

PRAIRIE PULSE



March 2021

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New Development

Chicken N Pickle restaurant, the nation's leading pickleball-focused dining and entertainment venue, broke ground in January at Grand Prairie's Epic Central development. In addition to pickleball, the restaurant will offer a variety of games, a casual, chef-driven restaurant and sports bar. The 77,000-square foot venue will feature a dining room, six indoor pickleball courts, five outdoor pickleball courts (two covered), 7,500 square feet of outdoor yard games and a large rooftop bar. Chicken N Pickle is scheduled to open in late 2021.

Several new restaurants have opened in Asia Times Square including **Aspara Thai and Cambodian**, **Sakari Ramen**, **Meccha Matcha**, and **Omadase To Go** serving fish straight from Tokyo's world famous Tsukiji Fish Market.

Sprouts Famers Market will open a new store on Pioneer Parkway and Carrier Parkway in late 2021.

Texas Trust Credit Union will build a new branch on South Carrier Parkway and I-20.

CarParts.com opened a 210,000-square-foot

distribution center in the Great Southwest Industrial District during late 2020. By early February 2021, more than 100,000 packages had been shipped and the facility employed 200 people.

In Epic Towne Crossing, **Kohl's** has moved into a new location along 161 north of Mayfield Road, **7 Eleven** and **My Eye Lab** are open. **Taco Bell** is under construction and will open in early 2021.

Staybridge Suites on Lake Ridge and I-20 and **Hilton Tru** along SH 360 in north Grand Prairie are open. **Courtyard by Marriott** on SH 161 and Arkansas Lane is scheduled to open in early 2021.

New single-family homes are under construction in the Grand Prairie portion of Ellis County. The **Heritage Towne** project has 105 lots, and **Greenway Trails** homes will be built on more than 600 lots. First phase construction of **Prairie Ridge** development is underway—the neighborhood will have 4,500 single-family homes at buildout.

Get Fit Recipe Challenge

Share with us your best healthy recipe and be entered into a drawing to win an air fryer!

All you need to do is:

1. Pledge to Get Fit at gptx.org/getfitgp.
2. Submit a 2-minute video (or less) of the step-by-step process of your recipe to dhernandez@gptx.org.

The deadline to submit will be March 31. We can't wait to see the tasty healthy recipes you make in the kitchen!

The Big Event is back!

The 2021 Big Event in Grand Prairie will be April 24, 2021. The Big Event is a one-day, citywide volunteerism day in which volunteers are matched with qualifying service projects at homes of people who need help, celebrating unity in the community.

Last year's Big Event was scheduled for March, but as you know; due to Covid, the event had to be cancelled... but this year we didn't want to miss another opportunity to celebrate Unity in the Community and promote safe city wide volunteerism. With that, there are some changes to ensure that this event is safe for all.

For more information and to register, visit gptx.org/bigevent

Walker Tracker: Global Cuisine Challenge

During the month of March you can travel the world and learn recipes from across five continents. Get ready to travel the world and sample exotic culinary inspiration. Register online at www.wowgptx.walkertracker.com

Submit Your Healthy Recipes

Submit your healthy recipe, along with a photo of your entree, to WOW@gptx.org by March 26th to be featured on Raving Fans. Submissions will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to Whole Foods!



District 2 Special Election Run Off

A special election was held on Feb. 27, 2021, to fill a vacancy for the District 2 unexpired term. A run-off of the top two candidates will be on March 27. Early voting will be held at The Summit March 10-23.

Candidates

- Dennis King
- Frank Gonzalez

For more information visit: www.gptx.org/elections



The Summit is Now Open!

The Summit has re-opened as a fitness-only venue to keep residents safe from COVID-19. At this time there is no social programming.

Fitness equipment has been placed throughout the facility to handle social distancing recommendations. Masks are recommended, but not required per state law effective March 10 when not actively exercising.

Reservations are required two days in advance for lap swimming and pickleball activities to allow staff to disinfect areas between scheduled times. The facility is also closed from 2-4 p.m. for deep cleaning.

For more information, visit: <https://grandfungp.com/thesummit/>



Cyber Security Awareness Training

In June of 2019, Texas State Legislature passed House Bill 3834 (HB 3834). This bill requires state and local government employees and elected officials with access to a local government computer system or database, to complete a Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) approved annual cyber security awareness training program.

All City of Grand Prairie employees (and Council members) who have been given an account to access any information in the City's network including email and internet must complete this training program by May 21, 2021.

Information Technology has made

available online a security awareness training video (about 30 minutes in length) with additional questions and answers at the end. Visit Raving Fans to learn more information and complete the training.

Why was the Bill Passed?

It is no secret that state and local governments have become prime targets for malware and hackers more than ever. In 2019 news agencies reported more than 23 Texas municipalities were hit with a ransomware attack that locked access to critical computer files in one instance. You may recall that Grand Prairie was also a victim of such an attack in April of that year. We were fortunate enough

to recover quickly but other agencies were not so lucky.

With over 90% of all cybersecurity attacks caused by human error, it is imperative that a strong security awareness training program is in place to keep us out of the headlines.

Our goal in IT is to help employees protect themselves and the organization against cyber attacks and threats. Training empowers employees with knowledge on how to recognize and mitigate security threats that can impact the integrity, confidentiality and accessibility of information stored in our network as well as the reputation of our City.

Peerfit Lunch n' Learn



Save a little extra money and make it a bring your lunch to work day! Please plan on joining us for a virtual Lunch n' Learn with Peerfit's own Jeni Dowst on Wednesday, March 10 from noon-1 p.m. During the lunch n' learn, Jeni will focus on Peerfit's partnership with Les Mills, their new personalized coaching offering. Register Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEufu-oqzltEtOxFso5yj-ZyMJJPB7LoKGM4>

Maximize your at-home performance

Use your Peerfit credits toward expert coaching with LES MILLS. Experience coaching from industry-leading professionals.

Maximize Performance

See results through safe and effective workouts hand-picked by your LES MILLS coach.

Built-In Motivation

Professional support helps keep you accountable and naturally motivated

to keep going.

Tailor-Made Training

Goal-setting advice and tailored training plans help you set and achieve personal goals.

Beyond Fitness

Nutrition and recovery advice help fuel an all-encompassing healthy lifestyle.

Visit peerfit.com/lesmills to start your journey. Questions? Contact Peerfit at support@peerfit.com

Message from the Manager

I would like to send a huge thank you to all employees who kept our city running during the winter storm event last month. Our personal and work lives were all impacted that week, and I appreciate everyone for doing what it took to make some great things happen. There are numerous situations when employees' hard work created raving fans, many even saving lives. I can't thank you all enough for continuing your great work and going above and beyond during a tough situation. We truly have a great team here.

You all may be aware of the governor's executive order, which says that while people are encouraged to wear masks and socially distance, "no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or mandate the wearing of a face covering."

Our city policy regarding COVID-19 protocol is that city staff are expected to wear masks and we encourage visitors to wear masks, but masks are not required for people who visit city facilities. Although the number of hospitalizations in our area is lowering, let's all stay safe until the pandemic threat is completely behind us.

Thank you all for your World Class Service and helping us keep our city moving forward during these trying times. Your hard work is appreciated.



Tom Hart
City Manager

Toastmasters



Join the Toastmasters on Wednesdays at 12:05 p.m. via Zoom to develop your skills as a communicator and leader! Have fun while learning the Pathways Program that can help you find new ways to become everything you want to be in life.

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

Website:
<https://grandorators.toastmastersclubs.org>

Facebook:
Grand Orators Toastmasters Club

Contact:
President Michael D. Levy at
toastmasters@michaeldlevy.com

Text 911 is Now Available in GP

If you are unable to call 911, you can text 911 with your emergency and address/location. When seconds count, our 911 team is ready to respond. Please know that our 911 text system cannot accept pictures, videos or audio clips.



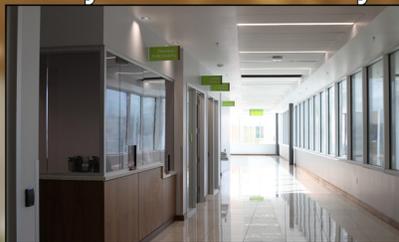
Human Resources



Customer Service Counters



City Hall East Hallway



Mailboxes and Packages



City Hall Shuffle

Are you looking for Human Resources, Finance, or Utility Customer Service? Walk through the main doors in City Hall and find Human Resources (HR) behind the green wall, Finance is just to the east of HR, and walk farther east down the hallway and you'll see new customer service counters

for Building Inspections, Planning, Code Compliance and Utility Customer Service. The new city mailboxes are found just around the corner from Utility Customer Service through the double doors. Packages delivered to 300 W. Main Street can be found in the cupboards below the mailboxes.