



The Star of Kansas

The Prairie Village

October 2007

Voice

“If I were Mayor, I would...”

The League of Kansas Municipalities is inviting all Kansas 7th graders to join an essay contest, “**If I were mayor, I would...**” to tell others what they would do as mayor to make their cities the best place to live.

A winning essay will be selected in each of six geographic regions of the state. Winners will receive a \$250 savings bond. One grand prize winner will be selected to represent the entire state. The winners, along with their parents and teachers, will be recognized at a special ceremony at the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka. All entries must be received by Friday, November 16th, 2007. For complete contest rules and an entry form, visit www.lkm.org/2007-mayor-contest.

Sidewalks

Did you know that Prairie Village has over 92 miles of sidewalks? They provide a great area for walking, jogging, and enjoying the outdoors. City ordinance requires owners or occupants of property abutting a City sidewalk to maintain the sidewalk free and clear of any debris or obstructions including trash, tree limbs, vehicles which are parked on the street, etc.

Please help keep our sidewalks safe and clean by trimming trees to 9 ft above the sidewalk, trim bushes or other vegetation as not to encroach on the sidewalk, and cut weeds & grass which grow in and around the sidewalks. Any litter or other debris such as limbs or leaves which have fallen upon the sidewalk should also be removed.

Also remember that Winter is just around the corner, so don't forget to remove the snow and ice from the City sidewalks as well.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Prairie Village neighborhoods, including sidewalks, clear and accessible to all.

Mark Your Calendar

The **Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony** will be at Corinth Square Shops on Monday, **November 26th**, at 6:30 pm. The Mayor's Holiday Tree is lighted as a reminder of the season and of the City's utility assistance and home maintenance program. Funds donated are used to assist Prairie Village residents in paying their utility bills during the cold winter months and provide home maintenance

for low income families when they find themselves in a situation where no other resources are available.

The event is sponsored by the Prairie Village Municipal Foundation, The City of Prairie Village, and Corinth Shops. Join us for Holiday fun. There will be singing, dancing, eating and maybe even a visit from the North Pole.

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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



Mayor's Message

As many of you know, the City Council recently adopted the **Village Vision Strategic Investment Plan** after nearly two years of planning, study, and citizen input. This plan contains 48 recommendations for actions the City can take to improve our city and ensure Prairie Village's continued place as a premier community in the metropolitan area.

I recently appointed task forces to conduct further study of two critical areas of the Village Vision Plan: the 75th Street corridor and home construction and renovation issues.

The 75th Street Task Force, led by Ward IV Councilman Pat Daniels, is investigating strategies for improving the 75th Street Corridor from State Line to the City's western boundary. A consistent theme throughout the Village Vision community meetings was a desire to improve the appearance and value of the corridor, as well as the properties along 75th Street. The task force will be working with City staff and planning consultants to identify options and alternatives for the corridor. Of course, as the task force's mission and plans come into focus, residents will have an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions.

The second task force, led by Ward IV councilwoman Laura Wassmer, will be exploring ways to preserve the charm and character of the City's neighborhoods. During the Village Vision planning process, residents also expressed a desire to encourage reinvestment in the City's housing stock, but in a manner which would maintain the neighborhood character which has come to define Prairie Village. The task force will be exploring a variety of issues, including developing a design style guide to assist residents with home renovation projects.

Stay tuned to future issues of the *Prairie Village Voice* for updates on progress being made by these two task forces.

To learn more about the Village Vision Strategic Investment Plan and its recommendations, contact Doug Luther at 913-385-4603 or e-mail Doug at dluther@pvkansas.com.

You may also read the Village Vision Plan on-line at http://www.pvkansas.com/Village_Vision_Adoption.shtml.

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

Prairie Village Fire Safety Statistics

- The two primary causes of fires are electrical problems and improper disposal of smoking materials.
- Average emergency response time is less than five minutes.
- All police, fire and ambulance vehicles have defibrillators, which are coming down in cost to less than \$2,000 each and are recommended in businesses, when possible.
- All local emergency personnel are receiving the new American Heart Association CPR training, which is changing to emphasize a higher chest compression to breath ratio. Go to www.americanheart.org to see the latest recommendations for CPR.

Attention Landlords and Tenants

The City of Prairie Village requires all owners of residential properties to obtain a rental property license. The licensing year is November 1st through October 31st. Owners of currently licensed properties will be receiving license renewal materials in the mail. These must be completed and returned by October 24th. A penalty of \$10 per month will be assessed beginning in November.

For more information visit www.pvkansas.com or contact Nancy Yoakum at 913-381-6464 ext. 4204 or send an email to nyoakum@pvkansas.com.



Pave the Patio

The Prairie Village Arts Council continues to sell personalized bricks for the community center patio. Individual bricks are priced at \$35, with a portion of the amount being tax-deductible. Corporate sponsorships begin at \$100. Funds raised through the "Pave the Patio" project cover the costs of engraving and installing the bricks, and help support continued cultural arts programming for the community.

Buy a brick for yourself or a loved one today!



For more information, contact Jeanne Koontz at 913-381-6464 or jkoontz@pvkansas.com. Order forms are available at City Hall or online at www.pvkansas.com/aboutpv/Pave_the_Patio.shtml.

Remodeling Workshop Oct. 27th

Are you wanting to remodel your home but don't know where to start? If so, make plans to attend the **Home Renovation Workshop on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm** at the Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center, 6200 Martway in Mission.

The cities of Mission and Prairie Village, along with the Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City are teaming up to help you jump-start your home improvement projects.

Events throughout the day will feature demonstrations and workshops on a variety of renovation and remodeling topics including tips for remodeling your "post WWII home," selecting a reputable

contractor, foundation repairs, "faux painting," increasing your home's energy efficiency, and more.

Contractors, vendors and lenders will also be available to answer your remodeling questions, including options for financing your remodeling project.

Admission is FREE, and door prizes will be awarded, so don't miss out on this opportunity to learn about remodeling from the pros.



Taking Care of Fall Leaves

When Fall arrives, leaf raking season begins. The City once again reminds you to properly dispose of your leaves. Here are several options:

DO:

- Mulch - If the leaves in your yard aren't too deep, you can simply mow over them with a mulching mower, returning the clippings to your lawn.
- Compost - Leaves are an important ingredient in any compost pile. For information about the City's composting regulations, contact Marcia Gradinger at 913-385-4605 or email to mgradinger@pvkansas.com.
- Rake and Bag - When you rake leaves, bag them and place them at the curb for collection on the same day as your regular household trash and recycling. Use paper bags for your leaves. Paper bags can be recycled too.

DON'T:

- Don't rake leaves into the street - this can clog up the storm drains and may create a traffic hazard.
- Don't rake leaves into creeks or drainage channels - this can cause drainage problems. Besides, it's against the law.

Leaves are beautiful...when they're on trees. Once they fall to the ground, they should be disposed of properly.

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

OCTOBER

Prairie Village State of the Arts, a juried exhibition

Join the Prairie Village Arts Council in the inaugural **State of the Arts** exhibition in the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery. **State of the Arts** is a juried exhibition for professional artists working in two dimensions. Artists featured in this exhibition were selected through a competitive process and selection by juror, Margaret Conrads, Samuel Sosland Curator of American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri.

NOVEMBER

MidAmerica Pastel Society

Opening Reception
November 9th, 6:00 pm

DECEMBER

Christi Roberts Bony, Mixed Media

Opening Reception
December 14th, 6:30 pm

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



Prairie Village

Notes

Community Center Reservation Fee Changes

On September 17th, the City Council approved new fees for the Community Center effective October 1, 2007. The new fee for all reservations is **\$10/hour during the week and \$15/hour on the weekend.** The City Council also approved a \$50 fee for Alcohol Permits effective immediately. Reservations for 2008 can be made starting on October 1, 2007 in the City Clerk's office.

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

Auto Theft and Auto Burglary Alert

You can't have my car or any belongings in it. These are thoughts I sometimes have when I see an increase in the amount of auto theft and auto burglary reports. It can be so easy to leave valuables and other important items lying around in plain view inside your vehicle in such a hustle and bustle fast paced society that we live.

But what typically happens is people become forgetful and do not remember if they locked their vehicle, left their keys in the ignition, or left valuables in plain view for the bad guy to see and steal.

In this month's crime prevention article, the Crime Prevention Unit lists some safety and security tips to help you keep your car in your possession as well as preventive measures you can take to deter auto theft and auto burglary.

- Never leave your keys in your car when it is unattended even when it is parked inside your enclosed garage.
- With the upcoming cooler season, warming up your car while it is unlocked is not only unsafe it is against the city ordinance.
- Do not store valuables inside your car where they are in plain view.
- Auto burglars are opportunists who do seek out cars to steal and break into.
- Use your car alarm if applicable.
- Try to avoid parking your vehicle in locations where the chance of it being broken into may increase.
- If you park your car outside at night, try to park underneath a street light or in a well lit area.
- Properly illuminate your home's driveway or garage entry.

By following some simple and easy automobile security tips you can try to keep the auto thief and auto burglar outside your car and you in the driver's seat. Remember, do not hesitate dialing 911 when you observe suspicious activity. You can contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 913-385-4613 or e-mail me at drobles@pvkansas.com with any questions or concerns.

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