

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Look who's enjoying the Community Center!



4-year-old Evan enjoys the ice rink



20-year-old Joel is weight lifting



High school students train to become lifeguards

JUNE 2007

City Welcomes New Parks and Recreation Director

When many of us hear the words "Parks and Recreation" a number of things come to mind, such as day camps for children, outdoor activities, the Community Center and music at the park, just to name a few.

Lotthammer brings with him 18 years of parks and recreation experience that he gained while working for the City of Brooklyn Park. He began his career there as a temporary seasonal employee and worked his way up through the department to eventually become its director.

When asked what he enjoys most about working in the parks and recreation field, Lotthammer said, "I love the variety and the people I get to work with. It's hard to match the passion and compassion people bring to their jobs. The outcome of our commitment is seen in the impact we make in the community and in our ability to connect with and enhance individual lives, which is very rewarding to me."

Eden Prairie is one of the few cities within the metro area where residents enjoy more than 1,000 acres of active-use parkland and 4,500 acres of open-space wetlands. Bikers, hikers and walkers enjoy the City's nearly 200 miles of sidewalks and trails.

For more information about the Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department's programs and services, visit edenprairie.org.



Jay Lotthammer

The Eden Prairie park system and recreation programs touch the community in many different ways, and after the retirement of Bob Lambert who led the department for nearly 30 years, Eden Prairie has a new face to lead those efforts.

As Jay Lotthammer, the City's new director of parks and recreation, stated "We want to enhance the quality of life and build community through our programs and services. That's the bottom line of what we are here to do."

Round Lake Beach Reopens This Summer

Three years ago the City shut down Round Lake Beach due to unsafe water quality, but now the water is safe and the beach is open for everyone to enjoy this summer.

City Manager Scott Neal is elated to have the lake clean and accessible to residents.

"Round Lake is a real asset to our community, and we are very excited that it will be open and available to the public again," said Neal.

After its closure, the City explored several ways to clean the lake including

chemical treatments, but in the end Neal said former Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens encouraged the City Council to go the environmentally friendly route to clean up Round Lake.

"We had a number of options before us, but it was important to find an affordable, long-term and environmentally friendly solution," said Neal. "The City is committed to protecting our parks, lakes and open spaces."

Last summer, the City partnered with Blue Water Science Consulting to clean the lake. Blue Water is known for its sustainable approach to reducing the phosphorous levels through natural filtration methods and worked diligently to improve the water quality at Round Lake.

Now that phosphorous levels are low, the water is safe for swimming once again. Other water activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking can also be enjoyed. Canoes and kayaks are not

available for rent; however, residents can rent canoe racks. Only boats using trolling motors are permitted on the lake.

Round Lake Park is located just south of the Community Center and Eden Prairie High School off Valley View Road. The beach is open seven days a week from June 9 through Sept. 3, weather permitting. Beach hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Red Cross-certified lifeguards are on duty during these hours. For more information visit edenprairie.org and click on "Parks and Recreation."



We're starting the summer off with a bang!
Join us Saturday, June 9 at Round Lake Beach for a special grand-reopening celebration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy water games, a sand castle contest, entertainment and more. Fun for the whole family!

Community Technology Task Force Takes Shape

The City Council recently established an ad hoc task force, called the Community Technology Task Force, to assess Eden Prairie's communications infrastructure and provide future recommendations.

According to David Lindahl, economic development manager, the City has noticed an increase in complaints from residents about price and service for Internet access.

"Times have changed and technological needs have changed," said Lindahl. "Many people now work from home. In the bigger picture, we need to step back and assess the communication needs for all of Eden Prairie and determine where we want to go."

Bill Coleman, a consultant with Community Technology Advisors, added that telecommunications infrastructure and services are top reasons why businesses consider an area.

Members of the task force include community volunteers, telecom providers, Lindahl and Coleman. The community volunteers represent people from all sectors including private citizens, small businesses and corporations who live or work in Eden Prairie and have current experience in technology and working with service providers.

"Their practical experience will be invaluable, and they will act as a sounding board for the City," Lindahl said.

The task force is charged with answering three key questions:

- What technological services are available now?
- What is not available, but needed?
- How will the City obtain services that are wanted?

The task force will work throughout the summer and is expected to share its findings and recommendations at a City Council meeting sometime this fall.

"The end result of this process is to create a dependable and reasonably priced communications infrastructure," said City Manager Scott Neal. "We want to do this because it's good for our residents and good for our business community."

Community Technology Task Force Members

Scott Otis, ADC	Heather Peterson, Hennepin County Library
Steve Sandness, Agate Partners	Marc Soldner, Hennepin County Technical College
Matt Thomas, Best Buy	Lisa Hodne, Ingenix
Gary Hanson, BI (Edina)	Ron Woods, IT-Phenom
Mike Neill, C.H. Robinson Worldwide	Rich Muller, Micro Business Strategies
Mike Schnapf, Digital River	Jim Dake, Midwave
Dave Sandum, Eden Prairie Schools	John Eversman, Supervalu
Kiran Mysore, GE Fleet	Jody Russell, Thunder Comm. Design

Looking for a New Place to Dine?

Eden Prairie is known for its wide array of dining options, but there is a great restaurant in town you may not find in a Twin Cities dining guide.

The Garden Room, located in the lower level of the Eden Prairie City Center, is known for its excellent food and fantastic views. The restaurant boasts large bay windows overlooking a wetland area and seats up to 200 people. The Garden Room is open to the public for breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Catering services for corporate events, weddings, graduation parties and more are also available.

The restaurant's event coordinator and catering manager, Anna Bergstrom, said The Garden Room combines Persian and Italian cuisine with classic American recipes.

"We take great pride in the fact that all of our recipes are made from scratch and our chefs use the freshest ingredients," Bergstrom said. "We also bake our own bread and pizza dough."

The Garden Room offers a daily hot lunch selection as well as made-to-order hoagies, hot sandwiches, pizza by the slice, grab-and-go salads, fresh fruit and wraps. Also available are two daily soups, coffee and a variety of beverages. In addition, the restaurant offers take-and-bake pizzas.

"The Garden Room is a unique café that has a great atmosphere for meetings," Bergstrom said. "We also make sure that people don't leave hungry!"

For more information on catered events, contact Bergstrom at 952-334-8055 or anna.bergstrom@skyfoodcatering.com.



THE GARDEN ROOM

New Look, More Products at Liquor Store



Renovations are now complete at the Eden Prairie Liquor store located on Den Road across from Cub Foods, which began earlier this year.

The newly updated store features a wine-tasting station, beer and wine reference materials, and an expanded product selection. The store ambiance is warm and inviting with dark wood fixtures, granite counter tops and neutral colors.

Mitch Dean, liquor operations manager, said customers welcomed the expansion.

Tastings are offered several times a week – generally in the afternoons or evenings on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Call the store at 952-914-0032 for more information. Also, visit edenprairie.org to find monthly specials for all three Eden Prairie Liquor stores.



Mitch Dean, liquor operations manager, Mayor Phil Young, Council Member Jon Duckstad, City Manager Scott Neal, Glenn Schwartz, Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce, and Sue Kotchevar, finance manager, celebrated the grand reopening of the Eden Prairie Liquor across from Cub Foods on April 17.

"We added a number of new beers, wines and spirits, plus now we have a tasting area. This gives our customers the opportunity to not only sample wines, but to learn from our suppliers who are very knowledgeable and passionate about where and how the wines are made," said Dean.

YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS



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