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# EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS



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PHOTO COURTESY OF PROP FOOD SHELF

A SouthWest Transit driver loads PROP's donated groceries into his van. The transit service has teamed up with Eden Prairie's food shelf to deliver groceries to families who can't make it to PROP's offices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## SOUTHWEST TRANSIT'S NEW PASSENGERS: THE WEEKLY GROCERIES

### PROP Food Shelf partners with SouthWest to deliver to high-need families

BY EDEN TELLER  
eteller@swpub.com

SouthWest Transit may have drastically cut its services in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, but that doesn't mean its drivers are just twiddling their thumbs.

The transit service recently teamed up with Eden Prairie's PROP Food Shelf

to deliver food and household supplies to its clients who can no longer get to the food shelf's offices at 14700 Martin Drive in Eden Prairie.

"The people that need the food shelf services really do need everybody's help. We're playing a small part in getting that food to them," said Len Simich, SouthWest Transit's CEO. "Everybody's coming together throughout the community just to do what they can."

The collaboration's roots began when Janet Palmer, PROP's executive director, realized that the food shelf's clients' needs were changing as the demands on PROP's services grew. With many of SouthWest Transit's routes temporarily cut because of a drop in ridership, some of PROP's clients couldn't get to the food shelf to pick up their groceries. And

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## How to enforce the stay-at-home order?

### Public safety offices rely on education

BY EDEN TELLER  
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While descriptors like "unprecedented" and "once-in-a-lifetime" are common while describing the current conditions as the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic turns the world upside down, many public safety departments have long been preparing for circumstances like this one.

"Adapting to unknown situations seamlessly is what police officers are trained and conditioned to do best," Capt. Bill Wyffles of the Eden Prairie Police Department wrote in an email to Eden Prairie News.

"This is pretty foreign territory for most of us, but the practices are similar," echoed Sheriff Jason Kamerud of the Carver County Sheriff's Office.

Eden Prairie's police department holds daily situation updates, has changed officers' schedules to minimize contact and has adopted social distancing in situations that can't be conducted virtually or over the phone, Wyffles said. At Carver County, officers already operated on opposite-schedule 12-hour shifts, so there have been few changes to the schedule, Kamerud said.

"(Officers are) not fearful but they're cautious, which they were before this," he added. "Overall they're doing quite well."

With businesses closed and many residents working from home, Eden Prairie's streets have been "unusually quiet," Wyffles reported, and the department has seen a "dramatic reduction" in vehicle crashes

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