

# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE



JULY 2005

## Severe Weather Preparedness



Summer thunderstorms roll above Scenic Heights Road

Summer can be the best or worst time for weather in the City of Eden Prairie. The peak season for storms that produce thunderstorms and tornadoes is May through July. The worst tornadoes in the history of the Twin Cities occurred forty years ago this summer, with five tornadoes sweeping across the 7-county region. The closest a tornado came to Eden Prairie was one that touched down in Chanhassen near Lake Susan. It was rated an F4 and was on the ground for seven miles.

To prepare for potential emergencies, Eden Prairie has an Emergency Operations Plan in place. The plan lays out specific staff responsibilities, resources and operating procedures for responding to all types of emergencies. Throughout the years, the plan has been used in response to natural disasters such as floods and ice storms. The plan has also been applied in manmade disasters including hazardous materials spills.

"We've had tornado warnings, the floods of '87, blizzards in the early '90s and who can forget that Halloween storm," recalls Fire Chief George Esbensen. "It's vital for the City to have this working plan in place so everyone in City government can effectively work with each other and respond to the community."

The Emergency Operations Plan focuses on four areas: planning, public education,

response and recovery. The Police, Fire and Public Works departments along with top City officials created and are responsible for carrying out the plan for severe weather preparedness.

"In the early stages of an emergency, we tell people the best option for keeping safe is self-reliance," says Esbensen. "For example, we encourage people to follow the standard instructions for severe weather safety including staying indoors, away from windows and monitoring weather reports."

The City of Eden Prairie has eleven outdoor warning sirens to alert residents in the event of an emergency. They are located in areas with high outdoor activity including parks and schools. The sirens are activated by Hennepin County during weather emergencies based on information from the National Weather Service.

"Although the sirens are very loud, they are designed to alert those people that are outside, and many City residents cannot hear the sirens inside their homes," says Esbensen. "We encourage people to always be alert, listen to the radio or television updates and talk to their families about their own emergency plans."

Ensuring a safe community depends on a joint effort between City resources and the people in the community. To learn more about severe weather preparedness in Eden Prairie, log on to [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org).

**"We've had tornado warnings, the floods of '87, blizzards in the early '90s and who can forget that Halloween storm..."**

### Turn on EPTV 16

Discover someplace special on *Life in the Prairie*. It's our new show all about Eden Prairie. See stories about Eden Prairie residents, businesses, history, and the environment.

Watch *Life in the Prairie* on EPTV 16:



**Monday:**

10 a.m., 2 p.m. & 11 p.m.

**Tuesday:**

10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.

**Wednesday:**

10 a.m., 2 p.m. & 11 p.m.

**Thursday:**

10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.

**Friday:**

10 a.m., 2 p.m. & 11 p.m.

**Saturday:**

12:30 p.m.

If you have a story idea for *Life in the Prairie*, send it to [communications@edenprairie.org](mailto:communications@edenprairie.org)

## City Liquor Stores Help Taxpayers

Eden Prairie municipal liquor stores help taxpayers pay a little less each year. Profits from the City's three liquor stores meant residents saved \$743,000 in 2004 alone.

Eden Prairie has had municipal liquor stores since 1977 when the Prairie Village Store, located next to what is now Kowalski's, opened. In 1992 the store near Rainbow Foods opened for business, followed five years later by the Den Road store across from Cub Foods.

In the last seven years, the stores have pumped some four million dollars in to the City's Capital Improvement Plan. The plan funds a variety of projects from playground equipment to road improvements.



City liquor stores generate more than \$8 million in sales annually

"Residents not only save themselves tax money when they shop our stores, they also are getting a good buy," says Mitch Dean, Manager of Liquor Store Operations for the City. "We regularly do price comparisons and have found that in the vast majority of instances, our prices are as good as, or better than, other liquor stores in the surrounding area."

The three stores carry a wide variety of wine, liquor and beer while also stressing quality customer service. The municipal liquor stores, as well as restaurants serving liquor, must pass regular compliance checks conducted by the police department to ensure that underage people are not sold to or served. The City's three liquor stores have all recently passed compliance checks, and the store's strict policy is to card anyone that appears 30 years-old or younger.

If you've been to the Hennepin County Library on Prairie Center Drive lately, you know it's buzzing with state-of-the-art activities.

It's sharply updated with state-of-the-art computers, library resources, conference rooms and the usual friendly faces.

In this day and age it takes only the click of a computer mouse to access a world of information. Because of this easy access, some forget about the library. But in Eden Prairie, the library has not only grown as a wealth of information but has increasingly become a community hub.

"A place like the library is kind of a downtown meeting place," says Friends of the Library President, Laura Langer. "The library is a place that people have a lot of attachment to, and they missed it while it was closed for renovation last year."

The library has a long list of activities everyday including children's reading time and adult book clubs.

Eden Prairie resident, Khadra Duale, makes weekly trips to the library.

## Library Creates Community Buzz



Eden Prairie Library 565 Prairie Center Drive

"I really don't know what I would do if I didn't have this library. If I didn't have this library, it would be too hard for me."

The library is still a quiet place, and that also seems to be why it's so inviting.

"One of the things that kind of

strikes me is that when people walk into a library, you can tell that their stress level goes down," says Jane Johnson, Executive Director, Library Foundation of Hennepin County.

To learn more about the library and its services, log on to [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) and click on residents and library.

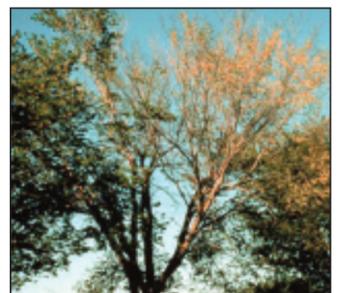
## Dutch Elm Disease Watch

Tree experts suggest Minnesota could lose another 10,000 elm trees this year in Minnesota. In Eden Prairie, City tree inspectors are out in full-force this summer, looking for signs of Dutch elm disease (DED) in residential and park areas. Elm bark beetles spread this fungal disease to healthy elm trees during their feeding activities. Once a tree is infected, it can infect other nearby trees through the root systems.

"This is seen as primarily an urban tree disease problem, and the City of Eden Prairie is working hard to preserve our trees as long as we can," says Stu Fox, Manager of Parks and Natural Resources. "Since 1977, we've aggressively tracked Dutch elm disease. Other cities that haven't taken the problem as seriously have lost their entire elm tree populations within 10 years."

Trees infected with DED first show a wilting and yellowing of leaves on one or more of the upper canopy branches. This is followed by a progressive dying of leaves, branches and, ultimately, the entire tree. These symptoms can occur rapidly, and trees often die within a few months of showing the initial infection symptoms.

Last year, the City tree inspectors marked 2,400 public and private property trees for removal because of DED. In prior years, the



Wilting upper canopy clear sign of Dutch elm disease

number of trees removed averaged around 1,000 per summer.

To address the growing problem, tree inspectors aggressively diagnose and identify infected trees throughout the summer. "When a diseased tree is identified, we mark it with a band of orange paint," says Fox. "Then we send an official notice to the property owner instructing them on the protocol to follow to properly remove and dispose of the tree."

**"It's crucial to not only identify infected trees, but also to dispose of them properly."**

It's crucial to not only identify infected trees, but also to dispose of them properly. Once the tree is dead, it becomes a breeding ground for future generations of Elm Bark Beetles that carry the disease.

If you have questions or want more information about Dutch elm disease, call the City's Forestry Department at 952-949-8463.

### 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

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# Just for the Fun of It!

A PUBLICATION OF THE EDEN PRAIRIE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Upcoming Events CALENDAR

### STARING LAKE CONCERT SERIES



Staring Lake Amphitheatre  
14800 Pioneer Trail  
Hotline: 952-949-8449 ext.5



Fridays • Noon  
Purgatory Creek Recreation Area  
13001 Technology Drive  
Hotline: 952-949-8449 ext. 5

### JUNE

- JUNE 17, 18, 19** "The Pajama Game" 7:00 p.m.
- JUNE 18** Twilight Special  
Blue Grass Night. 7:00 p.m. Pay at the door. \$5 adults, \$3 students and seniors. Riley-Jacques Barn, 9180 Riley Lake Road. 952-949-8450
- JUNE 21** Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade 11:00 a.m.
- JUNE 22** Swedish Mid-Summer Celebration with Ross Sutter and the Swedish duo Linnaea 7:00 p.m.
- JUNE 22** July 4 Adult Volleyball Tournament Deadline  
Register before June 22 for 4 or 6 player teams. Plays July 4 at 10:00 a.m. \$60 per team. 952-949-8438
- JUNE 24** Fridays at Purgatory Creek   
Guitar musician Andy LaCasse performs at Noon; Author and Eden Prairie resident Barb Greenberg speaks on her book "Hope Grew Around Me" at 1:00 p.m.
- JUNE 24, 25, 26** "The Pajama Game" 7:00 p.m.
- JUNE 28** Bob the Beachcomber 11:00 a.m.
- JUNE 29** The Rock'n Hollywoods 7:00 p.m.

### JULY

- JULY 1** Downtown Upswing 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 1** Fridays at Purgatory Creek  
Tricia & The Toonies  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
- JULY 3** Boyd Lee & Joe Cruz 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 4** July 4th Celebration  
Round Lake Park, 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- JULY 8** Fridays at Purgatory Creek  
Country/Folk entertainer Matt Wahl   
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
- JULY 5** Tune into Kids 11:00 a.m.
- JULY 6** Blue Drifters 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 8** Twin Cities Hot Club & Reynold Philipsek 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 10** Northern Gael 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 12** Two of a Kind 11:00 a.m.
- JULY 12** Garden Party  
Entertainment and Senior Center tours. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road. 952-949-8475
- JULY 13** Colt 45 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 14** La Danse Fatale 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 15** Medicine Show 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 15** Fridays at Purgatory Creek   
Jazz entertainer Reynold Philipsek  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
- JULY 16** Twilight Special  
Ma and Pa Kettle Night. 7:00 p.m. Pay at the door. \$5 adults, \$3 students and seniors. Riley-Jacques Barn, 9180 Riley Lake Road. 952-949-8450
- JULY 17** Meg Lawson 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 19** Wiggle Jiggle Jam Children's entertainment  
11:00 a.m.
- JULY 20** Eden Prairie String Academy 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 21** Beach Party  
Free Family Fun. 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Riley Lake Park, 9180 Riley Lake Road. 952-949-8450
- JULY 22** Axis Mundy 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 22** Fridays at Purgatory Creek   
Children's entertainer Ms. Catherine  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
- JULY 24** Teddy Bear Band 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 26** The AlphaBits 11:00 a.m.
- JULY 27** After 5 7:00 p.m.
- JULY 29** Fridays at Purgatory Creek   
Jazz entertainer Mary Hall  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
- JULY 31** Eden Prairie International Festival  
Celebrate World Cultures.  
3 - 8:30 p.m.; Staring Lake Park. 952-949-8450

## Garden Party

Tuesday, July 12  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Eden Prairie Senior Center  
8950 Eden Prairie Road

All are invited to a relaxing, musical evening.

- Stroll the Gardens
- Tour the Center - learn about the programs and services for you, a family member or friend
- Enjoy Refreshments
- Listen to the music of ensembles from the Eden Prairie Community Band



RSVP by July 5 to 952-949-8475

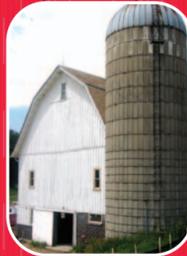
## Riley-Jacques Barn "Twilight Special"

Saturday, June 18  
7 - 9 p.m.  
Riley-Jacques Barn  
9096 Riley Lake Road

Saturday, June 18  
Blue Grass Night  
The Middle Spunk Creek Boys  
and Medicine Show

Saturday, July 16  
Ma & Pa Kettle Night  
Movie, Hollering  
& Pie Eating Contest

Emcee: Storyteller Bob Gasch



Admission at the Door:  
\$5 Adults \$3 Students & Seniors

Questions? Call Sandy Werts at 952-949-8450  
or swerts@edenprairie.org



## Fridays at Purgatory Creek

A series of noon concerts, speakers, & entertainers for adults and children.



Fridays • Noon

Purgatory Creek Recreation Area  
13001 Technology Drive  
Upcoming Entertainment

June 24

Andy LaCasse  
Guitar

1 p.m. Speaker,  
Barb Greenberg  
Author,  
"Hope Grew Round Me"

July 1

Tricia & The Toonies  
Children's Enviro-Fun Show

July 8

Matt Wahl  
Country/Folk

July 15

Reynold Philipsek  
Jazz

## Pavilion Rental

The Purgatory Creek Recreation Area Pavilion is available for rent on Sundays to Eden Prairie residents and businesses. The rental cost is \$120 for half day; \$180 for the full day. Contact Bob Lanzi at 952-949-8471

## BEACH PARTY



THURSDAY, JULY 21  
LAKE RILEY BEACH  
5 - 8 P.M.

Dance to the music of Bob and the Beachcombers. You'll hula hoop, limbo, twist and shout or vie for the contents of the pinata.

Contests and prizes for the best beach outfit and the weirdest sunglasses.



Parents and kids of all ages are welcome. Free Family Fun Concessions available. 952-949-8449 ext. 5 or www.edenprairie.org



RILEY LAKE PARK  
PUBLIC BEACH

Open through August 28  
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

## Fall Adult Athletics

### Softball

Leagues begin August 15 and continue through the end of September. Games will be played at Round Lake Park, Monday - Friday nights. Team fees range from \$275 (7 games) to \$460 (13 games). Register by July 22.



### 4-Man Touch Football

Touch football leagues are played at Miller Park on Wednesday nights mid-August through mid-October. \$180 per team. Register by July 15.



For registration information on Adult Leagues, contact Lyndell Frey at 952-949-8438 or lfrey@edenprairie.org

The dangers of a workplace romance are explored to hysterical effect in this romantic comedy.

Conditions at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory are anything but peaceful, as sparks fly between new superintendent Sid Sorokin and Babe Williams, leader of the Union Grievance Committee. Their stormy relationship comes to a head when the workers strike for a 7-1/2-cent pay increase, setting off not only conflict between management and labor, but a battle of the sexes as well.

The Prairie Players present



June 17, 18, 19 & 24, 25, 26  
7:00 p.m.

Staring Lake Amphitheatre  
14800 Pioneer Trail

Sign Language Interpretation  
provided on June 19

Classic musical comedy for the whole family. Free Will Donation accepted 952-949-8449 ext. 5 or www.edenprairie.org

## 'Home Town' Eden Prairie July 4 Celebration

Monday, July 4th  
7 a.m. until  
11:00 p.m.  
Round Lake Park

See the insert in the June 23 Eden Prairie News for details

DON'T MISS THE FUN!



## Celebrate World Cultures

EDEN PRAIRIE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The Eden Prairie International Festival is a FREE event for the whole family!

- Food • Kids Activities
- Dance • Arts
- Music • Exhibits



Featuring  
Cyril Paul  
& The Gypsy  
Monarchs  
7 pm

Sunday  
July 31, 2005  
3:00-8:30 p.m.

Staring Lake Amphitheatre  
14800 Pioneer Trail