



DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE HISTORY

# On The Vine

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## HONORING THE PAST, CREATING THE FUTURE OF GCISD

Dr. Robin Ryan, Superintendent of the Grapevine Colleyville Independent School District, will be the guest speaker at the August 22 meeting. He will share information about the history of schools and education in the Grapevine area from the time the first school was built by the Masonic Lodge in 1869 to the present award winning school system it is today, as well as innovative changes to come. The groundbreaking LEAD 2021 plan, funded in part by the Education Bond issue approved last May, will see our students well into the future.

Dr. Robin Ryan joined GCISD as Superintendent on June 15, 2010. He has served 30 years in education, all in Texas, including as principal of Colleyville Heritage High School from 2004-2006.

He previously served in Dallas ISD as Chief Academic Officer and Area Superintendent; in Carroll ISD as a high school principal, junior high principal, middle school principal and assistant principal; in Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD as a life science teacher and Student Services Coordinator; in San Angelo ISD as the administrator of one of the first discipline alternative schools in Texas; and as a high school biology teacher in Graham ISD.

Dr. Ryan earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University, Master of Education degree from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, and Doctorate degree from the University of North Texas. He also served 20 years in the Army National Guard and Reserves, retiring as a major in 2004.

Dr. Ryan and his family have lived in Grapevine since 1995. His wife, Dr. Cindy Ryan, is Associate Minister at First United Methodist Church of Grapevine. They have three children: daughter, Daryl, is a graduate of Grapevine High School and Texas A&M and is now a speech-language pathologist for Santa Fe ISD; son, Reed, is a graduate of Grapevine High School and Texas A&M and is a teacher/coach for Prosper ISD; and their youngest son, Graham, is in the 11th grade at Grapevine High School.



## JUST A BIT OF HISTORY

Did you know July 30<sup>th</sup> was a big anniversary? On that day 60 years ago, President Eisenhower signed legislation establishing “In God We Trust” as America’s national motto. It’s been on our currency ever since, as a reminder. When he introduced the original bill in the U. S. House of Representatives, Congressman Charles Edward Bennett of Florida declared, “In these days when imperialistic and materialistic communism seeks to attack and destroy freedom, we should continually look for ways to strengthen the foundations of our freedom.”

As we sought to differentiate ourselves from the Soviet Union, the American people and our leaders looked to God for strength. Now 60 years later, we require that same embrace of faith and a renewal of our respect of our respect for religious liberty, because it’s the cornerstone of our freedom. It is very unfortunate, but we now live in an age where even our national motto has come under attack. You and I know that trust in God makes us stronger, both as individuals and as a nation. But that’s no longer a given.

Many in our society, and particularly in our government, want to whitewash our history and move closer to a secular European model that places its faith in the state rather than God. Think back to just 60 years ago. A nation in danger looked to God for guidance. **We embraced our religious freedom as a unifying strength. That doesn’t have to be our history. It can be our future as well.**

Ben Carson, *MYFAITHVOTES*



Joe Ann's  
Scratch  
Pad

“Teachers who were Loved”  
from the *Grapevine’s Most  
Unforgettable Characters*

**W. F. Cannon**, “A man loved, respected and appreciated by the community.”

**Isla Bickers**, “A Rose in the garden of education.”

**Joyce Dyer**, “55 years of driving a bus around, around and around Grapevine carrying both young and old.”

**Willie Gilbert**, “She followed virtue as her truest guide, lived and died like a Christian.”

**Madeline Hemley**, “She staged musicals yearly to showcase her ‘Stars’ and everyone was a ‘Star’.”

**Edith Pewitt**, A teacher told her “When the kids start calling you ‘Doc’ you’ll know you’ve made it with them.”

**Mary Virginia Simmons**, “Neither color nor creed affected her relation with people.”

**Rev. Ross Smith**, “The lessons we learned about life and compassion and respect for others were his gift to us.”

**Fannie Lou Throop**, “A teacher so accomplished in life WFAA-TV featured her on the ‘Spirit of Texas’ show.”

**Annie B. Waters**, her favorite saying was “No one is gone until they are forgotten.”

**Mattie Mae Wright**, “A teacher and single parent “Put her nose to the grindstone and provided for her family.”

**William Washington, Sr.**, “I’d have to live twice to be the man he was, and I still wouldn’t make it.” said his son.

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## SEPTEMBER Preview

“*Earthly Stories from a Heavenly Place: 150 Years in Grapevine*” will be the program presented by Reverend John Mollet, senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church Grapevine. Come and hear stories of early Grapevine and dreams for the future.

**Put September 26th on your calendar now!**

### From the Museum

The Museum was hopping this month with 1591 visitors. That’s an average of almost 59 visitors per day that it was open. We had foreign visitors from mainland China, Taiwan, Canada, and the Republic of Ireland. We also had a group of 37 from the Richardson ISD.

We have added to the education display case a baton used by Shirley Cannon Holley when she was a majorette (baton twirler) at Grapevine High School in the 1950s. This traditional baton was used by Shirley when she continued her education at Arlington State College and University of Texas Austin. Shirley also taught lessons and students included Sue Powers Franks and Pat Flanagan Johnson among others.

Before the color guard (flag twirlers), which is now popular in high school and college marching bands, the majorettes were an integral and necessary part of any marching band. A drum major, not to be confused with the majorettes, led the band and set the beat for the music. Occasionally the drum major could also be seen tossing his oversized baton in the air, but it was the majorettes who were the experts.

This sport requires a great amount of **flexibility** in order to properly execute baton, dance, and gymnastics elements. Baton twirling is closely related to rhythmic gymnastics. The majorette required specific knowledge of how to manipulate the baton and where to hold the baton. Those pretty girls had to have a great deal of skill.

An interesting fact that is little known is that the length of the baton from tip to tip should be one inch longer than the distance from the arm pit to the tip of the middle finger.



### GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS

TUESDAY– SATURDAY 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
SUNDAY 11:00 am—4:00 pm CLOSED MONDAY

The Grapevine Historical Society normally meets the 4th Monday monthly except May and Decem-