

Finding our way with street signs

There's a street sign that is under my skin. It's one in my neighborhood. Coming to see me? You will probably drive by this sign. The street sign is for Twilight Trail. It's a green sign like all the others. White letters. But this sign has a typo. Twilight is misspelled. Twilight. It makes me crazy.

If you look at the sign quickly, as so many of us have, as so many of us do every day, as so many of us have for years, it looks fine. Perfect. Twilight. You actually see the "i" as there! But now that I see the "i" is missing – well, it bugs me. Every day. Really, really bugs me.

It's spelled wrong. This is terrible. This is a big deal. Fix the sign, Eden Prairie. If I can remember to add that second "i" into Prairie, well, then Twilight can be spelled right. Come on, number one community. Let's get this right!

Sit back, Russell. Give it a moment. It's a street sign. Just a street sign.

Meanwhile, there are real things to get upset about.

There are Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan, living and working in dangerous situations. And while we sleep, they are in armored vehicles trying to make the world a better place. Whether we like the war or not, whether we believe we belong there or not, is beside the point. The point is that there are troops – our boys and girls, our husbands and wives – stepping into the hot dusty day and night in our stead.

And there are children without clean drinking water. People hungry. People sick. Families without homes. It is only a matter of paying attention and we can see needs beyond our own



JODY
RUSSELL

prairie
rustlings



PHOTO BY JODY RUSSELL

Turn on Twilight Trail.

lives, issues that are so hard to face sometimes that we turn away.

Sometimes it bears reminding. Because it's so easy – when we're focusing on a street sign – to forget the larger problems in the world around us.

I think we have a tendency to focus on the missing "i" in the sign. We focus on whatever the Eden Prairie issue is at the moment – school boundaries or trail expansions. I know – these are the concerns in our lives. These things do matter.

But in the scheme of things, these are the little things.

Hug your kids. Call your mom. Do something nice for someone you don't know. Leave the sign as it is. It will remind us that it doesn't really matter and that we need to let that stuff go. You can still get to my house by turning on Twilight Trail.

Jody Russell is an Eden Prairie Web designer, photographer and writer. Her columns appear regularly in the *Eden Prairie News*.