

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

NEW CITY WEBSITE SURVEY



YOUR FEEDBACK NEEDED
The City's website was recently redesigned and we want to know what you think of it!

Visit edenprairie.org before Oct. 31 to complete the New City Website Survey and give us your feedback.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2012

Election 2012

The 2012 United States presidential election, which takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012, will be the 57th consecutive quadrennial election for president and vice president of the United States. It will coincide with the 2012 Senate elections in 33 states, House of Representatives elections in all 50 states, and gubernatorial elections in 13 states, as well as various state referendums and local elections.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts, and is done in the United States after the completion of the decennial Census. In Minnesota, the state legislature has statutory responsibility for redistricting congressional, legislative, and Metropolitan Council districts. As a result of redistricting, voting district and precinct boundaries have changed this year.

In Eden Prairie, elections for **City Council** are held every two years with two of the four seats

up for election. Election for the position of mayor is held every four years. City Council members and the mayor serve four-year terms of office.

For the 2012 election year, two at-large Council member seats (four-year terms) are on the ballot for Eden Prairie.

The following residents have filed for candidacy in the 2012 Eden Prairie City Council election:

Brad Aho
Ron Case
Jon Duckstad

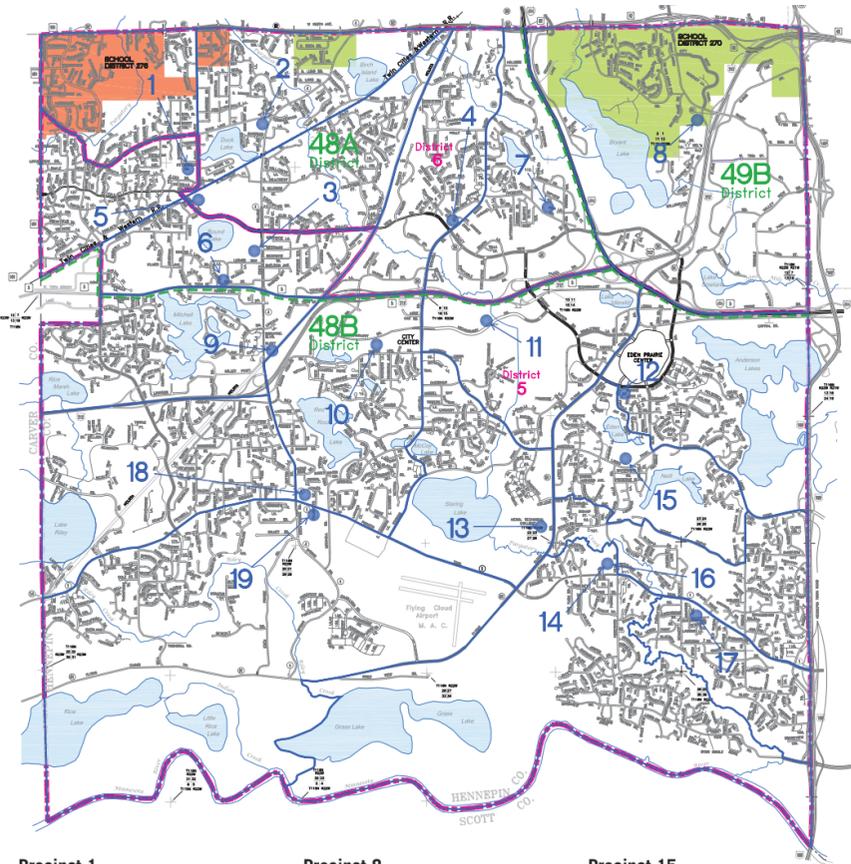
When to Vote

Election Day is **Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012**.
Polls will be open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

To view local candidate forums tune into **EPTV** cable channel 16 or visit edenprairie.org to watch on-demand.

Where to Vote

You must vote in the precinct in which you live. To find your precinct visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us and enter your current address. There are 19 precincts in Eden Prairie, each with a designated polling location:



Precinct 1
Prairie View Elementary School
17255 Peterborg Road

Precinct 2
Eden Prairie Assembly of God
16591 Duck Lake Trail

Precinct 3
Immanuel Lutheran Church
16515 Luther Way

Precinct 4
Life Church
14100 Valley View Road

Precinct 5
Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church
17200 Valley View Road

Precinct 6
Christ Lutheran Church
16900 Main Street

Precinct 7
City Hill Fellowship
12901 Roberts Drive

Precinct 8
Wooddale Church
6630 Shady Oak Road

Precinct 9
Resurrection Life Church
16397 Glory Lane

Precinct 10
Eden Prairie United Methodist Church
15050 Scenic Heights Road

Precinct 11
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
13600 Technology Drive

Precinct 12
Eden Prairie Library
565 Prairie Center Drive

Precinct 13
Hennepin Technical College
13100 College View Drive

Precinct 14
Pax Christi Catholic Community
12100 Pioneer Trail

Precinct 15
Eden Lake Elementary School
12000 Anderson Lakes Parkway

Precinct 16
Pax Christi Catholic Community
12100 Pioneer Trail

Precinct 17
Prairie Lutheran Church
11000 Blossom Road

Precinct 18
Eden Prairie Presbyterian Church
9145 Eden Prairie Road

Precinct 19
Grace Church
9301 Eden Prairie Road

Election Day Registration Requirements

If you are not preregistered to vote you may do so at your local polling location on Election Day.

You must register to vote if:

- You have never registered to vote in a prior election
- You have moved or changed your name since you last registered
- You have not voted at least once in the last four years



To register at your polling place on Election Day, you must have **one** of the following to verify your residence:

- A valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, Minnesota ID card or receipt for any of these containing a valid address in the precinct
- A valid registration in the same precinct under a different name or address
- A notice of late registration that was sent to you from your county auditor
- A voter registered in the same precinct as you who can confirm your address with a signed oath
- An authorized employee of a residential facility where you reside who can confirm your address (the residential facility must have provided a list of employees to election officials 20 days prior to election day)
- A student ID card including your photo, if your college provided a student housing list to election officials
- A Tribal ID card that contains your name, signature and address in the precinct

Alternatively, you may provide **both** a photo ID from the list below and a bill in your name, with your current address, that is due within **30** days of the election.

Types of Photo IDs

- Minnesota Driver's License
- Minnesota ID Card
- United States Passport
- United States Military ID Card
- Tribal ID Card
- Minnesota University or Technical College ID Card

Types of Bills

- Natural Gas
- Telephone/Mobile Phone
- TV (cable, satellite)
- Water
- Electric
- Solid Waste/Sewer
- Internet
- Student fee statement
- Rent statement that itemizes utilities

Absentee Voting

Eligible Eden Prairie voters may vote by absentee ballot for any of the following reasons:

- Absent from the precinct on election day
- Illness or disability
- Religious discipline or observance of religious holiday
- Service as an election judge in another precinct

Absentee voters may vote in person during the 46 days prior to a regularly scheduled election, or complete the entire process by mail.

Absentee Voting In Person

Locations:
City of Eden Prairie
8080 Mitchell Road

Hennepin County Elections
300 6th Street South – Public Service Level

Absentee Voting Hours:
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 5, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Absentee Voting by Mail

An official **absentee ballot application** may be obtained from your city or county elections office, or online at edenprairie.org/elections.

Return the completed absentee ballot application to:

City of Eden Prairie Elections
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Or fax to 952-949-8390

Remember to allow at least seven days between requesting your absentee ballot and completing the voting process.



Deadlines and requirements for return of an absentee ballot are:

Absentee ballots delivered by United States Postal Service (USPS) must be received by the city or county election office by the last regular USPS mail delivery on Election Day.

Absentee ballots hand-delivered by an agent of the voter (a commercial delivery service or any individual other than the voter) must be received by the city or county election office by 3 p.m. on Election Day.

On Election Day, voters may go to the polls to vote, but CANNOT deliver their own absentee ballots to any election officials.

Absentee ballots CANNOT be delivered directly to a polling place.

Military and/or Overseas Voters

Absentee voting procedures are available for members of the military service (including spouses and dependents), and voters residing outside the United States. For more information visit minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org.

Eligibility

The City of Eden Prairie provides an election process that is fair and impartial and responsive to the needs of all eligible citizens.

To be eligible to vote, the following criteria must be met:

- United States citizen
- 18 years old on Election Day
- Residing in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding Election Day

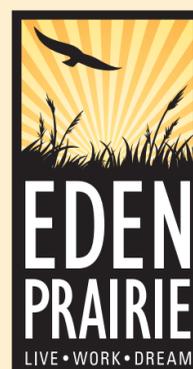
Persons not eligible to vote:

- Those convicted of a felony whose civil rights have not been restored
- Those under court-ordered guardianship in which a court order revokes the right to vote
- Those found by a court to be legally incompetent

Any individual who votes who knowingly is not eligible to vote is guilty of a felony

Election Results

The 2012 Election results will be available on the City website, edenprairie.org/elections, and the Hennepin County website, co.hennepin.mn.us, following the election.



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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Make the Most of Your Minnesota Winter



This winter, let Eden Prairie's Parks and Recreation programs help you make the most of the season with 10 cost-effective winter activities for \$10 or less!

1. **Toddler Open Gym** – \$4-5 at the Community Center
2. **Star Watch Astronomy** – \$7 at the Outdoor Center
3. **Open Swim** – \$4-5 at the Community Center
4. **Sledding** – Free at Staring Lake Park
5. **Family Snowshoeing** – \$10 at the Outdoor Center
6. **Indoor Play Structure** – \$5 at the Community Center
7. **Kids Ice Fishing** – \$10 at the Outdoor Center
8. **Adult Racquetball League** – \$10 at the Community Center
9. **Cross-Country Ski** – Free groomed trails at Staring Lake Park
10. **Indoor Pickleball** – \$5 at the Community Center



Winter program registration begins Nov. 27. Visit edenprairie.org/parksbrochure or pick up a winter program guide today for more information about Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation programs.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Rick Getschow

Town Hall Meetings

September 28, 2012

A new initiative in 2012 was for our Mayor and City Council to conduct a series of three town hall meetings in our community. However, we did not plan to conduct your “typical” town hall meeting. We wanted to focus on three certain segments of our community – the seniors, the businesses and the international community in Eden Prairie. Even though anyone was invited to attend any meeting at any time we took certain measures to focus the meetings on these groups.

Our strategy in doing so involved three main components:

1. **Market the meetings to the proper audiences.** For the senior meeting, we worked with our City Senior Center to market the town hall meeting at other city senior events. At our business town hall meeting, our own Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce assisted with the promotion of the event through their membership.
2. **Set the town hall meeting time and location to fit the needs of the audience.** We conducted our senior town hall meeting at Summit Place, a senior housing campus, at 4 p.m. Meeting late in the afternoon would not interfere with the 5 p.m. dinner hour. Also, we conducted our business town hall meeting at 7:30 am at a local bank to accommodate the needs of our business community.
3. **Design a meeting that fits the audience.** At our business meeting we purposely raised topics that would impact our local business community such as transportation, recent business survey results, and property taxes. At our international meeting, we provided a presentation on the changing diversity of our City over the past 20 years.



We felt these strategies helped to increase our turnout and participation. We averaged between 30-50 people per meeting while previous town hall meetings in Eden Prairie and those in neighboring communities have usually drawn around 15 people. We also received positive and constructive feedback at these meetings. We heard about issues related to: traffic enforcement, park programs, sidewalks, benches, walkability, light-rail transit, and new business growth and development.

I am very pleased with the outcome of these town hall meetings in 2012. We are also very excited to conduct more citizen engagement activities in 2013. We are planning to hold community forums on issues that affect our residents such as transportation, housing, and aging. We will also be looking at more enhanced on-line engagement through the use of web technology.

I am looking forward to it.

See more of Rick Getschow's blog entries by visiting edenprairieweblogs.org

Did You Know?

Did you know that **Xcel Energy** has recently launched a program in Eden Prairie called *Powering Your Community*?

This pilot program was created by Xcel Energy in an effort to partner with the communities it serves by reaching out to businesses, community leaders, nonprofit organizations and residents on a variety of energy issues.

Topics included in the outreach include energy management programs and other service options, such as *It Pays to Save Energy*, an energy-efficiency rebate program, and *Using Electricity At Home*, an educational program encouraging energy-efficiency savings.

For more information on these topics, visit xcelenergy.com/Save_Money_&_Energy. You can find additional information about the City's energy-efficiency efforts, recycling tips and water conservation rebate programs at edenprairie.org/livinggreen.

Mark Your Calendar

Veterans Breakfast at the Senior Center

Thursday, Nov. 8
9:30 a.m.

Celebrate and honor the veterans who have served our country. All are welcome to attend and enjoy a full catered breakfast with egg bake, sausage, bacon, fruit, rolls, juice and coffee. Cost is \$6 per person, registration is required.

City Council Meetings*

Tuesdays, Nov. 20; Dec. 4, 18

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

Family Turkey Bingo Night

Friday, Nov. 16
6–8 p.m.

Bring the whole family for bingo, pizza and prizes – maybe even win a turkey! \$5 admission fee includes a bingo card for the evening play; great for kids 5+. Pizza, snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

Holiday Lunch at the Senior Center

Thursday, Dec. 13
11:30 a.m.

Celebrate with friends and enjoy a holiday meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green bean casserole and beverages. Cost is \$11 per person, registration is required.

Community Band Holiday Concert

Sunday, Dec. 16

2 p.m.

Celebrate the season with a free performance at the **Eden Prairie High School Auditorium** and *Share the Warmth* by bringing a non-perishable food item or warm article of clothing donation for PROP.

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

Living Green

Celebrate America Recycles Day!

Since 1997, communities across the country have come together on Nov. 15 to celebrate **America Recycles Day** (ARD).

Sponsored by **Keep America Beautiful**, the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization, ARD is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of recycling programs in the United States.

The **Recycling Association of Minnesota** is the state organizer for ARD. For an online toolkit and more information about ARD activities in Minnesota, visit recycleminnesota.org.

For more information about America Recycles Day visit americarecyclesday.org or [facebook.com/AmericaRecyclesDay](https://www.facebook.com/AmericaRecyclesDay).



Staying Safe in Eden Prairie

Holiday Fire Safety



Based on data from the **National Fire Protection Association** (NFPA) and the **U.S. Fire Administration** (USFA), there are an estimated 240 home fires involving holiday trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles and holiday trees from creating a tragedy.



HOLIDAY TREES

Selecting Your Tree

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Don't Block Exits

Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace

Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

CANDLE CARE

Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame – candles, lighters or matches.

For more fire safety tips and information, visit usfa.fema.gov.