

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE



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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

2012 City Council

The City Council typically meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. the Council participates in a workshop to learn about and discuss various predetermined topics. These sessions, which are not recorded or televised, are held in the Heritage Rooms at City Center (8080 Mitchell Road) and are open to the public.

From 6:30 to 6:55 p.m., the Council invites members of the public to speak at an untelevised **open podium** session in the Council Chambers. Those who wish to address the Council about an issue related to City government and have questions about open podium, should contact the City manager's office at **952-949-8412**.

Council meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. In addition to being open to the public, these meetings are broadcast live on **EPTV cable channel 16** and can be viewed — live or on-demand — via the **CITY TV** link at edenprairie.org. The meetings are also replayed on EPTV 16 at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens



Tyra-Lukens was elected as mayor of Eden Prairie in the November 2010 election, having previously served on the City Council from 1994 through 2001 and as mayor from 2002 through 2006.

ntyra-lukens@edenprairie.org
952-937-1898

Council Member Brad Aho



Aho was elected in the November 2008 election to serve his second four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council.

baho@edenprairie.org
952-303-6884

Council Member Sherry Butcher Wickstrom



Butcher Wickstrom was elected in the November 2010 election to serve her fourth four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council, having previously served from 1997 through 2008.

sbutcherwickstrom@edenprairie.org
612-296-3721

Council Member Ron Case



Case was elected in the November 2008 election to serve his fourth four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council, having previously served from 1994 through 2006.

rcase@edenprairie.org
952-949-0915

Council Member Kathy Nelson



Nelson was elected in the November 2010 election to serve a second four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council.

knelson@edenprairie.org
952-941-6613

The Year Ahead

Among the many topics the Eden Prairie City Council will be addressing in the coming year, the following are some key initiatives for 2012:

- Discuss phase four of the 20-40-15 initiative, aimed at increasing the energy efficiency of our public buildings by 20 percent, the energy efficiency of our vehicle fleet by 40 percent and to accomplish both of those goals by 2015.
- Update the City's Strategic Plan for Housing and Community Development.
- Finalize the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, which will outline spending from 2013-2018.
- Focus on increasing community engagement through a series of town hall meetings with various populations throughout the City.

The 2012 City Budget

At its Dec. 6, 2011, meeting, the Eden Prairie City Council unanimously approved the 2012 City budget. In response to ongoing economic instability, the Council approved a budget that includes a minimal tax levy increase of 0.9 percent, resulting in a net tax levy of \$30,585,840 for 2012.

The approved 2012 City budget totals \$38,345,174. This amount includes a 2-percent wage increase for City employees, as well as funding for one new police officer position and the Fire Department duty crew initiative, while maintaining all other staffing and services at 2011 levels.

The median single family home in Eden Prairie is valued at \$326,800 for 2012, and the estimated City property tax for a median single family home is \$1,101; this represents an increase of \$6 or 0.5 percent over 2011.

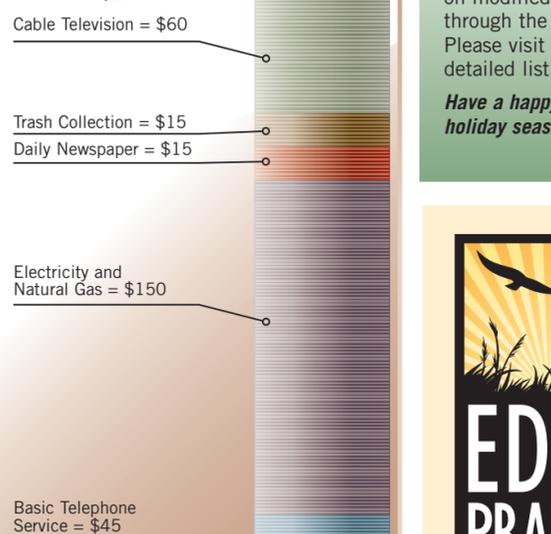
The 2012 City budget presentation from the Dec. 6 Council meeting can be viewed on-demand via CITY TV at edenprairie.org. Final budget documents will be posted on the City website in January.

Your Tax Dollars at Work

The median single family homeowner in Eden Prairie pays approximately \$91.75 per month for all City services. These services include Fire and Police protection; Public Works, such as street maintenance; Parks and Recreation — including caring for more than 1,000 acres of parkland and nearly 170 miles of trails; and many other services provided by the City.

In comparison, Eden Prairie homeowners pay approximately \$285 per month for services such as cable television, trash collection, daily newspaper, Internet and cell phone.

Estimated Monthly Charges for Other Services \$285



Total Monthly Taxes (Median Single Family Homeowner) \$91.75



CODE RED

Your Contact Information is Needed!

The City of Eden Prairie recently conducted a community survey to assist with crisis communication planning. As a result of the findings, officials are asking residents to update their emergency contact information in the **CodeRED** community notification system.

"We know that new technology has changed the way in which people communicate," said **Katie Beal**, senior communications coordinator and public information officer. "So last March, we decided to ask those who live and work in Eden Prairie about their communication habits, because knowing which forms of media members of the public are interacting with most frequently helps us prioritize our communication efforts during a crisis."

To accomplish this, an electronic survey was distributed to more than 10,000 members of the community — via the City's email subscription service, website and Facebook page — and the nearly 1,400 responses now assist the City's public information officers with emergency communication planning.

"One of the most important findings from this survey is that in the most severe of emergency situations, a large majority of the Eden Prairie community would prefer to receive a text message alert," said Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Preparedness **George Esbensen**. "However, this is concerning as only 3,000 members of the community have provided the information we need in order to send them a text message."

The City of Eden Prairie makes use of CodeRED, a community notification system capable of distributing high-speed voice and text messages in an emergency; however it requires that community members provide current contact information and opt-in to receive text messages.

"In November, federal agencies conducted a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System," said Esbensen. "This system is capable of broadcasting emergency information over television and radio airwaves — but it does not send emails or text messages, which means if you're not tuned into the appropriate channels in an emergency, you won't receive the message."

For this reason, the City of Eden Prairie is reminding members of the community to visit the "CodeRED" link at edenprairie.org and not only provide current contact information, but also opt-in to receive text messages in an emergency.

Annual CodeRED System Test

Emergency preparedness officials for the City of Eden Prairie will conduct a test of the CodeRED community notification system on **Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 1 p.m.**

The CodeRED system provides the City of Eden Prairie with a high-speed telephone calling and text messaging system capable of delivering customized emergency messages directly to homes, businesses and mobile telephone users; therefore, information such as cell phone numbers, work telephone lines and alternate emergency contact information should be updated on a regular basis.

To update your information in the CodeRED emergency notification system, visit edenprairie.org and click on the **CodeRED** link. Be sure to enter your **home or work address in Eden Prairie**, the **main** telephone number where you can be reached and your mobile phone information if you would like to receive text message notifications.

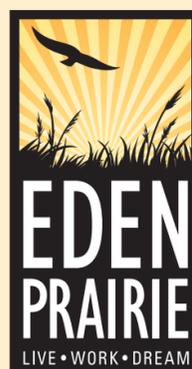
During the CodeRED system test on **Tuesday, Jan. 24**, City officials will send a prerecorded voice message to all contacts within the system, as well as a written message to mobile phone users who have opted-in to the text messaging service.

If you have questions about the CodeRED emergency notification system, visit edenprairie.org or call **952-949-8361**.

Holiday Hours

Several City facilities, including the **City Center, Community Center, Senior Center** and **Eden Prairie Liquor** stores will operate on modified holiday schedules through the end of the year. Please visit edenprairie.org for a detailed list of holiday hours.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!



MAYOR

Nancy Tyra-Lukens
ntyra-lukens@edenprairie.org
952-937-1898

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brad Aho
baho@edenprairie.org
952-303-6884

Sherry Butcher Wickstrom
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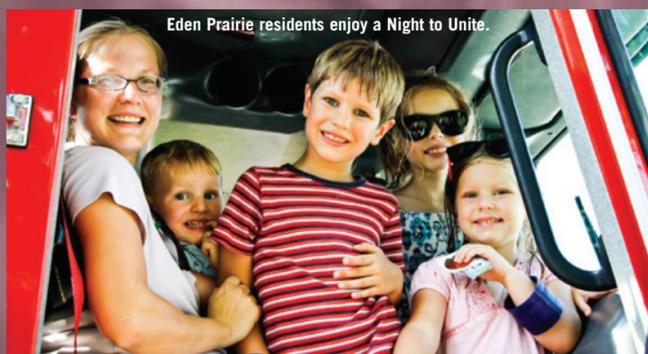
Ron Case
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952-949-0915

Kathy Nelson
knelson@edenprairie.org
952-941-6613

Taking Pride in 2011



A warm summer day at the Miller Park Splash Pad.



Eden Prairie residents enjoy a Night to Unite.



The new Rice Marsh Lake Trail bridge.



Members of the Eden Prairie Police and Fire Department taking the Polar Bear Plunge.



Fun at the Fire and Police Department Open House.

Former City Manager **Scott Neal** began the tradition of writing a letter to the Eden Prairie community at the end of each year, as a way of looking back on what has happened and celebrating what has been accomplished.

I have decided to continue that tradition, because as stewards of Eden Prairie's public buildings, parks, streets and much of its natural open space, we want to be accountable to you – the residents and taxpayers of this community. We want you to know that we take our stewardship responsibility very seriously, and we want you to be proud of what has taken place in Eden Prairie in 2011.

We successfully transitioned through several changes this year. After Scott Neal accepted the position of Edina city manager in October, Parks and Recreation Director **Jay Lotthammer** served as interim city manager, and I am thankful for his dedication and leadership prior to my joining the City in April. In addition, after former Public Works Director **Gene Dietz** retired with 30 years of service to this community, we appointed **Robert Ellis** to the position, making him the third public works director in the history of Eden Prairie.

We improved the City's outstanding network of parks, recreational facilities and natural open spaces by adding a **Splash Pad** to the playground at **Miller Park**, by adding two baseball fields and two lacrosse/soccer fields to the **Flying Cloud Field Complex**, and by extending a **segment of trail** south of Rice Marsh Lake to connect it with Riley Lake Park.

We enhanced public safety by partnering with the community to accomplish record-breaking participation in the annual **Night to Unite** event, hosting a successful **Fire and Police Department Open House** and promoting community engagement through the **Citizen's Academy** program. We also supported Special Olympics of Minnesota with the third annual **Polar Bear Plunge** at Round Lake Park, as well as the American Cancer Society with the **Relay for Life** event.

We continued our commitment to environmentally conscious operations by joining Minnesota's **GreenStep Cities** program and planning for the next phase of the City's **20-40-15** initiative, aimed at increasing the energy efficiency of our public buildings by **20** percent, the energy efficiency of our vehicle fleet by **40** percent and to accomplish both of those goals by **2015**.

We dedicated significant time again this year to planning for big changes in the future of Eden Prairie by working closely with Hennepin County to plan for the extension of **Light Rail Transit** to Eden Prairie; by working closely with MnDOT to begin the **Hwy. 169/494** interchange improvement; by progressing toward completion of several development projects associated with the **Major Center Area**, including the **Singletree Lane** improvement project and the **Bobby and Steve's** redevelopment in the **Town Center**; the **Menard's** redevelopment; and by gaining approval on several new development projects, including the addition of a **GE Capital Eco Experience Center** at the GE Capital Fleet headquarters and a 1.45 million-square-foot **UnitedHealth Group** office complex – all of which will strengthen the economic vitality of Eden Prairie's future.

We took progressive steps into the future of technology and accomplished a new level of community engagement on the City's award-winning **Facebook page**, and we were awarded **first place** in the Center for Digital Government "Digital Cities Survey" for our use of **information and communication technology** to enhance public service.

As we wrap up the year 2011, there is much to be proud of in Eden Prairie. And as we begin the year 2012, I am making it my goal to continue the transparency in government that has always been the standard in our City. One way I plan to accomplish this is by continuing to increase the ways in which we engage with the community, including launching a series of town hall style meetings aimed at creating a platform for two-way communication about your City government – watch for more information on these.

And finally, on behalf of your elected officials and everyone who works for the City of Eden Prairie, we thank our residents and taxpayers for the opportunity to serve you.



Sincerely,

Rick Getschow

Rick Getschow
City Manager



New banners along Singletree Lane.



The new Bobby & Steve's Auto World.



Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens receives a GreenStep Cities award for successfully completing step 1 of the program.



Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens (center) and Council Members (L to R) Sherry Butcher Wickstrom, Ron Case, Brad Aho and Kathy Nelson.



The new Town Center marquee.



Police Department Citizens' Academy Class of 2011.

Eden Prairie Commissions

The Map to Successful City Government

The **Eden Prairie City Council** utilizes the expertise of several commissions for advice on matters ranging from economic development to environmental protection. Commissions are made up of Eden Prairie residents willing to share their time and knowledge for the better of the community.

Positions are currently available on nearly every commission. Applications are accepted in January, City Council interviews are conducted in February, appointments are made by the Council in March and commission terms typically begin on April 1.

Visit edenprairie.org or call **Lorene McWaters** at **952-949-8412** for more information or to obtain a commission application packet.

Arts and Culture Commission

Members

Tonja Bivins (Vice Chair)
Lee Elliot-Stoering
Farida Kathawalla (Chair)
Gina King
Cynthia Paulson
Julia Ramos
Ann Rorem

Student Members

Roseann Awad
Jamie Bernard
Nafisa Mahamud

Staff Liaison: Laurie Obiazor

Purpose

To enhance the creative and cultural opportunities for Eden Prairie residents by offering a broad range of cultural, performance and visual art programs.

Meetings

7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the City Center.

2011 Highlights

- The Commission successfully transitioned the International Festival away from a single event as it has been in the past, and instead incorporated nine days of culturally diverse performances into the existing Starring at Staring summer concert series.
- The Commission secured grant funding from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council to assist in strategic planning for the Eden Prairie Players community theater group and the development of a public art plan.

Budget Advisory Commission

Members

Annette Agner
Eapen Chacko
Dan Funk
Richard King (Chair)
Michael Morris
Jon Muilenburg (Vice Chair)
Chris Nylander

Student Members

Charles Adams

Staff Liaison: Sue Kotchevar

Purpose

The commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in connection to the formation of a biennial City budget.

2011 Highlights

- The Commission reviewed funding options for the Capital Improvement Plan.
- The Commission reviewed storm drainage charges for townhouses, duplexes and condos.

Conservation Commission

Members

Sue Brown
Ray Daniels
Ravi Jaiswal
Laura Jester (Chair)
Kurt Lawton
Prashant Shrikhande
Greg Olson (Vice Chair)

Student Members

Joshua Auerbach
McKenna Campbell-Potter
Rebecca Ebert
Kelly Hallowell
Rachel Wood

Staff Liaison: Regina Herron

Purpose

To advance and support the health and development of the citizens and natural environment of Eden Prairie through comprehensive environmental protection, conservation efforts and natural resource management.

Meetings

7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the City Center.

2011 Highlights

- The Commission received authorization from the City Council to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program, a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program managed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to help cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of best practices in the following five categories: (1) Buildings and Lighting; (2) Transportation; (3) Land Use; (4) Environmental Management; and (5) Economic and Community Development.
- The Commission staffed an education booth at the Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo in March.
- The Commission staffed an education booth at the Arts in the Park event at Purgatory Creek Park in May.

Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission

Members

Caryl Hansen
Jeffrey Larsen (Chair)
Mark Michelson (Vice Chair)
John Pratten
Kurt Schendel
Jeff Nawrocki (MAC Representative)
Keith Tschol

Student Members

John Bowman
Kevin Gadel

Staff Liaison: Scott Kipp

Purpose

To advise the City Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission with regard to matters affecting the operation of Flying Cloud Airport.

Meetings

7 p.m. on the second Thursday of odd numbered months at the City Center.

2011 Highlights

- After public concern was raised about significant helicopter activity over their neighborhood, the Commission worked with the Metropolitan Airports Commission and Federal Aviation Administration to manage helicopter activity over the airport using flight patterns established by the control tower.
- In cooperation with the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the Commission worked to improve the Multilateration aircraft tracking system at Flying Cloud Airport, which included the addition of multiple monitors to provide more accurate aircraft data, including position, altitude, speed and aircraft information.

Heritage Preservation Commission

Members

Kay Desmarais
Cindy Cofer Evert
Ann Higgins (Chair)
Jeffrey Lawler
Mark McPherson
Ed Muehlberg (Vice Chair)

Student Members

Ian English

Staff Liaison: Lori Creamer

Purpose

The Heritage Preservation Commission is established for the purpose of: (1) safeguarding the heritage of the City by preserving sites and structures which reflect significant elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, visual or architectural history; (2) promoting the preservation and continued use of historic sites and structures for the education and general welfare of the people of the City; and (3) fostering civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past.

Meetings

7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the City Center

2011 Highlights

- The Commission assisted with planning for significant improvements to the historic Smith Douglas More property, which houses Dunn Brothers Coffee, including additional parking space, a new rainwater garden, exterior lighting, a storage shed and a future gazebo. These improvements will continue to support the reuse of the historic house and property for many years to come.
- The Commission assisted with attracting an owner of the Goodrich Ramus Barn, who completed a number of improvements to the historic barn, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Human Rights and Diversity Commission

Members

Linda Crawford
Marcy Harris
Peter Huck (Vice Chair)
Lauren Juergensen
PG Narayanan
Zina Nourkadi
Robert Rozanski
Gayle Sanders
Pamela Spera (Chair)

Student Members

Ramla Mahamud
Camrie Vlasak

Staff Liaison: Molly Koivumaki

Purpose

Act in an advisory capacity to the City on matters of diversity, civil and human rights, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Meetings

7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month on the lower level of Eden Prairie Center mall.

2011 Highlights

- The Commission selected recipients of its annual Human Rights Awards.
- The Commission worked on the potential incorporation of Eden Prairie into the Domestic Partner Registry.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission

Members

Tom Bierman
Hutch Coburn (Vice Chair)
Derek Gunderson
Larry Link
Geri Napuck (Chair)
Joan Oko
David Rosa

Student Members

Katie Ostendorf
Liz Powell
Joseph Schmit

Staff Liaison: Jay Lotthammer

Purpose

Act in advisory capacity to the City on matters of development and use of parks and recreation facilities, leisure services, recreation programming, preservation of natural resources and promotion of environmental awareness.

Meetings

7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the City Center.

2011 Highlights

- Visioning – the Commission went through a process to identify topics and areas within the park system that will be a focus of their future work plan. Some of the concepts and themes that were identified were fitness and obesity prevention, lake use and water quality, updating of aging parks and promotion of public art.
- Round Lake Park Master Plan – the Commission has assisted staff and consultants to construct a master plan for Round Lake Park. Many of the components identified during the master planning process were a result of the visioning process. The master plan will act as a blueprint for future development and remodeling of the park.

Planning Commission

Members

Matt Fyten
Katie Lechelt
Jacob Lee
John Kirk
Jerry Pitzrick (Vice Chair)
Kevin Schultz
Jon Stoltz (Chair)
Travis Wuttke

Staff Liaison: Mike Franzen

Purpose

To provide for an open process and a balanced review of development proposals and land use requests, both private and public, with regard to the City's Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Guide Plan and City land use.

Meetings

7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the City Center.

2011 Highlights

- The Commission approved a plan for UnitedHealth Group to build 1.5-million square feet of office
- The Commission approved a plan for Metropolitan Ford to build a 40,000-square-foot building.
- The Commission approved a plan for the addition of GE Capital's Eco Center to test drive electric vehicles.
- The Commission approved plans for two residential subdivisions – Grand Haven and Prairie Ridge.
- The Commission approved plans for building additions to Wedding Day Jewelers and Redstone Grille.
- The Commission approved new building materials for commercial, office, industrial and residential buildings.



Live Well Eden Prairie!

Kickoff Your New Year at the Community Center



Live Well
EDEN PRAIRIE

At the end of each year, as we reflect on the accomplishments of the past 12 months, we also take a refreshing look forward and make some resolutions for the year ahead. As you ring in the year 2012, don't forget to explore the multitude of opportunities for you to Live Well, right here in Eden Prairie.

This New Year, stop by the **Community Center** and explore 10 new ways to have more fun in 2012:

1. Splash around with the kids in the pool
2. Strap on some skates and take to the ice
3. Watch the kids as they explore the indoor play structure
4. Shoot hoops with your friends
5. Get moving with Zumba
6. Plan a winter pool party for the little ones
7. Revitalize your weight training program
8. Begin your cardio routine in the fitness center
9. Grab some friends and play a game of volleyball
10. Resuscitate your racquetball skills

For more information about the Community Center including affordable membership options, visit edenprairie.org/communitycenter.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Rick Getschow

Eden Prairie Liquor Operations

Dec. 2, 2011

People are often surprised when they first discover that the City is in the liquor business, and few are familiar with the history and logic behind it, so here's the story behind **Eden Prairie Liquor**.

Municipal liquor stores have been in operation since the United States government repealed prohibition in 1933, giving individual states the responsibility and authority to regulate liquor sales. At that time, the Minnesota legislature gave cities the option of issuing liquor licenses to private businesses or providing municipal alcohol dispensing services.

Eden Prairie, along with more than 300 other cities, chose to operate municipal liquor stores. This choice not only allows for greater control over liquor being sold and consumed in the City, but also further diversifies the City's revenue sources.

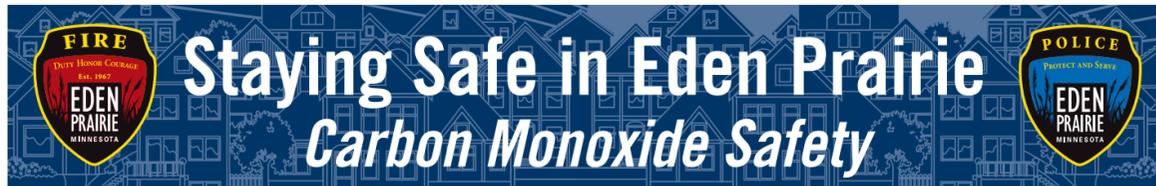
The City currently operates three Eden Prairie Liquor **locations**, which generated more than \$1 million in profits last year.

Revenues generated from liquor operations are transferred to the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) fund. Some of this year's CIP projects included improvements to playground equipment, ice rink dasher boards and parking lots at several City parks, as well as street and trail maintenance throughout the community.

We're pretty proud of the successful liquor operation here in Eden Prairie. In fact, the State Auditor's annual report on **Minnesota Municipal Liquor Operations** consistently ranks Eden Prairie among the top three profit grossing operations in the state.

As public stewards, we consider the maintenance of a safe and profitable liquor operation one of our responsibilities to the taxpayers of Eden Prairie – and we appreciate the loyal patronage, which makes it possible for us to do so.

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



Carbon monoxide (CO) is odorless and colorless, and the symptoms of CO poisoning can be difficult to distinguish from the common cold or flu. If undetected, high levels of carbon monoxide in the home can lead to severe illness or even death.

To prevent carbon monoxide from reaching dangerous levels in your home:

- Install an approved, operational CO detector within 10 feet of every bedroom or sleeping area – this is now required by Minnesota State Law.
- Be sure that all combustion (fuel-burning) appliances are installed and working according to manufacturers' guidelines – it is especially important that the devices have an adequate air supply and exhaust directly to the outdoors.
- Have combustion appliances inspected every year.
- Make sure all flues, chimneys and exhaust vent pipes are connected properly, in good condition and unobstructed.
- Install and use an exhaust fan, vented to the outside, over any gas stove.
- Open the chimney flue fully when using the fireplace.
- Make sure doors on fuel-burning stoves fit properly and are closed tightly.
- Use the proper fuel in kerosene space heaters.
- Consider purchasing a vented space heater when replacing unvented ones.
- Never use your cooking stove to heat your home.
- Don't ever burn charcoal inside your home or in any enclosed space.
- Don't sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- If you have an attached garage, don't idle your vehicle inside, always back it out right away.
- If you are using a paint remover containing methylene chloride, follow manufacturer's instructions and perform work in a well-ventilated area.
- Be sure that all members of your household know that if the alarm sounds on a CO detector, they should evacuate the home immediately and call 911 for assistance.

For more information about carbon monoxide, visit the Minnesota Department of Health website at health.state.mn.us.

Mark Your Calendar

City Council Meetings*

Tuesdays, Jan. 3, 17; and Feb. 21

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

Family Pizza and BINGO Night

Friday, Jan. 20

6–8 p.m.

Community Center

Round up the neighbors and bring the kids (ages 5 and up) for a family BINGO night! \$5 per person covers BINGO and prizes; concessions available for purchase.

Rock on Ice

Sunday, Jan. 15

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Round Lake Park Ice Rink

Bring the whole family out for an evening filled with skating, good old-fashioned rock'n'roll and refreshments by the bonfire.

Father and Daughter Sweetheart Dance

Saturday, Feb. 4

5–7:30 p.m.

The Garden Room

Dads, take the opportunity to dance the night away with your daughters, ages 3 to 15, and enjoy an evening of memories you will cherish for a lifetime. Registration is \$24 per person (by Jan. 30) and includes dinner, dancing and a special valentine craft project to take home for mom.

Senior Center Valentine Breakfast

Friday, Feb. 14

9–11 a.m.

Senior Center

Celebrate with someone special and enjoy a delicious breakfast. Registration is required (\$10 per person) by Feb. 7.

Eden Prairie Players Present *Funny Money*

Feb. 17–18; 24–25 at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 26 at 2 p.m.

Eden Prairie High School Auditorium

Don't miss this comically entertaining comedy by Ray Cooney, presented by the Eden Prairie Players. Tickets available at the door: \$10 for adults, students and seniors.

Our Environment

New Year, New Recycling Opportunities

Hennepin County recently set a goal of reaching a 45 percent recycling rate by 2015. To support this initiative, the City of Eden Prairie will soon require trash haulers to accept more paper and plastic recyclables.

Beginning in January 2012, the following items can be recycled in Eden Prairie:

- No. 1 through No. 5 food-grade plastics
- Aseptic containers such as juice boxes
- Gable-top containers such as milk boxes

However, the following items must still be recycled at a Hennepin County drop-off facility:

- Scrap metal
- Household hazardous waste
- Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)

For more information on recycling, garbage and solid waste, visit edenprairie.org. For more information about Hennepin County recycling programs, visit hennepin.us/recycling.

Holiday Light Recycling

Don't know what to do with those old or non-working holiday lights? Making the switch to energy-efficient LED holiday lights? Recycle your old lights with our unique holiday light recycling program!

Recycle Your Holidays™ is a one-of-a-kind statewide holiday light recycling program in Minnesota. Residents can drop off their unwanted light strands at any one of more than 400 participating locations throughout the holiday season through the month of January.

And this year, all three **Eden Prairie Liquor** locations are participating in the program – so stop by any Eden Prairie Liquor location to recycle your lights today!

This program is sponsored by the **Recycling Association of Minnesota** and employs more than 200 individuals with developmental disabilities at vocational centers throughout the state of Minnesota. Every bulb of the light strand is dismantled by vocational center clients and then properly recycled in Minnesota.

For more information about the Recycling Association of Minnesota, visit recycleminnesota.org.

Did You Know?

Did you know that nearly \$19,000 was given in support of programs, events and recreation facilities in Eden Prairie this year? The City of Eden Prairie **Parks and Recreation Department** sincerely thanks the following businesses, residents and service organizations for their contributions in 2011.

American Family Insurance

Anchor Bank

CES Group, Inc./Mammoth

Dignity Home Care

Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund

Eden Prairie Optimist Club

Eden Prairie Noon Rotary

Eden Prairie Soccer Club

GE Capital Solutions

Humana

J.A. Price Agency, Inc.

Eden Prairie Lioness

Lions Tap

Sampson Family

State Farm Insurance

Xcel Energy