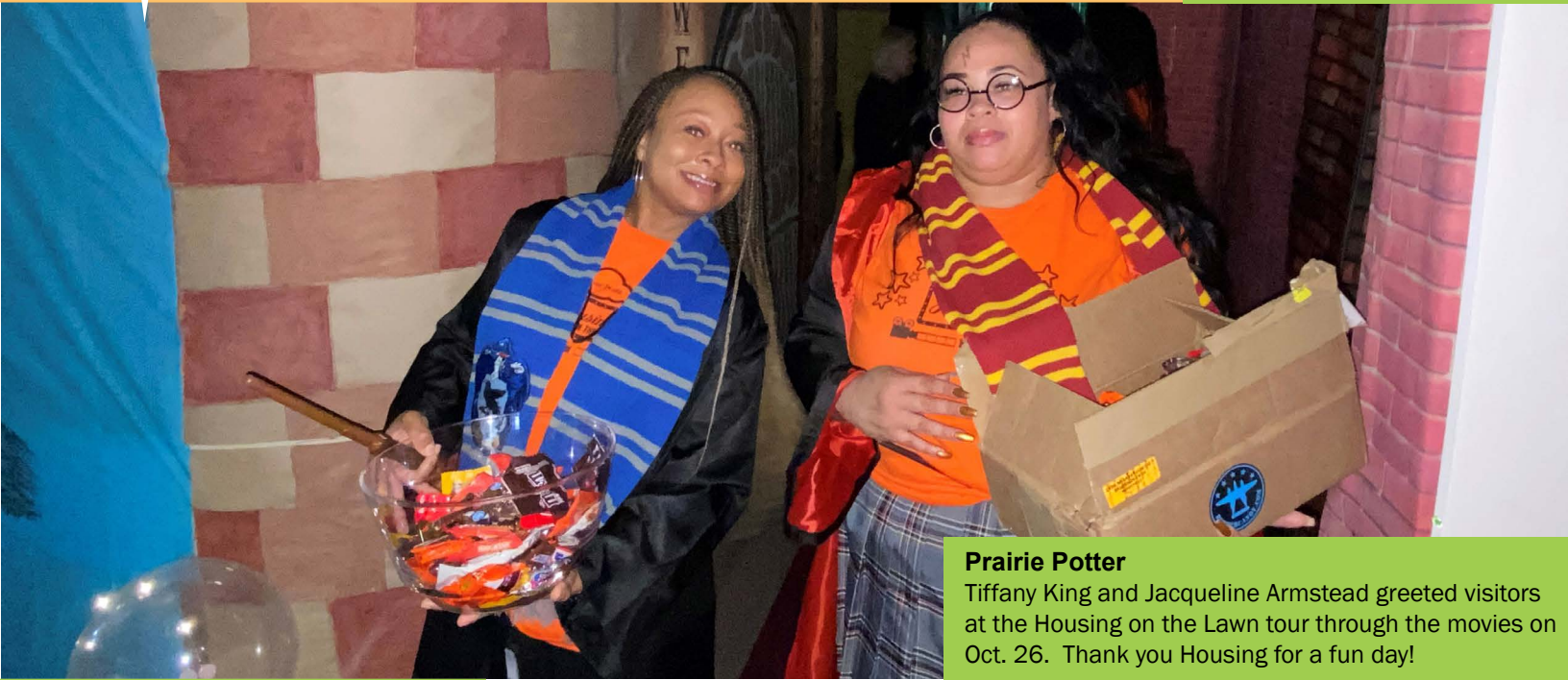


PRAIRIE PULSE

November 2023



Prairie Potter

Tiffany King and Jacqueline Armstead greeted visitors at the Housing on the Lawn tour through the movies on Oct. 26. Thank you Housing for a fun day!

What's Inside

Employee Fall Festival Nov. 10

Food trucks and more!

Nominate for Employee Awards

Nominations Due Nov. 14 at 5 p.m.

Tree Lighting and Ice Skating

Downtown Event Dec. 1

Message from the Manager

From City Manager Bill Hills

Upcoming Events

November/December Happenings

Don't Forget Annual Enrollment

Annual enrollment closes at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023! All full-time, benefit eligible employees must complete enrollment even if they are keeping coverage the same or waiving coverage. Changes for the 2024 plan year are as follows:

- **Dental:** Quality Care Dental (QCD) will no longer be offered in 2024.
- **Vision** - Enhanced Buy-Up Plan: The annual allowance for contact lenses and frames has increased to \$150. Also, the premium for the vision buy-up plan has decreased. Employees can find new rates in the 2024 Benefits Guide.
- **Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Dependent Care Account (DCA):**
 - Total Administrative Services Corporation (TASC) will be the city's new FSA and DCA vendor beginning January 1, 2024. Employees who enroll in FSA and/or DCA will receive new TASC debit cards.
 - Navia FSA or DCA cards will be deactivated after December 31, 2023.
 - 2023 claims should still be submitted to Navia through March 31, 2023.
 - The city has opted to rollover the maximum allowance of \$610 of 2023 FSA funds into 2024. Any unused FSA funds over \$610 will be forfeited. Employees can expect to receive their rollover amounts in April 2024 after the run-out period.

Upcoming Events

Saturdays

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

Tuesday, Nov. 7

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

Saturday, Nov. 11

5K-9 Fun Run Hosted by Grand Prairie Animal Services
2222 W. Warrior Trail
Register here by Nov. 3, 2023

Saturday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day Celebration
9:30 a.m.
Veterans Park Event Center
925 Conover Dr.

Friday, Nov. 17

Late Night at Library: Paint and Sip
Warmack Library
760 Bardin Road
A guided wintery painting session taught by a professional artist. For ages 21 and older. \$5 cash at the door. Email jrudd@gptx.org to register.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Texas Legends Tribute - ZZ Tex with Stevie Ray's Vault
7:30 p.m.
Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St.

Saturday, Nov. 18-Dec.9

Annual Sock Drive
Farmers Market
230 W. Main St.
Donate new socks, underwear and T-shirts to help Grand Prairie children in need. [More info.](#)

Fall Festival

Friday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St.

The WOW Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the wellness events throughout the 2023 year. To celebrate the completion of the Game of Wellness competition, all employees are invited to join the WOW and Employee Recognition Committees for an end of year Fall Festival featuring food trucks, raffle prizes and more! Mark your calendars and be sure to check your email for additional updates.



Update Your Beneficiaries

Life is unpredictable, and when changes occur, your current beneficiary choices may need to be updated. Take time now to review your beneficiaries annually! Without living beneficiaries, your assets may be transferred to your estate and state law will determine 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 for assistance.

Good to Know Info.

2024 Payroll Calendar

The 2024 Payroll calendar is available on the Raving Fans site. For an 11 x 17 paper copy, stop by the Communications and Marketing Department in City Hall West.

Garbage and Recycling Collection Calendar

Garbage and recycling collection will slide a day on holidays. See the [new City of Grand Prairie Garbage and Recycling Calendar](#) for the 2023-2024 schedule.

Pipeline Direct Email Newsletter for City News

[Sign up](#) for more city news in the Pipeline Direct bimonthly email newsletter.

View City Council Meetings Online

View live broadcasts or replays of City Council meetings at gptxtv.org

Nominate for Employee Awards

Nominate fellow employees for Raving Fans service! **Nominations are open until Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 5 p.m.** for employee banquet awards. At this year's banquet we will celebrate our All-Stars. Nominate individuals or groups for the following categories: Most Innovative, Team Player, People, Service, Integrity. Mark your calendar for the Employee Awards Banquet on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024 at the Ruthe Jackson Center. [Submit nominations here](#)

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](#)

Christmas Tree Lighting and Free Ice Skating

Friday, Dec. 1, 6-9 p.m.
300 W. Main St.

Join the City of Grand Prairie for an evening of celebration at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting featuring Santa Claus, food, drink, shopping live music and more! Shop at Christmas on the Prairie and enjoy free ice skating.

The ice rink will be open Dec. 1-26, 2023 and will be closed on Mondays and Christmas Day.



Cyclin' with the Mayor

Monday, Nov. 20
Lynn Creek Park, 5610 Lake Ridge Parkway
Meet at 6 p.m. Ride begins at 6:30 p.m.

Join Mayor Ron Jensen for the Prairie Lights ride, where you are encouraged to dress festive and ride with your bike decorated. The 2.8-mile route will take you along a trail lit by over 4 million holiday lights to enjoy with your family!



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



Message from the Manager

This being my first Message from the Manager, it is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this awesome team. Having served our citizens for more than 35 years in various capacities has equipped me to serve not only our City Council and our citizens, but each of you. Our employee family is the most vital, important and valuable resource we have as an organization.



As one of the best places to live in the metroplex we are consistently being asked to do more, and to address new issues and problems. Your responsiveness has been second to none in doing so. We all know change is constant and inevitable, but if we stand together as a work family we will meet it in a unwavering manner and with the tenacity that is the City of Grand Prairie.

Always remember to have fun whatever you do and make a Raving Fan in each and every one of your daily encounters by delivering the World Class service our citizens have grown to expect.

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

Bill Hills
City Manager

Deck the Halls! 2023 Christmas Ornament

Celebrate the holidays with the 2023 Grand Prairie Christmas ornament. This year's ornament features EpicCentral. 2023 ornaments are \$15 and may be purchased at the Trunk Stop shop inside the Grand Prairie Tourist Information Center, 2170 N. Belt Line Road. The Tourist Information Center is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



The 2022 downtown Main Street ornament is also available for \$17. Buy the 2022 and 2023 ornaments together for \$30.

30 Minutes

Cutting your social media use to half an hour a day lowers anxiety, depression, loneliness and FOMO (fear of missing out). To assess how much time you're spending now and set limits, download an app like Freedom.

Upcoming Events

Monday, Nov. 20

Cyclin' with the Mayor
Prairie Lights Ride
6:30 p.m.
Lynn Creek Park
5610 Lake Ridge Parkway
[More info.](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 21

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

Thursday, Nov. 23-

Friday, Nov. 24

Thanksgiving Holiday
City Administrative Offices Closed

Thursday, Nov. 23-Dec. 31

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

Saturday, Dec. 2

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

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 tattoos, Santa, a ride on the Polar Express, cookie decorating and more. Free!

[Grand Prairie Community Calendar](#)