

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Emergency Communication Survey Your Feedback Needed!

In the event of a widespread public emergency, City officials need to efficiently and effectively communicate with those who live and work in Eden Prairie.

Please visit edenprairie.org and complete a short **Emergency Communication Survey** today.

Your feedback will be used to refine the City's Emergency Communication Plan.



APRIL 2011

The Property Valuation Process

By the end of March, residential property owners in Eden Prairie will have received two notices related to property taxes. One is a **Hennepin County 2011 Property Tax Statement**, which is based on the Jan. 2, 2010, assessment and must be paid this year. The other is a **2011 Notice of Valuation and Classification** from the City, which is used to calculate property taxes to be paid in 2012.

2011 Homeowner Property Taxes

City taxes account for about one-fourth (24.5 percent) of property taxes, the remainder is comprised of taxes for the school district (33.5 percent), the county (35 percent) and other jurisdictions (7 percent).

Market Value Assessments

The City Assessing Division maintains records for every property in Eden Prairie. Adjustments are made to the market values of most properties based on actual real estate sales on comparable properties from the past year. Approximately one-fifth of the properties are also physically inspected each year and market value adjustments are made based on the results of the inspection. Additional market value adjustments are made for building additions, remodeling and other improvements to property.

In early March, official market value notices are mailed to homeowners; the four value amounts which may appear on the notice include:

Estimated Market Value

This is the city assessor's estimate of the total market value of the property, or what the property would likely sell for on the open market as of the date of assessment which by statute is Jan. 2, 2011.

Veterans Exclusion

Qualifying disabled veterans may be eligible for a valuation exclusion on their homestead property, which would reduce the amount subject to taxation.

Qualifying Improvement Value

This amount shows the portion of the value of improvements made to an older home under the former "This Old House" law. This program expired with the 2003 assessment; however, property may still be receiving the value exclusion under this program.

Taxable Market Value

This is the value that 2012 property taxes will be based on, after all reductions, exemptions and deferrals are taken.

Property tax assessment in Minnesota is a complicated process strictly governed by state law. Although the City of Eden Prairie administers the assessment, the City's work is overseen by Hennepin County and the State Department of Revenue. The state-mandated schedule requires that property values, as reflected in the **2011 Notice of Valuation and Classification**, are based upon an analysis of real estate market trends in the year 2010. The values cannot reflect changes in market conditions since the end of last year, and any changes taking place in 2011 will be reflected in next year's assessments.



A Note About Declining Home Values

The real estate market has experienced a significant decline in a number of locations in the metro area and across the nation. From the 2011 to 2012 assessment the average value reduction for residential properties in the City of Eden Prairie is approximately 3.4 percent. It is important to remember that individual properties may vary greatly and that residential property values and trends remain highly localized. Sales trends in our neighborhoods and cities can be quite different than national statistical trends.

Market Value Appeals Process

Estimated market values are subject to appeal. Appeals may be made directly to the State Tax Court; however, most appeals are first handled through the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization and then by the Hennepin County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

The Eden Prairie City Council appoints local real estate professionals to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization and gives this special board full authority to raise or lower estimated market values. The Board's actions are final and can only be appealed to the Hennepin County Board of Appeal and Equalization. The appointed board members must be residents of Eden Prairie.

To make an appeal to the local board, a homeowner should first discuss the property's value with Eden Prairie's Assessing Division staff. Based on that discussion, an appeal can be made to the local board by asking that the property be listed for appeal.

Market Value Appeals Timeline

March 2011	City assessing staff issue and mail market value notices beginning the second week of March 2011 .
April 2011	The deadline for making an application to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is April 15, 2011 . The first meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2011.
June 2011	The Hennepin County Board of Appeal and Equalization hearings take place in June 2011 .
April 2012	Appeals must be filed with the State Tax Court by April 30, 2012 .

Homeowners with questions or concerns about a property's market value, or the assessment and appeals processes, should call the Eden Prairie **Assessing Division** at **952-949-8511**. City appraisers are available to discuss home values, as well as schedule an appraisal inspection if necessary.

Spotlight on City Commission Members

The **Eden Prairie City Council** uses the expertise of several citizen advisory commissions for guidance 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 benefit of the community.

The mission of the **Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission** is to advise the City Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) with regard to matters affecting the operation of Flying Cloud Airport.

Meet Commission Member Rick King!

Name: Rick King
Commission: Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission*
Year you were appointed: 2006
Number of years you have lived in Eden Prairie: Since 2003

Why do you volunteer to serve on a City commission? We have a great City and part of what makes it so good is that the professional staff welcomes the insights and help of citizens via its advisory commissions. I have had a terrific time working with the staff, with MAC and the general public with the airport commission activities.

What would you like residents to know about the efforts of the commission on which you serve? The commission represents all aspects of the airport community – from the more than 300 people who earn their living at the airport to the pilots, and all the way to the community members who are bothered by noise. We discuss all the issues from all the angles – openly and honestly each meeting. Our commission goals are: educate and inform; visibility/communication from the commission; monitor the final agreement; reduce nighttime noise; and improve the airport appearance.

What is your vision for the future in Eden Prairie? Eden Prairie is one of the finest communities around. It combines diverse housing options, parks and recreation areas, a local airport, a strong and vibrant business community, and a caring and dedicated local government – both elected and the staff. My vision for the City is to keep all of these elements in balance while maintaining a fiscally responsible long-term plan. As the custodians of the City, our goal should be to hand it off to the next generation in better shape than we received it.

What is something interesting, unique or little-known about you? I am a former Division I ice hockey official and a former high school math teacher and coach. Along the way, I've lived in 13 states.

Why do you think Eden Prairie is a great place to live, work and dream? We have all the physical assets with beautiful land and parks, good housing options, a great business community and successful, caring residents. I think that is why Money magazine said we are the #1 City to live in. I agree with them.

*Rick King has served as chairperson of the Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission for five years, and has also served on the Budget Advisory Commission since 2007.



Rick King

Spring Wine Tasting

Join us for an evening of wine and hors d'ouvres!



Thursday, April 14

6:30–8:30 p.m.

The Garden Room
Eden Prairie City Center

Tickets: \$20 per person*

Ticket sales begin
Friday, April 1
at all Eden Prairie
Liquor locations!

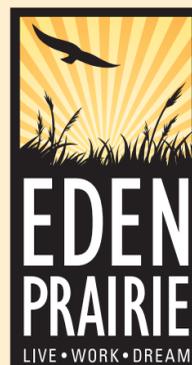


*Must be 21 years of age to attend.

8018 Den Road **968 Prairie Center Drive** **16508 W. 78th Street**
 Across from Cub Near Rainbow Foods Next to Kowalski's
 952-914-0032 952-949-8433 952-949-8423

edenprairieliquor.org

Drink Responsibly. Drive Responsibly.



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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Enjoy City Parks and Facilities This Summer

The City of Eden Prairie boasts more than 30 neighborhood, community and regional parks, as well as several fabulous recreation facilities, which provide a setting for countless leisure activities each year. Plan ahead for your summer activities and reserve a City facility to help you Live Well in Eden Prairie this summer!



Community Center
16700 Valley View Road
Offers dozens of rental opportunities including meeting rooms, pool rental, gym rental and more.

Homeward Hills Barn
12000 Silverwood Drive
Heated two-level building with comfy seating and a kitchenette upstairs, along with chairs and tables.

Purgatory Creek Park Lambert Pavilion
13001 Technology Drive
Located in an urban park surrounded by gardens, wetlands and a fountain.

Riley-Jacques Barn
9100 Riley Lake Road
Historic barn perfect for gatherings of all kinds.

Riley Lake Pavilion
9180 Riley Lake Road
Large park pavilion with picnic tables, located near several park amenities.

Round Lake Park Building and Pavilion
16691 Valley View Road
A perfect location for picnics and gatherings, rain or shine.

Senior Center
8950 Eden Prairie Road
A great venue for indoor gatherings with kitchen facilities available.

Staring Lake Park Amphitheatre
14800 Pioneer Trail
On the shores of Staring Lake, a wondrous setting for weddings, concerts, church services and more.

Staring Lake Park Building
14800 Pioneer Trail
Heated building with gas fireplace, tables and chairs, plus outdoor picnic seating on the plaza.

Other Park Buildings
Miller Park, Nesbitt Preserve, Crestwood, Edenvale, Forest Hills, Prairie View

For more Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation information visit edenprairie.org/parksbrochure.

Our Environment Recycle Your Electronic Media

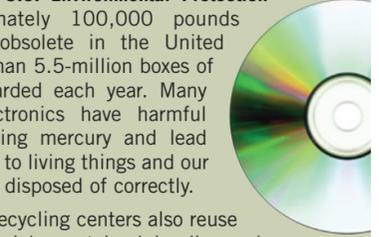
Do you have unwanted televisions, computer screens or computer software lying around the house? Electronic media recycling is the only environmentally safe way to dispose of these items.

According to the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, approximately 100,000 pounds of CDs become obsolete in the United States and more than 5.5-million boxes of software are discarded each year. Many times, these electronics have harmful substances including mercury and lead that are dangerous to living things and our environment if not disposed of correctly.

Electronic media recycling centers also reuse many of the materials contained in disposed items. The **Hennepin County Electronic Media Recycling** centers, located in Bloomington and Brooklyn Park, provide an easy way to dispose of these electronics.

As a Hennepin County resident, electronics recycling is a free service, and the following are just a few of the electronics that can be recycled:

- Computer disks
- DVDs
- CDs
- Blu-ray discs
- Video cassettes
- Audio cassettes
- Game cartridges
- Secure Digital (SD) memory cards
- Flash drives
- Plastic cases and jewel cases
- Ink jet and laser toner cartridges
- Vinyl records
- Televisions
- Computer screens



Hennepin County drop-off facilities are located at **1400 W. 96th St. in Bloomington**, and **8100 Jefferson Highway in Brooklyn Park**. The facilities are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

For more information, contact Hennepin County Electronic Media Recycling at **612-348-3777** or visit co.hennepin.mn.us.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the City Staff Blog



The Eden Prairie Facebook Community

March 4, 2011

According to Merriam-Webster, the definition of community is: *A unified body of individuals.* But in Eden Prairie, community means so much more.

Two years ago, my colleagues and I set out to create an official Facebook page for the City of Eden Prairie. At the time, we saw it as an exciting opportunity for two-way communication with the public – but more importantly, we saw it as a platform for building a unique online community.

Since then, the City Facebook page has become a place where nearly 2,500 people have gathered to share thoughts, information and opinions. It has become a place to celebrate, a place to express concern, a place to commiserate and a place to network. And now, the Police Department has joined in as well.

And just recently, after an overnight house fire, the Eden Prairie Facebook page became an important place to honor the heroic actions of an Eden Prairie resident!

When we reposted a comment from one community member...



City of Eden Prairie

via Gary Wisner: This morning's fire on Hartford Circle could have been a disaster had it not been for Tina Palmer (9523) who decided to walk her dog because she couldn't sleep. She smelled smoke and saw flames, called 911 and pounded on doors to awake her neighbors. She saved lives and limited the damage. Please, acknowledge her heroism



Woman Rescued in Overnight Fire in Eden Prairie
KSTP TV - Minneapolis and St. Paul
kstp.com

Dozens of others responded...

31 people like this.

Dawn Hanson Way to go Tina!!! You are awesome!!!
February 19 at 11:46am · Like

Susan Weyrauch Thank Heaven for Tina Palmer. You were somebody's angel today!
February 19 at 12:14pm · Like

Alice Hess WTG Tina! Stars in your crown.
February 19 at 2:14pm · Like

Mary Frey Way to go, Tina! We love EP Heros!
February 19 at 5:40pm · Like

Tina Palmer Thanks everybody... I just did what I hope anyone else would have done in the same situation.
February 19 at 8:08pm · Like

Megan Smith Yay for Tina! Way to be a good neighbor!
February 21 at 7:18pm · Like

Heather Windels Thank you Tina for saving my life! I am forever grateful to you!!
February 24 at 8:47am · Like

Jessica Tibiatowski Yes!! Thank you to Tina for saving my friend Heather's Life!! We are so grateful she is ok!! It was a surreal night, and sad to see this happen to a friends home.
February 24 at 9:44am · Like

And with that, the Eden Prairie Facebook page became the Eden Prairie Facebook community...and so much more.

We look forward to continuing the conversation!

Katie Beal
Senior Communications Coordinator

See more CITY BLOGS at edenprairieweblogs.org.

Staying Safe in Eden Prairie

Avoiding Telephone Scams

Several telephone scams recently left Eden Prairie residents as victims. Unfortunately, once a person has been scammed, it is difficult to track the offender and retrieve stolen funds. When you receive a suspicious phone call, there are several warning signs that can alert you to whether or not a caller is attempting to scam you.

What they do:

- Caller wants you to pay in advance for a good or service.
- Caller pressures you to "act now" to receive a good or service.
- Caller offers something that appears "too good to be true."
- Caller tells you to keep the conversation secret.

What you can do:

Test the story: Before giving out personal information or money, check into the caller's credibility by asking for a number to call back or for a website with more information. Any legitimate caller will allow you more time to think about the offer.

Share your story: Phone scammers tend to have similar stories and tactics. If you believe you been scammed, contact the Police Department and tell others about it. You can also file reports online at econsumer.gov. Education is vital for prevention!

For more information about how you can avoid becoming a victim, visit ftc.gov/phonefraud.

Did You Know?

Did you know the City of Eden Prairie's **Park Clean-Up Day** is **April 16**?

With 37 parks and almost 200 miles of trails in the City, Park Clean-Up Day is a great **volunteer opportunity**, especially since your time and effort gives back to the community and contributes to the beauty, enjoyment and environmental health of Eden Prairie. Gather your friends, family or volunteer organizations and tackle cleaning a park. Bring gloves and trash bags and enjoy the day!

Clean-up takes place from 8:30 to 11 a.m., Saturday, April 16.

Please call **952-949-8463** by April 7 for individual or group park assignments.



Mark Your Calendar

Animal Open House
Saturday, April 9
1–4 p.m.
Outdoor Center

The Outdoor Center will be overflowing with rabbits, snakes, chinchilla and more! Bring the whole family for this FREE day of fun, and don't miss the animal shows at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Park Clean-Up Day
Saturday, April 16
8:30–11 a.m.

Grab your work gloves, bring your trash bags and help keep Eden Prairie's parks and trail system clean. A great volunteer opportunity for service and youth organizations, and neighborhood groups! Please call **952-949-8463** by April 7 for park assignments.

Open Mic Poetry Night
Monday, April 18
7 p.m.
Eden Prairie Library

Celebrate National Poetry Month! Recite original works or favorite poems at this annual event hosted by local poet Polly Carden. The event is free and open to the public, and all readers will be entered in a drawing for a Barnes and Noble gift card. Preregister to read a poem by calling **952-847-5375**.

City Council Meeting*
Tuesday, April 19

*Meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Center.

An Afternoon with the Bunny
Saturday, April 23
3–5 p.m.
Community Center

Enjoy a hopping good afternoon of fun, complete with games, activities, an egg hunt and a spring craft project. Tickets available at the Community Center or Senior Center: \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Admission is free for children under 1, parents and guardians.

Spring Wine Tasting
Thursday, April 14
6:30–8:30 p.m.
The Garden Room
City Center

Eden Prairie Liquor hosts an evening of wine and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$20 per person and available at all three Eden Prairie Liquor locations.

Mother-Son All Star Evening
Saturday, April 30
6:30–8 p.m.
Community Center

Put on your favorite sports attire and enjoy dancing led by a DJ playing popular tunes, "mom vs. son" sport team activities and light refreshments. Cost is \$15 per person and registration is required.

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.