

# PRAIRIE PULSE

APRIL 2022



Spend the weekend in downtown Grand Prairie at Main Street Fest April 22-24. [More info.](#)

## What's Inside

### **New Development**

New restaurants and retail coming to GP

### **Summer Jobs**

Parks now hiring lifeguards, camp counselors and more

### **Upcoming Events**

See what's new in April

### **New GP Transportation Service**

Via Grand Prairie will kick off April 12

### **Assistant Chief Hogan Honored**

He will receive North America's highest civilian honor for heroism

## Virtual Health Fair

Don't Gamble with Your Health! This year's health fair will conveniently be available at your desk or from your mobile phone as you learn about the different benefits and resources available to you. You will have a chance to participate in group presentations, receive in-person screenings and receive free giveaways.

Save the Dates: May 2 - May 5

Each day will focus on a different topic such as retirement, health, and wellness related resources. You won't want to miss out!

## Autism Awareness Walk

Wednesday, April 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Epic, 2960 Epic Place

Join the WOW Committee and Public Health Department for the 2nd Annual Autism Awareness Walk. You will have an opportunity to walk for autism and check out the indoor walking path at The Epic Recreation Center! Prizes and giveaways will be available throughout the come and go event. Let's show our support for autism by wearing blue on this day!

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, April 9, 2-3 p.m.**

Spring into Gardening Class -  
Native Flowers for Pollinators  
To register, email:  
[jrudd@gptx.org](mailto:jrudd@gptx.org)

**April 14-16**

Friends of the Library Book Sale  
Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.  
April 14: 1- 6 p.m.  
April 15: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
April 16: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.**

Positive Parenting: Hunt,  
Gather, Parent  
Learn effective parenting ap-  
proaches for raising happy, well-  
adjusted children.  
Free Class  
Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.  
To register, email:  
[jrudd@gptx.org](mailto:jrudd@gptx.org)

**Thursday, April 21, 6-8 p.m.**

Cyclin' with the Mayor - Grand  
Peninsula Ride  
Dalton Elementary  
2607 N. Grand Peninsula Dr.  
Meet at 6 p.m.  
Ride begins at 6:30 p.m.

**April 22-24**

Main Street Fest  
Festival celebrating the fun,  
festive, family atmosphere  
that is Grand Prairie with  
live music featuring country  
star Craig Morgan and Texas  
Country singer-songwriters  
accompanied by a variety  
of regional bands. Enjoy 14  
carnival rides, arts and crafts  
vendors, food, beer and  
KIDZONE. [mainstreetfest.com](http://mainstreetfest.com)

## New Development

**Hobby Lobby** will open a store on the east side of SH 161 next to Kohls with an opening scheduled for the end of 2022. **Dutch Brothers Coffee** will open in late summer 2022 just north of Twin Peaks on SH 161 and **Lucky's Hot Chicken** is building a restaurant just north of Dutch Brothers. **Salad N Go** will open on the east side of SH 161 and Warrior Trail. **Rosa's Mexican Café** will open on the southwest corner of Mayfield and SH 161, **Bahama Bucks** shaved ice company will open on SH 161 just south of Forum and **Tropical**



**Smoothie Café** will open on Camp Wisdom west of Lake Ridge. A groundbreaking is expected in late 2022 on an **Alamo Draft-house** movie house, restaurant and brewery near SH 360 and I-20. **Sprouts** opened on March 18 on the southwest corner of Carrier and Pioneer Parkway next to dd's Discounts. [Watch video](#)

**Siemens** will invest \$10 million to expand its Grand Prairie manufacturing hub adding 25,000 additional square feet of space to its existing 750-employee facility. The plant manufactures circuit breakers and equipment that supports power infrastructure in some of the country's data centers, industrial sites and health care facilities. The expansion is scheduled to be complete by late 2023.

The city now owns the Calvary Baptist Church campus downtown just west of the City Hall complex and a Request For Expressions Of Interest (RFEI) has been issued to solicit ideas from developers about their vision for the site. The Bella Vista Hotel on Main Street just east of SH 161 is also now owned by the city. It is in the process of being razed with the goal of future redevelopment toward the continued revitalization of the downtown corridor.

## Farmers Market

Market Square, 120 W. Main St.  
Open Saturdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Farmers Market features locally grown fruits, vegetables and more. For more information, call 972-237-4599 or visit [gptx.org/farmersmarket](http://gptx.org/farmersmarket)



## Know Someone Who Needs a Summer Job?



Grand Prairie Parks, Arts & Recreation is looking for energetic seasonal team members to help with summer programs. If you know someone in your family or a friend who you think would be interested in working this summer at a Parks venue please have them [apply today](#).

Seasonal positions include:

- Camp Counselor – Charley Taylor, Dalworth, The Epic, Shotwell Life Center
- Lifeguard (certification required) – The Epic, The Summit, Kirby Creek Natatorium, Tyre Outdoor Pool, Bowles Outdoor Pool
- Gate Attendant – Joe Pool Lake
- Maintenance Worker – Prairie Lakes Golf Course, Tangle Ridge Golf Course, Municipal Grounds, Parks, Athletic Fields

## April is Stress Awareness Month

Many people deal with stress every day. Work, family issues, health concerns and financial obligations are parts of everyday life that commonly contribute to heightened stress levels. While life continues and we're forced to navigate through our daily tasks, here are some healthy ways to cope with stress:

- Take breaks from news stories and social media (put your phone down)
- Take care of your body – eat well, sleep more, and get active
- Make time to unwind – experiment with a new activity that allows you to escape from your stressors
- Connect with others – plan a gathering or outing
- Connect with your community or faith-based organization

You're not alone! If you feel you might need a little help with managing your stress, call Deer Oaks EAP today at 1-866-327-2400. Online tools are available at [deeroaks.com](http://deeroaks.com). Login and password are: GPTX

## New Via Grand Prairie Transportation Service Kicks Off April 12

Via Grand Prairie, the city's new on-demand, shared transportation service, will begin operation on April 12. The service will not replace the Grand Connection bus service which serves senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Via Grand Prairie is a minibus for anyone that comes when you want, and will travel anywhere in Grand Prairie city limits and the four college campuses listed below. Give Via Grand Prairie your pickup and dropoff addresses, and they will provide a few ride options. Choose the option that works best for you and a driver will be sent your way. Service hours will be Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Watch for more information coming soon!

### Cost:

\$3 per trip and all additional passengers ride for \$1.

Seniors (65+) ride for \$2 one way.

Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available.

### Rides to/from select college campuses:

University of Texas at Arlington: \$3/trip

Tarrant County College Southeast Campus: -\$3/trip

Dallas Baptist University: \$4/trip

Dallas College - Mountain View: \$4/trip



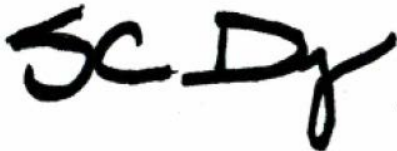
## Message from the Manager

Please mark your calendar to participate in the Virtual Health Fair for employees on May 2-5. Human Resources is making it easy for us to access some great health information virtually. Our commitment to wellness makes us healthier family members and public servants.

You may have heard that the city now owns the former Calvary Baptist Church building just west of the City Hall complex. We have sent out a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) and hope to have a developer chosen by this summer. We are confident commercial development at this site will be a catalyst for more businesses and restaurants to invest in downtown. Design and right-of-way acquisition is underway to take Main Street from four to two lanes making it more pedestrian friendly. Main Street will also be undesignated as a state highway so large trucks will be diverted to Jefferson Street. We hope to have this project completed in the next three years to attract new businesses downtown.

As we enter spring and thunderstorm season, please stay weather aware and have a safety plan in place at your home. Thank you to our Office of Emergency Management for keeping us informed when rough weather is headed our way. To receive time-sensitive weather and emergency messages on your phone, email or via text, subscribe to AlertGP for free at [gptx.org/AlertGP](http://gptx.org/AlertGP) or call 972-237-8333.

I appreciate each of you for the world class service you provide to our citizens daily.



Steve Dye, City Manager

## Volunteer for the GP Litter Team

Keep Main Street Fest litter free on Earth Day  
Friday, April 22 • Saturday, April 23 • Sunday, April 24

Volunteers will direct Main Street Fest participants to trash and recycling bins and pick up stray litter. Each volunteer will receive supplies at check-in.

It is recommended that volunteers sign up for a minimum of 2 hours at a time with no maximum. We would love to have you all weekend!

Students and families welcome. Students under 16 years of age may volunteer with an adult.

[Volunteer sign up](#)

Questions and concerns: 972-237-4546 or [amaron@gptx.org](mailto:amaron@gptx.org)

## NEWS

### Assistant Chief Hogan Honored

Assistant Police Chief Anthony Hogan will be honored later this year as a 2022 Carnegie Hero Medal winner, North America's highest civilian honor for heroism.

On Aug. 12, 2020, a violent accident left driver Michael A. Loya Jr. injured and pinned in a burning work truck containing flammable items.

Hogan was off-duty at the time when he quickly ran to rescue Loya, who was semi-conscious.

With flames coming through the truck's underside, Hogan partially entered the truck through the driver's window, grabbed Loya underneath one arm and pulled his upper body through the window.

During the accident, Hogan struggled to remove him further as his legs were caught but eventually removed him just in time before the entire truck was covered in flames.

Loya was unburned and was later treated for his injuries following the rescue.

The two reunited in September 2020 in which Loya thanked Hogan for his heroic act.

Hogan joins 17 other heroes who have risked their lives to an extraordinary degree in saving or attempting to save the lives of others.