

January, 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



Help Your Neighbors "Catch A Ride"

Many people in Johnson County require transportation assistance for everyday tasks such as going to the grocery store or visiting the doctor. **The Catch a Ride program**, sponsored by Johnson County's Human Services & Aging Department, takes care of that.

Through this program, volunteer drivers provide transportation to older adults, people with disabilities, and those in life transition. There is no cost to use this service and it will provide transportation to most areas in Johnson County. The needs are great and volunteer drivers are always in demand.

If you're interested in using this program, becoming a volunteer, or making a donation, please call (913) 477-8105.



Take Care of Your Neighborhood Mail Carriers!

As we were all reminded with the heavy snowfall last month, winter weather can mean slippery surfaces for both you and your mail carrier.

Inclement weather may cause mail delivery service to be delayed or curtailed because of hazardous conditions such as snow buildup or snow and ice on sidewalks, porches or steps. Also, mail carriers are not allowed to dismount for curbside boxes or cluster boxes that are blocked by snow and ice buildup. To prevent mail delivery service from being delayed or curtailed, please ensure mail carriers have proper access to mail receptacles when snow arrives. This means removing large accumulations of snow from the area approximately six feet on both sides of the mailbox or cluster box.

If these precautions are taken, then you can feel good knowing that both your mail carrier and your mail are safe.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As the holiday season comes to a close, I continue to be honored to serve as your mayor and am enthusiastic about the upcoming New Year. As always, I am particularly proud of our community's generosity and willingness to help our neighbors in need.

Over the past few months the citizens of Prairie Village have undertaken two significant efforts to help those in our community that need assistance. In October, the **21st Annual Peanut Butter Week** event provided 5,600 pounds of peanut butter and over \$1,100 in cash contributions to Harvesters Community Food Network.

On November 28th the lighting of the holiday trees on the Municipal Campus and at several other locations throughout the City kicked-off the holiday season in Prairie Village and the 20th year of the **Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund**. Since its inception, the Fund has provided over \$100,000 in assistance to Prairie Village residents who need help paying their utility bills or with making repairs to their homes. In 2005, Prairie Village residents and business owners contributed nearly \$10,000 to the Holiday Tree Fund.

When efforts such as these are combined with the time, energy and financial assistance that Prairie Village residents contribute individually to churches, synagogues, and charitable organizations, it is truly remarkable the positive impact our city can make.

I would like to remind everyone that needs exist throughout the year, not just during the holiday season. As you're making your new year's resolutions, let's resolve to make helping those less fortunate than ourselves a year-round endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive font.

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

Johnson County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Encourages All Citizens to Purchase an NOAA All Hazards Radio

As the news has shown us through the recent events in Indiana and Kentucky, severe weather, including tornadoes, can happen at any time of the year. Through the use of sirens, communities can be alerted to severe weather in a timely manner. Yet, these sirens have been manufactured to warn people who are outdoors, not for individuals who are indoors. To increase the potential for awareness of the impending weather, another option is available. This option, known as an NOAA All Hazards Radio, is a safety tool that ensures direct access to information on severe weather and other types of emergencies. Whether it's an approaching tornado, roads overrun by flash floods, or a need to be on the lookout for an abducted child, the radio sounds an immediate alarm. The NOAA All Hazards Radio will signal any danger, 24 hours a day, seven days

a week, either on a national or local level, and recommend safety steps.

You can program your radio to sound alerts to your preferences. For example, if your area is inclined to tornadoes or flash floods, you can program the radio to alert you to these types of warnings in your county and surrounding area.

If you are interested in purchasing one of these possible life saving devices, they are available at participating Price Choppers for \$29.95. If you have any questions or would like more information you may contact Johnson County Emergency Management & Homeland Security at (913) 782-3038.

2006 Animal Licensing

City ordinance requires the annual licensing of all cats and dogs residing in the City. The ordinance also requires proof of a current rabies vaccination. Now is the time to license your dog or cat for the 2006 licensing year.

NOTE: The vaccination does not have to be valid throughout the calendar year, but must be valid at the time of licensing. **Therefore, all pets can be licensed in January and February** before late fees are assessed. The license fee for a spayed or neutered pet is \$6. The fee for an animal that has not been spayed or neutered is \$12.

Additional information is available at www.pvkansas.com or you can contact the City Clerk's Office at (913) 381-6464 or send an email to cityclerk@pvkansas.com.



Holiday Tree Recycling Program

The City will once again sponsor a Holiday Tree Recycling Program for Prairie Village residents. Trees may be placed 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 tree mulch for their own use.

The program will be available December 24th through January 17th.

Cinema in the Chamber

The Prairie Village **Sister City Committee** invites you to enjoy **free foreign films** on the first Wednesday of each month. The movies will be shown in the City Council Chambers at 7700 Mission Road. Admission is free and popcorn and drinks will be available for a small donation. The movies start at 7:30 p.m. so be sure to attend. If you have questions, please call Joshua Farrar at (913) 381-6464 or send an e-mail to jfarrar@pvkansas.com.

The schedule is:

Room with a View

Wednesday, January 4th

This film is a 19th Century love story set in Florence

Cyrano De Bergerac

Wednesday, February 1st

An epic French tale of hidden love

Kolya

Wednesday, March 1st

A Czech film about a boy who redeems a cynical middle aged man

Start the New Year Doing Yourself a Favor...

Join the Total Body Workout Class sponsored by Johnson County Recreation 50+ Program. Stretch, tone and strengthen your muscles and cardiovascular system with a combination of Hi-Low Aerobics, Pilates and Strength Training. You will feel better, look better and have more energy and endurance.

Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7:15am to 8:15am at the Prairie Village Community Center located at 7700 Mission Road in Prairie Village. For more details, contact Jennifer Spellman with Johnson County Recreation 50+ Program at (913) 236-4343.

Arts

COUNCIL

Prairie Village

PRESENTS

While you're out and about, stop by the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery to view the work of several talented artists. Many of the pieces on display in the Gallery are available for sale.

JANUARY

GARY MEHL and
ART WHORTON

There will be two artists in the gallery this month. The first is Art Whorton who is with The Mid-America Pastel Society and the second is Gary Mehl who masters the pinpoint style. Both will be on display from January 1-31.

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

Council Members Complete Terms with National League of Cities

The City of Prairie Village would like to thank council members, **Ruth Hopkins** and **Diana Ewy Sharp** for their service with the National League of Cities (NLC). Ruth recently completed a two year term on the National League of Cities' Board of Directors. She will now serve on the organization's Advisory Council. Diana recently completed her term as Chairperson of NLC's 1st Suburb's Coalition.

Their service to the National League of Cities has allowed Ruth and Diana to lend their experience to a national organization, as well as bring information and ideas from cities across the country to Prairie Village. Ruth and Diana, thank you for all of your hard work!



Holiday Office Closings

City offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 16th, 2006.

City offices will be closed in observance of President's Day on Monday, February 20th, 2006.

As always, Emergency Services will remain available by calling 911.

Upcoming Trash Holidays

Deffenbaugh, the City's solid waste collection and recycling contractor, will be observing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 16th. As a result, trash and recycling collection will be a day late during the week of January 16th.

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.



Safety and Security Tips for Seniors

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with several Senior Citizen groups about crime prevention. During the presentation I shared several tips specifically for seniors that I wanted to share with the senior citizens and others in our community.

- Before leaving home, and when retiring for the evening, check and make sure your home's doors and windows are locked.
- Get to know your neighbors and help look out for each other.
- Do not allow anyone in your home that you do not know and trust.
- Store valuables in a safety deposit box or in a locked and secure place in your home.
- If you are going out, be sure to take a friend with you whenever possible.
- Do not carry large amounts of money on your person.
- Be aware of your surroundings and walk with confidence.
- Beware of con artists and any offers that sound "too good to be true".

Common sense precautions, being aware of your surroundings and knowing your limitations are all good safety practices that hopefully will make you a safer senior this new year.

VillageFest 2006

The VillageFest 2006 Planning Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Prairie Village Community Center. The Committee will continue to meet on the 4th Thursday of each month.

If you would like to participate in planning the event or would like additional information, please contact Joshua Farrar at (913) 381-6464 or send an email to jfarrar@pvkansas.com.

Prairie Village Municipal Office
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