

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE



Lonnie Herroen waits for the bus at SouthWest Metro Station



Vanessa Jeroma makes Annie look fancy at Gentle Care Grooming



Lana Stewart arranges roses at Belladonna Florist

MARCH 2006

2005 Police and Fire Departments' Stats

In 2005 the Eden Prairie Police Department received 54,622 calls for service, which is a four percent increase over calls received in 2004. That is the equivalent of 150 calls every day or about one call every ten minutes.

	2004	2005
Homicide	0	0
Medical calls	1799	1966
False alarms	2520	2484
DWI	346	480
Identity Theft	102	144
Calls for Service	52,554	54,622

Traffic enforcement contacts were up almost three percent over 2004. In particular, Driving While Impaired (DWI) citations increased by nearly 40% from 346 in 2004 to 480 in 2005. According to Police Chief Dan Carlson, "We placed a strong emphasis on traffic enforcement in 2005. That will continue to be a focus for us in 2006."

Person and property crime rates remained consistent from 2004 to 2005. One exception to this was Identity Theft which was up 41% from 2004. "We urge our residents to take the necessary precautions when conducting financial transactions," said Chief Carlson.

The Eden Prairie Fire Department received 1,342 calls for service last year or nearly four calls each day. Of those calls, 25 percent were false alarms, which poses challenges for the volunteer firefighters.

In 2005 there were 112 fires that resulted in \$1,383,150 in damages, but \$18,733,150 was saved.

Slightly more than one third of the calls for service were for rescues and medical

situations where the fire department was the first responder.

Fire Chief George Esbensen said, "It was another year without any fire fatalities in Eden Prairie. I'm hopeful that will continue in 2006 and beyond, but given that nearly a dozen people in Minnesota died from fires in January alone, I strongly encourage everyone to not take their safety for granted. Check your smoke alarms, plan an escape route and practice getting out."



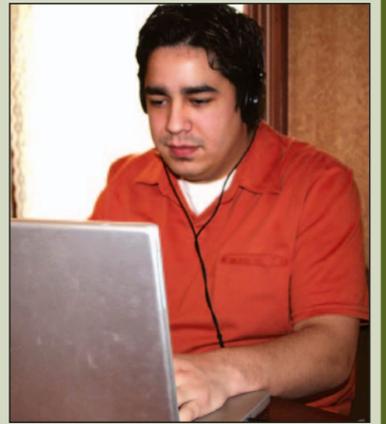
Eden Prairie fire fighters battle a fire on a cold morning last January.

Wireless in Eden Prairie

Coffee shops in Eden Prairie have become real hot spots. Not just because of the steaming brew they serve, but because they are actual Hotspots for wireless internet!

Eden Prairie boasts 22 different locations where wireless internet connections are located. Throughout Minnesota there are 706 public Wi-Fi Hotspots according to a survey done by Jiwire.com. The only cities in Minnesota that have more Wi-Fi Hotspots are Minneapolis, St. Paul and Bloomington.

Among the locations in Eden Prairie that are listed on the JWire.com website as having Wi-Fi are: Eden Prairie Library, Dunn Brothers, Panera Bread, Green Mill, Caribou Coffee, Starbucks, Flagship Athletic Club, The UPS Stores and FedEx Kinko's. User fees may apply at some of these locations.



Dan Garceau works on his laptop at Dunn Bros. Coffee House.

Change in First City Council Meeting in March



The Eden Prairie City Council's first meeting in March will be on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 7 p.m.

This is a change from the normal council schedule which calls for meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

The change became necessary because Tuesday, March 7 is caucus night for political parties in Minnesota. State law prohibits government meetings that night after 6 p.m.

The City Council's second meeting in March will take place on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m.

2006 Precinct Caucus Information

Precinct Caucuses are the beginning of the process that Minnesota's major political parties use for choosing the candidates and the issues they will support in the 2006 elections.

All caucuses begin at 7 p.m. To find your caucus location, contact your political party of choice. Here are contact numbers for the three major political parties in Minnesota:

DFL
651-293-1200

Republican
651-222-0022

Independence
651-487-9700

Top 10 things NOT to Recycle

A common question asked is, "what items shouldn't I put in the recycling bin?" Some of these items are common sense, like pizza boxes because they will contaminate all the recyclables in your bin. Other items that should not be recycled are not as easy to spot - here's the top ten items NOT to recycle:

- 1 Plastic bags and plastic film
- 2 Plastic-coated boxes, such as freezer or juice boxes
- 3 Ceramics or pottery
- 4 Pyrex glass
- 5 Clam-shell plastic boxes, such as for strawberries
- 6 Screw tops for plastic bottles, all tops should be removed and thrown away
- 7 Plastic containers that don't have a neck, such as margarine tubs
- 8 Egg cartons, paper or plastic
- 9 Tyvek envelopes
- 10 Ream-wrappers - wrappers can be coated with film to help the paper stay dry.

By keeping these items out of the recycling bins, you help your hauler provide a cleaner product that is more profitable. This will not only help keep your garbage rates down but will also help provide more recyclable products!

Shopping Bus Offers Transportation To Mall, Library and Stores



The Eden Prairie Shopping Bus has entered its third year of service. The service is designed especially for seniors and people with disabilities that may want to shop, visit key places in Eden Prairie or simply get around town.

Each Tuesday morning between 9:25 a.m. and 10:07 a.m., the Shopping Bus picks people up from Edendale, Sterling Ponds, the Colony and at the intersection of Mitchell Road and Valley View near PDQ. Riders then have the chance to visit

the following stops: the Eden Prairie Library, Eden Prairie Center, Cub Foods, Wal*Mart and Rainbow Foods.

To get back home, riders have the option of taking one of two return trips. The earlier return trip starts at Rainbow at 11 a.m. while the later one starts its pick-ups at 11:52 a.m., also at Rainbow.

Volunteers are on the bus to help as needed with packages and the bus is wheelchair accessible. The cost for all this is just \$1 if you complete both ends of the trip within two-and-a-half hours. A complete schedule is available online at www.swtransit.org and volunteers are always needed.



Skaters Take Notice

Both ice rinks at the Eden Prairie Community Center will be closed from March 27 through June 23. The three month shut-down is for maintenance repairs. For more information about skating hours call the Eden Prairie Community Center at 952-949-8470.



Tickets for the Eden Prairie Foundation's 25th Annual Ball - Silver Wonderland - are still available for \$125 per ticket. The ball will take place the evening of March 4 at the Minneapolis Marriot Southwest. The event will also feature a silent auction for a number of items including a Swift custom chopper, a Yamaha G-Max golf cart, Lasik eye surgery and many other great items. Contact Gwen Shultz at 612-373-0292 or 952-934-8951 to purchase your tickets and to show your support for the Eden Prairie Foundation.

EDEN PRAIRIE FOUNDATION ANNUAL BALL

Silver Wonderland

Calling all Volunteers

Have you ever wanted to volunteer, but didn't know where or when to get involved? Now there's a place to get your answers. Eden Prairie Volunteers is an organization that helps volunteers find the right place to give their time and effort. The web site, www.edenprairievolunteers.org, lists volunteer opportunities from all different kinds of organizations that are either located in or serve the Eden Prairie area. Michelle Veith, the woman who updates the site, says, "The site is beneficial because it saves people the time to figure out which organizations might need volunteers." It's also separated into categories so you can pick the topic or area that most interests you and only look for volunteer opportunities there. Organizations looking for help can post their requests on the web site for potential volunteers to browse. Getting started is the hardest part. Eden Prairie Volunteers has made it easy!

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

EDEN PRAIRIE
LIVE • WORK • DREAM

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

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www.edenprairie.org

Creating Community

Through People, Parks and Programs

March 2006
Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation

Upcoming Events CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY

- February 20** **City Office Closed – President's Day**
- February 20** **Planet Spirit Cheer Clinic**
Learn cheers, chants, jumps and stunts. Ages 5-15. 9:00 a.m. – noon. EP Shopping Center, basement Community Room. \$25. #18603
- February 20** **Glitter Party Pizzazz**
Come dressed in your funkiest fashions to get a makeover, hair up-do, sparkly nails and create a choker necklace. Ages 5-12. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. EP Shopping Center, basement Community Room. \$20. #18604
- February 20** **Sculpting with modeling clay**
Use modeling clay to create a 3-dimensional sculpture. Ages 6-12. 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. EP Senior Center Room 209. \$18. #18612
- February 25** **Swimming Level Assessment**
Free opportunity – have your child assessed for the appropriate swimming lesson level. 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. EP Community Center Pool.
- February 25** **Flick-N-Float**
Bring your inflatables and watch the movie "Ice Age" while floating in the pool. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Community Center. \$3 at the door. 952-949-8470.
- February 27** **Bookmaking**
Create unique books through paper-folding. Ages 6-12. 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. EP Senior Center, Room 209. \$18. #18613
- February 28** **Trucks, Tractors & Trailers**
Kim Maxwell from "Once Upon A Star" will lead all sorts of transportation fun! Ages 2-6 with adult. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EP Shopping Center, basement Community Room. \$12. #18477

MARCH

- March 1** **Memoir Writing**
Adult participants will be guided through writing experience, discussion, assignment and vocabulary. Wednesdays from March 1 to April 5 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. EP Senior Center, Room 203. \$60. #18669
- March 2** **Happy Birthday Sleeping Beauty**
Create a felt board birthday cake, make a flower bracelet and play all sorts of party games. Ages 2-6 with adult. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EP Shopping Center, basement Community Room. \$12. #18599
- March 5** **Maple Syrup Time**
Learn the history of maple syrup, tap a tree or two, start this year's collection of syrup and taste syrup collected last year. 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Staring Lake Outdoor Center. \$5. #18747
- March 6** **Star Watch**
Learn some common constellations and peer through an 8-inch telescope. Ages 8 to adult. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Outdoor Center. \$5. #18691
- March 6** **Tae Kwon Do – Karate**
Learn karate at the American Karate Studio (13110 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka). Mondays and Wednesday through March 29. Ages 5-12 – 5:50 – 6:30 p.m. \$59. #18631
Ages 12-adult – 6:30 – 7:10 p.m. \$59. #18764
- March 8** **4 Hour: Driver Safety Course**
4-hour defensive driving refresher course through AARP. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EP Senior Center, Room 201. \$12. #18671
- March 9** **Disney on Ice – Group-rate tickets**
Disney on Ice presents: Pixar's The Incredibles in a Magic Kingdom Adventure at the Target Center at 10:00 a.m. Purchase your tickets through the City of Eden Prairie for \$14 before March 2. Transportation on your own. #18609
- March 9** **Science Museum & Omni Theater**
Go to the Science Museum for exploration fun and watch the show "Oceans" at the Omni Theater. A brown bag lunch is included. Ages 6-13. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., leave from EP Community Center. \$38. #18620
- March 10** **Bowling and Swimming**
Join us for bowling at Brunswick Lanes, ice skating at the Community Center and swimming at the Chaska Community Center. Pizza lunch is included. Ages 6-13. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., leave from EP Community Center. \$38. #18621
- March 13 & 15** **8 Hour: Driver Safety Course**
Refine existing skills and develop safe, defensive driving techniques. 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. EP Senior Center, Room 201. \$12. #18446
- March 13 and 27** **Magic School Bus Adventure**
Create paper castles and draw, paint and collage to create a Magic School Bus, all while visiting our imaginary friends in a castle. Ages 3-6. 11:00 a.m. – noon. EP Senior Center – Room 201. \$32. #18601
- March 21** **Museum of Russian Art**
Take a day trip to the Museum of Russian Art in South Minneapolis and enjoy Russian food. 8:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m., leave from EP Senior Center. Transportation and lunch included. March 6 registration deadline. \$49. #18672

WORLD PREMIERE
The Eden Prairie Players Present

IT WASN'T MURDER?

February 17, 18, 24, 25 – 7:30 p.m.
February 26 – 2:00 pm

Eden Prairie High School Auditorium (north entrance)
17185 Valley View Rd.
\$10 at the door
\$8 Seniors/students
Tickets available at the door or in advance by calling 952-903-9464
Premier night on February 16 at 7:30 p.m. for \$5 at the door

After suffering from heart problems for months, Eleanor Rothberg died of a sudden heart attack. When the police sergeant stops by to inquire about her charity donation, her nosy neighbor, Mrs. Kingsley, assumes he's investigating a murder. When Mrs. Kingsley stops by with goodies to catch a glimpse of the "murder investigation," everyone brushes her off as being nosy. But then, someone mentions that the aunt's heart medication is missing and the sergeant begins to wonder what happened the night Mrs. Rothberg died.

Girls on the Run and Girls on Track

This national program is designed to educate girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

Girls on the Run ages 8-12
Girls in 3rd through 5th grade can learn about healthy exercise, good eating habits, positive self-image and teamwork through the Girls on the Run Program. The goal is for girls to run/walk a 5K as a team at the end of the session (no previous running experience is necessary).

March 20 – May 22 (Mondays/Wednesdays), 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
March 21 – May 23 (Tuesdays/Thursdays), 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
EP Community Center – Upper Lobby \$80

Girls on Track ages 12-14
Girls on Track uses the same model as Girls on the Run, but focuses more on issues important to middle school students. Some of the topics that will be addressed are healthy relationships, avoiding tobacco, drugs and alcohol, eating disorders and personal safety. This program also provides support to girls in their transition into teen years.

March 21 – May 23 (Tuesdays/Thursdays), 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
EP Community Center – Upper Lobby \$80

For more information, contact Beth DeGree at 952-949-8447.

ANNUAL ICE SHOW

Skate Love

in the name of Love

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

Swim Lessons

Sign up now for Spring swimming lessons which will begin on Saturday, March 4. Sessions are available for once a week on Saturdays or twice a week on Monday/Wednesdays. Session includes 8 classes, which will be held at the Community Center Pool (16700 Valley View Road).

\$42 (EPCC Member)
\$48 (non-member)

Visit www.edenprairie.org and click on "eConnect (Parks Registration)," "Programs" and "Aquatics" to learn the class schedule or to register.

Not sure which level of classes to sign up for?
Attend the free swimming level assessment. Saturday, February 25 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Community Center Pool

Contact Beth DeGree at 952-949-8447 for more information.

Flick-N-Float

Grab your favorite inflatable raft, inner tube or lifejacket and join us for some floating fun as we watch "Ice Age." Enjoy a rootbeer float once the floating fun is finished.

Parents and kids of all ages are welcome.

Saturday, February 25
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Community Center Pool
16700 Valley View Road

Children under the age of 7 must be accompanied by an adult. Pool opens at 6:15 pm and movie begins at 6:30 pm.
\$3 (pay at the door)

Eden Prairie Idol

Are you a high school or middle school student in Eden Prairie? Show off your singing skills to become the 2006 Eden Prairie Idol!

Auditions
Audition information is available in SLIC Room at EPHS for high school students and the Activities Office at CMS for middle school students.

High School auditions
Monday, March 6; 3:00-4:30 p.m.
EPHS Choir Room

Middle School auditions
Tuesday, March 7; 3:30-5:00 p.m.
CMS Choir Room

EP Idol Show – Round I
Monday, March 13
7 p.m. at EPHS Auditorium

EP Idol Show – Finale
Monday, March 20
7 p.m. at EPHS Auditorium

Audience admission to the shows is \$2 and includes a ballot to vote for your choice for the Eden Prairie Idol.

A SoulFire Event

Contact Nicole Weedman at 952-949-8456 for more information.

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

It's time to sign up for Men's, Women's and Co-Rec softball teams! Games are played at Round Lake Park and Riley Lake Park. Last summer, 165 teams competed in 16 different levels of play. Pick up an application form at City Center, 8080 Mitchell Road or edenprairie.org – go to Parks & Recreation – Adult Athletics – Softball.

13 games \$540/team
18 games \$695/team
23 games \$880/team

Registration deadline for "returning" teams: February 17, 2006
Registration deadline for new teams: March 10, 2006 or until full.

New Teams: A mandatory new team meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Center.

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.