



*The Star of Kansas*

*The Prairie Village*

May 2009

# Voice

## HOMESTAY HOSTING OPPORTUNITY MAY 29 – JUNE 7

The Prairie Village Sister City Committee, in partnership with the International Visitors Council, is seeking Prairie Village residents who would like to open their homes to delegates from our Sister City in Ukraine during their professional exchange program. Homestays offer the opportunity to both the visitors and the hosts to learn about the world from a new perspective! If interested please contact Chris Engel at 913-381-6464 or [cengel@pvkansas.com](mailto:cengel@pvkansas.com).

## AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (STIMULUS FUNDING)

Recently there has been press coverage regarding funding associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or stimulus funding. There are more than 120 different programs under the Act some of which are available to local governments. Each program has a different set of criteria and guidelines. Many of the programs provide direct funding allocations to larger cities such as Kansas City, Overland Park, etc. while smaller cities such as Prairie Village are either not eligible or must compete under a competitive grant process. The City Council receives regular updates from City staff on the potential grants under the Act and applicability to Prairie Village.

The City of Prairie Village did not receive individual transportation funding for a potential project related to maintenance of 75th Street from Mission Road to State Line. However, the City received ARRA funding of a joint transportation project with the cities of Mission and Fairway for improvements near Roe and 63rd Street. While the 75th Street project scored relatively well in the competitive process, additional information was not provided by the Public Works Department in time to be considered for the initial round of funding. The process was very competitive and funding was not guaranteed as only 12 Kansas cities received allocations through the process. The City has conducted a detailed review of this event and has made recommendations to prevent this oversight from occurring in the future. A copy of this report can be found at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com). There is an indication that the City may be considered if alternate funding is made available. The funding does not affect the 2009 or 2010 budget as the project is not scheduled for construction until 2011.

The City submitted a transportation enhancement grant application through KDOT for a bicycle and pedestrian trail between Porter Park and the Prairie Village Shopping Center, but was not selected for funding. KDOT received 55 trail applications and selected six projects with only one being in the Johnson County region.

The City has qualified for ARRA stimulus funding under the Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The JAG funding will be used to purchase needed equipment for the Police Department. In addition, the City is working on several other competitive grant opportunities related to the ARRA stimulus legislation.

## INSIDE:

*Mayor's Message*  
*Summer Sports Camps*  
*Volunteers Needed*  
*Village Voice to Receive Updated Look*  
*Student Poster Contest*  
*VillageFest 2009 Preview*  
*Headstrong for Jake Bike Rodeo*  
*Arts Council*

## ON THE BACK:

*Got Valuables*  
*Why Buy an NOAA Weather Radio?*  
*PV Notes: Offices Closed, Upcoming Trash Holidays, 54th Annual PV Art Show, Pool Opens May 23, Amnesty Day*

*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

Every spring we are reminded of how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful city. The flowers and trees are in bloom, the wildlife has returned, the sound of families enjoying the outdoors carries through the air and the daylight extends long into the evening so we have more time to enjoy the fruits of our labors. This is what makes Prairie Village special - families, neighborhoods, and the natural beauty of our surroundings that enhance the quality of our lives.

Nowhere in the City are these things more prevalent than in our parks. Parks enhance all of our lives in many ways. Not only do parks make our neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work, they improve our physical and psychological health and strengthen our community. Along with the rich canopy of trees that cover our city, our parks are one of the most distinguishing features that make Prairie Village special.

As most of you are aware, the City recently hosted a public presentation of its Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Created to guide park development and enhancement over the next 10 to 15 years, the plan is the culmination of many months of work by the residents, the Parks and Recreation Committee, our elected leaders, the consultant and city staff. The City has received positive comments and there was overwhelming support of the plan. While the many people involved in this process are excited about the future of the city's parks and recreation offerings, it is important to point out this is a long-term plan.

A draft of the Parks Master Plan can be found at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com). Among other things, the plan recommends enhancements to some of our recreational program offerings, specifically in the area of 50+; a proposed trail system throughout the city; and redesigned play areas in the majority of the parks. Careful consideration was given to age demographics when developing the plan so improvements would be multigenerational in their scope. The plan is not only designed for who we are today, but who we will be in the foreseeable future.

Like the abundant trees that line our streets and yards, the beauty and serenity of our park system is tightly woven into the fabric of what it means to be a Prairie Village resident. The Parks Master Plan respects this essential fact and has been crafted to strengthen our existing connections to the parks while creating new ones for the next generation. One young woman in attendance at the public presentation summed up the general reaction to the plan perfectly, "If the City accomplishes half of the things in this plan I will never move away, even though I might be able to buy a bigger house elsewhere." That is what makes Prairie Village special.

To all who participated, thank you for your time and effort to make our parks more enjoyable now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

## Summer Sports Camps

The following sports camps will be offered this summer in Prairie Village parks.

British Soccer is hosting two Soccer Skills camps led by professional coaches from Great Britain on June 1 - 5 and July 6 - 10 at Meadowlake Park. Each camper will go through the British Soccer program of individual skill development, technical and tactical practices, small-sided games and coached scrimmages. The camp includes a free t-shirt and game ball. Register online at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com). For further information contact Mike Parry at 800-878-2167 ext. 227.

Flag Football - Challenger sports will facilitate a Flag Football camp at Meadowlake Park on June 22-26. Register online at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com). For further information contact Josh Flett 800-878-2167 ext. 223.

## Volunteers Needed

New events and entertainment for all ages means there are some new volunteer opportunities at this year's VillageFest! We need volunteers between the hours of 7:00 am and 2:00 pm on July 4th. Two-hour shifts are available for the following jobs: Ferris Wheel, Climbing wall, Traffic control, Clean up and General help. Lunch is provided for all volunteers by Johnny's Tavern.

Contact Nici Flinn at [Nici.Flinn@Ticketmaster.com](mailto:Nici.Flinn@Ticketmaster.com) or 816-878-7255

## Village Voice to Receive Updated Look

The Village Voice is being redesigned and reinvented to provide residents with more relevant content and a fresh look including more colors and pictures. The new version will have 8 pages of full color and will be distributed bi-monthly. The first issue

will be distributed at the end of June 2009. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and opt out of the printed copy, send an email to Jeanne Koontz at [jkoontz@pvkansas.com](mailto:jkoontz@pvkansas.com) with your name, address and email.

## Student Poster Contest

The VillageFest Poster Contest is open to students in Prairie Village elementary and middle schools. Those who wish to participate should depict "Prairie Village at its Best" on 11" x 17" paper or poster board. Posters should include the child's name, age, school, and phone number. Prizes will be awarded for contest winners. All posters must be submitted by May 30th to: City of Prairie Village, Attn: VillageFest Student Poster Contest, 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208. Questions, Contact Ed Roberts at 913-722-6185.

## VillageFest 2009 Preview

July 4th is quickly approaching, and planning for VillageFest 2009 is underway. Make plans to stay in Prairie Village for the holiday and attend this FREE event on the 4th of July.

This year's Independence Day celebration will include:

- A pancake breakfast featuring Chris Cakes
- KC Wolf
- Live Music
- Children's Parade
- Free Swim for Prairie Village residents at the pool
- Wacky Banana Inflatables
- Clowns, Face Painters, and Uncle Sam
- Petting Zoo and Pony Rides
- Puppet Shows
- Beaks-N-Wings Bird Display
- Chinook Helicopter Landing
- Jim "Mr. Stinky Feet" Cosgrove & the Hiccups!
- Funky Mama
- Patriotic Service



Check out [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) and the June/July issue of the Village Voice for a detailed schedule of events. Make your 4th of July special by attending VillageFest!

## Headstrong for Jake Bike Rodeo

VillageFest, July 4, 10 am – 12 pm

The bike rodeo is designed to teach bicycle riding skills, as well educate both children and their parents regarding the importance of always wearing a properly fitted bike helmet.

Children participating in the event will be fit with new bike helmets, have their bikes inspected by TREK mechanics and go through a six-station bike safety course designed by the police department. **Volunteers from the Prairie Village Police Department, JoCo Med-Act bike team, TREK Store of Kansas City, The University of Kansas Medical Center and the Jake Clough Headstrong Foundation, 501(c) 3** will be on hand to help make this bike rodeo a successful event. To date, Jake's foundation has donated and properly fit over 3,500 helmets to children in the community.

**New bicycle helmets provided for the first 350 registered participants** by the Jake Clough Headstrong Foundation, 501(c) 3.

All participants should bring their own bicycle to the bike rodeo. Remember that all participants will be required to wear a bicycle helmet during the bike rodeo - no exceptions. Parents or guardians will be required to sign a bike rodeo permission slip on the day of the event.

**Community volunteers needed: please contact 913-638-5966**

# Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

## PRESENTS

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

### May

Once again, photographer, **Kay Trieb** will delight patrons of the gallery with her unique photos of nature, and her uncanny ability to capture it. Kay has mastered the ability not only to copy its beauty, but to enhance it. The forethought she puts forth when setting up each shot is a tribute to her talents. She also has an original collection of childhood toys, many of which hold special places in the hearts of her spectators. Opening Reception May 8th, 6:30-7:30 pm

### June

**L. Daniel Compton**, Photography  
Opening Reception June 12th,  
6:30 pm-7:30 pm

### July

**Mark Raynes**, Photography  
Opening Reception July 10th,  
6:30 pm

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

## Public Works Factoid

**There are twelve parks. Public Works employees provided 14,470 labor hours to maintain and repair your parks which equates to 7+ persons full time**



# Prairie Village

# Notes

## Offices Closed

City Offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, 2009. 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 Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, 2009. As a result, trash and recycling collection will be one day late during the week of May 25th.

## 54th Annual Prairie Village Art Show

May 29, 30 and 31  
Prairie Village Shopping Center  
Visit [www.prairievillageshops.com](http://www.prairievillageshops.com) for more information.

## Pool Opens May 23rd

The pool operates on reduced hours May 26 - 28, 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Regular hours begin May 29, 11:00 am - 8:30 pm. Joel Rios will be returning as the Pool Manager this year. Aquatic Team registrations are due by May 20, 2009. Memberships can be purchased at City Hall or online at [pvkansas.recware.com](http://pvkansas.recware.com). For more information, visit [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com).

## Amnesty Day

Wednesday, June 3, 2009  
All people who have outstanding warrants issued by the Prairie Village Municipal Court will have the opportunity to turn themselves in to the court and resolve their pending court cases. Anyone who voluntarily surrenders will not be arrested for their outstanding Prairie Village warrants and the \$50.00 warrant fee will be waived. Contact Municipal Court at 913-385-4680 for more information.

# GOT VALUABLES?

After speaking about residential security at a Homes Association meeting recently, a resident said she was not worried about her house being broken into because she did not have anything inside of it to steal. I begged to differ and mentioned to her stolen items I had seen listed on reports by victims of residential burglaries. I believe I may have changed her mind after mentioning some of the items on the list. It is important to remember that not all burglars steal the same type of items and almost any home has items of value a burglar would love to get their hands on.



Below is just a partial list of some obvious and not so obvious items that I have seen listed on stolen property reports.

- o Jewelry
- o Expensive Framed Pictures
- o Cameras
- o Designer Clothes
- o Laptops
- o Coins
- o Flat Screen TV's
- o Credit Cards and Checkbooks
- o Tools
- o Any Type of Cell Phone
- o Sports Memorabilia

Next time you think you don't have any items that would be on a burglars list, think twice. The most preventive security advice would be to simply make sure the doors on your home are always secure and items of value are not left scattered about. Please feel free to call me with your questions or comments at 913-385-4613 or e-mail me at [drobles@pvkansas.com](mailto:drobles@pvkansas.com).

Officer Robles

Prairie Village Crime Prevention Unit

## Why Buy an NOAA Weather Radio?

Unlike outdoor sirens, all-hazards radios save lives by alerting people who are indoors when severe weather approaches. They can also alert people in homes, schools and businesses to other types of emergencies. These radios provide constant, useful and up-to-date weather information. They are equipped with a special alarm tone that will sound an alert and give immediate information in a life-threatening situation. Through Project Community Alert, an initiative of the Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee, these radios are being sold at \$29.95, a considerable savings over the regular price, at metro area Price Chopper stores.

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

