

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE



Photo Credit: Robert Lawton

Winter in Eden Prairie.

FEBRUARY 2010

City Council Approves 2010 Budget

At its Dec. 1, 2009, meeting the Eden Prairie City Council approved the 2010 City budget. In response to ongoing economic instability, the Council approved a budget that maintains the 2009 tax levy of \$30,646,421 through 2010.

The City's property taxes on the median single family home in 2009 were \$1,056. The median single family home is valued at \$354,050 for 2010. As a result of the Council's action on the 2010 budget, the estimated City property tax for the median single family home is expected to decrease by \$12.

The approved 2010 City budget totals \$42,261,155, with no change in spending from the 2009 budget; however, an additional reduction in expenses of approximately \$250,000 (1 percent) is being identified, which will further reduce the 2010 budget.

Budget documents have been submitted to Hennepin County and the final 2010 budget will be posted on the City's Web site by the end of January.

2010 City Council



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

Council Members

Phil Young was elected mayor of Eden Prairie in the November 2006 election. Prior to that time he had served as a council member for one four-year term. This year, Mayor Young will represent the City of Eden Prairie as a delegate to the National League of Cities and will serve on the Municipal Legislative Commission.

Mayor **Phil Young** can be reached at pyoung@edenprairie.org or **952-426-1931**

Brad Aho was elected to serve his second four-year term as a member of the Eden Prairie City Council in the November 2008 election. This year, Aho will serve as the acting mayor in the case of Mayor Young's absence, and will represent the City of Eden Prairie on the Interstate 494 Corridor Commission.

Council Member **Brad Aho** can be reached at baho@edenprairie.org or **952-303-6884**

Ron Case was elected to serve his fourth four-year term as a member of the Eden Prairie City Council in the November 2008 election, having previously served from 1994 to 2006. This year, Case will represent the City of Eden Prairie on the Suburban Rate Authority and Southwest Cable Commissions.

Council Member **Ron Case** can be reached at rcase@edenprairie.org or **952-949-0915**

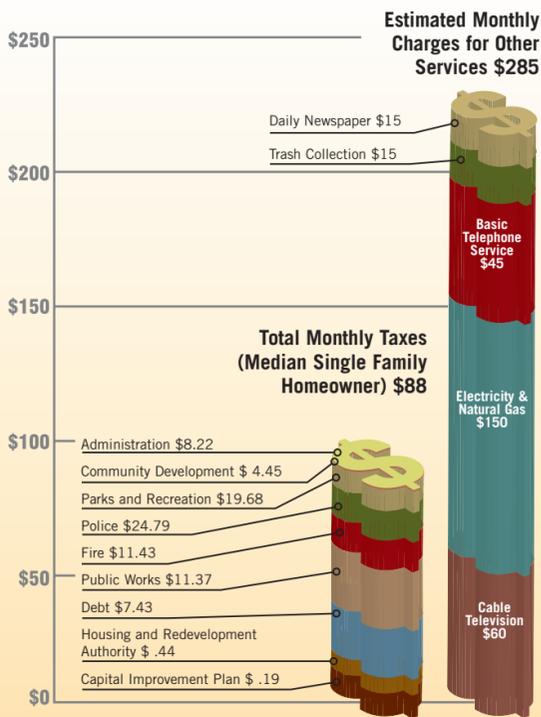
Jon Duckstad was elected to the Eden Prairie City Council in the November 2006 election. This year, Duckstad will represent the City of Eden Prairie on the City-School Facility Use Taskforce.

Council Member **Jon Duckstad** can be reached at jduckstad@edenprairie.org or **952-903-0274**

Kathy Nelson was elected to the Eden Prairie City Council in November 2006. Her term runs through December 2010. This year, Nelson will represent the City on the Southwest Light Rail Transit Policy Board and the Eden Prairie Foundation Board.

Council Member **Kathy Nelson** can be reached at knelson@edenprairie.org or **952-941-6613**

Your Tax Dollars at Work



The median single family homeowner in Eden Prairie pays approximately \$88 per month for all City services. These services include Fire and Police protection; Public Works, such as water, sewer and roads; Parks and Recreation—including caring for more than 1,000 acres of parkland and nearly 170 miles of trails; and many other services provided by the City.

In comparison, Eden Prairie homeowners pay approximately \$285 per month for services such as cable television, trash collection, daily newspaper, telephone, electricity and natural gas.

The Eden Prairie City Council typically meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. council members participate in a workshop where they learn about and discuss various predetermined topics. These sessions, which are not recorded or televised, are held in the Heritage Rooms at City Center (8080 Mitchell Road) and are open to the public.

From 6:30 to 6:55 p.m., the Council invites members of the public to speak at an untelevised **Open Podium** session in the Council Chambers. Those who wish to address the Council about an issue related to City government or have any questions about open podium, should contact the city manager's office at **952-949-8412**.

Council Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. In addition to being open to the public, these meetings are broadcast live on **EPTV** cable channel 16 and can also be viewed—live or on-demand—via the **CITY TV** link at edenprairie.org.

Eden Prairie Foundation Event March 27

Since 1981, the **Eden Prairie Foundation** has supported the community with grants, scholarships and special gifts to deserving projects within the City. Through these projects and gifts, the Foundation strives to enrich the lives of all who live or work in the City of Eden Prairie.

The all-volunteer Foundation is supported entirely by corporate and private sponsorships and donations, its Century Club members as well as the proceeds from the annual Foundation Ball, its largest fundraising event.

This year's event, themed as "One Enchanted Evening," will take place March 27 at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka. Tickets for the event are \$95 and will be available online beginning Jan. 25.



The evening's festivities will begin with a social hour and silent auction, followed by dinner, a live auction and dancing into the night, compliments of the Bruce A. Henry Band. Eden Prairie's own 2009 American Idol finalist, **Casey Carlson**, is scheduled to appear and sing, and WCCO's **Mike Max** has again signed on to be the Master of Ceremonies.

For further details about the annual fundraising ball and its beneficiaries, go to edenprairiefoundation.org. To make a donation or to volunteer at the event, contact **Debbie Bequette** at **952-974-3156**. Finally, become a fan of the Eden Prairie Foundation on Facebook!

Spotlight on City Staff

The City of Eden Prairie offers thousands of recreational programs, summer camps and special events for youth and families each year. One of the people working behind the scenes to making these programs possible is **Nicole Weedman**, recreation coordinator for the Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department. Recently, Nicole was named as the 2009 recipient of the **Dorothea Nelson Award** by the **Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association**, in honor of her outstanding service to the parks and recreation field.

Meet Eden Prairie's Award-Winning Youth and Family Recreation Coordinator!

Name: Nicole Weedman
Year you joined the City: 1997
Current position: Recreation Coordinator, Youth and Family Programs

Brief description of what you do: I coordinate the youth and family programs for the Parks and Recreation Department. I work with many community agencies such as the School District and local business to offer programming to youth, co-ordinate the SoulFire Teen group at Eden Prairie High School, organize Safety Camp with the Police and Fire Departments, and plan special events such as the Father and Daughter Sweetheart Dance, Family Pizza Bingo and Afternoon with the Bunny. If the program or event involves youth I may have a hand in the program!

What would you like residents to know? I really enjoy working with youth and young adults. Offering programs that build skills, create friendship and memories and bring enjoyment to those who take part in the programs is a joy for me. I am always looking to bring new and fun programs to the community and youth and working to make the current programs better. I personally enjoy being outdoors, flower gardening and spending time with my husband and two boys.

What is your work/educational background? I came to Eden Prairie as an intern fresh out of college. After my internship I was hired on full time as the recreation coordinator of youth and family programs. I graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato with a bachelor's degree in recreation, parks and leisure services and a minor in aquatics.

What is something interesting, unique or little-known about you? I come from a small community in southwestern Minnesota and was raised on a farm. So I know how to drive tractors and feed livestock. Growing up on a farm you learn really quick how to work hard and drive machinery.

Why do you think Eden Prairie is a great place to live, work and dream? I enjoy working in Eden Prairie because of the relationships I have built over the past 12 years. The people in the community are very supportive of the Parks and Recreation Department. And in return, the quality recreation programs and parks system make Eden Prairie a great place to live.



Nicole Weedman

Open for Business!

The City of Eden Prairie recently completed a relocation and remodel of the **Eden Prairie Liquor** store in Prairieview Center, near Rainbow Foods. This newly renovated store is located just steps from the former store and has been expanded to house an incredible selection of liquor, wine and beer...and is now open for business!



Stop by today! Your choice to shop Eden Prairie Liquor helps make our City an even better place to Live, Work and Dream. The profits generated from your purchase at any Eden Prairie Liquor location are used to fund City projects such as playgrounds and road improvements.



MAYOR
 Phil Young
 952-426-1931

COUNCIL MEMBERS
 Brad Aho
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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Someone Special

Each year on Feb. 14, people around the world celebrate the tradition of Valentine's Day with gifts of flowers, candy and cards. This February, why not start a new tradition? Take some time out of your busy schedule to have some fun with the special people in your life!



1 Take your little sweetheart to the **Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance**.

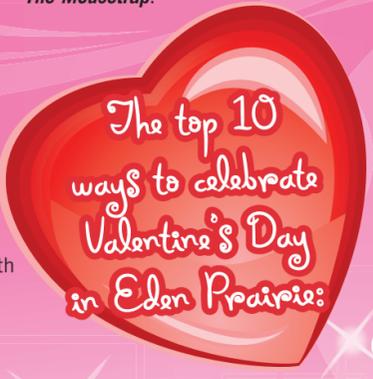


2 Make a date with friends to take in an Eden Prairie Players performance of **The Mousetrap**.

3 Invite a friend along to enjoy the **Valentine Breakfast** at the Senior Center.



4 Spend some time with your preschooler exploring **Baby Animal Fun** at the Outdoor Center.



5 Grab your blades and take to the ice for **open skate** at the Community Center.

6 Enjoy some quality time with mom and learn to knit with **Knitting Potpourri** classes at the Outdoor Center.

7 Celebrate with your little one at the Art Center **Valentine's Day Craft Party**.



8 Bring the whole gang to the **sledding hill** then warm their hearts with a cup of hot cocoa.



10 Take the whole family for a **Snowshoe Hike** at the Outdoor Center.

9 Learn about **Nature's Valentine Day** with warm cookies and old fashioned crafts at the Outdoor Center.

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

Our Environment

Drive Wise to Reduce Air Pollution

Transportation consumes about 25 percent of the total energy used in the United States. Motor vehicles also release harmful chemicals and other air pollutants into the air. When, where, how, why and what you drive all play an important role in reducing air pollution.

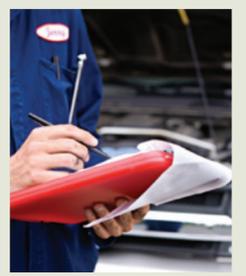
Here are some suggestions on how to drive wise and reduce air pollution:



- Drive less, especially during peak traffic periods.
- Use public transportation, walk or ride a bike whenever possible.
- Shop by phone, mail or Internet, and combine your other errands into one trip.
- Telecommute if your employer allows, even one day a week will make a big difference.
- Avoid letting your car engine idle for more than 30 seconds.
- Avoid waiting in long drive-thru lines at fast-food restaurants or banks, simply park your car and go in.

- Accelerate gradually, maintain speed limit and use cruise control on the highway.
- Follow your vehicle owner's manual recommendations for maximum economic efficiency.

- Get regular engine tune-ups and car maintenance checks.
- Replace your car's air filter and oil regularly.
- Keep your tires properly inflated and aligned.
- Repair all vehicle leaks promptly and don't ignore the "check engine" light if it comes on.



In the market for a new vehicle? Visit epa.gov/greenvehicles to find the most efficient, lowest-polluting models.

For more information on these and other ways you can help protect the environment, visit epa.gov.

Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

These are two photos of the installation of helical anchors that will support the foundation of the new Staring Lake Observatory. The helical anchors are being used because of poor weight-bearing capacity of the mushy soil on the shore of the lake. We could have used steel or wood pilings driven deep into the ground with a pile driving machine, but the helical anchors are cheaper and require less equipment, and we think are just as good.



The general contractor for the observatory project is Hunerberg Construction. They hired Atlas Foundation to install the five anchors that range in depth from 65 to 84 feet. The anchors are installed using a hydraulic motor on the arm of a small tracked excavator. The helical anchor lead or head has three "screw-type" fins.

After placing the head into the ground, 10-foot-long shaft sections are added as the hydraulic motor screws the assembly into the ground. The operation continues until the head sinks into firm ground. The number of helicals and their bearing capacity is dictated by the structural engineer's calculation of the building size and weight plus a safety factor to prevent future settling or uneven shifting.

The next phase of the project will be to form and pour the concrete grade beams to form the foundation for the

Observatory. That work will begin sometime after January 4, depending on the weather.

We're now in a position to start seeing above-ground construction. That's always exciting in a project. I think it'll be especially interesting in a project like this one. I've had a chance to be a part of many different kinds of municipal building projects during my career. Everything from water treatment plants to wastewater treatment plants; from swimming pools to skateboard parks; from airplane hangars to salt storage sheds; from fire stations to fueling stations. But never an observatory. It will be fun to see it take shape over the next few months.



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

Did You Know?

Did you know the City of Eden Prairie recently rolled out a new emergency notification system?

CodeRED is a new high-speed telephone calling system capable of delivering customized prerecorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses.

Emergency preparedness officials for the City of Eden Prairie are asking for assistance from residents and businesses in order to effectively maintain the new **CodeRED** emergency notification system database.

To update your information in the **CodeRED** emergency notification system:

1. Visit edenprairie.org.
2. Click on the **CodeRED** link.
3. Enter your **home/business** telephone number and an **Eden Prairie street address**.
4. If you do not have a fixed telephone line, enter the **main** telephone number where you can be reached.
5. Follow the instructions for **updating** or **creating** your account.

If you have questions about the **CodeRED** emergency notification system, visit edenprairie.org or call **952-949-8361**.



Mark Your Calendar

Battle of the Badges
Jan. 11-30
Memorial Blood Centers Donor Center
12200 Middleset Road, Eden Prairie

Help the Eden Prairie Fire Department take on Bloomington Fire in the *Battle of the Badges*. Donate blood at Memorial Blood Centers during the month of January and tell them you are there in support of Eden Prairie Fire, the department with the most donors will win the battle!



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

City Council Meeting*
Tuesday, Feb. 16

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

Father and Daughter Sweetheart Dance
Saturday, Feb. 6
5-7:30 p.m.
The Garden Room

Dads, take the opportunity to dance the night away with your daughters, ages 3 to 12, and enjoy an evening of memories you will cherish for a lifetime. Registration is \$22 per person (by Feb. 1) and includes dinner, dancing and a special valentine craft project to take home for mom.

Senior Center Valentine Breakfast
Friday, Feb. 12
9:30-11 a.m.
Senior Center

Celebrate with someone special and enjoy a delicious breakfast at the Senior Center. Registration is required (\$10 per person) by Feb. 5.

Eden Prairie Players Present *The Mousetrap*
Feb. 12-13; 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.