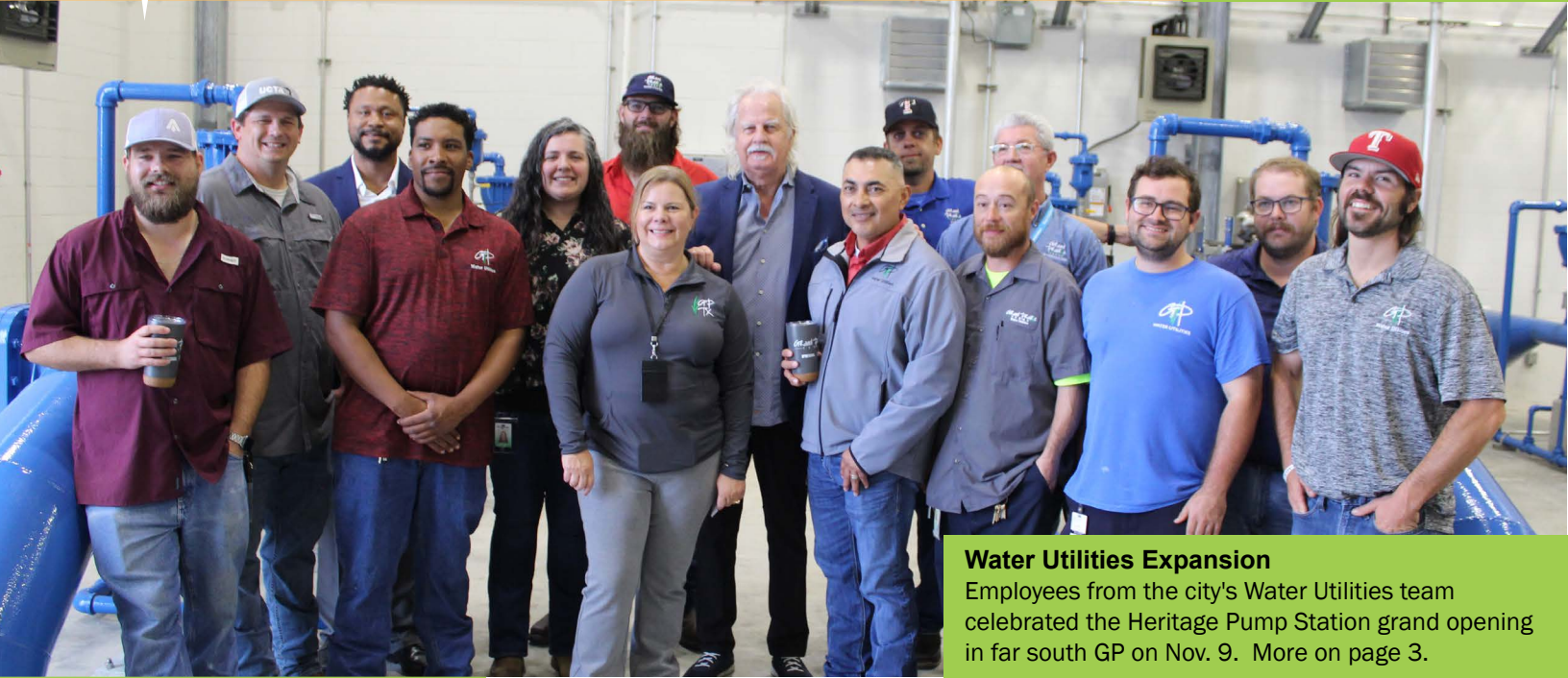


PRAIRIE PULSE

December 2023



Water Utilities Expansion

Employees from the city's Water Utilities team celebrated the Heritage Pump Station grand opening in far south GP on Nov. 9. More on page 3.

What's Inside

Holiday Craft Fair

Craft vendors, free cookies and Santa

Prairie Paws Postage

Cards benefiting Animal Services

Message from the Manager

From City Manager Bill Hills

Upcoming Events

December Happenings

Free Ice Skating at City Hall

Dec. 1-26 • 300 W. Main St.

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday: 4-8 p.m.

Thursday: 4-8 p.m.

Friday: 4-9 p.m.

Saturday: noon-9 p.m.

Sunday: noon-8 p.m.



Glide into the holiday season at the Downtown Grand Prairie Ice Skating Rink. Located in front of City Hall, the rink is open to skaters of all ages and skill levels. Skate rentals are also free. Sessions are 30 minutes. Reservations not required.

Mark Your Calendar for the Employee Awards Banquet

Thursday, Jan. 25 • Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway

Celebrating Our Allstars

Watch for tickets to go on sale in January 2024.

Upcoming Events

Friday, Dec. 1

Tree Lighting
6-9 p.m.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.

Friday, Dec. 1-Tuesday, Dec. 26

Free Ice Skating
300 W. Main St.
Closed Mondays
[See Ice Rink Hours](#)

Now-Dec. 31

Prairie Lights
6-10 p.m.
Lynn Creek Park
5610 Lake Ridge Parkway
[More info.](#)

Saturdays, Dec. 2, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16

Farmers Market - Holiday Market
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
120 W. Main St.
[GrandFunGP.com](#)

Saturday, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9

Annual Sock Drive
Bring new socks, underwear and T-shirts to the Farmers Market to children in need.
Farmers Market
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
120 W. Main St.
[More info.](#)

Saturday, Dec. 2

Bike Drive and Car Show
Benefiting Santa Cop
Donate a bicycle for a Grand Prairie child who may not otherwise have the chance to experience the thrill of owning their own bike.
City Hall, 300 W. Main St.
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
[More Info.](#)

Flexible Spending Accounts

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

Camacho Named HR Director



Assistant Police Chief Ronnie Morris, Managing Director Lisa Norris and Deputy City Attorney Tiffany Bull recently welcomed Tasha Camacho as the city's new Human Resources Director.

Grand Holiday Craft Fair

Thursday, Dec. 7, 3-7 p.m.
Veterans Event Center, 925 Conover Dr.

Explore a wonderland of delightful crafts from local vendors and get hands-on making your own bath bombs, enjoy chair yoga sessions, free cookies and cocoa and photos with Santa.

Coat Drive for Kids

Help Collect 100 new coats and jeans for kids!
Now through Dec. 31, 2023 • Sizes to fit kids K-12
Please bring your new coat with tags to:

- City Hall Central, 300 W. Main St.
- Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.
- Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Rd.

Benefiting GPISD and Kids Inc.



Prairie Lights

Thursday, Nov. 23-Sunday, Dec. 31

Opens nightly at 6 p.m.

Lynn Creek Park on Joe Pool Lake, 5610 Lake Ridge Pkwy
Be dazzled by Prairie Lights as you drive through 4 million lights set along 2 miles of path. Hundreds of all-new displays in shapes of all kinds line and arch over the roads. Halfway through the drive, get out of your car for a stop at Holiday Village, where you will find food, gifts, Santa and Lighted Walk-Through Forest. The show's finale is the world's largest light tunnel!

For details, pricing, and to purchase tickets, visit PrairieLights.org



Santa Paws Sleepover

Sign up to participate in the Grand Prairie Animal Services 4th annual Holiday Sleepover— help send all Grand Prairie animal shelter pets home for the holidays. Host a shelter pet December 23-January 2 and allow them to experience the holidays in a home—surrounded by so much love. Registration is open through Sunday, Dec. 10. [Register](#)



Prairie Paws Postage

Send a holiday card to the animal lover in your life with Prairie Postage! Now through December 19, you can sign up to send a holiday card (\$10) or a card with a limited edition ornament (\$15).

Each holiday card will include an adorable photo of a dog or cat from Grand Prairie Animal Services, a sweet note and the animals' pawprint!

All funds raised will benefit the Grand Prairie Animal Services Animal Welfare Fund.

[Order Prairie Postage Cards Here](#)



Pump Station to Provide Water for Far South GP

City officials, representatives from Freese & Nichols, Inc. and Felix Construction recently celebrated completion of the Heritage Pump Station near Highway 287 and SH 360. The newly completed pump station will meet water needs in Grand Prairie's largest residential growth area along Highway 287. It will initially serve 623 households and eventually provide water for approximately 26,665 homes. Capable of providing 6 million gallons of water per day (MGD) the pump station is expandable to 12 MGD. The ground storage tank holds water equivalent to three Olympic-sized swimming pools. The pump station will begin operating in early 2024.



Message from the Manager

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! As we wrap up 2023, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for each and every one of you. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment have been the cornerstone of our achievements throughout this year. I am so proud of our employee family and the milestones we've reached together.



Please mark your calendar for the Employee Awards Banquet, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Ruthe Jackson Center. This is our opportunity to honor and celebrate our exceptional employee all-stars.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are poised for an exciting year filled with new projects and initiatives. Our City Council has outlined a list of top 10 priorities and goals for the upcoming year. Our collective focus will be on proactively achieving these goals while continuing to deliver Raving Fans, World Class Service to our community. You can view the Council's Top 10 Goals [here](#).

In recognition of your dedication and loyalty, stability checks were distributed on December 1, 2023, serving as a token of appreciation and a heartfelt holiday bonus for your years of service.

As we cherish the warmth of the holiday season, I extend by deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering commitment and hard work. May this festive season bring joy, peace, and prosperity to you and your families. Wishing you a safe, Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with success and boundless opportunities.

God Bless, and thank each of you for being an integral part of our work family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Hills".

Bill Hills
City Manager

Sleep for Good Health

Only roughly 1 percent of us can function when regularly getting five or six hours. For everyone else, "seven or eight hours of sleep is recommended for optimal health and functioning," says Michael Scullin, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Baylor University. Routinely getting less is linked to higher risk for obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and memory problems. When people who are sleeping less than seven to eight hours start getting that recommended amount, "we often see their well-being increase," he says.

Prevention

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec. 2

Snow Ho Ho
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Rd.
Children and their families are invited to enjoy crafts, airbrush tatoos, Santa, a ride on the Polar Express, cookie decorating and more. Free!

Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17

White Christmas - The Musical
Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council
Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St.
[Ticket Info.](#)

Saturday, Dec. 9

KGPB Plant and Seed Swap
Noon-2 p.m.
Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Rd.
[Register here](#)

Saturday, Dec. 11

Council Member Jacquin Headen
Town Hall Meeting - District 2
6 p.m.
The Summit Ballroom
2975 Esplanade Dr.
Attend in-person or [watch virtually](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 12

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

Monday, Dec. 25-Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 1

City Administrative Holidays

