

July, 2006

THE PRAIRIE VILLAGE VOICE



VOICE

A Newsletter published for the residents of the City of Prairie Village
Municipal Office | 7700 Mission Road | Prairie Village, Kansas 66208 | 913-381-6464 | www.pvkansas.com

Tree Board Honors Trewolla



L to R Luci Mitchell, Debra Nixon, Shelly Trewolla, Greg VanBooven, Jim Hanson, Kathy Riordan.

During its Arbor Day Celebration, the Prairie Village Tree Board honored Shelly Trewolla by planting a "Buttercup" magnolia near the entrance to the Franklin Park rose garden.

A charter Tree Board member and current member of the City's Park & Recreation Committee, Trewolla has been active in helping the City earn its Tree City USA designation, Shawnee Mission East Earth Day, VillageFest, and several other civic groups.

Put Your Love for Prairie Village on Display!!!

Expressing your feelings about Prairie Village couldn't be easier...or more affordable. With a \$2 donation to the Prairie Village Arts Council, you can be the first in your neighborhood with an "I Love PVKS" bumper sticker.

Proceeds will help the Prairie Village Arts Council continue to support arts programming in the community.

Bumper stickers are available in the City Clerk's Office Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.



United Way Launches 2-1-1 Program



The Heart of America United Way has launched its 2-1-1 program. This program offers quick access to social service programs and agencies to either find or give help. Calls to 2-1-1 are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by trained professionals with immediate access to resources and information. To learn more about this new program, visit www.211.org or simply call 2-1-1.

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Committee Vacancies

Would you like to get involved in Prairie Village? If so, volunteering for an advisory committee is a great way to learn about Prairie Village and become a part of your community's decision making process. A list of committee vacancies is available at www.pvkansas.com/citygov/council/comm_list.shtml or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

What a difference a year makes.

Just over one year ago, on June 7th, 2005 to be exact, the Harmon Park skatepark opened with great fanfare. Hundreds of people of all ages attended the grand opening ceremony. The opening of the skatepark was truly a crowning achievement for the students and volunteers who worked tirelessly to raise funds to build the skatepark.

As with any new facility, problems occurred at the park ranging from injuries to disorderly conduct to vandalism. As a result, the park was closed for three days while City crews cleaned up the mess and developed standards of conduct to govern the skatepark. Closing the newly built park to skaters was a difficult decision, but it was the right thing to do.

I'm happy to report that, since its re-opening, conditions at the skatepark have greatly improved. These improvements are, more than anything else, the result of skaters using good common sense and respecting others. The greatest example was the recent skateboard contest between students from Indian Hills and Mission Valley Middle Schools. Whenever I'm at City Hall, it's rewarding to see the park filled with skaters.

Of course, the skatepark has seen its fair share of skinned knees, sprains and broken bones over the past year. My daughter was actually one of the park's first "victims." Nonetheless, she, like many other skaters, learned from the experience and, I'm sure, became a better skater in the process.

Even though it got off to a rough start, the past year's experience has confirmed my belief that, when given an opportunity, the youth in Prairie Village will rise to the occasion and be the responsible young men and women we know they can be. By any measure, the skatepark is a tremendous success and we want to thank all of our students and volunteers who helped put it together.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

County Program Helps Residents in Need

Our homes are our largest investments. Keeping them properly maintained is important. A well-kept home raises property values and improves the appearance of the entire neighborhood.

But home maintenance and repairs can be expensive, even out of reach for some residents. Through a cooperative program between the City and the Johnson County Human Services and Aging Department, qualified homeowners in Prairie Village may receive financial assistance with making these important home repairs. To learn more about the Johnson County Home Repair and Revitalization programs, including if you qualify for assistance, contact Jan Lero at 913-715-6612 or send an e-mail to janet.lero@jocogov.org.

You Can Help the Environment... And Reduce Junk Mail

How many pieces of junk mail do you receive each week? If your household is like others in Prairie Village and throughout the United States, the amount of junk mail you receive seems to increase all the time. In fact, over 4.4 million tons of third class mail – junk mail – is distributed each year.

If you're interested in reducing the amount of junk mail sent to your home, and saving trees in the process, the Prairie Village Environmental Committee encourages you to get your address removed from junk mailing lists. The websites below can help:

- To reduce your junk mail, contact www.obviously.com/junkmail/
- To eliminate credit card offers, contact www.optoutprescreen.com



NOTICE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

The City of Prairie Village is seeking full time School Crossing Guards for the 2006-2007 school year.

Morning and afternoon sessions daily:
7:30 am–8:10 am & 3:00 pm–3:45 pm.

The position is for the nine-month school year and pay is \$10.23 per session.

Uniforms and training provided. Paid holidays and school breaks.

Persons interested in applying for this position should contact Human Resources by emailing jobs@pvkansas.com or calling 913-381-8464. This position will remain open until filled.



Moonlight Swims — Take a Dip After Dark

There's no better way to end a hot summer day than with a relaxing swim in the Prairie Village Pool. The Pool Complex is open until 8:30 pm every night, but will stay open late – until 10:00 pm, on Friday, July 15th and Friday, August 12th.



Spring Into Summer with 50 Plus

Get ready to enjoy all your summer activities with renewed energy and strength by joining the Total Body Workout Class (Fifty Plus Fit and Feisty) sponsored by the Johnson County Recreation 50+ Program. Total Body Workout combines stretching, toning, strengthening and cardio with a combination of Pilates, Strength Training and Hi-Low Aerobics.

Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday, from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. at the Prairie Village Community Center. For more details, contact the Johnson County Recreation 50+ Program, at 913-236-4343.

Sister City Eyes Germany

The Prairie Village Sister City Committee is seeking to develop a sister city relationship with a community in Germany. If you would like to assist this group of dedicated volunteers in locating a German sister city for Prairie Village and developing programs to raise awareness of international cultural issues, attend one of the committee's monthly meetings.

The Sister City Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Offices' Multipurpose Room. To learn more about the Sister City committee, call the Municipal Offices at 913-381-6464 or send an e-mail Doug Luther at dluther@pvkansas.com.

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

PRESENTS

The second half of 2006 will be an exciting time in the Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery featuring a variety of artists and media ranging from ceramics to photography to pastels and more.

Mark your calendars now to view these exhibits and attend opening receptions honoring these talented artists.

July

Pat Deeter

Opening reception – Friday, July 14th,
6:30 – 7:30 pm

August

Doug Bennett, John Roush, and Mike Walsh

Opening reception – Friday, August 11th,
6:30 – 7:30 pm

September

Dale Cole, Rick Scaletty

Opening reception – Friday, September 8th,
6:30 – 7:30 pm

October

Senior Arts Council

Opening reception – Friday, October 13th,
6:30 – 7:30 pm

November

MidAmerica Pastel Society

Opening reception – Friday, November 10th,
6:00 – 8:00 pm

December

Mareal Denning

Opening reception – Friday, December 8th,
6:30 – 7:30 pm

If you would like to receive more information about upcoming exhibits in the R.G. Endres Gallery or are an artist interested in exhibiting in the Gallery, contact Connie Walsh at 913-381-6464 or via e-mail at cmwalsh@pvkansas.com.

Gallery hours are Mon – Fri
8:00am – 5:00pm.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who made VillageFest a success!



New Pool Hours Begin August 14th

Due to the start of school for Shawnee Mission students, the pools will be operating on a reduced schedule. Beginning August 14th, 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 4th.

Synchronized Swimming

The Annual Synchronized Swimming Show will be on Sunday, July 30th, 8:30 p.m. in the meter pool at the Prairie Village Pool Complex. Admission is free. The members of the Prairie Village Synchronized Swim Team are working very hard to put on a spectacular show.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and arrive early to get a good seat on the hill near the meter pool. This year's show will be one of the best ever.

See you at the show!

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 1-800-766-2777) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, if possible, to make arrangements.



Where's Your Purse?

While reading the newspaper and looking at the police reports I see on a daily basis, the number of purse thefts appear to be increasing. I recently visited some of the local shopping centers and spoke to employees about crime prevention. During my visits walking from shop to shop, I saw what a "purse thief" would most likely see; unattended purses waiting to be stolen.

In this month's newsletter the Crime Prevention Unit reminds you to keep a close eye on your purse because a "purse thief" may be keeping an eye on your purse too!

Tips to remember when out and about with your purse in tow:

- While shopping in a grocery store, loop the child strap on the grocery cart through your purse to deter quick "grab and runs".
- Do not leave your purse unattended in your shopping cart – even for a moment.
- Conceal your purse under the seat of your car or place it inside your car trunk if you do not need to take it with you into a store.
- Use a fanny pack instead of a purse. They fit close to the body and offer hands free shopping.
- While at work, place your purse inside a locked closet or drawer. Do not leave it under your desk or in a break room.
- Try not to carry a purse at all. Instead, place your debit/credit card and as few items as needed in your pants pocket.
- Do not place the purse strap around your neck to protect from theft. If it is tugged on by a "purse snatcher" the sudden impact could injure your neck or knock you to the ground.
- Always walk with confidence and be aware of your surroundings regardless of where you are.

Remember, it's all about being safe and secure as you carry your purse no matter where you may be as you enjoy your shopping, traveling and work days this summer. If you have questions or would like to contact the Crime Prevention Unit, contact me, Officer Dan Robles, at 913-385-4613 or send me an e-mail at drobles@pvkansas.com.

Prairie Village Municipal Office
7700 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

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