

FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR 2010 CENSUS

Have you received your 2010 Census questionnaire? We can't move forward until you mail it back.

It's easy. In just 10 minutes, you can make a difference. One of the shortest forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

It's important. The 2010 Census is a historic event that will help shape our nation's future for the next 10 years. With accurate census data, we can create a portrait of our nation's growing population and determine what's needed to better provide for everyone.



It's safe. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

How Does the Census Benefit Grand Prairie?

- Every year, the federal government allocated more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.
- Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

Complete your 2010 Census form and send it back. It will shape the future for you, your community and the country.

FARMERS MARKET OPEN SATURDAYS

The new, expanded Farmers Market is now open on Saturdays at Market Square, 120 W. Main St. (on the corner of Main and NW 2nd streets) from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Spend your Saturday morning shopping for fresh, locally grown produce, spices, seasonings, honey, candles and more. For more info. visit www.gptx.org/farmersmarket.



Dream Big ★ Play Hard

EGG-STRAVAGANZA EGG HUNT APRIL 3



Saturday, April 3 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lynn Creek Park
5700 Lake Ridge Parkway

The Easter Egg Hunt for kids ages 1-12 is divided into three age categories (5 and younger, 6-9 years, and 10-12 years) each happening at a different time. In addition to the 10,000 eggs, enjoy games, bounce houses, arts and crafts, kid rides, refreshments and more! Park entrance is free for Grand Prairie residents with a Grand Prairie water bill or driver's license. Call 972-237-8100 for more information.

SPRING BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Library will host a spring book sale April 21-25 at the Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.

A book sale preview for new and current Friends members will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. on April 20. The sale is free and open to the general public starting Wednesday, April 21.

Regular sale hours are:

Wednesday, April 21	10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Thursday, April 22	10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday, April 23	Closed
Saturday, April 24	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, April 25	1-5 p.m.

For more information,
call 972-237-5700.

www.gptx.org

PERSONAL DOCUMENT SHREDDING

Sponsored by the Grand Prairie Crime Commission

Saturday, April 24 • 8 a.m.- noon

GPISD School Administration Parking Lot, 2600 S. Belt Line Road

\$5 donation appreciated, but not required of Grand Prairie residents

Limit three boxes per visit. Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) and VIN etching will also be offered at the event. For information call 972-237-7545.

DESTINATION GRAND PRAIRIE 5K RUN/ WALK AND FUN RUN APRIL 24

Saturday, April 24 • 9 a.m.

The second annual run/walk on Lone Star Trinity Trail circles the entertainment district. Participants will receive a T-shirt and goodie bag. Proceeds will provide Parks and Recreation program scholarships.

Registration fee is \$15 if postmarked by April 16. The race day fee is \$20.

For more information or race registration forms contact Danny Boykin at 972-237-8084.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, April 30 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

City Hall, 317 College St.

Celebrate Arbor Day as Grand Prairie is named a Tree City USA for the 26th consecutive year. You will enjoy free trees, hot dogs, lawn care and gardening tips and entertainment. For more information call 972-237-8102.

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS FOR THE SUMMIT

The Summit, Grand Prairie's premiere 50+ club, is currently pre-selling memberships before the grand opening this summer. The 60,000-square-foot activity center targets active adults and offers:

- Café • Fitness area • Locker rooms with saunas • Banquet rooms and kitchen
- Group exercise room • Indoor walking track • 100-seat movie theater
- Gym for basketball and volleyball • Outdoor covered patio overlooking lake
- Indoor swimming pool with lap lanes, exercise vortex, hot tub

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/thesummit.

UPTOWN THEATER

Friday, March 19 • 8 p.m.

Tejas Brothers with Mingo Saldivar

Saturday, April 17 • 8 p.m.

Simply Sinatra-

Simply Stunning

Veteran performer Steve

Lippia and his big band

bring Ol' Blue Eyes' tunes

back to life in a big way.



Uptown Theater

120 E. Main St.

Tickets available at

www.uptowntheatergp.com or

call 972-237-UPTN

PROPER DISPOSAL OF COOKING OIL

Cooking oil and grease can clog drains when poured down the kitchen sink. This causes sanitary sewer back-ups and overflows that are a health hazard and a threat to the environment. When the pipe is blocked, raw sewage comes up through cleanouts or city manholes, contaminating the soil and waterways.

Used grease and cooking oil should be poured into a non-leaking container and taken to a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event for recycling. HHW events are scheduled on March 27 at the Grand Prairie Landfill, 1102 MacArthur Boulevard from 8 a.m.-noon and April 10 at the Development Center, 201 NW 2nd Street from 9-11 a.m. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Register by calling 972-237-8055 or on-line at www.gptx.org/wq/hhw.

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.

OPENING WEEKEND

APRIL 8 - APRIL 11



LONE STAR PARK
at Grand Prairie

LoneStarPark.com • 972-237-RACE

Come for the Free Admission!

Join Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie
Opening Weekend with Free General Admission
for up to four (4) people April 8 - 11.
Up to a \$20 value!

Present to designated table upon entry. Valid April 8 - 11 for live racing only. Limit one coupon per person, per day. Not valid with any other offer. Not for resale. Separate parking fee may apply. Coupon must be surrendered upon use. Not valid for late-gate admission for concert events.

Dream Big ★ Play Hard

www.gptx.org

SPRING FLING AT MARKET SQUARE

Saturday, April 17 • 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come out to Market Square, 120 W. Main St. for springtime family-fun activities, entertainment, arts and crafts. For more information call 972-237-8100.

ULTIMATE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

Saturday, April 24 - Sunday, April 25 • 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Enjoy the second annual Ultimate Outdoor Experience at Loyd Park, 3401 Ragland Road. See a variety of displays and exhibits including RV's, boats, motorcycles, ATV's, personal watercraft, cars and trucks. Outdoor recreation, live music and food will be available. For more information call 972-237-8100.

LYNN CREEK PARK NOW OPEN

Spend a day outdoors at Lynn Creek Park, 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway. Free vehicle admission for Grand Prairie residents with valid driver's license (excludes trailers, boats, holidays and special events). For information call 817-467-2104.



GRAND PRAIRIE TURNS GREENER

The city of Grand Prairie is currently leading a revitalization on a scale that will soon put it in easy company with such cities as Portland, Seattle, Albuquerque and Austin with respect to “green” clean-tech initiatives that create sustainable, high-performance buildings.

The city plans to leverage an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant of nearly \$1.5 million from the Department of Energy, as well as other available grants and incentives, to make more than 76 energy-efficiency upgrades to Grand Prairie facilities, and create an Energy Master Plan that decreases energy-related expenditures for years to come.

“This program is vital because it guarantees that the financial decision makers understand the long-term effects of utilizing the equipment and therefore can rationalize investing in energy efficiency upgrades,” says Assistant to the City Manager Mike Foreman.

Improvements could include upgrades to HVAC equipment, lighting systems, energy management control systems, as well as installation of renewable technologies like solar hot water systems and photovoltaic energy systems.

TANGLE RIDGE GOLF CLINICS

Improve your game with a Saturday golf clinic at Tangle Ridge Golf Course, 818 Tangle Ridge Dr. Clinics are designed for all player levels.

Saturday, April 17 Mid Irons and Hybrids

Saturday, May 22 Fairway Woods and Drivers

Each clinic is \$20. Clinics are offered throughout the summer. For more information call Alan Rasberry, PGA Director of Instruction, 972-740-1032.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

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 continue until April 14. Participants should bring last year's tax return, as well as any 1099s, W-2s, or other tax documents.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Free concerts - Friday evenings in April at 7 p.m.

Turner Park Gazebo
600 Block of NE 8th St.

Alternate indoor venue:
First United Methodist Church
Youth Building
121 N. Center St.

Enjoy a fabulous line up of entertainment. Bring the whole family and your lawn chairs or a blanket. Dinner concessions will be available, or bring a picnic dinner.



April 2 – Tin Roof Tango

Take five talented musicians, add over twenty instruments and music from six continents, sprinkle on a bit of dance and a few jokes, and you have the recipe for Tin Roof Tango's Big Acoustic World Show.

April 9 – South Grand Prairie High Jazz Band

Homegrown award-winning band.

April 16 – The Gimbles

Three generations of musicians rolled up in one Texas-style symphony of swing and country music.

April 23 – Brave Combo

If Brave Combo has a credo, it is Do Something Different. From polka-tinged rock, pop, salsa, and beyond, this two-time Grammy award-winning band has created a dizzying repertoire that thrills long-time fans and captivates curious newcomers.

Sponsored by the Grand Prairie Arts Council and city of Grand Prairie. For more information visit www.artsgp.com or call 972-642-2787.

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

RISK

- Floods are the number one natural disaster in the United States.
- Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to property.
- Everyone is at risk — due to weather systems, land development runoff or regional events.
- Most homeowner's insurance doesn't cover flood damage.
- More than 50 percent of properties in high-risk areas remain unprotected by flood insurance; all properties in high-risk areas need to be protected with flood insurance.
- Twenty to 25 percent of all flood insurance claims are filed in low- to moderate-risk areas.
- New construction can increase flood risk, especially if it changes natural runoff paths.
- More than 5 million Americans are protected with flood insurance, but millions more are unaware of their personal risk for property damage — or options for protection.
- There is a 26 percent chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 9 percent chance of fire for buildings in high-risk flood areas.
- In the South and West, approximately 60 percent of homeowners in high-risk areas, or Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), are covered by flood insurance. However, outside of the high-risk areas, 1 percent of flood insurance homeowners in non-SFHAs have purchased flood insurance (Source: RAND Corporation).

IMPACT

- Flood losses in the United States averaged \$2.4 billion per year for the last decade.
- The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) paid nearly \$16 billion in flood insurance claims to policyholders during the 2005 hurricane season (as of August 31, 2006).
- Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest — and is only available when a disaster has been federally declared.
- In the last 50 years, nearly 1,000 flood events have been designated as federally declared disasters.
- Nearly 75 percent of all federally declared disasters over the past five years involved flooding.



A March 2006 rain storm flooded Grand Prairie roadways.

PROTECTION

- Property owners, renters and businesses can purchase flood insurance if their community is among the more than 20,300 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- It typically takes 30 days after the purchase of flood insurance for the policy to take effect.
- The average premium for a yearly flood insurance policy is approximately \$500.
- People in low- to moderate-risk areas may be eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy with flood insurance premiums starting as low as \$112 a year.
- One of the first things you can do is check the FEMA maps to see if your property is within the mapped limits of the floodplain. Floodplain maps and flood protection references are available at the city's public library. You can also visit the city of Grand Prairie Engineering Department at the Development Center, 206 W. Church Street, to see a copy of the floodplain maps. These maps are also available online at www.gptx.org/floodplain. Even if you are not within the mapped limits of the floodplain, there is still the risk of flooding due to rising waters, street flooding, or even improper yard drainage. You may call the city's Floodplain Administrator if you have questions or concerns at 972-237-8157.