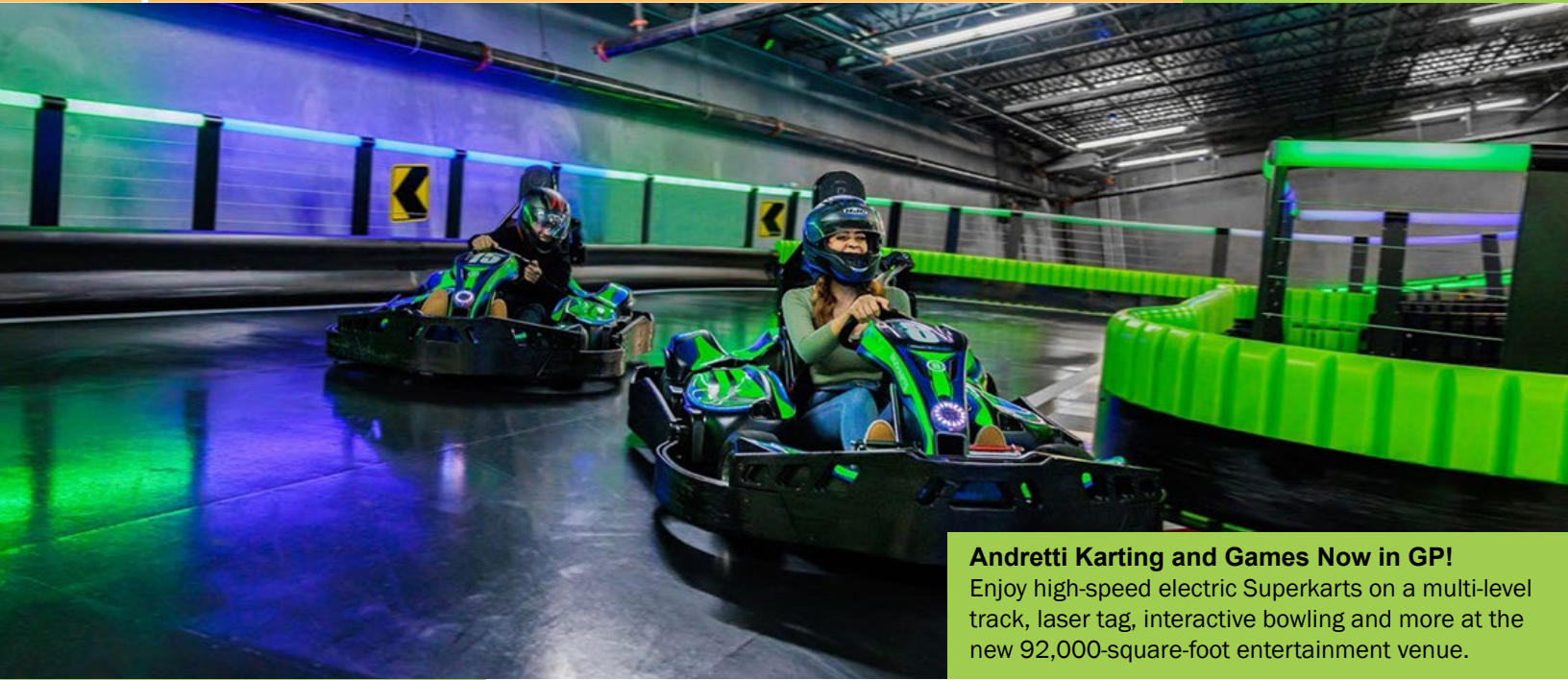


PRAIRIE PULSE

July 2024



Andretti Karting and Games Now in GP!

Enjoy high-speed electric Superkarts on a multi-level track, laser tag, interactive bowling and more at the new 92,000-square-foot entertainment venue.

What's Inside

Learn at Lunch

Free Class - Financial Goals for Retirement

Free Airrosti Webinar

Hip Health

New Quarter Century Members!

Upcoming Events

July/August Happenings

New Retail, Restaurants and Entertainment

Topgolf has announced plans to break ground this fall with an anticipated opening in 2025, just south of IKEA near Mayfield Road.

Andretti Indoor Karting and Games opened on July 10 next to IKEA at 3750 State Highway 161 in July and **Bass Pro Shops** is now open at Mayfield Groves, just south of IKEA.

Nothing Bundt Cakes will open at 3136 SH 161 in July. Design work on **Rosa's Café** will begin this fall at the corner of SH 161 and Mayfield. A new **Golden Chick** is open at SH 360 and Mayfield Road.

In EpicCentral, **Serious Eats – Shakes, Sliders and Slices** fast walk up food bar is scheduled to open in July 2024, **Radici** homemade Italian and **The Dippy Egg** breakfast restaurant will open in fall 2024.



City Council and staff celebrated the grand opening of Bass Pro Shops in June. Pictured (L-R) City Managing Director Walter Shumac; Timothy Johnson; City Council Member Kurt Johnson; City Council Member John Lopez; Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson; Bass Pro General Manager Kyle Eggleston; Mayor Ron Jensen; Council Member Bessye Adams; Council Member Mike Del Bosque and City Manager Bill Hills.

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, JULY 16, AUG. 6

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

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Cyclin' with the Mayor - Back the Blue Ride
Meet at 6 p.m. Ride at 6:30 p.m.
Loyd Park, 3401 Ragland Road
Join Mayor Ron Jensen for a 5-mile bike ride. Free Kona Ice and T-shirts while supplies last.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Christmas in July Toy Drive
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Public Safety Building
1525 Arkansas Lane
Bring unwrapped toys or stuffed animals for kids ages 0-17. Fresh lemonade will be served.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Forever Elvis Starring Kraig Parker
7:30 p.m.
Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St.
[More info >](#)

SATURDAYS

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

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Kids' Night Out
5-8:30 p.m.
Animal Services
2222 W. Warrior Trail
Kids ages 5-12 are invited to the Animal Shelter for an evening of fun. Must be potty trained.
Fee: \$20 per child
[Register >](#)

GP Ranked One of the Safest Cities in U.S.

Kudos to our Police Department for their dedication in keeping our crime rates low. With an estimated population of 204,973, Grand Prairie saw another 11 percent crime decrease becoming the fourth safest major city in Texas! (FBI).

Summer Financial Education Series Financial Goals for Retirement

Wednesday, July 17, noon- 1 p.m.

City Hall - City Council Briefing Room

The WOW Committee has partnered with Gardner Wallace for a Summer Financial Education Series. This course will help you identify your individual goals and help you make informed decisions regarding your preparation for retirement as it relates to our employer sponsored TMRS and 457 plans. Lunch will be provided. [Register >](#)



Get Hip to Better Health

Join Airrosti for a free interactive workshop where you'll learn about common causes of hip pain, plus tips and exercises to help prevent and relieve it. [Register >](#)

Airrosti also offers free video chats about hip pain. [Register >](#)

Vote Every Day For Grand Prairie Farmers Market!



Support the Grand Prairie Farmers Market by casting your vote in the 2024 America's Farmers Market Celebration. [Vote Here >](#)

Amazing Workplace Survey Coming To Your Email

On Monday, July 22, you'll receive an email invitation to participate in a brief 10-minute survey conducted by Amazing Workplace. City management is seeking your feedback on what's working well in our organization and where we can improve. Rest assured, your responses will be completely anonymous, so please feel free to be open and honest. City management is dedicated to reviewing and understanding your responses. You are the backbone of our organization, and your feedback is incredibly important.



New Quarter Century Members

Congratulations to the newest Quarter Century members! The following employees completed 25 years of employment with the city as of Dec. 30, 2023:

Carl Bastian
Elisabeth McMahon
Guadalupe Smith
James Edwards
Jaime Mondragon
Jon Powell
Karen Wilkinson
Laura Gomez

Leland Miller
Michael Harrison
Michael Sullivan
Ray Lopez
Scott Macdonald
Tommy Lee
William Buckley



It's never too late to take small steps to be more active and improve your health!

With Omada, you have a virtual care program that gives you a personal health coach to guide and motivate you. Step into summer with a fresh start. Omada is offered at no cost to you and your covered dependents if enrolled on the city's medical plan.



This summer try these small, simple activities:

- Cool off in the shower. The colder your shower, the more work your body is doing to heat itself. Every goosebump is a tiny muscle in action.
- Don't be still at your workstation. Make it a habit to stand up every 30 minutes to give your back, legs and arms a good stretch.
- Add a few steps to each morning. Morning walks, before work, can help clear your mind, lift your mood, improve flexibility and boost energy.
- Give your eyes and brain a screen break. Try 20 minutes a day with no screen time and start "seeing" the health benefits.
- Enjoy lunch outside. Let natural daylight and fresh air help add Vitamin D, lower stress, and improve mood. Plus, your lunch may taste better.
- Skip the couch or lounge during TV time. Sit on the floor. It opens up your hips and lets your knees work at different angles. Hard floor? Grab a pillow. Take the next small step and join Omada.

Get started today at no cost*. [Register >](#)

Epic Waters Named Top Two Water Park in the US!

Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark, 2960 Epic Place, was awarded the second spot for the Best Indoor Water Park by USA Today10Best Readers' Choice 2024 Travel Awards! The Top 10 parks received the most votes from 20 indoor water parks nominated by a panel of experts as the top indoor water parks in the United States.



Message from the Manager

My Fellow Employees,

In an effort to ensure you are well informed, and are not being fed false information through the rumor mill, I will be providing you an update, through multiple communication channels. I am doing this to insure you receive accurate information regarding the progress we are making to balance our FY24 and FY25 budgets.



As you may recall, sales tax revenue makes up 26 percent of our overall general fund budget and is one of our primary revenue sources. The City Manager's Office (CMO) and our Department Directors have been diligently working over the past weeks to balance this year's general fund budget by effectively reducing expenses in various ways. I am confident that with these measures and the higher-than-anticipated June sales tax receipts, it has helped us to balance the budget for FY 24. Please be aware that although positions that are vacated have been frozen, the CMO reviews and approves essential vacancies on a weekly basis to ensure we continue providing the world-class service our residents deserve.

As planning continues for our FY25 budget, we will keep operating more frugally, and continue to put safeguards in place to ensure we can, and will continue providing you, our fellow employees, with all that is needed to operate efficiently and effectively. While doing so, we will continue to do what is necessary to maintain a balanced FY24 budget, and achieve a balanced budget for the rapidly approaching FY25.

My priority remains each and every one of YOU. My goal is to continue keeping our finances stable, while supporting YOU, our work family, on a daily basis. I will continue to provide you with updates when warranted. By working together, we will tackle this challenge and come out an even stronger organization. Remember, as I have said previously, "GREAT CHALLENGES CREATE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES." Your dedication and hard work have created many opportunities for our city, and are what continue to make us a successful organization. Thank you for your understanding and teamwork – let's all continue to be Grand Prairie Proud!

Best regards,

Bill Hills, City Manager

Homeownership Fair

Saturday, Aug. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway

Learn about homeownership, home repairs, foreclosure prevention, and more. Preregister for a chance to win prizes at the fair [here](#)

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Splash N' Bark
9 a.m.-noon
Animal Services
2222 W. Warrior Trail
Register your dog for a 30-minute time slot to splash in pools, run through sprinklers and more.
[Register >](#)

SATURDAY, AUG. 17

Grand Prairie Homeownership Fair
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
3113. S. Carrier Parkway
[More info >](#)

SATURDAY, AUG. 24

Nottingham Walk with the Mayor
9 a.m.
Larson Elementary
2620 Avenue K

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

PrairieFest 2024 Film Festival
2 p.m.
Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St.
[More info >](#)

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING HAS MOVED!

The Communications and Audit Departments have pulled the old switcheroo! You'll find the Audit offices in the old Communications area across from City Council Chambers. Communications and Marketing is now located in the former Audit offices just west of Economic Development. Stop by Communications and check out our new digs!