



The Star of Kansas

The Prairie Village

September 2007

Voice

Attention Homes Associations

The City Council recently adopted an ordinance to help keep homes associations informed regarding construction activity occurring in Prairie Village neighborhoods. This ordinance is the result of a series of meetings with representatives from many of the City's homes associations which led to the recent formation of a Homes Association Committee.

Under the terms of the new ordinance, homes associations that register with the City will be notified when the City receives permit applications to:

- Demolish a residential structure,
- Increase the interior square footage of a residential structure; or
- Alter the building footprint of a residential structure

Homes associations will also be notified when permits authorizing these projects are issued.

Registration is available by contacting Doug Luther at 913-385-4603 or by email at dluther@pvkansas.com

City Council Adopts 2008 Budget

Following a public hearing on August 6th, the City Council adopted the City's 2008 Annual Budget. The \$22,968,884 spending plan represents a 4.4% increase from the 2007 budget.

The 2008 budget will retain all currently funded activities, including public safety programs. The 2008 budget will also maintain the City's commitment to infrastructure with a \$6.1 million capital improvement program with the following features:

- Drainage & stormwater management projects -- \$891,000
- Street projects -- \$4,198,500
- Sidewalk / curb projects -- \$825,000
- Park Improvements -- \$236,000
- Building Projects -- \$10,000

All operational programs and infrastructure projects in 2008 will be funded with cash. The City will not incur any debt as a result of adopting the 2008 Budget.

The 2008 budget also includes a property tax increase of 2 mills, or \$2 for each \$1,000 of assessed property valuation. This is the first property tax increase in five years, and was made only after careful thought and deliberation by the City Council. Due to limited growth opportunities in this landlocked community, City revenues have difficulty keeping up with the increasing costs of providing high quality services to Prairie Village residents. The property tax increase was necessary to continue current service levels and maintain the City's commitment to infrastructure maintenance and improvement.

Total City property taxes on a \$209,000 home will be approximately \$435 in 2008. The 2 mill increase will cost approximately \$4 per month.

You can learn more about the City's 2008 budget by downloading the budget document at www.pvkansas.com or by contacting Barbara Vernon, City Administrator, at 913-385-4601.

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Mayor's Message

For the 23rd year in a row, the City of Prairie Village is teaming up with Harvesters Community Food Network to sponsor the Peanut Butter Week food drive from October 1st - 5th.

An estimated 205,200 different people receive emergency food assistance annually through Harvesters. Among all Harvesters' emergency food recipients, 71% are classified as food insecure using the US government's official food security scale. As members of a caring community, Prairie Village residents want to help others in need. Peanut Butter Week is your opportunity to help relieve hunger in our community.

There are several ways you can donate to Harvesters during Peanut Butter Week:

- Bring jars of peanut butter to City Hall between October 1st and 5th. The City Hall offices are open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday - Friday.
- Complete the contribution form and mail it in, along with your contribution, to 7700 Mission Road.

- Contribute online at www.harvesters.org

Hunger is a persistent problem in our community, including some residents of Prairie Village. With your help and the hard work of organizations like Harvesters, we can work together to improve the lives of our neighbors in need.

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Contribution Amount \$ _____

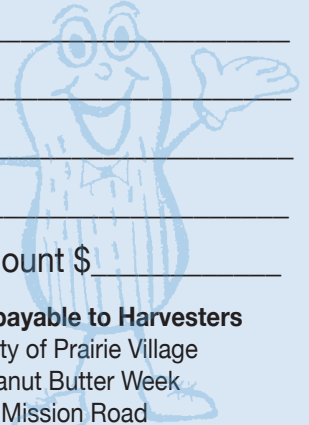
Make check payable to Harvesters

Mail to: City of Prairie Village

Attn: Peanut Butter Week

7700 Mission Road

Prairie Village, KS 66208



2007 Prairie Village Recreational Program Wrap-Up

All four Prairie Village recreational teams completed another successful season in 2007!

The **Piranhas Swim Team** had 173 members on this year's Competitive and Pre-Competitive teams. Led by Head Coach Rob Cole the team built upon last year's success and placed fifth at the All-City Swimming Championship held at the Prairie Village Municipal Pool. The team as a whole improved their overall score by more than 700 points from last year! Assisting with the team this year were assistant coaches Bailey Gage, Karen Rees, Daniel Heady, Emily Lionberger, Kenneth Barr, and Molly Melling. Congratulations to the coaches and swimmers for another successful season!

The Prairie Village **Dive Team** also had a good year. Following the lead of Coach Cathy Jones the team continues to improve and remain competitive. A number of individual team members scored well throughout the meets and the team as a whole competed admirably.

After a brief rain delay the **Synchronized Swim Team** finished their season with the 48th Annual Prairie Village Water Show. This year's theme was 'Feelin' Groovy' and included choreography by Head Coach Nancy Morgan assisted by Melanie Muecke, Bernadette Meyers, and Laura Arther.

Under the leadership of Head Pro Ryan Cope and Assistant Coach Nate Morris the Prairie Village Kansas City **Junior Tennis League Team** fielded the third largest team in the Metro area this year. Additionally, at

the KCJTL Tournament several team members played on the final day in championship matches and several won their respective age classes.

The teams would like to express their gratitude to all of the parent volunteers who worked tirelessly and dedicated so much of their time to help make each team's season a success. Without the support of the volunteer parents, these recreation programs would not be possible. In addition, special thanks go out to our pool managers, led by Joel Rios, as well as the lifeguards and Public Works employees who spent their summer keeping our parks and pools safe and in excellent shape. Thank you to everyone involved in making 2007 an outstanding year for all four of our teams!





Ready, Set, Remodel!

The City of Prairie Village, the Mid-America Regional Council's First Suburbs Coalition, and Community America Credit Union have partnered to provide low-interest, fixed-rate home equity loans designed to fund the remodeling and modernization of qualified homes in Prairie Village and other inner ring suburbs.

Loans provided through the program offer "fixed - interest rates" as low as 6.99% APR, with terms of 10 years or less and loan amounts up to \$30,000

So go ahead, let your mind drift to that kitchen you've always wanted, the new master suite, the deck surrounded by lush landscaping, or even that extra bathroom that will add durability, convenience and value to your home. Your dream home is closer than you think!

For more information, contact Community America at 913-905-6629. Funds are limited so apply now!

Attn: Business Owners

All administrative or retail businesses and professions in the City are required to obtain an **Administrative/Retail Business License**. The licensing period runs from October 1st to September 30th. All business currently licensed will be receiving renewal notices this month. If you have not received your renewal notice or have not been licensed with the City before, call the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 and information will be sent you. Business license applications are also available online at www.pvkansas.com.

Tree Board Annual Fall Seminar



The Tree Board will be having its annual Fall Seminar on the evening of October 3rd in the Council Chambers. The program will include the presentation of the 2007 Best of Species/Champion Tree Awards. For more information, contact Suzanne Lownes at 913-381-6464 or send an email to slownes@pvkansas.com.

Community Forum Focuses on Water: Our Emerging Environmental Crisis

"When will Kansas run out of water?" This question is sure to come up in the Sixth Annual Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues, **Thursday, October 11**, at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas. The Forum is sponsored by the Kansas Natural Resources Council and Prairie Village Environmental Committee. The program opens at 5:15 p.m. with appetizers and exhibits by Kansas environmental organizations. Supper of locally grown foods catered by Blue Bird Bistro will be served at 6 p.m.

The Forum features a 7 p.m. presentation entitled "The Waters of Kansas: Past, Present, Future," by Don Worster, PhD, professor of environmental history who holds the Hall Distinguished Professorship

Chair in American History at the University of Kansas. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from KU and his doctorate from Yale University in 1971.

Dr. Worster is a pioneering expert in environmental history. He has authored nine books, including *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*; *Rivers of Empire*, (1985) which deals with the development of water resources and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize; and, *Dust Bowl* (1979), a study of the Stouthern Plains, which won the Bancroft Prize and deals with the "dirty thirties." Dr. Worster has served as the president of the American Society for Environmental History, sits on a number of editorial boards and is general editor of the Cambridge University monograph

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

SEPTEMBER

Barney Newcom, has caught the "back to school fever" and has a new passion... oil painting! The R.G. Endres Gallery has invited this long-time advertising art executive to exhibit his latest works and share them with the community. Working as a designer for such firms as Hal Sandy, Harmon Smith Advertising, and Hallmark Cards, he has applied his skills learned as a professional to those of an art student with this current field of study, and the results are wonderful!

OCTOBER

Prairie Village State of the Arts, a juried exhibition
Opening Reception
October 12th

NOVEMBER

MidAmerica Pastel Society
Opening Reception
November 9th, 6:30 pm

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

series, *Studies in Environment and History*.

Advance reservations are needed. A donation of \$20 per person is requested. To make reservations, send a check payable to: KNRC/Community Forum, 7301 Mission Road, Suite 248, Prairie Village, Kansas, 66208. Your reservation will be confirmed after your check is received. Refer questions to Teri Carey at ptcarey@mac.com or 913-579-7300.



Prairie Village Notes

State of the Arts

Join the **Prairie Village Arts Council** in the inaugural State of the Arts exhibition, a juried exhibition for professional artists working in two dimensions. Artwork selected for this exhibition will be featured in the Prairie Village Municipal Offices' R.G. Endres Gallery during October. A welcoming reception honoring the artists and their work will be held on Friday, October 12th from 6-8 pm.

Through the generous participation of Community America Credit Union, three prizes of \$500 each will be awarded to outstanding artists during this exhibition.

State of the Arts is a tremendous opportunity for artists in Johnson County and throughout the metropolitan area to present and sell their artwork in the community.



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.



Crime Prevention

with Officer Dan Robles

"Coming To A Business Near You"

The Prairie Village Crime Prevention Unit has developed a new **Business Watch Program** for Prairie Village business owners. The program includes specific crime prevention information including Robbery, Shoplifting and General Business Safety tips and suggestions.

Included with the program is a "Business Watch" sticker which each business will receive with the implementation of the crime prevention awareness suggestions as part of each business' training.

By placing the "Business Watch" sticker in the business's window, the business owner will let the community know the business has partnered with the Prairie Village Police Department to help reduce crime. . . and serve as a deterrent to potential robbers and burglars.

The addition of a Crime Prevention Business Watch window sticker, can be one more useful security tool to keep Prairie Village businesses safe and enjoyable places to visit.

For more information, contact me, Officer Dan Robles at 913-385-4613 or email drobles@pvkansas.com.

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

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 549
Shawnee Mission, KS