

VOICE

The Star of Kansas



Best Wishes to Mayor Ron Shaffer

Long time Prairie Village Mayor Ron Shaffer was elected in November to the Board of Johnson County Commissioners, and will step down from his post as Mayor in January 2015. Mayor Shaffer is a dedicated public servant and has graciously contributed his time and services to the people of Prairie Village since 1989. After serving as a City Council Member for ten years, he was elected as Mayor in 1999 and reelected for three more terms. In Prairie Village, the Mayor and Council Members are compensated \$1 per year, which emphasizes the true volunteer nature of the positions.

The Village Vision Plan, Parks Master Plan, and the recent enhancement of Corinth Square & Village Shops are just a few of the ways Mayor Shaffer has shaped the future of Prairie Village during his tenure at City Hall. His efforts have ensured that Prairie Village retains its unique identity and sense of community. Under Mayor Shaffer's direction, Prairie Village received a highly coveted AAA Bond Rating from Moody's Investors Services, and was routinely recognized as an exemplary city in the Kansas City metro region and the state of Kansas.

Mayor Shaffer has been a pillar of community involvement, serving on the board of directors for numerous organizations, including Mid America Regional Council, National Association of Regional Councils, Johnson & Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and the Johnson County Library Foundation, among many others.

In addition, Mayor Shaffer is a registered architect both in Kansas and Missouri, as well as 25 other states. He is principal of his firm, RLS Architects. He and his wife of 42 years, Jeannine, have three adult children and have made Prairie Village their home for almost four decades.

Mayor Shaffer has been recognized as an experienced leader; one who is devoted to ensuring the needs of the community meet and exceed expectations. These traits will serve him well as our County Commissioner. Our gratitude and thanks to Mayor Shaffer for his service to Prairie Village!

FEATURES:

3 Community Garden



4 Holiday Tree Disposal



7 2015 Trash & Yard Waste Calendar



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

As the holiday season comes to a close, I would like to thank the residents of Prairie Village for their outstanding generosity. As of December 15, 2014, more than \$8,000 has been donated to the Mayor's Holiday Tree Fund by area residents, businesses, and organizations. Since that date, even more donations have been received. These donations will go a long way in helping Prairie Village residents who need utility assistance, home repairs, or other vital needs throughout 2015.

The generosity of Prairie Village residents is just one of the reasons it has been my privilege to serve as Mayor over the past 16 years, and the preceding 10 years as a Council Member. As many may know, I was elected to serve you as your Johnson County Commissioner and will begin my term on January 12. I will step down as Mayor of Prairie Village at that time. The highlight of my tenure has been meeting with you citizens who choose to make Prairie Village their home. It has been an honor to represent you, my friends and neighbors.

In 2014, Prairie Village was recognized by Business Insider as one of "America's Best Suburbs" as well as the other honors listed on page 4. It is because of the dedication of our community's elected officials, city staff, and city volunteers that we received these honors. It has been my pleasure to work with them, past and present, over the years. As evidenced by the articles within this newsletter, many people work tirelessly to enhance and improve Prairie Village. Their passion for our city is inspirational.

In closing, I wish the City Council and the incoming interim Mayor success in their efforts to make Prairie Village a premier community in the Kansas City metropolitan region. And, I look forward to continuing to serve Prairie Village as your Johnson County Commissioner.

I wish you the best in 2015!

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor
Johnson County Commissioner-Elect

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Community Gardens – Not Too Early to Think Spring!

The Prairie Village Community Gardens had a fantastic third season and we want to make our fourth even better! For 2015, a few 4' by 20' and 4' by 10' garden plots will be available at the Harmon Park garden and one 4' by 20' plot is open at Global Montessori (75th & Cherokee). If you are interested in having your own plot to grow organic vegetables, you must attend one of the three informational meetings in January at the Community Center on the Municipal Campus at 7700 Mission Road:

- Monday, January 19th at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, January 22nd at 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 24th at 10 a.m.

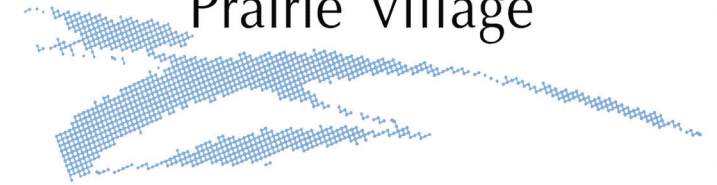
4' x 20' plots are \$40 and 4' x 10' plots are \$20. At the informational meetings, we will review the Garden Agreement, rules and procedures, and answer your questions. Plots will be awarded by lottery in early February. To be included in the lottery, you must have attended one of the sessions above, and sign and return the Agreement and Waiver with the fee. Prairie Village residency is required for plots at Harmon Park.



Nominations Being Accepted for Arbor Day Honoree

The Prairie Village Tree Board is accepting nominations for this year's Arbor Day Honoree. This is an opportunity for the community to recognize the efforts and contributions of outstanding citizens who have made a difference in Prairie Village. Nominees must be current or former Prairie Village residents. Their efforts should have had a positive and lasting impact on the community; they may be living or deceased individuals or couples and may have served the community in any capacity. Nominations will be accepted until February 27, 2015. You may obtain nomination forms online at www.pvkansas.com or at the Municipal Offices. Nominations received after that date will be considered for the following year. Nominations will be considered for three years before being removed from consideration.

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village



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 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Gallery is located in City Hall at 7700 Mission Rd.

JANUARY

Greater Kansas City Art Association is a non-profit organization that meets monthly. The group promotes fellowship among local artists and provides yearly scholarships to high school seniors studying the arts. Our membership shares information and provides continuing education.

A reception will be held on January 9th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with awards presented at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Kermit Dyer's passion is painting World War II military aircraft in watercolors. He donates all proceeds as a way of thanking those who have served their country to the Heartland Honor Flight, the Tuskegee Airmen Youth Fund, and the local chapter of the Commemorative Air Force.

Edward Harper took many courses in sketching and watercolor while in college. He started painting in 1999. Mr. Harper's painting style is representational or realistic. Currently he teaches watercolor classes at the Village Church in Prairie Village to artists of all levels.

A reception will be held on February 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

PV HAPPENINGS

How to Dispose of Your Holiday Tree

The holidays have come and gone, and the time to un-deck the halls has arrived. Prairie Village residents have several options for live tree disposal.

Deffenbaugh Industries will pick up live trees at the curbside for the first two weeks in January 2015. Trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half prior to removal. The trees will be picked up with other compost/yard waste items on each resident's typical trash pickup date.

Additionally, the City sponsors a tree recycling program which runs through January 20th. Trees may be placed in designated areas of Porter, Franklin and Taliaferro Parks. Trees must be free of all lights, ornaments, stands, metal nails, etc. as these items will damage the chipping machine. Residents may take the chips for their own use.

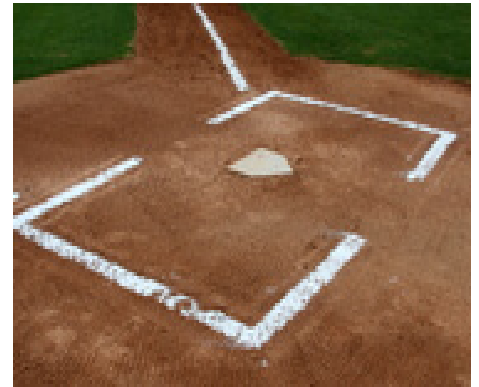
Rankings & Recognition

The City of Prairie Village was recognized for its excellence by a variety of publications in 2014, including:

- Top Five—America's Best Suburbs, 2014 (Business Insider)
- Best Suburb—Best of Kansas City, 2014 (Pitch Magazine)
- eCity of Kansas, 2014 (Google)
- Safest City in Kansas, 2014 (Movoto Real Estate)
- Top Five—Safest Cities in Kansas, 2014 (Safe Choice Security)
- Top Ten—Safest Cities in Kansas, 2014 (SafeWise)
- Top Ten—Most Exciting Places in Kansas, 2014 (Movoto Real Estate)
- Tree City USA, 2014 (17 years running) (Arbor Day Foundation)
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (26 years running) (GFOA)
- Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (26 years running) (GFOA)
- Achievement for Popular Annual Financial Reporting (2 years running) (GFOA)

Reserve a Ball Field for Your Team

Baseball season will be here before you know it, and ball fields in Prairie Village are always in demand. Make plans now to reserve a practice field for your team. The City of Prairie Village allows reservations of ball fields for soccer, baseball, and softball



practices. Prairie Village teams (those with a majority of players who are Prairie Village residents or attend school in Prairie Village) will be given priority for field reservations, but any team may apply to reserve a field. Teams can reserve two practice times per week for up to 1 ½ hours. Fields are available in Porter, Franklin, Windsor, and Taliaferro Parks. If your team reserved a field during 2014, your coach should receive a 2015 application form. You may also obtain one at the Municipal Offices or online at www.pvkansas.com under Leisure & Lifestyle>>Recreation Programs. Applications for the spring season are due January 16th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
January 19th	Offices Closed for Holiday	All Day	
January 20th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers
February 2nd	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers
February 16th	Offices Closed for Holiday	All Day	
February 17th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers

File for Mayoral Race

The mayoral position is the only City of Prairie Village election on the April 7, 2015 general election ballot. Persons interested in filing for office should contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464 or send an email to cityclerk@pvkansas.com. The filing deadline is noon on January 27, 2015.

PV HAPPENINGS

Mark Your Calendar Now for Large Item Pick-up

- **Saturday, April 11, 2015 for Residents on 75th Street and North**
- **Saturday, April 18, 2015 for Residents South of 75th Street**

Large items must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. and no larger than a standard-size refrigerator. Deffenbaugh will also pick up refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and ice makers. Please place these items several feet away from non-refrigerants.

Residents are also allowed to set out one bulky item per month (no larger than a microwave). Bulky items are collected during the first full week of the month. See the Yard Waste & Bulky Item Calendar on page 7 for more details.



Save the Date for the 2015 Earth Fair

The 2015 Earth Fair will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Shawnee Mission East High School. Brought to you by the Prairie Village Environment & Recycling Committee and Shawnee Mission East High School, this event features a wide variety of exhibitors, family fun entertainment, educational presentations, food trucks, and more.

Volunteer for VillageFest 2015



The VillageFest Planning Committee will have its first meeting of the year on Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at City Hall, 7700 Mission Road. The committee will continue to meet on the 4th Thursday of each month through July. If you would like to participate on the committee or would like additional information, please contact Meghan Buum at 913-385-4662 or mbuum@pvkansas.com.

2014 Citizens Police Academy

The 2014 Citizens Police Academy graduation ceremony was conducted at the City Council meeting on December 15, 2014. The Academy had 13 participants including two Council Members. The course of instruction provided them all with an opportunity to learn about the Department and become more familiar with police operations. Mayor Ron Shaffer and Police Chief Wes Jordan presented participants with their certificates and they were recognized by the City Council for their dedication and successful completion of the Academy.



Photo Credit: PVPost.com

PUBLIC WORKS

City Prepares for Winter Storms

The City's Public Works Department follows a priority system for removing snow and ice from the City's streets. Crews work 12-hour shifts throughout a winter storm to provide 24 hour coverage. The City has 8 trucks working to clear streets.

Priority Level	Streets Treated	Details
1	Main Roadways	Typically high traffic volume multilane roads (i.e. 75th St, Mission, Roe, Nall).
2	Collector Streets	Typically two lane streets within neighborhoods (i.e. 79th St, 83rd St)
3	Residential Streets & Cul-de-sacs	Plowed after snowfall and after Priority 1 and Priority 2 streets are cleared. If plowing is not required, the City will spread materials only.

How You Can Help

- Stay back a least 50' from the rear of a plow truck so the driver can see you.
- Park your vehicles in your driveway. If you must park on the street, park on the even-numbered side of the street.
- Avoid placing snow from your driveway back into the street or the sidewalk.
- Clear sidewalks adjacent to your property. Property owners are responsible for removing ice and snow from the sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours from the time that the snow or ice storm ends. The City does not plow sidewalks or driveways unless it is part of City-owned property

Contact the Public Works Department at 913-385-4647 or publicworks@pvkansas.com with questions regarding snow removal.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2014, the City's Police and Public Works Departments joined forces in an effort to reduce citizen complaints and increase driver compliance at marked crosswalks around Prairie Village.

Highlights include:

- Enhancement of painted markings at several mid-block crosswalks for more visibility;
- Installation of pedestrian-activated flashing beacons at the crosswalk leading to Weltner Park;
- Temporary deployment of electronic sign boards reminding drivers to yield to pedestrians at various crosswalks, and
- Addition of new warning signs for the crosswalk at 83rd and Juniper.

In addition, the Traffic Unit conducted crosswalk enforcement operations at frequent complaint areas near shopping centers, parks, and school zones. Each enforcement operation was an opportunity to educate community members about Kansas crosswalk laws and to enforce violations. Unfortunately, 62 citations were issued to drivers for failing to yield to pedestrians using crosswalks during the enforcement operations. This violation carries a \$110 fine, plus court costs, and State fees if convicted.

The Kansas crosswalk laws state:

- When traffic-control signals are not in place, or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian entering or crossing the roadway within a crosswalk
- When a traffic-control signal exhibits the words "walk," or a symbol of a "walking person," pedestrians shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

The City of Prairie Village cannot do this alone. We ask all drivers to help us improve traffic safety by looking out for pedestrians using crosswalks and stopping or slowing so they may cross safely – a few seconds could save a life! More information on crosswalk signs, flashing warning beacons, and other traffic regulations can be found at www.pvkansas.com >> City Government >> Departments>>Police Department >> Traffic Regulations.



Yard Waste & Bulky Item Collection 2015

Denotes Bulky Item/Holiday Delay

Denotes Small Bulky Item Week

Denotes Holiday Delay

January 8 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 8 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 12 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 12 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 8 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 8 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Large Item Pick-up is April 11th for 75th St./North of 75th St. and April 18th for South of 75th St.

July 8 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 12 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 12 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 12 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 12 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 8 Yard Waste Items

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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

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Reader Feedback

Please send your comments to:
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913-385-4662

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Holiday Events a Great Success

The Prairie Village Municipal Foundation would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and organizations that helped make the Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting, Shop with a Cop, and the Gingerbread House Parties possible. Because of their efforts, the Municipal Foundation will be able to provide vital needs to our community in 2015.

American Family Insurance
Bank of Prairie Village
Brighton Gardens
BRGR
Corinth Elementary School Choir
Corinth Square Merchant's Association
Cosentino's
Creative Lighting
Dancerz Unlimited
Euston Hardware
First National Bank
Great Harvest Bread Co
Hattie's Fine Coffee

Hen House
Hy-Vee
Intrust Bank
Johnny's Tavern
LegaC Properties
Laura Little's Candies
Macy's
Mely's Yogurt and Ice Cream
Minsky's Pizza
Mr. Goodcents
Notes to Self, LLC
Rick Stuart



Shawnee Mission East football team &
Coach Dustin Delaney
SPIN! Pizza
Sopra Salon & Day Spa
Target Greatland
Tavern in the Village
The Salty Iguana
The Village Dentist
UMB Bank
Urban Table
Wooten Liquor
...and the many volunteers who helped at each event!

CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

CITY HALL & MUNICIPAL COURT

7700 Mission Rd
Quinn Bennion, City Administrator
Kate Gunja, Assistant City Administrator
Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk
Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director

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7710 Mission Rd
Wes Jordan, Chief of Police

PUBLIC WORKS

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Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director

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