

September, 2006

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

City Council Adopts 2007 Budget

On August 7th the City Council adopted the City's 2007 budget. The approval of this nearly \$22 million spending plan is designed to maintain current service levels to citizens, emphasize the City's commitment to infrastructure, and look forward to future economic development. The 2007 budget will accomplish this without an increase in the tax rate, which will stay at 15.72 mills, or \$15.72 for each \$1,000 in assessed property valuation.

The 2007 budget reflects a 2.3% increase from the City's 2006 budget, and a total expenditure of approximately \$2 million more than expected 2007 revenues, which will result in a reduction in the City's General Fund reserves.

The 2007 reduction is focused on two primary areas: increasing the City's funding of infrastructure maintenance and the establishment of a \$1.5 million fund for implementation of the City's Comprehensive Plan, both of which serve to maintain and improve the high quality of life enjoyed by Prairie Village residents.

Here are a few highlights included in the 2007 budget:

- \$143,000 for park improvement projects
- Return to monthly publication of the *Prairie Village Voice* newsletter
- \$40,000 for neighborhood traffic calming projects
- \$145,000 to increase the level of repairs to defective street surfaces
- \$5.5 million in infrastructure improvement projects (streets, sidewalks, and storm drainage projects)

To learn more about the City's 2007 budget contact the City Clerk's Office by calling 913-381-6464 or you can download a budget summary at www.pvkansas.com.

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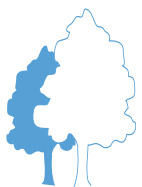
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Best of Species and Champion Trees

Species and Champion Trees located in Prairie Village. Residents may submit their nominations to the Tree Board at 3535 Somerset Drive, Prairie Village, KS 66208, or email to publicworks@pvkansas.com, or call (913) 385-4647.

All nominations must contain the street address, species of tree and location on

the property, i.e. back yard, side yard or front yard. Additionally, the name, address and phone number of the nominator is helpful for future contact. After receiving nominations the City will take measurements and pictures of the tree for the Tree Board selection.

The deadline for nominations is September 20, 2006.

The Prairie Village **Tree Board** is now accepting nominations for **Best of**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I'm not sure why, but there is something irresistible about scores and rankings. Maybe it started with David Letterman's Top Ten List, but I have a suspicion our need to make comparisons with others has deeper roots than late night television. We all have a desire to know how we "stack up," and are pleased when the comparisons are complimentary. Cities are no different.

Last Fall, the *Kansas City Star* conducted an extensive project, Rating the Suburbs, which ranked suburban communities in the metro area on a variety of criteria. In the final analysis, Prairie Village ranked #4 in the survey and was noted for its significant number of long-term residents and neighborhood stability. More recently, the *Star* undertook another effort to rank local communities in terms of efficiency. Once again, Prairie Village ranked 4th in the overall standings, and our Police Department ranked first!

The high scores earned by Prairie Village in these recent articles came as little surprise. After living and raising a family in our community for the past 32 years, our family appreciates and values the sense of community Prairie Village offers and the character that makes Prairie Village unique.

The challenge now is to resist the temptation to stand still, enjoying the accomplishments of the past. The world around us is ever changing, and it is vital that we look toward the future to ensure Prairie Village remains an attractive, vibrant place for years to come. The recently adopted 2007 budget reflects Prairie Village's commitment to progress with continued investment in the City's parks and infrastructure, increased communication with residents through a return to monthly publication of the *Prairie Village Voice* newsletter, and the establishment of a fund to implement the forthcoming Village Vision Strategic Investment Plan. More details about the 2007 budget are included in this newsletter and on-line at www.pvkansas.com.

We don't know when or if an updated set of community rankings will occur, but know that members of the City Council, the City's staff, and I will continue to strive to make Prairie Village the City we will all be proud to call home.



Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor



Are You Cleaning Up &

Cleaning Out for Fall?

Help protect our environment by properly disposing of hazardous waste from your home!

The Johnson County **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event** is on **Saturday, October 21st** from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm** and is open to all Johnson County residents. There are two locations: Johnson County Environmental's HHW Collection Facility and Olathe's Municipal Service Center. To make an appointment call 913-715-6900 or 913-971-9311 (Olathe) or go online to <http://jced.jocogov.org>.



Peanut Butter Week

October 2nd – 6th, 2006 is Peanut Butter Week in Prairie Village

This is your opportunity to support **Harvesters Community Food Network** in its efforts to reduce hunger in the greater Kansas City area (including Johnson & Wyandotte Counties). You can help by donating jars of peanut butter at your local church, synagogue, school, or at the Prairie Village Municipal Offices.

You may also make a cash contribution at www.harvesters.org. This is a great opportunity to participate in a community service project. Please join us in making this year's Peanut Butter Week the best ever.

ATTENTION: Home-Based Businesses

City Ordinances require all home-based businesses, including home day cares, to obtain a home occupation license. The licensing year is September 1 through August 31. Renewal forms for currently licensed businesses have been mailed and should be returned to the City Clerk's office as soon as possible.

If you have a new home based business, please contact the City Clerk's office for an application or download one at www.pvkansas.com. If you have any questions, call 913-381-6464 or send an email to cityclerk@pvkansas.com.

Recreation Wrap-Up

Prairie Village continues to provide citizens with excellent recreational opportunities in 2006!

Prairie Village strives to provide citizens with excellent recreational opportunities during the summer months, many of which occur at the **Prairie Village Municipal Swimming Pool**, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary this Summer! The pool has been busy this season with attendance exceeding 70,000 guests. A special thanks is due to our Pool Managers Joel Rios, Nick Erker, Jennifer Holland and Stephanie Sears, as well as the lifeguards and Public Works employees who worked tirelessly this Summer to keep the Pool Complex in great shape.

The **Swim Team**

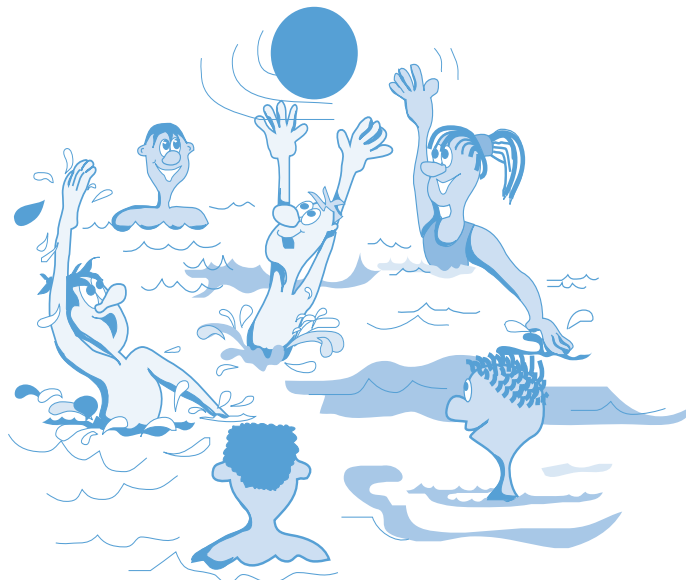
proudly finished in 6th place at the All City Swimming Championship this year with an impressive team of 204 competitive and non-competitive swimmers. Stacey Coffyn was our highest point swimmer and set a team record in the 14-15 Girls 50 Meter Freestyle. Collectively, the team improved more than 500 points from last year and was 3-3 in dual meets. In 2007, the team will host the All-City Swimming Championship. The team was led by Head Coach Rob Cole, and Assistant Coaches Bailey Gage, Molly Melling and Karen Rees. Prairie Village Lifeguard Laura Webb also assisted the swim team by helping the coaches at their daily practices. Congratulations to the Prairie Village Piranhas for another successful season!

The **Synchronized Swim Team** concluded their season on July 30th by performing the 47th Annual Water Show. This year's show, "Aqua Seuss",

choreographed by Head Coach Nancy Morgan and Assistant Coach Melanie Muecke, was performed by a team of 37 swimmers. The team enjoyed significant publicity in 2006 by being featured in the Kansas City Star, the Johnson County Sun, and in a KMBC 9 News sports segment.

The **Dive Team** finished sixth at All-City this year. Cathy Jones returned to Prairie Village to lead this team in another successful season. Many participants from last year returned to further develop their techniques and skill, while the team welcomed a number of new individuals excited to learn about this challenging sport.

In addition to the activities at the pool, Harmon Park provides wonderfully maintained facilities to host our tennis



program. The Prairie Village **Junior Tennis League** performed exceptionally well throughout the season. The team grew to an impressive 104 participants under the leadership and quality instruction of Head Coach Ryan Cope and Tennis Assistant Nate Morris.

Rebecca Snodgrass continued to represent Prairie Village well as our Tennis Professional, teaching youth, adult and group Tennis Lessons. She provided instruction to 86 youth in Pee Wee, Mighty Mites and Future Stars courses, and taught over 80 private and semi-private lessons to children and adults this summer.

Arts

COUNCIL

Prairie Village

PRESENTS

Mark your calendars now to view these exhibits and attend opening receptions honoring these talented artists.

September

Dale Cole, Rick Scaletty

October

Senior Arts Council
Opening reception – Friday,
October 13th, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

November

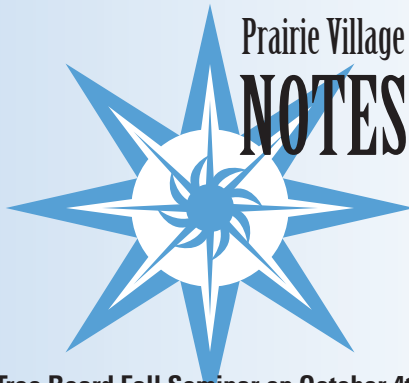
MidAmerica Pastel Society
Opening reception – Friday,
November 10th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

December

Marearl Denning
Opening reception – Friday,
December 8th, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

If you would like to receive more information about upcoming exhibits in the R.G. Endres Gallery or are an artist interested in exhibiting in the Gallery, contact Connie Walsh at 913-381-6464 or via e-mail at cmwalsh@pvkansas.com

Gallery hours are Mon – Fri
8:00am – 5:00pm.



Tree Board Fall Seminar on October 4th at 7 pm, City Council Chambers

This year's seminar will feature a panel discussion about common tree problems. Questions will be taken about resident problems. Awards will be presented to owners of Champion Trees in the City. A drawing for trees/shrubs will be conducted during the meeting. For more information contact Prairie Village Public Works at 913-385-4647 or send an e-mail to publicworks@pvkansas.com.

Shaffer Fills Slot on NARC Board

Mayor Shaffer has become the Region XI representative on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). NARC is a non-profit organization and public interest group whose mission is to build regional communities through regional collaboration and excellence in addressing diverse development challenges. NARC's member organizations are composed of multiple local government units that work together to serve American communities – large and small, urban and rural. Shaffer currently is chair of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) which is a member of NARC.

CONGRATULATIONS

Two Community Spirit Awards were presented during the 10th Anniversary VillageFest celebration on July 4th. The first was given to Deanna Letourneau whose work with the city's swim team program over the past years has been exemplary. The second was given to Ann Lilak, who has served as the chairman of the VillageFest Committee since 2002. Congratulations Deanna and Ann!

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.



Parking Lot Safety and Survival Skills

When I leave the grocery store and my hands are either pushing a shopping cart or they're full of grocery bags, I sometimes get that vulnerable feeling. I wonder just how prepared I am to help myself be less of a target to a potential offender.

This month's newsletter will address questions we may sometimes ask ourselves as we exit businesses and events and head towards the parking lot.

When you arrive at your destination the Crime Prevention Unit suggests the following:

1. Park in an area as close to the front door as possible.
2. Park your car where it is well lit, even during the day in case you shop later and it is dark outside.
3. Shop and perform as much of your business during the daylight hours.
4. Place valuables out of sight or lock them in the trunk.
5. Always lock your vehicle even if you're leaving it parked for a short period of time.
6. Be aware of your surroundings when exiting and entering your vehicle.
7. Before entering your vehicle take a quick peek inside to make sure you don't have any visitors.
8. Remember where you park, look confident when walking to your car and lock your door once inside.

Parking lot survival skills are great precautions that can be used by everyone as we educate and help protect ourselves from parking lot criminal activity. Remember the holidays are right around the corner and most of us will be out and about preparing for the busy season.

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

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