

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Hundreds of Eden Prairie families enjoyed the 2008 Citywide Open House



DECEMBER 2008

Eden Prairie Votes 2008

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, was a record-setting Election Day in the United States. Millions of voters visited the polls, many for the very first time, and historic decisions were made that will shape the future of this country.



★★★ Brad Aho



★★★ Ron Case

In the City of Eden Prairie, 80 percent of registered voters took part in this monumental election, a number that surpassed the state of Minnesota's estimated 76 percent voter turnout. In all, 30,383 Eden Prairie residents visited one of 19 precincts throughout the City to cast their votes. Combined with more than 5,610 residents who completed absentee ballots, a total of 35,993 Eden Prairie voters participated in the 2008 Election.

In the City Council race, two at-large seats were on the ballot. **Brad Aho**, incumbent Council member, received 30.23 percent of the votes and **Ron Case**, who served on the Council from 1994 to 2006, received 30.02 percent of the votes, winning them each a four-year term on the Eden Prairie City Council beginning in January 2009.

Incumbent **Sherry Butcher** received 27.55 percent of the votes and candidate **Jeffery P. Meyerhofer** received 12.20 percent.

In the end, more Eden Prairie residents participated in Election Day 2008 than any other election in the City's history. And with the help of more than 350 volunteers, the City of Eden Prairie was able to provide an election process that was open, fair and responsive to the needs of all eligible citizens who chose to exercise the right to vote.

20-40-15 Update

At the Oct. 21 City Council meeting a plan was approved to move forward with **Phase Two** of the City's **20-40-15** initiative. This program, aimed at improving energy efficiency in City facilities by **20** percent, improving the fuel efficiency of the City's vehicle fleet by **40** percent and achieving these goals by the year **2015**, is being completed in a series of phases, the first of which was finished in the summer of 2008.

Phase Two, scheduled to be completed over the next six months, will focus on the lighting, heating, cooling and water usage at many City facilities.

Some scheduled changes include:

- Retrofitting exterior light fixtures with energy-efficient LED lighting.
- Upgrading plumbing fixtures and aerators to newer water-saving models.
- Tuning up digital heating and cooling controls to be sure that all City facilities are operating efficiently.
- Installing new equipment at the Community Center which will allow the ice compressor on ice rink #1 to operate more efficiently.
- Retrofitting lights at the City Center and Water Treatment Plant to more energy-efficient models and installing occupancy sensors to reduce usage.



To accomplish the goals set forth in the 20-40-15 initiative, the City is working closely with **McKinstry Company**, a firm touted by President-Elect **Barack Obama** as a "model for the nation" for their work in retrofitting schools and office buildings throughout the country to make them more energy efficient.

And now, with the help of McKinstry and the approval of Phase Two, the City of Eden Prairie is one step closer to accomplishing its 20-40-15 mission.

Water Tower Gets Energy-Efficient Facelift

The Marketcenter water tower, located just off of Flying Cloud Drive, is one of the most recognizable landmarks in Eden Prairie. For this reason, it is important that each of the four clock faces is in proper working condition.

Early in 2008, the electro-mechanical control system which advances the time on each of the clocks began to function erratically, causing the clock movements on the four faces to become out-of-synch.

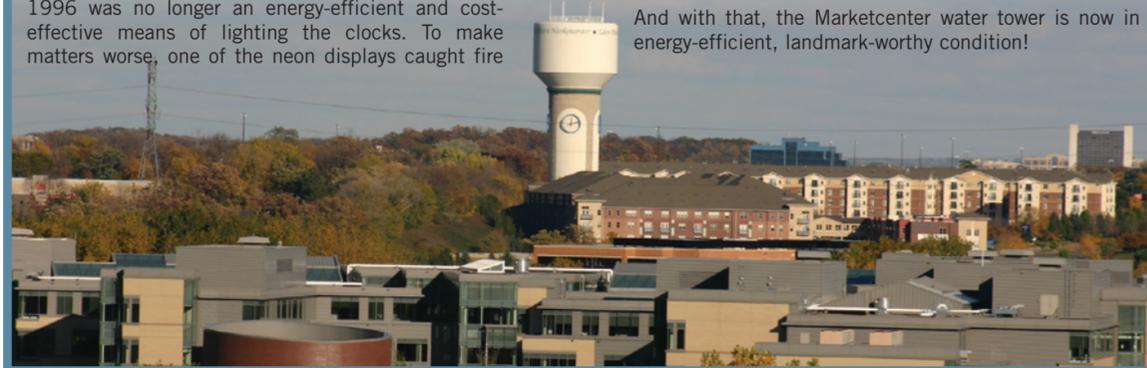
In addition, the neon lighting system originally installed in 1996 was no longer an energy-efficient and cost-effective means of lighting the clocks. To make matters worse, one of the neon displays caught fire

late in 2007 and destroyed a significant portion of the clock face on the south side of the tower.

To resolve the situation, the City of Eden Prairie solicited bids to replace all of the clock faces with modern, energy-efficient LED lights. This type of lighting is the best long-term, cost-effective alternative, and will also reduce the electrical requirement of the clock by more than 90 percent.

In October, the new lighting equipment was installed and the electro-mechanical control system was repaired.

And with that, the Marketcenter water tower is now in energy-efficient, landmark-worthy condition!

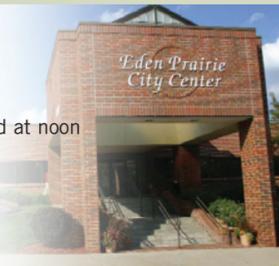


Holiday Hours

Please note the following holiday hours for the City of Eden Prairie:

City Center

Thursday, Nov. 27 – Closed
 Friday, Nov. 28 – Closed
 Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Closed at noon
 Thursday, Dec. 25 – Closed
 Friday, Dec. 26 – Closed
 Thursday, Jan. 1 – Closed
 Friday, Jan. 2 – Closed



Senior Center

Thursday, Nov. 27 – Closed
 Friday, Nov. 28 – Closed
 Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Closed
 Thursday, Dec. 25 – Closed
 Thursday, Jan. 1 – Closed



Liquor Stores

Nov. 24, 25, 26 – 9 a.m.–10 p.m.
 Thursday, Nov. 27 – Closed
 Friday, Nov. 28 – Open 9 a.m.–10 p.m.
 Dec. 22, 23 – 9 a.m.–10 p.m.
 Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Open 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Thursday, Dec. 25 – Closed
 Friday, Dec. 26 – Open 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Wednesday, Dec. 31 – Open 9 a.m.–10 p.m.
 Thursday, Jan. 1 – Closed



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

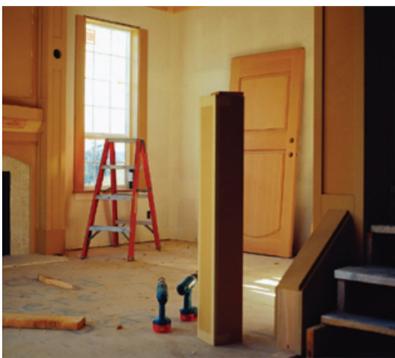
Housing Rehabilitation Loans Available

Applications are now being accepted for home improvement loans through the **Eden Prairie Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program**. Eligible improvements include safety, energy and building code related repairs, such as:

- Replacement of roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems
- Cabinets, countertops and flooring
- Gutters, windows, doors, insulation and siding
- Exterior painting
- Driveway, foundation, sidewalk and step repairs

Low-interest loans of up to \$30,000 are available to eligible applicants. Eligibility is determined by household income and amount of equity in the home.

For further details, questions or an application, contact **Jeanne Karschnia** at **952-949-8486** or **jkarschnia@edenprairie.org**.



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- 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



MAYOR

Phil Young
952-426-1931

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brad Aho
952-949-8300
 Sherry Butcher
952-829-5351
 Jon Duckstad
952-903-0274
 Kathy Nelson
952-941-6613

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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Take Time to Enjoy the Splendor of the Holidays

The arrival of winter holidays often generates an over-abundance of things to do, places to go and people to see. With the excitement of the season it is easy to get so wrapped up in it all that before you know it, the celebrations have commenced, the memories have been made and another holiday season has come to an end.

This year, as you continue on your mission to Live Well, take some time to enjoy the splendor of the holidays with the people who are most important to you.

Make time to celebrate with good friends at the **Senior Center Holiday Lunch** on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Kowalski's Market, then relax and enjoy a slice of pie while taking in a holiday performance by pianist **Katheryn Bakke**.

Spend some precious time with your little one at **A Night with PEEF** on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. Begin the evening at the Community Center with a hot dog dinner while you listen to author **Tom Hegg** tell the story of *PEEF the Christmas Bear*, who is created by Santa and comes to life yearning to bring happiness to one small child. Then travel to Stages Theater for a performance of *PEEF*.

Take time as a family and enjoy the traditions of holidays past at the **Cummins House Christmas** celebration. This event takes place Sunday, Dec. 7 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the J.R. Cummins Homestead (13600 Pioneer Trail). The afternoon will be filled with reindeer-drawn carriage rides led by St. Nick himself, holiday crafts, live music, an old-fashioned tree trimming and "Tales of Christmas Past" by the Wonder Weavers.



Set aside time to take a special music lover to the **Community Band Holiday Concert** on Sunday, Dec. 14. The concert begins at 7 p.m. in the Eden Prairie High School Auditorium, and the theme of the event is *Share the Warmth*. So be sure to bring a non-perishable food item or warm article of clothing for PROP.

However you choose to do it, be sure to take time to enjoy the splendor of this holiday season, make some great memories and continue to Live Well in Eden Prairie.

For more information on these and other exciting **Parks and Recreation Department** programs visit edenprairie.org or pick up a copy of the winter **Program Guide**, available now at the **City Center**, **Community Center** and **Senior Center**. Some programs require pre-registration so inquire today!



To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

Gear up for a Minnesota winter and Live Well with hundreds of fitness opportunities for the whole family at the **Community Center**:

- Introduce your pre-teen to the importance of healthy habits and exercise with a **Youth Fitness Orientation** and put them on track to use the Fitness Center all year round.
- Sign up as a couple, or round up a group of friends for a **Group Personal Training** session and get in shape together.
- Join other fitness-minded friends for a **Wednesday Walking Club** that will build your endurance and keep you in shape this winter.
- Challenge yourself to reach your peak performance level with a **Step Interval Challenge** group fitness class.
- Accomplish your dream and **Train for a 5K/10K** with other beginning runners and you'll be ready to race on May 16.
- Build on those summer aquatic skills with **Winter Swimming Lessons** in the warmth of the Community Center pool.

This winter, the Community Center is your place to warm up, get in shape, learn something new and have some fun on your mission to Live Well in Eden Prairie!

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

Did You Know?

Did you know that Minnesota state law requires all single family homes to have an approved, operational carbon monoxide (CO) detector within 10 feet of every bedroom or sleeping area?

Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, and the symptoms of CO poisoning can be difficult to distinguish from those associated with a common cold or flu; therefore, the signs of a problem in the home are often dismissed. Without a CO detector it is virtually impossible to detect high levels of carbon monoxide in the home, which can lead to severe illness and even death.

The Eden Prairie **Fire Department** reminds all residents to install, maintain and monitor carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. CO detectors should be tested monthly to be sure they are in proper working condition and the batteries should be replaced as needed. In addition, all members of your household should know that if the alarm sounds on a CO detector, they should evacuate the home immediately and call 911 for assistance.

For the latest information about CO detectors, including purchasing tips and recall information, visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site at cpsc.gov.



Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

The **Minnesota High Tech Association** gave out their annual **Tekne Awards** last night at the Minneapolis Convention Center to honor the people and companies that have given Minnesota a vibrant high tech economy. There were lots of Eden Prairie connections to the people and companies that were nominated, including three that brought home their own Teknes at the end of the night.

Eden Prairie resident **Rick King** won the 2008 Tekne for **Technology Executive of the Year**. Rick is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Thomson Reuters in Eagan. He is also the chair of our Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission and a member of our Budget Advisory Commission. Congratulations on your award Rick, and thank you for everything you do for the community.

Starkey Labs brought home the **Medical Technology** Tekne for established companies. Starkey has been a long time Eden Prairie company, and they've got a very bright future here.

And congratulations to Eden Prairie's **GE Capitol Fleet Services** division for winning the 2008 Tekne for Technology Services.

It was a very nice event. Eden Prairie was well represented in the group of finalists and the group of award winners. We are blessed to have a solid group of strong businesses in Eden Prairie.

For more information about Tekne Award nominations and results visit tekneawards.org.



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 December *Art on City Walls* exhibit featuring architectural renderings from local artist **Harry Gerrish**.

City Council Meetings*

Monday, Dec. 1
Includes annual Truth in Taxation Hearing
Tuesday, Dec. 16

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

Senior Center Holiday Lunch
Wednesday, Dec. 3
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Celebrate with friends and enjoy a holiday meal with live entertainment by pianist **Katheryn Bakke**.

A Night with PEEF
Friday, Dec. 5
5-8 p.m.

Begin the evening at the **Community Center** with a hot dog dinner while you listen to author **Tom Hegg** tell the story of *PEEF the Christmas Bear*, then travel to **Stages Theater** for a performance of *PEEF*.

Cummins House Christmas
Sunday, Dec. 7
2-4:30 p.m.

Visit the historic **J.R. Cummins Homestead** and enjoy reindeer-drawn carriage rides, holiday crafts, live entertainment, an old-fashioned tree trimming and "Tales of Christmas Past" by the **Wonder Weavers**.

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

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.