

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Enjoying a special night at the 2008 Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance!



Kyle and Kylie Duncan



Brian and Lyric Vinson



Brad and Emily Rhoads



Jason and Lauren Conway

APRIL 2008

City Adopts New Recycling Ordinance

At its March 4 meeting, the City Council voted to adopt a revision to City Code Section 9.01 addressing recycling.

The revision ensures the City of Eden Prairie is in compliance with current Hennepin County recommendations for multiple family development recycling.



Effective July 1, 2008, the City's recycling ordinance requires that owners, associations and other management entities for multiple-family dwellings such as town homes, condominiums and apartment buildings, make recyclable collection services available to all occupants.

These services must be available on-premise and must allow for the collection of recyclable waste items such as glass, aluminum cans, paper, plastic and corrugated cardboard.



"This is a step in the right direction to make recycling an easy option for all Eden Prairie residents," said City Manager **Scott Neal**.

For more information or to view a full copy of the revised recycling ordinance, visit edenprairie.org and browse the City Code section.

An Update to the Eden Prairie Guide Plan

According to **Merriam-Webster**, to "guide" is to *direct in a way or course*, and in the City of Eden Prairie, the Comprehensive Guide Plan is designed to do just that: establish direction for the development and redevelopment of the City.

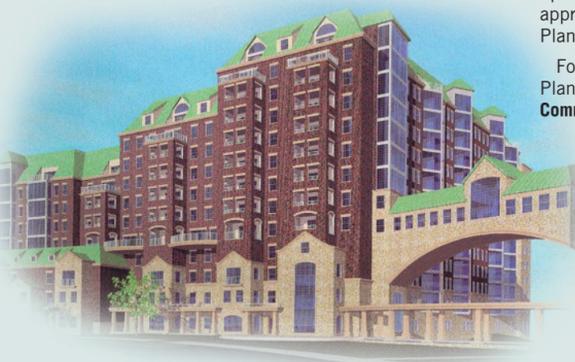


The Windsor Plaza project, currently under construction along Singletree Lane, is just one of the many redevelopment projects that will take its course under the direction of the City's Guide Plan. Scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2009, Windsor Plaza will be a mixed-use property featuring office, retail and restaurant space.

The first Guide Plan for the City of Eden Prairie was adopted in 1967 and was aimed at maintaining a balance of land use and natural environment by identifying the best areas for housing, commercial, office, industrial and open space within the City.

The original Guide Plan is now updated every 10 years, as required by Minnesota State Statute, and is utilized by the City to make day-to-day decisions and recommendations, as well as establish the overall policies, standards and principles related to the development of Eden Prairie.

The Eden Prairie **Planning Commission** has just recently completed an 18-month review process resulting in a first draft of the 2008 Guide Plan update. With the approval of the **City Council** in February, the plan has now been distributed to neighboring cities, counties and school districts for a mandatory six-month review period.



Some of the most important updates to the Guide Plan address a shift toward redevelopment in Eden Prairie.

"Given that only 3 percent of the developable land in the City remains vacant, much of Eden Prairie's future growth will consist of rebuilding, remodeling and redevelopment projects," said **Mike Franzen**, city planner.

The updated Guide Plan recognizes this shift and includes detailed policies and plans to guide this change.

More specifically, the revisions to the Guide Plan include land use guidelines and policies for the redevelopment of the Town Center area along Singletree Lane, the Major Center Area surrounding Eden Prairie Center and the Golden Triangle Area in the northeast corner of the City.

After the current review process is complete, the Planning Commission and City Council will approve a final draft of the update and submit it to the Metropolitan Council. Pending approval, the City expects to officially adopt the final Guide Plan update in spring 2009.

For more information or to view a current draft of the Guide Plan update, visit edenprairie.org and browse through the **Community Development Department** section.

The Presbyterian Homes project, a redevelopment recently approved by the City Council to replace the current Castle Ridge/Broadmoor properties, is an example of the type of growth that the City of Eden Prairie will see in the coming years. To be completed within the next three to five years, the property will feature residential and retail space which will include a CVS Pharmacy.

Eden Prairie Resident Stars in PSA

Laura Lindberg, a young Eden Prairie resident who recently brought her concerns about littering in Eden Prairie's parks to the attention of City officials, is now starring in a City of Eden Prairie Public Service Announcement (PSA) on EPTV 16.



Laura Lindberg

In a 2007 letter addressed to Mayor **Phil Young**, Lindberg addressed the issue of littering in some of her favorite parks and asked that something be done to bring awareness to the problem.

As a result, Lindberg has now become Eden Prairie's spokesperson for a litter-free City and is doing her part to raise awareness in the community, encouraging everyone to do their part and "pick up trash" in local parks.

Envisioning an Art Center

At the State of the City event in January, Mayor **Phil Young** announced that the owners of a building located at 7650 Equitable Drive in Eden Prairie had offered to give the building and its surrounding land to the City for use as a community art center.



7650 Equitable Drive

The current owners of the building, the family of **Roger Sampson**, who built the building as a place to create art before he passed away a short time ago, announced late last year that they wished to donate the building to the City so that it could be an art center for the community like it was for their family.

"This is a very exciting development for Eden Prairie," said City Manager **Scott Neal**. "An art center has been a community amenity that Eden Prairie City leaders have envisioned for many years."

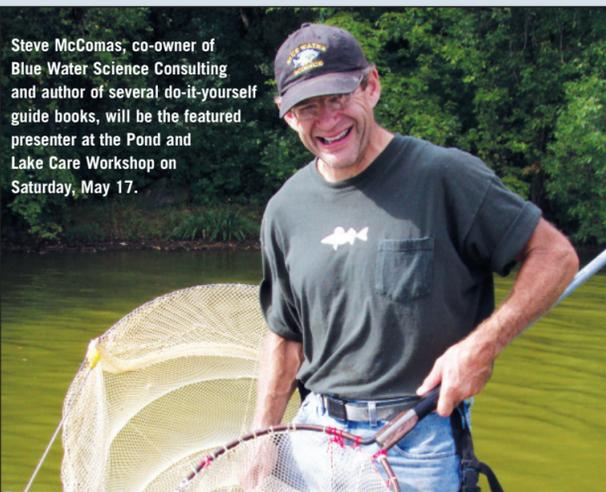
At its Jan. 22 meeting, the **City Council** discussed this donation and decided to charge the **Arts and Culture Commission** with bringing a recommendation for the operation of an art center back to the Council within 60-90 days.

The City Council will hear the findings by the Arts and Culture Commission at its April 15 meeting. Discussions will continue over the coming months to further define the future of an art center for the Eden Prairie community.

City to Host Pond and Lake Care Workshop

Join **Steve McComas** from **Blue Water Science** to learn about aquatic ecology and the roles of nutrients, fish, wildlife and humans in and around the water. The workshop, on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at the City Center, is **free** and the first 20 Eden Prairie residents to pre-register will receive a copy of the book *Blue Thumb Guide to Rain Gardens*. To register, visit edenprairie.org or contact **Leslie Stovring**, environmental coordinator, at 952-949-8327.

Steve McComas, co-owner of **Blue Water Science Consulting** and author of several do-it-yourself guide books, will be the featured presenter at the Pond and Lake Care Workshop on Saturday, May 17.



Wine Club



Join today!

Annual membership is only \$25 and the benefits are endless



- 15% off all wine purchases at any Eden Prairie Liquor location.*
- One free admission to the Eden Prairie Liquor Spring Wine Tasting.
- Invitations to members-only tastings, educational events and parties.
- Exclusive members-only discounts, giveaways and more!

*Discount does not apply to sale and closeout items.

8018 Den Road
Across from Cub
952-914-0032

950 Prairie Center Drive
Near Rainbow Foods
952-934-0067

16502 W. 78th Street
Next to Kowalski's
952-937-9366

edenprairieliqor.org

YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS



MAYOR
Phil Young
952-426-1931

COUNCIL MEMBERS
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Sherry Butcher
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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Enhance your Summer with Eden Prairie's Parks and Recreation Programs

The average summer day in Eden Prairie is 82 degrees, with a 70-percent chance of sunshine and approximately 15 hours of daylight. The summer of 2008 will last only 93 days, so it is important to plan ahead and Live Well this summer!

Eden Prairie's Parks and Recreation programs are designed to help you Live Well by providing a multitude of affordable, convenient, fun and exciting ways to enhance your summer.

The 2008 Spring/Summer parks and recreation Program Guide is now available and you'll find it packed with opportunities to get out and play on a sports league, learn something new, explore nature, send the kids to camp, perfect a skill, spend time with friends and so much more!

The program guide is distributed at the **City Center** (8080 Mitchell Road), the **Community Center** (16700 Valley View Road) and is available online at edenprairie.org.

Registration is easy and programs fill up fast, so pick up a copy today and embark on your journey to living well this summer!



To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

It's spring in Minnesota and as the April showers make way for May flowers, get out and explore all of the opportunities to Live Well right here in Eden Prairie.

- Keep your little students busy at the **Spring Break Week at the Beach**.
- Pick up a game of **Racquetball** at the **Community Center**.
- Plan a **Nature-Themed Birthday Party** at the **Outdoor Center**.
- Explore the health benefits of a group **Water Fitness Class**.
- Take a bus trip to the historic **Lafayette Club** for lunch and a **Golden Strings** performance.
- Become a certified lifeguard with **Lifeguard Training** at the Community Center.

For those who Live, Work and Dream in the City of Eden Prairie, you don't have to look very far to find the perfect opportunity to Live Well this spring!

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

While a public water utility is a complex business operation, the operating concept is not. The City pumps water out of the ground to a central water treatment plant where it is treated with chemicals to soften it and make it safe for human consumption. The treated water is then pumped to a storage tank or water tower where it waits to be distributed via a system of underground pipes.

Our water utility is financed by the customers of our system through user fees. Property taxes do not support our water utility operations. It's an important distinction from other cities that cross-subsidize their water utility systems with tax dollars. These cities can get into financial trouble when taxpayers figure out they are paying more taxes than necessary in order to subsidize water customers who are paying lower water rates than they ought to, or vice-versa.

Some may wonder about the rationale the City uses to charge its customers for the water they consume. Why does the unit price for water go up as the amount consumed increases? What's wrong

with selling people as much water as they are willing to buy?

Water is unlike other commodities like gasoline, diamonds and wheat that are produced and sold in a private market. For a good to be produced and sold in a private market, consumers must have the option to buy it or not to buy it. Eden Prairie property owners do not have an option to buy our water. For public health reasons, the City mandates that every occupied building must have water. It's the law.

Because water is a mandatory good, its price cannot be left to the marketplace, which would set prices at the intersection of supply and demand. Water rates are set by our City Council to finance the annual operations and the current/future capital needs of the water utility. There are no profits to be generated. No dividends to be paid.

The City cannot pump, treat and distribute an unlimited amount of water, regardless of customers' desires. Three key parameters control how much water the City is able to produce and sell: natural, mechanical and regulatory.

The natural parameter is easy to understand. If there isn't water in our 15 wells, we can't pump it out of the ground. During the past three summers, we've seen well levels drop so much that we will have to reconstruct at least two of them to reach deeper into the ground for water. Minnesota is blessed with good water supplies – relative to other parts of the country – but water is not an unlimited resource.

The mechanical parameter refers to the capacity of our water treatment plant, wells, water towers and piping system. When operating at 100% of capacity, it can produce 22,500,000 gallons in a 24-hour period. To reach 100% production, we must operate every mechanical function at its full capacity, which stresses our production equipment (and staff) and creates a greater potential for mechanical failures, jeopardizing personal and emergency water use.

The final parameter is regulatory. The City is granted an allocation by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The permit restricts the amount of water we are allowed to "draw" out of the earth on an annual basis. The City's current permit is 3.45 billion gallons per year. In 2007 we actually pumped 3.56 billion gallons – in violation of our permit. We will continue to seek an addition to our allocation, but we must demonstrate to the DNR that we have a legitimate need to take more water from the reservoir we share with many other metro-area cities.

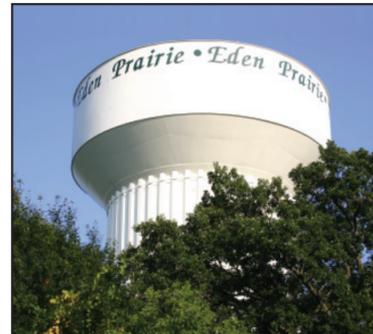
We know that the winter time average daily water consumption for Eden Prairie is about 6,000,000 gallons. During the growing season the daily consumption regularly rises to the mechanical maximum of 22,500,000 gallons per day – entirely attributable to outdoor watering.

To secure approval from the DNR for new wells cities must demonstrate that they are serious about water conservation. One requirement is to adopt and enforce a water conservation program,

which charges user fees that discourage excessive water consumption through a progressive rate structure. We also reduce consumption with an odd/even watering system and a total ban from noon to 5 p.m. daily. House File No. 3238, currently proposed at the legislature, would mandate that all water suppliers serving more than 1,000 customers have a "conservation rate structure" like ours.

It's challenging to manage a City service which we know does not meet the desires of many of our customers. But first the City must manage its resources in a manner that is consistent with federal and state law, in the best interest of taxpayers and especially to meet priority needs for our water – household, commercial/industrial and fire protection. We must be good stewards of our natural resources and environment.

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



Mark Your Calendar

Good Friday

Friday, March 21

In observance of Good Friday the City Center and Senior Center will close at noon. The Community Center and all Eden Prairie Liquor stores will maintain regular operating hours.

Eden Prairie Players Auditions

March 24 – 25
7 – 9 p.m. (Open Call)

Join in the fun and audition for this summer's performance of *Broadway on the Prairie*, a musical revue. Auditions will be held at Central Middle School. Visit edenprairieplayers.org for more information.

Eden Prairie Players Summer Children's Theater – Informational Parent Meeting

Monday, April 7
7 – 8:30 p.m.

For parents interested in auditioning their children for this summer's performance of *Shining Princess of the Slender Bamboo*, this is a mandatory informational meeting at the Senior Center. Visit edenprairieplayers.org for more information.

Animal Open House

Saturday, April 12
1 – 4 p.m.

Don't miss this FREE event at the Outdoor Center featuring dozens of four-legged friends!

City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, April 15
There is no City Council meeting scheduled for April 1.

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

Park Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 19
8:30 – 11 a.m.

Make it a family service project or grab a group of neighborhood friends, and do your part to help keep the parks and trails of Eden Prairie clean! Call **952-949-8463** today for your local assignment.

Open Mic Poetry Night

Monday, April 21
7 p.m.

Celebrate National Poetry Night at the Eden Prairie Library. Call **952-847-5375** to register for participation, or just stop by to listen.

Broadway on Blades

April 25, 26
7 p.m.
April 27
2 p.m.

Bring the whole family to the Community Center for this annual ice show featuring the sights and sounds of Broadway! Tickets available at the Community Center front office beginning April 21: \$8 for adults 18 and older; \$5 for children.