

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Enjoying the festivities at Sunbonnet Day 2008



NOVEMBER 2008

Election 2008

The 2008 United States presidential election, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, will be the 56th consecutive quadrennial election for president and vice president of the United States.

It will coincide with the 2008 Senate elections in 35 states, House of Representatives elections in all states, and gubernatorial elections in 11 states, as well as various state referendums and local elections.

In Eden Prairie, elections for **City Council** are held every two years with two of the four seats up for election. Election for the position of mayor is held every four years. City Council members and the mayor serve four-year terms of office.

For the 2008 election year, there are two at-large Council member seats (four-year terms) on the ballot for Eden Prairie.

The following are candidates in the 2008 Eden Prairie City Council election: **Brad Aho, Sherry Butcher, Ron Case** and **Jeffrey P. Meyerhofer**.

When to Vote

Election Day is **Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008.**

Polls are open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**



Election Day Registration Requirements

If you are not preregistered to vote you may do so at your local polling location on Election Day.

You must register to vote if:

- You have never registered to vote in a prior election
- You have moved or changed your name since you last registered
- You have not voted at least once in the last four years



Alternatively, you may provide **both** a photo ID from the list below **and** a bill in your name, with your current address, that is due within **30** days of the election.

Types of Photo ID Accepted

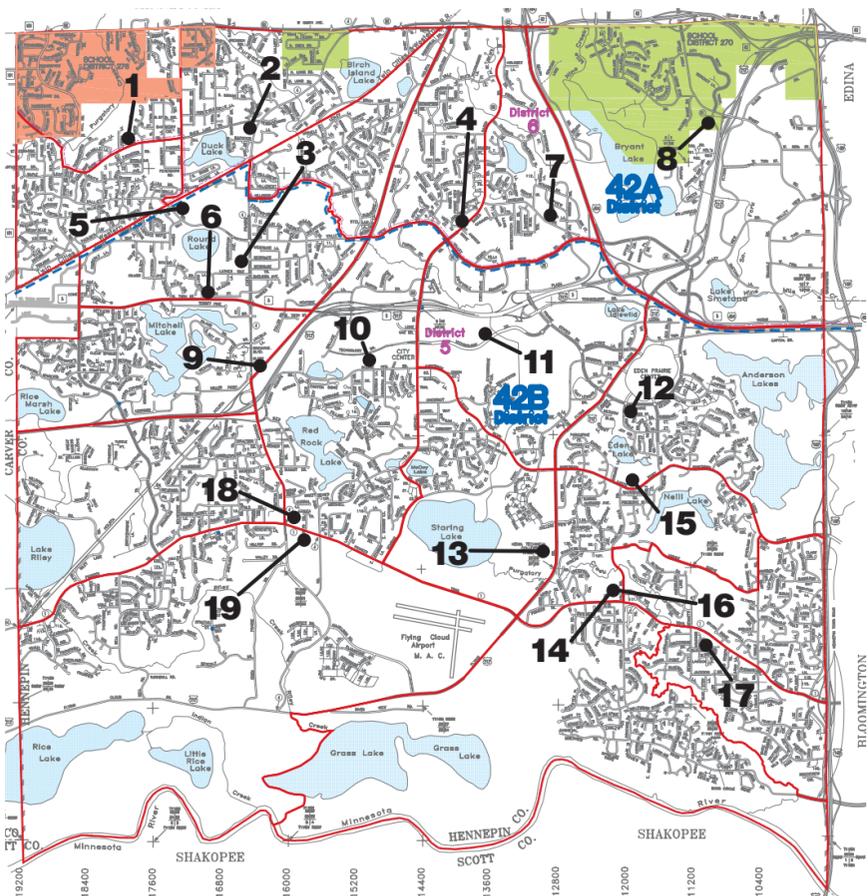
- Minnesota Driver's License
- Minnesota ID Card
- United States Passport
- United States Military ID Card
- Tribal ID Card
- Minnesota University or Technical College ID Card

Types of Bills Accepted

- Gas
- Telephone
- TV (cable, satellite, etc.)
- Water
- Electric
- Cell phone
- Solid waste
- Sewer services
- Internet services
- Student fee statement
- Rent statement that itemizes utilities

Where to Vote

You must vote in the precinct in which you live. Visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us and enter your current address to find your precinct. There are 19 precincts in Eden Prairie, each with a designated polling location.



- Precinct 1**
King of Glory
Lutheran Church
17850 Duck Lake Trail
- Precinct 2**
Eden Prairie
Assembly of God
16591 Duck Lake Trail
- Precinct 3**
Immanuel Lutheran Church
16515 Luther Way
- Precinct 4**
Life Church
14100 Valley View Road
- Precinct 5**
Prairie Hill Evangelical
Free Church
17200 Valley View Road
- Precinct 6**
Christ Lutheran Church
16900 Main Street
- Precinct 7**
City Hill Fellowship
12901 Roberts Drive

- Precinct 8**
Wooddale Church
6630 Shady Oak Road
Door #1
- Precinct 9**
Resurrection Life Church
16397 Glory Lane
- Precinct 10**
Eden Prairie United
Methodist Church
15050 Scenic Heights Road
- Precinct 11**
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
13600 Technology Drive
- Precinct 12**
Eden Prairie
Community Library
565 Prairie Center Drive
- Precinct 13**
Hennepin Technical College
13100 College View Drive

- Precinct 14**
Pax Christi
Catholic Community
12100 Pioneer Trail
- Precinct 15**
Eden Lake
Elementary School
12000 Anderson Lakes
Parkway
- Precinct 16**
Pax Christi
Catholic Community
12100 Pioneer Trail
- Precinct 17**
Prairie Lutheran Church
11000 Blossom Road
- Precinct 18**
Eden Prairie
Presbyterian Church
9145 Eden Prairie Road
- Precinct 19**
Grace Church
9301 Eden Prairie Road
Door #1

Absentee Voting

Eligible voters may vote by absentee ballot for any of the following reasons:

- Absent from the precinct on Election Day
- Illness or disability
- Religious discipline or observance of religious holiday
- Service as an election judge in another precinct

General absentee voting will continue through **Monday, Nov. 3, 2008.**

Absentee Voters may vote in person during the 30 days prior to a regularly scheduled election, or complete the entire process by mail.

Absentee Voting In-Person Locations

- City of Eden Prairie
8080 Mitchell Road
- Hennepin County Elections
300 6th Street South – Public Service Level

Absentee Voting Hours

- Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 3, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Absentee Voting by Mail

An official **absentee ballot application** may be obtained from the city or county elections office, or online at edenprairie.org.

Return the completed absentee ballot application to:

- City of Eden Prairie Elections
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
- Or fax to 952-949-8390

Remember to allow at least seven days between requesting your absentee ballot and completing the voting process.



Deadlines and Requirements for Return of an Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballots delivered by United States Postal Service (USPS) must be received by the City or county election office by the last regular USPS mail delivery on Election Day.

Absentee ballots hand delivered by an agent of the voter (a commercial delivery service or any individual other than the voter) must be received by the City or county election office by 3 p.m. on Election Day.

On Election Day, voters may go to the polls to vote, but CANNOT deliver their own absentee ballots to any election officials.

Absentee ballots CANNOT be delivered directly to a polling place.

Military and/or Overseas Voters

Absentee voting procedures are available for members of the military service (including spouses and dependents), and voters residing outside the United States. For more information visit minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org or call the City of Eden Prairie at **952-949-8415**.

Eligibility

The City of Eden Prairie provides an election process that is open, fair and responsive to the needs of all eligible citizens.

Persons eligible to vote must meet the following criteria:

- United States citizen
- 18 years old on Election Day
- Residing in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding Election Day
- Maintaining residence at the address given on the registration form

Persons not eligible to vote:

- Those under court-ordered guardianship in which a court order revokes the right to vote
- Those found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote
- Those convicted of a felony which has not expired or for which a sentence has not been completed

Election Results

The 2008 Election results will be available on the City Web site, edenprairie.org, and the Hennepin County Web site, co.hennepin.mn.us, following the election.

YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS



- MAYOR**
Phil Young
952-426-1931
- COUNCIL MEMBERS**
Brad Aho
952-303-6884
Sherry Butcher
952-829-5351
Jon Duckstad
952-903-0274
Kathy Nelson
952-941-6613

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

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Live Well Eden Prairie!

Do the Impossible this Winter

Walt Disney once said, "It is kind of fun to do the impossible." Now, with all there is to explore at the Eden Prairie **Community Center**, doing the impossible is both convenient and fun. In your quest to Live Well this winter, check out the exciting possibilities for doing the impossible right here in Eden Prairie!

Think it's impossible to throw a beach-bash birthday party in the middle of a cold winter? Think again! The Community Center has a variety of birthday party packages available at affordable rates. Customize your party to include a special theme, time in the pool or gymnasium, conveniently catered food and more!

Wishing the idea of keeping your stylish summer figure wasn't such an impossible dream? It's not! The Community Center offers a variety of group fitness classes to help you tone, trim and train your way into a fit figure that lasts all year. Most classes are free with a Community Center membership and discounts are available for Eden Prairie residents.

Decided your daily trips to the playground might soon be an impossibly chilly adventure? Not quite! The newly added Community Center play structure offers indoor fun and exercise in an environment that is both safe and warm. At affordable rates, this indoor play area provides hours of entertainment.

Once all the leaves have fallen and the bitter cold sets in, let the Community Center help you make the impossible possible this winter. With limitless opportunities and exciting new additions, it's a great time of year to Live Well in Eden Prairie.



To Live Well is to live the life you desire!

Enrich your life and begin to Live Well with a taste of the arts in Eden Prairie:

- Attend the 24th Annual **Senior Matinee Play and Dinner** featuring *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.
- Introduce your little one to **The Colors and Shapes of Art** with an Abakadoodle program at the **Community Center**.
- Enjoy oil paintings by **Gloria Smith** in the **Art on City Walls** "Art Gallery" exhibit at the **City Center**.
- Enroll your special needs child in an **Adaptive Music Session** at MacPhail Center for Music.
- Let your little builder go **Lego Loco** with a Kids Create visual arts program.
- Get your pre-teen **Drawing 3-D Super Heroes** with an Art Expo class.
- Join the **Eden Prairie Community Band** and showcase your musical talents.

Whatever your interests, there are endless opportunities to venture out and explore the arts. Try something new, refresh an old talent or appreciate a masterpiece, and you will discover the many exciting ways to Live Well in Eden Prairie.

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



Around Eden Prairie

A Page from the Blog of City Manager Scott Neal

U.S. News & World Report released its list today of its picks for the **Top Ten Best Places to Retire**. May I have a drum roll please...Eden Prairie made the list! Eden Prairie is one of *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Places to Retire. I read the article this morning. It makes a pretty good case for Eden Prairie as a place to move to for anyone thinking of retiring.

The rapid growth of Eden Prairie in the 1980s and 1990s was fueled by the rapid construction of single family homes. For much of the past twenty years, the city has been a community of young families focused intently on parks, schools and quality of life issues.

To be honest, I have never given much thought to marketing Eden Prairie as a retirement community, but I'm not against it either. In fact, it's a good thing for the community's demographics to fill out a bit on the senior end of the population continuum. Seniors often provide a cadre of available volunteers and part time workers that fulfill important needs in the community: serving as election judges for the city elections; serving as classroom volunteers for the schools; providing leadership in local non-profits; welcoming shoppers at Wal-Mart; or serving lunch in the church basement on a Wednesday morning funeral.

A healthy available retiree population is a valuable asset to any community. That population has always been in Eden Prairie, but its population is starting to gain, on a relative basis, on the younger demographics that moved here in the '80s and '90s.



Eden Prairie residents, Basil and Mary Jane Wissner, enjoy a morning in the garden at the Eden Prairie Senior Center.

So I'm not quite ready to declare Eden Prairie as a Retirement Community, but pleased to see the recognition for our City on the *U.S. News & World Report* list. To everyone in the community who played a part in earning this recognition.

Well Done!

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

Did You Know?

Did you know the City of Eden Prairie has an ordinance regarding **snow removal**? The purpose of this ordinance is to expand the network of sidewalks and trails available for public use in the winter months and ensure the safety of pedestrians utilizing them. Therefore, as winter weather arrives, it is important for residents and business owners to understand their responsibilities when it comes to snow removal.

Chapter 6.21 of the Eden Prairie City Code requires that:

Residents owning or occupying dwellings on non-arterial streets remove snow and ice from a 5-foot width of the public sidewalk or trail abutting or adjoining their property within 24 hours after the cessation of a weather event.

Businesses owning or occupying properties on non-arterial streets remove snow and ice from a 5-foot width of the public sidewalk or trail abutting or adjoining the property within the first eight (8) hours of daylight (8 a.m.–5 p.m.) after the cessation of a weather event.

To view a full copy of this and other City ordinances, visit the City Code page at edenprairie.org or request a copy at the City Center (8080 Mitchell Road).



Mark Your Calendar

City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18

Note: There is no Council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 4

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

Southwest Transitway Public Scoping Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 23
5 p.m. Open House
6 p.m. Public Hearing
City Center Council Chambers

Hosted by the **Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority**, this public meeting is an opportunity to review and comment on the four alternatives for improving transit service in the southwest metro area. Visit southwesttransitway.org for more information.

The Great Pumpkin Event

Friday, Oct. 24
7–9 p.m.
Outdoor Center

Learn the history and origins of Halloween, then pick a pumpkin from the patch to carve and take home. Cost is \$7 per person. Registration required.

Fall Frolic

Saturday, Oct. 25
9 a.m.
Round Lake Park

Register for this **5K Family Fun Run/Walk** at midwestevents.com or the **Community Center**. All proceeds from the event benefit "Girls on the Run," a healthy workout program serving area girls.

Spooky Saturday

Saturday, Oct. 25
6–8:30 p.m.
Community Center

Crazy costume contests, spooky swimming and skating, Halloween Tales by Eden Prairie Players, ooey-goey treats and more! Cost is \$3 per child. Free admission for parents and guardians.

Halloween on the Mall

Friday, Oct. 31
6–8 p.m.
Eden Prairie Center

Bring the kids for a night of trick-or-treating and fun at **Eden Prairie Center**.

Veterans Memorial Dedication

Sunday, Nov. 9
11 a.m.
Purgatory Creek Park

Join your friends and neighbors for the dedication of the **Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial**. For more information visit epveteransmemorial.com.

Senior Matinee Play and Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 12
2:30–7 p.m.
Eden Prairie High School

Join fellow seniors for a performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* followed by dinner and dessert.

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 an exhibit featuring oils from local artist **Gloria Smith**.