THE PIPELINE

CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE MONTHLY CITIZEN NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

Household Waste Collection Day March 7

The Environmental Services Department will be collecting household hazardous waste on **Saturday, March 7, 2009,** from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Development Center, 201 NW 2nd Street (next to City Hall).

We will accept household and automotive batteries, pharmaceuticals, motor oil, cooking oil, paint, aerosol cans, fluorescent bulbs and household, landscape and pool chemicals. We will **not** accept explosives, gas cylinders, fireworks, medical waste, radioactive materials or municipal trash. **No commercial waste** will be accepted.

Register by calling 972-237-8055 or on-line at www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW.

Help Nursing Puppies and Kittens

You can by donating milk replacement powder formula for puppies and kittens to the Prairie Paws Adoption Center, 2222 W. Warrior Tr. Prairie Paws has volunteers who foster these little babies and need your help with the purchase of formula. Once the animals are eight weeks old they are returned to the shelter for adoption. Please feel free to drop off your donation at the shelter. If you have any questions call Ann Joiner-Carroll at 972-237-8582.

Kids Fishing Day

Kids 16 years old and younger can sink a hook for trout stocked in the Mike Lewis Park Lagoon, 2600 N. Carrier

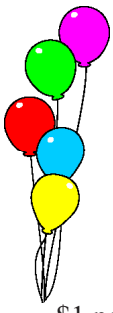
1 - 4 p.m., Saturday, March 7

Prizes will be awarded by age categories (1-6, 7-11, 12-16) for the biggest fish, smallest fish, first fish caught, and most fish caught.

Anglers are encouraged to bring their own gear and bait. A limited number of loaner rods and reels will be available on a first-come basis. While the event is free, children will be requested to register on site at the park pavilion to be eligible for prizes. Anyone 17 years or older is welcome to fish after 4 p.m. or any day after the event if they have a Texas fishing license and trout stamp.

No pre-registration required. For more information call 972-237-8100.

Celebrating a Century Festival



1909 - 2009

Join us to celebrate a century of Grand Prairie success

4-10 p.m. • Saturday, March 28

QuikTrip Ballpark

1600 Lone Star Parkway

Displays, games, rides, food, concerts, fireworks

$1 per person admission waived with the donation of a canned good.

And to top it off, guests are encouraged to dress in the period costume of their choice from the past 100 years.

Individuals, families and businesses are invited to display their own Grand Prairie history at the festival by taking a free 10 foot x 10 foot booth. To reserve your booth, call 972-237-8086.

GP Hosts State Arbor Day Celebration

The Texas State Arbor Day celebration is coming to Grand Prairie on Friday, April 24. Festivities begin at QuikTrip Park, 1600 Lone Star Parkway, as Grand Prairie will be named a Tree City USA for the 25th consecutive year! In addition to the FREE trees and lunch provided by the city, enjoy a performance by the famed musical group Trout Fishing in America as they sing with the GPISD choir. Numerous state foresters and Mrs. Page (the granddaughter of Sterling Morton, the founder of the Arbor Day foundation) will be in attendance. Receive lawn care and gardening tips and enjoy entertainment for the whole family!

Following the celebration at QuikTrip Park see Trout Fishing in America in concert at the Uptown Theater later that evening. For more information call 972-237-8102 or visit GrandFunGP.com.

Middle School Spring Break Kick Off Party

This is a party for all middle schoolers to kick off spring break with a splash! Enjoy swimming, diving, music, munchies and more. The fee is $5.

Friday, March 13 • 6:30 - 9 p.m.
Kirby Creek Indoor Pool, 3201 Corn Valley

For more information call 972-263-8174

Lifeguarding Classes at Kirby Creek

Interested in learning about how you can help save lives? Kirby Creek Indoor Pool has a Lifeguarding, CPR for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid certifications for you. Successful completion of all course work will award certifications. Classes are available March 16-20. Register for classes at the Kirby Creek Indoor Pool, 3201 Corn Valley, 972-263-8174. Fee: $150.

Prerequisites:

- Must be 15 years of age on or before the end of the scheduled course.
- Must be able to pass the pre-course test.
- 300 yard swim as follows: 100 yards of front crawl, 100 yards of breast stroke, 100 yards of either stroke.
- Swim 20 yards using front crawl or breaststroke, surface dive to a depth of 7-10 ft, retrieve a 10-pound object, return to the surface, and swim 20 yards back to the starting point to exit the water without using steps or ladder in 1 minute, 40 seconds.

Uptown Theater Features Entertainment Variety

The inaugural season of the historic Uptown Theater, 120 East Main Street, features nationally renowned artists. Season and individual performance tickets are now on sale. All performances begin at 8 p.m. The box office opens at 6 p.m. and doors open at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at www.UptownTheaterGP.com. or by calling 972-237-UPTN. For more information please contact Elspeth McDonald, Managing Director of the Uptown Theater at 972-237-8409 or elmcdonald@gptx.org.

Saturday, March 7 at 8 p.m. – Joe Willie 'Pinetop' Perkins and Marquise 'Big Daddy' Knox
At 95 years old, Pinetop Perkins is an award-winning blues legend. He'll be joined on stage by 17-year-old Big Daddy Knox, who took the St. Louis Blues scene by storm at the ripe old age of 15.

Saturday, April 18 at 8 p.m. – Asleep at the Wheel
This fundraiser for the Texas Music Project will put proceeds back into a Grand Prairie public school. Over the course of the last 36 years, Asleep at the Wheel has thrived by sticking to their distinct western swing sound.

Friday, May 1 at 8 p.m., The Spencers – Theater of Illusion
Redefining the art of illusion, the Spencers have baffled and entertained millions around the world. They continue to deliver a larger-than-life sense of wonder to their audience.

Financial Survival Skills

In today's world the ability to be a part of a work force to find a new job is dependent entirely upon your ability to communicate your ideas. In eight short weeks learn how to dramatically improve those skills. Spend a short hour and a half each week at Charley Taylor Recreation Center, 601 E. Grand Prairie Rd. Led by members of the Tuesday Toastmaster's Group #6332. Contact the center for more details at 972-264-6890. Begins Thursday, March 5. Fee: $35/person.

Nunsense II, the Second Coming...

Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council

This show will have you rolling in the aisles!

The Little Sisters of Hoboken are back presenting a "thank-you" show for all the people who supported them in the past. Things get off to a rousing start, but before long chaos erupts. Two Franciscans come to claim Sister Mary Amnesia, who has won the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes, as one of their own. At the same time the nuns hear that a talent scout is in the audience to see them strut their stuff.

Performances are set for
March 12-15 and 19-22
Uptown Theater, 120 East Main Street

Tickets available online at www.UptownTheaterGP.com or by calling the Uptown Theater Box Office at 972-237-UPTN.

For more information contact the Grand Prairie Arts Council: 972-642-2787 or visit our website: www.artsgp.com.

Free Tax Assistance

Volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) are offering free tax help sessions for everyone, regardless of age, on Mondays and Fridays from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Main Library, 901 Conover Dr. The sessions begin Feb. 2 and continue until April 15. Participants should bring last year's tax return and all W-2 and 1099 forms. Forms not provided by the AARP may be photocopied at the library for a small fee. Tax forms are also available at www.irs.gov.

Lynn Creek Park Opens Feb. 28

Britton and Lynn Creek Parks open for the season on Saturday, Feb. 28. Hours of operation are 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Lynn Creek Park, 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway, has more than 100 individual picnic pavilions, a playground, swimming beach, boat ramps, sand volleyball, and plenty of open space to toss the football. Single vehicle admission is free for Grand Prairie residents excluding select holidays and special events. Call 817-467-2104 for more information.

Britton Park is a 129-acre day-use park with restrooms and a ramp to launch a boat.

Centennial Trees

To celebrate Grand Prairie's 100 year anniversary in 2009, the city is offering an exclusive centennial tree program. Individuals or groups can purchase one of 100 trees for sale. The tree comes with a personalized plaque, framed letter of authenticity signed by the Mayor, and free planting by the Parks and Recreation Department. Trees can commemorate a special life moment or a loved one. The cost is $500. Only one tree per year is allowed and it is on a first-come basis through the Chamber of Commerce, 972-264-1558. For details go to www.gptx.org or www.GrandFunGP.com

Grand Prairie Arts Council Celebrates in 2009

30th Anniversary Arts Season
Inaugural Uptown Theater Season

Purchase your season tickets for 4 great shows this year!

Nunsense II, the second coming: March 12-15, 19-22

The Music Man: June 25-28, July 2-5

GODSPELL: October 8-11, 15-18

Miracle on 34th Street: December 10-13, 17-20

Reserve your seat and pick your performance dates with season tickets. Purchase online at www.artsgp.com or by calling the Uptown Theater Box Office, 972-237-UPTN.

For more information contact GPAC at 972-642-ARTS, or go online to www.artsgp.com.

5K Run/Walk and Fun Run

Saturday, April 25

The Destination Grand Prairie 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run will take place on the new Lone Star Trail and around the entertainment venues in the area, including Nokia Theatre, Lone Star Park, Grand Prairie Air Hogs and Alliance Skate Park. All participants will receive commemorative T-shirts and a variety of entertainment opportunities from our entertainment district partners. Proceeds from the run will provide scholarships for children in need who are involved in Grand Prairie's Parks and Recreation programs.

Registration fee is $15 if postmarked by April 17. The race day fee is $20.

For more information or race registration forms contact Danny Boykin at 972-237-8084.

Historic Copeland Home Tours

FREE

Saturday, March 21 • 1 - 4 p.m.

125 SW Dallas St.

For info. 972-237-8086.

GrandFun ONLINE Now Live

Avoid the lines and register for your favorite recreation or fitness classes from the comfort of your home. Show your receipt from your online transaction at any of the recreation centers and receive a special gift. Go to www.GrandFunGP.com to register.

Pet Waste Pollution

Did you know that pet waste contains bacteria and parasites? When it rains, pet waste and waste associated pathogens have the potential to wash down the storm drains and into our streams, rivers, and lakes – untreated! In addition, pet waste is high in nutrients, which cause high algae growth in our waterbodies.

Some disease carrying organisms that may be found in pet waste are:

- *Escherichia coli (E. coli)*: can cause severe illnesses that may cause diarrhea, kidney damage and occasionally death.
- *Campylobacteriosis*: bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.
- *Salmonellosis*: symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.
- *Toxocariasis*: may cause vision loss, a rash, fever or cough.
- *Toxoplasmosis*: can cause birth defects if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy and can also be a problem for people with depressed immune systems.

What you can do to prevent pet waste pollution:

- Pick up the pet waste and put it down the toilet.
- Bury it (up to 6 inches deep).
- Put it in the trash.
- Never leave pet waste when taking your pet for a walk or to the park – make sure you always carry plastic bags with you, so you can pick up the waste and discard of it properly.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalServices/WaterQuality/PetWaste.aspx.

Top 10 Accomplishments 2008

1. **Opened the historic Uptown Theater** to rave reviews.
2. **Launched a new weekly news show**, GP Update, on GPTV Channel 16.
3. **Built QuikTrip Ballpark** and enjoyed a successful first season of the Grand Prairie AirHogs minor league baseball team, American Association Southern Division Champions.
4. **Broke ground on the new Public Safety Headquarters and Active Adult Center.**
5. **With the ¼ cent sales tax for parks completed the 3.2 mile Lone Star Trinity Trail** in the entertainment district; **opened Wide World of Parks mega-playground** at QuikTrip Ballpark; celebrated the **5-mile Good Link Trail** between Mike Lewis and Waggoner parks; **installed the Fish Creek playground** on Allegro Lane; **updated outdoor swimming pools with mega-slides**; and **added a diving board at Kirby Creek Indoor Pool.**
6. Invested $4.5 million through the ¼ cent sales tax for **street improvements on 12 streets, three alleys and 53 leveling projects**.
7. **Opened the Belt Line Overpass at Main and Jefferson**.
8. **Began driving on State Highway 161 frontage roads**.
9. **Continued to make strides in public safety**: for the first sustainable time in a decade Police were fully hired; added filing police reports online for citizens; appointed new Gang Unit; shifted police to 12-hour workdays, putting more police officers on the street; and added a second police dog, Sara, who specializes in narcotics.
10. **Received credit rating upgrade** from Standard & Poor's and Fitch to "AA+" and "AA positive outlook."

A Look Ahead – Top Goals for 2009

1. Celebrate the city's 100 years of incorporation, with 100 events for 100 years, including the main festival March 28, 2009.
2. Open the new outdoor event gardens at the Ruthe Jackson Center.
3. Build a new Market Square and farmers' market downtown.
4. Break ground on the new Prime Retail Outlet Mall on I-20.
5. Open the Warrior Trail connection from Carrier to SH 161.
6. Ask voters to revote the ¼ cent sales tax for street improvements.
7. Open new joint fire station with Cedar Hill.
8. Build Hill Street through to Randol Mill Road.
9. Cut Kingswood through to SH 360 from Great Southwest.
10. Punch Crossland across State Highway 161.

Kirby Creek Indoor Pool Spring Break Hours

Kirby Creek Indoor Pool , 3201 Corn Valley, has spring break hours. Swim on your day off at the heated indoor pool! Call 972-263-8174 for info. Fee: $2.

Day	Date	Lap Swim	Open Swim
Mon	3/16	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-5 p.m.
Tues	3/17	8 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-5 p.m.
Wed	3/18	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-5 p.m.
Thurs	3/19	8 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-5 p.m.