



*The Star of Kansas*

*The Prairie Village*

October 2008

# Voice

## Parks Master Plan Public Workshop, Oct. 27

You are invited to a public workshop to discuss the progress of the Parks Master Plan on **Monday, October 27th at 7:00 pm in City Hall**. Once completed, the Parks Master Plan will serve as a comprehensive guide to aid in the development of our parks and recreational programs for the next 10 - 15 years. Indigo Design has been chosen as the lead consultant on this project and has recently completed a series of interviews with key stakeholder groups as well as begun the initial analysis of the results of a parks survey randomly mailed to 2,100 residents. This workshop will serve as an opportunity to share some of their preliminary findings and allow residents to comment or make suggestions.

For more information please contact Chris Engel at 913-381-6464 or [cengel@pvkansas.com](mailto:cengel@pvkansas.com).

## Public Works Notes

The coming of fall means millions of leaves will be falling from the trees of our City. To Public Works, this means an intense effort to remove leaves from the streets, drain inlets, channels, and parks. Let's address each of these areas.

**Streets** - The City has one sweeper. It will be operating everyday until snow arrives. The procedure is to sweep every street on a schedule. When all streets are swept once, the sweeper operator starts over from the beginning of the list. Normally, all streets get swept three to four times depending on the weather. The sweeper operates in light rain, but not in heavy rain. One to two dump trucks will accompany the sweeper to reduce sweeping travel time to dump its sweepings at the Public Works facility. Public Works does not take sweeping requests during this operation period.

**Drain inlets** - Public Works crews make special effort to clear the opening of street drain inlets when heavy rain is projected. Please be advised that City Code prohibits the placing of leaves into drain inlets or onto the curbs or streets.

**Storm Channels** - Public Works crews patrol the storm channels to remove any blockages. Again, please be advised that City Code prohibits the placing of leaves into storm channels.

**Parks** - The Public Works mowing crews will be removing leaves from all parks and islands on a rotating schedule until weather prohibits these activities. This activity continues in the winter months if there is no snow.

You can contact Public Works by emailing [publicworks@pvkansas.com](mailto:publicworks@pvkansas.com) or calling 913-385-4640 any time or any day. *Public Works is working for you, by providing the right service, at the right time, at the right cost.*

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## PUBLIC WORKS FACTOID

There are  
**3,773 drain inlets**  
on our city streets.

*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](http://www.pvkansas.com)



# Mayor's Message

The City of Prairie Village is committed to maintaining quality public infrastructure systems including parks, streets, sidewalks and storm drainage.

Late this summer, Mission Road experienced construction to improve the concrete surfaces at the intersections. Unfortunately, construction brings inconvenience and congestion. City staff and elected officials have responded to questions about this cycle of construction activities. The most frequent questions are included below:

### **What was the purpose of the project?**

The project scope included the replacement of the concrete pads at the intersections of 75th, 77th, 79th and Somerset & Mission Road.

### **Wasn't this work done recently?**

The original concrete pads were installed in 2004 as part of the Mission Road resurfacing project. The pads are placed to reduce the shoving (rippling) of blacktop caused by the stopping of vehicles at the traffic signals.

### **Why did the concrete need to be replaced so soon?**

Unfortunately, the original concrete pads failed. Shortly after the concrete pads were installed, severe cracks in the concrete developed and degradation of the concrete surface occurred much sooner than expected. Thorough research and testing by the University of Kansas Materials Department as well as the original concrete supplier was conducted to determine the possible

cause of the accelerated deterioration. No direct cause was determined. Some officials speculate that a higher than typical sulfate content within the concrete's aggregate may have contributed to the concrete failure.

The new concrete pads are designed for long life despite the heavy traffic on Mission Road. The design life of the new concrete pads is 15-20 years.

### **How was the recent construction financed?**

General city funds were used to finance the construction. The work was coordinated by the City's Public Works department and constructed by O'Donnell Construction.

### **What is taking so long?**

Construction work during traffic use takes time. To keep the intersections open, lanes were poured in segments with one lane open and one lane under construction. After the concrete is poured and formed, 5-7 days is required for the concrete to cure and obtain sufficient strength for traffic loads.

The general construction work at Shawnee Mission East complicated the city's work and traffic flow at 75th and 77th.

The work at the intersection of Somerset & Mission Road is expected to be complete in mid-October (excluding street painting and striping). There have been significant unexpected delays

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## **"If I were Mayor, I would..."**

The League of Kansas Municipalities is inviting all Kansas 7th graders to enter 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 14, 2008. For complete contest rules and an entry form, visit [www.lkm.org/2008-mayor-contest](http://www.lkm.org/2008-mayor-contest).

## **Mark Your Calendar**

The **Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony** will be at Corinth Square Shops on Monday, **November 24th**, at 6:30 pm. The Mayor's Holiday Tree is lit as a reminder of the season and of the City's utility assistance and home maintenance programs. 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.

## **Residential Rental Property Licenses**

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 31st. A penalty of \$10 per month will be assessed beginning in November.

For more information visit [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) or contact Nancy Yoakum at 913-381-6464 ext. 4204 or [nyoakum@pvkansas.com](mailto:nyoakum@pvkansas.com).

## You CAN Hang Out Your Wash

Bypassing the dryer and hanging clothes out on the line not only saves you money (up to 10% of your household energy bill) but it helps the environment too. An added bonus? Your clothes smell great and last longer.

But is it legal to hang out clothes in Prairie Village? According to Marcia Gradinger at City Hall, it is perfectly legal and is in fact what the earliest owners of our homes did. She does advise checking with your homes association and maybe your neighbors if you have doubts, and warns that if you're pollen sensitive, you might check the pollen count before you hang out those sheets!

## Community Center Reservations

The City Clerk's Office will begin accepting reservations for the 2009 calendar year for the Prairie Village Community Center on October 1, 2008. The Community Center is located at 7720 Mission Road on the Municipal Campus.

The community center can accommodate up to 45 people, is furnished with tables and chairs, and is handicap accessible. The kitchen has industrial size sinks and counter space for entertaining.

Pricing is \$10 per hour for weekdays, \$15 per hour on weekends. Hours of operation are from 7:00 am until 11:00 pm.

Please consider us for informal gatherings, meetings, exercise classes or your special event! Contact Nancy Yoakum in the City Clerk's Office at (913)381-6464, ext. 4202 for additional information.

## Nuisance Wildlife, *Tips for Homeowners*

Trapping nuisance wildlife is allowed in Prairie Village, as long as it is done in a humane way. The following are some tips for homeowners to keep nuisance wildlife out of your homes and yards.

- Be observant – as soon as you notice something out of place is the best time to act. The longer you wait, the higher the chance of more critters becoming involved.
- When trapping animals, traps should be checked on a regular basis to make sure the animals do not suffer or die.
- If you feed your dogs and cats outside, do so for a short period of time, then pick up the food and take it inside.
- Strap lids on garbage cans to help keep raccoons and other wild animals out.
- Chipmunks and squirrels can be trapped using peanut butter on a cracker as bait. The baited trap should be placed adjacent to an active den or in a daily travel route.

If you have questions about nuisance wildlife in your home or yard, please contact Prairie Village Animal Control at 913-642-6868, ext. 4631.

## City of Prairie Village Increases Fees

During discussion of the 2009 City Budget, the City Council evaluated all fees being charged for City services, licenses, reservations and permits. Several changes were approved effective with the 2009 licensing year or January 1, 2009.

For a copy of the full fee schedule for the City contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 or by emailing [cityclerk@pvkansas.com](mailto:cityclerk@pvkansas.com).

# Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

## PRESENTS

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

### **October**

#### **State of the Arts Exhibition**

The Arts Council will be hosting the State of the Arts Exhibition Opening Reception on October 10th from 6-8 pm. This event is a juried art show and will include many new artists. The event will include live music and appetizers.

### **November**

#### **MidAmerica Pastel Society**

Opening Reception  
November 14, 6:00 pm

### **December**

#### **Tom Wilson, Melanie Nolker and Wendy Taylor**

Opening Reception  
December 12, 6:30 pm

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Gallery hours are Mon – Fri  
8:00am – 5:00pm.  
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*Mayor's Message, continued*

at this intersection. The causes include minor soil contamination, waterline breaks, repairs, upgrades, and wet weather.

**Why was the project started just before the start of school?**

Once the concrete failure was recognized and analyzed, the decision was made to replace the pads prior to another winter freeze/thaw cycle. Unfortunately, the timing conflicted with the opening of our schools on Mission Road and construction started later than the ideal time. In the future, whenever possible, construction projects near schools will be completed during the early summer months with the full realization that there is no good time to undertake work on Mission Road.

As school started at Shawnee Mission East, the Police Department responded with officers to assist pedestrians, parents, and motorists in the area.

Please remember that construction activity is temporary. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this cycle of construction activity as we work to maintain the quality we expect in our Prairie Village community.

Sincerely,



Ron Shaffer, *Mayor*

**Electronic Recycling Event**

Have an old TV, computer, printer or other electronic device? The City of Prairie Village will be hosting an Electronic Recycling Event on October 25th. So, remember the date to properly dispose of your old electronic devices. Go to the City's website for more information at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com).



*Crime Prevention*  
*with Officer Dan Robles*

**Are You Alarmed?**

This may be a question a potential burglar may think to himself when looking for a house to break into. Some burglars, when interviewed, stated that one deterrent which would keep them from thinking about breaking into a particular home would be the sound of an audible alarm. Burglars said they would not want to be detected when attempting to commit a break-in.

The Crime Prevention Unit suggests using some of the following tips when deciding to purchase an alarm system:

- Contact at least three different alarm companies for bids. This may assist you in determining which company offers the best alarm system that fits your home security needs.
- Audible alarms are suggested because they not only let a burglar know they have been detected, but an officer on patrol, a neighbor or a resident may also hear the alarm.
- It is recommended to purchase a battery backup for your alarm system in case the electricity is out due to a storm or other unknown reason.
- Make sure the company is licensed, bonded and will provide references.
- Once you have selected an alarm system and it is installed, make sure persons who will be using the alarm system are properly trained. This will help reduce the number of false alarms.

If you already have an alarm system, the Police Department has a brochure available in our department lobby which lists tips on how to help reduce false alarms. An alarm system is an investment in your personal security; choose wisely when purchasing a system to protect your family and home. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 913-385-4613 or e-mail Officer Robles at [drobles@pvkansas.com](mailto:drobles@pvkansas.com) with any questions or concerns.

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

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