

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CITY-OWNED EMS

The City of Grand Prairie celebrates 20 years of delivering advanced emergency medical service (EMS). On August 1, 2000, the first city-owned ambulance transported its first patient. Twenty years later, the Grand Prairie Fire Department (GPFD) averages approximately 8,300 medical transports per year.



“The infrastructure and training were already in place within the Fire Department,” said City Manager Tom Hart, who supported GPFD throughout its bidding process, “it just made sense to bring our outsourced EMS in-house and provide such an invaluable service to our citizens and visitors.”

On July 13, 1999, the Grand Prairie City Council approved a resolution appointing GPFD as the primary EMS provider. Shortly after, GPFD purchased seven ambulances and hired 42 firefighters to serve as certified paramedics. Currently, 217 paramedics are servicing 81 square miles, four counties, and six public school districts that comprise the City of Grand Prairie.

“We celebrate the men and women who make up the GPFD EMS,” said Fire Chief Robert Fite. “Their dedication, professionalism, and courage make our EMS system among the best in the country. We are grateful for their service and pledge to continue supporting training and safety initiatives.”

The GPFD EMS has received multiple recognitions throughout the years from the American Heart Association and the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council.



FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St., is open from 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays with a limited number of vendors and customers. Enjoy locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats and more. For info., call 972-237-4599 or visit gptx.org/farmersmarket



PHOTO CONTEST

Grand Prairie residents are invited to enter the 2021 City Calendar Photo Contest. Entries accepted through Oct. 1, 2020.

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 December 2020. The calendar will be printed in December 2020.

Email high-resolution image to: asprinkles@gptx.org

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Saturday, Sept. 12, 9-11 a.m. • City Hall East, 300 W. Main St.

Registration is required at gptx.org/electronics-recycling or 972-237-8159

Accepted: computers, laptops, printers, VCRs, DVD players, TVs (no exposed parts please), cellphones

Not accepted: hazardous materials, liquids, broken monitor tubes, yard equipment, air conditioners, refrigerators



Grand Prairie residents can also bring their recyclables to the landfill any time Monday-Saturday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Saturday, Sept. 12, 9-11 a.m.
 City Hall East, 300 W. Main St.

Registration is required at 972-237-8055 or online at gptx.org/WQ/HHW. No commercial waste will be accepted.



TRANSPARENT LANGUAGE ONLINE

Transparent Language Online is your online learning hub for students of all ages, studying any of more than 110 languages. Use your free Grand Prairie library card to create your RBDigital account and start learning, listening and speaking today. Visit gptx.org/library, and scroll down to find the “Languages” icon.

ONLINE LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Discovery Time Workshops, Sept. 16 - Oct. 14 for ages 1-3

Free, five-part virtual workshop for children and their caregivers. Parents will have the opportunity to bond with their children through play and ask questions of our resource professional.

Spy School 101, Sept. 10, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. for 3rd - 7th grades

Explore the shadow-world of espionage and find out if you could be a spy! Contact cplemmons@gptx.org to register and get pre-program materials.

Mind Games: Intelligence Analysis, Sept. 22, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. for 8th-12th grades

Test your spy skills, uncover your cognitive biases, and dive into the world of intelligence analysis! Contact cplemmons@gptx.org to register and get pre-program materials.

HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Being prepared for disasters starts at home. Everyone can be part of helping to prepare for emergencies. Young children and teens alike can be a part of the process. As a parent, guardian, or other family member, you have an important role to play when it comes to protecting the children in your life and helping them be prepared in case disaster strikes. Here are some tips to make sure the little ones in your life are prepared:

- Include children in preparedness conversations. Make sure they understand the importance of preparing.
- Make a plan and build a kit.
- Practice evacuation plans and other emergency procedures with children on a regular basis.
- Make sure children have emergency contacts memorized or written down in a secure place.
- Teach kids when and how to call important phone numbers like 911.

Check out knowwhat2do.com for easy-to-use resources such as example plans, games, and videos on how to prepare for emergencies. If you have questions, contact the City of Grand Prairie Office of Emergency Management at 972-237-8333 or email: oem@gptx.org.

PROTECT PUPPY PAWS

The summer heat is here and you're not the only one who has noticed. Your dog feels the searing summer heat each time they go for a walk on the pavement. This leads to them limping, tapping and pulling away their blistered or cracking paws during their daily walk.

Before heading on a walk, test the pavement with the back of your hand for five seconds making sure that it is comfortable for your pet. Some ways to avoid the pain of the hot pavement are avoiding walks during peak hours and walking on the grass or near water where there is less heat retained from the beaming sun.



IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

During the months of August and September, take time to do one thing to improve air quality:



- Refuel your vehicle at night
- Consider an electric or other alternative fuel lawn mower
- Reduce idling
- Take lunch to work
- Work from home

For info, visit airnorthtexas.org

FREE WEATHER APPS

When you are out and about, you can get weather information on your mobile device! A variety of FREE weather apps are available for download. Some of the more commonly used apps include CBS DFW Weather, NBC 5 Dallas-Fort Worth Weather, Fox 4 KDFW WAPP, WFAA Weather, WeatherBug, The Weather Channel, NOAA, Weather Underground, Accuweather, 1Weather and more! Consider adding one (or more) to your mobile device and stay informed.

BLOCKING MAILBOXES IS A PARKING VIOLATION

Per Section 17-31, Chapter 17 of the City of Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances, it is an offense to park within five feet of a mailbox between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This law does not apply on Sundays.

ACCESS YOUR WATER METER ONLINE

The City of Grand Prairie's H2Know online customer portal lets you see your actual water use online 24/7. See your hourly water use data, register for alerts when you have higher than normal use, and adjust accordingly. Register at gptx.org/H2Know.

