

HIGHER HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, LOWER PROPERTY TAX FOR GP RESIDENTS IN 2023

A higher homestead exemption and a lower property tax were approved by the City Council for residents in 2023 and are part of the city's 2022-2023 budget.

The Grand Prairie City Council reduced the city's portion of property tax rate by a half cent from \$0.664998 to \$0.66/\$100 of valuation and raised the homestead exemption from 10% to 12.5% or \$5,000 (whichever is greater) effective in 2023. A homestead exemption lowers the taxable value of your home, which reduces the amount of tax you pay.



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COUNCIL MEMBER JACQUIN HEADEN TOWN HALL MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6 p.m.
 The Epic Recreation Center
 2960 Epic Place

Join Council Member Jacquin Headen for a City Council District 2 Town Hall Meeting to address community interests concerning the City of Grand Prairie.

KID'S FISHING DAY



Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Mike Lewis Park
 2600 Block of North Carrier Pkwy.

Come reel 'em in at the fully-stocked lagoon! FREE for children 16 and younger with on-site registration. A limited number of loaner rods and reels will be available on a first-come, first-served basis with a driver's license or credit card deposit. For more information, call 972-237-8100 or visit GrandFunGP.com.

THE BIG EVENT

Saturday, March 25

The Big Event is a one-day, city-wide 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, or job request at gptx.org/bigevent. Deadline to register is March 1, 2023.



DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Friday, February 24, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 (Dinner served 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Pkwy
 Theme: Roaring 20s

Fee: \$30/person if purchased by January
 \$35/person in February

Ticket includes dinner, dance, and a memorable gift. Photography and Limo rides are available at an additional fee (limo does not pick up from home). Must pre-register, no door sales. Registration open until sold out. Please call Charley Taylor Recreation center for additional information and to register: 972-339-3770.



FREE CITY CALENDARS

2023 city calendars are available!

Check gptx.org for locations, or call 972-237-8000

UPTOWN THEATER

Enjoy spectacular shows at Grand Prairie's Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. For tickets and information, call 972-237-8786 or visit uptowntheatergp.com:

Pirates on the Prairie

Saturday, Feb. 4

Ibidis Mortem Productions is proud to present this pirate music concert that will bring out the pirate lurking in everyone! The concert will feature the Official Pirates of Grand Prairie, the Bilge Pumps, in an event that will have everyone talking (like a pirate) as they combine nautical songs, sea shanties, and Celtic music with a huge dose of silly comedy.



Beehive - The 60's Musical

Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council

Feb. 17-19 and Feb. 24-26

Beehive celebrates the powerful female voices of the 1960's with such timeless hits as *My Boyfriend's Back*, *Be My Baby*, *Son of a Preacher Man* and *Me and Bobby McGee*. Told from the perspective of six young women who come of age in the enigmatic decade.

Music, Magic and More with David Rangel

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Hosted by the Grand Prairie Host Lion's Club

As one of Houston's Top Magicians, David Rangel has performed across the globe. Through the years, he has refined his act by mixing sleight of hand with his unique storytelling abilities. Engaging with audiences from all walks of life, he continues making moments for families that will last a lifetime. **Tickets are available by contacting Jim Viel 972-432-8982 or email jimviel@aol.com**

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Saturday, March 4, 9-11 a.m.

City Hall East, 300 W. Main St.

Registration is required at: gptx.org/electronics-recycling or 972-237-8159

Accepted: computers, laptops, printers, VCRs, DVD players, TVs (no exposed parts please), cellphones

Not accepted: hazardous materials, liquids, broken monitor tubes, yard equipment, air conditioners, refrigerators

Grand Prairie residents can also bring their recyclables to the landfill any time Monday-Saturday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Saturday, March 4, 9-11 a.m.

City Hall East, 300 W. Main St.

Registration is required at: 972-237-8055 or online at gptx.org/WQ/HHW.

No commercial waste will be accepted.



MAY 2023

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

A municipal election will be held on May 6, 2023 for the following seats:

- Council Member District 1
- Council Member District 3
- Council Member Place 7 at Large

Candidates can file for a place on the ballot starting Wednesday, Jan. 18 through Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, with the Office of the City Secretary, City Hall, 300 W. Main Street.

STATE OF THE CITY

The State of the City presentation and dinner is March 9, 2023, hosted by the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce as one of its primary fund raisers. If you are interested in tickets, call the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce at 972-264-1558.

RJC BRIDAL OPEN HOUSE HAVANA NIGHTS



Tuesday, Feb. 28
Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 S. Carrier Pkwy.

What's better than an RJC Bridal Open House? An open house that transports you straight to a night in Havana! Spend the evening touring our beautiful venue, meeting with professional event vendors, and enjoying treats from our catering and bar. Wedding planning has never been more exciting!

Registration opens February 1 at RutheJacksonCenter.com.

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 January 1, 2023 - February 28, 2023.

Download the My Health Passport by visiting gptx.org/getfitgp.



HOOPS FOR HISTORY BASKETBALL GAME

Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Dalworth Recreation Center, 2012 Spikes St.

Join the community for this Black History Program honoring those who have served in the Dalworth Community, featuring an exhibition style basketball game with the Dalworth Community Team vs. the Grand Prairie Police Department. Special guests and giveaways. Free event.



Vist GrandFunGP.com/Dalworth for more information.

DOES YOUR PROPERTY MEET CODE STANDARDS?

The City of Grand Prairie Code Compliance Division is responsible for handling Chapter 29 Code of Ordinances city violations. To File a Code complaint call 972-237-8296 or submit a complaint online at gptx.org/codecompliance.

Parking in Residential Areas

It is illegal to park any vehicle on the grass in the front, side or rear yard, or to park an oversized vehicle in a residential neighborhood. Vehicles are not allowed to stand or park in a public street unattended for a continuous period in excess of 48 hours. It is illegal to block the city sidewalk with your vehicle. Sidewalks are considered public right-of-way and city ordinance prohibits vehicles from stopping, standing or parking on a sidewalk.

Yard Maintenance

Grass, brush or other vegetation must be maintained at 10 inches or less including alley/easement. Overhanging tree limb clearance should be 14 feet above the ground surface to allow for fire trucks, ambulances, school buses, garbage trucks, postal service and other public service vehicles to pass through safely.

Outside/Open Storage

The keeping of any materials outside or on the exterior of any building or house in excess of 10 days is not permitted. Outside/open storage, as defined in this article as the keeping of any materials outside on the exterior of any building or house is not permitted unless specifically allowed within the zoning district and only if all provisions of the zoning ordinance are met.

TAX HELP

Wednesday Feb. 1 -
Wednesday April 12

By appointment only every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Make an appointment to have your tax returns prepared by calling the Shotwell Library at 972-237-7540.

HIGHER HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION *from page 1*

When you pay your city property taxes, don't forget about all the services you receive. The city's portion of property tax on a home valued at \$235,000 is about \$1,370 per year, or \$3.75 a day. For less than lunch, you get:

- 24/7 police protection
- 24/7 fire protection
- 24/7 ambulance service
- New and well-maintained streets, sidewalks, signs, streetlights and signals
- A growth strategy including economic development, city planning, permits, engineering, inspections and code compliance
- More than 70 amazing public parks, pools, trails and recreation centers
- Free and equal access to all at the award-winning library system, where we educate everyone
- A strong digital backbone with an open, transparent, and accessible government
- And more.

Check your county appraisal district website to make sure you're saving the most money possible with a homestead exemption. And, if you are age 65 or older on Jan. 1, be sure to file for the property tax senior freeze that keeps the amount you pay from ever increasing.



Did you know Grand Prairie has three flood warning sirens, specifically for flood emergencies in the city? After the flooding event of May 2015, Grand Prairie received more than 20 inches of rain in less than one month. In fact, in that flooding event alone, the state of Texas received enough rain to cover the entire state with 8 inches of water.

The three flood warning sirens cover parts of the city that are vulnerable to flash flooding incidents. When activated, the flood sirens transmit a voice message, tone alerts and give information about what residents in the affected area should do during the flood event. The Grand Prairie Office of Emergency Management determines if the sirens should be activated based on automated alerts sent by the steam sensors at these locations, which are controlled by the city's Flood Warning System.

These flood sirens are just another tool the city has in its tool bag to help protect residents from natural hazards. Did you know that according to the Texas Flood Insurance group, that flash flooding is the number one natural hazard threat to Texas residents? Below are some emergency preparedness tips that you can follow to help prepare for hazards in Grand Prairie:

- Build an emergency kit to stay safe, fed, and comfortable after a disaster
- Include water, non-perishable foods, first aid kit, and batteries
- Make an evacuation plan to include pets in case of an emergency
- Determine who you will contact, where you will meet and practice the plan
- Keep important documents in a safe and waterproof place
- Itemize and take pictures of possessions
- Purchase renters' insurance (if you rent a property) and flood insurance
- Become familiar with your policies and make sure limits protect your property and personal belongs

For more information on flood sirens, disaster preparedness, and flood safety tips, you can contact Emergency Management at 972-237-8333 or oem@gptx.org, or the Stormwater Department at 972-237-8141.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Mental Health Support Group - Stress and Anxiety

Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Road

Tuesdays - January 31, February 21, March 14, March 28, April 11

Join us as we process through our experiences with stress and anxiety. We will discuss how stress and anxiety impact our individual lives, and we will learn coping skills to reduce the effects of these emotions in our daily experiences.

To register, email Anne Marie at aholstead@gptx.org.

Beginner Computer Classes

Main Library, 901 Conover Dr. - Select Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

Join us to learn the basics of the computer. Laptops are limited; registration is required. Sign up for classes at the front desk or with Josh by email to jrudd@gptx.org or call 972-237-5703.

ANIMAL SERVICES UPDATE

Prairie Paws Animal Shelter is now Grand Prairie Animal Services. The name change will make it easier for our residents to locate us, online and in person.

Our trapping policy and dead animal pick-up process is changing.



Please visit gptx.org/paws to find the latest updates.

GENERATOR SAFETY DURING WINTER WEATHER

Generators are a great tool, especially in the event winter weather takes place. A main safety concern while storing generators is carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Below are some helpful safety measures to take when storing and using generators.

- Generators and the fuel used to power them should always be kept outdoors and 20 feet away from windows, doors, and attached garages.
- Installing carbon monoxide detectors in your home as CO is odorless and colorless
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain and flooding. Touching generators and connected devices can result in electrical shock.
- When connecting the generator to heavy appliances, use heavy-duty extension cords
- Allow the generator to cool before refueling as a hot engine can ignite when fuel is added.
- Remember to read the user instructions provided by the manufacturer for additional information and safety warnings. Stay safe!

Questions? Contact the Office of Emergency Management at 972-237-8333 or oem@gptx.org.