



Voice

The Star of Kansas

TIPS from the Environmental Committee

Want to conserve energy and lower your heating bills this winter? The U.S. Dept. of Energy recommends ceiling insulation as one of the most efficient measures, and recommends R-50 (a measure of how well air movement is blocked - insulation about 12" deep) as the ceiling insulation level for our part of the country. Insulating between your downstairs ceilings and the floor of your attic keeps your warmed air downstairs where it belongs! And besides saving on heating bills, you may qualify for a federal tax credit of up to \$500 in 2007 for home insulation.



New Location for Drop-Off Recycling Center

The drop-off recycling center operated by Deffenbaugh and the City of Overland Park at 80th and Metcalf recently closed. A new location, managed by Bridging the Gap, a local environmental education and action organization, is now open at **11921 Hardy in Overland Park**. The new facility is open from **9:30 am – 5:30 pm Tuesday through Friday**, and from **8:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday**.

To learn more about recycling, including the location of other recycling facilities in the metro area, go to www.bridgingthegap.org or visit the Mid America Regional Council's recycling resource center at www.recyclespot.org.

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Remodel with the First Suburbs Home Equity Loan

The City of Prairie Village, the Mid-America Regional Council's First Suburbs Coalition and Community America Credit Union have partnered to provide low-interest, fixed-rate home equity loans designed to fund the remodeling and modernization of qualified homes in Prairie Village and other first ring suburbs.

Loans provided through the program offer **"fixed – interest rates" as low as 6.49% APR**, with terms of 10 years or less and loan amounts up to \$30,000.

So go ahead, let your mind drift to that kitchen you've always wanted, the new master suite, the deck surrounded by lush landscaping, or even that extra bedroom that will add durability, convenience and value to your home. Your dream home is closer than you think!

If you're interested in applying or have questions regarding the lending process, please contact Community America at 913-905-6629. Funds are limited so apply now!





Mayor's Message

The Prairie Village Municipal Foundation's mission is to provide assistance to persons in need, improve parks and recreation facilities, make available cultural arts opportunities and engage in activities incidental to accomplishing such purposes within the City of Prairie Village. The Municipal Foundation has helped with projects such as the Skate Park, the Hollub Memorial Rose Garden in Franklin Park, and Pave the Patio.

The Foundation is in full swing again this winter accepting donations for the Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund and the Barbara Vernon Commemoration Fund.

The Annual Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration will be at the Corinth Square Shops at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 26th. Trees in various parts of the City will be lit as a reminder that there are people in our community who may not be able to afford to pay their utility bills or make repairs to their homes. During last year's holiday season Prairie Village residents and businesses contributed \$8,641 to the Fund. Since inception, the Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund has raised over \$122,600 for Prairie Village residents in need.

The Barbara Vernon Commemoration Fund has been established to accept donations for a commemorative sculpture that will be placed on the Municipal Campus. Barbara Vernon has been our City Administrator for 30 years and is retiring this year. Gifts are being accepted in honor of Barbara's many accomplishments over her tenure.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to either cause, please cut out the donation form and return it to the Municipal Offices at 7700 Mission Road. For questions, please contact Jeanne Koontz at 913-381-6464 or jkoontz@pvkansas.com.

Sincerely,
Ron Shaffer, Mayor

MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MUNICIPAL FOUNDATION IS ENCLOSED:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Please make your check payable to Prairie Village Municipal Foundation and return it to 7700 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund Barbara Vernon Commemoration Fund

Fit for the Holidays

Stretch, tone and strengthen your core muscles and cardiovascular system with a mix of Pilates, Yoga, Strength Training and Hi-Low Aerobics. Join the **Total Body Workout Class** (Fifty Plus Fit and Feisty) sponsored by the Johnson County Recreation 50+ Program.

Classes are held **Tuesday and Thursday, from 7:15 am to 8:15 am** at the **Prairie Village Community Center**. For more details, contact the 50 Plus Coordinator, Michelle Alexander at (913) 236-4343.



Police Citizens Academy

Applications are now being accepted for a winter **Police Citizens Academy**, to begin **February 6, 2008**. Classes are scheduled on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm** for a ten week period.

Past participants have been leaders in the community, interested and concerned citizens, business and academic professionals, and high school students. The Academy takes a hands-on approach to learning, and classes offer a unique opportunity to involve participants in discussing the Department's methods of operation, philosophies and goals. Some of the topics covered include Traffic Enforcement,

Officer Safety Tactics, Shoot/Don't Shoot, Kansas Law and Crime Scene Processing.

Interested persons may pick up an application at the Police Department, or download it from the city website, www.pvkansas.com.

For questions, please contact Sgt. Myron Ward at 913-385-4623 or mward@pvkansas.com.





State of the Arts a Success

Last month the Prairie Village Arts Council sponsored the inaugural **State of the Arts** juried exhibition in the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery. Over 200 people attended the opening reception which was held on Friday, October 12th.

In June, the Arts Council issued a Call for Artists to participate in the event. Nearly 150 works from 50 artists were received and reviewed

by the exhibition's juror, Margaret Conrads, the Samuel Sosland Curator of American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City,

Ms. Conrads selected thirty-one pieces for the exhibition, which was held last month in the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery. Three pieces received special recognition, including a cash award of \$500 made possible through contributions from Community America Credit Union.

The 2007 State of the Arts award recipients were: **Joseph Smith, Kevin Spykerman** and **Deana Winters**. While each artist's style is different, they all share an extraordinary attention to detail in their works.

- **Joseph Smith's** choice of medium is watercolor, and his winning subject is "Gerri", a portrait of a woman featuring, undoubtedly, her favorite hat.
- **Kevin Spykerman**, on the other hand, chose oils on canvas to reveal his perspective of the Italian hill town of "Bergamo".
- **Deana Winters's** conceptual view of "The Farm" was created using layers of silk organza, rust, copper oxidization and hand stitched threading.

The Prairie Village Arts Council would like to thank all of the artists who participated in State of the Arts, as well as generous sponsors: **Community America Credit Union, Callahan Creek, Hy-Vee, and Jewelry Arts.**

Stay tuned to future issues of the *Prairie Village Voice*. Plans are already underway for the 2nd Annual State of the Arts Exhibition.

Arts

COUNCIL

Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

NOVEMBER

MidAmerica Pastel Society

For the last eleven years, the MidAmerica Pastel Society has held its small painting show in the R.G. Endres Gallery. Each year this talented group of artists manages to "Wow" the public with both the variety of subjects and the innovative ways they are portrayed. If you have not seen this exhibit, we encourage you to make time for it.

DECEMBER

Christi Roberts Bony, *Mixed Media*

Opening Reception
December 14th, 6:30 pm

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

Remodeling Idea Book

If you're looking for remodeling ideas, check out the First Suburbs Coalition's Idea Book. It contains plans, drawings and suggestions for making your home as attractive, comfortable and valuable as possible.

The First Suburbs Coalition Idea Book examines four of the most common housing types found in first suburbs, including Prairie Village - Ranch, Split Level, Two Story, and Cape Cod - and provides dozens of ideas for appropriate ways to update and make additions to them. The 40-page, folio-sized book offers color illustrations of each design and the elements which can be renovated or added.



The book also addresses windows, doors and garages as well as other basics of exterior appearance. Considerations such as energy efficiency, financing and universal design are also discussed, along with a section on guidelines for selecting and working with reliable contractors.

A copy of the book is available for review at the Codes Administration counter in the Municipal Offices and may be purchased for \$10. To learn more about the First Suburbs Coalition, visit www.marc.org/firstsuburbs or call the Mid-America Regional Council at 816-474-4240 for more information.



Prairie Village Notes

City Offices Close for Thanksgiving Holiday

City offices will close at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 21st and will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22nd and 23rd in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. As always, emergency services will remain available by calling 9-1-1.

Upcoming Trash Holidays

Deffenbaugh, the City's solid waste collection and recycling contractor, will be observing the Thanksgiving Holiday which falls on Thursday, November 22nd. If this is your normal pick-up day, your solid waste, yard waste, and recyclables will be collected one day later that week.

Your Holiday Lights May Require a Permit

If your Holiday decorating includes stringing lights across City streets, public right-of-ways, or storm drainage channels, please contact the Public Works department first. A right-of-way permit is required for electrical and traffic safety.

For more information contact the Public Works Department at 913-385-4640 or send an email to publicworks@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.



Crime Prevention

with Officer Dan Robles

The Knows and No's of Residential Home Security

Home Security questions are asked of me all of the time. Some of the questions have answers that we do know the answers to and others are questions we would say "no" to.

In this month's newsletter I will address some of the most asked home security questions as the holiday season approaches.

- Know how to properly secure your window with a "pinning process" where a pin is installed in the window sash.
- Know that a knob lock is not sufficient enough to secure an exterior door. Use a deadbolt lock.
- Know that properly securing all doors and windows on your residence deters burglars and uninvited persons.
- Know that properly illuminating the outside of your home, especially entry points discourages nighttime intruders.
- Know that dogs, alarms and good quality locks may deter burglars.

And the other No's:

- No door lock that is not installed with a secure strike plate will be resistant enough to forced entry. Use a minimum 3" screw to affix the door strike plate.
- No window is ever actually "painted shut". Use the window lock or pin the window.
- No burglar wants to see the police in the area of a home they want to burglarize so call the police dispatcher for a House Watch check by an officer while you're away.
- No outside lighting on a residence at night may be an invitation to a burglar.
- No burglar wants to be caught, so call the police on any suspicious activity you may observe and be a good "Nosey Neighbor".

Please call me at 913-385-4613 or e-mail me at drobles@pvkansas.com with any questions or concerns you may have about home security. The Crime Prevention Unit wishes to keep all in the know this holiday season when it comes to home safety and security.

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

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