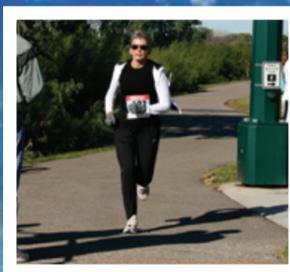


# LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

Hundreds of runners joined Eden Prairie Mayor Phil Young for the 2007 Veterans Memorial Fun Run!



NOVEMBER 2007

# Honoring a Legend

On the third of October, under a bright blue autumn sky, the family and friends of **Ray Mitchell** gathered to say farewell. He was a proud father and husband, a friend to many, and a legend in the City of Eden Prairie.

As a long-time Eden Prairie resident, Mitchell founded the Eden Prairie **Fire Department** and was elected as the City's first fire chief in March of 1967.

"Ray was an old timer. He could remember Eden Prairie as a small town, and he was integral in helping transform the City's emergency services," said City Manager **Scott Neal**. "He will be missed."

Mitchell went on to serve the City in many roles, but was best remembered for having the vision that shaped the Eden Prairie Fire Department some 40 years ago. So to honor a legendary founder, nearly 100 members of the Eden Prairie Fire Department past and present joined Ray's loved ones to say farewell.



**Raymond Irwin Mitchell**  
1937 – 2007



"Ray had the vision to shape a foundation that has served all of us who have followed for many years," said Fire Chief **George Esbensen**. "He might be gone from us, but he will never be forgotten."

A sea of red fire trucks lined the streets around St. Hubert's Church in Chanhassen before leading the funeral procession to Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Eden Prairie where Mitchell was laid to rest.

And as a final salute to the man who paved an important path in its history, a single siren wailed from a shiny red truck bearing the logo of the Eden Prairie Fire Department.

**"Ray had the vision to shape a foundation that has served all of us who have followed for many years. He might be gone from us, but he will never be forgotten."**

—George Esbensen  
Fire Chief

## Change a Light, Change the World

Most people want to do their part to help the environment, but simply don't know where to start. Choosing **ENERGY STAR** qualified lighting is a simple action everyone can take to save time, energy and money.



Eden Prairie Mayor Phil Young

To bring attention to this cost-effective option that will help preserve our environment for future generations, Eden Prairie Mayor **Phil Young** officially proclaimed Oct. 3, 2007, as **ENERGY STAR** Change a Light Day.

"If every household in Eden Prairie were to change just one bulb, together we would save more than 6 million kWh of electricity per year, resulting in a total annual savings of more than \$577,000 in energy costs," said Mayor Young. "In addition, we could prevent almost 9 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year."

From Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, 2007, the Mayor and the City of Eden Prairie are encouraging all residents to "change the world" one light at a time by replacing incandescent

bulbs with **ENERGY STAR**-qualified compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

### The Facts about CFL bulbs:

- CFL bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy to produce the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs.
- The average life of a CFL bulb is 8,000 hours versus 1,000 hours for incandescent.
- A typical CFL bulb costs about \$3 more than a regular incandescent bulb but saves an average of \$30 over its lifetime in energy and replacement costs.
- Incandescent bulbs waste 90 percent of their energy creating heat.

If every home in America replaced the five most frequently used bulbs in their home with **ENERGY STAR** CFL bulbs, it would eliminate greenhouse gasses equivalent to the emissions from more than eight million cars.

In conjunction with the "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign, **Menards, Ace Hardware**, and many other local retailers are offering discounts and instant rebates on the purchase of CFL light bulbs through the end of November. Visit [edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org) for more information and additional energy saving tips.

## Give Us Your Energy Efficiency Ideas

In December 2006 the City of Eden Prairie rolled out its **20-40-15** initiative, which calls for the City to improve energy efficiency in all of its facilities by 20 percent, increase the fuel efficiency of its vehicle fleet by 40 percent, and accomplish these goals by the year 2015.

The first phase of 20-40-15 involved asking City staff to help identify ways in which the City can be more energy efficient. As a result of the ideas submitted, the City has or will be implementing several of the energy-saving suggestions over the next year.

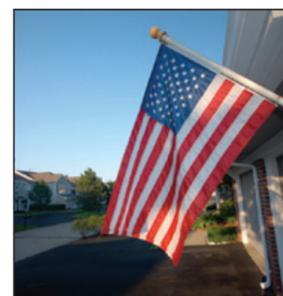
Some recent changes at the City Center include the addition of motion sensors to control lighting in meeting rooms, the adjustment of timers that control lighting and HVAC after hours, and the re-lamping of several light fixtures and signs to utilize light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.

The next step in this initiative involves the City's partnership with **McKinstry Company**, a consulting firm specializing in construction, design and facility services. Over the next few months, the firm will compile a list of recommended projects which would help the City become more energy efficient. A final report will be presented in early December and, upon City authorization, project work would begin in January 2008.

The City welcomes suggestions from residents and business owners, too. If you have ideas for how the City can be a better environmental steward, please send them to [energy@edenprairie.org](mailto:energy@edenprairie.org).

## Veterans Day Event

Join your friends and neighbors for the first flag raising at the site of the future Veterans Memorial. The event will take place at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11 at Purgatory Creek Park.



Veterans from World War II, the Vietnam War and the war in Iraq will be honored, followed by speeches from several legislators.

To learn more about the Veterans Memorial and how you can help contribute to this important project, visit [epveteransmemorial.com](http://epveteransmemorial.com).

## City Fully Converts to Electronic Check Processing

As of Oct. 1, 2007, all checks made payable to the City of Eden Prairie are being processed and presented for payment electronically.

This means the City will no longer keep physical copies of checks and take them to the bank for deposit. Instead, checks will be scanned and submitted electronically, so that the amount can be transferred directly from the checking account to the City's account. Once processed, original checks are destroyed and cancelled checks cannot be obtained from the bank.

This same process was previously implemented for all checks written for City services (water, sewer, etc.) and is currently used by many retail outlets nationwide. Utilizing this electronic method throughout the City's billing department will make check processing safer and more reliable, reduce the need for data entry and eliminate a daily trip to the bank.

For questions regarding the electronic debit process or to learn about other payment options, please contact the City's **Finance Division** at 952-949-8382.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Town Hall Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 27

The opportunity to ask questions of elected and appointed officials publicly is perhaps democracy at its best.

On Tuesday, Nov. 27, Eden Prairie residents will have their second opportunity this year to address City Council members and other City officials at a Town Hall Meeting. The meeting is scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Fire Station #4, which is located at 17920 Linwood Court near the intersection of Hwy. 312 and Dell Road.

Fire Station #4 is Eden Prairie's newest and final fire station. It was dedicated in March 2007 and services the southwest quadrant of the City.

This meeting will not be telecast or otherwise recorded.

### City Council Meeting Dates

Modified November – December City Council meeting schedule, all meetings begin at 7 p.m.:

- Tuesday, Nov. 6**  
No City Council Meeting  
School Board Election Day
- Tuesday, Nov. 13**  
City Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 20**  
No City Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 27**  
Town Hall Meeting at Fire Station #4
- Monday, Dec. 3**  
City Council Meeting and Truth in Taxation Hearing
- Tuesday, Dec. 4**  
No City Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Dec. 18**  
City Council Meeting

## Public Safety Reminder

The Eden Prairie **Fire Department** reminds residents to replace the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors when changing their clocks to Central Standard Time on Sunday, Nov. 4. Although 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, it is estimated that one-third have dead or missing batteries.

Currently, all new homes built in Minnesota must have CO detectors, in addition to smoke detectors, installed on each level of the home. Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, CO detectors will be required in all existing homes.

### YOUR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS



**MAYOR**  
Phil Young  
952-426-1931

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Brad Aho  
952-944-5955  
Sherry Butcher  
952-829-5351  
Jon Duckstad  
952-903-0274  
Kathy Nelson  
952-941-6613

## LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE

LIFE IN THE PRAIRIE IS PUBLISHED BY:

City of Eden Prairie  
Communications Division  
8080 Mitchell Road  
Eden Prairie, MN  
55344-4485  
952-949-8434  
edenprairie.org