

Stay Safe this Summer with these Burglary Prevention Tips



*Officer
Dawn Clausius*

Unfortunately, residential burglaries are often “Crimes of Opportunity,” such as open garage door and open front door burglaries. Criminals often target purses, wallets and other items of value. During some recent burglaries, residents have been home and unaware they had been burglarized until the next day. These types of crimes are particularly

bothersome because most may have been prevented by taking the time to secure the garage door or front door. Other recent burglaries have occurred while people were away for dinner, at work, or on vacation. Criminals have forced their way into homes and have removed electronics, jewelry and other items of value.

Here are some tips to help keep you and your home and family safe and secure:

- Always keep your garage door, interior door and front door closed and locked, even when at home. It only takes a moment for a burglar to enter your home and take something.
- Remember to lock your windows, doors and use your alarm system when both home and away.
- If you park your vehicle outside overnight, remove your garage door opener from view. Burglars could use it to enter your home while you sleep.

- Place your purse/wallet in a location that is out of view. Burglars are known to look into homes prior to breaking in to see what they can take.
- Participate in the Operation Identification Program. Record the serial and model numbers to your electronics, remove any irreplaceable items from your home and place them in a safety deposit box if applicable.

If going on vacation, have a neighbor watch your home and pick up the mail and newspapers and participate in the Housewatch Program offered by the Prairie Village Police Department.

Report suspicious activity when you see it without delay. There are officers on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to your call.

Remember, the most important thing is for you and your family to be safe and secure. By taking a few extra steps to ensure your home is locked and secure, you could prevent yourself from becoming a victim of a “Crime of Opportunity.”

To schedule a residential survey or for further information, please contact the Prairie Village Police Department’s Crime Prevention Unit at 913-642-6868.

Budget Hearing August 5th

A public hearing will be held on **Monday, August 5th** at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to invite comments and suggestions about the City’s 2003 Budget. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this public hearing or any other City meetings, events, or programs, contact the City Clerk’s Office at 913-381-6464 or TDD 1-800-766-3777 or send an e-mail to cityclerk@pvkansas.com at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to make arrangements for the accommodation.

A copy of the proposed budget will be available at the City Clerk’s office by August 1, 2002.

Mayor's Message



This Winter and Spring many of us followed stories in the media about the budget dilemma faced by the Kansas Legislature. Although the reasons for the State's budget problems will continue to be debated, the end result was that the proposed State budget included more expenditures than revenue. After months of negotiating, debate, and political maneuvering, two steps were taken to balance the state's budget: reduce spending and increase revenues. As cities and counties throughout Kansas prepare their budgets for 2003, we share the same problems and seek to provide solutions by first, reducing spending and then, if necessary, raising revenue in the form of property taxes.

The cost of providing City services continues to increase due to higher costs for insurance and changes in the overall cost of living while City revenues fail to keep pace. Most notably are the City's sales tax collections and interest earnings. Sales tax collections account for approximately 1/4 of all City revenues. Currently, sales taxes for 2002 are down \$144,000, or 8% from their level last year. Current estimates indicate the City will collect \$200,000 less in sales tax in 2002 than budgeted. In addition, lower interest rates will result in a loss of \$67,500 in revenue which was anticipated for 2002. The revenue prospects for 2003 do not look encouraging, either.

Prairie Village residents demand and deserve high quality services, including a top-notch police force, clean and well maintained streets and sidewalks, and a state-of-the-art aquatic center. As the City's Vision Statement indicates, we strive to preserve the "village" lifestyle we all enjoy. For the past several months, the City Council has struggled with the question of how to maintain quality services at a reasonable cost. It has not been easy.

City Council members have reviewed every city program to ensure your tax dollars are wisely spent on necessary City programs and services. After making revisions to the 2002 budget to help shore up the City's financial position and numerous cuts in the proposed 2003 budget, additional revenue is still needed to continue to provide the current level of services to Prairie Village residents. Unfortunately, to do this, it will be necessary to raise property taxes, something the City Council has not done since 1991.

Recommending an increase in the property tax rate is a difficult decision to make. The decision is not taken lightly. Each Council member and I pay property taxes too, as do all Prairie Village residents. The proposed 2003 budget includes a property tax increase of 2.3 mills. This will provide approximately \$563,000 to help finance the City's 2003 budget. Under this plan, the owner of a \$175,000 house in Prairie Village would pay an additional \$46 in City property tax next year.

The entire amount of this increase will be dedicated to the City's Capital Expenditure Program. These funds will be used to maintain the City's streets, sidewalks, and storm drainage systems. Through many hours of discussion and debate, the City Council felt the most important thing the City can do to keep Prairie Village a vibrant, desirable community is to maintain the high quality of the City's infrastructure as well as other City services.

There will be a public hearing to discuss the 2003 budget on Monday, August 5th at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. We encourage you to attend. This will be your opportunity to ask questions and learn how and where your City tax dollars are spent. Your comments and suggestions are essential.



Ron Shaffer
Mayor

What's New on the Web



Have you visited www.pvkansas.com lately? We continue to update it with new and better ways to serve Prairie Village residents. New updates include information on animal licensing, business licensing, the Municipal Court, and reserving a park. The site also includes several of the City's license application forms which may be downloaded.

So when you're looking for information about Prairie Village, check at www.pvkansas.com.

Prairie Village's Police Department Shines Again



The Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) recently announced that the **Prairie Village Police Department received an exemplary project award** for its comprehensive study entitled, Biased-Based Policing - An Opportunity for Trust.

Exemplary projects are granted only to unique or extraordinary programs that enhance an aspect of law enforcement professionalism and impact positively on the community. The purpose of the exemplary project is to serve as unique models to other accredited law enforcement agencies in the nation who wish to research and pursue achievements accomplished by other agencies.

The study detailed the Prairie Village Police Department's voluntary effort to assess itself regarding the national debate on the alleged law enforcement practice of profiling. The model consisted of policy development that prohibited such practices, training objectives that informed officers of their responsibilities, institution of early warning systems that provided the administrative oversight in critical areas, initiation of a complaint process that required investigation of all allegations of illegal profiling, completion of a traffic and consent to search study to monitor Department activities, and a comparison of the Department's written directives with numerous legal guidelines established on a national level.

Chief of Police, Charles F. Grover, stated, "The Department is proud to have received special recognition by CALEA. The Department's commitment to national accreditation is more than a long-term goal. It represents a pledge by the members of this agency to meet the highest professional standards possible. The ultimate goal, however, to guarantee to the citizens we serve that they receive the best possible services law enforcement can provide, is worthy of our efforts and sets a tone of exemplary performance and community accountability."

43rd Annual Synchronized Swimming Show



Synchronized Swimming team hard at practice.

The **43rd Annual Synchronized Swimming Show** will be on **Sunday, July 28th** at **8:30 p.m.** in the meter pool at the Prairie Village Pool Complex. Admission is free.

The girls are working very hard to put on a spectacular show. Divided into smaller groups, the team will perform routines in the water, all synchronized to music. This year's theme is "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," featuring songs about girls and their activities, such as California Girls, My Girl, and, of course, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun. There will be refreshments available for purchase at the show. Be sure to arrive early with your chairs and blankets for a good seat on the hill.

See you at the show!

The Prairie Village Arts Council Presents...Keith Ashcraft



Keith Ashcraft attended college at Kansas State and the University of Kansas where he also attended medical school. He retired in 1999 from Children's Mercy Hospital as Surgeon-in-Chief.

In the early 1970's Keith took up watercolor painting under the guidance of Charles Faught, James Barker, and Myrtle Masters. A 20 year hiatus from painting ended with retirement when he began to paint again with encouragement and advice from Jack O'Neal. Most of the paintings in this show are of recent vintage but several are from the mid 1970s period.

The exhibit will be on display through July 31st. Gallery hours are 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

Attention Coaches

Applications for Fall **soccer** and **baseball** practice times will be received until **August 2nd**. If you do not receive an application in the mail by July 17th, contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 to have one mailed to you.

Primary Elections – August 6th

Don't forget to vote! The Primary Elections are August 6th and advance voting begins on July 17th. Several State and County offices are on the primary ballot, including Governor, Attorney General, County Commissioner and County Commission Chair.

A 1/4 cent sales tax question to increase funding for public schools will also be on the ballot.

For more information about the Candidates for office and voting in Johnson County contact the Johnson County Election Office at 913-782-3441 or visit www.jocoelection.org.



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.



Everyone Wins With Habitat for Humanity



Did you notice anything different about the house being torn down recently at **7801 Mission Road**? It is part of a new service offered to the Kansas City Metropolitan Area called Deconstruction. The service is offered by the **Habitat for Humanity ReStore** and Prairie Village is the first City in our region to have this service.

Deconstruction is the process of hand dismantling in order to salvage usable portions of rooms and buildings. These items are then diverted to the ReStore and sold to the public at deep discounts, typically 50% of retail. It offers a good alternative to bulldozing homes and throwing all the waste in a landfill.

When you use Deconstruction Services instead of dumping, the salvaged building materials recovered are a tax-deductible donation to **Habitat ReStore!** The profits from the sale of the items go back to Habitat for Humanity.

Everyone wins!

- Contributors avoid hauling/trash disposal costs and may receive tax deductions
- Customers receive good materials at deep discounts
- Habitat For Humanity raises funds to build new homes
- The planet is spared the dumping of waste
- Resources are conserved

The Habitat ReStore is located at 4701 Deramus Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri. Give them a call at 816-231-6889 or visit their website at www.restorekc.org to learn more about Habitat ReStore.

School Crossing Guard Position Open

The City of Prairie Village is seeking a **School Crossing Guard** for the 2002-2003 school year at **Tomahawk Elementary School, 79th and Lamar**, morning and afternoon sessions daily. Morning sessions are from 7:30 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. and afternoon sessions are from 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. This position is for the nine-month school year and pays \$8.45 per session. Uniforms and training are provided. Paid holidays and school breaks. EOE. Persons interested in applying should contact Sgt. Steve Hunter at 913-642-6868 or send an e-mail to jobs@pvkansas.com.

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