



Chamber Business

Official Newsletter of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce

January 2008

Volume 9 Number 1

January 3
*Executive Board Meeting
12:00 Noon

January 8
*Board of Directors' Meeting
4:00 p.m.

January 8
*Member Orientation
5:30 p.m.

January 9
*Business Development Mtg.
7:45 a.m.

January 10
AT&T Wireless
11:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting
2305 W. I-20 Suite 100

January 16
Chamber Luncheon
"State of the Chamber"
Incoming Chairman, Melinda Polley
11:30 a.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 S. Carrier Pkwy.
RSVP 972.264.1558

January 17
24 Hour Fitness
11:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting
5220 S. Hwy. 360
at Camp Wisdom Rd.

January 19
Future Sounds Studios
Open House/Ribbon Cutting
1:00 p.m.
1700 W. Polo Rd., Ste. 250

January 21
*Leadership Alumni Mtg.
12:00 Noon

January 23
Civic Committee Luncheon
11:30 a.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
RSVP 972.264.1558

January 23
*Workforce Development Mtg.
10:00 a.m.

January 29
Community Awards Gala
Ruthe Jackson Center
7:00 p.m.
RSVP 972.264.1558

January 31
Branding Iron Breakfast
Outlaw's BBQ
7:45 a.m.
2334 S. Bellline Rd.
*All committee meetings held at 900
Conover Dr. unless otherwise noted.

And The Winner Is...



On January 29th the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce will host a gala event to celebrate citizens, volunteers, and business leaders who deserve more than just a pat on the back for their service during the past year. The event will be designed to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of these significant individuals and organizations in grand style.

Nominations are currently being considered for everything from Chamber Volunteer of the Year to Man and Woman of the Year. Teacher of the Year winners will also be included in the celebration. Nominations are due no later than January 3rd.

So mark your calendars for January 29th because you will not want to miss one of the most special events of the year! The evening will be a black-tie affair including a VIP reception, elegant dining, awards ceremony, and after-party with live music and dancing. Admission is by reservation. Invitations will arrive in your mailbox very soon.

This event provides special recognition for our honorees, but also affords some highly visible marketing opportunities. If you would like to sponsor the event, or any of the individual awards, please call the Chamber office at 972.264.1558 to reserve your sponsorship for the following:

- Citizen of the Year
- Public Service Award
- Corporation of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Member of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Grand Prairie Chamber Business of the Year
- Woman of the Year
- Man of the Year

High Impact Marketing Opportunity Community Awards Gala Title Sponsor

Individual Award Sponsorships also available.
Call 972.264.1558 for details now.

President's Corner

by RaDonna Hessel

As we have worked to grow the membership of the Chamber, many people ask - "Why should I join? What does my business get out of it for paying my dues?" As some businesses drop out of the Chamber, we hear them say "I don't have time to participate".

My answers to those businesses are that your membership is an investment, and that investment takes different forms. For a small business, it is often a marketing investment. Three hundred and sixty-five days a year your business is listed on the Chamber's website. It includes your company's name, address, phone number, website and email address (if you have provided all of that to the staff). If someone "Googles" your business name, often what shows up is your Chamber listing - making it easy for customers to find you. The marketing investment includes the Community Directory which is produced once a year and is provided not only to your fellow members to find your services, but it is given to potential customers who are relocating to our community. Your company can also be referred, by the Chamber staff and fellow members. For those marketing efforts, your investment is minimal. Any activity, sponsorship, or event you take part in - is an additional networking benefit or opportunity for your business to grow.

If you are a large corporation, your investment is into your community. It is also a way to perhaps meet small businesses who can provide you local services, which can save you time and money. You also have a means in which to develop support on legislative issues that can impact your corporate bottom line, with a stronger voice when united.

As we add members to your organization, we expand your opportunities to make new contacts. We also develop a larger pool of businesses who can work together to meet the needs of our community with their services. I encourage you to use the Chamber's website to find fellow members to fill your company's needs. If you use a business who is not a member, encourage them to invest in the Chamber and in your community. Working together works wonders!

2008 Chairman's Message

Melinda Polley, Trinity Analytical Systems



Greetings!

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and as 2007 has come to a close and the new year begins, I'd like to say Happy New Year. I hope this will be your best business, as well as personal, year ever. The Chamber has a full schedule of activities for the new year which begins with the January Chamber Luncheon on Wednesday the 16th at 11:30 a.m. at the Ruthe Jackson Center. On January 29th the Chamber will host the Community Awards Banquet also at the Ruthe Jackson Center. This year's event will begin with dinner and live music. It will feature the brightest stars in our community so don't miss the opportunity to visit with the city's movers and shakers. Make your reservations early by calling Sara Garcia at 972.264.1558. You only have one or two more days to submit your community award nominations so don't miss the opportunity to nominate that deserving someone that enhances our quality of life and businesses in Grand Prairie. You will find a nomination forms at the Chamber of Commerce, or visit the Chamber's website at www.grandprairiechamber.org.

I'd like to thank the board members who have served the Chamber well and whose terms have expired. I look forward to working with you still on committees and visiting with you at Chamber events. Those leaving the board are Jim Gilbert of Time Warner, Ed Hartnett of Southwest Securities FSB, Kenda Stacy of Texas Trust Credit Union, and Kristin DeLoach of CommCentral and the immediate Past President of the Civic Committee. Thank you for your service. I'd like to welcome our newest members to the Board of Directors, Doug Jackson with Jackson Property Company, Richard Whitman with Texas Trust Credit Union, James Cain with City Glass and Mirror, Milt Highfill with J M H Printing Company, John Stewart with Tahitian Noni International, and Dave Burke with Grand Prairie Professional Baseball (Grand Prairie AirHogs).

As your Past President Darin Wilson said many times, get involved! Your Chamber of Commerce offers a variety of activities for you to participate so don't miss the opportunity to make your membership work for you. I hope to see you soon at one of our events. **Melinda**

Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce

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Grand Prairie, TX 75051
Phone: (972) 264-1558
Fax: (972) 264-3419

www.grandprairiechamber.org
info@grandprairiechamber.org

The Mission of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce is to promote, strengthen and expand our business community.



Got A Minute?
Board of Directors' Meeting
December 2007

Ex-Officio Reports:

Dr. Susan Simpson, GPISD Superintendent: Dr. Simpson expressed her appreciation to the Board and Chamber members who assisted Houston Elementary in serving as adult chaperones for Camp Grady Spruce. She noted the benefits for the students with the Science curriculum and the need for several campus' with fund-raising and volunteers. She noted that the cost is \$85 for two days or \$190 for five days. The PTAs on campus raise the funds, but some schools are challenged.

Rita Heep, City of Grand Prairie Economic Development: Rita Heep noted that the Asian Time Square shopping center at Highway 303 (Pioneer Parkway) and Great Southwest Parkway plans to be fully open by February 7th. The Hong Kong Market plans to be open in later December. The Renaissance Hospital Renovations continue, with plans to be open mid-January. They costs have reached \$100 million. There is interest for the property in the area from other medical organizations. The Wild Flower Resort bid has been extended to the first of 2008, allowing development companies more time. Ms. Heep also noted the 172 acres for Central Park are under development. The park will include a series of lakes. There is also discussion of retail on that property, and the city will be meeting with developers to discuss details, logistics and feasibility of the idea.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was provided by Gail Wills which included the proposed budget for 2008. Details were discussed and questions were answered. There was a motion presented by the Executive Board for approval of the 2008 Budget. The motion carried.

Community Development: Arthur James reported that the Annual Community Awards Gala will be Tuesday, January 29th. He also reminded the Board to make nominations and that the community awards can also recognize non-chamber member businesses and individuals who benefit our community. Arthur also noted the deadlines for Great Texas Scholars to pick up their forms have passed. Of the 900 students eligible, just over 400 picked up their forms. Additional qualifications for this year's program will be that the students must pass their TAKS test by February. Arthur also noted the Impact Grand Prairie Coalition will be having their final meeting for 2007. In 2008 they will be looking for ways to extend their program after federal funding is completed.

Marketing and Communications: Buddy Bridges reported that the Taste & Tour event will be a stand alone event in 2008 on February 26th. He also noted the marketing committee has met and discussed details for a membership sales piece. The decision was to hold off on the process of creating a new Chamber logo until the City branding process is complete in 2008. They committee has decided to produce in house a new brochure to use temporarily accepting the low bid from JMH Printing.

Membership Development: C.W. Higgins reported on a Ribbon Cutting in January. He also noted the Golf Classic scheduled for May 16th and Chaired by Councilman Ron Jensen. He reported that Don Goldsmith will chair the Fall Fantasy which will be held October 18th.

Business Development: Jeanine Walker reported the staff is currently working on three seminars for 2008. There will be quarterly seminars on CPR training as well as self defense for employees. A 30 week seminar will be held with the class teaching "Spanish for Business". Another networking opportunity will be a morning BBB Session (Business, Breakfast and B.S.) These meetings will include some round table issue discussions each month. The membership will be receiving details in the mail and via email.

Chamber Partnerships: There was no business reported for the Government and Legislative committee at this time. There was concerned expressed regarding the process for Highway 161. The NTC and TxDot have a deadline of December 21st to reach some agreement on the toll road.

Chamber Development: RaDonna Hessel reported to the board on the businesses that have been dropped from the membership due to non-payment of their dues, or per their request. Those dropped members for November included: Chase Bank / Bellline Branch and Cleopatra Inc.

President's Report: RaDonna Hessel reported the Chamber offices would be closed November 22 & 23rd, along with December 24, 25 and 31st. There will be limited staffing on December 26, 27 and 28. RaDonna also thanked the Board members in attendance, Kenda Stacy and Ed Hartnett, who would be going off of the board in 2007.

Other Business: Chairman Darin Wilson thanked the Board for providing him the opportunity to serve as the 2007 Chairman of the Board, as well as their support during his year.

"State of the Chamber" Luncheon
with incoming 2008 Chairman, Melinda Polley
January 16
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
RSVP 972.264.1558

Special thanks to
 Allan Hughes and Traders Village
 for your support and service during our
 Meet & Greet the Troops Week at DFW Airport.

Save these dates:

January 29
Community Awards Gala

February 26
Taste & Tour

March 27
State of the City

April 16
Great Texas Scholars Luncheon

Many thanks to
Pat Watson of
Prudential
Lone Star
Realtors
for hosting a
festive and fun
Christmas Open
House! Thanks to
all who came!

Advertising Inserts

For only \$95, your company can place a promotional insert in the Chamber Newsletter to be mailed to our entire membership. If you provide us with the flyers and \$95, our staff and volunteers will take care of the labor to insert the flyer into our newsletter and the postage. Just bring at least 900 copies of an 8 1/2 x 11 inch flyer on 20 to 24 lb. paper to our offices. For distribution in our February newsletter, please submit flyers no later than January 25th. Call 972.264.1558 for details.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR LOGO AND STORY HERE?
BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER AT THE SILVER LEVEL OR HIGHER.

SEE DETAILS BELOW

Sustaining Level Sponsorship Opportunities for Business Members* Levels do not include Membership Investment. Event sponsorships are negotiable.

Bronze Sustaining Sponsor Receives: (\$2,500)

- Name on chamber letterhead / mailings
- Logo in Membership Directory and two Membership Listings Highlighted
- Logo in all Chamber newsletters
- Name recognized on Cable TV program "It's Happening in Grand Prairie" every month.
- Name listed on Chamber and event programs all during year
- Link to member's logo from Chamber's web site to Sustaining Member Company.
- Logo listed in Community Directory
- Company listing highlighted in Community Directory
- Company Highlighted listing on Website

Silver Sustaining Sponsor Receives Bronze Package and Also Receives: (\$5,000)

- Fall Fantasy Queen Sponsorship (four reservations included)
- State of the City Sponsorship (four reservations included)
- Golf Classic (May) Sponsorship (includes one team)
- Website Listing Boxed & Highlighted
- One newsletter article per year
- 1 Entrepreneur member (luncheon reservations for the year, includes name badge, reminders, transferable)
- Two Reservations to: Taste & Tour
- Two Reservations to: Awards

Gold Sustaining Sponsor Receives Bronze Package and Also Receives: (\$7,500)

- Fall Fantasy King Sponsorship (eight reservations included)
- State of the City Sponsorship (four reservations included)
- Golf Classic (May) Sponsorship (includes one team)
- Half Page Ad in Chamber / Community Directory
- Website Listing Boxed & Highlighted
- One newsletter article per year
- 2 Entrepreneur memberships
- Four Reservations: Taste & Tour
- Four Reservations: Awards

Platinum Sustaining Sponsor Bronze Package and Also Receives: (\$10,000)

- Fall Fantasy Ace Sponsorship (ten reservations included)
- State of the City Sponsorship (four reservations included)
- Community Awards (four reservations)
- Taste & Tour Sponsorship (four reservations)
- Golf Classic Sponsorship (includes one team)
- Full Size Ad in Chamber / Community Directory
- Web Site Listing, Boxed, Highlighted & includes company logo
- One newsletter article per year
- Four Entrepreneur memberships

DIAMOND Sustaining Sponsor Also Receives: (\$25,000)

- All Platinum Membership benefits plus:
- Automatic Ex-Officio Board Position
- Reserved Parking at Chamber with Signage
- Diamond Member Plaque
- Title Sponsorship to Major Event of Choice (First come basis)
- Golf Classic (one additional team)
- Reserved Tables to: Taste & Tour, State of the City, Great Texas Scholars and Fall Fantasy Event (These are in addition to the tickets at the Platinum level)

Please let the Chamber staff know immediately if your company would like to reserve these great benefits.

Deadline is approaching!

972.264.1558

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Member firms volunteering financial support to the Chamber above and beyond their regularly scheduled basic dues to offset building expense, utilities, insurance and taxes.



NEW LEVELS FOR ENTREPRENEUR CLUB INTRODUCED IN 2008

Have you ever attended a Chamber luncheon and wondered why some members wear name badges with the title "Entrepreneur" above their name? This is not an indication that the Grand Prairie Chamber has an inordinate amount of people who have forsaken the corporate world to blaze their own trail. This simply indicates that they belong to the "Entrepreneur Club". EC is a money-saving, and time-saving program designed for members who attend most of our monthly luncheons.

What are the advantages, specifically? Well, if you attend every monthly membership luncheon, AND you even get the early-bird price of \$15 each time, your total cost for the year would come to \$185. Add in the magnetic name badge and the grand total comes to \$195. AND if you failed to get your early-bird registration in each month and paid the \$20 luncheon price, your total expense would total \$250. **So you can see that the one-time EC payment of \$160 could save you anywhere from \$15 to as much as \$90.** Your \$160 EC membership even covers the Great Texas Scholars luncheon and Christmas in July, both which normally cost \$25. But that's not all!

Would you also like to save money on Civic Committee luncheons? In 2008, we'll introduce an Entrepreneur Club membership specifically for Chamber members who are involved with the Civic Committee. The 2008 price for Civic Committee luncheons will be \$15. For all CC luncheons plus the magnetic badge, the total would come to \$170. If you would like to pre-pay for the year, you'll only pay \$140 as an Entrepreneur Club member.

Even more importantly, you can choose to be a member of the Entrepreneur Club on 3 different levels.

Chamber Level	\$160 includes all monthly luncheons
Civic Committee Level	\$160 includes all Civic Committee luncheons
Combined Level	\$280 includes all Chamber monthly luncheons & Civic Committee luncheons (saves you \$35 to as much as \$110 for the year!)

You'll love the ease of picking up your name badge and signing yourself in on the EC sign in sheet located away from the registration table. No more standing in lines waiting to pay, or waiting for a receipt. All we request is that you call in each month to let us know if you will be attending so that we can give the caterers an accurate head-count for food prep.

To join you simply need to supply the Chamber with a pre-payment by January 7, 2008. Make your check payable for the correct level and specify exactly how you want your name and company to be displayed on your magnetic name badge. For your convenience, we can take credit card payments by phone, as well.

If you have questions, please call the Chamber and ask for Kelly or any other staff member.

THANKS TO PAT WATSON-CAPPS OF PRUDENTIAL LONE STAR REALTORS FOR HOSTING & SPONSORING OUR WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE!



Left: Pat Watson-Capps happily poses beside the tree decorated with donated ornaments and loads of toys from Chamber members for local charities. **Right:** The GPHS Show Choir performed their beautiful Christmas program.



Left: A future star stole the show! Eight year old Tye Imani of Cedar Hill was invited to entertain, giving an amazing rendition of "Respect" by Aretha Franklin, and the Star Spangled Banner.

Right: Hundreds of Chamber members came by to enjoy music, good company, plus great food & spirits. Thanks to Pat's hardworking crew, too!



NEWS & NOTES



Congratulations to Realtor and Chamber member Prudence Mathis for attaining her GRI designation (Graduate Realtor Institute). Way to go Prudence!



Unlocking Opportunities for those who want to START, BUY, or EXPAND a business... Attend one of DFW's largest events for small business: Friday, February 8, 2008, Fort Worth Convention Center
Early-Bird Registration is now OPEN...Attendee and Exhibit Hall
MORE THAN 2,500 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE 2007 EVENT WITH A SOLD-OUT EXHIBIT HALL
Expo Hotline - 817-871-6021 Exhibitor Hotline - 817-348-8397



Need a great low-cost defensive driving course?

Visit the Chamber website at www.grandprairiechamber.org and click on the link located in the sidebar on the left side of the home page.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

REGARDING THE
ECONOMIC CENSUS,
U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The time is upon us! More than 4 million American businesses, including 43,000 businesses in Dallas County, will receive 2007 Economic Census forms. Businesses that do not receive a form (typically very small) are not required to do anything, but those businesses that receive a form are required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code) to complete and return it. **The due date is February 12, 2008.**

Many businesses may not recall the last census 5 years ago, and the form may come as a surprise. They may not realize how important their timely and accurate responses are to effective public policy, to their industry, or to your chamber.

The Web site <business.census.gov> will tell you about the Economic Census, and provides statistics you can use to assess and grow your business operations. Added to the site today are graphic "Industry Snapshots" for more than 1,000 industries.

January 2008:

Complete your Economic Census form. Your community is counting on you.

February 2008:

Economic Census forms are due February 12.

If you need more information about the 2007 Economic Census, or would like to arrange an interview, please contact Robert Marske, Laurie Torene, or Paul Zeisset at 1-877-790-1876, or e-mail us at econ2007@census.gov



Civic Committee member Mary Pelfrey of Grand Prairie Healthcare Center awards a First Place sign to a father and son team in the Light Up Grand Prairie Christmas lighting contest. Over 100 people attended the awards reception at Bowles Life Center on December 13th.

CIVIC COMMITTEE

by 2008 Chairman, Carol Parker of Texas Trust Credit Union

What is the Civic Committee?

We bring Grand Prairie businesses to the community. We offer recognition for you and your company through sponsorships of programs, networking opportunities, and community involvement.

Our programs, **Yard of the Month** and **Business Landscape Awards**, encourage citizens and businesses to keep their property well maintained. **Light Up Grand Prairie** gives citizens an incentive to decorate their homes for the holidays

Proceeds from our annual fund raiser, **Christmas in July**, make these programs possible, as well as, provide **scholarships** for Grand Prairie students and **grants** to Grand Prairie non-profit organizations.

All these programs benefit our community by rewarding those who work to make it better through beautification, personal growth, or providing aid to those in need. We have a monthly luncheon, which keeps us connected with each other and committed to our programs.

I look forward to this next year. I would like to invite you to become part of this fun and productive committee.

LEADERSHIP GRAND PRAIRIE CLASS OF 2008

December 13th provided a lovely day for taking in the Arts & Culture of the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex. The Leadership Grand Prairie class paid a visit to the Dallas Museum of Art, the Amon Carter Museum, and world renowned Bass Hall.

Many thanks to facilitator Roy Wilson, and to Libby Clawson, Grand Prairie Arts Council director; Kathy Ritterhouse, Director of Libraries; and Tammy Chan of Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful.

The class gratefully acknowledges alumni Cindi Rehonic of Representative Kirk England's office, and Robert Scroggs of Century 21 Judge Fite for providing transportation.

Later this month, the class will share another impactful day as they explore the field of Criminal Justice and how it affects Grand Prairie and surrounding communities.

If your company would like to sponsor transportation for this important program, call Darcy at 972.264.1558.

GRAND PRAIRIE CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

2008 SLATE OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN
Melinda Polley, Trinity Analytical Services

CHAIR-ELECT
Don Goldsmith, Grand Bank of Texas

TREASURER
Gail Wills, Gail Wills, CPA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Arthur James, The Transparent Church

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
C.W. Higgins, The Thompson Group,
Classic Chevrolet

CHAMBER DEVELOPMENT
Buddy Bridges, Oncor Electric Delivery

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Vince Hrabal, Grand Prairie Disposal

CHAMBER PARTNERSHIPS
Greg Giessner, Giessner Insurance

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
Paula Newman, Lone Star Park

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN
Darin Wilson, Dallas Offset

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Burke, GP Professional Baseball / AirHogs
James Cain, City Glass & Mirror
Clayton Fisher, Wachovia Securities
Maria Gonzales, Allstate Insurance
Aaron Guthrie, Lockheed Missiles and Fire Control
Milt Highfill, J M H Printing Company
Allan Hughes, Traders Village
Cole Humphreys, Austin Insurance
Doug Jackson, Jackson Property Company
Mary Jean Moloney, Atmos Energy
Rudy Martinez, AT&T
Renee Medrano, Texas Roadhouse
Keith Odom, NOKIA Theatre at Grand Prairie
Norm Porter, Vought Aircraft Company
Renaldo Ramirez, Sun Chemical
Mike Rose, Grand Prairie Ford
John Stewart, Tahitian Noni International
Emelda Valcarcel, Medical Center of Arlington
Tyson Vaughan, Wal-Mart
Jeanine Walker, Bon Air Service Company
Richard Whitman, Texas Trust Credit Union

EX-OFFICIO

Kirk England, State Representative
Charles England, Mayor
Tom Hart, City Manager
Dr. Susan Simpson, GPISD Superintendent
Shana Nix, Arlington ISD
Tom Hart, City Manager
Bob O'Neal, City Economic Development Director
Rita Heep, City Economic Development
Clem Maddox, Time Warner
Billy Dunn, BDunn & Company, LLC
Paul Gramza, Great Southwest Industrial District
Association

PAST CHAMBER CHAIRMEN WHO MAINTAIN ACTIVE BOARD STATUS

Lila Thorn, Hexter-Fair Title Co., (2006)
Roy Wilson, Northwood University (2005)
Jayne Christian, Creative Embroidery (2003)
Pat Watson-Capps, Watson & Assoc. (1986)

CHAMBER STAFF

RaDonna Hessel, President
Darcy Harris, Vice President
Greg Cashman, Membership Director
Kelly Giessner, Office Manager
Sara Garcia, Chamber Relations Officer

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Larry Barker

CHAMBER HAPPENINGS CAUGHT ON CAMERA



The Branding Iron Committee recently helped Sandra and Donnie Zolkowski celebrate the grand opening of Treasures of Texas at 102 W. Main Street in historic downtown Grand Prairie.



Members of the Leadership Class of 2008 stand in front of a unique piece of art at the Dallas Museum of Art during Arts & Culture Day, December 13th. DMA was just one of many venues visited.

Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce

The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce is currently planning for 2008 and there are a number of marketing opportunities available for your business! **Business After Hours and Luncheon Sponsorships** are great ways to showcase your business/ products / services and promotion for a low cost. All opportunities are on a first come basis.

Business After Hours

The Chamber of Commerce hosts monthly Business After Hours to provide a relaxed networking environment for its members to exchange business cards and information. Sponsoring an After Hours gives the member company a chance to showcase their services, specials, or promotions.

By attending Business After Hours members develop a network of potential clients and friends. People want to do business with people who are familiar to them.

The cost to host a Business After Hours includes the expenses associated with providing refreshments and any other specialty items you choose. Businesses can work with others to co-host an After Hours to share the expenses. Businesses are also encouraged to do their own invitation list—inviting their current clients as well as potential clients to attend. The evening is as great of an opportunity as you want to make it!

The Chamber will host only ten After hours for 2008, and months are filling up fast! Currently on the schedule is: **May- Grand Prairie Professional Baseball, October- Grand Bank, November-Lone Star Park, December- Holiday Open House hosted by Pat Watson & Associates**

Chamber Luncheons

The Chamber of Commerce hosts monthly luncheons to offer the opportunity for members to network with each other while enjoying speakers and programs to benefit their business or the community. As a luncheon sponsor, a business can have the opportunity to speak during the luncheon for three minutes. The sponsoring company is also the only company allowed to put materials/ promotional information at each setting.

New in 2008 there will also be sponsorship opportunities for the Community Service Recognition. The Chamber will take a few moments of each luncheon to recognize either a police officer or a fire fighter who serve and protect us daily.

Yes, my company would be interested in:

- Business After Hours Sponsorship
 Chamber Luncheon Sponsorship (\$300)
 Community Service Recognition Sponsor (at a luncheon) (\$150)

Name: _____

Company: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Return this form to the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce
900 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75051
Phone: 972-264-1558, Fax: 972-264-3419
E-Mail: sara@grandprairiechamber.org

2008 MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES



The CHAMBER BUSINESS is published monthly by the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce for the businesses in the Grand Prairie Area. Publishers reserve the right to reject or edit advertising and/or copy submitted for publication. Information contained in any guest article appearing in CHAMBER BUSINESS is the sole responsibility of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Publishers. In such cases, Publishers will not be held liable for any incident which may result from the use or misuse of such information. For information concerning articles, advertising or joining the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce, please call the Chamber office at 972.264.1558 © Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce 1999. All rights reserved.

Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce
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