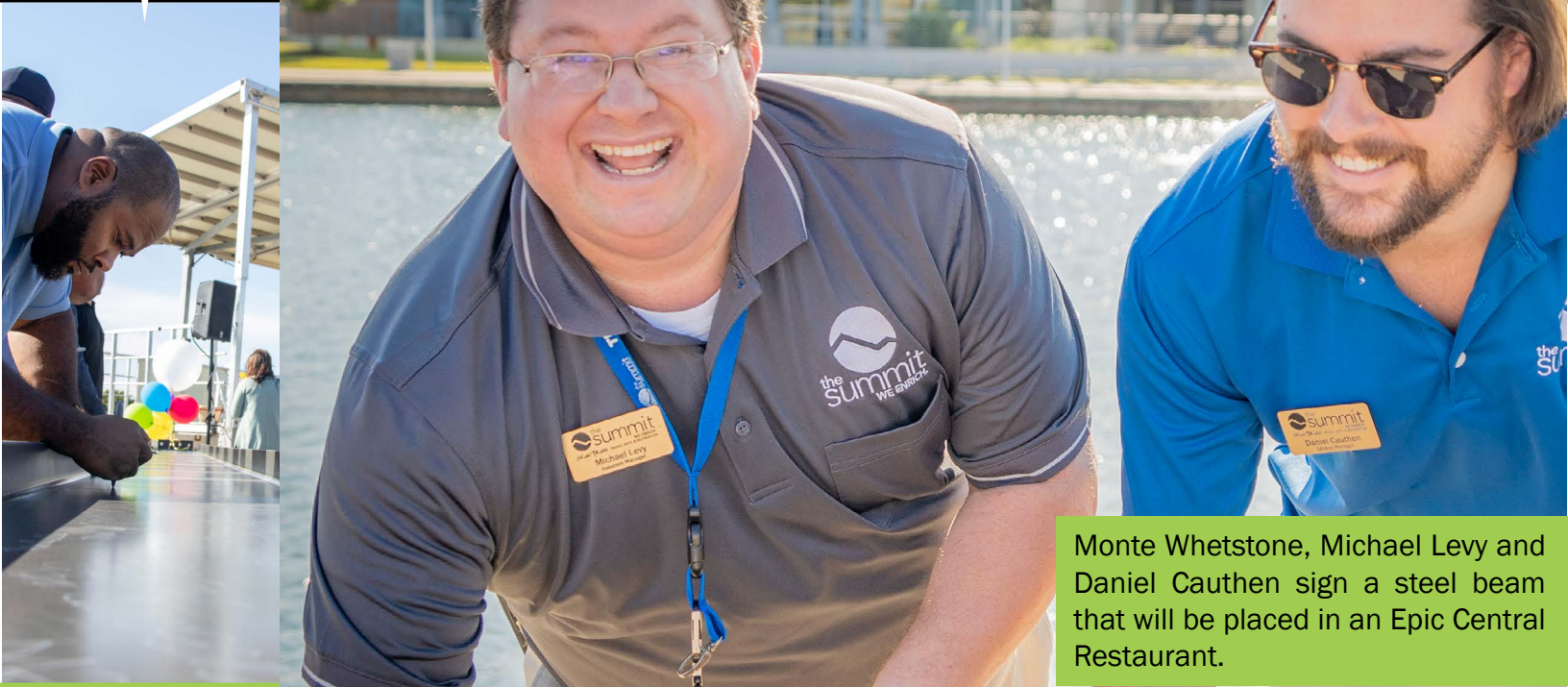


# PRAIRIE PULSE

November 2021



Monte Whetstone, Michael Levy and Daniel Cauthen sign a steel beam that will be placed in an Epic Central Restaurant.

## What's Inside

**Sneak-A-Peek 5K Run/Walk/Stroll**  
Lynn Creek Park

**Stability and Covid Vaccine Pay**  
Coming Soon

**Flu Clinic**  
At City Hall East Nov. 18

**Coat Drive for Kids**  
Donate New Coats

**Message from the Manager**  
Message from City Manager Steve Dye

**Kayak Trash Cleanup**  
Joe Pool Lake

## City Celebrates Official Groundbreaking for Epic Central Development

City officials, employees and developers celebrated the groundbreaking for the 172-acre Epic Central site west of SH 161 at Arkansas Lane on Oct. 21. The city is building two connecting hotels with a shared conference center, six restaurant spaces and a parking garage. A water/light show will be featured on the lakes as well as interactive technology experiences on the land. Read more about this exciting project [here](#)

## Nominations Open for Employee Awards

Nominations are now open for the employee awards banquet. Award categories **for individuals and groups** include:

- Most innovative Award
- Team Player Award
- People Award
- Service Award
- Integrity Award

[Click here](#) to make a nomination

## Save the Date

Employee Awards Banquet  
Thursday, Jan. 20  
Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.  
Ruthe Jackson Center  
3113 S. Carrier Parkway

## Upcoming Events

### Veterans Day Celebration

Thursday, Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m.  
Veterans Park Event Center  
925 Conover Dr.

The event will be in-person and live-streamed on the [GrandFunGP Facebook page](#)

### Quarter Horse Racing

Weekends through Dec. 18  
Lone Star Park  
1000 Lone Star Parkway  
972-263-RACE  
[lonestarpark.com](#)

### The Light Park

Every evening until Jan. 2  
Lone Star Park  
2000 Lone Star Parkway  
[thelightpark.com](#)

### Sneak-A-Peek 5K Run/ Walk/Stroll

Saturday, Nov. 20 and  
Sunday, Nov. 21  
Lynn Creek Park  
5610 Lake Ridge Parkway  
Be the first to see all new displays at the 2021 Prairie Lights. Nov. 20 is dedicated for runners, joggers and fast walkers. Nov. 21 is for those who want to walk or stroll through the lights.  
[prairielights.org](#)

### Cyclin' with the Mayor

Join Mayor Jensen for a ride through Prairie Lights.  
Monday, Nov. 22  
Gates open at 4:45 p.m. and close at 5:45 p.m.  
Ride begins at 6 p.m.  
Lynn Creek Park

## Go Mobile with BCBSTX

At [bcbstx.com](#), log into or create your Blue Cross Blue Shield Member Account. You can stay linked to your claims activity, member ID card and coverage details. It's also where to see prescription refill reminders and health tips by text messages.

## Free Preventive Maintenance

On both city medical plans, EPO and HDHP, preventive maintenance and some preventive medications are covered 100%. This type of care, including annual wellness visits, vaccinations, and certain preventive maintenance medications, won't cost you a dime as long as you stay in network, whether you've met your deductible or not.



To learn more about Free Preventive Maintenance, contact Blue Cross Blue Shield at 1-800-521-2227 or [bcbstx.com/member](#)

## Employee Assistance Programs

### Deer Oaks EAP Services

Deer Oaks offers six confidential short-term counseling sessions at no cost to employees and their families. Deer Oaks has considerable expertise and clinical knowledge possessed by its clinicians and numerous convenient locations. Their clinicians are well versed in helping clients of all ages, from young children up to the elderly. Deer Oaks is available 24/7/365 to employees and their dependents and can assist with a variety of personal and work-related challenges.

For additional information or a referral to a provider near you, call 1-866-327-2400.



### Alliance Work Partners EAP - Police and Fire

Alliance Work Partners (AWP) is proud to serve our Police and Fire Departments by offering six confidential short-term counseling sessions at no cost to employees and their household. EAP benefits are designed to help employees and their families manage daily responsibilities, major events, work stresses, or any issue affecting their quality of life. AWP is available to take your call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All benefits can be accessed by calling 1-800-343-3822.

## Stability and COVID Vaccine Pay

Stability pay will be paid on Friday, Dec. 3 to employees who are eligible. For those who submitted proof of their COVID-19 vaccine, the incentive pay will be paid on Friday, Dec. 3. Both of these payments will be received on the same paycheck.

## Flu Vaccination Clinic

**Thursday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

City Hall East, Conference Room D, 300 W. Main St.

Free flu shots for all active employees, retirees and spouses. First come, first served while supplies last. Go to the Raving Fans site for immunization form, which must be completed before receiving the vaccine.



## Coat Drive for Kids

City employees can help to collect 100 new coats for kids! From now until Dec. 31 please bring your new coat with tags to one of the following locations:

- City Hall Central, 300 W. Main St.
- Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.
- Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Road

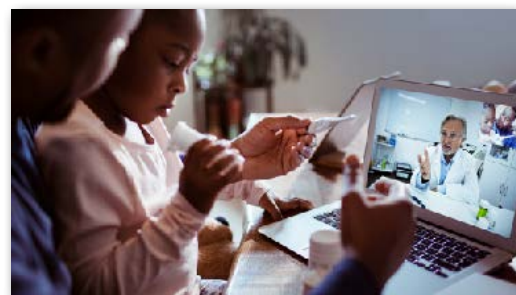
Or collect throughout your building and email [asprinkles@gptx.org](mailto:asprinkles@gptx.org) to pick-up. Sizes to fit kids from kindergarten to senior high school.

Benefiting Kids Inc. - organization to help clothe GPISD students



## Virtual Visits

There's never a convenient time to get sick, but now you have access to a board-certified doctor around the clock for non-emergency health issues. Connect by mobile app, online video or telephone. Virtual visits typically cost less than going to the doctor. To access Virtual Visits, register at [MDLIVE.com/bcbstx](http://MDLIVE.com/bcbstx) or by calling 1-888-680-8646.



## Halloween Competition Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 Halloween Decorating Contest! Photos can be found on the Raving Fans intranet. The winners are:

Spookiest - **Housing and Neighborhood Services**

Funniest - **Information Technology**

Best Workstation (Individual) - **Amanda Page, Police**

Best Workstation Costume Match - **Lake Parks**

Best Workstation Costume Match (Individual) - **Olivia Gaytan, Municipal Court**

Honorable Mention - **Library** (for two entries)



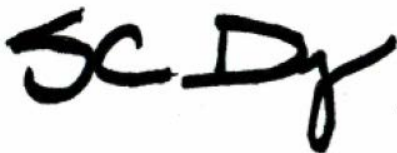
## Message from the Manager

I've really enjoyed the employee meetings, thus far, and discussing our core mission of ensuring everyone in our city enjoys a high quality of life, as well as discussing our values of service, people and integrity. Service is going the extra mile in exceeding our customers' needs and expectations. People not only includes those we serve, but also each other as our people are the most valuable asset of our organization. Integrity speaks for itself as our actions will always be beyond reproach. I will be sending out a video synopsis, later this month, for those who are not able to attend an in-person meeting.

As we work to continue to improve the quality of life in Grand Prairie, it's always important for us to work hard, but equally have fun along the way. Let's try and enjoy every day and remember that teamwork is the key—every city employee matters and makes a difference in our service delivery. In addition to timely processing our work, let's also focus on improving efficiency and reducing bureaucracy while striving to be innovative. We welcome new ideas and input in every area of our operations. As we move into 2022, we will be setting goals for each work group as I'm a firm believer that what gets measured gets done. These goals will help provide us a road map that challenges us to continually improve and achieve higher heights.

Finally, please know that your hard work is noticed and appreciated and you have my commitment that we will retain our healthy employee culture to remain the premier city in which to work, live and play.

I hope you and your families have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. I am thankful for many things and your dedication is certainly one of them!



Steve Dye, City Manager



## Events

### Zumba

Main Library - Tuesdays, 7 p.m.  
Warmack Library - Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
Until Dec. 15  
No class Nov. 23-24

### Adopt-a-Stream Kayak Trash Cleanup

Saturday, Nov. 20  
8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Walnut Creek Paddling Trail  
Loyd Park, 3401 Ragland Rd.  
Free kayak rental for pre-registered volunteers  
<http://bttr.im/i2cc2>

### Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Market Square, 120 W. Main St.  
Open Saturdays. Last 2021 market day is Dec. 11. featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, baked goods, tamales, salsas, dips, relishes, eggs, honey and more. Market will be closed on Nov. 27.  
Call 972-237-4599 or visit [gptx.org/farmersmarket](http://gptx.org/farmersmarket)

### Prairie Lights

Nov. 25-Dec. 31  
Lynn Creek Park  
5610 Lake Ridge Parkway  
The region's biggest holiday lights tradition.  
[Prairielight.org](http://Prairielight.org)