



The Star of Kansas

The Prairie Village

July 2008

Voice



CODE RED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

By Wes Jordan, Chief of Police

The Prairie Village Police Department is extremely pleased to announce the implementation of "Code Red," an enhanced emergency notification system. Code Red will greatly improve the speed in which the City will be able to inform the community during emergency situations. Prairie Village has partnered with Mission Hills in order to bring this service to both communities. Elected officials were very supportive of the City's efforts in purchasing this system and cognizant how important it is for the community to be informed during such occurrences.

The Code Red system also enables individuals and businesses to add their own phone numbers directly to the system's telephone database. To ensure no one is inadvertently omitted, we urge everyone to log onto their respective city's website, www.pvkansas.com, or www.missionhillsks.gov, and follow the Code Red link to the *Residential and Business Data Collection* page. Those without Internet access can contact Communications Supervisor, Tim Kobe at 913/385-4620 and leave the following information to be added to the database: first and last name - or applicable business; complete address (no P.O. boxes); primary phone number; and any additional phone numbers (including cell phone) that you would like to be added. If in doubt as to whether the database contains your information, please submit the form and the system will automatically delete any duplicate numbers.

We feel this technology will prove to be a valuable asset in successfully managing emergencies in our community. For those of you who have "Caller ID," we are working with the provider for a phone number to appear that contains at least in part "911" to distinguish the caller from unwanted solicitors - it may appear as 999/911-9999. Please feel free to contact Tim Kobe at 913/385-4620 if you need assistance or have any questions.

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

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



Mayor's Message

Best wishes to a long-time friend!

On behalf of the City of Prairie Village, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and best wishes to City Attorney Charles E. Wetzler on his retirement from the City on July 7th after 35 years as City Attorney.

Charlie has served the City since his graduation from the University of Kansas Law School in 1963. In December of 1963 he was appointed to serve as City Prosecutor. After seven years as City Prosecutor, he was appointed to the position of Municipal Judge. In 1973, he became the City's second City Attorney serving with seven Mayors.

Charlie has been instrumental in the growth and development of this City, writing most of the City's municipal code and initial zoning regulations, defending and protecting the rights of the City and providing guidance and direction to City Council and City staff. His expertise in municipal law, land use, zoning, employment issues and public safety has served us well over the 45 years. Thank you, Charlie - We will miss you.

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

Stormwater Utility Fee

The City of Prairie Village has initiated the process of establishing a stormwater utility. One of the services the City of Prairie Village provides is stormwater management. This is accomplished through the construction and maintenance of a stormwater management system comprised of curbs, gutters, inlets, pipes, and drainage channels located both under and above-ground throughout the City.

maintaining this system will likely fall on the City and require financing through the General Fund.

An alternative method for funding stormwater management costs is to establish a stormwater utility fee. This approach has been used in cities across the country and in Johnson County including Mission, Fairway, Overland Park, Lenexa, and Shawnee. The purpose of the stormwater utility is to create a dedicated revenue stream to finance stormwater projects

utility fees may be assessed on all properties, regardless of their taxable status.

As proposed, fees will be based on the square feet of impervious area on a property. It is proposed that single family residential properties be charged a fee based on the footprint of the residence including the garage plus the area of the driveway. Commercial, institutional, and some multi-family properties would be charged a fee representing the actual amount of impervious area. In Johnson County, stormwater utility fees range from \$0.01 to \$0.10 per impervious square foot per year. Fee revenue must be placed in a separate fund and used only for stormwater management purposes.

The fee for Prairie Village will be established by the City Governing Body during the budget session. The fee will be discussed by City Council and staff during budget meetings in July. If approved, the fee would be placed on the property tax bills starting in December 2008.

For more information contact Bob Pryzby at bpryzby@pvkansas.com or 913-385-4640.

Did You Know?

- **Our stormwater system includes 3,773 drainage structures and 66.4 miles of storm drainage facilities.**
- **The City's Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of the City's stormwater management system.**
- **A stormwater utility fee is proposed for each property in Prairie Village in 2009.**

The 2008 Capital Improvement Program contains \$891,000 for drainage projects. This cost is expected to increase 5% annually. Because most of the City's large-scale stormwater projects have been completed, the entire cost of

based on a fee structure linking the amount of stormwater runoff created by property owners to the amount of money these property owners pay toward upkeep of the system. Unlike the property tax, stormwater

City Island Committee

On March 24, Public Works invited all the Island Volunteers and Homes Association representatives to discuss Island maintenance and ownership. Twenty-one persons attended this meeting. The agenda items were:

- 1. Review of Purpose** - Bob Pryzby explained that the meeting was to be both informative, as well as, solicit input on the ownership, care and maintenance of the islands horticulture and statuary. He reviewed the recently passed City Council Policy CP220, available on www.pvkansas.com. A key component of the policy is to establish ownership of the horticulture and statuary on the islands. The islands are in the City right-of-way and therefore owned by the City. The City recognizes and appreciates the work of the homes associations and other volunteers on the islands and does not want to disrupt that relationship. However, communication and cooperation are very important to have islands with a WOW factor.
- 2. Power Point on Statues on City Islands** - Bob Pryzby presented a picture show of the islands with commentary of what was good and what could be improved.
- 3. 2009 Budget** - Bob Pryzby related that based on input from this meeting and future meetings, he would be including a budget request in the budget for care, maintenance, repair and improvements on the islands.
- 4. Open Discussion** - Several questions were asked and answered primarily relative to what can be done on the islands and would the City help.

A second meeting was held on April 30. Rick Barrett, a Landscape Architect, reviewed plant list, proper planting, and maintenance including watering.

The Municipal Foundation is accepting donations to help maintain the islands and statuary. Donations can be sent to: Municipal Foundation, 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208. Please specify the purpose of your donation.

A future meeting is planned for later this summer. For more information contact Bob Pryzby at bpryzby@pvkansas.com or 913-385-4640.

Budget Hearing August 18th

A public hearing will be held on Monday, August 18th at 7:30 pm in the City Council Chambers to invite comments and suggestions about the City's 2009 Budget. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this public hearing or any other City meetings, events, or programs, contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-381-6464 or TDD 1-800-766-3777 or send an email to cityclerk@pvkansas.com at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to make arrangements for the accommodation. A copy of the proposed budget will be available at the City Clerk's Office by August 15, 2008.

Municipal Foundation

The Prairie Village Municipal Foundation provides assistance to persons in need and fosters and promotes the parks and recreation facilities and the cultural arts. Donations are tax deductible and can be made to the Prairie Village Municipal Foundation and sent to 7700 Mission Rd. Prairie Village, KS 66208.



Prairie Village
MUNICIPAL FOUNDATION
Supporting Your Hometown

Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

PRESENTS

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

July

Year after year the **Senior Arts Council** manages to out do itself. This year's show is no exception. Once again this talented group of artists proves that like "fine wine" things only improve with age. Don't miss this exceptional mixture of mediums and talents. Opening Reception July 11th, 6:30 p.m.

August

Venus Auxier, Botanical Art
Opening Reception, August 8th, 6:30 p.m.

September

Images Group, Mixed Media
Opening Reception September 12th, 6:30 p.m.

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



Prairie Village

Notes

Future Aquatic Events

The 49th Annual Synchronized Swimming Show will be on Sunday, July 27th at 8:30 p.m. at the Prairie Village Pool Complex. Admission is free.

Ball Field Reservations Due

Applications for Fall soccer and baseball practice times will be received until July 18th. If you do not receive an application in the mail by July 11th, contact the City Clerk's office at 913-381-6464 or visit www.pvkansas.com.

Electronic Recycling Event

Have an old TV, computer, printer or other electronic device? The City of Prairie Village will be hosting an Electronic Recycling Event on October 25th. So remember the date to properly dispose of your old electronic devices. Go to the city's web site for more information.

Crossing Guards Needed

Contact Byron Roberson at 913-381-6464 or broberson@pvkansas.com.

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.

CODE CORNER

by Marcia Gradinger, Code Enforcement Officer

It has been an exceptionally wet spring and the grass is growing and growing. Once the grass gets too long and wet it becomes much harder for you and your lawn mower to cut. Tall grass also attracts mosquitoes and other vermin.

- Please maintain a regular lawn mowing routine. City ordinance requires that grass and weeds be maintained to 8" or less.
- Check trees, fences or overgrown areas for poison ivy or other noxious weeds and remove. Trim and cut back overgrown thickets of vegetation.
- Please don't forget to check the sidewalk areas on a regular basis and remove any debris which has fallen upon them and cut any protruding or overhanging vegetation which would impede or be unsafe for pedestrian traffic.
- Items stored outside must be located in the back yard within a fully enclosed structure, or within the back yard and fully screened from view from any adjacent property by a wall, fence or landscaping.
- Regularly pick up your yard after your pets. Excessive accumulation of animal waste is not allowed and in the hot summer can create offensive odors and attract insects. Dispose of waste properly. Waste shall not be disposed of in any ditch or storm drain.

Johnson County Home Repair Programs

- Minor Home Repair Program provides free home repair services to income qualified or elderly Johnson County residents. For more information contact Kathryn McBeth at 913-715-6616
- HOME Rehab Program brings the entire home into code compliance. Eligible repairs include siding, windows, driveway, furnace/air, painting, and foundations. For more information contact Jan Lero 913-715-6612.
- Programs are at no cost to Johnson County residents.

If you have any question regarding any of these issues or any other concerns, you may contact me at 913-385-4605 or go to our website at www.pvkansas.com

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping to make Prairie Village a great place to live.

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

