

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



Hedy Holmberg stands next to her newly clean car after a good washing.

Savono Bonce soaks up the sun while kicking around a soccer ball in the park.



Eight-year-old Tucker Zangs signs a \$1,500 check with Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens. Zangs raised the money to help pay for the new Staring Lake Slide.

APRIL 2006

## Special Visit

Eden Prairie is going global. The City recently got a visit from government and business officials from Loudi, China. The delegation was in town for several reasons but mostly to concentrate on how their businesses could thrive in Eden Prairie and how to create opportunities in China for Eden Prairie businesses. But why choose Eden Prairie? "Loudi has the vision to start its own industrial park, focusing on high-tech and medical devices. Eden Prairie is very strong in those fields," said the group's interpreter and local businessman Lili Pan.

The six member delegation spent time touring and learning about our community. They established strong relationships with local business leaders and announced plans to open a trade office in Eden Prairie. "We're pleased that of all the places in the country and in Minnesota that Loudi could choose to open a trade office that they chose Eden Prairie. We think that is a statement by them about what kind of place it is to do business here and how

interested they are in partnering with us and doing business in the future," said Eden Prairie City Manager Scott Neal. The exact location of the trade office has not yet been determined. The group, along with our own City Government, signed a Strategic

**"We have a lot we can learn from the students in China and we have so much to share with them as well."**

Community Partnership and February 24 was declared Loudi, China Day in the State of Minnesota by Governor Tim Pawlenty.

The Vice Mayor of Loudi also made an agreement with Eden Prairie schools. The agreement will allow for student and teacher exchanges as well as



Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens and Habitat for Technology's Joe Stoeber trade gifts with Vice Mayor Li Xiangqun of Loudi, China. Interpreter Lili Pan, far right, bridges the language gap for the group.

long-distance learning opportunities like web camera interactions between the students and faculty. Superintendent Melissa Krull said, "We have a lot we can learn from the students in China and we have so much to share with them as well. It will be a great learning opportunity for the children in both countries."

The partnership will ensure a consistent line of communication between Eden Prairie and Loudi officials. As China's economy continues to grow, the opportunities for business will accelerate too. Scott Neal said, "We need to figure out what our role is going to be in the world economy as well as here in Minnesota. Moving forward with this partnership in Loudi, China will ensure that Eden Prairie will be a leader in global business efforts and it will put us one step ahead of our local counterparts in the future."

## The Case of the Shoe Print

At the scene of a home burglary officers spot a tennis shoe print in the dust on a countertop.

At one time this evidence may not have been able to be recovered. The City of Eden Prairie had, until recently, relied exclusively on the Hennepin County Crime Lab to process crime scenes for evidence. If the county was busy with a bigger crime somewhere else in the county it could be one or more hours before they would be able to assist.

Lt. Jim Morrow was all too familiar with this concern and championed the idea that Eden Prairie should have officers trained in evidence collection. Thanks to this idea, and six police officers volunteering to learn evidence collection, the City's Police Department can now process crime scenes.

Officers Ryan Gulden and Eric LeBlanc are the first of the six volunteers to complete a 40 hour training course presented by the Burnsville Police Department. The other four officers will take the course this year.

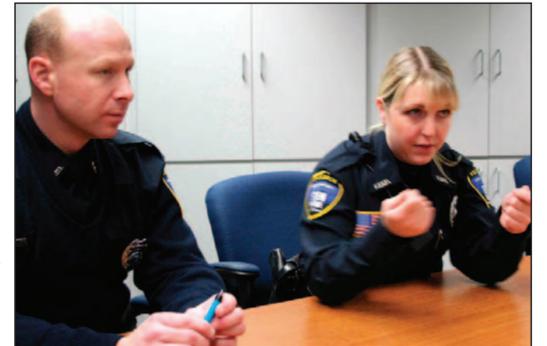
Eden Prairie Police are now able to gather a wide range of evidence including fingerprints and DNA. "When a person has been robbed or assaulted, it's a very personal and

devastating time," said Officer Ryan Gulden. "We're now able to show them we are doing all we can to help and it puts the victim a little more at ease."

"This is another way the Police Department is providing better service to the people of Eden Prairie," said officer Eric LeBlanc. "We are now able to gather the fingerprints and other evidence and have the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) search for a match among its records."

### The Results:

The tennis shoe print in the dust was collected by Officer Eric LeBlanc. That print matched the shoe of a suspect that police believe had been committing a great many home break-ins. The suspect was arrested. The shoe print evidence will play a key role when the suspect goes to trial.



Eden Prairie police officers Eric LeBlanc and Ryan Gulden explain how they became the first two officers trained in evidence gathering techniques.

## Seasonal Job Opportunities Available

You've worked with the rest; now, work with the best! The City of Eden Prairie is now accepting applications for seasonal and full-time jobs. You can do everything from Camp Counselor to Concession Stand worker and Tennis Instructor to Tree Inspector.

There are several positions open; all you have to do is find the one that best suits you. Log on to our website at [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) to find a complete listing of job opportunities. You can also find and download the applications there or stop by City Center at 8080 Mitchell Road to pick up your copy.

Consider working for the City of Eden Prairie. It's a chance to gain some new experience and pick up a little extra money this summer season-what a deal!



Alison Krueger enjoys spending her summers as a camp counselor.

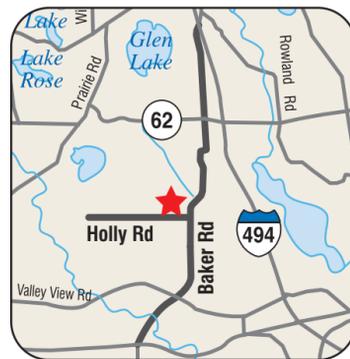
## Town Meeting Slated April 11

The Eden Prairie City Council wants to hear from City residents on any and all subjects on Tuesday, April 11 and they've set up a Town Meeting to do just that.

"This is a great opportunity for residents and people that work in the city to speak directly to council members, ask questions and get answers," said Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens.

The Town Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on April 11. It will be held at Forest Hills Elementary School, which is located on the northwest corner of Baker Road and Holly Road (13708 Holly Road).

The Town Meeting will replace what would have been the first City Council meeting of the month. The only City Council meeting in April where official business will take place is at 7 pm on April 18.



## Traffic Camera Survey Results

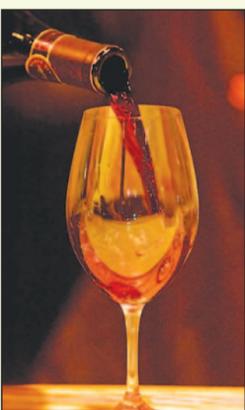
The opinions from a survey of Eden Prairie citizens about the potential use of community surveillance cameras in Eden Prairie netted some surprising results. The first surprise was that 45% of the surveys were returned to the City. That is an astounding participation percentage for this type of survey. The next surprise came in the results themselves. Not so much in the fact that more than 70% of residents were in favor of using surveillance cameras for traffic enforcement and general surveillance, but that respondents indicated "loss of privacy" as their area of least concern. Residents were more concerned with who would have access to the video, where the cameras would be placed and how much the cameras would cost.

"I was somewhat surprised by the level of support for cameras in general," said Scott Neal, Eden Prairie City Manager. "I was expecting more moderate levels of support. When such a high percentage of citizens tell us they support something like this I think it means that we ought to take a deeper look at it sooner rather than later."

### Violations that could be ticketed

<b>Red Light</b>	70.1% support 29.9% oppose
<b>Speeding</b>	58% support 42% oppose
<b>Equipment Failure</b>	27.1% support 72.9% oppose
<b>Expired Tabs</b>	33.5% support 66.5% oppose

Neal reiterated that the City has no current plans for such a program, but thinks "the use of more cameras in law enforcement is probably an inevitable trend."



## Spring Wine Event

Mark your calendars wine enthusiasts. It's time for the Spring Wine Event. Thursday, March 30, you can try wines from around the world in the Garden Room at Eden Prairie City Center.

Twenty-two vendors will be on hand to share with you the best varieties they have to offer. There will be 88 different wines to try and plenty of hors d'oeuvres to make your mouth happy. Special discounts will also be offered to wine

tasters for future purchases of the wines featured at the event.

Tickets are only \$15 but there are only 200 available so you'd better pick yours up today. You can purchase tickets at any of the three Eden Prairie Liquor Stores or at the door the day of the event if it has not already sold out.

The Spring Wine Event is the tasty way to welcome the new season. It's Thursday, March 30, from 7-9 p.m. in the Garden Room at Eden Prairie City 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:  
Pat Brink  
Communications Manager  
Heidi Seyer  
Communications Associate  
Rena Sarigianopoulos  
Communications Specialist  
The City of Eden Prairie  
8080 Mitchell Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-4485  
952-949-8434  
[www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org)

# Creating Community

Through People, Parks and Programs

April 2006  
Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation

## Upcoming Events CALENDAR

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

### MARCH

- March 18** **Tahitian Treat**  
Bring your mask, snorkel and fins for the treasure hunt. Enter the Best Dressed Beach Wear contest. There will be open swim, open skate with free skate rental, games and entertainment. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. EP Community Center. \$4 (pay at the door)
- March 20** **Eden Prairie Idol Finale**  
EP Idol is a singing contest where high school and CMS students perform for an audience for 1st-3rd place cash prizes. 7:00 p.m. at EPHS Auditorium. \$2.
- March 20 or 21** **Girls on the Run/Girls on Track**  
Girls ages 8 - 15 meet afternoons twice a week. EP Community Center.  
\$80. Advance registration required. 952-949-8447.
- March 21** **First day registration for spring and summer programs**
- March 24 - 26** **Ice Show**  
March 24 and 25 - 7:00 p.m.; March 26 - 2:00 p.m.; Eden Prairie Community Center.  
\$8 adults, \$5 students and seniors.
- March 27 & 29** **Auditions for "Oliver"**  
Ages 9 and up - come with a prepared song. 7:00 p.m. Central Middle School. Callbacks on March 30. Call 952-970-6300 for more information.
- March 30** **Swimming Level Assessment**  
Have your child assessed for which American Red Cross swimming lesson level to sign up for. Free, no registration necessary. 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Oak Point Pool.

### APRIL

- April 3** **Star Watch**  
Learn some of the common constellations and peer through our 8-inch (C-8) telescope. Ages 8 to adult. 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Outdoor Center. \$5. #19502
- April 3-6** **Spring Break Programs**  
Fun programs offered Mon.-Thurs. See the information on the right.
- April 4** **Glitter & Glamour Party Pizzazz**  
Come dressed in your funkiest fashion to have a glitter make-over including shimmering hair up-do, sparkly fingernails, a rainbow tattoo, dazzling eye jewels and create your own jewelry. Ages 5 - 12. 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. EP Senior Center. \$20. #18958
- April 5** **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. #19426  
Class also offered on April 12 (#19426), April 19 (#19428), and April 26 (#19429)
- April 6** **"Don't Dress For Dinner"**  
Enjoy lunch and the performance of "Don't Dress For Dinner" at the Old Log Theater. Leave from EP Senior Center. 10:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$31. Register by March 30.
- April 8** **Breakfast with the Bunny**  
Enjoy a continental breakfast with the bunny complete with live entertainment and a spring craft to bring home to Mom or Dad. 10:30 a.m. - noon. Eden Wood Center. \$8. #18863
- April 15** **Swimming Level Assessment**  
Have your child assessed for which American Red Cross swimming lesson level to sign up for. Free, no registration necessary. 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Community Center Pool.
- April 15** **Water Safety Instructor Aide or Lifeguard Training**  
Training will prepare aide candidates to understand the roles and responsibilities of a Water Safety Instructor Aide or Lifeguard. EP Community Center. Saturdays from April 15 to May 6.  
• Water Safety Instructor: Ages 12 and up. 9:00 a.m. - noon. EPCC members: \$55, nonmembers: \$60. #19173  
• Lifeguards: Ages 15 and up. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EPCC members: \$170, non-members: \$180. #18506
- April 17** **Poetry Night**  
7:00 p.m. Eden Prairie Library.
- April 17 & 18** **Children's Theater Camp Auditions**  
Girls: Monday, April 17; Boys: Tuesday, April 18. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Eden Prairie Senior Center.
- April 19** **Memoir Writing**  
Lois Nereim Wilder will guide participants through writing experiences, discussion, assignments and vocabulary. Wednesdays from April 19 to May 24. 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. \$60. EP Senior Center. #18940
- April 21** **Line Dance**  
Learn to line dance through this six week class. Fridays from April 21 to May 26, 11:00 a.m. - noon. Senior Center. \$40. #18933
- April 22** **Park Cleanup Day**  
8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Call 952-949-8463 for more information.
- April 22** **Climb Your Family Tree**  
Beginning genealogy with the use of the internet. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. JR Cummins House. \$16. #19615
- April 22** **Eden Prairie Players First Annual Garage Sale**  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Homeward Hills Park Building. Support the efforts of our local theater group by coming to the sale and/or by donating items to be sold. Donations may be brought to the park building between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday, April 21. For more information, call 952-903-9464.
- April 22** **Colorama**  
Learn the various mediums of paint from watercolor to tempera paint and acrylic and develop new painting techniques. Ages 6 - 12. Saturdays from April 22 to May 13. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Senior Center. \$74. #19518
- Apr 22 & 29** **InLine Skating "Little Rollers"**  
Preschoolers can learn how to inline skate through classes from Robichon's. Skate rental available from Robichon's. Ages 4-5. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Miller Park Hockey Rink. \$25. #18876.
- April 25** **Intermediate Golf for Adults**  
For golfers already familiar with the game; improve your skills and enjoyment. 5 classes. Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center. 6:00 - 6:55 p.m. on Tuesdays/Thursdays from April 25 to May 9. \$85. #19500
- April 26** **LeDuc Historic Estate Day Trip**  
Enjoy lunch at the River Oaks Golf Course's dining facility, take a guided tour of the recently opened LeDuc Historic Estate built during the Civil War, and tour one of Hastings' historic churches. Leave from EP Senior Center. 10:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. \$45. Register by April 10. #18673

The Eden Prairie Players present a Summer Children's Theater Camp

## THE SPELL OF SLEEPING BEAUTY

Students in 3-12th grades - here's your chance to get involved in a theatrical performance!



**AUDITIONS**  
Girls: Monday, April 17  
Boys: Tuesday, April 18  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Eden Prairie Senior Center

**CALLBACKS:**  
Thursday, April 20  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Eden Prairie Senior Center

**REHEARSALS:**  
Riley-Jacques Barn  
9096 Riley Lake Road  
Monday - Thursday  
July 17 - August 16  
3 - 5:30 p.m.

**PERFORMANCES:**  
August 17 - 20

Camp Fee: \$135 (paid after auditions)  
For more information, call Liz at 952-470-6300.

## Spring Break

### Monday, April 3 Super Movie Monday

Join us for lunch (sub sandwiches and pop) and a movie. We will be watching "Madagascar".  
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; \$8; #18622

### Tuesday, April 4 Bowling Fun Tuesday

Have a blast as we bowl a couple of lanes at Brunswick Bowl in Eden Prairie, including a pizza lunch. We'll end our day at the Oak Point Pool with swimming. Leave from EP Community Center Lobby; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; \$18; #18623

### Wednesday, April 5 Puppet Show

Come along and learn how to make four different kinds of puppets and a theatre for the show. Grades 1 - 6; EP Senior Center; 9:00 a.m. - Noon; \$40; #18607

### Thursday, April 6 Stampede

Students will have a chance to create a portfolio to fill with all types of print and stamp art. Grade 1 - 6; EP Senior Center; 9:00 a.m. - Noon; \$40; #18608

## ANNUAL ICE SHOW

# Skate Love

in the name of



Watch local skaters perform to old and new love songs. All participants were students in Fall or Winter skating lessons at the Community Center.

Performance will be held at the Eden Prairie Community Center on:  
**Friday, March 24 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, March 25 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, March 26 - 2:00 p.m.**

\$8 Adults  
\$5 Students and Seniors  
Tickets available at the Community Center front office March 20-26

## Poetry Night

April is National Poetry month, so join in the fun by sharing your original work! Adults and teens are invited to read their poems at a special poetry night hosted by David William Salmela and sponsored by the Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department. Pre-registration requested; call 952-829-8450 to pre-register.

**Monday, April 17  
7 p.m.**  
Eden Prairie Library  
479 Prairie Center Drive

## Park Cleanup Day

### Volunteers Needed

**Saturday, April 22  
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.**

It's a great opportunity for service organizations, youth organizations, neighborhood groups and individuals to get involved.

Put on your work gloves, bring your trash bags, and help clean up Eden Prairie's community, neighborhood, school parks and portions of the trail system.

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



## BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

**Saturday, April 8  
10:30 a.m. - Noon**  
Eden Wood Center  
6310 Indian Chief Road  
\$8

Grandparents and kids of all ages will have a hopping good time when enjoying a continental breakfast with the bunny. Complete with live entertainment and a spring craft to bring home to mom or dad. Don't forget your camera! Pre-registration required. Contact Nicole Weedman at 952-949-8456 for more information. #18863



## 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.