City of Grand Prairie Monthly Citizen Newsletter

August 2010 Vol. 11 No. 8



### LAKE PARKS OPERATIONS CENTER OPENS

The city of Grand Prairie's Lake Parks Operations Center will be open by September. The complex will

replace the current Fire Station #7 and will be better situated within its service area. The facility will also include a new Parks administrative facility for the Lake Parks and new Police offices for the Lake Patrol.

#### New Extended Housing Department Hours

Monday - Thursday Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. 7:30 a.m. - noon

Located at 205 W. Church Street, the change offers customers extended hours and saves the city money on utilities.

### Taste of Grand Prairie at QuikTrip Park

Thursday, Sept. 23 • 4-5 p.m. seniors, 5-8:30 p.m. general public QuikTrip Park, 1600 Lone Star Parkway

The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce and city of Grand Prairie will host the Second Annual Taste of Grand Prairie and Community Spotlight. Come see and taste the best of our community, participate in the public auction and win door prizes. This year's event includes more than 50 exhibitors from Grand Prairie and the surrounding areas. The grand prize drawing is Chick-fil-A for a year



ing areas. The grand prize drawing is Chick-fil-A for a year!

For tickets, call the Chamber of Commerce at 972-264-1558, or buy at the door. Tickets: Adults \$10; students and seniors \$5; children younger than 5 are free; \$25 family pack = two adults and two students tickets.

#### **GP AIRPORT AWAITS NEW TERMINAL**

If you drive down Great Southwest Parkway, you may have noticed that the old Grand Prairie Airport terminal building no longer exists. The old terminal and flight school building were torn down in May to make way for a new 7,000-square-foot facility set to be complete in summer 2011.

The new \$1.3 million terminal will feature offices for four full-time staff, one part-time staff member and the city's emergency operations coordinator. It will also include space for a pilot's lounge, general terminal waiting area and snack bar. Fifty percent of the building cost is paid for from the Airport Capitol Projects budget and the other half is paid for by the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation division.

Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2010. In the meantime, airport staff are located in a temporary building north of the former terminal site.

### FREE MARIACHI FESTIVAL



Saturday, Sept. 18 • 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Lynn Creek Park on Joe Pool Lake 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway Event admission free, parking \$20

Come to Lynn Creek Park on Joe Pool Lake for the first Mariachi Festival starring Campanas de América and four more noted Mariachi bands. For more information, call 972-237-8100 or visit GrandFunGP.com

## New CITY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Grand Prairie has another way to access the latest news and citywide events.

The city's YouTube Channel, cityofgptx, can now be accessed at: www.youtube.com/cityofgptx. The channel will feature news story updates every week, as well as current events and the history of the city. Also available are bloopers, information about obtaining garage sale permits, and adoptable pets at the Prairie Paws Adoption Center. The channel will be updated regularly, so be sure to subscribe to receive information about the latest news and happenings within the city.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS**

Dallas County Health and Human Services will be providing immunizations at the following clinics:

#### In August:

Irving Clinic 440 S. Nursery, Irving, Texas 75060 Open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, Sept. 1, Sept. 8, Sept. 15, Sept. 22 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Grand Prairie Preventive Care Clinic 1413 Densman Street, Grand Prairie, 75051 *This clinic will not be open in August.* 

The first visit will be \$10 and \$5 for all other visits. There will be no charge for Medicaid patients. For more information call 972-642-5962.

#### KIDS FISHING DAY

Saturday, Sept. 25 • 1 - 4 p.m., Mike Lewis Park, 2600 N. Carrier Parkway



Kids 16 and younger are invited to fish for catfish stocked in the Mike Lewis Park lagoon. Prizes will be awarded in three age categories. Bait will be provided and a limited number of rods and reels will be available (bring your own gear and bait if you have it just to be sure). While the event is free, children will be requested to

register at the park pavilion (look for signs and staff workers) to be eligible for prizes. Adults 17 and older are welcome to try their luck fishing after 4 p.m., or any day after the event during park hours with a valid Texas Parks & Wildlife fishing license.

#### MAKE IT AND TAKE IT RAIN BARREL CLASS

Collect and recycle rain water at home by making a rain barrel from a 55-gallon plastic drum. Water your landscape naturally and see the blooming difference.

To register for the 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, Make It and Take It Rainwater Barrel Class (Grand Prairie residents \$35 and non-residents \$50 per rain barrel), send check or money order payable to the City of Grand Prairie to:

Selena Jackson P.O. Box 534045 Grand Prairie, Texas 75053

Please reference Rain Barrel Class and include your phone number, email (optional), and any other relevant contact information to receive additional information. Class is held at the Public Works Training Center, 317 N. Belt Line Road, Grand



Prairie. Contact Selena Jackson 972-237-8377 with questions. Space is limited.

### REDUCE PAINT WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Saturday, Sept. 11

Remember, you can dispose of latex (water-based) paint by taking the lid off, letting it dry completely, and placing it in your trash. Oil-based paints and solvents should be brought to a collection event or taken to the Environmental Collection Center in Fort Worth.

Along with proper disposal, one of the most important things you can do is to reduce the amount of paint waste you generate. Following are some suggestions:

- Use latex rather than oil-based paint whenever possible. Latex is durable, less toxic, and does not require the use of hazardous thinners and solvents.
- Buy only what you need. A lower price per gallon does not save money if you have leftover wasted paint. You can find paint calculators on most major brand websites.
- Paint from a separate container.
   Dipping brushes directly into
   the paint can introduce mold
   and bacteria and shorten the life of
   the paint.
- Cover the paint can with plastic wrap before closing the lid. Use a mallet rather than a hammer to seal the can. Hammers can damage the rim, causing a poor seal.
- Store paint in a cool dry area, avoiding temperature extremes.
- If the job requires solvents, use citrus-based. They are less hazardous than most other types, but are still flammable

Our next HHW collection event will be Saturday, Sept. 11, from 9-11 a.m. at the Development Center. Register by going to www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW or calling 972-237-8055. You may also take household hazardous waste to the Environmental Collection Center at 6400 Bridge Street in Fort Worth, 817-392-3279.

#### GP ARTS COUNCIL ART SHOW AND SALE

Enjoy more than 100 pieces of artwork from 35 regional artists.

Grand Prairie Memorial Library, 901 Conover Dr.

Opening reception and awards Sunday, Sept 12 at 2 p.m.

Exhibition open Sept. 12-25 during library hours.

#### **DIEZ Y SEIS CELEBRATION**

Wednesday, Sept. 15 • 6:30-8:30 p.m., Bowles Life Center, 2750 Graham St.

The Bowles Life Center will host the Fifth Annual Diez y Seis Celebration in recognition of Mexico's Independence from Spain. The event is free for the entire family. For more information, call the Bowles Life Center at 972-237-7529.

#### HOLIDAY ORNAMENT DESIGN CONTEST

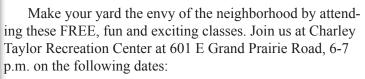
The city of Grand Prairie will be opening the floor to residents to design this year's holiday ornament. Proceeds from the ornaments will go to the Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation, which gives grants to Grand Prairie charities.

Design entries are due by September 3, 2010 to:

Amy Sprinkles, PO Box 534045, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053 asprinkles@gptx.org 972-237-8140

There is no cash prize, but the winner will receive a complimentary ornament. Ornaments should be available for purchase in December.

### Free Gardening Classes



**Thursday, Aug. 26 – Fall Gardens Are Fun -** Less work more FUN! Learn how to plant a fall garden. Fall gardens are

more fun because they take less water and weeding and it is not as hot outside.

Thursday, Sept. 2 – Landscape Design I - Learn the fundamentals of landscape design and how to pick the right plant material for your home landscape.

**Thursday, Sept. 9 – Landscape Design II -** Have the best looking home on the block utilizing native and adaptive plant material to reduce water, fertilizer and pesticide applications in the landscape.

**Thursday, Sept. 16 – Right Tree Right Place** - You will learn how to select the right tree for your landscape and the proper location. Trees reduce heating and cooling costs and reduce water runoff while improving air quality.

**Thursday, Sept. 30 – Pruning with a Purpose** - Learn how to prune trees the right way. You will learn how, when and why we prune trees.

To pre-register, call 972-264-6890.

Grand Prairie Arts Council Presents

## LITTLE WOMEN, THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

This production is based on Louisa May Alcott's novel, *Little Women*, which follows the adventures of Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March as they grow up in Civil War America. Their story is brought to life as an exhilarating new musical filled with glorious music and dancing.

Sept. 23-26 and Sept. 30-Oct. 3

Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. in downtown Grand Prairie. Tickets are available at www.artsgp.com or call 972-237-UPTN.

## DOGGIE SPLASH AT THE SPLASH FACTORY



Saturday, Sept. 18 and Sept. 25 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Charley Taylor Splash Factory 601 E. Grand Prairie Road

Come get wet and wild with your pet as we turn the Splash Factory into a doggie water park. This facility offers the perfect height for any size dog. Your dog will beg you to stay. Cost: \$5 per pet family.

### FARMERS MARKET

The new, expanded Farmers
Market is now open on Thursdays
8 a.m. until sellout and Saturdays 8
a.m.-1 p.m. at Market Square, 120 W.
Main St. (on the corner of Main and
NW 2nd streets). Shop the market for
fresh, locally grown produce, meat,
poultry, eggs, honey, soap, coffee,
baked goods and more. Visit www.
gptx.org/farmersmarket

# RJC GARDENS OPEN TO PHOTOGRAPHERS



During the months of August and September the Ruthe Jackson Center, located at 3113 S. Carrier Parkway, will open the gardens to citizens of Grand Prairie for photography. The gardens offer a perfect location for your photographer to shoot family photos, engagement pictures and bridal portraits. There is no charge for this service during the months of August and September; however, reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call the Ruthe Jackson Center at 972-237-7500.

## PHOTO CONTEST OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Amateur and professional photographers who live in Grand Prairie are invited to enter the 2011 City Calendar Photo Contest. Entries accepted through Oct. 1, 2010.

Photo must feature Grand Prairie:

- Entertainment attractions, parks, events
- City services, facilities, programs, employees at work
- Pretty places in Grand Prairie
- GPISD students, facilities, activities (only one month in calendar may feature the schools)

Format may be 8 x 10 inch print or 600 DPI TIF file on CD or e-mail with your name, address, phone number to asprinkles@gptx.org. Prints can be returned if return address is on back of photo. Send entries to:

Amy Sprinkles

Communications and Marketing

City of Grand Prairie P.O. Box 534045 Grand Prairie, Texas 75053

#### **UPTOWN THEATER 2010-2011 ART SERIES**

The historic Uptown Theater in downtown Grand Prairie, 120 E. Main St., has lined up an outstanding array of shows for its 2010-2011 Art Series. Season tickets, which include all six shows, plus two bonus shows and an Indie Fest weekend pass, are on sale now at www.uptowntheatergp.com or by calling 972-237-8272. Season tickets are \$175 for rows C-U and \$300 for rows A-B per person. Individual ticket sales will also be offered the week before each show.

Fall Indie Fest	Oct. 8-10
Girls with Guitars	8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23
Runt of the Litter	8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20
Christmas on Main Street	8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3
Improvised Shakespeare Company	8 p.m. Friday, Jan., 21 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23
Mother Load the Show	8 p.m. Friday, April 1 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3
Rhythmic Circus	8 p.m. Saturday, April 30

#### RECIPE FOR GOLD FROM GRASS CLIPPINGS

Grand Prairie does not pick up grass clippings from your residence, and encourages you to leave your clippings on the lawn (allowing them to work back into the soil), and not *Bag It*! But did you know that you can also make gold from your clippings? Black gold to be more accurate! All you need is green (grass clippings and leaves) and brown (dried leaves and mulched branches/shrubs) to produce the rich dark brown/black soil amendment also known as compost.

Instead of recycling or disposing your waste (and filling the landfill), reuse free materials from your backyard: Grass clippings, green leaves/dried leaves, brush and branch trimmings, and shredded paper, junk mail and newspaper from your home. It is simple, right? All you need is the recipe. To make your own chemical free compost (and find out how), you can either come out to your city's garden at Kirby Creek on Wednesday mornings or sign up for the next Master Composter class (Oct. 7-9) at www.gptx.org/recycling. Please email Vijit Singh at vsingh@gptx.org or call 972-237-8061 for more information on composting and free mulch at the landfill.

### SIX FLAGS HEADQUARTERS COMES TO GP

Six Flags Entertainment Corp. is moving its headquarters to Grand Prairie. The amusement park company will move several corporate positions, including its chief executive from New York, to office space the company already has on Avenue J East in Grand Prairie.

The company operates 19 theme parks in North America.