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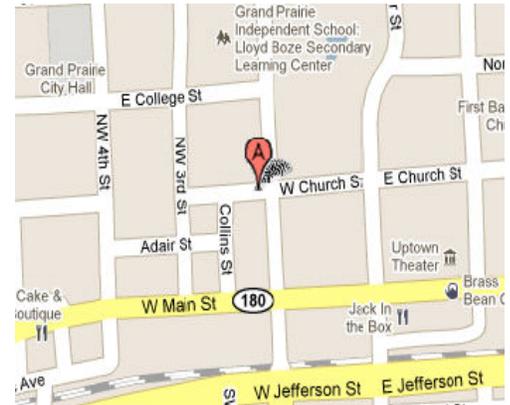
Creating raving fans by delivering world class service.

Environmental Compliance Meeting

The Environmental Compliance meeting for this quarter will be **Thursday, May 10, 2012** from 9:30 – 11:00 am at the Environmental Service Department office located in the **Development Center at 206 W. Church Street**. The Development Center is located across from City Hall at the intersection of Church and NW 2nd St. Take either of the outside staircases located on the east side of the building to the second floor. An elevator is also available.

The meeting topic will be **Managing E-Waste – Economical and Responsible Solutions**. Chris Proctor,

Compliance Manager for GEEP Texas, will be speaking on e-waste and electronics recycling. GEEP provides end-of-life IT services including reverse logistics, computer remarketing, computer recycling, and electronic data destruction solutions. The discussion will include the “what and how” of electronics recycling, take-back programs, and current and proposed legislation. To regis-



ter, or for more information, contact Cheri Hebison at (972) 237-8070 or chebison@gptx.org, or fax your registration form to (972) 237-8228.

Television Recycling in Texas

On June 17, 2011, Governor Perry signed Senate Bill 329 into law, creating the Texas Television Equipment Recycling Program. The TCEQ is currently undergoing rulemaking for this program, and rules should be adopted by May 1, 2012.



Benefits of Senate Bill 329

- Requires manufacturers to pay for the collection, transportation, and recycling of waste from consumers, small business, schools, and local gov-

ernments.

- Shifts the cost of waste management from governments to producers.

- Requires manufacturers to be responsible for the recycling solutions.

- Encourages manufacturers to be smart design driven.

Nearly 2 million tons of used electronics, including computers and televisions, are

discarded each year. With an ample supply of newer, faster electronic products on the market, Americans continually replace older models.

There are retailers that currently have recycling programs either on their own or with television manufacturers such as Best Buy and Walmart.

For additional resources:

- Recycle Texas Online, www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/P2Recycle/tv_recycling.html
- Earth 911, www.earth911.com/

MayFest 2012: A Celebration of the Trinity River



Join the Grand Prairie Independent School District and the City of Grand Prairie in celebrating MayFest 2012! Each year the GPISD and City of Grand Prairie co-host this **FREE** educational event that focuses on water quality issues. This year's event will take place on **Saturday, May 19th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Kirby Creek Park, 3303 Corn Valley Road.** MayFest goers will enjoy a wide variety of aquatic and wildlife demonstrations, Country Critters Petting Farm, Wildlife on the Move, Purple Martin Landlords, rainwater harvesting, Master Composters, water quality exhibits, monitoring, and conservation tips, a recycle relay, Prairie Paws pet adoption information, kids arts and crafts, GPISD musical and dramatic performances, and other programs. Enjoy arts and crafts vendors, festival foods, and more!!! For more information contact Tracy Hollis at tracy.hollis@gpisd.org.

TCEQ Penalty Policy

A new policy went into effect on September 1, 2011 relating to the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) administrative penalty policy. House Bill 2694 of the 82nd Legislature required the commission to revise its administrative penalty assessment and increase those penalties assessed. Violations are broken into two types - those that harm or have the potential to harm the environment

and/or human health and those that are related to documentation. Because of this differentiation, the TCEQ has two separate penalty matrices—the Environmental/Property and Human Health Penalty Matrix and the Programmatic Penalty Matrix. This policy includes a description of how violations



are evaluated in terms of harm and severity and how any proposed penalties are determined. It includes a discussion of what adjustments may be made to the base penalty amount after the review of case-specific information and information concerning the respondent.

Drought Update

Texas is recovering from the worst drought on record where at one point 100% of the state was in drought conditions with 78% under exceptional drought conditions, the highest degree of drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Though much of North Texas is no longer in drought conditions, 81% of the state is still in drought conditions with 18% under exceptional drought conditions.

North and East Texas have greatly recovered from the drought. Forty-nine (49) reservoirs are at 100% conservation storage capacity, 40 residing in North or East Texas. However, much of West Texas and the Panhandle are still under exceptional drought conditions with the lowest

percentage storage of the state at 7% and 2% respectively. Eleven (11) reservoirs are at or below 10% full with 9 effectively empty.



According to the Texas Water Development Board, the total reservoir storage of 109 of the state's major reservoirs is at 71% of their total conservation storage capacity which is 1.2 million acre-feet more than a month ago and 13% higher than the record lowest total storage (58%) set in November 2011. However, the current percentage is the lowest statewide storage observed at this time since 1978.

The City of Grand Prairie maintains mandatory water restrictions until future notice.

- No watering on Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday
- Even numbered addresses water lawns on Mondays and Thursdays
- Odd numbered addresses water lawns on Tuesdays and Fridays
- No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Handheld and soaker hoses may be used at any-time but no longer than two hours per day.

Texas Trouble

A metal plating shop in Dallas County was assessed \$60,500 for failing to update the Notice of Registration with all waste streams and waste management units, failing to clearly label all hazardous waste containers with the words Hazardous Waste and mark each container with the date on which the accumulation period began, by failing to keep containers of waste closed except when adding or removing wastes, and failing to provide adequate secondary containment for a hazardous waste tank.

A computer recycler in Harris County was assessed \$7,053 for failing to provide notification within 90 days prior to collecting and processing used com-

puter equipment for recycling, failing to demonstrate financial assurance for closure, post closure, and corrective action.

A home furnishing manufacturer in Dallas County was assessed \$6,300 for failing to obtain authorization for surface coating operations.

A gas well drilling site in Wise County was assessed \$1,850 for failing to obtain authorization prior to diverting, storing, impounding, taking, or using state water.

A motor freight transportation company in El Paso County was assessed \$4,965 for failing to



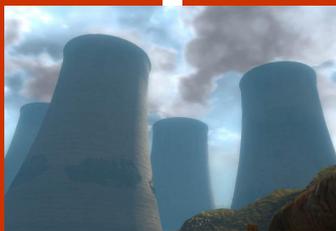
store used oil in approved containers, failing to label or clearly mark containers to store used oil and failing to clean up and dispose of contaminated soil upon detection of a release of used oil.

A recycling facility in Cameron County was assessed \$10,431 for failing to submit written notification to the TCQ regarding the activities and waste to be recycled, failing to provide financial assurance and failure to obtain storm water authorization.

“A home furnishing manufacturer in Dallas County was assessed \$6,300 for failing to obtain authorization...”

Power Plants are a Top Source for Global Warming

On January 11, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released information which indicates U.S. power



plants are responsible for the bulk of the pollution causing global warming. More than 72 % of all the pollution emitted from industrial facilities into the atmosphere came primarily from 20 coal fired power plants in 15 different states.

Global warming is caused by the trapping of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and pollution in the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned. This collection traps the sun's heat and warms up the planet. The average temperature has increased at the fastest rate in history over the last 50 years, with the 10 hottest years occurring since 1990.

Impacts are known to have increased droughts, caused heat waves, melted glaciers and polar caps,

raised sea levels, and increased the intensity of storms.

As a way to phase out coal, a few countries have enacted legislation to prevent the construction of any new coal facilities and to close out existing coal plants. In several countries, initiatives have started to support the renewable energy industry to replace decommissioned coal facilities. However, many countries, such as China and India, are planning increased coal production to aid their economic advance. Both China and India have large coal

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is the air safe today?

It's hard to judge on our own. Luckily, you can sign up for air quality alerts that will notify you when you and your children should use caution outdoors. And, you and your family can take action to make sure we have more good air quality days by carpooling to school when you receive an alert. Sign up and learn more at www.airnorthtexas.org



City of Grand Prairie

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This newsletter is a publication of:
Environmental Services Department,
Environmental Quality Division
Submit your comments/suggestions
to:

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Registration Form
Environmental Compliance Meeting
Environmental Services Department
City of Grand Prairie Development Center
206 W. Church, 2nd Floor
Managing E-Waste – Economical and Responsible Solutions
May 10, 2012
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
(Continental Breakfast Provided)

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Attendees: _____

PLEASE RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO:
Environmental Services Department
P.O. Box 534045
Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045
Fax to: 972.237.8228
Email: chebison@gptx.org

Global Warming (continued from pg 3)

reserves, and are heavily dependent on coal for electricity generation.

In 2005 the Kyoto treaty was enacted to reduce CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Thirty-five industrialized nations committed to reducing their output of those gases to varying degrees. The United States, the world's primary producer of greenhouse gases, did not sign the treaty.



City of Grand Prairie's Emergency Notification System



The City of Grand Prairie has implemented an Emergency Notification System called *Reverse 911*. This system allows you to receive quick emergency notifications that affect your home or business within the city of Grand Prairie. In the event of an emergency, the Reverse 911 system will automatically call out to all land line based telephone numbers within the affected geographic area and deliver a prerecorded message.

Cellular or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone numbers are not currently in the system database. **If you would like to be contacted on your cell or VoIP phone, you must register your number.** Please note that the service is for Grand Prairie businesses and residences. Calls regarding property located or situations occurring outside the city are not covered. While phone numbers can be outside of Grand Prairie's service, you must enter a valid address within the boundaries of Grand Prairie to be eligible for the service.

The City of Grand Prairie will not share or distribute personal information gathered by this system, except as required by law, and will use it solely for the purpose of providing emergency notifications.

Stay informed! Self register at www.gptx.org/disasters.