

PRAIRIE PULSE

APRIL 2023



Thank you to all employees who took time on Saturday, March 25 to participate in the Big Event!
[Watch video](#)

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Available at MDLive

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From City Manager Steve Dye

Main Street Fest

If you work in or around City Hall, you'll see the Ferris wheel, midway rides and festival set up arrive in City Hall Plaza the week of April 17. The 3-day Main Street Fest is Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23. Main Street Fest offers free parking and admission. Concerts on the Main Stage include Monica Saldivar, Klymaxx, Los Palominos, Kari Taylor, Jack Ingram and Cory Morrow. Visit mainstreetfest.com



Vote for Epic Waters!



Epic Waters was nominated USA Today Top 10 Best Indoor Waterpark. [Vote here](#) to make Epic Waters #1! Vote daily through April 24.

Upcoming Events

Saturdays

Farmers Market
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
120 W. Main St.
[GrandFunGP.com/
farmersmarket/](http://GrandFunGP.com/farmersmarket/)

Tuesdays

Zumba
7 p.m.
Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Rd.
To register, email jrudd@gptx.org

Tuesday, April 4

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.

Thursday, April 6

Music On Main Concert
Maya Piata
6:30 p.m.
Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St.

Thursday, April 14-Saturday, April 15

Library Book Sale
Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.
Saturday is half price day

Friday, April 14

Thoroughbred Horse Racing
season begins
Lone Star Park
1000 Lone Star Parkway
lonestarpark.com

Saturday, April 15

Earth Day Celebration
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Kirby Creek Nature Center
3303 Corn Valley Road
Free tree giveaway, animal
encounters and more.

Employee Assistance Fund

For \$1 a paycheck you can help fellow employees facing tough times. The Employee Assistance Fund helps participating members who are going through a financially hard time and makes donations to local charitable organizations. Participation in the fund is voluntary and done via payroll deduction. The minimum donation required is \$1 per pay period, but any amount may be designated.



An employee seeking assistance must be contributing to the fund for six months. To enroll to participate in the fund via payroll deduction, fill out a Payroll Deduction form available in Human Resources, or find the Payroll Deduction form on the Raving Fans site under HR Forms.

Members who wish to be considered for assistance must direct requests in writing to a member of the Employee Assistance Committee.

GP Library Cards

Grand Prairie library cards are free, whether you live in Grand Prairie or not. To get a plastic library card, visit any library location:

- Main Library
901 Conover Dr.
- Shotwell Library
2750 Graham St.
- Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Rd.

To get a digital card (you keep track of your number) visit gptx.org/library and look for the Library Card tab.

The Grand Prairie Library System includes an extensive eBranch of digital materials including ebooks and streaming media. One of our major platforms is Hoopladigital. Hoopla is free with your Grand Prairie Library card.

Hoopla offers:

- Ebooks and audiobooks for all ages
- Movies
- Documentaries from Curiosity Stream and The Great Courses (look under BingePass)
- TV shows
- Music
- Comic Books
- Magazines (look under BingePass)

To access Hoopla, visit hoopladigital.com and create your free account, OR download the app from the app store. You can checkout up to 10 items per month.



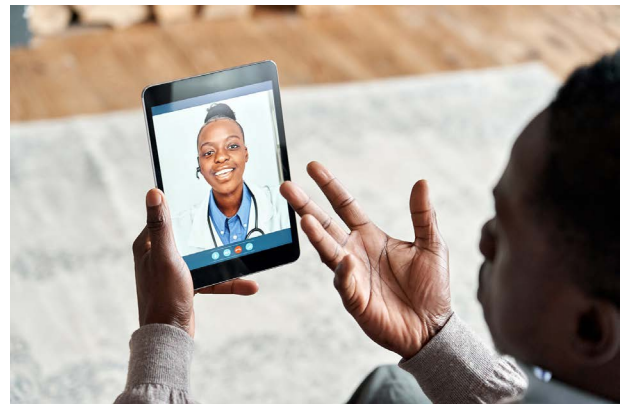
New GP Retail and Restaurants

- [Loop 9 BBQ](#) is now open in Epic Central, 2951 S. SH 161
 - The Finch neighborhood restaurant is scheduled to open on May 1, 2023
 - Vidorra Cocina de Mexico should open July 1, 2023
 - Serious Eats Pizza, Sliders and Shakes is expected to open Sept. 1, 2023
 - Hobby Lobby is scheduled to open by Kohls on the east side of SH 161 in May 2023
 - Pei Wei, Einstein Brothers Bagels and Crumbl will open in Epic Crossing on Mayfield and SH 161
 - Blue Goose Cantina plans to open soon in the former Texas Roadhouse on I-20
 - Shake Shack plans to open on Mayfield and SH 161
 - Andretti Indoor Karting and Games will open next to IKEA in late 2023
 - Voodoo Brewery will open across from IKEA
 - Bass Pro Shops will open in mid-2024
 - Steak and Ale has announced they will open their first Texas location on I-30 in 2024
 - Black Bear Diner will open a home-style restaurant next to Texas Roadhouse on I-20
- For more information on new development in Grand Prairie, watch the [Mayor's State of the City](#).



Fast, Hassle-Free Virtual Care

If you're feeling sick, call your doctor. You may be able to schedule a visit by phone or online. Avoid delays in seeking care by accessing Virtual Visits, available by phone, computer or mobile app. Virtual Visit doctors are specially trained to diagnose and treat many common illnesses. You will pay for each Virtual Visit according to your BCBSTX plan copay or coinsurance amount.



Here are just a few things Virtual Visits can do for you:

- Care from the safety and comfort of home – avoid exposure to viruses and germs
- Less time waiting – Speak with a doctor in less than 15 minutes. Appointments are required to see a behavioral health therapist (this may take up to 7 days)
- 24/7 Availability – Virtual Visit doctors are available nights, weekends, and holidays
- Top quality physicians – board certified doctors have an average of 15 years of experience and are specially trained in virtual care
- Prescription – Your Virtual Visit provider can send prescriptions to your preferred pharmacy and refill existing medications

Download the MDLIVE app today and set up your account for easy access! Or call 800-400-6354. You will need your medical insurance information to create an account or to speak with a provider. Visit [mdlive.com](https://www.mdlive.com) for more information.

Message from the Manager

Immense thanks to those who participated in the virtual health fair in March. If you missed any of the great sessions, many of them were recorded and can be viewed on the Raving Fans site. The health fair helped each of our houses gain some points in the Game of Wellness and right now, the House of Hills is in the lead followed by the House of Dye. House of DeLeon is third with House of Mahan taking up the rear. Way to step it up House of Dye!

We've started planning for the FY23/24 Budget, and right now our sales tax revenue is looking strong in large part because of new commercial and retail in our city. It's too early to predict property tax revenue and there is still state legislation pending regarding property tax matters.

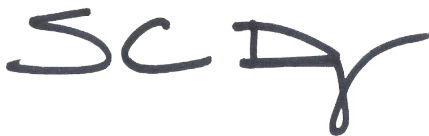
My top priorities for the next budget year, which starts on Oct. 1, include:

- Employee cost of living pay increases
- Improvements to our city's aging infrastructure
- Making sure city services and new facilities are keeping up with our growing population, which is now over 200,000, and Council expectations

I appreciate everyone who helped coordinate and took part in the Big Event. This year we had the largest participation with 1,600 volunteers taking on 100 service projects around the City. More than 40 tons of debris were collected. A special thanks to Council Member Clemson for bringing the idea for the Big Event to Grand Prairie.

Enjoy the great spring weather and thank you to all employees for the service you provide for our citizens each day.

Sincerely,



Steve Dye, City Manager

Crime Tip

While Grand Prairie enjoys a high quality of life, and is the #8 safest city in Texas as ranked by the FBI, please always be aware of your surroundings. When leaving your bank, put any cash withdrawals in a pocket, wallet or purse. A recent nationwide trend is called "jugging," which occurs when a suspect watches a bank or high-end store and then follows a customer after they leave to steal their money or valuables. You may drive to your next destination, only to find your window broken and goods gone when you return to your vehicle. The same is true for purses, wallets and purchases....conceal them when you are not in your car. It only takes a minute to break a window and steal your stuff, and costs you a bundle to replace the window and your stolen cash and items. Be safe, not sorry.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 18

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.

Thursday, April 20

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

Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23

Main Street Fest
Downtown Grand Prairie
mainstreetfest.com

Wednesday, April 26

Autism Awareness Walk
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Watch email and Raving Fans for more info.

Saturday, April 29

Community Garden Open House and Plant Swap
9 a.m.-noon
Haven Community Garden
1513 S. Belt Line
[Reserve lunch and tickets here](#)

Saturday, April 29

Boomtown
The true story of promoter Ace Borger's overnight city in the Texas Panhandle
Uptown Theater
120 E. Main St.
[Tickets and info.](#)

Tuesday, May 2

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.