

Meet Wilma Weakley – Long-Time Prairie Village Resident

Wilma Weakley has lived on the same block in Prairie Village for 75 years.

She and her husband, Arvel, brought along a picnic basket when they came out to Johnson County in 1926 to look at a piece of property to buy. They didn't have a car at that time, so they rode the streetcar to 75th and Wornall in Kansas City, Missouri. Then they walked West on 75th Street past the state line to the Thorne farm at 74th and what is now Booth. After looking at the property, the newlyweds ate their lunch on the hill and walked back to the streetcar line. Wilma remembers thinking how far out the property was.

At first, they lived in the small house on the property. Arvel drew plans and built their current home next door. His friends at Power and Light, where he worked for 42 years before retiring as production manager, helped pour the concrete for the house. Arvel did the rest himself. He cut every block of the orchard stone for the fireplace, did the stone work on the outside of the house, and put wood paneling on the interior walls and ceilings. It took him seven years to complete the house!

While living in their first house, they had their first son, Jack, who is now a retired electrician living in Bucyrus, Kansas. After moving into their new home, their second son, Jerry was born. He is a vice president of Baker University.

Wilma belonged to a Coffee Klatch made up of 17 neighborhood women who met weekly for many years. She worked at the Red Cross in Prairie Village for six years, and was employed by Robert and Ann Zell at the Prairie Village Gift Shop (where Bag and Baggage luggage is today.)



An accomplished organist, cook, pinochle player and world traveler, Wilma says, "This is a wonderful place, and they tell me the 50th anniversary parade is not until September. My son has a white convertible, and I hope we'll be in it."

Recognizing Hazardous Trees

When damage, injury or death occurs because of a defective tree, the law usually holds the tree's owner responsible. It is the duty of a tree owner to exercise care, good judgment, caution, and foresight by inspecting trees regularly and recognizing situations that may cause them to break or fall.

What is a hazardous tree? A hazardous tree has a structural defect that may cause the tree or a portion of the tree to fall on someone or something else of value.

What is not a hazardous tree? This is a legal gray area, but for a tree to be a hazard, a "target" must be within falling distance of the tree or its part that falls.

To look for hazardous conditions, inspect the tree closely:

Examine the Top and Crown

- Different species are more brittle.

- Are there dead limbs larger than 2-inches?
- Does the tree have a history of breakage?
- Is the tree dying?
- Do limbs cross and rub?

Check the Trunk

- Inspect fork trunks for weakness.
- Look for signs of decay.
- Is the tree unbalanced?
- Examine wounds and cracks.

Look at the roots.

- Look for mushrooms growing near the trunk.
- Have any of the roots been severed by excavation?

This article is presented by the Tree Board using information from Tree City USA of which the City is a member. Questions may be directed to Public Works at 3535 Somerset Drive, Prairie Village, KS 66208, phone 913-385-4647, or e-mail publicworks@pvkansas.com.

Mayor's Message



One of the aspects about being Mayor I enjoy most is the opportunity to speak to citizens about current events in the City. Sometimes these conversations come in the form of a phone call, while waiting in line at the grocery store, or at other events in the community. These discussions not only highlight

the interest Prairie Village residents have in the community, they also bring out some common questions such as:

- How much of the City's revenue comes from property taxes?
- How much does the City spend on streets and storm drainage projects?
- Are property values increasing?
- Are residents involved in the daily activities of the community?

One of the ways the City attempts to answer these questions is through the Annual Report, a document which summarizes the City's activities and accomplishments, and provides financial information about how the City spends *our* money. The Annual Report also provides elected officials, City employees, and citizens with a reference guide to questions about Prairie Village.

The 2000 Annual Report was recently published and presented to the City Council. Although the Annual Report is a document nearly 120 pages long, it is organized in an easy to read format, and an eight-page summary can provide useful information to answer many of your questions. Copies of the 2000 Annual Report summary are available at the City Clerk's Office and the city's web site, www.pvkansas.com.

By the way:

- Approximately 17% of the City's revenue comes from property taxes.
- During 2000, the City spent over \$5.3 million in infrastructure improvements, or 34% of total City costs.
- During 2000, property values increased 6.5%.
- More than 100 residents are actively serving on committees and assist with community events.

I hope you will take an opportunity to review the City's Annual Report. And as always, if you have any questions about City operations or programs, contact me, your City Council representatives, City staff, or send me an e-mail at mayor@pvkansas.com.

Ron Shaffer

Mayor

50th Anniversary Book Sub-Committee Needs Your Help!

The Prairie Village 50th Anniversary Book Sub-Committee would like you to share a favorite memory, story, date or photograph to be considered for submission in the history of Prairie Village book being created in conjunction with Prairie Village's 50th anniversary. Please contact Jan Marsh at (913) 262-7335 or (913) 530-9187 or e-mail at janmar@msn.com about your submission or if you'd like to volunteer your time and talents to the committee.

April 2001 in the R.G. Endres Gallery

Artist **John Ochs** will exhibit a collection of his work this month at the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery. His recent series of paintings are entitled *Intuition*. He uses abstracts or non-figurative forms and color to create his artwork. He has numerous pieces in corporate collections at the Sprint World Headquarters, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Johnson County Community College. The R. G. Endres Gallery is open Monday-Thursday 8am-7pm and Fridays 8am-5pm. This exhibit will be on display throughout the month of April.

Arts
COUNCIL
Prairie Village



Tornado Safety Tips

Throughout the Spring and Summer, the potential for severe weather is present. The National Weather Service indicates that April to June is the peak tornado season for both Kansas and Missouri.

Johnson County Emergency Management offers this advice for helping protect yourself and your family in the event of a tornado.

If you are in your home:

- **Go to the lowest level possible.** If you're in a basement, choose an area where there won't be any heavy appliances or other objects above you.
- **Avoid all windows and glass**
- Stay away from outside walls
- Close doors, if possible

- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible
- Choose small rooms over large rooms if possible
- **Do not open windows**

If you are outdoors:

- If you can't get to adequate shelter, go to a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine. Lie flat and cover your head.

The basement of the Prairie Village Municipal Offices is a designated shelter area located at 7700 Mission Road.

For more information about severe weather safety, call the Johnson County Emergency Management Department at 913-764-8484.

Daughters of the American Revolution Plant Tree

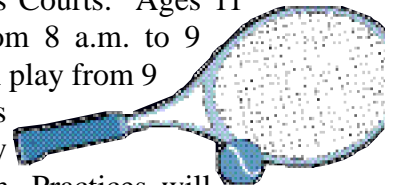
On November 7, 2000 the Tomahawk Chapter of the **Daughters of the American Revolution** donated and planted a red maple tree at Mission Valley Middle School. From left Jane Lohse; Beverly Smith; Jan Reid; Marion Goodwin; Eleanor Nelson; Charlotte Sands, Mission Valley Principal; Ann Mullett; and Louise Witt. Thanks!



Getting Into the Swing of Things: Tennis in Prairie Village

Prairie Village Tennis Pro John Morris is looking forward to the 2001 Junior Tennis League season. After a very successful Summer on the courts and a record number of participants last year, things are looking even better for the team in 2001.

Registration for the Junior Tennis League team begins May 1st at City Hall. A Junior Tennis League team kickoff is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th at the Harmon Park Tennis Courts. Ages 11 and under will play from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., ages 12 and 13 will play from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and ages 14 through 18 will play from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Practices will begin Monday, June 4th. John encourages all interested tennis players to "get out and play as soon as the weather is warm, so we can win even more matches in 2001."



For more information about JTL, contact John at 913-381-6464 extension 4284.

Bruce Smith Drugs – #25 On the Mall

It was in January 1955 when Bruce Smith Drugs opened in Prairie Village. Mr. Smith believed the key to a successful business was to provide the best service and today, owner Bill Richmond continues that same tradition.



Richmond grew up working for his dad at Crown Drug store in Fairway, and his first job was as a “soda jerk”. Later, he went to college with thoughts of going on to Medical School, but instead got married and started a family. He has never looked back.

He started working for Bruce Smith Drugs in August 1957. By the late ‘60s he started to purchase the business from Mr. Smith, and by the mid‘70s he owned it outright.

Early on, Bruce Smith Drugs had it’s own Soda Fountain. Over the years, the store has expanded, and the soda fountain counter made way for new services like the in-store photo processing department. The pharmacy expanded services to include prescription compounding as well as filling prescriptions. And yes, the store still delivers 365 days a the year.

As Prairie Village moves into the future, Bruce Smith Drugs is right there with us. Two years ago, they bought a “robot” from ScriptPro, a Mission, Kansas based company that can fill a prescription faster than humans with accuracy of 99.7% in the count and 99.9% in the drug dosage. Richmond says, “This has enabled us more time for counseling with our patients, thus, still providing the same prompt service as in the past.”

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.



Large Item Pick-Up is APRIL 21st

The City’s annual large item pick-up will be on **Saturday, April 21st**. For more information about large item pick-up call 913-381-6464. Remember all items must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on April 21st for collection.



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