

# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

## An Afternoon With the Bunny at the Community Center



MAY 2009

## Police Department Annual Report

### Positive Progress and Downward Trends in Crime



The Eden Prairie Police Department recently compiled its 2008 Annual Report showcasing a year of more than 54,000 calls for service, a 21-percent decrease in overall crime and downward trends in some of the most frequently committed crimes throughout the City.

#### Crimes Against People

With a total of 445 crimes against people reported in 2008, the lowest reported in three years, Eden Prairie Police saw an overall decrease in robberies (down 15 percent); domestic assaults (down 6 percent); disorderly conduct (down 25 percent); and child abuse/neglect (down 32 percent).

Despite an increase in criminal sexual conduct cases (34 total) and non-felony assaults (48 total), crimes against people were down a total of 7 percent in 2008.

Although 34 reported cases of criminal sexual conduct may seem like a large number, according to Sgt. Bill Wyffels, six of those were the result of a single investigation and four were unfounded, so the total for the 2008 is just about even with what has been reported in prior years.



#### Property Crimes

Eden Prairie Police received reports of 2,685 property crimes in 2008, which is down 12 percent from those reported in 2007. In addition, the most commonly reported property crimes in Eden Prairie each showed a downward trend in 2008, including residential burglaries (down 27 percent); thefts (down 2 percent); motor vehicle tampering/theft from autos (down 14 percent); shoplifting (down 8 percent); and property damage (down 22 percent).

"Our most significant progress over the past year has been in the area of residential burglaries," said Sgt. Wyffels. "Because we know that entry through an open garage door is the most common manner in which this crime is committed, our officers made a concerted effort to alert and educate residents about the importance of keeping garage doors closed; we believe that had an impact."

#### Traffic-Related Crimes



Overall, traffic-related crimes were also down in 2008, including incidents of Driving While Impaired (down 24 percent); personal injury crashes (down 10 percent); and property damage crashes (down 10 percent).

The traffic-related citation with the largest increase in 2008 was written traffic warnings, which were up 37 percent due to the department's newly instated policy for documenting driver warnings in writing to allow for the identification of frequent offenders.

"We're proud of these statistics," said Chief Rob Reynolds. "It is our mission to protect and serve the Eden Prairie community and these results show that our officers are out there every day working to accomplish that mission."

## Inflow and Infiltration Property Inspection Program

The City of Eden Prairie is working to reduce its flow of clean water and storm water — referred to as **Inflow and Infiltration** or **I & I** — into the **Metropolitan Council Environmental Services'** (MCES) sanitary sewer collection system.

I & I is a problem because it takes up fixed capacity in large regional sewer pipes (interceptors) and treatment plants owned by MCES that will be needed to convey and treat wastewater from future households in the region. During major rainfall events, this additional surge of water can consume the capacity of sewer pipes and can result in sewage backing up into homes, or overflowing into creeks and wetlands, ultimately reaching the Mississippi River.



Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps (used by many homeowners to keep groundwater out of basements), roof downspouts and foundation drains that are connected to the City's sanitary sewer system. Sump pumps are often connected to the sanitary sewer system via a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain. State law requires sump pumps, foundation drains and roof down spouts to be connected directly to a storm sewer or onto the ground, not to the sanitary sewer system.

The Eden Prairie City Council approved ordinance changes to assist in the inspection of private properties and ensure that there are no improper connections to the sanitary sewer collection system. These inspections determine whether private properties in Eden Prairie comply with the City Ordinance and State Law.

#### Private Property Inspections

SEH, Inc. is the consulting firm contracted by the City of Eden Prairie to conduct private property inspections. Some property owners located within areas of the City affected by I & I have already received official notice of the inspection program and others will be notified as the program progresses throughout 2009.

During the inspection, a representative from SEH, Inc. locates the interior access to the property's service lateral — the line that carries sewage from the property to the public sewer line. Via this access the inspector inserts a small video camera to record the condition of the service lateral and determine if it is compliant with the City Ordinance. The inspector also checks sump pumps, roof drains and any other potential clear water connection to the sanitary sewer.

#### Compliance

If a property complies with the City Ordinance, a Certificate of Compliance is provided to the property owner and a copy placed on file with the City. If a property is found to not comply with the City Ordinance during the inspection, the property owner receives a copy of the documentation that identifies the problem(s). The property owner is then responsible for making the corrections, with some financial assistance from the City.

More information and a copy of the City Ordinance addressing I & I can be found at [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org). For questions about the City of Eden Prairie's **Inflow and Infiltration Inspection Program**, please contact the **Public Works Department** at 952-949-8530 or via e-mail at [ii@edenprairie.org](mailto:ii@edenprairie.org).

## 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!

**Arbor Glen Homeowners Association**  
**Alysson & Blake Biermaier**  
**Boy Scout Troop 342**  
**Cassie Retzlaff**  
**Cyndy Mertz**  
**Cody Candland**  
**Cub Scout Troop 597**  
**Deb & Michael Speckman**  
**Eden Prairie Lion's Club**

**Eden Prairie Noon Rotary**  
**Friends of Birch Island Woods**  
**GE Capital Fleet Services**  
**Kevin Kraemer**  
**Kimberly Miller**  
**Linda & Dana Kloeckner**  
**Maria & Kent Erlandson**  
**Susan Anderson**  
**Tom Pahl**  
**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](mailto:mgayther@edenprairie.org).

## A Plunging Success

*Polar Plunge 2009 Raises Thousands for Special Olympics*

Each year, law enforcement agencies across the country host **Polar Bear Plunge** events to raise funds in support of **Special Olympics** and their athletes. This year, **Eden Prairie Police** hosted Polar Plunge '09 on Saturday, March 14 at Round Lake Park, where dozens of area residents, businesses and organizations gathered to make the event a plunging success.

Joining the Eden Prairie Police and Fire Department teams for the frigid event were 200 brave participants who, by taking the icy plunge, successfully raised more than \$36,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota.

"This year's event was a great success," said Officer **Linda Williams**, coordinator of the Plunge. "We are extremely thankful to all of the volunteers, participants and supporters who helped make the 2009 Eden Prairie Polar Plunge possible."

In 2009, law enforcement agencies throughout the metro area hosted a total of five Polar Plunge events, which collectively raised more than \$600,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota.



## Spring Wine Tasting

Join us for an evening of wine and hors d'ouvres!

**Thursday, April 30**  
**7-9 p.m.**

Eden Prairie Community Center  
 16700 Valley View Road  
 Tickets: \$20 per person\*

**Ticket sales begin April 18 at all Eden Prairie Liquor locations!**

8018 Den Road Across from Cub 952-914-0032 | 950 Prairie Center Drive Near Rainbow Foods 952-934-0067 | 16508 W. 78th Street Next to Kowalski's 952-949-8423

\*Must be 21 years of age to attend. Please drink responsibly.

[edenprairieliqor.org](http://edenprairieliqor.org)

EDEN PRAIRIE  
**ART CENTER**  
 FOSTERING CREATIVITY IN THE Community

## GRAND OPENING

Bring the whole family and join us in celebrating the new Art Center!

**Tuesday, May 26**  
**4:30-7:30 p.m.**  
 7650 Equitable Drive

Tours • Art Demonstrations • Art Projects • Refreshments • Prizes • Entertainment

952-949-8304

[edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org)

### YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

**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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**EDEN PRAIRIE**  
 LIVE • WORK • DREAM

# Live Well Eden Prairie!

## Celebrate Senior Awareness Month

Leonardo da Vinci once said, "Life well lived is long." As the warmer winds of spring blow in, take time to celebrate **Senior Awareness Month** and make it your quest to Live Well and live long in Eden Prairie!

May is Senior Awareness Month nationwide and 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.

No matter your age, Senior Awareness Month is a great opportunity to enhance your life by expressing your appreciation or making a contribution to the generations that have come before you. Whether you enjoy meeting new people, want to learn something new, have a special talent to share or would like to reach out and volunteer, the City of Eden Prairie offers an abundance of ways to celebrate life well lived.

In celebration of Senior Awareness Month the **Eden Prairie Senior Center** will host the following activities:

- May 1** Senior Center Open House
- May 6** Eden Prairie Police Department Lunch and Learn: Emergency Response Unit
- May 13** Eden Prairie Police Department Lunch and Learn: K-9 Demonstration
- May 14** Bus Trip: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Tour
- May 15** Lunch and Learn: Doug Ohman Cabin Photography
- May 16** History Tour of Eden Prairie
- May 20** Eden Prairie Police and Fire Department Safety Workshop
- May 21** Progressive Dinner



### Senior Awareness Month



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](http://edenprairie.org) and discover dozens of new and exciting opportunities that will help you Live Well Eden Prairie!



## Our Environment

### Household Hazardous Waste

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Association (EPA)** defines household hazardous waste (HHW) as, "leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients." These products, such as paints, cleaners, oils, grease, batteries, insecticides and pesticides, contain potentially hazardous ingredients and require special care when disposing of them.

Improper disposal of HHW can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers or in some cases putting them out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and water resources, posing a threat to the health of humans and wildlife.



To avoid the potential risks associated with HHW, the EPA suggests the following guidelines for the use, storage and disposal of products with potentially hazardous substances in the home:

- Use and store products containing hazardous substances carefully to prevent any accidents at home.
- Never store hazardous products in food containers; keep them in their original containers and never remove labels.
- Corroding containers require special handling, call your local hazardous materials official for instructions.
- When leftovers remain, never mix HHW with other products, as incompatible products might react, release toxic fumes, ignite or explode and when contaminated, the HHW might become unrecyclable.
- Always follow any instructions for use and disposal provided on product labels.

The EPA estimates that the average home has an accumulation of as much as 100 pounds of HHW and Americans collectively generate 1.6-million tons of HHW each year. As you begin your spring cleaning this year, do your part to reduce, reuse, recycle and properly dispose of hazardous substances in your home.

#### Need to dispose of household hazardous waste?

Take advantage of Hennepin County's free and convenient collection event **Thursday, May 14 through Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** daily at the **Minnetonka Public Works** facility (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.). Visit [hennepin.us/collectionevents](http://hennepin.us/collectionevents) for a complete list of accepted materials and additional collection events.

For more information about handling and disposal of household hazardous waste, call **Hennepin County Environmental Services** at **612-348-3777**.

# Around Eden Prairie

## A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

This is a diagram of a curb stop valve. It controls the flow of water from the City's water main into your home or business. It can be important to know where your curb stop valve is, especially if there is a plumbing problem in your home that can't be solved by shutting the water supply line off in the home. This happens sometimes with frozen pipes, but it can also happen with failed plumbing or if you're remodeling. You probably have one of these in your yard somewhere, probably near the curb (hence the name). Sometimes there is a round metal thing sticking out of the ground indicating its location. Sometimes there is no indicator. It might be completely buried.



Our **Water Division** employees must respond to calls for help with customer curb stop valves. Again, some are easy to find and fix, but some are not. I thought for my blog post today that I would share the following email that I received from a customer just today that describes the customer service he received from our employees who came out to help him with a curb stop valve problem.

The "John" in this email is **John Carlon**. John is the Outside Utilities supervisor. He manages our water and sewer line issues in the field, including issues that directly impact customer homes. John is a good leader for his team, and this email is evidence of what I would say is a typical response from his team members.

My Two-Cents: **Great Work Everybody! I think this customer is happy.**

John,

I wanted to say "Thank You" to you and your crew for all the work to find the shut-off valve yesterday. As you probably know, it was a difficult "find". I wouldn't be surprised if yesterday was the first time the valve was closed since the house was built (1979).

Some of the things that come to mind that made the experience great:

- That you worked with me by using both phone and email from the first time I contacted you (good/easy communication)
- Your attentiveness to getting someone on site early in the day
- The crew came out and started early in the morning to help me keep my schedule with my plumber
- The crew "called in reinforcements" when the valve didn't seem to be where expected
- The multiple talents and knowledge that each of the workmen appear to have
- The crew worked until they found the shut-off (as compared to rescheduling for a different time to fit their schedule)
- The courtesy shown to me
- The way the site was put back when the job was done

Please be sure to tell your team that I was really impressed and appreciate their work.

Dave

See more of **Scott Neal's** blog entries by visiting [edenprairie.org](http://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** will perform a flushing and maintenance check 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. The City is committed to providing high-quality drinking water and this annual flushing of the distribution system helps to keep Eden Prairie's water clean.

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.

# Mark Your Calendar

#### City Council Meetings\*

Tuesday, April 21  
Tuesday, May 5  
Tuesday, May 19

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

#### Park Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 18  
8:30-11 a.m.

Grab your work gloves, bring your trash bags and help keep Eden Prairie's park and trail systems clean. A great opportunity for service organizations, youth organizations and neighborhood groups! Please call **Jeff Cordes** at **952-949-8463**.

#### Severe Weather Awareness Week

April 20-24

With the arrival of the severe weather season in Minnesota, the Eden Prairie Police and Fire Departments encourage all residents to take a moment this week to review your severe weather plans and be sure to participate in the statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 23 at 1:45 and 6:55 p.m.

#### The Eden Prairie Figure Skating Club Presents: What's on your iPod?

Friday, April 24 - 7 p.m.  
Saturday, April 25 - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, April 26 - 2 p.m.  
Community Center

The Eden Prairie Figure Skating Club Annual Ice Show will have you grooving to the hits, right out of your iPod! Tickets are available at the Community Center front office April 20-26; \$8 for adults (18+), \$5 for youth.

#### Arbor Day Walk

Saturday, May 2  
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.

#### Kite Fest

Sunday, May 16  
1-4 p.m.

Join the Minnesota Kite Society at Round Lake Park for a dazzling kite show! Learn about kites and how to fly one, bring your own or make one for only \$3, then enjoy a performance by the Teddy Bear Band at 2:30 p.m.

#### Spring Run for Fun - 5K/10K

Saturday, May 16  
9 a.m.

All proceeds benefit the Eden Prairie Girls on the Run program. Pre-register at the Community Center or online at [midwestevents.com](http://midwestevents.com); race-day registration begins at 7:45 a.m. at Purgatory Creek Park's Lambert Pavilion.

#### Riley-Jacques Barn Twilight Special

Saturday, May 16  
7:30 p.m.

Bring the whole gang for a barn dance at the historic Riley-Jacques Barn, featuring Shake These Bones with Bob Walser and Julie Young. Tickets available at the door: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, students and seniors.