



\$5 OFF
PER TICKET



Texas Family Musical at Uptown

Red Skelton's AMERICAN WAY



Friday, June 28 – Sunday, June 30 • Uptown Theater • 120. E. Main St.
For tickets, visit www.uptowntheatergp.com or call 972-237-8786 • Use code word: PIPELINE



THE PIPELINE

City of Grand Prairie Monthly Citizen Newsletter  May 2013 Vol. 14 No. 5

DOWNTOWN CRAWFISH BOIL JUNE 1

Saturday, June 1 • 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St.

Let the good times roll with a crawfish boil at Farmers Market. Hundreds of pounds of tasty authentic crawfish will be sold by the pound and accompanied with potatoes and corn. Farmers Market will be open extended hours for the boil, opening at 8 a.m. and closing at 2 p.m. or until supplies run out.



DONATE TO WATER BILL HELP FUND

Donate as little as \$1 per month with your water bill payment to help Grand Prairie families who cannot pay their water bills. To make your donation, email your name, address and the amount of your donation to waterhelp@gptx.org or call Cora Snyder at 972-237-8218. This program is sponsored by the city of Grand Prairie in cooperation with Grand Prairie United Charities.

PRAIRIE PAWS OFFERS \$10 MICROCHIPPING

The Prairie Paws Animal Adoption Center offers \$10 microchipping for animals in Grand Prairie. Microchipping provides the peace of mind that you've given your pet the permanent, lifetime ID he needs for the best chance to come home. To have your pet microchipped, bring them to the Prairie Paws Animal Adoption Center, 2222 Warrior Tr., Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed noon-1 p.m. for lunch).

Here's how it works:

- The microchip is inserted with a simple injection. It does not hurt your pet, and provides no more discomfort than a vaccination.
- Enroll your pet's ID code along with your contact information so that your pet can be positively identified.
- If your pet is taken to an animal shelter or clinic, the staff will scan the microchip to read its unique ID code.
- The staff will then call the appropriate registry with your pet's ID code.
- As soon as your contact information is retrieved, you will be contacted and arrangements will be made to reunite you with your pet.

For more information, call the Prairie Paws Animal Adoption Center at 972-237-8575.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM



Dig into Reading Kickoff Event
Monday, June 10 • 10 a.m.-noon
Main Library, 901 Conover
Touch and see bulldozers, and other city vehicles in the parking lot.

Inside the library, readers of all ages can sign up for the Summer Reading Club, which begins June 10 and ends Aug. 4. Children ages 0 through 12 can earn prizes and coupons as they read.

Free activities at the libraries will be available all summer. Visit www.gptx.org/library for more information.

OUTDOOR POOLS OPEN



Outdoor pools and the Charley Taylor Splash Factory will be open on weekends only May 25-27 and June 1-2. Pools will open on weekdays beginning Friday, June 7. Pool hours are 1-6 p.m. and entry fee is \$1.

SUMMER SIZZLES AT THE UPTOWN



Enjoy a spectacular show at Grand Prairie's Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. For tickets, visit www.uptowntheatergp.com or call 972-237-8786.

Footloose

Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council June 14-16,
June 21-23

Red Skelton's American Way

June 28-30

All Shook Up

July 12-13

Roy Orbison

July 26-28

The Grand Prairie Arts Council Presents

SUMMER IN THE ARTS PROGRAM

Inspire your child's creative side this summer. Enroll them in the Grand Prairie Arts Council's Summer in the Arts Program - four weeks of arts programming, including two full-day weeklong workshops taught by professional artisans in visual art and puppetry theatre and a two-week, full-day musical theatre workshop. For ages 6 years old and completed 1st grade - 15 years old.



Sessions run Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Each workshop culminates in performances and exhibits.

Summer in the Arts 2013

- **July 8-12 and 15-19: Musical Theatre Workshop / Children's Production of Alice in Wonderland, Jr.** - Auditions are held, roles are cast and rehearsals run for two weeks concluding in two public performances. All students participate in the show.
- **July 22-26: Art Explosion** - Participants create original art pieces using a variety of media, while studying various artists and their techniques.
- **July 29 - August 2: Puppetry Theatre Workshop & Show** - Taught by professional puppeteers from Le Theatre De Marionette, students will explore and create a variety of puppetry styles with hands-on training in puppet manipulation, culminating in a public performance.

Registration, tuition and program details at www.artsgp.org or call 972-642-ARTS.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Grand Prairie has been fortunate to have an overwhelming spirit of volunteerism. Our community has many generous individuals who volunteer their time and expertise by serving on one of the city's boards or commissions. At this time, applications are being accepted to serve on one of the city's boards. Please take the time to visit the city's website at gptx.org to view the summaries of each board to see if one of them sparks your interest. Appointments are made by a majority vote of the Council for a three-year term. Applications can be found on the city website at gptx.org, or you may call the City Secretary's Office at 972-237-8035 and one will be mailed to you. Applications must be submitted by June 28, 2013 and appointments will be made in July and August.

The Grand Prairie Arts Council Presents

FOOTLOOSE

June 14, 15, 21 and 22 8 p.m.
June 15, 16, 22 and 23 2 p.m.

Uptown Theater, 120 East Main Street

To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated top 40 score, *Footloose* is one of the most explosive musicals in recent memory! When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, he isn't prepared for the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher.

Reserved seat tickets \$11, \$17, \$22 - group discounts available by phone.

Tickets available online at www.artsgp.org or by calling the Uptown Theater Box Office at 972-237-8786.

For more information: 972-642-ARTS or www.artsgp.org.

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, tamales, jellies, relishes, candles and more.

Upcoming specials include:

June 1 Crawfish Boil
June 8 Dubiski Chef Demo
June 15 Car Show
June 22 Basket Gardening
June 29 Adopt a Pet
July 6 Red, White & Blueberries
July 13 Tacos and Tejanos

AIRHOGS PLAY BALL!

The Grand Prairie AirHogs baseball season is underway at QuikTrip Park, 1600

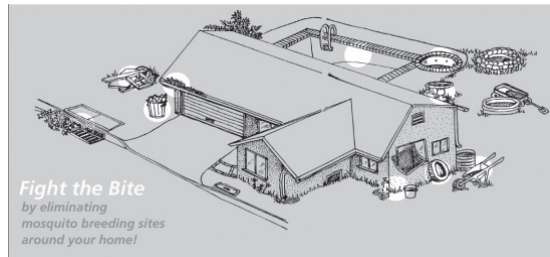


Lone Star Parkway. Home games will be played until Sept. 2. Single game tickets are available for as little as \$8 per seat. For more info., call 972-504-9383 or visit www.airhogsbaseball.com.



STOP RAISING MOSQUITOES IN YOUR YARD

Remember, standing water means mosquitoes. Any standing, stagnant water that remains for 7 to 10 days after a rain can, and usually will, produce mosquitoes. For example, one coffee can full of water has been shown to produce in excess of 10,000



mosquitoes over an entire summer season

- Empty all water holding containers in your yard on a regular basis, at least once a week, children's wading pools, rain barrels, buckets, bird baths and stored boats are prime examples of mosquito breeding sites.
- Over-watering and poor irrigation practices are common producers of mosquitoes around the home, in parks and on golf courses. Report standing water to appropriate maintenance personnel.
- Clean out eaves' troughs and down spouts of leaves and other debris that slow drainage.
- Ditches must be kept free of vegetation and other debris to promote rapid drainage, and pond edges should be kept clean of cattails and other aquatic vegetation. This is where mosquito larvae develop and mature.
- To reduce the number of adult mosquitoes in your yard: keep your lawn mowed as short as is practical.
- Keep all ornamental shrubs and bushes trimmed and pruned to open them up to light and air flow. This will not only give mosquitoes one less place to hide, but will promote growth and vigor in the plant.
- Cut back as far as possible, all low, dense under-growth surrounding your yard. This is where mosquitoes go to hide during the day.
- Have large trees trimmed to allow sunlight to penetrate dark, damp areas.

GRAND PRAIRIE LAND USE AND ZONING

People often ask, "How do we ensure that a certain restaurant or shop is built," or sometimes more importantly, "is not built in our neighborhood?" City staff and your elected officials work hard to ensure that all land use decisions are in the best interest of our community. Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan provide the basic framework for the types of land uses that are allowed or not allowed in a particular area, but they cannot dictate for example that a Starbucks or a H.E.B grocery be built at a certain location. When a zoning change or other significant land use application is filed, all property owners within 300 feet are notified and are welcome to participate in the public hearing process.

On October 22, 1950, the City of Grand Prairie adopted its first zoning map and ordinance. Today, every property within the city is zoned with one of 27 separate zoning districts adopted by the city or with a site specific special zoning district called a Planned Development. These different zoning districts allow certain land uses and prevent other land uses. They also establish minimum lot size, property line setback standards, maximum building height standards and other dimensional and architectural standards.

In 2010, the city adopted a 25-year Comprehensive Plan to help guide the city's growth and development. This plan helps city staff and officials make

Continued on page 4

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Friday, June 14

Festivities at Tyre Park, 2327 Tyre St.

Saturday, June 15

Freedom March from City Hall Plaza, 317 College St. to Tyre Park for a cultural celebration.

Lunch, games, swimming and entertainment provided. For more information call Rod Hayes 972-237-7533.

HOUSEHOLD HAZ WASTE COLLECTION

Paint is by far the most common item brought to our household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. Remember, you can dispose of latex (water-based) paint by taking the lid off, letting it dry completely, and placing it in your trash. Oil-based paints and solvents should be brought to a collection event or taken to the Environmental Collection Center in Fort Worth. There is a maximum limit of 30 gallons of paint per household at our events.

Along with proper disposal, one of the most important things you can do is to reduce the amount of paint waste you generate. Buy only what you need.

Our next HHW event will be Saturday, June 8, 9-11 a.m. at the Development Center located at 206 West Church Street. 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.

You can register by calling 972-237-8055 or on-line at www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW.

LAWN CARE FOR YOUR HOME - DON'T BAG IT!

Grand Prairie does not pick up grass clippings from your curb (or alley), to help save valuable space in the city landfill. You can do your part by leaving clippings on the lawn, and letting them work back into the soil for a vibrant green lawn. Here are nine easy steps to improve your lawn (and keep grass out of the landfill):

1. **Mow Less** - Longer blades of grass crowd out the weeds.
2. **Stop Raking** - By cutting off a third of the blade of grass, you can leave the clippings on the lawn as fertilizer.
3. **Stop Dethatching** - Unless your lawn has been over-fertilized, thatch (a build-up of roots) just above the soil isn't a problem.
4. **Fertilize Less** - Generally, use a total of three pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in at least three carefully timed treatments over a season.
5. **Spray Less/No Herbicide** - Healthy grass should crowd out weeds.
6. **Spray Less/No Insecticide** - Diagnose first. If you have bug problems, contact your County Extension agent to help identify what is eating your grass.
7. **Water Less** - A typical lawn can soak up 10,000 gallons in a summer. One solution is to wean your lawn from overwatering. Wait until a foot-print does not spring back, then water as little as 1/4" a week to keep the roots alive. If it's very dry, protect your lawn by cutting down on traffic. TIP: For lawns with sprinkler systems, place containers by the sprinkler heads to measure the amount of water used in that area.
8. **Accept Imperfection** - If the site gets fewer than four hours of sun or is unsuited for grass, then try another ground cover.
9. **Xeriscaping/Drought Tolerant Landscaping** - Consider using colorful native plants or hardscapes such as naturally colored rocks and gravel instead of grass, but check with your homeowner associations first.

GRAND PRAIRIE LAND USE

Continued from page 3

sound decisions regarding proposed land development that could have a long term impact on the city. The plan also provides residents, property owners, and developers with surety that all property in Grand Prairie will be developed in a manner consistent with the plan. A review of the plan is done every five years and the plan is updated annually to incorporate text amendments and approved changes to the future land use map.

Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan govern what type of development can occur on your property and neighboring properties all over Grand Prairie. For example, the owner of a property zoned for commercial purposes cannot obtain a permit to build a single-family home on the property or if the property is zoned for residential uses the owner cannot obtain a permit to build a fast food restaurant on the property. Zoning also protects property values by ensuring that incompatible land uses are not located next to each other. No one wants a landfill or other heavy industrial use built next to their home.

If you're wondering what might be planned for that vacant property in your neighborhood, or before purchasing a property in Grand Prairie, check the zoning and the Comprehensive Plan by visiting the city's website at www.gptx.org. If you have questions about a specific property, please call 972-237-8255.

FLOOD INSURANCE AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS



Basic homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. The city of Grand Prairie participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which means that federally subsidized flood insurance is available to everyone in the city. There is a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective. Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank or loan company when they obtained a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. A flood insurance policy must be renewed each year.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: The mandatory purchase requirement applies to all forms of federal or federally related financial assistance for buildings located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This requirement affects loans and grants for the purchase, construction, repair or improvement of any publicly or privately owned buildings in a SFHA, including machinery, equipment, fixtures and furnishings contained in such buildings. If a building is located in a SFHA, the agency or lender is required by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building.

For more information about flood insurance contact: www.gptx.org, www.fema.gov/nfip, the Grand Prairie Public Library, your insurance agent or the Planning and Zoning Department.