

## THE BIG EVENT CITYWIDE VOLUNTEER DAY

The Grand Prairie Big Event will be Saturday, March 24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Celebrating unity in the community, the city will pair volunteers who want to help others with residents who have qualifying service projects. To register to volunteer and to submit a service project for consideration, go to [gptx.org/bigevent](http://gptx.org/bigevent). Volunteers will work outside and could clean yards, haul debris, rake leaves, plant flowers, pick up litter, spread mulch or perform other similar tasks. If your yard needs attention, your garage or shed needs cleaning out, or you have a spring cleaning project, submit it as a job request. For more information, call 972-237-8369 or visit [gptx.org/bigevent](http://gptx.org/bigevent).



## ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

### Fish Creek Road

Construction is underway on Fish Creek and Dechman Roads from Belt Line Road to Interstate 20. Improvements include paving, drainage and utilities. Other project components include:

- Widening Fish Creek Road from two-lane asphalt to three concrete lanes which includes a dual left turn lane
- A 10-foot trail from I-20 to Holly Hill Drive
- Safety improvements at Fish Creek Road's 90 degree bend

The \$5.2 million project also includes water and wastewater improvements, storm drain, landscaping, irrigation, signage, pavement markings and street lights.

Construction is scheduled to be complete by summer 2018.

### Great Southwest Parkway

Work will begin in early 2018 with traffic detours starting in May 2018 to improve paving, drainage and utilities on Great Southwest Parkway from Sara Jane/Outlet Parkway to Mayfield Road. The \$15.96 million project will widen Great Southwest Parkway from 4 asphalt lanes to 6 concrete lanes for 0.8 miles. Other improvements include:

- A bridge across Prairie Creek
- Sidewalks along the existing developed areas and bridge
- Storm drain, water and wastewater line improvements
- Landscaping, erosion mitigation and street lighting
- Traffic signals and fiber optics

The project is scheduled to be complete in spring 2020.

### Palace Parkway

Improvements to extend a new section of Palace Parkway from Belt Line Road east to the Interstate 30 access road are set to begin in January 2018. The \$5.6 million project includes concrete paving on four lanes for .45 miles, utility and drainage improvements.

The project is scheduled to be complete in winter 2018.

**For more information, call 972-237-8141, or visit [gptx.org/roadways](http://gptx.org/roadways).**

## KID'S FISHING DAY

Saturday, Feb. 24  
Mike Lewis  
Park Pond  
2410 N. Carrier  
Parkway  
Registration:  
noon-1 p.m.,  
fishing: 1-4 p.m.



Come reel 'em in on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Mike Lewis Park lagoon. This popular event is free to children 16 and under. The lagoon will be stocked with rainbow trout furnished by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. There is no registration or entry fee to participate, but there will be an on-site registration 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. For more information, call 972-237-8115.

## LYNN CREEK PARK OPENS MARCH 3

Lynn Creek  
Park, 5610  
Lake Ridge  
Parkway, opens  
for the season on



Saturday, March 3. Hours of operation are 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Lynn Creek Park has more than 100 individual picnic pavilions, a playground, swimming beach, boat ramps, sand volleyball, and plenty of open space for setting up the perfect spot with your family. Single vehicle admission is free for Grand Prairie residents excluding select holidays and special events. Call 972-237-4120 or visit [GrandFunGP.com/lynn-creek-park](http://GrandFunGP.com/lynn-creek-park).

## DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Hosted by Charley Taylor Staff - Friday, Feb. 9  
Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Pkwy.  
Dinner: 6-7 p.m., Dancing: 7-9 p.m.

Daughters and fathers of all ages are invited to attend this special evening of dancing and dining. All participants will receive a memorable gift. Limo rides and a photographer will be on site for an additional fee. Tickets are available for \$25 per person. For more information, please email: [hbaquedano@gptx.org](mailto:hbaquedano@gptx.org) or call 214-406-5010.



## HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Common household chemicals can be dangerous if they are not handled and stored properly. To ensure a safer home, follow these five simple measures:

1. Shop carefully
2. Buy only what you need
3. Use and store products carefully
4. Take a home inventory
5. Properly manage leftovers



Unwanted chemicals can be brought to a household hazardous waste collection event.

The Environmental Services Department will be collecting household hazardous waste on Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Development Center, 206 W. Church (next to City Hall). We will accept household and automotive batteries, motor oil, cooking oil, paint, aerosol cans, fluorescent bulbs, and household, landscape, and pool chemicals. We will not accept explosives, gas cylinders, fireworks, pharmaceuticals, medical waste, radioactive materials, or municipal trash. No commercial waste will be accepted.

Registration is required. Register by calling 972-237-8055 or go online to [www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW](http://www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW). Visit the website for a complete listing of accepted wastes and event dates.

## FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The City of Grand Prairie Solid Waste and Recycling division is hosting a free electronics recycling event on Saturday, March 3 from 9-11 a.m. at the Development Center parking lot located at 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. Registration is required and the event is open to Grand Prairie residents only (not businesses). Proof of residence in the form of a water bill or driver's license is required. Register at [gptx.org/electronics-recycling](http://gptx.org/electronics-recycling) or by calling 972-237-4578.



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/electronics-recycling](http://gptx.org/electronics-recycling).

## UNITY COALITION BANQUET

The Grand Prairie Unity Coalition cordially invites the community to attend the Annual Grand Prairie Unity Coalition Banquet on Thursday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. at the Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway.

The evening will include great food and fellowship. The keynote speaker will be former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez. This year's theme is "Unity Builds Community." For more information, to make reservations or sponsor a table, contact Gwen Massey at 214-546-1935 or email [gm0019@att.net](mailto:gm0019@att.net).

The Grand Prairie Unity Coalition is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to enhance cultural awareness, to unify and to embrace all Grand Prairie citizens through education and association.

## HEALTHY HEART ART CONTEST

Get Fit GP is inviting all residents to participate in the Get Fit Healthy Heart Art Contest! All you have to do is draw what having a healthy heart means to you. The submission deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m.



The contest is open to all ages, and prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in three age categories: Elementary School, Middle/High School, and Adults. One grand prize winner will receive a Fujifilm instant film camera.

Teachers, parents, and interested participants can call 972-237-7594 with any questions. Visit [gptx.org/GetFitGP](http://gptx.org/GetFitGP) for full details and contest rules.

## SPRING GARDENING CLASSES

Grand Prairie Memorial Library, 901 Conover Dr.  
Thursdays in March, 6:30-8 p.m.

Take the mystery out of vegetable gardening and organic pest control. You could become the envy of your neighborhood by increasing curb appeal, reducing water bills, while increasing your property value.

### March 8 – Spring Gardens That Work

– Take the guess work out of your spring garden. No one can guarantee success but you can increase your odds.

**March 15 – Organic Pest Control** – Is Organic Better? Take the mystery out of organic pest and disease control in the landscape while improving our environment.

**March 22 - Annuals** – Crayons in the Landscape – Learn the fundamentals of planning a color garden. Increase your curb appeal and be the envy of the neighborhood.

**March 29 – Drought Relief** – In this class learn how to prevent drought stress through proper preparation and plant material selection. Find out if that plant is really dead or just dormant.



## PROPER HANDLING OF WILD ANIMALS

**What should I do if I find baby animals in my yard?**

Spring time is baby wildlife time! Sometimes it can be hard to determine when you need to step in and help a baby wild animal that you may find. The best thing to do is leave any sort of wild life alone! However, there are some instances where it may need your help. If your dog or cat has brought the animal to you, if it is bleeding or injured, or if there is a dead parent nearby, either try to safely capture the animal and transport them to an appropriate clinic or call Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for help.

You should also never feed baby wild animals. Although you may think the animal is hungry or thirsty, it is best to not give it any food or water. It may be the wrong food and they may choke. They could also be in shock and force-feeding will cause more harm.

If it is an emergency and you are not able to find an appropriate rehab center in time, you may take the wild animal to a veterinarian clinic for emergency care. However, please be aware that you will be pocketing the cost of the bill since veterinarians do not cover costs of wild animal care.

Get more information and view tips on specific animal care at [gptx.org/paws](http://gptx.org/paws).



## NEW CONVENIENCE AND DOLLAR STORE ORDINANCE

On November 21, 2017, the Grand Prairie City Council approved a city ordinance to ensure convenience store security in the city. The new ordinance establishes a registration program for convenience and dollar stores requiring owners to properly register their business with the Grand Prairie Police Department.

Requirements for registration include store owner contact information, proof of surveillance video recording devices, alarm systems, drop safes and security signs. After a convenience/dollar store complies with the ordinance requirements, the Chief of Police will provide the store with a registration compliance decal which must be displayed above a public entrance door to the store. The store must also display a certificate of registration at all times for the public to see.

Convenience/dollar store owners who do not have their businesses registered by July 1, 2018, may be fined. The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure these businesses have certain security measures in place to help prevent and reduce crime, and enhance the prosecution efforts of those crimes that are committed at these locations. The complete ordinance is available on [gptx.org](http://gptx.org), or for more information call 972-237-8296.

## HEALTH PASSPORT

The Get Fit Grand Prairie community health initiative is offering a free “My Health Passport” for all Grand-Prairie residents pursuing a healthier lifestyle in 2018. Through partnerships with local businesses, the passport includes free gym day passes, dining discounts and much more. The passport is available for download at [gptx.org/GetFitGP](http://gptx.org/GetFitGP).

donate online  
**playgrandadventures.com**

## COMBATTING CAR CROOKS



### Did you know?

Did you know approximately 90% of vehicle burglaries in Grand Prairie occur on unlocked vehicles? Or a third of stolen cars are left running? While those of us at GPPD are pleased our citizens feel so safe, we need your help. Please remember to **LOCK** your vehicle, **TAKE** items with you, or **HIDE** valuable items in the trunk. These steps will significantly reduce vehicle burglaries and car thefts in our city. Remember, criminals are lazy!

## JUST THE FACTS



### Problem throughout North Texas... and beyond:

According to the Texas Penal Code 30.04, car burglars must be convicted two or more times before the penalty is a State Jail Felony. In theory, a car burglar could prey on a countless number of victims and still only serve two years in jail!

### What is YOUR police department doing?

We are attacking this issue on several fronts. First, we are using crime intelligence to target areas where these offenses occur most and have deployed both covert and overt assets...which is working! We are also using new technology to catch the crooks in the act! Finally, we are working with the District Attorneys for tougher sentences and are exploring legislative change with our elected officials.

### Be on the Lookout:

With the hustle and bustle life brings us all, sometimes even simple things fall through the cracks. To help, YOUR police department has rolled out the **EAGLE EYES** program. Look for it on a social media platform near you. In short, the program is designed to send periodic crime prevention tips and reminders to help make your life easier and the crook's life **HARDER!**



## KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

If your idea of preparing for severe weather is stashing an umbrella in the trunk, then this article is for you and your family!

Those who have first-hand experience with a flash flood or tornado will tell you how serious and devastating severe weather in the North Texas Region can be.

The good news is that most weather can be predicted. The bad news is that despite the advance warning, many weather-related deaths still occur in North Central Texas each year.

### **PRIORITY No. 1**

Realize that severe weather can occur at any time, and how you should be prepared. Create a 72 kit to keep you and your family self-sufficient for 72 hours.

### **PRIORITY No. 2**

Visit [knowwhat2do.com](http://knowwhat2do.com) to understand our region's hazards.

### **PRIORITY No. 3**

Contact your local Office of Emergency Management for information regarding outdoor warning sirens at 972-237-8333 or [oem@gptx.org](mailto:oem@gptx.org).

With a little planning, you can be well informed about regional hazards and prepare yourself and your family when they happen.

## FLASH FLOOD RISK

Did you know that in certain flooding conditions, a vehicle can be washed away in less than 12 inches of fast-moving floodwater? Conditions that cause floods include heavy rain for several hours or days that saturate the ground. Flash flooding is dangerous because it occurs suddenly due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying area and provides little time for affected residents to evacuate their home or business. Flash floods are dangerous to drivers as their cars can be flooded and swept off the road when attempting to drive across a flooded roadway. Flash floods happen suddenly. Roadways can quickly be covered in swiftly moving floodwater, making them unsafe and impassable. Most flood-related deaths are due to motorists attempting to cross a flooded low-water crossing or road. Know your flood risk, and "Turn Around, Don't Drown®!"

## GARBAGE COLLECTION

The city's garbage collection contractor will not remove any type



of construction, remodel or lumber materials. These items must be taken to the Grand Prairie Landfill, 1102 MacArthur Blvd.



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