



HATCH CHILE FESTIVAL AUG. 18

Saturday, Aug. 18 • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Market Square, 120 W. Main Street

The 3rd Annual Hatch Chile Festival will heat up the Farmers Market with world famous Hatch chiles from New Mexico. Hatch chiles will be for sale and visitors will have two options: they will be able to buy roasted chiles—fire roasted right on the spot—or raw chiles to take home and prepare. In addition, the event will feature cooking demonstrations, art, music, kids activities and the bounty of the farmers market. For more information call 972-237-8100.

FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Market Square, 120 W. Main St.

Get a fresh start every Saturday morning at the Farmers Market and enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, coffee, tea, tamales, jellies, relishes, grass-fed meats, homemade soaps, candles and more.

Upcoming events include:

- Aug. 11 Honey and Relish
- Aug. 18 Hatch Chile Festival
- Aug. 25 Hotter than #@!! Salsa
- Sept. 1 Rain Barrel Class
- Sept. 8 Recycling Bins
- Sept. 15 Adopt-a-Pet

PARKLAND CLINIC NOW OPEN

Parkland Health Clinic

Grand Prairie's 33,000-square-foot E. Carlyle Smith Jr. Parkland Health Center is now open at 801 Conover Dr. The facility was built to service 40,000 patient visits per year and offers pediatric, adult and geriatric care in addition to specialty services such as psychiatry and psychology.



Paragon Outlet Mall

The Paragon Outlet Mall at Interstate 20 and State Highway 360 is set to open on Aug. 17. The 420,000-square-foot shopping area will feature more than 100 designer and upscale stores including Bloomingdales Outlet, Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH, DKNY, Joe's Jeans, Lacoste, Coach, Michael Kors, Tommy Bahama, True Religion Brand Jeans and Under Armour.



Dallas County Sub-Courthouse

Officials broke ground on the new Dallas County Sub-Courthouse in April. The facility, located at 130 W. Church St. in downtown Grand Prairie, will open in March 2013. Built at a cost of \$6 million, the 32,000-square-foot, two-story building will include truancy and justice of the peace courts, juvenile probation, constable and tax offices.



QT

QuikTrip will build a 5,700-square-foot store on the northwest corner of State Highway 161 and Main Street. The store will have 10 dual access pumping islands.



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The After-School Program is a five-day-a-week program for ages 5-12 that provides your child with homework time, a snack and recreation. The recreation centers offer organized games, arts and crafts, movies, computers, field trips, and more. The After-School Program is available during the school year beginning August 27. The \$20 per week payment is due weekly, the Friday prior to each Monday. Center membership is required.



The After-School Program is offered at the following locations:

- Bowles Life Center**
2750 Graham St., 972-237-7529
- Charley Taylor Recreation Center**
601 E. Grand Prairie Rd.
972-264-6890
- Dalworth Recreation Center**
2012 Spikes St., 972-264-7670

UPTOWN THEATER TICKETS ON SALE

Enjoy popular artists and diverse musical genres in the fabulous Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. Purchase tickets now for great events coming soon. For tickets, visit www.uptowntheatergp.com or call 972-237-8786.

The Night the Music Died

Presented by Texas Family Musicals

Last performance of Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper

Saturday, July 18-Sunday, July 29 • 7:30 p.m.

Rocky Mountain High: The World of John Denver

Presented by Texas Family Musicals

Sunday, Aug. 26 • 7:30 p.m.

British Invasion

Presented by Texas Family Musicals

The night The Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show

Friday, Aug. 31 and Saturday, Sept. 1 • 7:30 p.m.

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas

Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council

Thursday, Sept. 13-Sunday, Sept. 23

PAY YOUR WATER BILL ANY TIME



On the Internet:

Go to www.gptx.org/waterbill and click the "Online Bill Pay" link on the left. You will be asked to enter your customer number and a PIN. Payments can be made with Visa, MasterCard or e-check without extra credit card or processing fees. Also on www.gptx.org/waterbill, customers can sign up for water bill e-notifications to remind you when your next bill is due.

This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

On the Phone:

Call 972-237-4545. Payments can be made with Visa, MasterCard or e-check without extra credit card or processing fees. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Bank Draft:

Go to www.gptx.org/waterbill and click on "Bank Draft Form Water Billing" on the left. Print out the form, complete it and mail it with a voided check to: City of Grand Prairie, 317 College St., Grand Prairie, TX 75050

In Person:

The City of Grand Prairie's Utility Customer Service Department is located in City Hall at 317 College St., Grand Prairie, Texas 75050. Offices are open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information call 972-237-8200.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLED AT LANDFILL

Grand Prairie residents can drop off electronics at the landfill, 1102 MacArthur Monday- Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The city sends the electronic waste to a recycling vendor. Any electronic waste with a cord is accepted, including curling irons, hair dryers, computers, televisions, DVD players and microwave ovens. The electronics recycling program keeps the items from being buried in the city's landfill, reducing the carbon footprint. For more information, call the landfill at 972-237-8151.

THE GRAND PRAIRIE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS WEDDING BELLS... WEDDING BLUES DINNER SHOW

Gino is throwing a big anniversary bash for his beautiful wife, Angel. You're invited to join in the celebration of their 5th wedding anniversary as they renew their vows at the zaniest party of which you'll ever be a part!

Limited seating for 4 shows:

August 24-25 at 7 p.m.

August 25-26 at 2 p.m.

Tickets:

\$35 each - includes a full three-course dinner and the show

Purchase a full table of 8 for \$200 – that's just \$25 a ticket!

Location:

The Summit Ballroom
2975 Esplanade

For tickets or more information:

www.artsgp.com or 972-642-2787

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS NEEDED

The City of Grand Prairie Office of Emergency Management is seeking licensed amateur radio volunteers for our Grand Prairie Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) organization which is comprised of licensed volunteer amateur radio operators who can volunteer their time and equipment to provide supplemental communications within the city, and to surrounding jurisdictions, county, state and federal agencies during severe weather, emergencies and disasters. If you want to find out how you can participate, please contact Tonya Hunter, Emergency Management Coordinator, Office: 972-237-7595, thunter@gptx.org.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY BEGINS SEPT. 6

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 on Thursday, Sept. 6, and is conducted once a week from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Two classes will be on Saturdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Classes will meet at Public Safety Headquarters, 1525 Arkansas Lane.

Participants must agree to a background criminal check, be 18 years old or older and not convicted of a felony. Applications are available at www.grandprairiepolice.org/CPA, call 972-237-8749 or email jcastillo@gptx.org.

Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association

Previous graduates of the Grand Prairie Citizens Police Academy class are invited to join the Grand Prairie Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association to provide help and support to the department when requested, and to provide for the incidental needs of the department. For more information visit www.gpcpaaa.org.

FUR BALL BENEFIT FOR ANIMAL SHELTER SEPT. 7

*A Fancy Feast and Pawsitively Awesome Auction
Benefitting the Prairie Paws
Animal Shelter Animal Welfare Fund*

Friday, Sept. 7 • 7-11 p.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway
\$50/person

Plan now to celebrate your furry friends and help raise money for the welfare, major veterinary and surgical needs of our guests at the Animal Shelter by attending The Fur Ball. Wear your finest bling and faux fur to this fancy gala, and enjoy entertainer Jeff Copeland during the live auction, a silent auction, dinner and dancing. Arrangements are still underway so stay leashed to www.gptx.org for more details as the event approaches. Or email asprinkles@gptx.org.



THE SOPRANOS

Don't fuggedaboudit - July is National Spay/Neuter Month

So, you got this dog or cat and you don't spay or neuter it, then bada bing, bada boom, you got litters and the Grand Prairie Prairie Paws Animal Shelter has more and more unwanted animals. Let's take care of it now, not later.

Neutering your pet hits these other high notes:

- Spaying will eliminate nervous pacing while in heat
- Neutering will reduce aggressive behavior, urine marking and roaming
- Spaying/neutering reduces the risk of certain cancers, infections and other illnesses
- Neutered pets lead longer, happier and healthier lives

Tony says: Don't fuggedaboudit- spay or neuter now. www.gptx.org/paws



SHOW YOUR LIBRARY CARD FOR DISCOUNTS

From Sept. 1-30, some Grand Prairie businesses will offer discounts to residents who show their library cards. The library celebrates National Library Card Signup Week by giving you more reasons to get "the smartest card." The cards are free of charge and available at any of Grand Prairie's public libraries. Watch the city's website, www.gptx.org for more information. Grand Prairie public libraries:

Main Library

901 Conover Dr.
972-237-5700

Betty Warmack Branch Library

760 Bardin Road
972-237-5774

Bowles Branch Library

2750 Graham St.
972-237-7540

PHOTO CONTEST

Amateur and professional photographers who live in Grand Prairie are invited to enter the 2012 City Calendar Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted through Oct. 1, 2012.

Photo must feature Grand Prairie:

- Entertainment attractions, parks, events
- City services, facilities, programs, employees at work
- Pretty places in Grand Prairie
- GPISD students, facilities, activities (only one month in calendar may feature the schools)

Format may be 8 x 10 inch print or 600 DPI TIF file on CD or e-mail with your name, address, phone number to asprinkles@gptx.org. Prints can be returned if return address is on back of photo. Send entries to:

Amy Sprinkles
Communications and Marketing
City of Grand Prairie
P.O. Box 534045
Grand Prairie, Texas 75053

WHY DOES THE WATER TASTE DIFFERENT?

1. As the seasons change, water supplies undergo natural processes that impact the taste and odor of drinking water. These changes, while some times a nuisance, do not indicate unsafe drinking water. Grand Prairie water is tested daily to ensure that it meets all state and federal regulations, which are based on human health research. If these standards are not met, we are required to notify you.
2. The seasons that typically have the greatest impact on the taste and odor of our drinking water are spring and summer. Heavy spring rainfall, higher temperatures and more sunlight accelerate the growth of algae in the water. Algae are microscopic plants, that grow in rivers and lakes.
3. In the spring, heavy rains bring organic matter (sediment) into the watershed, sometimes leading to “earthy” or “musty” tastes. This matter acts as a “fertilizer” to the algae, encouraging its growth, especially during long periods of sunlight.
4. Most episodes of taste and odor cannot be removed by conventional treatment processes. The algae “bloom” must run its course before the taste and odor subside.
5. In the summer, the city supplements its purchase of surface water with water wells. The mix of these different supplies is noticeable to those who have become used to surface supplies during the course of the year. Our ground water meets the same standards as our surface water, but tastes different.
6. Ground water naturally contains a high dissolved mineral content, which will give it a more distinct taste. The presence of natural minerals gives water much of its taste. Water without minerals (distilled) tastes flat.
7. Sometimes people detect the odor of chlorine in their water. This is a disinfectant used to ensure the biological integrity of the water and is mandated for use by the federal government. Usually the odor will be most apparent after first turning on the water. After a few minutes, the odor usually fades. Before the use of chlorine, waterborne diseases were a major problem. Its use has virtually eliminated diseases such as typhoid, cholera and dysentery.
8. “Milky” water is often caused by the presence of tiny air bubbles. To confirm this, pour some water in a glass. If the water starts to clean immediately from the bottom up, the cause was entrapped air bubbles.
9. Cooling water in your refrigerator in an open container will improve the taste and odor of your water.
10. Speakers on water conservation are available to talk to civic groups, community and charitable organizations. For more information, call 972-237-8377 or e-mail sjackson@gptx.org.

PRIORITY RESPONSE FOR VIDEO ALARMS

Grand Prairie Police will continue to respond to all traditional burglar alarms; however, video alarms will now receive priority response from officers. Video alarm technology can confirm an actual burglary in progress resulting in much a much higher arrest rate. The vast majority of traditional alarm calls are false alarms with low arrest rates. Video alarms are helping reduce property losses and bringing insurance rates down for a better community. Visit grandprairiepolice.org for more information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZ WASTE COLLECTION

If you haven't already done so, consider replacing your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). CFLs last much longer and are more energy efficient, saving you money on your electric bill. The downside to CFLs is that they contain small amounts of mercury which can contaminate groundwater if not properly disposed.

Proper disposal of CFLs (and other mercury-containing devices) is essential. Most major home improvement stores, including both Grand Prairie Home Depot stores, accept used fluorescent bulbs. You can also take CFLs and other mercury-containing equipment to any of our Household Hazardous Waste collection events. The next event will be Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Development Center, 206 W. Church St. Registration is required. You may register online at www.gptx.org/WQ/HWW or by calling 972-237-8055.

In addition to CFLs, residents can bring household and automotive batteries, pharmaceuticals, motor oil, cooking oil, paint, aerosol cans, medications, and household, landscape, and pool chemicals to the HHW Collection Day. Items **not accepted** include explosives, gas cylinders, fireworks, medical waste, radioactive materials, and municipal trash. **No commercial waste** is accepted.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Register now until Sept. 14 for the Youth Volleyball League at



Bowles Life Center, 2750 Graham St. The season begins on Saturday, Oct. 6 and all games will be played at the Bowles Life Center. Fee is \$50 per player and includes jersey. For more information, call 972-237-7533.