City of Grand Prairie Monthly Citizen Newsletter January 2010 Vol. 11 No. 1

New Sub-Courthouse and Clinic Planned

The former Army Navy store property at 130 W. Church Street has been acquired by the city of Grand Prairie. Demolition of the building on the site will begin in early 2010. Dallas County has plans to construct a new county sub-courthouse building on the property, which will replace the current county courthouse at 630 W. Main St.



Parkland Hospital System has entered into an agreement with the city of Grand Prairie to build a new clinic in Grand Prairie at 801 Conover Drive, the site of the current police headquarters. The proposed 25,000-squarefoot clinic would provide primary preventive care for infants, children, adults and seniors. A full service pharmacy would also be available at the location.

The Grand Prairie Police Department is expected to move from its current building on Conover to the new Public Safety Center in May 2010. The new facility is located on the west side of SH 161 between Arkansas Lane and Warrior Trail.

FARMERS MARKET RE-OPENS FEB. 6



The Farmer's Market is Back!

Saturday, Feb. 6 • 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Market Square, 120 W. Main St.

REGISTER FOR CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Residents who live or work in Grand Prairie are invited to sign up and learn more about the Grand Prairie Police Department at the Citizens Police Academy. The free course begins Monday, Feb. 1, and is conducted

once a week on Mondays until May 3.

Classes will meet at the Charles V. England Public Safety Center at 310 W. College St. Attendees will learn how the Grand Prairie Police Department works through lectures, demonstrations, tours,

hands-on practice and an opportunity to ride along with police officers.

Participants must agree to a background criminal history check, be 18 years old or older and not convicted of a felony. To register, call Charlene Muse at 972-237-8724 or e-mail Lt. Dennis Clay at dclay@gptx.org.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH FAIR

Kick off African-American History Month in style with music, food, games. valuable health screenings and fun. Candy, activities and bounce houses will be available for children.

Wednesday, Feb. 3 • 2-7 p.m.

Dalworth Recreation Center, 2012 Spikes, 972-264-7670

UPTOWN THEATER **EVENTS DAZZLE**

Make a date for a night out at Grand Prairie's Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. in downtown Grand Prairie. Tickets are available at www.



uptowntheatergp.com or call 972-237-

Thurs., Feb. 4- Sat., Feb. 6, 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, 2 p.m. Always Patsy Cline

Sat., Feb. 13, 8 p.m. Best of Broadway: Love Songs

Sat., March 6, 8 p.m.

Songs and Stories Celebrating Texas Independence Day John Dee Graham and Darrell Scott with a very special guest

Thurs., March 25- Sat., March 27, 8 p.m.

Sun., March 28, 2 p.m.

The Odd Couple: Female Version

STATE OF THE CITY

Join city, business and residential leaders at the annual State of the City Address given by Mayor Charles England at the Ruthe Jackson Center, Thursday, Feb. 4. The evening begins with registration at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the address at 8 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Chamber of Commerce, 972-264-1558.

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS FOR THE SUMMIT

The new Grand Prairie active adult center, The Summit, is currently pre-selling memberships with a big bonus in advance of the much anticipated facility's grand opening in early summer 2010. The 60,000-square-foot activity center targets active adults age 50+ and offers:

Café • Fitness area • Classrooms

Group exercise room • Indoor walking track 100-seat movie theater • Locker rooms with saunas

Banquet rooms with full kitchen • Gym for basketball and volleyball Outdoor covered patio overlooking lake with grill and fireplace Indoor swimming pool with lap lanes, exercise vortex, hot tub

The center is located at SH 161 and Warrior Trail in the also-under-construction new 172-acre Central Park. **Residents** who buy a one year membership early get two extra months added to their annual membership:

Age	Annual	Early Member Bonus
65+	\$50/year	two FREE months added to annual membership
50-64	\$200/year	two FREE months added to annual membership

To purchase, visit the Senior Center, 925 Conover Dr., 972-264-4975, or go online to www.grandfungp.com and click on the Buy Early/Save Big icon.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION DAY FEB. 6

The Environmental Services Department will be collecting household hazardous waste on Saturday, Feb. 6, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Development Center, 201 NW 2nd St. (next to City Hall).

We will accept household and automotive batteries, pharmaceuticals, motor oil, cooking oil, paint, aerosol cans, fluorescent bulbs, and household, landscape, and pool chemicals. We will not accept explosives, gas cylinders, fireworks, medical waste, radioactive materials, or municipal trash. No commercial waste will be accepted.

Registration is required. Register by calling 972-237-8055 or on-line at www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE FEB. I-APRIL 14

Volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) are offering free tax help sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Main Library, 901 Conover Dr. The sessions, for seniors and low-income residents, begin Feb. 1 and continue until April 14. Participants should bring last year's tax return, as well as any 1099s, W-2s, or other tax documents.

GP COMPANIES BEST PLACES TO WORK

Congratulations to two Grand Prairie companies listed in *The Dallas Morning News*' Top 100 Places to Work in 2009:

- Grand Prairie AirHogs
- · Pollock Paper

The newspaper, in partnership with Workplace Dynamics, asked readers to nominate their employers for the honor. To be considered, each company had to give permission to survey all of its employees.

DADDY DAUGHTER VALENTINE DANCES

Purchase Tickets Now

Daughters and fathers of all ages are invited to attend this special evening of dancing and dining.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Bowles Life Center
2750 Graham St.
Dancing, games and pizza
\$10 per person
Tickets available at
Bowles Life Center, 972-237-7529

Friday, Feb. 12

Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 S. Carrier Parkway
Dinner 7-8 p.m., Dance 8-10 p.m.
\$20 per person
Photographer available at 6 p.m.
Tickets available until 9 p.m. on
Thursday, Feb. 11 at
charleytaylorprograms.blogspot.com
or first come first serve spots may be
available the night of the event.
For more information call Charley
Taylor Rec Center at 972-264-6890.

HISTORY TOUR AT BAPTIST COLLEGE

The site of the current Arlington Baptist College was not always peaceful during the 20th Century. Learn more about what went on there and the people who made it famous.

Tour the historic Arlington Baptist College 3001 W. Division, Arlington, Texas

Saturday, Feb. 13 • 10 a.m. \$5 per person

Sponsored by the Grand Prairie Historical Organization Lunch may be purchased separately RSVP to Angela 972-262-5151. For more information and questions, call Brian, 214-808-1913.

2010 GOALS - TOP 10

- 1. Open the new 60,000-square-foot **Summit** activity center for active adults age 50+ at SH 161 and Warrior Trail in April
- 2. Open the new Public Safety Headquarters at SH 161 and Arkansas Trail in April 2010.
- 3. Open the new Lake Parks Operations Center across from the Lynn Creek Park entrance in summer 2010.
- 4. Conduct the first annual Fall Indie Fest independent film and music festival for Texas film and music makers in October 2010
- 5. Open Central Park at SH 161 between Warrior and Arkansas trails, a 172-acre park with lakes, waterfalls and trails.
- 6. Clear former Army-Navy store site to make way for a new Dallas County Courthouse to be built downtown.
- 7. Work with downtown merchants to renovate and restore the facades to their 1950s glory; and operate a farmers market at Market Square Saturdays from Feb. 6-Dec. 18, 2010.
- 8. Complete **Mayfield Road** widening from SH 360 to Great Southwest Parkway.
- 9. Open **Arkansas Lane** as a widened four-lane divided road from Robinson and Carrier
- 10. Extend Lake Ridge Parkway from Great Southwest to I-20; and widen from Great Southwest Parkway to Joe Pool Lake.

New Year, New Hours, New Offer!

Grand Prairie Community Health Center



Mon., Wed., Thurs., & Fri. 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Tues. 7:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

- Newborn exams Teenage health care

- · Adult medical care
- Immunizations
- School physicals
 Treatment for asthma,

diabetes and more

Appointments: 469.865.1850

Accepting Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP Discounts available.

Bring this ad with you for a \$10 office visit for children age 17 and under! Expires 02/28/10

405 Stadium Drive Grand Prairie, Texas 75050 (Near Grand Prairie High School)

TOP 10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2009

- 1. Celebrated 100 years of incorporation with festivals, special events, displays and more.
- 2. Approved a **new city logo** reflecting the city's casual, friendly, unpretentious, fun, family-oriented, hometown personality as evidenced by research; and tagline: Dream Big, Play Hard.
- 3. Opened Market Square in October to thousands excited about the new weekly farmers market and event venue.
- 4. Began driving on **State Highway 161** between SH 183 and Interstate 30.
- 5. Opened the fabulous outdoor **Gardens at the Ruthe Jackson Center**, offering a new element to the popular conference center.
- 6. Landed big industrial and distribution **economic** development deals:
 - Solo Cup distribution center
 - Discount Tires distribution center
 - Lady Primrose Cosmetics distribution and packaging
 - Farley's and Sathers Candy company warehouse
- 7. **Built Fire Station 214** with Cedar Hill in April 2009, serving Lake Ridge and the southern sector.
- 8. Connected **Kingswood Boulevard** from Lake Ridge Parkway to SH 360; extended Warrior Trail through Carrier to Great Southwest Parkway; achieved a Railroad Quiet Zone through downtown; and opened the **Belt Line Road Overpass** over Main and Jefferson streets.
- 9. Renewed by vote of the people the ¼ cent sales tax for street improvements.
- 10. Welcomed a **John Peter Smith Public Health Clinic** at Sherman Street and Great Southwest Parkway.

Spring and Easter Pet Photos

Make an appointment today to have your pet's photo taken by a professional pet photographer. Photos are by appointment only on Saturday, March 20, at the Prairie Paws Adoption Center. Photos start at \$25 and a portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the Animal Care Fund.

Call Ann Joiner-Carroll at 972-237-8582 to schedule an appointment. The Prairie Paws Adoption Center is located at 2222 W. Warrior Trail. Space is limited.

GRAND PRAIRIE 2009 BY THE NUMBERS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Land Area	81 sq. miles
Population	168,500
Median Age	32
Avg. Price of New Home	\$212,000
Avg. Household Income	\$46,955

DEVELOPMENT

316
\$222,668
449,206

TOP TAXPAYERS

Bell Helicopter, Inc. Republic Beverage

Hanson Pipe & Precast, Inc.
Oncor Electric/Texas Utilities
Cardinal Health 200, Inc.
AT&T Communications
Prologis MacQuarie Tx LP
Lockheed Martin
Catellus Development Corp.

PROPERTY TAX RATES

(Per \$100 Assessed Pro	perty Value)
City of Grand Prairie	\$0.669998
Grand Prairie ISD	\$1.465000
Arlington ISD	\$1.272000
Cedar Hill ISD	\$1.500000
Mansfield ISD	\$1.450000
Dallas County	\$0.22810
Tarrant County	\$0.26400

RETAIL SALES TAX RATES

City	1.00%
AirHogs Ballpark	0.125%
Active Adult Center	0.125%
Parks Improvements	0.25%
Street Improvements	0.25%
Crime Control District	0.25%
State	<u>6.25%</u>
Total Sales Tax	8.25%

GRAND PRAIRIE'S TOP EMPLOYERS

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Grand Prairie ISD	3,400
Lockheed Martin Missiles	
and Fire Control	2,800
Poly-America, Inc.	1,800
Bell Helicopter	1,300
Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie	1,200
City of Grand Prairie	1,000
Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc.	700
Siemens Energy &	
Automation, Inc.	500
Hanson Pipe & Products, Inc.	500
Wal-Mart	500
American Eurocopter	500
Arnold Transportation Services	500
SAIA Motor Freight Line, Inc.	500
Turbomeca Engine Corp.	400

OPERATING BUDGET (2009-2010)

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(Total appropriations an	nd reserves)
General Fund	\$98,097,926
Water/Wastewater	\$50,787,116
Other	\$49,622,352
TOTAL	\$198,507,394

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

Full-Time Police/Fire	
Civil Service	411
Full-Time General Employees	701
Seasonal/Part-Time Employees	159

LIBRARIES

Main Library	
Total Collection	149,177
Warmack Branch	
Total Collection	43,086
Bowles Branch	
Total Collection	10,844

PARKS AND RECREATION

Acres of Park Land	5,002	
Number of Parksites	58	
Rounds of Golf Played	80,740	
Ruthe Jackson Center Events	919	
(more than 80,000 guests)		
Loyd Park Campers	19,306	
Lynn Creek Park Attendance	203,250	
Cemetery Spaces Sold	231	

UTILITIES

Water Production	
(Avg. Gallons/Day)	24.5 million
Fire Hydrants	7,134
Miles of Water Lines	776
Miles of Collection Line	752
Customer Accounts	44,228

SOLID WASTE

Tons of Garbage Disposed 168,386.66		
Tons of Commercial		
Recycling (at landfill)	24,731.50	
Tons of Residential Recycling		
at the Landfill	4,753.95	
at the Curb	3,738.13	
at Drop Sites	1,091.40	

TRANSPORTATION

Municipal Airport	
Takeoffs/Landings	82,482
Grand Connection	
Bus Passengers	44,800

LYNN CREEK PARK OPENS MARCH I



Britton and Lynn Creek Parks open for the season on Monday, March 1. Hours of operation are 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Lynn Creek Park, 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway, has more than 100 individual picnic pavilions, a playground, swimming beach, boat ramps, sand volleyball and plenty of open space to toss the football. Single vehicle admission is free for Grand Prairie residents excluding select holidays and special events. Call 817-467-2104 for more information.

Britton Park is a 129-acre day-use park with restrooms and a ramp to launch a boat.