



## *Message from the President*

At a recent lunch meeting of the Kansas Homes Associations presidents, Clarin Blessing, Assistant Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security for Johnson County, spoke to us about being personally prepared for a weather emergency or possible other type of disaster.

She gave us a lot of useful information and urged us to be prepared by having three emergency kits ready – one for home, office and car. You could press an old backpack into service as an easily carried “kit.” A partial list of items that should be either in those kits or readily accessible at home:

Safety glasses, small crowbar (cat’s paw), hard hat, leather gloves, flashlight and extra batteries, power energy bar, raisins, dates, water, \$ bills and coins, plastic bag with copies of important papers (remembering to change copies as prescriptions, glasses, etc. change)

Much has been written on this subject. And it is our human nature to think that nothing of this magnitude will happen to us. But it is a good idea to have a plan for ourselves and our families. Your Board members will also discuss this topic at our next meeting in November.

The County has a workbook entitled “Emergency Prepared Neighborhood” that is very comprehensive. You can call the Prairie Village City Hall at 913.382.6464, or Johnson County Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at 913.782.3038 to find out how to obtain a copy.

Remember – you can check out the Homes Associations of the Country Club District website to keep up to date on many items of interest. Prairie Ridge posts their board meeting minutes on that website after they have been approved. [www.haccd.org](http://www.haccd.org).

## *Don't miss the NEW and DIFFERENT Annual Meeting this Spring!*

This Spring, please join your Board members for our Annual Meeting at **Homestead Country Club**. Meet your friends and neighbors, enjoy drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a chance to win some fine door prizes. A short business meeting will follow.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new meeting venue, please email or call Margie Lundy or Diane Pallanich. (See page 3.)

**Ticket information will be available at a later date.**

## *Hello Neighbor!*

*By Jill Hardy*

I'd like to take this time to introduce myself as your Homes Association Special Events & New Residents board member. My name is Jill Hardy and my family and I have lived in Prairie Village for three years. My husband, Zach, and I love our neighborhood and think it is a wonderful place to raise our children. My professional background is in marketing and promotions so I am confident that I can make some great contributions to the wonderful association.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me at 913.385.2055 or [jill403@aol.com](mailto:jill403@aol.com)

I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

## Looking Good!

By Jim Klamm, Island Chairman

We have finished the new landscaping of the islands along Roe Avenue, between 75th and 79th streets. Ann Simpson, our landscaper, picked out all the plants, using many varieties of grasses, spring and fall blooming plants and shrubs, all purchased with water conservation in mind. We hope that all association members, as well as others who drive down Roe, enjoy the new look of the islands. In the spring, we will be looking into re-landscaping around the Prairie Ridge markers located at the intersections of 75th and 79th on Roe.

We had to do a lot of watering of the new plants this summer—it was a dry one! We also sprayed for weeds and plan on trimming up some of the older shrubbery. I have been working with the city about vines that are growing up the trees on the cul-de-sac at 76th Street. It looks like progress is being made there.

I am sorry to say that we did have some vandalism done to some of the new grassy type plants on the island located at 77th Street and Roe. These had gotten a bit too tall and our plans were to relocate them in the spring. Unfortunately, someone took it upon themselves to trim the plants down, almost to ground level, not a good idea for a young plant trying to establish itself. Ms. Simpson helped to trim these correctly and we hope the plants will make it till next spring. PLEASE, in the future, contact myself or any other board member if you have a question or concern regarding the island plantings.

Now on the brighter side, I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who gave their time and energy being an island volunteer. The islands looked great and colorful all summer. THANKS to all association members who provided water for the island plants and flowers this summer too!



Can you name the island where I live?

## New Residents!

Kristen Shelton  
7605 Briar

Margaret C. Kenny  
7809 Rosewood Lane

Jonathan Gatz  
4605 W. 78th Street

Tawya & John Brimmer  
7744 Briar

M. Wertzberger & J. Krisman  
4828 76th Street

Barry Kaseff  
7700 Briar

Peggy L. Wright  
4712 W. 77th Street

Ann Wilkinson  
4610 W. 78th Terrace

Vandra Solomon  
4907 W. 78th Street

Nathan & Megan Winter  
4512 W. 79th Street

Melissa Pittinger & Ashley Person  
4827 W. 78th Terrace

## Fun, Fall Recipe!

### Apple Donut Balls

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 4 T. shortening    | 1 t. salt       |
| 1 1/2 C. sugar     | 2 t. nutmeg     |
| 3 eggs             | 2 t. cinnamon   |
| 5 C. sifted flour  | 3/4 C. milk     |
| 3 t. baking powder | 1 C. applesauce |

Cream shortening and sugar together. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each egg. Add baking powder, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon and mix well. Mix in the milk and applesauce. Add flour, 1 cup at a time mixing well after each cup.

Drop by 1/2 teaspoonfuls in 350-375° (High) canola or vegetable oil until golden brown. Drain on paper towels, with paper sacks underneath, then, roll in a mixture of cinnamon and sugar.

For best flavor, use new oil.

## Is Your Fireplace Ready for Fall?

By Seth H. Auld - Artful Duster

The weather is getting cooler and everyone is thinking of using their fireplace. Before lighting your first fire of the fall, are you sure that it is safe for use?

If you have lived in your house for a while and are familiar with your fireplace, you should know about how long it has been since you last had it cleaned. If you have burned more than 1 1/2 cords seasoned hardwood, such as walnut, hickory or oak, it is time to get it cleaned. You should only burn these hard types of woods that have been cut and aged especially for fireplace burning. If you have burned any green wood, soft type wood, such as pine, cedar or pinion, or if you burn random things such as paper, trash, etc., you are causing big creosote buildups in your fireplace and increasing your chances of having a flue fire. You also know if you have a chimney cap on top of your fireplace and furnace, keeping birds and animals from nesting in the flues.

If you have just purchased your house, and know nothing about the fireplace, it is a good idea to have a chimney inspection before having your first fire. You have no way of knowing what the previous owners may have burned or whether they ever had the flue cleaned. A chimney sweep will be looking for several things:

- Is the firebox in good shape without loose bricks and creosote buildup.
- Have birds, squirrels or even raccoons been living in the fireplace leaving nests which can catch fire or block the flue completely causing smoke to back up into your house.

A chimney cap is recommended to prevent birds and animals from living in your fireplace and your furnace flues. Animals and birds build and leave nests and droppings that are flammable and can block smoke from escaping up your flue. This can cause a flue fire, a chimney fire in your flue that will shoot flaming balls of creosote onto your roof. If the nest is in your furnace, it can cause carbon monoxide poisoning by not allowing the fumes to escape and vent from your home. Every year I hear of deaths of homeowners whose furnace flue was not venting properly. A chimney cap could prevent many of these deaths from happening. The cap will also prevent water damage from occurring to the brick outside and the flue tiles inside the chimney.

My company, **Artful Duster Complete Chimney Service**, has been in business for over 25 years and is, of course, liability insured. I do chimney inspections, cleanings, animal and nest removal, chimney caps, and repair and rebuilding of fireboxes and fireplaces. I do not send out part-time people to evaluate or work on your fireplace. I come to your home personally and you get the benefit of my 25+ years of experience, plus, I live in Prairie Ridge and have for over 20 years!

If you need your chimney cleaned now, please call me at 913-649-1999. If you can wait until the busy season is over, starting February 1, 2007 thru May 31, 2007, I am offering \$20 off cleaning of a regular wood burning fireplace to anyone in Prairie Ridge. Just mention or save this article to get your discount.

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## REMINDERS:

**Daylight Savings Time** ends October 29th. Enjoy an extra hour of sleep!

**Vote on November 7th.** You can check your voting registration and polling location online:  
[www.jocoelection.org/voters/for\\_voters.htm](http://www.jocoelection.org/voters/for_voters.htm)

**Help those walkers remain safe.** Fall is such nice walking weather. Please keep your sidewalks clear of those dreaded acorns, sweet gum balls and black walnuts. They are treacherous!

**Meet your neighbors.** Set aside the date of April 12, 2007 and plan to attend the Prairie Ridge Annual Meeting at Homestead Country Club. Watch for more information.

**Contribute.** The newsletter editor would love to hear from you. Have a fun story, a heartwarming tale from the neighborhood, a service you'd like to advertise? Bring it on!