

# The Release from the East

## CITY OFFICES CLOSED:

JULY 4—INDEPENDENCE DAY

SEPTEMBER 5 – LABOR DAY

## INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVE \$	2
SAFETY MESSAGE FROM W&L	2
STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE	2
SAVING ENERGY = SAVING \$	3
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	3
CAMPBELL LIBRARY PROGRAM	3
VACATION SAFETY	4
LIBRARIES	4
INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES	4
CURFEW	5
MEETING SCHEDULE	5
NEW HOMEOWNER INCENTIVES	6
HOT TEMPERATURES	6
EGF SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER	6
PARKS & REC UPDATE	7
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT	7

## Vote for Your Favorite National, State or Local Park by Dave Aker & Michelle French

For more than 40 years, Coca-Cola has supported efforts to maintain and rebuild parks across the nation.

For the second year in a row, Coca-Cola is encouraging people of all ages to get active outdoors in parks across the country with the America Is Your Park campaign.

From June 29, 2011 to September 6, 2011, people can vote for their favorite national, state or local park. The park with the most votes will win a \$100,000 recreation grant from Coca-Cola and the coveted title of "America's Favorite Park." In addition, the second place park will receive a \$50,000 grant and the third place park will receive a \$25,000 grant.

Ways to cast your vote! Voting online at LivePositively.com, uploading photos from their favorite park to LivePositively.com, "checking in" via Facebook Places from their favorite park, or uploading videos of activities in their favorite park to LivePositively.com (starting August 10).

## Sherlock Forest Playground by Dave Aker & Michelle French

The well-known Sherlock Forest Playground is the main project of the Parks and Recreation Department this summer after a devastating fire.

The playground was put up by thousands of volunteers, from youth to adults, plus some very skilled workers. Penny Pape led the construction of the playground in 2003. She is again chairing the playground committee along with her daughter Katie Nelson.

A demolition of the playground is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>. The playground suffered 75% of damage. The tots area

will be the only equipment saved. The Committee will send out a Request for Proposal to find a company that will lead us in constructing the new playground.

The Committee hopes to have the Sherlock Forest Playground rebuild in September 2011.

Volunteers will be needed to take down the remaining portions of the picket fence. If you would like to get involved and help in any way please email

[sherlockplayground@gmail.com](mailto:sherlockplayground@gmail.com)

For up to date information, please visit us on the City website at [www.egf.mn](http://www.egf.mn) or Facebook "Sherlock Forest Playground".

Even though insurance is covering the loss of the equipment, the Committee has chose to make some improvements. Donations are welcome. If you wish to donate funds, please visit the Community Foundation at [www.gofoundation.org](http://www.gofoundation.org).



## Red River State Recreation Area

**The Red River State Recreation Area (RRSRA) Campground is temporarily closed.**

**The Legislature and The Governor could not come to an agreement so the State shut down all State Parks.**

**To get information on the Campground please call (218) 773-8000.**

## Fire Department Receives Donation

By Chief Gust

The East Grand Forks Fire Department received a \$10,000. donation from the American Crystal Sugar Processing Plant located in East Grand Forks.

The money was given to the department to purchase equipment that not only will help in our response to the plant but will help our community as a whole. We were able to purchase a K-12 cutting tool that can be used to cut through most types of material. Vent fan and

ducting for confined space rescue, and some Haz-Mat identifying equipment.

Lloyd Kennedy of American Crystal stated that they are helping out local fire departments throughout their area and are very pleased to help us out.

In return the Fire Department will be providing their 200 plus employees with fire safety training this month. I feel that there is a very good working relationship with American Crystal and it shows by their generosity.

## A Safety Message From The Water and Light Department



cable, gas, phone, etc. They have 2 business days from the time you make the call to locate the utilities and digging is **not to begin** until that time is up, so plan ahead.

*A penalty may be assessed if Gopher State One Call is not called and utility lines are hit when digging.*

Below, are the colors you will find on your property after your utilities have been located:

	Proposed excavation
	Temporary survey markings
	Electric power lines, cables, conduit & lighting cables
	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum lines or gaseous materials
	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit
	Potable water
	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
	Sewers and drain lines

### Call Before You Dig – “811”

If you are planning to dig on your property, state law requires that you call Gopher State One Call at least two (2) business days in advance.

Gopher State One Call initiates **all utilities** to locate their lines, including electric, water, sewer,

This is a free service and ensures that underground utility lines are marked with color-coded paint or flags. Keep in mind, hand digging is required within two (2) feet either side of the utility markings.

Call-1-800-252-1166 or **811.**

## Street Sweeping Schedule

By John Wachter

Monday	District 4 – East of Bygland Rd SE
Tuesday	District 5 – West of Bygland Rd SE
Wednesday	District 2 – South of 17 <sup>th</sup> St. NW
Thursday	District 1 – North of 17 <sup>th</sup> St. NW
Friday	Downtown, Parking Lots & District 3 East End/Central



\*Schedule may change due to daily street cleaning needs.

## Job Openings

**Civil Service is now accepting applications for Finance Director.**



## BECOME A FAN!

Keep up to date on City news and events on Facebook at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

## Saving Energy = Saving Money



With summer here, it is a great time to do some improvements to your home that will help it be more energy efficient now and in the winter. When doing those improvements, don't forget to take advantage of the **Weatherization Rebate** from the *East Grand Forks Water and Light Dept.* We will rebate you up to \$500 for

energy efficient improvements you make to your home. Some of these improvements include new windows and doors, adding insulation, caulking and weather stripping.

If you are not sure what improvements would make the most sense to do, you can always take advantage of our Home Energy Audit Program and an Energy Auditor will come and analyze your home to see where your money would be best spent. A standard Energy Audit including a blower door test

costs \$200, but the Water and Light will pay half of this cost for you so the audit **will cost you only \$100.** Call our office @ 218-773-1163 and we will be happy to get you in touch with our auditor.



With the air conditioning season upon us, it would be a good idea to have that air conditioner checked by a technician, so that you know that it is working efficiently

and not wasting you money. The Water and Light can help you with that. We are offering an **Air Conditioner Tune-Up Rebate** of up to \$60.00 toward the cost of the tune-up.

You can find the applications for these and other Energy Rebates at [www.waterandlight.info](http://www.waterandlight.info) or come into our office to pick one up. If you have any questions regarding these rebates, call us at 218-773-1163.

Have a Great Summer!

## Water and Electric 2011 Construction Projects



Each summer the Water and Light Department does construction projects on the water and electric distribution systems to

update the lines and keep them in good operating condition.

The water construction projects include replacing the watermain in areas that have the oldest lines or that have had the most problems. This year the watermains that are being replaced are along Greenwood Drive SE from 4th St SE to Mero

Court SE and along 5th Ave SE from 5th St SE to 8th St SE.

The electric construction projects involve installing new underground primary and secondary cables in areas where needed and/or converting overhead lines to underground lines, making the service to the customers more reliable and not so

susceptible to damage during wind or ice storms.

The maps of the 2011 construction projects are posted on our website and you can see them by clicking on this link, <http://www.egf.mn/index.aspx?NID=334>



## Campbell Library Summer Programming by Charlotte Helgeson

A **Reading Passport** at the Library is encouraging youngsters to explore the world through books. Students, who have finished a grade from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, can sign up for a Passport to keep track of their minutes and earn prizes including a bike and helmet sponsored by the **Optimist Club.**

Beginning July 11 a free series of **Tame the Computer Monster** classes will begin. Students can master basic computer skills and earn a certificate of digital literacy. Four 2-hour sessions will be taught on Monday evenings from July through October provided by a grant from the US Dept of Commerce to the Blandin

Foundation in partnership with the Minnesota Rural Communities (MIRC) Project. Registration materials available at the library. Currently, the **Community Art Exhibit** is on display which includes painting, ceramics, woodworking, drawing and fabric. In

August, the Library's collection of art will be hung. These pieces can be checked out by patrons for 2 months at a time. They can be reserved for the lake cabin or for a holiday season. Local businesses can get a library card and check out a beautiful piece of art from the library without a large investment.

## CITY CONTACTS

### CITY COUNCIL

Lynn Stauss, Mayor ..... 773-2775  
 Marc DeMers, Ward 1 ..... 773-2193  
 Ronald Vonasek, Ward 2 ..... 773-9109  
 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

## Vacation Safety by Chief Hedlund

The EGFPD would like to offer some vacation security tips as we move into the height of the summer vacation period. If you are going to be away for any extended time have a friend or trusted neighbor stop in to check on your house on a regular basis. They can water plants, take care of pets and bring in the mail and newspaper. This activity

around your home helps to make it appear to be occupied and decreases the chance that your home will be targeted for a burglary. Timers on lights can also help the illusion of your home being occupied. In addition remember to lock all doors and windows. Do not allow a thief easy access to your property.



*Do you Tweet!*  
 Follow us on Twitter to receive news and updates at  
[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

## Libraries have Never Stopped Changing by Charlotte Helgeson

Many patrons have informed the library they own e-readers. Many made the assumption that the library would be able to supply e-books. Not so . . . yet. As an unaffiliated library, we are not allowed access to the state's collection. The East Grand Forks Campbell Library will have to purchase a subscription for its patrons to have access to e-books. Easier said than done, especially in our present restrictive economy.

To purchase an e-book subscription for a year would require a \$10,000 annual fee. Is it doable? Does the library need as many hardcover books? Should shelves make room for programming and people? These are important questions the Library Board will be discussing as it moves into the 2012 budget season. Libraries have changed. Libraries have never stopped changing. As we enter tough

economic times, a library is used more because most of the services are without an entrance fee. What is often overlooked when using free services at a public library is that the operating budget continues to increase. Each year it costs more to provide the same free services. To balance our operational increase, our book budget has decreased. Most patrons will identify the Book as the strongest representation of a library.

Though when asked how they use the library, only one in three will put 'checking out a book' at the top of their list. Now, many of the regular book handlers are turning to e-readers. Their source of books is electronic not shelving. Will the library support this change? Of course!

## INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES by Chief Hedlund

The EGFPD would like to remind residents that inoperable motor vehicles are not allowed to be parked within the city unless they are concealed within a garage or other structure or are behind a privacy fence. The city ordinance states: "It shall be unlawful to keep,

park, store or abandon any motor vehicle which is not in operating condition, partially dismantled, used for repair of parts or as a source of repair or replacement parts for other vehicles, kept for scrapping, dismantling or salvage of any kind, or which is not properly

licensed for operation with the state." Such vehicles are considered a health hazard and the owner can be cited for this violation.



**ROCK'N FOR  
SHERLOCK  
T-SHIRTS**

**NOW AVAILABLE IN  
THE  
ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE IN CITY  
HALL.**

**1 FOR \$10  
3 FOR \$25**

# CURFEW by Chief Hedlund

The City of East Grand Forks does have a curfew for persons under the age of 18. The curfew for minors established by this section is maintained for 4 primary reasons:

- (1) To protect the public from illegal acts of minors committed during the curfew hours;
- (2) To protect minors from improper influences that prevail during the curfew hours, including involvement with gangs;
- (3) To protect minors from criminal activity that occurs during the curfew hours; and
- (4) To help parents control their minor children.

The hours of the curfew are as follows:

- (1) Minors under the age of 16 years. No minor under the age of 16 years shall be in or upon the public streets, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places, public buildings; nor in or upon places of amusement, entertainment or refreshment; nor in or upon any vacant lot, between the

hours of 10:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. the following day, official city time.

- (2) Minors ages 16 years to 18 years. No minor of the ages of 16 or 17 years shall be in or upon the public streets, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places, public buildings; nor in or upon places of amusement, entertainment or refreshment; nor in or upon any vacant lot, between the hours of 12 midnight and 5:00 a.m. the following day, official city time.

The following listed items are exceptions to the curfew ordinance:

- (1) To a minor accompanied by his or her parent or guardian, or other adult person having the primary care and custody of the minor;
- (2) To a minor who is upon an emergency errand at the direction of his or her parent, guardian, or other adult person having the primary care and custody of the minor;

- (3) To a minor who is in any of the places described in this section if in connection with or as required by an employer engaged in a lawful business, trade, profession, or occupation; or to a minor traveling directly to or from the location of the business trade, profession, or occupation and the minor's residence. Minors who fall within the scope of this exception shall carry written proof of employment and proof of the hours the employer requires the minor's presence at work.

- (4) To a minor who is participating in or traveling directly to or from an event which has been officially designated as a school activity by public or parochial school authorities; or who is participating in or traveling directly to or from an official activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the city, a civic organization, school, religious institution, or similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor and with the permission of

the minor's parent, guardian, or other adult person having the primary care and custody of the minor.

- (5) To a minor who is passing through the city in the course of interstate travel during the hours of curfew.
- (6) To a minor who is attending or traveling directly to or from an activity involving the exercise of First Amendment rights of free speech, freedom of assembly, or freedom of religion.
- (7) To minors on the sidewalk abutting his or her residence or abutting the residence of a next-door neighbor if the neighbor does not complain to the city's designated law enforcement provider about the minor's presence.
- (8) To a minor who is married or has been married, or is otherwise legally emancipated.



## Boards & Commission Meeting Schedule

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

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

# EAST GRAND FORKS Home Ownership Programs

## New Construction Opportunities

- \$5,000 forgivable deferred loan for 10 years for a newly constructed home or townhome.
- No income limits.
- No limit on price of home.
- All lots within city limits are eligible.

## Tax Abatement/Rebate

1. The three primary taxing authorities, City, County & School District, all participating in the incentive program.
2. The program applies to new residential construction only. New residential construction shall include modular homes and stick built homes.
3. The program applies to single-family dwellings, including townhomes and twin homes, ready for occupancy in the year built.
4. The abatement/rebate of real property taxes is for two years, in the two years where payment of taxes are based upon full value of the new dwelling.  
"Does not include specials."

## Down Payment Assistance Program

- Up to \$7,500 toward closing costs
- 1st Year No Payment/No Interest
- New Higher Income Purchase Price
- New Higher Income Parameters
- Up to 5 Years Repayment Plan
- Interest Rate at 5%

## Landscaping Grant

- \$500 landscaping grant for new construction on eligible properties

## Developments

- Waters Edge
- Peabody's 1st Addition
- Greenway Crossing
- Point of Woods Addition
- Riverview Addition

**EAST GRAND FORKS**

For More Info & Application Call

**7 7 3 - 2 3 7 1**

[www.ci.east-grand-forks.mn.us](http://www.ci.east-grand-forks.mn.us)

**Growing  
in the  
Right  
Direction**

## Hot Temperatures and Its Effects on our Body by Chief Gust

Now that the hot temperatures are upon us we should look at how working in or being out in extreme temperatures can affect us...

The body cools itself most efficiently by sweating and then the sweat evaporating. Should sweating be unable to meet the cooling demands of the body, heat-related illness can occur. This is a spectrum of conditions with minor symptoms such as prickly heat or heat rash, progressing to heat cramps, then heat exhaustion, and finally to heat stroke, a life-threatening medical condition.

The line between each diagnosis is not sharply drawn. Heat cramps tend to involve involuntary spasm of the large muscles of the body while heat exhaustion has more systemic complaints. These can include profuse sweating, weakness, nausea, vomiting, headaches, and muscle spasms.

The affected individual may be a low grade fever. Heat stroke is a life-threatening situation where the body's cooling system fails. The body temperature spirals out of control usually greater than 106F, sweating stops and there are mental status changes like confusion, seizure, or coma. If this condition occurs you must get the victim out of the heat immediately and seek medical attention.

Heat exhaustion occurs when a person exercises or works in a hot environment and sweating cannot dissipate the heat generated within the body. Often dehydration occurs because the person hasn't replaced the water lost by sweating.

You can help curb the effects of these related heat problems by keeping hydrated. By the time you feel thirsty it can be too late. Take breaks from the heat, and do not over exert yourself.

## EGF Senior Citizen's Center by Lynda Adams

The East Grand Forks Senior Citizens Center remains busy all summer long.

A delicious and nutritious noon meal is prepared from scratch every weekday throughout the summer. Reservations are suggested and can be made by calling 773-3017 before 10:00am on the day you wish to eat. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 per person over 60 years of age.

Activity is important for all ages. We offer Bone Builders

classes and Line Dancing twice weekly to keep you in tip top shape. We also have an exercise room for those who like to work out on their own. Computer classes are available twice weekly and the computer lab is open to all members daily. For those more interested in fun competition, we play all kinds of card games including; Pinochle, Whist, Beginners and Duplicate Bridge, Smear and an ever growing Dominoes group. There is lots of fun and good natured ribbing at all of these activities.

The EGF Fire Department is here weekly to check blood pressures and a registered nurse, through Polk County Public Health, does twice monthly foot cares. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) also meets weekly for weigh-ins, discussion and encouragement.

There is always something going on at the Senior Center. Stop in any time for a cup of coffee and a chat with old and new friends.

For questions, or a copy of the latest newsletter, please call Lynda at 773-0821. Hope to see you soon!

**twitter**

Do you Tweet!

Follow us on Twitter to receive news and updates at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

## **Parks & Recreation Update** by Mark Dragich

Spring and summer were late arriving, but since they are finally here the local baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, bike paths and swimming pool have been very busy.

We made a few changes to our softball program for the 2011 season. The Kittens and Foxes have all of their practices and games at the Sacred Heart fields at LaFave Park bringing all players to a central location to make balanced teams and more effective practice time. With the help of parent volunteers, we have added 12U and 10U fast pitch teams that playing evening games against local teams. There are over one hundred girls participating in softball this summer.

Baseball fields start to fill up by nine o'clock each morning and are typically busy with players until the sun sets. The knothole and rookie teams begin the day with over one hundred fifty children participating on teams coached by our VFW, American Legion and high school players. The Cal Ripken leagues started practicing inside in mid-April, began games in May and will have their playoff tournament in late-July. We are fielding two Prep teams, three Babe Ruth teams and our VFW team this season with all teams competing with area teams. The month of July will be busy at Stauss Park as we will host the District Babe Ruth Tournament, the Minnesota State Prep Intact Tournament and the

American Legion Classic Tournament. We look forward to hosting players and families from across the state.

With the cooler May temperatures, the swimming pool at Sherlock Park opened a week later than normal this year. The pool has kept busy on days the sun is shining and we look forward to warm temperatures and many swimmers in July and August.

Our afternoon Playground program for six to ten year olds has over seventy participants. The group fills afternoons with movies, arts and crafts and swimming. Field trips have been planned to the River Cinema, the Fargo Zoo, bowling, a trip to

University Park splash pools, a water park and Turtle River State Park.

The tennis program gives our youth a chance to learn the game and further enjoy the summer days. Over eighty players keep both north and south end tennis courts busy.

Walkers and biking enthusiasts were kept off of many of our paths with spring flooding, but have been out in abundance since the paths have opened. We hope for a long summer and mild fall to be able to utilize the paths to their fullest.

As in years past, the Parks and Recreation Department is very busy this summer, but enjoying seeing our youth active on the fields and in the parks.

## **Employee Spotlight**

### **James "Jim" Benson**

**Date of Hire: January 1, 1993**

**Position: Paid On Call Firefighter**

James "Jim" Benson has been a paid on call firefighter with the Fire Department for the past 18 years. He is not only a outstanding firefighter but is part of the rope rescue and confined space entry teams.

