



The Star of Kansas

The Prairie Village

December 2008

Voice

CODES CORNER – Holiday Light Safety

Once again the holiday season is upon us, bringing with it festive electrical decorations and lighting. We may all enjoy a safe and attractive season by following some basic rules for electrical safety.

Outdoor holiday lighting should be checked for exposed or frayed wires. Damaged lights or extension cords should be replaced with new ones. All exterior lights or displays should be plugged into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) type outlet. These are the outlets found in most bathrooms and kitchens, with the red and black push buttons.

Extension cords are one of the leading causes for electrical fires in the United States. They are designed for temporary use only. When purchasing new cords, look for the size of the cord on the label. The lower the numerical gauge of the wire, the greater the wire's capacity for safely carrying electricity. The minimum recommended gauge is number 14.

A few simple rules about extension cords:

- Cords should be unplugged when left unattended.
- Avoid pinching cords in doors and windows.
- Coiling electrical cords into neat bundles may hide slack in the cord. However, a coiled cord may increase the risk of fire.
- Resist the temptation to run extension cords under carpets, rugs, furniture, etc.

Decorative lighting and displays should be taken down as soon as reasonable following the holiday. Most of these products are not designed for long term exposure to sun and rain, and they will last you many more years if removed after the season. Feel free to call the Codes Administration Department at 913/381-6464 if you have any questions regarding holiday lighting or other electrical safety issues.

2009 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. You may begin licensing your pets for the 2009 year at the City Clerk's office after December 15th.

NOTE: The rabies vaccination does not have to be new, 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. You will need to provide proof that the animal is spayed or neutered to be eligible for the \$6 fee. This information is found on your rabies vaccination certificate. The NEW fee for an animal that has not been spayed or neutered is \$25.

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

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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 are aware, earlier this year Prairie Village entered into a sister city agreement with Dolyna, Ukraine. In August, a delegation of four civic leaders including Mayor Volodymyr Garazd visited our city to sign the official documents formalizing the relationship. The signing was the culmination of almost two years of hard work on the part of the Sister City Committee. Comprised of city residents, the committee tirelessly corresponded and coordinated the process including a visit to Dolyna in the summer of 2007 by two committee members - Cleo Simmonds and Councilmember Michael Kelly. It is only through the tireless efforts of the entire committee that this relationship was made possible.

In October we hosted a second delegation from Dolyna comprised of five councilmembers and a translator. They were sponsored financially by the International Visitors Council with funding from the Library of Congress. Each of our guests stayed with Prairie Village residents for the week and attended a series of meetings and tours with the City, the County, Shawnee Mission School District and various other businesses and organizations. In short, it was a resounding success. Our guests were highly impressed with

our community and the people they met while here.

When we chose Dolyna as our sister city, we did so for the opportunity to share some of the elements that make Prairie Village special - the caliber of our residents, the strength of our neighborhoods, the excellence of our schools and businesses and the quality of our government. These are the cornerstones that make our city world-class and I take no greater degree of pride than to share our successes with our neighbors near or far.

We want to thank our citizens and the businesses that have helped make both visits a success. We are sure those who had the opportunity to be involved in the visits will remember them fondly for years to come. We also look forward to all of the experiences yet to come as the relationship between our two cities continues to grow.

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

Lifeguard and Operations Attendant Applications are Being Accepted

The City of Prairie Village is accepting applications for lifeguards and operations attendants for the 2009 pool season. Lifeguard pay starts at \$8.46/hour. Operations attendants begin at \$7.25/hour.

The American Red Cross will once again be offering lifeguard certification courses starting in late winter and early spring. All Prairie Village lifeguards must be Red Cross certified before they can start.

Interviews will begin in February, so apply now. Applications are available on-line at www.pvkansas.com. Please contact Chris Engel at 913/381-6464 or cengel@pvkansas.com for further information.

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 chips for their own use.



The program will be available from Dec. 22, 2008 to Jan. 18, 2009.

Local Resident Awarded Silver Beaver

It is our pleasure to announce that resident David Woy was recently awarded the Silver Beaver by the Boy Scouts of America. The award is given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. The Silver Beaver is awarded to individuals who do not actively seek it. Congratulations, David.

PUBLIC WORKS FACTOID

Stormwater Utility Fee will be applied to 39,029,700 impervious square feet on 9,645 properties

Stormwater Management

One of the services the City of Prairie Village provides is stormwater management. This is accomplished through the construction and maintenance of a stormwater management system comprised of curbs, gutters, inlets, pipes, and drainage channels located both under and above-ground throughout the city. The City Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of the city stormwater management system. Because Prairie Village is fully developed, the city stormwater management infrastructure is largely in place. Current estimates place the value of this system at nearly \$25 million.

In August this year, the City Council created a Stormwater Utility Fee in order to provide a stable and non-discriminatory funding for the city stormwater management activities. Shortly, property owners in Prairie Village will be receiving their tax bills for 2009. On this bill will be a new line called Stormwater Utility Fee. The tax authority identification number listed for this fee is 261PVCSTMW. All properties, single family residential, multi-family residential, commercial properties, schools, churches and government owned properties will pay a Stormwater Utility Fee. The fee is based on the amount of impervious area on a parcel of property. The fee is \$0.037 per square foot of impervious surface.

Questions can be directed to publicworks@pvkansas.com or 913/385-4647.

Prairie Village Citizens' Police Academy Starts February 2009

The Prairie Village Citizens' Police Academy is a community-involved program designed to provide citizens with firsthand knowledge of the day-to-day operations of a modern Police Department.

The goal of the academy is to improve the relationship between the community and its police officers by "personalizing" the department.

The Academy achieves this goal through lectures, visual aids and hands-on field work to give the attendees the ultimate insight into the functions of the Prairie Village Police Department.

Course Information

The Academy is a ten-week course and meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. If you are interested in attending the Citizens' Police Academy, pick up an application at the Police Department or download from the city's website, www.pvkansas.com and return it to the Prairie Village Police Department.

Contact Sgt. Steven C. Hunter for questions or further information at 913/385-4623 or shunter@pvkansas.com

Course Topics

The Citizens' Police Academy covers the following topics:

- Traffic Enforcement
- Officer Safety Tactics
- Shoot/Don't Shoot
- United States law
- Kansas law
- Crime Scene
- Processing Records
- Communications

Course Enrollment Criteria

You must be able to meet the following established criteria to be considered a candidate for the Citizens' Police Academy:

- Must be able to commit both time and energy;
- Must possess a concern for law enforcement service in our community;
- Must be at least 16 years of age.

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

December

Tom Wilson, Melanie Nolker and Wendy Taylor

There will be a mixed media exhibit in the R. G. Endres Gallery for the month of December. The three artists are Tom Wilson, Melanie Nolker and Wendy Taylor. Tom Wilson will be displaying his pastel works, Melanie Nolker will be displaying work that she did while in Monet's Garden in France, and Wendy Taylor is a local art teacher who will display mixed media. The reception will be held on December 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Wine and cheese will be served.

January & February

During the months of January and February artwork owned by the City of Prairie Village will be featured in the R. G. Endres Gallery. The reception will be held on February 13th at 6:30 p.m.

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



Prairie Village

Notes

City Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday

The City offices will be closed Thursday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Thursday, January 1st in observance of the New Year's Day 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 Christmas Holiday which falls on Thursday, December 25th. If this is your normal pick-up day, your solid waste, yard waste, and recyclables will be collected on Friday that week. If Friday, December 26th is your normal pick-up day, your solid waste, yard waste, and recyclables will be collected on Saturday that week. Deffenbaugh also observes the New Year's Day Holiday on Thursday, January 1st. If this is your normal pick-up day, your solid waste, yard waste, and recyclables will be collected on Friday, January 2nd and if Friday, January 2nd is your normal pick-up day, your solid waste, yard waste and recyclables will be picked up on Saturday that week.

Attention Homes Association Presidents!

Please help us update our records. Call Donna Blake at 913/381-6464 to give her the current Homes Association President's name, address, phone number, e-mail address and what month your Homes Association election is held.

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

Top Ten Wish List

This holiday season I have made up a wish list of 10 Crime Prevention tips that I hope residents will keep in mind for the holidays and the coming year:

- 1 Lock the windows and doors on your home when you leave, even if it's for a few minutes.
- 2 Do not put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows.
- 3 If you are going out of town for the holidays, use an automatic timer for your home's lights.
- 4 Record the serial numbers of expensive items such as electronics and keep them on a list you can refer back to in the event the items are stolen.
- 5 Lock your car even if you're gone for a few minutes, and lock your shopping packages in your trunk.
- 6 Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a debit, credit or gift card.
- 7 Notify issuers immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- 8 Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you, especially when in parking lots.
- 9 After the holidays don't advertise what new items you have in your home. Flatten empty boxes down and place them at the curb in a trash receptacle.
- 10 Be a "Nosy Neighbor" and watch out for suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Call the police immediately if suspicious activity is observed.

Help the Police help you this holiday season and for the coming year. The Crime Prevention Unit wants you to know concerned citizens help the Police Department function more effectively as we strive to reduce crime this holiday season and into the New Year. If you have any crime prevention questions or concerns, you can contact Officer Robles at 913/385-4613 or e-mail drobles@pvkansas.com.

Prairie Village Municipal Office
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Prairie Village, KS 66208

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