

# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

## NEW ONLINE MAPS NOW AVAILABLE



View property information,  
explore parks and trails,  
find polling locations  
and more!

Visit the Map Gallery at [edenprairie.org/maps](http://edenprairie.org/maps)

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2012

## A Playground with a Purpose

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor with a mission to educate children about healthy foods and sustainability, the City of Eden Prairie has built an "Edible Playground" in **Prairie View Park** (17255 Peterborg Road), at Prairie View Elementary school.

The edible playground features several garden beds which contain a variety of vegetables and herbs such as onions, tomatoes, lettuce, basil and more. Participants in Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation summer playground camps are responsible for tending the garden throughout the summer while learning about the benefits of gardening and healthy eating. During the school year, the garden will be tended by Prairie View Elementary students.



The goals of this edible, hands-on educational opportunity are to teach children how food is produced and inspire kids to eat healthy and nutritious foods.

"I am delighted about the addition of the edible playground and the collaboration between the City and Eden Prairie Schools to coordinate the educational components of this amazing gift," said Mayor **Nancy Tyra-Lukens**. "Our hope is that the edible playground will give kids a better understanding of how their food choices affect both their health and the health of the environment."



The edible playground was made possible by a generous private donation, and as of now, it is the only one of its kind in Eden Prairie. However, the City hopes to replicate the edible playground concept as funding becomes available.



## Open to Business Program Helps Small Businesses Succeed

Last year, the Eden Prairie City Council voted to adopt a resolution supporting the City's participation in **Open to Business**, a small business technical assistance program provided by the **Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers** (MCCD) through a partnership with the **Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority**.

Over the past several months, the City's participation in this program has provided dozens of local businesses with services to help them succeed – which in turn supports a broader strategy of promoting economic development, creating and retaining jobs, and cultivating entrepreneurs.

One business owner who has benefited from participating in the Open to Business program is **Tony Schumacher**, owner of **Light'n Up!** This Eden Prairie-based lighting fixture and accessories company specializes in layout and product selection services for builders, designers and homeowners.

During the economic recession and resulting collapse of the housing industry, Tony and his wife Celeste saw their small, privately funded business begin to struggle, which caused restrictions on funding options due to negative earnings results. However, by 2010, business had started to rebound for Light'n Up!, and has continued to improve significantly in the years since.

"The problem for Light'n Up! was that the terms of payment to their suppliers and their own terms with their customers created a cash gap every time they made a sale," said **Lee Hall** with the **Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers** (MCCD). "In periods of growth such as they are in now, that gap puts a lot of pressure on the business. Without access to short term borrowing, this can limit the business's ability to make additional sales."

Tony was referred to the Open to Business program after being turned down for line-of-credit funding by traditional banks. The program has provided him with short term financial support, allowing him to take advantage of his current growth opportunities and transition back to traditional line-of-credit funding after 2012.

"In a lot of ways this is not a typical relationship for the Open to Business program, as we most frequently work with start-up or small scale business ventures," said Hall. "However, Eden Prairie has a diverse and well developed business community, and the specifics of Tony's story – hard hit by the recession, restricted access to bank financing – are likely to resonate with many business owners in this community."

Additional Open to Business services offered free of charge to small businesses located in Eden Prairie include: business plan development, feasibility studies, cash flow and financing projections, marketing, loan request preparation and advocacy with lending institutions.

"Open to Business is a credible alternative when you're out of options with traditional banks," said Schumacher. "If you are like us and have invested blood sweat and tears into your company, and the banks can't help you, Open to Business is a program that works."

For more information about the Open to Business program, visit [opentobusinessmn.org](http://opentobusinessmn.org)

## Eden Prairie Neighbors Unite

Thousands of Eden Prairie residents gathered with friends and neighbors in early August to continue the summer tradition of celebrating **Eden Prairie Night to Unite**.

"We continue to be impressed with the level of participation in this annual event," said Eden Prairie Fire Chief **George Esbensen**. "And we appreciate those who volunteer their time and effort to coordinate neighborhood celebrations."

This year, residents of Eden Prairie planned 126 neighborhood gatherings for the Night to Unite event, bringing more than 4,000 adults and nearly 3,000 children out to celebrate for the evening. Of those, more than 110 neighborhoods incorporated a collection of donations for **PROP** (People Reaching out to Other People) into the evening's festivities. In all, 9,597 pounds of food items and nearly \$700 in cash donations were collected!

"The PROP donations we collect each year also continue to increase," said Esbensen. "This is a true indication of the generosity and sense of community we have here in Eden Prairie."

Representatives from the Eden Prairie **Police and Fire departments**, as well as several City officials, made stops at each of the local gatherings. And once again this year, the Police and Fire departments committed to hosting an ice cream social for the neighborhood with the largest volume of donations to PROP.

The winning neighborhood, located in the 10000 block of Indigo Drive, collected a total of 1,144 pounds in donations and will be rewarded with an evening of ice cream and fun with McGruff, Sparky and Eden Prairie's public safety officials.

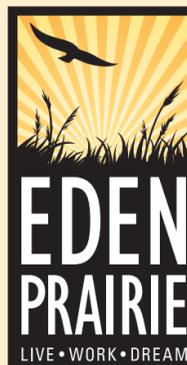
Eden Prairie Night to Unite 2012 was by all means a successful event, bringing friends and neighbors together to celebrate and strengthen their commitment to a safe community.



## CITYWIDE OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Oct. 13  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
8080 Mitchell Road

Entertainment – Tours – Refreshments  
Demonstrations – Fun – Information



### MAYOR

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

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brad Aho  
[baho@edenprairie.org](mailto:baho@edenprairie.org)  
952-303-6884  
Sherry Butcher Wickstrom  
[sbutcherwickstrom@edenprairie.org](mailto:sbutcherwickstrom@edenprairie.org)  
612-296-3721  
Ron Case  
[rcase@edenprairie.org](mailto:rcase@edenprairie.org)  
952-949-0915  
Kathy Nelson  
[knelson@edenprairie.org](mailto:knelson@edenprairie.org)  
952-941-6613

# Live Well Eden Prairie!

## Autumn Adventures



The first day of autumn is Sept. 22 and before we know it, the long Minnesota winter will be here once again. Here are the top 10 opportunities for autumn adventures offered by the Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department:

1. Call for owls and watch for bats on a **Chilly Fall Night Hike** at the **Outdoor Center**.
2. Get creative in the **Community Woodshop** at the **Senior Center**.
3. Have some fun with your little one taking **Parent-Child Swimming Lessons** at the **Community Center**.
4. Sign up your young adults for some **Afterschool Tennis Lessons** at the **Community Center**.
5. Bring the whole family together for an autumn **Star Watch Astronomy** program at the **Staring Lake Observatory**.
6. Capture the colors of fall with **Beginning Watercolor** classes at the **Art Center**.
7. Get some friends together and join the **Adult Baggo League** for some bean bag fun under the lights at **Round Lake Park**.
8. Get into **Zumba** classes at the **Community Center**.
9. Register your little one for a **Nature Preschool Program** at the **Outdoor Center**.
10. Encourage school-age children to stay active after school with the **Fit Kids Club** at the **Community Center**.

Fall program registration is in full swing, so visit [edenprairie.org/parksbrochure](http://edenprairie.org/parksbrochure) for more information about these and other Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation programs and register today!

## Living Green

### Take the Great Hennepin County Recycle Half Challenge



Could you recycle half of all your waste?

**Hennepin County** residents, businesses and organizations create enough waste each year to fill Target Field 11 times, but only 38 percent of that waste is recycled. In 2011, residents of Eden Prairie recycled **639 pounds of waste per household** – this includes items recycled curbside, at drop-off sites and cleanup events. Among the 43 cities within Hennepin County, Eden Prairie currently ranks 10<sup>th</sup> best for the amount of recycled waste per household.

Hennepin County is challenging residents to accomplish a new goal of recycling half of all waste produced by 2015. To make reaching this goal possible, the County is now accepting more items for recycling, including plastic cups and containers (cottage cheese containers, yogurt cups, etc.) as well as milk and juice cartons.

To accomplish this goal in Eden Prairie, residents would need to increase the amount of waste recycled each year by approximately **86 pounds per household** – resulting in an average of 725 pounds of recycled waste per household in 2015.

Ready to take the challenge? Visit [RecycleHalf.com](http://RecycleHalf.com) today and sign up for the Great Hennepin County Recycle Half Challenge!

# Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Rick Getschow

## Being Number One

Aug. 8, 2012

Rumor has it MONEY Magazine is set to release their Top 100 Best Places to Live in America sometime within the next couple weeks! This announcement is made every two years – for cities with populations of more than 50,000 – and in 2010, Eden Prairie was fortunate to receive the designation of **#1 Best Place to Live in America**.

For those of you who were here to experience that announcement in 2010, I'm told it was a pretty exciting time. Eden Prairie was featured in news stories throughout the country, hundreds of thousands of Internet users flocked to the City website and people across the world discovered what most of you already know – there is something unique about the Eden Prairie community that makes it special.

And while it's been fun to celebrate the top designation over the past two years, we realize that the upcoming announcement will bring the opportunity for another great city to be thrust into the spotlight, being named this year's #1 Best Place to Live in America.

But I think I can speak on behalf of all City staff and elected officials when I say that no matter which awards and designations Eden



Prairie may receive, it is even more important to us that those who call this community home will always feel it is the best place to live.

So, thanks for celebrating with us – from sporting our #1 buttons to waving our #1 foam fingers, it's been fun to rally around this exciting first place title. And thank you for making Eden Prairie a top-notch place to live, work and dream.



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

## Did You Know?

Did you know that the Eden Prairie **City Council** facilitates a program designed to give students first-hand experience participating in City government?

This program has become a valuable opportunity for local students to participate on City commissions, and the Council has appointed the following students to serve on commissions during the 2012-2013 school year:

<b>Conservation Commission</b> Sarah Schmit Natalie Sell Katharine Stolz Siddeswari Thunuguntla	<b>Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission</b> Kevin Gadel Peter Humbert Emily Richter	<b>Heritage Preservation Commission</b> Melissa Berman Leanne Zhang	<b>Human Rights and Diversity Commission</b> Jamie Bernard Kristina Busch Camrie Vlasak	<b>Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission</b> Yasmin Atef-Vahid Roseann Awad Vy Nguyen Natalie Townsend
---	--	---	--	---

## Staying Safe in Eden Prairie

### School Bus Safety

In Minnesota, school buses make at least 10,000 school bus trips daily. According to the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**, school buses are the safest mode of transportation for children. As another school year begins, Eden Prairie Police encourage members of the public to review the following tips for pedestrians, motorists and school-age children.

#### Pedestrians

- Cross only at intersections or crosswalks.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Do not enter a crosswalk if a vehicle is too close or moving too fast to stop safely.
- Remember, the law requires pedestrians take responsibility for their own safety.

#### Motorists

- Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and/or its stop arm is extended – this applies to motorists approaching the bus from the rear and from the opposite direction, on undivided roads.
- Motorists are not required to stop for a bus if the bus is on the opposite side of a divided roadway (one with a median) – but they should remain alert for children.
- Red flashing lights on buses indicate students are either entering or exiting the bus.
- Reduce speeds in and around school zones – watch for school crossing patrols.
- Watch and stop for pedestrians – the law requires motorists to stop for pedestrians at all street corners, for both marked and unmarked crosswalks.

#### School-Age Children

- When exiting a bus, look to be sure no vehicles are passing on the shoulder.
- Before crossing the street, take five “giant steps” out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen.
- Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- Look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped.
- Keep watching traffic when crossing.

# Mark Your Calendar

### City Council Meetings\*

Tuesdays, Sept. 4, 18; Oct. 2, 16

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

### Heritage Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 30

Noon–4 p.m.

Riley-Jacques Farmstead

Explore Eden Prairie's history through fun and interactive activities for the whole family.

### A Collection of One Acts

Sept. 21–22, 28–29, 30; Oct. 5–6

7:30 p.m.

Oct. 7

2 p.m.

Riley-Jacques Barn

Enjoy live theater as the Eden Prairie Players present *A Collection of One Acts*. Tickets: \$15 at the door, \$13 in advance, visit [edenprairieplayers.com](http://edenprairieplayers.com).

### Eden Prairie Art Crawl

Saturday, Sept. 29

10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 30

Noon–5 p.m.

Enjoy the art of Eden Prairie residents in their personal home studios or at the Art Center; art, jewelry and other items available for sale.

### Fall Festival Luncheon

Thursday, Oct. 25

11:30 a.m.

Senior Center

Gather with friends and enjoy a delightful fall meal. Cost is \$10 per person and registration is required.

### Apple Cider-ing

Sunday, Oct. 14

1–3 p.m.

Outdoor Center

Take a lesson in old-fashioned apple cider making, learn about the history of apples and enjoy a sweet sample of cider. Cost is \$7 per family. Registration is requested.

### Citywide Open House

Saturday, Oct. 13

11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Explore City facilities and see how Eden Prairie's Community Development, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation departments serve you!

### Art in Nature – Fall Harvest

Saturday, Oct. 20

1–4 p.m.

Outdoor Center

Don't miss this new fall family event featuring art projects, nature walks, demonstrations, concessions and more!

### Spooky Saturday

Saturday, Oct. 27

3–5 p.m.

Community Center

Trick-or-treating, arts and crafts, music, games and more! Cost is \$5 per child (ages 1 and older) with advance registration, or \$6 at the door. Admission is free for parents and guardians.

### Halloween on the Mall

Monday, Oct. 31

5–7 p.m.

Eden Prairie Center

Bring the kids for an evening of trick-or-treating, entertainment and fun in the warmth and safety of Eden Prairie Center.