

FLIGHT OF THE MONARCH FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Central Park, 2975 Esplanade

Grand Prairie will celebrate the annual migration of the monarch butterfly at Central Park, located off of State Highway 161 between Arkansas Lane and Warrior Trail.

This free festival will celebrate the fun, festive, family atmosphere of Grand Prairie with live music and a headlining performance by four-time Grammy nominee Trout Fishing in America. Butterfly releases will be held at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Enjoy kite flying, bumper boats, costume contest, arts and crafts, food, a kid zone, and so much more!

Remote parking will be at Dubiski High School with shuttle service to and from the event. For more information, contact Mae Smith at 972-237-8107 or visit GrandFunGP.com.



MAYOR JENSEN NAMED RTC CHAIR



Mayor Ron Jensen has been elected chair of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policymaking body for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Jensen will lead the 44-member RTC for the next year, which will include the 85th Texas Legislative Session. He has been active in city and regional transportation issues as a member of the RTC since 2013.

The RTC guides the development of roadway, rail and bicycle-pedestrian plans and programs, which are recommended to the Texas Transportation Commission.

TASTE OF GRAND PRAIRIE SEPT. 29

Thursday, Sept. 29, 5-8:30 p.m.
Traders Village, 2602 Mayfield Road

Come see and taste the best of our community, public silent auction, lots of door prizes and \$5 unlimited rides. This year's event will include crafter booths as well as restaurants and business booths.

Senior hour is 4-5 p.m. Senior citizens (age 55 and older) can come and enjoy preferred parking and seating and a leisurely stroll through our event before the general public arrives. General public hours are 5-8:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students (K-12) and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Chamber of Commerce office, 900 Conover Dr., or at the door at Traders Village. Additional tickets for Traders Village rides will be available for \$5.

For more information, call the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce at 972-264-1558 or email nicole@grandprairiechamber.org.



FARMERS MARKET

Market Square,
120 W. Main St.



The Grand Prairie Farmers Market, sponsored by Breeze Energy, is open 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays and features locally grown fruits and vegetables, meats, honey and more.

Visit gptx.org/farmersmarket.

Celebrity Cook-Off

Saturday, Sept. 10 and Sept. 17
Enjoy the second annual cook-off between Grand Prairie dignitaries and staff.

Hispanic Heritage Salute

Saturday, Oct. 1

CYCLIN' WITH THE MAYOR

Join Mayor Ron Jensen for monthly 5-mile bike rides as part of the city's Get Fit wellness initiative. Visit gptx.org/getfitgp for full schedule.

Wednesday, Sept. 7 • 6 p.m. • Grand Central Park Ride
Meet at The Summit, 2975 Esplanade

Wednesday, Oct. 12 • 6 p.m. • Nottingham Ride
Meet at Larson Elementary, 2620 Avenue K



COMING SOON TO THE UPTOWN THEATER



Enjoy spectacular shows at Grand Prairie's Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. Uptown Presenting Series tickets are now on sale. For tickets to all shows, visit uptowntheatergp.com or call 972-237-8786.

Three Redneck Tenors

Downhome laughs with big city music written by opera-veteran Matthew Lord. **Sept. 10, 8 p.m.**

The Addams Family

Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council
Wednesday Addams has grown up and fallen in love. **Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Oct. 7-9**

Dallas String Quartet

Thoroughly modern, the group's repertoire includes Hayden to Coldplay to Lady Gaga. **Oct. 21, 8 p.m.**

KEEP THE TRINITY RIVER LITTER FREE WITH KEEP GRAND PRAIRIE BEAUTIFUL

The Trinity River and its tributaries run through Grand Prairie, providing habitat for native wildlife and recreation through fishing and boating opportunities. Unfortunately, these streams can become polluted with litter. The majority of this litter is made up of plastic bottles, plastic bags and polystyrene. This litter is called "floatables" because the majority of it floats on the surface of the water creating an eyesore for the community.

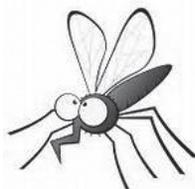
The Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful Commission invites you to do your part to help keep Grand Prairie beautiful by volunteering for one of our many Adopt-a-Stream cleanups that will take place this year from mid-October through mid-March. Our kickoff event will be on Saturday, Oct. 15. For more information or to volunteer, please visit gptx.org/kgpb or call 972-237-8152.



MOSQUITO SEASON IS NOT OVER PROTECT YOURSELF

When is mosquito season over? As the weather begins to cool in late October to early November, you'll likely notice a decrease in the level of mosquito activity on your property. Non-hibernating mosquitoes will begin to die off as the temperature approaches the 50°F mark, while the hibernating species will start to seek winter refuge in hollow logs, abandoned animal burrows and other convenient hiding spots.

The first frost is usually a reliable sign of the end of mosquito season. However, it's possible that some hibernating mosquitoes will emerge during unexpected warm spells during winter, only to return to their hiding places when the temperature drops. So be sure to follow the 4 D's: Protect yourself during dusk and dawn, dress in long sleeves and long pants to avoid being bitten, use DEET insect repellent all day, and drain standing water.



TRASH OFF

Saturday, Oct. 1
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Grand Prairie Landfill
1102 MacArthur

Residents are allowed an unlimited number of trips to the landfill on Oct. 1. Proof of residence in the form of a current water bill or driver's license is required. Contractors may not use this day to avoid landfill fees. For more information please call 972-237-8151.

PUT TRASH OUT ONLY ON COLLECTION DAYS

Please put garbage out by 7 a.m. on your collection day, but no earlier than 8 p.m. the night before your collection day. Putting trash out too early attracts animals and causes unpleasant odors.

360 SOUTH UPDATE

Construction is underway on the \$330 million State Highway 360 South project to expand the SH 360 roadway between Green Oaks Boulevard and US 287.

Beginning in mid-to-late summer, once utility lines are relocated, traffic on the Camp Wisdom crossover bridge will be diverted to allow for construction of a new bridge.

The detour crossover will allow two lanes of traffic to pass through each way.

COFFEE WITH A COP

Saturday, Sept. 24
10 a.m.-noon
Mountain Creek Estates
2305 Corn Valley Road



Join your neighbors and Grand Prairie police officers for coffee and conversation. No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know officers in your neighborhood.
972-237-8966 or 972-237-7545

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER BILL

During the hot months of summer, residents typically use more water to keep lawns green and to fill up swimming pools. Depending on your billing cycle, some of the water used in July could appear in the bill you receive in August or even September. (Check your "Service Period" dates under "Meter Information" on your bill.)

Your water bill adds up the following costs:

- **Storm Drainage Fee** (Fixed charge depending on square footage pays for the cleaning, repair, maintenance and improvement of the city's storm drain system.)
- **Water** (This is a tiered rate based on the amount of water used.)
- **Wastewater** (Base fee plus variable rate billed on either the winter month average or the current month's water usage.)
- **Trash/Recycling Service** (Fixed charge pays for garbage and recycling pickup services.)
- **Voluntary Donation** (You can help those in need keep their water on by automatically adding as little as \$1 a month to your water bill through the Water Assistance Program.)
- **Garbage Tax** (This is a State of Texas tax for Real Property Services associated with the removal or collection of garbage.)

For more information about how your water bill is calculated, visit gptx.org/watersmart.



REDEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY ON FORMER UA THEATER PROPERTY

United Development Company has begun redevelopment of the former



UA Theater in Grand Prairie located on the southeast corner of Westchester Parkway and Carrier Parkway. The site is being transformed into a 60,000-square-foot retail center featuring Starbucks, R Taco, Panera, a national grocer, and other retailers.



WARNING SIRENS



The city's Outdoor Warning Siren System may be activated for any kind of emergency - not just severe weather. People often have the misconception that the sirens are meant to be heard indoors. However, the siren system is intended to be heard outdoors. You may not hear it inside or in noisy areas.

When you hear the Outdoor Warning Siren System, you should immediately go inside and tune to local news or radio for additional information so you can make a decision on what actions you should take. Then, go to the lowest level, most interior space of your home or office.

For more information, visit gptx.org/disasters.

FALL GARDENING CLASSES

Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.
Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m.

Free gardening classes provided by Susan Henson, Horticulturist and Arborist for the City of Grand Prairie Parks, Arts & Recreation Department.



Sept 8: Fall into Fun Gardening – Fall is a great time to plant a garden that will grow through the winter with less weeding, watering, and much more fun!

Sept. 15: Smartscaping Made Easy – Learn how we can help the environment by saving our pollinators, decrease your out of pocket landscaping costs while reducing your water bills and saving the environment!

Sept 22: Fall into Winter Groundwork – Preparing for winter during the fall months will ensure that the landscape can truly build the reserves to spring into the summer months!

Sept. 29: Pruning with a Purpose – Learn when and how to prune trees and shrubs thus increasing the life span of your trees and shrubs.

ANIMAL VACCINATIONS

Low cost animal vaccination clinics are available at Prairie Paws Animal Adoption Center, 2222 W. Warrior Tr., 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Sept. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 8. For more information, call 972-237-8575.



KIDS' FISHING DAY

Saturday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Mike Lewis Park Pond, 2410 N. Carrier Pkwy.

Come reel 'em in at the Mike Lewis Park lagoon. This popular event is free to children 16 and younger. The lagoon will be stocked with catfish. Prizes will be awarded in the three age categories for the largest fish, smallest fish, and most fish caught. There is no registration fee to participate in the Kids' Fishing Day, but there will be an on-site sign-up table. A limited number of loaner rods and reels will be available on a first come first serve basis with a driver's license or credit card deposit. Registration is from 9-10 a.m. on the day of the event.



HOUSEHOLD HAZ WASTE DAY SEPT. 10

Paint is 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.

Reduce the amount of paint waste you generate by using latex rather than oil-based paint whenever possible. Latex is durable, less toxic, and does not require the use of hazardous thinners and solvents. Buy only what you need. A lower price per gallon does not save money if you have leftover wasted paint. You can find paint calculators on most major brand websites.

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

The next household hazardous waste event will be Saturday, Sept. 10, 9-11 a.m. at the Development Center. Registration is required on-line at www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW or by calling 972-237-8055. You may also take household hazardous waste to the Environmental Collection Center at 6400 Bridge Street in Fort Worth, 817-871-5275.

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The City of Grand Prairie Solid Waste and Recycling division is hosting a free electronics recycling event on Saturday, Sept. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 1, 9-11 a.m. at the Development Center parking lot, 206 W. Church St. Items accepted are computers, laptops, printers, VCRs, DVD players and TVs. Items that cannot be accepted are any hazardous material, liquids, broken monitor tubes, yard equipment, air conditioners and refrigerators. No registration is required and the event is open to Grand Prairie residents and small businesses. Proof of residence in the form of a water bill or driver's license is required.

Grand Prairie residents (not businesses) can also bring their unwanted electronics to the landfill located at 1102 MacArthur Blvd for free during business hours. For more information on recycling electronics please visit gptx.org/recycling.



ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Grand Prairie residents are invited to enter the 2017 City Calendar Photo Contest. Entries accepted through Oct. 1, 2016. A panel of judges will select photos most appropriate for the 2017 City Calendar.

Photo must feature Grand Prairie and be suitable for publication. Photos will be used in city publications. Credit will be attributed in calendar, but may not be possible in other publications and uses. Winning photos will be published in the calendar. No cash awards will be offered. Entrants must include name, address, email address and phone number with entry. Winners will be notified in November 2016. The city calendar will be printed in December 2016.

Email or mail entries to:

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

WRITING WITHOUT WORRIES

This is a new series at the Main Library, 901 Conover Dr., for kindergartners as they begin to use written language to express themselves. Classes begin at 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 20 - Kindergartners as Story Creators - Reinforces the basic story ingredients that kindergartners are exploring in school. Drawing pictures and telling stories is the way Kindergartners express themselves as writers.

October 18 - Get Inspired By Play
November 22 - Word Builders
For info., call 972-237-5700.