

# VOICE



## You're invited: VillageFest 2022

Celebrate Independence Day at the City of Prairie Village's 26th Annual VillageFest Celebration on Monday, July 4. Activities are held on the Municipal Campus at 7700 Mission Road and in Harmon Park.

The festivities begin with a pancake breakfast hosted by Chris Cakes from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Harmon Park Pavilion. Breakfast is \$5 per person. The patriotic ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. with Kansas City Symphony Chorus member and Prairie Village resident Kristy Lambert singing the National Anthem followed by the presentation of the Community Spirit Awards.

If you like baking, enter the annual pie baking contest for the chance to win a prize and bragging rights for the best

pie. Register at [www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest](http://www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest).

Other activities throughout the day run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Returning favorites include a giant slip and slide, children's parade, live music, children's crafts, bounce houses and other inflatables, petting zoo and pony rides, face painters, history exhibit, and much more. "The Little Village," a designated area for children aged three years and younger will be located near the Community Center. Admission and activities are free.

Everyone is invited to VillageFest 2022. The schedule of events and map are on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. Save the enclosed flier and bring it to the event on the Fourth of July!

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# A Message from the Mayor

## Elected Officials

### MAYOR

Eric Mikkelson  
913-385-4600 • [mayor@pvkansas.com](mailto:mayor@pvkansas.com)

### WARD I

Chad Herring  
913-383-8752 • [cherring@pvkansas.com](mailto:cherring@pvkansas.com)

Cole Robinson  
785-979-6094 • [crobinson@pvkansas.com](mailto:crobinson@pvkansas.com)

### WARD II

Ron Nelson  
913-602-9003 • [rnelson@pvkansas.com](mailto:rnelson@pvkansas.com)

Inga Selders  
913-648-5804 • [iselders@pvkansas.com](mailto:iselders@pvkansas.com)

### WARD III

Bonnie Limbird  
913-214-6127 • [blimbird@pvkansas.com](mailto:blimbird@pvkansas.com)

Lauren Wolf  
913-735-3837 • [lwolf@pvkansas.com](mailto:lwolf@pvkansas.com)

### WARD IV

Piper Reimer  
816-510-8573 • [preimer@pvkansas.com](mailto:preimer@pvkansas.com)

Dave Robinson  
913-219-3091 • [drobinson@pvkansas.com](mailto:drobinson@pvkansas.com)

### WARD V

Courtney McFadden  
913-381-8089 • [cmcfadden@pvkansas.com](mailto:cmcfadden@pvkansas.com)

Greg Shelton  
913-624-3416 • [gshelton@pvkansas.com](mailto:gshelton@pvkansas.com)

### WARD VI

Terrence Gallagher  
913-642-4163 • [tgallagher@pvkansas.com](mailto:tgallagher@pvkansas.com)

Ian Graves  
816-665-9255 • [igraves@pvkansas.com](mailto:igraves@pvkansas.com)

Unsure which ward you live in?  
Visit [www.pvkansas.com/wardmap](http://www.pvkansas.com/wardmap).



Dear friends and neighbors,

A wise elected official, retiring after years of distinguished public service, shared a “golden rule” for success with local government: You can accomplish twice as much if you generously share credit.

Fortunately, it’s easy to share credit for the successes we’ve had in Prairie Village recently, because very little would have been possible without team efforts from so many residents, councilpersons, volunteers, former mayors, consultants and staff.

For the moment of this column though, I’ll focus on Prairie Village’s amazing professional staff and police. Yes, we pay them. Yes, it’s their job. But almost without exception they go above and beyond, routinely. It’s no secret that Prairie Village is one of the best places to work. Our workplace culture attracts the cream of the crop here...and they deliver for us with skill, passion and humility.

Take Public Works for example. Led by Keith Bredehoeft, Melissa Prenger, and James Carney, our team there keeps our streets among the best anywhere. They plow snow and maintain our award-winning parks and trees. They’ve built miles of new bike paths, trails, and sidewalks under our Bike-Ped plan. Many of our recent nation-leading sustainability measures, from charging stations to solar to water conservation are a result of their work.

There are no greater local heroes than our police. We consistently rank as one of the safest cities. That’s because they put their lives on the line for us daily. Chief Roberson, along with his command staff of Captains McCullough, Washington and Sullivan, foster a culture within our police department of discipline, community engagement, unbiased justice, strength, compassion, service and courage. That bedrock allows Prairie Village’s exceptionalism to flourish.

If you like the amazing community festivals we have in Prairie Village, or our summer pools, you might thank JD Kinney or Meghan Buum. Nickie Lee, Tim Schwartzkopf, Adam Geffert, Cindy Volanti, Deana Scott, Ashley Freburg, and Mitch Dringman are primary reasons why our finances, emergency preparedness, communications (including this Village Voice), codes enforcement, records, court, transparency, community development and committees are not just good, but consistently lead the region. A special thanks to our outstanding Deputy City Administrator Jamie Robichaud, whose impactful tenure here made us a better city in all of these categories and more.

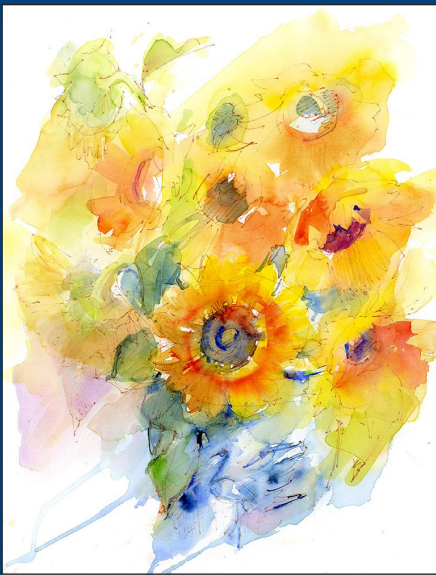
And at the administrative helm, with a work ethic second-to-none, a sense of humor that keeps our workplace fun, unflinching integrity, and reliable competence, is our City Administrator Wes Jordan. If you like anything big that’s happened through City Hall over the last many years, chances are Wes had a helpful hand in it.

The danger of naming names is that there are many others making our city hum. Each is integral.

Please join me in thanking them for our high quality of civic life when you can. Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Mikkelson'.

-Eric



## Sunflowers for Ukraine

In partnership with Global Ties, the Prairie Village Arts Council, and JCPRD, local artist Holly Ann Schenk has organized “Sunflowers for Ukraine,” an exhibit of donated artwork that will be auctioned to raise money to provide humanitarian aid directly to the people of Ukraine. The exhibit will be displayed at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Avenue, beginning July 9 culminating in a reception and auction to be held the evening of August 5. The painting pictured above, donated by local artist John Keeling, is among the items that will be displayed.

## Dates to Note

Date	Event	Time	Location
7/4	Independence Day - City offices closed	All day	All City Offices
7/4	VillageFest	7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Municipal Campus
7/5	City Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall
7/8	Arts Council Artists' Reception	6 p.m.	City Hall
7/12	Planning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
7/18	Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall
8/1	Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall
8/2	Planning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
8/15	Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall

# September 10

Harmon Park



Police Chief Byron Roberson presented Lifesaving Awards to Officers Zacaria Blakemore, Brian Wolf, and Alex DeGuire.

## Prairie Village Officers recognized with Lifesaving Awards

At a City Council meeting in May, Prairie Village Police Officers Zacaria Blakemore, Brian Wolf, and Alex DeGuire were presented the Police Department's Lifesaving Award.

On March 8, Officers Blakemore and Wolf were dispatched to a construction site where a person had collapsed and was not breathing. Less than two minutes after being dispatched, the officers arrived at the scene. Blakemore began CPR while Wolf applied an AED to shock the patient. The officers continued CPR until Johnson

County Med Act, and Consolidated Fire District #2 arrived. Lifesaving measures continued with all emergency responders on the scene. The patient was stabilized at the scene, transported to the hospital, and survived. The officers' quick arrival, CPR, and application of the AED were credited for saving a life.

Three days later, on March 11, Officer DeGuire was dispatched to a scene where someone had possibly overdosed on oxycodone. DeGuire arrived on the scene and found the patient unresponsive and

not breathing. Recognizing the signs of an opiate overdose, he administered a dose of Narcan, which all officers had recently been issued. After administering the Narcan, DeGuire monitored the patient until Johnson County Med Act and Consolidated Fire District #2 arrived. Approximately two minutes after the Narcan was administered, the patient was awake and talking with first responders. DeGuire's quick response, recognition of the medical emergency, and administration of the medication directly led to the saving of the patient's life.



# Reflections from the Diversity Committee

*In an interview with Melissa Brown of the Diversity Committee, Mayor Eric Mikkelson looks back on the summer of 2020 as a time when national and local communities experienced both deep grief and a spark to ignite change.*

“Racial justice was high on everybody’s mind,” Mikkelson says of the shift in cultural consciousness prompted by George Floyd’s murder. In Prairie Village, the renewed rally cry for justice took shape in the June 2020 Stand Up for Black Lives March & Rally. Mikkelson sees that moment as one that transformed the city. “Old people on walkers, kids drawing chalk on the street: it was peaceful. It was uplifting. I don’t think the city has ever experienced anything like that.”

As a city leader, Mikkelson responded to that energy and fueled change by forming the Diversity Committee. “The formation of the Ad Hoc Diversity [Taskforce] was an attempt to capture and sustain that momentum,” he says. The Prairie Village Diversity Committee has gone on to lead the city in educational opportunities, cultural celebrations, and policy recommendations.

Mikkelson sees a push for diversity as something “to improve and strengthen Prairie Village.” Mikkelson also sees his role in advocating for change as part of Prairie Village’s responsibility to face a history in which racist deed covenants and redlining excluded people of color. “There’s a moral imperative to be proactive about our efforts now and make sure we’re leaning in a little bit to show the truth of the matter, which I really believe to be that most Prairie Village residents would welcome more diversity in Prairie Village.”

He draws upon a legacy of leaders determined to confront the past and envision new possibilities for the city. He names Reverend Bob Meneilly, the founder of Village Presbyterian Church who passed away last year, as a ground-breaking leader. Mikkelson’s work carries on Meneilly’s call to action, which Mikkelson summarizes as: “There’s a troubling aspect of these intentionally almost all-white suburbs that we live in. Can we just come together and acknowledge that and do something about that?”

Mikkelson notes that true change takes “a lot of patience and a lot of stamina,” but he has clear goals and actions in mind. In the immediate, he would like to implement some of the Housing Committee’s recommendations that have been presented to Council, develop a plan for a community civic center, and invite diverse perspectives into city government and decision-making. “It’s not me sitting around thinking about what’s good for diversity in Prairie Village. It’s our African-American residents, our Asian residents, our LGBTQ residents, our Arab residents, our mixed-family residents.” He sees his role as “continuing to listen” and working to “infuse that input from people into what we do in city government.”

With those initiatives, Mikkelson believes Prairie Village is poised to retain its distinctiveness and also become more welcoming. “We’re just getting started in Prairie Village,” he says. “That makes us a stronger city, a better city, for a whole host of reasons.”

**THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING YOUR MATTRESSES!**

This spring, 460 mattresses were donated or recycled during the Environmental Committee’s mattress recycling program in partnership with SleepyHead Beds. Thank you for your efforts to keep these items out of landfills.

**Go Green 2022!**

Save Our Planet and Your Pocketbook!

**Environmental Fair**

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022 • 9 a.m. to Noon  
Powell Community Center  
6200 Martway, Mission, Kansas

Come learn about ways you can help our environment.

Free Admission • Children’s Activities

Hosted by the cities of:  
Fairway, Merriam, Mission, Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Westwood, Westwood Hills

**PRAIRIE VILLAGE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS:**

**STATE OF THE ARTS 2022**

CALL FOR ENTRY: JUNE 6 - JULY 24

**ARTIST RECEPTION: SEPT. 9, 6-8PM**  
R.G. ENDRES GALLERY @ PRAIRIE VILLAGE CITY HALL

EXHIBIT: SEPT. 5 - NOV. 4

# VillageFest

## 26th Anniversary Celebration Schedule

July 4, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Prairie Village Municipal Campus, 7700 Mission Road

### Attractions

9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Trackless Train .....City Hall Parking Lot  
Quad Jump.....City Hall Parking Lot  
Climbing Wall.....City Hall Parking Lot  
15-Foot Slide.....City Hall Parking Lot  
Mechanical Bull.....City Hall Parking Lot  
Basketball Challenge.....City Hall Parking Lot  
Yard Games.....City Hall Parking Lot  
Face & Hair Painting.....City Hall Grounds  
Balloon animals.....City Hall Grounds  
Children's Crafts .....Community Center Lawn  
Young Kids Area.....Community Center Lawn  
Inflatables.....Community Center Lawn  
Petting Zoo.....Community Center Lawn  
Pony Rides .....Community Center Lawn  
Skate Park.....Near City Hall Parking Lot  
Slip 'N Slide.....The Hill  
Mr. Bones.....Roaming

### Special Events

Pie Baking Contest..... City Hall  
Registration/Submission.....8:30  
Results.....10:30  
[www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest](http://www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest)

Children's Parade Front of City Hall .....10:45  
Decorate your bikes, trikes & wagons and  
meet at City Hall by 10:45. All are welcome  
to participate. No registration necessary.

### Displays

9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

City Committees .....Community Center Lawn  
Police Department .....City Hall Parking Lot  
K9 Demonstration .....10:00  
Med-Act.....City Hall Parking Lot  
Huey Helicopter .....City Hall Parking Lot  
Fire Department .....CFD2  
Historical Display.....Inside City Hall  
R.G. Endres Art Gallery .....Inside City Hall

### Entertainment

Harmon Park Pavilion

Patriotic Ceremony ..... 8:30 - 8:45  
- Welcome by Mayor & Pledge of Allegiance  
- Star Spangled Banner sung by Kristy Lambert  
- Community Spirit Awards

Main Stage—Across from City Hall

Janie Next Door .....9:00-9:45  
Jim "Mr. Stinky Feet" Cosgrove  
and the Hiccups .....10:00-11:00  
MultiPhonics.....11:00-1:00

### Food for Purchase

Chris Cakes, Harmon Pavillion .....7:30-11:00  
Treats by Rex Nolan, Parking lot.....9:00-1:00  
Polar Oasis, Parking lot.....9:00-1:00



### Questions?

Visit the Information Booth located in front of City Hall.

### Free Parking

Shawnee Mission East High School, 7500 Mission Road  
Mission Road Bible Church, 7820 Mission Road  
Mission Road Community of Christ Church, 7842 Mission Road  
ADA Parking is available in the Shawnee Mission East lot or at City Hall.

### Free Swim

12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Prairie Village Pool

### Restrooms

City Hall | Police Department  
Harmon Park Pavilion  
Prairie Village Pool Complex

### For More Information

Call City Hall at 913-381-6464  
Like us on Facebook—City of Prairie Village  
[www.pvkansas.com/VillageFest](http://www.pvkansas.com/VillageFest)

Don't forget to bring a reusable water bottle and blankets or lawn chairs!





# VillageFest

MISSION ROAD

MISSION ROAD

Parking

ADA Parking  
in SME lot

ADA  
Parking

Entrance  
Closed

ADA  
Parking



**City Hall**  
**RESTROOMS**

Historic Display  
Pie Baking Contest

Children's Parade  
Staging Area and  
Starting Point

Balloon Twister  
Face Painters

**Main Stage**  
**Directly Across**  
**From City Hall**

**Info Booth**  
**& Volunteer**  
**Check-In**

Petting Zoo

Inflatables

**Prairie Village**  
**Pool Complex**

Free Swim 11:00-6:00

**RESTROOMS**

**Police Station**  
**RESTROOMS**

**Food**  
**Vendors**

**Community Center**  
**Lawn**

**Parking Lot**  
**Area**

**Food**  
**Vendors**

**RESTROOMS**

Scraps KC  
Craft Area

**Harmon Park Pavilion**

Chris Cakes Pancake Breakfast  
Patriotic Service

**RESTROOMS**

Slip 'n Slide

**Skate Park**

Rides

Police Department/  
Med-Act Display

Vendor  
Entrance  
Only

Pony Rides

CFD#2 Fire  
Department Display





### Team ball field reservations begin soon

Applications for soccer and baseball fields for the fall season will be accepted beginning July 1. Fields will be assigned beginning July 15. If you do not receive an application via e-mail by July 11, contact Barb Fisher in the City Clerk's office at [bfisher@pvkansas.com](mailto:bfisher@pvkansas.com) or visit [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) for more information.

**2023 BUDGET**

Work is well underway on the 2023 budget. Learn more and view the budget calendar online at: [pvkansas.com/budgetcalendar](http://pvkansas.com/budgetcalendar)

**ARTS COUNCIL  
VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

[pvkansas.com/volunteer](http://pvkansas.com/volunteer)

**REDLINED**  
cities • suburbs • segregation

government associations • federal intervention • The Great Depression • Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) • the New Deal • amortized loans • scientific appraisal • Residential Security Maps • redlining • Federal Housing Administration (FHA) • homeownership • investment risk • Better Housing Campaign • Underwriting Manual • special hazard • adverse influence • White Flight • racial turnover • invisible lines • Urban Land Institute • decentralization • expandable income • American Dream • suburbanites • postwar • large-scale • G. I. Bill • Veterans Administration • Black veterans • reparations • G.I. Bill • Veterans Administration • Black veterans • reparations • G.I. Bill • Veterans Administration • Black veterans • reparations • G.I. Bill • Veterans Administration • Black veterans • reparations

### Special exhibit at Johnson County Museum

Visit the Johnson County Museum to see REDLINED: CITIES, SUBURBS, SEGREGATION. The exhibit takes visitors on a deep dive into the history of redlining and how it both shaped and was shaped by Johnson County and the region. Visitors will learn about the 19th and 20th century foundations of redlining, how the private practice became federal policy during the Great Depression, the expansion of the practice during postwar suburbanization, attempts to dismantle the system during the Civil Rights Era, and how the legacies of redlining continue to impact communities around the nation today. Visit <https://jcprd.com/1836/Museum> to learn more.

# Staff Spotlight

Name: **Jennifer Vermillion**  
Position: **Administrative Support Specialist**  
Years with the City: **5**



Responsibilities: **By virtue of our City Clerk Department covering such a wide variety of duties, I get to support staff and the public with everything from records maintenance and licensing to parks and recreation enrollments. My main responsibilities are related to business and liquor licensing, tennis court and other parks and rec reservations and permitting.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **I enjoy working with a dedicated and caring staff while serving my community. Most of my favorite moments have been when kids come in and get so excited about getting their very own pool membership cards and when pets visit to get their licenses and a treat!**

Name: **Juan Guevara**  
Position: **Maintenance Worker 3**  
Years with the City: **4**



Responsibilities: **I'm responsible for landscape planning and maintenance on City property. I take care of flowers and shrubs throughout the city and mow islands. I also perform other duties as assigned.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **Everything - working and staying motivated.**

Name: **Matthew Boggs**  
Position: **Corporal**  
Years with the City: **15**



Responsibilities: **I am currently assigned to the patrol division. I am responsible for the supervision of patrol officers on my shift. I handle calls for service and enforce traffic laws as time allows.**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **The support from our community. The citizens have always been supportive and appreciative of our efforts to protect them, making my job much more rewarding**

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

Reader Feedback  
Please send your comments to:  
info@pvkansas.com  
913-385-4674



**DATES TO NOTE AT THE POOL**

*July 4 - Free day*  
Noon - open  
1 p.m. - pop drop  
2 p.m. - belly flop contest  
3 p.m. - duck pluck  
6 p.m. - close

*July 15- memberships are 1/2 price for the remainder of the summer*

*July 22- leisure pool will be open late for a moonlight movie. The show will begin as soon as it gets dark.*



## New regulations set for portable storage units

A new ordinance approved by the City Council in May created regulations for the placement and duration of portable storage units in Prairie Village.

The ordinance, which is effective beginning July 1, 2022, specifies that portable storage units are only allowed on a property for a 14-day period and no more than two 14-day periods over the course of 12 months unless associated with a building permit. The ordinance also requires the units to be placed at least 10 feet back from the curb and not

obstruct traffic visibility.

The new ordinance pertains to any container, with or without wheels, designed for the storage of personal property that is typically rented to owners or occupants of property for temporary use and that is typically delivered and removed by truck. The term “portable storage unit” includes roll off trash containers used for the same purposes.

Visit [pvkansas.com/municipalcode](http://pvkansas.com/municipalcode) to read the ordinance in its entirety.

## City Contact Information

913-381-6464 ■ [info@pvkansas.com](mailto:info@pvkansas.com) ■ [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com)

### CITY HALL AND MUNICIPAL COURT

7700 Mission Road  
Wes Jordan, City Administrator  
Jamie Robichaud, Deputy City Administrator  
Meghan Buum, Assistant City Administrator  
Tim Schwartzkopf, Assistant City Administrator  
Adam Geffert, City Clerk  
Nickie Lee, Finance Director

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

7710 Mission Road  
Byron Roberson, Chief of Police

### PUBLIC WORKS (Facility now home to Building Codes)

3535 Somerset Drive  
Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you on social media? Follow the City of Prairie Village and the Police Department for the most up-to-date information on City happenings.



### DONATE

If you would like to make a donation to the Prairie Village Foundation, open your smartphone's camera and hover over this QR Code. A page will pop up directing you to the Foundation's website.



### EVERYONE MAY PARTICIPATE

If anyone requires an accommodation to participate in public meetings, contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 (TDD 800-766-2777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.