

Grand Oak

BUSINESS PARK

Where work comes to life

Volume 21 – Spring 2015

Eagan Area Events

As warmer weather approaches, many are itching to get outside. If you're looking for some fun outdoor activities, consider the following events taking place near Grand Oak in the upcoming months:

- **Holz Farm Spring Festival: May 17**
www.cityofeagan.com/index.php/parks/holz-farm
Celebrate spring at Holz Farm and explore this 1940's restored park featuring activities for all ages.
- **Eagan Market Fest: Wednesdays, June 3 - September 30**
www.cityofeagan.com/index.php/recreation/community-events/eagan-market-fest
Visit Market Fest for fresh produce, hand-crafted artisan items and a summer filled with weekly themed activities, concerts and entertainment featured as part of this community favorite event held on Wednesdays at Central Park's Festival Grounds and Eagan Rotary Band Shell at the Eagan Community Center.
- **Caponi Art Park & Learning Center Summer Performance Series: June 8 - August 17**
www.caponiartpark.org
Bring a lawn chair or blanket and spend a Sunday evening with friends and family enjoying art and nature. Theater in the Woods weekly performances vary from Shakespeare to orchestral pops music and ethnic dancing each Sunday at 6:30pm, June through August. Admission is free with a \$5 per person donation suggested.
- **Eagan Art Festival: June 27 & 28**
www.eaganartfestival.org
Coordinated by the Dakota Center for the Arts, this weekend long event showcases the area's finest artists. Hours are 9:00am - 5:00pm on Saturday and 10:00am - 5:00pm on Sunday. Admission is free and there will be ample parking.
- **Eagan Fun Fest: July 3 & 4**
www.eaganfunfest.org
Coordinated by the Fun Fest Committee and held at Central Park's Festival Grounds and Eagan Rotary Band Shell, this 4th of July celebration includes a parade, festival, concerts and fireworks.



TAKE NOTE OF THE UPCOMING DATES:

Earth Day

Wednesday, April 22

Administrative Professionals Day

Wednesday, April 22

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25

Father's Day

Sunday, June 21

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4

Tenant Appreciation

Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, July 29

Steps for Preparing a Budget

If you're having a hard time keeping your spending under control, it might be time to develop a personal budget. While it may sound like a daunting task, it can also be an eye opening exercise. Just follow these steps:

1. Identify how you're spending money now.
2. Evaluate your current spending and set goals that align with your long-term financial objectives.
3. Track your spending to make sure it stays within your new budget parameters.

Budgeting involves making some tough choices. The following tips are intended to help make the process a little easier:

- **Use software to automate your budget.**
Personal finance programs, such as Quicken or Microsoft Money, have a built-in budgeting tool to help create your budget. There are also a number of popular apps, such as Level Money, Mint, and PearBudget, available to help you create a budget and track your spending by category.

- **Don't spend beyond your limits.**
Government figures show that many U.S. households with total income of \$50,000 or less are spending more than they bring in. This doesn't make you an automatic candidate for bankruptcy, but it's a warning sign to curtail excess spending.
- **Avoid the ATM.**
Too often, withdrawals from a cash machine seem to evaporate into thin air. If you find yourself stopping at the ATM on a regular basis, then be sure to track how that cash is being spent.
- **Build up a nest egg.**
Plan to spend no more than 90% of your income. Then you'll have the remaining 10% left over to save for bigger ticket items.
- **Don't spend more just because you make more.**
As your annual income increases from raises, promotions and smart investing, don't start spending more on unnecessary conveniences and luxuries. Instead, use the added income as an excuse to save more.

May is National Physical Fitness & Sports Month

Did you know that regular physical activity increases your chances of living a longer, healthier life? It also reduces your risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, and some types of cancer. Yet less than 5% of adults participate in 30 minutes of physical activity each day.

The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommend that adults:

- Aim for 2.5 hours of moderate aerobic activity each week. Moderate activity includes things like walking fast, dancing, swimming, and raking leaves.
- Do muscle-strengthening activities – like lifting weights and using exercise bands – at least two days a week.



Take advantage of the USDA's SuperTracker tool at www.supertracker.usda.gov to create a personalized nutrition and physical activity plan. The SuperTracker provides a platform to track your foods and physical activities to see how they stack up and it also provides tips to help you make healthier choices and plan ahead.

An active lifestyle is for everyone. No matter what shape you are in, there are activities that can work for you. In honor of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, challenge yourself to be more active during the month of May!

Traveling to Europe this Summer

In recent years, European vacations were almost a luxury, with sky-high fares and hotel rates and a weak dollar-to-euro exchange rate that made everyday purchases an extravagance for U.S. visitors. But travelers should be able to find some great deals for travel to Europe this year because of the strong U.S. dollar and the declining value of the euro, which is near a 12-year low against the dollar. In fact, the euro has lost about 24% of its value since just last summer so financially speaking, now is a great time to travel to Europe, especially to countries that use the euro.

The following 19 countries accept the euro: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. It is also used as a currency in Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, and Vatican City.

And for U.S. travelers that prefer to stay a little closer to home, Canada also represents a better value than recent years because the Canadian loonie has declined to around 80 cents on the U.S. dollar.

If you haven't already made summer travel plans, consider a trip abroad to take advantage of the favorable exchange rate. But remember, currency markets tend to fluctuate so you may want to consider pre-paying for hotel rooms to lock in on discounted rates.

Another option is to buy some euros or traveler's checks at your local bank now to be spent on your trip later. Or you can load some money onto a pre-paid card like the Travelex Cash Passport, but be mindful of foreign transaction fees for credit card and ATM transactions.



Brain Teaser: Neighbors Riddle

There is a row of five different color houses. Each house is occupied by a man of different nationality. Each man has a different pet, prefers a different drink, and smokes a different brand of cigarettes. Who has fish at home?

1. The Brit lives in the Red house.
2. The Swede keeps dogs as pets.
3. The Dane drinks tea.
4. The Green house is next to the White house, on the left.
5. The owner of the Green house drinks coffee.
6. The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds.
7. The owner of the Yellow house smokes Dunhill.
8. The man living in the center house drinks milk.
9. The Norwegian lives in the first house.
10. The man who smokes Blends lives next to the one who keeps cats.
11. The man who keeps horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill.
12. The man who smokes Blue Master drinks beer.
13. The German smokes Prince.
14. The Norwegian lives next to the Blue house.
15. The man who smokes Blends has a neighbor who drinks water.

*(Answer on Back Page)
Source: Brainden.com*

Recognizing Grand Oak Tenants

Equus Capital Partners and Transwestern extend special thanks to the following new tenants for their leases completed during 1st Quarter 2015:

Campbell Knutson
(860 Blue Gentian)

Samsung SDS America, Inc.
(860 Blue Gentian)

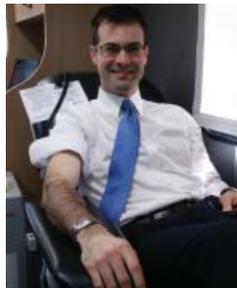
Vivint, Inc.
(2854 Highway 55)

Successful Blood Drive

HOME
FEDERAL

In conjunction with Home Federal Bank, Grand Oak hosted a blood drive on Thursday, April 2nd. A total of 41 donors participated in the event – 14 of which were first-time donors. All donors received a coupon for a free pint of Culver’s frozen custard and were also entered into a drawing for a \$25 Bluestone giftcard. Congratulations to the following giftcard winners: Thomas Storlien, Brian Filip, Janet Sanchez and Angela Smith.

Based on the strong turnout, Grand Oak will host a blood drive on an annual basis and plans are already underway for next spring. Special thanks to Home Federal Bank for sponsoring the blood drive and thanks to all the blood donors!



Brain Teaser Answer

	House 1	House 2	House 3	House 4	House 5
Color	Yellow	Blue	Red	Green	White
Person	Norwegian	Dane	Briton	German	Swede
Drink	Water	Tea	Milk	Coffee	Beer
Smoke	Dunhill	Blend	Pall Mall	Prince	Blue Master
Pet	Cat	Horse	Bird	Fish	Dog

About Equus Capital Partners

Equus Capital Partners, Ltd. is one of the nation’s leading private equity real estate fund managers. Equus’ portfolio consists of over 24 million square feet of office, retail and industrial properties and nearly 17,000 apartment units in over 65 communities located throughout the United States. The firm is headquartered in the Philadelphia area with regional offices in Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington DC, Boston, Atlanta and Raleigh-Durham. For additional information, please visit the company’s website at www.equuspartners.com.



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