

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

More than 750 people enjoyed the 2007 Eden Prairie International Festival!



OCTOBER 2007

Technology Drive Gets a Facelift



New entry monuments at the intersection of Technology Drive and Mitchell Road.

The face of Technology Drive is changing with a streetscape beautification project which is nearing completion.

The project includes fitting the street with new entry monuments at the intersections and bollards (concrete columns) in the medians at the pedestrian crossings. In addition, landscaping is being added along the street from Mitchell Road to Prairie Center Drive.

Work on the project officially began in mid-July, but has been years in the making. Rod Rue, assistant city engineer, said it actually began six years ago when the City began planning the rebuilding of Technology Drive.

The overall plan encompassed reconstructing the road and improving the streetscape, but the initial focus was on the actual road, putting any landscape plans on hold.

When construction on Technology Drive itself was completed in 2005, the City began brainstorming ideas for the new streetscape. Now, just a few years later, Technology Drive is beautifully adorned.

Rue said the beautification project is beneficial in many ways because it not only replaces trees that were lost during construction, but also provides an attractive looking street.



New bollards lining Technology Drive.

Storm Debris Recycled Into Biomass Fuel

Summer has blown by but the harsh winds of August are fresh in the minds of many in Eden Prairie. After severe thunderstorms swept through the area mid-month, streets and backyards throughout the City were scattered with branches, leaves and debris.

As part of the storm cleanup effort, the City of Eden Prairie provided a drop-off site for residents to discard excess storm debris at no cost.

Those residents who utilized the City drop-off site will be happy to know that their lost tree branches will, in the end, become a beneficial contribution to the environment.

Environmental Wood Supply, a company that specializes in wood recycling, collected all the August storm leftovers, including some trees infected with Dutch elm disease. All of the material was chipped and loaded into 100-yard trailers before being taken to a wood recycling center in St. Paul.

Eventually the chips will be recycled into biomass fuel for St. Paul Cogeneration, the largest wood-fired combined heat and power plant serving a district energy system in the United States. Environmental Wood Supply employee Jeff Guillemette said that recycling wood in this manner pays off in many ways.

"Using wood helps stabilize our energy costs because we're using a renewable energy source," he said. "It cuts air emissions and reduces greenhouse gases in the environment."

It takes the company a few weeks to finish the process, but they do it free of charge and according to Guillemette, it is a very important task.

"It's our job to find a supply of wood waste and we try to get as much as we can through storms," he said. "We also use debris that would normally be dumped in a land fill."



The storms of Aug. 11 damaged several trees at Riley Lake Park.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire and Police Departments Host Open House Oct. 13



Bring the whole family to the annual Fire and Police Departments Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13.

This year's event will take place at Fire Station #1, 14800 Scenic Heights Road, and will feature several safety booths and fun activities for the kids.

The highlight of the day will be the dedication of the City's newest fire truck, "Tower 41."



Community Development Update

The leaves of autumn are about to fall, but building projects and new businesses are on the rise throughout the City.

Eden Prairie has long been a hotspot for new businesses, and the development continues with several projects scheduled to be completed in 2008.

Phase One in the Town Center redevelopment is about to begin with the addition of Windsor Plaza. The project will bring two new restaurants, retail and office space to the area near the corner of Singletree Lane and Flying Cloud Drive. In addition, by 2009 the former BP Amoco site will be converted into a two-story Bobby & Steve's service station including a car wash, auto repair and fueling facility. Finally, to allow for the added traffic flow, Singletree Lane will be upgraded to a four-lane road.



Other recent changes include the mid-August relocation of Stratasy's, Inc., a growing prototyping and direct digital manufacturing company, into a new facility on Commerce Way. In addition, Liberty Property Trust has received approval on plans to construct a four-story office building on the former Best Buy headquarters site, currently being occupied by SUPERVALU employees relocating from out of state.

Among the businesses relocating to Eden Prairie in the coming months is ATK, an advanced weapons and space systems company, currently headquartered in Edina. Development on the future ATK site at the corner of Valley View Road and Flying Cloud Drive is being managed by Told Company.

School Bus Safety Reminders

Now that school is back in session, it's a good time of year to review school bus safety with children and drivers.

Tips for Students

Be a Good Neighbor: Respect private property and always be on your best behavior while waiting for the bus.

Danger Zones: The Danger Zone is the area 10 feet around all sides of the bus. Always stay out of this area.

Going to the Bus Stop: Use sidewalks, cross streets only at corners, arrive five to 10 minutes early and be aware of suspicious people walking or driving by.

Crossing the Street/Roadway: When crossing the street to get to the bus wait for the bus to fully stop, make sure the red lights are flashing and the stop sign arm is extended, and cross about 10 feet in front of the danger zone. When crossing the street after leaving the bus, wait for the driver's signal before you start, look both ways for traffic and always WALK!

Waiting at the Bus Stop: Students should be supervised at the bus stops and stay back until buses stop completely.

Boarding the Bus: Always wait until the bus has stopped, the wheels are not turning and the door is opened before entering.



Tips for Drivers

School Zones: Be especially careful when driving on neighborhood streets and around school zones, always expect the unexpected.

Slow Down: Be alert for youngsters walking to and from the school bus as you back out of your driveway or leave your parking garage.

When a School Bus is Present: Stop your car when you see lights flashing on a school bus. Flashing lights indicate that the bus is stopped and students are getting on or off. All vehicles must stop at least 20 feet from the front or rear of the bus in all directions, and in all lanes on a multi-lane roadway not separated by a physical divider. Don't start driving until the lights on the bus stop flashing and be aware that a child may dash across the street.

Volunteers Keep Eden Prairie Clean

Each year dozens of generous volunteers help keep the City of Eden Prairie looking its best by participating in the Adopt-A-Street program. The City would like to thank the following participants in Adopt-A-Street 2006:

- Susan Anderson clan
- Kimberly Miller
- Linda and Dana Kloeckner
- Arbor Glen Homeowners Assoc.
- Deb and Michael Speckman
- Eden Prairie Lion's Club
- Sherry Black
- Dreamreachers
- Steve Kissinger
- GE Capital Fleet Services
- Elfun Group
- Boy Scout Troop 479
- Spoon Ridge Helping Hands
- David Beyer
- Cody Candland
- Eden Prairie Noon Rotary
- Boy Scout Troop 342
- Kevin Kraemer
- Cub Scout Troop 597

For more information, or to participate in Adopt-A-Street 2007, contact Maarie Gayther with the Eden Prairie Fleet, Street and Park Maintenance office at 952-949-8533 or mgayther@edenprairie.org.

Thefts from Autos on the Rise in Eden Prairie

Eden Prairie Police have seen a spike in thefts from autos in 2007. Criminals continue to get smarter, and its not just radios and CD players they are after these days.

Eden Prairie Police Sgt. Bob Olson said people are becoming victims of "crimes of opportunity" by leaving wallets, purses, laptops and other expensive belongings in their cars, putting them at risk to lose much more than cash and a driver's license.

"The thieves are not only taking valuable possessions, but also stealing the victim's identities," Olson said. "They almost immediately use credit and debit cards to make expensive purchases such as electronics, power tools and other items they can sell."

Olson said that thieves know what they're doing and are targeting cars where they can see a purse or briefcase in plain view. In Eden Prairie, these

thefts are happening at shopping malls, fitness facilities, apartment complexes, underground lots and even private driveways and garages.

"It's so easy for thieves when all they have to do is look in the window," Olson said. "And the sad thing is that all of this is preventable."

In order to put a stop to this recent rise in thefts from autos, Eden Prairie Police are urging residents to simply never leave anything valuable in a vehicle and always lock car doors.

Olson said when it comes to criminal activity, this type of theft is one of the most common calls the Police Department receives.

Community Center Construction

The renovation and expansion project at the Community Center is on track and scheduled for completion in spring 2008. This fall, the Community Center has resumed regular operating hours and is open daily from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. for activities including swimming, skating, fitness and more. During construction, Community Center patrons should continue to park in the west parking lot adjacent to the high school. For more information about the Community Center project, visit edenprairie.org.



Community Center construction week of Aug. 24

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