

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Local kids enjoy the festivities at the 4th of July Hometown Celebration



AUGUST 2008

Lending Emergency Aid

Local Emergency Responders Assist in Iowa Flood Recovery

When officials in Oakville, Iowa asked for assistance after the devastating floods that swept through their state, one of the requests was for aid from Minnesota's **All Hazard Incident Management Organization**.

And when that request came, **Scott Taylor**, fire inspector with the **Eden Prairie Fire Department** was a member of the highly trained and dedicated team deployed for 10 days to help an Iowa community in need.

The basic function of the All Hazard Incident Management Team is to arrive at a destination, when local capabilities have been exhausted, and develop or enhance an organizational structure to provide support and bring order to the chaos that comes when a disaster hits.



"The local emergency response teams were not equipped or trained to deal with this type of disaster," said Taylor. "Upon arrival, our group was able to help establish order, formulate an effective plan and restore local confidence after an extremely devastating event."

Among the many efforts the Minnesota team organized was a search of every structure in the community to account for victims of the flood. In order to conduct this task, the team called in several Minneapolis-area Urban Search and Rescue teams highly trained in completing methodical searches under challenging conditions.



The exhausting flood recovery efforts will most likely continue for many months in several Iowa communities. Thanks to the efforts of Taylor and the team from Minnesota, along with thousands of others from throughout the Midwest, the Iowa emergency response teams will not have to bear the brunt of the efforts alone.

"As emergency responders, we are always willing to help another community in need," said **George Esbensen**, fire chief and director of emergency preparedness for the City of Eden Prairie. "We never know when we might need to make that call for help, and it is important to provide support to other agencies, knowing that they would do the same if the situation were reversed."



Doing Business in Eden Prairie

2008 Business Survey Results Positive

The 2008 business survey is the third in a series of studies originally commissioned by the City of Eden Prairie's **Economic Development Division** in 2002 and repeated in 2005.

Objectives of this year's survey were to gauge the current business climate in the City, better understand the telecommunications needs of businesses in Eden Prairie and identify ways in which the City can better serve the needs of the business community.



Flagship Corporate Center
775 Prairie Center Drive

Overall, the findings of this year's survey show a positive business climate, concerns about economic issues and a growing use of telecommunications infrastructure.



Lifetouch, Inc.
11000 Viking Drive

The Eden Prairie Business Climate

When asked to grade the overall business climate in Eden Prairie, 78 percent of respondents gave it a grade of "B" or higher, with the proportion of businesses rating it an "A" increasing by 4 percent since 2005. In addition, one-half of survey respondents stated that business had increased at their companies since 2005.

With regard to issues facing businesses in Eden Prairie, more than one-half of those surveyed mentioned some form of economic issue as the most serious they face, compared to 41 percent in 2005. In contrast, respondents citing accessibility and traffic congestion as serious issues decreased over the last three years to only 16 percent.

Overall business stability was found to be strong, with more than 52 percent of surveyed businesses having operated in Eden Prairie for 10 years and longer, and only one in 10 reporting plans to relocate outside of the City.

The Growing Use of Technology

When asked, almost three-quarters of the companies surveyed (73 percent) reported providing all employees with Internet access, a 7 percent increase over 2005, showing that Eden Prairie companies are solid users of today's information technology. In addition, more than 40 percent of businesses reported that they currently allow telecommuting.

Four out of five businesses rated the existing telecommunications infrastructure as adequate, and three-quarters of those surveyed view the environment as competitive for affordable telecommunications services. When asked about the City's involvement, six in 10 businesses said the City should be involved in providing both wireless service and an infrastructure such as conduit to hold fiber; however, only four out of 10 businesses were interested in working with the City or paying a fee for improved telecommunications.

Opinions were mixed, with four in five businesses feeling the City should be engaged in promoting competition among telecommunications providers, and an equal number stating the City should be engaged in investigating cooperative initiatives with neighboring communities as well as public and private entities.

Doing Business in Eden Prairie

When asked to rank the importance of the reasons for operating a business in Eden Prairie, survey responses were nearly identical to those named in the 2002 and 2005 survey results.

Since 2005, the top three reasons companies consistently give for doing business in Eden Prairie continue to center around quality of life, including: highway access, a low crime rate and the fact that Eden Prairie is a great place to live and work.

Visit edenprairie.org to view a complete copy of the 2008 Business Survey results.



Eden Prairie Center
8251 Flying Cloud Drive

Eden Prairie Night Out 2008

Each year, neighborhoods across the country dedicate one summer evening to celebrate and strengthen the commitment to safe communities. This year's **Eden Prairie Night Out** event will take place **Tuesday, Aug. 5**.

As residents of Eden Prairie, this is your opportunity to put together a neighborhood celebration! A chance to turn on the front porch lights, gather with neighbors and friends, get to know one another, catch up on things, play some games with the kids, enjoy a few hot-off-the-grill favorites and build a sense of community with those who live around you.

Representatives from the Eden Prairie **Police and Fire Departments**, as well as several City officials, will visit many of the local celebrations that evening. Be sure to register your event with the City and you just might receive a surprise visit from some familiar faces!



Mayor Phil Young and members of the Eden Prairie Fire Department visit a local neighborhood for the 2007 night out event.



McGruff pays a visit to one of the 2007 neighborhood celebrations.

While you're celebrating, please remember those in your community who may be in need this summer. The City will once again collect donations for **PROP** (People Reaching Out to Other People) during the Eden Prairie Night Out festivities. Food shelf items are typically low in the summer months and the City of Eden Prairie encourages residents to incorporate food drives with the neighborhood events.

City staff will begin visiting parties at 7 p.m. to collect PROP donations, and the neighborhood with the largest volume donation overall will receive an ice cream social hosted by the Eden Prairie Police and Fire Departments.

For more event planning ideas, to register your Eden Prairie Night Out celebration or request barricades to block off your street, visit edenprairie.org today. The deadline for registration is July 25.

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

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

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!

Savor Summer's Final Festivities

There's nothing quite like a warm summer day in Minnesota! The blue skies, wispy white clouds and sunshine that seems to last forever. And just when it appears the season is finally in its full splendor, the days fly by...and if you're not careful to savor every moment, summer is gone in a flash.

As summer of 2008 draws to an end, take time to enjoy every chance to Live Well in Eden Prairie. Now is the time to lure the family out of the house, call some friends, pull the kids away from the television and venture outside to enjoy the final festivities of summer.



The **Eden Prairie International Festival** is a perfect opportunity for the whole family to celebrate culture, art and food in the outdoor accommodations of Staring Lake Park. This year's event is **Sunday, Aug. 10** from **3 to 8:30 p.m.** and features music, dance, arts, exhibits, activities and more, including a performance by **Cyril Paul** and the Calypso Monarchs at 7 p.m.



The 17th annual **Senior Golf Classic** is another great opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of fresh air and fun with friends. Held at Dahlgreen Golf Club in Chaska, this event features a "Best Ball" format and is open to foursomes, pairs or individuals looking to be paired up. This year's event is **Wednesday, Aug. 13** at **8 a.m.** and registration includes green fees, a golf cart and lunch. Call the **Senior Center** at **952-279-8050** today and sign up to play!



Finally, as the September winds blow in, Eden Prairie's 29th annual **Sunbonnet Day** is a unique opportunity for the whole family to take a step back in time and enjoy the festivities of days gone by. The event takes place at the historic Riley-Jacques Farmstead on **Sunday, Sept. 14** from **12:30 to 4:30 p.m.** Stop by for an afternoon of live entertainment, pony rides, horse-drawn wagon excursions, old-time tales from the farm, games, concessions and more.

Summer's days might be numbered, but the opportunities to get out and Live Well in Eden Prairie are endless. So be sure to take some time, savor the season and live the life you desire.



To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

Looking for some new and different ways to help you, your family and friends Live Well? There is an abundance of unique summer fun to be had in Eden Prairie!

- Have a little Sponge Bob fan at home? Sign up for **Jelly Beans Sponge Bob Camp**.
- Looking for something to challenge your pre-teen? **Survivor! For Kids** provides a week of fun in the quest to become the ultimate survivor.
- Think you'd never pick up a bow and arrow? Surprise your teenager with some beginner-level **Adult/Youth Archery Lessons**.
- Need something fun for a disabled family member to explore? Take **A Trip to the Wild** with a Therapeutic Recreation trip to the IMAX for a virtual African safari.
- Interested in joining in on the annual hunting trip this year? Take a DNR-sponsored **Firearms Safety** course at the **Outdoor Center**.
- Fascinated by birds and wildlife? Take a two-day trip to **Big Stone Wildlife Refuge** and explore **Shorebirds** with wildlife photographer **Stan Tekiela**.
- In need of a getaway? Take an **Artists Cruise** trip to Stillwater for some art, shopping and scenery on a St. Croix River cruise.

Sometimes, living well is simply getting out there, trying something new and finding fun for the whole family. Take the challenge today; there are dozens of unique and exciting ways 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

Today (July 7, 2008) is dedication day for the **Lambert Pavilion** in **Purgatory Creek Park**. This park is just part of the legacy left in Eden Prairie by former Director of Parks & Recreation **Bob Lambert**. The pavilion was named in his honor by the City Council to recognize his 29 years of service to the community.

By any measure, Bob Lambert was a great man. I shouldn't say "was" because Bob is still very much alive and living happily with his family on the farm outside of St. Peter. Bob was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He would not like it if you (or me) called him a war hero, but suffice it to say that as a helicopter pilot, he flew many soldiers out of hostile areas to safety. He had the most interesting stories from that conflict as well.

After a short time with the city of Cottage Grove, Bob came here in 1978 and never looked back. He came to Eden Prairie just ahead of



Former Parks and Recreation Director Bob Lambert, his wife Sally and their family at the dedication of the Lambert Pavilion in Purgatory Creek Park.

the growth surge of the 1980s. He knew what Eden Prairie was going to become, and he wanted to make sure that a great city had a great to park system to go with it. Much of what you see in Eden Prairie's park, open spaces and recreational facilities are the results of Bob's vision and his ability to inspire the confidence of the Park Board Members, City Council Members and City Managers that he worked with for those 29 years.

I had the pleasure of working with Bob from 2002 to 2007. It was an honor to work with him. It truly was. I'm looking forward to seeing him again tonight to recognize his work to help place his name into the permanent record of Eden Prairie's history.

He deserves it.

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

Did You Know?

Did you know that the **Eden Prairie Police Department** offers free residential security surveys for Eden Prairie residents?

Due to a recent spike in thefts from unsecured garages and because more than half of the residential burglaries that take place in the City are the result of an unsecured garage or unlocked entrance, Eden Prairie Police are encouraging residents to take notice and take action.

In 2007 there were 127 residential burglaries reported in the City of Eden Prairie. Of those, approximately 62 percent did not involve a forced entry. In these cases, criminals did not need to "break in" at all. Instead, they were left access to residents' personal belongings through open garage doors and unlocked entrances.

The Police Department encourages all residents to use extra caution when storing valuables in garages, and take the time to be sure garages and homes are secure at all times, even if the home is occupied.

For more information about a residential security survey, call the Eden Prairie Police Department at **952-949-6200** or visit edenprairie.org today.

Always call 911 in an emergency, or to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood.



Mark Your Calendar

Concerts in the Park

7 p.m. at Purgatory Creek Park

Stop by for an evening of music, fresh air and friendship.

- July 18 - Drive Time *Bluegrass*
- July 20 - Gloryland Gospel Band
- July 23 - Matt Wahl *Country*
- July 25 - Boyd Lee and Jose Cruz *Acoustic Pop*
- July 27 - Wonder Cure *Classic Rock*
- July 30 - Eden Prairie String Academy
- Aug. 1 - Timothy Berry *Soul Percussion*
- Aug. 3 - Jazz on the Prairie Big Band
- Aug. 6 - Lehto and Wright *Celtic/American Folk*
- Aug. 8 - Eden Prairie Drama Camp and Zoo Mobile
- Aug. 13 - Minnetonka Civic Orchestra
- Aug. 15 - Park In Movie: *Liar, Liar* (PG 13)
- Aug. 16 - Park In Movie: *Return of the Jedi* (PG)

KidStock

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Riley Lake Park

Enjoy the sounds, actions, stories and fun of children's entertainers form around the Twin Cities.

- July 22 - Kathy and Leo Laura
- July 29 - Bob the Beachcomber
- Aug. 5 - Andy LaCasse
- Aug. 12 - Ross Sutter

International Festival

Sunday, Aug. 10
3 - 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of music, dancing, arts, exhibits, activities and more at Staring Lake Park.

Senior Golf Classic

Wednesday, August 13
8 a.m.

Put a foursome together and participate in this "Best Ball" tournament at Dahlgreen Golf Club in Chaska. Call the **Senior Center** at **952-279-8050** to register.

City Council Meeting*

Tuesday, Aug. 19

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

Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special

7:30 p.m.

Bring the whole gang for a musical evening at the historic Riley-Jacques Barn, featuring great local bands. Tickets available at the door: \$5 for adults; \$3 for children, students and seniors.

July 19 - Barn Dance Featuring Pig's Eye Landing

Aug. 23 - Bluegrass Concert Featuring the Blue Drifters

Eden Prairie Night Out

Tuesday, Aug. 5

Gather with neighbors to celebrate and strengthen your commitment to a safe community. Visit edenprairie.org for event information and registration.