

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Local Kids Enjoy Halloween 2010



DECEMBER 2010

Eden Prairie Votes 2010

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010, 64 percent of the City's registered voters took part in the mid-term election, a number that surpassed the State of Minnesota's estimated 58-percent voter turnout.

In all, 24,124 Eden Prairie residents visited one of 19 precincts throughout the City to cast their votes. Combined with more than 2,116 residents who completed absentee ballots, a total of 26,240 Eden Prairie voters participated in Election Day 2010.

In the mayoral election, **Nancy Tyra-Lukens**, mayor of Eden Prairie from 2002-2006, received 52.62 percent of the votes to win the race. Tyra-Lukens will serve a four-year term as mayor, beginning in January 2011.

In the City Council race, two at-large seats were on the ballot. **Sherry Butcher Wickstrom**, former Council member, received 25.12 percent of the votes and **Kathy Nelson**, incumbent Council member, received 24.50 percent of the votes. Nelson and Butcher Wickstrom will each serve a four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council beginning in January 2011.

Thanks to the help of 325 election judges, the City of Eden Prairie was able to provide an election process that was open, fair and responsive to the needs of all eligible citizens who chose to exercise the right to vote.

Note: All election data is based on preliminary results, as reported by Hennepin County.



★★★ Nancy Tyra-Lukens



★★ Sherry Butcher Wickstrom



★★★ Kathy Nelson

City Manager Search

Council Appoints Interim City Manager and Begins the Search Process

At its Oct. 19, 2010, meeting, the Eden Prairie City Council voted unanimously to appoint Parks and Recreation Director **Jay Lotthammer** to the position of interim city manager upon the departure of City Manager Scott Neal.

Lotthammer, who began his career in local government with the City of Brooklyn Park more than 20 years ago, came to Eden Prairie in 2007 after the retirement of former Parks and Recreation Director Bob Lambert.

"I am honored to serve in this interim position," said Lotthammer. "Eden Prairie is a #1 ranked community with an extremely dedicated group of staff members who will help me lead the City through this transitional period."

Meanwhile, the Council will be coordinating with Minneapolis-based **M&A Executive Search** to conduct the search for a new city manager. This process will include a series of interviews with the City Council, a panel of City department directors and a group of community leaders. In addition, there will be an open house event which residents and City employees may attend to meet the finalists.



Jay Lotthammer

Plowing Through Winter

Frequently Asked Questions About Snow Removal

When it snows, Eden Prairie street maintenance crews clear 229 miles of City streets. Crews begin by clearing the major arterial streets and continue until all streets are clear. Major highways running through Eden Prairie are cleared by Minnesota Department of Transportation crews.

Who handles snow removal on sidewalks and trails?

City ordinance requires businesses and homeowners on non-arterial streets to remove snow and ice from a 5-foot width of the public sidewalks or trails abutting or adjoining their property, with the exception of any trails running between or behind homes or private property. The purpose of this ordinance is to expand the network of sidewalks and trails available for public use in the winter months and ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially children walking to and from school. Residents are also asked to assist emergency officials and postal carriers by removing snow around fire hydrants and mailboxes.

How quickly must snow be removed from residential sidewalks?

City ordinance requires residential sidewalks and trails to be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after the cessation of precipitation, and requires businesses to clear sidewalks and trails within eight hours after the cessation of precipitation.

What is a snow emergency?

The City of Eden Prairie will issue a snow emergency any time the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, Minn. has determined a snow accumulation of 2 inches or more. During a snow emergency, parking is restricted on all Eden Prairie streets until the street has been plowed to the full width of the roadway.

Is it appropriate to pass a City snow plow while driving?

It is always safest to yield to a snow plow and give snow plow drivers plenty of room to do their jobs, they travel at lower-than-posted speeds, but they will make the road safer for you to travel on. Never drive into a snow cloud created by a plow and always allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snow plow. A snow plow weighs 17 times more than a passenger vehicle and in a crash, passengers in a motor vehicle are almost always injured.

What can I teach my children about snow plow safety?

Children are always fascinated with snow plows; however, it is important to teach them about how large and powerful snowplows are, and how dangerous they can be. Teach them that it is extremely difficult for snow plow drivers to see children, and that it is sometimes difficult to hear a snow plow approaching. Teach children to move away from the street when a snow plow is approaching and never allow them to build snow forts or sledding mounds within 20 feet of the street.

Who should I contact if I have a question or concern about snow removal?

If you have questions or concerns about snow removal, call the City's Street Maintenance Division at **952-949-8533**.

Spotlight on City Commission Members

The **Eden Prairie City Council** utilizes 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 **Heritage Preservation Commission** is to: (1) safeguard 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) promote the preservation and continued use of historic sites and structures for the education and general welfare of the people of the City; and (3) foster civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past.

Meet Commission Member Ann Higgins!

Name: Ann Higgins
Commission: Heritage Preservation Commission
Year you were appointed: 2006
Number of years you have lived in Eden Prairie: 6

Why do you volunteer to serve on a City commission? I consider it a special privilege to serve on a commission, particularly the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), which advises the City Council on policies and actions that help maintain the quality of life and special elements of our community. In the case of the HPC, it is especially gratifying to be part of a tradition and public process that assures that the City continues to recognize and provide residents and organizations access to outstanding examples of homes, institutions, places and settings of the beginnings that shaped the development of our community.

What would you like residents to know about the efforts of the commission on which you serve?

Residents of Eden Prairie are provided with public access to heritage sites that are varied and remarkable each in their own way through the efforts of the HPC and the Eden Prairie City Council. The HPC's official role in designating City heritage sites is a key activity, but residents also may want to reflect on the importance of the measures the City has undertaken to restore and provide new uses for many of those properties.



The Glen Lake Children's Camp, for instance, is currently used to provide summer camp experiences for children with special needs, while retaining its special features that have earned an official listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Many residents also have the opportunity to participate in or attend a wide range of events such as the plays, musical performances, camp programs and community celebrations at the extraordinary barn on the Riley-Jacques farm property on the shores of Lake Riley. Nature and seasonal programs are offered at the Outdoor Center on Staring Lake, and the unique Dunn Brothers coffee shop located in the Smith-Douglas-More House on Eden Prairie Road can be enjoyed as well. All those special settings are ones that the HPC has a necessary role in working with the City Council to protect and offer to the community.

What is your vision for the future in Eden Prairie?

I would like to encourage residents to help the HPC identify additional features, residences, buildings, and other unique settings or sites that developed during the mid-20th century, that help define the emergence of the modern City of Eden Prairie as it transitioned from a rural community based on an agrarian economy to one that has become a vibrant, thriving and diverse place for residents to live, work and pursue their dreams.

Housing Rehabilitation Loans Available

Applications are now being accepted for home improvement loans through the Eden Prairie Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. Eligible improvements include safety, energy and building code-related repairs, such as:

- Replacement of roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems
- Cabinets, countertops and flooring
- Gutters, windows, doors, insulation and siding
- Exterior painting
- Driveway, foundation, sidewalk and step repairs

Low-interest loans are available to eligible applicants. Eligibility is determined by household income and amount of equity in the home.

For further details, questions or an application, contact **Jeanne Karschnia** at **952-949-8486** or jkarschnia@edenprairie.org.



MAYOR
Phil Young
952-426-1931

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Brad Aho
952-949-8300

Ron Case
952-949-0915

Jon Duckstad
952-903-0274

Kathy Nelson
952-941-6613

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City of Eden Prairie
Communications Division
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952-949-8434
edenprairie.org



Visit edenprairie.org for more information about how to become involved with a City commission.

Live Well Eden Prairie!

Prevent Cabin Fever This Winter

This winter, let Eden Prairie's Parks and Recreation programs help you prevent cabin fever, with 10 cost-effective winter activities for under \$10!

1. Adult Open Gym – \$5 at the Community Center
2. Adult Hockey – \$6 at the Community Center
3. Learn to Snowshoe – \$9 at the Outdoor Center
4. See the Stars – \$6 at the Outdoor Center
5. Sledding – Free at Staring Lake Park
6. Cross-Country Ski – Free groomed trails at Staring Lake Park
7. Art Gallery – Free at City Center
8. Lunch and Learn – \$6 at the Senior Center
9. Rock On Ice – Free skating event on Jan. 17
10. Waterslide – \$5 Open Swim at Oak Point Pool



Winter program registration begins Nov. 30. Visit edenprairie.org/parksbrochure or pick up a winter program guide today for more information about Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation programs.



Our Environment

Reduce Waste this Holiday Season



Whatever holiday you celebrate this time of year, make it a green one!

Here are some ways to reduce waste this holiday season:

- Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills every year. Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases.
- Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.
- Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.
 - About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.
 - Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.
- Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money.
- When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.

For more information about these and other waste reduction tips from the **Environmental Protection Agency**, visit epa.gov.



Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the City Staff Blog

A New Interchange

Nov. 15, 2010

The Highway 169/I-494 interchange project is set to begin any day. Mn/DOT recently awarded the C.S. McCrossan/Edward Kraemer & Sons Design-Build team this \$125 million dollar interchange project. Once the final contracts for the project are executed, work on the project will begin.

We will be learning a lot more about the project schedule in the coming weeks, but here is a short summary of what we know today:

- Depending on the weather and other factors, construction on some of the temporary bypasses that will be needed to facilitate construction may start immediately. So be prepared to start seeing construction barricades and cones.
- Throughout the course of the winter, the contractor is likely to start construction on some of the retaining walls and bridges, with full construction of the project ramping up in the early spring.
- The long awaited removal of the three remaining traffic signals on Highway 169 is expected to occur by the end of the 2011 construction season.
- Substantial completion of the project is anticipated to occur by mid-November 2012.



Mn/DOT rendering of the new Hwy 169/I-494 interchange

For more information on the project, please visit MnDOT's project webpage: dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/169. This site includes a lot of great information about the project including the most recent project layout and aerial views of the project, as well as fly-over and drive-through views of the project.

This project has been years in the making and we are excited to work with MnDOT and the C.S. McCrossan/Edward Kraemer & Sons MnDOT to bring this project to its successful completion.

Please stay tuned for more information and drive safely!

Randy Newton
Assistant City Engineer – Traffic Engineer

See more CITY BLOGS at edenprairieweblogs.org.



Whether shopping at the mall or online, it is important to be cognizant of where you are, what is happening around you and what personal information may be accessible to others. To deter theft, identity theft and robbery from happening to you, the **Eden Prairie Police Department** encourages all residents to take extra precautions this holiday season:



- Do not leave your purse or briefcase unattended in a cart while shopping or placing items in your vehicle.
- Guard your purse or wallet to avoid pick-pocket scams; keep zippers closed and wallets in front pockets.
- Guard your credit card and checking account numbers while standing in checkout lines. Thieves will use a small camera like a cellular phone to photograph your information while in line and later use it illegally.
- Only shop online sites you trust and thoroughly investigate new websites prior to making a purchase; a web search tool like Google or Yahoo will help you research complaints about the business prior to making your purchase.
- Only use secure websites when providing financial or personal information.
- Request a temporary credit card number from your bank to make online purchases.

For more information from the Federal Trade Commission about preventing identity theft, visit ftc.gov/idtheft.

Did You Know?

Did you know there are approximately 4,000 fire hydrants in the City of Eden Prairie?

The City's network of fire hydrants is designed to provide extinguishing capabilities to every household in Eden Prairie within minutes of the Fire Department's arrival on-scene.

However, in winter months, an accumulation of snow and ice around fire hydrants can impede a firefighter's ability to quickly locate and access a hydrant. For this reason, the Fire Department relies on residents and businesses to assist in clearing snow around fire hydrants throughout the City.

On average, for every minute a fire burns, it doubles in size.

You can help save precious time by making sure that firefighters can obtain quick and easy access to a hydrant should they need to respond to a fire emergency in your neighborhood. Adopt a hydrant in your area today, and each time the snow flies...grab a shovel and dig it out!



Mark Your Calendar

Art on City Walls

Monday–Friday
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
City Center

Take a stroll through the lower level of the **City Center** and enjoy the December *Art on City Walls* exhibit featuring works from local artists.

City Council Meetings*

Tuesdays, Dec. 7, 21

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

Holiday Lunch at the Senior Center

Wednesday, Dec. 1
11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Celebrate with friends and enjoy a holiday meal with live seasonal entertainment.

Community Band Holiday Concert

Sunday, Dec. 19
2 p.m.

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