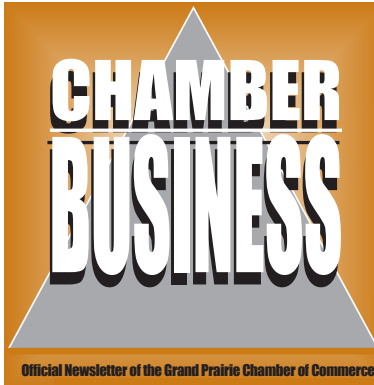


What's New at the Chamber

Grand Bank
will be hosting the
Business After Hours
and Card Connection

Located at 530 S. Carrier
Thursday, October 27th
from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy fun, food and great
networking with Grand Bank



October, 2005

Volume 6, Number 10

Mark Your Calendars

Come join us for the
October 19th
Monthly Chamber Luncheon
11:30 a. - 1:00 p.
Ruthe Jackson Center

Speaker: Ron White
"The Power of A Trained
memory"

Call the Chamber office for
Reservations 972-264-1558

The Corner Calendar

October 2005

- 06 Executive Board, 12 Noon
- 17 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 11 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 12 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 13 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:00 a.m.
- 17 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 19 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
- 19 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 24 Fall Fantasy Committee Meeting 12 Noon
- 26 Women's Division Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 26 Government Relations 4:00 p.m.
- 27 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m.
- 27 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Grand Bank 530 S. Carrier Pkwy
- 29 Fall Fantasy, 7 pm - Midnight at the RJC

November 2005

- 01 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 03 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 08 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 09 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 10 Board Retreat Noon - 5:30 p.m.
- 10 New Member Orientation 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie
1000 Lone Star Parkway
- 14 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 16 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 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 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.

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.
- 16 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 15 Holiday Open House Chamber Office
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m.
- 21 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.

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

Grand Prairie Steps Up to the Plate

Editorial by RaDonna Hessel, Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce President

On Friday, September 2nd of Labor Day weekend I received a call on my cell phone from Buddy Bridges of TXU Electric Delivery asking me to come to the Grand Prairie City Hall for a meeting regarding Hurricane Katrina and the evacuees. When I reached the City offices, I found Tom Cox, Deputy City Manager, Amy Sprinkles, Marketing, Christal Kliewer, Assistant to the City Manager, Rick Herald, Parks Director, Randy Byers, the Emergency Management Director, Danny Boykin and Doug Beich from the Parks Department all gathered.

The City had been asked to have shelters open by midnight for up to two hundred Louisiana guests. This was on top of the 518 families who had been interviewed by the Grand Prairie Housing Department and Bill Hill's office, (eventually over 1,600 families where processed), along with over 700 in local hotels.

By 10:00 p.m. the City staff had purchased 200 air mattresses, blankets, sheets, pillows, towels and had organized both the Charley Taylor and the Dalworth Recreation Centers into temporary shelters. They had staff set up to process each person, find their needs and make them as comfortable as possible when they had just spent 36 hours on buses after surviving a hurricane.

For the Chamber's part, I took my cell phone, a membership directory and started making calls looking for people who could drop their weekend plans and volunteer. Jeanine Walker - who even though her new grandbaby was in town for the first time, called, with the baby on her knee, various churches and within 24 hours had lunches set up for over a week. Lila and Bill Thorn made calls. Lisa Arnold, Judy Broyles, Clay Fleming, Mark Swindell, Lynn McGinley, Melanie Gulley, Doug Gulley, Bill Moser, Larry White, Jodie Morris, Rick Sala, Pansee Cox, Skip Johnson, Mark Dean, Judy Vergara and several others dropped what they were doing and arrived at the shelter to await the buses.

The first two buses arrived at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, and were greeted, organized and taking showers in less than an hour. Then, after being told that the buses for Charley Taylor would not come

that weekend, everyone went home, only to receive a phone call at 3:00 a.m. that buses were to arrive in 20 minutes. Not one person said no; everyone arrived by 3:30 a.m. to again meet more arrivals. By the Tuesday after Labor Day, there were 16 students enrolled in school, all evacuees had received medical treatment, cell phones had been donated for them to try to find loved ones and the process of finding them places to go had begun.

Businesses were contacted, and donated or sponsored breakfast. Churches continued to sign up to provide the lunches, most willing to do it every week. GPISD provided the evening meals. Volunteers poured in and chamber Vice President, Lynn McGinley worked their schedule. Businesses and citizens donated food, clothing, personal items. Doctors, orthodontists, dentists provided services. Any need that came up, some business or individual was willing fill.

Sometime ask Lisa Arnold how it felt to be the first person to "speak" sign language to an older guest, finding out her son's phone number and being able to call him to tell him that his mother was alive and well. I had the privilege of greeting her three sons, a daughter and several nephews after they made a 14 hour drive from Lake Charles LA, in less than 12 and taking them to pick up their mother to take her home.

Within two weeks, all of the families within the shelters had found somewhere to live, many had jobs to begin to rebuild, and all were appreciative and thankful for their welcome in the community.

After this experience the City has discovered ways to strengthen the disaster plan. But as Rick Herold said at the Chamber luncheon, when those needs are coordinating the hundreds of volunteers and food and clothing donations, Grand Prairie has shown how "Grand" it really is. I was extremely proud of your chamber, city and community and want to thank each of you for making my families' home such a wonderful place to live.

Are you Ready for Fall Fantasy?

The 2005 Fall Fantasy is only a month away. The date is October 29th, 7:30 - Midnight at the Ruthe Jackson Center.

Have you made sure your business will receive a prominent place in the sponsorship of this prestigious event? Have you bought you Big Spender Card to make sure you have a chance at the \$5,000 prize? Have you made your reservations for the event to make sure you get the discounted rate of \$45.00 per person? Have you decided if you will play in the Exclusive Texas Hold 'Em Tournament to be eligible for a Trip to

the fabulous Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas complete with airfare and compliments of **CPC Travel**? Have you signed up for the Slot Machine or Blackjack Tournaments? Have you chosen your costume or your Fantasy Partner? Have you told all your friends about the event so they can come and have a blast with you?

Have you?

Call the Chamber to make reservations or to sign up for sponsorship or the Tournaments. 972-264-1558.

Current Fall Fantasy Sponsors

Ace Sponsor - \$2,500 TXU Electric Delivery
Ruthe Jackson Center
Northwood University
Medical Ctr. of Arlington
Grand Prairie Ford
Texas Trust Credit Union
Atmos Energy
Grand Bank of Texas
Methodist Health Systems
Heritage Direct Inv.
The Oasis/Lynn Creek
Marina

King - \$1000

Queen - \$750
Jack - \$500

Joker - \$300 (Table Sponsorships)
CommCentral
Gail Willis CPA / Conditioning Air
Services, Inc.
Giessner Insurance Agency
Grand Prairie Disposal

Russell's Telecom Solutions

POKER TOURNAMENT Prize- CPC Travel
PHOTO SPONSOR - \$1,000- American
Eurocopter

BINGO SPONSOR- Traders Village
PROGRAM SPONSOR - Louis Tussaud's
Palace of Wax & Ripley's
Believe It or Not!

VALET PARKING SPONSOR- Lone Star Park in
Grand Prairie

SLOT SPONSOR - \$1500
SIGN SPONSOR - \$1000
BLACKJACK TOURNAMENT - \$1500

There are still opportunities for Ace, King,
Queen, Jack, Joker, Slot, Valet, Sign,
Blackjack Tournament and Slot Tournament

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

Secure Sentry, 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 Dowell, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

C W Higgins, Graff Chevrolet

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 Gulley, Membership Services

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our business community.

Got A Minute

Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce Board of Director's Meeting September 2005

Marketing & Communications: Allan Hughes reported that there were no ongoing activities under his guidance as all were complete for the year.

Community Development: Lisa Arnold reported the Leadership class of 2005-2006 was full with 21 members. Their retreat will be September 15th, and the class will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month. The Leadership Alumni had a successful kickoff. Their meetings were moved to 1:00 p.m. to allow those involved in the hospitality / restaurant businesses to attend. It was also noted that Pat Travis had offered her services as a facilitator of a leadership, along with two from Methodist Health Systems. Darla Langkamp reported the Women's Division will be meeting on September 28th, and they will be back at the Women's Club Building. They will be holding their nominations for officers.

Workforce Development: Tim Bordelon reported that the Education committee discussed the possibility of discontinuing the Great Texas Scholar presentations to the 9th grade classrooms. In place of those, they would add programs in the coming years for the 10th and 11th graders on interview skills and financial planning. They would continue the senior luncheons, although had considered modifying the program's name. After much discussion, Chairman Wilson asked Tim to come back to the board with greater details on the changes proposed.

Chamber Development: Darin Wilson reported on the upcoming luncheon with Rick Herold speaking. He also noted the Business After Hours at Mountain Creek Retirement. Buddy Bridges and Melinda Polley updated the board on the Fall Fantasy preparations. They encouraged everyone to purchase the Big Spender cards, and make their reservations.

Chamber / City Partnership: It was noted that the Government and Legislative committee has put the Legislative Breakfast series on hold until a time that more of the politicians will be able to participate in a timely manner and consecutive weeks.

Business Development: It was noted that the committee will 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. The 2005 Procurement Conference held in August had a lower than expected attendance. One issue was the number of competing procurement events. There is some discussion to not hold a conference in 2006, and to move the next to February of 2007.

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 will have "Prairie Lights" on their consent agenda. If it is approved, the project will go forward as a partnership with the City, Chamber and Gemmy Industries.

The Nominating committee report was provided. The eight board members whose terms will begin in 2006 and end in 2008 included; Jeanine Walker, Whitney Strauss, Greg Giessner, Emelda Valcarcel, Gail Wills, Tom Monohan, Anita Wells and Brenda Reuland. With no further nominations from the membership, there was a motion by Vince Hrabal and a second by Darla Langkamp to approve those board positions. The motion was approved.

There was also a motion by Lila Thorn to allow the addition of three names for one year appointments for the 2006 board terms. There was a second by Darin Wilson and the motion was approved.

The Board was updated on the Chamber's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina efforts in the City. The Chamber staff assisted with organizing the volunteers as well as scheduling the meals donated by various churches and businesses. The Chamber also worked to bring together any specific needs with assistance. The City of Grand Prairie was commended for their ability to make the shelters and assistance available in an extremely timely manner.

The board was notified that fellow member Whitney Strauss of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control had her son, Robert (Bobby) Strauss a few months early, but mother and baby are doing well.

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

Kick off for Leadership Grand Prairie

The 20th class of Leadership Grand Prairie kicked off in grand style with an all day retreat held at Lone Star Park. The challenge of the day was to get to know the teammates of the class of 2005-06 through a series of games and exercises also designed for each member to perhaps get to know themselves a little better as well. Twenty years of experiences will help the alumni design a meaningful and educational year for this latest edition of Leadership.

The Class of 2005-06

Dalia Arellano	Northwood University	Arthur James	The Transparent Church
Gaila Austin	Grand Bank of Texas	Christal Kliever	City of Grand Prairie
Debra Blubaugh	Grand Prairie United Charities	Brian Leddy	Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control
Shebra Brown	Medical Center of Arlington	Debbie Olgin	SBC
Jeanie Carreno	Thorne, Skinner and Thorne/Hexter-Fair Title	Brian Ownby	State Farm Agency
Laura Craig	Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control	Amanda Pappas	Texas Trust Credit Union
Sandra De La Cruz	GPISD	Donna Wade	GPISD
Clayton Fisher	Wachovia Securities	Barry Walsh	City of Grand Prairie - Water Utilities
Laura Helmke	Texas Trust Credit Union	Danise Witherspoon	Natural Health Alternatives
Victoria Hessel	American Eurocopter	Lety Woods	Grand Bank of Texas

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.



LOCKHEED MARTIN



haynesboone
Setting precedent.





Sustaining Member

Last year, the entire world saw why Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie - one of America's most elegant racetracks and Texas' premier horse racing facility - is regarded as one of Dallas-Fort Worth's most viable sports and entertainment options. Situated just a half-mile north of I-30 on Belt Line Road, Lone Star took the globe by storm while hosting tens of thousands at a Texas-sized and widely-successful Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships.

This fall, we have our cozy little racetrack all to our own! Some of the quickest horses in the world - the American Quarter Horse - will return to Lone Star for the eighth Fall Meeting of Champions. For nine weeks from Sept. 30-Nov. 27, live racing will be conducted every Wednesday-Saturday at 5 p.m. (the lone exception is a 1:35 p.m. first live race on Sunday, Nov. 27 because there's no live racing Nov. 23-24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday).

Quarter Horses are the sprinters of the equine world. To compare a Quarter Horse to his Thoroughbred peer is to compare drag racer Don "Big Daddy" Garlits to NASCAR's Tony Stewart, or Grand Prairie's sprinter extraordinaire Jeremy Wariner to distance running champ Sebastian Coe.

In races, Quarter Horses have been clocked at speeds up to 55 mph while their Thoroughbred counterparts reach speeds of about 40 to 45 mph. Just as the body types of human sprinters and distance runners differ, the Quarter Horse has a very muscular body with strong hips built for short, explosive bursts of speed, while the more slim and linear Thoroughbred is designed for endurance events.

Most Quarter Horse races range in distance from 250-870 yards (or a little more than one-furlong to a half mile) with 440 yards (a quarter-mile) considered the "classic" distance. Essentially, Quarter Horses are bred to run a fast quarter-mile, hence the name "Quarter Horse."

Lone Star doesn't call it the Fall Meeting of Champions for nothing. Since 1997, 24 American Quarter Horse Association champs have raced at Lone Star during their championships campaigns, including World Champions Tailor Fit (1999), Streaking Sin Tacha (2002) and Oak Tree Special (2003).

Twenty-four stakes races estimated to be worth more than \$2.7 million (these are the highest profile races

for the best horses) will be run during this year's 33-night stand. The richest of all is the \$1 million Texas Classic Futurity on Nov. 26 - Texas' only million-dollar horse race.

Other major events include the \$150,000 Dash For Cash Derby (Oct. 21); the \$450,000 Dash For Cash Futurity (Oct. 22); a simulcast of the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships from Belmont Park in New York (Oct. 29, gates open early at 10:30 a.m.); and the \$100,000 Refrigerator Handicap and \$400,000 Texas Classic Derby (Nov. 25).

Lone Star plans to card nine live races on Wednesday and Thursday nights (last live race around 8:30 p.m.) and 13 races on Fridays and Saturdays (last race live around 10:30 p.m.). The popular Heineken "Party at the Park" series, featuring live music and drink specials in the outdoor Courtyard of Champions, will return every Friday and Saturday through Oct. 29.

Also, there will be three Charity Days where two-percent of the on-track dollars wagered will be donated to the Grand Prairie Independent School District (Oct. 26), Race Track Chaplaincy (Nov. 2) and Texas A&M Equine Research Fund (Nov. 16).

A trip to Lone Star is a social event with an adrenaline rush, complete with heart-stopping finishes and old-fashion fun. A wise selection and a little luck can easily result in leaving the racetrack with a healthy profit. More than 10 million customers have enjoyed Lone Star's amenities, which include fine dining, penthouse suites, 1,200 terraced dining seats, luxurious box seating, landscaped outdoor areas and picnic pavilions.

General admission is just \$3. Grandstand gates will open an hour before the first live race at 4 p.m. Reserved seating is available by calling (972) 263-PONY. Even though there's no live racing on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Nov. 23 and Nov. 24, Lone Star's simulcast center, the 36,000 square-foot Post Time Pavilion, is open seven days a week for simulcast wagering on numerous racetracks across the country.

For more information, call (972) 263-RACE or visit the track's website, lonestarpark.com.

2005 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Roy Wilson

Northwood University



Remember in the movie *A Few Good Men*, Jack Nicholson asked Tom Cruise, "are we clear"? The reply was, "crystal". Have you ever wondered where that phrase originated? If so, keep reading.

David Norton, an English professor at the Victorian University of Wellington in New Zealand, has spent 10 years producing a re-edited version of the King James Bible, called the New Cambridge Paragraph Bible (Cambridge University Press).

During his research, Dr. Norton compiled a list of phrases that have found a place in the English language thanks to the King James Version of the Bible. Here a few courtesy of The Chronicle of Higher Education:

You know the old saying...

At wit's end (Psalms 107:27)

Can the leopard change his spots? (Jeremiah 13:23)

Crystal clear (Revelation 21:11)

Eat, drink, and be merry (Luke 12:19)

Eye to eye (Isaiah 52:8)

Far be it from me (2 Samuel 20:20)

Fell flat on his face (Numbers 22:31)

A fly in the ointment (Ecclesiastes 10:1)

From time to time (Ezekiel 10:1)

Holier than thou (Isaiah 65:5)

In the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52)

Labor of love (Hebrews 6:10)

Man after his own heart (1 Samuel 13:14)

Put words in his mouth (Exodus 4:15)

Rise and shine (Isaiah 60:1)

Sign of the times (Matthew 16:3)

The root of the matter (Job 19:28)

It is always fun to read articles like this and find out where things originated that we take for granted on a day-to-day basis.

Leadership Grand Prairie is off to a good start. The retreat in September was excellent. Beverly and RaDonna did an outstanding job and I believe the class had a great day not only learning about each other but hopefully new leadership skills as well. By the time you read this the classes first day - City Day will have occurred. I know it will be successful as well.

Fall Fantasy is almost here. All of your fantasies may come true on Saturday October 31 at the Ruthe Jackson Center. Please remember that this is one of our major fundraisers, so we all should be looking for ways to support the event. See you there!

I would like to thank Charlie Grimes for his service to the chamber. Your commitment to the chamber and Grand Prairie is appreciated and is an example for all of us to emulate.

Welcome to the Chamber!



Firestone 2510 W. I-20
Contact Tim Barber (972) 606-2650



ACS State & Local Solutions
7220 S. Westmoreland, Suite 230
Contact Derick Singleton (972) 283-9152



Excel Occupational Clinics 185 S. Watson Rd. #108
Contact Rhonda Austin (817) 695-1100.



Gardner's Lawn Care 4419 Durham Ct
Contact Chris Gardner (972) 213-6469



Brian Ownby State Farm Agency
Contact Brian Ownby (972) 262-5121



United American Insurance Company
2321 S. Belt Line Rd., Suite 142
Contact Laura Prestridge (972) 504-9035



Paw Pals of Grand Prairie
Contact Deb Koplen (972) 262-6128

A Special Thank you to the following Chamber Businesses who donated Breakfast for our Katrina Guests

Chick Fil A
Crossroads Chiropractic
McDonalds
Sonic
The Transparent Church

And to **Rent City** for donating a Big Screen TV for our Katrina guest use.



1984

Charlie Grimes

Come join us at the October 19th, Monthly Chamber Luncheon and hear Ron White, a memory expert who has broken Guinness Records for memory on FOX and CBS television. He will talk about "The Power of A Trained Memory". White travels the world over giving tips to improve your memory and productivity. You won't want to miss it! Call 972-264-1558 to make your reservation now. Time: 11:30 a.m. Place: Ruthe Jackson Center.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!" MountainView College turns 35 this year! The culmination of a year long celebration will be held at a gala and auction on November 18, 2005 at the Ruthe Jackson Center Call 214-860-8705 or log on to www.mountainviewcollege.edu.

The 12th annual Military Service Academies of North Texas will be held on December 22, 2005. The event formally recognizes and honors all the midshipmen and cadets from North Texas who currently attend one of our nation's five military service academies. They are asking that businesses from the North Texas area donate coupons/gift certificates, tickets, and/or money, which allows each midshipman or cadet to leave the ball with items that can be used when they return to their campus. This is a tax-exempt entity under US Tax Code. If interested, send donations to Kathy and Larry Vannatta, 1901 W. Arbor Rose, Grand Prairie, TX 75050 or call 972-672-0093.

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.

We were new to Grand Prairie in 1979. There were many problems in the banking industry and my stress level was at the max for most of the first six weeks I was here. Business was slow. Rates were high. Real Estate values were going down. Then, I played in the Great Southwest Golf Tournament and scored in the low 80's and my problems magically went away! From that time on Grand Prairie and the Chamber were my home. I joined the Rotary, was on the hospital board, was Chairman of Boy Scouts and active at First Baptist Church.

The thing that stands out in my memory when I think back on my time as President is the support an effort by good people to support the community. Our highest priority at the Chamber that year was the completion of the new building. The Bank Board made a substantial contribution that came from every member of the Board. It is a source of pride that while focused on the completion of the building, we were able to get the Grand Prairie Leadership training approved and the first class started in 1984.

It makes me smile: There are so many things...wearing cowboy boots and taking all the employees to the rodeo...helping the Arlington Symphony by hosting their group to perform in the Republic Bank several times...attending softball games for a Bank sponsored team for the women employees- They were good! Hosting a Black Tie Dinner-dance on the empty floor of the new Bank building at \$100.00 a plate - \$50.00 going to the cost of the event and \$50.00 going to the expense of the new Chamber building. About 300 attended.

Personal information: Charles Glenn Grimes was born in Henderson, Texas and moved to Grand Prairie in 1979. His wife's name is Katy and they have 2 sons, Gil and Ben. They have 4 grand children, Abbey, Sam, Mia and Imma.

Katrina Relief Efforts

It takes a community to

It may "take a community to raise a child", but we all now know that it also takes a community to be a good neighbor as well. When Katrina, a Force 4 Hurricane, hit the Gulf Coast little did we realize that it would take the Metroplex by storm.



"...I was overwhelmed at the support of individuals who suddenly appeared to assist. I saw every-day citizens ...with vehicles full of much needed items. It was a great example of ordinary people coming together for the good of their fellow man, ..." - Mark Dean, Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home

"Grand Prairie's relief effort was another grand partnership between the City and Chamber. The Chamber spearheaded the awesome volunteer effort, coordinated all the food with local churches, secured donations from member businesses and was the "whatever it takes" arm during this time in need. The Chamber's constant response was "we can make it happen" and it was truly unbelievable." - Rick Herald, City of Grand Prairie



"To get a call at 5 pm on the Friday of Labor Day, saying that your community was receiving bus loads of evacuees from hurricane torn states was not your average call. The immediate response from the City of Grand Prairie was something to behold. Everyone from the City Manager's office, Housing Department, Water Department, Parks Department and all Departments in between were out in force and ready to do whatever it took to not just welcome, but take care of our "guests". Within hours, two shelters were set up, with air mattresses, food, clothing, water and people in place." - RaDonna Hessel, Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce



"...as a local pastor and resident of Grand Prairie I am very proud of the way in which the city, the chamber, and the churches of Grand Prairie worked together... I believe that we could have not been more prepared. When I initially heard about Katrina and the impact that it had ... I immediately called the chamber office and was very impressed with how organized and informative everyone was. Partnering with the Chamber and the city made our ministry efforts more effective and efficient! We met with our adopted family this weekend and they too could not stop sharing about the impact that Grand Prairie has made on them.

I look forward to our church and the chamber working together to further enhance the lives of Grand Prairie residents and our new guest! God Bless, Arthur J. James, The Transparent Church



"At 3 a.m. RaDonna answers her phone in a cheery voice: "RaDonna Hessel, may I help you?," said Amy Sprinkles, Marketing Director for the City of Grand Prairie. "When I called her in the wee hours of Sunday, Sept 4, to let her know we had a bus of evacuees at Charley Taylor Recreation Center, she rolled out of bed and into action, as did all the Chamber volunteers. We couldn't have done this without the Chamber as our partner. Throughout this effort, the Chamber and City worked side by side to provide for the needs of our new guests." - Amy Sprinkles, City of Grand Prairie



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