

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Local families enjoy the traditions of holidays past at the Cummins House Christmas



JANUARY 2009

Ring in the New Year with New Resolutions

The tradition of making resolutions for the New Year dates back to 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future.

The Romans named the first month of the year after Janus, and at midnight on Dec. 31, the Romans imagined Janus looking back at the old year and forward to the new. For this reason, Janus became the ancient symbol for New Year's resolutions, a tradition that many still practice today.

As we ring in the year 2009, thousands of New Year's resolutions will be made right here in Eden Prairie. Many will involve personal commitments, others may include family and friends, and some may focus on efforts to better the community or the world we live in.

This New Year's Eve, as you decide on your resolutions and welcome in the year 2009, the City's staff members, police officers, firefighters and elected officials would like extend wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all those who choose to Live, Work and Dream in the City of Eden Prairie!

Resolve to Get Greener

Since its launch in 2007, the City's 20-40-15 initiative, aimed at increasing efficiency in City-owned facilities by 20 percent, improving the fuel efficiency in the City's vehicle fleet by 40 percent and accomplishing these goals by 2015, has already set precedence for operations within the City of Eden Prairie.

The City of Eden Prairie encourages all residents and businesses to make a commitment to the environment and resolve to get greener in 2009. Sometimes the smallest changes make the biggest impact!

Conserve Energy

Use energy-saving light bulbs

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) have been proven to reduce energy usage by 75 percent and last 10 years longer than standard incandescent bulbs.



Adjust your thermostat

Try setting your thermostat a few degrees lower this winter, you'll save energy and save on your heating bills, and you likely won't notice the difference.

Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible

As much as 85 percent of the energy used by a washing machine goes to heating the water.

Conserve Water

Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth

It's a simple step with a remarkable benefit; every minute you keep the water from running, you save more than four gallons!

Install a low-flow showerhead

Available at most hardware stores, they don't cost much and the water savings can quickly pay back your investment.

Reduce Waste

Recycle harmful waste

Go to the Senior Center (8950 Eden Prairie Road) to drop off alkaline batteries or unwanted cell phones (with chargers only). The Senior Center will properly dispose of these items for you!

Stop junk mail

Visit the Direct Marketing Association Web site at dmachoice.org to learn how to reduce unwanted mail. This will help conserve printing and transportation costs, and prevent unwanted materials from ending up in the trash.



When making your New Year's resolutions, join forces with the City of Eden Prairie and make 2009 your year to get greener!

To learn more about the City of Eden Prairie's 20-40-15 initiative, visit edenprairie.org. For more information, materials and tools to help you get greener, visit the Go Green Web site at go-green.ae.

Resolve to Get Involved

Research shows that one of the best natural highs a person can experience is to join a cause to help someone in need. This year, instead of worrying yourself with things you cannot control, take a break and resolve to help others in your community. The City of Eden Prairie offers several volunteer opportunities to help you get involved.



Community Event Volunteers

Assist with day-of duties at one of Eden Prairie's annual community events! You'll meet new people, make a contribution and help others make lifetime memories. First up this year is the **Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance** on **Saturday, Feb. 7**. For volunteer opportunities contact **Nicole Weedman** at **952-949-8456**.

Community Theater Volunteers

You don't have to be an actor to get involved with Eden Prairie's theater group, the **Eden Prairie Players**. Costume seamstresses, hosts, lighting and sound technicians, stage hands and help with construction are always appreciated. Contact **Sandy Werts** at **952-949-8450** or visit the Eden Prairie Players Web site at edenprairieplayers.org for more information.

Police Department Volunteers

Police Reserves assist the **Police Department** with patrols, community events, natural disasters and other non-criminal emergencies. Youth, ages 14-21, can join the **Police Explorers** program to help out in the community and learn more about law enforcement. In addition, local emergency responders are always looking for clergy and lay-people for the important role of **Police & Fire Department Chaplain**. Visit the **Police Department** section at edenprairie.org for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

Senior Center Volunteers

Opportunities include volunteer drivers, special events helpers and program leaders who can share skills and talents with others. Call the Eden Prairie **Senior Center** at **952-279-8050** for more information.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteers

The Eden Prairie **CERT** team is made up of volunteers who are trained and prepared to assist public safety officials in a crisis situation. CERT training classes will begin in spring 2009. For more information or to register for participation contact **Mark Krueger** with the **Police Department** at **952-949-6201**.

As you anticipate the coming year, resolve to make 2009 your year to get involved, volunteer your time and make an important contribution to your community. For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities within the City of Eden Prairie, visit edenprairie.org.

Resolve to be Ready

The **Eden Prairie Fire and Police Departments** would like to encourage all residents and businesses to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep: **preparing for emergencies**.

The **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** recommends that all Americans *Resolve to be Ready* by taking the following three steps to be prepared in the event of an emergency:



Put together an emergency supply kit

This kit should include the basics such as water, non-perishable food, battery power lights and radios with extra batteries, and a first aid kit. Be sure to also consider items to accommodate family members' special needs such as prescription medications, infant formula, pet food, important family documents, etc.

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency

Sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Determine a neighborhood meeting place and identify an out-of-town emergency contact. Inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: employers, daycare providers, schools, etc.

Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together

In the event of an emergency, you will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

The City of Eden Prairie also recommends that businesses take one additional step toward emergency preparedness. Launched in 2007, the City's **Partnership for Emergency Readiness (PER)** initiative, establishes a public-private partnership which allows the City's emergency response teams to better serve residents and businesses in disaster situations.

To learn more about the initiative, or to register your business as a partner in this program, visit the PER Web site at edenprairieper.org.

For more information, materials and tools to help prepare your family, home or business for all types of emergencies visit ready.gov or call **1-800-BE-READY**.

Thank You

The City of Eden Prairie thanks the following businesses, residents and service organizations for their contributions to the 2008 Arts and Special Events Programs. In total, more than \$20,000 in support was given to help provide arts and special events programs in Eden Prairie.

Platinum Sponsors – \$5,000 or more

Eden Prairie Foundation

Silver Sponsors – \$1,000 to \$2,499

Anchor Printing (*in-kind*)

Anchor Bank

Eden Prairie Lions Club

J.A. Price Agency, Inc.

Lions Tap

Bronze Sponsors – \$500 to \$999

American Muslim Community Center

Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund

Xcel Energy

The International School of Minnesota

Optimist Club of Eden Prairie

Prairie Sponsors – \$499 or less

Allied Waste Services (*in-kind*)

Biffs, Inc. (*in-kind*)

Camilletti Family

Eden Prairie Noon Rotary

Mom's Club of Mitchell Lake

Rotary Club of Eden Prairie

Shakopee Total Rental (*in-kind*)

Veil Orthodontics

Washburn McReavy Funeral Chapels



Holiday Hours

Several City of Eden Prairie facilities including the **City Center**, **Community Center**, **Senior Center** and **Eden Prairie Liquor Stores** will have modified holiday hours Dec. 24-26, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2008-Jan. 2, 2009. Please visit edenprairie.org for a detailed listing of holiday hours.



Eden Prairie Police and Fire emergency services are available 24 hours a day. Always dial 911 in an emergency.

CITY DOCS NEWS TV

- Subscribe to receive e-mails on the topics of your choice
- Access public documents online
- Watch City Council and Planning Commission meetings live and on-demand
- View streaming videos or watch the City's cable channel EPTV 16 live

Visit edenprairie.org and check it out today!

YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

Effective Jan. 6, 2009



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

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

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Reflecting On 2008

At the end of each year I like to take a moment to reflect on where I've been and what I've done. I believe it's important to do that as a city government as well. Eden Prairie city government is the steward of the City's public buildings, parks, streets and much of its natural open space.

We are also the stewards of Eden Prairie's image and future. We want to be accountable to you — the residents and taxpayers of Eden Prairie — because we take our stewardship responsibility very seriously, and because there's a lot to be proud of in Eden Prairie from 2008.



Community Center Grand Re-opening (L to R): Council Members Sherry Butcher and Brad Aho; Mayor Phil Young; Frank Wheeler, First American Funds; Mike Jackson, SUPERVALU; City Manager Scott Neal; and Parks and Recreation Director Jay Lotthammer.

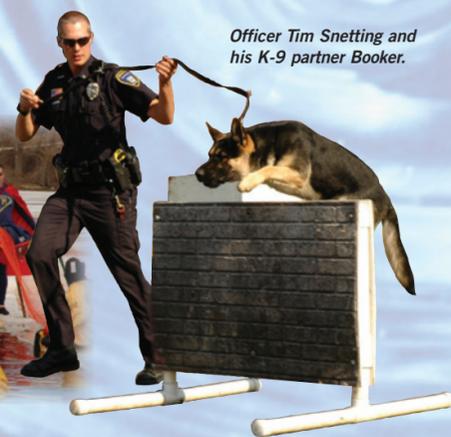
We improved the City's outstanding network of parks, recreational facilities and natural open spaces by completing a major renovation project at the **Community Center** and re-opening the facility for use; by partnering with the Garvin family to begin work on a **Barrier-Free Playground** at Miller Park; by dedicating the **Lambert Pavilion** at Purgatory Creek Park to former Parks and Recreation Director Bob Lambert and his family; and by completing dozens of park construction projects adding new buildings, playgrounds and baseball fields to many of our City's parks.



Lambert Pavilion Dedication on July 7, 2008.



First phase of the Barrier-Free Playground construction at Miller Park.



Officer Tim Snetting and his K-9 partner Booker.



Police Department team ready to take the Polar Plunge.

We enhanced public safety within the City by adding **Fire Engine 11** to our **Fire Department** vehicle fleet; by partnering with Hennepin County Public Health to conduct a **Mass Dispensing Drill** at Eden Prairie Center; by adding **Police K-9 Booker** to our Police Department's specially trained K-9 Unit; and by doing our part to support Special Olympics of Minnesota with the first ever **Polar Bear Plunge** at Round Lake Park.

Fire Engine 11, the newest addition to the Fire Department vehicle fleet.



Fire Department team ready to take the Polar Plunge.

We partnered with the **Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee** to complete and dedicate a permanent memorial in **Purgatory Creek Park** to honor the men and women in Eden Prairie who have served in our nation's military services.



Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial.



We completed phase one and approved phase two of the City's **20-40-15** initiative aimed at increasing the energy efficiency of our public buildings by **20** percent, the energy efficiency of our vehicle fleet by **40** percent and accomplishing both of those goals by **2015**.



Town Center area along Flying Cloud Drive during the construction of Windsor Plaza.

We dedicated significant time again this year to planning for big changes in the City's future by reviewing Hennepin County's plans to extend **Light Rail Transit** to Eden Prairie; by updating the City's **Comprehensive Plan**; and by proceeding with several new development projects, including **Windsor Plaza** and **Presbyterian Homes**, that will strengthen the economic vitality of Eden Prairie's retail business center.



CVS Pharmacy on Prairie Center Drive, the first phase of the Presbyterian Homes redevelopment.

We demonstrated our responsibility to prepare for future needs and protect our natural resources by partnering with the Lower Minnesota Watershed District to restore and stabilize an eroding section of **Purgatory Creek**; by completing the drilling process for **Well #16** to meet the City's future water needs; and by partnering with the Metropolitan Airport Commission to extend the City's **water and sewer utilities** to Flying Cloud Airport.



Restoration project on an eroding section of Purgatory Creek.

We successfully provided a process that was open, fair and responsive to the needs of more than 30,000 eligible residents who chose to exercise the right to vote in **Election 2008**.



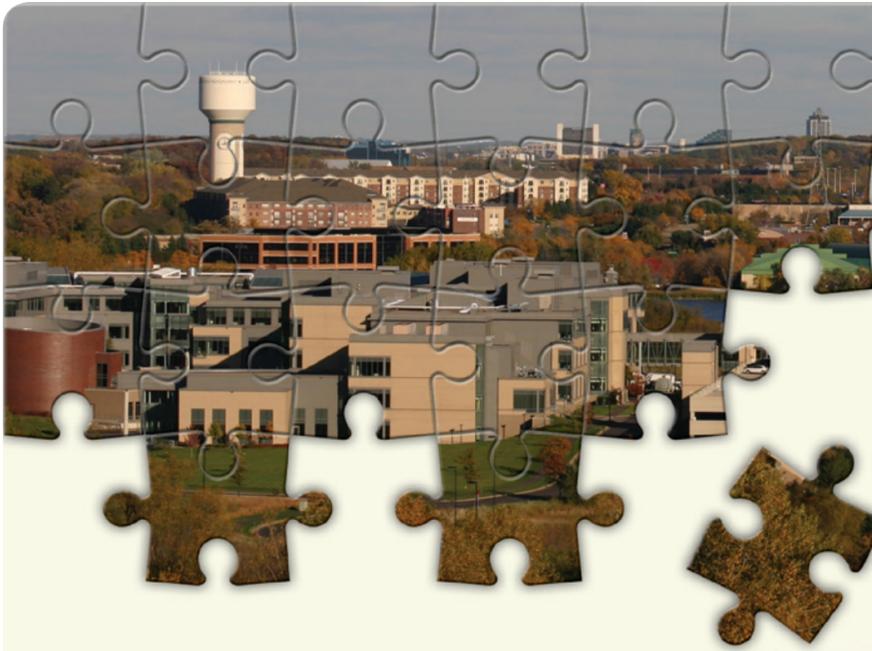
Mayor Phil Young (center) and Council Members (L to R) Jon Duckstad, Kathy Nelson, Sherry Butcher and Brad Aho.

It was a very good year for the City of Eden Prairie in 2008. In addition to all of our accomplishments, we once again received **MONEY Magazine's** distinction as one of the **"Best Places to Live"** in America and we were also named one of **"America's Best Healthy Places to Retire"** by **U.S. News and World Report**. We're looking forward to what's in store for 2009. On behalf of your elected officials and everyone who works for the City of Eden Prairie, we thank our residents and taxpayers for the opportunity serve you.

Sincerely,
Scott H. Neal

Scott H. Neal
Your Friendly City Manager





Eden Prairie Commissions

Important Pieces of Our City Government

The **Eden Prairie City Council** utilizes the expertise of several commissions for advice on matters ranging from economic development to environmental protection. Commissions are made up of Eden Prairie residents willing to share their time and knowledge to benefit the community.

Positions are currently available on nearly every commission. Visit edenprairie.org or call **Michael Barone** at **952-949-8433** for more information or to obtain a commission application packet.



Arts and Culture Commission

Members

Back (L to R): Steve Mosow, Ann Rorem, Heather Olson, Sandy Werts (Staff Liaison), Katie Hood (Recording Secretary)

Front (L to R): Elizabeth Petry-Lee, Nicole Garbowicz (Student Member), Katy Johnson (Student Member), Farida Kathawalla

Not Pictured: Ana Armstrong

Purpose: To enhance the creative and cultural opportunities for Eden Prairie residents by offering a broad range of cultural, performance and visual art programs.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the City Center



Heritage Preservation Commission

Members

Back (L to R): John Gertz (Staff Liaison), Kathy Veurink, Richard Akerlund, Mark McPherson

Front (L to R): Ed Muehlberg, Ann Higgins (Vice Chair), Betsy Adams (Chair), Nina Mackay

Not Pictured: Frank Bi (Student Member), Stephanie Vilendrer (Student Member)

Purpose: The Heritage Preservation Commission is established for the purpose of: (1) safeguarding the heritage of the City by preserving sites and structures which reflect significant elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, visual or architectural history; (2) promoting the preservation and continued use of historic sites and structures for the education and general welfare of the people of the City; and (3) fostering civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the City Center



Budget Advisory Commission

Members

Pictured (L to R): Sue Kotchevar (Staff Liaison), Jon Muilenburg, Don Uram, Richard King, Richard Proops

Not Pictured: Gwen Schultz, Annette Agner, Eapen Chacko

Purpose: The commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in connection to the formation of a biennial City budget.



Human Rights and Diversity Commission

Members

Back (L to R): Dan Abaira, Molly Koivumaki (Staff Liaison), Cari Maguire, Adam Liter

Front (L to R): Pam Spera, Gerry Beckmann, Kelly Brandon, Nelum Madanayake

Not Pictured: Mohamed Duale, Ummul Kathawalla, Marcy Harris

Purpose: Act in an advisory capacity to the City on matters of diversity, civil and human rights, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month on the lower level of Eden Prairie Center.



Conservation Commission

Members

Pictured (L to R): Michael Caughill (Student Member), Ray Daniels, Sean Katof, Laura Jester, Geneva MacMillan, Jan Mosman, Eapen Chacko

Not Pictured: Vallari Ajgaonkar (Student Member), Alexandra Baumhardt (Student Member), Leslie Stovring (Staff Liaison)

Purpose: To advance and support the health and development of the citizens and natural environment of Eden Prairie through comprehensive environmental protection, conservation efforts and natural resource management.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the City Center



Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission

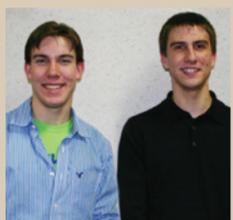
Members

Back (L to R): Jeff Gerst, Randy Jacobus, John Brill (Vice Chair), Rob Barrett, Ian MacKay

Front (L to R): Andrew Baker (Student Member), Lee Elliot-Stoering, Geri Napuck (Chair), Jay Lotthammer (Staff Liaison), Tom Bierman

Purpose: Act in an advisory capacity to the City on matters of development and use of parks and recreation facilities, leisure services, recreation programming, preservation of natural resources and promotion of environmental awareness.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers



Student Members

Pictured (L to R): J.P. Maslyn, Michael Dennis

Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission

Members

Back (L to R): Jeff Larsen (Vice Chair), Greg McKewan, Rick King (Chair), Mark Michelson

Front (L to R): Joe Harris, Kurt Schendel, Judy Gentry, Scott Kipp (Staff Liaison)

Purpose: To advise the City Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission with regard to matters affecting the operation of Flying Cloud Airport.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of odd numbered months at the City Center



Planning Commission

Members

Back (L to R): Mike Franzen (Staff Liaison), Jerry Pitzrick, Kevin Schultz, Ray Stoelting

Front (L to R): Katie Lechelt, Jon Stoltz, John Kirk

Not Pictured: Fred Seymour, Pete Rocheford

Purpose: To provide for an open process and a balanced review of development proposals and land use requests, both private and public, with regard to the City's Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Guide Plan and City land use.

Meetings: 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the City Council Chambers.

To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

It's winter in Minnesota, time to bundle up and venture out to have some fun and Live Well in Eden Prairie. The quickly falling snow will soon be ankle deep and flooded ice rinks will soon be frozen over, so strap on your skates, grab your sled and get outside to enjoy some good, old-fashioned entertainment!

Eden Prairie's nine outdoor, fully lit **skating and hockey rinks** are open Friday, Dec. 19 through Monday, Feb. 16, weather permitting. Each rink is equipped with a warming house and attendant Monday through Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. and on weekends from noon to 5 p.m. Skating is free of charge and fun for the whole family, so bring your skates and hit the ice!

Once you've brushed up on your skating skills, bring the whole family out for the **Rock on Ice** event, Saturday, Jan. 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at **Round Lake Park**. The evening will be filled with skating, rock-n-roll, hot chocolate and a bonfire.

For some additional frozen fun, grab your sled and head for the **Staring Lake Sledding Hill**. This 700-foot sledding hill will soon be adequately covered with snow and is sure to provide hours of fun for the whole gang. The hill is fully lit until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and until 5 p.m. on weekends for hours of snowy sledding fun.

When it comes to winter in Minnesota, the opportunities for outdoor fun are endless; and when it comes to outdoor fun in Eden Prairie, there are dozens of great ways to get out and Live Well with the whole family!

To learn more about these and other Eden Prairie **Parks and Recreation Department** programs, visit edenprairie.org.



Did You Know?

Did you know that the **Staring Lake Outdoor Center** is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year?

The history of the Staring Lake Outdoor Center building actually dates back to the 1930s when it was erected as part of a State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA) camp during the Great Depression. At that time, several SERA camps were developed along the Minnesota River Valley to provide employment and transient relief for a growing number of unemployed Minnesotans who traveled to the area to find work. These camps were operated by SERA for approximately three years before they were transferred to the Works Projects Administration (WPA) which managed the camps until 1943.

After the WPA camps in the area were closed, the Staring Lake Outdoor Center building was purchased by **Clarence Bush**, a prominent figure in the history of the Northrup-King Company. In 1947 Bush moved the building from its original location, which was likely in Savage, Minn., to its present site on the shores of Staring Lake in Eden Prairie.



The log recreation building in this photo is likely the building that was moved to Eden Prairie and is now known as Staring Lake Outdoor Center.

Bush renovated the log recreation building into a summer home on Staring Lake, nearby the Northrup-King seed research facility he managed. Just over 20 years later the Bush family sold the log structure and 12.5 acres of land surrounding it. Eventually, the City of Eden Prairie acquired the property and in 1979 the building became the Eden Prairie **Senior Center**. In 1988, when the Senior Center moved to its current location on Eden Prairie Road, the old log building was designated for its current use as the Staring Lake Outdoor Center.

Today, the Outdoor Center and the parkland around it are used by the residents of Eden Prairie to enjoy a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities from gardening and fishing to bird watching and star gazing. In 2008, more than 400 classes, trips and programs operated out of the Outdoor Center, bringing more than 3,500 outdoor enthusiasts through the doors of the 73-year-old log building.

This year, as the Outdoor Center celebrates its 20th anniversary, an abundance of exciting programs and events are in the works! For details and registration visit edenprairie.org/parksbrochure or pick up a copy of the Winter Parks and Recreation Program Guide and locate the Outdoor Center section on page 33.



Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

This past Sunday was a cold and windy day at Purgatory Creek Park. But three hundred other people and I were there for an important event. It was the dedication event of the new Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial. Mayor Young was the emcee for the program. The program included a brief speech by retired Brigadier General Dennis Schulstad and remarks from State Senator David Hann, State Representative Maria Ruud and brand new U.S. Congressman-elect Erik Paulsen.

I could have included a photo of the memorial. I've got some good ones. It's a beautiful memorial. I've decided, however, to include a photo of the people that made it all happen. A project like a Veterans Memorial doesn't happen without the grit and determination of dedicated people. They worked with the City to get all the necessary regulatory approvals. They worked with local businesses and residents to raise money, including convincing elected state officials to dedicate \$100,000 in state financial assistance for the project. They worked with design and construction professionals to advance their intangible idea to something that is not only tangible but permanently so.

Did they do it for personal glory? No. They did it because they are dedicated to the preservation of our memory – our memory of the sacrifices of our fellow citizens who served our country in peace and in war. I can't list all of the names of the people that made those sacrifices, but I can list all of the names of the people in this photograph that have worked so hard to honor them.



Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee

They are: John Mallo, Bob Grant, Steve Steele, William Cochrane, Bud Schwartz, Richard Fey, Ed Holt, Elizabeth Grant, Mary Ann Bryndahl, Bill Dobbins, Carol Steehler, Kevin Rofidal, Travis Wuttke, Tim Sather, Eric Ahlstrom, Dick Foley, Ernie Shuldhiess, James Moran, Marie Wittenberg, Tommy Johnson, Toby Sarahan, Jerry Renner, James Bevilacqua, Jr., Ronald Schlangen, Lou Ellingson, John Menden and Duane Cox.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for your service. *Well done.*

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

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 January *Art on City Walls* exhibit featuring water colors, acrylics and oils from local artist Mollie Paulson.

City Council Meetings*
Tuesday, Jan. 6, 20

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

Community Band Holiday Concert
Sunday, Dec. 14
7 p.m.

Share the Warmth

Celebrate the season with a free performance at the **Eden Prairie High School Auditorium** and *Share the Warmth* by bringing a non-perishable food item or warm article of clothing for PROP.

Rock on Ice
Saturday, Jan. 17
6:30–8:30 p.m.

ROCK ON ICE

Bring the whole family out for an evening filled with skating, good old fashioned rock-n-roll, hot cocoa and a bonfire at the **Round Lake Park Ice Rink**.

Live Well, Lunch Well
Friday, Jan. 16
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Take a break from your busy day to meet up with friends at the Eden Prairie **Community Center**, enjoy a healthy lunch and learn about new and exciting ways to Live Well. January's speaker will focus on "Exercising – One Step at a Time" and the \$14 registration fee includes a box lunch from Crumb Deli.

Family Pizza and BINGO Night
Friday, Jan. 16
6–8 p.m.

Round up the neighbors and bring the kids (ages 5 and up) for a family BINGO night at the **Community Center**! \$12 per person covers BINGO, prizes, a slice of pizza and a beverage.