# THE PRAIRIE VILLAGE

October/November 2011



# MAYOR'S HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Celebrate the Spirit! Start the season off right by joining your friends and neighbors for the 26th Annual Prairie Village Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Thursday, December 1st. The program will be held from 6-7pm at Corinth Square – between Wooten's and The Wild Bird Center. Join Mayor Ron Shaffer, Santa, the Belinder Elementary School Choir and Dancerz Unlimited as we kick off an extraordinary holiday season! Hot chocolate, cookies and extra surprises will help to light up the night. Both the Corinth and Village

Shopping Centers will be holding Open Houses on December 1st as well.

You can also fill your appetite at Salty Iguana and Johnny's. These generous Prairie Village restaurants will be donating some of their proceeds that night to the Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund. Or, look for the Tree Fund donation containers at area businesses throughout the season. Dropping your extra coins and bills in each container now will help share the holiday spirit with Prairie Village residents throughout the coming year.

The Mayor's Holiday T ree Lighting raises funds to provide utility assistance and home repairs to Prairie Village residents in need.

CORINTH





### **FEATURES:**









### MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful city with nice neighborhoods, parks, and numerous community activities which occur throughout the year. However, we often overlook the fact that some of our residents, due to lack of employment, illness or other misfortunes, are facing financial difficulties.

In 1981, faced with revenue shortages, the City Council had to reduce budgets of social services, parks and other programs. To meet needs in these programs, the community developed a Municipal Foundation with the mission of raising funds for assistance to Prairie Village residents and accepting tax deductible contributions for city park improvements.

The Foundation has a Board composed of Prairie Village residents who are committed to fulfilling the mission originally established for the organization. They sponsor a variety of fund-raising projects. Annual Gingerbread House Parties raise funds for swimming pool and tennis membership scholarships for youth in Prairie Village. Proceeds from the sale of patio bricks are used to promote arts events in the City. Many of the trees that beautify our parks, a rose garden, a fountain, a skate park, Jazz festival and even one of the City's parks were financed by donations to the City as memorials to loved ones or through fund raising efforts of residents.

One of the major ongoing projects of the Foundation's Board is the Mayor's Annual Holiday Tree lighting ceremony: the kick-off for a campaign which provides financing for the City's utility assistance and home maintenance program. Qualified residents who are temporarily unable to pay delinquent utility bills or repair their homes receive assistance from this fund. During the past 25 years the Foundation has raised more than \$161,000 to provide this assistance for our neighbors and the lighting ceremony has grown into one of the City's major family events. This year the Municipal Foundation began a partnership with Habitat for Humanity for a minor home repair program for Prairie Village residents in need.

Our Municipal Foundation continues efforts to meet the needs of the community. You can help by contributing to and participating in their programs and projects. Visit www.prairievillagefoundation.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

	MAYOR	
	Ron Shaffer	
		mayor@pvkansas.com
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	Al Herrera	aherrera@pvkansas.com
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26		<u>cciaik@pvkaiisas.coiii</u>
	WARD VI	AND ASSESSED TO SERVICE
p	David Belz	
	D. E 01	dbelz@pvkansas.com
M	Diana Ewy Sharp	desharp@pvkansas.com
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# **COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT**

### Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund

Why is the Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund so important? Because, each monetary donation goes directly to two very distinctive sources - Utility Assistance Fund and Home Maintenance -- each helping Prairie Village residents in need throughout the year.

The Utility Assistance Fund lends a hand to residents who need extra help paying their utility bills. The City works directly with Johnson County Human Services to identify deserving residents who require assistance. Below are three situations of how your donations have gone straight to the source.

"Thank you. This is a lot of help. I think I can make it now," said a 32 year-old single father, with two young children. This Prairie Village resident became unemployed last year and was unsuccessful finding employment for months. Human Services Staff went a step further, by referring the man to other resources, providing him employment assistance and specialized training in his field.

"Thank you so much. You don't know how happy we are to have hot water again!" This quote came from a 40 year-old Prairie Village single mother of three who in August, received help with a payment to restore her gas service.

"Thanks again for all the help and assistance you have given me, and I am glad to know that I can visit your food pantry on a monthly basis if needed." This quote came from a 65 year-old resident laid off from work just prior to retirement. He also lost his health insurance benefits.

As you can see, these are three individuals, deserving of our attention. They unfortunately fell on hard times, but received much needed help - thanks to your donations. However, there are more community members out there, needing our assistance.

This year, we are delighted to partner with Habitat for Humanity. Prairie Village Code Enforcement will be working with Habitat for Humanity to fix up homes where, because of financial or health rea-

sons, occupants can't maintain their homes. More information about this new partnership will come soon.

Donations can be sent to 7700 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208 or made online at www.prairievillagefoundation.org. You can also look for donation containers at area businesses and donate there. Better yet, come to the Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting on December 1st at 6 pm at Corinth Square. Meet your friends and neighbors and contribute at the event.



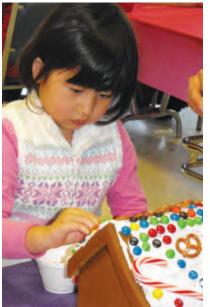
### **Gingerbread House Decorating Parties**

The Prairie Village Municipal Foundation is proud to sponsor the third annual Gingerbread House Decorating Parties on Sunday, December 11th. This year the parties will be held at a new location: Brighton Gardens, 7105 Mission Rd., with sessions at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm.

Last year participants described the event as "magnificent family fun," a "treat for the entire family," a "special holiday memory" and "we hope you will do this again next year". Please join us for holiday fun with your children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, grandparents and friends. Or just come and decorate a house for your own holiday enjoyment! Some families even decorate two houses.

When you make your reservation early - by December 1st, the fee will be \$35. After

December 1st the cost will increase to \$40. ALL PROCEEDS fund summer youth activity scholarships for Prairie Village children. Last year the proceeds from the parties helped six Prairie Village families join in summer activities.



What better way to welcome the holidays than by building a Gingerbread House to admire (and nibble on) for weeks to come! The pre-assembled house will be ready when you and your family arrive. Santa will drop in to talk with you and maybe help you add a few decorations.

For reservations go to: www.prairievillagefoun-We accept Master Card, Visa, dation.org. American Express, Discover or Pay Pal. If you prefer, you can register and pay by check or cash at City Hall, 7700 Mission Rd. Reservations will be taken through Friday, December 9th at noon. Your receipt will be your ticket for the event and all the fun – so be sure to bring it with you!

Act now to reserve your place for these special parties!

Create a wonderful memory for your family while you create happy summer memories for Prairie Village children in need of help.

# ( PV HAPPENINGS )

### City of Prairie Village Issued Bonds for Street Improvements & Infrastructure

The Prairie Village City Council recently issued bonds for street improvement projects. The Council is committed to maintaining the city's infrastructure and the bond plan supports this objective. Bond proceeds will be used for the construction of street projects currently included in the five-year Capital Infrastructure Program.

The City is using the current economic conditions to accelerate street projects and take advantage of:

- Declining construction costs
- Historically low borrowing costs

- Competitive design/engineering market
- Competitive construction bids
- The City has a Aaa bond rating from Moody's

The bond issuance includes funding for over 20 projects for a total of \$4.5 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. Taking advantage of historically low interest rates, the City obtained an interest rate of 1.67%.

### **Shop with a Cop**



"Shop-With-A-Cop" is a nationwide program, coming to Prairie Village this December! It is a chance for the Prairie Village Police Department to team up with needy and deserving children in our area who may require extra encouragement at the end of the year. Individual police officers will take children holiday shopping and pay for their purchases up to \$100. Then, children will ride back to the Police Station to enjoy a pizza party and station tour. "Shop-With-A-Cop" is made possible by the Prairie Village Municipal Foundation. If you are a Prairie Village business or resident who would like to make a contribution to this event, please call Jeanne Koontz at 913-385-4662.

## **Holiday Lights Permit**

If your Holiday decorating includes stringing lights across City streets, public rights-of-way, or storm drainage channels, a right-of way permit is required for electrical and traffic safety.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 913-385-4640 or send an email to publicworks@pvkansas.com.

### Clean up Yard Waste



Time to rake those leaves! When the trees change colors and the leaves fall to the ground, keeping your yard clean can be a nuisance and expensive. Fortunately, the City of Prairie Village and Deffenbaugh try to make this autumn task a little bit easier on you.

During November residents are allowed to set out 12 yard waste items per week. Please place yard waste in a biodegradable paper bag or a 35 gallon or less rigid container. A standard bundle of 4 feet in length and 18 inches in circumference is also permitted. Extra containers/bags may be set out, but require an overflow sticker with a cost of \$1.25 per item.

Overflow waste stickers are sold in sheets of 10 and are available at the following locations:

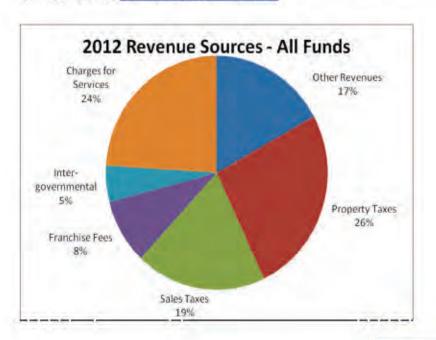
- Prairie Village City Hall, 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS
- Westlake Hardware, 4049 Somerset, Prairie Village, KS
- Euston Hardware, 6955 Tomahawk Road, Prairie Village, KS
- Deffenbaugh Industries, 2601 Midwest Drive, Kansas City, KS

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS DATE LOCATION DATE EVENT LOCATION EVENT TIME TIME** November 7 7:30 pm **Council Chambers** December 5 Council Meeting Council Chambers Council Meeting 7:30 pm November 21 **Council Chambers Council Meeting** 7:30 pm December 19 **Council Meeting** 7:30 pm **Council Chambers** Offices Closed Offices Closed November 24-25 All Day December 26 All Day December 1 **Holiday Tree Lighting** 6:00 pm Corinth Square January 2 Offices Closed All Day

### 2012 Prairie Village Budget

The annual budget serves as a financial plan, provides guidance to City staff and communicates the City's financial condition. Most importantly, it presents the Governing Body's vision for the community by describing how public funds will be spent in order to achieve policy objectives.

The next few pages provide an overview of the City's 2012 Budget and hopefully covers the items most important to the residents. A full version of the budget can be found at www.pvkansas.com. Questions about the budget can be directed to Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director at 913-385-4661 or |santamaria@pvkansas.com.





Maintain high quality services and

Maintain quality streets, parks and infrastructure

Continue strong financial

Maintain Aaa Bond rating

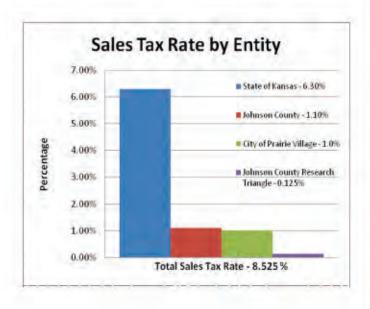
Reduce reliance on fund balance and reserves

Be mindful of the tax burden

Implement a new department driven budget process

Conduct a thorough review of all budget items at the staff level

Plan for future needs by utilizing the reserve funds



Property Tax: Tax on real estate and personal property. It is computed by applying the City's mill rate to the County's assessed valuation.

Sales Tax: Tax comes from two sources: Local Sales Tax and County Sales Tax.

Franchise Fees: Franchise fees are charged on major utilities within the City. The fee is 5% of gross receipts as defined and permitted by state statutes.

Charges for Services: Includes revenue which is a charge for contract services and special assessments to recipients of certain services.

Intergovernmental: Includes revenues provided by other jurisdictions, primarily the State and Federal governments.

Other Revenues: Includes use tax, motor vehicle tax, liquor tax, license & permits, recreation fees, fines, interest income and miscellaneous revenue.

# How are your property taxes used?

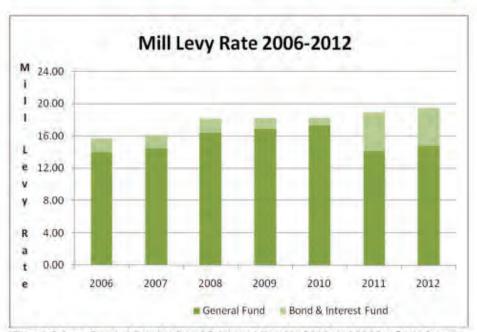


Your property tax bill is divided between several entities of which the City is only 16%

# How is the Mill Levy used?

The Mill Levy Rate is applied to the assessed valuation for your property.

The 2012 budget includes a mill levy rate increase of 0.6 mills. The mill levy rate was last increased in 2011 by 0.698 mills.



\*The shift from General Fund to Bond & Interest Fund in 2011 and 2012 reflects issuance of bonds in 2009.



## How much of your property taxes are spent on City Services?

### Residents Receive City Services

In 2011, the Average Market Value of a Prairie Village home is \$214,707. In 2012, on average a homeowner will pay \$40.08 each month for City services. The checkbook below illustrates how this amount is divided among various city programs.

Program	Monthly	
Cost		
Public Safety	\$14.43	
Public Works	\$13.63	
Community Development	\$ 5.21	
Administration	\$ 4.01	
Parks & Recreation	\$ 1.60	
Municipal Court	\$ 1.20	

Municipal Court	\$ 1.20	
Average Homeowner City of Prairie Village	7555	
City of Frame Village	DATE May 15, 2012	
PAY TO THE CITY OF PRAIRIE V \$40.08 Forty and 08/100**********************************	ILLAGEDOLLARS	
Monthly property MEMO: tax for City Services	TAXPAYER	

What services are provided by City Programs?

### Public Safety

Animal Control, Crime Prevention, Patrol, Investigations, DARE, Emergency Services

### **Public Works**

Operate and maintain the City's drainage system, streets, buildings and grounds, swimming pool, tennis courts, parks and vehicles

### Community Development

Building Permits, Code Enforcement and Solid Waste Management

### Administration

Mayor and Council support, Management and Planning, Financial Management, Information Technology, Human Resources, Business Licensing, and Animal Licensing

#### Parks & Recreation

Arts Council programs, VillageFest, Swimming Pool, Aquatic Teams, Tennis program

#### Court

Municipal Judges, Prosecutor Services, Court Services

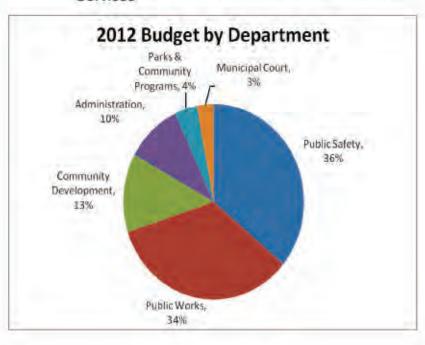
Your Property Taxes also include Special Assessments or Fees for Trash and Recycling Services and Stormwater System maintenance.

Trash Fee: \$200.74 per yer or

\$16.73 per month

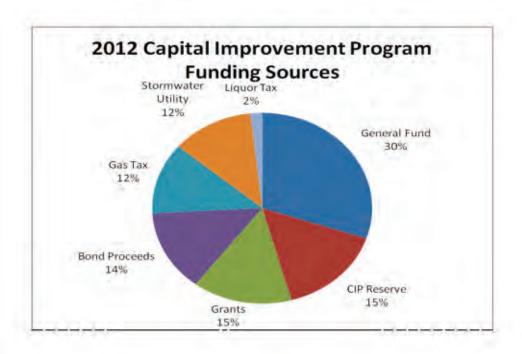
Stormwater Fee: \$0.04/sq ft

of impervious area



## Capital Infrastructure Program

The City maintains a four-year Capital Infrastructure Program (CIP) to aid the City Council and staff in planning and budgeting for the City's infrastructure needs. The CIP is reviewed and updated each year during the budget process. The majority of the funding for the CIP comes from the General Fund. Other funding sources include bond proceeds, the gas tax, the stormwater utility fee, grants, participation by neighboring cities and 1/3 of the liquor tax which is required to be spent on parks and recreation programs.



### The CIP is divided into five sections.

#### **Parks**

Includes plans for redevelopment and replacement of existing park structures and materials.

### Drainage

Includes plans for replacement of components of the City's storm drainage system.

#### Streets

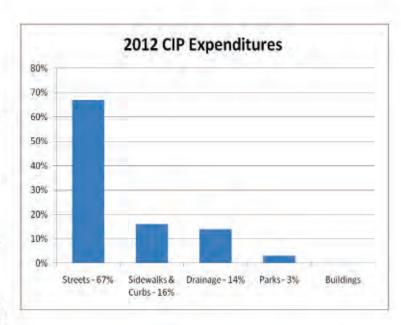
Includes plans for replacement of major improvements that extend the life of the City's street system.

#### Buildings

Includes plans for replacement or major improvements that extend the life of the City's buildings.

#### Sidewalks & Curbs

Includes plans for replacement or major improvements that extend the life of the City's sidewalk and curb system. Also includes plans for additions to the system to comply with the City's sidewalk policy or ADA regulations.



# **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Construction Update**



Weltner Park / Cambridge Street project – The relocated Cambridge Street Project is now complete and the Weltner Park improvements will be completed soon. A groundbreaking ceremony for the park improvements was held on August 31st. The project includes improvements to the park and the realignment of Cambridge Street. Visit the park at 79th Street and Cambridge Street to see the new features: 8' wide park trail, park shelter and nature play features.

Nall Avenue: 75th to 79th Street is the City's 2011 CARS project and is 50% funded by Johnson County. The project will replace the asphalt surface, replace all the curbs, and replace the sidewalk along the east side of Nall Avenue. The sidewalk on the west will be repaired as necessary. The curb on the east side of the road is moving two feet closer to the sidewalk to allow for the possibility of changing this section of Nall Avenue to a three lane road in the future. Nall Avenue will be closed to through traffic between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm daily until the project is completed. Expected completion date is December 1st.

Visit www.pvkansas.com/projects for more information.

### **Geothermal Project Complete**

The Geothermal Project was completed the last week of October. City Hall, the Police Station and the Community Center are now being heated and cooled using geothermal energy.

In the summer, heat will be extracted from the building's air and transferred underground into the wells. Heat from the warmer fluid will be absorbed by the cooler earth and cool fluid is returned to the building. In the winter, the process is reversed, heat is transferred from the fluid and that cooled fluid is pumped back underground. The fluid will then absorb heat from the earth and then will be pumped back to the building to continue the process.

The project was made possible by the City of Prairie Village, the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act and the Kansas Energy Office. Visit www.pvkansas.com/geothermal for more information.

### **City Prepares For Annual Snow**

Even though there should not be measureable snow for at least another month or so, the City Public Works Department has been busy preparing for the next season of snow and ice control for City streets. As you can see from the photograph, the City has purchased road salt at pre-season prices and filled the salt storage



building. In mid-September Public Works staff began their annual refresher training on the operation of specialized snow and ice control equipment. Public Works staff members are reviewing snow plow routes to make adjustments based on street changes and lessons learned from last year. Hopefully, we will return to an average snowfall this season, but Public Works will be ready if another year of heavy snow comes our way.

### **NOVEMBER**

In 1955, a handful of enthusiastic artists joined together and formed the Greater Kansas City Art Association. Its objective is to promote better understanding between artists and the public. Since then its membership has



reached over 200, with artistic skills ranging from the Sunday painter to those with listings in Who's Who of American Artists. A reception will be held on November 11th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

### **DECEMBER**

Richard Joslyn and Dr. William Herre will grace the halls of the R.G. Endres Gallery with their beautiful watercolors. A reception will be held on December 9th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.



Mark your calendar now to view these upcoming exhibits at the R.G. Endres Gallery and attend opening receptions honoring these talented artists. Gallery hours are Monday — Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Gallery is located in City Hall at 7700 Mission Rd.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

### **Protect Your Vehicles**



Over the last several months, there has been an increase in the theft of valuables from vehicles in Prairie Village. There have been several reports of valuable items stolen overnight from vehicles in driveways and on the street. There are no specific types of vehicles being targeted. Items taken from inside the vehicle are typically small electronics (iPods, GPS, cell phones, laptops etc.).

To help prevent these types of thefts in the future, you should follow these simple tips.

- Lock vehicles when you leave them.
- Be aware of strange people or vehicles in your neighborhood.
- Park your vehicles in the garage. If you must park in the driveway keep the vehicle well lit so neighbors and officers are able to see anyone around the vehicles.

- Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle overnight. If you must leave items in the vehicle, lock them in the trunk/glovebox out of sight.
- Record serial numbers of your valuables, including the stereo, and keep the numbers in a safe place (not in the vehicle).
- Do not hesitate to call 911 or the non-emergency Police line (913-642-5151) if you see or hear anything suspicious in your neighborhood.

The City needs you as an extra set of eyes and ears to help catch these thieves. If you have any questions or comments, contact Crime Prevention Officer Matt Boggs at mboggs@pvkansas.com or 913-385-4613.

# Prairie Village Citizens' Police Academy

The Prairie Village Citizens' Police Academy is a community-involved program designed to provide citizens with firsthand knowledge of the day-to-day operations of a modern police department.

The goal of the academy is to improve the relationship between the community and its police officers by "personalizing" the Department.

The Academy achieves this goal through lectures, visual aids and hands-on field work to give the attendees the ultimate insight into the functions of the Prairie Village Police Department.

The Academy is an 11-week course and meets once each

week. Citizens' Police Academy Graduates may be eligible to participate in a new Volunteers In Police Services (VIPS) program. This program utilizes volunteers from the community to assist the Department in providing various services to the community. If you are interested in attending the Citizens' Police Academy, download the application from the city website, www.pvkansas.com, and return it to the Prairie Village Police Department. For additional information, contact Sgt. Curt Winn at 913-385-4623 or e-mail at cwinn@pvkansas.com.

The next Citizens Police Academy will meet from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings starting February 8, 2012.

# **COMMUNITY CORNER**

### **Resident Spotlight**

### 9th 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. Three Prairie Village Community Spirit Awards were given out this year:

Mark Stiles received an award in the Resident category. He was recognized for the decades of work he has spent tending to the spectacular islands in Prairie Hills.

Mary and Marshall Rimann, Rimann's Liquors received an award in the Business category. This category recognizes businesses in Prairie Village who are making a difference in our community by giving back. They have become supportive partners of both the PV Arts Council and the PV Jazz Festival.



Kathy Peterson received an award in the Resident category and was described as "always ready to help when needed". She was honored based on her many years of volunteer service for the City with the skate park, the Parks & Recreation Committee, the Parks Master Plan and the Prairie Village Jazz Festival.

Thank you to those who took time to nominate and to this year's Judging Panel (Pat Daniels, Ann Parker Holmes, and Donna Potts).

### 50+ Programming at the Community Center



Get **FIT AND FEISTY** with an energizing morning workout of low impact aerobics and strength training. Exercises stretch and tone your body while providing an effective cardiovascular workout. Classes meet at the Prairie Village Community Center Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:15 am. A new

session will begin on 11/15 and will consist of 11-50 minute sessions. The price of this session is \$60 for Johnson County residents and \$69 for non-county residents.

Genealogy 101 will be taking place at the Prairie Village Community Center beginning on November 8th. The class will run

for 2 weeks, each week consisting of one 90 minute workshop. Come discover your family history! Start from scratch and learn the process of creating a written record of your immediate family and ancestors. Information on where to access records in your area and from internet sites is reviewed. Participants will receive reference material to assist further research. This session will run \$18 for Johnson County residents and \$20 for non-county residents.

These programs are brought to you by the Johnson County Park & Recreation District 50 Plus Program. Sign up for any program at least a week ahead of time at the Roeland Park office by calling (913) 826-3160.

### Neighborhood Food Drive a Success



At their annual picnic, residents of the Normandy Square neighborhood celebrate the success of their first-ever food drive, which brought in nearly 300 pounds of food to benefit Harvesters Food Network.

# **Long-time Residents**

We asked and you responded. There are a number of citizens who have lived in Prairie Village for over 50 years with a few established before it was even a city.

- George Ryan 1947
- Patti Welsh Churchill Nichols 1948
- John (Maurice) & Jeanne Brownlee 1949
- Evelvn Little 1950
- Tom Mailliard 1951
- James D & Elizabeth M Carney 1952
- Mrs. Max (Sue) DeWeese 1953
- Harvey & SuEllen Fried 1953
- Gloria & Alan Steinzeig 1954

- A.I. IoScalzo 1954
- Charlyne Rothman 1955
- Bob Chaney 1955
- Shirley Murray & Cecile Murray (sisters) - 1956
- Mary Gitchel 1957
- Don Chanev 1957
- Roma Tomlin 1958
- Alberta McGrath 1958

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

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US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 549
Shawnee Mission, KS

# **VILLAGE GREEN**

### GLASS RECYCLING CHALLENGE



The Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District is celebrating the 14th annual America Recycles Day and inviting metro area communities to celebrate along with them. The City of Prairie Village is partnering with MARC to promote glass recycling during the month of November.

Prairie Village Mayor Ron Shaffer challenged metro area communities to see who can recycle the most glass during the month of November. Based on Ripple Glass bin collections, Prairie Village is

the metro area's current glass-recycling leader. Help us win this challenge by recycling your glass at Corinth Square or Prairie Village Shops during November. Look for the purple Ripple Glass bins.

The nitty gritty on glass recycling from www.rippleglasskc.com

- Using recycled glass produces 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than creating new glass (or fiberglass) from raw materials
- Every ton of glass that's recycled results in more than one ton of raw materials saved
- Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light at 100-watt light bulb for four hours
- A six-pack of recycled beer bottles produces enough fiberglass insulation to fill a standard wall cavity

### **CITY CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### CITY HALL & MUNICIPAL COURT

7700 Mission Rd Quinn Bennion, City Administrator Dennis Enslinger, Assistant City Administrator Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director Bettina Jamerson, Court Administrator

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

7710 Mission Rd Wes Jordan, Chief of Police

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

3535 Somerset Dr Bruce McNabb, Public Works Director

