



*The Star of Kansas*

*The Prairie Village*

April 2009

# Voice

## FRIENDS OF VILLAGEFEST

In response to residents and businesses wishing to support Prairie Village's annual 4th of July celebration, VillageFest, the Planning Committee has created "**Friends of VillageFest.**" These funds will be spent enhancing our community's daytime Independence Day salute!

In addition to financial support, volunteer opportunities are available. Join the Planning Committee or volunteer a few hours on the day of the event. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated! Come join the fun!

To learn more, please contact Jeanne Koontz, VillageFest Coordinator, at 913-385-4662 or [jkoontz@pvkansas.com](mailto:jkoontz@pvkansas.com).



**Please mail your tax-deductible donation to:**  
Prairie Village Municipal Foundation  
Friends of VillageFest  
7700 Mission Road  
Prairie Village, KS 66208

**Thank you for your kind support!**  
**See you on the 4th!**

## Mission Lane Bridge Replacement

The City has conducted two bridge analysis studies (1999 and 2002) on the Mission Lane Bridge over Brush Creek. The 2006 Biennial Bridge Inspection Report (required by the Federal Highway Administration) reported the bridge as "structurally deficient" due to the bridge's deck slab being in poor condition caused by honeycombed concrete and cracks. These openings are causing concrete to deteriorate due to the roadway salt used in winter for snow and ice control. The bridge is located on the west side of the Village Flower Shop at the north entrance to Bruce Smith Drugstore. The structure has been modified several times during its 50 year life.

On about March 13, 2009, AT&T and Kansas Gas began the necessary utility relocation in preparation for the bridge removal and replacement. The removal of the bridge will occur on about April 1. Construction will take about six months. During the construction, Mission Lane will be closed to traffic. Detours will use the Tomahawk and Mission Road entrances.

## Website Survey

The City of Prairie Village is renovating its website to enhance navigation, appeal, timely information and available online services. **We are seeking your input on how to improve the website.** The survey can be found at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com). The survey is designed to provide insight into how potential users will use the site features and gather ideas for the renovated site. The information will be utilized to help determine the vendor, site design, and features. Thank you for helping build a better City web presence!

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# Mayor's Message

Times are tough these days. The economy is struggling, property values are stagnant and unemployment has affected each of us or someone we know. To our benefit, Prairie Village and Johnson County have not been hit as hard as other communities. Through steadfast leadership and sound fiscal policies we have weathered the storm thus far. Unfortunately, the State of Kansas has not been so fortunate. As a result, our state legislators are being forced to make some difficult decisions to account for their significant budgetary shortfalls.

The Governor and our legislators are exploring all avenues to balance their budget and continue to suggest ways by which they can meet their budgetary obligations. Unfortunately, a number of their options could, if instituted, have an affect upon our City's budget and therefore on the quality of life we have come to expect.

For instance, one of the options being debated which will directly impact Prairie Village is the decrease or elimination of state transfers to cities. Many of the revenues the City uses to operate are funneled through the State. For example, consider the state gasoline tax. When gasoline is purchased in the State of Kansas a tax is collected for each gallon sold, regardless of the purchase price, and sent to the State. The State keeps 57% of that tax and returns 43% to the cities based upon their population. The portion

of this tax due to Prairie Village in 2009 is projected to be approximately \$637,000. By state mandate, the monies must fund construction, reconstruction, alteration and maintenance of streets and roads. Should the legislators choose to keep more or all of this particular distribution, the immediate result will be decreased funding for our streets that must be made up elsewhere unless services are to be cut. This is just one example of the many transfers from the State that could be in jeopardy.

As we at the City begin to deliberate the 2010 budget, the possibility of decreasing services while increasing revenues is a real issue. Just as our leaders in Topeka must make hard choices, city leaders will be tasked with the same. As we examine our budget, we must consider the likelihood that our legislators will choose to manipulate their budget with money that is due to cities. In anticipation of this possibility, the City has already begun to scale back on expenditures while exploring a variety of methods to maintain the levels of service we have all come to expect. I have the utmost faith in our decision makers' sound judgment and steadfast dedication to this community and in our ability to provide the best quality of life for our taxpayer's dollars.

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

## Large Item Pick-up

The City's annual large item pick-up will be on **Saturday, April 25th**. All items must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. for collection. There will be a separate collection on the same date for CFC containers including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, icemakers, and dehumidifiers. For Large Item Pick-up Rules visit [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com). This is a free service for Prairie Village residents, so take advantage to clean up!

## Lawn Waste

The City of Prairie Village encourages residents to use paper lawn bags for grass clippings, leaves or other yard waste. The use of paper lawn bags assists in the decomposition of yard waste materials and reduces the amount of labor in composting efforts.

## Animal Enumeration

The City will be conducting an animal census from **March 27th to May 18th** to account for the number and ownership of all dogs and cats in the City. The census will help keep your animals safe and protected. Prairie Village wants to make sure your pet can be returned safely to its home if lost and that all animals in the City have current rabies vaccinations. We ask for your cooperation in providing this information to our enumerators.

## Public Works Updates

WaterOne will be replacing water mains on 83rd Street from Roe Avenue to Delmar Street and on Roe Avenue from 83rd Street to 85th Street in preparation for the City to resurface those streets. Work began the third week in March and will cause occasional closing of the streets to traffic during the day. The street work will begin when WaterOne has completed the water main replacement.

## Lifeguard and Operations Attendant Applications are Being Accepted

The City of Prairie Village is accepting applications for lifeguards and operations attendants for the 2009 pool season. Lifeguard pay starts at \$8.46/hour. Operations attendants begin at \$7.25/hour.

The American Red Cross will once again be offering lifeguard certification courses starting in late winter and early spring. **All Prairie Village lifeguards must be Red Cross certified before they can start.**

Applications are available on-line at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com). Please contact Chris Engel at 913-381-6464 or [cengel@pvkansas.com](mailto:cengel@pvkansas.com) for further information.

## Announcement of the annual Arbor Day Honoree



Former Prairie Village residents **Maggie and Bob Weed** will be honored for their efforts and contributions to Prairie Village with the planting of a tree as part of the Prairie Village Arbor Day Celebration. Maggie and Bob Weed were residents of Prairie Village for 54 years and were involved in numerous groups and activities throughout the City. The Prairie Village Tree Board observation of

Arbor Day will be held on **Saturday, April 25th at 10:00 am in Franklin Park.**

## 2009 EarthFest

The 2009 EarthFest is on **May 9, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at Theis (Volker) Park (located directly south of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art). Explore Five Green Villages that will help make your life greener! Each village will feature interactive displays, product demos and workshops.

- **Greener Home** - Learn about eco-friendly practices for your home and energy efficiency
- **Greener Rides** - Explore alternative transportation ideas including biking and fuel-efficient cars
- **Greener Eats** - Discover new ways to eat locally and sustainably
- **Greener Goods** - Tap into what Kansas City has to offer and support our local economy
- **Greener Earth** - Take care of the Earth starting in your own backyard

Visit **Bridging the Gap** for more information, [www.bridgingthegap.org](http://www.bridgingthegap.org).

## “Water” you doing to help improve water quality in Kansas City?

The Green Team and students at Mission Valley Middle School are hosting a spring clean-up of our grounds; focusing on cleaning up the creek north of the school. Plan now to join us in our annual KC Clean Streams event, the largest school-based trash pick-up project in the KC metro area!

**When?** Thursday, April 23rd, 2009 from 3:50 pm-5:00 pm

**Where?** Mission Valley Middle School, 8500 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS

Gloves, trash bags and a “goodie bag” will be provided to all participants courtesy of the Blue River Watershed Association. Remember to wear old clothes and bring waterproof boots if you have them. Contact Mrs. Trisha Smith (913)993-0828 or Hillary Mason (913)993-0842, 7th grade science teachers, with questions.

## Soles4Souls Collection Drive

The Prairie Village Environmental Committee and The Shawnee Mission East High School Environmental Club are sponsoring a community-wide shoe drive in conjunction with Earth Day. Donations for Soles4Souls can be made through April 11th.

A list of collection sites can be found at [www.recycle-shoes-now.com](http://www.recycle-shoes-now.com). For further questions, please contact Margaret Goldstein, 913-722-4141, or Marilyn Koshland 913-722-6611.

# Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village

## PRESENTS

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

### April

#### Christi Roberts-Bony

Christi Roberts-Bony is another return artist to the halls of the R.G. Endres Gallery. Her talents lie in her ability to bring to life the subjects of her paintings through her simple brush strokes and choice of colors. Her works include still life's, landscapes and portraits. The reception will be held on April 10th at 6:30 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

### May

#### Kay Trieb, Photography

Opening reception May 8th, 6:30 p.m.

### June

#### L. Daniel Compton, Photography

Opening Reception June 12th, 6:30 pm

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

# Notes

## Recreation Memberships on Sale

Now is the time to purchase your 2009 pool memberships and register for the City's swimming, diving and tennis teams. Visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall to purchase your membership for 2009 or visit <http://pvkansas.recware.com> to register online.

## Electronics Recycling Day

Saturday, April 25th, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Shawnee Mission South High School  
5800 W 107th St.

For more information, visit [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) or contact Dennis Enslinger at 913-385-4603.

## Speak Ukrainian

In anticipation of the upcoming visit by residents of Dolyna, Ukraine the Sister City Committee is sponsoring a conversational Ukraine language class. The fee is \$30 for eight one-hour classes held at City Hall from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on each Tuesday from April 14th to June 2nd. For more information please contact Chris Engel and 913-381-6464 or [cengel@pvkansas.com](mailto:cengel@pvkansas.com).

## 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Prairie Village Art Show May 29, 30 and 31

This year's art show drew over 550 applications for 100 booths. The art show with the support of the community and the Prairie Village Arts Council has become a nationally recognized event, ranked in the top 50 by Art Source Magazine. Artists from across the country and even as far away as Israel will participate in the event.

This is a family event with children's activities and music. Kids can make a gift for Father's Day with the Ceramic Café on Saturday and Sunday. The Michael Beers Band will play on Friday night from 7 - 10 p.m. More music will play on Saturday night and Sunday. Great food and drinks will also be supplied by the great restaurants in The Village.

Visit [www.prairievillageshops.com](http://www.prairievillageshops.com) for a list of artists available in early May.

## CODE CORNER

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to start cleaning up from the winter, preparing for the raining season, and thinking about those Spring projects around your homes and yards.

The following are a few tips to help keep your property and neighborhood safe, attractive and in compliance with City Property Codes.

- **Remove fallen limb debris.** Limbs will be picked up with regular trash pick-up under the following conditions:
  - Less than 4 ft. in length
  - Less than 4 inches in diameter
  - Tied into bundles weighing less than 60 lbs.
- **Remove leaf debris from your yard.** Please help keep our drainage channels clean and free flowing by removing any debris from the curbing channel and drainage inlets in front of your property.
- **Remove any debris from the City sidewalk** to insure pedestrians have clear, safe travel. Check sidewalks often for debris or low hanging limbs and protruding vegetation. It is city policy that the property owner is responsible for maintaining a safe passage of persons using the city sidewalks. Tree limbs/branches must be at least 9-feet above the sidewalk.

Bushes/shrubs must be 1-foot from the edge of the sidewalk.

- **Check gutters and downspouts** to make sure they are cleaned out, securely attached, free from rust, and functioning properly. It's a good idea to check the run-off flow from downspouts and sump pumps to ensure they will not cause problems to your property or your neighbors.
- **Water may not be discharged onto any City sidewalk or street.** Check the location and run-off from sump pumps or buried down spouts.
- **Check your house, roof, windows, garage and shed for peeling paint, rotting wood, rust or any other deterioration which needs repair or replacement.**
- **If you're thinking about a remodeling or building project,** please check with the Building Codes Department to see if a permit is required or to see if you are in one of the City's Exterior Grant Program areas. You may also find information on the grant program and permits at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) or call 913-381-6464.

**Thanks for helping to make Prairie Village a great Community!** If you have any questions regarding Property Codes, please contact Marcia Gradinger at 913-385-4605.

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

