



The Star of Kansas

The Prairie Village

August 2007

Voice

Fall Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up

On **September 15th**, between 8:00 am and Noon, Johnson county residents can take their Household Hazardous Waste items to one of two collection locations:

- City of Olathe's Municipal Services Center at 1420 S. Robinson
- Johnson County Environmental Department's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at approximately I-35 and Lamar.

Both locations are open to all Johnson County residents and appointments are required only at the Johnson County Environmental site. No business hazardous waste will be accepted.



For a list of common household hazardous materials accepted at collection facilities, go to <http://jced.jocogov.org/> and click on Hazardous Materials, where you can also make an appointment at the Johnson County facility. Or call the facility at 913-715-6900

For more information about the City of Olathe facility, call 913-971-9311 or for general information visit their web site at www.olatheks.org. In addition, both these collection facilities are open year round.

Shaffer Elected to National Leadership Post

At the recent national conference in Orlando of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), **Mayor Ron Shaffer** was elected to a term as the Region XI Representative, representing Iowa, Kansas and Missouri on the NARC Board of Directors. NARC Board members must be elected officials and are elected for two-year terms. Their role is to provide policy guidance to the organization while representing the members of NARC from the geographic area from which they come.

NARC is a nonprofit membership organization and public interest group whose mission is to build regional communities through regional collaboration.

For over 40 years, NARC has represented the interests of its members through effective interaction and advocacy with Congress, federal officials and other related agencies. Its membership is comprised of local metropolitan planning organizations. The Mid-American Regional Council (MARC), which serves as the council of governments and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Kansas City metropolitan area, is a member of NARC.

Mayor Shaffer currently serves as the immediate Past Chair of the MARC Board of Directors.

Congratulations Mayor Shaffer!

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Mayor's Message

As we all know, change is the only constant in life. Change brings new ideas and opportunities for individuals, organizations, and, of course, Prairie Village.

A significant change recently occurred in the Prairie Village Police Department. After 15 years with the City, Chief Charles Grover retired earlier this year. Since that time, the City has been working closely with a professional executive search firm to identify an outstanding individual to serve as Prairie Village's next Chief of Police.

After conducting an extensive search attracting applicants from across the country, on June 18th the City Council unanimously approved the appointment of Wes Jordan as the City's Chief of Police.

For many, Chief Jordan is a familiar face. He is a 19 year veteran of the Prairie Village Police Department and had most recently served as a Captain, supervising the Department's Patrol Division. He holds a Master's Degree in Management from Baker University and is a graduate of the 221st session of the FBI National

Academy as well as Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. Chief Jordan's professional training and abilities, combined with his extensive knowledge of our community, will allow him to "hit the ground running" and enable the Department to continue providing exceptional service to the community.

During the interview process, Chief Jordan emphasized the community aspect of policing in Prairie Village, noting that one of his goals as Chief of Police is for residents to see "our police car" rather than "a police car" on the street.

Although Prairie Village has a new Chief of Police, the City's commitment to maintaining a safe, secure community is unwavering. Please join me in congratulating Chief Jordan on his promotion and wishing him the best in his new role as Chief of Police.

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

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 will be mailed in August 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.

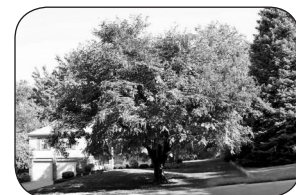
Best of Species and Champion Trees

The Prairie Village Tree Board is now accepting nominations for Best of 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, 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 17, 2007.**

Vernon Receives Award

Barbara Vernon, City Administrator, recently received the LP Cookingham Award given annually by the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA). The award recognizes outstanding contributions to public administration over an extended period of time. With the announcement of Barbara's retirement in October, the Chapter wanted to recognize her important contributions and dedication to the profession. Congratulations Barbara on your outstanding work and commitment to public service!



Champion Tree 2006

Student Poster Contest

Students in the Elementary and Middle Schools in Prairie Village were asked to depict a celebration of the 4th of July. Thank you to all the students who participated in the contest. The winners were:

- 1st place: **Neely Atha**, age 12, Prairie Elementary
- 2nd place: **Eden and Adeline Kreighbaum** - ages 9 & 6, St. Ann's
- 3rd place: **Kyra Engelken**

Community Spirit Awards

Community Spirit Awards are given to citizens and businesses in Prairie Village who have demonstrated a commitment to improve the quality of life in our community.

Kevin Euston and **Euston's Hardware** received the Business Community Spirit Award for their outstanding service to Prairie Village residents.



Community Spirit Award Winners Bill Brazeal and Jim Hanson with Mayor Ron Shaffer and Councilmember Diana Ewy Sharp.

Bill Brazeal, coach and science teacher, received the Resident Community Spirit Award for his volunteering to spend his summers teaching science and coaching baseball.

Jim Hanson received the other Resident Community Spirit Award for his involvement with the Citizen's Police Academy, the Citizen's Advisory Committee, the VillageFest Committee, the Tree Board, and the Vice-Chairperson of the Prairie Village Homes Association.

Congratulations and thanks for all you do for the community!

Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and participants who made VillageFest 2007 a great success!

Latest Home Safety News from CFD#2 and the City

"Misuse and improper maintenance of electrical systems is a primary cause of fires in Prairie Village," says CFD#2 Fire Inspector Todd Kerkhoff. One preventative measure Prairie Village residents can take with our older homes, which were wired for electricity before people even had dryers, is to follow manufacturer's instructions on power strips as you add new technology. "Refrigerators, microwaves and space heaters are examples of high-draw appliances that should not be plugged in to power strips," says Inspector Kerkhoff.

Doug Luther, Assistant City Administrator, agrees and reminds residents that "just because you have a power strip with eight plugs doesn't mean you have to load that entire strip." While residents are permitted to do their own electrical work, Luther reminds people to call the city at 913-381-6464 for questions about permits and contractor/electrician business licenses before beginning any new project. It is also a good idea to have a reputable

electrician come to your home for routine checks, says Inspector Kerkhoff.

"The other primary cause of fires here is the improper discarding of cigarettes," states Inspector Kerkhoff. Fire safety web sites such as www.nfpa.org stress that people only smoke outdoors and put out their cigarettes in wide, deep ashtrays. Be particularly vigilant out on decks, which ignite quickly. "Keep plenty of room around your barbecue grill, as well, and if you are staining your deck, do not store soiled rags in confined spaces," says CFD#2 Fire Public Education Specialist Chris Andrews.

For more information on these topics and links to national safety news, visit www.jocofire2.org.

Arts
COUNCIL
Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

AUGUST

"A closer look reveals the extraordinary within the ordinary." This is how photographer **Shawn Bohs** describes his works, and we think you'll agree after seeing his exhibit. Shawn is another newcomer to the Gallery, but a true professional at capturing life and all it has to offer on film. His unique view of rural America and other locations requires more than just a passing glance... it takes a "closer look." Spend a little time away from the grind of everyday life and see for yourself.

SEPTEMBER

Barney Newcom, Oil Painting
Opening Reception
September 14th, 6:30 pm

OCTOBER

Prairie Village State of the Arts, a juried exhibition
Opening Reception
October 12th

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



Prairie Village Notes



New Pool Hours

Beginning August 13th the pool will be operating on reduced hours.

Monday - Friday 4:30 - 8:30 pm

Sat. & Sunday 11:00 am - 8:30 pm

The pool will close for the season at 6:00 pm on Monday September 3rd.



City Offices Closed

City Offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day on **Monday, September 3, 2007**. 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 Labor Day Holiday on Monday September 3rd. As a result trash and recycling collection will be one day late during the week of September 3rd.



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

Residential Summer Safety Suggestions

While recently doing yard work on the side of my house I realized I had done what I remind people not to do; I left my garage door open. This month's newsletter lists suggestions on how you can still go outside and enjoy working in your yard without worrying about the bad guy coming into your house to pay a visit.

- When outside working in the yard whether it's near the front door or on the side of your house, always keep your front door and garage door locked.
- Do not leave windows open with just a screen as security. Screens can easily be slit allowing easy access inside.
- Be careful if you're washing or vacuuming your car in the driveway. It only takes a moment to run inside the house for something to drink and a theft from your unlocked car or open garage occurs.
- When you need to have your garage door open while working outside, lock the interior door that leads into your residence. An uninvited guest inside your home with other family members present while you're outside can be a dangerous situation.

- If your home has a utility door that leads from the outside into your garage, check to make sure the door is locked.
- Keep an extra house key on a lanyard or pin it to your clothing so you can lock yourself out of your home while you are outside performing chores.
- Interior garage doors that lead into the home should be made of a solid wood construction to be more burglary resistant.
- This time of year the bad guys specifically want to get their hands on your lawnmower, weed eater, and leaf blower among other valuable lawn tools.
- Always be aware of your surroundings even though you are in your own yard, and have a cell phone or home phone available for emergencies.

With some extra diligence and crime prevention awareness you can still enjoy working outside while you keep the bad guy away from the inside of your home this summer season. Remember if you observe suspicious activity call 911!

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

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