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FRONT PAGE *We're dedicated to community news!*

Grand Prairie Times

Grand Prairie, TX May 21st 2006

Community News for Grand Prairie, TX since 2001

*City honors
those who
are
dedicated
during Public
Works Week*



Elvia Wallace-Martinez came to the United States in 1977 and received U.S. citizenship on July 28, 2005. Elvia Wallace-Martinez is an educator and facilitator in helping Hispanic families acculturate to the larger community.

In 1998, Mrs. Wallace-Martinez founded Debes Creer En Ti, (Believe in Yourself) known as DCET, to assist immigrants in their process of assimilation. While working toward this goal, Elvia created and designed FAMA (Folkloric Arts Mentoring Amigos), a Youth program for Hispanic teenagers and their families and Valores Familiares, parenting skills workshops in Spanish, specifically culturally designed for Hispanic immigrants.

Her literacy programs help improve the education of Hispanic/Latino parents, educators and employers, forming a unique partnership.

Elvia hosted the first local radio Spanish talk show in 1995 which expanded into TV vignettes airing on Univision Channel 23 and Tele America, reaching thousands of families in need of positive solutions related to their family. On May 11, 2006, the American Jewish Congress presented the Woman of Spirit Award to Mrs. Wallace-Martinez. On May 16, 2006, Mayor Charles England presented Mrs. Wallace-Martinez with the *Elvia Wallace-Martinez Day* proclamation at the May 16, 2006 City Council Meeting.

The proclamation was read by Councilman Rick Sala. Two weeks ago, the Grand Prairie Council was going to recognize Mrs. Wallace-Martinez for her accomplishments, but her plans were changed at the last moment and she found herself on her way to see the Mexican consulate. "It's great that her accomplishments are recognized on both sides of the border," said Mr. Rick Sala at Tuesday night's council meeting. Mrs. Wallace-Martinez expressed hopes at the council meeting to bring more intergenerational program opportunities to the City of Grand Prairie in the very near future.

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