

MAIN STREET FEST APRIL 24-25

The City of Grand Prairie Parks, Arts and Recreation Department is hosting the 4th Annual Main Street Fest Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25. The festival will celebrate the fun, festive, family atmosphere of Grand Prairie with live music by the Tejas Brothers, Max Baca and Los TexManiacs with Rick Trevino, Augie Meyers, Flaco Jimenez, Joe Ely, the Matt Kimbrow Band, Jerry Jeff Walker and many more. Also enjoy spectacular BMX/skate street shows, local entertainment, carnival rides, arts and crafts area, business expo, food and beer gardens, a KIDZONE and so much more! For more information, visit MainStreetFest.com



NEW DEVELOPMENT



Roma's Italian Bistro, a family-owned and operated restaurant, is now open downtown at 101 W. Main St (Main and Center streets).

A 190,000-square-foot **WalMart** store is proposed for a site east of State Highway 161 between Arkansas and Pioneer.

Construction on a new 3,000-square-foot **Pollo Regio** restaurant will begin in April on Interstate 20 and Great Southwest Parkway in front of the At Home store, and is scheduled to open in September 2015.

Construction is nearly complete on a **QuikTrip** convenience store and gas station on Main Street and SH 161. The station will feature 18 fueling positions and is scheduled to open in March 2015. QuikTrip on 1110 N. Belt Line Road is also nearing completion and will open in April 2015, and a third QuikTrip on Lake Ridge Parkway is anticipated to open in early 2016.

New city **digital information signs** are complete. Please watch them for upcoming events and other city information. The signs are located at:

- Lake Ridge Parkway and Lynn Creek Parkway at Fire Station No. 7
- Carrier Parkway and I-20, just south of the Kohl's parking lot
- North Carrier and Roy Orr at Mike Lewis

GET FIT GP RUN FOR SHELTER APRIL 25

Saturday, April 25 • First United Methodist Church
121 N. Center St

This year's event is the merging of two downtown runs: Run For Shelter 5K and the Get Fit GP 5K. Proceeds from the run will benefit LifeLine Shelter and Get Fit GP health initiatives. The event will be the kick-off to Saturday's downtown festivities for Farmers Market and Main Street Fest. Get in your run/walk and then enjoy a myriad of activities in downtown Grand Prairie.



Get Fit GP Run For Shelter will kick off at 8 a.m. with kids and adults running with Grand Prairie Police Chief Steve Dye and Fire Chief Robert Fite during the "Chase the Chiefs" 1-Mile Fun Run. The 5K will start at 8:30 a.m. with Get Fit health/sponsor booths, music and awards after the run.

Registration:

\$20/person postmarked by April 17

\$15/person for group of 10 or more by April 15 (there will be a Corporate Division, School Challenge or it can be an individual team of friends)

\$25/person April 20-24

\$30/person race day

Go to gptx.org/getfitgp, grandfunp.com or runforsheltergp.org to register. Contact Danny Boykin at dboykin@gptx.org for more information.

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 2 • Parade - 10:30 a.m., celebration - noon-6 p.m.
City Hall Plaza, 317 College St.

Featuring the city's largest parade, free entertainment by Grand Prairie ISD performers, mariachi bands, folklorico dancers and vocalists. Enjoy arts and crafts, Tex Mex festival foods, bounce houses and more. 972-237-8100

COMING SOON TO THE UPTOWN THEATER



Enjoy spectacular shows at Grand Prairie's Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. **For the latest Uptown Theater news and offers, text "UPTN" to 97755.** For tickets, visit uptowntheatergp.com or call 972-237-8786.

John Slaughter & Luke Robinson

April 25

Shrek The Musical

Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council

June 12-14,
19-21

SHRED-IT DAY

Saturday, April 25 • 8 a.m.-noon

Parking area between The Summit and Public Safety Building
State Highway 161 and Warrior Tr.

Two trucks will be available for shredding. Shred-it day is sponsored by the Grand Prairie Crime Commission, which pays Crime Stopper Rewards.

Limit: 3 boxes per household. A donation of \$5 is suggested.

For more information, call Gary at 972-890-4130.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FEATURES FREE RESOURCE FAIR FOR THE COMMUNITY

In recognition of National Crime Victim Week, the Grand Prairie Police Department will host a free "open house" style resource fair for the community on Saturday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Shotwell Life Center, 2750 Graham St.

The event's slogan is "Empowering Our Community with Knowledge." Booths will feature educational and helpful organizations in the city including YMCA, Christian Women's Job Corps, GPISD, Victim Relief Ministries and more. For more information, call 972-237-8796.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Liquid wastes such as paint, motor oil, cooking oil, and household cleaners are not allowed in the landfill and should not be set out with household trash. Latex paint cans, if completely dry, may be put out for pickup.

The best way to dispose of liquid waste is to bring it to a household hazardous waste collection event. Our next events will be held on **Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, May 16, 9-11 a.m. at the Development Center, 206 W. Church (next to City Hall). Registration is required. Please call 972-237-8055 or register online at gptx.org/WQ/HHW.**

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.



FARMERS MARKET

The Grand Prairie Farmers Market is open for business this month! In addition to locally grown fruits and vegetables, meats, honey, pasta, spices, tamales and more, Farmers Market hosts numerous events throughout the season. Don't miss the Art Show and "Paint n' Party" hosted by the Grand Prairie Arts Council at the market from 10 a.m.-noon on April 18.

Farmers Market is open every Saturday, beginning March 28-December 12, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Market Square, 120 W. Main. For more information, call 972-237-4599 or visit gptx.org/farmersmarket.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Friday nights in April at 7 p.m.
The Summit, 1975 Esplanade

Bring the entire family, lawn chairs or a blanket. Food and beverage concessions available. No outside food or drink allowed in the park. Admission is free!

2015 Concert Lineup:

April 3 - Eddie Irving and The Classic Swing Band
April 10 - Shoot Low Sheriff
April 17 - 4 Ever Young & Reflections
April 24 - Mood Swings All-Star Combo

Concerts in the Park are sponsored by the Grand Prairie Arts Council and City of Grand Prairie Parks, Arts and Recreation. For more information, call 972-642-2787 or visit artsgp.org.

MASTER COMPOSTERS

Master Composter training is Saturday, April 11. There is a \$25 registration fee for Grand Prairie residents and \$40 fee for non-residents. Participants will receive the *Rodale Book of Composting* and lunch. For info. or to register online, visit: gptx.org/composting or call 972-237-4566.

ANIMAL SHELTER RAFFLE

Purchase tickets for a chance to immortalize your favorite pet with a beautiful, framed, graphite portrait from Grand Prairie artist Karen Cox. The winner of the drawing will be asked to submit an 8"x10" photo of their pet. This photo will be rendered into a graphite portrait, which will be no larger than 24"x30". Additional pets may be featured in the drawing for an added fee. Don't have a pet? This would make a fantastic gift for the animal lover in your life.

Raffle tickets will be available at various city of Grand Prairie facilities and functions from Monday, Feb. 23 to Thursday, May 14 for only \$10. The drawing will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 15, and the winner will be notified via email or phone on that day. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit Prairie Paws Animal Shelter.

For more information, call the Grand Prairie Animal Shelter at 972-237-8575 or visit GPTX.org/paws.



CITY EARNS HIGHEST FITCH RATING

The city of Grand Prairie's water/wastewater revenue bond rating was elevated to the coveted AAA in February 2015, the highest rating given by Fitch. Only eight Texas cities have this rating for their water/wastewater systems. The AAA water/wastewater revenue bond rating matches the city's AAA Standard & Poor's rating for water/wastewater bonds. The city of Grand Prairie is one of only five Texas cities with water/wastewater revenue bonds rated AAA by both Fitch and Standard & Poor's.

"This is excellent news for Grand Prairie, and a strong affirmation from nationally recognized experts that we are sound fiscal managers," said City Manager Tom Hart. "Maintaining an excellent credit rating is key to the financial stability of our city's water/wastewater system, and we are grateful that our practices have been affirmed with this AAA rating."

"Financially, Grand Prairie's water/wastewater system is among the best in the state," said Mayor Ron Jensen. "This is great news for our city."

The city of Grand Prairie's general obligation bonds also rank high, earning a AA+ rating with Fitch and AAA with Standard & Poor's.

Achieving the high rating gives the city access to lower interest rates, saving money for taxpayers. Proceeds from the water/wastewater bonds are used to make citywide improvements to the water/wastewater system infrastructure.

SPRING BOOK SALE AT THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale will be April 21-26 at the Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.

- Tuesday, April 21: 5-7:30 p.m. Preview sale for Friends of the Library members. Family memberships available at the door for \$10.
- Wednesday, April 22: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Thursday, April 23: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Friday, April 24: CLOSED
- Saturday, April 25: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 26: 1-5 p.m. - Half Price Day!

BRAINFUSE ONLINE TUTORING

Free to use with your library card, Brainfuse is a new online service featuring online tutors in core subjects for students in kindergarten through pre-college. Adult learners will benefit from help with high school equivalency preparation and U.S. citizenship test prep.

Brainfuse also features JobNow, where job seekers can chat online with job coaches for help with resumes, interviewing and more. Tutors and job coaches are available 2-11 p.m., but features like Writing Lab and Skill Surfer are available 24/7. Find Brainfuse at gptx.org/library to access with your library card.

FREE INTERIOR DESIGN SERIES

Learn free interior design solutions at the Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Road. For more information, call 972-237-5772.

- Thursday, April 16: 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Working With Paint presented by Al Ramirez of Home Depot.
- Saturday, April 18, 2-3 p.m. - Bedrooms presented by Dona Rosene
- Thursday, April 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Kitchen remodeling presented by Al Ramirez of Home Depot
- Saturday, May 9, 2-3 p.m. - Home Decorating How To presented by trained sewing instructor Debra Holster
- Saturday, May 23, 2-3 p.m. - What's Hot and What's Not presented by Peggy Spitaletto of Decorating Den

FINANCIAL AID 101

Learn about financial aid for college on Saturday, April 11, 2-3 p.m. at the Warmack Library, 760 Bardin



Road. Information will be presented by Robert Young, Financial Aid Specialist at Tarrant County College's Student Financial Aid Services.

WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

Imagine this: You're driving down the highway, humming along to your favorite tunes, when the cell phone stowed in your bag suddenly makes a strange noise. To investigate, you take the next exit and safely pull over to check the screen. Good thing you did: Your phone just alerted you to a tornado a few miles away in the same county you're driving through.

Sound plausible? It is. America's wireless industry is helping to build a Weather-Ready Nation through a nationwide text emergency alert system, called Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), which will warn you when weather threatens.



1. What are WEA messages? Wireless Emergency Alerts are emergency messages sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier.
2. Why are Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) important to me? Alerts received at the right time can help keep you safe during an emergency. With WEA, warnings can be sent to your mobile device when you may be in harm's way, without need to download an app or subscribe to a service.
3. What types of alerts will I receive?
 - Extreme weather, and other threatening emergencies in your area.
 - Presidential Alerts during a national emergency.
4. How will I know the difference between WEA and a regular text message? WEA messages include a special tone and vibration, both repeated twice.
5. How will I receive alerts if I don't have a WEA-capable device? WEA is only one of the ways you receive emergency alerts. Other sources include NOAA Weather Radio, news broadcasts, the Emergency Alert System on radio and TV programs, outdoor sirens, and other alerting methods offered by local and state public safety agencies.

For more information regarding emergency preparedness or becoming a member of the Grand Prairie Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 972-237-8333 or email: oem@gptx.org.

NUTRITION MONTH

Grand Prairie offers a variety of great ways to observe National Nutrition Month, from the opening of the Farmers Market, to gardening classes, to healthy recipes and shopping tips on gptx.org/GetFitGP. A balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables helps to maintain a healthy weight, and helps to reduce your risk of contracting many diseases. Fruits and vegetables are naturally low in saturated fat and high in vitamins, minerals, and cancer-protective phytochemicals and antioxidants. Fruits and vegetables are cholesterol-free, and the high fiber content can help to lower blood cholesterol levels and prevent heart disease. By growing your own, or buying locally grown produce, you can ensure better tasting, fresher food. In addition, you avoid the environmental impact associated with transporting food from across the country or around the world. Learn more, and enter to win prizes at gptx.org/GetFitGP.

FIGHT THE BITE

For information about the city's mosquito program, visit gptx.org/FightTheBite or call 972-237-8055. Remember the 4-D's:

- **DEET** - Use insect repellents that contain DEET or EPA approved insect repellent.
- **Dress** - Wear long sleeves, pants, loose and light clothing outdoors.
- **Drain** - Remove all areas of standing water. Change water in pet dishes and birdbaths regularly.
- **Dusk/Dawn** - Protect yourself this time of day.

EL DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS

Celebrate Día de los Niños on Monday, April 27 at all libraries. Join us for games, entertainment, fun, and activities. For more information, visit us at gptx.org/library

LONE STAR PARK OPENS APRIL 9

Don't miss live Thoroughbred horse racing at Lone



Star Park, 1000 Lone Star Parkway. For info. call 972-263-7223 or visit lonestarpark.com.

Traders Village
18th Annual
Big Mamou Cajun Festival
APRIL 11-12 & 18-19
FREE ADMISSION, \$4 Parking
2602 Mayfield Rd., Grand Prairie
VISITGRANDPRAIRIETX.COM
1-800-288-8FUN