

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Eden Prairie Police and Firefighters participate in My Book Day 2010.



JUNE 2010

Singletree Lane Improvements

As summer approaches, the City of Eden Prairie is preparing to break ground on a reconstruction project along Singletree Lane, near the intersection of Flying Cloud Drive. Planned improvements will reconstruct Singletree Lane into a four-lane divided roadway, with left turn lanes located between Flying Cloud Drive and Eden Road. The project will also include a new traffic signal at the Flying Cloud Drive intersection, as well as new pedestrian facilities and streetscape enhancements along Singletree Lane.

Construction on the project is expected to start in late May and is scheduled to be substantially complete by the end of July. During this construction period motorists should be advised of the following traffic conditions, which are necessary for the reconstruction of the Singletree Lane and will be limited to 60 calendar days:

Singletree Lane will be closed between Flying Cloud Drive and Glen Lane.

In order to maintain access to Glen Lane businesses, two-way traffic will be maintained on Singletree Lane between Glen Lane and Eden Road. Motorists should use Eden Road for access between Flying Cloud Drive and Singletree Lane.

The Flying Cloud Drive-Singletree Lane traffic signal will be temporarily taken out of operation.

During this time, the intersection will be uncontrolled for motorists on Flying Cloud Drive, with no access to Singletree Lane.

Access to Eden Prairie Center at Singletree Lane will be temporarily converted to a right turn in and right turn out only operation.

Full access to Eden Prairie Center at Regional Center Road will be maintained throughout construction.

Motorists should also be advised that, although construction will be substantially complete by the end of July, additional construction activities will likely take place through the end of September; however, these additional construction activities should have minimal traffic impacts.

For more information on this project, including periodic construction updates, visit edenprairie.org.

Water Use Guidelines

Lawn watering uses a significant portion of the City's water supply each year. As we head into the summer months, the City of Eden Prairie would like to remind all residents and businesses of City Ordinance Chapter 3.3 §12 which regulates water usage within the City on an odd-even daily schedule and prohibits lawn watering between the hours of noon and 5 p.m.

A full copy of the Water Use Restriction Ordinance is available online at edenprairie.org or at the City Center.



Spring Cleaning

Get a jump-start on your spring and summer cleaning projects with these timely disposal opportunities!

Hennepin County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Looking for an environmentally friendly way to dispose of old household batteries, cleaning solvents, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, mercury, paint and more? Hennepin County is hosting a series of free spring collection opportunities for residents.

Where: City of Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

When: May 20-22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: City of St. Louis Park
7250 State Highway 7

When: June 10-12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: FREE

More Information: hennepin.us/collectionevents

City Clean-Up Day

Need to dispose of tires, appliances, electronics, yard waste, recyclables, fluorescent bulbs, construction waste and more? The City of Eden Prairie is hosting a drop-off event for residents.

Where: Hennepin Technical College
13100 College View Drive

When: Saturday, June 19, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost: Fees vary

More Information: edenprairie.org

Please note: some disposal opportunities require verification of residency.



Spotlight on City Staff

Each spring, City Manager **Scott Neal** invites City employees to gather and give recognition to fellow staff members. At this gathering, employees celebrating milestone anniversaries are recognized and thanked for their many years of service. In addition, several staff members, having been nominated by their peers and selected by City leaders, are presented with awards of excellence for their service to the City of Eden Prairie over the previous year.

Meet the 2009 Award Winners!



Pictured (L to R): Scott Neal, Lyndell Frey, Steve Durham, John Conley, Lori Creamer

Not Pictured: Scott Berg, Bob Olson, Dona Rowland, Bill Sawyer

Scott Berg
Winner of the Carl J. Jullie Award for Excellence in Customer Service

Year you joined the City: 1987

Current position: Mechanic, Fleet Services Division

Brief description of what you do: I repair and maintain all city equipment.

What would you like residents to know? Eden Prairie is a leader from the equipment, to the employees they hire.

John Conley
Winner of the City Manager Quality Award

Year you joined the City: 1976

Current position: Police Officer, Traffic Unit

Brief description of what you do: Respond to traffic safety concerns and enforce the traffic laws

Why do you think Eden Prairie is a great place to live, work and dream? Our residents seem to truly appreciate the services we provide to them. People thank me every day for the service we provide. It is a pleasure to work here!

Lori Creamer
Winner of the City Manager Quality Award

Year you joined the City: 2005

Current position: Administrative Assistant, Planning Division

Brief description of what you do: I am responsible for providing exceptional customer service to the public and support to the community development director, city planner and planning staff, including four commissions. I also coordinate several activities, responsibilities and tasks simultaneously, so attention to detail and communication are important aspects of my job.

What do you like best about coming to work for the City every day? I enjoy serving people, so my job at the City is a natural fit. The people I work with are knowledgeable, professional and friendly. I am proud to work for the City of Eden Prairie.

Steve Durham
Winner of the Dr. Jean L. Harris Award for Community Service in Eden Prairie

Year you joined the City: 1982

Current position: Planner II, Planning Division

Brief description of what you do: As a team member with three other planners I assist residents and businesses with information related to private land use, that is, information found in City Code Chapter 11. Sample questions may be, "I want to build a shed on my lot, what are the rules?" or, "My neighbor is putting up a fence, can they do that?" In addition I assist in the review of telecommunications, sign permits, variance request and file documentation. The job has changed over the years from intense development to maintenance and redevelopment.

What would you like residents to know? You live in a premier City. I am not from this area of the country originally, and when I go home and then come back, I realize just how nice Eden Prairie really is.

Lyndell Frey
Winner of the Dr. Jean L. Harris Award for Community Service in his home community

Year you joined the City: 1986

Current position: Recreation Coordinator, Recreation Division

Brief description of what you do: I coordinate adult athletic leagues, serve as a liaison to youth athletic associations, oversee seasonal park attendants at Miller and Riley Lake Parks, and coordinate the 4th of July Celebration.

Why do you think Eden Prairie is a great place to live, work and dream? Eden Prairie residents have high expectations of the recreation programs and services offered through the Parks and Recreation Department, and in return they are very supportive and appreciative of the job we do. It makes our job a lot easier and rewarding to know that residents appreciate the programs we provide.

Bob Olson
Winner of the City Manager Quality Award

Year you joined the City: 1988

Current position: Sergeant, Police Department

Brief description of what you do: Supervise Support Operations (Licensing, Code Enforcement, Animal Control and the Community Services Officers, as well as the Domestic Abuse Response Team, the Crime Tech Unit and the Speakers Bureau).

What do you like best about coming to work for the City every day? I enjoy being challenged. I am a problem solver by nature and I take great satisfaction in knowing that I can make a difference in our society.

Dona Rowland
Winner of the James Clark Award for Excellence in Teamwork

Year you joined the City: 1997

Current position: Support Services Representative, Administration

Brief description of what you do: Provide customer service at information desks and administrative support to various departments throughout the City.

Bill Sawyer
Winner of the City Manager Quality Award

Year you joined the City: 2002

Current position: Horticultural Specialist, Park Maintenance Division

Brief description of what you do: Landscaping, maintenance and tree care at City parks and facilities.

What would you like residents to know? As City employees, we truly appreciate the positive feedback and comments we receive from residents.



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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Enjoy the 2010 Summer Entertainment Series

The beauty of nature, the abundance of fresh air and the company of good friends are just a few of the virtues that draw hundreds of Eden Prairie residents to the **Sounds Around Town Entertainment Series** each summer. This year's entertainment kicks off on June 12 and continues throughout August, so mark your calendar and make plans to Live Well this summer!

The Top 10 Sounds Around Town Events This Summer:

- June 12 – Old Time Bluegrass at the **Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special**
- June 13 – **Minnesota Festival of Jazz on the Prairie** at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre
- June 16–Aug. 15 – **Starring at Staring** musical entertainment every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening
- June 17–27 – Summer musical performances of **The Music Man** every Thursday–Sunday
- June 29–Aug. 10 – Local children's performers at **KidStock** every Tuesday morning
- July 24 – Barn dance at the **Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special**
- July 30–Aug. 1 – Children's Theater Workshop performances of **Twelve Dancing Princesses**
- Aug. 6 – **Park-In Movie** screening of "Up"
- Aug. 14 – **Park in Movie** screening of "Bridge to Terabithia"
- Aug. 28 – Bluegrass at the **Riley Jacques Barn Twilight Special**

For a full schedule of 2010 events, check out the *Sounds Around Town* brochure in the June 3 issue of the *Eden Prairie NEWS* or visit edenprairie.org.



Our Environment

Infiltration and Rain Gardens

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named storm water runoff, rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground, as our nation's biggest water quality threat.

Runoff occurs when impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground. This causes debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants to flow into storm sewer systems which lead directly into lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands. All storm water runoff that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into bodies of water used for swimming, fishing and sources for drinking water.

The best way to help storm water infiltrate the ground rather than run off into storm sewers is to create a rain garden or infiltration area designed to catch rain water runoff with vegetation that can tolerate partial flooding on occasion. Rain gardens provide beautiful landscaping, create a natural wildlife habitat and, by soaking up rain where it falls, they slow storm water runoff, help prevent erosion and remove pollutants in the process.

The City of Eden Prairie is partnering with the **Lower Minnesota River Watershed District** and **Metro Blooms** to host a rain garden workshop:

Tuesday, May 25

6–9 p.m.

Eden Prairie City Center – Heritage Room

Cost: \$10 per household

This three-hour workshop will provide an overview of rain gardens, plus assistance from landscape design assistants and master gardeners in planning a rain garden, including plant selection.

Space is limited and registration is required, visit metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426 for more information.



Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

We are wrapping up our first year of operating the Eden Prairie Art Center. As we wrap up Year 1, the numbers are in on the revenue performance of the Art Center, and the numbers look good.

Our 2009 Art Center budget projected total revenue for the Art Center of \$36,000. Our actual revenue for the year was \$80,000. Of that \$30,000 in projected total revenue, \$30,000 was projected to come from class and program fees. Our actual class and program revenues were \$33,700. Our 2009 total revenues also included \$2,000 in membership revenue; an \$8,500 grant from the Eden Prairie Foundation; and \$36,000 in cash gifts from other patrons, including the Sampson Family who gave us the Art Center building in the first place.

2010 numbers and participation rates are also off to a good start. One of the key operational metrics in the

parks & recreation world is to track what happens on the first day of registration for the new program year. For example, in 2009 there were 45 registrations for Art Center programs on the first day of registration for 2009 spring/summer programs. In 2010, there were 100. In 2009, Day 1 registrations accounted for just under \$4,000 of revenue. In 2010, Day 1 registrations produced just under \$8,000 in program revenue. I'm not sure that doubling our participation and revenue every year is a sustainable trend, but we sure would like to do it for the short term future. That would be good.

If you are not familiar with the Eden Prairie Art Center, come over and visit during the Open House celebrating its first year anniversary on Sunday, May 23 at the Art Center from 2–4 pm. The Eden Prairie Art Center is located at 7650 Equitable Drive. If you're interested in more information about the Art Center, visit edenprairie.org/artcenter.



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

Staying Safe in Eden Prairie

Garage Sale Safety

Garage sales are an economical and environmentally friendly way to rid your household of items you no longer need; however, it is important to keep safety in mind when inviting strangers to your home.

The Eden Prairie **Police Department** recommends the following safety measures when hosting a garage sale:

- Keep a cell or cordless phone with you at all times.
- Close and lock all windows and entrances to your home.
- Never allow strangers to enter your home, for any reason.
- Set up your cash box in a highly visible location outside the garage.
- Never leave your cash box unattended, even if it is locked.
- Arrange hanging sale items and tables so they do not obstruct your view of the sale area.
- Don't place items right next to the road where they could be easily stolen.
- While making change, always keep the money handed to you in plain view.
- Never use your full street address in sale ads, use the block or intersection instead.



For more information and garage sale guidelines established by Eden Prairie City Code, visit edenprairie.org.

Did You Know?

Did you know Eden Prairie has a Crime Prevention Fund?

In 1978, a group of concerned residents and members of the business community incorporated the **Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund** to assist the **Eden Prairie Police Department** with crime prevention, providing funding for educational programs, community gatherings, reward funds and more.

The Crime Prevention Fund has expanded to assist the **Fire Department** as well, and provides financial assistance for the following programs in Eden Prairie:

- National Night Out
- Neighborhood Watch
- Police Chaplain Program
- Police Explorers Program
- Police K-9 Corp
- Senior Safety Workshop
- Eden Prairie TIPLINE
- McGruff Safety Programs
- Halloween Community Party
- Safety Camp
- Citizens Police Academies



To make a contribution or become involved with the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund, call the Eden Prairie Police Department at 952-949-6200.

Mark Your Calendar

Art on City Walls

Monday–Friday
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
City Center

Take a stroll through the lower level of the City Center and enjoy the *May Art on City Walls* exhibit featuring local artists.

City Council Meeting*

Tuesday, June 15

*Meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Center.

Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special

Saturday, May 22
7 p.m.

Bring the whole gang for an evening of bluegrass at the historic Riley-Jacques Barn, featuring The High 48s. Tickets available at the door: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (6–12); free for children under 5.

Old-Fashioned Picnic

Saturday, May 22
1–3 p.m.
J.R. Cummins House

Grab a blanket, pack a lunch and join the Eden Prairie Historical Society for some old-fashioned fun and games.

Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 31
11 a.m.

Commemorate Memorial Day at the Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial in Purgatory Creek Park.

Minnesota Festival of Jazz on the Prairie

Sunday, June 13
2–8 p.m.
Staring Lake Amphitheatre

Join in the fun at the 20th Annual Minnesota Festival of Jazz on the Prairie and Rotary Rib Fest.

Eden Prairie Players Present *The Music Man*

June 17–20 and 24–27
7 p.m.

Staring Lake Amphitheatre

Sit back and enjoy a summer evening with a free performance of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*.