

Prairie Village Resident Receives Volunteer Award

Aishling O'Connor, an Indian Hills Middle School seventh grader, has been volunteering since she was six. Most recently, she received the **Prudential Spirit of Community Award**, one of only two such awards given to students in Kansas. Next month, Aishling will travel to Washington D.C. to compete for a national award for her volunteer efforts.

Aishling received this award for a project to build an inter-generational playground in a Kansas City, MO neighborhood near 60th and Swope Parkway. While tutoring at-risk children at the Upper Room Learning Center, Aishling noticed that these children had no place to play. The existing playground, “was filled with broken glass and hypodermic needles,” she said.

The Swope Park Geriatric Center, located next door, donated its fenced playground for the project, provided the new playground included a wheelchair accessible path and garden for use by residents at the Center. Working with siblings **Maeve** and **Cormac O'Connor**, and friends **Emma, Alex, and Bridget Bergin**, they researched play equipment, designed a playground, and went about raising funds for their project. By developing presentations and sharing them with members of the local business community, Aishling and her friends have raised over \$25,000! Construction is underway, and the playground is scheduled for completion in late May. When asked what the best part of this project is, Aishling says seeing the happy faces on the neighborhood children when they look at their new playground is all the reward she needs.

But this isn't the first project for Aishling and her friends. In 1998, she started **Kids Helping Kids** after she wanted to volunteer but was told she was too young. Undeterred, Aishling and her friends encouraged individuals and local businesses to donate crayons. Before long, she had collected thousands of crayons – and a “professional” volunteer was born.

Though she doesn't have any definite plans for another project when the playground is completed, there's no doubt the future is bright for this budding community volunteer.

Congratulations, Aishling!!!!

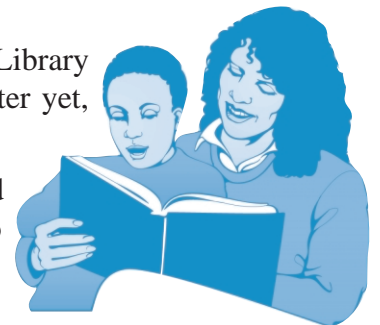


Aishling O'Connor

Celebrate TV Turn-Off Week: Read a Book!

April 22nd –28th is **National TV Turn-Off Week**. So bring the family to the Corinth Library at 8100 Mission Road and check out a book for yourself and your children. Or better yet, check out a book and read it to your children.

Also, be sure and check out the other activities at the Corinth Library during April and May by calling the Library at 913-967-8650 or visit the Johnson County Library's web site at www.jocolibrary.org.



Mayor's Message



During January a Parks and Recreation survey was distributed in the *Prairie Village Voice*. The survey asked for resident opinions and suggestions regarding Parks & Recreation facilities and programs offered throughout the City. More than 600 surveys were returned. The

responses provided valuable input into what residents seek in their parks and recreation programs. The Park & Recreation Committee would like to thank those of you who participated in this survey. The following is a sampling of the survey responses.

Overall, **93% of survey respondents rated our parks and facilities in the good to excellent range.** Receiving such a wonderful response like this is important to us. The City strives to maintain a high range of excellence in our parks. We want our residents to be able to enjoy family outings in a safe and fun environment.

Survey respondents indicated that **Franklin Park is the most visited park**, followed by Harmon Park, Porter Park and the Swimming Pool Complex. Respondents also indicated that they visit the park most often to walk, sit and relax, and to use the playground equipment. Respondents specified that it was important for walking trails, outdoor play areas, and picnicking facilities to be provided in the City parks.

These comments will help the City fulfill the needs of our residents. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the Parks & Recreation survey and letting us know what you think. We always appreciate your comments.

Now that Spring is here, this is a perfect opportunity to get out and enjoy the parks. Take a stroll or go on a picnic with family and friends. I'll see you there.

Ron Shaffer
Mayor

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:

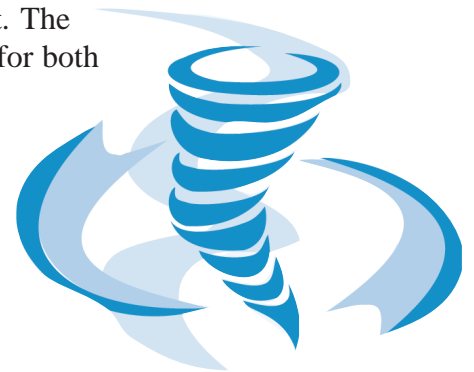
- Go to the lowest level possible.
- If you're in a basement, choose an area where there won't be any heavy appliances or other objects above you.
- Avoid all windows and glass.
- Stay away from outside walls.
- Close doors, if possible.
- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.
- 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 or visit the American Red Cross web site at www.kcredcross.org.



Annual Earth Fair Bigger and Better! Everyone Welcome!

The Shawnee Mission East Environmental Club teams up with the Prairie Village Environment/Recycle Committee to present a day of **activities for inquiring minds**. Local schools, community groups, and businesses will gather **Saturday, April 13th** from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Shawnee Mission East gym to demonstrate how we can “Act responsibly towards the Earth—starting in Prairie Village.”

See cars of the future, wind power, and xeriscaping, (landscape design which focuses on water conservation)! Come see the “Green Warrior”, Kansas City’s first Corbin Motors Sparrow, a super-efficient electric vehicle, the most efficient on the market today. Read about it at www.thegreenwarrior.org.

Learn what your eco-foot print is, how much your lunch *really* costs, and much more! Cool animals, live music, free ice cream, and third world crafts to buy! An eco-lunch will also be available for nominal cost.

Also present: “Recycle, Reuse, Reduce” at the SME library fund-raiser. Used books, CDs, videos, and formal wear will be for sale.



The Green Warrior

2002 Bookmark Design Contest

sponsored by Friends of the Johnson County Library

Get out your colored pencils, markers, crayons, finger-paints or watercolors and show us what the Library means to you! Help Johnson County Library celebrate National Library Week (April 14-20) by designing an entry for the annual Bookmark Design Contest. The contest is open to all ages. Entry forms are available at all Johnson County Library locations or on the web at www.jocolibrary.org; entries must be received by April 30th. Winners will receive gift certificates from the Friends of the Johnson County Library and have their creations reproduced on bookmarks distributed throughout the Library system.

Report Public Works Service Requests On-Line

Have you noticed a pot hole? Have you seen a storm drain that needs to be cleaned or repaired? If so, help the Public Works Department keep Prairie Village looking great by letting us know of City facilities that need attention.

You can submit a service request by calling 913-385-4647 or by completing an on-line service request at www.pykansas.com.

Service requests typically include:

- pot holes or other street repairs
- blocked storm drains
- tree trimming requests
- ADA compliance concern
- park equipment repair
- traffic signal malfunction
- debris in the public road right-of-way

Monthly Tree Tips from the Tree Board

- Consider planting a flowering tree to enjoy each Spring. Some varieties that thrive in the Prairie Village area would be the flowering crabapple, the dogwood, or the magnolia.
- Spring is a good time to check the health of your trees. Check for winter damage and disease infestation.
- Each year the City of Prairie Village celebrates Arbor Day by planting a new tree on the campus of one of our Prairie Village elementary schools and a proclamation is read by the mayor.



Prairie Village Notes

Large Item Pick-Up Reminder

Don't forget the City's annual large item pick-up will be on **Saturday, May 18th.**



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 May 18th for collection.

Keep Your Eyes Open for the 2002 Parks & Recreation Brochure

The City of Prairie Village 2002 Parks and Recreation brochure will be published next month. The brochure will contain information on pool memberships, Red Cross swim lessons, tennis lessons, and reserving a park facility.



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.



Citizens' Police Academy Graduation

Since the first of the year, a dedicated group of residents spent one evening a week learning about the Prairie Village Police Department through the City's Citizens Police Academy.



These class members participated in interactive sessions with Department personnel dealing with a variety of issues, including: Traffic Enforcement, Communications, Officer safety tactics, and more.

The next Citizens Police Academy is planned for this Fall. If you're interested in learning more about your Police Department, contact Sgt. John Womer at 913-385-4623. More information about the Citizens Police Academy, including an application form, is available on the web at www.pvkansas.com/police.

Now Hiring

The City of Prairie Village is now hiring Concession workers at the Pool Complex for the 2002 pool season. The starting hourly wage is \$5.50 and up. Please stop by the Prairie Village City Clerk's Office to pick up an application or download one at www.pvkansas.com. Any questions, please call Brett Wise at 913-381-6464 extension 4206 or email to bwise@pvkansas.com.

April in the R.G. Endres Gallery...



The **Prairie Village Arts Council** is excited to welcome the Faculty from the **University of Kansas School of Fine Arts** this month in the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery. The School is ranked 35th among the 300 institutions accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design throughout the nation. The exhibit will include original paintings of pastels, acrylics and watercolors.

The Gallery is open Monday-Thursday 8am-7pm and Fridays 8am-5pm. This exhibit will be on display throughout the month of April.

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