

# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE



On Jan. 14, 2010, Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce President Pat MulQueeney, School Superintendent Melissa Krull, and Mayor Phil Young participated in the annual State of the City presentation.

Tune in to EPTV Channel 16 to watch a rebroadcast of the presentation, or visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) to view it on CITY TV.

MARCH 2010

## 2010 United States Census It's in Our Hands

The very first United States Census was conducted in 1790. Since then, as required by the Constitution, it has taken place every 10 years in order to count every resident of this country.

The information collected by the Census affects the numbers of seats each state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives and is used to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

In addition, census information helps to determine how more than \$400-billion of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

### Your Participation is Mandatory

In March 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. Any personal data you provide on the form or to a census taker is protected under federal law.



United States  
Census  
2010

### Confidentiality

Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information, and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. Other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these protections.

The information you provide will be used to produce statistics. It is against the law for the Census Bureau to disclose or publish names, addresses, social security numbers or telephone numbers. In addition, all Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

For more information about the 2010 U.S. Census, visit [2010.census.gov](http://2010.census.gov).

## Eden Prairie Reads

For the past six years, more than 2,000 Eden Prairie residents have participated in **Eden Prairie Reads**, a citywide reading program designed to promote reading, encourage discussion among community members and strive for a new level of connection throughout the community.

The 2010 Eden Prairie Reads book selection is *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by **Barbara Kingsolver**. In the book, Kingsolver and her family sweep readers along on their journey away from the industrial-food pipeline to a rural life in which they vow to buy only food raised in their own neighborhood, grow it themselves or learn to live without it.

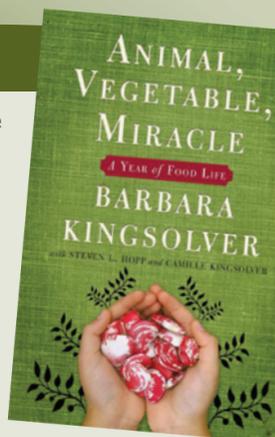
Pick up a copy and join in the fun today!

Don't miss the Eden Prairie Reads **Eat Local Eden Prairie Fair** on Sunday, April 18 from 1 to 4 p.m. The event will take place at the **Eden Prairie Community Center** (16700 Valley View Road) and will showcase local farmers, ranchers, growers and organizations supporting the local food economy.

Then join Eden Prairie Reads for an **Animal, Vegetable, Dairy** panel discussion on Monday, April 19. The event will take place at **St. Andrew Lutheran Church** (13600 Technology Drive)

and will begin with a small group book discussion at 6:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion with local eating experts from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Eden Prairie Reads is a collaborative effort between **Eden Prairie Schools**, the **Eden Prairie Library**, **Eden Prairie Foundation**, the **City of Eden Prairie**, **Lifetime Fitness**, **University of Minnesota Extension Service** and a grass roots group of citizens. For more information about Eden Prairie Reads events and volunteer opportunities visit [epreads.org](http://epreads.org) or become a fan on **Facebook**.



## Spotlight on City Staff

It is projected that the population of Eden Prairie will reach well over 65,000 in the next three years. Serving an ever-growing community, with ever-changing needs, the City of Eden Prairie places great importance on providing the services required to promote a welcoming and inclusive environment, where people of all backgrounds can thrive. The newest City employee working to provide these services is **Patricia Fenrick**, community services coordinator.

### Meet the City's new Community Services Coordinator!

**Name:** Patricia Fenrick  
**Year you joined the City:** September 2009  
**Current position & department:** Community Services Coordinator, Office of Housing and Community Services

**Brief description of what you do:** I work to build partnerships and collaborations to meet the needs of Eden Prairie residents, working with the business, faith and immigrant communities to match resources with needs.

**What is your work/educational background?** I have a master's degree in intercultural studies with a certificate in nonprofit management and a nonprofit mini-MBA. I have worked for over 10 years in the nonprofit sector and most recently was the executive director of World Relief Minnesota (a local agency that works with refugees and immigrants) for five years.

**What do you like best about working for the City?** The people! I enjoy meeting the many diverse groups of people who live in Eden Prairie. I look forward to getting to know more people in this community and listening to their stories and their ideas about how, together, we can make Eden Prairie an even better place to live.

**What is your favorite place in Eden Prairie, and why?** I am not a native of Eden Prairie so it has been fun to learn more about this interesting community. I look forward to visiting many of the parks in the spring.

**What is something interesting, unique or little-known about you?** I am one of the few native Floridians – born and raised in Florida... and then promptly moved north!

**Why do you think Eden Prairie is a great place to live, work and dream?** Eden Prairie is a community with many resources, not the least of which is its residents. I have met wonderful people with good ideas and a strong vision to respond to needs within this community and to work together to find innovative solutions for growing towards a better future.



Patricia Fenrick

## Take the Plunge!

Eden Prairie Police and Fire

Gear Up for Polar Bear Plunge 2010

Each year, law enforcement agencies across the country host **Polar Bear Plunge** events to raise funds in support of **Special Olympics** and their athletes. For the past two years, the Eden Prairie **Police Department** has hosted the Polar Bear Plunge at Round Lake, drawing hundreds of participants and raising more than \$75,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota.

"We're extremely proud of the success of this event in our community," said Eden Prairie Police Officer **Linda Williams**, coordinator of the event. "Polar Plunge events throughout the metro area raised more than \$600,000 last year, and we're hoping to help increase that number in 2010."

Round Lake will once again be the site for Polar Bear Plunge 2010 on March 13 and everyone in the Eden Prairie community is invited to join in the fun!

"It is important to me that our department hosts a Polar Plunge event each year," said Eden Prairie Police Lt. **Greg Weber**. "Not only because Special Olympics is an extremely deserving cause, but because participating in the event provides an opportunity for us to develop and solidify relationships with members of the community, and a unified community will ultimately be a safer community."

To make the icy plunge possible, Eden Prairie's **Parks and Recreation Department** cuts a 12-foot hole in the ice at Round Lake, creating a frigid pool of water approximately 4-feet deep. Once they jump in, participants wade through about 12 feet of water before climbing back out and racing to the toasty comfort of the Round Lake warming house.

Ready to plunge? Visit [specialolympicsminnesota.org](http://specialolympicsminnesota.org) to find out everything you need to know! Whether you want to plunge alone, join an existing team or start a team of your own, your participation in the Eden Prairie Polar Bear Plunge '10 will help make this a record-setting year, and will benefit a truly great cause.

Not sure if you're ready for the frigid frolic? Support a team of plungers by pledging to make a donation and then cheer on this year's participants from the shores of Round Lake on Saturday, March 13 at noon.

If you have questions about the Eden Prairie Polar Bear Plunge, or would like to donate a prize to be given away at the event, contact Officer **Linda Williams** at **952-949-6200** or [lwilliams@edenprairie.org](mailto:lwilliams@edenprairie.org).



# CITY

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- View streaming videos or watch the City's cable channel EPTV 16 live

Visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) and check it out today!



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# Live Well Eden Prairie!

## Register for Spring/Summer Parks and Recreation Programs

Starting to feel the effects of cabin fever this winter? It's time to start planning for warmer weather! The Spring/Summer Parks and Recreation program guide will be available the week of March 8, allowing you plenty of time to plan ahead and Live Well this spring and summer!

### The top 10 ways to Live Well this summer:



**1** Join a **Summer Softball** league with a group of friends.

**2** Sign your little ones up for **Baby Animal Camp**.

**3** Get in summer shape with **Boot Camp** at the Community Center.

**4** Start training and register for the **Spring Run for Fun** on May 22.

**5** Register your future athletes for a **Skyhawks Basketball Camp**.

**6** Learn to play **Pickleball** at the Senior Center.

**7** Get the kids involved in **Fit Kids Club** at the Community Center.

**8** Mark your calendar for the 2010 **Starring at Staring** outdoor concert series, every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday night.

**9** Get your wakeboard enthusiasts excited for **10,000 Wakes Camp**.

**10** Sign up your aspiring swimmers for **Summer Aquatics** lessons.



For more information about this and other Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation programs, visit [edenprairie.org/parksbrochure](http://edenprairie.org/parksbrochure).

## Our Environment

Think Green When You Shop!

Whether you're shopping at the supermarket or the mall, simple choices can save you money and reduce the effects of your purchases on the environment. Items with excess packaging and products that need to be discarded after only a few uses cost more money, use up valuable resources and create more waste.

**Tip: Buy products in the largest size you can, and avoid products with excess packaging.**

A family of four can save up to \$2,000 a year in the supermarket by choosing large sizes instead of individual serving sizes. Approximately 10 cents of every shopping dollar is used to pay for packaging. Small sizes use more packaging for each ounce of product than larger sizes. So, if you buy large sizes, you save money, reduce waste, and help the environment.

For example:

- Buy cereal and other snacks in a large box instead of in individual serving sizes.
- Buy juice in concentrates and mix it in reusable containers.
- Buy bottled water in a large plastic jug instead of smaller single serving bottles.
- Buy large packages of sugar instead of individual packets.

**Tip: Buy products in a container that you know you will be able to recycle.**

It is important to familiarize yourself with what types of containers and items can be recycled in your local recycling program. Once you know what you can recycle, look for products that come in the containers that you know you will be able to recycle when the products are all used up.

**Tip: Buy reusable, long lasting items.**

Products that can be reused are cheaper in the long run than those you throw away and buy over and over again. Goods that are designed to last a long time are also cheaper in the long run than those that wear out quickly. A family can save \$1,000 each year by buying reusable and long lasting products.

For example:

- Use rechargeable batteries in toys, flashlights and radios – you can save more than \$200 a year.
- Use cloth diapers instead of disposable – you'll save \$600 per child.
- Use cloth napkins and towels instead of paper ones – you'll save over \$260 each year.

And when you're done shopping, reuse a cloth or plastic bag to carry your items; or if you're buying only a few items, don't use a bag at all. And if you don't need the receipt, simply ask the cashier not to print it, every little bit helps!

For more information on these and other environmentally conscious tips, visit [epa.gov](http://epa.gov).

# Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

Who would have thought that when former Gov. Jesse Ventura began his term as our Governor on January 8, 1999, that we would be riding a new light rail train connecting downtown Minneapolis to the Mall of America just five years later?

OK, five and half years later. The Hiawatha line opened for business on June 26, 2004.

Really. Be honest. I think we're all pretty used to the way government sometimes handles large capital projects: plan, plan, plan, litigate, re-plan, get the money, start the project, litigate, re-start the project, get more money and finally – finish the project.

So would you have guessed that a project like the Hiawatha LRT line could have been completed and operational in about a five year time frame? Not me...and I work for the government.

But this is precisely why I think we should all be paying attention to the planning process for the Southwest LRT. That's the proposed route and station sites in the graphic to the left.

This is a serious project that is on the table right now. There was an interesting article in the Jan. 13 New York Times titled, "Administration Loosens Purse Strings for Transit Projects." Federal money for this project might be part of what is being loosened up.

Hmmmm. It could happen. Be ready.



See more of Scott Neal's blog entries by visiting [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org).



## Staying Safe in Eden Prairie

### Carbon Monoxide Safety



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 CO from reaching dangerous levels in your home:

- Install an approved, operational CO detector within 10 feet of every bedroom or sleeping area—this is now required by Minnesota State Law.
- 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.
- Replace the CO detector in your home every five years.

- 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 sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- Never idle a vehicle in an attached garage, always back it out right away.
- If you are using a paint remover containing methylene chloride, follow the manufacturer's instructions and perform work in a well-ventilated area.
- Be sure 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 CO, visit the Minnesota Department of Health Web site at [health.state.mn.us](http://health.state.mn.us).

## Did You Know?

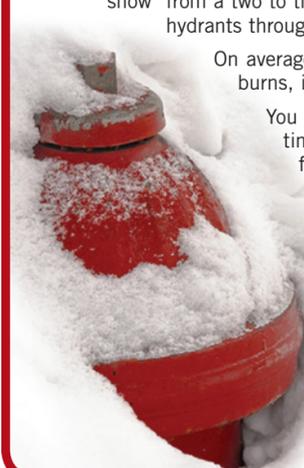
Did you know there are approximately 4,000 fire hydrants in the City of Eden Prairie?

The City's network of fire hydrants is designed to provide a reliable water supply for fire suppression within minutes of the Fire Department's arrival on-scene.

However, in the winter months, an accumulation of snow and ice around fire hydrants can impede the Fire Department'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 from a two to three foot area 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

### Eden Prairie Players Present

#### The Mousetrap

Feb. 19–20 at 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

Eden Prairie High School Auditorium

Don't miss this comically entertaining mystery by Agatha Christie, presented by the Eden Prairie Players. Tickets available at the door: \$10 for adults, students and seniors.

### 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 March *Art on City Walls* exhibit featuring local artists.

### Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Spring-Summer Program Guide Available

Monday, March 8

Live Well this summer, enjoy all that Eden Prairie parks and recreation programs have to offer! Watch for your copy in the mail, visit [edenprairie.org/parksbrochure](http://edenprairie.org/parksbrochure) for an online copy or pick one up at the City Center, Community Center or Senior Center facilities.

### City Council Meetings\*

Tuesdays, March 9, 23.

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

### Freezin' for a Reason '09

#### Eden Prairie Polar Bear Plunge

Saturday, March 13  
Plunge Time: Noon  
Round Lake Park

Cheer on the Eden Prairie Police and Fire Departments as they take the annual Polar Bear Plunge along with hundreds of Eden Prairie residents, organizations and businesses to support Special Olympics Minnesota.

### Home, Landscape and Garden Expo

Saturday, March 20  
9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Grace Church

Don't miss this free springtime event hosted by the Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

### An Afternoon with the Bunny

Sunday, March 28  
2–4 p.m.  
Community Center

Enjoy a hopping good afternoon of fun, complete with games, activities, an egg hunt and a spring craft project. Tickets available at the Senior Center: \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Free admission for children under 1, parents and guardians.