

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Freezin' for a reason at the 2010 Eden Prairie Polar Plunge!



MAY 2010

Police Department Annual Report

Proactive Efforts Contribute to Downward Trends in Crime



The Eden Prairie Police Department recently compiled its 2009 Annual Report showcasing a year of more than 59,000 calls for service, a 9 percent increase over 2008; however, the Department's proactive efforts contributed to a decrease in overall crime and downward trends in some of the most frequently committed crimes throughout the City.

Property Crimes

Eden Prairie Police received reports of 2,480 property crimes in 2009, which is down 8 percent from those reported in 2008. In addition, the most commonly reported property crimes in Eden Prairie each showed a downward trend in 2009, including theft (down 16 percent); theft from vehicles (down 16 percent); motor vehicle tampering (down 10 percent); and identity theft (down 15 percent).

"For the first time in seven years, identity theft has decreased in our community," said Sgt. Bil Wyffels. "We encourage residents to continue to exercise vigilance in keeping financial information private, which includes not divulging financial information to anyone over the phone unless the caller has been verified as legitimate."

Crimes Against People

With a total of 469 crimes against people reported in 2009, Eden Prairie Police saw an overall decrease in robberies (down 9 percent); felony assaults (down 13 percent); domestic assaults (down 4 percent); and child abuse/neglect (down 13 percent).

The largest increase in crimes against people in 2009 fell under the harassing communication category (up 69 percent). This is due in part to Police Department efforts to provide more written documentation on cases of harassing communication as they relate to domestic disturbances, in order to build cases against repeat offenders.

Traffic-Related Crimes

Overall, traffic-related crimes increased by 18 percent 2009. This includes an increase in Driving While Impaired citations (up 13 percent) and equipment violations such as broken lights, tinted windows and cracked windshields (up 42 percent).

The traffic-related incidents showing the biggest decline in 2009 were personal injury crashes (down 14 percent) and property damage crashes (down 4 percent).

A complete list of the 2009 Eden Prairie Police statistics is included in the Department's Annual Report, available at edenprairie.org.

Step To It!

Take the Challenge

The City of Eden Prairie has recently joined Hennepin County's Step To It Challenge, a friendly four-week health and fitness competition among area cities.

The **Step To It Challenge** is a walking program that motivates people of all ages to take that most important step in getting more physically fit: getting started. The four-week physical activity program encourages family members, coworkers, schoolmates, neighbors and friends to come together in walking groups or teams to participate in a friendly community challenge.

The competition is based on a program developed by Kansas State University. It has proven to be successful in weight management while promoting healthy lifestyles. The program works effectively because:

- Anyone can do it
- It's flexible
- It can be done anytime or anywhere
- You can walk or do other physical activities as a group or individually

The 2010 Step To It Challenge will take place May 17-June 13, and the city with the most steps will win!

Visit stepstoit.org today to register for this year's challenge and help put Eden Prairie on top.



Spotlight on City Staff

Since it opened in 1988, the Eden Prairie Senior Center (8950 Eden Prairie Road) has become a hub of activity for the City's senior citizens. From woodworking and card games, to bus trips and pickleball, the Senior Center provides a multitude of opportunities for fun, friendships and recreation for all ages. During the month of May, the Senior Center is filled with events and activities in celebration of Senior Awareness Month, an annual effort to enhance community involvement across generations. Charged with overseeing Senior Center operations and programs is Sue Bohnsack, senior center program coordinator.

Meet the City's Senior Center Program Coordinator!

Name: Sue Bohnsack
Year you joined the City: June 2008
Current position & department: Senior Center Program Coordinator

Brief description of what you do: I manage and supervise all Senior Center operations. I supervise plans and implement quality programs for senior adults while managing the day-to-day operations of the Senior Center facility. I plan, promote and oversee all special events at the Senior Center. I hire, train, and supervise part-time and full-time staff and volunteers.

What would you like residents to know? The Senior Center is a place to grow, have fun and make friends of all ages. If you have a recreational interest you can find a way to explore it at the Senior Center. You are never too young or old to participate in recreation. Come and check us out!

What is your work/educational background? I have a bachelor's degree in recreation and a minor in therapeutic recreation. I have worked with seniors in a senior center, nursing home or church environment for almost 15 years. I have a love and passion for working with people young and old but I have a special heart for working with the senior adults.

What is your favorite place in Eden Prairie, and why? Sitting in the Senior Center gardens during my lunch breaks and during the Senior Center Garden Party and BBQ.

Why do you think Eden Prairie is a great place to live, work and dream? Eden Prairie has the best parks, trails and family-oriented events for all ages.



Sue Bohnsack

Adopt-A-Street Program

The City of Eden Prairie would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the participants in the City's Adopt-A-Street program over the past year!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Susan Anderson | Eden Prairie Women of Today |
| Arbor Glen Homeowners Association | Maria & Kent Erlandson |
| Alysson & Blake Biermaier | Friends of Birch Island Woods |
| Boy Scout Troop #342 | GE Fleet Service |
| Cub Scout Troop #597 | Linda & Dana Kloeckner |
| Cody Candland | Kevin Kraemer |
| Eden Prairie Lion's Club | Kimberly Miller |
| Eden Prairie Noon Rotary Club | Cassie Retzlaff |
| | The Whittemore Family |

Your efforts and commitment to keeping City streets clean have helped make Eden Prairie an even better place to Live, Work and Dream!

For more information about the Adopt-A-Street program contact Maarie Gayther in the City's Fleet, Street and Park Maintenance Office at 952-949-8533 or mgayther@edenprairie.org.

Free Car Seat Safety Inspections

The Eden Prairie Police Department is hosting a free car seat safety inspection clinic on May 1 from 9-11 a.m. and noon-3 p.m. at Fire Station 1 (14800 Scenic Heights Road).

To schedule an appointment during this clinic, contact Officer Linda Williams at 952-949-6228 or lwilliams@edenprairie.org. Walk-ins will be taken as time allows.



Car seat inspections take approximately 30 minutes in length and require both the owner's manual for your car and the car seat manual. If possible, it is best for the child to be present at the inspection.

For more information on car seat safety, go to carseatsmadesimple.org.

Women's Fire Service Expo

Women across the state are invited to attend and learn about fire fighting and how to become a volunteer firefighter. Meet women firefighters and get some hands-on experience!

Saturday, May 22
7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

South Metro Public Safety Training Facility
 7525 Braemar Boulevard
 Edina, MN 55439
 Register at nswfa.com

For more information please contact:
 Kimberly Cummings
 952-949-8367
kcummings@edenprairie.org



Register at nswfa.org



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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Celebrate Senior Awareness Month

May is Senior Awareness Month nationwide! Since 1993 the City of Eden Prairie has endorsed this annual celebration in an effort to acknowledge the contributions and accomplishments of older adults, to recognize the organizations that serve older adults and to enhance community involvement across generations.



The Top 10 Events to Celebrate Senior Awareness Month:

May 5	11 a.m.	May 14	9:30 a.m.
Eden Prairie Police Department Lunch and Learn: K-9 Demonstration		Red Hat Breakfast – Original Pancake House	
May 6	10 a.m.	May 17	8:45 a.m.
Health Fair Hearing Screening & Blood Pressure		St. Croix Casino Trip	
May 6	10 a.m.	May 20	4:30 p.m.
Nutrition presentation and lunch		Progressive Dinner	
May 11, 13	9 a.m.	May 26	11 a.m.
Pickleball at Pioneer Park		Eden Prairie Police Department Lunch and Learn: Missing Persons	
May 13	9 a.m.	May 28	1 p.m.
Fire Safety Workshop		BINGO Birthday Party	

For more information about these and other Senior Awareness Month activities stop by the **Senior Center** (8950 Eden Prairie Road) or call **952-279-8050**, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or visit edenprairie.org.



Our Environment

Celebrate Earth Day!

Forty years after the first Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity – an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

On April 22, 2010, more than one billion people in 190 countries around the world will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day!

Do your part by taking the US **Environmental Protection Agency** pledge to *Pick 5 for the Environment*. Simply visit epa.gov/pick5 and select five environmentally conscious actions that you will take in the future.

Then visit earthday.org for more information about Earth Day events and activities in our area.



Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

Yes, the results are in...for 2008. The results I'm referring to are results listed in the State Auditor's annual Analysis of Municipal Liquor Store Operations for 2008. Yes, 2008. The results are a little stale, but that's the best they can do, I guess. Anyway, here are some of the notable findings about our operations and how they compare to other municipal stores in Minnesota.



Lakeville was the champ in 2008 in terms of gross sales and gross profit. Lakeville's gross sales in 2008 were \$14,443,355. Their gross profit was \$3,603,240. Eden Prairie was ranked #4 in gross sales at \$10,987,111. We were right behind Richfield (\$11,302,384) and right ahead of Columbia Heights (\$7,490,942).

Lakeville also was #1 in 2008 in Net Profit with \$1,371,108. Eden Prairie was #2 at \$1,226,374. Edina was #3 at \$1,073,376. Richfield was #4 at \$939,285. Our net profit as percent of sales in 2008 was 11.2%. That's not the highest in the state, but it's the highest in the metro area. Lakeville's was 9.5%. Edina's was 8.9%. And Richfield's was 8.3%.

Eden Prairie has, by far, the highest level of non-operating revenue in the state at \$361,474. The next highest non-ops revenue is in Lakeville at \$180,478. We owe our distinction in this area to our lease of space at our Den Road store to Hollywood Video. Unfortunately, that situation has changed significantly lately as Hollywood Video is leaving our space. We are actively recruiting new renters to fill the former Hollywood video space. We won't see the impact of the Hollywood Video change in the State Auditor's report until 2012.

We're in the retail liquor business for two basic reasons: to control the distribution and sale of liquor in our city and to make profit that we can use for property tax relief. In 2008 Eden Prairie transferred \$800,000 of its \$1,226,374 Net Profit into our Capital Improvements Fund. This means that we did not have to tax our residents for \$800,000 worth of improvements to our parks, sidewalks, trails and other public facilities. Lakeville transferred \$517,796 of

its \$1,371,108 Net Profit. Edina transferred \$1,277,800 of its \$1,073,376 Net Profit. Savage transferred \$1,036,800 of its \$457,562 Net Profit.

How does a City transfer an amount more than what it made in Net Profit? I don't know for sure, but I would suspect that they chose to transfer excess profits from previous years that were sitting in their municipal liquor funds. That's not unusual. We may have to do that in the near future.

We've been very busy renovating our liquor stores during the past five years. During that time we've made major improvements to our three stores. We've used liquor store profits to fund all of those improvements. We opened our newest renovated store next to the Rainbow grocery store in January. Now we're ready to start making some money. Our goal is to be the best municipal liquor operation in the state. I'd like to have the highest Net Profit operation in the state by 2011.

If you would like to know more about Eden Prairie's three beautiful liquor stores, visit edenprairieliquor.org.



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

Did You Know?

Did you know that Eden Prairie fire hydrants are tested and flushed each year?

Throughout the month of April and into early May, the Eden Prairie **Utilities Division** performs a flushing and maintenance checks on all City fire hydrants.

This process involves opening and exercising each of the hydrants, which expels any sediment that may have accumulated in the pipes. The flushing process is conducted annually to maintain the water quality within the distribution system and ensure that each fire hydrant is in proper working order.



Residents are asked to use caution when driving in and around the sites being tested, and call the City's Utilities Division at **952-949-8530** with any questions or concerns.



For more than 20 years, the state of Minnesota has conducted a Severe Weather Awareness Week campaign, in partnership with the National Weather Service and local governments, to remind Minnesotans about weather hazards and minimize the risks associated with severe weather.

Severe Weather Awareness Week 2010 will take place **April 19-23**, with a statewide tornado drill on Thursday, April 22 at 1:45 and 6:55 p.m.

In preparation for the severe weather season, the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management recommends designing and reviewing a disaster preparedness plan for your family.

For detailed weather safety tips and information, visit severeweather.state.mn.us.

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 May *Art on City Walls* exhibit featuring local artists.

City Council Meetings*

Tuesdays, April 20 and May 4, 18

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

Spring Wine Tasting

Thursday, April 29
7-9 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.

Eden Prairie Historical Society

Special Presentation
Thursday, April 29
7 p.m.

Eden Prairie High School Administrative Building

Join the Eden Prairie Historical Society for a special presentation, "The First 50+ Years of Minnesota Statehood," by Associate Supreme Court Justice and Eden Prairie Native Paul H. Anderson.

Arbor Day Walk

Saturday, May 1
9-11:30 a.m.

Celebrate Arbor Day with a walk around Staring Lake and enjoy complimentary refreshments, tree health and planting information, seedlings and landscape drawings.

The Eden Prairie Figure Skating Club

Presents: *So You Think You Can Skate?*
Friday, May 7-7 p.m.
Saturday, May 8-5 p.m.
Sunday, May 9-2 p.m.

Community Center
Tickets are available at the Community Center front office April 19-May 9; \$8 for adults (18+), \$5 for youth.

Arts in the Park

Saturday, May 15
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Experience the first Art Fair of its kind in Eden Prairie! Enjoy an afternoon at Purgatory Creek Park and shop for works from local artists.

Spring Run for Fun-5K/10K

Saturday, May 22
9 a.m.

All proceeds benefit the Eden Prairie Girls on the Run program. Register online at midwestevents.com; race-day check-in begins at 7:45 a.m. at Purgatory Creek Park's Lambert Pavilion.

Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special

Saturday, May 22
7 p.m.

Bring the whole gang for an evening of bluegrass at the historic Riley-Jacques Barn, featuring The High 48s. Tickets available at the door: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (6-12); free for children under 5.

Senior Center Progressive Dinner

Thursday, May 20
4:30-7:30 p.m.

Don't miss this annual progressive dinner that will take you on a tour of Eden Prairie while you enjoy a great meal with friends.

Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 31
11 a.m.

Commemorate Memorial Day at the Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial in Purgatory Creek Park. Keynote Speaker: Associate Supreme Court Justice and Eden Prairie Native Paul H. Anderson.