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2014-2015 Officers

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February Meeting

The next meeting of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization will be Thursday, February 20 to be held at the Grand Prairie Historical Organization Museum at 1516 West Main. Lunch will be catered by Karen and Robbie Bond at the cost of \$10. Please RSVP to Angela Giessner at 972-262-5151 no later than Tuesday, February 18.

A member of the Grand Prairie Independent School District Foundation will give us a history of the District followed by a presentation of the Foundation.



Upcoming Events

2/13	Board Meeting
2/20	Meeting
2/22	Historic Site Reception
3/22	GP Birthday Celebration



Grand Prairie Independent School District

The Grand Prairie Independent School District currently serves more than 26,000 students within the Dallas County boundary of Grand Prairie. There are 39 campuses which consists of 23 elementary schools, eight middle schools, one ninth grade center, three high schools, two alternative schools, one collegiate institute and one arts academy.

This is a long way from their humble beginnings in 1902. By 1904 ten formal grades had been formed. The next year the first school bonds were issued totaling \$8,000. The money built a two-story building at 214 West College Street to create Grand Prairie High School. In 1911, the first graduating class with only four students completes the high school program. The high school moved to its current location in 1951.

In the early 1920's, the children in the Dalworth area, attended school in the Masonic Lodge. Their first school was built with classes to 7th grade. If a student wanted a high school education, they had to travel to Dallas to attend Booker T. Washington High School. Glasco Talley, one of the first graduates of Dalworth, went on to high school and college, before returning to become a teacher. In 1942, G.W. Spikes donated five acres of land for a larger school, which expanded in 1955 to become a high school. The following year, Dalworth High had its first graduating class with five students. By 1966, Dalworth High integrated with Grand Prairie High and Dalworth returned to being an elementary school.

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Grand Prairie Independent School District – cont'd

The city began to grow and by the late 1960s it became apparent a second high school was needed. In the fall of 1969, the doors opened to 448 students at South Grand Prairie High School, of which 87 were Seniors. The first campus was at the original Jackson Middle School. In 1972, the current campus was complete and the students moved into their new home.

The district finally added a third high school to address the career and technology needs of the students. Dubiski Career High School opened in the fall of 2009. There are five schools within one: School of Architecture, Construction, Engineering, and Manufacturing; School of Health Science Technology; School of Arts, AV Technology, and Communications; School of Business, Marketing, Finance, and Information Technology; and School of Transportation and Logistics. Dubiski offers its students a course of study to prepare them for a 2-year or 4-year college or to gain a license or certification towards a career.

Grand Prairie Independent School District is always growing to meet the needs of the citizens and students of Grand Prairie. We are proud of the legacy the district has created through the excellent education opportunities.

Historical Marker Reception

A reception is being hosted by the Grand Prairie Historical Organization for the homeowners and property owners of the historical marker sites in Grand Prairie. Please plan on attending. Stephanie Moreno will give a presentation of the marker sites along with give details of some exciting upcoming events.

Saturday, February 22, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Grand Prairie Main Library
901 Conover

RSVP to stephanie.a.moreno@att.net or leave a voice mail at 214-738-6444.

Grand Prairie Birthday March 21, 1909

Plan a day celebrating the birthday of the incorporation of Grand Prairie on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

The day will begin at the Copeland Home at 125 SW Dallas Street. Enjoy refreshments and a tour of this historic home (medallion 6). Here you will receive a driving map to view all the other historic sites within Grand Prairie, along with a walking map of historic Main Street.





Last Meeting Highlights

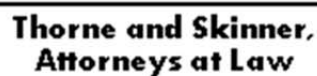
The last meeting of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization was held on Thursday, November 14, 2013. We took a field trip to the Sixth Floor Museum in downtown Dallas to observe the solemn 50th Anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Before touring the museum, the group met at the Grand Prairie Historical Museum in Grand Prairie before carpooling to El Fenix Restaurant in Downtown Dallas. Following lunch the group toured the Museum. We were delighted to see a picture of Mildred Walker.

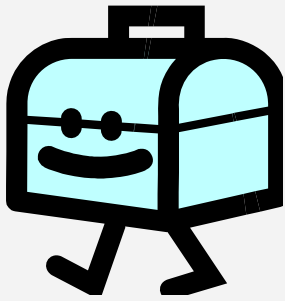


Life Members

Robert Harold & Jackie S. Archer, Judy Armstrong, Billy Bancroft, Chuck Bancroft, Howard Bancroft, J.D. Bancroft, Adelaide Banister, Greta Berry Beckler, Carol & Grant Bell, Bebe Bingham, Brian W. Bingham, Dorella Bond, Joan Bronstad, Lisa Brown, Verna Brown, Nan Bryan, Jo Robertson Campbell, L.R. Cannon, Patricia R. Watson Capps, Marion Cato, Sharon Chaparas, Helen Chennault, Thomas Chennault, Ann H. & Dan R. Chilton, BJ Claybourne, Jorja Jackson Clemson, Joe Colwell, Marjorie Colwell, Kay Conelly, Jerry & Doranna Corley, Reg & Rochelle Crump, Bob Donaldson, Scott Donaldson, Cheryl Dover, Karen Hale Eddlemon, Annette & Richard Edmonson, Charles & Janice England, Kirk & Marcy England, Alice Stanfield Ernst, Benton Ford, Olive Galloway, Angela Giessner, Norma Jean Robertson & Johnny Hale, Loni Haran, Bill Henderson, Lee D. Herring, Aletha Hicks, Gary Hill, Betty Hulse, Vera Jinks, Bob & Patsy Johnson, Laurie Hulse Johnson, Kay Vail Kizziar, Fred & Myrle Knox, Ouida Lewis, Marty Ford Martin, Joyce McGuffey, Linda McNeff, Kenneth R. Miller, Stephanie Jumper Moreno, Lynn Motley, Martha Bowerman Pengelly, Betty Phillips, Peggy Poage, Laura Thompson Potter, Alicia Powell, Jeff Powell, Charles & Nancy Powers, Kathy Ritterhouse, Bob Roberts, Susie Roberts, Ann & David Searcey, Kathy Sherrill, Susan Shuffler, Fynlon & Eugena Simpson, Janette Skrasek, Carol Powers Smith, Ouida Daugherty Smith, Amy Sprinkles, Don & Joyce Stanfield, Marshall Sutton, Kenny Tyler, Donna Lambert Underwood, Carolyn Combs Vaught, Paul & Madie Vernon, Mildred Dickerson Walker, Sammie Ausmus Walker, Sarah Lou Graham Wallis, and John R. Wright.

Thank You to Our Sponsors





Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch?

Send us your pictures of historic Grand Prairie. If your picture is selected for publication, along with recognition in the newsletter, you will receive a FREE LUNCH at our next meeting. Send those pictures to Brian Bingham at bingham@alliance-services.com. Be sure and also call 214-808-1913 and leave a message that you emailed it so it won't get lost!



With Sympathy

It is with a heavy heart we bid a bittersweet farewell to Ralph Giessner. Born on September 3, 1943, in San Antonio, he graduated from Arlington High School in 1962. He married Angela Sutton of Grand Prairie on June 19, 1964. He attended Arlington State College and graduated class salutatorian from Gumpton-Jones Mortuary School in 1968 with a degree in Mortuary Science. He began his career at Moore & Sons in Arlington but later became a partner in Southland Funeral Home in Grand Prairie. After retiring from his first career, he and Angela opened Giessner Insurance Agency in 1989. Ralph was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and served in numerous positions and committees with the City of Grand Prairie, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and served on the City Council.

Ralph is survived by his wife of 50 years, Angela, son Greg and daughter Jan and their families.

Social Media

Check out the Grand Prairie Historical Organization on our Facebook page at

[Facebook.com/GPHistorical](https://www.facebook.com/GPHistorical)



Or on the web at

gphistorical.com

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