



The Star of Kansas

The Prairie Village

May 2007

Voice

VILLAGEFEST 2007 PREVIEW

July 4th is quickly approaching, and planning for VillageFest 2007 is underway. Make plans to stay in Prairie Village for the holiday and attend this FREE event on the 4th of July.

This year's Independence Day celebration will include:

- A pancake breakfast featuring Chris Cakes
- Mascots from area sports teams
- Live Music
- A children's parade
- Free Swim for Prairie Village residents at the pool
- The 5th Annual VillageFest Quilt show
- Wacky Banana Inflatables
- Clowns, Magicians, and Uncle Sam
- Petting Zoo and Pony Rides
- Beaks-N-Wings Bird Display
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

A detailed listing and schedule of VillageFest 2007 events will be available at www.pvkansas.com in late May or early June. For VillageFest information or to volunteer, contact Jeanne Koontz 913-381-6464 or send an email to jkoontz@pvkansas.com.

Student Poster Contest

The VillageFest Poster Contest is open to students in Prairie Village elementary and middle schools. Those who wish to participate should depict a celebration of the Fourth of July on 11" x 17" paper or posterboard. Posters should include the child's name, age, school, and phone number. Prizes will be awarded for contest winners. **All posters must be submitted by May 31** to: City of Prairie Village, Attn: VillageFest Student Poster Contest, Prairie Village Municipal Offices, 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208. Questions? Contact Ed Roberts at 913-722-6185.

INSIDE:

Mayor's Message

Tornado Safety Tips

Get a Kick Out of Sports

Door to Door Solicitation

Prairie Village Arts Council

May-David Payne

June-Jack O'Hara

July-Senior Arts Council

ON THE BACK:

Crime Prevention: Spring-time Con Games

PV Notes

Offices Closed

Upcoming Trash Holidays

Everyone May Participate

Share Your Opinion

The Parks and Recreation Committee will conduct a public forum on Wednesday, **July 13th**. Join the committee for an open discussion on parks and recreational programming. RSVPs are not necessary. The forum will begin at **7:00 pm** in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Let your voice be heard.





Mayor's Message

The League of Kansas Municipalities annually publishes the *Kansas Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Book* which provides a “by the numbers” snapshot of our state’s 627 incorporated cities. It compares statistics such as population, assessed property valuation, indebtedness, and property tax rates. Each spring, I review these numbers to see where Prairie Village stands compared to other communities. As in prior years, I am pleased to report that Prairie Village continues to have one of the lowest property tax rates in both Johnson County and the entire State.

Of Kansas’ 25 first-class cities, Prairie Village has the second lowest property tax rate of 16.133 mills. The lowest property tax rate is held by Overland Park. Among the 19 cities either wholly or partly located in Johnson County, Prairie Village has the sixth lowest property tax rate, behind Overland Park and the smaller cities of Fairway, Mission, Lake Quivira, and Mission Woods, which are not cities of the first-class

But tax rates are only part of the picture. Another is debt. Prairie Village strives to provide all city services, including infrastructure maintenance and improvements,

on a “pay as you go” basis. Debt is used sparingly and only after careful consideration. Prairie Village currently has \$2.57 million in outstanding General Obligation Bonds. These bonds are for three major projects: the purchase of the Harmon Park Addition, construction of the Public Safety Center, and the renovation of the Pool Complex. This is the lowest bonded indebtedness of all first-class cities in Kansas and the third lowest of cities in Johnson County with outstanding debt.

This month the City Council will begin preparing the 2008 budget, which will be formally adopted in August. During this process, the City Council and I will assess the City’s revenue situation, review budget proposals from each City department, and carefully consider a number of capital improvement projects to maintain the City’s parks, streets, and stormwater infrastructure. Throughout these deliberations we will seek to continue Prairie Village’s sound fiscal management in order to ensure you receive a good value for you tax dollar.

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. Kansas has averaged 48 tornados annually since 1950, and in 1991 there were 116 statewide.

Johnson County Emergency Management offers this advice for helping protect yourself and your family in the event of a tornado.

Indoors

- 1 Get to the lowest level possible in a structure.
- 2 Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.
- 3 Avoid windows and glass.

- 4 In a basement, stay under the center support beam, a stairwell, or heavy piece of furniture. Stay out of corners where debris often collects.
- 5 If you have no area below ground level, utilize a hallway - closing doors off to outside rooms. Any small interior room (a bathroom or closet) away from outside walls and windows would be preferable to large rooms with outside walls.

Outdoors or Homes of Modular Construction

- 1 Get to a safe shelter if possible. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. If caught in the open, leave vehicle and go to a low-lying area, such as a ditch or ravine. Lie flat and cover your head. Be aware of the potential for flash flooding.

- 2 Modular homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornados and should be abandoned.

The basement of 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 913-782-3038 or visit www.jocoem.org.



Get a Kick Out of Sports

The following sports camps will be offered this summer in Prairie Village parks.

1. British Soccer is hosting two Soccer Skills camps led by professional coaches from Great Britain on June 4-8 and July 16-20 at Meadowlake Park. For more information or to register online visit www.challengersports.com.

2. Challenger Sports will facilitate two Flag Football camps at Meadowlake Park on June 25-29 and July 30 - August 3. For more information or to register online visit www.challengersports.com.



3. Omega Soccer will offer soccer camps on June 11-16, 18-23 and 25-30 at Franklin Park. For more information visit www.omegasc.com.



NO SOLICITORS

**Pursuant to
P.V.M.C. 5-203**



**The City of
Prairie Village,
Kansas**

Door-to-Door Solicitation

Chapter 5 Article 2 of the Prairie Village Municipal Code addresses Solicitors. You may view the Municipal Code in its entirety at www.pvkansas.com or it is on file at the City Clerk's office, 7700 Mission Road.

Here is some information about the solicitation code you may find helpful.

- It is unlawful for any solicitor to solicit prior to 10:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m. and it is unlawful to solicit between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Solicitors must register with the city PRIOR to soliciting in the city. Registered solicitors must carry a photo identification card issued by the City Clerk's office that bears their photo, their name and the date(s) they have registered to solicit.
- The City's door-to-door solicitation regulations do not apply to political or non-profit organizations.
- If an unregistered solicitor comes to your home and you wish to make a complaint with the city, please call the Police Department as soon as they leave your home with a description of the person and the direction they are traveling. The Police Department can then make an attempt to locate them. It is far more effective to contact the solicitor on the day of the violation than it is to contact them at a later date.
- It is unlawful for any solicitor to ring the bell or attempt to gain admittance for the purpose of soliciting at your home when you have a sign bearing the words "No Solicitors" or "No Trespassers" clearly posted unless you invite

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

MAY

David Payne, Oil Paintings

This is the first time that David Payne has presented his work at our gallery. As a "self-taught" artist, his natural talent is evident in his oil paintings of detailed landscapes and wildlife subjects. David, originally from Rossville, Kansas, portrays outdoor scenes from around the world and the beasts that inhabit them. His works have been featured in the 2005 Operation Wildlife Art Show, as well as Ducks Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

JUNE

Jack O'Hara, Watercolors
Opening Reception - June 8th

JULY

Senior Arts Council, Various Media
Opening Reception - July 13th

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

them to. The City Clerk's office has "No Solicitor" stickers available at no cost.



Prairie Village Notes



Offices Closed

City offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 28, 2007. 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 Memorial Day Holiday on Monday, May 28th. As a result, trash and recycling collection will be one day late during the week of May 28th.



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

Spring-time Con Games

After a delayed season of cool weather, Spring has sprung and residents are performing their spring cleaning. Joining you in your endeavors may be solicitations and offers from various companies hoping to do business with you by telephone or in person.

Unfortunately some of the solicitations may come from businesses whose only interest is to clean out your bank account. The Crime Prevention Unit suggests being cautious if the caller or door to door solicitor's sales pitch sounds too good to be true.

The following tips may assist you in detecting a con artist:

- Ask for references from the company or contact the Better Business Bureau.
- Be careful about paying out money for work that is promised or for services not yet rendered.
- Ask your neighbors or friends about companies they have used

who are reliable and trustworthy.

- Do not feel forced into hiring a "pushy" business representative to perform work.
- If it sounds too good to be true it most likely is.
- Do not invest money into a business scheme without first checking the legitimacy and credentials of the person or company.
- Be careful about furnishing your credit card number by telephone or in person.
- Report a scam to the police and inform your neighbors about any solicitor scams.

Home repair con games are one of the most profitable scams especially this time of year. No matter how anxious you are to get work completed around your home, remember to trust your instincts and insight while you try to avoid rip off artists who come knocking and calling this Spring Season.

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

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Shawnee Mission, KS

