

February 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

Back by Popular Demand



Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 21st, 7:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 5400 W. 75th St. **The Noteables**, the official jazz ensemble of the **United States Air Force Heartland of America Band**, are returning to Prairie Village for a FREE concert sponsored by the **Prairie Village Arts Council**.

The Noteables perform with unparalleled excitement and versatility. This concert for the community will feature their extensive repertoire of big band jazz selections featuring vocal and instrumental soloists. Audiences of all ages are sure to enjoy **The Noteables**. You won't want to miss this outstanding performance.

To learn more about the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band, visit them on the web at www.offutt.af.mil/band.

The concert is free, but you will need a ticket. FREE tickets are available while supplies last. To reserve your tickets (4 ticket max. per person) contact Doug Luther at 913-385-4603 or send an e-mail to dluther@pvkansas.com.



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Attention Pet Owners

Don't forget to license your cat or dog for 2004. Fees will increase each month beginning in March. The following fee schedule applies to City animal licenses. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464 if you have any questions or send an e-mail to cityclerk@pvkansas.com.

2004 PET LICENSING FEES

	Neutered/Spayed	Not Neutered/Spayed
Jan. 1 - Feb. 29	\$6.00	\$12.00
March 1	\$7.00	\$14.00
April 1	\$8.00	\$16.00
May 1 - Dec. 31	\$18.00	\$26.00



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In our rapidly changing world, it's becoming ever more important to remain aware of our surroundings and the forces that influence our lives. The same is true for local government.

Federal laws, State statutes, business decisions, and regulations all impact Prairie Village. As local elected officials, your City Council representatives and myself strive to remain abreast of these changes. One of the ways we stay informed is through participation in the National League of Cities. During NLC's annual conference last December, three Prairie Village City Council members were named to positions in this organization which represents over 1,800 local governments in all 50 states.



Ruth Hopkins, representing Ward II, was elected to the National League of Cities Board of Directors. During her tenure on the City Council, Ruth has also served on the NLC's Community and Economic Development Policy and Steering Committees. Through her position on the Board, Ruth will stay up-to-date on current and proposed federal legislation affecting local governments. She will also be an active participant in developing the organization's legislative priorities.



Kay Wolf, representing Ward V, was appointed to NLC's Information Technology and Communications Steering Committee. This committee studies and assists in developing policy initiatives surrounding telecommunications and information systems, electronic commerce and taxation, geographic information systems, and other technological services provided by local governments.



Diana Ewy Sharp, representing Ward VI, was appointed Vice-Chair of the First Tier Suburbs Council. This new group was formed to address the unique challenges faced by cities like Prairie Village which are situated between central cities and newer suburbs. Priority issues for the First Tier Suburbs Council will include housing, transportation, and regional cooperation.

Congratulations to these Council members for their efforts to represent Prairie Village both locally and nationally. We are proud you!

Ron Shaffer
Mayor

Recycling Provides a New Lease on Life!!!



The Prairie Village Environment/Recycle Committee reminds you that, when you place recyclables in the green bin, they will return to you. For example:

- Plastic containers can be converted into plastic lumber used in fences or those stack chairs on your patio.
- Newspapers and office paper recycled at curbside or in the bins at schools is reprocessed into many, many different forms, including stationery, wedding invitations, award certificates, and more.

- Glass, when taken to the neighborhood collection center behind CLO on 80th Street just east of Metcalf, can be recycled into attractive gift items, bathroom accessories, and even handsome glass globes to decorate our homes.
- Recycled tires are used in a myriad of ways, including paving materials, fall zone materials in playgrounds (check out Windsor Park for an example), railroad ties, floor tiles, car bumpers, and the bulking agent in composting waste water treatment sludge.
- Recycled computers, aluminum and even bicycle parts may be recreated as clocks, lamps or other works of art.

To learn more about recycling and eco-friendly products, visit the Global Recycling Network web site at www.grn.com.

A Reminder from the United States Postal Service

The United States Postal Service would like to remind residents to keep sidewalks and areas around mailboxes free from snow and ice.

Unfortunately, inclement weather may cause mail delivery service to be delayed or curtailed when streets or walkways present hazardous conditions to postal carriers and/or vehicles. Letter carriers cannot make door or curb deliveries when the approach to the mailbox is hazardous because of a heavy buildup of snow or ice on sidewalks, steps or porches.

By clearing a path when the snow falls, proper access is provided to mailboxes. Proper access includes the removal of large accumulations of snow from the area approximately six feet on both sides of the mailbox or cluster box unit so the carrier may approach and leave without backing up his or her vehicle. Customers are responsible for ensuring proper access is provided to their mailbox. Without such access, the safety of the carrier is jeopardized and delivery service may be delayed or curtailed.

Remember that City ordinances also require property owners to remove ice and snow from sidewalks abutting their property.

Emergency Preparedness Tip: Keeping Your Pet Safe

The Prairie Village pet population (5,800+) is greater than both Mission Hills and Fairway's human populations. That is approximately one pet for every 4 people in the City. While no two disasters are ever the same, planning ahead could save your pet's life. Here are a number of things you can do to protect your animal in case of an emergency.



- Keep your pet's vaccination and medical records up to date and readily accessible in case boarding is necessary.
- Make sure your pet is wearing an ID tag with your name, address and phone number.
- Keep a photo of your pet with you to prove ownership.
- If you must evacuate your home, it's best to take your pet. If you must be separated, be sure to leave food and water in non-spill containers.
- Be careful when your pet goes outside after a disaster. Familiar landmarks may have changed and your pet may become confused or lost.
- If your pet is lost, contact veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, animal control facilities and humane societies in your area. The same applies if you find a lost pet.

These actions may seem unnecessary now, but when a disaster strikes essential services will be unavailable. You'll be glad that you were prepared to care for your entire family. This information along with tips on how to prepare yourself, your family and your home from all types of disasters can be found in the Emergency Prepared Neighborhood workbook provided by the Johnson County Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. To pick up a copy of the workbook, contact Joshua Farrar at (913) 381-6464 or send an email to jfarrar@pvkansas.com.

Arts

COUNCIL Prairie Village

Alice Carman to Exhibit in the R.G. Endres Gallery!

New to the
R.G. Endres Gallery
for 2004 is
Prairie Village resident
Alice Carman.

Originally from rural Connecticut, Alice spent a great deal of time outdoors observing and enjoying nature.

The energy from her experiences is reflected in the vibrant colors and subjects of her paintings. Alice received the Award of Distinction from The Missouri Watercolor Society for her 2003 painting titled "Zucchini Blossoms".

The exhibit will be on display until February 26, 2004.

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



Don't Forget!

City Offices Will Be Closed

City offices will be closed in observance of President's Day Holiday on Monday, February 16, 2004. As always, Emergency Services will remain available by calling 9-1-1.

Trash and recycling services **WILL NOT** be affected.

Tax Forms Available at the Municipal Building

2003 Kansas State Individual Income Tax, 2003 Kansas Homestead and Food Sales Tax Claim and 2003 Corporate Income Tax Forms are available in the lobby of the Municipal Offices, 7700 Mission Road, Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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.



Defensive Driving Tips

The Prairie Village Police Department is increasing efforts to reduce motor vehicle crashes. Police officers will stop motorists for traffic violations and use this contact as a means of changing driving behavior.

In 18 years of law enforcement, I have seen numerous situations in which the driver has diverted their attention away from the task of driving. Any act that diverts a driver's attention from the act of driving can lead to serious consequences. Examples such as reading a book or newspaper while driving, having a pet sit on the lap of the driver, eating a salad while driving, or working on a lap top computer while driving can all lead to serious consequences.

Even though these examples seem exceptional, they are not the most common reason attention to driving is lost. The most common reasons are cell phones, radio or CD players, and conversation with other passengers. As drivers, we all have a responsibility to drive in a safe and courteous manner. By focusing on driving, everyone will reach their destination safely.

Here are a few suggestions to focus attention on driving:

- Look ahead of your vehicle, approximately 10 seconds or 1-1/2 blocks.
- Constantly scan your mirrors looking for potentially hazardous situations.
- Increase your following distance to 4 seconds.
- Give yourself room around your vehicle and avoid being in the middle of a cluster of vehicles.
- Most of all, avoid the feeling that driving is routine. Complacency can lead to a reduction in reaction time. Space around your vehicle and time to react to situations are critical when driving.

Please remember that your actions while behind the wheel can affect others.

Sgt. Curtis Winn
Smith Systems Defensive Driving Instructor
Emergency Vehicle Operations Driving Instructor
E.V.O.C. Train the Trainer



Sgt. Curtis Winn

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