

## What's New at the Chamber

### Member Orientation and Business After Hours

Thursday, November 10th  
Orientation 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Business After Hours  
5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie  
Come for Orientation and stay for  
an evening at the races

Call the chamber to make your reservation now  
972-264-1558



November, 2005

Volume 6, Number 11

## Mark Your Calendars

### Monthly Luncheon

Roy Wilson, Chairman of the  
Board of Directors on the  
State of the Chamber

Ruthe Jackson Center  
Wednesday, November 16th  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For reservations,  
call 972-264-1558

## The Corner Calendar

### November 2005

- 01 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 04 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 09 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 10 Board Retreat Noon - 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Member Orientation 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie  
1000 Lone Star Parkway
- 14 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 16 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.  
Roy Wilson, Chairman of the Chamber  
Board
- 16 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 17 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m.  
Merrill Gardens  
355 Westchester Parkway, GP
- 17 Workforce Coalition Mtg 9:00 a.m
- 21 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 24-25 Chamber Office Closed

### December 2005

- 01 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 08 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 13 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 14 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 15 Chamber Holiday Open House  
Sponsored by Prudential Lone Star Realtors  
at the Chamber Office  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 23, 26 Chamber Office Closed
- 29 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m
- 30 Chamber Office Closed

### January 2006

- 05 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 09 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 10 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 11 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 12 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 16 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 18 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.  
Ruthe Jackson Center
- 18 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 25 Women's Division Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 25 Government Relations 4:00 p.m.
- 26 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m
- 26 Workforce Coalition 9:00 a.m.
- 26 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

## Thank you to Fall Fantasy Sponsors and Donors

<b>ACE Sponsor</b> Ruthe Jackson Center TXU Electric	<b>King Sponsor</b> Grand Prairie Ford Medical Center of Arlington Northwood University Texas Trust Credit Union	<b>Queen Sponsor</b> Atmos Energy	<b>Jack Sponsor</b> Gail Willis CPA/Conditioned A/C Grand Bank of Texas Heritage Direct Investments Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control	<b>Methodist Health Systems</b> The Oasis/Lynn Creek Marina Resource One	<b>Joker Sponsor</b> Comm Central Giessner Insurance Agency Grand Prairie Disposal Russell's Telecom Solutions	<b>Poker Tournament</b> CPC Travel	<b>Photo Sponsor</b> American Eurocopter	<b>Bingo Sponsor</b> Traders Village	<b>Program Sponsor</b> Louis Tussaud's Palace of Wax & Ripley's Believe It or Not!	<b>Valet Parking Sponsor</b> Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie	<b>Slot Sponsor</b> Texas Trust Credit Union	<b>Sign Sponsor</b> Richard Phillips Sign Company	<b>Blackjack Tournament</b> Brian Ownby State Farm Ins. Agency	<b>A Touch of Silver</b> ADventures AFLAC American Specialty Printing American Steel Applebee's Arnold Bros. Dry Cleaning & Laundry Avon B&B Insurance Black-Eyed Pea Rest. Bon-Air Service, Inc. Brian Demeris Buffalo Wild Wings Catfish Sam's City Glass City of Grand Prairie Cleaning Guys Congressman Kenny Marchant Cowntown Coliseum Crystal Clear Detail Dallas Children's Theater Dallas County Commissioner Ken Mayfield Dallas Hilton Centre Dallas Symphony Orchestra Dallas Zoo Deb's Baskets & Stuff Douglas Bryan Photography Dymo-Rock Climbing Center Eddlemon's Catering Emler Swim School Friends of The Library Ft. Worth Zoo Gilley's GP Parks and Recreation Granbury Convention & Visitor's Bureau	<b>Grand Bank of Texas</b> Grand Prairie Ace Hardware Grand Prairie Arts Council Grand Prairie Board of Realtors Grand Prairie Cof C Grand Prairie Disposal Grand Prairie Ford Greg Cashman Guerrero- Dean Funeral Home Heritage Family Specialty Foods Home Depot Hyena Comedy Club Jack Razis II, P.C.. Janelle Bicknell Jeff Baker Jerry Marsalis Kerbow & Assoc. LaBark Photography Liberty Tax Service Lige Green Flowers Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie McDonald's Marvin Hessel Mary Kay Cosmetics Medical Center of Arlington Medieval Times Mesquite Convention & Visitors Bureau Mountain View College Mountasia Family Fun Center Myrle Knox Natural Health Alternatives Northern Tool Northwood University NRH2O Family Water Park Phone Jacks and More	<b>Photos Rock!</b> Piccalo Mondo Pocket Sandwich Theater Product Sales RaDonna Hessel Raymond James Republic Beverage Ruthe Jackson Center S&D Landscaping Sandi Morrison SBC Scarborough Fair Signature Spa and Salon Six Flags over Texas Soroptimist Intn'l Southfork Ranch SpeedZone Supershine Car Wash Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame Texas Rangers Texas Trust Credit Union The Addison Improv The Heard Natural Science Museum The Science Place The Winery at Grand Prairie Thorne & Thorne Thorne, Skinner & Thorne Tony's Wine Warehouse Wachovia Securities Watson and Associates Waxahachie Cof C Welcome Advertising Wheels & Deals Sports White and Associates
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## Women's Division Prepares for Holiday Lights Contest

The year is almost over, but more fun and worthwhile projects are coming up. If you were not at the October luncheon, you missed a very interesting time of seeing just what it is we do when we are not volunteering. The members of the Women's Division are a diverse group of people who have a wide variety of careers and businesses that were highlighted at the "Spotlight on Business".

Our next Luncheon will be "Santa's Workshop". We will be contacting one of our local Charities for more information on a deserving family. We are Santa's Elves spreading cheer, along with songs of the Season.

December is also the month for the annual "Residential Christmas Lighting Contest". Judging will be done the second weekend of December, so be sure you have your lights on. If you would like to send a judge into your area, please contact Darla Langkamp at 469-939-3497 or at 972-264-0303 Ext. #203 or you may even email me at darla486@hotmail.com. We will get your address to the judge in that area. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner in all 12 judging areas of the city.

Judging will be on December 9th, 10th and 11th.

Have your decorations on all three days of the judging from dusk until 11:30 p.m.\*Winners to be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, December 13, 2005\*

### \*Helpful Hints:

- " Keep your lights straight
- " Replace broken bulbs
- " Spotlight cut outs
- " Hide extension cords
- " Mow & Edge your lawn

The November/December luncheon is a combined luncheon and will be on Wednesday, December 7th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Women's Building, you may call Carol Parker at 972-595-1239 for reservations. Even though the year is almost over, we are busier than ever, and we would love to have you join us.

If you or someone from your company is not a member of the Women's Division and would be interested in joining, please come by and check us out. The networking and leadership opportunities afforded to women in your company and community are well worth it. "Come be a part of something wonderful".

## Grand PRAIRIE CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

### 2005 SLATE OF OFFICERS

#### CHAIRMAN

**Roy Wilson**

Northwood University

#### CHAIR-ELECT

**Lila Thorn**

Hexter-Fair Title Company

#### MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Darin Wilson**

Mesa National, Inc.

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Tim Bordelon**

Ripley Entertainment, Inc.

#### CHAMBER CITY PARTNERSHIP

**Billy Dunn**

BDunn & Company, LLC

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

**Don Goldsmith**

Grand Bank of Texas

#### MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

**Allan Hughes**

Traders Village

#### TREASURER

**Gail Wills**

Gail Wills, CPA

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Lisa Arnold**

Arnold Brothers Dry Cleaning & Laundry

#### PAST CHAIRMAN

**Greg Giessner**

Giessner Insurance Agency

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Barbara Baker**, Grand Prairie Ford

**Buddy Bridges**, TXU Electric Delivery

**Karen Carpenter**, Texas Trust Credit Union

**Spencer Clemson**, Product Sales

**Paula Newman**, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

**Vince Hrabal**, Grand Prairie Disposal

**Darla Langkamp**, Prudential Lone Star Realtors

**Clem Maddox**, Comcast

**Rudy Martinez**, SBC

**Mike Medrano**, Texas Roadhouse

**Sandi Morrison**, Commerce Title

**Melinda Polley**, Trinity Analytical

**Renaldo Ramirez**, Sun Chemical

**Brenda Reuland**, American Eurocopter

**Danny Reyes**, U.S. Post Office

**Don Stanfield**, Stanfield Realtors

**Chris Thomas**, NOKIA Theatre at Grand Prairie

**Whitney Strauss**,

Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control

**Emelda Valcarcel**, Medical Center of Arlington

**Jeanine Walker**, Bon Air Service Co.

#### EX-OFFICIO

**Ray Allen**, State Representative

**Dr. David Barbosa**, GPISD Superintendent

**Charles England**, Mayor

**Tom Hart**, City of Grand Prairie

**Bob O'Neal**, City Economic Development

#### PAST CHAMBER CHAIRMEN WHO MAINTAIN

ACTIVE BOARD STATUS

**Steve Adams**, Stephen M. Adams Creative Advertising

**Jayne Christian**, Creative Embroidery

**Mildred Walker**, Lynn Creek Marina/The Oasis

Restaurant

**Pat Watson-Capps**, Watson & Assoc.

#### CHAMBER STAFF

**RaDonna Hessel**, President

**Beverly Grogan**, Vice President

**Lynn McGinley**, Vice President

**Darcy Harris**, Office Manager

**Greg Cashman**, Membership Services

**Melanie Guley**, Membership Services

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Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce  
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our business community.

## Got A Minute

### Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce Board of Director's Meeting October 2005

**Chamber Development:** Darin Wilson reported on the upcoming luncheon with Ron White speaking. He also noted the Business After Hours at Grand Bank of Texas. Darin noted that the Branding Irons will be hosting a ribbon cutting on October 27th. Buddy Bridges and Melinda Polley updated the board on the Fall Fantasy preparations. They reiterated the need for selling the Big Spender cards as well as reservations. They also highlighted several of the auction items, including the complete a/c and heating system from Bon Air. They encouraged everyone to purchase the Big Spender cards, and make their reservations.

**Community Development:** Lisa Arnold reported the Leadership class. The class is meeting on the second Thursday of the month. The Leadership Alumni meetings were moved to 1:00 p.m. to allow those involved in the hospitality / restaurant businesses to attend. With the change, only a couple of members attended, and the meeting time may move back if attendance does not improve. Darla Langkamp reported the Women's Division has approved their slate for 2005 officers as well as their budget. Both have been submitted to the Chamber board for approval. Darla also noted the October 28th luncheon "Spotlight on Business" as well as the upcoming Christmas Lighting Contest.

**Workforce Development:** Tim Bordelon reported that the Education committee will be meeting in October to discuss the proposed changes to the Great Texas Scholars program.

**Chamber / City Partnership:** The committee did not meet in September. The committee will be reviewing another alternative schedule for the Legislative Breakfast Series.

**Marketing & Communications:** Allan Hughes reported that there would be a tour of the Tourism partners to Texas Tourist Information Centers in the coming weeks. Businesses throughout Grand Prairie and the Metroplex visit each center, providing an overview of attractions and accommodations in the area.

**Business Development:** It was noted that the committee will again be meeting with Economic Development Director Bob O'Neal to discuss ways for the Chamber members and City to work together to improve the business community.

**President's Report:** The board was updated on the property acquisition, parking lot and technology

purchases. The project has almost been completed and will be well under budget.

The Board was also informed that the city had approved the funding for "Prairie Lights". The project is going forward as a partnership with the City, Chamber and Gemmy Industries. The City will be operating the park, and may ask for support from volunteers for some operations.

The Slate of Officers appointments were provided along with the one year board appointments. There was a motion by Buddy Bridges and a second by Don Stanfield to approve those positions. The motion was approved. The 2006 Executive Officers will be:

**Chairman** - Lila Thorn, Hexter Fair Title

**Chair-Elect** - Darin Wilson, Mesa National

**Immediate Past Chair** - Roy Wilson,

Northwood University

**Treasurer** - Gail Wills, CPA

**Vice Chair Community Development** -

Jeanine Walker, Bon Air Service Company

**Vice Chair Membership Development** -

Melinda Polley, Trinity Analytical Services

**Vice Chair Workforce Development** -

Tim Bordelon, Ripley Entertainment

**Vice Chair Business Development** -

Vince Hrabal, JC Duncan Company

**Vice Chair Marketing & Communications** -

Allan Hughes, Traders Village

**Vice Chair Chamber City Partnership** -

Greg Giessner, Giessner Insurance

The Board was updated on a meeting held with the Dallas Morning News, along with some City Council Members, business leaders, school district staff and citizens.

The Board was also reminded of their upcoming Board Retreat, Thursday, November 10. The Board Retreat will be held from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. This will be followed by the Membership Orientation from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. and then the Business After Hours from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The day will be spent and hosted by Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. Members are then invited to stay for the rest of the evening's horse races.

**Adjournment:** With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

### Northwood University 2005 Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award



Our own **Roy Wilson** was the recipient of the **2005 Outstanding Alumni Achievement Awards from Northwood University** on Friday, September 30th. The Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award is an Award given by the university to its graduates exhibiting the highest qualifications including:

-Significant Career Achievement

-Support and involvement in the local community

-Support and commitment to Northwood University and the Northwood Idea

-Receipt of a Northwood University Texas Campus AA or BBA Degree by graduating from Northwood

University Texas Campus, or the Cedar Hill or Ft Worth Outreach Centers.

Roy, we are so proud of you and so thankful that you have given of your time and energy to lead the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce as Chairman in 2005.

## 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.





## Sustaining Member

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control develops, manufactures and supports advanced combat, missile, rocket and space systems for the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps; and dozens of foreign nations approved by the U.S. State Department.

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control is headquartered in Grand Prairie, Texas, with additional base operations in Orlando, Florida, and manufacturing and assembly facilities in Sunnyvale, Calif.; Chelmsford, Mass.; Camden, Ark.; Horizon City and Lufkin, Texas; Ocala, Fla.; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; and Troy, Ala. The company is a business unit of Lockheed Martin Corporation's [NYSE: LMT] Electronic Systems in Bethesda, Maryland. James (Jim) F. Berry is president of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, which has approximately 9,000 employees nationwide.

Quality and mission success are of the highest priority in all aspects of work performed at Missiles and Fire Control. The company is accredited by the international quality standards ISO 9001/SAE AS9100, and has earned its ISO 14001 certification for adherence to strict environmental management standards. Additionally, Missiles and Fire Control has earned the Software Engineering Institute's (SEI) Level 3 rating for developing high quality software while demonstrating continual process improvement in the software engineering area.

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control has been a pioneer in the field of versatile, high-performance missile and rocket technology and an important contributor to the nation's space efforts for more than 45 years. The company has expertise in a variety of military applications, including hit-to-kill, kinetic energy technology; system integration; simulation and modeling; automatic target recognition; low observables; fire and forget; electronics packaging; electro-optics; virtual prototyping;

guidance and navigation control; unmanned ground vehicles; and lethality/survivability.

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control's major products include: Advanced Gun System - Long Range Land Attack Projectile (AGS-LRLAP); AGM-142 Missile; Air Defense Anti-Tank System (ADATS); Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Missiles; Arrowhead-Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision Sensor (MTADS/PNVIS); Chaparral; Compact Kinetic Energy Missiles (CKEM); F-14 Infrared Search and Track (IRST); Hawkeye; High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers; Hellfire II; Javelin; Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM); Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN); Line-Of-Sight Antitank (LOSAT) Weapon System; Longbow; Longbow Fire Control Radar; Low Cost Autonomous Attack System (LOCAAS); Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS); Multifunction Utility Logistics and Equipment (MULE); Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Launchers and Rockets; Navalized Instrumentation and Control Systems; NITE Hawk; Non Line-Of-Sight - Launch System (NLOS-LS); Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile System; Paveway II Laser Guided Bomb; Snake Eyes; Sniper XR/PANTERA; Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD); and the Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD).

Missiles and Fire Control is committed to delivering value, by partnering to help customers meet their defining moments; being distinguished by whole system thinking and action; taking on challenges with a Passion for Solutions; and delivering disciplined performance. We never forget the importance of what we're doing or who we're doing it for.

## 2005 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Roy Wilson

Northwood University



This is my next to last article that I will be sharing with you as Chairman of the Board of Directors. It seems just like yesterday that we began this journey together and what a journey it has been. I think we have accomplished a lot this year and I am very grateful to have been allowed along for the ride.

We will do a recap of the year at the November membership luncheon so I will not go into all of that in this article.

Over the past eleven months, a good friend has sent me an encouraging note each month. These notes have been very important to me and I wanted to share a few of them with you. *"A joy that is shared is a joy made double"* (English proverb)

*"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"* (Maya Angelou)

*"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song"* (Maya Angelou)

*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"* (Walt Whitman)

*"Focus on the journey not the destination"* (Greg Anderson)

*"To reach a port we must sail, sometimes sail, sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it. But we must not drift or lie at anchor"* (Oliver Wendell Holmes)

Thanks for making Fall Fantasy such a success. A personal thank you to Melinda Polley and Buddy Bridges for a great, great job of organizing and coordinating the event and special kudos to RaDonna and our staff without whom none of this would be possible.

I hope each of you have a great holiday and please remember to take time and remember what you have to be thankful for.

This month we are spotlighting a very special person - Pat Watson-Capps. What can I say about Pat that has not already been said? Her enthusiasm and encouragement are definitely an inspiration to me and I know to others. Thank you Pat for your dedication, commitment, and service to the Chamber and Grand Prairie and for the excellent wine.

## Welcome to the Chamber!



**Phonts Rock!**  
Judy Vergara  
P.O.Box 381964, 214-395-1839



**Ellan Carroll Antiques**  
Frances Tipton  
309 W. Main St., 972-266-0888



**Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant**  
Pamela Teal  
4030 S. Great SW Parkway, 972-602-8899



**Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant**  
Lisa Coulton  
2619 W. Pioneer Prkwy, 972-602-0100



**Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant**  
Sandra Williams  
423 E. Pioneer Prkwy, 972-264-1131



**North Texas Electrical Training Center**  
Kim Allen  
680 W. Tarrant Rd., 972-266-8383



**Prudence Mathis, Realtor**  
619 Delores Dr.  
469-583-0606



**Careflight**  
James Swartz and Fred Tsosje  
3110 S. Great Southwest Prkwy, 972-339-4201



**Boys and Girls Club of Grand Prairie**  
Amo Compton  
1000 Enterprise, 972-262-3169



**Evans Utilities**  
Corey Tompkins and Ron Lough  
3324 Roy Orr Blvd., 972-877-9216



**Comresco Capital**  
Mike Estrada 817-640-6223  
2201 Brookhollow Plaza, Suite 400



# Grand Prairie Chamber News and Notes



The South Grand Prairie High School Warrior Band Fan's Classic Golf Tournament and Extravaganza! November 10, 2005 18 Hole Scramble Grand Prairie Country Club 3502 Country Club Drive - Grand Prairie, Texas Fee: \$100.00 per player Team: \$375.00 for a team Fee includes Green Fee, Cart, Range Balls, Lunch, Dinner, and Awards!! To sign up for the Tournament contact: Justin Wood, Assistant Band Director 214.334.5352 or justin.wood@gpsid.org Fax: 972-642-7902. OR Tom Blowers 972-264-2922 at t.lowers@comcast.net OR Mary An Mathias 972-266-7839 at maryanmathias@hotmail.com

The Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Conference is November 9, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio. Registration is \$75.00 to register e-mail [ROSBU-Region.7@gsa.gov](mailto:ROSBU-Region.7@gsa.gov). Learn how to do business with GSA, Brooks-City Base and Mentor-Protege Program, SBA - Contract Assistance, Texas Veteran Lnd Board, and US Army Consulting.

Libby Clawson will be writing a community column for the Dallas Morning News that will appear in the Saturday Metro section of the paper. We want to make sure we take every opportunity to highlight our community. If you would like to write a brief of any newsworthy event and forward it to her, she will try to include as much information as space and time allows. Forward to [libbyclawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:libbyclawson@sbcglobal.net).

November 13 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Sam's Club will host a Business Members Appreciation Shopping Event. The purpose is to show appreciation to Business Members by allowing them to come in and chop after normal business hours. Refreshments will be provided.

The North Texas Commission Mentoring and Entrepreneur Program is accepting applications for this years Program. Inaugurated in 1994, this program is designed to nurture the professional development, productivity and overall success of small, woman and minority-owned businesses in the DFW Metrolplex. For information about the program, contact Liz Samuel at NTC at Metro 972-621-0400 or by e-mail at [liz@ntc-dfw.org](mailto:liz@ntc-dfw.org).



## LONE STAR CHEVRON

1510 N. Beltline Road  
Grand Prairie, TX 75051

At the North East corner of Beltline Road and Interstate Highway 30 in the City of Grand Prairie you will find Lone Star Chevron. Conveniently located, this twenty-four hour convenience store provides a safe, clean environment for your quick shopping needs.

Along with your gas purchases, you can pick up that quick loaf of bread for lunch, some of the forgotten pickles for dinner or a broad selections of Beer and Wine for the ballgame.



Stop by Lone Star Chevron today !



## Looking Back As We Continue Forward

# A Retrospective of Service for 60 Years



1985



2005

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the year we plan to feature a retrospective from Past Presidents/Chairman of the Chamber.

When I became Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, my goal was involvement for the City - School - Chamber to work together. I even hired a manager to run my real estate office so I could take the time off. I started early by four months because the President, Charlie Grimes left to take another banking position the fall of 1984. One goal we had was to build a new chamber building and we did. Harry King, along with other leaders of the chamber- Fritz Heinke, Ruthe Jackson, Bill Arnold and several others formed the Quality of Life Foundation and we were off! We had a great fundraiser to furnish the chamber- "The Great Gatsby" chaired by community leaders Ed Crane and Camilla King. Over 600 people attended. Every part for the community took part. We had a golf tournament, fishing tournaments for the kids, first teacher's luncheon event, and first Leadership Grand Prairie class headed by Jerry Larmay-King. Tag Taggett supported events at Traders Village including Western Days and the Rodeo. Our economic development group from the chamber traveled to Chicago and New York. We joined Dallas on their search for economic development.

The business community in 1985 was growing after a slump in the early 80's. The chamber became a strong voice on behalf of businesses - endorsing liquor by the drink with restrictions, Highway 161 and the need for a North - South freeway, the Free Enterprise Program and Economic Developer for the City of Grand Prairie.

During the mid 80's the bulk of my personal time was centered on the chamber serving as an officer and the membership chairman. My four daughters kept me busy with school activities - especially the Drill Team. But when we started the Leadership classes, a lot of time was spent trying to attend all those meetings. The Dallas - Ft Worth Medical Center and the Winterfest fundraiser demanded attention, but it was there that I met Ed Crane and his wonderful organizational skills. He helped me when we needed him to raise money for the new chamber building furnishings.

I was particularly invested in hiring a new director that year because we didn't have one for several months and being Chairman of the Chamber had become a full time endeavor.

The thing that really stands out as I think back on those years and experiences is just getting to know all the different people in this community. As we worked together toward our common goals from the retired fire chief to the police chief, along with all the business community - it was fun and it brought us all together.

**It makes me smile:** My all male executive Board of Directors. I decided behind every successful woman there had to be a least seven good men! And I had them. Jim Switzer, Bill Arnold, Jimmy Allen, Johnny Jinks, Phil Light, and Drexell Toombs. They really didn't know how to take me at first, but as the year went by - we formed a unique group thru ups and downs, but by discussing the events and presenting a team effort - I never realized until it was all over what a friendship had formed - with everyone on that Board. We were like family ready to help each other.

**Personal:** Pat Watson-Capps was born in Minneapolis, Mn. Her family moved to Grand Prairie in 1949 when her parents built the Uptown Theatre in 1950. She went to UTA to earn her BA and earned her Master's at North Texas University. Pat taught school for several years in Grand Prairie before going into the building - real estate field. When she was Chairman of the Chamber she owned Pat Watson & Associates, Red Carpet Realtors. She is still active in the real estate community as a broker with Prudential Lone Star Realtors. Her husband is Jerry Capps. Their five daughters Kay Connelly, Kristi Sutterfield, Lauren Watson, Kelly Walker, and Terri Morgan have presented them with eight grand children and two great-grandchildren.

Thanks, Pat for your continued support. We appreciate to groundwork you laid for our continued success.

## Member Orientation Don't Miss it!

Plan to attend the Member Orientation on November 10, 2005 at Lone Star Park from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and learn how you can maximize your investment in Chamber Membership.

Stay for the Business After Hours sponsored by Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. This is a great time of networking, good food and, as a special treat, Live Racing! Whether you will be placing a bet or cheering your favorite steed to the finish line, you will have an adventurous evening.

For more information, call the Chamber office 972-264-1558.



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.

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[www.grandprairiechamber.org](http://www.grandprairiechamber.org)

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