

Prairie Crossing
New Residents' Information

Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association (PCHOA)

Current homeowners have access to the official website of the Homeowners Association (<http://www.pchoa.com>). The site contains a wealth of information, including an address book; copies of the newsletter, *MeadowMix*; Governing Documents and Guiding Principles of the community; maps; architectural guidelines; and forms for submitting requests to the Architectural Review Committee. To obtain a login and password, go to the public page of the site and click on the eForms link.

Address Book

A list of Prairie Crossing residents, with addresses and contact information, is available on the PCHOA website and is searchable by both family name and street name.

Adopt-a-Highway

Several times a year, volunteers are recruited for cleanup of roads in and around Prairie Crossing. Watch for notices in the newsletter and in the homeowners' e-mail.

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Homeowners wishing to make modifications to the exterior of their homes or their landscaping must submit an architectural review form, along with plans or sketches of proposed changes, to the Architectural Review Committee, at the **Yellow Farmhouse** (32400 North Harris Road), where the Homeowners Association has its offices. The form, additional information on procedures and requirements, and a schedule of meetings can be found on the PCHOA website.

Beach

The beach is for the use of Prairie Crossing residents and their guests, and is open from dawn to sunset. There are no lifeguards, and parents or guardians should accompany children under the age of 16. It is recommended that no one swim alone. Dogs are not allowed at the beach, either in the water or on the sand. Boats may be kept at the beach during the summer months, locked to one of the available posts. Please keep the beach clean and take all personal items with you when you leave. *See also Lake Aldo Leopold* below.

Braunschweiger Bunch

This "mostly" men's-only club meets at 8:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month--regardless of rain, sleet, and snow--at the fire pit in the Prairie Orchid cul de sac. Dress for comfort, bring a beverage or two, and meet some of your neighbors for light conversation or just staring into the embers. Members are also the promoters of the annual Fathers Day Pig Roast and therefore may be reached for inquiry via bbpigroast@pchoa.com.

Byron Colby Barn

This century-old dairy barn was restored in 1996 to serve as a community center for Prairie Crossing. It hosts many homeowner and association events, including concerts, movies, and meetings. Residents and the greater community can rent the barn for special occasions, such as weddings, parties, workshops, and conferences. Community events are announced in the *MeadowMix* newsletter and through the e-mail group. For more information, contact Stan Rosenberg, Events Manager, at 847-543-1202 or bcbarn@prairiecrossing.com.

Charter School (PCCS)

The Prairie Crossing Charter School, K-8, which opened its doors in August 1999, is an innovative public charter school offering students an academic curriculum centered on the environment. Any student enrolled in the Fremont (#79) or Woodland (#50) school districts is eligible for admission, which is determined by application followed by a lottery. For information, contact the school office at 847-543-9722; see also the school website at www.pccs.lake.k12.il.us/index.asp.

Community Contact Information

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| Police or Fire (emergency) | 911 |
| Electricity (ComEd) | 800-334-7661 |
| Fire Department (non-emergency) | 847-223-2120 |
| Gas (People's Energy/North Shore Gas) | 847-556-6005 |
| Waste Management Landfill (odor reporting) | 847-456-9745 |
| Police Department (non-emergency) | 847-223-2341 |
| Sewer and Water (Village of Grayslake) | 847-223-8515 |
| Condell Hospital Emergency Room | 847-362-2900 |
| Lake Forest Hospital Acute Care Center | 847-535-8950 |
| Village of Grayslake | 847-223-8515 |
| Garbage and Recycling (Waste Management) | 847-362-3560 |

Community Garden Plots

Garden plots are available east of the Yellow Farmhouse, by the horse stables. A full plot is 24' x 22'8" (\$55) and a half plot is 24' x 11'4" (\$35). Compost is provided in the spring and fall, as well as water throughout the growing season. Contact Dorie Roth at droth@prairiecrossing.com.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs)

At the Prairie Crossing Farm, a number of farmers offer fresh, healthy, organic food. With the exception of Sandhill Organics, these farms are members of the Prairie Crossing Farm Business Development Center, a business incubator for beginning farmers. These producers offer their products through different channels: CSAs, direct sales, and sales at farmer's markets. Prairie Crossing CSAs include

- Sandhill Organics (Matt and Peg Sheaffer, www.sandhillorganics.com)
- Dea Dia Organics (Jeff and Jen Miller, www.dea-dia.com)
- Wild Goose Farm (Meg Runyan, www.wildgoosefarm.net)
- Radical Root Farm (Alex Needham and Alison Parker, www.radicalrootfarm.com)
- The Learning Farm Prairie Farm Corps (10 area students, ages 16–18, droth@prairiecrossing.com)
- Midnight Sun Farm (Nick Choate-Batchelder, midnightsunfarm@gmail.com)
- See also Tempel Farm Organics ("graduates" of the PC Farm Business Development Center, www.tempelfarms.com/organicfarm.html).

See also **Farmer's Markets** below.

Compost Collection

The Prairie Crossing Farm uses composting to turn discarded food products into a valuable soil conditioner, combining kitchen scraps (see below) from homeowners with manure and bedding from the stables and chickens. If you wish to participate in the program, leave a compost bucket (a lidded container such as those that cat litter or drywall compound come in works well) at the end of your driveway by 7:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. In order to minimize the smell, please put out your bucket weekly

whether or not it is full, and rinse it out after each collection. You may include such things as fruit and vegetable scraps, tea and tea bags (no staples, please), coffee grounds and filters, human and animal hair, egg shells, dairy products, bread products, and dirt and dust. Do not include meat products, bones, pet feces or food, metal or plastic, sticks or woody garden debris, or soaps and cleaning agents.

Concerts

Summertime concerts at the Gazebo, located on the village green at Portia Road, are typically planned by Stan Rosensberg, Events Manager of the barn. Notice of the events appear in *MeadowMix* and on the homeowners' e-mail. Other concerts, including Bluegrass, Classical, Jazz, and an Early Music series, take place throughout the year in the barn.

Condominiums at Station Square

Condominium residents with questions regarding cable and telephone access, fitness center access, general Condominium Association issues (such as garbage, parking, security system), and requests for unit modification should contact Kevin at Kalman Management, 847-362-9624.

E-mail

Prairie Crossing maintains an e-mail group for the sharing of news and information, on such varied topics as upcoming events, revised schedules for compost pickup, lost pets, freebies, and sightings of unusual wildlife. You can ask your neighbors for recommendations for everything from restaurants to roofers. To register, send an e-mail to pcho-owner@yahoo.com.

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)

Every Prairie Crossing resident enjoys the beautiful open spaces around us. But our prairies and wetlands won't stay healthy and beautiful without some TLC. And that is what the Environmental Stewardship Committee is all about. We are a group of resident volunteers dedicated to preserving and restoring the natural areas in Prairie Crossing. We are an integral part of implementing the environmental conservation plan for PC, which is headed by Team Leader Mike Sands. We focus on:

- **Education:** what belongs in a prairie and what doesn't, and what to do about it. This helps you care for your home prairie and gardens, too. This is accomplished through articles in the Meadow Mix newsletter, group events, and one-on-one consultations.
- **Hands-on events:** restoring prairie or wetland plant life and habitat for native mammals, birds, insects, and fish. The event leader offers instructional talks before we venture out—a good opportunity for “hands-on” learning.

We also offer other interesting activities throughout the year. Some of those we have hosted include

- “Weed Walk”: educational strolls around the common areas where we help you learn to identify “good guy” and “bad guy” plants and simply admire our surroundings.
- Prairie Yard Bike Tour: a leisurely bike ride to several homes within the community with a presentation by the homeowner at each stop.
- Tree care seminar: an informative seminar on the proper care and mulching.

Come join us! Membership is open to all interested PC residents. No experience or expertise is necessary. All levels of participation are welcome. You don't have to participate in everything; get involved in only those activities that interest you. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the **Yellow Farmhouse**. Our workdays are on the third weekend of every month and alternate between Saturdays and Sundays. In the summer months (May, June, July, August), we also have an evening work event. Dates for events are in “EcoNotes” in *MeadowMix*, on PCHOA.com, and on the e-mail group. Questions? E-mail us at Environment@pchoa.com.

Events

There is always something going on at Prairie Crossing. Many of the events are open to the public; others are for residents only. Watch for announcements in *MeadowMix* and on the e-mail list. The following past events may or may not be repeated depending on whether there are volunteers to plan and execute them. A few, marked with *, are described elsewhere in this handout.

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| Concerts* | ongoing |
| Early Music series | ongoing |
| Plays and poetry readings | ongoing |
| Ladies Night In* | monthly |
| Braunschweiger Bunch bonfires* | monthly |
| Easter Egg Hunt | spring |
| Birding classes and wildflower walks | spring |
| Prairie burns and burn workshop | spring |
| Farm festival and bonfire | spring |
| Growing with Nature: Organic Plant Sale | spring |
| Farmer's market* | summer |
| Beach Fest and camp out | Summer |
| Edible Harvest event | fall |
| "Behind the Scenes" tour of nature preserve | fall |
| Valentines Day party | winter |
| Prairie Pedal bike ride* | May |
| Annual PC Garage Sale | May |
| Fourth of July celebration and parade | July |
| Halloween Fright Fest | October |
| Holiday Cookie Walk | December |

Farmer's Markets

In the summer and early fall, Prairie Crossing hosts a small farmer's market on Fridays, 4–7 p.m., in Station Square. Other area farmer's markets include those in Grayslake (Center Street, Wednesdays, 3–7 p.m.), Gurnee (Grand Ave. and Kilbourne Rd., Fridays, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.), and Libertyville (Church St. between Milwaukee Ave. and Brainerd, Thursdays, 7 a.m.–1 p.m.).

Fire pits

There are two fire pits for homeowner use: one on the Prairie Orchid cul de sac and the other on the green area surrounded by Shooting Star Road, Harris Road, and Blazing Star. Please use all precautionary measures when building a fire, and supervise children at all times. Fires *must be completely extinguished* before leaving the area.

Fitness Center

The Fitness Center is located on the lower level of the Byron Colby Barn, with access at the rear of the building. For a one-time fee of \$10, pass keys and the code for the outer door are available from Summit Management. Contact Al Villesenor at 847-918-0000 or avillesenor.dygio@smsgmt.com.

Garbage and Recycling

Waste Management cans are to be kept in the garage except on pick-up days. Cans are to be placed on opposite sides of the driveway no earlier than 7:00 p.m. Thursday night, for Friday pick-up. Pick-up is delayed one day during some holiday weeks. Cans are available in 3 sizes, which can be changed once a

year in the spring; new residents may also change sizes when they move in, with Village of Grayslake approval. For more information, see www.villageofgrayslake.com.

Interest groups and clubs

Watch for meetings of various interest groups in the *MeadowMix* and on the community e-mail. There have been, for example, groups for fitness training, sewing, and investment. Don't see what you're looking for? Post something on the e-mail and see if others are interested in getting together.

- The Book Discussion Group meets every month to discuss a book that has profoundly influenced Western civilization. The group is currently (summer 2010) discussing Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and has previously discussed Plato's *Republic* and Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*. The informal discussions are led by David Shiner, a local philosophy professor. Interested residents should look for notices of meetings on the community e-mail.
- Members of the PC Tri Group like to work out with others, and are interested in swimming, biking, and/or running, in preparation for a triathlon or just for fitness. Contact Michelle Chiodi at 847-543-9482 or mtchiodi@yahoo.com.

Ladies Night In

Bring an appetizer, dessert, or bottle of wine to share--or just bring yourself. To join the monthly Ladies Night In group, send an e-mail to Erin Cummisford at ecummisford@sbcglobalnet (subject line: "Ladies Night") with your name and address. You will receive an e-mail with instructions.

Lake Aldo Leopold

This 20-acre lake, 18-20 feet at its deepest, features a beach, boating (non-motorized only), fishing, and a protected nesting island. Residents may bring guests to the lake, but we ask that you accompany them when they are there. There are yellow rescue ladders and life buoys around the lake in case of an accident. The lake has been stocked with Largemouth Bass and Tiger Muskies. Crappies and Sunfish are so abundant that you are asked to remove them when caught; please return the Largemouth Bass and Muskies. The small "nesting island" is a protected area for birds to nest on; residents are requested not to boat or swim over to it. In the winter, ice skating and ice fishing are available when the ice is thick enough. In the winter, a green or red flag is flown on the flagpole [near the intersection of Prairie Trail and Jones Point Road]. Red indicates that the ice was less than 4 inches thick in selected areas; green indicates that the ice was at least 4 inches thick, NOT that it is necessarily safe to walk on. There may be thin ice in areas not tested.

Landscaping

Because Prairie Crossing is founded on principles of environmental conservation, homeowners are encouraged to minimize the use of harmful chemicals as they manage their landscaping. "Landscape Concepts" offers an eco-friendly plan to homeowners for lawn care; for information contact Bill Pogson at 847-543-4433 or goldenrod1124@yahoo.com. Refer to Article IV of the ARC Guidelines on the homeowners website for information on landscaping changes that require ARC approval.

Learning Farm

The Prairie Crossing Learning Farm, under the wing of the **Liberty Prairie Foundation**, is a part of Prairie Crossing's organic farm. The Learning Farm is dedicated to hands-on experiential farm learning for children, teachers, and interested public groups. Participants learn the importance and benefits of both good food habits and sustainable farming, experiencing how the latter is done by helping to do it. The Learning Farm also keeps a flock of chickens whose eggs are sold through an honor-box system from

the Long Barn at the farm (west of the **Yellow Farmhouse** at 32400 North Harris Road). Produce in season is also available. The Learning Farm operates the Prairie Crossing Farmers Market in summer, which in 2010 is open every Friday, 4–7 p.m. The Learning Farm also has opportunities for volunteers who seriously want to help with various farm and garden chores or wish to help with the market occasionally. The Learning Farm also runs a Children’s Farm Camp, open to children ages 3-10, with summer and fall sessions. For more information, contact Dorie Roth at 847-548-4062 x11 or droth@prairiecrossing.com; or Linda Wiens at 847-548-4030 x13 or lwiens@prairiecrossing.com.

Liberty Prairie Conservancy

The Liberty Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the Liberty Prairie Reserve, which includes Prairie Crossing. Events are posted in *MeadowMix* and the community e-mail. Residents are invited to join; call 847-918-0000. Additional information is enclosed.

Libraries

Prairie Crossing is divided between the Fremont Public Library District in Mundelein and the Grayslake Area Public Library District in Grayslake. To determine which is your district, go to <http://gis2.ca.lake.il.us/maps>. Click on “Property Tax” and then on “Search.” After entering your address, you will get an individual tax parcel report that lists your school district, library district, and more.

Management Company

See below, **Summit Management Specialists**. For condo owners, see above, **Condominiums at Station Square**.

Maps

Maps of Prairie Crossing and area trails are available on the PCHOA website under “Documents.”

MeadowMix

The Prairie Crossing newsletter, *MeadowMix*, is mailed monthly to homeowners. Current and back issues are also available on the PCHOA website. Articles and ads must be submitted to the editor, Tricia Ivey, at newsletter@pchoa.com, by 11:00 p.m. on the 15th of the month. If you aren't receiving *MeadowMix*, please contact Al Villasenor at Summit Management avillasenor@smsgmt.com or 847-918-0000.

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is an association of neighbors who look out for each other's families and property, alert the police to any suspicious activities or crime in progress, and work together to make our community a safer and better place to live. Neighborhood Watch does not take action to stop crime in progress or attempt to act as a neighborhood policing group. Do not attempt to confront suspicious individuals or investigate activities yourself. If you see something suspicious, please call 911 or the non-emergency number. Interested in participating? Contact Erin Cummisford at ecummisford@sbcglobal.net, or Liz Coyne at esmmmc@sbcglobal.net.

Pets

Dogs are to be leashed at all times when they are outside your own property. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Note that dogs are not allowed on the beach or in the water at the beach. Cats must be kept within the bounds of the owner’s property, by Grayslake law and Prairie Crossing rules.

Prairie Crossing Institute

One of our community's ten guiding principles is "lifelong learning." The institute is among the organizations here that express and promote this principle. Its mission is to foster constructive learning-based action in all areas of life, and especially for environmental stewardship and sustainable growth. It helps interpret the Prairie Crossing "conservation community" experience to interested groups, including developers. It also contributes to building community, provides leadership learning, and assists other enterprises with strategic planning and implementation. For more information, visit their web page, www.prairiecrossing.com/pc/site/prairie-crossing-institute.html, or contact Linda Wiens at 847-548-4062 x12 or lwiens@prairiecrossing.com.

Prairie Pedal

This family-oriented Prairie Crossing tradition celebrates the great open spaces that we have close to home. Routes of varying length feature new places to see and nature education along the way, along with a tasty lunch at the barn. The event is open to all, so invite your friends and family. In 2009, there were over 500 riders. Look for announcements in the spring with information on registration for this May event.

Restoration Workdays

See **Environmental Stewardship Committee** above

Social Committee

Social events for residents, such as the Halloween Party, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Holiday "Cookie Walk, are coordinated by volunteers. After long and dedicated service, the current co-chairs have retired, and replacements are needed urgently. Please use the community e-mail to communicate your interest in working on any or all of these events. It's a wonderful way to meet your neighbors.

Stable

The stable, managed by Prairie Crossing Stable Cooperative, boards the horses of homeowners. The stable has 13 stalls, a tack room, and a heated lounge, and is adjacent to a large outdoor arena, four paddocks, and 16 acres of fenced pasture. For more information, contact Deb Shoemaker at 847-548-6826 or heathrow920@yahoo.com.

Summit Management Specialists (SMS)

Summit Management manages operations for the homeowners and sends assessment notices. Our contact at SMS is Al Villasenor at 847-918-0000 or avillesenor@smsmgmt.com. Please contact Al with issues relating to amenities, common areas, and the Homeowners Association. He will respond within 24 hours, and will communicate your concerns to the PCHPA Board.

Trails

Prairie Crossing has approximately 10 miles of trails for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, and horse-back riding. There are additional trails in Oak Openings, accessed via the trail along, and the underpass beneath, Route 45. A map of the trails is available at the PCHOA website. Please note that no motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails.

U.S. Mail, Fedex, and UPS boxes

A mail box is located next to the Pump House on the west edge of the barn parking lot. Fedex and UPS boxes are located in the rear parking lot east of the Shops at Station Square.

Volunteer Corps (PCVC)

The Prairie Crossing Volunteer Corps offers various services to older or infirm homeowners who require assistance with daily tasks. Do you need a ride, or help with cooking, running errands, lifting heavy objects, navigating the computer, or tending to your pet? If so, or if you would like to volunteer, please refer to the PC Volunteer Corps member list, located under the Volunteer section of the Documents area on the PCHOA website; or contact Patsy Welch at 847-223-2424 or patsywelch2000@yahoo.com.

Yard Waste

Yard waste with a diameter smaller than a pencil (small twigs, pine needles, wood ash, leaves, grass clippings, matches, sawdust, straw, mulch, dirt, and flowers/bouquets) may be left for composting in the farm wagon parked on Harris Road in front of the Yellow Farmhouse. Small amounts of these things may also be put out with the compost bucket (*see above, Compost Collection*).

Yellow Farmhouse

The Yellow Farmhouse, which houses such community offices as the Homeowners Association and the Learning Farm, is located at 32400 North Harris Road, across from the stables. Various meetings, including those of the PCHOA Board, the Architectural Review Committee, and the Environmental Stewardship Committee, are held here.