

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Hundreds of Eden Prairie kids take part in Safety Camp 2008.



SEPTEMBER 2008

A Record-Breaking Night Out

On a warm summer evening in early August, hundreds of Eden Prairie residents dedicated to strengthening their commitment to a safe community gathered with friends and neighbors to celebrate **Eden Prairie Night Out 2008**.

"It was a record-breaking year," said Eden Prairie Police Officer **Elizabeth Stroner**, coordinator of the event. "We had more participation than ever before and collected a record number of donations for PROP."

This year, the residents of Eden Prairie planned 106 neighborhood gatherings for the Night Out event, bringing more than 5,000 people out to celebrate for the evening. That number tops all previous years, including 2007 when 89 gatherings took place.

Of the 106 Night Out celebrations this year, more than 90 neighborhoods incorporated a collection of donations for **PROP** (People Reaching out to Other People) into the evening's festivities. In all, nearly 7,500 pounds of donated items were collected, topping last year's total by more than 1,000 pounds!



"The PROP drive is a very important part of the Night Out event," said Officer Stroner. "This year's generous donations are a statement of Eden Prairie residents' commitments to helping their neighbors in need."

Representatives from the Eden Prairie Police and Fire departments, as well as several City officials, made stops at each of the local gatherings. As an added bonus to this year's event, 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 17000 block of Valley Road, collected a total of 580 pounds of 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 Out 2008 was by all means a record-breaking event, bringing friends and neighbors together to celebrate and strengthen the commitment to a safe community.

Friends of the Art Center

As City leaders are finalizing the details that will bring an **Art Center** to Eden Prairie and working to develop new community arts programs, a new volunteer committee has formed with a goal of securing the funding that will give life to the new Art Center.

Friends of the Eden Prairie Art Center, made up of volunteers from the community, has set a goal of raising \$500,000 in contributions to cover renovation and start-up costs. These donations will not only bring the Art Center to life, but will help to create a place where future generations can learn about the arts.

The Friends of the Eden Prairie Art Center committee is already planning several exciting community events and fundraisers, the first of which will take place in September. For more information about Art Center fundraising opportunities, or to find out how you can contribute, contact **Stacy Desai**, Friends of the Eden Prairie Art Center chair, at **952-944-8106** or **Sdesai_MN@earthlink.net**.

The Art Center, located at **7650 Equitable Drive**, is scheduled to open in early 2009. When completed, it will be a place for *fostering creativity in the community* for many years to come.

Southwest Transitway to Host Public Meetings

The time is now to join the conversation about the proposed **Southwest Transitway**, serving **Eden Prairie**, Edina, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park.

In 2007, the results of a Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) analysis concluded that light rail transit (LRT) was the best mode of transportation to serve the area on three possible routes. Through a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) the three LRT routes and an improved bus alternative will be evaluated in more detail to determine which should be pursued.

To launch the DEIS, the HCRRA will begin hosting public "scoping" meetings this fall in the affected communities to give the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed alternatives.

To learn more about the project, the meeting schedule and to sign up for e-mail alerts, visit southwesttransitway.org.



CERT Members Needed for 2009



Eden Prairie CERT Team Members (Fall 2006)

When a disaster occurs, it is important to have members of the community who are trained to respond and assist the City's public safety officials. The City of Eden Prairie **CERT** (Community Emergency Response Team) is made up of volunteers who are prepared to help in a crisis situation.

CERT training includes the fundamentals of disaster preparedness, fire suppression and medical operations as well as light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology and team organization.

Classes begin in the spring of 2009. For more information or to register for participation, contact **Mark Krueger** with the **Police Department** at **952-949-6201** or **mkreuger@edenprairie.org**.

Back-to-School Giving

Shopping for new school supplies is always an exciting time for children of all ages. As you head out to tackle this year's back-to-school shopping list, take the opportunity to help those in the Eden Prairie community who may find themselves in need this year.

PROP (People Reaching out to Other People) is in need of the following school supplies for local children.

- School Boxes
- Crayons – 24 count
- Fiskars Scissors – metal edge
- Rulers with metric system
- Scotch Tape
- White Glue – 4 oz.
- Zippered Pencil Pouches
- Glue Sticks
- Kleenex
- #2 Pencils – 12 count
- Highlighters
- Erasers
- Spiral Notebooks – wide and college rule
- Loose-Leaf Paper – wide and college rule
- Markers – fine and broad tip
- Pens: black, blue, red
- Pocket Folders
- Rulers with metric system
- 3x5 Index Cards – ruled
- Solar Calculators
- Prang Water Color Paints
- Backpacks
- Colored Pencils – 12 count
- Dividers
- 1-inch 3-ring Binders

Donations can be dropped off at the City Center PROP location (8080 Mitchell Road). For more information about PROP or to find a complete listing of school supplies needed, call **952-937-9120** or visit propfoods.org.

Students Appointed to City Commissions

In 1992 the Eden Prairie City Council initiated a program designed to give students first-hand experience participating in City government. Over the years, this program has become an exciting opportunity for local students to participate on City commissions.

On June 17, 2008, the Council appointed 15 new student members to five City commissions. All students will serve from September 2008 through April 2009.

2008-2009 Student Commission Members

Arts and Culture Commission

Nicole Garbowicz
Katy Johnson

Conservation Commission

Vallari Ajgaonkar
Alexandra Baumhardt
Michael Caughill

Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission

Michael Dennis
James Maslyn

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission

Andrew Baker
Marie Loeffelholz
Michael Powell

Human Rights and Diversity Commission

Ummul Kathawalla
Adam Liter
Nelum Madanayake

Heritage Preservation Commission

Frank Bi
Stephanie Vilendrer

YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS



MAYOR

Phil Young
952-426-1931

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brad Aho
952-949-8300
Sherry Butcher
952-829-5351
Jon Duckstad
952-903-0274
Kathy Nelson
952-941-6613

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LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE IS PUBLISHED BY:

City of Eden Prairie
Communications Division
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN
55344-4485

952-949-8434
edenprairie.org

Live Well Eden Prairie!

Celebrate Fall with New Opportunities and Old Favorites

The cool winds of September seem to bring a mixture of excitement and nostalgia to many Minnesotans, as we anticipate autumn and the months ahead.

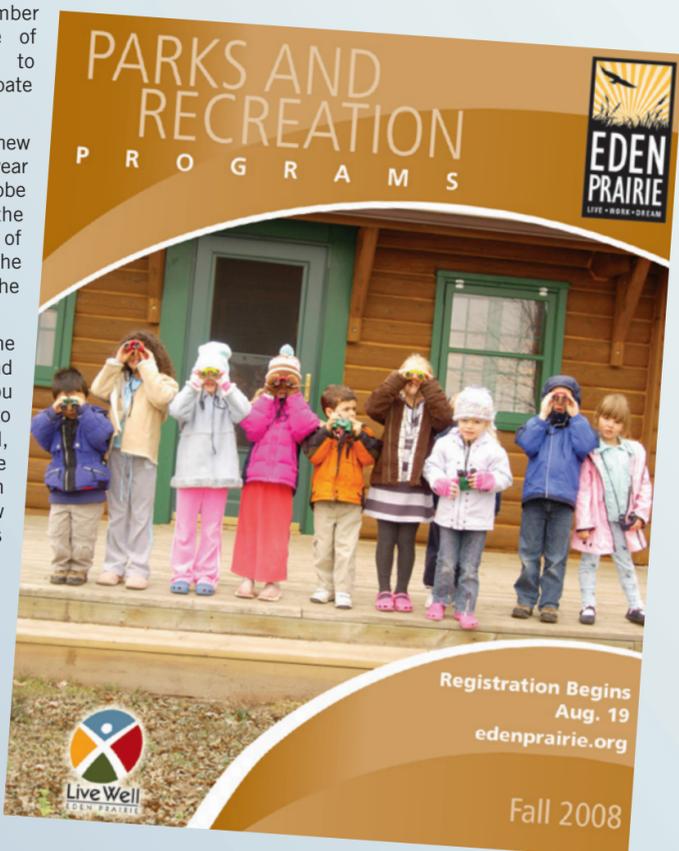
For some, fall means exciting new adventures, with a new school year on the horizon or a new wardrobe in the closet. For others, the new season means the return of comforting old standards, with the lighting of an old fireplace or the warmth of an old sweater.

No matter how you feel about the season, Eden Prairie's Parks and Recreation programs provide you with unlimited opportunities to Live Well this fall. To get started, pick up the fall edition of the Parks and Recreation program guide. You'll find it filled with new opportunities and old favorites for the whole family!

Looking for some new opportunities? Enroll your preschooler in the new **Watch Me Dance** program designed to teach the basics of creative movement; make plans with a friend and join the new eight-week **Healthy Living** program at the Community Center; or head to the Senior Center for **BINGO** and make some new friends.

Anticipating the return of some old favorites? Connect with old friends at the **Fall Festival Brunch**; register for the **Fall Frolic 5K** and get some good old-fashioned exercise for a great cause; or make plans to attend **A Collection of One Acts**, an old fall favorite presented by the **Eden Prairie Players**.

The fall 2008 Parks and Recreation program guide is available at the **City Center** (8080 Mitchell Road), the **Community Center** (16700 Valley View Road) and online at edenprairie.org/parksbrochure.



Registration has already begun. Pick up a copy today and get ready to Live Well this fall.



To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

As September rolls in and the kids head back to school, the memories of winter hibernation begin to trickle back...but before it's time to head indoors and flee the winter snow, take advantage of the opportunities to Live Well in the great outdoors this fall!

- Enjoy a day of history and fun for the whole family at **Sunbonnet Day** on Sept. 14 at the Riley-Jacques Farmstead.
- Grab a blanket and take in a showing of *Alvin and the Chipmunks* under the stars at **Movie Night** on Sept. 20 at Round Lake Park.
- Introduce your preschooler to **Trees, Trails and Forest Animals** with a class at the Outdoor Center.
- Venture out on a **Canoe and Kayak Trip** to the Cannon or Chippewa rivers.
- **Train for a 5K** at the Community Center with a local running expert.
- Join the **Renegades on the Rails** for a day trip to enjoy the colors of fall from the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad.

The opportunities are endless, so throw on a sweater and venture outside. The beautiful days of fall are a perfect time to 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

The best small city (population 50,000 – 300,000) in which to live in America, according to MONEY magazine is...Plymouth, Minnesota. Congratulations to our friends in Plymouth for receiving this wonderful recognition!

The MONEY magazine rankings are something we pay attention to in the City business. Landing a spot on MONEY's Top 100 list is an honor worth noting for a small city. There are 716 cities in America with populations between 50,000 and 300,000. Making the Top 100 list means your city is in the top 15 percent of cities nationwide in this population category.

MONEY's ranking for Eden Prairie this year was #40. Two years ago when MONEY ranked the small city category of cities, our ranking was #10. I'll have to admit that while I'd rather have been on MONEY's Top 10 list than its Top 40 list, I think it's also worth noting that making the list at #40 means that Eden Prairie is in the top 5 percent of cities in the category, and being in the top 5 percent of anything nationwide is nothing to sneeze at.



Minnesota cities fared prominently on MONEY's Top 100 list this year. In addition to Plymouth at #1 and Eden Prairie at #40, Eagan is #17, Apple Valley is #24, Lakeville is #26, Maple Grove is #41, Burnsville is #43, Rochester is #70 and Blaine is #93.

So congratulations to all of the Minnesota cities that made the Top 100 list this year.

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

Did You Know?

Did you know that you must submit an application by Oct. 14 to be pre-registered to vote in the Nov. 4, 2008, general election?

Minnesota Voter Registration Applications can be picked up at most government offices and are also available online at edenprairie.org. Completed forms must be signed and submitted, in person or by mail, to your City, County or State elections office by the Oct. 14 deadline.

The **City of Eden Prairie** elections office is located at **8080 Mitchell Road** and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you are not registered to vote on Election Day or if your information needs to be updated, you can do so at your local polling location; however, you will be required to provide an eligible proof of residence before you are allowed to register.

To find out more about the 2008 general election including detailed registration requirements, visit edenprairie.org and click on the **2008 Election Information** link.



Mark Your Calendar

Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special

Aug. 23
7:30 p.m.

Bring the whole gang for a musical evening featuring a Bluegrass concert with the Blue Drifters at the historic Riley-Jacques Barn. Tickets available at the door: \$5 for adults; \$3 for children, students and seniors.

Labor Day

Monday, Sept. 1

In observance of Labor Day the City Center, Senior Center, Community Center and all Eden Prairie Liquor stores will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1.

City Council Meeting*

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 16

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

Sunbonnet Day

Sunday, Sept. 14
12:30–4:30 p.m.
Riley-Jacques Farmstead

The 29th annual 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.

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.

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.

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. Registration is requested.

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 midwesternevents.com or the Community Center. 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.