

VOICE

The Star of Kansas



STATE OF THE ARTS 2009

Prairie Village's annual State of the Arts gala event is quickly approaching and you definitely don't want to miss the festivities. Since its inception by the Prairie Village Arts Council in 2006, this event has proven to be better every year and this year promises to be no exception. Mark your calendar now and reserve the evening of October 9, 2009 as the Prairie Village Arts Council members extend a warm invitation for you to attend the awards reception.

The exhibition is a juried event featuring two-dimensional or three-dimensional artwork. This year's juror is Mark English. Mark is one of America's top magazine illustrators and has participated in countless exhibitions. His work appears in many private collections and has been in shows around the world including the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. We feel very fortunate and honored to have him jury our submissions this year.

The city received over 240 pieces of artwork from artists who are competing to be included in the State of the Arts show. It is anticipated the jurist will select approximately 40 pieces of original art, of varying mediums, for this year's show. From these 40 pieces, three prizes of \$1,000 will be awarded including the R.G. Endres Memorial Best of Show Award. This year a new prize, the Viewer's Choice Award (\$500) will allow you to help select the piece



*BEST OF SHOW 2008
Jack O'Hara - Udderly Ireland*

of artwork that the community feels is their choice.

In addition to your opportunity to view exceptional original artwork, the opening reception offers the opportunity to meet the various artists and see which artists are selected for awards while enjoying live music, light hors d'oeuvres, sweets and wine.

The selected winner's works from this year's State of the Arts will be on display at the R.G. Endres gallery in City Hall, 7700 Mission Road throughout the month of October. The awards reception is a free event hosted by the Prairie Village Arts Council. The awards reception will take place between 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. with the awards being announced at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you on October 9, 2009.



FEATURES:

4 Peanut Butter Drive



5 Village Green



6 Public Safety



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As the end of the summer draws near and we begin to look at heading back to school, I am reminded of the excitement of seeing old friends and making new acquaintances. And speaking of new acquaintances, the city was pleased to learn that Lane 4 Property Group completed the purchase of the Prairie Village Shopping Center and the Corinth Shopping Center. Lane 4 Property Group is based in Kansas City and specializes in mixed-use centers.

Both the Prairie Village and Corinth Shopping Centers are an important part of the success of our community. Since the construction of the centers by the J.C. Nichols Company, these centers have become true community shopping locations and gathering places. If you mention the "Village" or "Corinth" to other residents throughout the Kansas City Metro area, they too are familiar with these locations. The *Wall Street Journal* even covered the purchase of the two centers and reported that "while suburban shopping centers aren't valued for their age, all of the properties in the deal clearly have demonstrated staying power."

In deciding to purchase the centers, Lane 4 said one of things that attracted them to the purchase was the strong residential neighborhoods surrounding the centers and the support of local residents. Of course, we knew this already. Each of us take great pride in the vitality of "our" neighborhoods and "our" shopping centers. Building on the long history of success of these centers, Lane 4 has indicated they plan to enhance the enduring charm of these centers and will be community stewards of the properties. I encourage you to continue to support the businesses located in these centers as well as other businesses located in Prairie Village.

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR
 Ron Shaffer 831-0907
mayor@pvkansas.com

WARD I
 Al Herrera 432-0271
aherrera@pvkansas.com
 Dale Warman 236-9730
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 Ruth Hopkins 384-0165
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 Charles Clark 341-1109
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WARD VI
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 Diana Ewy Sharp 383-2291
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COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

8TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

The 8th Annual Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues will be held Thursday, October 8, 2009 in Friendship Hall at the, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road in Prairie Village, KS. The forum begins at 5:30 pm with opportunity to visit exhibits by environmental organizations. A light supper of locally grown foods catered by Blue Bird Bistro will be served at 6:00 pm with the program following at 7:00 pm.

Nancy Jackson, Executive Director, Climate & Energy Project (CEP), will speak about "Sustainable Kansas: How We Feed and Fuel the 21st Century." CEP is a project of the Land Institute, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization founded over 30 years ago in Salina, KS. "Kansas is blessed with robust renewable resources including wind, sun, and some of the world's best soils," Jackson says. Jackson serves on the Kansas Wind

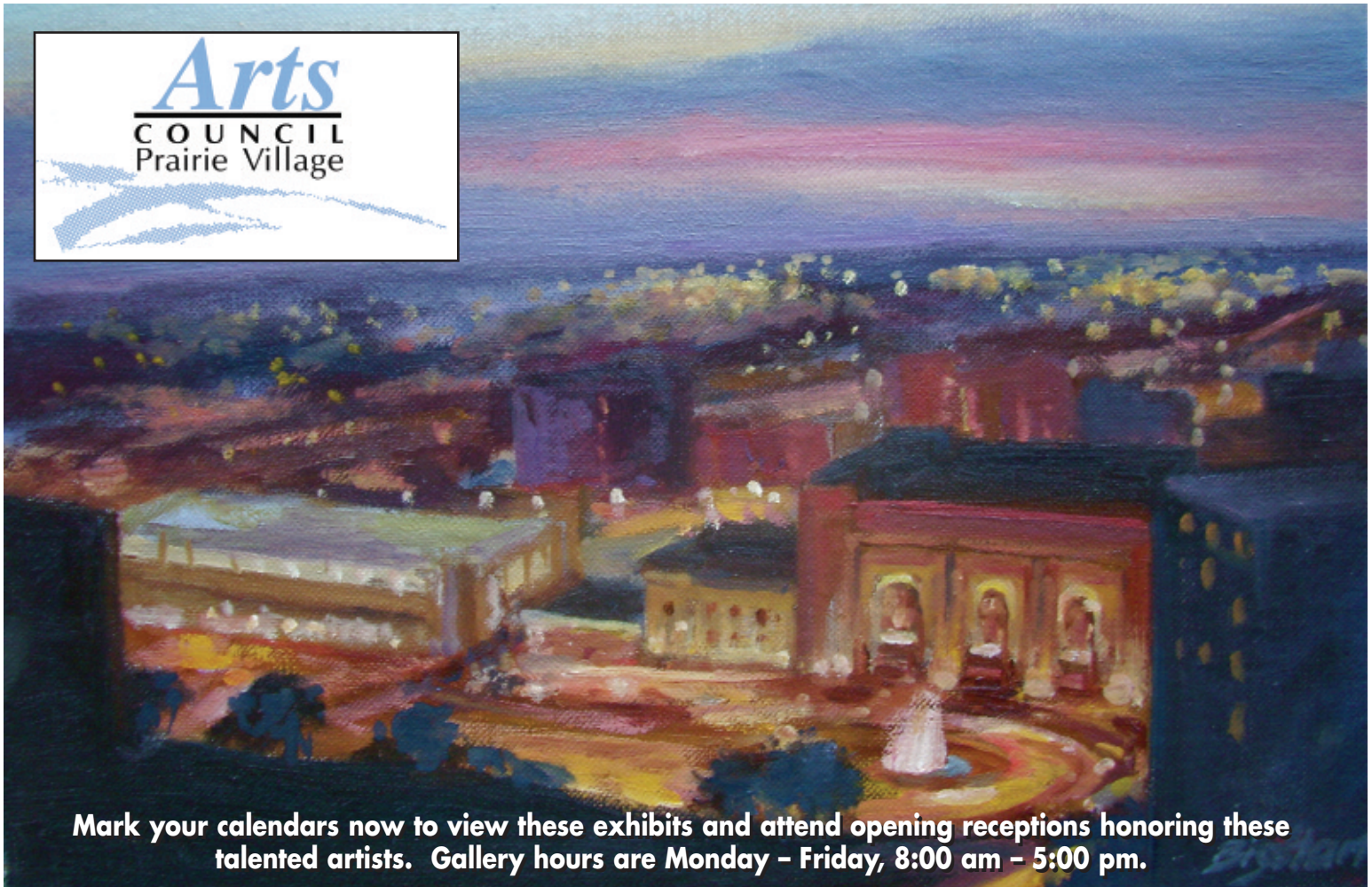
Working Group, the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord Advisory Group, and the Kansas Energy and Environmental Policy Advisory Group.

Individual admission for the evening event is \$15; \$10 for students. Advance reservations are needed by October 5th. Send name, address, email or phone number with number of reservations and check payable to KNRC/Community Forum to: Community Forum, 7301 Mission Rd, Ste 248, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

For more information visit www.pvkansas.com or contact Mary Helen Korbek at 913-362-6763 or Kathy Riordan at kfriordan@kc.rr.com.



NANCY JACKSON
Featured Speaker



Mark your calendars now to view these exhibits and attend opening receptions honoring these talented artists. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

SEPTEMBER

Harriet Bigham is well known for her City Landscapes which she paints from her downtown condo balcony. She was awarded the "Excellence in Teaching" Award from the Kansas City Star for her work with students of Sumner Academy. A reception will be held September 11th, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Come discuss with Harriet Bigham her works of art.

OCTOBER

After last year's terrific success, the Prairie Village Arts Council is proud to sponsor this year's State of the Arts competition. Artists from the area submit works to be judged for entry in this exhibition, with the hope of winning one of four monetary prizes. The opening reception will be held October 9th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

PV HAPPENINGS

Ruth Hopkins Receives Award

After 17 years of public service, the Johnson County League of Women Voters has honored Ruth Hopkins with its 2009 Making Democracy Work Award. Criteria for the Making Democracy Work Award include serving the public sector of the community for at least five years, exhibiting honesty and integrity, and demonstrating leadership in effecting positive change. In addition to serving as Ward II Council Member, Ruth serves on the National League of Cities Advisory Council, the Mid-American Regional Council's Solid Waste Committee and chairs the Johnson County Solid Waste Management Committee.



The Annual Fall Tree Seminar

Presented by the Prairie Village Tree Board

The topic for this year's event is **Winterizing Your Yard**. Mr. Alan Branhagen from Powell Gardens will be discussing common mistakes that are made when winterizing your yard.

The 2009 Fall Tree Seminar will be:

- Wednesday, October 7th at 7:00pm
 - 7700 Mission Road in the City Hall Council Chambers
- Champion and Best of Species Tree Awards will also be presented as well as a prize drawing for plants.

Dog Days in PV

Prairie Village Animal Control is hosting a Dog Days event on Saturday, October 10th from noon to 4 pm in Harmon Park. In case of rain, the event will take place on Saturday, October 17th. A current City license and rabies tag must be on each dog.



12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Booths: Tomahawk Animal Rescue; LL Dog Rescue; Mission Road Animal Clinic; Anne Marie Hunter – Pet Portraits; Sit Means Sit – Dog Training Demo by “Sit Means Sit”
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Contests! Largest/Smallest Dog;
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Owner/Pet Look-A-Like; Best Trick, Best Costume
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Demo by the Leawood Police K-9 Unit

There will be a temporary off-leash dog area available from noon to 1:00 pm; 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm; and 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm. For the safety of yourselves and others please refrain from participating in this event if your dog's behavior is questionable around other dogs and/or strangers.

25th Annual Peanut Butter Drive

The City of Prairie Village is teaming up with Harvesters Community Food Network to sponsor the Peanut Butter Week food drive from October 5-9, 2009.



An estimated 205,200 different people receive emergency food assistance annually through Harvesters' network. Approximately 60,000 different people receive assistance through Harvesters' network in any given week.

There are several ways you can donate to Harvesters during Peanut Butter Week:

- Bring jars of peanut butter to City Hall between October 5th – 9th. The City Hall offices are open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday.
- Contribute online at www.harvesters.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
September 7th	Labor Day	Offices Closed	
September 8th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers
September 21st	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers
October 5 – 9	Peanut Butter Week		City Hall
October 5th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers
October 7th	Fall Tree Seminar	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
October 10th	Dog Days	Noon - 4:00 pm	Harmon Park
October 26th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers

CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

913-381-6464 • info@pvkansas.com • www.pvkansas.com

CITY HALL & MUNICIPAL COURT

7700 Mission Rd
 Quinn Bennion, City Administrator, 913-385-4601
 Dennis Enslinger, Assistant City Administrator, 913-385-4603
 Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk, 913-385-4616
 Bettina Jamerson, Court Clerk, 913-381-6464

PUBLIC SAFETY

7710 Mission Rd
 Wes Jordan, Chief of Police, 913-385-4621

PUBLIC WORKS

3535 Somerset Dr
 Bob Pryzby, Public Works Director, 913-385-4640



PUBLIC WORKS

EVER WONDER HOW TO REPORT A POTHOLE?

The Public Works Department should be contacted to report a pothole. A message can be left on their Service Request Line, 913-385-4647, or submitted online at www.pvkansas.com/pubwork/request.

A public works employee will follow-up with you on the reported pothole. In addition to reporting a pothole, the service request line and website can be used to report damaged park equipment, downed trees, damaged curbs, drainage issues, damaged street signs and numerous other issues.

The Public Works Department is also responsible for the following services:

- Negotiating and administering construction contracts
- Monitoring utility projects occurring in the public rights-of-way
- Monitoring the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Managing the Capital Infrastructure Program
- Street maintenance and repair including street sweeping, filling potholes, replacing street signs and removing snow and ice from City streets during the winter
- Sidewalk maintenance and repair
- Traffic sign maintenance and repair and traffic marking and remarking
- Maintenance of the storm drainage system of inlets, pipes and channels
- Concrete repairs including repair of broken concrete in the City sidewalk and curb/gutter system



- Maintaining the City's buildings and grounds including the Municipal Offices, the Pool Complex, the Prairie Village Community Center, and all 12 Public Parks
- City Vehicle maintenance
- Holiday tree chipping
- Right-of-way tree removal

Your comments help us maintain a beautiful City, so remember to contact the Service Request Line the next time you see a pothole.

VILLAGE GREEN

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The Kansas City Metropolitan area lags behind the national average in recycling participation. Deffenbaugh Landfill, the City's solid waste disposal location, in Shawnee is one of the 10 largest landfills in the nation and is scheduled to close sometime in 2027. Reducing, reusing and recycling will make a huge difference in the amount of waste deposited in the landfill. Before you throw away items,

consider if they can be reused and donate them to an appropriate organization. Building materials can be donated to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. For more information visit, www.restorekc.org or www.heartlandhabitat.org/restore.

Deffenbaugh recently increased the type of plastics that can be recycled.

ACCEPTABLE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS:

Newspaper
Advertising Inserts
Office Paper
Chipboard
Telephone Books
Envelopes
Carrier Stock



Manila File Folders
Junk Mail
Magazines
Catalogs



Aluminum Cans
Corrugated Steel (tin)
Food and Beverage
Cans



#1-7 Plastics
Yogurt or Margarine
Tubs
Deli or Salad Bar
"Clamshells"

To find out where to recycle items not on this list, visit www.recyclespot.org. No glass jars or bottles will be accepted.

For a complete list of unacceptable materials, visit www.deffenbaughinc.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The City believes that the partnership between the Police Department and the community is vital to preventing and solving crime -- We also believe that this partnership is strengthened through the sharing and communication of accurate information. To further this partnership we thought we would answer some of the most common questions we receive.

1. What steps is the City Police Department taking to prevent crime?

We have always taken great pride in the city's efforts to implement proactive measures to deter crime by:

- Implementing strategies based on crime analysis and trends
- Employing a full-time officer dedicated to crime prevention
- Identifying crimes of opportunity such as alerting residents of an open garage door or valuables in plain view of an unlocked vehicle
- Providing random security checks of your residence at no charge while you are away from home. To take advantage of this service contact the Dispatch Center (913-642-5151).



WES JORDAN
Chief of Police

2. Have property crimes increased in recent months?

There has been a moderate increase in residential burglaries and thefts from vehicles. To address this issue, a task force was formed with Kansas City, MO and Leawood Police Departments. These efforts resulted in the arrest of six suspects who were directly and indirectly linked to residential burglaries occurring in Prairie Village and Mission Hills.

3. Is there a correlation between crime and the economy?

We suspect there is a correlation between some types of property crime and the economy; however, the suspects who have recently been arrested seem to be "career criminals" as they did not have previous gainful employment.

4. What can residents do to help prevent these types of crimes?

- Keep exterior lights on, close garage doors, and do not leave valuables in plain view
- Get to know your neighbors
- Call the Police Department if something looks out-of-place.
- Conduct a security analysis of your residence – call Sgt. Steve Hunter (913-385-4613) to arrange this free service

5. How does the Police Department determine when to use Code Red?

Code Red is an emergency notification system that is utilized to notify citizens of emergency or life threatening situations, public safety issues, and other necessary situations to provide for the safety of citizens. While each situation is unique, Code Red is only used when there is an immediate benefit to residents. To sign-up for Code Red, visit www.pvkansas.com and follow the Code Red links or contact Tim Kobe (913-385-4620)

If you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Prairie Village Police Department. Wes Jordan is the Chief of Police and may be contacted at 913-385-4621 or wjordan@pvkansas.com.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Resident Spotlight

7TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS

Community Spirit Awards are given to citizens and businesses in Prairie Village who have demonstrated a commitment to improve the quality of life in our community.

Four Prairie Village Community Spirit Awards were given out this year:

1. **Brighton Gardens** received an award in the Business category. This category recognizes businesses in Prairie Village who are making a difference. The judging panel noted this business is always supportive when asked to help with community projects. Brighton Gardens assists schools, scout groups, church groups and local charities.

2. **Nancy Wallerstein** received an award in the Lifetime Community Spirit category. Nancy was described as “a leader and a helper”. She is a former city council member and was a longtime chairperson of the Prairie Village Park and Recreation Committee. Currently, she is a member of the Johnson County Park and Recreation Board and most recently she assisted our City as a member of the Parks Master Plan Committee.



3. **Chuck Dehner** received an award in the Resident category. The neighbors on Chuck’s street nominated him because they have come to rely on him for assistance and wanted to publicly thank him for his generosity. The neighbors say, “If you need a hand, call Chuck.” Even children are now apparently in the habit of saying, “Let’s ask Chuck, he will know what to do!”

4. **Diana Ewy Sharp** received an award in the Lifetime Community Spirit category. Diana is the co-founder of VillageFest, chair of the Prairie Village Park and Recreation Committee and the Council Representative for Ward VI. The nomination stated that “her contagious attitude inspires others not only to joyfully work but to think of new ways to approach a project.”



Resident Photos

Declan enjoyed the Hawaiian the med block party and aspires to be Mayor of Prairie Village.



Residents on the 3900 block of West 73rd Terrace held their 2nd Annual Block Party in June.

NEW YOGA Classes at the Community Center

Realize the benefits of yoga from the comfort of a chair in our new punch card class, **CHAIR YOGA**. All ages and abilities can learn many yoga postures, breathing techniques and ways of relaxation in seated and some standing poses. This new class will start meeting on Tuesdays at 10:30 am beginning September 1st!

Looking for a more intense class? Utilize hand weights with basic yoga poses to reshape your body and mind with **IRON YOGA**. Please bring a yoga mat and a pair of hand weights under five pounds to each class beginning Thursdays at 8:30 am, September 3rd. Yoga classes require two punches on a 50 Plus fitness punch card. Please call for pricing.

These programs are offered by Johnson County Park & Recreation District’s 50 Plus Program. Advanced registration is required at least five days prior to the class start date by calling the Roeland Park 50 Plus office at (913) 826-3160.



Submit Your Photos

We’re looking for pictures of Prairie Village residents, community groups, and landmarks to feature in the Village Voice. If you would like your pictures to be featured, submit a high-resolution

jpeg to jkoontz@pvkansas.com.

CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE CONSIDERS ISSUING BONDS FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The Prairie Village City Council is considering issuing bonds for public improvement projects throughout the city. The Council is committed to maintaining quality municipal services and infrastructure and the proposed bond plan supports this objective.

Bond proceeds will be used to accelerate the construction of storm water, street, sidewalk, energy conservation, and park projects currently included in the five-year Capital Infrastructure Program. The proposed bond includes funding for over 20 projects for a total of \$9.4 Million. The bond repayment schedule will be accomplished without a mill-levy increase as the project costs were already anticipated within the five-year plan using cash-financing.

The City has a unique window of opportunity to take advantage of the current economic conditions:

- Construction costs have declined
- Very low borrowing costs
- Competitive design/engineering market as engineering and architectural firms search for projects in the recession
- Competitive construction bids as contractors search for projects
- The City has an excellent bond rating – Aa1 from Moody's
- City's low existing municipal debt (\$820k at the end of 2009).

In order to facilitate the issuance of bonds, the City Council approved Charter Ordinance #25 at the recommendation of city staff, bond counsel and the city's financial advisor. This charter ordinance



expands the allowable uses of bond financed projects and enables a more efficient and timely issuance to take advantage of current market conditions. In addition, without the charter ordinance, parks projects, as outlined in the Parks Master Plan, could not be included in the bond issue.

During the next few months, the City Council will identify the specific projects included within the bond issue. The bond sale is scheduled for late 2009 or early 2010 with project construction occurring in 2010 and 2011.

For more information about the possible bond issue and Charter Ordinance #25 visit www.pvkansas.com.