

PRAIRIE PULSE

January 2024



What's Inside

New GP Restaurants and Retail

Find out what's new and coming soon!

Employee Seed and Plant Swap

Try your green thumb with new seeds!

Message from the Manager

From City Manager Bill Hills

Upcoming Events

January Happenings

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

The Big Event is a one-day, citywide day the City of Grand Prairie celebrates community by matching volunteers with service projects, neighbors helping neighbors. All Big Event jobs are outdoors, do not require the use of power tools and can be completed within a few hours. Sign up now with your volunteer group at gptx.org/bigevent. Deadline to register is Friday, March 1.



2023 Employee Awards Banquet



Thursday, Jan. 25

Doors Open • 5:30 p.m. | Dinner • 6 p.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 S. Carrier Parkway

Tickets available for \$5 Jan. 8-24 at:
Human Resources (Front Desk)
Service Center (Gena Naylor)
Public Safety Building (Stan Steadman)
Housing (Joshua Jones)

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

City Council Meeting
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.
[Watch Online >](#)

THURSDAY, JAN. 11 THROUGH SATURDAY, JAN. 13

Clearance Book Sale
Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.
[More info >](#)

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

Employee Seed
and Plant Swap
10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.
Conference Room D

MONDAY, JAN. 15

MLK Parade and Celebration
10 a.m.
300 W. Main St.
Parade begins at City Hall and
continues to David Daniels
Elementary
[More Info >](#)

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

Adopt-a-Stream with Beacon
Branch HOA
9 a.m. - noon
Beacon Hill HOA
4848 Thames
Join Keep Grand Prairie
Beautiful for this land-based
trash cleanup.
[Register to volunteer >](#)

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

City Council Meeting
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
City Hall
300 W. Main St.
[Watch Online >](#)

Enjoy New GP Restaurants and Retail

Explore EpicCentral, 2951 S. SH 161, experience the Vegas-style water show Illuvia, and try great new restaurants in or city open now and coming soon.



- **Serious Eats Pizza, Sliders and Shakes** will open in early 2024.
- **The Dippy Egg** is scheduled to open in early 2024.
- **Vidorra Cocina** de Mexico is now open.
- **The Finch Grill & Raw Bar** is open—and features steak, chicken, fish and more.
- **Loop 9 BBQ** is open.
- **Hilton Garden Inn, Homewood Suites and a new convention center** will open in early 2024.

For more information about the EpicCentral development, visit EpicCentral.com

Other new development:

At Epic Grand Crossing east of SH 161 near Arkansas Lane:

- **Einstein Bros. Bagels** is open
- **Frost Bank** is open
- **Pizza Patron** will open soon
- **Pei Wei** will open in early 2024

The Epic Quarter of projects along SH 161 welcomes:

- **Shake Shack**, now open just west of Raising Cane's at 1550 Mayfield Road and Esplanade.
- **Andretti Indoor Karting and Games** plans to open in early 2024 at 1670 S. Forum Dr.
- **Bass Pro Shops** plans to open in May 2024 at 3720 S. SH 161.

Flexible Spending Accounts

Don't forget to submit receipts no later than Sunday, March 31, 2024 for qualifying expenses incurred from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Visit naviabenefits.com to submit your receipts today.



Heart Healthy Art Contest

Raise awareness about heart health by entering the Get Fit GP Healthy Heart Art Contest! The contest is open to all ages with prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in all age categories. One grand prize winner will receive a \$100 gift card and a Fuji Instax camera. All artwork must be submitted by mid-March. For details, visit gptx.org/getfitgp.



Mona Lisa Galicia Elected Trustee of TMCA

Grand Prairie City Secretary Mona Lisa Galicia was recently elected trustee of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., at its annual business meeting in Frisco.

As trustee, Mona Lisa will be responsible for accomplishing the goals and objectives of TMCA. Since 1952, the Association has been dedicated to serving the demands of excellence in Texas' local government and public problem-solving. Its principal missions are to motivate Texas city clerks and city secretaries to become leaders in their fields of governance and to provide an educational program for the beginning and mid-career city clerk and city secretary.

Cigna Onsite Dental Services



Monday, Jan. 29 and Tuesday, Jan. 30
Public Works Training Center, 317 S. Belt Line Road

Schedule your appointment now with Cigna Onsite Dental and Jet Dental to receive preventative care including x-rays and cleaning in about 45 minutes without having to leave your workplace.

If you are a Cigna Dental customer, your dental exam is covered by your Cigna Dental plan.

[Click here](#) to schedule and appointment.

Message from the Manager

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and found time to relax and rejuvenate.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every one of you for your unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the past year. Your commitment to keeping our city running smoothly and ensuring the readiness in all situations is truly appreciated.

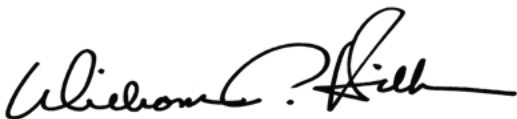
Our achievements in 2023 were truly remarkable. Together, we accomplished milestones that have significantly contributed to the vibrancy and growth of our city. Some notable accomplishments include:



- Launching the spectacular Illuvia water and light show, adding a touch of wonder to EpicCentral
- Welcoming several new restaurants to Epic Central— Vidorra Cocina de Mexico, The Finch Grill & Raw Bar and Loop 9 Barbecue
- Celebrating the inaugural year of Major League Cricket at the newly renovated Grand Prairie Stadium
- Welcoming Hobby Lobby, Black Rock Coffee, Pop Shelf Variety Store, Voodoo Brewery, Blue Goose Cantina, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Shake Shack and a new Frost Bank
- Successfully completing the widening of Camp Wisdom Road from Robinson to Belt Line in cooperation with Dallas County and the City of Dallas
- Concluding renovation of Turner, Tyre, and Mi Familia Parks
- Launching the city's first Small Business and Subcontractors Expo, Entrepreneur U and Franchise U classes to help foster and grow small, minority, and women-owned businesses
- Completing the Heritage Pump Station capable of providing 6 million gallons of water per day to households in Grand Prairie's Southern sector

As we embark on the new year, I am eagerly anticipating the continuation of this positive momentum. Together, let's challenge ourselves to be even better channeling our efforts, enthusiasm, and dedication to our RAVING FANS principals toward accomplishing even greater things in 2024.

I look forward to celebrating our collective achievements at the Employee Awards Banquet on January 25, and seeing each of you there. Your hard work and commitment doesn't go unnoticed, and I am genuinely grateful for everything you do each day. Let's make 2024 an outstanding year, creating an even larger community of RAVING FANS through your exceptional service and dedication.



Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, JAN. 25

Employee Awards Banquet
Celebrating Our Allstars
Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 S. Carrier Parkway

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Adopt-a-Stream Fish Creek
Cleanup
9 a.m. - noon
4340 Endicott Dr.

[Register to volunteer >](#)

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Council Member Bessye
Adams Town Hall Meeting
1-3 p.m.
Grand Prairie Events and
Convention Center
Junior Ballroom B
2935 SH 161

[Register to attend virtually >](#)

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

Pirates on the Prairie
6 p.m.
Uptown Theater
120 E. Main St.

[Tickets and Info >](#)

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

City Council Meeting
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.

[Watch Online >](#)

TUESDAYS

Beginner Spanish for Adults
5:40 - 7 p.m.
Warmack Library
760 Bardin Rd.
Email jrudd@gptx.org
to register.

WEDNESDAYS

Yoga for All - Free
6 - 7 p.m.
Warmack Library
760 Bardin Rd.
Email aholstead@gptx.org
to register.