

The Release from the East

City Offices Closed:

- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 25 – Thanksgiving
- November 26 – Thanksgiving
- December 24 – Christmas Eve
- December 31 – New Years Eve

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VOTE: November 2, 2010

By Michelle French

The General Election will be held on **November 2, 2010**. Polls will open at **7:00 am** and close at **8:00 pm**.

Polling Places are as follows:

Ward 1: East Grand Forks Senior Center, 538 Rhinehart Dr. SE

Ward 2: City Hall, 600 DeMers Ave.

Ward 3 & 4: Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1515 5th Ave. NW

Ward 5: Good Samaritan Heritage Grove, 2122 River Rd NW

The City has three Council Members up for Election this year - Ward 2, Ward 4, and At-Large.

Dick Grassel is the incumbent for Ward 2. He currently serves as Council President.

Henry Tweten is the incumbent for Ward 4. He is currently the Council Vice-President.

Greg Leigh is the incumbent for the at-large position.

If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, please contact the County Auditors office at

(218)281-2554 or pick up an Absentee Ballot Application at the East Grand Forks City Hall Administration Office.

The City of East Grand Forks would like to thank all of our Election Judges for all their help.



City Adopts Proposed 2011 Budget

By Scott Huizenga

The City Council adopted the Proposed FY 2011 Budget and Preliminary Levy by unanimous vote on September 7. The General Fund expenditures are proposed to be nearly identical to the 2009 and 2010 levels at just over \$8.2 million. The General Fund is primarily supported by property taxes, state aid, and utility franchise fees.

Property Taxes and State Aid

The City Council adopted a preliminary tax levy

increase of 10 percent despite no expenditure increase. The tax levy is necessary to offset continued cuts from the state in the form of Local Government Aid (LGA). The State of Minnesota has cut LGA funding three times since December 2008 by over \$1.1 million. Further, the state is projecting a deficit of \$5.8 billion for 2011 as of the time of this writing.

Rescue Unit Fee

One effort to save basic services is the recently-approved \$5 per month household fee for rescue unit services. The East Grand Forks Fire Department serves as the City's first responder for medical emergencies. Most cities of our size have local ambulance authorities that support this function. Ambulance Districts receive funding through a combination of insurance reimbursements, fees, and

Continued on Page 10

City Council Action

By Michelle French

Highlights from July through September City Council Meetings include the following:

Liquor License transfer from Whitey's Café to HRG LLC—dba: Whitey's Steak and Seafood.

Adopted Resolution No. 10-08-81 to support the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)

Approved a purchase for playground equipment to be placed at the Red River State Recreation Area.

Adopted Resolution No. 10-08-85 to request the

US Army Corps of Engineers to extend the time frame of public comment in regard to the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Diversion.

Adopted Resolution No. 10-08-88 to enter into an agreement with BNSF Railway Company and the Commission of Transportation for the installation and maintenance of railroad crossing signals at the intersection of Central Avenue.

Rejected the bids for the Safe Routes to School and rebid the project in the Spring of 2011.

Adopted Resolution No. 10-09-92 to add a \$5 Rescue Unit Fee to all utility bill customers effective January 1, 2011.

Adopted Resolution No. 10-09-94 approving the 2010 tax levy collectable in 2011 for a total amount of \$3,075,679 and set the Truth and Taxation Hearings for December 7th at 7 pm with a continuance hearing December 21, 2010 at 7 pm.

Adopted Resolution No. 10-09-95 to approve the 2011 preliminary budget.

Adopted Ordinance No. 312 3rd Series regarding

Residential Accessory Buildings.

Adopted Ordinance No. 313 3rd Series regarding sidewalks in all new subdivisions in the City.

All agendas, minutes, packets, and memos are available on the City Website.

For full readings of the ordinances and resolutions, please contact the City Administration office.



It's Harvest Time: Please Slow Down!

By Chief Hedlund

The East Grand Forks Police Department would like to remind everyone that as the Fall Harvest progresses it is important to drive with extra caution.

Fall brings with it a number of unexpected road hazards. Potato and beet trucks create extra traffic throughout the day and will at times have some of their load spill onto the roadways. These

spills can cause very dangerous conditions and drivers should be alert for any object in the roadway. In addition with Fall, we have the first frosty and icy roads of the season.

Early morning commutes can grow very hazardous if drivers are not paying attention to the road conditions.

Plan ahead and leave a few minutes early. Help us keep you safe this Fall!



CITY CONTACTS

CITY COUNCIL

Lynn Stauss, Mayor	773-2775
Marc DeMers, Ward 1.....	773-2193
Dick Grassel, Ward 2	773-9326
Craig Buckalew, Ward 3	773-8304
Henry Tweten, Ward 4.....	773-2990
Wayne Gregoire, Ward 5.....	773-8196
Greg Leigh, At Large.....	773-9494
Mike Pokrzywinski, At Large.....	773-8839

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Administration/Finance	773-2483
Building Official	773-2208
Campbell Library	773-9121
EDHA	773-2371
Fire Department.....	773-2403
Parks & Rec	773-8000
Planning & Zoning	773-0124
Police Department.....	773-1104
Public Works.....	773-1313
Senior Center.....	773-0821
Water & Light	773-1163

Calendar Parking/Street Maintenance Parking

By Chief Hedlund



on, there is no on-street parking from 7:30 A.M. until Noon either Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday.

A new ordinance is being considered that would change this system to a "Street Maintenance" parking ordinance that would be in effect year round. The new ordinance would ban parking in any given neighborhood on only one day per week, matching up with the street sweeping schedule that is currently being used by the Public Works Department. The proposed ordinance

should be easier for residents to remember, will be able to be more effectively enforced by the Police Department and will aid in more effective street

sweeping/maintenance on a year-round basis.

Snow emergencies would remain as they were under the old ordinance. A snow emergency is automatically declared anytime the city receives more than two inches of snow. Under a snow emergency there is no parking allowed on any city street until that street has been plowed to its full width.

Currently the City of East Grand Forks is using a "Calendar parking" ordinance that is in effect from November 15-March 15. This ordinance is primarily intended to assist the Public Works Department as they attempt to maintain our roadways during the winter months. Depending on the street that you live

The East Grand Forks City Council will be considering the enactment of this new ordinance in the near future. Complete details of the new ordinance will be made available at that time.



Project Updates

By John Wachter

Gowan Construction has been awarded the contract to increase pumping capacity at both the L8 (871 James Ave SE) and K1 (Valley Golf) storm lift stations. Additional pumps will be added to each lift station. Also, two gate shafts at the L8 storm lift station will be repaired. Construction on both projects is expected to start in October 2010 and be completed in November 2010.

The road repair to James Avenue is currently in the bidding process and should be awarded in October. James Avenue was damaged during the levee stabilization project.

Flood wall sill plate replacement and repair is in the bidding process. This should be awarded in October. Work on this project will begin this year. Be prepared for road construction delays throughout the city during the project.

Residential Fall Clean-up

October 4th -8th

On your regular Scheduled Pickup Day

Hazardous Waste & Electronic Drop Off

October 9th

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

at the Public Works Department
(1001 2nd St. NE)



BECOME A FAN!

Keep up to date on City news and events on Facebook at www.facebook.com

Winter Survival

By Chief Hedlund

As we all know, the winter weather in this region can be extremely harsh. When the weather turns bad and road conditions are questionable (or worse!!) the best decision is just to stay home. Unfortunately sometimes we are caught in bad situations and a winter survival kit that you can keep in your car can save your life or that of a loved one.



Plan now and put together a winter survival kit for each vehicle you own. Be ready for that problem situation before it happens!

*You should carry a cell phone with you any time you travel but this is especially important in winter. Plan ahead and let family and friends know when you will be traveling, the route you intend to take and when you expect to arrive.

*One of the most important items you can have in your vehicle is a small shovel to help dig out if you get stuck.

*Use an old coffee can to

store emergency supplies such as matches, candles, non-perishable food items (hot chocolate and cup-a-soup packets can provide good energy when mixed with melted snow – use the can to melt the snow in), extra hat, gloves and socks, a space blanket and a small flashlight (with batteries stored separately). Other items might include colored ribbon to tie to your antenna to aid searchers, emergency heat sources such as Sterno cans and a small first aid kit.

*In your trunk or the back of your vehicle carry sleeping bags or blankets, insulated clothes and boots. Before you travel, make

sure your vehicle is ready. Keep your gas tank full, have a tool kit in your vehicle, make sure your spare tire is in good shape and that you have a jack and know how to use it).

The best winter survival plan is to stay home when the weather is bad but if you have to travel during poor conditions make sure that you and your vehicle are ready for the worst.



Contact Campbell Online

By Charlotte Helgeson

Reserve a book at the Campbell Library without leaving your home. Of course, you can call 218-773-9121 and have a friendly chat during open hours if you aren't certain of the name of the material. But if the wind is howling, respectable hours for calling have passed and you want to make sure you're on the list for that great book you heard about at work, go to <http://campbell.lib.mn.us> or you can follow the city trail from <http://library.egf.mn> to

the Online Catalog. Tada.

All you need is your library number and your last name to check your User Status. From there you can browse for a title, subject or author. Reserve that great recommendation or perhaps just gather titles in your bookbag for later.

If you check your status and find that you have materials that need to be renewed, drop us a line at

campbell_library@eastgrandforks.net. We'll renew it on the next work day. As long as you're sending a message, let us know what you'd like to see at the library—titles, programs or a new service. Don't miss checking on the calendar of events.

Kay Stone from the Manitoba Storytelling Guild will present a workshop October 11 for adults. Call or email and register, the roster is half full already. **"Art on the Prairie"** exhibit will open

October 25. Don't forget your short story entry, deadline October 20 by 8 p.m. Details are online at <http://library.egf.mn>.

If you're up with a little one in the middle of the night, call our **Dial-a-Story 218-299-3435** and let one of our Readers Theatre talents entertain while you rest. There are five different stories available all the time. And put **Santa** on your calendar for December 9 at 5 p.m. Stop by the Campbell Library and visit, either online or in person.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

HOME AND GARDEN

Yard waste and household toxics such as paints, solvents, and pesticides often make their way into the East Grand Forks storm sewer system and **DO NOT GET TREATED** before reaching the local waterways. These wastes pollute drinking water and make waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.

The following practices will help prevent storm water pollution.

In Your Home

Household products such as paints, paint thinners, drain openers, motor oil, wood polishes, insecticides and herbicides, oven cleaners,

and many other general cleaners frequently get dumped on the ground or into a gutter or street or storm sewer. Instead of polluting our storm waters, take these items to a household hazardous waste collection facility.

Fertilizers and Pesticides

Fertilizers and pesticides are often carried into our storm sewers by sprinkler runoff. To minimize storm water pollution, use organic or nontoxic pesticides and fertilizers as directed, and keep them away from ditches, gutters, and storm sewers. Store them in a covered area off the ground to prevent contact with water.

Garden and Yard Maintenance

Decaying organic materials entering our storm sewers, such as grass, leaves, yard clippings, and pet waste, use up oxygen in nearby receiving waters and stress aquatic life. Prevent storm water pollution by not blowing, sweeping, raking, or hosing yard waste into the street, gutter, or storm sewer. Alternatively, leave grass clippings on your lawn after mowing or compost your clippings and yard waste. Pet waste should not be composted, but rather disposed of in the trash to prevent the potential spread of diseases.

Planting in the Yard

Produce less yard waste and save water by planting low-maintenance trees and shrubs. Also, conserve water and minimize unwanted runoff by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems to water vegetation.



Do you Tweet!

Follow us on Twitter to receive news and updates at www.twitter.com

New Home Construction in East Grand Forks

By Jim Richter

Just a reminder to anyone thinking about building a new home in East Grand Forks, we are still offering three (3) programs to assist you in your project. The programs are the New Construction Incentive Program of \$5,000, which is forgiven after ten (10) years, the two (2) year Tax Rebate on the full value of the property, and the \$500 Landscaping Grant for trees and shrubs. With interest rates at an all time low, now more than ever is the time to build.

So you fully understand the Tax Rebate let me explain. The rebate is based on the value of your new home on the lot as considered to be full value after the construction is completed as determined by the Polk County Assessor's office. In Minnesota property taxes in any year paid is determined by a value set in the previous year. So your value in January of 2010 is what you pay taxes on in 2011. If your value is at full value in January 2010, your rebate will be in 2011 and 2012.

The tax rebate consists of 100% city and county and the non-referendum portion of School District 595. It's a pretty good deal. If you have any questions, call Jim Richter at 773-2371.

HAPPY BUILDING!!!



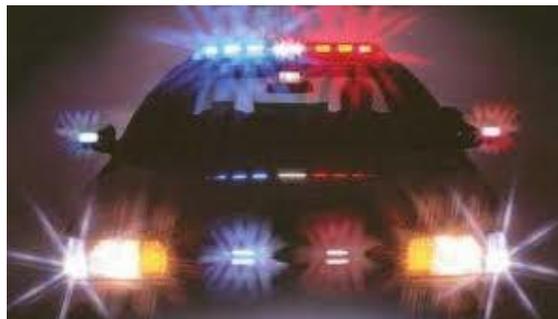
EGFPD Gets New Light Bars for Squad Cars

By Chief Hedlund

The East Grand Forks Police Department has taken advantage of a Federal stimulus grant to purchase new light bars for the Department's squad cars.

The new light bars are lit with LED's and are dramatically brighter than

the old style light bar. The end result is safer conditions for the officers and the public in general. The lights are significantly more visible at all hours but especially during daylight hours. Installation of the new light bars will take place in the near future.



Townsquare Apartments

By Jim Richter

Town Square is an 81-unit apartment complex for the elderly or persons with disabilities, who are able to manage their own affairs. Located in the downtown area of East Grand Forks, Town Square is within walking

distance of many amenities, including the Post Office, the Boardwalk Restaurants, the Riverwalk Centre merchants, Cabelas, and so much more. The complex is on the City bus route. There are updates and renovations to the existing building

planned for the near future.

Town Square is a wonderful option for city living. Stop by and pick up an application today. Applications are available at the management office and at City Hall EDHA Office.

COMING SOON

*Renovations to the Community Room with new furnishings.

*Renovations to the common area entrance.

*New kitchen cabinets and appliances.

*New bathroom vanities and lighting.

Town Square Apartments

Independent and Customized Living for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities



Town Square Apartments

208 2nd St NW, East Grand Forks

218-773-3631

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex or national origin in the occupancy of the housing facility.



Message from the Fire Chief

By Randy Gust

Well, you can tell by the cooler temperatures that we're having that fall is in the air. With the cooler temps we should take a look at some safety tips that might help keep you safe.

First, there are some people that use alternative heating sources such as fire places, wood burning furnaces, and space heaters to help heat their homes. Here are some tips that may make using them a little safer. First if you use wood to heat, place

the wood pile away from your house. This will help keep unwanted guest such as insects and rodents from taking up residence near your home. Next have your chimneys inspected and cleaned professionally.

We at the fire department see a lot of space heaters used throughout the city. Space heaters work fine if used properly. You need to make sure that they are kept in good working order and are clear of any combustibles. Make sure you keep 36 inches of

cleared space around the heater.

The last thing I would like to talk about is your home itself. There are some things you can do before winter to keep you safe. Have your furnace inspected and serviced. If you have an attached garage, do not start your vehicle inside to warm up. Place it outside away from the door. Store all combustibles in the correct container and empty the gas tanks of lawn equipment before storing.

Make sure you change your smoke detector batteries at least once a year and test them regularly along with your carbon monoxide detector.

I hope this will help keep you safe during our long cold winters.



EGF Parks & Recreation

By Mark Dragich

Summer

The Summer of 2010 was here and gone in a hurry, but over six hundred of our youth did manage to find time to fill up our baseball and softball fields, tennis courts and playground activities.

Over seventy-five children ranging in age from six to ten years old participated in our Summer Playground Program. The group met four days a week at the Campbell Library for arts and crafts projects and also traveled to local parks, Sherlock Forest and the swimming pool. Fridays are reserved for field trips that included a day at Turtle River State Park.

The Cal Ripken Leagues got our youth baseball season started in late April. We fielded five teams in each the Minor and Major divisions this year and had very competitive games throughout the season. The teams were so balanced that not either of our regular season league champion teams were able to come through with playoff titles.

In late May our Babe Ruth and VFW teams hit the fields with over sixty players to fill five teams. We sent both a thirteen and fourteen year old team to state tournaments and came up one game short with a fifteen year old team. We successfully hosted two tournaments at Stauss Park this summer with our 25th Annual Prep Tournament

and the District 9 VFW Tournament.

Early mornings found the fields busy with our Knotholes (teeball) and Rookie players. Over one hundred fifty players formed eight Knothole teams and six Rookie teams. When they weren't avoiding rain drops, the players and coaches had an enjoyable summer of learning and teaching and concluded the season with Championship Night at Stauss Park.

Over eighty girls took to the softball fields this year in the Kittens, Foxes and Ponytail divisions. The girls worked hard through the summer and also competed with Crookston teams for the first time in a number of years.

Young tennis players took

to the courts through June and July working on their forehands, backhands and serves. Over sixty players improved their skills over the summer.

Winter

With school back in session and the leaves beginning to fall, we look forward to our winter programs beginning. Our winter registration date was Wednesday, September 29th. However, if you missed this date, you can still stop by our office to register your children.

Our winter season will fill the Civic Center, VFW Arena and Blue Line Arena with hockey players and figure skaters from late-October through March. All of our winter programs will be updated in upcoming newsletters.

Boards & Commission Meeting Schedule

GROUP NAME	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Cemetery Commission		Quarterly	
City Council Meetings	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	5:00 pm	City Hall
City Council Work Session	2 nd , 4 th , and sometimes 5 th Tuesday	5:00 pm	City Hall
EDHA	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday	11:30 am	City Hall
Library Board	Last Tuesday	7:00 am	Blue Moose
Planning Commission	2 nd Thursday	12:00 pm	City Hall
Senior Citizens Board	2 nd Tuesday	9:00 am	Senior Center
Water, Light, Power, & Building Commission	1 st & 3 rd Thursday	5:00 pm	City Hall

*For Boards & Commission Members and terms, please visit the City website.

Easy Low-Cost and No-Cost Ways to Save Energy from the East Grand Forks Water & Light

The East Grand Forks Water and Light Department is concerned about helping our customers conserve energy and in turn reducing their energy bills.

Here are just a few ideas that won't cost you anything to implement and you may see some change in your utility bills because of them.

*Install a programmable thermostat to keep your house comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.

*Use compact fluorescent light bulbs with the ENERGY STAR® label.

*Air dry dishes instead of using the drying cycle on your dishwasher.

*Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.

*Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVD players in standby mode still use several watts of power.)

*Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120° F.

*Take short showers instead of baths.

*Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

*Look for the ENERGY STAR label on home appliances and products. ENERGY STAR products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Visit www.energysavers.gov for more energy-saving ideas.



Red River State Recreation Area – Sherlock Park Campground

By Dave Aker

The Red River State Recreation Area opens the middle of May and closes October 23. The campground has a total of 113 sites which include

full hook-ups, rustic, walk in, and handicap sites. Restrooms and showers are available.

From August 2009 to August 2010, the

campground has seen an increase of 1,135 campers.

Coming Soon: Playground Equipment



Energy Rebates

By Bonnie Abel

Don't forget about the Water and Light's Energy Rebates to help you in making your home more energy efficient:

***Residential Weatherization and Insulation Rebate** - This rebate provides up to \$500.00 in rebates for residential customers of the East Grand Forks Water and Light to install conservation measures that will improve the energy efficiency of their home.

***Appliance & Heating/Cooling Rebates** - Rebate programs for ENERGY STAR® refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, dishwashers, electric water heaters, room & central air conditioners & air source heat pumps are available to our residential customers. You save two ways: First, with a rebate from us to help reduce your initial cost and second with lower operating costs throughout the life of the appliance or heating/cooling equipment

***Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Rebate** - When the customers of the East Grand Forks Water and Light purchase ENERGY STAR® CFLs they will receive a rebate of 50% of the bulb or package cost.

***Central Air Conditioner Tune-Up Rebate** - This program will rebate up to \$60.00 to customers of East Grand Forks Water and Light when they have their central air conditioner tuned up by a licensed and insured heating/cooling contractor.

You can find applications and more information about our rebates at our website www.waterandlight.info, or call us at 218-773-1163.



East Grand Forks Senior Center

By Dave Aker

The EGF Senior Center was started in 1986, renovated from an old grocery store by volunteer work, donated time and effort.

The Senior Center offers a noon meal, Monday through Friday, through a contract with Lutheran Social Services. Reservations for the delicious, home cooked meals need to be made before 10:00am on the day you wish to eat by calling 773-3017.

The Senior Center meets the fun and fitness goals of the local senior population. Pinochle,

whist and smear are played weekly along with dominoes and bingo.

We host many special events such as Free Monthly Card Parties, Annual Pig Roast, Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale, AARP Defensive Driving classes, Computer Lab events, monthly Dinner Dances and so much more.

Also important to our center are the many health programs offered. Besides serving a nutritious noon meal, we have weekly blood pressure checks, twice weekly Line Dancing and

Bone Builders classes, Open Exercise Room, Monthly Nutrition Assistance Programs for Seniors, (NAPS), Retired and Senior volunteer opportunities, (RSVP) and Take Off Pounds Sensibly, (TOPS). We offer flu shots every fall and twice monthly foot care clinics as well as many other health and educational opportunities.

The EGF Senior Center also provides a meeting place for many local organizations. We rent space to service clubs, township and association meetings, Tri Valley Opportunity, birthdays,

receptions and family reunions.

We hold a membership of almost 450 members. Dues for the year are only \$10/year per person and you may join as young as 55 years of age.

This is a great place to socialize, have coffee with friends and enjoy the many opportunities available at the East Grand Forks Senior Center. Please call Lynda at 773-0821 for more information.

City Adopts Proposed 2011 Budget (Continued)

By Scott Huizenga

taxes. East Grand Forks does not have a dedicated ambulance provider. Altru Hospital, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, retains the exclusive Minnesota license to serve the City's territory. Therefore, the City has maintained the first responder unit to decrease response times by as much as half. However, the first responder unit does not qualify for insurance reimbursements. Those go to the ambulance. The rescue unit receives virtually no funding outside of property tax dollars. With continuing cuts to the LGA, the City Council supported the adoption of the new fee to

keep its rescue unit services intact. The tradeoff for the new fee is that the City will no longer charge \$40 for residents who require medical assistance. The City wants to ensure that residents will call for help when it is needed without worrying about incurring an additional fee.

Other items

Most other items hold steady in the Proposed Budget. Parks and Recreation fees are unaffected in their current form. Trash, sanitary sewer, and storm water fees will also remain at their previous levels. And, the City will continue commitment to street repair funding, which the Council

more than quadrupled in 2009 from what was an annual budget of just \$40,000.

Moving Forward

There are several tax and service implications that they City Council will continue to discuss before the Council adopts the final Budget in December. The adopted preliminary tax levy in the maximum that can be adopted. The City can choose only to adopt that rate or reduce it. At the previous budget work session, the City Council consensus was that the City had worked hard to keep tax rates low through reduced city employees and deferred equipment replacement. Tax rates have decreased

each of the last three years despite cuts to LGA. The Council will hold work sessions on each Wednesday evening in October to discuss budget presentations from City Departments. The Council will hold its formal public hearing on the Proposed 2011 Budget in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 7.

East Grand Forks 2040 Land Use Plan Update

By Nancy Ellis & Matt Leal

The City of East Grand Forks last updated its full Land Use Plan in the spring of 2002 focusing on growth after the 1997 flood. As a matter of policy the city should update the plan every 5 years, therefore, the City of East Grand Forks is updating the plan to reflect the changes that have occurred in the last eight years. This update will stress our goal of linking the community's land use goals with the

transportation goals, thereby creating a more seamless comprehensive plan for the community.

Currently the plan has been edited several times by staff. The plan has been reorganized from eight chapters to five which are categorized to simply make it more readable and user friendly. The five chapters will consist of: Introduction to the Land Use Plan, Community Background, Existing

Community, Goals/Policies and Implementation/Future Land Use. The majority of the updating has occurred in chapter 1-3 since these chapters represent current conditions of the city. The maps and table also needed updating to show existing and projected information.

The next public meeting will be held October 14th, 2010 the East Grand Forks City Hall Training Conference Room on the first floor. We

will go over the Draft Land Use Plan Update and we look forward to hearing your input on the Draft Land Use Plan.

A Draft copy of the 2040 Land Use Plan Update will be available on the city website at www.egf.mn/

Halloween Safety

By Chief Hedlund

The East Grand Forks Police Department would like to remind everyone to be a bit more careful at Halloween. This is an exciting time for children and they may not be as careful as they should be when crossing roadways. We would also like to provide parents with a few tips to help this Halloween to be one to remember for the right reasons.

*Talk to your children before they go out trick-or-treating. Remind them to look both ways when crossing the road and to hold hands with younger brothers and sisters.

· Remind your children to never get in a car with a stranger or go into the house of a stranger.

*Limit trick-or-treating to neighborhoods where you know the residents. Problems with treats at Halloween are extremely rare but it is better to be safe than sorry.

*Make sure your children have costumes that are fire retardant and are visible. If the whole costume is dark in color then add some reflective tape so that drivers are able to see them more easily. It is also important that if your child is wearing a mask to make sure that they can see clearly in all directions with the mask on.

*Parents (or older teenage brothers and sisters) should accompany their children while they are trick-or-

treating. If your child likes going with a friend or group of friends then parents can split up this duty, or better yet use it as a chance to get better acquainted with the parents of your children's friends and go in a group.

*Older children should always travel in groups (this is smart advice any time of year). Make sure you know where your children are going, who they will be with and what time they will be getting home.

*Parents need to remember to go through their children's candy to make sure none of it has been tampered with. Any items with damaged wrappers or

that appears questionable for any reason should be thrown away.

*Parent's, please talk to your children (especially teenagers) about vandalism at Halloween. What may seem like harmless pranks to them can actually cause significant damage to other people's property. Smashing pumpkins may seem like fun at the time but it just creates a sad child (the one who carved that pumpkin) and a big mess that someone else has to clean up.

Set a good example for your children – use Halloween as a time for family fun, not as an excuse to go out and party.



Employee Spotlight

Jason Stordahl

Date of Hire: March 2010

Position: Public Works Truck Driver.

Jason was born and raised in East Grand Forks and graduated from East Grand Forks Senior High. After graduation Jason attended the University of Minnesota earning a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management. Jason and his wife Patty reside in rural East Grand Forks with their two children Chase (11) and Blake (8). His hobbies include outdoor activities and strength training.

