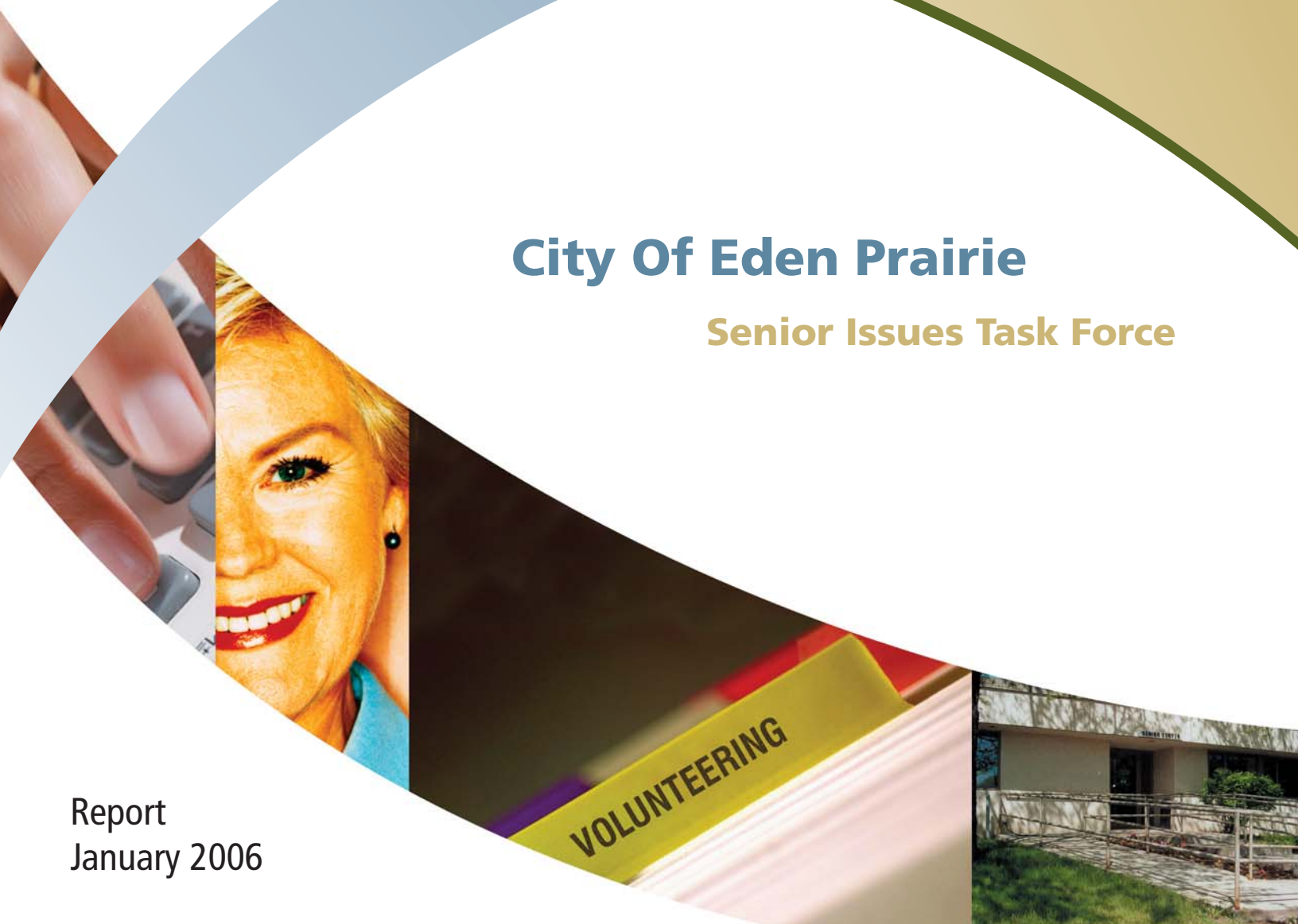




# City Of Eden Prairie

## Senior Issues Task Force

Report  
January 2006



## I. INTRODUCTION

### **Creation of the Senior Issues Task Force - 2005**

On May 17, 2005 the Eden Prairie City Council authorized creation of a new Senior Issues Task Force with the assigned mission:

“The Senior Issues Task Force is reestablished for the purpose of providing the City Council with an update of the 1996 comprehensive report that identified the impact of changing demographics of the senior population and the resulting impact on housing, transportation, health and social services and related issues.”

The report is to “include an analysis on the 1996 report’s recommendations and how those recommendations have been realized...”

The Task Force was charged to deliver its final report to the City Council in January, 2006 with the understanding that “The charter statement restricts the Task Force to a replication of the 1996 study – no more, no less.”

The report of 1996 attempted to provide a 20 year view; this report will focus on that same end point; or a current 10 year view of senior issues, to year 2015.

On July 26, 2005, the Task Force was convened by Scott Neal, City Manager, who presented the Charter and outlined the parameters of the Task Force’s work. Appointed members of the Task Force are: Bette Anderson, Pastor Rod Anderson, Joanne Bartel, Marv Cofer, Joyce Conley, John Dollerschell, Carla Kress, Joan Rumford, Lisa Schmidtke, Sharon Steiner, Scott Welter, Basil Wissner, City Staff representative, Mary Keating and Support Staff, Dona Rowland. Marv Cofer and Bette Anderson agreed to Co-Chair the Task Force.

On August 9, the Task Force held its first meeting and the members determined that Task Force meetings would be held each month. To facilitate the work, study sub-committees were identified to correspond to the major sections/topics of the original 1996 Task Force report. To study and research each topic, the sub-committees chose to meet independently as necessary and report findings to the Task Force monthly.

In the first meeting, Task Force members volunteered to Chair and serve on sub-committees. The Chairs and sub-group members are:

Demographics - Pastor Rod Anderson, Chair; Lisa Schmidtke, Basil Wissner

Housing - Scott Welter, Chair; Joan Rumford, Lisa Schmidtke

Social Services Support Systems - Joanne Bartel, Chair; Sharon Steiner, Joan Rumford, Bette Anderson

Legal and Public Safety - John Dollerschell, Chair; Basil Wissner, Joyce Conley

Employment, Leisure - Carla Kress, Chair; Marv Cofer, Sharon Steiner, Joyce Conley

Government Structures, Communication, Governance - Marv Cofer, Chair; Scott Welter  
Bette Anderson, John Dollerschell

## **Eden Prairie-2005**

Substantial changes have occurred since the first Task Force report of 1996 including accelerated growth of Eden Prairie's population, business base and housing, and a substantial shift in demographic composition of the City. We are at the cusp of the anticipated baby boom with all its benefits and challenges. According to gerontologist Ken Dychtwald, "Old simply isn't what it used to be." William D. Novelli, CEO of AARP, states "...retirement as we have known it is largely disappearing, And in its place is a new, much more vital vision of how most of us will be living as we grow older."

Many believe that the most fundamental change in the concept of retirement is that it is likely to involve work. AARP research "...shows that 80% of boomers expect to continue working in some form past the age of 65 – either for the money or for the fun of it. ... This has implications for virtually every part of society: education, government, corporate America, the nonprofits, and religious institutions."

In a positive sense, senior years can be a time of change, learning, travel, self-discovery, of spending time with friends, with grandchildren; of working hard or little; of community service, of pursuing hobbies and enjoying recreational activities. But for some it is a time of health concerns, financial difficulties and loss of self esteem and socialization opportunities. The challenge facing Eden Prairie is to continue to define the role of the City with respect to its growing senior population and to balance its investment in services such that the City is recognized by all its citizens and specifically by its seniors citizens as "a good place to live."

### **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

In the Senior Issues Task Force report of 1996, the opinion was expressed, "It appears that there has been little formal effort to do long-range planning as it concerns seniors prior to the establishment of this Task Force ...". There has been much progress since 1996 and many of the recommendations of the previous Senior Issues Task Force have been adopted. However the current Task Force suggests that it would be helpful to institute a disciplined planning process to address the City's role in serving its senior population and provide a periodic review.

This report is structured to provide the opportunity to review the response by the City to the recommendations in the 1996 report and more importantly, we hope to provide our City leaders with an updated understanding of the growth of the City's senior population as well as a glimpse at the anticipated trends of the emerging "Baby Boom" generation and their interests, expectations and needs.

The members of the Senior Issues Task Force 2006 appreciate the opportunity to serve our City. We have received excellent support and cooperation from City personnel and we commend our leadership for its desire to include our senior population in the City's planning process. We hope this report becomes a resource for City leadership as Eden Prairie develops its comprehensive plans for future years.

## II. DEMOGRAPHICS

### EDEN PRAIRIE IS PART OF AMERICA'S AGING SOCIETY

The 1996 Senior Issues Task Force referenced a publication by the U.S. Department of Commerce, *Sixty-Five Plus in America*, which reported some interesting history and trends: "In colonial times, half the population was under age 16; in 1990, less than one in four Americans were under 16 and half were 33 or older; by 2050, at least half could be 39 or older; from 2010 to 2030 the elderly population would grow 76% while the population under 65 would increase 6.5%". Then, they identified the following major trends which we still believe will impact the entire country:

- There are and will be more elderly than ever before in history.
- The elderly are an increasing proportion of our population.
- Growth of the elderly will be steady and accelerate as the baby boomer population reaches 65.
- Elderly women outnumber elderly men.
- More persons will survive to the oldest ages.
- As more survive, more also face chronic illnesses and disabilities.
- Issues surrounding the frail elderly will become more prevalent. At the same time, the young have become pacesetters in new ways to spend the retirement years.
- The elderly population will be more diverse in terms of racial composition.
- The educational attainment of the elderly population will increase significantly.
- Some elderly are economically secure; others, especially many of the oldest old, those living alone, Blacks, American Indians, some Asian groups, and Hispanics have relatively high rates of poverty.

The Demographics Sub-Committee, after review and discussion, thought that people would stay in Eden Prairie if:

- Family is near
- They are a business owner
- Taxes are low
- Highly committed to the community

People will move to downtown Minneapolis for:

- Culture and convenience

People will return to Eden Prairie if:

- Family is here
- Healthcare is better than other states or out state (rural Minnesota)
- Housing is affordable/desirable

### **BASIS FOR POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTIONS FOR EDEN PRAIRIE**

The Senior Issues Task Force selected Claritas, Inc. to prepare reports that were used as a foundation for current demographic information as well as projected changes. Because their overall population reports only project out to 2009 and their Senior Life Report projects to 2010, the demographic sub-committee was required to provide an educated guess as to the population in 2015.

Part of that education came from a meeting with Mike Franzen, City Planner for Eden Prairie. According to the latest data from the city (i.e. Guide Plan Vacant Land worksheets 07-12-05) there are only 499.21 net acres of developable land remaining in our city. Residential development is 467 acres whereas 32.21 acres are planned for high rise buildings. For our demographic needs this translates into a potential growth of 6,334 people. This would bring our City to its maximum population of 70,000 plus within the next 15 to 20 years.

Additionally, the Task Force reviewed the enrollment history and projections provided by Eden Prairie School District #272 for the years 1998 through 2010. The last year of student population growth was school year 2001-02. After 2002, history/projection statistics are -1% to -2% or -100 to -200 students per year. Total enrollment in 2004-05 was 3,283 and the projection for 2010 is 3,063. Eden Prairie's growth over the last two decades is certainly attributed to the high quality of our public schools. Many moved to Eden Prairie for the education afforded their children. When households become "empty nests," the community's amenities, affordability, and appeal for this age group may be factors in population retention into senior years of life. School quality will affect choices by the next generation, and their parents/grandparents, to live here or nearby.

The 1996 Senior Issues Task Force used the Eden Prairie Planning Department's data to project that Eden Prairie will have a population of 65,000 residents in the year 2015. However, Claritas reports the 2004 Eden Prairie population is already over 62,000. From 2000-2005, Eden Prairie had a 13.3% increase in total population and Claritas is predicting a 10.65% increase from 2005-2010. Table 1b was created to detail the 2000-2005 growth rate. Given the amount of developable land left and the steady decrease in school enrollment, this Task Force feels safe in projecting a 7% increase from 2010-2015 in order to achieve a total population of 73,694 in 2015.

## **FACTORS INFLUENCING EDEN PRAIRIE'S CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS**

Turnover was not factored into this study, except for the assumption that departing residents will be replaced by newcomers of similar demographics if housing stock of various types and values are available. Variables not measured but critical include the effect of changes to the population's core values, education level and economic status as well as changes in the community's transportation system: new Highway 212, pedestrian accessibility (MCA Study), medical services, crime levels and others. Also, many seniors choose 1, 2, or 3 residences "wintering" in the south and "summering" in the north while dwelling locally. Measuring the effect of this senior lifestyle is very difficult.

The one exception is if families opt for family cooperative domiciles. Past generations always cared for their elder family members but the next generation of people may demand more caregiver facilities for the long time Eden Prairie residents. If Eden Prairie doesn't continue to build and offer "housing with services", residents will look to nearby communities such as Chaska and Richfield where senior communities are flourishing.

Following are comments on some of the more significant factors influencing the anticipated dramatic changes in the demographics of Eden Prairie.

### **Baby Boomers**

As reported in the 1996 report, and still relevant today, 76 million persons in the U.S.A. who were born between the mid 1940s and mid 1960s will be moving well into their seventies by the year 2015, the target year of this study. In addition to the vast numbers of baby boomers, the characteristics of this unique generation (well educated, affluent, healthy, independent thinking) will have a profound impact on the status, needs, and condition of senior citizens across the U.S.A., including Eden Prairie.

In spite of the uniqueness of this group, there are issues common both to preceding generations and to the boomer generation. All seniors do age; they ultimately become frailer; many have special health needs; they do have less disposable income than during working years. Nonetheless, it is important to recognize the uniqueness of the boomer population and to monitor and understand the implications of trends which will impact the role of the City in recognizing and dealing with their needs. There is a distinct "bubble" of increasing numbers of seniors in the population growth pipeline created by the boomer population; this is the most significant issue to influence the changing demographics over the next 20 years.

### Projected Eden Prairie Growth to 73,694 Residents

Claritas, Inc. projects a population of 73,694 residents by the year 2015 which represents an increase of 34,383 from the 1990 census data. The new-growth residents will impact the demographic profile in the city, but even they will also be representative of the aging of the boomer population. Regardless of where Eden Prairie's new growth residents come from, they will be a part of the nationwide trend toward a more senior population than in the past.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Compounded Yearly Growth for Periods</u>	
1970	6,938		
1980	16,263	(10 year)	'70-'80 --- 8.89% per year
1990	39,311	(10 year)	'80-'90 --- 9.23% per year
1995	46,000 (est.)	(5 year)	'90-'95 --- 3.19% per year
2000	54,901	(5 year)	'95-'2000 --- 3.6 % per year
2005	62,246 (est.)	(5 year)	'2000-'2005 --- 2.54% per year
2010	68,873 (proj.)	(5 year)	'2005-'2010 --- 2.04% per year
2015	73,694 (proj.)	(5 year)	'2010-'2015 --- 1.36% per year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Compound Yearly Growth for Years</u>
2000	54,901	
2001	57,513	'2000-'2001----- 4.76%
2002	58,793	'2001-'2002----- 2.22%
2003	60,981	'2002-'2003----- 3.72%
2004	62,203	'2003-'2004----- 2.00%
2005	64,246(est)	'2004-'2005----- .069%

In making the demographic projections, it was assumed that the City would not drastically deviate from its present practices and policies regarding land use, zoning and regulations on building. It is difficult to evaluate the impact of any significant changes in building practices, i.e., more apartments, condos, and town homes versus more single family dwellings. The former can be equally attractive to "starter" families as well as to empty-nesters and retirees.

### AGE DEMOGRAPHICS: PAST AND FUTURE

As an outer ring suburb, Eden Prairie's growth in the 1970's and 1980's was driven by the baby boom generation's movement into home buying and child rearing. As the City progressed into the 1990's, its population was dominated by this group; it did not yet have a significant aging population as did the inner ring suburbs. Consequently in 1990, only 3.3 percent of the total population (1,293 persons) was over age 65. However, the senior population will grow at an increasing rate over the next 20 years as the larger number of persons in the age 45 to 64 groups become seniors.

This growth will start gradually, and then accelerate as the baby boom population moves into the senior age brackets in larger numbers in the 2005-2025 time period. At that time, the senior share of the population, in both numbers and as a percentage of the total, will accelerate. Simultaneously, there will be a decline in the young adult (ages 25-35) and in the child population (Demographic, Economic and Social Trends Affecting People of Eden Prairie: SHERPA).

**BENCHMARK DATA FOR AGE PROJECTIONS**

The following Table 2 shows the significance of the age groups which are currently over age 40, since it is this group which will have the major impact on the growth of the senior population in 2015 and beyond. It is significant that the 44 and under age group has decreased by 15.2% since 1990.

**ESTIMATED EDEN PRAIRIE AGE DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE YEAR 2015**

Various approaches were considered for estimating year 2015 demographics for Eden Prairie. One approach, that of simply aging the 1990 population in place, (without the planned population growth) shows a surviving senior population (over age 65) of 9,591 persons, or 15 percent of the total population in 2015. It is, of course, unrealistic to consider this approach, since it disregards Eden Prairie's projected growth. The 1990 population in the "age 45 and up" group totals 6,722, which is over 17.1% of the 1990 population. It is this age group and its additions through city growth that are the focus of this study.

<b>Table 2</b>					
<b>1990 POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS FOR EDEN PRAIRIE</b>					
<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>2005 ESTIMATE</u>	<u>2005 PERCENT BY AGE OF GROUP</u>	<u>1990 PERCENT BY AGE OF GROUP</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 1990</u>	<u>AGE GROUP IN YEAR 2015</u>
up to 44	42,206	67.7%	82.9%	-15.2%	Up to 54
45-54	10,449	17.6%	9.6%	8%	55-64
55-59	3,701	5.8%	2.4%	3.4%	65-69
60-64	2,300	3.6%	1.9%	1.7%	70-74
65-69	1,437	2.2%	1.4%	.8%	75-79
70-74	843	1.3%	.8%	.5%	80-84
75-79	612	0.9%	.4%	.5%	85-89
80-84	398	0.5%	.3%	.2%	90-94
85+	300	0.4%	.3%	.1%	95+
Total 2005 Population. . . . . 62,246					
Total over age 44. . . . . 20,040. . . . . (32.2% over age 44) in 2005					

The previously noted 1990 U.S. Census data population of 39,311 was used as the starting point for projecting demographic changes, along with the 73,694 forecast population in 2015. Mortality losses (deaths) for each group were computed to achieve the net population for each group using mortality data provided by Hennepin County. An assumption was made that as residents leave Eden Prairie, they are replaced by newcomers whose ages match those of the departing residents.

Table 3 shows the projected senior (over 65) population in total numbers and as a percentage of the total population. It also shows that in 1990, 3.3% of the population was over 65. In 2005, that number jumped to 5.8% and in 2015, 7.5% of the Eden Prairie population will be over 65. To get this data, we first noted the 7% projected population growth from 2010-2015. So, we took the 2010 projections in the Senior Life Report for age groups 65 & up & calculated the percentage increase in each category from 2005-2010. We then added 7-8% to each category. It may seem strange that of the population who is 55+ now, only 1/2 will be in the 65+ category in 10 years, but data from 1990-2005 confirms this projection. There were 6,326 people in the 45+ age group in 1990. Despite a 58% increase in total population from 1990-2005, only 4,453 people were in the 60+ category 15 years later - a 29.6% drop. Jumping ahead to period 2005-2015, we're only projecting a 17.65% increase in population and we're looking at the current 55+ population which is going to have a higher mortality rate than the 45+ population from 1990-2005. So, a 50% shrink seems reasonable.

There are still some factors which could cause this estimate to be incorrect. For instance, the residential turnover rate could have an impact of skewing the age distribution toward the younger age groups. Or if the market seems to demand more town houses or condominiums which would appeal to seniors, then it is possible that the population could be skewed toward the more senior population.

**Table 3  
ESTIMATE OF AGE DEMOGRAPHICS  
FOR CITY OF EDEN PRAIRIE IN YEAR 2015**

<b>YEAR 1990</b>		<b>YEAR 2005</b>		<b>YEAR 2015</b>		<b>1990 - 2015</b>
<b><u>AGE</u> <u>GROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>POPULATION</u></b>	<b><u>AGE</u> <u>GROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>POPULATION</u></b>	<b><u>AGE</u> <u>GROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>POPULATION</u></b>	<b><u>MORTALITY</u> <u>RATE</u></b>
40-44	3548	55-59	3701	65-69	2418	.06
45-49	2284	60-64	2300	70-74	1401	.08
50-54	1484	65-69	1437	75-79	751	.14
55-59	960	70-74	843	80-84	490	.14
60-64	729	75-79	612	85+	456	.33
65+	1,293	80+	698			

In the year 2015: 5,516 persons over age 65

## GENDER DEMOGRAPHICS

With respect to gender, there is an obvious disparity in the longevity of the sexes. As longevity increases, the gap between numbers of men and women increases. One of the consequences is that women are more likely to be widowed, and they are also twice as likely as their male peers to be poor in later life. A projection of possible gender mix in the year 2015 is shown in Table 4, below:

<b>Table 4</b>					
<b>A PROJECTION OF EDEN PRAIRIE'S SENIOR POPULATION BY GENDER IN YEAR 2015 (ASSUMING SENIOR POPULATION 5516)</b>					
<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>POPULATION BY GENDER</u>			
	<u>Year 2015</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>% of population</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>% of population</u>
65-69	2,418	1,194	1.65	1,224	1.66
70-74	1,401	690	.94	710	.96
75-79	751	335	.45	416	.56
80-84	490	203	.28	287	.39
85+	456	147	.199	309	.42

<b>Table 5</b>				
<b>2005 HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF EDEN PRAIRIE SENIORS COMPARED TO OTHER NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES*</b>				
<u>SENIOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANNUAL INCOMES IN 1990:</u>		<u>SENIOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANNUAL INCOMES IN 2005:</u>		<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 1990</u>
<b>INCOME LESS THAN \$15,000 PER YEAR</b>				
Eden Prairie	12.1%	Eden Prairie	9.02%	-3.08%
Neighboring Cities	23.8%	Neighboring Cities	11.79%	-12.01%
<b>INCOME \$15,000 to \$35,000</b>				
Eden Prairie	24.5%	Eden Prairie	18.57%	-5.93%
Neighboring Cities	33.1%	Neighboring Cities	27.15%	-5.95%

SENIOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANNUAL INCOMES IN 1990:		SENIOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANNUAL INCOMES IN 2005:		<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 1990</u>
INCOME \$35,000 to \$50,000				
Eden Prairie	13.6%	Eden Prairie	12.01%	-1.59%
Neighboring Cities	14.5%	Neighboring Cities	18.50%	4.00%
INCOME \$50,000 to \$100,000				
Eden Prairie	36.6%	Eden Prairie	31.25%	-5.35%
Neighboring Cities	21.7%	Neighboring Cities	28.78%	7.08%
INCOME \$100,000 AND ABOVE				
Eden Prairie	13.5%	Eden Prairie	29.15%	15.65%
Neighboring Cities	6.9%	Neighboring Cities	19.70%	12.8%
*Neighboring Cities include: Combined cities of Chaska, Chanhassen, Hopkins, Victoria, southern 2 1/3 of Minnetonka, western 1 1/4 of Bloomington				

### **POTENTIAL ECONOMIC STATUS OF FUTURE EDEN PRAIRIE SENIORS**

It is impossible to make firm projections of either income or financial need of Eden Prairie's senior residents in the year 2015; there are too many variables to evaluate with any degree of confidence, such as: corporate retirement plan evolution, anticipated changes in Social Security and Medicare, rates of saving, Minnesota state income tax laws, tax levels of local taxing bodies, and over all cost of living changes. However, it could be reasonably expected that existing senior's current economic status would be one significant indicator of what to expect during the next 20 years.

It is expected that median household income will continue to grow as the boomers move into their prime earning years. Table 5 shows that Eden Prairie has lower percentages of seniors with household income in the ranges between \$15,000 and \$50,000. Then, major differences occur in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 and up ranges, with Eden Prairie having substantially larger percentages of households in these groupings than sister suburbs.

Hennepin County calculates low/moderate income as 80% of median income. Median income is \$77,000 making the low/moderate income level \$61,600. According to the Senior Life Report's 2005 estimates, of the 2,160 households where the householder is over 65, 1,258 or (58%) would qualify as low/moderate income. Federal income guidelines vary for assistance programs but an income of \$61,600 will qualify a householder for few, if any, of these. A chart of poverty rates appears in Appendix D. Since 2000, median home value has increased by 28.9% while average household income has only increased by 17.5%. In 1996, 12% of the senior population was at the poverty level compared to 4% in 2005 using Senior Life Report estimates on household income. With housing with services at maximum capacity and the fact that the percentage of seniors with a household income of \$100,000 and above has risen 16% since 2005, Eden Prairie should encourage the development of mixed use residences. It is also important that for seniors not at that income level, new construction should include an appropriate number of affordable units.

Another factor that can influence the cities demographics is the growth of our social services programs. For example many of the client households served by PROP, the local food shelf, are mature residents as can be seen from the data below. The following numbers reflect the number of clients served by PROP during the third quarter of 2005.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u>
Up to 44	314
45 to 54	43
55 to 59	32
60 to 64	27
65 to 69	34
70 to 74	11
75 to 79	5
80 to 84	1
85+	0
Total Head of household	467

In 2004, Senior Outreach, a program of Senior Community Services funded by the City, assisted 845 Eden Prairie residents, 156 of these on an intensive, ongoing basis. Of clients receiving intensive services, 69% had incomes at or below the poverty level, with another 21% between 100% and 200% of poverty. In addition to the 45% who lived alone, most of the remainder lived in some form of care giving relationship. The highest concentration of clients (41%) were in their 80s, with more than two-thirds over the age of 75. Nearly 3.3% were minority elders (a higher proportion than are represented in the suburban senior population), and 77% were women. Many more clients are in the over 85 age group, than previous years.

In addition, assistance is being provided to more and more adult family caregivers looking for services for an older relative.

### **COMMENTS ON VALIDITY OF DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS**

As with any projection of demographics, especially over a 20 year period, the data must be subject to question and examination. Significant deviation from the previously stated assumptions can cause major changes in the projections. Factors include housing values, crime level, the new Highway 212, school quality, core values, education changes, etc.

It should be noted that the 2005 Senior Issues Task Force projects 7.5% of the population, or 5,516 persons, will be over age 65 in the year 2015. This is based on the above noted 2005 research and assumptions. This figure differs from the 1996 report which projected an estimated 10,600 persons over age 65 in 2015. Such significant disparity is explained by: the 2005 use of 10 additional years of actual aging data, the population growth and trends of the past 10 years and by the assumptions made by this Task Force as noted in this DEMOGRAPHICS section. We realize that forecasting population trends is not an exact science; in all probability, the reality will lie somewhere between the two projections. What we DO know is that the baby boom population WILL greatly expand our senior population, as noted in these tables and statistics.

As a further reality check, we only have to look at two older sister cities, Edina and Richfield, for verification that the aging of a city's population is a reality. In Richfield, only 5.5% of the population was over age 65 in 1970. Twenty years later, in 1990, 16.9% of Richfield's population was over age 65 and the same in 2000. Similarly in Edina, 8% of the population was over age 65 in 1970. In 1990, 20.4% of their population was over age 65 and 23% in 2000. In the case of these two cities, today they have a significant senior population, even without the benefit of the emerging and large boomer population which will cause the senior population to grow at unprecedented rates. Of course, both of those cities are mature and virtually fully built, whereas Eden Prairie still expects to grow by another 11,448 people. Nonetheless, their experiences do help predict experiences which we can expect.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

From the results of this study, it is not possible to make specific projections of detailed data as to the impact of aging in Eden Prairie. However the "aging of America" has received much nationwide study and attention; it is a fact that Eden Prairie will be a part of that aging process. Implications of aging, on a nationwide basis, are equally valid for our city, especially if we factor in the findings and observations of this Task Force. Accepting as fact that the now young population of Eden Prairie will, in fact, age, is one of the key issues of this study.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DEMOGRAPHICS SUB-COMMITTEE

Items in regular type were those recommendations made in the original report, and those marked # were deemed by the 1995 study committee to require earliest attention. *Comments in italics report the status of the original recommendations.* **Bold statements are new comments and recommendations.**

There were no recommendations in the Demographics Section of the 1996 report.

- 1. The Seniors Issues Task Force recommends that detailed demographics updates be conducted every 1 to 2 years, with appropriate adjustments to projections. The number of variables and the rapid community changes such as major new transportation systems necessitate updates to this report more frequent than every decade. Demographic reports are readily available from several sources other than, but not exclusive of the U.S. Census.**
- 2. There needs to be increased efforts to measure the new immigrant population with special attention to non-English speaking senior populations. Cultural lifestyles and intergenerational living practices are difficult to measure but critical to planning for needs in several areas of this report.**

### III. HOUSING

#### EXISTING HOUSING

With the changing demographics it is important that the City position its housing market to reflect its population. Since the initial report was generated, it seems that development has reflected this change. It is unclear whether this shift was planned or coincidental. A comparison of the housing market in 1996 to the market in 2004 is shown below.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Single Family	10,991	12,588	+14.6%
Duplex/Condo/Town home	3,968	5,905	+48.9%
Apartments	4,141	5,466	+32.0%

In today's environment, seniors have more housing options than ever. With increased life expectancies and improving health care seniors are able to stay in their home for a longer period of time. When seniors choose to make a change in their living arrangement Eden Prairie offers a large number of options. The majority of senior properties fall into two categories. These two categories are either 55 and older or 62 and older. A 55 and older building is intended and operated for occupancy by persons 55 years of age or older. At least 80 percent of the occupied units must be occupied by at least one person who is 55 years of age or older. A 62 and older property is intended for, and solely occupied by, persons 62 years of age or older. These two definitions are widely regarded as the two defining marks of a senior property.

In addition to properties that fall under the above definitions Eden Prairie has other senior options. These options are;

- Adult Foster Care – A home that provides sleeping accommodations and services for four to five adults and is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- Board and Lodge – Provides sleeping accommodations and food to five or more adults for a period of one week or more and is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Boarding Care – Boarding care homes are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health and are homes for persons needing minimal nursing care. They provide personal or custodial care and related services for five or more adults or people with disabilities.
- Continuing Care Retirement Communities – CCRC's are campus style developments that offer a wide range of housing and long-term care services. Residents typically pay an entrance fee as well as a monthly fee for a lifetime of services specified in a contract.

The contract includes residence, services, and if available, skilled nursing services.

- Senior Cooperatives – Residents live in an apartment style or townhouse style complex and have an ownership interest in the unit.
- Senior Condominiums – Residents live in apartment style or townhouse style complexes and own the unit directly.
- Market Rate – Market rate rentals are what are traditionally considered “apartments.” These are housing establishments that have no government subsidy. The real estate market determines the rent levels. Market rate rentals may serve only people age 55 and older as an “age distinct” apartment setting.
- Subsidized Rental – Subsidized rental units serve low-income individuals and vary in size and type. Privately held units of this type include Section 202, Section 236, Section 8, or Farmer’s Home 515 Buildings.
- Housing with Services – An establishment providing sleeping accommodations to one or more adult residents, at least 80 percent of which are 55 years of age or older, and offering or providing, for a fee, one or more regularly scheduled supportive services, whether offered or provided directly by the establishment or by another entity arranged for by the establishment.
- Transitional Care – Transitional care serves those who have been discharged from the hospital but still require short-term rehabilitation and special care in order to make the transition from hospital to home.
- Long Term Care – A facility or that part of a facility which provides nursing care to five or more patients.

Presently, Eden Prairie has properties that fit into almost all of these categories. It is hard to label properties as any one specific type due to some properties holding multiple licenses or not being required to be licensed by a government entity.

During the 1996 report an informal survey was done with apartment managers showing that approximately 600 seniors lived in apartments. Due to the limited time span for review and comment on the initial report we were unable to get an accurate reflection of the numbers of seniors occupying apartments during 2004.

In 1996 it was reported that there were 4,100 apartment units with regular rents ranging from \$435 to \$1,600 per month. Since 1996 the number of apartments has grown by 32% with rents now ranging from \$545 to \$4,875 per month. Units on the higher end of the rent scale include some basic services that we feel were not available at the time of the first report. Currently, affordable rent in Eden Prairie is defined by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development as \$721.00 per month for a one bedroom unit and \$866 per month for a two bedroom. HUD changes rental guidelines each year. These numbers are based on a median income of \$77,000 for a family of four and then adjusted up or down for family size. Affordable rent is based on 50% of the adjusted amount and the tenant then pays between 30% - 40% of their income for rent.

For seniors who are trying to remain in their homes, there are many issues. One of the biggest issues is the aging of the home. Some of the homes that seniors occupy were initially constructed well over twenty years ago. Some of these houses are now reaching the upper end of their life spans for some equipment and structure. Things such as utilities, siding and roofing are reaching the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced. There will be some seniors who chose another housing option rather than to invest in the repair of their home but some seniors will chose repairs. For those who choose to invest in the repair of their home the City should continue its involvement with programs such as H.O.M.E. (Household and Maintenance for Elderly) and the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, through the City's Office of Housing and Human Services. It is important that the City be on the leading edge of developing programs that help seniors maintain their homes.

The Housing Rehabilitation Program helps low and moderate income home owners maintain their homes and properties. Low interest loans up to \$25,000.00 are available on a first come first served basis. Most home improvements are eligible through this program, including safety, energy, and building-code related items. The loans include a 5% simple interest that accrues for a maximum of 10 years. Loan repayment is deferred until you sell your home or in 30 years, whichever occurs first.

**Eligibility Requirements for the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program:**

Household size and combined income limits, based on 2005 estimates, are listed below:

One person	\$40,600
Two people	\$46,400
Three people	\$52,200
Four people	\$58,000
Five people	\$62,650
Six people	\$67,300
Seven people	\$71,900
Eight people	\$76,550

In the 1996 report property taxes were identified as an area that could limit the amount of time a senior could afford to stay in their home. Although some people would have you believe otherwise, property taxes have not increased at a rate equal to the increased value residents have received for their homes. Seniors that have lived in a single family home in Eden Prairie since 1996 and have a current property value of \$300,000 have enjoyed a 92.61% increase in the market value of their home while property taxes have risen 8.95%. There are other areas that have had a larger impact on seniors including heating and electricity costs and increased costs for home maintenance.

Qualified senior renters have had many opportunities to reduce housing costs by utilizing Section 8 Housing Vouchers to reduce their rent payments or choosing to live in H.U.D. subsidized buildings. However, in the past four years budget cuts have substantially limited the availability of H.U.D. grants and vouchers.

Eden Prairie has a local Housing and Redevelopment Authority. However, it does not function to dispense Section 8 Vouchers but rather works with developers of apartments and townhomes to include affordable units in new construction. Eden Prairie residents apply for a Section 8 Voucher at the Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority in St. Paul. Unfortunately, the Metro HRA has not accepted applications for vouchers since 2000. There are 2,267 rental units in Eden Prairie that are available with a Section 8 Voucher. The owners of these properties have the ability to amend the number of affordable units based on total occupancy. Given the subjectivity of this program, the City should continue to work with developers and those interested in redevelopment to provide an affordable housing option for those who need it.

#### **EXPANDED HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ALLOWED BY CITY CODE**

There are currently no city codes that exist for what has been referred to as “mother- in- law” space. The codes that exist refer to the number of people who can occupy a space and what can be done to a single family home.

There is no limit to the number of related family members that can live under one roof but only six unrelated people may live under one roof. A person may rent out space in a single family home to either related or non-related people but that space can not have separate utilities or have an entrance that is closed off from the rest of the house. Currently the City is using the term “accessory apartments” to designate what others might call “mother-in-law apartments”. The publicizing of this option may allow for families and care givers to help seniors maintain their independence at a lower cost.

## **FUTURE ELDERLY HOUSING NEEDS**

Since 1996 the three basic factors that have influenced the City's elderly housing needs are:

- the number of residents who wish to remain and age in place;
- the number of elderly who may move out of Eden Prairie (for warm weather areas, states where living is more economical, or to be closer to family/friends) and
- the number of elderly that will move into Eden Prairie.

More recent factors that influence the city's housing needs are:

- more choices in housing for seniors.
- increased number of seniors as a percentage of the population.

Senior housing options ten years ago were single family homes, town homes or nursing homes. Options now, listed early in this section, show the complexities in meeting seniors' needs and communicating what those options are. Therefore, a centralized information source is needed for seniors to be able to compare their options.

Eden Prairie will need to work with developers to offer modern housing options. Since 1996 three townhouses have been built for every four single family homes. The development of senior housing with services has helped Eden Prairie meet the needs of the rising senior population. However, surrounding suburbs that have developed mixed use residences only draw attention to Eden Prairie's lack of a downtown. This lack of a downtown does not support economic development that meets senior's needs within walking distance of their residence such as a grocery store, post office and drug store. The two major shopping areas in Eden Prairie are from Highway 5 to highway 212 via Prairie Center Drive and the area around the intersections of Highway 4 and Highway 5. The area around Prairie Center Drive has seen the development of The Colony, Summit Place, and Real Life Co-op. Meanwhile the area around Highway 4 and Highway 5 has not seen the development of a new project from the time of the initial report. As noted earlier in this report, the latest data from the city shows only 467 acres of developable land remaining in our city. Eden Prairie will need to plan new development carefully, yet the 2005 plan for a major center area does not properly address senior concerns such as practical shopping, safe intersections and better sidewalks.

Strategies were adopted by the state to address the need for communities to develop affordable housing. The Livable Communities Act was established in 1995 as a voluntary, incentive-based approach to help the Twin Cities metropolitan area address affordable and lifecycle housing needs while providing funds to communities to assist them in carrying out their development plans. Of the \$128 million granted by the Metropolitan Council from 1996-2004, Eden Prairie received only \$300,000 in 1997 to assist with construction of 32 units of family rental town homes in eight 4-unit buildings on 3.3 acres known as Purgatory Creek Townhomes which focused on young families.

Eden Prairie should continue to participate in programs like the Livable Communities Act and update their Comprehensive Plan every 10 years to reflect the changes in the senior population.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Items in regular type were those made in the original report, and those marked # were deemed by the 1995 study committee to require earliest attention. *Comments in italics report the status of the original recommendations.* **Bold statements are new comments and suggestions.**

As a committee we view each of the 1996 recommendations with the utmost importance. We feel that each of the recommendations deserves equal weight.

- 1.# Continue to encourage a spectrum of senior-friendly and senior accessible housing opportunities with each new residential development, including apartments.  
*This recommendation has been met.*

**Continue to encourage development that is senior friendly. Support economic development and redevelopment around current senior residences that alleviates the senior's need to drive.**

- 2.# Maintain contacts with developers in order to achieve more affordable housing units, researching available programs and funds for reducing or buying down construction costs for this target population. This may involve higher densities and different manufacturing techniques.  
*This recommendation has been met.*

**Continue to partner with private developers and government agencies to develop more affordable senior friendly housing options.**

- 3.# Use full authority of Eden Prairie's Housing and Redevelopment Authority and other government agencies to support development of elderly housing. Subsidized rental units, such as those available in the H.U.D. complex called Edendale, are highly desirable.  
*This recommendation has not been met*

**Offer incentives for the development of mixed use residences within walking distance of senior friendly retail. Mixed use residences are defined as high density housing with first level retail which takes into account seniors needs.**

- 4.# To help the City Council and Planning Commission track the City's progress toward its affordable housing goals, regular reports, e.g. quarterly should be made that review total housing units authorized in the quarter and cumulative for the year, and affordable housing units authorized for the same time frames.  
*Unable to ascertain whether this goal has been met at this time.*

**Establish an annual public reporting requirement to track the City's progress toward affordable housing goals. The parties receiving the report should include; the City Council, the Office of Housing and Human Services, City Department Managers, and other interested City entities.**

- 5.# Continue to support H.O.M.E. and other programs that help the elderly remain in their homes.  
*This recommendation has been met.*

**Continue to support programs that help the elderly remain in their homes using grants, private sector partnerships, and a centralized information source.**

- 6.# Continue to offer seminars, programs, and classes to respond to economic situations affecting elderly, i.e. reverse mortgages, lifestyle opportunities, available assistance, etc.  
*This recommendation has been met*

**Recommend that the city continue to offer seminars and classes through the use of the Senior Center and by partnering with area providers. The goal of partnering is to minimize duplication and keep costs reasonable.**

- 7.# Maintain current City Code so “mother-in-law” use can occur in homes and publicize this housing option.  
*This recommendation has been met.*

**Maintain the City’s current positive view of “accessory apartments” as an option for seniors to maintain their independence. Publicize accessory apartments as an option through support groups, faith based institutions, and senior publications.**

8. Designate a City staff person or department to pursue grants or funds available for senior living.  
*The Senior Issues Task Force is not clear on the meaning of the original recommendation and we are unclear if it has been met or not.*

**The city should investigate either assigning an employee or obtaining a service whose responsibility it is to research and procure grant funding for senior housing options.**

9. Investigate the use of construction processes that take advantage of current technology to provide affordable elderly housing by lowering the cost of acceptable quality construction. (Goals are part of the City’s 1995 Housing Initiative and Goals.)  
*We were unable to ascertain whether this goal was met or not.*

**The City needs to assure that all construction meets universally accepted building codes and should weigh the option of holding community developers of senior housing to an appropriate standard for senior living.**

**These expectations should consider such items as fire and evacuation processes that take into account such things as sprinkler systems, weather, and the loss of power and heat. Presently, the Eden Prairie Fire Department has begun a process of gathering information on large facilities that will aid the Fire Department in their response to an emergency.**

**An exterior design and landscaping plan that takes into account people with physical limitations. This plan should include items such as strategically placed seating options, lighting that exceeds existing city code, and processes for the assurance of safety during adverse weather.**

**A plan that assures the free movement of seniors in a way that allows them to either bypass or have the appropriate amount of time needed to circumvent traffic and distance. These could be achieved through the use of pedestrian overpasses, bridging, ample medians, and senior only reserved parking for persons age 65 and older.**

#### **IV. SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR THE ELDERLY**

##### **Changes in Demographic Makeup**

It is still the case, as stated in the 1996 report that physical and psychological frailty can occur at any stage in life; however, as persons pass age 80, there often is an increase in the incidence of factors that require special adaptations and intervention. These include osteoporosis, arthritis, stroke, heart or lung insufficiency, dementia and cancer. This “oldest old” group is predicted to double in the next 25 years.

To appreciate the incredible potential for increased populations of the very aged, note that *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* states that by the year 2040 there will be over a million Americans 100 years old or older, compared to the current U.S. centenarian population of 37,300. Richard Suzman, head of the Office of Demography at the National Institute on Aging, predicts that “further medical breakthroughs – commonplace knee and hip replacements, for example – will allow millions of people to lead healthy and vigorous lives in their 90s.” Further, many baby boomer women have worked outside the home and have college degrees, making it more likely that they will be more affluent than their mothers and, presumably, will have better access to life-lengthening services.

Persons in this 85+ group are the ones putting the strain on the services, according to Kevin Kinsella, a co-author of a recent study released jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Institute of Aging. About 30% of Americans older than 85 have Alzheimer’s disease and about 24% live in nursing homes. Today, by age 85, many individuals need at least some assistance, often in the form of help with chores or transportation. One can speculate that given today’s baby boomer’s concern with fitness and better nutrition, the threshold of frailty may be pushed back somewhat but the sheer volume of an aging population will demand continued and expanded support systems.

The 2000 census (the last year for which accurate data are available) revealed that there were 486 individuals age 80 and older living in Eden Prairie. Our demographic projections suggest that by the year 2015, 939 Eden Prairie residents likely will fit that 80+ profile; but the major impact will be still to come as our projections indicate 2,135 individuals will be in the 70-79 age range in the year 2015.

##### **Changes noted by 2005 in Cost of Health Care for Elderly**

Demographics indicate that increasingly a significant number of elderly will need family, public, and fee-for-service assistance to live out their lives in future decades.

With a smaller proportion of wage-earners and larger numbers of frail elderly, financial pressures on Medicaid persist. With longer life expectancy, many elders outlive their personal financial resources by the time their frailty requires more services.

Concurrently, nursing home, home health care and assisted living costs continue to escalate. New technology, medicines and support systems are on the increase. The consumer is faced with an array of means to meet their health care needs at various cost levels, both funded and on a private pay basis.

Some individuals transfer their assets in order to meet the criteria for Medicaid assistance to pay for health care. There are new federal laws that attempt to control such asset transfers, putting new pressures on individuals and their families to find cost-effective solutions other than nursing homes to meet needs. New legislation, known as the Long-term Care Act, was introduced in the summer of 2005 to encourage, primarily through tax incentives, families to take financial responsibility for their futures and thus reduce the strain on federal and state funds.

### **Changes noted by 2005 in Family Caregiving**

The National Alliance for Caregiving, [www.caregiving.org](http://www.caregiving.org) estimates that one-quarter of U.S. households are directly caring for a disabled adult without compensation. It is expected that middle aged Americans may spend as many years caring for their spouse or parents as they do caring for their children. As many as 30-40% of the work force are juggling the demands of a career along with the added commitments of caring for an adult, which result in many care-giving employees experiencing more illnesses, leaves of absence and loss of productivity.

Given the smaller families of baby boomers, there will be fewer children to share the responsibility of meeting their parent's needs and many individuals will have no family support available from a following generation. There will be a need for a broad range of support systems to assist those older individuals while the adult children are at work and tending to their other responsibilities.

## **INFORMATION AND REFERRAL**

There exists a maze of services available to meet the needs of seniors. Barriers for the consumer in accessing information and referral services (I and R) exist in the following areas:

- Recognizing when assistance may be appropriate for the situation
- Identifying and enlisting appropriate resources quickly and easily
- Analyzing cost, funding resources, safety and security, and accessibility of service
- Engaging the service
- Attitudinal issues of seniors in accepting services

Various modes of information and referral exist within Eden Prairie. Many people access information through the Internet, faith communities, word of mouth, local social service providers and informal channels, such as the City or Senior Center receptionists.

## **Information and Referral Services Described in the Original Report**

Fairview Hospital's Health and Human Services in collaboration with Ebenezer Services, was a network of fee-for-service activities that included information and referral and case management services. These services are now only available to serve persons encountered through Fairview Hospital stays.

Jewish Family and Children's Service will provide information and referral services to seniors living in Hennepin County. This service is accessed by telephoning 952-546-0616. A case manager does an initial assessment of the senior's needs and then arranges the services and monitors these services on a regular basis. The fee for this service is \$100.00 per year. At the time of the 1996 study, this was a free service.

The faith community was contacted again this year to identify which are prepared to assist or refer their elderly parishioners with social service support needs. Of the 20 contacted, 12 churches responded to questions put before them. Ten of the churches offer programs for seniors at the minimum of once a month – mostly bible study. Five churches provide transportation to services upon request, usually by congregation members on a volunteer basis, although one church provides a bus to Summit Place. For the most part, social services available to seniors listed in church bulletins mention Meals on Wheels and PROP, if any are mentioned at all. When seniors make requests for assistance to their churches, temples or mosques, these requests are often fielded by the clergy. One of the respondents provides meals and helping hands (home maintenance) and another has a website for applications. Five churches designate an individual as someone responsible for seniors.

Senior Community Services, through the Senior Outreach Program, provides in-home counseling and service coordination to adults and their families to help older people remain independent. Currently, they report seeing more clients in the over 85 age group than in previous years. (Please see Demographics Section) In addition, assistance is being provided to more and more adult family caregivers looking for services for an older relative. Senior Outreach is funded approximately 50% by the City, 50% by Hennepin county, United Way, grants and gifts. Most of the referrals come from the Senior Center, apartment managers, police, Hennepin County Adult Protection, Senior Linkage Line, Prairie Adult Care and the Eden Prairie FamiLink Resource Center.

## **New or Expanded Information and Referral Services Since the Original Report Was Prepared**

- The Eden Prairie FamiLink Resource Center, a partnership between Eden Prairie Schools and the City of Eden Prairie, is a free and confidential information and referral source. It handles questions about housing, financial assistance, education, employment, family or health care supports, legal services or other resources. The Eden Prairie FamiLink office is located in the City of Eden Prairie's Office of Housing and Human Services which is on the lower level of the Eden Prairie Shopping Center. Offices are open daily with some hours reserved for walk-ins. The number is 952-294-5950.

- Eden Prairie Professionals in Aging, an informal local networking group, created a website in 1999 that directs the consumer to agencies in Eden Prairie working directly with seniors. The consumer can choose services from five categories: housing, health care, leisure and social services, recreation and volunteerism. Inquiries are directed to the agency website or to FamiLink. Consumers are more and more seeking resources online.
- Businesses are increasingly offering eldercare benefits that may include referral systems, flex time, family leave of absence, pre-tax eldercare expense deductions and others. These services are usually provided through the Human Resource Departments or a contracted National Eldercare Locator service.
- Support Groups for caregivers and specific disease management common in elderly populations, such as memory loss, Parkinson's, and strokes, are now available at Prairie Adult Care/Senior Community Services, Summit Place, The Colony, Alterra Clare Bridge, Pax Christi and others. These groups are sponsored by the host agencies and generally are affiliated with other non-profit disease management agencies.
- Care Managers may be hired to assist individuals or families in connecting to resources such as housing, medical care, financial and legal planning, and medical equipment. These services are available through private businesses or Hennepin County Aging and Disability Services.
- 24 Hour Information and Help Phone Numbers:
  - United Way 211 was formerly called First Call for Help or Senior Linkage Line and is now part of United Way. This free information service helps individuals identify resources to address their issues. From a landline, one dials 211. From a cell phone, a person calls 651-291-0211 or 1-800-543-7709.
  - 711 is a free service for hearing impaired callers. A communication assistant using TTY will relay the conversation to the phone number specified.
  - 911 is the emergency number for all emergencies. The call is free.
  - Crisis Connection is a 24 hour free crisis line; it is a telephone counseling service that can also give people information and refer them to appropriate services. Dial 612-379-6363.
  - In clarification, 411 is called Directory Assistance and is designed to provide the caller with both local and national telephone numbers. There is a charge for each call. People with disabilities may call the TTY line, 1-800-223-3131.
  - Senior Linkage Line is a resource line for senior issues/information at 1-800-333-2433

## TRANSPORTATION

### **Private Transportation**

Transportation is a significant barrier for many seniors in Eden Prairie. Older licensed drivers often avoid rush hours, night driving and driving during inclement weather for safety factors. Car ownership also raises garage issues for some, notably at Edendale where outdoor parking is inconvenient during any inclement weather and especially after snowstorms.

### **Public Transportation Commonly Used**

Most very elderly or frail seniors have had to give up driving their own vehicles and look to public resources. Besides using taxis and rides from family and friends, Eden Prairie's seniors use the following services:

- Southwest Metro Transit buses are handicapped accessible, increasing their appeal to some older citizens who can get to the bus station or other access points. Some appealing special routes include service to the annual Holidazzle Parades, the Minnesota State Fair and some professional sporting events in Minneapolis. Other services desired by seniors have been provided by SW Metro but have had to be discontinued due to high operating costs or low usage. These programs include Dial-A-Ride and some community circulator bus routes. A Shopping Bus provides transportation on Tuesdays from senior residences to Eden Prairie Center, the Eden Prairie Library, Cub Foods and Wal-Mart. The shopping bus has volunteers onboard to assist shoppers.
- Metro Mobility is available for persons who have extreme difficulty or are unable to use regular route transit service because of a disability or health condition. ADA Para transit Service provides "first-door-through-first-door" transportation in 89 communities throughout the metropolitan area for persons who are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-certified. Trips can be scheduled for any purpose. Metro Mobility, the local ADA Para transit Service, is a shared-ride public transportation system, so routes and schedules are designed to transport multiple passengers at one time to multiple destinations. Service hours are Mon-Fri 5:15 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Sat-Sun 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as room permits. A form must be completed to determine eligibility for service. There has been an increase in the fee for this service
- The Eden Prairie Senior Center van is part of a City transportation program to bring seniors to Senior Center sponsored activities and trips using volunteers and, occasionally, staff as drivers. Door to door transportation is also provided on Mondays for grocery shopping.
- Senior residence vans, available to residents only, are increasingly common, especially with those facilities that are not within walking distance of grocery or drug stores and other necessary services. These residence vans are also used for trips, outings, etc. There has been an increase in the number of senior residence vans.
- Special Needs Transportation is available for hire on a fee-for-trip basis at approximately \$20-\$25 plus \$1.50/mile per trip. Most provider's contract with Medical Assistance and other managed care. There has been an increase in the fee for this service
- Jewish Family and Children's Service will take seniors to medical and other appointments for \$3 per ride if their destination is within fifteen miles of their residence and if they are annual fee-paying clients (\$100).

- PROP (People Reaching Out to Other People) provides free taxi transportation to get seniors to medical appointments if they lack other transportation. There is no income verification for this service, but it is generally regarded as a service of last resort. A program utilizing volunteer drivers with their own cars has been discontinued.

### **Walkways**

To maintain good health and to extend mobility it is important to keep people active as they age. Eden Prairie's trails and sidewalks are well used by active seniors, especially those who live within close proximity to them. Able bodied as well as disabled persons find outdoor activity is possible if their place of residence has access to sidewalks and trails. Disabled and older residents who use motorized carts and walkers find that they cannot walk or ride on paths or cross intersections when the weather is inclement. . Even when snow is removed from sidewalks and intersections, there is usually ice remaining which the City does not attempt to remove.

## **HOUSING**

Although the original report included a section in this chapter about housing, the reader of the updated report is directed to the Housing section of this report.

## **FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES**

Some seniors find it difficult to buy and prepare meals. Getting to a grocery store can be difficult. Once at a store, however, motorized carts for physically handicapped shoppers are becoming common.

- Meals-On-Wheels are prepared at St. Andrew's Church and delivered by volunteers through local churches, corporations and the City. Cost is based on ability to pay, using a sliding scale. Hot meals are delivered mid-day Monday through Friday. Extra meals can be ordered. There is some ability to respond to persons with special needs diets.
- Home health service and homemaker agencies are available for individual meal preparation and shopping. These agencies are generally licensed and the number of agencies is growing.
- Community Dining - Many senior residences now include dining opportunities.
- Store-to-Door is a non-profit agency using volunteers as well as paid workers to shop and deliver groceries biweekly. This service is now available to any resident of Eden Prairie.
- Home delivered groceries are available through Simon Delivers, frozen meals through Schwan's and others. Seattle Sutton provides meals with increased calories for seniors.

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL ISSUES OF THE FRAIL ELDERLY**

Although the original report included a section in this chapter about legal and financial issues, the reader of this updated report is directed to the Legal and Safety Issues section of this report.

## SERVICES COMMONLY USED BY THE ELDERLY IN EDEN PRAIRIE

Although there are many resources available to Eden Prairie's aging residents, the Senior Center, Senior Outreach and PROP appear to be the most used and best known:

**The Senior Center** serves several roles in addition to its important communication linkage:

- The Center's many socialization opportunities seem most used by the 70+ age group.
- Transportation is arranged for senior socialization and education services, and other activities held primarily at the Senior Center.
- Some medical services including immunization and foot care clinics are made available at the Senior Center.

**Senior Outreach** case workers provide on-going case management. This program has been discussed in detail in the Information and Referral section of this chapter.

**People Reaching Out to People (PROP)** is available to Eden Prairie and Chanhassen residents with a broad range of services to meet emergency needs. Seniors use PROP primarily for:

- food shelf providing 4 days of food at a time;
- no-interest-loans and occasionally grants after an interview with the director or social worker,
- taxi rides to medical appointments if unable to provide their own,
- seasonal programs including holiday food and gifts.
- PROP is open from 9 to 12:15 weekdays and from 4 to 6:45 P.M. on Wednesday evenings, with other hours by appointment.

**Prairie Adult Care** is a licensed adult day program, providing medical care, rehabilitation, social recreation, caregiver respite, referral and support groups. It is housed in the Victory Lutheran church and provides care for 24 persons/day.

Private for profit and non-profit home health care agencies have increased in number and are available to Eden Prairie residents.

**Hennepin County Aging and Disabilities Services** also provide a variety of nursing and social services to residents who meet low-income guidelines

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT SYSTEMS SUB-COMMITTEE

Items in regular type were those made in the original report, and those marked # were deemed by the 1995 study committee to require earliest attention. *Comments in italics report status of the original recommendations.* **Bold statements are new comments and suggestions.**

### **Transportation**

Transportation likely will always be difficult for the most frail of our citizens, but a continued sensitivity to their needs and vigilance to protect and expand current services is an appropriate role of the City.

- 1.# Dial-a-Ride by SW Metro is a service much appreciated by older residents who cannot drive some or all of the time. Current vehicles are equipped to accommodate the handicapped. These services need to be maintained and expanded to include more evening and weekend availability. Some expansion routes should be encouraged, especially to Methodist Hospital, Glen Lake and possibly a connection to the MTC routes in Hopkins.

*Although Dial-a-ride has been discontinued due to high costs, SW Metro continues to try new strategies to meet the needs of Eden Prairie residents.*

**This recommendation has not been met. In view of a larger senior population, some seniors will need a service to replace Dial-a Ride. The City is encouraged to find a way to meet the unmet expansion route needs, especially getting Eden Prairie residents to medical care facilities. The City and Southwest Metro should work together to access any federal funds that are available for transportation for seniors and the disabled.**

**The City should create a Transportation Commission that could review the existing problems and recommendations outlined in this report and pursue collaboration of private, public and volunteer systems to expand services to seniors.**

- 2.# Metro Mobility's reliability is not highly regarded by EP seniors with whom we spoke, but until alternative transportation meeting expanded hours and destination availability is available, the City should work to keep EP from being dropped from Metro Mobility's area of service as has been threatened.

*Metro Mobility no longer seems to be in danger of dropping Eden Prairie from its service area. Although many seniors still do not regard the program highly, it apparently works for persons who understand the system.*

**Metro Mobility Customer Service is available to present informational sessions to city groups. This information would be helpful in eliminating barriers to access.**

3.# Liability issues deter some potential drivers from volunteering to drive seniors (and others) to activities and medical appointments. Drivers using their own vehicles find that their personal insurance policies are primary. Making City-owned vehicles available for volunteer driver duties could ease the liability worries of potential drivers. Umbrella insurance policies of the City and PROP should be analyzed and revised, if necessary, to provide protection. Other cities contract with RSVP to increase the availability of volunteers by expanding insurance coverage and by making reimbursement of mileage possible to lower-income volunteer drivers.  
*This issue has been at least in part responsible for the fact that PROP has discontinued providing volunteer drivers for seniors' medical appointments. The City provides vehicles for Senior Center volunteers to use if they choose.*

4.# As new housing units targeting seniors are built, the City should encourage apartment owners to make vans purchased for transportation of their residents also available to others in the community.  
*This has not happened*

**A collaboration of private transportation utilizing existing residential vans is recommended. This collaboration could be a good marketing tool for the residence and help create a critical mass for some events and speakers.**

5.# The possibility of coordinating small bus/van transportation with the school district should be explored.  
*We are unaware of any discussion of this possibility.*

**Seniors are not enthusiastic about riding school buses. The new Task Force does not support this resolution.**

6. The City should remain sensitive to critical needs in transportation. A coalition of cities, counties and other government units with organizations (such as SHERPA, Area Agency on Aging, etc. could be formed to negotiate with HMOs and other medical institutions to find better solutions to the medical transportation issues created by the centralization of medical services. This centralization saves institutional money at the price of transportation difficulties for patients when specialists and tests are only offered at remote locations.  
*We are unaware of any efforts on this issue.*

**We encourage investigating the possibility of participating in the Metropolitan Council funded transportation grant currently coordinated by Ron Block for Senior Community Services and Prism. We encourage the transportation committee (that evolved when PROP discontinued providing volunteer drivers for senior medical appointments) to investigate other cities' grass roots initiatives to provide transportation. Examples are the Atlanta Regional Commission's driving pool with discount vouchers, or car clubs that purchase a car and share with a younger driver/chauffeur.**

7. As our SW Metro system evolves, make sure there is a regularly scheduled loop within the local area that would travel a defined route and stop at key high-traffic spots such as the bus depot, mall, City Center, Community Center, and significant retail and medical service areas.

*This system was created but has been downsized due to low usage and high cost.*

**An expanded route system is recommended.**

8. City vehicles intended for the primary use of seniors should be outfitted with hand holds for getting in and out of the vehicles, as well as bench armrests that fold out of the way to ease access. A city-owned station wagon may be more easily accessed and possibly more economical than an additional van when purchase of another city vehicle for transporting seniors is contemplated.

*The small diesel buses donated by SW Metro filled this need nicely, but they are no longer in use and current Senior Center transportation is not senior-friendly. Some think that station wagons and mini vans are hard to get into and out of.*

**Any acquisition of a City vehicle should be evaluated for accessibility before purchase. Existing vehicles should be retrofitted to be accessible.**

- 9.# Directions should be given for the creation, maintenance and lighting of paths to connect senior apartment residents to nearby services by foot or automated wheelchairs of the type commonly used by the frail.

- 10.# Pedestrian routes and intersection sidewalks located near senior complexes should receive special attention in icy or snowy conditions.

- 11.# Where roadways need to be crossed to get to services, an island and midpoint pedestrian signal button should be considered.

*It does not appear that these three items have been seriously addressed.*

**The creation, maintenance and lighting of sidewalks, paths, trails and pedestrian islands are important to seniors as well as to the rest of the community. Removing ice as well as snow is important in those areas that continue to be used during the winter.**

12. A Task Force of interested individuals spearheaded by the Senior Center Board; the Housing Transportation and Human Service Council; the Needs and Resources Council; or Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce could be charged with the task of identifying ways that businesses might be more sensitive to senior populations. Examples would be creating heated and air conditioned waiting areas with seating within stores, especially in sight of where Dial-a-Ride vans and cabs arrive; a few convenient close-in parking spots designated for seniors; designating special deals at non-peak times or days; publicizing delivery services, etc.

*There has been some progress in this regard but not enough. Although Dial-a-Ride no longer exists, there are other shopping bus options that make this recommendation still valid.*

**This recommendation still stands.**

## **Housing for the Frail Elderly**

The Task Force dealing with Housing issues has addressed these issues. Check that chapter for comments.

- 1.# Construction or conversion of a range of housing types meeting the needs of the elderly should be encouraged by the City. This would include lower priced senior apartments, assisted living units and adult foster homes.  
*This issue is addressed in the Housing chapter. See Recommendation #2.*
- 2.# It would be wise for the city to insist that future construction aimed at seniors should include some garages or underground parking.  
*This issue is addressed in the Housing chapter. See Recommendation #9.*
- 3.# Ideally, new construction designed for the elderly should be planned near necessary services such as a grocery, drug store, a bank or ATM machine and medical services. To maximize access to these services, it seems wise to cluster senior residences near a convenience center such as the intersection of TH 5 and Co. Rd. 4.  
*This issue is addressed in the Housing chapter. See Recommendation #3.*

## **Social Services and Support Systems**

- 1.# Organizations of the type of Senior Outreach, H.O.M.E., etc., will be essential to allow larger populations of the frail and elderly to remain outside institutions by using affordable services based on their ability to pay. Retaining this type of support system must be a government priority and may require an increased City investment.  
*The City continues to recognize its essential role in maintaining a local support system, although it has been challenged recently.*

**We strongly encourage the City to maintain its role in assuring that a safety net continues to exist for Eden Prairie citizens. This issue should be specifically addressed in the City's new ten-year comprehensive plan**

- 2.# Efforts should be made to inform local clergy and congregations about resources that are available to residents, including seniors.  
*This need still exists since our survey suggests limited and sporadic awareness of local senior safety net issues, especially with smaller congregations in Eden Prairie.*

**Local faith communities should be made aware of how to direct their seniors to resources available for them. A document outlining available resources should be prepared and distributed to local area faith communities. Faith communities should be encouraged to link their websites to the Senior Center, FamiLink, Eden Prairie Professionals In Aging and Senior Community Services.**

3. A clearing-house of services possibly like the “Chore Corps” should be created and maintained so that residents can access market rate or sliding scale services from persons whose reputations and work product have been checked for criminal background and reliability. Such services could include personal care and homemaker services; yard work, maintenance and trade people; friendly visitors, respite workers and companions. Service deliverers should include young adults and school children. See recommendations under “Information services, referrals” for suggestions on coordination. *This recommendation has not been implemented.*

**There is still interest in creating a resource where citizens, especially senior citizens, can access lists of reliable and available service providers, with free or sliding scale fees.**

4. If national and state resources can no longer support the social service network for seniors, some effort should be made by the City to make sure that the services remain available to our residents, using persuasion to civic organizations and philanthropists as well as City resources. Since the needs and issues will be universal, one would hope that medical advances and national attention to identify strategies will provide some solutions on a broader scale than just the City acting on its own. *This resource issue has indeed become an issue. The City has so far done a good job of maintaining its part in providing support to essential social services. Most civic organizations with limited resources choose specific needs to address on a one time basis and do not provide operating funds.*

**We strongly encourage the City to maintain its contribution to essential social services, such as Senior Community Services.**

### **Information Services/Referrals**

- 1.# Perhaps the most critical problem is the need to quickly access appropriate resources when needs arise and to monitor the process afterwards to make sure that the citizen’s needs were met to the extent possible. History suggests that people do not recall or reach for available information until they are ready to use it. The Senior Linkage Line, the EP Senior Center, and the City receptionist are probably the best access points to request information about available services, but the current set-up is not designed to provide follow-up status, a situation that may be remedied by the creation of the Family Service Collaborative. If not, these services might be assigned to City staff, perhaps at the Senior Center.

*The Resource Center component of the Family Service Collaborative has been re-organized. Eden Prairie now has the Eden Prairie FamiLink Resource Center serving residents Monday through Friday. FamiLink and Senior Community Services are able to address some of these needs. City and Senior Center staff have not been adequately trained to be able to provide thorough recommendations.*

**Since so many requests for information come initially to the City and Senior Center receptionists, there needs to be better training for individuals in those positions so they know where to direct callers and internet inquiries. All City media, such as the EP News’s Community Guide, City publications, City website, etc should direct citizens to trained staff at the most common entry points: Senior Center, Senior Community Services and FamiLink.**

- 2.# The Senior Center currently is the primary first point of access for information about services available. It makes sense that it continue to be kept knowledgeable about linkages and services that are available, and it should be linked in at some point as a provider in the Family Service Collaborative network.  
*The Family Service Collaborative has been reorganized.*

**See recommendation above.**

3. As Eden Prairie establishes its website, there should be a page for the Senior Center and for social services available to residents, especially seniors.  
*Although the Eden Prairie website contains a great deal of interesting information, it has proven difficult to navigate to senior resources.*

**The website should be made more user-friendly to access information about services for seniors. Revise the City website for easier access to:**

- **Senior Center**
- **Senior Community Services**
- **FamiLink**
- **Eden Prairie Professionals in Aging**
- **Housing and Human Services**
- **Caregiver Support**
- **Chamber of Commerce Human Resources**
- **Eden Prairie Volunteers**

4. There are three areas of senior information and referral that would enhance the current system:
- An ongoing effort to keep the listing of service providers current;
  - Maintenance of a list of “Chore Corps” types of service providers; and
  - Provision of a clearinghouse to match volunteers with appropriate opportunities
- The creation of Eden Prairie Volunteers, a web sight to match volunteers with volunteer opportunities means that one of these recommendations has been met.*

**We agree with the original recommendations.**

5. Informal as well as organized service providers need to be identified locally and those lists maintained so the information is current and goes significantly beyond what is available on the “First Call for Help” data base used by the Senior Linkage Line. These informal resources could include neighbors who are willing to be a friendly supporter and mentor to nearby seniors, as well as students and members of youth groups and civic organizations.  
*This has not happened except to the extent that the Eden Prairie FamiLink office has identified resources.*

**We agree with the original recommendation.**

6. Senior citizens especially wish to have a place to go for names of persons who do chores who have been previously checked for criminal backgrounds and quality work product.

These service providers could include students who wish to earn cash or volunteer credits as well as senior volunteers or persons for whom the service is their livelihood.

*This has not happened.*

**We agree with the original recommendation.**

## V. LEGAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES – CRIME/LIFE SAFETY

The well-being of an entire community is reflected in how well it's most vulnerable residents fare. Seniors make up a particularly vulnerable group. The aging process reduces physical and sometimes mental abilities making seniors prime targets for crimes. It also makes them more likely to require Public Safety services like 911 for medical emergencies. Some specific legal issues also come into play at this point in life. Issues of retirement, financial control, medical directives and wills are just a few.

This section of the report reviews these issues and outlines steps the community can take to ensure that seniors in Eden Prairie do not become victims, but rather are empowered to live out their lives in a safe environment as contributing members of the community.

### CRIMINAL ISSUES

In response to these issues and the elderly, The Minnesota Attorney General's Office [www.ag.state.mn.us](http://www.ag.state.mn.us) first issued a document called *Senior's Legal Rights* in 1992 and updated it in 2004. It describes dozens of scams, frauds, and cons, many of which are common pitfalls for people in general, and for seniors in particular. For a variety of reasons – frailty, mental lapses, technical naiveté trusting natures, etc. – senior citizens are more susceptible than the general population to becoming victims. *Senior's Legal Rights* describes in specific and easily understood terms the various schemes that one might encounter. It tells how to spot schemes, how to avoid them and what to do if victimized by them.

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office also published a booklet in 2004 called *Guarding Your Privacy* regarding the perils and prevention of identity theft. This work complements rather than overlaps the *Senior's Legal Rights* publication. Identity thefts come in two basic varieties. In one, the thief uses data about a person to pretend to be that person to open accounts, credit lines, etc. that will ultimately be charged to the victim. In the other, the thief uses personal data to gain access to the victim's own credit or bank accounts. The booklet describes several measures that individuals can take to avoid identity theft as well as the steps to take in the event of becoming a victim, and includes a form for reporting the crime and for re-establishing damaged credit.

Disappointingly, neither of these Attorney General's booklets adequately cover the new on-line scam technique called "phishing", by which e-mail spammers pose as legitimate businesses to trick victims into revealing account numbers, etc. For these kinds of scams, we can add unfamiliarity with the on-line world to the typical seniors' characteristics already mentioned that make them prime candidates for victimization.

The Eden Prairie Police Department is able to report that there are still relatively few instances of these types of crimes in Eden Prairie. However, that does not mean we can ignore the danger, particularly during a time of growth of our senior population.

The 1995 Minnesota Vulnerable Adults Act was updated in 2004. It can be found on-line at [www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us) under statute #626.557. This law states that "the public policy of this state is to protect adults who... are particularly vulnerable to maltreatment... (and) to require the reporting of suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults." It also provides for immunity for whistle-blowers.

Significantly, the definition of “vulnerable adult” has been expanded to include any “resident or inpatient of a facility” in addition to the former definition of one who has “a physical, mental, or emotional infirmity.”

The Minnesota Vulnerable Adults Act also requires that “each county board shall designate a common entry point for reports of suspected maltreatment”. The “common entry point” is an administrative tool for law enforcement professionals rather than a reporting conduit for the use of the average citizen. It has been implemented in Hennepin County, and the Eden Prairie Police Department uses this system to report such incidents.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services offers assistance in the area of protecting vulnerable adults. Two of their brochures, entitled *Help Protect People Who are Frail or Vulnerable*, and *Reporting Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment* are particularly applicable, though both leave much to be desired. The brochure on Reporting says “Call your local Common Entry Point” without stating what or where that is, or that the Common Entry Point is not even intended for use by the public. Poor editing and grammar in both brochures reflect badly on the Department of Human Services and weaken their messages.

Cornerstone Advocacy Services, mentioned in the 1996 report continues to provide aid for victims of family or spousal abuse, and functions in 2005 almost exactly as it did in 1996.

The Senior Center brochure rack currently has only two brochures, one on telephone scams and one on senior’s legal rights. Some Eden Prairie senior residences have brochure racks that occasionally include safety and legal information; some do not. The Eden Prairie Police web site contains an excellent page on identity theft. Printed information is available to walk-up people at city hall.

While still on the force, Officer Joyce Conley gave seminars on personal and data safety at Eden Prairie senior residences and at the Senior Center. Most of the senior residences encourage their clients to attend off-site seminars on safety and legal topics when offered at the Senior Center, and offer in-house seminars and briefings by police officers. Summit Place is particularly active in this area, with several such meetings each year. The fall 2005 Eden Prairie Community Education brochure offered one 90-minute seminar on protecting against identity theft at a cost of \$14 per head, which some thought was too little for too much. In September, the Senior Center offered a one-hour seminar for a fee of \$2.00, which was attended by only about a dozen people. No additional seminars are on the schedule in 2005.

In summary, while crime prevention can never be completely effective, there is a wealth of information available designed to help senior citizens avoid becoming victims. The duty of the city government should be to see that this information reaches them.

## **LIFE SAFETY**

The vulnerability of the senior population is demonstrated in calls regarding medical emergencies. Medical emergencies reported using the 911 number are answered by an Eden Prairie dispatcher. Police and rescue squads respond depending on the call. Eden Prairie police response times are typically 5-7 minutes.

In 1996 the City had four portable defibrillators. Now there are defibrillators in every school, library, the Eden Prairie Mall, City Hall and many other public locations. The Fire and Police Departments each have at least eight, making fifty available to the community.

Seniors involved in auto accidents aren't dealt with any differently than any other trapped victim. Everyone is trained in extrication and handles all victims in the safest possible way.

The City started a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in 2003. CERT Members are volunteers in the community that are trained to respond to disasters and emergencies within the City. The team members are familiar with their area and respond accordingly.

TRIAD, a collaboration of AARP and the National Sheriffs Association and the local Police Department, has generated local councils known as S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together). These councils have involved seniors in many efforts that increase awareness and well-being and help deter crime. There are many chapters in the surrounding counties, but not currently in Eden Prairie.

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

All items written in the November 1996 Senior Issues Task Force report are still very pertinent in 2005. It is extremely important for seniors as well as all Eden Prairie residents to adhere to all of the legal issues mentioned in the 1996 report.

Two new items in this report are Long Term Care insurance that can help protect retirement income and savings and Elder Services offered by financial institutions. Larger financial institutions have special departments whose primary function is to handle finances for the elderly. Wells Fargo offers Elder Services and is targeted for those individuals between 80 and 100 years with assets of \$250,000 plus. An annual fee for this service is 1 ¾ % of assets under management or a \$4500 minimum annual fee. This program includes document identification and review, healthcare planning and coordination, asset and liability management, tax planning and coordination and estate planning and settlement. It is important to deal with the larger financial institutions because if there is a problem with your account and monies, they have deeper pockets for the recovery of missing funds.

This is a great service for those who can afford it. There are many elder citizens outside these parameters that are vulnerable. These citizens are not protected with replacement funds by a government agency should they lose their retirement savings to scam artists. They are simply left penniless, which puts an additional burden on the community to take care of them. The real question is, is the City of Eden Prairie prepared to offer financial assistance to these elder citizens?

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

Items in regular type were those made in the original report, and those marked # were deemed by the 1995 study committee to require earliest attention. *Comments in italics report the status of the original recommendations. Bold statements are new comments and suggestions.*

- 1.# Maintain adequate and well-equipped emergency response teams and encourage ongoing training to deal properly with problems more common in the older population.  
*This recommendation has been and continues to be implemented.*

**We include this recommendation in the 2005 report not because of any failure to follow through in the past but because it is an ongoing process that can never be considered complete.**

- 2.# Continue provision of locally presented seminars, short courses on legal issues and related topics by knowledgeable persons without a vested interest in signing up new clients.  
*This recommendation has been carried out, though perhaps not as vigorously as it might have been.*

**We recommend the Police Department schedule regular legal and safety seminars at the Senior Center and at the various senior residences and consider establishing a permanent position of “senior liaison” officer.**

**Legal and safety publications, such as the state Attorney General’s *Guarding Your Privacy and Senior’s Legal Rights* should be available for pick up at senior residences and at the Senior Center and should always be included in the “welcome packages” given to new residents.**

- 3.# The City, in association with local civic groups, should: organize a buddy emergency system to check on vulnerable seniors, particularly in weather emergencies;  
*The City implemented a Community Response Team (CERT) in 2003. The CERT team covers the Community as a whole. It is not specific to seniors, but it does include them.*

**We agree with the original recommendation.**

4. Collaborate, using public safety personnel, to provide public information on how to protect against household hazards, abuse and scams;  
*This is being done.*

**Like many programs, improvements can always be made. The more programs that are implemented by the police department the more benefit to seniors in the community.**

5. Identify a local sponsor for medical information canisters, File of Life or the latest technology for the refrigerators of older citizens whose medical emergencies may require some medical history and listing of medications.  
*In the past, sponsors have been the Eden Prairie Crime Fund, a grant, or from the Police departments budget.*

**To eliminate the time spent finding a sponsor every year, we recommend that sponsoring the File of Life program be regularly included in the Police Department's budget.**

## **VI. EMPLOYMENT AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES**

“For many, retirement will indeed no longer signal the end of working, but more so a career of lifestyle transition, where the retiree has multiple options...” (Randall S. Hanson, PhD.) Consequently current and future “Boomers” are seeking varied outlets for the second phase of their lives. There are multiple driving forces for this and future generations of retirees, including the desire to stay mentally active, the need to find new endeavors to replace their previous career identities, the desire to fulfill pent up leisure and recreational interests, and for many, the need for supplemental money to afford the lifestyle they desire. Activities for many may include volunteering, pursuing hobbies, travel, study and recreation/sporting activities. Unique to the emerging generation is later retirement, which may include greater emphasis on part time work or even full time second careers.

Retirement is a very personal endeavor and not a “one size fits all” phase of individuals’ lives. Each individual must seek and find his/her own appropriate role in that phase of their lives. Eden Prairie, Hennepin County and the State of Minnesota have a core, if limited, infrastructure to assist individuals to find a fulfilling retirement, including physical activities, socialization opportunities (hobbies, travel, and recreation), volunteering, and a variety of adult education opportunities. The leadership of Eden Prairie must continue the difficult job of finding the appropriate balance between desired senior support functions and funds available.

To find the optimum balance of cost versus City services to seniors, the City must stay attuned to the changing retirement lifestyles desired by the senior population as well as the increasing numbers in the senior population. The Senior Center Advisory Board should be considered one source of information to help guide the City’s investment in senior programs. Additionally, the City would benefit from a periodic annual or semi-annual review of demographics, programs, and changing lifestyle wishes and needs of all seniors. Consideration should be given to assigning a City staff member the responsibility for seeing that a periodic update is provided to the City.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

The previously assumed retirement age of 60 or 65 is no longer in effect since many companies have found it necessary to “downsize / right size / optimize” their operations. In spite of anti-discrimination age laws, it is often the older workers who are given the “opportunity to retire” at an earlier age than in previous years. This forces individual decisions regarding future work and leisure plans. Most individuals of this and future generations opt for meaningful pursuits after retiring from their working careers. However, the definition of “meaningful” activities continues to be a very personal choice.

Whether or not older adults will continue to work will depend on many personal factors such as:

- Ability to pay bills, raise standard of living, provide financial security
- Provide health insurance and prescription coverage
- Maintain a level of skills which have been developed and enjoyed
- Stay active, productive with a feeling of usefulness
- Get out of the house; a place to go each day
- Fulfilling the human need to socialize
- Generate a feeling of contributing to society

For many persons, working in retirement is not an option; it is a necessity. For the fortunate, the decision of whether or not to continue working is made for non-economic reasons. Eden Prairie is fortunate to have a significant number of seniors who will not need to continue working for economic reasons. Even so, the City needs to systematically reevaluate its investment in support of seniors so the City will be considered “a good place to retire.”

Those individuals who wish to continue work after retirement do not fit a rigid mold. Some will continue with technology-based home businesses. Others will find fulfillment and profitable work as consultants in their field of expertise. Many will start new careers in fields entirely unrelated to their previous careers. Some will want jobs with no major decision-making responsibilities and will simply want to work part time for income supplement. Regardless of the path individuals choose after retirement, the City can play a role in helping individuals find fulfillment in retirement.

The City of Eden Prairie has a diverse business community utilizing a wide variety of skills, mostly in the technology, professional and retail fields. With the increase in housing directed toward seniors and the growth of the City’s retail business, there will be increasing opportunity in retailing for those who wish to continue working in that field. The City also has a large number of small start-up businesses, many high tech, that might benefit from the availability of expertise possessed by retirees, either as full time, part-time or consultant employees. Retired individuals offer a wealth of lifetime experience and skill that the City can utilize by offering meaningful and fulfilling volunteer opportunities to serve.

The role of the City as related to residents’ post-retirement options is admittedly limited. However, most of the factors that contribute to the quality of life for all residents apply equally to the senior population:

- Effective City government (listens to residents and reacts to needs)
- Control of government costs (control of taxes)
- Business-supportive City government (for business/job growth)
- Technology awareness and support (to communicate and stay competitive)
- Services and programs appropriate to significant segments of City population (social safety net)
- User friendly City parks, walks, transportation and information

## **EDUCATION**

Many older adults chose to continue their education for many reasons. Their educational choices include post-secondary institutions, local community education programs, the Senior Center, organizations such as Elderhostel and alumni associations, art centers and even the internet.

Many colleges and universities offer discounted tuition or free classes for seniors. Information on college programs relating to seniors change constantly. Information regarding classes can be found on the internet or by calling local colleges for their senior discounts and programs.

## **VOLUNTEERISM**

Eden Prairie offers many opportunities for seniors to volunteer. Many of these opportunities include school programs, churches, PROP, Senior Center, Shopping Bus, clubs and civic organizations.

It is clear that persons who have lived in a culture that values volunteerism will continue to volunteer as they age. Many seniors are proud of the community in which they live and when they retire they are grateful to have the opportunity to give back to their community through volunteerism.

The Senior Center offers a wide spectrum of volunteer opportunities for our seniors; however, to be successful, the Center needs a system of volunteer coordination. There needs to be a central clearing house to provide and educate seniors on what volunteer opportunities are available. At this time the responsibility of volunteers falls on City staff per their service area. This is not the most effective way to work with volunteers as they have not one supervisor to report to, but as many as four or five.

## **SOCIALIZATION/RECREATION**

Being fit, healthy and active not only improves one's physical state but one's mood and emotional state as well. Many older adults become very lonely and depressed as they age and if their moods could be improved through exercise, it would benefit them greatly. There are many studies that support the benefits of exercise on one's outlook on life as well as social interaction. In addition, the research is slowly beginning to indicate that physical activity may improve memory, mental arithmetic and problem solving in older adults. This makes sense, as the brain is similar to muscle, if it is not used well it will atrophy. For the brain to remain fit, it needs challenges, like learning new skills (recreation or education). (*Older Adults Say Yes to Yoga*, Nanette Tummer, Ed.D & Frank Hendrick, Ph.D.; NRPA magazine)

Retirees today are predominantly healthy and active. They have activities planned to which they have been looking forward to and usually have sufficient resources to be able to pursue those interests.

The City of Eden Prairie's Parks and Recreation Department provides an extensive array of facilities and services that serve all population groups in the City with the stated goal of fostering a high quality living environment and providing healthy, safe, enjoyable leisure time opportunities for all segments of the population. ( See Appendix C "Benefits are Endless in Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation."). Seniors of Eden Prairie are fortunate to have these programs, services and facilities which offer many senior-appropriate opportunities to stay physically fit, mentally stimulated and emotionally healthy. With the recent passage of a \$13.3 million referendum for improving the City's parks, trails and Community Center, the City has a great opportunity to make our City even more livable for all residents, and at the same time, ensure that the improvements are senior friendly and take into account the needs of our growing senior population.

Community organizations provide continued chances to socialize, volunteer and be involved. They include the Women's Club, Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis.

"Singles" groups have become more popular as a social outlet for seniors who have lost their spouse. Senior Centers, Churches and other organizations are picking up on this wave and offering this fun, social program.

Travel has become more and more popular with seniors today as they retire. Many travel agencies cater to senior needs and offer opportunities to travel at group rates available through the Senior Center, churches, AARP, and other groups.

The baby boomers will be a group to plan for in future years. They are a group that wants it all as they believe they will never grow up. Baby boomers do not want to be classified as a "senior." Their interests range from self-help classes (yoga, meditation), to health and fitness programs to "search for experiences" type classes (local history by bicycle) and finally the "down to earth and practical" programs (i.e., web cams; simplify your life, planning for un-retirement). Baby boomers spend big accounting for 50% of all expenditures on furniture, 49% of all expenditures for housing and 52% of all expenditures on entertainment. They are the majority of the moviegoers and arts audiences (1946-1955). (Source: Morgan and Levy, *Marketing to the Mindset of Boomers and their Elders*).

As mentioned earlier in this report, the baby boomers are a group to give of their free time as volunteers. Based on the number of volunteer opportunities available in Eden Prairie, the City should have a formal system of volunteer coordination.

### **The Senior Center**

The Senior Center and its adult programs are under the governance of Eden Prairies Parks and Recreation and are staffed by two full-time employees, who have responsibilities to the Parks and Recreation Department beyond the Senior Center's operations.

## **The Building**

The Senior Center is located in the City's original and expanded City Hall. It is unique among our neighboring communities in that the building almost exclusively serves seniors.

Our Senior Center has become a very active place as it is now being used for senior programs, general recreation programs, and rentals. The building is well used throughout the day for programs, Monday through Friday, and every Saturday (Sept. – May) for rentals. Facility rentals have become very popular at the Senior Center. Many groups and families rent the Senior Center for meetings and family gatherings. Given the current layout of the facility, it appears the building has adequate space for its current needs. Although, 4 out of 6 special events take place off site due to a lack of space in the lower level of the building. Access at the ground and first levels and the elevator make the building accessible. Participants in Center programs generally express appreciation for the investment that the City has made in the current facility.

## **Senior Center Programs**

The Senior Center is used daily for various activities. Classes are offered quarterly and social clubs meet on a regular basis. Six special events are offered yearly. The Center also provides speakers, on a quarterly basis, on topics related to senior issues. A variety of day and extended trips are provided to those who enjoy getting out and about. Health and Wellness services are offered throughout the year. Exercise classes are offered daily at the Center to meet the needs of the active adult/senior.

Senior Outreach has been mentioned in the previous chapter on social services. It maintains two case workers out of offices in the Eden Prairie Senior Center. Although these workers also serve seniors in neighboring cities, Eden Prairie residents undoubtedly enjoy a superior level of service because of their presence here.

The Senior Center has become an information and referral center, although the tools available to fulfill that mission are limited.

## **The Senior Newsletter**

The Eden Prairie Echoes is the senior newsletter which reaches about half of the senior population in the City. It is a free publication. Given the stated need for more communication with seniors, it seems an appropriate City expenditure.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

Items in regular type were those made in the original report, and those marked # were deemed by the 1995 study committee to require earliest attention. *Comments in italics report the status of the original recommendations. Bold statements are new comments and suggestions.*

- 1.# The City must continue to guard against age discrimination in its own hiring and employee policies.  
*Met – City has a demonstrated practice of non- discrimination.*

**We recommend the City continue this practice and review existing policies and procedures on an ongoing basis.**

- 2.# To the extent possible, the City should help enforce the laws that provide protection against age discrimination and continue to support programs such as mediation that help citizens resolve their issues of perceived discrimination.  
*There has been little opportunity for the City to “support” programs such as mediation. However, by supporting the work and recommendations of the Human Rights and Diversity Commission, the City has set an example and established an atmosphere that is not conducive to discrimination.*

**These practices need to be continued.**

- 3.# The City should continue to network with the school district’s Community Education services to maintain a broad range of opportunities for residents. The City should consider cooperating with the Hopkins and Minnetonka Schools as well as Eden Prairie schools.  
*There is evidence that good cooperation exists between the City and School Districts.*

**When planning for the social and recreational needs of seniors in Eden Prairie, the City should continue to develop partnerships with local senior residences, neighboring communities, the Eden Prairie school district and churches to allow for non-duplication of programs, and the efficient use of resources.**

4. Loss of purchasing power by persons no longer in the workplace causes significant problems. By restraining growth of government, the City can control the growth of its portion of taxes, thereby reducing one of the inflationary effects on senior’s budgets. Perhaps the deferred tax system can be expanded or there can be a system similar to the one in place with Hennepin County that allows seniors to work to pay off part of their City taxes.  
*The tax burden on seniors continues to be an issue of concern.*

**Many seniors, many of whom are on fixed incomes, feel significant pressure by continuing tax increases. The leadership of Eden Prairie must continue the difficult job of finding the appropriate balance between desired senior support functions and funds available.**

5. Using their regulatory powers, the City should work to make sure that the infrastructure and available technology stays up-to-date to make it possible for residents to continue to compete successfully from home-based businesses

**Sensitivity and reaction to technology advancement benefits the entire community.**

6. To enhance the role of the Senior Center as an information and referral center for seniors, the City should consider making sure the Senior Center has access to the Family Services Collaborative.

*Some progress has been made, more needs to be done.*

**Since 1996 the Senior Center has been the hub for questions regarding senior issues. Therefore, we recommend the Senior Center, Housing and Human Services, Senior Outreach and FamiLink Resource Center staff develop an information and referral resource guide that is computer and brochure based for distribution to seniors.**

7. To assure access for seniors, when developing a City web site the City should designate a senior page and coordinate with county and state levels so that residents can hyper-text to data bases of seniors, education opportunities, etc

*The Senior Center link was established in the City's web site providing excellent information.*

**The Senior Center link is an excellent communications tool and should continue to be updated frequently to include all programs and services offered by the Senior Center.**

8. When planning for future City web sites, a person should be designated to make sure that senior needs are considered and to make sure the web site is accessible

*This recommendation was met.*

**We recommend the Senior Center web site be updated by a designated staff person with the appropriate skills and competencies.**

9. Anticipating the time when the City's senior population has outgrown the current building, using some portion of the easily accessed portion of the City Center space now partly occupied by C.H. Robinson should be considered.

*Since 1996, the situation between the City and C.H. Robinson has changed dramatically.*

**The need for space for senior programs, activities and rentals continues to grow. To meet the expectations of the growing population we recommend that the City recognize the value of the Senior Center and the diversity of its constituents and programs. We highly recommend that the City provide and maintain appropriate space to meet the current and future needs of community seniors.**

10. To facilitate better connections between able volunteers and needs in the community, there appears to be a need for a central clearing house. This job seems likely to fall to a government group, either to do the work or to supervise volunteers to do the work. See the recommendation for updating senior service program availability and establishing a chore corps service mentioned in Chapter IV: Social Services  
*Eden Prairie Volunteers, a web site used to match volunteers with opportunities was created by the School District.*

**Rather than pursuing the detail of the 1996 recommendations, we encourage the City to recognize the expertise and life skills of its senior population and provide a volunteer coordination structure so they can be utilized to the benefit of the City and the individual volunteers.**

11. Informational seminars should be made available to Eden Prairie businesses to make them more proactive in creating win-win scenarios that will help them access and maintain a reliable senior workforce.  
*Not Met*

**The 2005 Task Force believes this recommendation is not of high priority.**

## **VII. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES, COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE**

The extent and quality of City decisions, programs and investments naturally affect the quality of life for all citizens and specifically the senior population. The City has major impact on senior issues and programs directly through the Senior Center and its staff and indirectly via the many broad decisions made by the City Council, City Manager, and City Department Directors.

As an illustration of the City's positive impact on seniors, the June 13, 2005 issue of Eden Prairie News dramatically listed the City Park and Recreation programs which positively affect all residents and, in some cases, are addressed specifically to seniors. The magnitude of programs offered is an indication of the level of commitment the City has to Parks and Recreation, including many senior-specific programs and activities.

In similar fashion, the Police and Fire Departments as well as Community Development are key participants in determining the quality of life for seniors and assisting them to be fully and safely integrated into Eden Prairie life. Those departments and functions are noted below:

The Community Development Department has a Director who oversees City Planning, Assessing, Historical Preservation, Economic Development and Housing and Human Services. Planning is responsible for coordinating development review and approvals, updating the comprehensive plan, monitoring airport activities and coordinating rehabilitation of historic properties. Assessing establishes annual valuations and classifications for all real properties in the City for purposes of taxation.

Economic Development is responsible for services that promote business growth, community development and redevelopment, and that support the overall economic vitality of the community.

Housing and Human Services has four areas of responsibility:

- affordable housing initiatives and rehabilitation loan program;
- human services coordination and funding recommendations;
- immigrant services providing new immigrant assistance, translation and cultural interpretation for City departments and the community; and
- community building offering assistance addressing issues related to human rights, education, transportation and resource procurement.

The Park and Recreation Department is essentially the same as the description in the 1996 report. The Senior Center comes under this department.

Human Resources is the department responsible for hiring, firing and personnel policies.

The Communications Department was created in 2004/2005. All City information to the public goes out through this department as well as the creation and updating of the City's web page, programming for the City television station, press releases and the Prairie Pages web site with information for employees of the City.

Police & Fire Department responsibilities remain the same as stated in the 1996 report. Public Safety and Disaster Planning now occurs in the Fire Department.

## **SENIOR REPRESENTATION IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT PROCESS**

Seniors vote; younger seniors especially are not shy about expressing their views. Thus, the political process ensures that seniors have some voice in government even without direct representation. That voice will continue to grow louder as the population ages.

According to the data provided in 1990 there were 1,293 residents in Eden Prairie age 65+. In the year 2000 there were 2,677 residents and by 2004 that number had risen to 3,237. These numbers represent an increase of 150%. In combination with the declining number of students in the school district, seniors represent a larger number of the voting community.

Only on the Senior Center Advisory Board are seniors directly represented. The Senior Center Advisory Board is made up of nine members elected by the membership at large. All members are elected to staggered terms with leadership being elected by the Board. The Board makes recommendations to the staff and, through them, to the City. The focus has shifted to more programming and activities and away from financial issues.

The City does not reserve positions specifically for seniors on any of its Boards and Commissions, although some have been appointed through the conventional process. There are persons who might favor giving seniors a more direct voice in citizen recommendations by reserving a place for a senior on the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Human Rights and Diversity Commission, as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission. Task Force members do not believe it to be beneficial to have reserved spots on Commissions for seniors. We believe that through the aging of the community, Commissions and Boards will have senior voices.

Heeding the advice of some neighboring communities, Task Force members believe it would be wiser to break down rather than build artificial walls around any age group in the community. The pool of applicants for City Commissions is likely to reflect the aging of the community so that older citizen's viewpoints will continue to be heard without artificial designations. Although the original report suggested investigating whether the City would like to make appointments of up to four persons to the Senior Advisory Board (requiring of them some responsibility for familiarizing themselves with the Senior Center and participating in some activities) accompanied by some reduction in the number of senior-elected Board members. Questions that have significant impacts on seniors that are being handled in other Commissions might be directed to the Senior Advisory Board for input. This model is similar to one used by Minnetonka. However, in 2005 it is the feeling of the committee that the Senior Advisory Board should continue to be elected by seniors and not be charged with the broader responsibility of representing all seniors in the community.

## THE CITY'S FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN SENIORS

The 1995 Task Force reported that only Bloomington among our neighbors appeared to do any sort of comprehensive program budgeting. That permits decision-makers to evaluate programs on the basis of total costs including facilities, staffing and overhead. It is clear that tightened revenues coupled with increased taxpayer concern have encouraged Eden Prairie to adopt accounting systems that will give the Council and administrators better tools for analyzing the true costs of individual programs in the budget and assist in making long range plans and goals.

The Senior Center's 1995 Annual Report revealed Senior Center expenditures of \$152,284.49 and revenue of \$28,523.59; a net cost of \$123,760.90. The Senior Center financial condition was, and is, contained mostly within the Parks and Recreation budget. Because a copy of the 1995 line item budget is not available, it is impossible to tell if the figures available for 2004 and 2005 are an "apples and apples" comparison with the 1995 figures. The figures that follow are from the current line item budget documents:

2004 Budgeted Senior Center Net Cost	\$188,613
2004 Actual Senior Center Net Cost	\$145,311
2005 Budgeted Senior Center Net Cost	\$185,084

These figures reflect the net cost after offsetting revenues have been deducted from the total costs. The 2004 revenue was \$62,508.

Programs and trips of the Senior Center seem to be about "break-even" after deducting expenses from fees. In 2004, the net revenue from trips and programs was \$3,533. As of September, those net revenues for 2005 were \$2,933.

The cost of printing and mailing the Echoes newsletter to an ever-increasing number of seniors in the community is expected to cost \$6,500 in printing costs and \$5,200 in postage this year (2005). Printing the newsletter is listed in the budget as an administrative expense.

The cost of operating the Senior Center building in 2004 was \$56,391, a figure not included in the Senior Center Budget since the building is used for purposes other than seniors or their staff.

Rental of the building has become quite popular, generating \$9,102 in revenue in 2004 and about \$6,600 as of September 2005. This rental revenue is generated by the community at large, not senior activity, but since the scheduling and support is provided by Senior Center staff, the revenue stays with the Senior Center budget.

Revenue from donations, projects and fund-raising activities at the Senior Center have created an accumulated off-budget balance over the years of approximately \$9,500.00

Eden Prairie makes small investments in maintaining the social service safety net for residents. In 2005, Eden Prairie funds for services benefiting most seniors include \$3,500 for Meals on Wheels and \$25,624 for Senior Community Service.

A portion of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money, \$6,000.00, is used to support H.O.M.E., a program that provides sliding fee scale home maintenance and upkeep for seniors. Also, a portion of CDBG funding is used to provide housing rehabilitation and access for the disabled – funding that appears to flow predominantly to older residents living in older homes, but not broken out by age

### **SENIOR CENTER OPERATIONS**

In spite of a few procedural and organizational differences, other Senior Centers in the southwest metropolitan area all perform the same basic functions as the Eden Prairie Senior Center: They provide a place where senior citizens (of all ages) can gather and can access city-sponsored or city-organized events and services. Most (Hopkins does not) have an advisory council made up of a few chosen patrons. In Richfield and Edina this council is not elected but appointed - or self-appointed - to include whoever the staff or council feels will be a good representative and is willing to serve. As here in Eden Prairie, some of these advisory councils have some direct control over a small budget whose income is derived from council-sponsored fund raising events. Some, including the appointed councils of Richfield and Edina, have no fiscal responsibility whatsoever.

In virtually all area Senior Centers, the communication link between the patrons and the city government is the Senior Center director, though grass-roots senior campaigns have achieved some surprising results in Edina. The directors reported no significant senior-to-city communication problems.

Area Senior Centers often work together to offer joint events, typically bus trips, which would not draw enough participants to go if offered by only one individual Senior Center. Eden Prairie regularly teams with Richfield in this way. The directors of area Senior Centers are also all in regular communication and follow each other's newsletters, publications, etc. assuring they get the widest possible exposure to new ideas, etc.

One potential problem with Senior Center event offerings is overlap with offerings of local senior residences or with other local programs and service providers. At best, this is an inefficient use of resources; at worst it can become a counter-productive competition. Without exception, Senior Center directors feel that the best way to avoid such an undesirable situation is simply to keep the lines of communication open to all involved in providing services to seniors.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES SUB-COMMITTEE

Items in regular type were those made in the original report, and those marked # were deemed by the 1995 study committee to require earliest attention. *Comments in italics report the status of the original recommendations. Bold statements are new comments and suggestions.*

- 1.# In order to keep these recommendations fresh and updated, the City should determine a process that will be used in the future. We encourage the City Council to provide custodianship of this report by setting a formal review period and reconvening a new task force every five years. In the meantime, the City may convene a panel of persons serving on City commissions to review the findings for the short term.  
*This recommendation was mostly accepted, although the new review Task Force was convened after ten years rather than five. A panel was never convened to review the findings.*

**Because of anticipated increases in the number of local seniors, the City is encouraged to develop a more structured planning and review process.**

- 2.# Task Force members encourage the City to remain sensitive to the needs of seniors. Copies of this report should be presented to the Human Rights and Diversity Commission; Planning and Zoning Commission; Housing, Transportation and Human Services Council; Parks and Recreation Commission; Senior Advisory Board; and other groups and staff members as deemed appropriate by the Council.  
*It is apparent that some staff at the City, having responsibility for issues addressed in the 1996 report did not receive the pertinent information.*

**The report of the 2005 Task Force should be communicated to the City Council and Mayor, to all Commissions and Boards, to the City Manager and to all appropriate City staff. There may be cases where Task Force members might be logical presenters.**

- 3.# The City may want to consider discussing with the Senior Center Advisory Board the possibility of changing its organization to permit the appointment by the Council of up to four participants. Issues of particular concern to seniors could be directed by other City commissions and the Council for senior input, broadening the impact of the group beyond what now exists. This new Senior Advisory Board should have an opportunity to meet regularly with the City Manager or other high-ranking officer, and occasionally with the City Council at workshop.  
*There was general consensus that this recommendation was not desirable.*

**Since the Senior Center Advisory Board does not speak for all seniors in Eden Prairie, they should not have City Board or Commission status. Rather, we believe the interests of the Senior Center are best served with the Senior Advisory Board continuing to be selected by the Senior Center Members.**

- 4.# The Senior Advisory Board should be given more status among the City's assortment of advisory boards and commissions; members should be invited to the City's annual volunteer recognition event.

*The Senior Center Advisory Board was not given more status among the City's Boards and Commissions.*

**The City should obtain input from seniors in a manner and consistent with the recommended planning process. Representatives of the City Council and City Department Directors should continue to attend periodic Senior Center Advisory Board meetings. Members of the Senior Center Advisory Board deserve to be invited to the yearly recognition event.**

- 5.# The City should develop an accounting system that more clearly delineates program function and attributes total costs including overhead and portions of staff time and capital costs. This will give decision-makers better tools to analyze the actual costs of specific services and determine utilization of services when making budget decisions.

*There seems to have been progress in this direction.*

**Budgets and actual costs of senior programs should be made more identifiable and accessible on a regular basis to interested parties.**

- 6.# To act on the recommendations of this Task Force, the City should continue to partner with appropriate bodies, some of which would not necessarily be City commissions. The Ministerial Association, Professionals in Aging, the Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce, the three school systems serving Eden Prairie residents, the Lions International are some external groups that come to mind.

*Progress has been made in this area.*

**Partnering as previously recommended should continue and even be expanded. Partnerships between the Senior Center and principal area senior residences should be promoted for the purpose of avoiding duplication in programs and services being offered.**

7. The City should reconsider the layers of supervision between the Senior Center staff and the City Manager, placing more responsibility and accountability at the building level.

*The organizational structures remain the same.*

**In order to better serve the growing numbers of seniors in the community, we recommend that the Senior Center Director should report directly to the Park and Recreation Director.**

8. Senior issue items should be included in the ten year comprehensive guide plan updates of the City.  
*The Task Force is not clear to what extent the previous Task Force issues were included in the 1995 Ten Year Comprehensive Plan.*

**Senior issues should be included in any ten year comprehensive plan.**

**In light of the recent passage of the Parks and Recreation referendum the City is urged to seek and utilize input from seniors regarding plans for the \$13.3 million dollars of improvements to the parks, trails and community center.**

9. At some point, Eden Prairie will have to decide to what extent and if it can continue to subsidize recreation and other services, including those for seniors.  
*The Task Force is not clear as to any discussions by the City on this matter.*

**The City should continue funding Senior programs.**

10. With the increased senior population, there will be increased potential use of City programs for seniors, creating a need for staff and challenges on how to develop revenues to offset the increased costs. Increased Senior Center staff might include clerical support appropriate to the level of seniors being served, part time services of program supervisors for day and extended hour duty, possibly coupled with driving, custodial or evening building supervision responsibilities. An additional vehicle that can accommodate the handicapped may be needed for transporting frail elderly and adaptive recreation program users. Perhaps donating such a vehicle can be a fund-raising goal for one of the City's civic organizations.  
*Progress continues to be made.*

**Staffing, programming and equipment should be appropriate to the level of social and physical needs of seniors in the community. The existing Senior Center facility stands in need of some repairs and upkeep, and equipment occasionally leaves something to be desired. As the senior population of Eden Prairie grows, money designated for Senior Center maintenance and equipment must be increased accordingly.**

11. At some point, the City will find itself needing to consider a hot lunch program that is offered one or several times a week. It should likely be held in one of the accessible senior residences such as Elim Shores to avoid having to duplicate kitchen facilities. Although a hot lunch program is prepared and presented by Volunteers of America, volunteers are required and the City would have the responsibility of providing a volunteer coordinator.  
*Interest in a hot lunch program has been investigated and insufficient interest was found.*

**The City should partner with a member of the community to consider the feasibility of hot lunches in Eden Prairie.**

12. Eden Prairie is unique among our neighbors in its designation of a building solely intended for the use of seniors. Consideration should be given to opening the building to other groups, especially late afternoon and evenings. The term “Senior Center” seems to be a deterrent to some of the younger seniors and some consideration should be given to renaming the building.

*This usage goal has been met. There still remains disagreement about whether the name of the building should be changed.*

**We encourage the City to continue to optimize the use of the Senior Center, while maintaining its priority for senior programming.**

## APPENDIX A

At its April 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, the Council directed Staff to prepare a proposed charter statement and timeline for the reestablishment of the Senior Issues Task Force to update the original report during the year of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Charter Statement:

“The Senior Issues Task Force is reestablished for the purpose of providing the City Council with an update of the 1996 comprehensive report that identified the impact of changing demographics of the senior population and the resulting impact on housing, transportation, health and social services and related issues.”

### Task Force Timeline:

May 17	Council officially authorizes the reestablishment of the Task Force
May 25	City staff begin soliciting applications for Task Force members
June 14	Council appoints the Task Force members
July 26	Task Force holds an organizational meeting in July and sets meeting dates and protocol for the Task Force process
January 17, 2006	The Task Force Executive Summary and final report is presented to the City Council

## APPENDIX B

### EDEN PRAIRIE SENIOR ISSUES TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Marvin Cofer  
14837 Blakeney Road  
Eden Prairie 55347

Bette Anderson  
7336 Topview Road  
Eden Prairie 55346

Pastor Rod Anderson/St. Andrews Church  
3600 Technology Drive  
Eden Prairie 55344

John Dollerschell  
15383 Sand Hill Circle  
Eden Prairie 55347

Basil Wissner  
8293 Mitchell Road  
Eden Prairie 55347

Joanne Bartel  
9801 Archer Lane  
Eden Prairie 55347

Joan Rumford  
7400 Howard Lane  
Eden Prairie 55346

Scott Welter  
14112 Carmody Drive  
Eden Prairie 55347

Sharon Steiner  
6491 Undestad Street  
Eden Prairie 55346

Joyce Conley  
7105 Quail Circle  
Eden Prairie 55346

Lisa Schmidtke  
16880 Rogers Road  
Eden Prairie 55347

Carla Kress  
City of Eden Prairie  
8080 Mitchell Road  
Eden Prairie 55347

## APPENDIX C

### **BENEFITS ARE ENDLESS IN EDEN PRAIRIE PARKS & RECREATION**

The City of Eden Prairie's Parks & Recreation Services foster a high quality living environment and provide healthy, safe, enjoyable leisure time opportunities for all segments of the population by:

- Providing a variety of affordable recreational programs and services for all age groups and people of all abilities.
- Developing and maintaining the park and open space system with sufficient recreation facilities to meet community needs.
- Promoting maximum public uses and access to all community facilities by those who live or work in Eden Prairie.
- Identifying and recommending ways to protect and preserve unique historical and environmental features within Eden Prairie.

### **DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2004?**

- 37 parks and 5 special use areas, 5 historical sites, and 15 conservation areas can be found in Eden Prairie in more than 2,500 acres of land.
- The City maintains over 1,000 acres of developed parkland.
- 242 recreational facilities are maintained in Eden Prairie:
  - 1 public beach
  - 5 historical sites
  - 5 fishing piers
  - 8 hockey rinks and free skate areas
  - 52 baseball/softball fields
  - 46 soccer fields
  - 12 sand volleyball courts
  - 4 bocce courts
  - 8 horseshoe pits
  - 25 basketball courts
  - 47 tennis courts
  - 15 football fields
  - 7 rental picnic areas
  - 2 community garden sites
  - a lighted sledding hill
  - 1 six kilometer cross country ski trail
  - golf practice nets
- Over 100 miles of bituminous bike trails – which is 80% of the total planned off-road trail system.
- Eden Prairie has 1,400 acres of property that is preserved as conservation areas.
- Improvements were made at 12 parks: Miller, Riley, Round Lake Park, Franlo Park, Crestwood Park, Purgatory Creek Recreational Area, Staring Lake Outdoor Center, Miller Spring, Willow Park & High Trail Estates, and Riley Creek Woods.
- An off-leash dog exercise area was built at Flying Cloud Drive.
- 14.8 acres of land were dedicated to City.

- 10.55 acres of easements were acquired.
- 102 trees were planted in 4 parks.
- There were 12 burials at the City's Pleasant Hill Cemetery.
- 1 Fulltime Forestry Technician and one seasonal tree inspectors covered over 16,000 acres of the City in an effort to detect diseased trees.
- Tree inspectors responded to 630 tree related service calls a 700% increase over 2003
- 2,353 trees were lost to Dutch elm disease – a 214% increase over 2003
- 47 trees were lost to oak wilt disease
- 70 property owners were sent tall grass/weed notices
- Over 600,000 people (duplicated number) benefited from the parks & recreation facilities and programs.
- 282 rentals (\$29,846 in revenue) were completed at on of the 10 park buildings available to rent for picnics, meetings, socials, etc.: Staring Lake Park Outdoor Center, Staring Lake Park Building, Staring Lake Park Amphitheater, Homeward Hills Park Building, Round Lake Park Building, Round Lake Park Pavilion, Miller Park Building, Riley Lake Park Pavilion, Crestwood Park Building & Nesbitt Preserve Park Building.
- Over 282 different groups rented a park facility
- 24,130 people participated in the rentals
- 94 Community Gardens were rented.
- 383,000 public uses at the park buildings, Community Center, beaches, and Oak Point Pool.
- 316,517 used the Community Center, which includes 100,000 spectators.
- 503 memberships were sold at the Community Center.
- The Community Center is the site for the home practice and game site for Eden Prairie High School boys and girl's hockey, swimming, & diving teams; facility use for Eden Prairie High School physical education classes and facility rental and use for Eden Prairie Athletic Associations.
- 24 girls in grades 3 to 6 participated in the first "Girls on the Run Program".
- EPCC was built 23 years ago
- 22,549 people participated in a variety of programs at Oak Point pool
- 19,840 people used Riley Lake Beach even though the summer was unusually cold.
- Over 100 programs were offered through the youth and family recreation services.
- Over 3,577 youth and adults participated in various youth and family recreation activities.
- Over 13,268 people took advantage of the eight outdoor skating rinks and Staring Lake sliding hill.
- 156 individuals benefited from the "Passport to Fun" scholarship program

- 42 agencies/businesses are partnered with to provide recreation programs & services (Senior Outreach, Happy Feet, Inc., Metropolitan Visiting Nurse Association, AARP, IRS, Alterra Clare Bridge, Chanhassen Park & Recreation, DNR, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Eden Prairie School District, St. Andrew Church, City of Richfield, City of Bloomington, City of Edina, Metropolitan Airport Commission, Eden Prairie Center, Hennepin Technical College, Eden Prairie Optimist, Castle Ridge Care Center, Richfield Senior Program, Eden Prairie Community Education. Three Rivers Park District, Forestry Division & University of MN Horticulture College, ICWC Crews, Local Nursery, Lions Club, PROP, Eden Prairie Historical Society, Twin Cities Tree Trust, Prairie Adult Care, Home Depot Kids Workshop, Boy Scouts, ARC Hennepin\Carver, Metro Resources Unlimited, Vision, Strength, Access to the Arts (VSA), Riley Purgatory Creek Bluff Creek Watershed District, Medica, Brownie Troop 1191, and 14 Eden Prairie Youth Sports Association.
- In 2004, 400 individuals took advantage of the City's therapeutic Recreation Services.
- Leisure Education received \$15,000 in grants and fund raising revenue.
- 215 registrations for Recreation programs took advantage of the inclusion services.
- 554 teams and over 9,000 individuals participated in adult athletic programs.
- Adult Athletic programs contributed over \$25,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund for field improvements.
- There are 242 adult softball teams in the spring/summer, this increased by 22 teams over 2003.
- 4,356 individuals played softball
- Eight sport/athletic programs are offered to adults throughout the year.
- 9,451 duplicated people used the Senior Center programs and services.
- 747 Seniors attended 19 different classes.
- The Senior Transportation volunteers (16) provided Transportation for 65 different people (seniors) for 723 times used.
- Senior Awareness Week, which celebrates May as Older American's Month had 420 duplicated participants in 16 activities.
- Seniors gave an inestimable amount of volunteer hours to the Senior Center as Advisory Board Members, van drivers, activity coordinators, office aides, special event assistants, and more.
- Eden Prairie Echoes, Senior Center Newsletter is mailed to over 1,100 senior households and agencies in Eden Prairie and 300 outside of Eden Prairie.
- The Eden Prairie Red Hat Crimson Chapeaux is the largest chapter in the US with 457 members.
- 1,233 people participated in Outdoor Center programs.
- 147 Outdoor Center Programs were offered, a 33% increase over 2003
- Over 15,500 people attended arts events.
- Over \$14,763 were raised by tickets sales and donated by local businesses and individuals for arts events.
- Over 4,900 people attended the 26 concerts at the Staring Lake Amphitheatre.
- Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 695 earned money from selling concessions at the Staring Lake Concert Series. This money was used for camping fees, registration and other scouting activities throughout the year.
- Over 500 artists participated in art events.
- Over 4,400 people attended the 6 nights of "Annie Get Your Gun".
- 5,000 volunteer hours were given by Eden Prairie teens and adults for the summer musical alone.

- Over 27,300 people attended one or more of the eight special events.
- \$14,000 was donated by local businesses and individuals for events.
- Over 385+ volunteer hours for given for special events.
- 1,080 people attended programs offered at the J. R. Cummins Homestead.
- Over \$166,727 was given to the Parks & Recreation Services Area.
- Five new parks were dedicated at special ceremonies in the fall. These were Miller Spring, Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area, Purgatory Creek Recreation Area (PCRA), Riley-Jacques Barn, and The Gathering Bridge at PCRA.
- About \$11,415 worth of product, merchandise was given to the Parks & Recreation Services Area.
- Over 4,208 volunteer hours were given by individuals and groups for park and recreation programs and projects for a value of \$188,812 at \$16.54an hour
- 36 fulltime employees and over 300 Part-time/Seasonal and contracted employees work together to bring the Parks & Recreation Services to the residents of Eden Prairie.
- Three student intern worked 560 hours each for college credit (\$28,476 value in volunteer hours)
- The City provides support to 14 Youth Athletic Associations that provide programs for more than 10,000 youth.
- \$17,500 in grants received for recreation programs.

## APPENDIX D

Household Size	80% Low Income*	60%	50% Very Low Income**
1 person	40,600	32,340	26,950
2 person	46,400	36,960	30,800
3 person	52,200	41,580	34,650
4 person	58,000	46,200	38,500
5 person	62,650	49,920	41,600
6 person	67,300	53,580	44,650
7 person	71,900	57,300	47,750
8 person	76,550	60,960	50,800

\* In the category “Low-income” home owners qualify for low interest rehabilitation loans to remodel/renovate their homes

\*\* Only renters in the “very low income” category qualify for Section 8 Vouchers

### 2005 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

1 person	\$ 9,570
2 person	12,830
3 person	16,090
4 person	23,100
5 person	24,950
6 person	26,800
7 person	28,650
8 person	30,500

## GLOSSARY

**AAA:** Area Agency on Aging: Regional agencies that direct federal and state money to social service agencies that provide services to seniors, current trend toward managing those services in-house rather than by contracts; planning agencies for senior social services.

**AARP:** American Association of Retired Persons: national organization for persons age 50 and older which provides lobbying, discounts, communications and services

**Baby Boomers:** Baby Boom Generation, Boomers etc.: persons born between the years of 1946 and 1964.

**CDBG:** Community Development Block Grant: HUD (Housing and Urban Development) federal funds that are used mainly for local housing but are partly available to meet discretionary local social service needs

**First Call For Help:** An information and referral telephone line that is funded by United Way

**FSC:** Family Services Collaborative: The Hennepin South Services Collaborative is the Family Services Collaborative entity for the South Hennepin Region, designed to increase coordination decrease duplication of services and meet the needs of families for the prevention of out of home placement of children.

**Hennepin South Services Collaborative:** Referred to as HSSC, brings together the cities, schools, health and human service providers, businesses, families and informal community supports in South Hennepin County to work in partnership. The collaborative is formed through a joint powers agreement signed by Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Richfield and the three corresponding school districts. HSSC is the Family Services Collaborative for South Hennepin.

**HOME:** Household and Outside Maintenance for the Elderly: A division of Senior Community Services that offers house cleaning and maintenance support on a sliding fee scale.

**Housing with Services:** An establishment providing sleeping accommodations to one or more adult residents, at least 80 percent of which are 55 years of age or older, and offering or providing, for a fee, one or more regularly scheduled supportive services, whether offered or provided directly by the establishment or by another entity arranged for by the establishment

**HUD:** Housing and Urban Development Agency of the U.S. Government: supports housing programs for the low-income, including Section 8 Vouchers and sliding scale rental housing, loans for major maintenance, funding to meet some human service needs

**Inter-Church Agency:** Known as ICA, an organization providing food and financial assistance to residents of Minnetonka and Hopkins

**PROP:** People Reaching Out to Other People; a local organization that provides food, loans, grants, and connections to other social service agencies designed to assist Eden Prairie and Chanhassen residents

**Reverse Mortgage:** A type of mortgage designed for retirees and other fixed-income homeowners who owe little or nothing on their homes; typically permits owners to use some or all of the equity in their homes as supplemental income, while retaining ownership. They are borrowing against the value of their homes on a monthly basis; the longer they borrow the less equity they retain. The loan becomes due on a specific date or when a certain event occurs; e.g. the sale of the property or death of the borrower

**RSVP:** Retired Senior Volunteer Program

**Senior Federation:** Minnesota organization for seniors that deals largely with senior rights and information, especially concerning retirement

**Senior Linkage Line:** Formally known as Senior Answer Line, this program provides information from First Call for Help and other sources by volunteers trained to be sensitive to issues that senior callers may have

**Subsidized Rental:** Subsidized rental units serve low-income individuals and vary in size and type. Privately held units of this type include Section 202, Section 236, Section 8 or Farmer's Home 515 buildings. Rents are based on renter's income

**Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People:** Also known as VEAP, this organization provides food, financial assistance and holiday programs for in need residents of Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and a small portion of South Minneapolis

**Volunteers of American:** Also known as VOA, manages congregate dining programs for seniors in the Metro Area

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## **RESOURCES**

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## **SENIOR ISSUES TASK FORCE REPORT**

### **ERRATA**

Page 4/ Last paragraph: The 3,283 number listed for School District #272 total **enrollment refers only to High School enrollment.**

Page 10/asterisk at the end of the table: Neighboring Cities include: Combined cities of Chaska, Chanhassen, Hopkins, Victoria, southern  $\frac{2}{3}$  ( **not  $2 \frac{1}{3}$** ) of Minnetonka, western  $\frac{1}{4}$  (**not  $1 \frac{1}{4}$** ) of Bloomington.