

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



Avice Parker, floral designer, creates a colorful arrangement at Bachman's.



Colleen Bender and Tonia Chvala enjoy a bite to eat at Chipotle.



Jessicah Inman fills up with gas at BP.

FEBRUARY 2006

City Unveils New Web Site



The new City of Eden Prairie web site is designed to be more user friendly with new features and updated navigation

The City of Eden Prairie unveils a new web site! The new site is designed to be more user friendly for residents and visitors. The home page now gives you more options to choose from and the site is formatted so that users can find information in more than one place. There is now a "Quick Links" section on the right hand side of the page for items that are most often viewed. The City has also added an updated A to Z search function as well as easier access to Parks and Recreation information and registration. The home page is also where you will find information about upcoming meetings and fun activities. Check it out for yourself! www.edenprairie.org.

Senior Issues Report

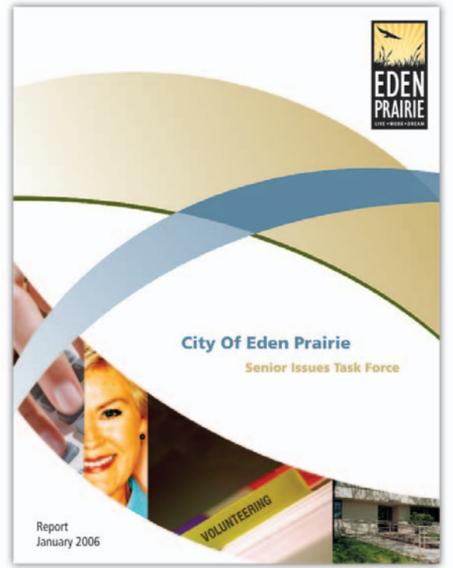
What is it like for senior citizens to live in Eden Prairie? The City works hard to make it a great place for seniors but wanted to find out for sure. The Senior Issues Task Force was formed to review a study of senior issues done back in 1996. The Task Force's goal was to find out how Eden Prairie has followed up on previous recommendations and to make new recommendations for the future.

The Task Force found that the senior citizen population grew dramatically over the years and so did the social service support systems. Eden Prairie was commended for its support of the Senior Outreach Program, Meals on Wheels and other services that help seniors

maintain dignity and independence.

Eden Prairie's Police Department was also noted for its job of communicating with seniors through seminars and safety presentations. And, Parks and Recreation was pointed out for the Senior Center facilities, programs, activities and staff leadership.

The report did outline two areas that need focus for the future. Those were transportation and information referral services. The report has been shared with the City Manager and City Council and now you can read it too. Just log on to the web site at www.edenprairie.org, click on "City Government" then "Special Reports."



City Commissions Open House

Tuesday, January 24
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
City Center
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie

Come and learn all about the seven Commissions in the City of Eden Prairie. It's your chance to meet Commissioners, learn what each group does for the City and how you can get involved. In 2006, the City is starting two new Commissions; The Conservation Commission and The Flying Cloud Airport Commission. You can apply for any of the Commissions by filling out an application. You can pick one up at City Center or look online at www.edenprairie.org. Click on "City Government" then "Boards and Commissions."

Survey of Eden Prairie Businesses Shows Mainly Positive Reactions

Take a look around your neighborhood. Do you see homes or businesses? It's likely that you're seeing both homes and businesses.

A recently completed survey of Eden Prairie businesses shows that nearly one in every four businesses, 24%, in Eden Prairie is operated from home.

The City's Economic Development division commissioned the study that talked with 400 businesses in Eden Prairie. This is the second survey of businesses that the City undertook; the first was done in 2002 and now serves as the baseline for this and future surveys.

Other key findings from the survey include:

- 75% of companies view the business climate in the City as somewhat or very positive.
- 70% of businesses in the City employ fewer than 10 full time employees.
- 47% of businesses surveyed have operated in Eden Prairie for more than 10 years.

"Improving communications with our business community is paramount to the City's economic development efforts," said David Lindahl, Manager of Economic Development. "We were very pleased to see that most businesses feel the City is doing a good job of communicating with them and that very few people had negative impressions of the City."

Those who took part in the survey identified location, low crime-rate, and the City being a great place to live and work as the top three reasons that their company has continued to stay or chose to locate in Eden Prairie. On the other side of the coin, traffic congestion, property taxes, and competition were identified as the three major issues facing businesses in the City.

The final report on the survey and a PowerPoint presentation given to the City Council are posted on www.edenprairie.org. Click on "City Government" and "Special Reports."

Rebate Program

It's a new year; time to do something different. How about changing that old toilet? What about getting a new dishwasher? It could turn into cash in your pocket! The City of Eden Prairie offers residents a rebate for a portion of the purchase of more water-efficient appliances or for replacing aging toilets (greater than 1.6 gallons in size). The rebate is \$100 for washers and dishwashers and \$50 for toilets.

For a list of which brands and models qualify for the rebate program, check out our website at www.edenprairie.org. You can also find information there on how to apply for a rebate. Money is limited and applications will be processed in order of receipt. All purchases MUST be made in calendar year 2006.

Blizzard Fanatic Becomes Apprentice



Eden Prairie Resident Jackie Preston submitted this photo of herself for the first stage of the Blizzard Apprentice contest.

You might call her behavior a bit fanatic. Twenty-year-old Jackie Preston is so obsessed with Blizzards® that she washes her hair with them, has pictures of them hung on her walls and even smothers her pancakes with them for breakfast. But don't laugh. Her obsession with Dairy Queen's creamy concoction landed her the title of "Blizzard Apprentice" and a pretty hefty prize package.

Preston, an Eden Prairie resident, first learned about Dairy Queen's Blizzard Apprentice contest by visiting the Blizzard Fan Club website. First, Preston submitted a 100-word essay describing her passion for the Blizzard and an accompanying photo displaying interaction with the Blizzard brand.

As a top-five finalist, she produced a three-minute video, "My Life Belongs to Blizzards." Her video entailed her using Blizzards as shampoo, dancing with a life-sized Blizzard and many other daily tasks showing her love for one of Dairy Queen's signature desserts. Blizzard fan club members then voted on their favorite video, which led to Preston being named the first-ever Blizzard Apprentice.

As the new Blizzard Apprentice, Preston receives a \$50,000 cash signing bonus, an appearance in a national Dairy Queen television commercial, trips to Hawaii and Los Angeles and a chance to help create new Dairy Queen Blizzard flavors. Being a creative person has never tasted so good!

Retirees Recognized

It was 1973, Richard Nixon was President and brave young soldiers were coming home from the war in Vietnam. Meanwhile, here in Eden Prairie, two young, brave men were embarking on their own adventure as volunteer firefighters. Chuck Shaitberger and John Hobbs were high school seniors and best friends when they joined the department. Now, 32 years later, the men are still best friends and still doing things together but this time they're retiring. They've fought countless fires, saved many people and witnessed the tragedy of death. The memories will last a lifetime and so will the bonds they formed with other members of Eden Prairie's Fire Department.



John Hobbs and Chuck Schaitberger retire together after 32 years of service to the Eden Prairie Fire Department.

Thank you Chuck and John for more than three decades of dedication and service to the community.

Become A Volunteer

Did you know that Eden Prairie's Fire Department is made up almost completely of volunteers? With just a few full-time employees the City relies heavily on people with the desire to help others. The City is adding a brand new fire station in 2006 and will need more firefighters to join the cause. Applicants must be at least 18-years-old and work or live within seven minutes of an Eden Prairie Fire Station. For more information visit our website at www.edenprairie.org or contact Human Resources at 952-949-8431.



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

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Creating Community

Through People, Parks and Programs

February 2006

Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation

Upcoming Events CALENDAR

JANUARY

- January 25** **Registration Deadline for Women's Volleyball Leagues**
Volleyball leagues begin in March. Call Lyndell Frey at 952-949-8438 to register.
- January 26** **Kid Smart**
A self-defense and safety training course for kids ages 5-12. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Community Center – Room C. \$36. Advance registration required. #18602
- January 26:** **Super Grover! Ready for Action**
Sesame Street Live performance and transportation. 9:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Leave from the Community Center. \$15. Register by January 24. 952-949-8456.
- January 28** **Cross Country Ski Clinic**
Learn how to cross country ski, equipment supplied. Ages 12 to adult. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Outdoor Center. \$25. Advance registration required. #18688

FEBRUARY

- February 1** **Registration Deadline for Men's Volleyball Leagues**
Volleyball leagues begin in March. Call Lyndell Frey at 952-949-8438 to register.
- February 3** **Coffee Concert Series**
Enjoy coffee and pastries while listening to Mozart's Prague Symphony at Wooddale Coffee Concert series. Leave from EP Senior Center. 9:00 a.m. – noon \$22. Registration deadline January 26. #18449
- February 4** **Create a Heritage Photo Album**
Preserve your photos and memories by creating a heritage album. 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. J.R. Cummins Homestead. \$12. Registration deadline January 31. #18767
- February 6** **Star Watch**
Learn some common constellations and peer through an 8-inch telescope. Ages 8 to adult. 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Center. \$5. Advance registration required. #18690
- February 6** **Needle Felted Embellishments**
Learn how to add decorations to purses, mittens, slippers, etc. Ages 16 to adult. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Outdoor Center. \$5. Advance registration required. #18693
- February 6** **Swimming Lessons Begin**
Monday/Wednesday evening winter swim lessons continues through March 1. Oak Point Pool. EPCC Members - \$42, non-members - \$48.
- February 10** **Line Dance**
Come to the Senior Center on Fridays from February 10 to April 7 to learn how to line dance. 11 a.m. – noon. \$40 for 9 week session. Advance registration required. #18440
- February 11** **Lifeguard Training**
After four Saturday classes from Feb 11-Mar 4, you'll develop the essential skills and certifications to be a lifeguard. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EP Community Center. EPCC Members - \$170, non-members - \$180.
- February 13** **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**
Draw, paint and collage scenes from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Two session class – Feb 13 and Feb 20. 11:00 a.m. – noon. EP Senior Center. \$32. Advance registration required. #18600
- February 14** **Adult Swimming Lessons**
Adult Beginner course and Adult Stroke course available. Four weeks of 40 minute lessons that meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Oak Point Pool. EPCC Members - \$47, non-members - \$52.
- February 15** **Fly Fishing in the Prairie Dome**
Meet from 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. for five Wednesdays to perfect your casting. Adults only. EP High School Prairie Dome. \$100. Advance registration required. #18674
- February 16** **Intro to Spanish**
Learn the basics of the Spanish language through this six week class. Meets Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from February 16 – March 23. EP Senior Center. \$2. #18448
- February 16** **Dog Sledding Trip**
Drive your own solo sled with a team of four to six Alaskan huskies in Northern Minnesota. February 16-20. Leave from Outdoor Center. \$1074 per person for a shared dog team. #18760
- February 20** **City Office and Senior Center Closed (President's Day) Community Center Open**
- 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. Advance registration required. #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. Advance registration required. #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. Advance registration required. #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, 16700 Valley View Road. \$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. Advance registration required. #18613
- February 28** **Trucks, Tractors & Trailers**
Crafts, songs and a tattoo for transportation fun! Ages 2-6 with adult. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EP Shopping Center, Basement Community Room. \$12. Advance registration required. #18477

Father & Daughter Sweetheart Dance

Get your dancin' shoes polished!
It's time for a special night out for fathers and daughters.
Event for girls 5 to 12 years old and dads or a significant male figure.

Night includes dinner, dancing and a special valentine for mom.



Friday, February 3
7:00 – 9:30 pm

EP City Center – Garden Room
8080 Mitchell Rd.
Register by January 27
\$20 per person
eConnect Registration #18606

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY



Fun for the Entire Family!

Bring your ice skates, sleds and snowshoes and enjoy a winter afternoon at Staring Lake Park!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
1 - 4 PM

FREE FAMILY EVENT

Refreshments will be provided and horse-drawn wagon rides will be available for \$3.

STARING LAKE PARK

Call the weather hotline at 952-949-8449x5 to learn if there is a weather-related cancellation.

14800 PIONEER TRAIL

Sponsored by the City of Eden Prairie and the Optimists Club of Eden Prairie

SCHOOL'S OUT! LET'S PLAY... GRADES 1-6

Fun things to do on your "no school" day.
Register in advance.

Monday, February 20

Planet Spirit Cheer Clinic

Learn cheers, chants, jumps and stunts. EP Shopping Center – Basement Community Room. \$25
Ages 5-15. 9:00 am – Noon #18603

Glitter Party Pizzazz

Come dressed in your funkiest fashions to get a makeover, hair up-do, sparkly nails and create a choker necklace. EP Shopping Center – Basement Community Room. \$20
Ages 5-12. 1:00 – 2:30 pm #18604

Sculpting with Modeling Clay

Use modeling clay to create a 3-dimensional sculpture. EP Senior Center Room 209. \$18
Ages 6-12. 1:30 – 3:00 pm #18612

For more information contact Nicole Weedman, Recreation Coordinator, at 952-949-8456 or nweedman@edenprairie.org

Snow Jam

Battle of The Bands

Get out of the cold and enjoy some hot music. High School students are invited to attend Snow Jam to enjoy the sounds of Eden Prairie Bands vs. Minnetonka Bands.

Friday, January 20
6:30 - 11:00 p.m.
Garden Room
8080 Mitchell Road
\$3 Admission Charge.



Concessions on Sale.
A Soulfire Event.

Questions?

Call Nicole Weedman at 952-949-8456.

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 Advance or at the door
\$8 Seniors/students

\$7 for groups of 10 or more; paid in advance before February 13 with arrangements made by calling 952-949-8441

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.

Eden Prairie Senior Center Valentine's Breakfast

Tuesday, February 14
9:30 am

Pax Christi Church (12100 Pioneer Trail)
Come out and enjoy a wonderful breakfast with friends. Homemade quiche, hot apple pancakes with syrup, sausage links, bacon, sweet breads with honey butter fresh fruit and beverages will be served. \$13.
Registration Deadline: Monday, February 6
Van transportation available, call 952-949-8475.
eConnect Registration #18811

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)

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.