



Avenue Realty Fall Newsletter | September 2010

Eden Prairie, MN No. 1 Best Place to Live

Money Magazine ranks best US small cities

by Mike Durkin / FOX 9 News

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. - Eden Prairie, Minnesota is the No. 1 best place to live in America, according to a ranking of the nation's best small cities by Money Magazine.

An unemployment rate below the national average, a solid park and trail system, healthy residents, safe streets and excellent school all factored into Eden Prairie's top ranking.

"With so many activities and opportunities for families, it is no surprise that Eden Prairie received the top ranking," U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar said. "Eden Prairie and the four other Minnesota cities in the top 20 are great examples of tight-knit communities that support families and residents."

Other Minnesota cities in the Top 100 include:

Plymouth (11), Woodbury (13), Eagan (15), Apple Valley (20). Eau Claire, Wisconsin ranked No. 69.



FOR SALE

13105 Northrup Trail, Eden Prairie

2 BR/2BA townhome.

Freshly painted, updated light fixtures, new main level flooring, breakfast bar and formal dining room. Association allows pets. Near Eden Prairie Center, Staring Lake and so much more!

MLS # 3963224

Avenue Realty News

Congratulations to Jessica and Scott Freeland on their recent marriage!



Hooray to Tracy and Jeff Bednar, and a special welcome to Gracie Bednar born June 17th 2010!



Happy 1st birthday to Jonah Oliver Schulman!





10 Small Ways To Save Money

By Jessica Freeland and Sara Schulman

1. **Stop paying for cable or satellite**

TV: Stopping your subscription TV service can save a ton of money on a regular monthly basis. On average your service bill can run anywhere from \$35-\$200/month. Over an entire year canceling your TV service can save you \$420-\$2400! Instead of paying for cable try watch TV shows for free using a software like PlayOn, or by hooking up your computer to the TV.

2. **Make it a point to shop for better rates on insurance:**

Take a half day off from work or eat lunch at your desk and shop your homeowners, auto, health, life and other insurance coverages to see if you can find a better rate. You could *end up saving \$1000's a year on your rates!*

3. **Use subscription services? Cancel them and use a cheaper alternative:**

Are you paying \$15 a month to pay for a subscription movie rental service like Netflix – but only rarely watch movies? Cancel the subscription and use a cheaper alternative like the Redbox movie rental kiosks. Paying for several magazine subscriptions? Read the magazines at your local library or online instead!

4. **Realize that you don't need to buy new:**

When buying things that you need, realize that you don't always need to buy those things new when used can be bought for a much smaller price. Save \$5,000-\$6,000 by buying a used car, or save hundreds by buying a used version of last year's model of digital camera. Buy used clothing, books, electronics or other high ticket purchases can save you a bundle.

5. **Eat out less often:**

It can be extremely easy to justify spending when it comes to eating out. Keep a log of your restaurant bills and you may realize that you're overspending by hundreds of dollars every month. Packing lunches and making dinner at night could saved you in excess of \$200-\$300 a month! Or make

an eating budget and stick to it! Sign up online to receive daily email deals at www.socialliving.com or www.groupon.com for fun Minneapolis activities, but remember your budget!

6. **Save on entertainment at the movies:**

There are ways to save on going to the cinema. You can go to a matinee, see the movie at a second run theater (highly recommend the Hopkins Cinema for just \$3), buy packages of tickets at a reduced rate, bring your own snacks (if they allow it) or it's not too late for outdoor drive-in movies.

7. **Maintenance saves money:**

By maintaining the things you own you'll end up spending a little up front, and saving a ton down the line. Go for regular oil changes and service checks, and do regular maintenance around the house in order to ensure that all of your things are in good working order.

8. **Sleep on it:**

A lot of people like to buy things on impulse and the result is they overspend on a ton of things they end up realizing they don't need. Give yourself a waiting period for purchases over a certain dollar amount, and quite often you'll realize while you're waiting that you don't want or need the item. Maybe wait least 24 hours, but more depending on the cost of the item.

9. **Make a list – and use coupons:**

One of the biggest mistakes when grocery shopping is *not* making a list of the items you need to buy. You can end up buying a bunch of junk food or other items that aren't needed. Instead, make sure to shop when you're not hungry, make a list – and actually clip some of the coupons you see in the paper to save some extra cash.

10. **It never hurts to ask for a discount:**

There are so many times that you can save big just by asking for a discount. For example, call up your internet service provider and asked them to reduce your rate in order to keep you as a customer. Sometimes they find a promotion that is currently running in your area. Another big one is asking for a discount on medical bills. Often if you call up the hospital billing department you can save 10-20% off of your bill just by asking, and paying cash. This can end up saving you hundreds or thousands of dollars!

Best of luck to our savvy Avenue Realty shoppers!



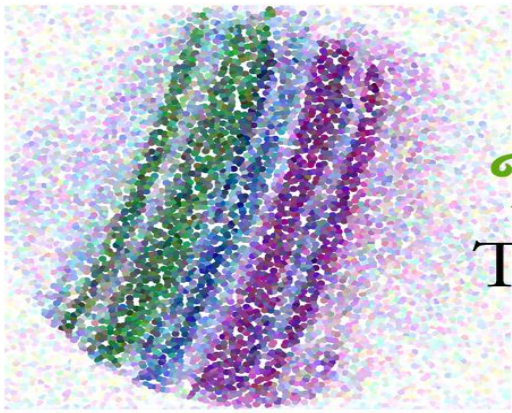
Congratulations to Stacey and Steve on your gorgeous 2 story Stillwater home! We're glad Avenue Realty was able to sell your townhome and help make your homeowner dreams come true.

We hope you're enjoying your peaceful pond views and cooking up a storm in your gourmet kitchen!



Congratulations to Margie and Ryan on your beautiful 2 story Woodbury home! We are so happy you found everything you were looking for and more in a home.

Visit us @ www.avenurealtymn.com




Dakota Communities
TRUE COLORS GALA
The Varsity Theater, Mpls.
October 29th, 2010

Get your ticket online at www.dakotacommunities.org