

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS

Giving new purpose to EP's old buildings



The main floor is fully furnished.

PHOTO BY KARLA WENNERSTROM

House for rent

Cummins-Phipps-Grill House is ready for rentals

BY KARLA WENNERSTROM
editor@edenprairienews.com

The Cummins-Phipps-Grill House is open for business. Since the Eden Prairie Historical Society signed a lease with the city of Eden Prairie to care for the historic home, the site has been lovingly restored.

"We have refurbished the house while trying to keep it historically accurate," said Historical Society member Valerie Ross.

"The major work is done and we're ready for company," reads the Historical Society newsletter.

More accurately, they're ready for your company.

The entire first floor and the hired hand's room are available for rent to host your wine and

cheese party, baby shower, meeting or other event.

The cost is \$60 per hour for non-Eden Prairie residents, \$50 per hour for Eden Prairie residents. The cost is discounted to \$30 per hour for nonprofit organizations. There is a two-hour minimum on house rental.

The Cummins-Phipps-Grill

House to A12 ►

Historic barn to be an event center

BY PATTY DEXTER
pdexter@swpub.com

People passing the Goodrich-Ramus barn on Pioneer Trail have seen the evidence of owner Steve Schussler's creativity with the decorated cows outside.

Now, Eden Prairie residents and visitors will get a chance to see what Schussler has done with the inside of the historic barn.

The barn is being turned into an event center called Green Acres. The plan is different than Schussler's original vision for the building since he purchased it two years ago to house a creative laboratory and provide storage for cars and motorcycles used as props for his business, he said during an interview on Sept. 21.

"Eden Prairie does not have an



Steve Schussler

Barn to A12 ►



PHOTO BY KARLA WENNERSTROM

The Goodrich-Ramus barn on Pioneer Trail is being turned into an event center called Green Acres by owner Steve Schussler.

BARN

► continued from A1

event center. This really fills a niche in the market," he said.

Schussler, a St. Louis Park resident and Rainforest Café creator, saved the barn from possibly being dismantled, bidding on the structure when Hennepin County put it up for sale.

The site was to be cleared for a storm water pond in 2007 as Pioneer Trail construction started. However, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the State Historic Preservation Office found that the barn, which was built in 1942, could qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. Owners of the property included Floyd Sjostrand, and the Goodrich and Ramus families. It was constructed using laminated arch trusses built by Rilco (Rock Island Lumber Co., a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser) in Albert Lea, Minn.

Schussler said he decided to

convert the barn to an event center after he began receiving letters expressing appreciation for saving the barn and the exterior decorations, and phone calls from people asking if the barn could be used for their child's wedding. He also had support from the city, and the barn's neighbors including Elliott Aviation at Flying Cloud Airport and Grace Church during the process.

"I'm so excited to open it up and share our passion with everyone," he said.

According to Schussler, Green Acres is an "enchanted event center in a historic barn." The barn will have 6,000 square feet of space to reserve for a variety of events including weddings, bar mitzvahs, meetings and card games. He also hopes to offer it free of charge to the city for some of its functions or to the community for charity events.

The interior of the barn has been completely renovated to include 35 hanging crystal chandeliers, vintage jukeboxes

for ambient lighting and a wine cellar in the silo. Elements of the barn's history have been incorporated in the decorating. Air conditioning, heating and handicap accessible bathrooms also have been added, Schussler said.

"I would tell you that it's barn meets bling," he said, adding that the space has warmth and depth.

Schussler said Green Acres may open sometime after Christmas. There have been some private events there, but he is still in the process of finishing requirements needed to make the center operational for the public. For more information about the center, contact Sunhi Ryan at (952) 942-5220.



MORE ONLINE

FOR MORE ON
GREEN ACRES,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

edenprairienews.com