

# PRAIRIE PULSE

October 2022



Andretti Indoor Karting and Games and Bass Pro Shops will open in Grand Prairie in 2023/2024.

## What's Inside

**Nominate Employees Soon!**  
Awards Banquet set for January

**Upcoming Events**  
See What's New in October

**Strollin' with the Mayor**  
Walk through downtown and health fair

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**  
Resources and more

**Pumpkin Decorating Contest**  
Celebrate the fall season

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

## New Development

Andretti Indoor Karting and Games will open a 96,000-square-foot facility of its newest design that will feature an indoor climate-controlled kart track, arcade, virtual reality games, laser tag and duckpin bowling. Plans are to open by end of 2023.

Bass Pro Shops will build a new 100,000-square-foot retail store, with a unique completely custom design, that will be the outdoor retailer's

*Continued on page 2*



## Save the Date - Annual Enrollment

Annual enrollment for employee benefits:  
November 7-23, 2022  
Watch [Raving Fans](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### Saturdays through Dec. 10

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

### Weekends

Quarter Horse Racing  
Lone Star Park  
1000 Lone Star Parkway  
[lonestarpark.com](http://lonestarpark.com)

### Wednesdays through Dec. 14

Yoga for All  
6-6:45 p.m.  
Bring your own mat or towel  
To register, email:  
[aholstead@gptx.org](mailto:aholstead@gptx.org)

### Thursday, Oct. 6

Music on Main  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Featuring the GPFAA Jazz Band  
Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St.  
Bring your lawn chair  
Concessions available

### Friday, Oct. 7

Brave Combo at The Epic  
7:30 p.m.  
The Epic Theater  
2960 Epic Place  
\$15 in advance  
\$20 at the door  
[Tickets and Info.](#)

### Friday, Oct. 7-9

FlowaPalooza 2022  
9 a.m.  
Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark  
2960 Epic Place  
[More Info.](#)

### Friday, Oct. 13

Volunteer Rally and Sr. Job Fair  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
The Summit, 2975 Esplanade

## Strollin' with the Mayor - Pink Out Walk

Saturday, Oct. 15 • Walk begins: 9 a.m.  
Health fair: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St.



Celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month with Mayor Ron Jensen on a 2-mile walk through downtown. Wear your favorite pink gear.

## Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Beginning Monday, Oct. 17. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m. Winners will be announced on October 27.

### Individual Categories

- Best Character Theme
- Scariest
- Funniest
- Sports

### Group Category

- Best Pumpkin Patch



Watch for more information on how to enter.

## Update Your Beneficiaries

Life is unpredictable, and when changes occur, your current beneficiary choices may need to be updated. With annual enrollment around the corner, take time now to review your beneficiaries. Without living beneficiaries, your assets may be transferred to your estate and state law determines who receives it. It is recommended you select both primary and contingent beneficiaries.



Log in to Lawson ESS to update your life insurance beneficiaries today. TMRS and 457 plan beneficiaries must be updated through their member portals. Please contact [benefits@gptx.org](mailto:benefits@gptx.org) for assistance.

## New Development

*from page 1*

fifth location in the region and 15th location in Texas. The new location is expected to open in the spring of 2024.

Andretti Indoor Karting and Games and Bass Pro Ships will be located on the east side of SH 161, just south of IKEA and north of I-20.

## Livongo for Diabetes

The Livongo for Diabetes program is a health benefit that combines advanced technology with coaching to support you with your diabetes. You will receive a connected glucose meter, unlimited strips and lancets, personalized insights with each reading, and access to Certified Diabetes Educators. The program is provided to you and your eligible family members with diabetes and coverage on the city's medical plan.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of breast cancer. There are several ways you can get involved, such as learning more about breast cancer, making a monetary donation or by participating in a local walk near you. Here are some resources to check out:

[National Breast Cancer Foundation](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[American Cancer Society](#)

[Susan G. Komen - DFW](#)

If you know a Grand Prairie resident who is 40 or older and uninsured or unable to pay for a mammography, Get Fit Grand Prairie has partnered with a local mammography center to offer free mammograms in October and November on a first come, first serve basis. The application for this service is available at [gptx.org/getfitgp](http://gptx.org/getfitgp)

## Employee Flu Clinic

Thursday, Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-noon • City Hall East - Conference Room C, 300 W. Main St.

Flu shots will be administered as well as pneumonia shots for ages 50-64

Please bring your insurance card and ID. The city's insurance plan will cover the shot at 100%

Other insurance plans may be accepted, coverage is not guaranteed. Medicare accepted.

## Prairie Lights Sneak-a-Peek

Saturday, Nov. 19 and Sunday, Nov. 20 • Lynn Creek Park, 5610 Lake Ridge Parkway

Be the first to see all new displays at 2022 Prairie Lights as you run, jog, walk, or stroll through the lighted park! Families and friends can register as teams and be judged in our festive team competition. Proceeds from this event benefit all ages that use Parks, Arts & Recreation Department programs and classes by providing scholarships to cover program fees for those in need. Registration is \$25 by Oct. 21 or \$35 by Nov. 18. [Register here](#)

## Nominate Employees for Awards

Nominate employees for awards beginning October 24 until November 11.

Mark your calendar for the Employee Award Banquet on Jan. 26, 2023.

Watch email and the Raving Fans site for more information.



## Volunteer Rally and Senior Job Fair

Thursday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. • The Summit, 2975 Esplanade

Nonprofits, GPISD, GPPD and other caring entities invite you to join and help make life grand for everyone. Visit with organizations that serve Grand Prairie and see how you can help.

*Sponsored by the City of Grand Prairie, Grand Prairie Unity Coalition and GP Chamber of Commerce.*

For more information, email [Gerald Hodges](mailto:Gerald.Hodges@cityofgrandprairie.com)



## Message from the Manager

The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget was approved by our City Council on September 20, which includes a ½ cent property tax rate cut and 2.5 percent increase in the Homestead Exemption for Grand Prairie residents. The new budget authorizes a 3 percent merit increase for all City employees, which will be seen on your October 28, 2022 paycheck. Thankfully, there will be no increases in health insurance costs so thank you for being responsible consumers of our healthcare benefits.

We're very proud that more new development is coming to Grand Prairie. You may have heard the exciting news that Andretti's Indoor Karting and Games and Bass Pro Shops are opening facilities on the east side of SH 161, just south of IKEA and north of I-20. Andretti's, scheduled to open by late 2023, will feature an indoor climate-controlled kart track, arcade, virtual reality games, laser tag and duckpin bowling. Bass Pro Shops plans to open their 100,000-square-foot retail store in spring 2024.

At EpicCentral, Loop 9 Barbecue will open this month and the other restaurants will begin opening in November 2022 through early 2023.

The Employee Award Banquet is set for January 26, 2023. Nominations for employee awards are open October 24-November 11. Please take time to nominate deserving candidates.

Thank you for your service to our city. Please know that your hard work is making an impact on the great quality of life for our citizens enjoy every day.

Sincerely,



Steve Dye, City Manager

## Fast Track to a Degree

Texas A&M University Commerce is offering Competency Based Education (CBE) programs. For more information, email: [Nicole.Askew@tamuc.edu](mailto:Nicole.Askew@tamuc.edu) or visit the Raving Fans website.

- Fully online
- Self-paced courses
- 7-week terms
- Core curriculum: 42 credit hours
- Professional development electives: 66 semester hours
- Professional development requirements: 36 credit hours
- Transfer up to 84 credit hours
- CBE programs tuition is \$4,500 or less

## Upcoming Events

### Oct. 13-15

Fall Book Sale

Oct. 13: 1-6 p.m.

Oct. 14: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Oct. 15: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.  
*Benefiting Friends of the Library*

### Saturday, Oct. 15

Strollin' with the Mayor

Health Fair: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Walk begins at 9 a.m.

Farmers Market

120 W. Main St.

### Saturday, Oct. 15

Taste of Grand Prairie and

Community Spotlight

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Municipal Court Parking Lot

200 W. Main St.

For info.: 972-264-1558

### Sunday, Oct. 30

Howl-O-Ween Pawty

3-6 p.m.

Prairie Paws Animal Services

and Adoption Center

2222 W. Warrior Trail

### Sunday, Oct. 30

Dia de los Muertos

6 - 10 p.m.

Farmers Market

120 W Main St.

There will be an Alter Contest,

participants must register in advance.

Email: [cnami@gptx.org](mailto:cnami@gptx.org)

### Monday, Oct. 31

Street N' Treat

6 - 8 p.m.

300 W. Main St.

[More Info.](#)