NOTE TIME AND PLACE  
Our next meeting will be August 15th starting at 1pm—2pm and will be held at the Public Safety Building in Grand Prairie at 161 and Arkansas. The program will be on the history of the Grand Prairie Fire Department. Everyone is meeting at Eddlemon’s to eat lunch at 11:30 then going over to the Public Safety Building for the program. If you have questions, call or email us. Please RSVP to Angela.

Left:
First Fire Station, 1925. Bldg is Swadley Garage where the fire trucks were stored from 1922-1949

Congratulations to Grand Prairie’s new Mayor, Ron Jensen. Ron is a supporter of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization and his company, Control Products Corporation, is one of our corporate sponsors.

A HUGE Thank You to Cameron Gray for his donation to the Grand Prairie Historical Organization in honor of Kim Thorne.
It took a disastrous residential fire in 1904 to cause the citizens of the small town to become fire protection conscious. This fire cost the lives of two young boys.

A bucket brigade was organized among the employees of the local cotton gin soon after this disaster. A major fire followed in April, 1909. This fire consumed many buildings and then another fire followed in 1914 where a furniture company was destroyed. Fire Fighters from Arlington and Dallas helped Grand Prairie back in 1909 and today.

The bucket brigade served the community until the organization of the Volunteer Fire Department in 1917 by Jess Small, J. C. Swadley Sr., John L. Stubbs and Jess Small as the Fire Chief. Its original members were assisted by many dedicated men to follow. The first members built equipment from materials they were able to collect. The equipment included a model T Ford chassis with solid tires, one thousand feet of single jacket 2 1/2 inch hose, one ax and one crowbar.

The home-made equipment was replaced in 1919 by an American La France hose and chemical truck with two thirty gallon soda and acid tanks mounted on a model T Ford. The important date of October 31, 1949 marked the date when they moved into the first city owned Fire Station at 321 West Main Street. Those present were Luke Wilson, Ralph Clark, Russell Zupp, Jake Rinehart, Henry Huggins, Grady Turk, Don Small, Charlie Miller, Cotton Moore, Tom Powers, Dewey Coulson, Ennis Davie, Tom Eason, Lee Herring, Earl Taylor, and Chief J. C. Swadley, Sr. . Also included were Percy Power, Elvis Bement, Ben Stamper, Sherdin Mobley, Louis Hulcy, J. D. Steadman, Sam Sanders, Jr. and J. C. Swadley, Jr. with mascot Butch Brundage.

We owe thanks to J. C. Swadley Jr. (later Chief) who was dedicated in preserving the history of the Grand Prairie Fire Department with pictures and articles.
THANK YOU—to everyone that attended our last meeting. A special thanks to Bobby Donaldson for giving an outstanding program. At the meeting, Mr. Donaldson and Mr. Billy Powers were honored with a plaque in front of the Museum. Two great Men that have done so

Thank you to everyone that came out and supported the 10th Annual Life-Line Shelter Freedom Luncheon in June. Another FANATSTIC event with over 400 people attending raising over $90,000. Thank you to everyone that supports this outstanding cause. Please join us next year.

Grand Prairie Historical Organization—Corporate Sponsors

Interested in doing a video interview documenting your Family History in Grand Prairie? The GPHO is doing this as a fund raiser. You would be documenting your family heritage in Grand Prairie for future generations. This video can be an interview style, or just a single person talking about their family history. These videos will be $150 each, with 100% of the proceeds going to the GP Historical Organization. Space and time are very limited.

Let’s Welcome the latest Grand Prairie Historical Organization Lifetime Members: Ann and Dan Chilton
We also welcome Cameron Gray, Attorney at Law as one of our Corporate Sponsors
Congratulations to GPHO’s Own—Mildred Walker, for having her own street in Grand Prairie. Mrs. Walker has been featured in our newsletter several times, and is such a great part of Grand Prairie’s Past and Future.

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Join the conversation and see more pictures at the GPHO Facebook Page
Facebook.com/GPHistorical

And be sure and check out our Web Site
www.GPHistorical.com

Who says there’s no free lunch?
Send us your old pictures of 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 bingham@alliance-services.com
Be sure and call 214-808-1913 and leave a message that you emailed it so it won’t get lost

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