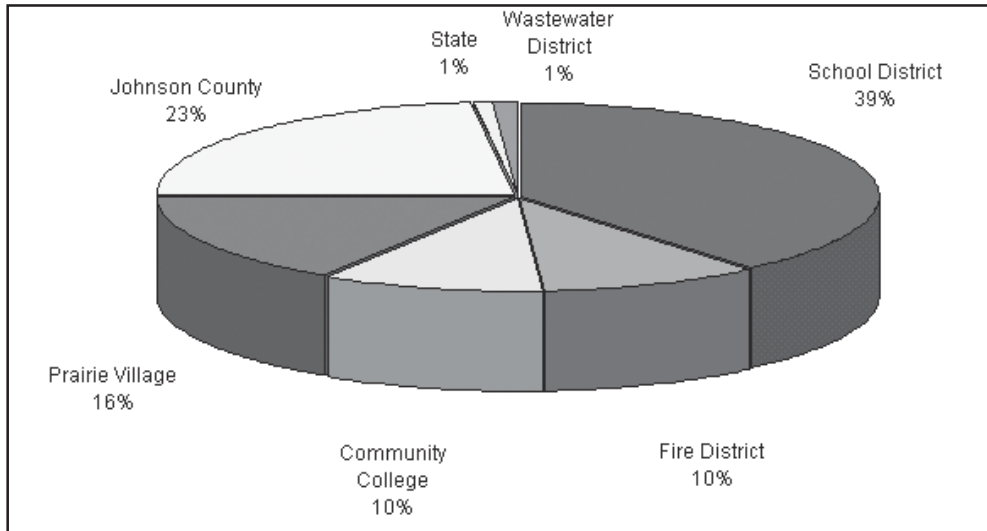
Municipal Office | 7700 Mission Road | Prairie Village, Kansas 66208 | 913.381.6464 | [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com)

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

Prairie Village property owners will soon be receiving the annual Real Estate Tax Summary from the Johnson County Appraiser's Office, notifying them of the property taxes they will owe next year. These amounts are based on the 2004 appraised property values. Examining this document closely will help you gain a better understanding of how your property tax dollars are being spent.

last year the City received approximately 16% of your total tax bill. For the owner of a \$150,000 home, that was about \$272. This goes toward providing City services like 24-hour police protection, maintaining the City's infrastructure, parks, and much more.

When you stop to think about it, Prairie Village residents receive a



One of the things you will notice is that several taxing entities, including the City of Prairie Village, are represented on the Tax Summary. Each taxing entity sets its own tax rate. The Johnson County Clerk's Office consolidates these rates into a single tax bill.

Further examination of the Real Estate Tax Summary will show you where your tax dollars go, including the portion received by Prairie Village. For example,

tremendous value for their tax dollars. Your City Council and City staff remain committed to making sure your tax dollars are spent wisely.

If you have any questions about how the City spends public funds, please contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464. The 2005 Budget in Brief also provides useful information about the City's annual budget and is available for download at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com).

## INSIDE:

[Mayor's Message](#)

[Halloween Safety Tips for Parents and Kids](#)

[Attention All Landlords and Tenants](#)

[Taking Care of Falling Leaves](#)

## ON THE BACK:

[VillageFest 2004 Feedback Requested](#)

[Prairie Village Notes](#)



## Corinth Library Activities

Feeling bored? Check out the various activities at the Corinth Library by visiting the website at [www.jocolibrary.org](http://www.jocolibrary.org) or call 913-987-8650.

[Learn Explore Enjoy Create Connect](#)  
**Johnson County Library**



# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In the August primary elections, only 31% of registered Johnson County voters cast ballots. While this is a slight increase from the 2002 primaries, it still seems too low for our community.

One of the hallmarks of American democracy is the right to elect our political representatives and voice our opinions on community issues. This makes voting one of our most important civic duties. On November 2nd, we will once again have the opportunity to exercise our right to select candidates for national, state, and local offices, as well as a bi-state sales tax question. Make sure your voice is heard in November by voting.

But before you vote, you must register. It's also important to learn about the candidates and issues which will appear on the ballot. Registering to vote is easy. Voter registration forms are available at the Municipal Offices and on the Internet at [www.jocoelection.org](http://www.jocoelection.org). **To vote on November 2nd, you must be registered by October 18th.**

Becoming an informed voter takes some work, but is definitely worth the effort. Read local newspapers about the candidates and issues; attend candidate forums; and when possible, try to meet the candidates and listen to what they have to say about issues that are important to you.

When it comes time to vote, Johnson County voters have several options, including advance voting, voting by mail, and, of course, voting at the polls on November 2nd. To learn more about your voting options, contact the Johnson County Election Office at 913-782-3441 or visit [www.jocoelection.org](http://www.jocoelection.org).





See you at the polls!!!




Ron Shaffer  
Mayor



## Halloween Safety Tips for Parents and Kids

The thought of Halloween brings back many enjoyable childhood experiences for me, and I'm sure for you as well. Now that so many of us are parents, we realize how vulnerable some children may be. Halloween safety tips for all the little ghosts and goblins are this month's crime prevention topic. Below are some safety concerns to keep in mind this Halloween season.

-  Be sure children wear clothing that is reflective, comfortable, and flame retardant.
-  Check the costume's mask and make sure it does not obscure the child's vision.
-  Accompany children who are too young to trick or treat by themselves.
-  Suggest older kids go "trick or treating" in groups for safety reasons.

-  Tell your kids never to enter a stranger's house for any reason.
-  Suggest carrying a flashlight for additional visibility.
-  Inspect all the candy your child collects and do not eat candy that is not in its original wrapper.

The Crime Prevention Unit wishes you and your children a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

For more information about Crime Prevention in Prairie Village, contact Officer Steve Steck at 913-385-4613 or send an e-mail to [ssteck@pvkansas.com](mailto:ssteck@pvkansas.com).

Steve Steck

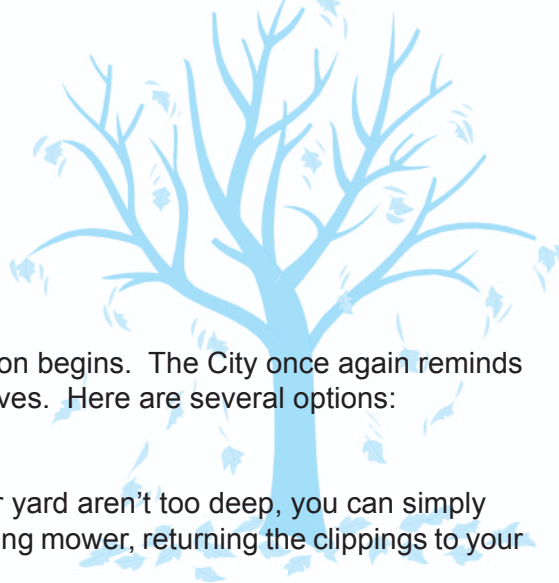
# Attention Landlords and Tenants



The City of Prairie Village requires all owners of residential rental properties to obtain a rental property license. The licensing year is November 1st through October 31st. Owners of currently licensed rental properties should have already received license renewal materials in the mail. These must be completed and returned to the City Clerk's office by October 24th. A penalty of \$10 per month will be assessed beginning in November.


For more information visit [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) or contact Nelda Neely at 913-381-6464, ext 4204 or send an email to [nneely@pvkansas.com](mailto:nneely@pvkansas.com).


# Taking Care of Falling Leaves




When Fall arrives, leaf raking season begins. The City once again reminds you to properly dispose of your leaves. Here are several options:


## DO:

 **Mulch** – If the leaves in your yard aren't too deep, you can simply mow over them with a mulching mower, returning the clippings to your lawn.

 **Compost** – Leaves are an important ingredient in any compost pile. For information about the City's composting regulations, contact Marcia Gradinger at 913-385-4605 or send an email to [mgradinger@pvkansas.com](mailto:mgradinger@pvkansas.com).

 **Rake and Bag** – When you rake leaves, bag them and place them at the curb for collection on the same day as your regular household trash and recycling. You may use either paper or plastic bags.

## DON'T:

 **Don't rake leaves into the street** – this can clog up the storm drains and may create a traffic hazard.

 **Don't rake leaves into creeks or drainage channels** – this can cause drainage problems. Besides, it's against the law.

Leaves are beautiful...when they're on the trees. Once they fall to the ground, they should be disposed of properly.

# Arts

## COUNCIL Prairie Village Presents

### Jean Cook and Donna Yeager

In October, Jean Cook and Donna Yeager will share the walls of the Municipal Offices R.G. Endres Gallery.

**Jean Cook** retired from Hallmark after 34 years, 21 of them as an engraving artist. She has studied at the Kansas City Art Institute and taught "Impressionism in Oils" at Johnson County Community College. She draws upon her experiences growing up on a farm as the subjects in many of her paintings. Jean has received numerous regional and national awards.

**Donna Yeager** uses her passion for pastels and drawing to learn about color and pass the experience on to her students. To improve her teaching, she feels it is necessary to paint every day. She works mostly from photos, but prefers to work on location and has done so in both France and Portugal. Donna is a member of the Mid America Pastel Society and was recently featured in *The Pastel Journal*.

The exhibit will be on display from October 4th - October 29th.

---

*The Gallery is located in the  
Prairie Village Municipal Offices  
at 7700 Mission Road  
and is open  
Monday through Thursday  
8: a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and  
Fridays until 5:00 p.m.*



### 2005 Community Center Reservations Now Being Accepted

The Community Center is a great place to hold a meeting, birthday party, or similar event. The Center holds 45 people and can be rented by the hour. For reservation forms and more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464. Reservation forms are also available on-line at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com).

### 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 1-800-766-2777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.



# VillageFest 2004 Feedback Requested

VillageFest 2004 was a huge success! In an effort to keep improving this community event, we would like to know your thoughts. Please take a moment to answer these questions. If you did not get a chance to attend, you may offer suggestions as to what would bring you to the event in the future. Please send comments to Josh Farrar, Prairie Village Municipal Offices, 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208 or e-mail [jfarrar@pvkansas.com](mailto:jfarrar@pvkansas.com).

1. What time did you arrive at VillageFest and how long did you stay?
2. What activities did you visit or participate in?
3. What were the ages in your group?
4. What things would you keep at VillageFest and what would you change?
5. Are there any new entertainment activities you would like to see in the future?
6. What did you think about the food options provided by HyVee?
7. How did you find out about VillageFest?
8. Any other suggestions?

Planning for VillageFest 2005 will start in January. Anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact Joshua Farrar at 913-381-6464 or [jfarrar@pvkansas.com](mailto:jfarrar@pvkansas.com).

Thanks for your suggestions. See you next year at VillageFest!

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 549  
Shawnee Mission  
Kansas