



March 24, 2005

Re: **District 1 Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting (February 10, 2005)
Response to Issues and Comments**

Greetings:

Thank you for your attendance at the District 1 Neighborhood Roundtable meeting held on Thursday, February 10, 2005 at Plano Centre. On behalf of City Council, we applaud your interest and involvement in our community. We value your comments and look forward to working with you in maintaining a strong city and excellent quality of life.

First of all, I'd like to advise that you can review information regarding the bond referendum presentation made at the beginning of our meeting by going to the City's website at <http://www.planotx.org/budget/>. For those of you receiving this letter via hard copy, you will find the bond information attached to this document.

At the meeting, we presented to you several topics to initiate discussion based on feedback we've received from other Roundtable meetings over the past several years. We discovered Traffic and Traffic Safety remain of major concern to our citizens. Property standards of businesses and residences, improvements along creeks, and notification of construction work in neighborhoods were also issues brought to our attention.

The following is a synopsis of the above issues as well as additional information pertinent to the District 1 area:

Traffic Mobility and Safety

Some of the most important issues facing Plano today relate to traffic. Traffic mobility and safety are valid concerns among our citizenry and are priorities with City Council and staff.

Over the past four years, mobility and safety has improved due to close collaboration between departments responsible for the design, operation, maintenance, and enforcement of roads. Safety-related programs are reviewed annually to ensure that the needs of changing demographics and traffic patterns throughout Plano are met.

- **Speeding** - Speeding is a common problem that is of high concern to the Transportation Division. We typically post speed limit signs in clear view as soon as a driver turns from a higher speed road onto a lower speed road, and ensure that all traffic safety signs are easily seen and understood as a driver approaches them. Often these signs become obscured by vegetation as the seasons pass and our street maintenance crews work to restore the visibility to these signs as part of routine maintenance activities. If by chance we have not gotten to a location you are familiar with, please report it by calling the Public Works Department at (972) 964-4101.

Pat Evans
Mayor

Shep Stahel
Mayor Pro tem

Ken Lambert
Deputy Mayor Pro tem

Scott Johnson
Place 2

Phil Dyer
Place 3

Sally Magnuson
Place 4

Steve Stovall
Place 5

Jean Callison
Place 7

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck
City Manager

To help manage overall traffic speeds the Division conducts periodic speed studies along roads to validate the appropriateness of posted speed limits. We also coordinate with the police department on deploying radar speed trailers in residential neighborhoods and along major roads. These trailers show approaching drivers what their speeds are and helps keeps overall traffic speeds down. Another way to help keep neighborhood speeding down is to participate in the Safe Streets Program. This program uses neighborhood participation and specially designed traffic management devices (speed humps, traffic diverters, etc) to help manage neighborhood speeding. If your neighborhood is interested in participating in this program please contact the Safe Streets Program Coordinator by calling (972) 941-7151. If you want to report other speeding problems please contact the Police Department Traffic Enforcement Division by calling (972) 941-2436 or going online at <http://www.planopolice.org/contact/ser.htm>, and completing a citizen service request.

- **School Zone Safety** - The safety of elementary school age children who walk and bike to school is a high priority. Staff works closely with the Plano Independent School District Safety Committee to identify appropriate road crossing locations and to install traffic safety signs. Where additional emphasis on safety is needed staff works closely with the Plano Police Department to request crossing guards or emphasis traffic enforcement during hours of school zone operation.
- **Traffic Signal Operation** - Managing traffic flow on major arterial roads and across city limit boundaries is accomplished via an ongoing program that retimes traffic signals in response to changing traffic volumes/patterns. Using state-of-the-art technology, 198 traffic signals are monitored throughout the City and timing plans are changed when needed to minimize vehicle stops and delay. Last fall, staff began upgrading all traffic signals with new traffic control technology. The new equipment will increase the flow and safety of traffic by reducing even further the number of stops drivers make. Staff has also started using advanced technologies that are better at changing a traffic signal when a car is present. The equipment allows the signal to operate when road maintenance and other construction would cause the signal to fail. Through use of these advanced technologies, traffic monitoring cameras, and coordination with police patrols, quick and effective response to traffic collisions, significant travel-time savings, and improved air quality are attained.
- **On-Street Parking** - On-street parking is typically allowed on Plano streets except where prohibited by posted traffic signs or on roads with two or more traffic lanes that go in one direction. Exceptions to this regulation is allowed after careful evaluation of neighborhood parking needs, traffic flow and safety, and by passage of an ordinance amendment by City Council. There are currently four roads where exceptions are permitted along specific segments; Quincy Lane, Alma Drive, Park Boulevard, and Westwood Drive. These locations are reviewed periodically to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the community while maintaining a high level of traffic safety.
- **Traffic Mobility Improvements** – The evaluation of traffic congestion at intersections and along road segments is performed annually throughout Plano to determine ways to improve traffic flow and safety. Each year the city allocates \$500,000 for the construction of additional left and right-turn lanes, construction of pedestrian ramps, minor sidewalk modifications, and improving traffic lane lines.

During the meeting, there were a couple of problem intersections specifically mentioned:

- **Parker at Avenue K** - The lane markings at Parker @ K are found adequate for all directions. The north direction is different in that it has double-left-turn lanes. From the rightmost (left-turn) lane you are not able to go straight through the intersection. This lane restriction is earmarked by traffic signs in advance and at the intersection,

pavement arrows in each left-turn lane, and by pavement markers that block-out the lane on the far side of the intersection.

- **Los Rios at 14th Street** – Although the following traffic study was conducted for the intersection one block south of 14th (Los Rios and Plano Parkway), the project there is expected to significantly reduce the volume of traffic wanting to make right-turns at both 14th and at Plano Parkway.
 - Study at Los Rios at Plano Parkway - The AM southbound Los Rios traffic at this intersection currently has 95% of its traffic making a right-turn. The traffic signal timing for these right-turning vehicles is at 60% of its capacity, leaving 40% available for the remaining turning movements at the intersection. Our engineers are about to begin construction of a road project that will extend Plano Parkway from Los Rios easterly to 14th Street. Upon completing this project next year we expect the number of drivers using southbound Los Rios at Plano Parkway, and making right-turns, to significantly decrease. The expected result will be a much reduced wait at the signal. At that point we will evaluate converting the existing double right-turn lanes to a through-right lane and a dedicated right-turn lane. If deemed appropriate the southbound direction will then have a left-turn, straight-through, through-right, and a right-turn lane.

If you know of other locations that may benefit from road modifications please report them to the High Accident Location (HAL) program engineer by calling 972-941-7151.

Traffic Enforcement

The highest public safety priority in the City of Plano is traffic safety. The Plano Police Department utilizes a three-pronged approach to addressing this problem: strict enforcement, education and awareness, and partnership with the community.

- **Enforcement** – This aspect of our enforcement effort includes high visibility patrol, which also aims to curtail crime. Last year, the Plano Police Department conducted 61,656 traffic contacts that resulted in some form of enforcement action. From those contacts 26,972 speeding citations were issued (up 11.5% from 2003) and 4,038 red light citations were issued (down 23.8% from 2003). As a result of the Police Department's enforcement actions in 2004, the number of red light collisions within the City of Plano dropped more than 13% from 2003.

The Police Department, in a joint effort with the Cities of Richardson and Frisco, is preparing to implement the use of cameras to monitor and cite red light runners. Implementation and operational costs will be offset through the collection of civil penalties assessed to persons photographed running red lights. The goal of this program is to increase traffic safety by decreasing the rate of injury accidents at intersections. Review of presentations from prospective vendors will follow the RFP process. Initially, four cameras will be utilized to monitor intersections selected through a needs assessment that will include consideration of the rate of injury accidents at particular intersections. The target date for implementation of the cameras is June 2005; however we are monitoring efforts in the legislature to ban the use of the cameras.

Since 2000, the Plano Police Department has participated in a Texas Department of Transportation STEP (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program) grant to increase enforcement efforts. This grant has allowed the Plano Police Department to increase its enforcement of red light violations by utilizing state funds to pay additional officers to work intersections throughout the City. Officers focused their enforcement efforts on the intersections with the highest rates of collisions. In November 2003, the Police Department began a new STEP grant

that allows them to continue to focus on red light violations and will also allow them to increase the enforcement of speed limits throughout the City.

The Police Department also participates in the Texas Department of Transportation's "Click it or Ticket" campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to increase the use of safety belts. The campaign consists of public service announcements and high intensity enforcement during the Memorial Day Thanksgiving holiday periods.

- **Education and Awareness** – The Police Department's Traffic Unit spearheads the efforts to increase the awareness of drivers in the City of Plano. The Traffic Unit conducts numerous seminars and classes regarding traffic safety. Additionally, the unit has developed an educational video titled "In a Blink of an Eye", which addresses the dangers of red light running. During the spring season of every year, the Traffic Unit partners with the high schools to educate students on the dangers of drinking and driving. Recently, two traffic officers became certified as Child Safety Seat Inspectors. These two officers now provide inspection and instruction of child safety seats to citizens. The Police Department also periodically distributes traffic safety information to Plano residents via their utility bills.
- **Community Partnership** – In order to maximize our responsiveness to the traffic safety problems of the City of Plano, we must create an atmosphere of cooperation with our citizens. The Police Department actively seeks input of motorists who travel the streets of Plano through the use of their web site and a telephone reporting system. As mentioned earlier in this letter, motorists can report dangerous drivers and red light runners by calling (972) 941-LITE (5483), or by sending a message to the Police Department utilizing the department's web page at www.planopolice.org. Furthermore, citizens can report dangerous areas and request extra enforcement through the use of a Special Enforcement Request (SER). An SER can be completed by contacting the Traffic Unit at (972) 208-8055, through the web page at www.planopolice.org/contact/ser.htm or by stopping in at the main station at 909 14th Street or the Joint Use Facility at 7501A Independence Parkway.

Crime

The Department continues to maintain a low crime rate. Part 1 (major) offenses occurring in 2004 were down 11.4% compared to 2003. Our success in maintaining a low crime rate is directly tied to the cooperative efforts of our citizens.

- **Property Crime** - From time to time the City may experience unexpected spikes in the number of Burglary of Motor Vehicle offenses and other property crimes. When these spikes occur, the Patrol Division and the Criminal Investigation Division coordinate enforcement and surveillance efforts in an attempt to identify, apprehend, and deter these types of violations. Our Crime Analysis Unit identifies the time, day of the week, and locations most frequently victimized in order for us to deploy our resources more effectively. Strategies such as surveillance, baiting, bicycle patrol, and saturation patrol have proven to be effective. Additionally, we have found a large number of these offenses involve unsecured vehicles and property left in vehicles. Citizens can reduce their risk of being victimized by criminals by locking their vehicles and removing valuables from plain view.

The majority of residential burglaries in the City of Plano are the result of open garage doors. Often these offenses occur during the day while the owner is doing yard work or other chores. Because these are crimes of opportunity, they are easily prevented and deterred. The Police Department has taken efforts to educate citizens as to the risk of leaving property unattended in a vehicle, as well as leaving garage doors unsecured through the use of utility bill inserts. Additionally, officers patrolling alleys routinely contact residents who have left their garage doors open. Citizens interested in learning more about protecting themselves from criminal acts can contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (972) 941-2431 or (972) 208-8045.

- **Nuisance Crime** - Offenses such as barking dogs, loud music, and parties impact neighborhoods and individuals' enjoyment of their homes. The Police Department is committed to ensuring all residents are free from disturbances that interfere with this enjoyment. In order for a police officer to take enforcement action, the officer must witness the offense or obtain information from a witness that observed the violation. The witness to the offense may be required to testify in court. Also, citizens can contact the Municipal Court directly and swear out a complaint against individuals for committing nuisance violations. When reporting a nuisance violation, the Police Department encourages callers to provide the location of the offender as well as their own name, address, and phone number.
- **Crime Watch** – An excellent crime prevention tool available to you is participation in your neighborhood Crime Watch Program. The Crime Prevention Unit of the Police Department is very active with these groups. If you would like to join your neighborhood's program or would like to begin a Crime Watch Program in your area, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (972) 941-2431. A Crime Prevention officer will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have. Further information related to the Police Department can be found on their website at www.planopolice.org.

Infrastructure Construction, Repair and Maintenance

The City has an aggressive construction/rehabilitation/maintenance program to keep roads, brick screening walls and drainage systems operating at their optimum. Staff makes great effort to coordinate these projects (City crews, utilities, and private contractors) to prevent undue delay and congestion to motorists. The inspection team in both the Engineering and Public Works Departments are assigned to ensure that contractors are providing the City of Plano with the highest quality of work delivered and within the City's construction standards.

Public Works has a few construction projects taking place in the District 1 area.

Street repairs along arterial thoroughfares:

- Plano Pkwy – Hwy 75 east to Los Rios Blvd
- Park Blvd – Shiloh Rd to Los Rios Blvd
- K Ave – Plano Pkwy to 10th Street
- San Gabriel – Parker Rd to Woodruff Park
- Shiloh Rd – Park Blvd to 14th Street
- Alma Dr – 15th Street to Hedgecoxe Dr

Residential street and alley slab replacements are currently taking place in the following area:

- The geographical area bordered by Alma on the west, Parker on north, Hwy 75 on the east and Park on the south.
- **Creek Maintenance** – The City works with homeowners on bank erosion problems to identify projects that are eligible for structural controls. Citizens may contact the Engineering Department at 972-941-7152 and request one of the engineers to visit the eroding creek site to perform an evaluation. If the situation pertains to a drainage issue, a citizen may contact the Public Works Department/Draining Division at 972-769-4140 and request an investigation at the creek site. In addition, reports of trash in a creek should also be made to the Public Works Department unless the trashy area is within a city park. Trash in creeks within a city park should be reported to the Parks Department at 972-941-7263.

- **Notification of Construction Work** - At the meeting, remarks were made regarding ample notification being given to citizens prior to work in alleys and on streets. The City's policy is to notify homeowners affected by construction work at least 48-hours in advance of the construction either by mail or by door hanger. When a complete reconstruction of a street or alley is to take place, a neighborhood meeting is held to discuss and answer questions regarding the work to be done. Should you have a question or concern about construction work being done in your neighborhood, please contact the Engineering Department at 972-941-7152.
- **Verizon** - The City has required Verizon to notify all homeowners by door hanger and to place larger signs throughout the neighborhood with telephone numbers advising the residents of the work taking place. The *Verizon Fiber to the Premises Project* is scheduled throughout the City and is should be completed in 18 months.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Odor** - Regarding odors at the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Wastewater Treatment Plant, the City of Plano Public Works Department contacted representatives with the District. The NTMWD insured the City they are committed to minimizing odor at the Rowlett Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant is manned 24 hours per day, 365 days per year; however the number of employees on duty is reduced on weekends. In response to this issue being brought forth at our neighborhood meeting, the plant supervisor will be closely monitoring the plant over the next few weeks to insure that every effort is being made to minimize odor. NTMWD also stated they appreciate and value input from residents regarding odor and encourage citizens to contact them should they suspect odor is coming from the plant. Residents may contact NTMWD 24/7 by calling 972-442-5405.

It is very important citizens contact NTMWD as soon as an odor is detected. When an odor complaint is received, a member of NTMWD's Odor Control Team is dispatched immediately to investigate and ensure that all odor control and treatment process equipment is functioning properly.

Zoning and Development Activity

Please be assured the City of Plano is committed to protecting the rights of neighborhoods, as well as developers, to pursue their interests within the established legal framework of procedures and standards. Historically, the City of Plano has been development-friendly. Non-residential development helps fund City streets, water and sewer facilities, parks, police and fire stations, schools and other public improvements that citizens value as important to a good quality of life. However, development-friendly does not equal lower standards or the waiving of requirements. City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission have adopted very stringent development policies. All projects are subject to the same high standards.

The City of Plano has always sought a balance between the interests of homeowners and the business community. We encourage developers and neighborhoods to openly communicate and seek ways to ensure beneficial and compatible development.

Although state and federal legislation and court precedents define many of the practices in our planning policies and regulations, the Planning Department is committed to keep all citizens informed of potential development projects within the City. For example, notices for zoning cases are mailed 15 days prior to the first hearing instead of the 10 days required by state law, and homeowners associations (those registered with the City) within 1500 feet of zoning cases receive written notice my mail. A complete list of all zoning cases, site plans and plats submitted for review are posted on the Planning Department page of the City's web site at www.planoplanning.org, aired on Plano cable channels A-30 and B-58, and are available in the public libraries.

Although not required by state law, applicants for zoning cases in Plano must place a zoning sign on the property notifying the public of the pending zoning action. The City gives a small sign to the applicant for specific use permit requests. For larger tracts of land, the applicant must contract with a sign company to have a large wooden sign erected on the property. All of the signs give the Planning Department's phone number, (972) 941-7151, so that citizens may call to get more information about the proposed zoning action. Homeowner comments are welcomed and encouraged in the development review process to help us achieve a well-developed community.

- **Land Studies, Preliminary Site Plans and/or Final Site Plans** – For your information, the following properties in the District 1 area have land studies, preliminary site plans and/or final site plans approved:
 - 15th Street Village, Phase 1 – Southwest corner of 15th Street and Avenue G – urban-style townhouse development.
 - 15th Street Village, Phases 2, 3 & 4 – Southeast corner of 15th Street and Avenue G – multi-level, urban-style condominium development with structured parking.
 - Oakpoint Estates – North of Spring Creek Boulevard between Des Moines Drive and Jupiter Road – 52-acre patio home and suburban townhouse development.

- **Vacant and Underused Retail Buildings** – In 2002, the cities of Carrollton, Richardson, and Plano jointly produced a report entitled Retail Study of Underperforming and Vacant Retail Areas.” This study explored a number of issues relating to the retail industry, the local economy, and the opportunities for improving current conditions. Upon completion of the study, each city had the responsibility of identifying and implementing those recommendations that were most applicable to its needs. Plano began by trying to reduce the amount of existing retail tracts of land that remain for future development. The City Council recently passed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that give it the authority to review and approve requests to convert vacant properties from retail to residential uses. Two properties are being converted to residential use and several others are under consideration. The next step is to develop incentives to encourage property owners to reinvest in existing shopping centers and/or demolish and redevelop them for more viable uses.

- **Downtown Residential Development and School Impact** - According to Census 2000, Plano had 949 townhouses with 324 school age children or approximately one student for every three homes. Twenty townhouse units are currently under construction at the southwest corner of 15th Street and G Avenue. Using this ratio, they would yield seven students. Townhouses and apartments in “town center” developments like downtown Plano typically yield fewer school age children than Plano’s existing suburban developments. For example, Addison Circle’s apartment units are yielding one school age child per 87 units. The Addison Circle development is similar in design and concept to Plano’s urban center projects in downtown and Legacy Town Center.

Property Standards

- **Ridgewood Neighborhood** - The City of Plano Staff and Neighborhood Planning team recently completed a neighborhood plan for the Ridgewood Neighborhood. The Ridgewood Neighborhood is bounded by 14th Street on the South, 18th Street on the North, Shiloh Road to the East and the Meadows Addition to the West. The Plan strongly encourages the involvement of the residents and the City of Plano in the maintenance and preservation of residential properties through rehabilitation and code compliance efforts. A Property Standard Specialist has been assigned to proactively and reactively notify and educate the community

on common code violations and related city code regulations to promote voluntary code compliance and neighborhood stabilization. Residents may contact the Property Standards Department at (972) 941-7124 to report property maintenance concerns or to request information about the City of Plano's Property Maintenance Code.

- **Occupants per Residence** - The number of persons living in one residence may be regulated, but the restriction cannot be based on the relationship or health status of the persons at the residence. Regulation of how many people may live at a residence based on familial status is prohibited by federal law. Numerical limits are permissible if they do not make distinctions based on the relationship of the residents. The City of Plano Property Maintenance Code incorporates and enforces minimum habitable space area requirements and occupancy limitations to control overcrowding in single-family and other dwelling units.
- **Maintenance of Businesses** - Commercially zoned properties, including retail, are also regulated by the Property Maintenance Code for structural and premise upkeep. These regulations are minimum standards adopted to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Plano. Recent actions have been taken to have parking areas resurfaced near 14th and Jupiter and 18th and Avenue K. Property maintenance needs in commercial districts will continue to be addressed.

Environmental Health

- **Low Income Health Clinic** – A question was posed during the roundtable meeting regarding the need for a low income health clinic in the area. The City's Environment Health Department contacted Collin County Health officials regarding this request. They do not have plans at this time to provide such a comprehensive clinic. However Collin County currently provides a WIC (Women, Infants and Children) clinic at 920 E. Park. This clinic provides exams for women and immunizations for infants and children. They also provide exams for STD's and Tuberculosis shots. Clinic hours are posted as 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, but they often begin providing TB shots as early as 6 a.m. and stay beyond 6 p.m. depending on case load.
- **Animal Control** – The City's Environmental Health Department governs over animal control issues as well. During our meeting, the topic of unsupervised animals was mentioned. The City of Plano has an ordinance requiring all domesticated felines and canines be restrained in some physical manner as in a fence or on a leash. The reasons for this law are twofold - the safety of the public and the safety of the animal. Animal Services responds to calls for services when an animal is at large or on a complaint basis for habitual offenders. To request a call for service, please call 972-769-4360. It is important to note that Animal Services officers must witness the offense to file citations in court.

Please feel free to contact Environmental Health at (972) 941-7143 should you have questions or comments about any of the above information.

Parks

Activities that relate to our Parks and Recreation Department within or near the District 1 area are outlined below.

- **Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve** - The Parks and Recreation Planning Board and City Council approved an updated master plan for the Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve in December. Proposed improvements include a visitor retreat center, environmental education

facilities, construction of additional lakes, recreational trails, nature trails, equestrian areas, picnic areas, open space, group camping areas, prairie restoration areas and other outdoor recreation facilities. Funding is included in the May 2005 Bond Election. If funding is approved the improvements should be complete by the end of 2007.

- **Oak Point Park Amphitheater** - A 1,000 seat amphitheater has been designed and is under construction near the special events area of Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. Construction is projected for completion in July, 2005. Booking policies and a rate schedule for rental of the facility have been developed, and marketing materials are being produced.

The amphitheater is located on the north side of Spring Creek Parkway, several hundred yards east of Jupiter Road, across the street from Collin County Community College. The facility will include tiered seating areas rising 2/3 of the way up the hillside, with a raised grassy hill for informal "blanket" viewing of performances. There will be permanent restrooms, a permanent stage platform and a permanently installed stage structure with a lighting and sound grid. There will be infrastructure provided for touring performances, and the City of Plano will have sufficient lighting and sound equipment for basic event presentation in the venue.

The design accommodates a concessions area that will be operated by Plano Centre. The facility itself will be operated by the Creative Arts Division of Parks and Recreation.

- **Bob Woodruff Park Lake Restoration** - Restoration of the lake at Bob Woodruff Park is complete. The sediment area at the corner of Park Boulevard and Shiloh Road will be restored this spring. The small sediment pond adjacent to the lake on the north side of Park Boulevard will also be filled in this spring.
- **Cox Building Rehabilitation** - The Cox Building, which is the oldest existing public building in the City of Plano, was opened in 1926 as the Plano Public School. It was re-named a number of years later for the beloved school janitor, "Shorty" Cox. It has been several decades since the building was used as a classroom building. The City of Plano and PISD are working together to rehabilitate the building for a number of purposes. The project has been designed by Good Fulton Farrell Architects. Construction began in January 2005 and is projected for completion by January 2006. The project is funded by revenue from Tax Increment Finance District #2. The construction is being managed by PISD, although City of Plano staff participate in the construction meetings.

The City of Plano will use the first floor of the building to supplement the Courtyard Theater, both by providing a rehearsal hall and by providing much needed storage. The rehearsal hall will be a 2,000 square foot space with a sprung floor and lighting and sound capability. It can also be used for small audience performances, lectures and meetings. It will have a capacity of around 100 - 125 persons. There will also be a classroom on the same floor, outfitted for art instruction with sinks, etc. Both of these spaces will be available for rent.

The same floor will also provide offices for the Creative Arts Division of Parks and Recreation and will also have storage and work space for the Public Art and Municipal Exhibits programs.

PISD will use the upper two floors for support of various school district programs and will have training rooms and other similar facilities.

- **PSA Indoor Athletic Facility at Enfield Park** - The Plano Sports Authority has submitted a proposal to provide financing, design, construction and management of a Multi-purpose Indoor Athletic Facility at Enfield Park at the corner of Seabrook Drive and Stadium Drive. The proposed facility would be similar to the PSA facility at Carpenter Park. Staff is reviewing the proposal at this time.

Responses to specific questions brought forth during the meeting relating to our Parks and Recreation Department are listed below:

- **Too many small, neighborhood parks** – Neighborhood parks are a fundamental element in the City's park system. They are typically within walking or bicycling distance of most residents in the specific neighborhood. In many cases they are adjacent to schools and are an important complement to school playground facilities. Neighborhood parks often serve as a focal point and gathering place for residents, especially children, as they provide needed practice space for soccer, baseball and other activities.
- **In contrast, it was mentioned the City should provide more parks for residents** - Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve is located directly north of Bob Woodruff Park and is the City's largest park at over 800 acres. The park has been undeveloped and unavailable for use up until now but funding is included in the next bond proposal to begin making improvements to the park that will make it available and accessible to the public. Improvements will include recreational trails, nature trails, picnic pavilions, open space, nature preservation areas, overnight camping areas, environmental education opportunities, several small lakes and a visitor/retreat center. As mentioned earlier, an amphitheater is under construction at the park at this time and will be complete this summer. The remaining improvements are dependent on funding from the upcoming bond election scheduled for May of this year.

Public Information

To contact City of Plano staff for further information and/or to generally keep abreast of the activities in our city, below is a list of various access methods that are available to you.

- **Internet** - As stated previously, the City of Plano web site address is www.planotx.org. To reach a particular staff member by phone, you may go directly to www.planotx.org/telecom/directory.pdf. For City staff email addresses, go directly to www.planotx.org/ctystaff.html. The City web site provides valuable information about the services of each department. Functions of the City's site include viewing City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission agendas, submitting code enforcement concerns, and making online water bill payments.
- **Publications** - Municipal information can be found on a daily basis at www.planocitynews.com. This is the City's new initiative to provide more timely information in an electronic format.
- **Cable TV** - Information regarding upcoming City activities and events is broadcasted on Plano's cable channels - A30 and B58.
- **Public Library** - Information on upcoming City Council Meetings, as well as Planning and Zoning cases, is available at all Plano public libraries.
- **Water Bill Inserts** - Another method the City uses to inform citizens of community events, activities, and resources is through water bill inserts. In total, there are 36 different reports, flyers and letters mailed each year with the utility bill.
- **Current Studies** - It was suggested during one of our previous Roundtables that the City provide information on our web site regarding current studies in which we are involved. This excellent suggestion has been implemented. You may find the link entitled *Current On-Going Studies* on the front page of our web site.
- **Email Newsletters** - The City of Plano is currently offering several auto subscriptions to newsletters which interested citizens can subscribe to via email. You may view and subscribe to these newsletters at www.planotx.org/email_lists.html.

Other Topics of Interest

- **Continued Community Outreach** - City Council is continually seeking and implementing new ways to better connect with citizens. Through working with homeowners associations, Council receives valuable input concerning issues specific to each development.

Quarterly Neighborhood Roundtable meetings also serve as a means to focus on a portion of the City at a time, allowing residents and business owners in a targeted area to share their specific interests and concerns. The Neighborhood Roundtable meetings are advertised on the City's web site, in area newspapers, on cable TV, by letter to HOAs and Crime Watch areas, and by individual post card notices sent to each residence in the targeted area. While the meetings are designed to focus on issues involving the targeted district, everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

In addition, a Multicultural Outreach Roundtable has been formed which seeks input and makes recommendations to the City Council on methods, practices, programs, and other means by which the City of Plano can effectively serve the entire community and meet the objectives of local government. The mission of the roundtable is to partner with City Council and the citizens of Plano encouraging understanding and participation in the government process while meeting the needs and desires of its diverse citizens.

A third outreach program that City Council and I recommend is the Plano Citizens Academy. This academy, open to residents of Plano 18 years and older, is a 10 session program that provides an educational and entertaining overview of all city service departments.

For more information on the above Community Outreach programs, please visit www.planotx.org/outreach or call (972) 941-7747.

On behalf of City Council, I would like to again thank you for taking part in the Neighborhood Roundtable session held on February 10th. It is only through feedback such as yours that we can continue to be the All-America City that attracted so many of us here.

Sincerely,



Pat Evans
Mayor



FIRE STATION NO. 11

Funding Source:

2000-01 Capital Improvement Program

Location:

4800 Los Rios Boulevard between Parker Road and Jupiter Road. It will serve far northeast Plano.

Staffing:

Initial staffing for the station will consist of one paramedic engine company staffed with fire fighter EMT's and Paramedics for both fire and medical response in it's assigned district.

Description:

Texas Hill Country Style compatible with future Park buildings. Total square footage is 11,268 which includes 3 bays and dorm and living space for 9 personnel.

Design:

Wiginton Hooker Jeffry Architects. Architect and engineering fees were \$173,286.

Construction:

Songer Construction, Inc. is general contractor. Construction bid \$2,220,000 awarded by City Council on January 10, 2005.

Schedule:

Construction to begin mid-February, 2005. Completion is scheduled for January, 2006. Dedication is estimated for April, 2006.

W A N T E D CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS

for

Keep Plano Beautiful's Annual

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP™



SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2005 (Rain or Shine!)

8:00am – 10:30am cleanups

11:00am – 1:30pm Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Bob Woodruff Park

Entertainment by RADIO DISNEY (with tons of prizes!)

Picnic Foods

Photos with Mascots

"Most-Unusual-Item Found" Contest

Interactive and fun environmental Games/Activities for the whole family

**Join Plano's largest annual community-improvement
and beautification effort – our 20th year!**

Be among thousands who care about our city!

**For more information/to register: go to www.keepplanobeautiful.org;
you may complete the registration form on-line.
Call the KPB office at 972-769-4130 with questions**

When convenient, please thank our sponsors for their support and commitment to this community-wide event: Trinity Waste Services, OTTO Container Management, Dr. Pepper/Seven Up, Inc., Frito-Lay, Inc., The Medical Center of Plano, Ozarka Water, Whole Foods Market, and Wienerschnitzel.