

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Local families enjoy Eden Prairie Kite Fest 2008.



JUNE 2008

An Art Center for Eden Prairie

After years of envisioning the possibilities of a center for the arts in Eden Prairie, City leaders have taken the first step in realizing that dream. At its meeting on April 15, the Eden Prairie City Council officially accepted the gift of a 5,400-square-foot building from the family of the late Roger Sampson, an Eden Prairie resident who built the building as a place to create art.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Eden Prairie community," said City Manager Scott Neal. "An Art Center will enrich the lives of all generations and establish a place to celebrate the arts for many years to come."

The Sampson family announced their intention to donate the building to the City, to be used as an art center for the community, late last year. Now, with the approval of the Council, it has become the largest single gift ever offered to the City of Eden Prairie.

Over the coming months City staff members will finalize the real estate transaction, make plans for a small number of renovation projects and, with the help of the Arts and Culture Commission, develop new community arts programs.

John Updike, author and poet, once said, "What art offers is space – a certain breathing room for the spirit." Scheduled to open in January 2009, the Eden Prairie Art Center will provide an ideal space for young and old to explore the spirit of the arts.

"What art offers is space – a certain breathing room for the spirit."

—John Updike



Weather Radios Save Lives



As too many disaster survivors know, tornadoes are terrifying in their suddenness, speed and fury. Every second counts when people and families in the erratic path of a quickly forming tornado try to escape its pure destructive power.

As essential as a smoke detector for fires, a special National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio can alert you and your loved ones to approaching severe weather. Recovery officials estimate a NOAA all-hazards weather radio may provide as much as eight minutes to move family and pets to a specially constructed safe room or at least a secure location in their home.

During an emergency, NOAA broadcasts a special shrieking tone that automatically activates weather radios. NOAA then broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards. The radios are especially valuable in states like Minnesota that are prone to tornadoes.

"A weather radio provides instant access to the same weather reports and emergency information that meteorologists and emergency personnel use" said George Esbensen, fire chief and director of emergency preparedness in Eden Prairie. "This information can save your life, or the life of someone you love."

When shopping for a weather radio, make sure the radio you buy has seven channels, an audible or visual warning alert feature and battery backup. Weather radios are available for around \$20 at many local retailers and various consumer sites on the Internet.

For more tips and information about severe weather preparedness, visit noaa.gov.

Park Cleanup Day

On a cold morning in April, hundreds of Eden Prairie residents and organizations stepped out and did their part to maintain the beauty of Eden Prairie's many miles of parks and trails. The City of Eden Prairie would like to thank all of those who participated in this year's Park Cleanup Day!



Members of Cadette Troop 10279 (left to right) Caroline Mueller, Katie Vlasic, Lauren Doyle, and Melissa Scharf helping out on Park Cleanup Day.

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|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Andrea Spears Family | Girl Scout Brownie Troop 10819 | Jenny Stanley Family |
| Ann Zara Family | Girl Scout Daisy Troop 12840 | Joyce & Jack Provo |
| ATK | Girl Scout Junior Troop 10009 | Judy and Kyle Denucci |
| Boy Scout Pack 497 | Girl Scout Junior Troop 10934 | Kelly Laurie Girl Scout Troop |
| Carrie Neiberg Family | Girl Scout Troop 10279 | Kim Wiese Family |
| Cub Scout Pack 348 | Girl Scout Troop 10562 | Kristi Gusa Family |
| Dave Rasmussen | Girl Scout Troop 10805 | Lifetouch, Inc. |
| Dawn Miller | Heather Khelah | Marvin Cofer |
| Eden Prairie 4H | HTG Architects | Mom's Club – Duck Lake Chapter |
| Eden Prairie Women of Today | Jay & Shannon | Pat Cannon |
| Elizabeth Pudas Family | Lotthammer Family | Rick Kusleika |
| Frank Kendall Family | Jeff Strate and Friends of Birch Island Woods | Tim Sosnowski |
| Gibbas Family | | |
| Girl Scout Brownie Troop 10785 | | |

Water Use Restrictions

Lawn watering uses a significant portion of the City's water supply each year, and 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.

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



Women's Fire Service Expo

Saturday, May 31, 2008
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A firefighting expo designed just for women!

South Metro Public Safety Training Facility
7525 Braemar Boulevard
Edina, MN 55439
Register at nswfa.org

For more information please contact:
Kimberly Cummings
952-949-8367
kcummings@edenprairie.org

The North Star Women's Fire Association, in conjunction with Hennepin Technical College and Fire Departments in Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Plymouth, Saint Louis Park, Savage and Victoria are hosting the Women's Fire Service Expo, a one-day, hands-on and informational event designed specifically for women.

Women across the state are invited to attend and learn about fire fighting and how to become a volunteer firefighter. Meet women firefighters and get some hands-on experience!



Register online by May 23, 2008! nswfa.org



The City of Eden Prairie is celebrating 150 Years of Community this summer!

Visit edenprairie.org for a list of sesquicentennial celebration events.

YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR
Phil Young
952-426-1931

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



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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Enrich Your Spirit at the Community Center



Originally constructed in 1982, the Eden Prairie **Community Center** was designed to help enrich the lives of those who live and work in the City of Eden Prairie. A place where family and friends could gather and enjoy recreational activities, the facility was intended to be, as the name suggests, the center of the community.

Over time, it became evident that the Community Center would need to be renovated and expanded in order to keep up with the evolving needs of the Eden Prairie community. In 2005, it was a decision by the community itself that initiated the reconstruction of the existing facility.

As that extensive project now comes to a close, it's time to celebrate!

On **Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** bring your friends and family for a **Grand Opening** celebration at the NEW Eden Prairie Community Center! This is your opportunity to tour the fully renovated facility and test out the unlimited opportunities to help you Live Well in Eden Prairie!

Dip your toes in the waters of the freshly painted 25-yard lap pool, revitalize your hoop dreams in the brand new gymnasium, find your way to fitness in the top-of-the-line fitness center, test out the ice on the skating rinks and explore the elegance of the Cambria Room for your next gathering.

Whatever you do, take this opportunity to enrich your spirit and discover exciting new ways to Live Well at the Eden Prairie Community Center!



Live Well
EDEN PRAIRIE

To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

The first day of summer is Saturday, June 21 and with the arrival of this great season come some of the best opportunities to Live Well in Eden Prairie!

- Don't forget to register the kids for one of the many **Summer Day Camps**.
- Grab the girls and get in swimsuit-ready shape with **Boot Camp** at the Community Center.
- Join in the summer fun with a bus trip and tour of **Bachman's on Lyndale** followed by lunch in the greenhouse.
- Sign your future Picasso up for one of many **Art Expo Programs**.
- Encourage your teenager take a swing at a new sport with **USA Tennis Lessons**.
- Get the whole family together for **Fly Fishing** lessons at the Outdoor Center.
- Take a **Canoe Trip** to the Red Cedar River in beautiful Wisconsin with friends and family.
- Relax for the day at **Riley Lake Park Public Beach**.

The opportunities are endless, have you decided how you're going to Live Well this summer?

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

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

I attended a big meeting yesterday at the headquarters of the **Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)** in St. Paul.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the prospects for the future improvement of the I-494 - T.H.169 interchange given the State's new transportation bill generated new funds for MnDOT. We wanted to see if the new money meant that the project might be accelerated, or if the new money might vault other area projects ahead of this one.

The meeting included the Mayors, City Managers and Public Works Directors of Eden Prairie, Edina and Bloomington. There were also City Council Members and other city staff from the respective cities. There were also a couple of representatives from Eden Prairie's business community: Liberty Property Trust and SUPERVALU.

Finally, there were also three State Representatives there: Rep. Maria Ruud from Eden Prairie; Rep. Ron Erhardt from Edina and Rep. Neil Peterson from Bloomington. MnDOT was represented by the Acting Director Bob McFarlin, Metro

District Engineer Tom O'Keefe and several other high ranking MnDOT staff members. It was a large group of people with busy schedules who got together to talk about a very important project.

It was a productive meeting. MnDOT shared with us what they expect to receive in new revenue as a result of the new transportation bill. They will see new money, but a significant share of it will go toward the repair and replacement of bridges. That was a legislative mandate by the State Legislature. The second priority of the new money will be pavement preservation. Expansion projects, which is what they say the 494-169 project represents, are, at best, a third priority for MnDOT.

Nonetheless, Mr. McFarlin told us that the 494-169 project is a priority project for him. He has a long history with the project during his career at MnDOT. He told us that he would work with his staff and with the three cities to figure out a solution to get the project moving. He asked us to consider potential decreases to the scope

of the previously approved improvement plan for the interchange. The message was that if we could decrease the cost of the project, which is estimated to be over \$120,000,000, by decreasing the scope of the project, the project could be completed sooner rather than later. No surprise there. The cities said they would look at variations of the project scope proposed by MnDOT and get responses back to MnDOT this summer.

Meetings like this are a necessary in order to set a path for creating a solution to a problem. We want the project to happen tomorrow. They don't have enough money to do the project tomorrow. So what do we do? We talk. We compromise. We move the project forward by reassessing what's important and what's not. We're going to get right to work on this. This project is too important to the traveling public and to the economic development prospects in Eden Prairie to wait another ten years. We need it sooner rather than later.

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

Did You Know?

Did you know there is now an easy, convenient way to keep informed about **City News**?

The City of Eden Prairie has implemented a new e-mail subscription service, making it easier to be updated about the topics of importance to you!

When you subscribe to City News, you'll be notified immediately about:

- Community Events
- City Council Meetings
- Adult Athletic Scores and Standings
- Changes to City Ordinances
- City News

And much more!

To subscribe, simply visit edenprairie.org and click on the **City News** button. It takes just a couple steps to sign up and choose the topics you want to be notified about, as well as how often you want to be updated!



Mark Your Calendar

Crofut Family Wine Trip
Friday, May 16
10:15 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Travel to the Crofut family vineyard in Jordan, Minn. for a tour, wine tasting and lunch. Bus leaves from the Senior Center, cost is \$15 per person.

Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special
Saturdays
May 17 and June 14
7:30 p.m.

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

Community Center Grand Opening Celebration!
Saturday, May 17
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Celebrate the Grand Opening of the newly renovated and expanded Community Center with entertainment, refreshments, activities and more!

City Council Meetings*
Tuesdays
May 20 and June 3, 17

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

Memorial Day
Monday, May 26

In observance of Memorial Day the City Center and Senior Center will be closed on Monday, May 26. The Community Center and all Eden Prairie Liquor stores will maintain regular operating hours.

Antiques and Arts in the Park
Saturday, June 7
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
J.R. Cummins Homestead

A variety of treasures from artists, crafters, antique dealers and food vendors.

Minnesota Festival of Jazz on the Prairie
Sunday, June 8
2–8 p.m.
Purgatory Creek Park

Enjoy the music of six area big bands along with the delicious tastes of Rib Fest 2008.

Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission Informational Meeting
Thursday, June 12
7–9 p.m.
Hennepin Technical College
13100 College View Drive

Learn more about future plans for the Flying Cloud Airport.

Concerts in the Park
Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays
June 8–Aug. 16
7 p.m.
Purgatory Creek Park

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

All American Fishing Derby
Saturday, June 14
9–11 a.m.
Round Lake Park

Join the Optimist Club of Eden Prairie for this exciting competition! Registration is open to youth ages 15 and under, accompanied by a parent or guardian, and there are prizes for everyone! For more information call 952-941-5740.

KidStock
Tuesdays
June 17 – Aug. 5
10:30–11:30 a.m.
Riley Lake Park

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