

PRAIRIE PULSE

August 2023



Summer Fun Makers

Summer camp supervisors Jacqui Yopez, Dora Akingbade and Aaron Vasquez make summer at The Epic an adventure for Grand Prairie kids.

What's Inside

Financial Education Series

At City Hall and PSB

Belt Line Road Construction

Beginning Aug. 6, 2023

Kona Ice Day

August 3

Message from the Manager

From City Manager Steve Dye

Part-Time Trio Make Summer Magical

In the bustling heart of the city, The Epic Center Summer Camp boasts a team of committed part-time camp supervisors who work tirelessly to provide an extraordinary experience for young campers. Dora Akingbade, Aaron Vasquez, and Jacqui Yopez are enthusiastic camp supervisors who pour their hearts into making the camp memorable.

Jacqui sheds light on their daily routine, "We start off at 7 a.m. setting up tables, chairs, snacks, and water coolers, and making sure there's enough staff to check in the kids and kickstart the day."

Aaron adds, "Our day-to-day involves planning crafts, activities, and ensuring the kids' needs are met while guiding our counselors. We often stay until 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. prepping for the next day's adventure."

Throughout the day, the camp is abuzz with excitement, offering

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Save the Date

Annual Benefits Enrollment
Monday, Oct. 23 -Friday, Nov. 3
For benefits effective Jan. 1, 2024

Upcoming Events

Saturdays

Farmers Market
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
120 W. Main St.
GrandFunGP.com

Tuesday, August 1 and Aug. 15

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

Tuesdays

Free Zumba
7-8 p.m.
Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Rd.

Thursday, Aug. 3

Kona Ice
Join us as we celebrate summer with free snow cones for all employees!

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Public Safety Building
1525 Arkansas Lane

1:30-2:30 pm.
Service Center
1821 SH 161

3-4:30 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.

Thursday, Aug. 3

Music on Main
Free concert
Bamboo Boat Band
7-8:30 p.m.
City Hall Outdoor Fountain
300 W. Main St.
Free Lemonade by the
Two Lemonheads

Financial Education Series

The WOW Committee has partnered with Gardner Wallace for a Summer Financial Education Series. Seats are filling up quick!
[Register here](#)

Your Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans

Tuesday, Aug. 8, noon-1 p.m.
City Hall - City Council Briefing Room, 300 W. Main St.
This course will guide participants in identifying their individual goals and help them make informed decisions as they plan and prepare for retirement as it relates to employer sponsored TMRS and 457 plans.

Cash Management

Wednesday, Aug. 10, noon- 1 p.m.
Public Safety Building - 2nd Floor Community Room
1525 Arkansas Lane
This course teaches participants the basic principles to budget their money. Topics covered in this course include assessing your current financial situation, building a liquidity fund, managing credit cards, mortgage refinancing, and four ways to increase savings.

Cricket City, USA!



Grand Prairie City Council members, city officials, Dallas County officials, and the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce and Grand Prairie Hispanic Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon with Major League Cricket in July 2023 celebrating the grand opening of Grand Prairie Stadium, the city's new major league cricket venue. Teams from around the globe came to Grand Prairie for the inaugural season of Major League Cricket. For more info. go to visitgrandprairietx.com/cricket. [Watch GPTV ML Cricket video](#)

Belt Line Road Construction

The Texas Department of Transportation will begin construction on Belt Line Road (FM 1382) from Main St (HWY 180) to Interstate 20 on Aug. 6, 2023.

Crews will work at night from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday until the end of October 2023.

Construction will include asphalt replacement, surface treatment, and full-depth concrete repairs on Belt Line, starting at the northern end of the project.

Beginning in November, 2023, they will move to bridge repair, chevrons, and guardrail replacement during the days through the end of February 2024. Expect delays.

Kona Ice

Join us as we celebrate summer with free snow cones for all employees.

Thursday, Aug. 3

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Public Safety Building, 1525 Arkansas Lane

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Service Center, 1821 SH 161

3-4:30 p.m.: City Hall, 300 W. Main St.



Summer Camp Supervisors

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a diverse range of activities. Dora shares, "Our Summer Camp is packed with fun, including field trips. Activities like pool visits, trips to Epic Waters and arcades keep the kids engaged. We're thrilled about our upcoming museum visit this Friday."

To ensure a seamless experience for parents, Jacqui points out, "The Epic website hosts all essential camp information, such as weekly costs, registration fees, and excursions. Parents can register their kids online, but the limited spots fill quickly once the application goes out."

The sense of community and camaraderie among the camp supervisors sets The Epic's summer camp apart from others. Jacqui proudly claims, "Our camp is unique because of the strong bond among our team members. We genuinely get along and foster a sense of community."

"With so many kids attending, we witness a little bit of everything, Jacqui says. "It's heartening to see how much they love being here and enjoy our activities. We must be doing something right."

"Kids often don't want to leave and eagerly look forward to returning," says Dora.

For these passionate part-time camp supervisors, working at The Epic Summer Camp is an immensely fulfilling experience.

"Our job doesn't feel like work at all, says Aaron. "It's a day filled with hanging out with friends and playing with kids. It's simply fun!"

The most rewarding aspect, Jacqui explains, is the genuine affection they receive from the kids. "When kids come up and give me a hug, it warms my heart and lets me know they care," she says with a smile. As summer winds down, The Epic Center Summer Camp remains a beacon of joy and excitement for the children, all thanks to the unwavering passion and dedication of Dora, Aaron, Jacqui, and the entire team.

Message from the Manager

Grand Prairie made history in July as we celebrated the inaugural season of Major League Cricket. Fans were excited to have a place to watch Major League Cricket in Texas and matches were broadcast worldwide to over 2 million viewers. Thank you to all employees who worked so hard to ensure Grand Prairie Stadium is a safe place to host fans, from across the globe, and provide them with a first-class experience. Grand Prairie's hometown cricket team, the Texas Super Kings made it to the semi-final round where they lost to the 2023 MLC tournament champion MI New York.

We're nearing finalization of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 proposed budget. Later this month we'll have the budget workshop, where I am confident City Council will approve a cost of living adjustment for employees. The new budget will also include funds for new positions. As our city continues to grow, more employees are needed to help with the increased demand.

I appreciate all employees whose jobs require them to work in the extreme heat. Please continue to stay hydrated, wear light, loose-fitting clothing, and take rest breaks in the shade as needed. I know your work environment is particularly challenging this time of year and we appreciate you.

Sincerely,



Steve Dye, City Manager

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Financial Education Series for City Employees
Your Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans
Noon-1 p.m.
City Hall - Council Briefing Room
300 W. Main St.

Thursday, Aug. 10

Financial Education Series for City Employees
Cash Management
Noon-1 p.m.
Public Safety Building
2nd Floor Community Room

Saturday, Aug. 12

Hatch Chile Fest
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Farmers Market, 120 W. Main

Thursday, Aug. 17

Cyclin' with the Mayor
Nottingham Ride
Meet at 6 p.m.
Ride begins at 6:30 p.m.
Larson Elementary
2620 E. Avenue K

Tips to Stay Hydrated

- Calculate your estimated quota for water by dividing your body weight in half—if you weigh 160 pounds, for instance, you'll need about 80 oz (10 cups).
- Load up on fruits and veggies, which are packed with water that will contribute to fulfilling your daily hydration needs.

