



The Star of Kansas

The Prairie Village

April 2008

Voice

8th Annual Earth Fair - April 12th

Propelled by the growing awareness of the global climate crisis and interest in choosing more sustainable life styles, the 8th Annual Earth Fair promises to be the best yet, says Margaret Thomas, chairperson, of the Prairie Village Environmental Committee. The Fair will be held Saturday, April 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Shawnee Mission East High School, 75th and Mission Road.

Details can be found on the website at www.pvkansas.com. The Earth Fair is sponsored by the Prairie Village Environmental Committee and Shawnee Mission East Environmental Club.



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Annual Large Item Pick-up April 19th

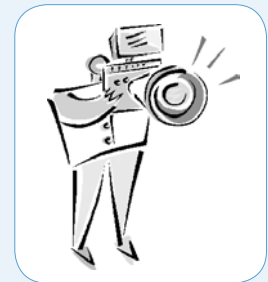
The City's annual large item pick-up will be on Saturday, April 19th. All items must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. for collection. There will be a separate collection on the same date for CFC containers including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, icemakers, and dehumidifiers. Call Deffenbaugh Disposal Service at 913-631-3300 for more information. For Large Item Pick-up Rules visit www.pvkansas.com/citygov/item_pickup.shtml. This is a free service for Prairie Village residents, so take advantage of it.

Recreation Memberships On Sale

Now is the time to purchase your 2008 pool memberships and register for the City's swimming, diving and tennis teams. Visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall to purchase your membership for 2008. Normal office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

Wanted: Volunteer Photographer

The Communications Committee is seeking a photographer to take pictures at City events, city services and general city scenery. *This would be a volunteer position with a small stipend to cover expenses.* Photos will be submitted electronically and will be used in city publications and on the website. Please send letter of interest and resume to City Hall, Attn: Jeanne Koontz or to jkoontz@pvkansas.com.





Mayor's Message

On behalf of the City of Prairie Village, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to City Administrator Quinn Bennion and new Assistant City Administrator Dennis Enslinger.

After going through a lengthy search process last year, the City Council selected Quinn Bennion as our new City Administrator. He assumed this position in November 2007. Quinn graduated from the University of Kansas with a Masters in Public Administration and from Utah State University with a Civil Engineering degree. He worked for the City of Merriam for 11 years and as City Administrator for the last 6 years. He has extensive experience in Northeast Johnson County. He worked with the Council and downtown businesses to enhance and beautify Downtown Merriam. He also worked with Council and staff to increase recreational opportunities, trails and parkland. He is married with four children and looks forward to working and living in Prairie Village and becoming part of our community. We are privileged to count on his wealth of knowledge and experience as we continue to find ways to improve our community.

After going through a second search process and interviewing several candidates, the City Council

selected Dennis Enslinger as our new Assistant City Administrator. He started in February 2008. Dennis has an undergraduate degree in Business and Accounting and has a Masters of Architecture from the University of Kansas. He worked for Liberty, Missouri as the Community Development Coordinator. He also worked for the City of Lawrence as a planner and for the Historic Resources Commission. During that time he also worked with the Lawrence Neighborhood Associations and helped develop design guidelines for Downtown Lawrence. He worked for the City of Independence, Missouri as the head of the Long-Range Planning Division and most recently worked for the City of Merriam as the Director of Community Development. Additionally, he has taught Historic Preservation Planning at the University of Kansas and has been an active member of the First Suburbs Coalition most recently working on the *Idea Book* and the *Green Idea Book*.

Indeed, the City of Prairie Village is fortunate to have these key leaders on board. Please welcome them to the Village!

Sincerely,
Ron Shaffer, Mayor

Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, May 3rd at 10:00am

Franklin Park - West Side

Honoring Bob Pryzby, Public Works Director

Please join us to honor Bob on the 10th Anniversary of Prairie Village's Tree City USA designation. Bob initiated our participation in this program and for the past ten years has ensured that we have continued to earn this honor from the National Arbor Day Foundation. His leadership within the city officially and as a volunteer has ensured that our Urban Forest is one of the finest in the nation.



Exterior Home Grant Program

The Prairie Village Exterior Grant Program is coming soon!

The grant was recently approved by the City Council as an incentive to assist homeowners in making improvements to their homes. Following the recommendations of Village Vision, three districts have been designated as eligible exterior grant improvement areas. A minimum \$5,000 investment is required to be eligible. The grants range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and are awarded as a 20% reimbursement of the total costs of construction and/or materials. For more information Contact City Hall or go to the www.pvkansas.com. Applications will be accepted starting April 14, 2008. Funding is limited so apply early.



Johnson County Meals on Wheels

Make a difference! Volunteer with Johnson County Meals on Wheels!

Volunteers are needed to deliver noon meals to homebound seniors Monday-Friday from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Individuals from stay-at-home moms to retired men and women, corporate teams, civic groups, faith-based organizations, and high school students are encouraged to participate. 58 volunteers are needed daily to deliver the meals.

The only requirements to deliver meals are a valid driver's license and automobile insurance, and to complete a background check for both Missouri and Kansas.

Please call Benita at 913-715-8859 or Elvina at 913-715-8895 to get started!

Reduce and Recycle Paper

Do you know that Americans discard enough office paper every year to build a 12-foot high wall stretching from New York to San Francisco? According to the Natural Capitalism Foundation, the average office worker uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper annually. When paper decomposes in a landfill, it releases methane gas, a high pollutant.

So how do we reduce waste and recycle used paper? Spread the word that increasing our efficiency in handling paper will increase profits for businesses and save money for city administrations and its residents. Some easy ways to reduce paper waste and recycle include:



1. Set photocopiers and printers to print on both sides of paper by default. This can save you and/or your company both paper and dollars.
2. Make computer files instead of paper files wherever possible. Many free or inexpensive software programs such as Stickies or NoteWhen reduce the need for note pads and sticky notes. Electronic files save floor and file space, and most electronic documents are safer than paper.
3. Reduce junk mail. Just return the mailing label to the company and request that it remove your name from its mailing list. The Federal Trade Commission website on unsolicited mail gives directions on how to remove your business from unwanted mail, www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt063.pdf.
4. Reuse paper from junk mailings as note pads beside the telephone.
5. Reuse paper that you save and can use on only one side.
6. Reuse envelopes to send mail whenever possible. Use labels to cover old addresses on used envelopes. A number of companies, such as Northern Sun, Save a Tree Labels, sell reusable labels which includes a discrete message that the envelope was reused to save trees.
7. Reuse packing materials.
8. Select products from suppliers that use minimal packaging.
9. Start a recycling program for your office.
10. Residents can always utilize their city's recycling service.

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

APRIL

Having been an illustrator for ten years, **Margaret Godfrey** now focuses on the wide-open spaces. Her landscapes include a variety of subjects from The Grand Canyon to An Old Farm in Kansas. As a member of the GKCAA, she has been awarded three Blue Ribbons for her works.

MAY

Marearl Denning, Photos / Ceramics
Opening Reception May 9th,
6:30 pm

JUNE

Steve Karol, Digital Art
Opening Reception June 13th,
6:30 pm

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

Johnson County Catch-A-Ride

As the number of citizens age in Johnson County, many of these citizens have to give up their car and driver's license! Yet all of these citizens still must stay active in the community to go to medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, church, etc.

The Catch-A-Ride program is in need of volunteers to provide rides in their neighborhoods to older adults, people with disabilities and people in life transitions. Drivers can include individuals, corporate teams, faith-based teams, civic groups.

Requirements include:

- Willingness to help provide transportation to vital appointments
- Willingness to keep these citizens active in the community
- Must be at least 25 years old
- Have a reliable car
- Valid driver's license and automobile insurance
- Background check from Missouri and Kansas
- Drivers set their own schedule!
- Please call Barb or Amber at 715.8900 to get started



Prairie Village

Notes



Crime Prevention
with Officer Dan Robles

Work Place Safety and Self Protection

Code Corner

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to start cleaning up from the winter, preparing for the rainy season, and thinking about those Spring projects around your homes and yards.

The following are a few tips to help keep your property and neighborhoods safe, attractive and in compliance with City Property Codes.

- Remove fallen limb debris. Limbs will be picked up with regular trash pick up under the following conditions:
 - Less than 4 ft. in length
 - Less than 4 inches in diameter
 - Tied into bundles weighing less than 60 lbs.
- Remove leaf debris from your yard. Please help to keep our drainage channels clean and flowing by removing any debris from the curbing channel and drainage inlets in front of your property.
- Check gutters and downspouts to make sure they are cleaned out, securely attached, free from rust, and functioning properly. (It's a good idea to check the runoff flow from downspouts and sump pumps to ensure they will not cause problems to your property or your neighbors.)
- Water may not be discharged onto any City sidewalk or street. Check the location and runoff from sump pumps or buried down spouts.
- Check your house, windows, garage and shed for peeling paint, rotting wood, rust or any other deterioration which needs paint, repair, or replacement.
- If you're thinking about a remodeling or building project please check with the Building Codes Department to see if a permit is required. You may access a list of projects that require permits at www.pvkansas.com or call 913-381-6464.

Thanks for helping to make Prairie Village a great Community! If you have any questions regarding Property Codes please call Marcia Gradinger at 913-385-4605.

While away from home and at your place of employment it may be easy to forget about crime prevention and safety awareness. When in a work environment having left the comforts of home, thoughts and ideas may be about deadlines, budgets and bottom lines. This month's article addresses safety in the workplace as you go out into the business world and take on the challenges of the world.

- Make sure you keep an eye on your belongings which includes wallets, purses, blackberry, cell phones and laptops. Lock up items of value.
- Be attentive to people who enter your work environment who you do not recognize or who look out of place.
- Have emergency phone numbers readily available for immediate use and have a plan of action in place in case of an emergency.
- If you are the first employee to arrive at work, be attentive to your surroundings.
- When working after regular business hours, lock the entrance to your office to keep out uninvited visitors and let someone know you're working late.
- If you are using an elevator or stairwell try to use them with people you know.
- When you are walking from the parking lot to and from your work, walk with purpose. This may signal to criminals that you are aware of your surroundings.

Make safety your responsibility and a first priority when it comes to crime prevention awareness and personal safety in the workplace as you head off to your "nine to five".

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

