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Each year as the leaves change color, the Streets Division prepares for slippery roads during the Grand Prairie winter. Their experienced staff starts this process by checking their equipment after it has spent seasons in storage. Fleet services helps with any issues they find before they are ready to brave the cold weather.

Stock of Melt Down 20, a magnesium chloride melting product, and Chad, a traction sand, are mixed and loaded onto nine innovative sand spreaders. The updated sand spreaders are mounted onto dump trucks more efficiently than previous models. The complete process now takes two crew members and 10 minutes to complete, rather than 40 minutes with a crew of five. The process is also now safer to complete in the freezing, icy weather.

After the equipment and sand are prepared, the weather is monitored for chances of ice and snow. When the time for spreading arrives, six supervisors — five rotating on-call, one always on-call — respond to ice with their previously assigned standby crews. These crews are selected to help with spreading in addition to the regular Streets operations.

"We take pride in taking care of the roads and making sure the motorists are safe," Dane Stovall, Street Services Manager said.

The Streets Division receives calls from residents and police dispatch about icy areas to prioritize.

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Deer Oaks Thinking for Success Webinar

Do you want to work on being a more successful you this year? Success begins and ends with how we think. This important session focuses on helping individuals to develop the belief systems and thought patterns that create attitudes and behaviors leading to success. The course includes practical exercises that participants can utilize long-term to reinforce positive mental habits.

If this sparks your interest, please join us on January 19, 2021 at 10 am for an informative webinar on being a more successful you! Please see below registration link for the webinar.

Please register for Thinking for Success - City of Grand Prairie on Jan. 19, 10 AM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1113349393561217039>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Life can be hectic. The Deer Oaks EAP can help you find your balance.

www.deeroakseap.com
password: GPTX
1-866-327-2400
eap@deeroaks.com



Clean Prairie Art Contest

Show your creativity and care for the environment with the Clean Prairie Art Contest. Become a contestant by creating art of any form to represent how to keep Grand Prairie litter free.

All ages are accepted. Submissions are due no later than February 26, 2021 at 5 p.m. For complete contest guidelines, visit www.gptx.org/cleanprairie or call 972-237-8055.

My Health Passport

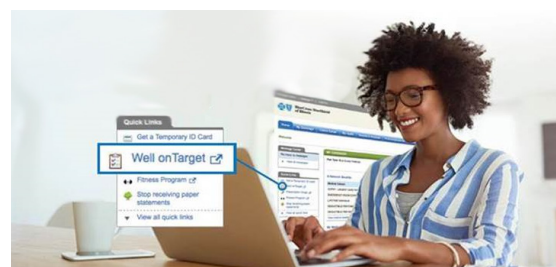
The Get Fit Grand Prairie community health initiative is offering a free "My Health Passport" for all Grand Prairie residents pursuing a healthier lifestyle in 2021. Through partnerships with local businesses,

the passport includes free gym day passes, dining discounts, massage sessions and much more! To print your copy of the passport, go to: gptx.org/myhealthpassport

Well on Target Member Wellness Portal

The Well on Target Wellness Portal uses the latest technology to give you the tools you need for better health. Your wellness journey begins with a suggested list of activities based on the information you provide in your Health Assessment. Upon completing the Health Assessment, you will have a step-by-step plan to guide you on the way to living your best life. The suite of programs and tools include:

- Digital Self-management Programs
- Health and Wellness Library
- Blue Points Program
- Tools and Trackers
- Health Assessment
- Fitness Tracking
- Nutrition Help
- Personal Challenges



How to Access the Portal

Use your Blue Access for Members (BAM) account:

- Log in to BAM at bcbstx.com/members. If this is your first time logging in, you will need to register your account. Click Register Now on the login screen.
- Once you are in BAM, click on the Well on Target link on the left side of the screen.

Get Started with Well on Target to Experience Wellness. Click here to learn more about Well on Target.

Streets Saves Icy Days Cont.

There is a delicate balance of efficiency and demand as they make every road safe. Approximately 160 locations in Grand Prairie are prone to freezing with about 15 curves and hills that pose more danger than a standard road. Roads with accidents are top priority as the Streets Division helps police prevent further danger. Overall, they work to treat every hazard by sending crews out in each direction to make roads safer. Some crews will go far north to work their way back until all areas are covered. The high traffic streets and primary roads such as Great South West Parkway, Carrier Parkway, Robinson Road and Jefferson Street are treated promptly. Three or two lane streets and smaller streets follow. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Tarrant and Dallas sand the highways. If TxDOT needs assistance, Streets can attempt to sand roads, but they are not fully equipped for highway sanding.

How does Sanding Work?

One part Melt Down 20 is mixed with two parts Chad to help prevent the corrosive melting salt from creating road damage. As Melt Down 20 draws out moisture from ice and snow it combines with the water to create a melting brine. Cars navigate down busy roads that remain less slippery until the brine mixture hardens. The Streets Division monitors the weather to ensure all ice will melt from the morning sun.

After each sanding, there is a meeting to note improvements for the following year. TxDOT recommends the preventative brining of roads; however, this process must be done at the exact point where rain becomes snow or it will be washed away. The necessity for a more proactive measure with such difficult timing in the unpredictable Texas weather has been debated, especially as annual forecasts vary and some years spreading is unneeded entirely.



"It's always better to be ready to go and not have to go than it is to have to go and not be ready," Stovall said.

GPFD Innovation Marks History in US

The Grand Prairie Fire Department has made history by launching the first fire truck-mounted attenuator (TMA) program in the United States. The Scorpion TMAs protect highway motorists from the destruction of the increasing highway incidents involving first responders.

TraFFix Devices Inc. has developed the TMAs to contain TxDOT approved collision barriers that protect motorists upon impact. They also serve as temporary traffic control and advance warning signals during the early stages of highway traffic incidents.

"You are not only protecting the lives of firefighters but also the lives of distracted drivers," said Jim Marshall, vice president of Marketing for TraFFix Devices, Inc. "Our Scorpion attenuator will take the impact, attenuate the energy and, in most cases, the host vehicle can go with no damage or minimal damage in a crash."

The use of TMAs on fire apparatus provides cost savings for municipalities and taxpayers. The average cost to replace a frontline fire truck can reach up to \$1.1 million, not to mention the out-of-service time and personnel injury and disability costs involved. In comparison, the cost



of outfitting one TMA apparatus is approximately \$34,000, and under \$20,000 to replace the TMA device.

Message from the Manager

Thank you to all employees for continuing to keep our city running during the pandemic. It's been a tough year, but you have all stepped up to make sure that our great city continues to provide world class service.

COVID-19 took several close friends from us in 2020. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford and his wife Judy passed away, and will be greatly missed. Mr. Swafford was a dear friend and had a great mind for the very intricate and complex nature of government finances. Jim and Judy will be remembered for their wonderful service to our city. Janice England, wife of former Mayor Charles England also passed in 2020. A lifelong Grand Prairie resident, she was married to Charlie for 62 years and raised her family in Grand Prairie. She was the city's first lady for 21 years during her husband's term as mayor, and left a wonderful legacy of kindness and love.

As we roll into 2021, I'm excited to take part in the upcoming groundbreaking for Chicken N Pickle. Located near the 2900 block of Esplanade, this unique indoor/outdoor entertainment complex will include a casual chef-driven restaurant with sports bar, pickleball courts, shuffleboard and a variety of yard games.

To keep employees safe from COVID-19, we will not have an employee awards banquet this year. However, in February we will distribute Years of Service Awards and collect nominations for Awards of Excellence. Watch for more information coming soon.

Stay safe and wear a mask. Your hard work is truly appreciated.



Tom Hart
City Manager

The next featured
Toastmasters
member could be you...

Are you entering the new year with goals to discover your potential, embrace new possibilities, or learn new skills? Join Toastmasters to learn ways to discuss topics on the fly, run meetings, and enjoy long lasting friendships! Meetings are held every Wednesday at 12:05 p.m.



Anyone can join in the Toastmasters meetings here:

<https://gptx.zoom.us/j/778600369>

Phone: 346-248-7799

Meeting ID: 778-600-369

****All meetings are waiting room enabled, please stand by on the day of the meeting to be let in****

Naturally Slim - Coming February 2021

Most of us have partaken in the holiday yummys and now it's time to shed those tummies!

The Naturally Slim program begins on February 15, 2021. All benefit-eligible

City of Grand Prairie employees are eligible to apply. If you are applying as a spouse of an employee, you must be covered on a City of Grand Prairie medical plan.

Space is limited. Apply between January 18 and January 29, 2021.

www.naturallyslim.com/cityofgrandprairie

Carter BloodCare - Blood Drive

The City will be hosting a blood drive for all employees at two different locations. An email will be sent to all email users very soon with links to register for an appointment. There will be free Dallas Mavericks Gear and Whataburger given out to boot! Schedule your appointment and join us in donating!

Date: Tuesday, January 12th

Time: 9 am - 3 pm

Location: City Hall Campus -
300 W Main St.

Date: Thursday, January 14th

Time: 8:30 am - 3 pm

Location: Public Safety Building (PSB) -
1525 Arkansas Ln.



City Hall Shuffle

The City Hall department locations continue to shuffle as the construction for Phase 2 of City Hall renovations is completed. The renovated City Hall now has three connected modules: City Hall West,

Central and East. Beginning Jan. 25, Human Resources, Purchasing, Finance and Budget will join level 1 of City Hall Central.

