

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

Travis and his son Cole at play.



Justin tops off his lunch with a funnel cake.

Kyler sledding at Staring Lake Park.



APRIL 2005

International Spotlight on Eden Prairie Blogger

The City of Eden Prairie's most dedicated and outspoken blogger has just returned from a nine-day, 16 stop trip sharing his knowledge overseas. City Manager Scott Neal has maintained a weblog on www.edenprairie.org for the past two years. Neal writes about issues in front of the City Council, the State Legislature and lighter topics crossing his mind.

"I'm an absolute believer that you should be as open and frank with Council, citizens, and employees as possible," says Neal. "I always speak to whatever is happening in my life and my job, and it has allowed people to get to know me better."

Neal left for the United Kingdom in late-February to teach his counterparts



Neal looking at the Bush House Headquarters of the BBC Worldservice in central London.

they were interested in learning more.

"We were able to talk about civic leadership and demonstrate to our counterparts the usefulness of keeping a weblog," says Neal. "I think Eden Prairie is at the forefront in a technological revolution for community relationship building."

While in London, Neal practiced what he preached by keeping a meticulous weblog covering everything from his meeting at Parliament to an English soccer game to the delight of English cuisine. Neal says he plans to stay in touch with his English counterparts to see how their weblogs progress.

Log on to www.edenprairie.org to read Scott Neal's daily blog and to see pictures from his UK trip.

how to utilize their own weblogs. Neal was accompanied by, Griff Wigley, a weblog consultant from Northfield. The all expense paid trip was sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister through The National e-Democracy Project.

"Voter participation in the UK is down sharply and officials there are concerned about people feeling alienated," explains Neal. "The thought is that blogging may help reconnect the people with the spirit of democracy and their government."

Neal's trip to the United Kingdom included several presentations to local governments and to Parliament. Neal says some officials are already blogging in the UK, but



Neal giving the Eden Prairie Key to the City to The Honorable David Noyes, Wychavon Council Chairman in rural Worcestershire.

Filling The Gap

The Eden Prairie Streets Division is gearing up for an important project, pothole repair. Patching up and filling these troublesome holes is the first in a series of projects the Streets Division works on in the spring and summer.

Beginning with fixing potholes in March, the Streets Division then sweeps all 222 miles of City roads in April. In May, crews prep for resurfacing of streets, and finally select roads are seal coated in July. All of this is done to extend the life of the roads and improve their overall condition.



Tom Tesch, Manager of Street Maintenance for the City explains, "Potholes are formed during the annual freeze-thaw cycle. And City streets are most susceptible to potholes this time of year."

To counter the problem, Eden Prairie has proactive approach to addressing potholes. "We know that potholes affect road conditions, traffic and can damage vehicles. It's our job to stay on top of them and ensure all our roads are maintained properly year round," said Tesch.

If you have any questions, or to report a pothole, call the City's Streets Division call 952-949-8533.

BBQ Hot Spots

Insiders guide gives Eden Prairie high marks

Who would have thought that Eden Prairie is a veritable hot spot for Barbeque in the Twin Cities? *Mpls St Paul Magazine's* recent Insider's Guide to BBQ recently ranked the top ten local barbeques and three have Eden Prairie connections.

The overall best BBQ, according to Andrew Zimmern and Adam Platt, is at Redstone American Grill which is located just east of the Marketcenter Water Tower in Eden Prairie. Redstone is given high marks for its exacting standards and consistent quality.



Redstone opened in June of 2002 making Eden Prairie it's second Minnesota location.

That part of the city is apparently good BBQ territory as number six on the list is Baker's Ribs. Located on Glen Lane, just a little south of Redstone, this is the only location outside of Texas for this six-unit, family-run BBQ restaurant. The



Baker's Ribs owner, Al Killion, is celebrating 10 years of business in Eden Prairie.

spareribs, sausage links and sauce are named as the best choices.

Number eight on the list is Famous Dave's. No, there is not a Famous Dave's in Eden Prairie, but the headquarters for the company is located in the City. Famous Dave's BBQ is noted for its St. Louis-style spareribs.

So the next time you have a craving for some good BBQ, know that you don't have to go to Kansas City, Memphis or Texas to enjoy these delicacies.



Time to Donate Food



Volunteers work to sort, stock, and hand out food everyday at PROP.

Now is an important time of year to donate food to the People Reaching Out to Other People food shelf located in Eden Prairie City Center. March is Minnesota FoodShare month and PROP is participating in the annual statewide campaign to help Eden Prairie families in need.

PROP welcomes donations of nonperishable food items, paper products and personal care items. PROP especially has a need for canned fruit, jams and saltine crackers.

PROP Donation Hours:
Weekdays 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday evenings 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

PROP hands out grocery and personal care items to an average of 700 individuals per month. More than half of the people receiving items from the food shelf are children living in Eden Prairie.

Seasonal Workers Wanted

Spring is just around the corner and the City of Eden Prairie is working to get prepared for a busy season of activities.

The City is currently hiring for seasonal jobs ranging from Park Rangers to Street Crews to Recreation Instructors and Life Guards. The City plans to hire approximately 175 people for the various seasonal positions.

The City is looking for potential employees who display an enthusiastic attitude, strong work ethic and overall excellence in their area of work. The pay ranges from \$8-\$12.75 per hour.

Interested applicants can read full job descriptions and download part-time/seasonal applications online at www.edenprairie.org by clicking on "Government" and then clicking on "Jobs at the City".

City Council on Location

The Eden Prairie City Council is taking its business out of the City Council Chambers and into the city. On Tuesday, April 12 the Council will hold its regular meeting at the Eden Prairie Library.

One of the reasons for moving the Council meeting out of City Center is to bring Councilmembers out into the public. On this particular day, the Hennepin County Board will meet with City officials during the workshop portion of the meeting. Since the Eden Prairie Library is a part of the Hennepin County Library System, it is the perfect spot for this first on location Council meeting.

In October, the Council is planning to hold one meeting at Riley Jacques Barn located in Riley Lake Park.

The Council meetings that take place at these sites are not broadcast live, but are videotaped for later playback.



From left: Councilmember Brad Aho, Councilmember Philip Young, Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Councilmember Sherry Butcher, and Councilmember Ron Case

Correction: In the March 2005 Life in the Prairie, the owner of Chico's, Danna Atherton's name was misspelled in the story "Eden Prairie Center Update."

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

Tanya Whitsitt
Communications Assistant

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

MARCH

- MAR. 22** **Basic Computer Concepts**
Adult/Senior computer basics.
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays
for three weeks. Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road.
\$40 Advance registration required. 952-949-8475
- MAR. 26** **Tahitian Treat**
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Community Center.
\$3 at the door. 952-949-8470
- MAR. 26** **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 Noon - 1:30 p.m. at Oak Point Pool,
13400 Staring Lake Parkway. Free. 952-949-8447
- MAR. 31** **Disney on Ice "Toy Story 2"**
Tickets and transportation to Target Center. Leave from
Community Center, 16700 Valley View Road at 9:15 a.m.,
return at 1:00 p.m.
\$20 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456

APRIL

- APR. 1 & 2** **Murder at the Banquet**
7:00 p.m. J.R. Cummins Homestead.
\$33 Advance registration required. 952-949-8450
- APR. 1** **Spring Break Program**
Ages 6 - 12 go bowling, swimming and have pizza lunch.
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Community Center, 16700 Valley View Road.
\$38 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 4** **The Ocean Reef**
Ages 3 to 6 can draw, color and paint with an ocean
theme. Meets two Mondays from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road.
\$32 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 4** **Spring Break Program**
Ages 6 - 13 go bowling, swimming and have pizza lunch.
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Community Center, 16700 Valley View Road.
\$18 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 4-8** **Painting Studio**
Ages 6 - 9 learn painting styles.
Meets Monday - Friday from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road.
\$89 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 4** **Introduction to Spanish**
Adult/Senior Spanish basics.
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Mondays for six weeks.
Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road.
\$2 Advance registration required. 952-949-8475
- APR. 5** **Spring Break Program**
All ages enjoy sub sandwich lunch and movie.
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Community Center, 16700 Valley View Road.
\$8 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 6** **Spring Break Program**
Ages 6 - 13 go swimming at Grand Rios Water Park.
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Leave from Community Center, 16700 Valley View Road.
\$38 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 6** **Hilary Duff Glitter Party**
Ages 5 to 12 get a makeover with hair, nails and a
"tattoo". Eden Prairie Shopping Center,
Community Room from 10:30 a.m. - noon.
\$20 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 7** **Weirder Than You Ever Imagined**
Ages 5 to 9 Science Explorers class.
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road.
\$22 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 7** **Science & Experiments for Home Schoolers**
Ages 7 - 12 hands-on experiments offered each
Thursday. 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. \$15 per day.
Outdoor Center, 13765 Staring Lake Parkway.
Advance registration required. 952-949-8479
- APR. 7-10** **Murder at the Banquet**
7:00 p.m. J.R. Cummins Homestead.
\$33 Advance registration required. 952-949-8450
- APR. 11 & 12** **Auditions**
Ages 15 to adult open audition for the Eden Prairie
Player's musical "The Pajama Game"
7:00 p.m. Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road 952-949-8450
- APR. 13** **Musikgarten Family Music**
Infant to age 3 making music with an adult.
Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road
at 9:30, 10:30 or 11:30 a.m. for 8 Wednesdays.
\$110 Advance registration required. 952-949-8456
- APR. 16** **Home Depot - Builder's Day**
Grandparents and their grandchild can build a craft to
take home. Free event, but space is limited, so register
adult and child in advance.
10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., Noon, or 1:00 p.m.
Senior Center Woodshop, 8950 Eden Prairie Road.
952-949-8475
- APR. 16** **Park Clean Up Day**
8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Contact Jeff Cordes at 952-949-8463.
- APR. 23** **Kite Fest**
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Purgatory Creek Recreation Area.
952-949-8450
- APR. 23** **Animal Open House**
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Outdoor Center.
Free family event. 952-949-8479
- 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 & 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. 2:00 p.m. show on Sunday, May 1.

Tahitian Treat

**Saturday, March 26
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Eden Prairie
Community Center**

Don your beach wear, and come to the Community Center for some South Seas fun. Bring your mask, snorkel and fins for the treasure hunt. Enter the Best Dressed Beach Wear contest. Dance to the music of Bob the Beachcomber. There will be open swim, open skate with free skate rental, games and entertainment. Parents and Kids of all ages are welcome. Children under 7 must be accompanied by a parent. \$3 (pay at the door)

SUMMER playgrounds

Arts & crafts, games, songs, story time, music, science, nature, fine and gross motor activities and much more are offered at the Summer Playground Program. Kids age 3-12 can sign up for a week of morning, afternoon or all day fun! Snack, t-shirt and supervision is provided, along with optional swim trips. The playground program is held at: Crestwood, Homeward Hills, Prairie View and Miller Parks. For more information call 952-949-8456.

Week long programs
between June 20 - August 12

\$28 per week:
9:00 am - noon OR 1:00 - 4:00 pm

\$56 per week:
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Eden Prairie Players Present

Murder at the Banquet

Be a guest of the International Association of Mystery Solvers at their first annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, where the first Hall of Fame Inductee is named. The mood of the festive evening changes as the lights go out and one of the guests of honor is found dead. This light hearted and humorous send-up of famous detectives, dishes out a bounty of wise cracks seasoned with physical comedy. The play will be held at the Cummins-Grill Homestead at 13600 Pioneer Trail in Eden Prairie. The evening begins at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner and dessert served during the play. Registration Deadline - March 25. **Fee: \$33**

Max. - 20, Min. - 16

Friday, April 1	#16825
Saturday, April 2	#16826
Thursday, April 7	#16827
Friday, April 8 (Sold Out)	#16828
Saturday, April 9 (Sold Out)	#16829
Sunday, April 10	#17881

Kite Fest

Saturday, April 23 • 1 - 3 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.

FREE Family Event

Sand Volleyball Leagues

Twelve weeks of officiated play at Riley Lake Park and Round Lake Park. Registration Deadline: May 3.

Open 4's League Tuesday nights beginning May 31. 16 teams at upper and intermediate divisions. \$285 per team.	Co-Rec 6's League Monday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings. Three divisions. \$275 per team.
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For more information contact
Lyndell Frey at 952-949-8438 or lfrey@edenprairie.org

Parks & Recreation Brochure

Eden Prairie residents will receive in the mail the Parks & Recreation Spring/Summer 2005 Brochure the week of March 14. Copies are also available at the Community Center, Senior Center and at City Center. Registration for camps, classes, trips, lessons, and programs begins March 22.

ANIMAL OPEN HOUSE

A day of furry (and not so furry) fun!!

**Saturday, April 23
1 - 4 pm
Staring Lake Outdoor Center**

FREE Family Event

Let's celebrate our animals. We will be overflowing with all kinds of animals. Bring your family and your family pet to the Outdoor Center for some four legged fun.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Youth Instructors
Do you have a special talent or skill that others would want to learn? Summer instructors and youth leadership positions are available. Contact Nicole Weedman at 952-949-8456 or nweedman@edenprairie.org.

Park Attendants
Monitor boat traffic, meet rental groups, and assist with special events at Riley Lake and Miller Park. Contact Lyndell Frey at 952-949-8438 or lfrey@edenprairie.org.

Softball & Volleyball Officials
Make some money while enjoying your favorite sports. Adult evening games. Training is provided. Contact Lyndell Frey at 952-949-8438 or lfrey@edenprairie.org.

Seasonal Park Maintenance
Full-time employment from April - October. Download an application at www.edenprairie.org and submit to Human Resources Department

Park Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 16 • 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

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.

FOR:

- Service Organizations
- Youth Organizations
- Neighborhood Groups
- Individuals

REGISTRATION IS EASY!

There are four easy ways to register: 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.