



# Mayor's Message

## *Best wishes to a long-time friend!*

On behalf of the City of Prairie Village, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and best wishes to City Attorney Charles E. Wetzler on his retirement from the City on July 7th after 35 years as City Attorney.

Charlie has served the City since his graduation from the University of Kansas Law School in 1963. In December of 1963 he was appointed to serve as City Prosecutor. After seven years as City Prosecutor, he was appointed to the position of Municipal Judge. In 1973, he became the City's second City Attorney serving with seven Mayors.

Charlie has been instrumental in the growth and development of this City, writing most of the City's municipal code and initial zoning regulations, defending and protecting the rights of the City and providing guidance and direction to City Council and City staff. His expertise in municipal law, land use, zoning, employment issues and public safety has served us well over the 45 years. Thank you, Charlie - We will miss you.

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

## Stormwater Utility Fee

The City of Prairie Village has initiated the process of establishing a stormwater utility. One of the services the City of Prairie Village provides is stormwater management. This is accomplished through the construction and maintenance of a stormwater management system comprised of curbs, gutters, inlets, pipes, and drainage channels located both under and above-ground throughout the City.

maintaining this system will likely fall on the City and require financing through the General Fund.

An alternative method for funding stormwater management costs is to establish a stormwater utility fee. This approach has been used in cities across the country and in Johnson County including Mission, Fairway, Overland Park, Lenexa, and Shawnee. The purpose of the stormwater utility is to create a dedicated revenue stream to finance stormwater projects

utility fees may be assessed on all properties, regardless of their taxable status.

As proposed, fees will be based on the square feet of impervious area on a property. It is proposed that single family residential properties be charged a fee based on the footprint of the residence including the garage plus the area of the driveway. Commercial, institutional, and some multi-family properties would be charged a fee representing the actual amount of impervious area. In Johnson County, stormwater utility fees range from \$0.01 to \$0.10 per impervious square foot per year. Fee revenue must be placed in a separate fund and used only for stormwater management purposes.

The fee for Prairie Village will be established by the City Governing Body during the budget session. The fee will be discussed by City Council and staff during budget meetings in July. If approved, the fee would be placed on the property tax bills starting in December 2008.

For more information contact Bob Pryzby at [bpryzby@pvkansas.com](mailto:bpryzby@pvkansas.com) or 913-385-4640.

## Did You Know?

- **Our stormwater system includes 3,773 drainage structures and 66.4 miles of storm drainage facilities.**
- **The City's Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of the City's stormwater management system.**
- **A stormwater utility fee is proposed for each property in Prairie Village in 2009.**

The 2008 Capital Improvement Program contains \$891,000 for drainage projects. This cost is expected to increase 5% annually. Because most of the City's large-scale stormwater projects have been completed, the entire cost of

based on a fee structure linking the amount of stormwater runoff created by property owners to the amount of money these property owners pay toward upkeep of the system. Unlike the property tax, stormwater