

**THIS COUPON IS GOOD FOR \$2 OFF ADMISSION
AT PRAIRIE LIGHTS 2012!**



LYNN CREEK PARK ON JOE POOL LAKE, 5700 LAKE RIDGE PARKWAY

ONE COUPON PER VEHICLE. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.

VALID MONDAY-THURSDAY NOV. 26-29 AND DEC. 3-6

**Grand
Prairie**
T E X A S

THE PIPELINE

City of Grand Prairie Monthly Citizen Newsletter  November 2012 Vol. 13 No. 11

LIT ON MAIN, HOLIDAY TREE AND MAIN STREET LIGHTING NOV. 30

Have a Very Prairie Christmas with us Friday, Nov. 30 on Main Street with grand GPISD choral entertainment as we light up Main Street from City Hall, 317 College St., to Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St., for the holidays, Friday, Nov. 30, 6-9 p.m.

- Beginning with ever-so-darling elementary school entertainment at City Hall at 6 p.m., through middle school carolers to high school choirs who will raise the roof and their voices, let's ring in the season and light the tree at City Hall.
- Enjoy Reindeer Games at Farmers Market, 120 W. Main, from photos with Santa to bounce houses, Reindeer Ring Toss to Santa Bowling, cookies to hot chocolate.
- Seussical the Musical will dance and sing holiday spirit right into your heart at the Uptown Theater.
- Pop Up Art Shows will fill storefronts along Main Street, as will window décor and holiday lighting.
- Ugly Lamp Contest Kick Off at Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main, – vote for your favorite Ugly Lamp!

Stay tuned to gptx.org for more details as they develop on this grand Lit on Main holiday kick off!

PRAIRIE LIGHTS NOV. 22-DEC. 31

Prairie Lights has a new look this year with all new custom displays. The drive-through lighting display will still feature 4 million lights and the world's longest light tunnel. Don't miss Holiday Village where you can meet Santa, take a free carnival ride, buy kettle corn and hot chocolate, visit the gift shop, walk the lighted forest and attend Holiday Magic Live!, a new lively revue of singing, dancing and snow. It is sure to get you into the holiday spirit.

Dates: Thursday, Nov. 22 – Monday, Dec. 31
Times: Sunday – Thursday 6-9 p.m.
Friday, Saturday and holidays 6-10 p.m.
Where: Lynn Creek Park, 5700 Lake Ridge Pkwy.
Price: Monday – Thursday \$20 per carload
Friday – Sunday & Holidays \$30 a carload



Visit PrairieLights.org or call 972-237-GLOW for more information.

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. Enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, tamales, jellies, grass-fed meats, candles and more.

Upcoming events include:

- Dec. 1 Empty Bowls Charity Project
- Dec. 8 Feliz Navidad
- Dec. 15 Flash Mob

For more information about the Farmers Market, call 972-237-4599 or visit www.gptx.org/farmersmarket.

PRAIRIE LIGHTS TRAFFIC UPDATE

The number of lanes open to Prairie Lights traffic traveling southbound from Camp Wisdom on Lake Ridge Parkway will remain the same as last year. Mobile message boards will advise motorists that the center turn lane on Lake Ridge at Lynn Creek Park is for Prairie Lights traffic. Police officers will direct traffic in the area on busy nights.

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.

Seussical

Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council
Thursday, Nov. 29-Saturday, Dec. 9

It's a Wonderful Life

Presented by Texas Family Musicals
Friday, Dec. 21, and Saturday, Dec. 22

Ring in the New Year with Judy Norton and Friends

(Judy Norton starred as Mary Ellen on *The Waltons*)
Monday, Dec. 31 - 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.



THE GRAND PRAIRIE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS



A holiday show for the entire family! The story centers around Horton the Elephant, who finds himself faced with a double challenge.

Thursday, Nov. 29 -

Saturday, Dec. 1, and Thursday,
Dec. 6 - Saturday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 9,
at 2 p.m.

Uptown Theater, 120 East Main St.

Reserved seat tickets \$11, \$16 and
\$21 with student, senior citizen and
group discounts available.

Tickets available online at www.artsgp.com or by calling the Uptown Theater Box Office at 972-237-UPTN.

For more information:
972-642-ARTS / www.artsgp.com

COPELAND HOME OPEN HOUSE DEC. 1



Grand Prairie's historic Copeland Home, 125 SW Dallas St., will celebrate the holidays with an open house from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec.

1. Guides will give tours and answer questions about the quaint 100-year-old home during the open house. To get to the home, from Main or Jefferson streets in Grand Prairie, turn south on SW 2nd Street, and east on SW Dallas Street. The open house, tours and refreshments are free.

CITY'S 2012 ORNAMENT CELEBRATES ALL THAT IS GRAND



The annual custom-designed 2012 city of Grand Prairie holiday ornament is a compilation ornament of all that is great in Grand Prairie. First Lady Janice England created the ornament project as a way to celebrate Grand Prairie. Revenues benefit local charities.

Ornaments retail at \$15 each, are available now and may be purchased at:

City Hall

317 College St.
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Tourist Center

2170 N. Belt Line Rd.
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Sat

This ninth-in-a-series of annual ornaments features a representation of the city's entertainment venues, parks, lake, fire and police, families, airport, Farmers Market, Uptown Theater, golf and Prairie Paws. The two-sided gold-tone 3D ornament is sure to have at least one of your favorite things about Grand Prairie on it.

Ornaments from previous years are available for \$10 each and include the inaugural 2004 ornament, recognizing Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie's World Thoroughbred Championship Breeders' Cup; the 2005 "I Love Grand Prairie" ornament; the 2006 "Starry Nights" ornament; the 2007 "Uptown Theater" ornament; the 2008 "Prairie Lights" ornament and the 2010 "Willow Tree in Central Park" ornament. The 2009 "Centennial" ornaments are sold out. For more information, call 972-237-8086.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION

There will be no garbage and
recycling collection on:

Thursday, Nov. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 25
and Tuesday, Jan. 1

There will be no makeup days. Please put your garbage and recycling out on your next scheduled collection day. The landfill will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 22; Tuesday, Dec. 25; Tuesday, Jan. 1 and will close at 3 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 31.



Do You Have Your TollTag?



First time TollTag user? Get your TollTag at the Grand Prairie Tourist Center, 2170 N. Belt Line road, today! Just bring your drivers license, license plate number for all vehicles for which you would like to purchase a TollTag, and a debit or credit card. You will fill out an online form, pay with your credit card and receive your TollTag immediately! The Tourist Center is open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 pm. Cost is \$40 per TollTag and you may keep the money on your TollTag for many years or reload as needed. NTTA TollTags work on all Texas toll roads and at DFW Airport.

Toll rates for SH 161 through Grand Prairie are 15.3 cents per mile, while ZipCash customers pay 50 percent more. The cost difference is due to the higher costs of toll collection associated with ZipCash transactions.

CITY OFFERS FREE CLASS FOR INTERESTED FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Grand Prairie Housing and Neighborhood Services offers a free class each month to anyone who is interested in purchasing a home for the first time. The homebuyer education class, officially approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides potential homebuyers information about financial preparation, credit readiness and overall guidance through the home buying process.

Those who complete the class receive a Homebuyer Certificate, which helps qualify them for the city's various first-time homebuyer and down payment assistance programs.

Location: Betty Warmack Branch Library, 760 Bardin Road

Participants must pre-register in order to attend one of the upcoming classes:

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visit www.gptx.org/homeownership to register online or call 972-237-8129.



PIPELINE SAFETY

Natural gas pipelines are safe, silent and unseen, but a leak or damage due to digging or a natural disaster poses a potential hazard.

How can I find buried natural gas and other utility lines before excavating on my property?

811 is the national "Call Before You Dig" number. Homeowners and professional excavators can call 811 and the call center will notify utilities in your area to come mark underground lines free of charge. Digging without calling can lead to harm to those who dig, costly damages to underground infrastructure and utility service disruptions.

What should I do if I suspect a gas leak?

- Leave the area immediately and tell others to leave too.
- Call Atmos Energy from a safe distance at our toll-free emergency number 1-866-322-8667 or call 911. A technician will investigate.
- Do not turn any lights on or off, smoke or use a cell phone, or operate any vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks.

SANTA BREAKFAST

Bring your child to have Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 22, 9:30-



11 a.m. at Charley Taylor Recreation Center, 601 E. Grand Prairie Road. A holiday themed art and craft will be provided as well as breakfast. Photography is permitted and there will be a photographer on hand. The cost is \$10 per parent/child. For more information, call 972-264-6890.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY DEC. 1, JAN. 5

Cooking oil and grease can clog drains when poured down the kitchen sink. This causes either your drain or the City's sanitary sewer to back up and overflow. Sewer overflows to the environment are harmful to wildlife and can cause fish kills. Grease blockages are the single greatest cause of sewer overflows in Grand Prairie. 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. The next HHW event is scheduled for December 1 and January 5 at the Development Center (206 W. Church 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 will be

FOOD SAFETY TIPS FOR HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

Parties, family dinners, and other gatherings where food is served are all part of the holiday cheer. But the merriment can change to misery if food makes you or others ill.

The good news is that practicing four basic food safety measures can help prevent foodborne illness.

Clean:

- Wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds before handling any food.
- Wash food-contact surfaces with hot, soapy water after preparing each food item.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables thoroughly under cool running water.

Separate:

- Keep eggs and raw meats away from foods that won't be cooked.
- Use two cutting boards for foods that will be cooked and for those that will not.
- Keep fruits and vegetables that will be eaten raw separate from other foods.
- Do not put cooked foods on unwashed containers that held raw food items.

Cook:

- Food is safely cooked when it reaches the recommended internal temperature.
- Use a food thermometer to make sure that all your food items are safely cooked.
- Bring sauces, soups, and gravies to a rolling boil when reheating.

Chill:

- Refrigerate leftovers and takeout foods within two hours.
- Set your refrigerator at or below 40°F and the freezer at 0°F.
- Defrost foods in the refrigerator, under cold running water, or in the microwave.
- Leftovers should be used within three to four days.

For more information on food safety, visit us online at www.gptx.org/environmentalquality.

HOLIDAY TIPS TO REDUCE AND REUSE

Below is a list of efficient ways to be environmentally friendly over the holidays.

BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag)

Take your own bag with you when you go shopping. Don't load up on plastic bags that will end up in landfills. If you have to take a bag with your purchase, save it and use it again.

Tag it!

Use old Christmas cards as gift tags.

Only Buy Rechargeables

Buy gifts with rechargeable batteries. It's always better to reuse a battery than throw it out.

Purchase Recycled Gifts

Buy gifts that are made of recycled materials.



HOLIDAY CAMP BOWLES LIFE CENTER

The Bowles Life Center, 2750 Graham St., is a great place to keep your child happy and busy while school is out! Camp activities include fieldtrips, gym games, holiday crafts, game room (pool, foosball, video games, and ping pong), and computer lab activities. Camp is offered for youth ages 6-15 from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on December 19, 20, 21, 27 and 28. Cost is \$16 per day. Campers must bring a lunch. A morning and afternoon snack are provided. For more information call 972-237-7529.



HOLIDAY CAMP CHARLEY TAYLOR

It's cold outside, but you can stay warm by having fun at the Charley Taylor Recreation Center Holiday Break Camp for kids ages 5-12. Charley Taylor is located at 601 E. Grand Prairie Road. Campers will participate in fun field trips, games, and holiday arts and crafts Dec. 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Each camper needs to bring a lunch, but we will provide daily snacks. Space is limited, so register now. For more information, call 972-264-6890.

BOWLES LIFE CENTER FITNESS ROOM

Stay fit this winter at the Bowles Life Center fitness room, 2750 Graham St. Purchase the individual annual Grand Plan at the individual annual prairie plan price.

The Grand Plan is \$198 per person a year. Purchase during this special offer time for only \$108. The Grand Plan includes access to the fitness room Monday-Friday as early as 6 a.m. Offer valid Nov. 23, 2012-Jan. 2, 2013. For more information call 972-237-7529.