

# PRAIRIE PULSE

February 2023



Enjoy great food at the Radial Cafe at Grand Prairie Municipal Airport, 3116 S. Great Southwest Parkway. **10% Discount with Employee ID!**

## What's Inside

### **New Development**

Shake Shack Coming to GP

### **Animal Services Events**

Celebrate Valentine's and help out

### **Clean Up at Loyd Park**

Volunteers needed

### **Employee Vaccination Clinic**

At City Hall on Feb. 8

### **Message from the Manager**

From City Manager Steve Dye

## Congratulations to Employee Awards Banquet Winners!

**Group Teamwork** - Charley Taylor  
Recreation Center

**Group Innovation** - Epic Fine Arts Team

**Individual Innovation** - Jacqueline Mendoza,  
Uptown Theater

**Individual Integrity** - Nikki Funderburk,  
Parks, Arts & Recreation

**Individual Service** - Luis Ranz,  
Information Technology

**Individual People** - Anne Marie Holstead, Library

**City Manager's Award** - Cathy Patrick, Finance

**City Manager's Award** - Walter Shumac, Transportation and Mobility Services

**City Manager's Award** - Sara Dedeluk, Tourism



## Game of Wellness

Support your house by participating in wellness activities and events this year! For more information about the Game of Wellness and how to participate, view the [Game of Wellness Powerpoint](#) and watch for activities to help your team.

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, February 4

Seed Starting 101  
2 p.m. Warmack Library  
760 Bardin Rd.

### Saturday, February 4

Pirates on the Prairie  
5:30 p.m.  
Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St.  
[Purchase tickets](#)

### Tuesday, February 7

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

### Wednesday, February 8

Employee Vaccination Clinic  
9-11 a.m., City Hall  
300 W. Main St. - Conf. Rm C  
Bring drivers license and  
insurance card  
[Register here](#)

### Tuesday, February 7, 14, 21, 28

Zumba  
7 p.m., Warmack Library  
760 Bardin Rd.  
Email [jrudd@gptx.org](mailto:jrudd@gptx.org) to register

### Saturday, February 11

Coffee with a Cop  
8:30 a.m.  
Woods United Methodist Church  
1350 Bardin Road

### Saturday, February 11

Kid's Fishing Day  
10 a.m., Mike Lewis Park  
2600 North Carrier Parkway  
[More info.](#)

### Feb. 17-19, 24-26

Beehive - The 60's Musical  
Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St.  
[More info.](#)

## Volunteer to Clean Up Loyd Park

Saturday, Feb. 25, 8:30 - noon  
Loyd Park, 3401 Ragland Road

Roll up your sleeves and join forces with Yuengling and Keep Texas Beautiful as they spend the morning cleaning up Loyd Park.

Please plan to wear boots; the rest of the safety gear will be provided.

[RSVP here](#)



## Live Heart Healthy

Nearly 1 in 2 adults has high blood pressure. Yet, only 1 in 4 has it under control. If left uncontrolled, high blood pressure can increase a person's risk for heart disease, stroke, heart failure, kidney disease, pregnancy complications and cognitive decline later in life.



Here are 7 Strategies to Live a Heart-Healthy Lifestyle:

1. Learn Your Health History
2. Eat A Healthy Diet
3. Move More, Sit Less
4. Quit Smoking
5. Take Medicines as Directed
6. Choose Your Drinks Wisely
7. Monitor Your Blood Pressure at Home

For more details on how you can lead a heart-healthy lifestyle, visit [7 Strategies to Live a Heart-Healthy Lifestyle | CDC today!](#)

## Valentines Benefit Animal Services

Celebrate Valentine's Day and support Grand Prairie Animal Services (GPAS) with these events:

**Prairie Postage** - From now until February 10, you can sign up to send a Valentine to a loved one from a dog or cat at GPAS.

[Register here](#)



**Galentine's Event** - Grab your gals and join GPAS on Saturday, Feb. 18 for a fun morning of making bath bombs and sugar scrubs from scratch. [Register here](#)



## New Development

### Loop 9 BBQ at EpicCentral Opens in March

Loop 9 BBQ, a new restaurant concept featuring prime brisket and other connoisseur-level barbecued meats, will open its doors in March 2023 and will be one of the first new restaurants to open in Grand Prairie's growing 172-acre entertainment center, EpicCentral.



Loop 9 promises prime grade brisket smoked to perfection, the best ribs you've ever tasted, Texas sausages, and so much more. Every item on the Loop 9 BBQ menu is prepared from scratch with a focus on fresh, high-quality ingredients and truly authentic Texas flavors.

The menu doesn't stop with premium barbecue. The scratch-made sides include Mexican corn, Borracho beans, fried okra, cornbread, and two flavors of fresh cut fries. Award-winning desserts include chocolate cream pie, coconut cream pie, key lime pie, and banana cream pudding. The restaurant will have a separate pie shop where customers can order whole pies to take home. For more information about Loop 9 and the entire EpicCentral development, visit [EpicCentral.com](https://www.epiccentral.com).

### Other New Development

**Black Rock Coffee** is set to open in spring 2023 on Camp Wisdom Road and Lake Ridge Parkway. In the Epic East development next to Kohls on SH 161, **Hobby Lobby** will open in May 2023 and **Pop Shelf Variety Store** will open a home goods, seasonal décor and party store. **Shake Shack** plans to build a restaurant in the Epic West shopping center on Mayfield Road west of SH 161.

## GP Big Event Set for March 25

Volunteer at the Grand Prairie Big Event from 8 a.m.–noon Saturday, March 25, 2023. Teams of volunteers will help residents with qualifying service projects in this one-day city-wide community service project aimed to help those in need. Volunteers are preferred in pre-established groups, but smaller groups and individuals may also volunteer. Jobs may include yard work, spring-cleaning or litter patrol, or other work outside a home that requires no power tools. Deadline to register is March 1, 2023. All jobs are vetted in advance, in Grand Prairie, one-time only. [gptx.org/bigevent](https://gptx.org/bigevent).



## My Health Passport

The Get Fit GP community health initiative has partnered with local businesses to offer a free My Health Passport for anyone whose new year's resolution is to live a healthier lifestyle. The My Health Passport features many local discounts such as discounted gym memberships and buy one get one free offers to a variety of local restaurants. Offers on the passport are valid now - February 28, 2023. [Get your passport](https://www.getfitgp.com) Download the My Health Passport by visiting [gptx.org/getfitgp](https://gptx.org/getfitgp).

## Employee Vaccination Clinic

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 9-11 a.m., City Hall, 300 W. Main St. - Conference Room C  
Bring insurance card and driver's license. [Register here](https://www.gptx.org/employee-vaccination)



## Message from the Manager

It was great to see so many employees attending the Employee Awards Banquet last month, and kudos to the Employee Recognition Committee for making the event so much fun. The banquet is an important time to honor all employees for their service to our City, and this year we proudly recognized more than 200 employees for their years of service. Of special mention are those we honored for serving 30 years or more:

### 35 Years

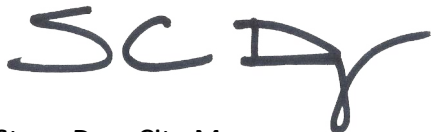
- Kirby Almond, Fire
- Jeffrey Baldwin, Fire
- Marisela Garcia, Police
- Don McCallister, Fire
- Douglas St. Clair, Fire

### 30 Years

- Jon Granberry, Police
- John Simpson, General Services
- Amy Sprinkles, Marketing
- Dane Stovall, Transportation and Mobility Services
- Marc Taddonio, Police
- Derek Townsend, Fire

I encourage all employees to participate in the Game of Wellness and earn points for your team now through Nov. 30, 2023. The Employee Wellness Committee has worked hard to develop this great program to help us improve our overall health and wellness throughout the year. This is an excellent opportunity to reach our wellness goals so that we can all be better employees and live longer. As many of you know, I am a bit competitive, so the House of Dye needs to step it up. We are behind! Read more about the Game of Wellness on the [Raving Fans site](#).

Lastly, in the spirit of giving back to the community, please consider volunteering at The Big Event, our citywide volunteerism day. This is a great day of public service, and it would be wonderful to have a big employee turnout. To volunteer, [click here](#).



Steve Dye, City Manager

## Flexible Spending Accounts

Don't forget to submit receipts no later than March 31, 2023, for qualifying expenses incurred from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Visit [naviabenefits.com](http://naviabenefits.com) to submit your receipts today. Use the City's code to create your account: CTG

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, February 18

Epic Plunge! 2023  
1-2 p.m., Epic Waters  
2970 Epic Place  
[More info.](#)

### Saturday, February 18

Grand Prairie Animal Services  
Galentine's Event  
[More info.](#)

### Thursday, February 23

Hoops for History Basketball  
Game  
6:30 p.m.  
Dalworth Recreation Center  
2012 Spikes St.  
[More info.](#)

### Friday, February 24

Daddy Daughter Dance  
6:30 p.m.  
Ruthe Jackson Center  
3113 S. Carrier Parkway  
For tickets, visit the Charley  
Taylor Recreation Center  
601 E. Grand Prairie Road

### Saturday, February 25

Loyd Park Cleanup  
Sponsored by Yuengling  
8:30 a.m.-noon  
Loyd Park, 3401 Ragland Road  
[RSVP here](#)

### Tuesday, February 28

Bridal Open House  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Ruthe Jackson Center  
3113 S. Carrier Parkway