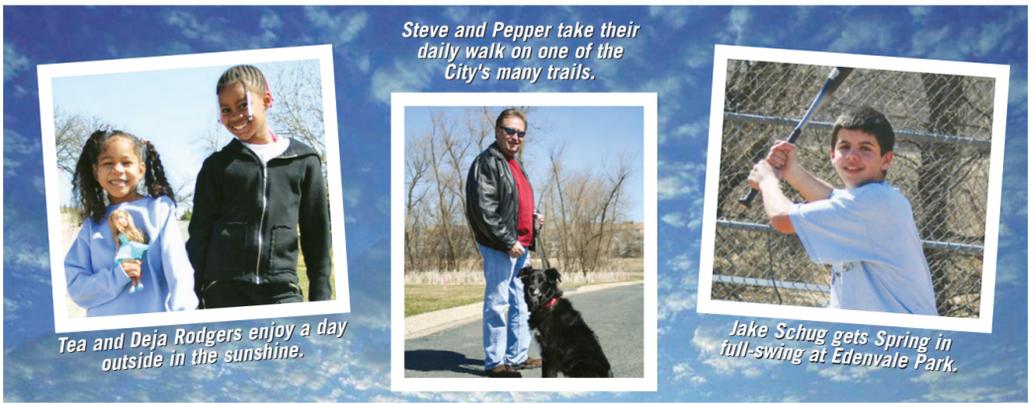


L I F E I N T H E P R A I R I E



Tea and Deja Rodgers enjoy a day outside in the sunshine.

Steve and Pepper take their daily walk on one of the City's many trails.

Jake Schug gets Spring in full-swing at Edenvale Park.

MAY 2006

Eden Prairie Designated as a Governor's Fit City

Eden Prairie - it's a great place to live, work and dream. Well, now there's another reason why people can be proud to have ties to the city. Eden Prairie was recently designated as a "Governor's Fit City" by the Minnesota Department of Health and Governor Pawlenty. The designation was announced by Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens during a special ceremony at the Community Center on March 30.



Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens announces Eden Prairie's designation as a "Fit City" at the Community Center.

This designation recognizes Minnesota cities that are committed to creating and maintaining an environment supportive of active living. Governor's Fit Cities are determined through an application completed by a City official. Cities must meet these two pieces of required criteria: "City must adopt a resolution affirming activity-friendly commitments by city leaders and elected officials and the City must agree to advertise and display 'Fit City' designation." The City must also meet five out of eight pieces of "optional criteria." As of March 31,

sixteen cities in Minnesota have been recognized as a "Governor's Fit City." Eden Prairie prides itself in providing opportunities for people to stay active. The City boasts over 100 miles of paved trails, forty-three parks, thirteen youth athletic associations and 568 adult athletic teams. The Eden Prairie Community Center has a pool, ice rinks and a fitness center that provide recreational activities at a reduced price. The City also has a number of programs that promote wellness from run/walks and fitness programs to running clubs and sport camps. An abundance of opportunities are out there for you to enjoy your "Fit City."

Do your homework before you have work done on your home

The kitchen needs a complete update. You're considering adding a room to your home. Or perhaps you just want to finish the basement. Whatever type of project you are considering, make sure you don't get taken by a dishonest contractor.

There are a number of steps you can take to help lower, but not totally eliminate, the chances that you will be taken. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry has some basic tips:

- ✓ Get the contractor's license number and contact the Department of Labor and Industry to verify the contractor is licensed.
- ✓ Ask for, and check, references from the contractor.
- ✓ Check with the Better Business Bureau.
- ✓ Get a local phone number where the contractor can be reached during business hours.

"The vast majority of contractors are fair and reputable," says Kevin Schmieg, Manager of Building Inspections for the City of Eden Prairie. "But there are those people out there that are looking to make an easy buck and don't care who they hurt."

- Here are some red flags of which you should be aware.
- ✗ If the contractor wants you to get the permits.
 - ✗ If a full or very large payment is needed before work begins.
 - ✗ If a written estimate or contract "is not needed."
 - ✗ If the price is "too good to be true."

Detective Andy Rohde of the Eden Prairie Police Department regularly deals with the victims of these crimes. "By the time I get involved, the money they've paid is usually gone and the victim will likely have to pay someone else to come in and complete or fix the work," says Rohde. "It is very sad."

In some cases a contractor may have done good work in the past, but it turns out he's a better carpenter than businessman, and the company is now in financial straits. "It's really difficult to make absolutely sure you don't get taken," says Rohde. "But by working with a licensed contractor, the State may be able to help you get some compensation through the Contractor's Recovery Fund."

The Contractor's Recovery Fund can pay out only \$75,000 for any one licensed contractor. So, if multiple claims are filed, the amounts are prorated.

Hydrant Flushing and Maintenance

The City of Eden Prairie's Utility Department will be continuing to conduct its annual flushing and maintenance program for fire hydrants in the City through early May.

and to ensure all hydrants in the City work properly. Please remember to slow down when you drive near these utility crews and as you drive through water on the streets.



Any questions about this program can be directed to the City's Utility Department at 952-949-8530.

Firefighter of the Year

Congratulations Jay Bohlen on being named Eden Prairie's Firefighter of the Year! Jay was nominated by his fellow firefighters for his dedication to the department and his desire to educate others about his fire knowledge.

Department over the last 18-years. "Jay Bolen exemplifies everything you could ask for in a volunteer firefighter. He's hard-working, dedicated and compassionate," says Fire Chief George Esbensen.

Jay joined the volunteer department in 1988 and has spent all these years driving the trucks, training others and volunteering his time to other great causes like the Salvation Army bell ringing event. Jay's co-workers say his calmness and great sense of humor have added much to the Fire

Bolen is retiring this year at the age of 50 and will definitely be missed. When asked about the prestigious award Jay said, "It kind of caught me by surprise."

If you'd like to become a volunteer firefighter or find out more about the department call 952-949-6200.



Jay Bohlen 2005 Firefighter of the Year.

Adopt-A-Street Program



Valley View Road, an adopted street, is cleaned by the Eden Prairie Noon Rotary Club.

Special thanks go out to the men, women and organizations that help keep Eden Prairie clean through the Adopt-A-Street program. These folks volunteer their time and energy to make sure roads and adjoining properties are litter-free. The City would like to recognize these individuals and groups for helping to make Eden Prairie a better community.

Software Development is Big Business in Eden Prairie

The high tech industry continues to roll right along in Eden Prairie. The Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal recently ranked the top 25 Software Developers by number of software employees. Companies that call Eden Prairie home occupied six of the top 12 spots.

Number of Ranking Company Software Employees		
4	Stellent, Inc.	158
5	Highjump Software	142
6	Kroll Ontrack	134
9	Achieve Healthcare Technologies	100
9	Compuware Corp.	100
12	Help/Systems Inc.	80

Highway 212 Construction Ramps Up

It's begun to take shape - the new 212 - and throughout the summer and fall even more changes are in store for this new road.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation says 2006 will be a year of intense activity. By the fall, the first section of roadway between Eden Prairie Road and Dell Road will be open. It will include:

- ♥ Completion of the Eden Prairie Road interchange
- ♥ Miller Park West
- ♥ Scenic Heights Road between Dell Road and Eden Prairie Road
- ♥ Bridge and interchange at Dell Road
- ♥ Pedestrian Bridge at Miller Park



SOONER THAN YOU THINK

Construction of Powers Blvd. (County Road 17) to Dell Road will be complete by Fall 2007.

If you have any questions about road closures during the project you can call the hotline at 952-368-3041 or log on to www.mndot.gov and click on 212 under construction projects.

Protect the Environment and Win Prizes

Driving yourself to work is probably a typical part of your daily routine. Consider using an alternative means to get to the office. By taking the Commuter Challenge, you might end up a big winner, and the environment will also reap some great rewards.



The Commuter Challenge, sponsored by the Interstate 494 Corridor Commission, is encouraging you to pledge to carpool, bike, walk or telecommute between now and June 30. Simply fill out a pledge form by visiting

www.494corridor.org or pick up a paper copy at the Eden Prairie Community Center.

All participants will be entered in a drawing for a number of great prizes that have been donated by Twin Cities' companies, including a big-screen TV, a bed & breakfast weekend getaway, iPods, Metrodome box suite, transit passes, gas cards and bikes. The bike that is up for grabs for someone who lives or works in Eden Prairie is on display at the Eden Prairie Community Center.

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

**L I F E
I N T H E
P R A I R I E**

Life in the Prairie published by:

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Eden Prairie, MN 55344-4485

952-949-8434
www.edenprairie.org

Creating Community

Through People, Parks and Programs

May 2006
Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation

Upcoming Events CALENDAR

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

APRIL

- April 22 Park Cleanup Day**
Help clean up the Eden Prairie Parks. 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Contact Jeff Cordes at 952-949-8463
- April 22 Colorama**
Use different types of paint and learn new painting techniques. Leave each class with a framed piece of original art. Ages 6-12. Saturdays from April 22 – May 13. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Senior Center. \$74. (#19518)
- April 22 InLine Skating "Little Rollers"**
Preschool inline skate class. Ages 4-5. Miller Park Hockey Rink. Saturdays, April 22 and 29; 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. \$25. (#18876)
Tuesdays, May 2 – 23; 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. \$48. (#18877)
- April 27 Swimming Level Assessment**
Have your child assessed for the appropriate swimming lesson level. Free. 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Oak Point Pool.
- April 29 USA Tennis 1-2-3**
Ages 7-16. Beginner I 9:00-10:00 a.m., (#18999) or Beginner II 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., (#19003) for six Saturdays. Miller Park Tennis Courts. Advance registration required. \$49.

MAY

- May 1 Beginner Golf Lessons**
Learn the fundamentals of golf, game rules and etiquette. Ages 6-16. Round Lake Park Hockey Rink \$60. Mondays, May 1 – June 5; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (#18990)
Thursdays, May 4 – June 1; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (#18991)
- May 1 Golf Lessons**
Ages 16-adult – learn the basics of golf, game rules and etiquette. Round Lake Park. Five classes. \$70. Beginners: Mondays, May 1 – June 5; 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.; (#19602)
Thursdays, May 4 – June 1; 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.; (#19603)
Advanced beginners: Mondays, May 1 – June 5; 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. #19606
Thursdays, May 4 – June 1; 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. (#19607)
- May 2-23 Afterschool In-Line Skating Camp**
Learn to start, stop and turn on inline skates while playing fun games. Also learn roller hockey, freestyle and street/ramp techniques. Ages 6-12. Tuesdays for 4 weeks. 4:15 – 5:30 p.m. Miller Park Hockey Rink. \$60.
- May 3 I Love Minnesota**
Kids ages 3 – 6 will enjoy activities and lessons based on the culture, water, plants, animals, and geography of Minnesota. 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Outdoor Center. \$5. (#19430)
Class also offered on May 10 (#19431), May 17 (#19432), and May 24 (#19433)
- May 4 3 on 3 Open Basketball**
6 weeks of league play and 2 weeks of playoffs. Tuesday nights beginning May 23. Register by May 4. \$60/team. 952-949-8438
- May 5 & 12 Short Game Special**
Adults – this class will work on various golf shots from 40 yards on into the cup. Two Friday classes. 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center. \$54. (#19465)
- May 6 Kite Fest**
Here's your chance to build a kite, learn more about flying kites and see a kite demonstration. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Purgatory Creek Recreation Area.
- May 6 Adult/Youth Golf**
Kids ages 8 and up, along with an adult golf partner, can learn the basics of golf. Five Saturdays from May 6 – June 3. 11:00 a.m. – noon. Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center. \$75 per person. (#18980)
- May 6 Arbor Day Walk**
Take a walk around Staring Lake Park and learn more about trees. 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- May 6 Mommy & Me for Tea**
Children ages 3-8 are invited to attend a semiformal tea and fashion show, along with their mom or another adult. 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. J.R. Cummins Homestead. \$18 per person. Advance registration required. (#18880)
- May 6 Swimming Level Assessment**
Have your child assessed for the appropriate swimming lesson level. Free. 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Community Center Pool.
- May 11 Doubles Bocce League**
Tuesday or Wednesday evenings for eight weeks starting June 6. Teams of two people. Register by May 11. \$35 per team. 952-949-8438
- May 12 Horseshoe League**
Games played on Tuesday nights beginning June 6 at Staring Lake Park. May 12 registration deadline. \$30 per player. 952-949-8438.
- May 13 Animal Open House**
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Staring Lake Outdoor Center. Free family event. 952-949-8479
- May 13 Lifeguard Training**
Ages 15 and up. Learn the skills and knowledge necessary to become a certified American Cross Lifeguard. Saturdays from May 13 to June 3. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
\$170 – Community Center members;
\$180 – Community Center non-members.
- May 13 Lifeguard Challenge**
Challenge your lifeguarding skills to receive recertification. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Community Center members - \$75. Non-members - \$60.
- May 18 Berry Bonanza with Strawberry Shortcake**
Play felt board games, sing, dance and create a special snack. Ages 3-6 with parent. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Senior Center. \$12. (#18878)
- May 19 Wiesman Art Museum & Walker Art Center**
Transportation provided; leave from Senior Center. Lunch (on your own) at the Gallery 8 Café or the Wolfgang Puck Restaurant. Register by May 1. 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. \$32. #19683
- May 20 Barn Dance**
Enjoy a down-west good time at the Riley-Jacques Barn. Featuring Jack Norton and the Mullet River Boys. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. \$5 adults, \$3 children/students/seniors
- May 27 Amazing Garden Kick Off**
Free family activity to work in the Children's Learning Garden, Staring Lake Outdoor Center. 10:00 a.m. – noon. 952-949-8479.
- May 29 Memorial Day**
City Office Closed.

"Spring" Into Fitness

at the Eden Prairie Community Center!



Join the Eden Prairie Community Center and receive one month free on a one year membership (3 month memberships not eligible).

A Community Center membership provides you with free use of the fitness center (14 & up), Community Center and Oak Point pools, racquetball, ice-skating and discounted rates for fitness classes, swimming and skating lessons.

Everyone purchasing a new membership (3 month or 1 year) will receive a free t-shirt.

	Residents (live or work in EP)		Non-residents	
	3 mo.	1 yr.	3 mo.	1 yr.
Youth (18 & under)	\$40	\$110	\$50	\$135
Adult (19 & up)	\$65	\$185	\$85	\$240
Household	\$95	\$265	\$120	\$340
Senior (55 & up)	\$40	\$110	\$50	\$140
Senior Household (two seniors in same household)	\$45	\$130	\$60	\$170

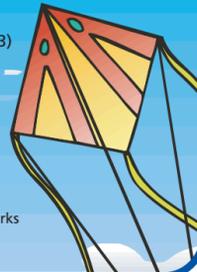
* Free membership month applies to new members only. Restrictions may apply. Offer expires May 30, 2006

Kite Fest

Saturday, May 6
1 - 4 p.m.
Purgatory Creek Recreation Area

Nothing says "Spring" like flying a kite! The Minnesota Kite Society will dazzle you with their high-flying kites.

- Learn about different types of kites and how to fly kites
- Make your own kite at the workshop (\$3)
- Bring your favorite kite to fly
- Music for the whole family to enjoy by the Teddy Bear Band and Rich and the Resisters at 2:00 p.m.



For more information, contact Sandy Werts at 952-949-8450

Sponsored by the Minnesota Kite Society, the Eden Prairie Optimists, Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department and the Minnesota College Savings Plan.

ARBOR DAY WALK

Saturday, May 6
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Staring Lake Park
14800 Pioneer Trail

(walk at your convenience)

Come celebrate Eden Prairie's designation as a "Tree City USA," and take a scenic walk around Staring Lake Park.

- Free Seedlings
- Drawings for Landscape Trees and Shrubs
- Refreshments
- Tree Health Information
- Tree Planting Information



For more information, contact Jeff Cordes at 952-949-8463.

ADULT LEAGUES



DOUBLES BOCCLE LEAGUE

League play is on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings at Staring Lake Park beginning June 6. \$35 per 2 person team. Register before May 11.



HORSESHOE LEAGUE

Games are played on Tuesday evenings at Staring Lake Park beginning June 6. \$30 per person. Register before May 12.



3 ON 3 OPEN BASKETBALL

Outdoor 3 on 3 basketball will be played at Round Lake Park on Tuesday evening, with six weeks of league play and two weeks of playoffs. Two separate divisions (upper-competitive and lower recreational) will be offered. League begins May 23. \$60 per 3-person team. Register before May 4.

Contact Lyndell Frey at 952-949-8438 or lfrey@edenprairie.org to receive a registration form or visit www.edenprairie.org.



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 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.

Bug Camp • Volcano • 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 Best Animal Camp • Jelly Beans Adventures as Super Heroes • Bugs, Snakes and Frog Camp • Astron...

Spring Run for Fun

5K/10K Run or Walk
Saturday, May 20
9:00 a.m.
Purgatory Creek Recreation Area

A healthy event for the entire family. Begin at Purgatory Creek Recreation Area and run or walk the trails of Eden Prairie.

\$20 (ages 13 – adult)
\$15 (ages 8-12)
\$60/Family (2 adults and 2 kids)

Participants will receive a t-shirt, water bottle, race packet and refreshments. The registration fee is \$25 after May 15. Awards will be presented to the top three male/female finishers in five different age categories.

All proceeds benefit "Girls on the Run," a program educating and preparing girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

Participants may register at www.midwestevents.com or for more information contact Beth at 952-949-8447



Senior Awareness Month

May's Senior Awareness Month and we're celebrating with a number of great programs at the Senior Center, including:

May 11 GREG HOVLAND - PREPARING FOR THE STORMS OF LIFE
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. (Senior Center)

May 18 SERVICE DOG PRESENTATION
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (Senior Center)

May 19 COOKIE CONTEST
10:00 a.m. (Edenvale)

May 23 HISTORY TOUR

May 25 PROGRESSIVE DINNER
4:30 - 8:00 p.m. (Sr. Center/Police/Pax Christi)

And MUCH more! For a complete listing of activities, visit www.edenprairie.org or call 952-949-8475.



Come celebrate animals! We will be overflowing with all kinds of animals for you to touch and see up close:

- Birds • Alligator • Python • Flying Squirrel
- Rabbit • Spiders and more

Bring your family and your family pet to the Outdoor Center for some four-legged fun!

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



*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.