



THE PIPELINE



CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE MONTHLY CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON CONTINUING EXISTING

1/4 CENT SALES TAX FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS MAY 9

Reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Grand Prairie at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

What is the 1/4 cent sales tax for street improvements?

For the past seven years, streets and alleys in Grand Prairie have been rebuilt and received improved riding surfaces through the city's 1/4 cent sales tax for streets. Now it is time for voters to decide if they want to continue the sales tax for street improvements.

In Grand Prairie, the 1/4 cent sales tax is about \$4 million a year for street repairs, including alleys, curbs, street overlays and reconstruction. Since 2002, the 1/4 cent sales tax has generated \$28 million used to:

- Improve 102 streets
- Repair 47 alleys
- Fix 56 miles of roadway and 9 miles of alley
- Eliminate 466 standing water sites
- Increase the percent of top rated streets from 60 percent to 74 percent

On Saturday, May 9, Grand Prairie voters will vote whether to renew the 1/4 cent sales tax for maintenance to existing streets and alleys. Voters originally passed the sales tax in November 2001 and re-authorized the sales tax in 2005. According to state law, the tax must be re-considered by the voters every four years.

What happens if the election fails?

If the tax is not renewed, shoppers in Grand Prairie would save 1/4 cent on each taxable purchase, about 5 cents on a \$20 purchase, and the number of street, alley and standing water repairs residents now experience would decrease to a number that could be absorbed by the General Fund. To accommodate the same level of street repairs in the General Fund, other city services would decline.

Will this increase the sales tax I pay now?

No. The sales tax we pay now is 8.25% and includes the 1/4 cent sales tax for streets. If the vote renews the sales tax, the sales tax rate remains the same as it is now.

What else do I need to know about this election?

The sales tax would disappear in four years, unless re-approved by the voters. If approved by the voters, the money for street maintenance could not be spent for anything but street maintenance according to state law.

For more information visit www.gptx.org/election or call 972-237-8035.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 25 • 10 a.m.
Grand Prairie Veteran's Memorial
(Behind the Senior Citizen Center,
925 W. Conover)

The program will include a tribute to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom. A bagpipe procession, 21-gun salute, color guards, a vintage aircraft flyover and memorial begonias will be part of the memorial service. A screening of videos of previous Veterans Day and Memorial Day services, a display of photos of the veterans inscribed on the Memorial columns and a free all-American lunch will take place in the Senior Center following the program. The Memorial Day Service is presented by the Grand Prairie Parks and Recreation Department, the Metro Rotary Club of Grand Prairie, the Grand Prairie Rotary Club and the Grand Prairie Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum. For more information call 972-237-8100.

SUMMER CAMPS

Field trips, swimming, endless games, arts and crafts, Six Flags, the zoo and more! Experience grand-summer-camp-fun at Grand Prairie recreation centers. Dalworth, Charley Taylor and Bowles Life centers are now enrolling. Pre-registration is \$10 per child, which holds their spot in the camp for the entire summer. The camp weekly fee is \$80/week per child. Camp begins on Monday, June 8. Please call Dalworth at 972-264-7670, Charley Taylor 972-264-6890, or Bowles Life Center 972-237-7529 for details.



LOS VOTANTES PARA DECIDIR LA CONTINUACIÓN DEL EXISTENTE 1/4 DE CENTAVO IMPUESTO DE VENTAS PARA MEJORAS DE CALLES VOTAR 9 DE MAYO

Reautorización del impuesto de ventas locales y uso en la Ciudad de Grand Prairie en el índice de un cuarto de un por ciento para continuar proporcionando ingresos para el mantenimiento y reparación de las calles municipales.

¿Que es el impuesto de ventas de ¼ de centavo para mejoras de las calles?

En los últimos siete años, las calles y callejones de Grand Prairie se han mejorado usando el impuesto de ventas de ¼ de centavo para calles. Se ha llegado el tiempo para que los votantes decidan si quieren continuar con el impuesto de ventas para la mejora de calles.

En la Ciudad de Grand Prairie, el impuesto de venta de ¼ de centavo es aproximadamente \$4 millones para el uso de reparación de calles, incluyendo callejones, guarniciones, recubrimientos de calles y reconstrucción.

Desde Abril 2002, el impuesto de venta de ¼ de centavo ha generado \$28 millones usados para:

- La mejora de 102 calles
- La reparación de 47 callejones
- El arreglo de 56 millas de carretera y 9 millas de callejones
- Eliminar 466 sitios de agua derecha
- Aumentar el porcentaje de calles superiores de 60% a 74%

El sábado, 9 de Mayo de 2009, los votantes de Grand Prairie votaran si quieren renovar el impuesto de ventas de ¼ de centavo para el mantenimiento calles y callejones existentes. Los votantes originalmente aprobó el impuesto sobre venta en Noviembre del 2001 y re-autorizo este impuesto sobre venta en el 2005. De acuerdo a la ley estatal, este impuesto debe de ser re-considerado por los votantes cada cuatro años.

¿Qué sucede si la elección falla?

Si el impuesto no es renovado, los compradores de Grand Prairie ahorrarían un ¼ de centavo en cada compra imponible, aproximadamente 5 centavos en una compra de \$20, y el número de reparaciones de calles, callejones y sitios de agua derecha que los residentes ahora experimentan disminuiría a un número que se podría absorber por el fondo general. Para acomodar el mismo nivel de reparaciones de calles, en el fondo general, otros servicios de la ciudad disminuirían.

¿Esto aumentara los impuestos de venta que pago ahora?

No, el impuesto de ventas que pagamos ahora es de 8.25% que incluye el impuesto de ventas de ¼ de centavo para calles. Si el voto renueva el impuesto de ventas, la tarifa de los impuestos sobre venta sigue siendo igual que ahora.

¿Que mas necesito saber sobre esta elección?

El impuesto sobre venta desaparecería en cuatro años a menos que sea aprobado por los votantes. Si es aprobado por los votantes, el dinero para mantenimiento de calles solamente se puede utilizar para el mantenimiento de calles acuerdo a la ley estatal.

Para más información, favor de visitar nuestro sitio www.gptx.org/election o llamar al 972-237-8035.

DON'T BAG IT

Remember that the City of Grand Prairie has committed to keeping grass clippings out of the landfill by not picking up bags of grass clippings. Grass clippings can simply be left on your lawn or used as compost for gardens. Homeowners who followed the Don't Bag It Lawn Care Plan report that they mow their lawns in 38 percent less time and that their lawns are 30 percent better than they were before Don't Bag It. For more recycling ideas and information call 972-237-8151.

Bulky Item Retrieval

Bulky items include old or unwanted appliances and discarded furniture like washers, refrigerators, sofas and chairs. To schedule a FREE curbside pick up call 817-261-8812.

POOL MAINTENANCE

Planning on draining your swimming pool? Consider how your actions could affect the environment. When you drain your pool water into something other than the sanitary sewer, untreated pool chemicals like chlorine will enter into a nearby storm drain or water body. Once in the waterways, these chemicals can negatively affect our drinking water and aquatic life. Section 26-42 (b) of our city ordinance prohibits such polluted discharges.

Tips on how to properly drain your swimming pool:

- Don't add any chemicals approximately two days before you drain your pool.
- Ensure that there are no detectable levels of chlorine with a test kit.

Continued on page 3

AIRHOGS HOME OPENER MAY 22



The reigning Southern Division Champions, the Grand Prairie AirHogs, are looking forward to their first home game May 22 when they face off against the Pensacola Pelicans. Individual game tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the QuikTrip Park box office or on-line at www.airhogsbaseball.com. AirHogs baseball games are great for the whole family, especially when tickets range from only \$6-13!

UPTOWN THEATER ENTERTAINS GP

Tickets Available at www.uptowntheatergp.com
or by calling 972-237-UPTN

April 25 • The Golden Years of Elvis • 7:30 p.m.

Award winning performers Vic Trevino, Jr. and Kraig Parker along with the Royal Tribute Band recreate the three magical eras of the music of Elvis Presley. You'll be all shook up!

May 1 • The Spencers Theatre of Illusion • 8 p.m.

Redefining the art of illusion, the Spencers have baffled and entertained millions around the world. They continue to deliver a larger-than-life sense of wonder to their audience.

June 25-28, July 2-5 • Music Man

The story follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys band he vows to organize.

The Uptown is also available for private rentals.

POOL MAINTENANCE

from page 2

- Remove any vegetation or debris from the pool before draining the water.
- Run a hose from the pool to a clean-out (a clean-out is connected to the sanitary sewer). Clean-outs are generally located in front of the house. A search around the house may be necessary to locate the clean-out as it may be hidden under a bush, deck or other structure. If you have a **contractor**, instruct them on this procedure.
- When cleaning your pool's filter, do so over a grassy area and properly dispose of the sludge material.

Do your part to protect our drinking water and aquatic life by maintaining and draining your pool properly.

GENERAL ELECTION MAY 9

7 a.m.-7 p.m.

On the May 9 ballot, up for vote will be:

- Council Member, District 5, for a three-year term
Tony Shotwell
Cole Austin Humphreys
- Council Member, District 6, for a three-year term
Ron Jensen
- Council Member, Place 8 at large, for a three-year term
Greg Giessner
- Reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Grand Prairie at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.



ELECCIÓN GENERAL 9 DE MAYO

7 a.m.-7 p.m.

En el boleta electoral del 9 de Mayo, para voto estara:

- Miembro del Consejo, Distrito 5, para un mandato de tres años
Tony Shotwell
Cole Austin Humphreys
- Miembro del Consejo, Distrito 6, para un mandato de tres años
Ron Jensen
- Miembro del Consejo, Puesto 8 en general, para un mandato de tres años
Greg Giessner
- Reautorización del impuesto local sobre las ventas y el uso en la Ciudad de Grand Prairie a una tasa de un cuarto del uno por ciento para continuar destinando ingresos al mantenimiento y la reparación de las calles municipales.



**TO REPORT GRAFFITI,
CALL THE GRAFFITI BUSTERS HOTLINE
972-237-8599**

Cinco de Mayo FIESTA

Join the fun at Grand Prairie's 22nd Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration
Saturday, May 2 • City Hall Plaza (300 block of West Main Street)

The city's largest annual parade will kick off at 10 a.m., at East Main and NE 14th Street, proceeding west on Main to City Hall Plaza. Free entertainment will last till 5 p.m., with more than 25 Grand Prairie ISD performing groups, mariachi bands and vocalists. The festival will also feature arts and crafts booths, informational exhibits, kiddie rides and plenty of Tex-Mex food favorites. For more information call 972-237-8100, or go to www.GrandFunGP.com

CELEBRATE SPRING AT MAYFEST

It is that time of year again! Join the City of Grand Prairie and Grand Prairie Independent School District to celebrate MayFest 2009. Each year the City of Grand Prairie and GPISD co-hosts this great educational event that focuses on water quality issues. This year's event will take place on **Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kirby Creek Nature Center, 3303 Corn Valley Road.** MayFest goers will enjoy a wide variety of aquatic and wildlife demonstrations, exhibits and conservation tips, information on summer camps, musical and dramatic performances, and other programs. Participants will also have the opportunity to test Kirby Creek's water quality. Enjoy arts and crafts vendors, festival foods and more. For more information call 972-264-8729.

SPLASH RECREATIONAL SWIMMING

Kirby Creek Indoor Pool • 3201 Corn Valley Road

Join this fun-filled group designed to introduce skills and techniques for swimming as a competitive sport. Practices focus on stroke technique and endurance training to new swimmers, as well as more advanced athletes. Fee: \$45. Register online at www.grandfungp.com or call 972-263-8174.

Course #	Level	Days	Dates	Time	Dates	Time
8134	Beginner	M/W	5/6-6/3	7-7:45 p.m.	6/8-7/29	5-5:45 p.m.
8135	Beginner	T/Th	5/7-6/4	7-7:45 p.m.	6/9-7/30	5-5:45 p.m.
8136	Intermediate	M/W	5/6-6/3	7-7:45 p.m.	6/8-7/29	5-5:45 p.m.
8137	Intermediate	T/Th	5/7-6/4	7-7:45 p.m.	6/9-7/30	5-5:45 p.m.
8138	Advanced	M/W	5/6-6/3	7-7:45 p.m.	6/8-7/29	5-5:45 p.m.
8139	Advanced	T/Th	5/7-6/4	7-7:45 p.m.	6/9-7/30	5-5:45 p.m.

CITY POOLS OPEN MAY 23

All pools will be open the last two weekends in May, 1-6 p.m. and on weekdays beginning June 8. Swim lessons will also begin June 8 and continue through August. For more information 972-263-8174.

Kirby Creek Natatorium
3201 Corn Valley Road • 972-263-8174

Bowles Outdoor Pool
2714 Graham Street • 972-264-4872

McFalls Outdoor Pool
505 Dickey Road • 972-264-1203

Tyre Outdoor Pool
2327 Tyre Street • 972-660-6269

Splash Factory Water Playground
601 East Grand Prairie Road • 972-266-5272

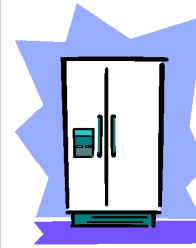
Celebrating a Century 1909-2009

ANGEL FOOD PROVIDES GROCERIES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that provides low-cost groceries to many neighbors in the Grand Prairie area. Angel Food's monthly unit of groceries is sold for \$30 per unit. Each month's menu varies from the previous month's and consists of packaged, fresh and frozen items with a retail value of \$60. One unit feeds a family of four for a week or a senior citizen for almost a month.

To make a donation to Angel Food, or to order food, call 972-642-4700 or visit: www.gpangelfood.com.

REFRIGERATOR RECALL



The Grand Prairie Fire Department wants you to know that Maytag Corp. has recalled about 1.6 million refrigerators due to an electrical component that can

pose a serious fire hazard. The recall includes a variety of brands sold from January 2001-January 2004. For more information call 1-866-533-9817 or visit www.repair.maytag.com.

CABINS ON THE LAKE

As the spring weather brings warmer days head out to Loyd Park for a relaxing stay at the cabins on



Joe Pool Lake. Enjoy scenic views in a fully furnished cabin! All you need to bring are your clothes and food. Make your reservations today by calling 817-467-2104. Visit us online at www.loydpark.com.

www.gptx.org