

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Hundreds gather for the 2007 Veterans Day event at Purgatory Creek Park.



JANUARY 2008

Resolve to be Ready

This New Year's Eve nearly 50 percent of Americans will make at least one resolution as they look toward 2008. The Eden Prairie Fire and Police Departments are encouraging all residents and businesses to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep: preparing for emergencies.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently launched a Resolve to be Ready campaign which recommends taking the following three steps to be prepared in the event of an emergency:

1. Put together an emergency supply kit

In a basic emergency supply kit, include the following:

- One gallon of water per person per day, for three days – remember to include enough for your pets.
- A least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water such as ready-to-eat canned meats, peanut butter, protein or fruit bars, dry cereal or granola. Also pack a manual can opener and eating utensils.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio with tone alert – include extra batteries for both.
- At least one flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust masks to help filter contaminated air.
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Local maps.



Be sure to consider additional items to accommodate family members' special needs such as:

- Prescription medications and glasses.
- Infant formula and diapers.
- Pet food, extra water for your pet, leash and collar.
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records stored in a portable waterproof container.
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children.

2. Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency

- Sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency.
- Determine a neighborhood meeting place, a regional meeting place and an evacuation location.
- Identify an out-of-town emergency contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact could play an important role in communication among separated family members. Be sure every member of your family knows the out-of-town phone number and has coins or a prepaid phone card to make use of a land-line telephone if necessary.
- Inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: employers, daycare providers, schools, etc. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one.

3. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in an emergency

You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

"Studies show that only 54 percent of Americans have taken at least one of the steps recommended by the Department of Homeland Security to protect themselves and their families in the event of an emergency," said **George Esbensen**, Eden Prairie's fire chief and director of emergency preparedness. "That number is too small, and these steps are too important to ignore."

In 2007 the City of Eden Prairie launched its **Partnership for Emergency Readiness (PER)** initiative, establishing a public-private partnership which allows the City's emergency response teams to better serve residents and businesses in disaster situations.

One of America's top homeland security experts, Stephen Flynn, Ph.D., said in his book, "The Edge of Disaster: Rebuilding a Resilient Nation," that Eden Prairie's PER is "an outstanding example of a community-based initiative that is a model for how cities and towns around America should be fostering the kind of preparedness we must have to deal with 21st-century hazards."

To learn more about the initiative, or to register your business as a partner in this program, visit the PER Web site at edenprairieper.org.

For more information, materials and tools to help prepare your family, home or business for all types of emergencies visit ready.gov or call **1-800-BE-READY**.

Meet the Newest Addition to the Eden Prairie Police K-9 Unit

In August of 2007 the Eden Prairie Police Department welcomed **Brix**, a one-year-old German shepherd, as the newest addition to its K-9 unit.

For Brix the journey began in the Czech Republic where he was born and bred specifically for his very special mission as a Police K-9. At 14 months of age, he arrived in the United States and was introduced to his partner, Eden Prairie Police Officer **Jess Irmiter**.

Together, Brix and Irmiter spent 12 weeks in training before graduating from the St. Paul Police Department K-9 School. Now the two are lifelong companions who will spend the years ahead serving the residents of Eden Prairie.

"Working as a K-9 Officer is something I've always wanted to do," said Irmiter, who will spend an estimated five years working with Brix. "And I have the privilege of calling Brix my partner as long as he is happy, healthy and productive."



Eden Prairie Police Officer Irmiter and his K-9 Brix prepare for their first shift together.

As a German shepherd, Brix is genetically designed to thrive in his line of work. The ability to acclimate in extreme weather conditions, an unusually high IQ and exceptional olfactory senses help Brix accomplish tasks not possible for humans alone. With specialized training, he has the potential to assist Eden Prairie Police in the areas of tracking, apprehension and narcotics detection.



Officer Irmiter and Brix visit with Eden Prairie residents at the 2007 Fire and Police Open House.

In addition to their day-to-day duties, Brix and Irmiter enjoy the many opportunities they have to educate the public about their unique partnership. The two can often be found around Eden Prairie, training near the J.R. Cummins House, meeting with students at the High School and participating in K-9 demonstrations.

Brix is the 10th dog to serve with the Eden Prairie Police Department since the inception of the K-9 unit in 1981. In doing so he joins an elite group of loyal and hard-working animals that have helped protect the safety of the Eden Prairie community through the years.



Officer Irmiter and Brix demonstrate their skills.

Thank You

The City of Eden Prairie thanks the following businesses, residents and service organizations for their contributions to the 2007 **Arts and Special Events Programs**.

More than \$25,900 in support was given to help provide arts and special events programs to the Eden Prairie community.



Platinum Sponsors – \$5,000 or more
 Heroic Productions (*In-kind*)
 Wells Fargo Eden Prairie

Silver Sponsors – \$1,000 to \$2,499
 Anchor Bank
 Anchor Printing (*in-kind*)
 J.A. Price Agency, Inc.
 Schwan's Consumer Brands
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Bronze Sponsors – \$500 to \$999
 Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund
 Lions Tap
 Optimist Club of Eden Prairie
 Pump It Up
 Rasmussen College

Prairie Sponsors – \$499 or less
 American Muslim Community Center
 Beacon Bank
 Biffs (*in-kind*)
 Children's Technology Workshop
 D. Bradley Dodds, DDS
 Heather Olson
 International School of Minnesota
 Mom's Club of Mitchell Lake
 TLC Catering
 Veil Orthodontics
 Washburn McReavy Funeral Chapels

Holiday Hours

Several City of Eden Prairie facilities including the **City Center, Community Center, Senior Center** and **Municipal Liquor Stores** will have modified holiday hours Dec. 24 – 25, 2007, and Dec. 31, 2007 – Jan. 1, 2008. Please visit edenprairie.org for a detailed listing of holiday hours.

Eden Prairie Police and Fire emergency services are available 24 hours a day. Always dial 911 in an emergency.

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

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Looking Back at 2007

When I reach the end of the year I like to look back and take stock of where I've been and what I've done. I believe it's important to do that as a city government as well. Eden Prairie city government is the steward of the City's public buildings, parks, streets and much of its natural open space.

We are also the stewards of Eden Prairie's image and future. We want to be accountable to you — the residents and taxpayers of Eden Prairie — because we take our stewardship responsibility very seriously, and because there's a lot to be proud of in Eden Prairie from 2007.

We improved the City's outstanding network of parks, recreational facilities and natural open spaces by starting a major renovation project at the **Community Center**; by partnering with the **Eden Prairie School District** to complete a total reconstruction of the Forest Hills Elementary School playground and park; and by bringing resources together from several different City departments and the **Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District** to improve the water quality of **Round Lake** and reopen the lake to swimming.



Community Center construction



City and School District leaders join with students to celebrate the new Forest Hills Elementary playground and park



Mayor Phil Young and Council Member Brad Aho celebrate the reopening of Round Lake Beach



Celebrating the opening of Eden Prairie Fire Station #4



The newest addition to the Police Department vehicle fleet

We enhanced the public safety of the City by building **Fire Station #4** near the intersection of Dell Road and Highway 312; by putting a new fire truck — **Tower #41** — into service; by upgrading the **Police Department's** fleet of patrol vehicles; by increasing the effectiveness of the technology we put to use inside the new police patrol vehicles; and by initiating an effort to connect the resources and intelligence of our local business community with our public safety functions through a new program called the **Partnership for Emergency Readiness**.



Veterans Day event at Purgatory Creek Park

We partnered with the **Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee** to take the first tangible steps towards the creation of a permanent memorial in **Purgatory Creek Park** to honor the men and women in Eden Prairie who have served in our nation's military services.



We launched **20-40-15**, a new initiative in which we established goals to increase the energy efficiency of our public buildings by 20 percent, the energy efficiency of our vehicle fleet by 40 percent and to accomplish both of those goals by 2015.



Rendering of the future Windsor Plaza development on Highway 212 to the west of Eden Prairie Center



Eden Prairie residents enjoying a warm summer day at the beach

We dedicated significant time this year to planning for big changes in the future of Eden Prairie by reviewing Hennepin County's plans to extend **Light Rail Transit** to Eden Prairie; by creating a new **Comprehensive Land Use Guide Plan** for the City; and by approving several new development projects that will strengthen the economic vitality of Eden Prairie's retail business center.



Celebrating the opening of the new Highway 212 connecting Eden Prairie to Chanhassen

We demonstrated our desire to serve and to be accountable to our residents by conducting the **2007 Quality of Life survey**; by creating the new **Budget Advisory Commission**; and by welcoming a new Mayor, **Phil Young**, and two new members to the **City Council** — Council Members **Jon Duckstad** and **Kathy Nelson**.



Mayor Phil Young (center) and Council Members (L to R) Jon Duckstad, Kathy Nelson, Sherry Butcher and Brad Aho

It was a very good year in Eden Prairie in 2007. We're looking forward to what's in store for 2008. On behalf of everyone who works for the City of Eden Prairie, we thank our residents and taxpayers for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Scott H. Neal

Scott H. Neal

Your Friendly City Manager

Eden Prairie Commissions

Arts and Culture Commission

Members: Kelly Brandon, Karen Busack, Farida Kathawalla, Rita McCormick, Steve Mosow, Heather Olson, Ann Rorem.

Purpose: To enhance the creative and cultural opportunities for Eden Prairie residents by offering a broad range of cultural, performance and visual art programs.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the City Center.

2007 Highlights: In 2007, the Arts and Culture Commission worked closely with Southwest Newspapers, publisher of the *Eden Prairie News*, to produce the Art Resource Directory section of the "Eden Prairie Resident's Guide." This process involves researching and updating the entries to provide residents with the most up-to-date information available. In addition to providing support for arts and cultural programs including the International Festival, the Staring Lake Concert Series and Art on City Walls, the commission assisted and advised the community band and the Eden Prairie Players.

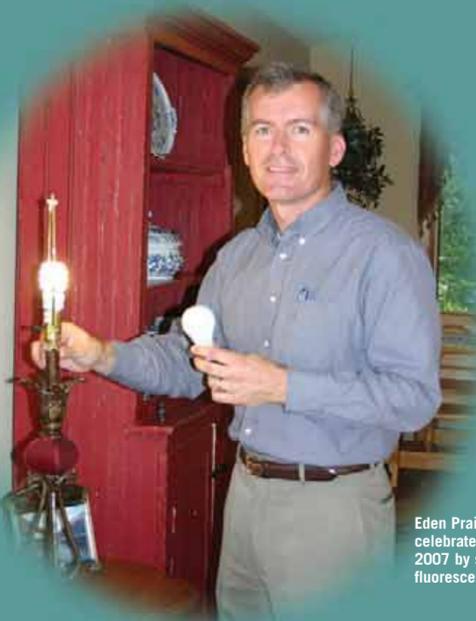


Members of La Danse Fatale participated in the 2007 Summer Concert Series at Staring Lake Park

The Eden Prairie City Council utilizes the expertise of several commissions for advice on matters ranging from economic development to environmental protection. Commissions are made up of Eden Prairie residents willing to share their time and knowledge for the better of the community.

Positions are currently available on nearly every commission. Applications are accepted in January, City Council interviews are conducted in March and commission terms typically begin on April 1.

Visit edenprairie.org or call Michael Barone at 952-949-8433 for more information or to obtain a commission application packet.



Eden Prairie Mayor Phil Young celebrated Change a Light Day 2007 by switching to a compact fluorescent light bulb

Budget Advisory Commission

Members: Mark Kantor, Katherine Kardell, Richard King, Jon Muilenburg, Richard Proops, Gwen Schultz, Don Uram.

Purpose: The commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in connection to the formation of a biennial City budget.

2007 Highlights: The Budget Advisory Commission was created in early 2007 to help City Council members and staff look for ways to keep the cost of City government in check. The commission made its final budget recommendations to the City Council in August.

Heritage Preservation Commission

Members: Betsy Adams, Richard Akerlund, Ann Higgins, Nina Mackay, Mark McPherson, Ed Muehlberg, Jane Plaza.

Purpose: The Heritage Preservation Commission is established for the purpose of: (1) safeguarding the heritage of the City by preserving sites and structures which reflect significant elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, visual or architectural history; (2) promoting the preservation and continued use of historic sites and structures for the education and general welfare of the people of the City; and (3) fostering civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the City Center.

2007 Highlights: In September 2007 the Heritage Preservation Commission completed an Adaptive Use Study of the J.R. Cummins House to address several challenges facing this well-known Eden Prairie landmark. The study provided four viable "scenarios" for City Council consideration and included a recommended approach to mitigating the loss of site space due to the proposed expansion of Pioneer Trail. In addition, the commission provided a Management Plan for the J.R. Cummins House Heritage Preservation Site to aid current and future City officials, tenants, contractors, workers and developers with the proper care of the heritage site.



J.R. Cummins House

Conservation Commission

Members: Eapen Chacko, Ray Daniels, Laura Jester, Sean Katof, Rita Krocak, Geneva MacMillan, Jan Mosman.

Purpose: To advance and support the health and development of the citizens and natural environment of Eden Prairie through comprehensive environmental protection, conservation efforts and natural resource management.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the City Center.

2007 Highlights: In 2007, the Conservation Commission worked closely with Eden Prairie City staff to establish and roll out its 20-40-15 energy efficiency initiative, aimed at improving energy efficiency in City facilities by 20 percent, improving the fuel efficiency of the City's vehicle fleet by 40 percent and achieving these goals by the year 2015. In this process, the commission assisted with the selection of a consulting firm which will compile a list of recommended projects to assist the City in becoming more energy efficient. In addition, the commission was key in launching the 2007 Change a Light campaign, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas and residential energy consumption by increasing the use of compact fluorescent bulbs.

Human Rights and Diversity Commission

Members: Daniel Abairra, Melissa Barra, Gerry Beckmann, Cari Maguire, Larry Piumbroek, Pamela Spera, Jeff Strate.

Purpose: Act in an advisory capacity to the City on matters of diversity, civil and human rights, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month on the lower level of Eden Prairie Center.

2007 Highlights: In 2007 the Human Rights and Diversity Commission worked closely with the Parks and Recreation Department on the annual International Festival, presented Human Rights Awards to an individual resident, a non-profit agency and a business for outstanding efforts in the area of human rights. The commission also worked in collaboration with the Eden Prairie Library and the Eden Prairie Historical Society on an event showcasing the historical impact of immigration in Eden Prairie.



Participants prepared for hundreds of guests at the 2007 International Festival

Flying Cloud Airport Control Tower



Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission

Members: Richard King, Jeffrey Larsen, Greg McKewen, Mark Michelson, Kurt Schendel, Bradley Stratton, Joe Harris.

Purpose: To advise the City Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission with regard to matters affecting the operation of Flying Cloud Airport.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of odd numbered months at the City Center.

2007 Highlights: In 2007, the Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission focused on education and communication about the commission to all its stakeholders — City government, residents, businesses, airport users and pilots, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). This resulted in significant outreach to stakeholders; effective noise solutions including new helicopter arrival and departure procedures; airport security improvements; visits to airport businesses; and monitoring the Final Agreement between the City and MAC.



Rustic Hills Park playground

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission

Members: Rob Barrett, Tom Bierman, John Brill, Lee Elliott-Stoering, Jeff Gerst, Randy Jacobus, Ian Mackay, Geri Napuck, Joan Oko.

Purpose: Act in advisory capacity to the City on matters of development and use of parks and recreation facilities, leisure services, recreation programming, preservation of natural resources and promotion of environmental awareness.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers.

2007 Highlights: In 2007 the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission worked on several projects involving the renovation of the Eden Prairie Community Center, Miller Park and several neighborhood parks including Rustic Hills, Eden Valley, Carmel, Forest Hills, Prairie View and Edenvale Parks.

Planning Commission

Members: John Kirk, Vicki Koenig, Jerry Pitzrick, Frank Powell, Peter Rocheford, Kevin Schultz, Fred Seymour, Ray Stoelting, Jon Stoltz.

Purpose: To provide for an open process and a balanced review of development proposals and land use requests, both private and public, with regard to the City's Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Guide Plan and City land use.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers.

2007 Highlights: In 2007 the Planning Commission worked on several projects including the Comprehensive Plan update, Town Center design guidelines and ordinance, active community planning, the review of 25 development proposals for planned developments, rezoning, site plan and subdivision, as well as major developments such as Windsor Plaza, Liberty Plaza, Presbyterian Homes and Oak Creek at Hennepin Village.

Rendering of proposed Presbyterian Homes development



Creating Community

Through People, Parks and Programs

JANUARY 2008
Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation

EDEN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN HOUSE

YOU'RE INVITED!

Saturday, Jan. 26
8 a.m. - noon

- Tour the new fitness center
- Get a preview of the fully renovated facility
- Enjoy open swim and open skate for just \$1

Take advantage of this opportunity and see what the Community Center has to offer!

Visit edenprairie.org for more details.



**City of Eden Prairie
Community Center**
16700 Valley View Road
952-949-8470
edenprairie.org

Regular Hours:
Daily 5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Holiday Hours:
Christmas Eve - 5:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Christmas Day - Closed
New Years Eve - 5:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
New Years Day - Closed

Upcoming Events CALENDAR

Call the Community Center at 952-949-8470 for registration information.

This calendar represents only a sample of Parks and Recreation programs and events. To learn about other programs, visit edenprairie.org or call 952-949-8441 to request the current Parks and Recreation program guide.

JANUARY

- Jan. 1** City Center, Community Center, Senior Center Closed
- Jan. 2** New Community Center Fitness Facility Opens
- Jan. 2** Community Center Pool Opens
- Jan. 5** Swimming Level Assessment
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Community Center Pool
FREE
Have your child assessed for the appropriate American Red Cross swimming lesson level by our certified staff.
Questions? Call 952-949-8447
- Jan. 7** Ice Skating Lessons Begin
Six-week Monday daytime session begins. Advanced registration required.
Cost: Members, \$36, Non-members, \$42
Questions? Call 952-949-8470
- Jan. 7** Swim Lessons Begin
Monday and Wednesday evening lessons begin. Advanced registration required.
Cost: \$49
Questions? Call 952-949-8447
- Jan. 9** Registration deadline for Men's and Women's League Volleyball.
See advertisement
- Jan. 18** Sesame Street Live!
When Elmo Grows Up
9:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cost: \$17
Spend an afternoon with Elmo and friends as they teach children the importance of believing in themselves. Tickets and transportation to Target Center.
Registration deadline: Jan. 15
Questions? Call 952-949-8456
- Jan. 19** Rock on Ice
See advertisement
- Jan. 21** City Offices Closed, Community Center Open, Senior Center Closed
- Jan. 29** All District Band Festival
Jazz on the Prairie Big Band performs with school bands.
7 p.m.
Eden Prairie High School
FREE
- Jan. 30** St. Paul Curling Club and Winter Carnival Trip
8:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Leave from Senior Center
Cost: \$43
Registration Code: 22138
Dress warm and see the designated St. Paul Winter Carnival site for 2008 on Harriet Island. Afterward, learn all about the sport of curling at the St. Paul Club. Transportation and lunch provided.
Registration deadline: Jan. 14
Questions? Call 952-279-8050

ROCK on ICE



Bring the family out for a skate around the rink, groovin' to the tunes of old and new rock-n-roll. The DJ will play mom and dad's favorites, too, while you ice skate or sit by the fire and enjoy some refreshments. Bring your favorite s'more fixings and a stick.



Saturday, Jan. 19
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Miller Park Ice Rink
8405 Shoreline Drive
FREE

Sledding Hill and Outdoor Skating Rinks Open

Friday, Dec. 21 - Monday, Feb. 18
(Weather Permitting) FREE

Staring Lake Sledding Hill

Come out and enjoy the Minnesota winter at Staring Lake Park! Eden Prairie's own 700-foot sledding adventure is sure to become one of your family's favorite winter traditions. Only plastic sleds and inner tubes are allowed on the hill. Sleds with metal runners, skis or snowboards are prohibited. Bring your own sled.

Outdoor Skating Rinks

This winter come enjoy one of several free, outdoor, lighted skating and hockey rinks! During operating hours warming houses are open, lights are available and an attendant is on duty. Rinks are flooded and swept daily. Bring your own skates.

The warming house and rinks may be reserved for groups when not open to the public or in use for hockey practice. For more information contact Nicole Weedman at **952-949-8456** or nweedman@edenprairie.org.



For a complete list of rink locations and hours visit edenprairie.org.

MEN'S and WOMEN'S

Volleyball Leagues

A variety of levels of play are offered from beginning to advanced. All matches are played at Central Middle School.



Men's League - 12 matches
Thursdays, Jan. 31 - April 10
6:15 - 10:30 p.m.
\$350/team

Women's League - 12 matches
Tuesdays, Feb. 5 - April 22
6:15 - 10:30 p.m.
\$350/team

Registration deadline: Jan. 9

Register for Parks and Recreation programs by:
Internet, phone, mail and in person.



*Register using eConnect via the Internet at edenprairie.org



*Over the phone at 952-949-8407



Through the mail to the Community Center



In person at the Community Center
16700 Valley View Road
or the Senior Center
8950 Eden Prairie Road

*If you need a PIN and Family Account Number, stop by the Eden Prairie Community Center to complete a Family Information Form.