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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

EDEN PRAIRIE



NEWS

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PHOTO BY LARA BOCKENSTEDT

Painter Judith Anderson from St. Louis Park drives out occasionally to illustrate scenes from the Carver Park Reserve.

Lowry turns 50

Lowry Nature Center celebrates half-century of making the outdoors accessible to all

BY LARA BOCKENSTEDT
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VICTORIA — The Lowry Nature Center is celebrating a half-century of widening nature's door to Twin Cities residents.

When the center opened in 1969, it was the first public nature center in the area. It gave the somewhat rare opportunity

of experiencing an outdoor classroom to those who traveled from across the region and state.

Parents who went to the center when they were children are now bringing their own little ones to the center. Teachers who were once students visiting the center now organize field trips for their own students.

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IMAGE COURTESY OF THE THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Pictured is a program for children during one of the earlier years of Lowry Nature Center.

Climate action

Local reps and citizen lobbyists raise the temp on climate change

BY EDEN TELLER
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On the idyllic summer evening of July 30, nearly 70 people gathered indoors at the Eden Prairie Community Center to talk about how to save such days for future generations.

It was a community conversation on climate change, hosted by State Rep. Laurie Pryor, DFL-Minnetonka, and both residents and elected officials turned out in force. Among them was Rod Fisher, a member of the local Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) chapter that had recently sent 20 members to Washington, D.C., to discuss bipartisan legislation to mitigate climate change; and Lia Harel, a recent Eden Prairie High School graduate and member of the climate activism group Minnesota Can't Wait.

The mood was focused, and every speaker — including Eden Prairie Mayor Ron Case and City Council member PG Narayanan, State Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn, DFL-Eden Prairie, and State Sen. Steve Cwodzinski, DFL-Eden Prairie — expressed the urgency they felt as activists and United Nations reports alike call for immediate and far-reaching changes to prevent dramatic environmental shifts.

"I'm very concerned about climate change issues," said Elaine Strom, an Eden Prairie resident who attended the event. She has attended several of the most recent town halls held by Pryor, Kotyza-Witthuhn and Cwodzinski and was glad to have a more concentrated conversation on climate change, she told Eden Prairie News. Her husband, Jim Strom, hopes that such events can push action at a local level.

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