

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Eden Prairie Facebook Fan Photos: Embracing Winter!



Liam, 18 months



Logan, 3 years

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FEBRUARY 2011

The 2011 City Council Convenes

On Jan. 4, 2011, the new Eden Prairie City Council was formally seated at the first meeting of the year.

Nancy Tyra-Lukens, mayor of Eden Prairie from 2002 through 2006, was sworn in to serve another four-year term as mayor. **Sherry Butcher Wickstrom**, previous Council member, and **Kathy Nelson**, incumbent Council member, were also sworn in to serve on the Council from 2011 through 2014. Council members **Brad Aho** and **Ron Case** began the third year of service in their four-year terms.



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

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 1996 through 2008. Prior to her duties as an elected official, Butcher Wickstrom served on the Eden Prairie Heritage Preservation Commission from 1992 through 1996, including three years as chair.

Butcher Wickstrom has also served the community on numerous boards and commissions including the Advisory Board to the Hennepin South Services Collaborative, the Eden Prairie Foundation, the Board of Directors for the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust and the Committee for Democratic Governance for the National League of Cities.

Butcher Wickstrom earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology/archaeology and a master's degree in American history with a program emphasis in museum studies, both from the University of Minnesota. She is a graduate of the Dispute Resolution Institute at Hamline University School of Law and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa society. Currently, Butcher Wickstrom is the executive director of professional training at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, where she directs the Public Leadership Academy for Elected Officials and the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy.

In 2011, Butcher Wickstrom will represent the City of Eden Prairie as a delegate to the Southwest Metro Transit Commission and the Joint Airport Zoning Board.

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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.

Case has served the City on a number of commissions and task forces, including the Heritage Preservation Commission, and has chaired such regional commissions as the Suburban Rate Authority and the Southwest Cable Commission.

Case earned his bachelor's degree in education from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. and master's degree in counseling/psychology from the University of St. Thomas before earning an Administration Licensure and completing his doctorate of education in leadership at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. Case has taught in the Eden Prairie School District since 1979 and is currently teaching at Oak Point Intermediate School.

In 2011, Case will serve as the acting mayor in the event of Mayor Tyra-Luken's absence, and will represent the City of Eden Prairie as a delegate to the Suburban Rate Authority, the Fire Relief Association and the Southwest Cable Commission.

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952-949-0915

Council Member Kathy Nelson

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

Nelson also represents the community as a member of the League of Women Voters and the Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce where she is active with the Government Committee. Prior to her election to the City Council, Nelson served as a longtime member of the City's Planning Commission.

In 2011, Nelson will represent the City of Eden Prairie as a delegate to the City and School Facilities Use Task Force, the Eden Prairie Foundation and the Southwest LRT Community Works Project Steering Committee, and as an alternate to the Southwest LRT Corridor Management Committee.

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The 2011 City Budget

The City of Eden Prairie operates on a two-year budget cycle; therefore, the 2011 operating budget was first finalized in 2009. In December 2010 the City Council approved a set of revisions and finalized a revised budget that maintains the 2010 net tax levy of \$30,503,442 through 2011.

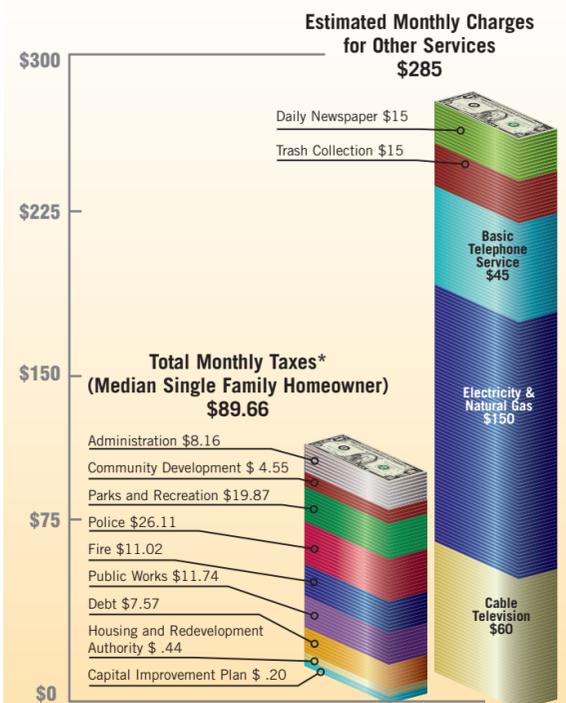
Over the past few years, the City Council has been responsive to the effects of the Great Recession by maintaining the City's portion of the property tax levy at the 2009 level. In order to achieve 0-percent levy increases amid forecasted revenue shortfalls, City staff cut \$500,000 from the 2009 budget, by eliminating 12 fulltime positions, implementing a hiring freeze, offering voluntary early retirement and reduced work schedule programs, cutting operating expenses and tapping the Budget Stabilization Fund.

The 2010 budget was reduced by holding employee wages at 2009 levels and also utilized the Budget Stabilization Fund to compensate for any revenue shortfalls.

The approved 2011 City budget totals \$40,614,931. This amount includes \$679,000 for a 2-percent employee wage increase and accommodating increased benefit costs, which will be offset by an equal amount of cuts in services. The Budget Stabilization Fund will be used to compensate for any shortfalls in year-end revenue.

The final 2011 budget revisions will be posted on the City's website, edenprairie.org, by the end of January.

Your Tax Dollars at Work



*Based on the 2011 median single family home value of \$334,500 and an estimated City property tax of \$1,076 annually.

City Council Meetings

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 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. Tyra-Lukens has also served the community on numerous boards and commissions, including the Suburban Transit Association, the Southwest Transit Commission and the Family Housing Fund. She is currently the president of the Eden Prairie Foundation.

Tyra-Lukens earned a master's degree in nutritional biochemistry from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in finance and business administration from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

In 2011, Tyra-Lukens will represent the City of Eden Prairie as chair of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and a delegate to the National League of Cities, the Municipal Legislative Commission and the Southwest LRT Corridor Management Committee.

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952-937-1898

Council Member Brad Aho

Aho was re-elected in the November 2008 election to serve his second four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council. Aho is involved with several community athletic activities, including the Eden Prairie Foxjet Swim Team, the ski racing teams at Buck Hill and Gilboa, and the Eden Prairie Hockey Association. He also serves on the Red Cross Emergency Team at the Metrodome.

Aho earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology. From 1994 to 2006 he was president and co-owner of Information Technology Solutions, Inc., a systems integration and consulting company in Plymouth, Minn. Aho is now employed by Erickson Technologies, Inc. in Eagan, Minn.

In 2011, Aho will represent the City of Eden Prairie as secretary to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and as a delegate to the Interstate 494 Corridor Commission and the Joint Airport Zoning Board.

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CodeRED System Test

Emergency preparedness officials for the City of Eden Prairie will conduct a test of the CodeRED emergency notification system on **Tuesday, Jan. 25 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.

During the CodeRED system test on Tuesday, Jan. 25, City officials will send a pre-recorded 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.

To update your information in the CodeRED emergency notification system, visit edenprairie.org and click on the CodeRED link.



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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Someone Special

Each year on Feb. 14, people around the world celebrate the tradition of Valentine's Day with gifts of flowers, candy and cards. This February, why not start a new tradition? Take some time out of your busy schedule to have some fun with the special people in your life!

The top 10 ways to celebrate Valentine's Day in Eden Prairie:

1. Take your little sweetheart to the **Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance**.
2. Invite a friend along to enjoy the **Valentine Breakfast** at the Senior Center.
3. Spend some time with your preschooler exploring **Curious George and his Animal Friends** at the Outdoor Center.
4. Grab your blades and take to the ice for **open skate** at the Community Center.
5. Celebrate with your little one at the Art Center **Toy World 3** class.
6. Bring the whole gang to the **sledding hill** then warm their hearts with a cup of hot cocoa.
7. Reminisce about summertime fun with the kids during **open swim** at the Community Center.
8. Take a **Star Watch Astronomy** class at the Staring Lake Observatory and explore the night sky with someone special.
9. Bring the whole family for a **Cross-Country Ski Clinic** at the Outdoor Center.
10. Explore the wildlife of Northern Minnesota with friends on an Outdoor Center **Northern Birding** trip.

For more information about this and other Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation programs, visit edenprairie.org/parksbrochure.



Our Environment

Recycle Your Plastic Bags

The United States **Environmental Protection Agency** estimates that nearly 4-million tons of plastic bags, sacks and wraps are produced each year; and of those, more than 3.5-million tons are discarded.

Because a single plastic bag can take up to 1,000 years to degrade, the **Minnesota Waste Wise** organization has partnered with local businesses to make plastic bag recycling easy and convenient for residents, through the **It's in the Bag** program.

You can help by recycling the following **It's in the Bag**-accepted items:

- Grocery bags
- Retail bags (remove string ties and rigid plastic handles)
- Dry-cleaning bags
- Cereal bags (must be dry with ALL food residue removed)
- Bread bags (must be dry with ALL food residue removed)
- Produce bags (must be dry with ALL food residue removed)
- Wrap from paper products (paper towels, etc.)
- Water softener salt bags (remove rigid plastic handles)
- Zipper bags (remove top closing mechanism)
- Stretch/shrink wrap
- 6-pack holder rings

These items can be dropped off at **Jerry's Foods** and **Kowalski's Market** in Eden Prairie, or at the **Hennepin County Drop Off Facility** in Bloomington.

For more information about the **It's in the Bag** program, visit itsinthebagmn.org.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the City Staff Blog

City Manager Search Update

Jan. 13, 2011

As you might know, this position has been vacant since **Scott Neal** became the city manager for Edina, Minn. in November 2010 – and it has been filled in the interim by Parks and Recreation Director **Jay Lotthammer**.

Last Saturday, each of our Council members interviewed six semi-finalists for the permanent position. These semi-finalists had been selected from a group of 10 candidates presented by **M&A Executive Search**, the recruiting firm hired by the City Council, at a special meeting in December which included both current and incoming Council members.

Following the one-on-one interviews, a public meeting was held and the Eden Prairie **City Council** unanimously voted to name **Rick Getscow**, **Steven Mielke** and **Ryan Schroeder** as finalists for the position of city manager.

Now it's time for you to meet the candidates! Members of the public are invited to attend an Open House and meet the three finalists on **Thursday, Jan. 20** from **3:30–6 p.m.** in the **Community Center Cambria Room**.

Then, on **Thursday, Feb. 3**, the Council will conduct a final interview panel in the **City Center Council Chambers**, before selecting a candidate for the position of city manager.

Karen Kurt
Human Resources Manager

See more CITY BLOGS at edenprairieweblogs.org.



Most Minnesotans, through years of practice and experience, are knowledgeable about winter weather conditions. We know how to dress, drive, be active outdoors and generally get through the winter with our lives, homes and property intact. Nonetheless, accidents and injuries occur every winter because people fail to take precautions. Carelessness, overconfidence, ignorance and innocence can lead to damage, injury or death from winter weather conditions.

Quick Tips and Reminders for a Safe Winter Season:

Never venture out onto frozen bodies of water before checking with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for ice thickness. Regardless of thickness, streams and vegetation can dramatically change ice thickness and make the ice unsafe. Always proceed with caution!

Dress to suit the weather. Thin layers of loose-fitting clothes will trap body heat and aid air circulation. Outer clothing should be hooded, tightly woven and water-repellant. Mittens are warmer than gloves. Wear a hat — most body heat is lost through the head.

Check the weather forecast before going outdoors or traveling. Pay particular attention to wind-chill, which can create dangerously cold conditions. Monitor the National Weather Service website, noaa.gov, for forecasts, statements, watches and warnings about developing winter weather.

Watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite, especially in the very young and the elderly. Symptoms of hypothermia are shivering, confusion and loss of muscular control. Frostbite causes loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, tip of nose and ear lobes. If you see these symptoms, get medical attention immediately.

Pace your outdoor activity. Avoid strenuous activity in extremely cold temperatures. Your heart must work harder to pump blood through constricted vessels in arms and legs.

Winterize your home and vehicle before the cold weather arrives. Prepare an emergency kit for your home and one for your vehicle, and make sure your home heating system is in good working order. Remember to keep outside air vents for your home clear of snow and ice to allow for proper ventilation of indoor appliances and avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

For more information about winter weather hazards, visit winterweather.state.mn.us.

Did You Know?

Did you know that 2011 marks the 30th anniversary for the Eden Prairie Foundation?

Since 1981, the **Eden Prairie Foundation** has supported the community with grants, scholarships and special gifts to deserving projects within the City. Through these projects and gifts, the Foundation strives to enrich the lives of all who live or work in the City of Eden Prairie.

The all-volunteer Foundation is supported entirely by corporate and private sponsorships and donations, its Century Club members, and proceeds from the annual Foundation Ball, its largest fundraising event.

This year's 30th anniversary fundraising event, set to a "Rockin' Eden" theme, will take place **March 26** at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka. Tickets for the event are \$100 and will be available online beginning Jan. 25.

The evening will be hosted by Master of Ceremonies Ian Leonard, Eden Prairie resident and chief meteorologist at FOX 9 News. Festivities will begin with a social hour, silent auction and games, followed by dinner, a live auction and dancing into the night, compliments of two great bands with Eden Prairie ties.

For further details about the annual fundraising ball and its beneficiaries, go to edenprairiefoundation.org. To make a donation or to volunteer at the event, contact **Debbie Bequette** at **952-974-3156**. Finally, become a fan of the Eden Prairie Foundation on Facebook!



Mark Your Calendar

Family BINGO Night

Friday, Jan. 21
6–8 p.m.
Community Center

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

City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 15
*All meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Center.

Father and Daughter Sweetheart Dance

Saturday, Feb. 5
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. 31) and includes dinner, dancing and a special valentine craft project to take home for mom.

Senior Center Valentine Breakfast

Monday, Feb. 14
9–11 a.m.
Senior Center

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

Taste of Eden Prairie

Saturday, Feb. 26
6–10 p.m.
Winter Park

The Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools invites you to the "Wild West" for an evening of "tastes" from area restaurants, live music by Midlife Crisis, a silent auction, raffle, locker room tours and more. Tickets: \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Visit foundationforepschools.org for more information.