

**City Office Closings**

City offices will be closed on **Monday, January 17th** in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. As always, emergency services will be available.

Deffenbaugh, the City's solid waste and recycling contractor, will also be observing this holiday, so **trash pick-up will be one day late the week of January 17th.**



**Everyone May Participate**

If any individual requires an accommodation to participate in public meetings, contact the City Clerk's Office at 381-6464 (TDD 1-800-766-3777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.

**Start Planning for that Summer Job NOW!!!**

If you will be at least 16 years old by August, 2000 and would like to be a lifeguard at the Prairie Village Pool this Summer, here's your chance. If you worked at the Prairie Village Pool last Summer and would like to return, apply today and try to lock-in that Summer job now. If you are not a certified lifeguard, but would like to be, call Tom Kirk at 913-381-6464 to learn about lifeguard training courses which will be taught this Winter.

For more information or an employment application, call 913-381-6464.

**New Permit Fees for Work in the Right-of-Way**

On October 18th the City Council passed a Right-of-way Management Ordinance. This ordinance was adopted to recognize the City's role as chief steward of the public right-of-way and its duty to citizens to recover the cost of managing the right-of-way. With increased pressure by utilities for space in the right-of-way, the City Council found it necessary to clarify and regulate the way both utility companies and residents affect the right-of-way.

To the utility companies and private contractors, the ordinance requires a permit for all work except routine activities that do not involve excavation. Utility companies and contractors will also be required to provide liability insurance, performance bonds, and will pay a fee of \$60.00 per permit, plus a degradation fee to compensate the City for the impact the excavation will have on the City's pavement.

For the residential property owner working in the right-of-way adjacent to his or her residence and who does not utilize a contractor to perform the work, a permit will be required for activities such as the installation of lawn sprinklers, removal of trees, planting of trees and shrubs, and the placement of any fixture in the City right-of-way. The permit fee is \$25.00. The degradation fee will apply only if the work disturbs the pavement. If the resident hires a contractor, the permit fee is \$60.00.

If you are planning a project which may include work in the right-of-way, contact the Public Works Department at 913-385-4647 before you begin to determine whether or not you need to obtain a permit.



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**A New Look for a New Millennium!**

One of the first things you'll notice about the January, 2000 issue of the *Prairie Village Report* is that the name of the City's newsletter has changed. It's now called the *Prairie Village Voice*. While the City's Communications Committee was working on a new design for the front page of the City's newsletter, committee members felt it was time to change the newsletter's name as well. After lengthy discussion and many revisions, the name *Prairie Village Voice* was selected. This is because the goal of the City's newsletter is to do much more than simply

report on the activities of City government. The newsletter also seeks to provide Prairie Village residents and businesses with information about events in the community and an opportunity to contact their elected officials and City staff to express their thoughts, ideas, concerns, and even compliments.

We hope you like the new name and look of the *Prairie Village Voice*.

**Bob Endres - An Original**

The halls of the Prairie Village Municipal Offices were crowded with art lovers as Kwan Wu, whose work was exhibited in the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery last month, fashioned a bust of Bob Endres, long-time Prairie Village Arts Council member for whom the Gallery is named.



**Villagefest  
2000  
Volunteers  
Needed**



**Villagefest**, the City's annual 4th of July community celebration, is gearing up for its fourth year. Once again, volunteers are needed to help make Villagefest 2000 another smashing success. Planning meetings will begin soon. If you're interested in serving on the Villagefest 2000 committee, please contact the receptionist at 913-381-6464 and leave your name, address, and telephone number so Villagefest 2000 co-chairs Trinda Young Elsloo and Wendy Burton may contact you.

## Mayor's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Prairie Village residents who participated in the citizen survey which was conducted in early November. Your responses have been collected and tabulated, and they will be of great assistance to myself and the City Council as we work together to develop a new Strategic Plan for Prairie Village and in our annual budgeting decisions.

Overall, your responses to the survey questions were very encouraging. For example, the vast majority of Prairie Village residents (97%) were satisfied with the quality of life in Prairie Village, and even more (99%) were proud to be residents of Prairie Village. These are truly astounding statistics. However, as much as the City Council and I would like to take sole credit for these responses, we recognize that it takes much more than the efforts of thirteen men and women to make a City successful. It takes the hard work of all the City's employees, the many Prairie Village residents who volunteer their time and talents to serve on City committees, and those who are active in their homes associations and neighborhoods. It is only through the concerted efforts of the entire community that Prairie Village can continue to be the great place we call "home."

The survey responses also revealed issues with which you are concerned. When asked which City services should receive the most attention from City leaders over the next two years, the top three issues were:

1. Maintenance of City streets/buildings/facilities;
2. Management of stormwater runoff; and
3. Enforcement of City Codes and Ordinances



This type of information is extremely important to the City Council and City staff because it allows us to determine where we should focus our energies and resources in the future. At this time I cannot tell you exactly what the City will do to specifically address these concerns, but I can tell you that we will closely examine them in both the City's Strategic Plan and budgeting process.

Again, thank you for participating in the City's survey. Your responses and comments really do make a difference. If you would like to view the full report of findings from the survey, copies are available in the City Clerk's Office.

But please remember, responding to a survey is not your only opportunity to communicate your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Feel free to contact me, your City Council representatives, or City staff at any time. We're here to listen to you.

Ronald L. Shaffer  
Mayor

## Holiday Tree Recycling Program

The City will once again sponsor a Holiday Tree Recycling Program for Prairie Village residents. Trees may be dropped in the designated areas of Porter, Franklin, and Meadowlake Parks, and in the Harmon Park parking lot near the water tower. The trees must be free of all lights, ornaments, stands, and any metal nails, etc. as these items will damage the chipping machine. Residents may take the chips for their own use.



The program will continue until **Monday, January 24th.**

## Happy Birthday Kansas!!



Come and celebrate the birthday of the Sunflower state on **Thursday, January 27th, 3:30 p.m. at the Corinth Library** where kids ages 4 - 6 can learn about their home state and enjoy the party. For more information, contact the Corinth Library at 913-967-8650. Registration begins January 13th.

## Prairie Village Animal Control has a New Look

At the end of August Emily Marten, and then at the end of September Michele Craig came on-board as new Community Service Officers. They are committed to serving the community by making it safe for people and animals to live together compatibly.

Some of their goals are:

1. Ensuring that all pets in Prairie Village are properly licensed as required by City ordinance.
2. Helping neighbors become good "pet" neighbors, by mediating concerns such as dog barking, dog and cat "roaming" and removal of animal feces, all of which are controlled under various City ordinances
3. To help educate the public about wildlife, to help them to see the uniqueness and beauty of these creatures, and to learn how to share their "space" with them.

Emily and Michelle want to be as accessible to residents as possible. Currently one of them is on duty seven days a week, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday, and from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. You may also leave a voice mail for Emily or Michelle at 913-642-6868 ext. 4898 and one of them will return your call as soon as possible. If you have an emergency situation at any time, please contact Police Dispatch by calling 9-1-1.



Emily Marten



Michele Craig

## Pool Renovation Update

Public Works Director Bob Pryzby reports that the pool renovation project is right on schedule for a Memorial Day weekend opening of the **new and improved** Prairie Village Pool. The above normal temperatures throughout October and November have helped keep the project on-track.

The old wading and yard pools are long gone, and the new pools are starting to take shape. At the time the *Prairie Village Voice* went to press, the walls of the leisure pool were being poured, a new gutter system in the diving well had been installed, and the North filter house (below the diving well) had been filled with 178 cubic yards of concrete. Let's all hope this Winter will be a mild one and the project will stay on schedule.



Stay tuned to future issues of the *Prairie Village Voice* for more updates as the pool renovations move toward completion. The Parks & Recreation Committee is already hard at work planning opening festivities to welcome pool patrons to their new "Summer home."

## City Adopts New Construction Codes

Attention contractors and do-it-yourself-ers!! The City of Prairie Village recently adopted a new set of building and construction codes. They are:

- 1997 Uniform Building Code
- 1997 International Plumbing Code
- 1998 International Mechanical Code
- 1999 National Electric Code

Before starting any remodeling or other home improvement projects, please call the Codes Administration Department at 913-381-6464 to find out if your project will require a construction permit.

