

THE PRAIRIE VILLAGE VOICE



A newsletter published for the residents of the City of Prairie Village
Municipal Office | 7700 Mission Road | Prairie Village, Kansas 66208 | Telephone 913.381.6464 | www.pvkansas.com

Police Citizens Academy Announcement

Applications are now being accepted for the **Prairie Village Police Citizens Academy**, to begin in mid December. The Academy is a ten-week course and meets once each week in the evenings. The Prairie Village Citizens' Police Academy is a community-involved program designed to provide citizens with firsthand knowledge of the day-to-day operations of a modern police department. The goal of the academy is to improve the relationship between the community and its police officers by "personalizing" the Department. The Academy achieves this goal through lectures, visual aids and hands-on fieldwork to give attendees insight into the functions of the Prairie Village Police Department.

The Academy takes a **hands-on approach to learning**, and classes offer a unique opportunity to involve participants in discussing the Department's methods of operation, philosophies and goals. Some of the topics include: Traffic Enforcement, Officer Safety Tactics, Shoot/Don't Shoot, Kansas Law, United States Law, Crime Scene Processing, Communications and Processing Records.

You must be able to meet the following established criteria to be considered a candidate for the Academy:

- Must be able to commit both time and energy
- Must possess a concern for law enforcement service in our community
- Must be at least 16 years of age
- Must be a citizen, high school student, or business owner in Prairie Village or Mission Hills

Interested persons may download an application at www.pvkansas.com or pick up an application at the Police Department. For questions, please contact Sgt. Steve Hunter at 913-385-4617 or e-mail shunter@pvkansas.com.

INSIDE:

City Offices Holiday Schedule

Holiday Trash Schedule

2004 Animal Licensing

Recycling in the Parks - Replacing Wood with Rubber

Applications for Lifeguards and Concession Workers Now Being Accepted

2004 R.G. Endres Gallery Schedule

Ballfield Reservation Applications Due



Your Holiday Lights May Require A Permit

If your holiday decorating includes stringing lights across city streets, public rights-of-way, or storm drainage channels, please contact the Public Works Department first. A right-of-way permit is required for electrical and traffic safety.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 913-385-4640 or send an e-mail to publicworks@pvkansas.com.

Happy Holidays 



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

With 2003 coming to a close, we are provided an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and look toward the future.

The past year in Prairie Village has been challenging, yet rewarding. Early in the year the City Council struggled with budget shortfalls resulting from severe cuts in State funding. By focusing on essential services and careful financial management, Prairie Village has weathered the budget storm and adopted a 2004 City budget that continues to provide police protection, infrastructure improvements, parks, and other services residents seek without increasing the property tax rate.

As with every year in Prairie Village, the Summer months brought road construction. In 2003 the most significant infrastructure project in the City was the replacement of the Mission Road bridge between Tomahawk and 71st Street. Although traffic was detoured for several months, the new bridge opened in September, providing a new driving surface and improved traffic flow through the area.

In October, Prairie Village Police arrested a suspect in the 1974 murder of Lizabeth Wilson. This case, which was re-opened two years ago, was finally closed after 29 years. Congratulations go to all members, past and present, of the Prairie Village Police Department for their persistence in this case.

As we look toward the future, I'm confident that Prairie Village will be confronted with challenges and presented with opportunities. I also know that, through the concerted efforts of citizens, the Governing Body, and the City's dedicated employees, our community will remain a great place to live, work and play.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Ron Shaffer
Mayor

Recycling in the Parks-Replacing Wood with Rubber

If you have visited Windsor Park recently, you may have noticed some changes around the swings and play equipment. The wood chip fall protection under one swing set has been replaced with rubber matting. The matting is similar to that used at Porter Park for the last few years.

The new material is manufactured from discarded rubber products like tires and sneakers. In the past, this product left black marks on clothing

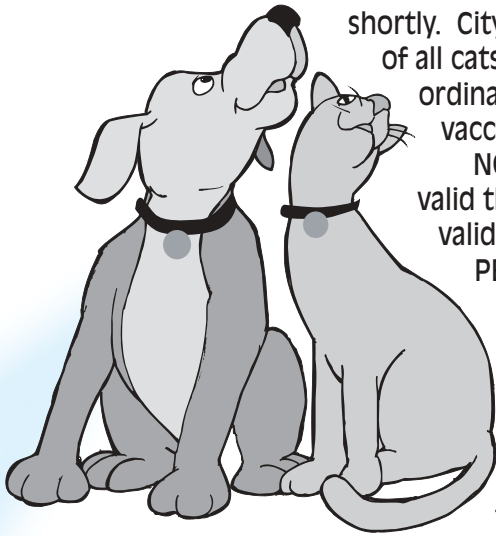
and hands. Today, a new and improved product is available. It comes in various colors and also has an interlocking feature that helps keep the material in place, particularly under the slides, which have been a major maintenance problem for Public Works crews.

Each product is approved by the National Product Safety Council as a fall zone protection material. The Parks & Recreation Committee will be

considering placing these materials in other parks.



2004 Animal Licensing Begins Soon



2004 animal registration forms will be mailed shortly. City ordinance requires the annual licensing of all cats and dogs residing in the City. The ordinance also requires proof of a current rabies vaccination for licensing.

NOTE: The vaccination does not have to be valid throughout the calendar year, but must be valid at the time of licensing. THEREFORE, ALL PETS SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE LICENSED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. The license fee for a spayed or neutered pet is \$6. The fee for an animal that has not been spayed or neutered is \$12.

Additional information is available at www.pvkansas.com or you can contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464 or send an email to cityclerk@pvkansas.com.

Keep Sidewalks Free from Snow and Ice

The colder weather reminds us that Winter will soon be upon us. During the Winter months walkers and joggers are still outdoors getting their exercise, and children are still walking to school. Prairie Village property owners are responsible for removing ice and snow from the sidewalks abutting their property.

Please be a good neighbor and keep sidewalks clear of ice, snow, and other obstructions. This will help keep your friends and neighbors off the streets, and out of harm's way. Besides, it's the law.



How to Dispose of Hazardous Waste



So it's time to clean out the garage or basement? You're even thinking about tossing out cans of paint, weed and bug killer, and that old car battery. **Stop!** You may not be aware of it, but you are dealing with Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

If a product is flammable, toxic, reactive, corrosive or explosive, it is HHW and requires special handling. How can you tell? Usually, you will find the words "Warning," "Caution," "Danger," or "Poison" on the label.

You can find a complete list of HHW materials on the Johnson County website at <http://iced.jocoks.com>; click on hazardous materials. Learn about storing hazardous products and how to dispose of them at the Philip J. Wittek Hazardous Materials Collection Facility in Mission. All HHW drop offs are by appointment only. Please Call 913-492-0402 for more information.

Arts

COUNCIL
Prairie Village

Photographer Gloria Hawkins On Exhibit in the R.G. Endres Gallery

Yesterday's schools are photographer Gloria Hawkins' fascination today. What began as a field trip with a fourth grade class has now become a lifelong quest to document the vanishing one-room school house. To date, Gloria has preserved on film houses from eleven different states and Ireland. Bring your family and friends and take a step back in time and share her experiences.

The exhibit will be on display from December 3 to December 30, 2003.

The Gallery is located in the Prairie Village Municipal Offices at 7700 Mission Road and is open Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Fridays until 5:00 p.m.



Prairie Village NOTES

City Offices Closed for Holidays

- City offices will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24th and will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.
- City offices will close at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31st and will be closed on Thursday, January 1st in observance of the New Year's Holiday.
- As always, Emergency Services will remain available by calling 9-1-1

Upcoming Trash Holidays

Deffenbaugh, the City's solid waste collection and recycling contractor, will be observing the following holidays over the next few months. Should one of these holidays fall on or before your normal pick-up day, your waste will be collected **one day later that week**.

- Christmas – December 25, 2003
- New Year's Day – January 1, 2004
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – January 19, 2004

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.



What are you doing Next Summer? Would you like to make some money?

The City of Prairie Village is actively recruiting lifeguards for the 2004 Summer Pool Season.

Lifeguard Training and CPR Certification classes will be offered by the American Red Cross at the Shawnee Mission East Pool on the following dates:

- Sundays: February 1 – March 14 (4:30p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)
- Spring Break: March 15 – 18 (9:00a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
- Sundays: March 21 – May 9 (4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.) except April 11
- Evenings/Afternoons: April 3 – April 17 (call for dates/times)

Starting salary for new lifeguards is \$8.00/hour. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older at time of hire to work as a lifeguard or concession worker. Submit an application for interviews over the holiday break.

For more information, contact Joshua Farrar, Management Assistant at 913-381-6464, ext. 4206 or send an email to jfarrar@pvkansas.com.

Ball Field Reservation Applications Due

Baseball Spring training will be here before you know it, and ballfields in Prairie Village are always in demand. Make plans **NOW** to reserve a field for your team.

The City of Prairie Village allows reservations of ballfields for soccer, baseball, and softball practices. Prairie Village teams (those with a majority of players who are Prairie Village residents or attend school in Prairie Village) will be given priority for field reservations, but any team may apply to reserve a field. Teams can reserve two practice times per week for up to 1-1/2 hours. Fields are available in Porter, Franklin, Windsor, and Meadowlake Parks.

If your team reserved a field during 2003, your coach should receive a 2004 application form soon. Or you may obtain one at the Municipal Offices, 7700 Mission Road. **There is a \$50 reservation fee per team that is to be submitted with your application.** The deadline for submitting applications is January 16, 2004.

If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464 or send an email to cityclerk@pvkansas.com.

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 549
Shawnee Mission
Kansas