

# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

## EDEN PRAIRIE Photo Contest

Calling photographers of all ages, submit your best photos highlighting what makes Eden Prairie a great place to live, work and dream – and you could win!

Visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) for more information.



2011 Photo Contest Winners

MAY-JUNE 2012

## NEW CITY WEBSITE LAUNCH

At the April 17 meeting of the Eden Prairie City Council, Mayor **Nancy Tyra-Lukens** officially launched the new and improved City website, [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org).

“Over the past few years, we’ve seen a significant increase in the number of people visiting the City website,” said Tyra-Lukens. “In fact, during the month of July 2010 when the City was named by Money magazine as the #1 Best Place to Live in America, website traffic spiked at more than 55,000 visitors.”

For that reason, the City’s Communications Division began exploring options for a website redesign that would bring the City’s online presence into a new era of technology and feature a design reflective of Eden Prairie’s brand and reputation.

“Our previous website was more than seven years old,” said City Manager **Rick Getschow**. “And there has been a significant evolution in technology and design over that timeframe – so it was in need of an update.”

In the winter of 2011, the City began working with **Vision Internet**, a national leader in government website development, to rework the design and structure of the City’s website.

“Our goal was to create a cutting edge website that would provide information in a visually appealing, user-friendly way,” said Communications Manager **Joyce Lorenz**. “We really wanted the website to be a place where it is easy for the public to find what they’re looking for and interact with the City – a convenient and effective platform for community engagement.”

According to the most recent Quality of Life Survey, approximately 78 percent of Eden Prairie residents have accessed the City website. And according to a survey of website users, the most frequently reported topics of interest include parks and recreation information and registration, community event details, Community Center information and citywide news.

“A significant amount of research was conducted prior to the design process,” said Lorenz. “And the structure of the new [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) is reflective of this, making it a more intuitive, user-friendly site.”

The new [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) features an inviting design which captures the

spirit of the Eden Prairie community, as well as several new online tools, including convenient navigational menus, real-time news and event information, a dynamic and searchable set of frequently asked questions, an easy-to-use facility directory and more.

“In our ongoing effort to provide transparency in government, this new website is a step in the right direction for Eden Prairie,” said Getschow. “Whether you’re looking for information about City budget or City commissions, you’re sure to quickly find it with a visit to [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org).”

And that’s not all, for added convenience on the go, there’s also a version of the City website designed to be accessible on mobile devices.

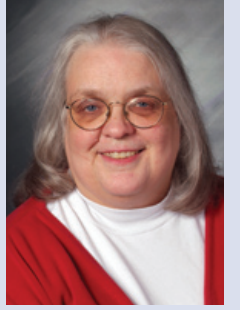
“City staff members have put in significant time and effort to make this new website a success,” said Tyra-Lukens. “And I’d like to join them in welcoming the Eden Prairie community to visit us online and experience the new [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) today!”



The new City website design also features branded theme pages for the Parks and Recreation Department, Community Center and Edén Prairie Liquor stores.

## Council Member Profile

**Kathy Nelson** was re-elected to serve her second four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council in November 2010.



Kathy Nelson

Council Member Nelson, who has lived in Eden Prairie for nearly 20 years, served on the Planning Commission from 2000 through 2006, including three years as vice chair, and has been an active member of the community for years.

“I decided to get involved in City government because our family planned to stay in Eden Prairie for a long time,” said Nelson. “I knew citizen involvement was important, and I wanted to have input into how the community would grow.”

Now, after serving on the City Council for more than five years, Nelson is proud of her accomplishments in helping the City make progress in the area of energy efficiency, including the decision to move to more energy-efficient streetlights and vehicles, as well as efforts to maintain the City’s green spaces and the addition of amenities to create gathering places within the community.

Looking forward, Nelson sees opportunities in the potential for high-tech and bio-tech businesses in Eden Prairie.

“Encouraging technology businesses and providing the community, services and amenities they look for, can provide a strong business base,” she said. “That in turn can provide the jobs and careers that families and existing businesses need.”

And although her hope for the future is to see Eden Prairie continue to be the same great community it is today, she also acknowledges the importance of long-term solutions and budgets that will continue to provide smooth running services and a beautiful city, at a reasonable cost.

Finally, for others who want to be more involved in City government, Nelson suggests getting involved with a City commission.

“City commissions provide necessary services for the City and provide information and advice to the City Council,” she said. “There are also opportunities to get involved in emergency preparedness through the Police and Fire Departments.”

### Q and A with Council Member Kathy Nelson

**Q. What do you want the Eden Prairie community to know?**

A. I always keep in mind the promises I made during the election, and make sure that I am working as a council member to do the things that I promised to do.

**Q. Why do you think Eden Prairie is a great place to live, work and dream?**

A. Eden Prairie is a beautiful, safe, friendly community. We have good City services, excellent schools, many parks, a strong business community and lots of interesting people. These are all things that make it a great place to live, work and dream.

**Q. What is something interesting, unique or little-known about you?**

A. I love to travel and have traveled worldwide. Something more unique about me is that I have training in emergency management.

## I & I Inspection Program Scheduled for Completion

Over the past two years, the City of Eden Prairie has been working closely with residents to reduce the flow of clean water and storm water — referred to as Inflow and Infiltration or I & I — into the **Metropolitan Council Environmental Services’ (MCES)** overburdened sanitary sewer collection system.

I & I is a problem because it takes up fixed capacity in large regional sewer pipes (interceptors) and treatment plants owned by MCES that will be needed to convey and treat wastewater from future households in the region. During major rainfall events, this additional surge of water can consume the capacity of sewer pipes and result in sewage backing up into homes, or overflowing into creeks and wetlands, ultimately reaching the Mississippi River.

Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps (used by many homeowners to keep groundwater out of basements), roof downspouts and foundation drains that are connected to the City’s sanitary sewer system. Sump pumps are often connected to the sanitary sewer system via a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain. State law requires sump pumps, foundation drains and roof down spouts to be connected directly to a storm sewer or onto the ground, not to the sanitary sewer system.

In late 2009, the Eden Prairie **City Council** approved ordinance changes to assist in the inspection of private properties and ensure that there are no improper connections to the sanitary sewer collection system. The purpose of these inspections was to determine whether private property in Eden Prairie complied with the City Ordinance and State Law.

### Results

As a result of the I & I inspection process, approximately 750 homes in Eden Prairie were found to have plumbing which did not properly discharge ground water outside of the home – most were found to be improperly discharging ground water directly into the sanitary sewer system. **And the amount of ground water (clean water and rain water) being discharged for treatment in the sanitary sewer system by those 750 homes was equivalent to the typical sanitary sewer discharge of 12,000 homes.**

In cooperation with hundreds of residents, the Eden Prairie **Utilities Division** was able to correct almost all of the improper drainage, which not only relieves the burden on the sanitary sewer system, but also reduces the potential for future sewer backups into homes and the environment.

The I & I inspection process is scheduled for completion by the end of 2012. For more information about the program, visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org).

### A Note About Sump Pumps

Do you have a sump pump improperly draining into the sanitary sewer system, rather than through the ground outside your home? Do the right thing and have it fixed today! For assistance with how to properly route sump pump drainage, please contact the **Public Works Department** at 952-949-8530 or via email at [ii@edenprairie.org](mailto:ii@edenprairie.org).

## Adopt-A-Street Program

The City of Eden Prairie would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the participants in the City’s Adopt-A-Street program over the past year!

**Alysson & Blake Biermaier**  
Cub Scout Troop #597

**Eden Prairie High School**  
– SLIC Room

**Eden Prairie Lion’s Club**  
**Eden Prairie Noon Rotary Club**

**Eden Prairie Women of Today**  
Maria & Kent Erlandson

**Friends of Birch Island Woods**  
GE Fleet Services

**Kim Grant Family**

**Linda & Dana Kloeckner**  
Kevin Kraemer

**Preserve Association**

**Cassie Retzlaff**  
**Valley Road neighborhood**

Your efforts and commitment to keeping City streets clean have helped make Eden Prairie an even better place to Live, Work and Dream!

For more information about the Adopt-A-Street program contact **Maarie Gayther** in the City’s Streets, Fleet and Park Maintenance office at 952-949-8533 or [mgayther@edenprairie.org](mailto:mgayther@edenprairie.org).

## Women’s Fire Service Expo

Women across the state are invited to attend and learn about fire fighting and how to become a volunteer firefighter. Meet women firefighters and get some hands-on experience!

**Saturday, May 12**  
**7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

South Metro Public Safety Training Facility  
7525 Braemar Boulevard  
Edina, MN 55439

For more information please contact:  
Kimberly Cummings  
952-949-8367  
[kcummings@edenprairie.org](mailto:kcummings@edenprairie.org)

**Register at [nswfa.org](http://nswfa.org)**

**MAYOR**  
Nancy Tyra-Lukens  
[ntyra-lukens@edenprairie.org](mailto:ntyra-lukens@edenprairie.org)  
952-937-1898

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# Live Well Eden Prairie!

Enjoy the 2012 Summer Entertainment Series



The beauty of nature, the abundance of fresh air and the company of good friends are just a few of the virtues that draw hundreds of Eden Prairie residents to the **Sounds Around Town** entertainment series each summer. This year's entertainment kicks off June 10 and continues throughout August, so mark your calendar and make plans to Live Well this summer!

June 10 — **Minnesota Festival of Jazz on the Prairie** and Rotary Rib Fest at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre from 2-8 p.m.

June 27-Aug. 17 — **Starring at Staring** musical entertainment at 7 p.m. every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre

June 15-17 and 21-24 — Summer musical performances of **Annie** every Thursday-Sunday at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre at 7 p.m.

June 16 — **Rocking at Riley** featuring live music and a car show at the Riley-Jacques Barn from 3-9 p.m.

June 26-Aug. 7 — Local children's performers at **KidStock** every Tuesday morning at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre at 10:30 a.m.

July 4 — Eden Prairie **4th of July Hometown Celebration** at Round Lake Park from 5-11 p.m.

Aug. 3-5 — Children's Theater Workshop performances of **The Glass Slipper** at the Riley-Jacques Barn

Aug. 3 — **Movies in the Park** screening of "Wall-E" at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre at 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 10 — **Movies in the Park** screening of "The Goonies" at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre at 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 17 — **Movies in the Park** screening of "Dolphin Tale" at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre at 7:30 p.m.

For a full schedule of 2012 events, check out the *Sounds Around Town* brochure in the June 7 issue of the *Eden Prairie NEWS* or visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org).

## Our Environment

Green up Your Spring Cleaning

As you clear up some space in your house this spring, consider the environment and be sure to properly dispose of old appliances, batteries, furniture and household hazardous waste.



### Hennepin County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

May 17-19  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

City of Minnetonka Public Works  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

June 7-9  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

City of St. Louis Park  
7250 State Hwy. 7  
(In the parking lot at the corner of Hwy. 7 and Louisiana Avenue)

Disposal at these events is free of charge to Hennepin County residents. For more information, visit [hennepin.us/collectionevents](http://hennepin.us/collectionevents).

Please note, household hazardous waste can also be dropped off at the Hennepin County waste facility in Bloomington (1400 West 96<sup>th</sup> Street) Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### City Clean-Up Day

The City of Eden Prairie's annual drop-off event for residents:

Saturday, June 16  
8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hennepin Technical College  
13100 College View Drive

Although many items can be disposed free of charge, **several have disposal fees**. For more information and a list of accepted items, visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org).

Please note, household hazardous waste is not accepted at this event.

## Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Rick Getschow

### EPy Awards

March 7, 2012

Our annual "Spring Employee Recognition Event" was held this afternoon at the City Center.

Following an introduction by Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens, we honored our fellow employees for reaching milestones in their years of service. We then recognized our fellow employees with the special "EPy" Awards.

EPy Award recipients are nominated by their peers. The City department directors and I then evaluate the nominations to make a final determination for who will receive the awards. These awards pay tribute to those employees who consistently went above and beyond in 2011 to perform their duties and serve the people of Eden Prairie.



Pictured (L to R): Sue Bohnsack, Tina Eide, Jenna Scadden, Rick Getschow, Molly Koivumaki, Justin Netzer, Dzevad Mahmutovic, Dave Becker, Scott Heddle

Today, these employees were honored with the following awards:

- **Scott Heddle**, Information Technology: Carl J. Jullie Award for Excellence in Customer Service
- **Jenna Scadden**, Police Department: Mayor Jean L. Harris Award for Community Service
- **Tina Eide**, Community Center: James G. Clark Award for Excellence in Teamwork
- **Sgt. Dave Becker**, Police Department: Scott H. Neal Award for Excellence in Leadership
- **Justin Netzer**, Utilities; **Jeff Campbell**, Utilities; **Dzevad Mahmutovic**, Facilities; **Molly Koivumaki**, Housing and Community Services; and **Sue Bohnsack**, Senior Center: City Manager Quality Awards

Congratulations to all of these award winners and to those that have reached milestones in years of service.

See more of Rick Getschow's blog entries, by visiting [edenprairieweblogs.org](http://edenprairieweblogs.org).

## Staying Safe in Eden Prairie

### Recreational Fire Guidelines

A recreational fire can be an enjoyable outdoor activity when conducted safely. When burning a recreational fire on your property, remember to be a good neighbor. You are responsible for keeping your family, your friends, neighbors and children safe. The intent of these guidelines is to prevent fire hazards and ensure that your recreational fire is safe and enjoyable.

#### What is the correct size and location for my recreational fire?

Recreational fires shall be limited in size to 3-feet-wide by 3-feet-high and must be at least 25 feet from any combustible structures such as homes, sheds, decks or fences.

#### Exception:

Portable, screened fire vessels may be used within 25 feet of combustible structures provided they are positioned at a safe distance from said structures, located on a **non-combustible surface** (i.e. patio, driveway or bare ground), and the fire conforms to the 3x3-feet size limitation.

The fire must be located on your own property. A responsible adult must be present at all times. If the fire is in an easement area, you must have approval from all involved parties. No recreational fires on are permitted on City property without written consent from the Parks and Recreation Director.

#### What can I burn in my recreational fire?

Only wood, minimum 1-inch in diameter may be burned. Prohibited items include: brush, yard waste, treated or painted lumber, trash or rubbish.

Charcoal lighter fluid may be used to ignite a fire; all other flammable/combustible liquids are prohibited.

A means of controlling or extinguishing the fire must be

available at all times, such as a garden hose or shovel, and loose dirt. The fire must be completely extinguished when unattended or during prohibited recreational fire hours.

#### When can I burn my recreational fire?

Recreational fires are permitted between the hours of 7 a.m. and midnight.

Fires are allowed if winds are less than 15 miles per hour. They are also permitted when the fire danger level is at or below **HIGH**, or when otherwise **not** prohibited by the fire chief.

#### What should I do before I start my recreational fire?

Check the current weather and wind conditions on the National Weather Service website at [crh.noaa.gov/mpx](http://crh.noaa.gov/mpx).

Check the fire danger level at [dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/ firerating\\_restrictions.html](http://dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/ firerating_restrictions.html). The fire danger level is determined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

**Be a good neighbor!** Notify your neighbors if you plan to burn a recreational fire.

What else do I need to know about my recreational fire?

Any police or fire officer may withdraw permission for recreational fires due to smoke or nuisance problems/complaints, or violations to these guidelines.

A printed copy of these guidelines (including this article) from the current year serves as your permit and must be on site. The guidelines are also available online at [edenprairie.org/recreationalfires](http://edenprairie.org/recreationalfires) or from the **Eden Prairie Fire Prevention Bureau**.

For more information about recreational fires in Eden Prairie, call 952-949-6200 and ask for the Fire Prevention Bureau.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that lawn watering uses a significant portion of the City's water supply each year? For this reason, the City has permanent, year-round watering restrictions to regulate water usage.

According to City Ordinance Chapter 3.3 §12, homes and businesses must adhere to the following lawn watering guidelines:

- If your home or business numbered address ends in an odd number, watering is permitted on odd numbered days of the month
- If your home or business numbered address ends in an even number, watering is permitted even days of the month
- No lawn irrigation is permitted from noon to 5 p.m.

The following are exceptions to the City's watering restrictions:

- Car washing
- Children's water toys
- Private wells
- Watering of flower beds, as long as the activity is **attended**
- Lawn watering for 30 days after the installation of new sod or landscaping (permit required) - however this is still prohibited from noon to 5 p.m.

A full copy of the Water Use Restriction Ordinance is available online at [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) or at the **City Center**.



# Mark Your Calendar

#### City Council Meetings\*

Tuesdays, May 1, 15; June 5, 19

\*Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Center.

#### Arbor Day Walk

Saturday, May 5  
9-11:30 a.m.

Celebrate Arbor Day with a walk around Staring Lake and enjoy complimentary refreshments, tree health and planting information, free seedlings and a special discovery activity for kids.

#### Mother-Son All Star Evening

Saturday, May 5  
6-8 p.m.

Put on your gym shoes and favorite sports attire for an evening filled with dancing, sports team activities and light refreshments at the Community Center. Cost is \$8 per person.

#### Arts in the Park

Saturday, May 19  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Experience the third annual Arts in the Park event in Eden Prairie! Enjoy a day at Purgatory Creek Park, shopping for works from local artists, enjoying live entertainment, concessions and more.

#### Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 28  
11 a.m.

Commemorate Memorial Day at the Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial in Purgatory Creek Park.

#### Great American Campout

June 23-24  
3 p.m. Saturday to  
11 a.m. Sunday

Bring the family for an overnight campout by the Riley-Jacques Barn! Enjoy s'mores over the fire, swimming, bingo, nature hikes, crafts, games, star watching and more. Registration is \$20 per person (meals included); \$10 tent rental available.

For more information about City of Eden Prairie events, meetings or Parks and Recreation programs, visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) or call the City Center at 952-949-8300.