

VOICE



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You're invited: VillageFest 2024

Celebrate Independence Day at the City of Prairie Village's 28th Annual VillageFest Celebration on Thursday, July 4. Activities are held on the Municipal Campus at 7700 Mission Road and in Harmon Park.

The festivities begin with a pancake breakfast hosted by Chris Cakes from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Harmon Park Pavilion. Breakfast is \$6 per person. The patriotic ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. with Kansas City Symphony Chorus member and Prairie Village resident Kristy Lambert singing the National Anthem followed by the presentation of the Community Spirit Awards.

If you like baking, enter the annual pie baking contest for the chance to win a prize and bragging rights for the best

pie. Register at www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest.

Other activities throughout the day run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Returning favorites include a giant slip and slide, children's parade, live music, children's crafts, bounce houses and other inflatables, petting zoo and pony rides, face painters, history exhibit, and much more. "The Little Village," a designated area for children aged three years and younger will be located near the Community Center. Admission and activities are free.

Everyone is invited to VillageFest 2024. The schedule of events and map are on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. Save the enclosed flier and bring it to the event on the Fourth of July!

Elected Officials

MAYOR

Eric Mikkelson
913-385-4600 • mayor@pvkansas.com

WARD I

Cole Robinson
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Terry O'Toole
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WARD II

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WARD VI

Terrence Gallagher
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Ian Graves
913-336-2615 • igraves@pvkansas.com

Unsure which ward you live in?
Visit www.pvkansas.com/wardmap.

A Message from the Mayor



Dear friends and neighbors,

One of the most important tasks for city government is preparation of the annual budget. Our staff, finance committee, and governing body have been working diligently on the 2025 budget, scrutinizing every expense to ensure that we efficiently provide excellent services and infrastructure that residents expect. By the end of the summer, following public meetings, we will have a final 2025 budget. The proposed 2025 budget is balanced, with emphasis on public safety, parks, infrastructure and services.

The “all-in” number for General Fund expenditures as unanimously recommended by our Finance Committee is approximately \$32 million.

That represents about a 1.3% increase compared to 2024, which is relatively low considering the inflationary environment. That proposed budget keeps the property tax mill levy rate flat at 18.325, continuing forward our rate reduction from 2023 of one mill. The proposed budget maintains a conservative fund balance around 25%, consistent with our historical best practices.

As always, the single biggest line item (around \$16 million) in that operating budget is personnel. We have around 118 full-time-equivalent employees, and another 110+ seasonal employees. The 2025 proposed personnel budget continues to implement our 2022 salary study that identified competitive salary ranges among similar cities in the region, aimed to keep us at the 60th percentile in the market.

Some of the most intense salary competition continues to be with police officers, our largest department budget. Other cities have been ratcheting up their police salaries as we all compete for a shrinking pool of qualified candidates. This budget includes materially increased police salaries to keep pace with that tight labor market. Without these, the cost of turnover and training could be even greater. Those proposed salary increases apply to new and seasoned officers, and would be partially implemented in 2024 to maximize retention and recruitment.

For infrastructure, the proposed budget maintains our commitment to more road investment, which has led to steadily increasing quality of our streets. We again expect to receive matching dollars from the county for major road rehabilitation in 2025. The proposed budget also includes investment for City Hall, Police and Court improvements on our civic center campus. In our parks, capital investments include electric charging stations, trails, play sets and LED lighting.

With this proposed 2025 budget, a median homeowner’s total monthly city property tax would be \$71. Daily cost of city services per resident is expected to be around \$3 per day. That includes police, roads, drainage, parks, events, codes enforcement and more. We expect the City portion to remain at around 16% of the overall property tax bill. Our debt is exceptionally low, and our property tax rate remains among the lowest of Johnson County cities. We also expect to expand our popular tax rebate programs again in 2025.

Please familiarize yourself with our proposed 2025 budget and provide feedback to your Councilperson. Our budget priorities are our community priorities. With your help, the 2025 budget will reflect our shared community priorities of public safety, infrastructure, services, parks, events and high quality of civic life.

Best regards,

-Eric





Dates to Note

Date	Event	Time	Location
7/1	Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall
7/2	Planning Commission Meeting	7 p.m.	City Hall
7/4	Independence Day - City offices closed	All day	All City offices
7/4	VillageFest	7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Harmon Park
7/10	Arts Reception	7 p.m.	City Hall
7/15	Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall
7/25	"Let's Talk About Race"	6 p.m.	Meadowbrook
8/5	Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall
8/6	Planning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
8/19	Council Meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall

Public meeting for community center campus study to be rescheduled

The multi-year study of a new Community Center Campus in Harmon Park continues, with the City of Prairie Village, YMCA of Greater Kansas City, and Johnson County Library analyzing feedback gathered from the second public meeting on April 4, 2024, and responses to an online questionnaire. To allow for review and further site design refinement, the previously scheduled meeting on June 20, 2024, has been canceled. A new date for the third and final public meeting will be announced soon.

The questionnaire, which received more than 500 responses, included three site options, and an option for no changes to the park. Forty-two percent of respondents chose Option B, a co-located community center and library on the northwest portion of the park. Twenty-six percent chose Option A, co-location on the southwest portion of the park; 24 percent chose Option D, no changes; and seven percent chose Option C, the community center located at the northwest portion of the park with the library located elsewhere.

Taking into consideration public feedback, as well as other site factors, the project partners made a recommendation to the Prairie Village City Council to move forward with the conceptual design study phase using the Option B configuration at the meeting on May 20, 2024. During this meeting, the council requested additional information prior to proceeding with one site option. The project team is scheduled to return for a second presentation at a City Council meeting in July.

Following the next presentation and after receiving council direction, the project team plans to finalize the site configuration and conceptual design, as well as the funding mechanism and costs, to present at the third public meeting.

After that, the City of Prairie Village, YMCA of Greater Kansas City, and Johnson County Library will determine the path forward. The project partners will negotiate terms prior to a public vote in Prairie Village. If PV residents approve the measure, the City and YMCA will allocate funds to

advance the project, the YMCA will finalize private fundraising, and the entities would each work according to their own processes, collaborating when appropriate, to design and construct their separate buildings. If PV residents reject the measure, the YMCA would need to consider the future of the Paul Henson Family YMCA.

Anticipated costs for construction and operation of a community center are expected to be shared between the City and YMCA. The funding mechanism (sales tax, and/or property tax, etc.) and the percentage of cost sharing are yet to be determined. Since funds have already been allocated for a new Corinth Library Branch, it is unaffected by the outcome of the public vote for the new Community Center. The Library Board of Directors has prioritized building a new Corinth Library regardless of the study's outcome. The Library is also concurrently assessing the existing Corinth site, and the final location of a new Library facility will be determined by

the Library Board.

If the Library Board votes to relocate to Harmon Park and PV residents approve the measure, the Library will work to construct the Corinth Library Branch Replacement in Harmon Park on a timeline informed by their Comprehensive Library Master Plan. If PV residents reject the measure, the Library will consider different locations for the planned Corinth Library Branch replacement to serve this community.

If you missed it, view the public meeting materials on the project webpage www.pvkansas.com/communitycenter.

As of the publication deadline for this issue of the Village Voice, the new meeting date has not been set. However, the meeting could be scheduled before the September/October issue of the Village Voice hits mailboxes. Be sure to visit the project website at www.pvkansas.com/communitycenter or sign up for e-notifications at www.pvkansas.com for the most up-to-date information.

The Prairie Village Diversity Committee invites you to

Meet your neighbor



Mindy Nanos

Mindy Nanos shares her PV residence with her husband and rising 4th grade daughter.

How long have you lived in Prairie Village?

We've lived here for 13 years

What made you move to Prairie Village?

I've lived in North Overland Park most of my life, and spent a ton of time in PV. When it came time to buy a house, we really focused on this area because of the proximity to the city, the great and walkable amenities, and the incredible schools.

What do you like about living in Prairie Village?

I can't speak for the entire area, but our neighborhood has been amazing. We know our neighbors and spend time with them. We function as a community, which I think has been lost in so many areas.

What are your favorite restaurants and things to do in PV?

The French Market is my favorite! But I don't think there is a place we don't enjoy. We still haven't tried Story or Va Bene (they are on the list for a date night). The parks and the pool are the best things to do, in my opinion. Especially with summer on my mind.

Do you feel that PV is a diverse place to live?

Honestly, I do wish it were more diverse. Homes have become so expensive that it's hard to have good socio-economic diversity. We were so fortunate to buy when we did, we would be priced out now.

How would you describe Prairie Village?

Jokingly we call it "perfect village," but in a lot of ways we do mean that.



Arbor Day honoree celebrates memory of Dennis Patton

Dennis Patton, Kansas State University Research & Extension's Johnson County horticulture agent & educator for over 35 years, was named the 2024 Arbor Day honoree, in memoriam, by the Prairie Village Tree Board. He was remembered and celebrated at the Prairie Village Arbor Day event on Saturday, April 27th at Wassmer Park. Laura Patton, Dennis' wife, attended the event representing the Patton family. A White Oak was planted in his memory prior to the event.

Dennis had an outstanding impact on Prairie Village, the county and the entire metropolitan area. He was well known for his passion for gardening, for trees and for educating the community about them.



He was well known to thousands of Kansas City residents with his weekly gardening columns in the Kansas City Star, and later in the monthly editions of Kansas City Gardener, as well as various Johnson County government publications. Kevin Dunn, former Tree Board Chair, recalled he found a lot of good practical advice in those columns like "Always consider the right tree for the right location." To his readers, Dennis was the sympathetic voice of someone who could get just as exasperated and just as enthusiastic about growing things in this challenging Midwest climate.

His contributions to Prairie Village included introduction of Black and White Oaks at Windsor Park (part of the Prairie Village Arboretum), key in establishment of the Johnson County Extension Master Gardener demonstration garden at Wassmer Park, and as a dynamic and informative public speaker during his consistent participation in and support of the Tree Board Fall Tree Seminar.





VillageFest

July 4, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Prairie Village Municipal Campus, 7700 Mission Road

Special Events

Patriotic Ceremony & Community Spirit Awards

Harmon Park Pavilion - 8:30

Star Spangled Banner performed by Kristy Lambert

Mayor's Welcome - 9:15

From the CFD2 Bucket Truck on the Skate Park Lawn

Pie Baking Contest

Registration & pie drop off inside City Hall - 7:30-9

Results on the main stage - 11

www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest

Children's Parade

Decorate your bikes, trikes & wagons and meet at City Hall by 11. Parade will be at 11:15.

All are welcome to participate.

No registration necessary.

Entertainment

Main Stage—Across from City Hall

10 a.m. - "Mr. Stinky Feet" and the Hiccups

11 a.m. - MultiPhonic

Harmon Pavilion & Skate Park Parking Lot

Sterling Silver Sound DJ

Free Parking

Shawnee Mission East High School, 7500 Mission Road

Mission Road Bible Church, 7820 Mission Road

Mission Road Community of Christ, 7842 Mission Road

ADA Parking is available in the Shawnee Mission East lot or at City Hall.

Restrooms

City Hall

Police Department

Community Center

Harmon Park Pavilion

Pool Complex (12-5)

Food for Purchase

Harmon Park Pavilion

7:30-11:00

Chris Cakes

Parking Lot

9:00 - 1:00

Treats by Rex Nolan

Polar Oasis

Freedom Dogs

WaterOne Quench Buggy

(Bring a refillable bottle)

Free Swim

12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Prairie Village Pool

Questions

Visit the Information Booth

located in front of City Hall.

Don't forget to bring a reusable water bottle and blankets or lawn chairs!

Attractions & Displays

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

City Hall Parking Lot

Trackless Train

Quad Jump

Climbing Wall

15-Foot Slide

Tornado

Police Department

Med-Act

Huey Helicopter

City Hall Grounds

Bubble Guy

Balloon Twister

Community

Center Lawn

Face/Hair Painting

Young Kids Area

Inflatables

Petting Zoo

Pony Rides

Harmon Park

Skate Park

Slip 'N Slide

K9 Blitz Demonstration

Basketball Court

Environmental Committee

Children's Crafts

Roaming

Mr. Bones

KC Wolf

CFD2

Fire Department

Inside City Hall

Historical Display

R.G. Endres Art Gallery

Pie Contest



Parking

ADA
Parking

Pie Contest drop off parking

Entrance
Closed



VillageFest



POOL COMPLEX
Restrooms
Free Swim
12-5

CITY HALL
Restrooms
Pie Contest
Historic Display

Bike Parade Starting Point

Balloon Twister
Bubble Guy

MAIN STAGE

INFO BOOTH

POLICE STATION
Restrooms

Inflatables

Food Vendors

Petting Zoo

Face & Hair Painting

Blitz K9 Demo

Huey Helicopter

Food Vendors

COMMUNITY CENTER LAWN
Restrooms

Environmental Committee Craft Tent

HARMON PARK PAVILION
Chris Cakes
Pancakes
Patriotic Service

Slip 'n Slide

SKATE PARK

Rides

Police Department
Med-Act

Inflatables

Vendor Entrance Only

Restrooms

Pony Rides

CFD2 FIRE STATION

Parking

Summer safety tips from the Prairie Village Police Department

As the weather warms up, it's important to keep safety in mind. Here are some tips from the Prairie Village Police Department to help you stay safe this spring:

1. Secure Your Home: As you start to open windows and doors to let in the fresh air, make sure all entry points are secure. This includes windows, doors, and garage doors. Consider installing deadbolts and security cameras for added protection.

2. Trim Your Bushes: Overgrown bushes and shrubs can provide cover for thieves. Keep your landscaping well-maintained to reduce hiding spots around your home.

3. Light Up Your Property: Proper lighting can deter criminals. Make sure all entryways, pathways, and dark corners of your property are well-lit, especially during the night.

4. Be Mindful of Social Media: Avoid posting about your vacation plans or when you'll be away from home on social media. This information can tip off potential thieves that your home is empty.

5. Keep Valuables Out of Sight: Don't leave valuables such as laptops, smartphones, or other expensive items in plain view from windows or doors. Store them in a safe or keep them out of sight when not in use.

6. Lock Your Vehicle: Always lock your car doors and roll up your windows, even if you're just running a quick errand. Thieves often target unlocked vehicles for easy access to valuables.

7. Park in Well-Lit Areas: When parking your vehicle, choose well-lit areas that are visible to passersby. This reduces the likelihood of someone breaking into your car unnoticed.

8. Don't Leave Spare Keys Outside: Avoid hiding spare keys outside your home. Thieves know all the common hiding spots, so it's best to keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor or family member.

By following these summer safety tips, you can help reduce opportunities for thieves and protect yourself, your loved ones, and your property. Remember, if you see something suspicious, don't hesitate to contact the Prairie Village Police Department. Stay safe this summer!

2025 BUDGET

Work is well underway on the 2025 budget. Learn more and view the budget calendar online at: pvkansas.com/budgetcalendar



LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

Join the Diversity Committee for a discussion about some of the antidotes to racial division that will invite us into the practice of humanizing one another.

MEADOWBROOK PARK CLUBHOUSE
9101 Nall Avenue

THURSDAY, JULY 25
6:00 PM



Staff Spotlight

Name: **Dawn Johnson**
Position: **Overnights Dispatcher**
Years with the City: **20**



Responsibilities: I'm a communications team member for the midnights crew. I take all inbound calls both non-emergency and emergency, create the calls for service, dispatch the appropriate district officer(s), collect data and information they need for each call, research history, man the traffic cameras, monitor the LPR's (License plate readers) and relay that information to my crew. Anything the officers need while they are out on the road is my job.

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: My favorite thing is easily my midnights crew! No mother likes leaving her own family to have to work, especially nights, but the officers I get to work with make that easier on me. It's important for me, in a job that can be overwhelming and stressful to have a team of people that I can laugh with, that I trust, and that display honor and integrity daily. I feel like everyone gets frustrated with their jobs in seasons; however, the reason I've stayed in love with my job for so many years is mostly because of the relationships I have with the officers I'm blessed to work with. They really are incredible humans.

Name: **Eric Mieske**
Position: **Sergeant**
Years with the City: **15**



Responsibilities: **Patrol Supervisor, Lead Firearms Instructor, Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) Assistant Team Leader**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: **The family feel and camaraderie**

Name: **Jeff Collins**
Position: **Crime Analyst**
Years with the City: **3**



Responsibilities: **Assist the department with intelligence analysis, case research and statistical reports**

Favorite thing about working for Prairie Village: I am honored to work with such dedicated people and lend my talents in any way possible to help them. I also enjoy the opportunity to volunteer as a role player with new cadets at the Academy.

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

Reader Feedback
Please send your comments to:
info@pvkansas.com
913-385-4674



Call for Entry

**STATE OF THE ARTS
2024**

**3 CATEGORIES
9 ENTRIES ALLOWED
\$3,500 IN PRIZES**

**SUBMISSIONS: JUN 21 - JUL 21
ARTSPV.ORG/SOTA2024
TO ENTER**

PRAIRIE VILLAGE ARTS COUNCIL **ART EXHIBITION**

ARTISTS:
LARRY DEGRAFF,
ROBERT KLAUSING,
& GREG LARSON

MEADOWBROOK CLUBHOUSE
07/06 - 11/02/2024

R.G. ENDRES GALLERY
07/06 - 09/07/2024



RECEPTION
10 JULY, 2024, 7-8-00PM
Prairie Village City Hall
www.artspv.org



City Contact Information

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

CITY HALL AND MUNICIPAL COURT

7700 Mission Road

Wes Jordan, City Administrator
Nickie Lee, Deputy City Administrator
Meghan Buum, Assistant City Administrator
Tim Schwartzkopf, Assistant City Administrator
Adam Geffert, City Clerk

Jason Hannaman, Finance Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT

7710 Mission Road

Byron Roberson, Chief of Police

PUBLIC WORKS (Facility now home to Building Codes)

3535 Somerset Drive

Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director

SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you on social media? Follow the City of Prairie Village and the Police Department for the most up-to-date information on City happenings.



DONATE

If you would like to make a donation to the Prairie Village Foundation, open your smartphone's camera and hover over this QR Code. A page will pop up directing you to the Foundation's website.



EVERYONE MAY PARTICIPATE

If anyone requires an accommodation to participate in public meetings, contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 (TDD 800-766-2777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.