



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

Patriotism: A Definition

By Casey Chappas

Patriotism is a complex concept that can't be expressed by one sentence or a simple action. Being patriotic is an emotional state, but also a physical state. It is one thing to talk about being patriotic; it is another thing to get involved with your country to be patriotic. The people who do this are the true patriots of this country. The effort required to go from the emotional state of being patriotic to the physical state of being patriotic is very minimal. You may not realize it, but everyday there is an opportunity to be patriotic. The best place to start is to get involved with your city government. Know how your government works and be involved. Protest issues you don't believe in. Yes, protest is patriotic because you are fighting for the well being of your country. Lastly, vote! Voting is a very important part of being patriotic.

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Winning VillageFest Essay

Each year the VillageFest Committee awards a prize for the best submitted essay. This year's topic was "My Favorite Patriot" for elementary schools and a choice between "What Would I Sacrifice in Order to be Free?" and "What is Patriotism?" for middle school students. Casey Chappas wrote this winning essay.

patriotism is in fact, also, unpatriotic. The reason that nobody is entitled to judge another person's patriotism is because each person's view of the country is very complex, you'd be forever learning. Calling a person unpatriotic is just ignorant.

Now that you know what patriotism is, it is a good time to start being patriotic. A good place to start is to get involved with government. You should know the current events, and know what is happening. You need to know what is going on in the government. If something is going on that you don't agree with, take a stand against. Most of all, vote for what you think is the best for the country. It would be really hard to be patriotic if you don't have a clue what is happening in your country. You should have a good understanding of how America came to be, and your rights as an America citizen. You should also volunteer, to help other people in America, thus supporting our country. Attend local city hall meetings, as they are very important and effect what goes on at a local level. Lastly, spread the word of patriotism. Let everyone know how good people in America have it. Contrast this with the suffering that happens in other countries across the globe. Let everyone know how fortunate everyone in America is.

Unfortunately, some people misinterpret patriotism. People who protest laws, congressmen or congresswomen, presidents, and war are not being unpatriotic. As a matter of fact, these people are being patriotic because they are fighting for the well being of the country. They are also exercising their rights. The people that are calling other people unpatriotic for opposing certain aspects of their country are, themselves, being unpatriotic. They are being unpatriotic because they are not taking the initiative to stand up against things that are wrong, thus letting the country degrade. I don't believe anybody is in a position to judge somebody else's patriotism. Patriotism is knowing that everyone in the country is equal and being supportive of that. To judge another person's

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The month of August signals the beginning of a new school year and presents educators and students with the opportunity to approach learning opportunities with fresh vision and renewed vigor.

New federal legislation, often referred to as the "No Child Left Behind" initiative, has garnered a great deal of publicity in recent months. This mandate is aimed at improving the academic performance of all children nationwide. In Shawnee Mission, educating every child to the maximum of his or her capability has long been a goal of the patrons, parents, teachers, administrators, and the board of education. We have always believed in educational programs that emphasize high student achievement, rigorous assessment of student progress, and professional accountability—in short, programs and services that "leave no child behind."

For more than 30 years, the Shawnee Mission School District has produced a successful combination of comprehensive programs and services to meet the needs of all students. Facilitated by superior instruction by qualified professionals, motivated students backed by encouraging parents, and a supportive community committed to quality education, Shawnee Mission programs have received regional and national attention for their effectiveness.

Historically, families have come to this community seeking the outstanding educational experiences offered by the Shawnee Mission School District—and they still do! Shawnee Mission students continue to excel above their state and national peers on standardized tests; in fact, last year students earned results considered to be among the highest in district history on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. More than 100 graduates of the class of 2003 received special recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Program for earning scores in the top 5 percent of students taking the Preliminary SAT. Of these students, 34 were named finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition. Shawnee Mission students make up more than 20 percent of the merit finalists in the state, despite the fact that district seniors comprise only 6 percent of Kansas seniors.

Additionally, Shawnee Mission students and staff are frequently recognized for their accomplishments locally, regionally, and nationally. Shawnee Mission graduating seniors received scholarship offers totaling more than \$26 million in 2003. Indian Hills Middle School received the John Herklotz Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals for outstanding contributions to democratic participation. Kathleen Zigeler, a teacher at Mission Valley Middle School, was named an Edyth May Sliffe award winner for excellence in mathematics and science teaching to students in grades 7 and 8.

Through the decades, Shawnee Mission has been featured in various publications as one of the top school districts in the nation. For 12 consecutive years, Expansion Management magazine has awarded Shawnee Mission a gold medal rating, placing the district in the top 17 percent of school districts nationwide.

The tradition of educational excellence that is the hallmark of Shawnee Mission continues to flourish because of the dedication and support provided by the community. The value that has been and continues to be placed on quality education by our parents and patrons will keep the tradition of learning in Shawnee Mission strong for generations to come.

Guest Writers:



Donna Bysfield
Shawnee Mission School District
Board of Education Member
Shawnee Mission East Area



Marjorie Kaplan, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Shawnee Mission School District

Donna Bysfield *Marjorie Kaplan*

Take a Trip in Your Own Hometown: Passport to Prairie Village



According to the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), Americans will take over 275 million leisure person-trips this Summer.

Prairie Village residents who may not be traveling long distances this Summer can "take a trip at home!" Prairie Village and other locations in Northeast Johnson County offer fun and exciting adventures you may have overlooked. Summer, 2003 is the time to explore Prairie Village.

For recreation and nature-based folks, make plans to visit one of Prairie Village's 11 parks featuring walking trails, playground equipment, BBQ grills, and more. And, don't forget to cool off on a hot

Summer day at the Prairie Village Pool.

If you're in search of a shopping spree, everything you need is right here at home. Prairie Village is bursting with unique and eclectic shopping centers located at 71st & Mission Road, 83rd & Mission Road, 77th Street and State Line, 95th & Nall, and 95th & Mission Road.

While you're out, don't forget to stop by City Hall to see one of the fine exhibits in the Municipal Building's R.G. Endres Art Gallery.

Finally, don't forget to feed the hungry traveler in you at one of PV's 32 eating establishments with fare ranging from fast food to fine dining.

There's never a dull moment in Prairie Village. This Summer, take some time to be a "tourist at home."

2003 Missouri & Kansas River Cleanup Event Saturday, September 13th

September 13th has been set as the date for a massive cleanup effort on the Missouri and Kansas rivers. Headquartered in Kansas City's Berkley Park, the cleanup will involve a 25-mile section of the Missouri River, and will include the lower section of the Kansas River. While plans for the Kansas City effort are still in development, past cleanups have utilized a tugboat and four barges, numerous workboats, and up to 20 watercraft to shuttle participants on the river.

The Mid-America Regional Council and numerous local partners are enthusiastically supporting this clean-up event. With the revitalization of the Kansas City riverfront in anticipation of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration next year, this event is expected to excite the public through hands-on activism out on the rivers.

The event is free, and open to the public.

For more information about this project, Contact Scott Paszkiewicz at 816-474-4240 or e-mail to spaszkiewicz@marc.org.

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

Presents. . .

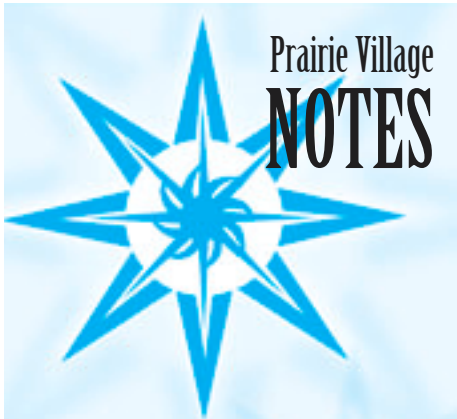
JERRY ELLIS

August completes the summer of Watercolor shows, by saving one of the best until last. Award-winning artist Jerry Ellis transforms the ordinary into striking works of art. Tree-lined streets of small towns and villages, as well as farms and animals of the rolling countryside are his subjects.

A loose realistic style, emphasizing value and design, stamps the Ellis "signature" on his work and has contributed to his recognition as one of the country's leading regionalist painters.

Mr. Ellis is one of less than 50 artists nationwide to currently hold signature memberships in all three premiere art organizations: Midwest Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society. His "Route 66 Studio" is located in Carthage, Missouri.

The exhibit will be on display through August 29. 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.



Prairie Village NOTES

New Pool Hours Begin August 15

Due to the start of school for Shawnee Mission students, the pools will be operating on a reduced schedule. The new Pool hours will be:

- Monday - Friday**
4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
(depending on lifeguard availability)
- Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.**
- Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

The Pool will close for the season at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 1.

Annual Pet Enumeration Is Coming Enumerators Needed

The City will be conducting its annual pet enumeration this fall. If you are interested in being an enumerator, contact the City Clerk at jhmundy@pvkansas.com. See the City's web site for more information.



Attention All Home-Based Businesses

The City of Prairie Village requires all home-based businesses, including home day cares, to obtain a home occupation license. The licensing year is September 1 through August 31. Renewal forms for currently licensed businesses will be mailed out this month and should be returned to the City Clerk's office by August 31. If you have a new business, please contact the City Clerk's office for an application or you may download an application at www.pvkansas.com.

If you have any questions regarding home occupation or day care licenses, please contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 or e-mail cityclerk@pvkansas.com.

Prairie Village Environment/Recycle Committee

The second annual Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues will be held at Shawnee Mission East High School on Monday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. Richard Bremby, Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment, will speak on the current administration's environmental concerns and initiatives. Jay Barnes, Executive Director of Kansas Natural Resources Council, will respond. For more information call Kathy Riorden at 913-262-0248. No RSVP is required.

A Big Thanks to VillageFest Volunteers

VillageFest was once again a huge success! The effort by volunteers was appreciated by all who attended the celebration. Way to go!

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