

# PRIME

SECOND QUARTER 2009

PLANO RETIREE INFO MATTERS & EDUCATION



## IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING "PRIME TIMES" NEWSLETTER



In a continued effort of "Going Green," all correspondence, including "Prime Times" will be sent via e-mail and will be available on the city homepage. This is the last month the newsletter will be sent via the mail service.

If you do not have Internet service at your home, your local library provides computers which can access the city homepage. If you'd like to come by Human Resources, we have computers available as well.

About a week after sending out this issue, we will conduct an e-mail "blast." Please check your e-mail and notify Stacey Stagich at (972) 941-7296 if you do not receive the newsletter via e-mail.

## "If you build it they will come..."

We have built it and hope you will come! What did we build? A "Retirement Center" has been added to the City of Plano homepage. Log onto [www.plano.gov](http://www.plano.gov), click on Departments then Retirement Center (located to the right of the screen). We have separated the information by Medicare retirees and non-Medicare retirees. Links will take you to information on benefits, forms, all newsletters and more.



This is a "work in progress." The birthday list, not included in this edition, will soon move to the site. When this occurs, the list will include the entire calendar year and will be updated as employees retire. We hope to add a link to the Plano Senior Recreation Center which would include their calendar and planned activities.

Thanks go out to Stacey Stagich in Human Resources and Melissa Peachey in Plano Television Network for all their hard work in taking the Retirement Center from an idea to reality.

Stay tuned and be sure to visit the Retirement Center site.

# Please keep in touch



Moved? When you notify us we will update your record in the PeopleSoft system and notify Comerica Bank (Issue RSP checks). TMRS requires that you complete their "Change of Address" form and either mail or fax the completed, signed form to TMRS.

Need to change bank for direct deposit? Whether it's the TMRS check or RSP check, you

must complete a new form. Once the form is completed, you can submit it directly to TMRS and/or Comerica Bank. The Retirement Center site provides access to the forms or the link to the TMRS site. Contact us if you do not have Internet access and we will send you the form.

## Stress got the best of you?

Especially in today's times, many are feeling more stressed. So why not kick up your heels and celebrate what sounds like a silly holiday? To help accomplish this, listed below are some unique holidays, ones you've probably never heard of. So, have fun, whoop it up, paint the town red.....

<b>May</b>		<b>June</b>		<b>July</b>	
3	Lumpy Rug Day	1	Flip a Coin Day	1	International Joke Day
5	National Hoagie Day	3	Repeat Day (I said "Repeat Day")	2	I Forgot Day
6	No Diet Day			6	National Fried Chicken Day
8	No Socks Day	5	National Donut Day		
11	Eat What You Want Day	6	National Yo-Yo Day	12	National Pecan Pie Day
13	Frog Jumping Day	9	Donald Duck Day	14	Pandemonium Day
14	Dance Like a Chicken Day	15	Smile Power Day	15	Cow Appreciation Day
17	Pack Rat Day	20	National Hollerin Contest Day	22	Hammock Day
31	National Macaroon Day	29	Waffle Iron Day	27	Take Your Pants for a Walk Day

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## Joan Shopoff Named 2009 Employee of the Year

A member of the City of Plano team since February 1982, Joan has touched thousands of lives and has provided invaluable services for persons of various mental and physical abilities through her development of therapeutic programming.



Plano's therapeutic recreation programs are a direct reflection of the compassion, creativity and hands-on teamwork she exemplifies. Joan has consistently been an example of the professional excellence embodied by the Employee of the Year award. Her tireless efforts for the betterment of our community have made our City's recreation program for persons with special needs second to none in the nation.

Nominated by her peers, Joan was cited as the primary example of what Parks and Recreation dedication is all about. She first began as a part-time employee but her talent for networking, her innovative ideas and her enthusiasm moved her into a full-time position.

Her support of an extensive volunteer team is legendary. She supports and backs her staff in all situations, working long hours in her position as supervisor of therapeutic programs, going beyond her office duties to assist in running therapeutic weekend and evening programs, including leading weekend outings and trips. When working with interns in the field of recreation, she goes above and beyond in planning and makes sure they experience all facets of Parks and Recreation, from check-ins at recreation centers to the inner workings of the pool locations.

Under her leadership, Plano's therapeutic programming has garnered respect from programs throughout the region and nation, growing from two programs to over 35 programs in each session. She continually networks community resources to collaborate on programs allowing more families to be reached and served better. The annual Very Special Arts Festival, which she coordinates and directs, reaches over 2,500 children of all abilities, providing them an outlet for arts, music and self-expression.

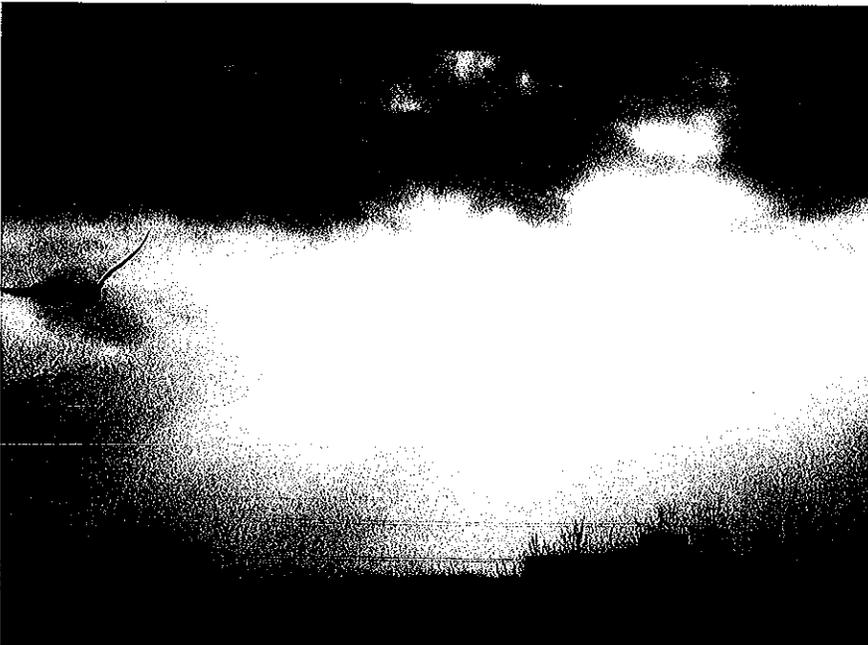
Recently she identified the growing need to provide programs for aging individuals with special needs participating in Plano Senior Recreation Center programming. She has also developed a continuing education program for her special customers so they may continue their educational efforts beyond

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high school in order to keep academic skills sharp. Additionally, she has developed an exceptional day trip program, extending that into a recent four-day trip to Branson, Missouri with over 30 participants. This set the precedence and raised the bar for other organizations that work in the field of therapeutic programming.

"Joan has the ability to create a program that is unique and age and ability appropriate," said Director of Parks and Recreation Amy Fortenberry. "The programming she develops provides not only fun and unique recreational opportunities for the participants, but also provides much needed respite for families and caregivers."

Joan was touted in her nomination as an extraordinary woman who works effortlessly at meeting every challenge that comes her way. She is a respected and well-loved, hands-on supervisor and a familiar face throughout our organization.



### *Gone but not forgotten*

*December 2008*     *Lusinda Jacquez, spouse of retiree Miguel Jacquez, Signals*

*April 2009*         *Ramon Barth, spouse of retiree Patricia Barth, Municipal Drainage*

# HAPPY TRAILS

*Retirement, where everyday is Saturday!*

## NOVEMBER 2008

James Hitt – Parks & Recreation  
Karen Risser – Libraries

## DECEMBER 2008

Martin Childers – Police  
Marcus Dodd – Fire

## JANUARY 2009

June DeAngelis – Libraries  
Stephen Duffy – Fire  
Butch Hartline – Parks & Recreation  
Dell Kaplan – Parks & Recreation  
Tim Love – Public Works  
Terry Thorsen – Police  
Nathan Walker – Parks & Recreation  
Michael Young – Pumping Facilities

## FEBRUARY 2009

Dennis Freeman – Municipal Drainage  
Jose Rodriguez – Environmental Waste  
Travis Tadlock – Facilities Services  
Raymond Tautges – Fleet Services  
Anne Womack – Libraries

## March 2009

Mala Bhattacharya – Libraries  
Jeff Lingo – Parks & Recreation  
William Montgomery – Parks & Recreation

## April 2009

Judie Horton – Police  
Carl Lejeune – Building Inspections  
Joey Page – Risk Management  
James Stroup – Plano Centre  
Jessie Thomas – Libraries  
Don Wendell – Parks & Recreation  
Gary Norris – Pumping Facilities  
Ben Valverde, Sr. – Parks & Recreation  
Jackie Thornhill – Building Inspections