

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



MAY 2005

Keeping Playgrounds Safe



Staring Lake Park is one of the most popular play areas in the city

Seasons change quickly in Minnesota and the City of Eden Prairie is on the job preparing parks for the busy summer play season ahead.

The City's Park Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Ernst, assigns two staff members to inspect the parks beginning in early April. Ernst and the park maintenance staff use a checklist provided by the Playground Institute. The list provides standard guidelines for inspections and how often inspections are needed for specific pieces of equipment.

Crews inspect all playground equipment, platforms, ramps, and railings for any signs of trouble.

"We're looking for anything that kids could get caught on and get hurt," explains Ernst. "Crews inspect everything down to the possible splinters kids could get."

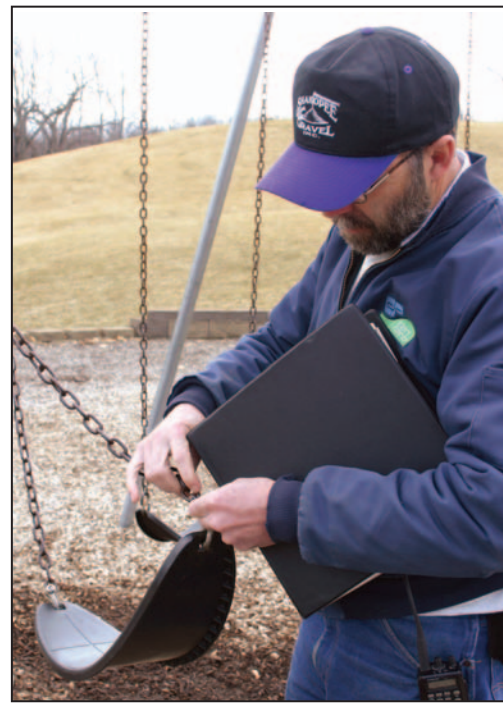
Wood chips and sand are added around the equipment at the beginning of the season and at times of high use. Parks maintenance staff also prepare ball

fields, sweep walking trails, maintain tennis courts, and clear all parks of garbage.

"At the beginning of the season we're out to the individual parks once a week," says Ernst. "Once it warms up we are pretty much in every park everyday through October, making sure equipment is working right."

Ernst has worked in the City of Eden Prairie for more than 30 years. During that time a lot has changed. "When I started we had about six parks, now we have 40," Ernst recalls. "We pride ourselves on safe parks and I think our staff does a great job."

Residents who want to report a park problem can call the Parks and Recreation Department at 952-949-8442 or go to www.edenprairie.org and click on "contact us".



Ernst inspects swings for tears in the rubber seat

Eden Prairie is Good Business

Eden Prairie's established business community has proven to be a great place to start and grow any kind of businesses. Now a new report shows just how successful larger company's are in the city. The Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal's Annual Top 100 Public Companies issue (March 25, 2005) shows Eden Prairie is home to 13 of the largest 100 public companies in the state.

The large public companies headquartered in Eden Prairie and their rankings are:

Supervalu (#6); C.H. Robinson (#15); ADC (#35); ValueVision (#44); MTS Systems (#57); Life Time Fitness (#61); Department 56 (#70); Digital River (#72) Famous Dave's (#80); Stellent (#81); CHS (#85); Fargo Electronics (#88); and Stratasys (#90).

The report's rankings also show just how competitive Eden Prairie is with other cities. The following list is a breakdown of the top five cities in the State and the number of large public companies each has:

Minneapolis	14
Eden Prairie	13
Bloomington	9
Minnetonka	8
Edina	5

Eden Prairie's exceptional business climate and reputation adds to the overall quality of life making the City a more vibrant place for everyone

Thrive 05: Improving Business



The Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce is holding its second annual business conference, this year themed Thrive 05, at the ITT Technical Institute on May 25, 2005.

Thrive 05 is a half-day event, running from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The conference features keynote speaker Stevie Ray. Ray owns an improv comedy company and adapts

his techniques to teach business executives communication and teamwork skills.

Breakout sessions will cover Legal, Financial, Human Resources, Marketing, Tax law and Technology issues. To register for Thrive 05, contact the Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce at 952-944-2830 or www.epchamber.org.

Dog Park Booming

The sounds and sights of dogs barking and running free has become the norm at the City of Eden Prairie's dog parks. The City currently has five sites where dog owners can let their animals off-leash to run loose and a new, larger facility is set to open later this year.

Four of the current off-leash areas are hockey rinks that are available for use from April through November. They are located at:

Crestwood Park Hockey Rink
- 9780 Dell Road

Edenvale Park Hockey Rink
- 7300 Edenvale Boulevard

Homeward Hills Park Hockey Rink
- 12000 Silverwood Drive

Nesbitt Preserve Park Hockey Rink
- 8641 Center Way

The City also has a two-acre fenced site across from the old Best Buy headquarters on Flying Cloud Drive. This off-leash dog park opened late last year and has been a

"To have bigger dogs you need to give them more space and suburban living doesn't always accommodate for that."

hit with dog owners. "We love Eden Prairie's parks," says dog owner Afton Nimira. "To have bigger dogs you need to give them more space



Anne Doeden and her dog Lexi

Eden Prairie Reads: Ordinary People

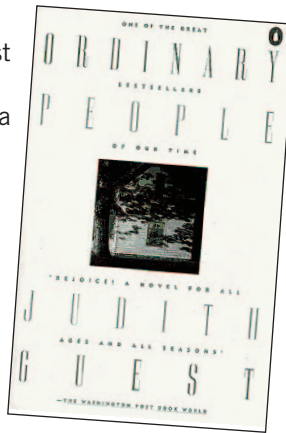
Members of the Eden Prairie Reads book committee have announced their new book selection *Ordinary People* by Judith Guest. This is the second selection from the group which last year chose *Neither Wolf nor Dog*, by Ken Nerbern. Nearly 1,500 people read the book, heard the author speak, and participated in the Eden Prairie Reads community discussion project.

Now the group encourages everyone to begin reading *Ordinary People* and take part in upcoming speaking and discussion events.

Ordinary People is a touching story about the Jarrett family. They seem to be the perfect family leading a perfect life. But perfection comes

at a price, and author Judith Guest brings the reader into a powerful story about strength, weakness and the American dream.

Watch upcoming editions of "Life in the Prairie" for announcements on book discussions and other public events supporting Eden Prairie Reads.



Lindsey Dignan with her dogs Toby and Macy

and suburban living doesn't always accommodate for that."

The City will open its largest off-leash dog park this summer on a nearly six acre site just north of the Cummins Grill House in Staring Lake Park. This new dog park will also have expanded cross country ski trails for use in the winter months. The City's Parks and Recreation Director, Bob Lambert says, "This new site will be much larger than what we have available today and will be fenced-in. We plan to have large gates installed to allow for cross country skiers to get through the area in the winter.

All of the dog parks in Eden Prairie are free to use and open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

2005 Firefighter of the Year

The City of Eden Prairie congratulates firefighter of the Year, John Wolfgram. John has been with the department 3 and a half years and has been a resident of Eden Prairie for 15 years.

"I'm honored that my peers have recognized me," says John Wolfgram. "Volunteering with the fire department is one of the most important things I've

done for myself and this community. I'm proud of my work and proud of our accomplishments as a department."

The Eden Prairie Fire Department is currently recruiting new volunteer firefighters. If you are interested in learning more about the recruiting process long onto www.edenprairie.org click on residents and fire department.



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
Joanna Hjelmeland
Communications Coordinator
The City of Eden Prairie
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-4485
952-949-8434
www.edenprairie.org

Just for the Fun of It!

A PUBLICATION OF THE EDEN PRAIRIE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Upcoming Events CALENDAR

APRIL

- APR. 23** **Animal Open House**
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Outdoor Center. Free family event. 952-949-8479
- APR. 23** **Kite Fest**
Free family event of kite exhibits and crafts. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Purgatory Creek Recreation Area. 952-949-8450
- APR. 25** **Beginner Golf Lessons**
Ages 8 to adult. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Round Lake Park Hockey Rink, 7550 Constitution Avenue. \$60 for five classes. Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 29** **Party Pizzazz with Snow White**
Ages 3 to 6 can play games and crafts with Snow White. Eden Prairie Shopping Center, Community Room from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. \$12 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 29** **I Just Felt Like It!**
Ages 8 to adult create felt. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Outdoor Center, 13765 Staring Lake Parkway. \$8 Advance registration required. 952-949-8479
- APR. 29 & 30** **"Let's Get the Party Started" Figure Skating Show**
7:00 p.m. performance. Community Center, 16700 Valley View Road. \$8 adult, \$4 Students & Seniors. Tickets on sale at Community Center beginning April 24.
- APR. 30** **USA Tennis 1-2-3**
Ages 7 - 16. 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. for six Saturdays. \$30 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 30** **Swimming Level Assessment**
Have your child assessed for the appropriate American Red Cross swimming lesson level by our certified staff. No registration necessary. Just show up and be ready to swim between 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Community Center Pool, 16700 Valley View Road. Free. 952-949-8447

MAY

- MAY 1-31** **May is Senior Awareness Month**
Join in on a variety of fun activities all month long. Contact the Senior Center at 952-949-8475 for a listing of events.
- MAY 1** **"Let's Get the Party Started" Figure Skating Show**
2:00 p.m. performance. Community Center, 16700 Valley View Road. \$8 adult, \$4 Students & Seniors. Tickets on sale at Community Center beginning April 24.
- MAY 5** **3 on 3 Open Basketball**
Outdoor 3 on 3 basketball at Round Lake Park begins on May 24. \$60 per 3 person team. Register team by May 5. 952-949-8438
- MAY 7** **Mommy & Me for Tea**
All little ones ages 3 - 8 are invited to attend a semiformal tea and fashion show. Bring your mom (or another adult). Cummins Homestead, 13600 Pioneer Trail. \$18 per person. Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- MAY 7** **Arbor Day Walk**
Free family event to celebrate Eden Prairie's designation as a "Tree City USA". 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Staring Lake Park, 14800 Pioneer Trail. 952-949-8463
- MAY 9, 16** **Leonardo Da Vinci**
Ages 3 to 6 can draw, color and paint trees and flowers. Meets two Mondays from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road. \$32 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- MAY 11** **Cinderella's Magical Ball**
Ages 3-1/2 to 6 can play games and crafts with Cinderella. Eden Prairie Shopping Center, Community Room from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. \$12 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- MAY 13** **Bloomin' Good Time**
Gardening class. Ages 8 to adult. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Outdoor Center, 13765 Staring Lake Parkway. \$5 Advance registration required. 952-949-8479
- MAY 13 & 14** **Community Band Garage Sale**
Fri: Noon - 5 p.m.; Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Homeward Hills Park Barn, 12000 Silverwood Drive. 952-912-0836
- MAY 14** **Wild Wild West**
Free family event of dancing, petting zoo, wagon and pony rides, games and entertainment. Riley-Jacques Barn, 9096 Riley Lake Road. 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. 952-949-8450
- MAY 14** **Amazing Garden Kick Off**
Family activity to work in the Children's Learning Garden. 10:00 a.m. - Noon. Outdoor Center, 13765 Staring Lake Parkway. Free. 952-949-8479.
- MAY 14** **Swimming Lessons**
Oak Point Saturday morning swimming lessons begin. \$40 EPCC members; \$46 non-EPCC members. Advance registration required. 952-949-8447
- MAY 20** **Party Pizzazz with Barbie**
Ages 3-1/2 to 6 can play games, dancing and crafts with Barbie. Bring your doll. Eden Prairie Shopping Center, Community Room from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. \$12 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- MAY 23** **Auditions for "The Glass Slipper"**
3 - 12 graders. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Riley Jacques Barn, 9096 Riley Lake Road. 952-470-6300
- MAY 23-27** **Science & Experiments for the Home Schoolers Camp**
New science topic every day. Ages 7-12. Outdoor Center, 13765 Staring Lake Parkway from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. \$75 Advance registration required. 952-949-8479
- MAY 24** **Senior Prom**
Dinner and live music for senior citizens. EP High School, 17185 Valley View Road. \$12 Advance registration required. 952-949-8475
- MAY 24** **Montgomery, MN Trip**
Day trip includes transportation, museum tour, lunch and musical entertainment. 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Leave from Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road. \$45 Advance registration required before May 9. 952-949-8475
- MAY 30** **Memorial Day**
All City buildings closed.
- MAY 31-JUNE 3** **The Amazing Stanley Animal Camp**
Stories, crafts hikes and hands-on animal visits every day. Ages 3-1/2 to 6. Outdoor Center, 13765 Staring Lake Parkway from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. \$75 Advance registration required. 952-949-8479

Adult Leagues

Doubles Bocce League

League play is on Tuesdays or Wednesday evenings at Staring Lake Park beginning June 1. \$35 per 2 person team. Register before May 13.



Horseshoe League

Games are played on Tuesday evenings at Staring Lake Park beginning May 24. \$30 per person. Register before May 13.



3 on 3 Open Basketball

Outdoor 3 on 3 basketball will be played at Round Lake Park on Tuesday evenings, with six weeks of league play and two weeks of playoffs. Two separate divisions (upper-competitive and lower recreational) will be offered. \$60 per 3 person team. Register before May 5.

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



Kite Fest
FREE Family Event
Saturday, April 23 • 1 - 4 p.m.
Purgatory Creek Recreation Area
Technology Drive & Prairie Center Drive
The Minnesota Kite Society will dazzle you with their high-flying kites.

- Learn about Different Types of Kites
- How to Fly a Kite
- Make Your Own Kite at the Workshop (\$3)
- Bring Your Favorite Kite to Fly

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

Skateboarding Camp • Lake Riley Day Camp • Soccer Camp • Lacrosse Camp
Skyhawks Sports Camps • Golf Lessons • Tennis Lessons • Playground Camps
Art Programs and Art Camps • Safety Camp • Twins Game Trip • Drama Camps
In-Line Skating Programs • Archery Lessons and Archery Leagues

Come Out and Play - It's Summer Camp Time!

Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation offers numerous summer youth programs and camps for ages 3 and up. Register today for summer fun!

For more information on camp programs call 952-949-8470 or visit www.edenprairie.org

Programs offered through the Parks and Recreation Department are available to people with disabilities.

Senior Awareness Month
The Heart of Our Community

Celebrate with activities especially for seniors during the month of May.

For a detailed listing of events, call 952-949-8475 or visit www.edenprairie.org

WILD WILD WEST

Saturday, May 14 • 4 - 8 p.m.
Riley-Jacques Farmstead
9096 Riley Lake Road

FREE Family Event

Bring your friends and family for a fun evening at the Riley-Jacques farmstead.

Take part in or just have fun watching:

- Line Dancing
- Square Dancing
- Petting Zoo
- Storytelling
- Pony Rides (\$3)
- Wagon Rides (\$3)
- Kids Games
- Musical Entertainment by Pop Wagner & Friends
- Home Depot Kids Workshop
- Concessions

Y'all are sure to have a rootn' tootn' good time!
Questions? Call 952-949-8450

ARBOR DAY WALK

Saturday, May 7
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
(walk at your convenience)
Staring Lake Park
14800 Pioneer Trail



Bring the entire family and celebrate Eden Prairie's designation as a "Tree City USA" while enjoying a scenic walk around Staring Lake.

- 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.



Spring Run for Fun 5K Race



Saturday, May 21
9:00 am
Round Lake Park

A healthy event for the entire family. Begin at Round Lake Park and run or walk the trails of Eden Prairie.

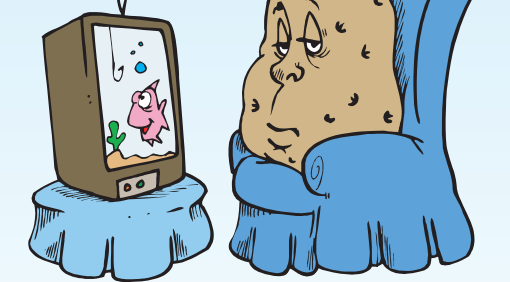
\$20 (ages 13 - adult)
\$12 (ages 8 - 12)

Participants will receive a t-shirt, race packet and information. 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 the "Girls on the Run", a program educating and preparing girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

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

Attention All Couch Potatoes



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 Fitness Center (14 & up), Community Center and Oak Point pools, racquetball, ice skating, and discounted rates for fitness classes, swimming and skating lessons.



Eden Prairie Community Center
16700 Valley View Road

	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 (62 & up)	\$40	\$110	\$50	\$140
Senior Household (62 & up)	\$45	\$130	\$60	\$170

* Free membership month applies to new members only. Restrictions may apply. Offer expires May 31, 2005

Reasonable Rates • Weights • Elliptical Machines • Treadmills • Open Skate • Lap Swim • Open Swim • Lap Swim • Open Skate • Cardio Theatre • Discounted Programs • Silver Sneakers • Water Fitness • Stairmasters • Bikes • Stairmasters • Open Swim • Lap Swim • Open Skate • Cardio Theatre • Discounted Programs • Silver Sneakers • Water Fitness