

THE PRAIRIE VILLAGE Voice

September 2002

D.A.R.E.

On July 30th through August 2nd, 2002, Prairie Village D.A.R.E. Officer Jason Kuder attended the 13th Annual Kansas D.A.R.E. Officers Conference in Salina, Kansas. Officer Kuder entered the Police Department's D.A.R.E. vehicle, a 2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser, into a car show open to D.A.R.E. officers from throughout the state. The Police Department's PT Cruiser not only won its specialty car class, but also took home the trophy for Best of Show!



Peanut Butter Week

Mark your calendars! **September 16th - 20th** is Peanut Butter Week in Prairie Village. This is your opportunity to lend support to Harvesters in its efforts to reduce hunger in the greater Kansas City area (including Johnson & Wyandotte Counties). You can help by donating jars of peanut butter at your church, synagogue, school, supermarket, or at the Prairie Village Municipal Offices. You may also make a cash contribution to Harvesters by completing and returning the donation form to the right or by making an online donation at www.harvesters.org. Harvesters will distribute the peanut butter to social and charitable agencies serving over 55,000 households.

This is a great opportunity to participate in a community service project. Please join in the 18th annual Prairie Village Peanut Butter Week campaign and help us make this year's Peanut Butter Week the best ever.



Please complete this form if you wish to make a monetary contribution for Harvesters to purchase peanut butter:

***Make Check Payable to Harvesters**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount \$ _____

Drop this form off with your contribution or mail to:

City of Prairie Village
Attn: Peanut Butter Week
7700 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Meet Author Sandy James

The Corinth Library, in cooperation with Claridge Court, is pleased to invite you to meet Author **Sandy James** on Sunday, September 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at Claridge Court, 8101 Mission Road. Sandy James has written *Connect With Kansas City: Ways to Engage the Community*. James has lived in Kansas City for 28 years and guides each reader through her knowledge of all aspects of Kansas City life.

Accessible parking for persons with disabilities is available at Claridge Court. Additional parking is available at the Library and the Mission Bank building at Somerset and Mission Road.

For more information call 913-967-8650. The meeting is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Mayor's Message



It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over. It seems like only yesterday that schools closed for the Summer and the Pool Complex opened for the season. Before long, temperatures will begin to cool, leaves will change color, then fall from the trees.

The beginning of the calendar year isn't the only time to make New Year's resolutions. The start of the school year is another good time to resolve to help improve ourselves, our children, and our community. Here are a few suggestions:

Support Local Schools – Whether you have school-aged children or not, schools are essential to our community. They strengthen neighborhoods and enhance property values. Most importantly, high quality schools train community leaders. Prairie Village contains eight public and two private schools, and all of them make a positive contribution to Prairie Village. Show your support for these educational institutions by participating and supporting Parent Teacher Organizations, Booster Clubs, and other groups that help keep our schools vibrant and successful.

Drive Safely – The start of school brings students walking along city streets. The City provides Crossing Guards to help keep these children safe on their way to and from school. But, as drivers, we need to do our part

too. This means driving carefully **and slowly** in school zones. It also means being particularly careful when sharing the road with bicycles. Cautious driving may result in reaching your destination a minute or two later, but preventing accidents, we can all agree, is much more important.

Help Neighbors in Need – Even though Prairie Village has over 22,000 residents, it still feels like a small town. One reason Prairie Village has been able to maintain its character in the midst of a large metropolitan area is that many Prairie Village residents anticipate needs of others and actively seek to help meet these needs. This month, the City's annual **Peanut Butter Week**, September 16th through 20th, will provide an opportunity to help those in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties by donating peanut butter to Harvesters Community Food Network. So don't forget to buy an extra jar or two of peanut butter and drop it in the collection barrels at City Hall. You may also make a monetary donation to Harvesters with the contribution form in this issue of the Prairie Village Voice.

Besides helping improve our community, making and keeping these resolutions now will help us practice for the really difficult ones that come in January!!

Ron Shaffer
Mayor

United We Read: *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf

In December 2001, the Kansas City Metropolitan Community was asked to help select a book that would become the focus of our community-wide reading project: **United We Read**. After narrowing the list down to two finalists, *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf was selected as the choice for our region.

United We Read officially began on July 25th and will continue into October. Discussion groups have been formed to allow readers to share their thoughts about the book. Individuals, schools, colleges, corporations, senior centers, book clubs and libraries are invited to participate in this community-wide event.

If you haven't read the book yet, please read it. If you've already read the book, pick it up and read it again. And by all means, talk to your friends, family and neighbors about what you read.

The goal of **United We Read** is to get our community talking and communicating with one another. This book is a good catalyst to do just that.



The Corinth Library will be hosting a book discussion on Thursday, September 19th and on Thursday, September 26th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Prairie Village Community Center, 7720 Mission Road.

For more information about **United We Read**, to obtain a schedule of discussion group meeting times and locations or to sign-up for a discussion group, call the Corinth Library at 913-967-8650. More information about United We Read is available at www.jocolibrary.org.

Redevelopment Update - 75th & Reinhardt

Without renewal and reinvestment, neighborhoods and commercial areas can deteriorate. Once this begins, turning things around can be a daunting task for both the City and developers. Many of us remember the abandoned service station at 75th & Reinhardt, with the vacant homes surrounding it. For years, these properties were an eyesore to neighbors and a recurring problem for the City's Code Enforcement program. These deteriorating properties served as a constant reminder that reinvestment was sorely needed in the area.

After more than two years of planning and construction, a new office building recently opened at 3515 W. 75th Street. The project is the effort of Nearing, Staats, Prelogar and Jones, an architectural firm which moved to Prairie Village from its previous location in Mission and Coulson & Company, L.L.C. a Prairie Village based real estate development business. The new building includes 26,000 square feet of Class A office space and is home to the two co-developers.

Valued at nearly \$4 million, the new office building is the result of lengthy discussions between the developers, neighbors, the City Planning Commission, and the City Council. The



From left to right: Mayor Ron Shaffer, Bill Prelogar, Fred Coulson, Howard Nearing and Rick Jones.

final project reflects the cooperative effort between the City, the developer, and nearby residents to improve the site while minimizing the impact of the new development on the adjacent neighborhood.

The project was made possible, in part, by financial incentives offered by the City to encourage redevelopment on the site.

Attention Business Owners

Whether you're running a business in a commercial area or from your home, you need a business license.

All administrative or retail businesses and professions in the City are required to obtain an **Administrative/Retail Business License**. The current Administrative/Retail Business License period runs from October 1st, 2002 to September 30th, 2003. All businesses currently licensed will be receiving renewal notices this month. If you have not received your renewal notice or have not been licensed with the City before, call the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 and information will be sent to you.

Business license applications are also available on-line at www.pvkansas.com.

The Prairie Village Arts Council Presents...Senior Arts Council

The **Senior Arts Council** will exhibit in the Municipal Offices' **R.G. Endres Gallery** this month. With a membership of over 50 Seniors, the variety of techniques and media make this a unique exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display from September 3rd - September 30th. Gallery hours are Monday - Thursday 8am - 7pm & Friday 8am - 5pm.



Prairie Village Lifeguards Finish First In Annual Midwest Tournament



The Prairie Village Co-Ed Lifeguard Team tied for first place in the 2002 American Red Cross Midwest Lifeguard Tournament. The Prairie Village team was made up of **Anthony Roa, Mary Wyrsh, McKenzie Meloy, and Justin Simonich**.


In addition to the team's first place finish, Anthony Roa received first place, Coed division, for Active Victim Rescue, and Justin Simonich received a perfect score for Rescue Response. The team as a whole received perfect scores in the Shallow Water Backboarding and First Aid events. Other events were CPR, Distressed Swimmer Rescue and Passive Victim Rescue.

The tournament, in its sixth year, was held at the Mission Municipal Pool in late July. There were 20 teams (approximately 90 lifeguards) participating in three divisions (male, female, and co-ed). The co-ed division was made up of eight teams. Hutchinson, Kansas Recreation tied with Prairie Village for first place.

Prairie Village: Our Story Now Available!

Prairie Village: Our Story is a 50th Anniversary book celebrating the history of Prairie Village. It's a celebration of the people who've made Prairie Village what it is today. The pages are filled with stories and photos of past and present.

The book is now available in the City Clerk's Office. Stop by and purchase your copy today or mail in the order form below. The cost per book if purchased at City Hall is \$21.38. The cost per book if mailed is \$25.75 – this cost includes shipping.

	Name: _____
	Address: _____ _____
	Phone #: _____
	Driver's License Number: _____
Cost per book is \$25.75 which includes tax and shipping & handling in the continental US only.	Quantity Ordered: _____
Checks payable to: City of Prairie Village	\$ Amount Enclosed: _____
Mail order form to: 50 th Anniversary Book City of Prairie Village 7700 Mission Road Prairie Village, KS 66208	*Due to an anticipated Johnson County sales tax increase effective October 1, 2002, the sales tax will increase after this date. If ordering after October 1, please contact Brett Wise, Prairie Village Municipal Offices, 913-381-6464.



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.



Environmental Committee Looking for School Volunteers

The Environmental/Recycle Committee is looking for an enthusiastic PTA parent from each school in Prairie Village to volunteer to be a liaison between their PTA and the committee. This individual will be asked to attend four to six committee meetings a year to discuss recycling within the school, as well as ways to increase paper contributions from the community that can earn more money for the school. These volunteers will also help us alert science teachers and parents to opportunities for school participation in activities such as Earth Fair and upcoming environmental programs for improving streams and air quality. **WE PROMISE YOU WILL HAVE A GOOD TIME 'CAUSE WE'RE A FUN BUNCH!** If interested, call Margaret Thomas at 913-341-5808.

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