

Thanks, Trinda

Classic. Smiley. Awesome. Energizer Bunny.

These were all words used recently to describe **Trinda Young Elsloo**, one of Prairie Village's most active volunteers. During the opening ceremonies at Villagefest 2001 on July 4th, Mayor Shaffer presented Trinda with a key to the City and a proclamation expressing the City's gratitude for her service to Prairie Village.

Trinda's community involvement in Prairie Village went into high gear in February, 1994 when she was appointed to the Prairie Village Arts Council by Mayor Roe Tailaferro. In 1997, she was appointed Chair of the Prairie Village Arts Council where she, along with other volunteers, organized community arts events such as the "Pave the Patio" project which placed engraved bricks in the Community Center patio; the development of the R.G. Endres Gallery in the Municipal Offices; and the Children's Celebration Mural which was recently installed in the Prairie Village Community Center.



Trinda speaks at Villagefest 2001



However, Trinda is perhaps best known for her role in the creation and continuation of Villagefest, which began in 1997. After co-chairing the parade committee for the City's 45th Anniversary Celebration in 1996, Trinda wanted to re-establish a traditional 4th of July celebration in Prairie Village. The rest, as they say, is history. Since 1997, Trinda has recruited and led a team of more than 200 volunteers to organize programs, plan events, and keep the City's annual Fourth of July Celebration running smoothly.

In fact, Trinda's recognition has reached beyond Prairie Village's city limits. In 1997 the *Kansas City Star* recognized Trinda as a "Community Star" for her efforts to bring celebrations of community spirit and neighborhoods to Prairie Village.

Unfortunately, Trinda has decided to leave Prairie Village and move to Oklahoma. Although her spirit of community volunteerism will be sorely missed, she leaves behind wonderful memories, a heightened sense of community in Prairie Village, and a ready and able group of dedicated volunteers to continue the Villagefest tradition.

Trinda, thanks for everything you've done for Prairie Village!! You've made a lasting impact on our community.

Mayor's Message



Prairie Village is 50 years young this year! Incorporated as a City on February 19, 1951, the City has come a long way. Turning fifty years old definitely deserves a celebration and the Golden Anniversary Committee has planned one.

Throughout the Summer, the Committee, led by Diana Ewy Lamberson, Steve Noll and volunteers Kay Callison, Kelly Taylor, Roger Peugeot, Barbara Barickman and John Pepper, have encouraged neighborhoods to have block parties by giving away party kits. This is a great way to celebrate the City's birthday and to get to know your neighbors. So far, several neighborhoods have organized block parties.

Many of us live such busy lives that we neglect becoming acquainted with our neighbors. These neighbors can become good friends and great allies. They can watch your home while you are away, provide great conversation over dinner, or even be there when you need to borrow a cup of sugar or a couple of eggs. So don't pass up those block parties. Get out and have a good time!

But wait...we're not through celebrating yet...there's more! On Saturday, September 15th, at 10:00 a.m. the Committee is planning a 50th Anniversary Parade. It's sure to be enjoyable watching the brightly colored floats pass by. And better yet, what a perfect time to get together with your neighbors and show your community spirit by being part of the parade!

After 50 years, Prairie Village is still a great place to live. Our community spirit and pride are still as strong today as they were a half-century ago, and that makes me very proud to be the Mayor of Prairie Village. To learn more about how you can get involved, call Lori Draves at 913-381-6464 or email ldraves@pvkansas.com.

Happy 50th Anniversary Prairie Village!

Ron Shaffer
Mayor

Everybody Loves a Parade

Don't miss the **Golden Anniversary Parade** on **Saturday, September 15, 2001**. At 10:00 a.m. the Parade will start at Prairie School and head South on Mission Road to the Municipal Campus. Our theme is, *Saluting our heritage...Celebrating the present... Launching our future.*

To make the parade a great success we're inviting the entire community to join us in this celebration. This is a great opportunity to get your family, business, school, church or social group involved. Decorate a float, a pick-up, flat bed truck, or other vehicle. The possibilities are endless! If you are interested in participating, call Diane Mares, Parade Chairman at 913-381-6464, extension 4288.

Don't Have a Cow, Man

Did you ever think you'd see cows in Prairie Village?

CowParade has finally arrived in the metro area and Prairie Village is included. If you haven't done so already, stop by the Prairie Village Shopping Center to view nine of the 205 cows on display throughout the metro.

This lifesize art made of fiberglass is lots of fun for all ages. The cows will be on display through September 14th. This Fall the cows will be sold at auction. Proceeds will benefit youth education programs at the Kemper Museum of Art, the Kansas City Zoo, and the American Royal.



Psycowdelicowwow

Key Chains and Water Bottles Now On Sale

In honor of the City's 50th Anniversary key chains and water bottles are on sale at the City Clerk's office. **Key chains are \$3.00** and **Water bottles are \$2.00**. Stop by and get yours while supplies last!



Prairie Village: 50 Years of Memories

As part of celebrating Prairie Village's history, we've combed the City's archives in search of the "burning issues of the day" in Prairie Village. This excerpt, from an article printed in 1976, describes Charlie Wetzler's first case as City Prosecutor.

The Ringing of the Bells

By Charles Wetzler – City Attorney

During the period of 1963 until 1975, I had the opportunity to serve the Prairie Village Municipal Court, first as city prosecutor and later as municipal judge. This experience gave me a first-hand view of all sides of our community life. Most municipal court cases involve alleged traffic offenders, shoplifters, and leash law violators. These cases are important to the parties involved but certainly don't attract attention outside the city limits of Prairie Village. However, there was one municipal court case that not only received attention in the local news media, but also was described in national publications, including **The New York Times**.

This particular action was commenced by a complaint being filed by a citizen of Prairie Village alleging that a priest serving a church within the city "disturbed his peace" by allowing the church bells to be rung at 7 a.m. The complaining citizen alleged that his job required him to be up late at night and that he was awakened prematurely each day by these bells. I had been city prosecutor about 10 days when this complaint was filed and I quickly determined it was my duty to prosecute the case with "vigor." Public reaction to the complaint was torrid. I received numerous calls expressing every possible view on the loudness as well as the soothing effect of these bells. The call I best remember was from the "accused priest" who requested permission not to be present for the hearing because it was his regular bowling night and he was the captain of the bowling team. I gladly told him that he need not appear since I was sure he would be well represented at the hearing by his attorney and his congregation.

The trial drew the largest crowd ever assembled in a municipal court hearing in Prairie Village. The setting was the old city hall, located in the basement of the Safeway store (now Hen House in the Prairie Village Shopping Center), where there was a standing room only crowd with people even standing on the outside stairwell and sidewalk in front of the building. The show was

presided over by Judge Harry Roark, who served faithfully as municipal judge of Prairie Village for approximately 20 years. Judge Roark had the advantage of not being a law school graduate and he decided cases on the basis of good judgment and common sense and not legal technicalities. A photographer from the Squire publications received permission from Judge Roark to be present in the courtroom to capture the action of the event on film. The crowd was divided in seating location in accordance with their views on the harshness of the bells and their religious preference.

The case started by the complaining witness explaining in great detail how his sleeping routine was disturbed each morning by those "horrendous bells." The attorneys paraded many witnesses across the witness stand who either described the harshness of the bells or how pleasant the bells made their lives. The thought that kept crossing my mind was how I would like to be bowling with the priest. I can still hear the crux of my closing argument, which was printed in **The New York Times**: "Most people would find the voice of Caruso pleasing to the ear, but I am sure you would not want him singing an aria in your bedroom window each morning at 7 a.m."

Apparently, Judge Roark was not impressed with my argument but was more impressed by his own personal poll that was taken prior to the trial. His poll indicated that there were more people in the community that liked the bells than were opposed to their ringing, and he quickly found the accused priest "not guilty." During his remarks, the Judge obtained a commitment from the church to change the bell ringing ritual to a later hour, which commitment has been kept to this day. The complaining witness changed his sleeping hours and work habits to correspond with the ringing of the bells. Although the new city prosecutor lost his first case, justice once again prevailed in the Prairie Village Municipal Court.

Prairie Village Notes

New Pool Hours Begin August 15th

Due to the start of school for Shawnee Mission students, the pools will be operating on a reduced schedule. The new Pool hours will be:

Monday – Friday

4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
*depending on lifeguard
availability*

Saturday

11:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday

11:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The Pool will close for the season at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 3rd.



Everyone May Participate

If any individual requires an accommodation to participate in public meetings, contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464 (TDD 1-800-766-3777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.



Crossing Guard Needed

The City of Prairie Village is seeking a School Crossing Guard for the 2001-2002 school year at Trailwood Elementary School, 95th Street & Roe, morning and afternoon sessions daily. Morning sessions are from 7:30 - 8:10 a.m. and afternoon sessions are from 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. This position is for the nine-month school year and pays \$362 per month (mid-August through the end of May). Uniforms and training are provided. EOE. For more information contact Sgt. John Womer or Jennifer Wright at 913-642-6868 or send an e-mail to jobs@pvkansas.com.

Public Information Meeting August 20th --74th Street Low Water Crossing

The City Council recently received a report outlining four options for addressing safety and flooding problems at the low water crossing on 74th Street between Tomahawk and Village Drive.

The options identified in the engineer's report include:

1. Constructing a bridge over Brush Creek on 74th Street between Tomahawk and Village Drive – estimated cost, \$1.3 million
2. Eliminate the low water crossing on 74th Street – estimated cost, \$119,000
3. Install automated floodgates - estimated cost, \$170,000
4. Do nothing – \$0

To obtain resident input on this issue, the City Council will conduct a public information meeting on Monday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. For more information contact Kevin Bruemmer at 913-385-4646 or send an e-mail to publicworks@pvkansas.com.

Park Vandalism

Earlier this Summer, vandals damaged facilities in several City parks, causing an estimated \$3,000 – \$5,000 in damage. Newly planted trees, including memorial trees, have been damaged at several parks. Fires have been set on park tables and benches. Most noticeable has been the dumping of liquid soap into the fountain at Franklin Park. As a result, this fountain has been damaged and taken out of service. If you witness individuals damaging park facilities, contact the Police Department immediately by dialing 9-1-1.

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