

L I F E I N T H E P R A I R I E



Do you have a photo that shows why Eden Prairie is the #1 Best Place to Live in America?

Watch for details in 2011 about the City of Eden Prairie photo contest.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Pierce.

JANUARY 2011

Ring in the New Year with New Resolutions

As we ring in the year 2011, thousands of New Year's resolutions will be made right here in Eden Prairie. Many will involve personal commitments, others may include family and friends, and some may focus on efforts to better the community or the world we live in.

This New Year's Eve, as you decide on your resolutions and welcome in the year 2011, the Staff Members, Police Officers, Firefighters and Elected Officials for the City of Eden Prairie would like to extend wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all those who choose to Live, Work and Dream in the City of Eden Prairie!

Resolve to Be Involved

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community, but it can also have many personal benefits as well. Volunteering is the perfect way to learn a new skill, meet a diverse range of people and give you an immeasurable sense of motivation and achievement. This year, the City of Eden Prairie invites you to explore volunteer opportunities in the community and resolve to: **be involved in 2011.**

Community Event Volunteers

Assist with day-of duties at one of Eden Prairie's annual community events! You'll meet new people and family, and contribute to creating a lifetime of memories. First-up this year is the **Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance** on **Saturday, Feb. 5**. For volunteer opportunities contact **Nicole Weedman** at **952-949-8456**.

Community Theater Volunteers

You don't have to be an actor to get involved with Eden Prairie's theater group, the **Eden Prairie Players**. Costume seamstresses, ushers, lighting and sound technicians, stage hands and help with construction are always appreciated. Contact **Lindsey Danhauser** at **952-949-8450** or visit the Eden Prairie Players website at **edenprairieplayers.org** for more information.

Police Department Volunteers

Join the **Police Reserves** and assist your community in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation. Youth, ages 14-21, can join the **Police Explorers** program to help out in the community and learn more about law enforcement. In addition, local emergency responders are always looking for clergy and lay-people for the important role of **Police & Fire Department Chaplains**. Visit the **Police Department** section at **edenprairie.org** for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

Senior Center Volunteers

Opportunities range from driving and assisting seniors with weekly shopping trips, to volunteering as a program instructor sharing your skills and hobbies with others. Call the **Eden Prairie Senior Center** at **952-279-8050** for more information.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteers

The Eden Prairie CERT team is made up of volunteers who are trained and prepared to assist public safety officials in a crisis situation. For more information contact **Mark Krueger** with the **Police Department** at **952-949-6201**.

As you anticipate the coming year, resolve to make 2011 your year to volunteer your time and make an important contribution to your community. For more information about these and other City of Eden Prairie volunteer opportunities visit **edenprairie.org**.

Resolve to Be Greener

Since its launch in 2007, the City's **20-40-15 initiative**, aimed at increasing efficiency in City-owned facilities by **20** percent, improving the fuel efficiency in the City's vehicle fleet by **40** percent and accomplishing these goals by **2015**, has already set precedence for operations within the City of Eden Prairie.

This New Year's eve, the City would like to encourage all residents and businesses to resolve to: **be greener in 2011**. Each small step you take will add up to big changes that will benefit our the environment.

Transportation

Vow to take two fewer car trips over the next year, replacing them with walking, biking or public transportation. Keep tracking each car trip in your notebook, and start writing down how many gallons of gas you're buying each time you fill up. And for each car trip you do without, note any other benefits you reap beyond saving gas—such as fresh air, exercise, community interaction or reading time—so you can see the full spectrum of ways that driving less has an impact on your daily life.

Energy

Schedule an energy audit to get a list of suggestions for reducing your home's energy use. A home energy audit from **Xcel Energy** is only \$60 and will help answer your specific questions, customize a list of suggested improvements with a cost/savings analysis for each, provide you with a list of home improvement contractors and give you information on cash-back rebates and programs. For more information, or to download a brochure, visit **xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergyAudit**.

Everyday Purchases

Create your own personal "Going Green" kit. Small purchases that can add up to making a big difference! To help reduce waste, include the following items in your kit:

- Reusable tote bags
- Stainless steel water bottles
- Travel coffee mugs
- BYO-lunch supplies—an insulated carrier, utensils and aluminum foil or reusable containers

When making your New Year's resolutions, join forces with the City of Eden Prairie and make 2011 your year to get greener!

To learn more about the City of Eden Prairie's 20-40-15 initiative, visit **edenprairie.org**. For more information and tips to help you get greener, visit **thegreenguide.com**.

Resolve to Be Ready

The **Eden Prairie Fire and Police Departments** would like to encourage all residents and businesses to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep: **be ready in 2011.**

The **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** recommends that all Americans *Resolve to be Ready* by taking the following three steps to be prepared in the event of an emergency:

Put together an emergency supply kit

This kit should include the basics such as water, non-perishable food, battery powered lights and radios with extra batteries, and a first-aid kit. Be sure to also consider items to accommodate family members' special needs such as prescription medications, infant formula, pet food, important family documents, etc.

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency

Sit down together and decide how you will contact each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Determine a neighborhood meeting place, identify an out-of-town emergency contact, inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time, such as employers, daycare providers, schools, etc.

Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together

In the event of an emergency, you will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

For more information, materials and tools to help prepare your family, home or business for all types of emergencies visit **ready.gov** or call **1-800-BE-READY**.

CODE RED

Emergency preparedness officials for the City of Eden Prairie also remind residents and businesses to keep their contact information updated in the **CodeRED** emergency notification system. This system provides the City of Eden Prairie with a high-speed telephone calling system capable of delivering customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses. 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 system, visit **edenprairie.org** and click on the **CodeRED** link, then follow the instructions for **updating** or **creating** your account.

20-40-15 Update

City is Half-Way to Reaching Efficiency Goals

Over the past three years, the City of Eden Prairie has been working toward the goals of the **20-40-15** initiative, aimed at improving energy efficiency in City facilities by **20** percent, improving the fuel efficiency of the City's vehicle fleet by **40** percent and achieving these goals by the year **2015**.



As we enter 2011, the following changes and improvements will be wrapped up to complete Phase Three of the 20-40-15 initiative:

- The installation of a new, more efficient energy management system which will control all heating, ventilating and air conditioning units as well as most of the interior lighting at the City Center.
- The ice rink dehumidifier at the Community Center will be modified to make it more energy efficient.
- The replacement of three major pieces of cooling equipment at the City Center with more energy efficient units.
- The replacement of building and parking lot lights at the Eden Prairie Liquor Store by Cub Foods and up to 12 park shelters with energy-efficient LED lighting.
- The addition of nine fuel-efficient (20+ MPG) vehicles to the City's fleet.

Upon completion of Phase Three, the City will officially surpass the half-way mark, toward accomplishing the goals set forth by the 20-40-15 initiative!

With four years remaining, City staff will continue to work closely with **McKinstry Company** to explore possibilities for the next phase of the 20-40-15 initiative.

New Utility Rate Structure

At its Oct. 19, 2010, meeting, the Eden Prairie **City Council** voted to approve a **new utility rate structure** that will take effect **Jan. 1, 2011**.

The changes adopted will:

- Allow the City's utilities operation – which is funded entirely by user fees, not by tax dollars – to maintain the system as it ages.
- Encourage water conservation among Eden Prairie residents and businesses.

Currently, more than 75 percent of all residential customers fall in the zero-36,000-gallons range of water used per quarter. Based on the new rate structure, that means the average household utility bill in Eden Prairie will increase by approximately \$8.50 per quarter.

Commercial customers will begin seeing the change on utility bills in February 2011, while residential customers will begin seeing the change on utility bills in April 2011.

For more information, including a detailed listing of the new utility rates, visit **edenprairie.org** and click on **Utility Rate Information**. Or, call the City's Utility Billing staff at **952-949-8382** or **952-949-8380**.

CITY

BLOGS DOCS FACEBOOK NEWS TV

- Subscribe to receive e-mails on the topics of your choice
- Access public documents online
- Stay connected with the City's official online Facebook community
- Watch City Council and Planning Commission meetings live and on-demand
- View streaming videos or watch the City's cable channel EPTV 16 live

Visit **edenprairie.org** and check it out today!



MAYOR

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952-426-1931

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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CELEBRATING 2010

The year 2010 will go down in Eden Prairie history as the year MONEY magazine declared our City the *Best Place to Live in America*.

This ranking is an honor for the entire community, and a tribute to the amazing people who live, work and dream here.

Eden Prairie City government is the steward of the City's public buildings, parks, streets and much of its natural open space. We are also the stewards of Eden Prairie's image and future. We want to be accountable to you — the residents and taxpayers of Eden Prairie — because we take our responsibilities very seriously, and because there's a lot to be proud of in Eden Prairie from 2010.

We enhanced the City's outstanding network of parks, recreational facilities and natural open spaces by building the **Staring Lake Observatory**, by completing phase three of the barrier-free playground project at **Miller Park**, and by introducing dozens of highly attended programs at the **Art Center** facility. These facilities wouldn't exist without generous donors who thought it was so essential to have these amenities in our City, that they helped fund all three.



The Staring Lake Observatory Building



Fall 2010 construction at Miller Park Barrier-Free Playground



Clay Camp at the Eden Prairie Art Center

We enhanced public safety by partnering with neighboring cities to add **Self Contained Breathing Apparatus** to the Fire Department's rescue capabilities. We also hosted a record-breaking **Night to Unite** event and the best-attended **Citywide Open House** in recent history, as well as supported Special Olympics of Minnesota with the third annual **Polar Bear Plunge** at Round Lake Park and the American Cancer Society with the **Relay for Life** and **Pink Fire Truck** events.



Polar Plunge 2010



Pink Fire Truck Fundraiser



We dedicated significant time again this year to planning for big changes in the future of Eden Prairie by reviewing Hennepin County's plans to extend **Light Rail Transit** to Eden Prairie, by working closely with MnDot on plans to proceed with the **Hwy. 169/I-494** interchange improvement, by working with the Metropolitan Council to receive final approval of the City's **Comprehensive Plan**, and by progressing toward completion of several new development projects associated with the **Major Center Area**, as well as the Singletree Lane **Town Center Area**, that will strengthen the economic vitality of Eden Prairie's future.



Rendering of the new Hwy. 169/I-494 interchange

We completed a relocation and renovation project at the **Eden Prairie Liquor** store near **Rainbow Foods**, further enhancing this unique source of revenue for the City.



Ribbon cutting at Eden Prairie Liquor
Pictured (L to R): Mitch Dean with Council Members Ron Case and Brad Aho

We successfully provided a process that was open, fair and responsive to the needs of more than 26,000 eligible residents who chose to exercise the right to vote in **Election 2010**.



Mayor Phil Young (center) and Council Members (L to R) Jon Duckstad, Kathy Nelson, Brad Aho and Ron Case

It was a very good year for the City of Eden Prairie in 2010. On behalf of your elected officials and City staff members, we thank our residents and taxpayers for the opportunity serve you.

Sincerely,

Jay Lotthammer

Jay Lotthammer
Interim City Manager



We officially reached the halfway point 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**.



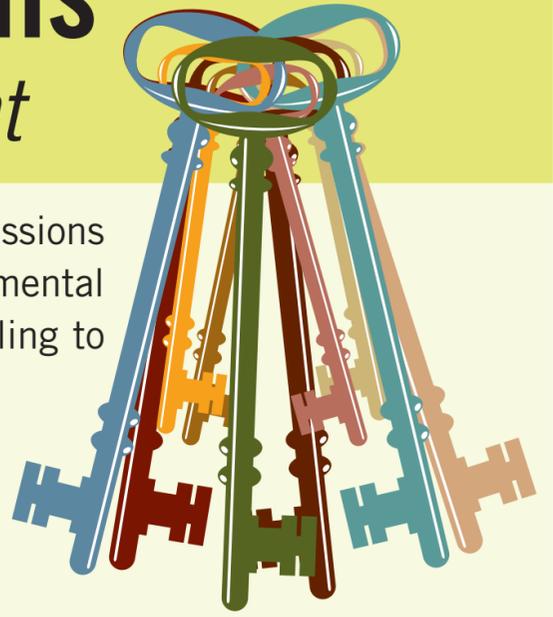
Eden Prairie Commissions

The Keys 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 to benefit the community.

Positions are currently available on nearly every commission. Applications are accepted in January, City Council interviews are conducted 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

Ana Armstrong
Tonja Bivins
Farida Kathawalla (Vice Chair)
Gina King
Elizabeth Petry-Lee
Julia Ramos
Ann Rorem (Chair)

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

Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission

Members

Judith Gentry
Richard King (Chair)
Jeffrey Larsen (Vice Chair)
Greg McKewan
Mark Michelson
Kurt Schendel
Jeff Nawrocki (MAC Representative)

Staff Liaison: Scott Kipp

Purpose

To advise the City Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) 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

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission

Members

Tom Bierman
Hutch Coburn (Vice Chair)
Lee Elliott-Stoering
Derek Gunderson
Larry Link
Geri Napuck (Chair)

Joan Oko

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

Budget Advisory Commission

Members

Annette Agner
Eapen Chacko
Dan Funk**
Richard King (Vice Chair)
Michael Morris**
Jon Muilenburg
Chris Nylander**
Richard Proops*
Gwen Schultz*
Don Uram* (Chair)

Staff Liaison: Sue Kotchevar

*Term ends January 2011

**Term begins January 2011

Purpose

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

Heritage Preservation Commission

Members

Matt Fyten
Jeffrey Lawler
Ann Higgins (Chair)
Nina Mackay
Mark McPherson
Ed Muehlberg
Kathy Veurink (Vice Chair)

Staff Contact: 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

Human Rights and Diversity Commission

Members

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

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 at the Housing and Community Services office located on the lower level of Eden Prairie Center mall.

Planning Commission

Members

Katie Lechelt
Jacob Lee
John Kirk
Jerry Pitzrick
Kevin Schultz (Vice Chair)
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.

Conservation Commission

Members

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

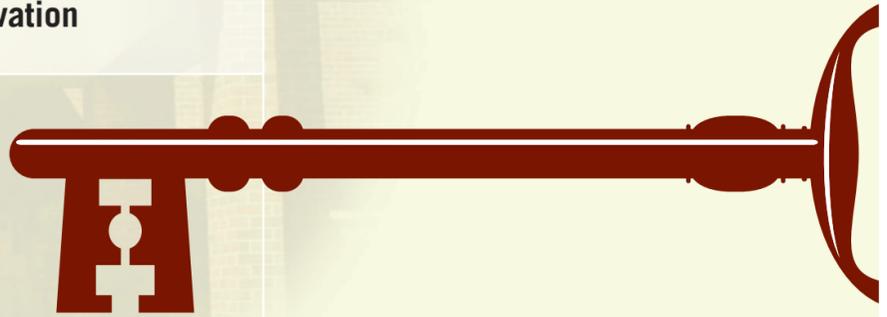
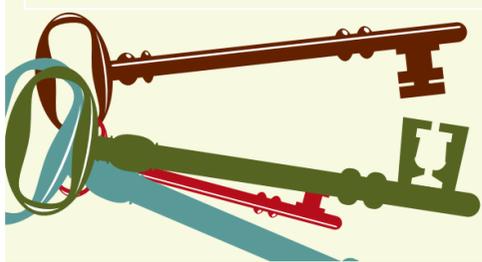
Staff Liaison: Regina Herron

Purpose

To provide advisory support regarding policies and practices that promote the sustainable development and conservation of Eden Prairie's air, water, and land resources; reduction of residential and commercial solid waste; and the efficient use of energy in the economic activities of both the public and private sectors.

Meetings

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



Live Well Eden Prairie!



Kick Off Your New Year at the Community Center

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 2011, don't forget to explore the multitude of opportunities for you to Live Well, right here in Eden Prairie.

This New Year's Day, stop by the Community Center and explore 10 new ways to have more fun in 2011!

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. Grab a healthy snack at the concession stand
6. Let the little ones enjoy some inflatable fun
7. Explore the world of wallyball
8. Begin your cardio routine in the fitness center
9. Grab some friends and play a game of volleyball
10. Resuscitate your racquetball skills

The **New Year's Day Celebration** at the Community Center will take place from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** on Saturday, Jan 1. Members are welcome to attend free of charge, and a \$5 fee for non-members covers open swim, open skate, open gym, inflatable fun and the indoor play structure. Be sure to take advantage of this great opportunity to check out the Community Center, have some fun with the family, and discover new ways to Live Well in Eden Prairie.



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

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the City Staff Blog

A 2011 Budget

Dec. 13, 2010

This is the season – budget season that is. After a preliminary levy was certified in September and appeared on 2011 property tax notices in November, the City Council was presented with several budget and tax levy scenarios to consider at its Dec. 7 workshop. Most of the options were in response to Council members' requests and a staff-recommended version was presented as well.

All five of our elected officials were concerned about keeping the City's portion of property taxes as low as possible in response to the economic climate, while at the same time maintaining Eden Prairie's high standards for services. They were also mindful of the fact that 12 full-time positions were eliminated in 2009, there were no employee wage increases in 2010 and many other significant reductions have already been made to the overall budget.

After much discussion and careful consideration at the City Council meeting following the Dec. 7 workshop, Council members decided together that they supported keeping the budget flat and that it was important to have a zero-percent

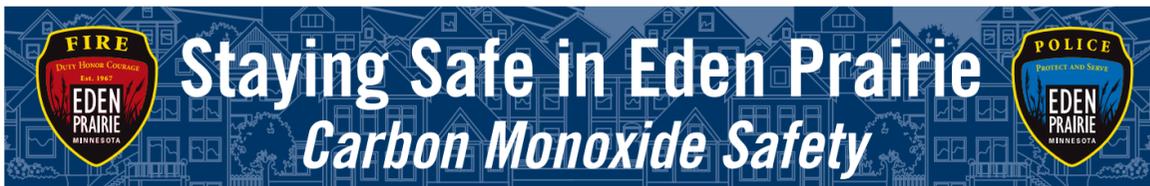
increase in the tax levy for 2011. The Council also agreed that a 2-percent wage increase should be included in the 2011 budget, which would be compensated for by an equal amount in services. In order to keep the tax levy flat, the Council decided to use funds from the Budget Stabilization Fund to offset any shortfall that might occur at the end of next year. Given that we're expecting to end the year by surpassing our 2010 revenue projections and may not need to dip into that fund to balance our budget, I believe the tough decisions made by the Council are reasonable in order to achieve our goals.

I am pleased the Council came to an agreement and voted unanimously to approve the 2011 budget and levy. Budget and service reductions are never easy. But I can tell you that we as members of the City staff are committed more than ever to continuing our spirit of hard work and dedication to ensure the residents and businesses of Eden Prairie receive the best value for the services we provide.

On behalf of the entire City staff, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and happy new year!

Jay Lotthammer
Interim City Manager

See more CITY BLOGS at 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 Carbon monoxide (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 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 in it, always back it out right away.
- If you are using a paint remover containing methylene chloride, follow manufacturers' 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 Web site at health.state.mn.us.

Thank You

The City of Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the following businesses, residents and service organizations for their contributions in 2010.

Prairie Partners – \$5,000+

Eden Prairie Fastpitch Association
Eden Prairie Baseball Association
American Family Insurance

Platinum Sponsors – \$4,999 to \$1,000

Friends of Birch Island Woods
Friends of Eden Prairie Art Center
Eden Prairie Lioness Club
C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.
CES Group, Inc.
J.A. Price Agency, Inc.
The International School of Minnesota

Gold Sponsors – \$999 to \$500

Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund
Voyager Bank
Anchor Bank
Jason's Deli
Kinderberry Hill
State Farm Insurance
Xcel Energy

Silver Sponsors – \$499 to \$100

Eden Prairie Optimist Club
Tom and Kathy Miller Foundation
Eden Prairie Noon Rotary
Eden Prairie IMAX Theater
Golden Living Center
Holman's Automotive
Gentle Transitions
Heather Olson
Whatever It Takes - Joyce Conley

In total, more than \$140,000 was contributed to support programs, events and recreation facilities in Eden Prairie this year.

Did You Know?

Did you know the City of Eden Prairie has a Facebook page?

Since its creation in 2009, the City's official Facebook page has become an online community where more than 2,000 users have gathered to collaborate, share and learn about what's happening in Eden Prairie.

As a sign of the times, this online gathering place has quickly become a new hub of interaction for the Eden Prairie community. In times of celebration and in times of concern, the City's Facebook page is a place where community members can connect to share thoughts, information and opinions.

Visit facebook.com/cityofedenprairie and join our online community today!



Mark Your Calendar

New Year's Day Celebration

Saturday, Jan. 1
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Bring the whole family and kick the year off right with open swim, open skate and open gym at the Community Center. The event is free for Community Center members, \$5 for non-members.

City Council Meetings*

Tuesdays, Jan. 4 and 18

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

Rock on Ice

Sunday, Jan. 16
5–7 p.m.

A fun-filled family event with skating, good old fashioned rock 'n' roll and refreshments by the bonfire at the Round Lake Park ice rink.

Family BINGO Night

Friday, Jan. 21
6–8 p.m.

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