



THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW QUARTERLY Merry Christmas!

www.praireviewtexas.gov

DECEMBER 2014

Monthly Events

3rd Wednesday @City Hall
Alta Vista HOA @1pm

3rd Thursday @City Hall
Apt. Owners @12noon
4B Eco. Develop. @6pm

3rd Saturday @St. Francis Episcopal
Men's Prayer Breakfast
@8:30am

4th Tuesday @City Hall
City Council @6pm

4th Wednesday @St. Francis Episcopal
PV Retired Teachers @1pm

4th Thursday @PV Alumni
Chamber of Commerce
@6pm

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The City of PV Quarterly Newsletter Editors

Veronica C. Hargest Sharp,
Ed.D., Editor in Chief

Denise Armstrong
Editor

WORDS FROM MAYOR FRANK D. JACKSON



Greetings! Giving all praises and honor to God. It is a privilege to share with each reader this edition of The City of Prairie View's Newsletter.

The editorial staff and each contributor are to be highly commended for taking the time from their busy schedules to share news, views and information via this newsletter.

As we near the close of the year 2014, I am pleased to report the City of Prairie View is alive, well and continuously moving ever closer to the "tipping point" of a new renaissance in its growth and development.

The pathway towards this new renaissance of growth and development for our fair City is clearly outlined in the Comprehensive Development Plan that was compiled via a series of public forums, workshops and focus groups, later ratified by City Council.

In accordance with the intent of the Comprehensive Development Plan, in this edition of the City's Newsletter, I will share a few highlights of the Goals and Objectives accomplished during 2014.

- Continuously improve Emergency Services** - The City Council has authorized the hiring of 3 additional Police Officers and increased the salaries to make them competitive to attract and retain the best officers. The City is incorporating Community Based Policing and greatly appreciate the "National Night Out" Program that brought neighbors and neighborhoods closer together in a unified demonstration to make their communities safer. Subdivisions are seriously engaged in discussions and actions to organize Subdivision Associations which will give greater control of and improve the quality of life. The Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association is taking deliberate steps to improve its fire service rating with the state's Insurance Service Office such as improved fire apparatus (trucks), personnel training and an efficient water system that are some of the key elements to help earn an insurance rating

that result in lower insurance premiums for home and business owners.

- Strengthen and Enhance the Public Works Infrastructure** - The City is giving serious consideration to introducing "Smart meters" into its inventory. Smart meters will give customers the ability to track their usage of water on a daily basis from their home computers or smart phones. A third water well located in the north section of the City on Cameron Road is operational and on line. The water well will help improve both volume and pressure on the water system and positively impact the City's Insurance Service Office fire rating. There are plans to develop sewage and water on Commissioner James R. Muse Parkway and redirect the flow of sewage from the west section of the City to Richards Road lift station. Bids are being received from companies to clean the City's ditches and waterways that cause flooding.

- Business Development** - The increase in business development increases the sales taxes collected. Increases in sales taxes translate into lower property taxes. The city of Prairie View is open for business development. The opening of the A&M Store, Subway, Owens Road Retail Center and the Bowling Alley are significant milestones in business development. An application to open a new Service Station and Convenient Store on Business 290 at Richards Road are now before the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. Serious discussions are being engaged with other retail and subdivision developers.

- Excellence in the stewardship of the public finances** - The City received a clean Audit Opinion during its most recent audit and an "A" Rating from its Bond Rating Agencies. The City staff receive training on a regular basis and constantly work to remain in compliance with all federal and state laws and City ordinances.

Finally, it is important for all Citizens to participate in your government: that includes

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**National Night Out
October 7, 2014**

The following subdivisions registered to participate in the NNO 2014 events:
Alta Vista, Anderson Quarters, Clark, Owens, Prairie View Courts, Panther Quarters, Ferguson Heights, Wyatt's Chapel, Hillcrest, Muse, Vicksburg Terrace, Prairie Gables, Pine Island, Brookside Meadows and Prairie Hills. Thanks to the Subdivision Leaders who coordinated the NNO events. Go to www.prairieviewtexas.gov for the full report.

 **Security & Safety**

 **Chief Larry Johnson & TEAM**

Safety Tips In Your Residence..International Assoc. of Chief's of Police (IACP)..pt 1

- List only your initials and last name on your mailbox or in telephone books.
- Be alert when returning home by having your key ready as you approach the door; in addition, if you think someone is inside, don't go in! Call the police from a nearby phone.
- If possible, equip your house or apartment door with a peephole and dead bolt lock with a one-inch throw.
- Be sure all windows have secure frames and locks. Secure sliding doors by drilling a hole through the inside frames, and inserting a nail to prevent sliding. Place a strong piece of wood in the track. Install locks to prevent sliding or lifting. Use window key locks. Keep keys in locks for quick exit in case of emergency or fire. For double-hung windows, drill holes downward where inside and outside sashes meet. Insert nails or bolts. Consider grates for basement and first floor windows. (Check local fire codes first). Consider buying an alarm from a reputable dealer.
- Never open your door to strangers. Request identification from all repair or service personnel, and verify the identity before letting them in, especially if you have not called for repairs.
- Use outside lighting whenever possible.
- Never hide your door key in a flower pot or under a mat. In fact, don't hide your door key anywhere outside your residence.

**December 25, 2014
Christmas Day!**

**January 1, 2015
New Year's Day!**



**December 26, 2014
- January 1, 2015**

**Neighborhood
Watch Training is
coming Soon!**

**PV City Budget
You can find a
detailed report @
www.prairieviewtexas.gov**

*Prairie View Yard
of the Quarter*
**Nominations are due
by March 18, 2015!**

**Heavy Trash pickup day,
the 3rd Monday of each
month & scheduled by call-
ing 979-277-1160 or online
[@www.prairieviewtexas.gov](http://www.prairieviewtexas.gov)**

Bobcats & Bulldogs Nation ..by Dr. Michael Prince

Waller County Sports Broadcast

Congratulations to Coaches Ricky Sargent and Brad Wright for leading Hempstead and Waller to the Playoffs for 2014!

Let's rally together for our youth of Waller Cty....**GO BOBCATS!!! GO BULLDOGS!!!**

**Tune into the Sports Report Weekly hosted by Dr. Michael Prince
[@www.OBNRadio.com](http://www.OBNRadio.com)**

Words from Mayor Frank D. Jackson (cont'd from Page 1)....

attending City Council Meetings and participating in the election process. Please let us hear from you on how your elected and appointed officials can better serve you by completing a Comments Form located at PV City Hall or online [@www.prairieviewtexas.gov](http://www.prairieviewtexas.gov).

Remember, "that regardless of the phenomenon that we encounter in this life, it will be a whole lot better, if we just do it together."

May God continue to bless and keep each of you is this humble servant's prayer.

Keeping PV Clean & Beautiful..... Veronica C. Hargest Sharp, Ed.D.

The goal for the Yard of the Quarter is to award and recognize the efforts of PV residents who take pride in their home and landscape and inspire others to do the same. The program will start in March and end in December. Each yard may only win the Yard of the Quarter award once in a calendar year.

JUDGING CRITERIA. Yard of the Quarter candidates are judged solely on the total exterior appearance of their property and front yard as viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard and property are important. Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness and neatness of the front of the property. Each yard will be chosen from the nomination given to the Keeping PV Clean & Beautiful Committee. Nomination can be made by emailing to cityofpvquarterly@gmail.com. Note: Residents may nominate their own property.

A. Yard Maintenance:

- * Healthy lawn, neatly mowed and edged
- * Pruned and trimmed shrubs and trees
- * Healthy plants
- * Minimum weeds in flowerbeds
- * Yard free of

debris and clutter * Clean walkways & driveways (including boats, trailers, campers, trash containers and yard products removed from view) * Clear of vehicles of any kind parked on the lawn/yard

B. Design and Landscaping:

- * Use of color and texture
- * Creative, unique, curb appeal
- * Overall aesthetic appeal, an inspiration to others in the neighborhood
- * Balance appropriate to house and lot size
- * While lack of strict adherence to the criteria above does not necessarily result in a disqualification, these criteria offer general guidelines to be recognized
- * Only the front yard as viewed from the street will be judged. Backyards will not be considered, even if visible from the street.
- * All plantings must be living; no plastic, silk or artificial plants.

Winners will receive :

A specially designed "Yard of the Quarter" sign placed in their yard for one quarter and a certificate of recognition signed by the Mayor and given at a Council meeting and a photo in The PV Quarterly newsletter.

From Where I stand . . . Frederick V. Roberts

Commendations to the Editor and others for the publication of the City of Prairie View Newsletter. This column "From Where I Stand" is a tribute to various individuals who have made significant contributions to the development and advancement of the City of Prairie View and Prairie View A&M University. It is also a reminder of the various organizations that operate in the city with little fanfare or recognition.

My first tribute is to Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, one of the most dynamic and progressive leader, administrator, teacher, philosopher and friend to all that I have ever known. Dr. Thomas was named the 3rd President of Prairie View A&M University (formerly Prairie View Agricultural & Mechanical College) on November 22, 1966 and served through May 31, 1982. During these years, Prairie View A&M saw dynamic changes in the physical plant, student enrollment, endowment, academic achievement and international programs. These changes came through his visionary leadership to establish and engage some 100 professionals from academia, business, clergy and government on a Centennial Council to chart the course for the university. Out of this meeting came a 1970-1980 Development Plan to guide the university into first class recognition. Incidentally, part of that plan was the incorporation of the City of Prairie View in 1969, an outgrowth of the Community Chess, the forerunner for citizens involvement.

From Where I Stand, I believe that Dr. Thomas, the consummate pragmatist, believed in Prairie View A&M University, its faculty, staff, administration and most of all the students. This became evident with his commitment to the holistic development of the students with the residence hall living and learning centers; implementation of the Operation Success program which focused on students' achievement and career development; participation in the Miss America-Miss Texas pageant, the first for a Black college queen; chartering of more than 20 international honor societies, fraternities and sororities and other social and professional organizations.

His political process manifested itself through his relationship and knowledge of working with the legislatures with increased political capital for support of Prairie View A&M University and gaining its rightful part of the Permanent University Fund, enjoyed more today by his successors.

It's no coincidence that the Administration Building is named in his honor and serves as a beacon to his leadership and commitment to excellence for all who followed in his master plan for the university. Dr. Thomas died on September 25, 2013 and though he did not achieve a medical or law school for Prairie View A&M, his legacy lives on in the people through the motto he crafted in 1973: "Prairie View Produces Productive People."



WORDS OF INSPIRATION

**Pastor Thaddeus Singleton, Jr.
Victorious Believers Church**

The great John Wesley founder of the Methodist church said, "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

Can you imagine the kind of city we would have if every citizen of Prairie View, Texas lived, served, and loved like this?

Journey Stories

A Traveling Exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C. sponsored by The Texas State Historical Association

Where: Brazos Valley African American Museum
500 East Pruitt Street, Bryan, Texas 77803
Tel: 979-3961

When: November 10—December 21, 2014

Time: Tues—Fri. 10am—5pm., Sat. 10am—4pm.,
Sun. @ 2pm—5pm., Mon (closed).

Costs: adults \$5, srs. \$4, free for children under 6

Boy & Girls' Scouting & PV Fire Dept. Marian E. Jackson

Join Scouting Today! Prairie View Scouts Meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday at PV City Hall.....Cub Scouts Pack 338 - 6PM - 7PM (Cub Master M. Elaine Jackson, 936-857-5550 or mejacksontx@prodigy.net)

* Girl Scouts Troop 14472 - 6PM - 7PM (Troop Leader Diana Duncan, munekita89@aol.com)

* Boy Scouts Troop 1906 - 7PM - 8:30PM (Scout Master Cameron Estwick, cameron_estwick@yahoo.com)

Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association, Inc. Annual Community Events

ANNUAL FOOD & TOY DRIVE

October 1—December 19. Drop toys off at the Fire Station on Wednesdays (7pm-9pm), The Prairie View Credit Union or Prairie View City Hall during business hours

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Please commit to protecting our community by making an annual donation of your choice to Prairie View Vol. Fire Fighters, P.O. Box 427
Prairie View, Texas 77446

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR

Frank D. Jackson
Position #1 Brian E. Rowland
Position #2 Jonathon Randle
Position #3 Marie Herndon
Position #4 Herb Thomas
Position #5
Paulette Matthews Barnett

4B Economic Development President Herb Thomas

Vice President Dr. Michael Prince
Treasurer Trissa Dilliard
Secretary Frederick Roberts
Director Denise Armstrong
Director Redessa Coleman
Director Marie Herndon

The mission of the Prairie View 4B Economic Development Corporation (PV4BEDC), a public nonprofit, is to facilitate, lead, and promote organized economic growth to improve the quality of life and protect and create jobs through innovative and conventional programs. Developed and written by: Tyra Metoyer.

Homes Sold

Look for a Report each Quarter

Welcome to The City of Prairie View Quarterly

The City of Prairie View is in the process of initiating an electronic quarterly newsletter as another way to keep you informed about City-sponsored events, projects and other special announcements. Email to cityofpvquarterly@gmail.com to receive it, electronically.

Important Numbers

PV City Hall 936-857-3711
PV Police 936-857-3521
PV Fire 936-857-9522
Nonemergency # 979-826-8033
Waller City Sheriff 979-826-8282
PV A & M Univ. 936-261-3311
San Bernard Elec. 936-372-9176
City of PV Water 936-857-3711
City of Waller Gas 936-372-3880
Republic Services 979-277-1160
Municipal Court 936-857-5327
Juvenile Court 979-826-7691
Waller ISD 936-931-3685
Hempstead ISD 979-826-3304

City of Prairie View

44480 U. S. Bus. Hwy 290
P. O. Box 817
Prairie View, TX. 77446-0817

Can organic foods really improve your health?

.... Emory Davis

As we enter the holiday season, I would like for us to step back and take a look at what is on our table and where it came from. As our world becomes more and more dependent on quick and fast prepared meals, we often eat what is readily available and bought out of the store. Looking at our table and remem-

bering the year and our harvest, let us look at next year to start our own organic gardens.

Organic is primarily a labeling term used on a wide variety of foods that have been produced through methods and practices approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its National Organics Program (NOP).

Eating organic is also one of the single best steps you can take to safeguard the quality

of your food and health. In many cases, choosing organic is also a good step for the environment. No, nothing is wrong with the groceries that you buy from your local grocery store, but living in a rural area can have its perks. And growing your own organic fruits & vegetables for the health benefits can be one of those perks.

...(follow me in the next issue)

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT? (And Do Not Know It?).....David Allen

According to the FBI, there are over 33 million people who are victims of Identity Theft and do not know it! What impact does being a victim of Identity Theft have on you? Why should you be concerned at all? If not knowing costs you money, does it become important then?

What about your freedom? Insurance companies, credit card companies, mortgage and other financial institutions are now often using your credit file as an indicator of how good a customer or risk you may be in deciding what rates to charge you. For example, if your credit file says you have more accounts than you actually have or are aware of, then you appear to be a credit risk and charged a higher rate than you deserve, and you do not know it. If your "unknown" accounts are late (thieves seldom pay bills that are in the victims name), then that affects your credit rating which affects what interest rates you are being charged due to late payments, charge-offs or collection accounts, in YOUR Name.

How can this happen to you and thousands of unsuspecting people every year? Consider this, how many different companies have you completed applications for: School? (K-12, college(s), financial aid, scholarships, internships, etc.)..Bank accounts?..Apartment?..Mortgages?..Car loans? Can you even remember how many different companies you "applied" to for various reasons? If you do not know, welcome to the club.

If you think you know who has your information, think again. Let's say you applied for medical insurance, the company or agent you gave your application to often sends it to other companies to shop for the best prices or they are affiliated and simply share information, normal practice for many companies these days via technology. You hear about a breach (lost or stolen) of information in the news from a company you have not had any affiliation with, or so you thought. Turns out your insurance company had "shopped" your information with them in trying to get you the best rate; what they did was help you become the newest victim of Identity Theft from the Russian Mafia or one of hundreds of similar groups around the country and thanks to the Internet, around the world that buy and sell our information to each other for various purposes, all of which could hurt us in the end. www.LegalShieldassociate.com/davidallen55

Real Estate News in Prairie View Marie Herndon

In this introductory newsletter, I take this opportunity to introduce you to the City of Prairie View Realtors. When you need assistance to buy, rent, sell, or trade real estate, **recycle Prairie View dollars** within our community by doing business with a real estate agent who resides in Prairie View.

Marie Herndon, Realtor

Waller County Land 281-202-2110/cell

Yolanda Fusilier, Realtor/Broker
Peak Realty 713-417-7567

Sharon Smith, Realtor
God's Property Realty 281-883-9887

Prairie View A & M University Events Denise Armstrong

December 1 World AIDS Day @6:30pm—
9:30pm, MSC Student Lounge
Greg Rose, 936-261-1425

December 4 Divine Revelation (Bible
Study) @7:00pm—9:00pm,
MSC Student Lounge; Dean
Charles Lewter, 936-261-3591

December 9 Last Class Day: 2nd 8-wk session

December 13 Commencement Exercises

Links for you:

* Panther Athletic Schedule, <http://www.pvpanthers.com/calendar.aspx>

* Majic 102 Events, <http://houstonmajic.com/nts/>