

## MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thank you to **Duane Hookom** and the **Lioness Club** for their assistance in acquiring a scanner and software to enhance the quality of the museum photo archives. The Lioness Club awarded a grant of \$500 to the Eden Prairie Historical Society. With this money, we were able to purchase an Epson scanner and a subscription to fotor.com. The fotor.com website allows us to take an out of focus photo, sharpen it, and then also colorize it. Thanks to AI (Artificial Intelligence), we can now take a photo from the past and bring out the humanity of the people in it.

**Tom Achartz, Museum Director**  
952-949-8580

BEFORE



AFTER



## PROM DONATIONS NEEDED

To help us recreate the spirit of the past, we are seeking donations of **old uniforms, cheerleading outfits, footballs, and other sports gear** that could be borrowed for use during the Citywide Prom. Your contributions will not only add authenticity to our celebration but also help us reminisce and honor the legacy of our school. If you have any items tucked away in your closets or storage spaces that you'd be willing to lend, please consider donating them. Contact Kathie 952-221-2560



EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY • (952) 949-8580  
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Please let us know of any changes or corrections to your mailing or email address by emailing us at: info@edenprairiehistory.org

**HISTORY MUSEUM HOURS**  
**Mondays-11AM-1PM**  
LOWER LEVEL OF CITY HALL  
**(952) 949-8580**

# EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## The Prairie View

SPRING 2024



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear Historical Society Members,*

It has been a busy winter getting ready for our many special upcoming events.



Kathie Case and Carol Kissner

We welcome Carol Kissner, our presenter, at our "Annual Meeting" on **April 4th**. Carol will share her skilled knowledge on genealogy.

I will share a little history about the four one room schools that merged in 1924 into the newly "state of the art" Consolidated school.

With the responsibility to protect its past, the Society's mission is to: gather, preserve and protect Eden Prairie's historic artifacts and memorabilia; share the stories of its people and places with audiences of all ages; and foster an understanding and appreciation for historic preservation.

**EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kathie Case, President**  
**Paul Thorp, Vice President**  
**Chris Honaas-Wildfang, Treasurer & Membership**  
**Tom Achartz, Museum Curator**  
**Kelley Regan, CPG House Chair**  
**Mary Meier, Secretary**  
**Suzanne Berg, Director**  
**Duane Hookom, Director**  
**Bob Prince, Director**  
**Bob Bowes, Director**  
**Devyn Stanton, Director**



Consolidated School

Please note the upcoming dates in April and May. Be sure to sign up for the Citywide Prom in the old Gymnasium! To purchase tickets call 952-975-6940.

Our donations have included \$500 dollars from the Lioness Club for a new scanner (applied for by Board Member Duane Hookom.) We were given \$2,000 from the Hopkins VFW for museum archival supplies.

Thank you to Tom Achartz who continually keeps up with **EP Remembers**, and is scanning and colorizing many pictures for our collections (as well as welcoming you to the Museum on Mondays!)

Bob Prince has collected enough plastic to get us two lovely benches on the porches at the CPG house and the next one will go to the Smith Cafe.

We thank **Kati Simmons, Elizabeth Meyer and Ann Higgins** for their time on the HS Board. Ann served as Museum Curator for many years. We are grateful for each of your contributions and will miss all of you!

**Kathie Case, President**  
Eden Prairie Historical Society





## FROM THE EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Robert Bowes and Paul Thorp are Board Members for both the Eden Prairie Historic Preservation Commission, and the Eden Prairie Historical Society. The main goal of both organizations is to “foster an understanding and appreciation for historic preservation” of Eden Prairie’s people, places, and historic artifacts. Projects that are currently being addressed by both organizations include **The Flying Red Horse, Historic Train Depot, the Grist Mill Site and Camp Eden Wood (Glen Lake’s Children Home).**



**The Flying Red Horse** was installed on top of the Mobil gas station in 1936 and it was located at the intersection of Mn Highway 5 and US 169. In 1939 G. Gordon Smith bought the gas station from The Deep Rock Oil Corporation. Jesse Schwartz started working at the gas station in 1933 and he bought it from G. Gordon Smith in 1972. The gas station also included the Wye Cafe, named that because of the “Y” created by east-west MN Hwy 5 joining US 169 north-south. In 1978 a new gas station was built by Schwartz and the Wye café was replaced by a Country Kitchen Restaurant. At this time, the Flying Red Horse was taken down. Thanks to the Schwartz family it was donated to the City of Eden Prairie and was stored in a secure city building. Take my word for it, there has been much discussion about The Flying Red Horse and where he or she should reside. Well, the city of Eden Prairie, in conjunction with the EPHS and the EPHPC have found it new a home. It will be installed at the corner of Flying Cloud Drive (old 169) and Town Center Place, across from Discount Tires, same side as the Redstone Restaurant. The plan is to have it installed by the end of 2024. The Flying Red

Horse will be elevated for a better light rail visual and will include information signage, and a plaza area for enjoyment. Perfect location for honoring a true Eden Prairie legend!

The site of the former **Historic Train Depot** is located just east of Eden Prairie Rd. and just north of Hwy 212 (across from main entrance to Miller Park). In 1871 the Minneapolis and St. Louis RR built a railroad that ran through Eden Prairie. A small depot and large water tank were constructed to service this stretch of railroad. The trains were steam engines that burned wood and needed water every one hundred miles, both structures were torn down in the 1940s and the RR tracks are also long gone. The old railroad is now part of the Minnesota River Bluffs Trail system.



In the last few years, the City of Eden Prairie built a large underground water storage unit with a building to look like the Historic Train Depot. It is directly across the trail from the original Depot. This site is slated for local designation as a historic site. The EPHPC and the EPHS will be working this summer clearing brush from the area while searching for artifacts. This area is accessible to the public by walking, biking, or parking at Miller Park and using the crosswalk on Eden Prairie Rd.

**The Grist Mill** site was built in 1865 at Pioneer Trail and Purgatory Creek. It was a small mill that operated until about 1880. Other than two stone foundations, nothing else exists that is associated with the operation of the mill. This summer the EPHPC will clean up lawn clippings and litter around the foundations.

The EPHS recently received a **table donated by the Rogers/Nicklay family** of Eden Prairie. This is not just any table. It was in the old library in the Eden Prairie School built in 1924, and used for School Board meetings. The table eventually migrated to the bus garage in the 1940’s. When the district purchased a new bus, John Rogers acquired the table. For many years it was stored at Harry and Evelyn’s home. Their daughter Phyllis moved it to her townhouse in Bloomington after her parents passed. Eventually it was moved to her daughter’s home and Nancy and her son donated it to the Historical Society this winter in hopes that it could return to the old Consolidated school for the 100 year celebration. Paul has been repairing the table.



## CONT. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The **Glen Lake Children’s Camp** was built in 1925 and treated children who had tuberculosis. The camp closed in 1950 and is on the National Register of historic sites. Hennepin County decided in 1983 to give the facility to the City of Eden Prairie, with the stipulation it would be utilized for people with special needs. Now called **Camp Eden Wood**, the city leases it to **True Friends**, a nonprofit organization providing educational programs, retreats and activities for children and adults with special needs. In 1925 a stone monument was dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. George Christian, who founded the camp. The monument was restored to its original condition in 2019.



Paul Thorp, one of our Board Members, finished the project by painting the letters on the monument, the completion being the result of a collaborative effort between Eden Prairie Community Foundation, EPHS, EPHPC, and the MN State Historical Preservation office.

Last month True Friends received a grant from Eden Prairie Lions for \$15,000 to begin the process of restoration of the former Birchwood Dining Hall, into a multi -purpose community room for various programs and activities. This will be a long-term project that will include the efforts of all the above-listed organizations. Birchwood dining hall is the original 1925 Mess Hall, with its Rumford fireplace, original windows, and flooring. The improvements will keep the Hall’s integrity. How is that for teamwork?

## EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

### PARADE

On **April 27th** join in a citywide parade honoring Eagle Pride through the decades. Parade begins in the Eyrie Stadium at 11am. We will be in Paul’s convertibles.

### FAMILY FUN DAY

Join us on **May 17th** for Family Fun Day, a free event for all families full of activities, food trucks, performances and more! The Eden Prairie Historical Society will also provide a sneak peek of the updated Historic Gym and celebrate the past 100 years.

### CITYWIDE PROM

On **May 18th**, celebrate a century of community by attending the Citywide Prom! This fun event will highlight the past 100 years of EP Schools and raise funds for the Historic Gym.

- Dress your decade attire or any time era of your choice.
- Live music by Wondercure
- Remarks by Justice Paul Anderson, Sever Peterson
- Crown royalty of your choice
- Engaging displays and celebration of our past
- Capture new memories in the photo booth
- Roundtrip shuttle service on SW Transit’s Trolley between City Center parking and the Historic Gym
- Add to the fun by purchasing a **VIE (Very Important Eagle)** tent access which includes: access to purchase beer and wine from the EP Lions, Fat Pants Brewery is creating a specialty beer. Appetizers, sweets, and a commemorative gift included.



Scan Code to purchase ticket.



**ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY! You must be 21 for this event. Tickets available through the Community Education Portal, you can also call in to order at 952-975-6940**