

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Local kids enjoy the 4th of July Hometown Celebration.



AUGUST 2010

EDEN PRAIRIE MINNESOTA, USA

#1 in 2010
Your place to LIVE • WORK • DREAM



Eden Prairie is ranked number 1 on MONEY magazine's 2010 list of the 100 "Best Places to Live" in America!

The rankings were announced July 12 on NBC's *TODAY Show*, and Eden Prairie landed higher on the list than any other Minnesota city.

"We are pleased that Eden Prairie has been recognized as one of the top cities in this country," said Mayor Phil Young. "I think it's important to recognize it is an honor for the entire community. Eden Prairie has great schools, great businesses and great people. All of that and more is considered by MONEY when evaluating each city."

Every two years, the editors of MONEY magazine start with a full list of cities with populations of 50,000 to 300,000. After several months spent researching economics

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—Mayor Phil Young

and quality of life, the list is narrowed to a group of finalists, which are visited by the MONEY team. These visits allow the team to interview residents, community leaders and local officials before compiling the final "Best Places to Live" rankings.

The City of Eden Prairie has consistently been ranked in the top 100 "Best Places to Live" in America since 2006.

"We work hard to make Eden Prairie a truly great place to live, and we look forward to the results of the MONEY magazine research every couple years," said Young. "This is the highest ranking Eden Prairie has ever received from MONEY, and we're very proud of that, but it's the people who live and work here who make it the best."

For more information and a link to MONEY magazine's 2010 list of the top 100 "Best Places to Live" in America, visit edenprairie.org.

Protecting the Investment

Maintenance Ensures Safety and Longevity of City Streets

Much like the thousands of vehicles traveling on them each day, the streets of Eden Prairie also require regular maintenance to ensure their safety and longevity. The City of Eden Prairie takes street maintenance seriously in order to protect the taxpayer investment in City streets.

According to **Gene Dietz**, the City's director of public works, Eden Prairie's street maintenance program involves **overlaying** and **sealcoating** more than 30 miles of City streets each year. This annual maintenance schedule is designed to preserve and protect the pavement, with a goal of reaching a 40 to 50-year life expectancy before a street requires complete reconstruction.



Overlaying

Every 20 years or so, streets are milled and then overlaid with a new 2-inch layer of asphalt, which reshapes the street itself and eliminates any settling or flaws that may have developed over the years. The overlay project also includes concrete curb and gutter repair, as well as storm sewer catch basin and manhole repairs, and street patching.

In 2010, the City is overlaying approximately 11 miles of streets. The bulk of these projects are expected to be complete by the end of July, with a second phase of work scheduled in September.

Sealcoating

Every seven or eight years, City streets are sealcoated. This is one of the most common methods of preventative street maintenance and consists of a surface treatment that seals and protects the existing pavement.

After filling any cracks in the street, Eden Prairie uses a single-surface sealcoat treatment. A single application of liquid asphalt is sprayed on the existing surface, followed immediately by a single layer of aggregate rock, which is swept off the street three to five days later. This type of treatment is excellent for waterproofing and improves skid resistance.

In 2010, the City will sealcoat approximately 20 miles of streets and 5 miles of trails. These projects are expected to be complete by the end of August.

For maps and additional information about 2010 street maintenance projects, visit edenprairie.org.

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 **Arts and Culture Commission** is to enhance the creative and cultural opportunities for Eden Prairie residents by offering a broad range of cultural, performance and visual art programs.

Meet Commission Member Ann Rorem!

Name: Ann Rorem
Commission: Arts and Culture Commission
Year you were appointed: 2004
Number of years you have lived in Eden Prairie: 18 years

Why do you volunteer to serve on a City commission? Eden Prairie has so many wonderful things to offer its citizens and visitors and I like the opportunity to be involved and being able to give back. I like to help keep our programming in the arts and culture of the City fresh and new.

What would you like residents to know about the efforts of the commission on which you serve? We have a lot to offer, our Art Center is a great starting point with its classes, we are also working with artists in our community to improve exposure and help in networking, there are even barn dances at Riley Jacques. We are currently working on a set of criteria for art in public spaces. Music and plays at **Staring Lake, Arts in the Park** and the **International Festival** are just a few of the options we have out there.

What is something interesting, unique or little-known about you? I am a fisherman! I would head out at 6 a.m. with my dad on the weekends fishing. I not only bait my own hook, I also remove the fish I catch and I can turn out a pretty mean fillet.

What is your favorite place in Eden Prairie? My favorite place in Eden Prairie is sitting at the south beach of Staring Lake.



The Rorem family



Ann Rorem

Eden Prairie Night to Unite

Each year, neighborhoods across the country dedicate one summer evening to celebrate and strengthen the commitment to a safe community. This year's **Eden Prairie Night to Unite** event will take place **Tuesday, Aug. 3**.

As residents of Eden Prairie, this is your opportunity to put together a neighborhood celebration!

Representatives from the Eden Prairie **Police and Fire Departments**, as well as several City officials, will visit many of the local celebrations that evening. Be sure to register your event with the City and you just might receive a surprise visit from some familiar faces!

While you're celebrating, please remember those in your community who may be in need this summer. The City will once again collect donations for **PROP** (People Reaching Out to Other People) during the Eden Prairie Night to Unite festivities.

City of Eden Prairie representatives will begin visiting parties at 7 p.m. to collect PROP donations, and the neighborhood with the largest volume donation overall will receive an ice cream social hosted by the Police and Fire Departments.

Visit edenprairie.org to register your Eden Prairie Night to Unite celebration. The deadline for registration is July 23.



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

Live Well Eden Prairie!

Don't Miss the 2010 International Festival

The Eden Prairie International Festival is a perfect *Free Family Fun* opportunity to celebrate culture, art and food in the outdoor accommodations of Staring Lake Park. This year's event is **Sunday, Aug. 15** from **noon to 7 p.m.** and features music, dance, arts, exhibits, activities and more.

Top 10 things to see and do at this year's International Festival:

1. Enjoy international foods from local restaurants: India Palace and Santorini.
2. Take in a Greek bouzouki performance by Greg Herriges at 12:30 p.m.
3. Visit various craft, cultural and service organization booths.
4. Watch an Indian Bhangra Dance performance at 1:30 p.m.
5. Relax to some Latin Soul music by Timothy Berry at 2:15 p.m.
6. Expand your cultural horizons at the "culture corner" where you'll learn about life in different countries.
7. Experience a South Indian Bharatanatyam dance by members of the Ragamala Company at 3 p.m.
8. Relish in a Latin American dance performance by Salsa Del Soul at 4:30 p.m.
9. Get creative with art projects from around the world or be decorated with some henna body art.
10. Finish the afternoon with some toe-tapping calypso melodies from the Caribbean islands at 5:30 p.m.

For more information about this and other *Free Family Fun* events, visit edenprairie.org.



Our Environment

Household Battery Recycling

Statistics show Americans buy, use and throw away more than 3-billion batteries each year. The demand for batteries can be traced largely to the rapid increase in cordless, portable products such as cellular phones, video cameras and laptop computers, as well as battery-powered tools and toys.

Because some types of batteries still contain toxic constituents, such as mercury and cadmium, they can pose a potential threat to human health and the environment if improperly disposed. Batteries, especially those with toxic constituents, should be recycled; in fact, Minnesota law requires that all rechargeable batteries be recycled.

What you should know about battery recycling and disposal:

Lead-Acid Automobile Batteries - By law, auto battery retailers must accept up to five automotive batteries from consumers free of charge. This includes batteries from cars, boats, golf carts, motorcycles and wheelchairs.

Alkaline and Zinc-Carbon Batteries - Alkaline and carbon-zinc batteries are the typical, everyday household batteries used in flashlights, remote controls and other appliances. They include A, AA, AAA, C and D batteries. It is safe to throw these batteries in the trash. However, they can be recycled. Exception: batteries purchased before 1993 still contain toxic metals and should be recycled.

Lithium and Button-Cell Batteries - Most small, round "button-cell" type batteries found in items such as watches, musical greeting cards, cameras and hearing aids contain mercury, silver, cadmium, lithium or other heavy metals as their main component. Lithium and button cells should always be recycled because they contain hazardous components and valuable recoverable materials.

Rechargeable Batteries - One way to reduce the number of batteries in the waste stream is to purchase rechargeable batteries. Nearly one in five dry-cell batteries purchased in the United States is rechargeable. Over its useful life, each rechargeable battery may substitute for hundreds of single-use batteries. Once rechargeable batteries have reached the end of their useable life, they must be recycled.

For more information about battery use and recycling from the **Environmental Protection Agency**, visit epa.gov. For information about **Hennepin County** recycling and disposal drop-off centers, visit hennepin.us/dropoffs.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

We are being blitzed right now by applications for regulatory approval of new wireless communications towers. We used to call them cell phone towers, but they are about so much more than that today. It's about the wireless phone you have in your house now, instead of a land line. It's about the wireless network in your home that allows Mom to play online scrabble in one room while kids are doing their homework (and updating their Facebooks) online in their rooms.

So as the demand for wireless services is increasing, wireless communications companies are also engaged in a competitive race to provide faster and more reliable service to their customers. 2G, 3G 4G, etc. Fast. Faster. Fastest. Fastester.

Consumer demand for more and faster wireless service is pushing wireless companies to put up new towers as fast as

they can. It brings a familiar challenge to the city: How do we balance the need of our residents to have more and faster wireless services with the desire of our residents to live in a beautiful natural setting.

Do we want a 140 foot tall metal lattice wireless tower on every 1/4 mile in the city? If we did, Eden Prairie residents could have the fastest wireless service available. But do we want to live in a city with that look to it? You can dress them up, but most wireless towers aren't very attractive. The photo above is from a Twin Cities suburb. Is that what we want Eden Prairie to look like?

At the moment, it's not easy to build a new wireless tower in Eden Prairie. Our regulations are tight. But we're taking a look at them to make sure they're not too tough. We want to figure out how to balance form and function so that our residents can have the best of both worlds.

See more of **Scott Neal's** blog entries by visiting edenprairie.org.

Staying Safe in Eden Prairie

Flash Flood Awareness

Areas throughout Minnesota have experienced more than 20 days of rain over the past month, resulting in extremely saturated ground conditions, as well as high water levels in creeks and rivers throughout the state. Any time these conditions occur, the chance of flash flooding increases significantly.

Flash floods can occur rapidly and unexpectedly. They can occur within a few minutes or hours after an excessive rainfall, or when a dam or levy fails. On a national level, nearly 75-percent of flash-flood related deaths occur at night. Of those, more than half of fatalities occur in automobiles or other motor vehicles, often as the result of a driver ignoring road barricades indicating the road is washed out or flooded ahead.

For this reason, it is extremely important for motorists to become familiar with flash-flood safety, and heed warnings from the **National Weather Service** regarding flood risk.

Important Flash Flood Driving Tips

- **Drive with caution throughout the minutes and hours following a heavy rainfall** – you may not have warning that a flash flood is approaching.
- **Do not drive through flooded areas** – if you see a flooded-out road ahead, turn around and find another route to your destination.
- **Don't be fooled by any amount of standing water on a roadway** – even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, don't try it. Flooding can damage the road surface and a significant amount of ground beneath it.
- **If your car stalls in standing water, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground** – 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling; 1 foot of water will float almost any vehicle; and 2 feet of rushing water can sweep away most vehicles.

For current flood information and additional safety tips, visit the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** flood watch Website at noaa.gov/floods.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the white indicator lights on City traffic signals help emergency officials reduce response times?

The white indicator lights, called Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) indicators, are located on traffic signal arms throughout Eden Prairie to assist Police, Fire and ambulance vehicles through intersections in an emergency.

The EVP is activated by a special transmitter which forces the traffic signal to give the emergency vehicle a green light, thereby reducing emergency response times and the risk of a crash. It is important for motorists to take note of an activated EVP and move with caution, in a manner that will allow emergency vehicles to safely pass through the intersection.

As you approach an intersection, an EVP that is activated and steady indicates that there is likely an emergency vehicle traveling parallel to your vehicle – either toward you or from behind you. You should drive with caution, obey the traffic signal and observe where the emergency vehicle is traveling, then safely pull your vehicle to the side of the road in a manner that will allow the emergency vehicle to continue through the intersection or turn onto a cross street.

Alternately, an EVP that is activated and flashing indicates that the emergency vehicle is likely approaching the intersection from a different direction than you – which could be perpendicular to your vehicle, from the right or left, on the cross street. When this happens, you should use caution and obey the traffic signal you are approaching, allowing the emergency vehicle to safely pass through the intersection.

Mark Your Calendar

2010 Concert Series: *Starring at Staring*

Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Through Aug. 11
7 p.m.

Staring Lake Amphitheatre

Pack a picnic basket, a blanket or lawn chair, sit back, relax and enjoy some free outdoor entertainment.

Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special

Saturday, July 24
7:30 p.m.

Bring the whole gang to the historic Riley-Jacques Barn for a concert featuring local bluegrass band *The Light of the Moon!* Tickets available at the door: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6–12, free for children 5 and under.

19th Annual Senior Golf Classic

Wednesday, Aug. 11

7:30 a.m. (Registration)

8 a.m. (Shot-gun start)

Dahlgrens Golf Club (6940 Dahlgren Road, Chaska)

Join Eden Prairie seniors for a round of golf! Call the Senior Center at 952-279-8050 for more information; registration includes golf, cart and lunch.

KidStock

Tuesdays
Through Aug. 10
10:30–11:30 a.m.

Staring Lake Amphitheatre

Enjoy the sounds, actions, stories and fun at these free performances by children's entertainers from around the Twin Cities.

City Council Meeting*

Tuesday, July 20

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

Eden Prairie Players Summer Children's Theater Presents:

Twelve Dancing Princesses

July 30-31; evening performance at 7 p.m.

July 30-31 and Aug. 1; matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Take in a live performance of this Brothers Grim fairytale at the Riley-Jacques Barn. Tickets available at the door only: \$5 for ages 6 and up, \$2 for children under 5.

Movies in the Park

Aug. 14 – *Up*
9 p.m.

Aug. 15 – *Bridge to Terabithia*
9 p.m.

Aug. 20 – *Princess and the Frog*
8:30 p.m.

Bring a blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre.