

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Local kids enjoy the fun and games at International Festival 2008



OCTOBER 2008

Understanding Inflow and Infiltration

Along with more than 40 other metro-area communities, the City of Eden Prairie is working on a plan 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 that will be needed to convey wastewater from future households in the region. During major rain events, this additional surge of water can consume the capacity of sewer pipes, resulting in home backups and overflows into creeks and wetlands, in addition to the Mississippi River.

It can also be costly to communities. When clean water gets mixed in with wastewater, the MCES charges cities extra fees.

I & I Defined

Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into sewer pipes through cracks, leaky joints or deteriorated manholes.

Inflow is by far the larger problem, and occurs in direct proportion to rainfall. Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps (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 be connected directly to a storm sewer or onto the ground, not to the sanitary sewer system.



Can Eden Prairie Ignore the I & I Issue?

No. To address the problem and encourage communities to reduce their share of I & I, the MCES introduced a program in 2006 asking cities to submit plans to reduce the problem and implemented a surcharge program for cities with excess I & I. Under the currently proposed surcharge program, Eden Prairie would be charged more than \$550,000 annually as a direct result of its excess I & I contributions.

To put the numbers in perspective, if Eden Prairie does not establish a plan to reduce I & I, over the next five years the City would pay \$8.5 million in disposal fees, plus an additional \$2.5 million in surcharges – a 30-percent increase in fees to the MCES. This increase would ultimately be passed on to Eden Prairie utility customers in the form of higher sewer rates.

What's Being Done About It?

The City of Eden Prairie has opted to address the problem and will be working on putting the money it would have paid in surcharges toward the implementation of an education, inspection and repair program designed to reduce I & I.

This program will include home inspections to identify sump pumps and foundation drains that might be incorrectly connected to the sanitary sewer system. During the initial home inspections, the scope and cost of correcting any problems will be further evaluated. This could also lead to the consideration of a grant program to assist Eden Prairie homeowners with repairs.

In addition, the City will thoroughly inspect manholes and sewer lines in the streets – the public portion of the sewer system – to determine other sources of I & I in Eden Prairie.

Through this plan, the City of Eden Prairie, in partnership with residents and businesses, will be able to meet the I & I requirements set by the MCES.

To learn more about I & I, including a proposed ordinance scheduled to be reviewed by the City Council in October, visit edenprairie.org.

Windsor Plaza Opening in 2009

The **Windsor Plaza** development is quickly taking shape along Flying Cloud Drive, creating a prominent new presence in the Eden Prairie skyline.

On-track for its scheduled opening, Windsor Plaza is a 135,000-square-foot, five-story, mixed-use project featuring office, retail and restaurant components. According to **Solomon Real Estate**, developer for the project, Windsor Plaza will be completed in the first quarter of 2009 with businesses opening on or about March 1.

The building will be the new office headquarters for **Virtual Radiological Corporation** (VRC), a publicly-traded company planning to consolidate and move from Minnetonka to Eden Prairie. VRC will occupy the top three floors of the building, totaling about 80,000 square feet of space. In addition to VRC, there will be multiple smaller offices in the building, including **Modus Advisors**, a financial planning firm, which will occupy the second floor.

On the main level, there will be a number of retailers including **Hot Mama**, a women's fashion boutique, **Aurora Jewelers**, **Massage Envy** and **Jason's Deli**.

"There are currently two available retail spaces in the project," said **Jay Scott**, Solomon Real Estate principal. "We are targeting these spaces for fashion, shoe wear and/or accessory boutique businesses."

The last components of Windsor Plaza are two casual dining restaurants, located on the north and south ends of the building. **Kona Grill**, a restaurant concept specializing in award-winning sushi and exciting American cuisine, is scheduled to begin construction on the south end in October of this year and open in May of 2009.

"No restaurant has been secured for the north end location at this time," said Scott. "But we are negotiating with a number of exciting concepts."

When it opens, Windsor Plaza will be the cornerstone development in the **Town Center** area, envisioned by City leaders to be the future heart of downtown Eden Prairie.

Visit solomonregroup.com

for more details and to take a virtual tour of the future Windsor Plaza.

Windsor Plaza construction (September 2008)



Eden Prairie Adds a New Well

To address Eden Prairie's growing water needs, the City spent much of the summer constructing its 16th well in **Pheasant Woods Park**. The new well, which is located west of the Mitchell Road and Chestnut Drive intersection, will be especially appreciated during the summer months when water can sometimes be in short supply.

The first phase of the well installation began in June with the complicated process of drilling a shaft about 400 feet deep and creating a cavity at the bottom. The City's contractor on the project, **Traut Wells**, used plastic explosives to blast the rock that exists deep below the earth's surface to make an underground reservoir from which water could be pumped. Then, the limestone and sandstone were flushed out of the ground to expand the well cavity.

When complete, the new well will be Eden Prairie's first municipal water well without a ground-level well house. Instead, the well will have a submersible pump and underground equipment that will pump water from Pheasant Woods Park to the City's water treatment plant.



"This means the well will have a much smaller footprint and should have a minimal impact on activities at the park," said **Rick Wahlen**, manager of utility operations. "We intentionally sited the location of any above-ground components to be a good distance away from activities in the park."

The new well is estimated to cost about \$500,000 and its durable steel casing should last more than 50 years. The drilling process will be complete in late September and the plumbing and mechanical work will begin later this fall. Well 16 is expected to be pumping and flowing by spring 2009.

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Visit edenprairie.org and check it out today!

SAVE THE DATE

Explore City facilities and see how Eden Prairie's **Community Development, Fire, Police, Public Works and Parks and Recreation** departments serve you!



Citywide Open House
Saturday, Oct. 11
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Entertainment
- Demonstrations
- Tours
- Fun!
- Refreshments



edenprairie.org

YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS



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COUNCIL MEMBERS
Brad Aho
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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween

Each year, the arrival of Halloween brings an opportunity for children young and old to put on a costume and, for just one night, become a favorite fantasy character or real-life hero. The various traditions of this exciting holiday create fun-filled memories of pumpkin carving, ghoulish games and the chance to splurge on tasty treats.

To help you Live Well this Halloween, the City of Eden Prairie has three great celebrations planned, all guaranteed to create safe and happy Halloween memories for the whole family.



Kickoff your Halloween fun with **The Great Pumpkin Event** on Friday, Oct. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. This event takes place at the **Outdoor Center** and features tales about the history and origins of Halloween, followed by a trip to the pumpkin patch and some pumpkin carving fun for the whole family. Weather permitting, the evening will be complete with a chance to relax and roast some marshmallows by the fire. Registration is required and space is limited, visit edenprairie.org/parksbrochure to register today!

Bring the whole gang for some **Spooky Saturday** fun at the **Community Center** on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Come in costume and win prizes in the crazy costume contest, then take part in some spooky swimming and skating, listen to tales of Halloween presented by the Eden Prairie Players and enjoy some ooey-goey holiday treats. Admission for the event is \$3 per child (1 year and older); adult admission is free.

Complete your Halloween celebration with **Halloween on the Mall**, Friday, Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. at **Eden Prairie Center**. Enjoy an evening of trick-or-treating in a safe environment, meet and greet members of the Eden Prairie **Police Department** and take in some live entertainment in the center courtyard. Admission is free, so bring the whole family for a happy Halloween night!

When it comes to living well this Halloween, the City of Eden Prairie is committed to providing you and your family with opportunities to enjoy a safe and happy holiday.



To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

Feeling as though the last warm days of summer have come and gone? Before the whole family slips into winter hibernation, get out and discover ways to Live Well at the Eden Prairie **Outdoor Center!**

- Register your little ones for **Little House in Eden Prairie**, a fun-filled history lesson featuring games, art and activities.
- Take your favorite animal lover on an exciting adventure with **Baby Animal Fun**, a chance to explore and learn about a new little critter every week.
- Help your young naturalist understand more about nature with **Earth Science**, a chance to conduct hands-on experiments and investigations.
- Make it a family event and take a **Chilly Fall Night Hike** to explore nocturnal creatures with a night vision monocular, then enjoy some hot apple cider by the fire.
- Bring your binoculars for an exciting **Star Watch** and learn more about the flying creatures in the constellations.
- Enjoy an evening with friends on the **Evening Sandhill Crane Migration** trip, an adventure that will take you to Crex Meadows to see the migration of these beautiful birds.

The **Outdoor Center** is located at **13765 Staring Lake Parkway** and offers a wide variety of classes, workshops and activities, all designed to help you Live Well in Eden Prairie!

To learn more about these and other Eden Prairie **Parks and Recreation Department** programs, visit edenprairie.org.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

At the City Council meeting on August 19, the Council formally accepted a gift from Eden Prairie resident Mr. Mike Garvin representing the Tom & Kathy Miller Foundation. The gift was a check for \$134,369 to help fund the renovation of the Miller Park playground into a modern "barrier free" playground. The playground, which complies with current ADA standards, will go a step beyond the accessibility standards required by state and federal law.

Barrier free playgrounds increase the access for all children. The entire area is coated in a rubber surface that is easy to wheel things on. Our Parks & Recreation Director Mr. Jay Lotthammer told me that one of the primary advantages of a barrier free playground is that children won't have to get out of a wheelchair to get to the second level, which allows kids in wheelchairs to have a similar playground experience as kids out of a wheelchair. In addition to those in wheelchairs getting more use out of the equipment, those people with kids in strollers make better use of the playground too, as well as helping kids with crutches or those who have other mobility issues.

Mr. Garvin told the Council about his motivation: his five year old daughter Ashley who has cerebral palsy. Mr. Garvin wanted



Miller Park construction (September 2008)

to help the City provide a park where kids, like his daughter, could enjoy a beautiful outdoor Eden Prairie park and have a playground that works for them. Mr. Garvin never came to the City and grumbled about the situation. He also didn't sit silently at home and wish for a playground that would work for his daughter. He took up the challenge of making it happen. He worked with city staff to figure out what was needed. He helped figure out how much money the proposed playground would cost. Then he went about the business of raising money,

which he delivered at the City Council meeting on August 19. The new playground is currently under construction and will be completed before the end of this year. There are so many worthy causes that would like to receive gifts such as this from residents like Mike Garvin. We're very pleased that he and his family decided to share their gift with their community where it can be used by everyone. Thank you Mike. It's people like you who make Eden Prairie a great community to live, work and dream.

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

Did You Know?

Did you know the City of Eden Prairie has an ordinance regarding yard waste? With the autumn season fast approaching, it is important to understand and follow the City's guidelines for properly disposing of leaves, branches and other yard waste.



Chapter 9.01 of the Eden Prairie City Code outlines the following:

- It is unlawful for a homeowner or commercial establishment to store yard waste for more than one week unless it is being composted in accordance with City Code.
- No yard waste may be buried or burned without written permission from the City of Eden Prairie.
- Yard waste is defined by City Code as solid waste generated from landscaping and lawn care activities such as mowing, trimming, gardening or raking, including grass clippings, twigs, tree and brush clippings, straw, pine needles, tree branches, soft vegetative garden waste and leaves.

To view a full copy of these and other City ordinances, visit the City Code page at edenprairie.org or request a copy at the City Center (8080 Mitchell Road).

Mark Your Calendar

A Collection of One Acts

Sept. 19–20, 26–27
7:30 p.m.
Sept. 28
2 p.m.

Riley-Jacques Barn

Enjoy an appetizer and dessert buffet one-half hour before the show, then take in the performance as Eden Prairie Players present *A Collection of One Acts*. Tickets: \$15; call **952-903-9464** for reservations.

Art on City Walls

Monday–Friday
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Take a stroll through the lower level of the City Center and enjoy exhibits from local artists **Agnes Fine, Barbara Lanzo** and **Marian Alstad**, featuring acrylics, collages and ink.

City Council Meeting*

Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 21

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

Fall Festival Brunch

Thursday, Oct. 9
10 a.m.–noon
Community Center

Gather with friends and enjoy a made-to-order omelet, fruit, coffee and juice while enjoying the sounds of the Somewhat Dixieland Band. Cost is \$12 per person. Registration required.

Citywide Open House

Saturday, Oct. 11
11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Explore City facilities and see how Eden Prairie's **Community Development, Fire, Police, Public Works** and **Parks and Recreation** departments serve you!

Apple Cider-ing

Sunday, Oct. 12
1–3 p.m.
Outdoor Center

Take a lesson in old-fashioned apple cider making, learn about the history of apples and enjoy a sweet sample of cider. Cost is \$6 per family.

Southwest Transitway Public Scoping Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 23
5 p.m. Open House
6 p.m. Public Hearing
City Center Council Chambers

Hosted by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, this public meeting is an opportunity to review and comment on the four alternatives for improving transit service in the southwest metro area. For more information visit southwesttransitway.org.

The Great Pumpkin Event

Friday, Oct. 24
7–9 p.m.
Outdoor Center

Learn the history and origins of Halloween, then pick a pumpkin from the patch to carve and take home. Top the night off with a stroll on the nature trail and roast some marshmallows by the fire. Cost is \$7 per person. Registration required.

Fall Frolic

Saturday, Oct. 25
9 a.m.
Round Lake Park

Register for this 5K Family Fun Run/Walk at the Community Center or midwesternevents.com. All proceeds from the event benefit "Girls on the Run," a healthy workout program serving area girls.

Spooky Saturday

Saturday, Oct. 25
6–8:30 p.m.
Community Center

Crazy costume contests, spooky swimming and skating, Halloween Tales by Eden Prairie Players, ooey-goey treats and more! Cost is \$3 per child. Free admission for parents and guardians.

Halloween on the Mall

Friday, Oct. 31
6–8 p.m.
Eden Prairie Center

Bring the kids for a night of trick-or-treating and fun at Eden Prairie Center.