

## GRAFF CHEVROLET GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK Site Medallion No. 52 1405 E. Main Street

In April 1952, Mr. Alvin V. Graff established Graff Chevrolet at 1405 E. Main Street in downtown Grand Prairie. Originally, Graff Chevrolet was a small dealership employing approximately 50 people. Graff Chevrolet has employed quite a few of Grand Prairie's long time and well respected residents such as: Tom Bostick, Ray Lenhieser, Dean White, Pat Young, Joe Henson, Billy Joe Armstrong; Wayne Horton and Buddy Sawyers, who began as a salesman in 1958 and serves as executive manager in 2005.

In 1956, Mr. Graff added a body shop, just south of the service department and original showroom. Mr. Graff served the residents of Grand Prairie and employees of North American Aviation, currently Vought, for many years. In 1981, Mr. Stanley V. Graff became in his father's business and later took over as CEO. Business prospered and expansion required acquisition of property on all four corners on Main and 14<sup>th</sup> streets. Graff Chevrolet was able to incorporate the new facilities and the original showroom while proudly maintaining the dealership's original site, location, showroom and historic value.

Graff Chevrolet exemplifies the ultimate in community support. Mr. Graff's generosity was well known in the community. Many charities, organizations, and individuals have benefited from repeat donations, including the Grand Prairie Police Department and Grand Prairie school district with donations of vehicles throughout the years. Mayor Charles England once stated: "I can't think of anybody who has done more or been more philanthropic for the city than Alvin Graff." Stan has continued in his father's footsteps and maintained the constant community presence in Grand Prairie.