

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Local kids enjoy Safety Camp 2010



SEPTEMBER 2010

Inflow and Infiltration Property Inspection Program

The City of Eden Prairie is working to reduce its flow of clean water and storm water — referred to as inflow and infiltration or I & I — into the **Metropolitan Council Environmental Services'** (MCES) overburdened sanitary sewer collection system.

I & I is a problem because it takes up fixed capacity in large regional sewer pipes (interceptors) and treatment plants owned by MCES. During major rainfall events, this additional surge of water can consume the capacity of sewer pipes, resulting in sewage backing up into homes, or overflow into creeks and wetlands, ultimately reaching the Mississippi River.

Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps, which are used by many homeowners to keep groundwater out of basements, roof downspouts and foundation drains that are connected to the City's sanitary sewer system. Sump pumps are often connected to the sanitary sewer system via a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain.

State Law requires sump pumps, foundation drains and roof down spouts to flow directly to a storm sewer or onto the ground, not into the sanitary sewer system. There is also a City Ordinance which authorizes inspections of private properties to address this issue.

Private Property Inspections

At its July 20, 2010, meeting, the **City Council** approve a contract with **SL-Serco**, the consulting firm hired to conduct private property inspections and determine whether there are improper connections to the sanitary sewer collection system. Some property owners located within areas of the City affected by I & I will begin receiving official notice of the inspection program this month and others will be notified as the program progresses throughout 2010.

During the inspection, a representative from SL-Serco looks for a permanent connection from the sump pump to the exterior of the home. Any connection to a laundry tub or floor drain is illegal and must be corrected. In most homes, this inspection will take less than 10 minutes.

Compliance

If a property complies with the City Ordinance, a Certificate of Compliance is provided to the property owner and a copy placed on file with the City. If a property is found to not comply with the City Ordinance during the inspection, the property owner receives a copy of the documentation that identifies the problem(s). The property owner is then responsible for making the corrections.

More information and a copy of the City Ordinance addressing I & I can be found at edenprairie.org. For questions about the City of Eden Prairie's **Inflow and Infiltration Inspection Program**, please contact the **Public Works Department** at **952-949-8530**.

Eden Prairie Neighborhoods Unite

Night to Unite Becomes a Growing Summer Tradition

Hundreds of Eden Prairie residents dedicated to strengthening their commitment to a safe community gathered with friends and neighbors in early August to continue the summer tradition of celebrating **Eden Prairie Night to Unite 2010**

"This event continues to grow stronger each year," said Eden Prairie Police Sergeant **Matt Sackett**. "We topped last year's participation and collected more donations for PROP than ever before."

This year, residents of Eden Prairie planned 112 neighborhood gatherings for the Night to Unite event, bringing more than 5,000 people out to celebrate for the evening. Of those, more than 90 neighborhoods incorporated a collection of donations for **PROP** (People Reaching out to Other People) into the evening's festivities. In all, more than 7,600 pounds of donated items were collected!

"The PROP drive is a very important part of the Night Out event," said Sackett. "And the positive response we receive from residents when we ask them to help fellow community members in need is truly amazing."

Representatives from the Eden Prairie Police and Fire departments, as well as several City officials, made stops at each of the local gatherings. And once again this year, the Police and Fire departments committed to hosting an ice cream social for the neighborhood with the largest volume of donations to PROP.

The winning neighborhood, located in the 10000 block of Indigo Drive, collected a total of 1,296 pounds in

donations and will be rewarded with an evening of ice cream and fun with McGruff, Sparky and Eden Prairie's public safety officials.

Eden Prairie Night to Unite 2010 was by all means a successful event, bringing friends and neighbors together to celebrate and strengthen their commitment to a safe community.



Pink Fire Truck Tour 2010

Eden Prairie Firefighters Go Pink for a Great Cause

In September 2007, a group of firefighters embarked on a quest to spread the **Cares Enough to Wear Pink** campaign across the country. Their mission: to help local communities with the battle against cancer.

Today, this group of individuals is touring the United States in a convoy of pink fire trucks and on **Tuesday, Aug. 24** they will make a stop right here in Eden Prairie!

"We're thrilled that Eden Prairie is an official stop on the Pink Fire Truck Tour this year," said **Kim Cox**, Eden Prairie firefighter. "In honor of their visit, we're throwing a party and inviting the community to come out and celebrate for a great cause."

The **Pink Fire Truck Tour** event will take place from 4-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24 at **Purgatory Creek Park** (13001 Technology Drive). Festivities will include live music, survival stories and a silent auction. Plus, the Fire Department squirt house will be on hand, as well as inflatables for the kids and other fun activities for the whole family.

"This event is an opportunity to raise awareness, celebrate survival and continue the fight against a disease that has likely touched every member of this community in some way," said Cox.

The Eden Prairie Fire Department has chosen the **American Cancer Society** to receive all proceeds from the Pink Fire Truck Tour event. For more information, visit edenprairie.org.



Spotlight on City Commission Members

The **Eden Prairie City Council** utilizes the expertise of several citizen advisory commissions for guidance on matters ranging from economic development to environmental protection. Commissions are made up of Eden Prairie residents willing to share their time and knowledge for the benefit of the community.

The mission of the **Planning Commission** is to provide for an open process and a balanced review of development proposals and land use requests, both private and public, with regard to the City's Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Guide Plan and City land use.

Meet Commission Member Jon Stoltz!

Name: Jon Stoltz
Commission: Planning Commission
Year you were appointed: April 2004
Number of years you have lived in Eden Prairie: 12 years

Why do you volunteer to serve on a City commission? Like most people, I want to contribute to the well-being of the community in which I live. Because I love the amenities a well-planned city provides and am skilled in business development and space planning, I felt that this would be a wonderful way to help Eden Prairie grow and prosper. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience the past six years.

What would you like residents to know about the efforts of the commission on which you serve? I would like Eden Prairie residents to know that individual voices carry a lot of weight. Many times our commission's agendas, decisions and criteria for success have been shaped by the opinions expressed by an individual resident. I would suggest that Eden Prairie residents take the time to write to or visit local leaders in person. Share with them your thoughts, concerns and suggestions. I think you will find that it is a very positive experience.

What is your vision for the future in Eden Prairie? In today's world social interaction has been redefined. Now people frequently communicate electronically without ever really needing to see each other face to face. We need to build a community which counteracts this tendency. By protecting, upgrading and installing spaces for people to spend time together we strengthen the human relationships that form the backbone of good schools, good neighborhoods and good families. Character is built in the open spaces in which we gather for performances, play with our children, picnic with our neighbors and walk with our friends.

What is something interesting, unique or little-known about you? I have the privilege of raising a "miracle baby." On Jan. 3, 2009, our daughter Katherine was born at only 25 weeks gestation, 15 weeks before her due date! She weighed only 1 pound at birth! It was the most frightening and heart-wrenching experience of my life. She is now 19 months old and thriving. Her journey has been a long and arduous road for our family. We have deeply appreciated the support we have received from a community which stepped in to help us during our trial. During the 99 days she was hospitalized, our friends and neighbors provided invaluable support, school teachers comforted our three older children and my employer was wonderfully understanding. Katherine has made huge strides thanks in large part to the Early Intervention Services she has received from the Eden Prairie School District. While her extreme prematurity was an unwelcome and unexpected development, we have been greatly blessed to live in a place so uniquely prepared to help us meet her needs so beautifully.



Jon Stoltz and daughter Katie

A Partnership with a Purpose

Local Youth Gain Job Skills and Self-Confidence While Transforming the Local Landscape

If you've recently spent time at the **Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area** (18700 Flying Cloud Drive), you may have encountered the 16 members of **Tree Trust's Youth Conservation Corps** who have spent this summer completing park maintenance projects and building timber retaining walls along the conservation area's trails. These youth are part of the larger group of nearly 900 participants, working for nine weeks this summer.

The program provides paid employment training to low-income, at-risk and special-needs youth, who may otherwise have trouble finding work in a difficult economy. Through Tree Trust, they learn practical job skills, build character and find direction.

Tree Trust, a Minnesota nonprofit founded in 1976, has been partnering with the City of Eden Prairie since 1977. This project is just one example of Tree Trust's efforts to improve the community environment by investing in people.

To learn more about Tree Trust, visit treetrust.org.



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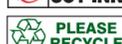
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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Hold on to Summer as Long as You Can

The first day of autumn officially falls on Sept. 22, and winter will be here before we know it. So, the Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department is offering dozens of outdoor activities and adventures this month to help you hold on to the splendor of summer as long as you can!

Top 10 ways to savor the end of summer:

1. Take to the farm for some good old-fashioned fun at **Sunbonnet Day**.
2. Send your little one on an **outdoor adventure with Curious George and his Animal Friends**.
3. Join author/naturalist and wildlife photographer, **Stan Tekiela**, for a **trip to Duluth's Hawk Ridge**.
4. Explore the works of local artists at the **2010 Art Crawl**.
5. Sign your young adults up for some **after school golf lessons**.
6. Join veteran canoe trip leader **Ron Otterness** for an **adventure along Wisconsin's Namekagon River**.
7. Bring the whole family together with astronomer **Jon Hickman** for a **September Star Watch**.
8. Enjoy the final days of outdoor swimming with **fall swimming lessons**.
9. Explore some of Wisconsin's best cheeses on the **Senior Center Spooner Train Trip**.
10. Make plans to attend the **Apple Cider-ing event** at the **Outdoor Center** in early October.



For more information about these and other Parks and Recreation programs, visit edenprairie.org/parksbrochure.

Our Environment

Recycle Your CFL Bulbs

A recent study of Minnesota homeowners conducted by the **Center for Energy and Environment** indicated that almost three-quarters of Minnesota households are currently using Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs, which are known to be up to four times more efficient and last 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs.



However, the same study also indicated that only 39 percent of those Minnesotans using CFL bulbs were aware of the fact that CFL recycling is required by law.

The average CFL bulb contains approximately 4mg of mercury, a toxic element essential to achieving energy savings, which must be properly handled when it becomes waste to protect public health and the environment.

For this reason Minnesota law bans fluorescent lamps from disposal in the trash, and directs that they must be recycled. This applies to fluorescent lights of all shapes and sizes, including CFL bulbs (Minn. Stat. § 115A.932).

CFL Handling & Recycling Tips

- **Handling** — Be careful when handling and transporting fluorescent bulbs to avoid breakage and exposure to mercury.
- **Storing** — Store new and used CFL bulbs in the original packaging or wrap in newspaper or bubble wrap, place in a box or bag to prevent breakage and always store them somewhere inaccessible to children.
- **Transporting** — When transporting fluorescent bulbs for recycling, carry them in the trunk of the car, if possible. Make sure there are no heavy items in the trunk that can shift or roll around and break the bulbs. As an added precaution, place used bulbs in sealed heavy-duty plastic bags.
- **Recycling** — Many retailers that sell fluorescent light bulbs also collect them for recycling, for a list of retailers that accept used CFL bulbs for recycling visit earth911.org or call **800-253-2687**.

For more information about CFL bulb recycling from the **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**, visit pca.state.mn.us.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

Today I met **Tony & Kitch Mussari**. Tony & Kitch are the principals behind something called **The Face of America Project**. If you've never heard of The Face of America Project, don't be embarrassed. I had never heard of it before today either. But after today, I'm a fan of The Face of America Project.

The purpose of the project is to honor and remember those who sacrificed on that tragic day: September 11, 2001. Tony & Kitch are creating a living memorial by traveling the country and asking people to reflect on that day and to tell them what it means to be an American. It's a great question. It's one we probably don't spend enough time on in a normal day.

I met Tony & Kitch because they were in the Twin Cities today making a stop on their cross-country trip. They wanted to stop



From L to R: Scott Neal, City Manager; Rob Reynolds, Police Chief; George Esbensen, Fire Chief and Tony Mussari.

and see us in Eden Prairie because they wanted to see Money magazine's Best Place to Live in America. After all, they were in the neighborhood.

They interviewed members of city staff as part of their project and presented us with their official remembrance flag, which we already have up in one of our City Hall display cases for public viewing. I will be sharing it with the City Council at tonight's City Council meeting and here's a picture from the flag presentation. With me are Police Chief **Rob Reynolds**, Fire Chief **George Esbensen** and Mr. Mussari.

Thanks for stopping by today Tony & Kitch. Please accept our best wishes on your project. I can't wait to see it.

To learn more about The Face of America Project, visit faceofamericawps.com.



See more of **Scott Neal's** blog entries by visiting edenprairie.org.



Safety Tips for Students

Be a Good Neighbor: Respect private property and always be on your best behavior while waiting for the bus.

Danger Zones: The Danger Zone is the area 10 feet around all sides of the bus. Always stay out of this area.

Going to the Bus Stop: Use sidewalks, cross streets only at corners, arrive five to 10 minutes early and be aware of suspicious people walking or driving around you..

Crossing the Street/Roadway: When crossing the street to get to the bus, wait for the bus to fully stop, make sure the red lights are flashing and the stop sign arm is extended, then cross about 10 feet in front of the danger zone. When crossing the street after leaving the bus, wait for the driver's signal before you start, look both ways for traffic and always WALK!

Waiting at the Bus Stop: Students should be supervised at the bus stops and stay back until buses stop completely.

Boarding the Bus: Always wait until the bus has stopped, the wheels are not turning and the door is opened before approaching the bus.

Safety Tips for Drivers

School Zones: Be especially careful when driving on neighborhood streets and around school zones, always expect the unexpected.

Slow Down: Be alert for youngsters walking to and from the school bus as you back out of your driveway or leave your parking garage.

When a School Bus is Present: Stop your car when you see lights flashing on a school bus. Flashing lights indicate that the bus is stopped and students are getting on or off. All vehicles must stop at least 20 feet from the front or rear of the bus in all directions, and in all lanes on a multi-lane roadway not separated by a physical divider. Don't start driving until the lights on the bus stop flashing and be aware that a child may dash across the street.



Did You Know?

Did you know the Eden Prairie **City Council** facilitates a program designed to give students first-hand experience participating in City government?

This program has become a valuable opportunity for local students to participate on City commissions, and on June 15, 2010, the Council appointed 14 new student members to six City commissions.

Arts and Culture Commission

David Mingo
Everett Keegan

Conservation Commission

Rachel Wood
Joshua Auerbach

Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission

Neeraj Aijaonkar

Heritage Preservation Commission

Ian English

Human Rights and Diversity Commission

Ryan Borchardt
Salman Ikramuddin
He Li
Clayton Carlson
Alexander Borsch

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission

Ethan Holdahl
Pranay Rao
Shyam Raman

Mark Your Calendar

Movie in the Park

Aug. 20
8:30 p.m.

Bring a blanket and enjoy a showing of *Princess and the Frog* under the stars at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre.

Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special

Aug. 28
7 p.m.

Bring the whole gang for an evening of bluegrass with *The Ditchlilies* at the historic Riley-Jacques Barn. Tickets available at the door: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12, free for children 5 and under.

City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 21

*Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Center.

Sunbonnet Day

Saturday, Sept. 11
1-4 p.m.

Riley-Jacques Farmstead

Sunbonnet Day is an opportunity for the whole family to enjoy an afternoon of live entertainment, pony rides, horse-drawn wagon excursions, old-time tales from the farm, games, concessions and more.

Eden Prairie Art Crawl

Saturday, Sept. 25
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 26
Noon-5 p.m.

Features the art of Eden Prairie residents in their personal home studios or at the Art Center. Art and other gift items available for sale.

A Collection of One Acts

Sept. 24-25 and Oct. 1-2
7 p.m.
Oct. 3
2 p.m.
Riley-Jacques Barn

Enjoy an appetizer and dessert buffet before the show, then take in the performance as the Eden Prairie Players present *A Collection of One Acts*. Tickets: \$15; call **952-949-8305** for reservations.