

PRAIRIE PULSE



August 2021

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Steve Dye Named City Manager

Grand Prairie Deputy City Manager and Chief Operating Officer Steve Dye was promoted to City Manager effective Oct. 1, 2021, at the Aug. 3, 2021, City Council meeting. Dye steps into the position vacated by retiring City Manager Tom Hart.

"I am honored to serve the people of Grand Prairie in this new role," said Dye. "We have an incredibly strong and supportive City Council, leadership team and employee family, all devoted to public service benefiting the people and businesses of our city."



Save the Date!

City of Grand Prairie Employees are invited to visit with coworkers and have fun at

State Fair of TX (GP Style)

Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway
Thursday, Sept. 30, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Corn dogs, funnel cakes, popcorn, cotton candy, games and prizes



WORKING ON WELLNESS
CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TX

Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament

Register today for the 4th Annual Tarrant County Guns and Hoses "Remember the Fallen" Golf Tournament.

Monday, Sept. 27

Check in: 9 a.m.

Tee Off: 11:30 a.m. shotgun

Walnut Creek Golf Course,
Mansfield, Texas

Register by Saturday, Sept. 4,

[here.](#)



GPPD Car Show

Car, Truck and Bike show benefiting Children First Counseling Center. \$25 entry fee and free Epic Waters passes to the first 150 entries.

Sunday, Sept. 19

12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Epic Waters Parking Lot

2970 Epic Place

For more information call:

972-237-8776

New Development

A new **Braum's** is coming to town. The 6,000-square-foot store will be on the north side of Camp Wisdom east of Magna Carta. **Dutch Brothers Coffee** will open on southbound State Highway 161 just south of Warrior Trail. **Bahama Bucks** will open a store on the southeast corner of Forum Drive and State Highway 161.

Construction is starting soon on the **Bolder Indoor Adventure Park**, a 66,000-square foot indoor family

entertainment venue at Epic Central.

City Council and city planners are also beginning to look at a very early master plan for **Southgate, the southernmost section of the city from Ragland Road to south of Highway 287**. This sector includes more than 12,000 acres of land that can be developed over the next several decades. Stay tuned for more information on Southgate, including citizen input opportunities.



Don't Forget to Schedule Your Preventive Care Appointments

Getting preventive care reduces the risk of diseases, disabilities, and death - yet many people do not get the recommended preventive health care services. Services such as medical screenings, eye exams, dental check-ups, and vaccinations are key to keeping people of all ages stay healthy.

Most health plans are required to cover eligible preventive care services at 100%. During your appointment, you will review your overall health and well-being with your provider. Depending on your age, services may include:

- Complete physical exam
- Immunization review and update
- Age-appropriate heart disease screenings (blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol tests)
- Cancer risk screenings (pelvic exam, Pap smear, prostate and colorectal screenings)
- Evaluation for signs of depression
- Oral exam, teeth cleaning, routine x-rays
- Eye exam

Enrolled on the city's medical plan and need help finding a Primary Care Provider? Register for Blue Access for Members (BAM) at bcbstx.com to locate an in-network provider near you.



LEARN THE FACTS GET VACCINATED

Statistics: The CDC estimates that from January to June 2021 about 99.5% of COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. occurred in unvaccinated people.

Not Vaccinated Yet?

*All COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
Don't let others decide for you.
Be vaccine smart, be informed to end the pandemic.*

VACCINE MYTHS

- IT'S TOO SOON TO KNOW IF THE VACCINE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.
- IF I HAD COVID-19, I DON'T NEED A VACCINE.
- THE VACCINE MAY CAUSE INFERTILITY.
- THE VACCINE GIVES YOU COVID-19.
- THE MRNA TECHNOLOGY IS NEW AND CAN CHANGE THE DNA OF PEOPLE.
- THERE IS NO NEED FOR A MASK OR SOCIAL DISTANCING AFTER GETTING VACCINATED.
- THE VACCINE CAUSES SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS.

VACCINE FACTS

- ALL VACCINES HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO BE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE AT PREVENTING COVID-19, SEVERE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS, HOSPITALIZATION, AND/OR DEATH.
- NATURAL IMMUNITY MAY NOT PROTECT YOU AGAINST THE VIRUS AGAIN AND VACCINES APPEAR TO PROTECT PEOPLE LONGER.
- THE VACCINE DOES NOT INTERACT WITH THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM OR CELLS OF MEN OR WOMEN. TO DATE, THERE ARE NO REPORTS OR EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS THIS.
- NONE OF THE VACCINES AUTHORIZED IN THE U.S. CAN CAUSE COVID-19.
- THE MRNA TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN USED AND STUDIED FOR OVER 20 YEARS. IT DOES NOT INTERFERE OR INDUCE CHANGES TO THE DNA.
- YOU STILL NEED TO TAKE SOME PRECAUTIONS TO END THE PANDEMIC. IF YOU ARE VACCINATED YOU HAVE PROTECTION AGAINST SERIOUS ILLNESS. BUT UNDER SOME CONDITIONS, YOU CAN STILL PICK UP THE VIRUS AND TRANSFER IT TO OTHERS.
- FOR MOST, THE VACCINE CAUSES MILD SIDE EFFECTS THAT RESOLVE IN ABOUT 24 HOURS.

Homebound Texans can call 844-90-TEXAS (844-908-3927) and select Option 1 to request a state mobile vaccination team to visit their home. People with disabilities interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine may call 1-800-880-8401 or email vaccine@DRTx.org.

Wondr Health Program

We are inviting you to participate in Wondr™ (formerly Naturally Slim) starting August 30, 2021. Wondr™ is a digital health program helping people to lose weight and improve their whole health. And it's available to you at no cost, if eligible.*



Looking for something simple to help you look and feel your best for the rest of your life? Wondr makes it easy for you. There are no strict diets, calorie counting, or exercise equipment needed. It's a straightforward, skills-based solution that provides simple, sustainable, life-long results.

Plus, the program is available 24/7 through the mobile app and online community, WondrLink™, where you can access curriculum and connect with online health coaches and participants anytime, anywhere.

Applications close August 15, 2021. Don't wait. Space may be limited!

Visit www.wondrhealth.com/cityofgrandprairie to apply now.

*The Wondr Program is offered to all City of Grand Prairie employees and spouses enrolled on the medical plan.

Love Life Grand Photo Contest

Show your love for Grand Prairie and participate in the Love Life Grand Photo Contest!

Take a picture in front of our new Love Life Grand photo op at the Farmers Market. Then submit the photo to GPTX.org/Heart before September 7, 2021. All the photos will be posted to the GPTX Facebook page, and the one with the most likes by September 11 will win! The prize is a gift basket full of Grand Prairie goodies featured above.



Message from the Manager

I hope everyone has had a good summer and you are all staying healthy. Due to the rise in COVID-19 Variant cases, we have re-issued recommendations to wear your mask in the workplace, and to meet virtually when possible.

In addition, city staff have been busy preparing the 2021-2022 budget, which looks positive. The City of Grand Prairie has come through the pandemic better than we thought we would, and we were pleased that we were able to offer one-time lump sum payments to eligible employees last May.

It looks like we should be able to include a 3% merit increase for non-civil service employees and a 3% step increase for civil service in the 2021-2022 budget. Grand Prairie's economy is doing well and new projects are under construction that will bring additional tax revenue to the city. I've always said that we will see a light at the end of the tunnel, and that light is bright right now.

Congratulations to Steve Dye on his promotion to City Manager effective October 1, 2021. As I enter the last months until my retirement as city manager, I can tell you that I will leave the city in capable hands. Steve is a strong leader and the City of Grand Prairie is poised for greatness for years to come.

Stay safe and good luck to all of you who may have children heading back to school this year. I appreciate all of you for the World Class Service you provide each day.

Tom Hart, City Manager

Events

Movie on the Lawn – Star Wars (1977)

Thursday, Aug. 12

Movie begins at sunset

Outdoor laser tag will be available 6-8 p.m.

No coolers allowed. Food trucks, Kona Ice, vendors, face painting, corn hole, Jenga, ring toss, chalk art

Visit GrandFunGP.com

Hatch Chile Fest

Saturday, Aug. 14

Farmers Market,
120 W. Main St.

Fresh and roasted Hatch chiles sold by the pound, live music, local vendors and games.

Deep Blue Something Live in Concert

Saturday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.

Uptown Theater,
120 E. Main St.

Tickets: uptowntheatergp.com

Cyclin' with the Mayor

Tuesday, Aug. 24

Nottingham Ride

Larson Elementary

Meet at 6 p.m.

Ride begins at 6:30 p.m.

Movies on the Beach

Saturdays in August

Movies begin at 9 p.m. (sundown)

Loyd Park, 3401 Ragland Road

\$15 per vehicle entry fee, \$20 holiday weekends

Movies are free

Visit GrandFunGP.com