

# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE



Charleen Jochim and her 20 month old son Mason enjoy a short walk

Lori Campo and her 3 year old son Ethan at the Staring Lake Outdoor Center

Robert Avila and his son Dived at Staring Lake Park

JUNE 2006

## Protect your Children Online

Do you know how to check if your children are acting appropriately online and not giving out potentially harmful information? Do you know what, or if, they have posted profiles on sites such as MySpace or Facebook?



Detective Mark Gustad of the Eden Prairie Police Department will be addressing these concerns and many others in a two hour program entitled "Protecting Kids Online." The program will be held Tuesday, May 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Oak Point Intermediate School in Eden Prairie and is intended for parents only.

"Dateline NBC has recently been featuring stories that show how easy it is for predators to find out way too much information about your children. It's time for parents to become more knowledgeable

and vigilant in their efforts to protect their kids online," said Mark Gustad. "This program will provide parents with the basic information they need to help protect their children."

The City of Eden Prairie and the Eden Prairie School District are working together to present this program. Detective Gustad is a computer forensics examiner that is called in to investigate a myriad of criminal cases where a computer has been used.

## Volunteers, Both Men and Women, Needed to Join Fire Department

If you have an interest in becoming a firefighter, there will be open houses held at Fire Station #1, near City Center on Wednesday June 7. The open houses are scheduled to run between 9 a.m. and noon and again that evening between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet some of the City's firefighters and have your questions answered.

An event just for women interested in becoming firefighters will take place Saturday, June 10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the fire training tower located in Edina. The Women's Fire Expo is being organized by Kim Hanlon, a

firefighter for the Eden Prairie Fire Department. In addition the Women's Fire Expo is being supported by five other area fire departments- Bloomington, Chanhassen, Edina, Hopkins and Minnetonka. "Women are severely under represented in the fire fighting field," said Hanlon. "If you're a woman and live or work in one of these suburbs and want to have a one-day hands-on try at fire fighting, and get your questions answered this is the event." There is no charge to attend the Women's Fire Expo, but you do need to complete the registration form found on the Eden Prairie web site under the Fire Department listing.



## Community Clean-Up Day June 17

Does spring cleaning have you wondering how to get rid of all the stuff that's been collecting around your home? Eden Prairie residents can bring the items they no longer want or need to the Hennepin Technical College located at 13100 College View Drive on Saturday, June 17, between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

There will be a fee charged to dispose of many items including tires, electronics, furniture and appliances, but Allied Waste (formerly BFI) will accept general trash, clean scrap metal and general recyclables at no charge. Please review the entire list of which companies are accepting waste items on that day and the fees they will charge at the City's website, [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org), click on the "A to Z listing" and then click on "Garbage, Recycling & Solid Waste."

No household hazardous wastes such as paints solvents, propane bottles, railroad ties, smoke detectors or motor oil will be accepted at this event. These items can be disposed of at the Hennepin County Drop-Off Center year round.

### Wood Chips Available

Also on Saturday, June 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. free woodchips will be available at 9381 Mitchell Road (formally known as Spring Road), just south of Pioneer Trail and opposite the Grace Church parking lot entrance. A City employee will be on site with a Bobcat to assist loading vehicles and trailers. Woodchips will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis to Eden Prairie residents only.

## Fire Department Breaks Ground for New Station

It was a windy afternoon, the kind that could whip a small grass fire into a major one when ground was broken for the new Fire Station in southwest Eden Prairie.

On hand for the event at the corner of Dell Road and Linwood Court were firefighters, elected officials, City staff and contractors who will build the new station.

Fire Chief George Esbensen was at the center of the event, "Most of the growth in population in the City over the past decade has come in this area. This new fire station will help us to continue serving our residents at peak levels."

In the immediate area of the new station there are upwards of 700 living units, and Esbensen is hopeful that some of those people will hear the call and join the Eden Prairie Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter.



City officials, along with fire personnel and representatives from the contractors break ground on Fire Station 4

## Bob Barli Eden Prairie Police Officer of the Year

Seventeen years ago, Bob Barli joined the Eden Prairie Police Department, and he wasn't even finished with his college work yet. "I got offered the job while I was still in college at St. Cloud," said Barli. "I talked with my professor about Eden Prairie and the job I had been offered. He told me that I was now done with college and that I should take the job. I did, and I've been here ever since."



Bob Barli has been named Eden Prairie Police Officer of the Year

Officer of the Year because his character is all about quality. He has always been a man of integrity and he interacts very well with staff, kids at the schools, parents and his fellow officers."

Bob's workdays are now spent at Eden Prairie High School as the liaison officer. Thanks to his earlier liaison position at Oak Point Intermediate School, he knows nearly every student at the school. With more than 3,000 students, the High School is, in effect, a small city and there are issues where the police need to be involved.

Over the years Barli says his best memories are from when he has been able to help a child who's been abused or neglected. "It may seem strange, but I am really needed in these types of situations. By my involvement, I am able to get the neglect or abuse to stop. When the child feels safer or better, that's when I feel I've done a good job."

## Cracking Down on Buckling Up

Before you start your engine to go to work, run an errand or set out on a summer road trip, buckle up.

The Eden Prairie Police Department will be conducting added patrols from May 22 to June 4 as part of the statewide "Click It or Ticket" seat belt enforcement sweep. In previous years, this type of effort has helped increase Minnesota's seat belt use rate to a record high of 84 percent over the last three years. In 2005 this effort generated over 12,000 seat belt citations throughout Minnesota.

"On a road of uncertainties, including impaired drivers and speeders, the best defense you have in the event of a crash is a seat belt," says Eden Prairie Police Sergeant Jim Franzen. "When you buckle up, you are simply more likely to survive a crash and you can also avoid a ticket."



Eden Prairie police officers will be stepping up seat belt enforcement to prevent unnecessary traffic injuries and deaths from occurring. The bad news is, if you're not wearing your seat belt you could get a ticket. The good news is you can avoid meeting any of Eden Prairie's police officers on the shoulder of the road by driving at safe speeds, driving sober, paying attention, and of course, wearing your seat belt.

## Mayor and Eden Prairie Delegation Visit Loudi, China

This past February a delegation from Loudi, China paid a visit to Eden Prairie in order to begin to establish a strategic community alliance. That trip has now led to a visit to Loudi and other parts of China by an Eden Prairie group led by Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens. The Mayor is scheduled to be back from this Chinese visit tomorrow (May 19, 2006).

The Eden Prairie contingent included, in addition to the Mayor, Nick and Jan Eian, Terry Bunge, Greg Hallberg and Lili Pan.

Look for a full report on the trip in next month's Life in the Prairie and also on EPTV 16's Life in the Prairie News Magazine in June.

## Replacement Slide Nearly Ready for Use

What vandals destroyed, and one eight year old boy helped to replace, the new Staring Lake Slide is now being installed.



The new slide won't be usable until early June. The padded material at the bottom of the slide needs to be installed and to ensure that the material stays in place, overnight low temperatures need to be above 50 degrees.

The honor of the first slide has been reserved for Tucker Zangs, the young man that sold SOS (Save Our Slide) wristbands and collected donations totaling more than \$1,500.

The new slide is not the same color as the one that was destroyed by arson; instead, it is teal which will better match with other playground equipment at Staring Lake Park.

## Staring Lake Off Leash Dog Park Now Open

A new four and a half acre off leash dog park has opened at the Staring Lake Park complex in southern Eden Prairie. This is the second major off leash dog park in the City; the first is located on Shady Oak Road across from the old Best Buy headquarters.

To reach the fenced area, residents should park at the baseball field parking lot near the Cummins Grill House and walk down the path. There is no water at the site and those who use the site are being asked to carry the dog waste back to the parking lot and dispose of it there.

There are also four smaller off leash areas - all at hockey rinks in these parks: Crestwood, Edenvale, Homeward Hills and Nesbitt Preserve.

In addition, the City is requiring that dogs using any of facilities must be licensed in Eden Prairie. The cost for the two year dog license is \$20 and the license can be purchased at City Center.



## Seniors Supporting our Troops

A little piece of home has been boxed up and shipped to far away lands to thank those brave men and women who are serving our country. The Woodchucks, a group of senior men who meet at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays at the Eden Prairie Senior Center, sponsored a "Support the Troops" event where letters were written and donated items were shipped to our soldiers. This was just

one of many events being held during the month of May in celebration of Senior Awareness month.

A number of those in the Woodchucks know first-hand how much little sentiments of appreciation mean, as many in the group are veterans themselves. "I always enjoyed getting letters in the mail and, of course, homemade goodies," said Robert Engelstad, who was a service

man during the time of WWII.

Maybe homemade goodies weren't collected for this drive, but a number of other items important to our soldiers were - books, razors, lip balm, food, hair products and more. Regardless of the gift, those serving our country will know that they are truly appreciated by people in Eden Prairie

### YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

**MAYOR**  
Nancy Tyra-Lukens  
952-937-1898

### COUNCILMEMBERS

Brad Aho  
952-944-5955  
Sherry Butcher  
952-829-5351  
Ron Case  
952-949-0915  
Philip Young  
952-949-2451

# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Life in the Prairie published by:

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# Creating Community

Through People, Parks and Programs

June 2006  
Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation

## Upcoming Events CALENDAR

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

### MAY

- May 20** "Run for Fun" 5K/10K Run Walk  
Register between 7:45 - 8:50 a.m. Race begins at 9:00 a.m. Call Beth at 952-949-8447 for more information.
- May 20** Barn Dance - Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special  
Featuring Jack Norton & the Mullet River Boys. 7:00 p.m. Riley-Jacques Barn. \$5 adults, \$3 students and seniors.
- May 29** Memorial Day  
All City buildings closed.

### JUNE

- June 3** Birding - Eden Prairie Hot Spots  
Join naturalist Stan Tekiela to bird some of Eden Prairie's hottest birding locations. 7:00 - 10:00 a.m. Meet at Staring Lake Outdoor Center. \$8. #19587
- June 5** Summer Archery League  
League will be run as a 300 round, 60 arrow maximum. Mondays and Wednesdays from June 5 to August 28. 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Staring Lake Park. \$62. #19092
- June 6** Golf Programs  
A number of golf programs are offered throughout summer, including SNAG Golf (ages 5-8), Adult/Youth Golf (ages 8 and up with an adult), Beginner Golf Lessons (ages 8-16), Intensive Junior Golf Week (ages 10-16). Call 952-949-8470 for more information.
- June 9** Teen Band Night  
Free. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- June 10** Arts & Antiques in the Garden  
Arts, crafts, antiques and entertainment. 10:00 - 5:00 p.m. J.R. Cummins Homestead. Free event.
- June 11** Riley Lake Beach Opens  
Lifeguards on duty daily from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Riley Lake Park, 9180 Riley Lake Road.
- June 11** Minnesota Festival of Jazz on the Prairie  
Free jazz festival. 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- June 13** Little Tigers  
Children age 3-6 learn basic self-defense and martial arts skills while developing coordination and flexibility. Three class series: June 13, 14 and 15. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Senior Center. Ages 3-6. \$49. #18879
- June 13** Drawing  
Children ages 6-12 will learn new drawing techniques, how to draw 3-d objects and use different drawing tools. Three class series: June 13, 14 & 15. 10:30 a.m. - noon. Senior Center. \$54. #18975
- June 13** Splatter Sisters (kid concert)  
Free Concert. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- June 16** Glitter & Glamour Party Pizzazz  
Children ages 5-12 will enjoy a shimmering hair updo, sparkly fingernails, a rainbow tattoo and dazzling eye jewels. Also create a jewelry craft. 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Senior Center. \$20. #18959
- June 16-18** Oliver  
Free musical; 7:00 p.m. Staring Lake Park Amphitheatre
- June 17** Blue Grass Night - Riley-Jacques Twilight Special  
Featuring The Middle Spunk Creek Boys. 7:00 p.m. Riley-Jacques Barn. \$5 adults, \$3 students and seniors.
- June 17** Canoe Lessons  
Ages 12 to adult can learn the canoeing basics. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Staring Lake Outdoor Center. \$10. #19512
- June 19** Shrek and the Far Away Kingdom  
Join Shrek and Fiona and draw, paint and paste to make castles, pictures and a giant gingerbread man. Ages 3-6. Two class series: June 19 & 26. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Senior Center. \$32. #18943
- June 19** USA Tennis 1-2-3  
Tennis lessons for ages 7-16. Beginner I, Beginner II and Advanced levels. Six classes. \$49. For details call 952-949-8470
- June 20** Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade (kid concert)  
Free concert. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- June 20** USA Team Tennis  
Ages 8-18. Home and away games mostly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, practices on Wednesdays. Includes transportation to matches, coaches and t-shirt. Seven weeks. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Round Lake Park. \$86. Ages 8-12: #19049, Ages 13-18: #19050
- June 21** LaDanse Fatale  
Free performance. 7:00 p.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- June 23** Beginning Kayaking  
Introductory, classroom class that teaches the basics of kayaking. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Staring Lake Outdoor Center. \$10. #19513
- June 24** Basic Flatwater Kayaking  
On-the-water course which teaches basics of kayaking. "Beginning Kayaking" is a prerequisite to this course. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Staring Lake Outdoor Center. \$35. #19515
- June 23-25** Oliver  
Free musical; 7:00 p.m. Staring Lake Park Amphitheatre
- June 27** Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe  
Read and discuss this classic book. Then, bring it to life through drawing, painting, collage, molding modeling clay and more. Ages 6-12. Three class series: June 17, 28 & 29. 10:30 a.m. - noon. Senior Center. \$54. #18976
- June 27** Bob the Beachcomber (kid concert)  
Free concert. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- June 28** The Blue Drifters (Bluegrass)  
7:00 p.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- June 28** Under the Sea with the Little Mermaid  
Sea life games, 'under-the sea' dancing and special seashell craft. Ages 3-6 with parent. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Senior Center. \$12. #18953
- June 30** Boyd Lee & Joe Cruz  
Free concert. 7:00 p.m. Staring Lake Amphitheatre.

## STARING LAKE CONCERT SERIES

Music and entertainment fill the air **Wednesday, Friday and Sunday** evenings at the **Staring Lake Amphitheatre**, 14800 Pioneer Trail. Pack a picnic basket, bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy some **FREE** entertainment for the whole family!

### Upcoming Entertainment

- June 9** Teen Band Night 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- June 11** Minnesota Festival of Jazz on the Prairie  
3:00 p.m. Stan Bann Big Band  
4:00 p.m. Just Friends Big Band  
5:00 p.m. River City Jazz Orchestra  
6:00 p.m. Good News Big Band  
7:00 p.m. Bend in the River Big Band  
8:00 p.m. Jazz on the Prairie
- June 21** LaDanse Fatale 7:00 p.m.
- June 28** The Blue Drifters 7:00 p.m.
- June 30** Boyd Lee & Joe Cruz 7:00 p.m.

## Oliver

Classic musical for the whole family.

This is Charles Dickens' touching tale of an orphan boy who is sold to an undertaker because he dared to ask for more to eat. Come follow Oliver's adventures from his start as a pick-pocket all the way to the home of a wealthy benefactor. But the moment he sets foot outside his benefactor's house, Oliver is seized and taken back to the master pick-pocket, Fagin.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25  
7:00 p.m.

Staring Lake Park Amphitheatre

Free Admission - Donations Accepted



## Summer Camp Time!

Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation offers numerous summer youth programs and camps for ages 3 and up. Register today for some summer fun!

For more information on camp programs, call 952-949-8470 or visit [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) and click on "eConnect."

Programs offered through the Parks and Recreation Department are available to people with disabilities. Call 952-949-8457 to arrange for assistance.

Play Area  
Weather Camp • 3rd Lair Skateboarding Camp • Skyhawks Mighty Hawk • Baseball Camp • SNAG Golf • 3rd Lair Skateboarding Camp • Skyhawks Mighty Hawk • Baseball Camp • Intro to Lacrosse Camp • Camp Robichon's In-line Skating • Basketball Camp • Lightning Bug Camp • Volcano Blast Off Camp • Skyhawks Mini Hawk • Nature's Yuck Factor • Soft Touch Mini-Mite Lacrosse Camp • Fish Camp • Skyhawks Mighty Hawks Multi-Sports • Wonderful World of Birds • Weather Bugs • Little House on Staring Lake Camp • Nature Nut Camp • Skyhawks Mighty Hawk Basketball • Safety Camp • Diego Adventure Camp • Planet Spirit Cheer Camp • Northwoods Camp • Fun With Fibers Camp • Archeology camp • Flag Football • Lake Riley Day Camp • SURVIVOR! For Kids • Summer Drama Camp • Pioneer Camp • Tiny Hawks Basketball • Nature Arts and Crafts around the World Camp • Trees, Trails and an Animal Camp • Jolly Beans Adventure on Sugar House • Bump, Snicker

## ALL AMERICAN FISHING DERBY

Saturday, June 10  
Round Lake Park

Registration 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Fishing 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Children under the age 15 - here's your chance to test your angler skills!

Registration is limited to the first 126 youth. A parent or guardian must accompany all children. Bait and fishing rods are not provided. All participants will be awarded prizes.

For more information, call 952-934-6508

Event sponsored by Optimist Club of Eden Prairie and the City of Eden Prairie.



## RILEY-JACQUES BARN TWILIGHT SPECIAL



Riley-Jacques Barn  
9096 Riley Lake Road  
7:00 p.m.

**MAY 20 BARN DANCE**  
Featuring Jack Norton & the Mullet River Boys with caller Cathy Mosher

Other Twilight Specials will be offered on June 17, July 15 and August 25

ADMISSION AT THE DOOR  
\$5 ADULTS  
\$3 STUDENTS AND SENIORS  
For more information, call Sandy Werts at 952-949-8450

## ARTS & ANTIQUES IN THE GARDEN AN ART FAIR

Saturday, June 10  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



- Purchase art, crafts and antiques from vendors.
- Stroll through the peony garden.
- Tour the J.R. Cummins Homestead
- Enjoy entertainment by the Eden Prairie Community Band (1:30 p.m.)
- Know Your Antiques presentation - LaVerna Leipold (1-4 p.m.)

There is no admission to the fair - this is a rain or shine event.

Artists, crafters, antique dealers and food vendor inquirers, contact Sandy Werts at 952-949-8450 or email [swerts@edenprairie.org](mailto:swerts@edenprairie.org).

Sponsored by the Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department and the Eden Prairie Historical Society.

## KidStock

Tuesdays  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Staring Lake Amphitheatre  
14800 Pioneer Trail

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

- June 13 Splatter Sisters
- June 20 Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade
- June 27 Bob the Beachcomber
- July 11 Tune into Kids
- July 18 The AlphaBits
- July 25 Wendy's Wiggle Jiggle and Jam
- August 1 Jack Pearson - Mr. Song Stummin Storyman
- August 8 Ross Sutter
- August 15 The Wonderful World of Woody

In case of inclement weather, concerts will be held at the Staring Lake Park Building. For weather updates, call 952-949-8449 X5.

## REGISTRATION IS EASY!

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



\*Register using eConnect via the internet at [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.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.