



March 21, 2003

Pat Evans
Mayor

Phil Dyer
Mayor Pro tem

Steve Stovall
Deputy Mayor Pro tem

Shep Stahel
Place 1

Scott Johnson
Place 2

Sally Magnuson
Place 4

John Roach, Jr.
Place 7

Ken Lambert
Place 8

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Thomas H. Muehlenbeck
City Manager

Re: **District 1 Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting (February 13, 2003)
Response to Issues and Comments**

Greetings:

I would like to thank you for your attendance at the District 1 Neighborhood Roundtable meeting held on February 13, 2003 at the Plano Municipal Center. On behalf of City Council, we applaud your interest and involvement in our community. Much was learned from your comments and we look forward to working with you in maintaining a strong City and excellent quality of life. The following is a synopsis of the issues discussed, as well as some additional information on each topic.

City Council Representation

All City Council Members are elected and serve the City of Plano at large. As such, a citizen of Plano may feel free to contact any Council Member regarding an issue or concern.

On the ballot, Places 1 – 4 correspond with Council Geographic Districts 1 – 4 and require residency in that particular district. (See the attached 2003 Roundtable Meetings map for a depiction of Council Districts.) Council Members serving even numbered Places are elected in even years and those serving the odd numbered Places are elected in odd years. The Mayor always serves at Place 6.

Traffic Mobility and Safety

As voiced at the meeting, some of the most important issues facing Plano today relate to traffic.

Traffic Congestion -

Rapid population growth in Plano, although slowing, and surrounding communities has increased traffic congestion. Transportation improvements are being made to balance land development and mobility needs. Additionally, data received from the North Central Texas Council of Governments relative to the growth of boundary cities and their potential impact on Plano traffic volumes is factored into the City model. Traffic flow is being enhanced through new road construction, intersection improvements, and signalization throughout the City.

The City's Transportation Division oversees an ongoing program that retimes traffic signals in response to changing traffic volumes/patterns. Staff works with adjacent cities to foster uninterrupted traffic flow across City limit boundaries. Using state-of-the-art technology, 180 traffic signals are monitored throughout the City and timing plans are changed when needed to minimize vehicle stops and delay. Through use of traffic monitoring cameras and coordination with police patrols, quick and effective response to incidents involving disabled vehicles or traffic collisions is possible. By effectively responding to these variable traffic conditions, significant travel time savings and improved air quality are attained.

Of particular interest at our meeting was congestion at the off ramps of US 75. Transportation staff is currently completing the development of preliminary plans to improve ramp operations. The proposed improvements include pavement striping, safety signing, redesign of roads, and reversal of ramp locations. All of these proposed road modifications will significantly reduce traffic congestion and improve safety along US 75 frontage roads. City staff is currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to include this project in TxDOT's Long Range Planning Process and to secure a portion of project funding.

Congestion was also a topic surrounding the new DART rail station. The City of Plano continues to work with DART staff to foster the use of the SH 190 light rail station south of the Parker location. Traffic enforcement staff has also become more assertive in issuing parking citations in the Parker station area. As ridership normalizes, these efforts, along with other financial incentives, are expected to address the overflow parking situation at the Parker Road Station. For more information regarding the DART system plan, please contact Marcos Fernandez in the City's Engineering Department at (972) 941-7151.

Also in the vicinity of the Parker light rail station was a concern about the turn signals in that area. Recently, the City implemented a temporary signal timing plan at Parker and Avenue K in response to a road construction project. Now that this project has been completed, the timing has been restored at Parker and Avenue K to allow vehicles to once again clear the left turn lane during the left turn phase of the signal.

The issue of on-street parking along East Park Boulevard was brought forth during our meeting. The desire to maintain the on-street parking along Park has been discussed with neighborhood residents in that particular area several times. In each case, the directly impacted residents expressed strong opposition to any proposal that removes the existing on-street parking condition. Many of the impacted homes do not have rear entry access and therefore residents typically park their vehicles on front driveways and on the street. When vehicles are parked on the street, it gives an approaching driver a feeling of congestion and they reduce their speed somewhat. Residents view the reduced vehicle speed as a welcomed traffic safety benefit for all road users. If you have a suggestion to improve the traffic flow and safety along East Park Boulevard, please call the Transportation Division at (972) 941-7151 and submit your idea.

The completion of Shiloh Road was also a topic for discussion at our meeting. Years ago, local citizens and the City of Plano mutually agreed to consider the extension of Shiloh Road (from Royal Oaks Drive to East Parker Road) once certain levels of traffic congestion existed on earmarked roads and intersections. The agreement also has a provision that if those levels are not reached before June 2005, construction will begin and be completed before June 2006. These intersections were chosen to represent when local community traffic congestion had risen to an unacceptable level. At this time, traffic volume and congestion on the earmarked roads and intersections remains relatively low. However, Transportation Division staff will continue to monitor these locations and in the meantime they are open to discuss viable alternatives with the community.

Neighborhood Traffic Safety – To address specific neighborhood traffic safety problems, such as speeding vehicles or school zone safety, the City implemented the Safe Streets Program (SSP). This program is overseen by a Traffic Engineer who works directly with citizens and homeowner associations on traffic problems impacting their neighborhoods. If you would like more information regarding our Safe Streets Safety program, please call (972) 941-7151.

Traffic Speeding/Red Light Running - The Police Department places the highest priority on traffic safety. The Department's traffic mission is to save lives. The best way to accomplish this mission is to reduce and prevent traffic crashes. The City of Plano uses a three-pronged approach to accomplish these objectives:

- Strict enforcement
- Education and awareness
- Community partnership

Deaths caused by traffic crashes in Plano were reduced from twelve in 2001 to ten in 2002. Plano's 2002 traffic fatality rate of .04 per 1000 residents is one of the lowest in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. The Police Department issued 92,221 traffic citations in 2002, a 6% increase compared to 2001. An aggressive traffic enforcement strategy is an important factor in reducing injuries and deaths caused by traffic crashes. The Police Department believes their strict enforcement strategy contributed to the 20% reduction in traffic fatalities during 2002.

Education and awareness are critical to addressing traffic safety issues. The Police Department has implemented a traffic safety hotline (972-941-LITE) that you may call at any time to report flagrant traffic violations. Please provide the license plate number, vehicle make, and date/time of occurrence when you call. The Police Department will forward a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle informing them of the observed violation and requesting they comply with the law in the future. Also, red light citation information signs have been placed at ten high accident intersections and the major thoroughfares leading into our City. A traffic safety pledge program has been implemented to increase awareness of this problem.

The Police Department Traffic Unit is available to give traffic safety presentations to homeowners associations, PTO's and other community groups. Additionally, residents may use the Police Department's Special Enforcement Request (SER) procedure to address speeding and other traffic violations occurring in their neighborhood. Officers are assigned to address SER's as their call load permits. You may call the Police Department Traffic Unit at (972) 208-8055 to request a traffic safety presentation or to initiate an SER.

Red Light Cameras – Texas law currently does not allow municipalities to implement a red light photographic enforcement system that can be practically enforced. City Council passed Resolution No. 2002-8-3(R) on August 12, 2002 acknowledging our support for the Texas Legislature to pass enabling legislation to allow municipalities to implement photographic red light enforcement. The 78th Texas Legislature is currently in session and is considering House Bill 200 and House Bill 901, both entitled Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement System. City Council will consider implementing an ordinance to authorize the use of photographic red light enforcement if either bill passes. Key provisions common to both bills are:

- ◆ Allows municipalities to implement a photographic traffic signal program to enforce red light violations.

- ◆ Photographs of the vehicle's occupants are not required. Red light violations enforced using cameras are considered civil violations. The registered owner of the vehicle is presumed guilty of the violation and will receive the citation in the mail.
- ◆ The person receiving the citation may contest it by requesting an administrative adjudicative hearing. The maximum fine amounts are reduced compared to criminal red light violations.
- ◆ Revenue received from civil penalties imposed by photographic red light enforcement, above the amount needed for operation and maintenance of the system, must be used for traffic safety and education programs (House Bill 200) or forwarded to the State Comptroller for credit to the Texas Mobility Fund (House Bill 901).

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 strives to inform neighborhoods of proposed development and provide the opportunity for neighborhoods to express their desires and concerns to public decision-making bodies. The City of Plano continues to encourage developers and neighborhoods to openly communicate and seek ways to ensure beneficial and compatible development.

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.

In addition, information on new zoning and development requests is placed on the City's Internet home page at www.planotx.org, Plano cable channels A-30 and B-58, and is available in the public libraries. The City also sends written notices 20 days in advance of the public hearing for a zoning case, although state law only requires 10 days advance notice. The City elected to extend this time so that homeowner groups would have more time to learn the details of the case and meet with the property owners to discuss their concerns. The notices are sent to property owners within 200 feet of the affected property, as required by current state law. Notices are also sent to the presidents of homeowner associations that are within 1500 feet of any request for rezoning. The president of the Plano Homeowners Council receives notice of all zoning cases that have been requested.

The following properties have land studies, preliminary site plans, and/or final site plans approved in the District 1 area. Projects that have been approved generally mean development is imminent.

- ◆ **Wal-Mart Super Center** – *Southwest corner of Spring Creek Parkway and US 75* – Expansion of existing retail store.
- ◆ **Jupiter 190 Addition** – *Along the westbound frontage road of SH 190, west of Jupiter Road* – Retail, mini-warehouse/public storage and recreational vehicle storage development.
- ◆ **Salvation Army** – *South side of 14th Street, 600 feet east of Shiloh Road* – Family Life Center.
- ◆ **Amini Addition** – *South of 14th Street, 1,700 feet east of Shiloh Road* – Retail, Office and mini-warehouse development.
- ◆ **Haggard Park** – *North side of 15th Street, west of DART rail* – Improvements to existing municipal park, including realigning walks, lake improvements, new amenities integrated with the Interurban Rail Station, playground equipment, etc.
- ◆ **Timber Brook West PH II** – *Southwest corner of Jupiter Road and Chaparral Road* – Single family patio home development.
- ◆ **Joe's Auto** – *West side of US 75, north of Park Boulevard (former Mountasia site)* – Major automotive repair.
- ◆ **Posados Restaurant** – *West side of US 75, north of Ruisseau Drive* – Restaurant.
- ◆ **Shady Oak Barbecue** – *East side of US 75, north of Parker Road* – Restaurant.
- ◆ **Fry's Electronics** – *Southwest corner of Plano Parkway and Executive Drive* – Retail.
- ◆ **Globe Union Showroom Office** – *West side of Premier Road, north of Parker Road* – Office, showroom, and warehouse development.
- ◆ **Hills of Spring Creek** – *North side of Parker Road, west of Spring Creek Parkway* – Single family residential subdivision.
- ◆ **Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve** – *East side of Spring Creek Parkway, east of Collin County Community College* – Municipal park improvements (details noted in Parks section).
- ◆ **Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church** – *North side of Parker Road, west of Jupiter Road* – Expansion of church facility.
- ◆ **PISD Special Programs School** – *Northwest corner of 18th Street and Avenue M* – Building renovation of former First United Methodist Church for school campus.
- ◆ **Mendenhall Elementary** – *Northeast corner of 18th Street and Avenue M* – School campus expansion.

- ◆ **Peek's Carpet Building** – *Northeast corner of US 75 and 11th Street* – Retail building expansion.
- ◆ **Aparicio's Plano Tortilla Factory** – *Northeast corner of 18th Street and Avenue I* – Reconstruction/renovation of existing restaurant.
- ◆ **Community Credit Union** – *Northeast corner of Plano Parkway and Jupiter Road* – Bank expansion.
- ◆ **Clark High School** – *North side of Spring Creek Parkway east of Alma Road* – School campus expansion.
- ◆ **Williams High School** – *Southeast corner of 18th Street and Avenue P* – School campus expansion.
- ◆ **Plano East Senior High School** – *Northeast corner of Los Rios Boulevard and Merriman Drive* – School campus expansion.

Redevelopment & Revitalization – The City is addressing redevelopment and upkeep of older areas in several ways. For many years, Federal Community Development Block Grant funds have been used to assist qualifying families with housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs in the older neighborhoods. Grant funds are also used to help first-time homebuyers, further strengthening the owner-occupancy rates in these areas. The City has a neighborhood planning program which works with individual neighborhoods to address specific issues that are of concern to the residents, such as code enforcement, inadequate street lighting, crime, and traffic. As the City ages, the continued viability of all neighborhoods is of paramount importance, keeping Plano attractive to new residents and businesses.

Business retention is important to the continued economic growth and tax base of the City. The Plano Economic Development Board has staff dedicated solely to this function. In addition, the City partnered with the cities of Richardson and Carrollton in August of 2002 and jointly completed a study to improve the productivity of under-performing and vacant retail properties in each of the three communities. The report provides a "tool kit" of actions that each city can use to address its individual needs and conditions. This spring, City staff will begin working with the Planning and Zoning Commission to draft an implementation plan for Plano to address these issues.

Apartments – Questions were raised at our meeting regarding limitations on zoning for apartments. The City's Comprehensive Plan guides the decision-making process for growth, development, and redevelopment. It recommends limiting apartments to 500 dwelling units in one location with a distance separation of 1500 feet and placing them on edges of neighborhoods. This general policy statement was adopted in 1999 in accordance with recommendations of the Multi-Family Dwellings Task Force. This recommendation does not include pedestrian oriented, mixed use developments that combine opportunities for residence, work, and shopping. The previous policy, adopted in 1986, limited the number of units to 750 with only 1000 feet of separation. Prior to that, from 1981 through 1985, Plano used a percentage-based policy.

Public Information

Below is a list of various media and access information you may find useful in contacting staff and keeping abreast of activities in our City.

- ◆ **Internet**

As stated previously, the City of Plano's web site address is www.planotx.org. To reach a particular staff member by phone, you may go directly to www.planotx.org/topic.asp. For City staff email addresses, go directly to www.planotx.org/ctystaff.html. The City's 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**

In light of budget considerations, the *Plano City Briefs*, published bi-weekly in the Dallas Morning News and Plano Star Courier, has been discontinued. An online news page, *Plano City News*, will provide comprehensive 24/7 coverage about municipal services, activities and news, via the City's homepage. *Plano City News* will make its debut in late March, 2003.

- ◆ **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.

The City's web site was advertised via water bill inserts in November 2001 and January 2002. Additionally, the City has reserved an insert in 2003 specifically for re-advertising our web site services.

- ◆ **Current Studies**

It was suggested during the August 2002 District 4 Roundtable Meeting that the City provide information concerning the current studies in which we are involved on our web site. This excellent suggestion has been implemented. You may find the link entitled *Current On-Going Studies* on the front page of our web site.

- ◆ **Auto Email Newsletter (Future)**

The City of Plano is currently testing a monthly/quarterly auto newsletter to which interested citizens can subscribe via email. This pilot program is expected to be fine-tuned and in effect by summer 2003.

Code Compliance

Property Standards Specialists proactively inspect the City of Plano within their assigned areas, as well as respond to citizen concerns relating to Zoning Ordinances and City Codes. Most of Property Standards' informational brochures distributed are printed in both English and Spanish to ensure City regulations reach the vast majority of our citizens. The Code and Ordinance related issues Property Standards respond to include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Parking on unimproved surfaces
- ◆ Junked motor vehicles on private property
- ◆ Low tree limbs and branches
- ◆ Trash and debris
- ◆ Numerous residents/overcrowding
- ◆ High grass and weeds
- ◆ Open storage of goods or materials
- ◆ Home occupation regulations
- ◆ Non-permitted garage sales
- ◆ Substandard structures
- ◆ Fence maintenance

When a concern is received by the Property Standards Department, the call is assigned to the appropriate specialist who inspects the property within two (2) business days. After the initial inspection is completed, the complainant will receive a follow-up status report from the specialist if a contact number is provided with the inquiry unless the complainant wishes to remain anonymous.

When most violations are observed, the property owner and/or occupant are notified by mail. A notice of violation letter is issued, noting the violation and the timeframe in which the property owner should come into compliance. For high grass/weeds and trash/debris, only one annual notice is required. In these instances, the property owner may not receive additional notifications prior to immediate abatement of subsequent violations. If a property owner chooses not to comply with the request, the City may contract to have the work completed at the owner's expense and/or a notice to appear before municipal court may be issued.

To provide increased service levels, Property Standards Specialists are assigned to work one Saturday per month. Doing so provides the opportunity for staff to witness activity that may not occur during regular business hours, such as non-permitted garage sales, parking on unimproved surfaces and violations of the City's home occupation regulations. As necessary, Property Standards will also rearrange work schedules to monitor activities occurring outside regular business hours.

Property Standards also works jointly with other City departments including Police, Solid Waste, Planning, and Building Inspections to address trash and structural property upkeep. Property Standards and the Police Department recently met with neighborhood grocery retailers to discuss abandoned grocery carts in the neighborhoods and are in the process of having the retailers commit to a plan to promptly retrieve their carts and institute steps to prevent them from being removed from the stores.

If you have a Code Compliance concern to report, please contact the Property Standards Department at (972) 941-7124, or submit your concern via the Internet at www.buildinginspections.org/property.html.

Customer and Utility Services

To further serve the citizens of Plano more efficiently, the Customer and Utility Services Department has initiated a new online Internet application where customers can request service, inquire on account information such as payment and consumption history, access general information, and pay their utility bill 24/7. This application can be reached by selecting the Customer & Utility Services Department through the City’s main web site at www.planotx.org.

Taxes

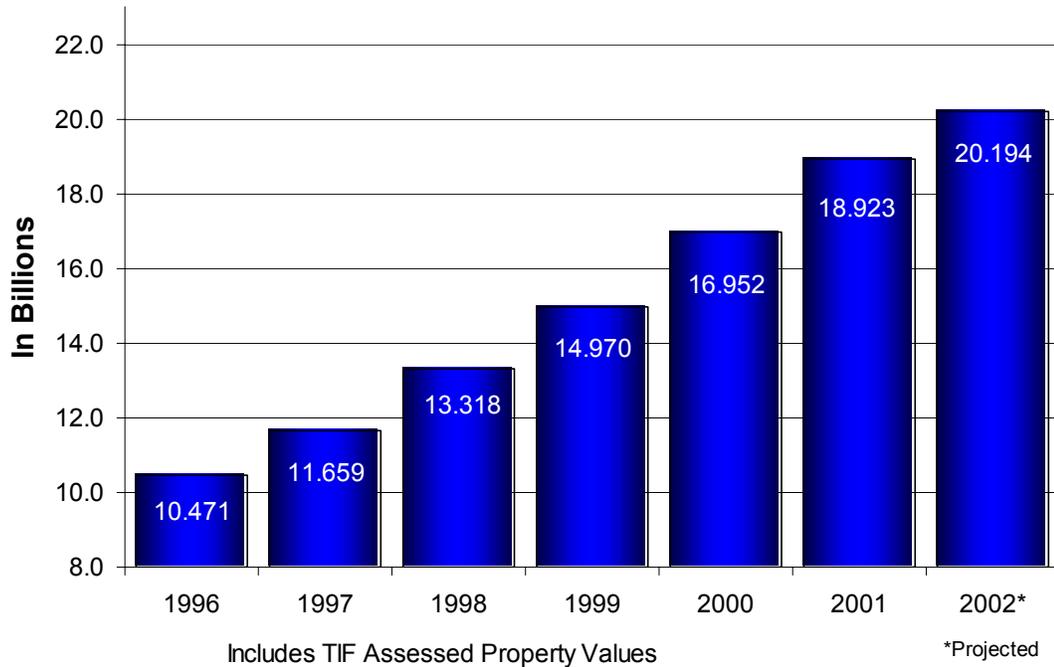
In the past 10 years, the City property tax rate has declined from \$0.5102 to \$0.4535. The property tax is an ad valorem tax, which means it is based on the value of property. As property value increases, the amount of the tax levied may increase as well, even if the rate remains the same or declines. Since for most homeowners their home is one of their most valuable financial assets, increase in property value is desirable even though it may mean a higher tax levy.

The following diagrams relate to taxes and property valuations in the City of Plano.

Taxes and the Average Home

Average Home Value	\$211,900	
	Amount	% of Total
City of Plano Taxes	\$ 769	15.9%
PISD	\$ 3,354	69.2%
Collin County	\$ 530	10.9%
CCCCD	\$ 195	4.0%
Total Taxes Per Year	\$ 4,848	100.0%

Assessed Property Valuations



Appraisal of property is the responsibility of the Central Appraisal District of Collin County and is based on market value. If you feel your appraisal is too high, you may ask to speak with an appraiser at that entity. If you are unable to resolve your issue, you may appeal to the Appraisal Review Board and present data indicating your appraisal does not reflect market value.

Water Conservation

Water conservation is important to our community. I am pleased to state the City has implemented a new comprehensive Water Conservation Education Program that will expand over a five-year period. The education plan will start with two prongs:

- ◆ General education outreach to citizens and schools, including teacher training and a web site, and
- ◆ Irrigation efficiency surveys for City properties and other properties.

In addition, the City and the Homeowner's Council recently joined in an agreement that addresses, among other things, the installation of freeze protection devices and rain gauge devices for HOA sprinkler systems. For more information on this agreement, please contact the Customer and Utility Services Department at (972) 941-7352.

Infrastructure Construction, Repair and Maintenance

The City has an aggressive road construction/rehabilitation/maintenance program to keep roads 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. Many projects are performed during non-commute traffic periods or during the night to minimize their impact on traffic. Problems involving street/alley construction may be reported to the Public Works Department at 972-769-4140.

The following are current or upcoming improvements slated in or around District 1:

Major Thoroughfare Repairs

- ◆ Along 18th Street from US 75 to Shiloh Road.
- ◆ Park Boulevard from Alma Road to Shiloh Road.

Street and Alley Replacement

Reconstruction of streets, alleys, sidewalks, and the installation of barrier free ramps will be done in the neighborhoods bordered by, Park – N, 14th Street – S, Shiloh – E, and US 75 – W.

Sidewalk Repairs

- ◆ East of Jupiter Road, north of Park Boulevard.
- ◆ Area bounded by 18th Street – N, 14th Street – S, Los Rios – E, and Shiloh – W.
- ◆ Along west side of Avenue F in the Douglass Community.

A particular question was brought forth during our meeting as to when street repair could be expected on Middle Cove Drive. According to our Public Construction Coordinator, Middle Cove is slated to be repaired during the 2003-04 fiscal year.

For additional information on the City of Plano's Capital Improvement Program, a new web page has been dedicated and features a status interactive map. This web page offers citizens information on street closures, status of CIP projects, and City contacts for each project. You can find this information directly at www.planogis.org.

Parks

The Plano parks system has over 3,600 acres of park land. Several large sites such as Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve and Archgate Park have yet to be developed. Once these sites are fully developed, the community will have more usable open space.

The following is an update of Park activity for Council District 1:

- ◆ **Haggard Park** – As mentioned previously in this letter, City Council awarded a contract on January 27, 2003 for construction of improvements to Haggard Park. Improvements are planned to accommodate the changing uses around the park. Improvements include

a pedestrian connection to the DART Station Platform, improved sidewalks, pedestrian connection to the new Courtyard Theater, expansion of the park into recently acquired land additions, drainage improvements, expansion of the pond and improvements to better facilitate special events and activities at the park. Work is scheduled to be complete by fall of this year.

- ◆ **Shawnee Park** - Construction began this month on major improvements to Shawnee Park. Improvements include a park entrance from Parker Road, expansion of the pond, additional lighting, additional parking, new playground, trail repairs and landscaping. Work is scheduled to be complete by fall of this year.
- ◆ **Willowcreek Park** - Contracts have been awarded and work will soon begin on additional improvements at Willowcreek Park. Improvements include a new restroom, playground improvements, addition of a sand volleyball court and sidewalk connections.
- ◆ **Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve** - City Council awarded a contract on January 27, 2003 for construction of the first phase of improvements at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. The first phase includes improvements adjacent to Spring Creek Parkway including parking and utility improvements to better facilitate special events at the park.

Land acquisitions needed to complete the park are expected to be complete within the next few months. Design of major improvements to the park is scheduled to begin later this year. Proposed improvements will include recreational trails, equestrian trails, group camping facilities, picnic areas, parking, and associated improvements.

- ◆ **New Neighborhood Park - Timberbrook Estates Area** - Construction of improvements at Timberbrook Park is in progress. Construction is expected to be complete in March but grass establishment cannot begin until the weather warms up in early May. Grass establishment will continue through the summer and fall of 2003.
- ◆ **New Neighborhood Park - Stoney Hollow Park** - Construction of improvements at Stoney Hollow Park will begin in April. The park is located at Oxbow Creek Lane and Coldwater Creek Lane. Improvements will include a picnic shelter, playground, sidewalks, landscaping, sprinkler system, and baseball/soccer practice area for neighborhood children.
- ◆ **Parker Road and Avenue K Intersection Improvements** - Bids opened on January 31st for construction of entry feature improvements at the southeast corner of the intersection of Parker Road and Avenue K. The improvements will be constructed in accordance with the Eastern Plano Streetscape Plan and will be very similar to other entry features in the City.
- ◆ **Williams Recreation Center** - Construction at Williams High School is expected to continue through the summer until school begins on August 11, 2003. As a result, Williams Recreation Center will not resume operation at that location until the construction is complete. Staff plans to move back into Williams High School in early fall.
- ◆ **Williams Natatorium** - Major improvements to the natatorium are in progress at this time and scheduled to be complete by June. Improvements include locker room expansion, classroom/office additions, accessible wheelchair lift, wheelchair ramp, new entry on the northwest corner of the building, stainless steel gutter system, pool plastering, pool deck

improvements, fire sprinkler system, roof repairs, exterior painting, interior painting, and major mechanical improvements.

- ◆ **Street Median Trees** - Tree planting in street medians this spring will include Los Rios Boulevard from Country Club Drive to 14th Street and Cloverhaven Lane (formerly called McKenzie Lane) south of Chaparral Road. Tree replacements and irrigation repairs will also take place on Shiloh Road north of Park Boulevard.

- ◆ **Matching Grant Program** – The Plano Parks Foundation sponsors a program to provide assistance funds for worthwhile neighborhood projects, while assuring ongoing citizen involvement. Matching grants are available for neighborhoods, school organizations, and others interested in additional development of their neighborhood parks and playgrounds. Eligible projects include tree plantings, neighborhood park improvements, and other special projects that match the mission of the Parks Foundation.
 - A minimum of 50% financial participation in the project by the group applying is required. The Foundation may match up to \$3000 per application. Applications are reviewed each year in January and June.
 - Eligible groups include Homeowner Associations, school groups, and civic groups. Over \$60,000 in funds have been distributed by the Plano Parks Foundation since 1983.

Information about additional programs available from the Plano Parks Foundation can be found at the Plano Parks website at www.planoparks.org under the “About Us” drop down tab.

Public Safety

Traffic Violations – I would like to re-emphasize City Council’s initiatives aimed at reducing red light and speeding violations in our City. City Council is dedicated to resolving these important safety concerns by supporting the Police Department with their three prong approach as discussed previously in this letter:

- Strict enforcement
- Education and awareness
- Community partnership

Drug Use in Plano - As with any urban community, Plano does have instances of drug use. Several years ago, Plano experienced an increase in the number of overdoses and deaths, many of which were attributed to the use of Heroin. Aggressive enforcement and prosecution strategies were initiated and many arrests were made. The aggressive approach undertaken not only resulted in the arrest of some of the “key” players in this arena, it also created a reputation for Plano as being tough on drugs. This reputation has continued and has, on more than one occasion, been the reason some narcotic dealers will not peddle their products in Plano/Collin County. This alone, however, is not enough.

The mission of the Plano Police Department Narcotics Unit is to make our community safer by reducing the availability of illegal drugs in our City. City Council supports the following three-prong approach used by the Police Department to combat drugs in our community:

- Aggressive enforcement
- Demand reduction through drug education
- Coordinated prosecution

The Narcotics Unit currently uses several methods to assist in accomplishing their mission. Through both undercover and street level investigations, they target those selling drugs within our City. By way of overdose investigations, they track back to the dealer any instances of illicit drug overdose, and file the appropriate charges when possible. By actively pursuing all leads, they gather intelligence and identify potentially illegal activity.

Coordinated prosecutions have resulted in long-term federal prison terms for major drug dealers. We believe these aggressive activities are paying off, and the Police Department plans to continue these successful practices.

The Police Department believes drug education through the Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) Program is also a key component to combating drug use in our community. The Police Department recently reassigned the 5th grade DARE officers back to regular patrol duties due to budgetary constraints. However, the Police Department and Plano Independent School District remain committed to the DARE Program and believe it is beneficial in reducing student drug use. As such, Plano Police Department School Liaison Officers (SLOs), currently assigned to each middle school, will be receiving DARE training this summer. Middle school SLOs will begin teaching DARE to 5th graders beginning with the 2003-2004 school year as part of their middle school duties. Police Officers assigned to the high schools and senior high schools will also continue to assist with drug education.

Crime Statistics Online – Previous attempts to place up to date crime statistics online has been a challenge for the Police Department because of the amount of data entry required. The Police Department will have a new records management system and other technology enhancements in place in April 2003. These enhancements will make it less labor intensive for crime stats to be formatted for export to the website. The Police Department expects to have an easy to use, searchable database available on their website this fall.

Use of Mobile Phones When Driving, etc. – At present, there is no law that prohibits the use of mobile phones while driving. House Bill 281, currently being considered by the 78th Texas Legislature, relates to the use of mobile phones while driving. If passed, the bill would make it a misdemeanor, punishable by \$100 fine, to talk on a mobile phone while operating a motor vehicle, unless the vehicle is stopped or the phone is operated without the use of either hand. There are no state laws or city ordinances that prohibit the use of mobile phones in restaurants or theaters. The managers or owners of private businesses may restrict the use of mobile phones in their establishments as they deem necessary.

Neighborhood Police Officers – The purpose of the Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) Unit is to provide designated neighborhoods with the services of police officers that concentrate their efforts in accordance with the general philosophy of community-oriented and problem-oriented policing. The specific selection of a neighborhood for assignment of an NPO is based on a variety of factors such as crime trends, calls for service data, visual blight, and renovation/revitalizations needs. NPO's are assigned to a neighborhood on a semi-permanent basis and strive to become familiar with the

community and its residents. They provide citizens with a central source of assistance for both law enforcement and non-law enforcement type problems. Attached is a map of the current NPO assignments.

Although it is not possible to assign an NPO to every neighborhood in the City, every neighborhood does have a regularly assigned beat officer for each of the three patrol shifts. Residents can call the Police Department's non-emergency number at (972) 424-5678 and request a beat officer respond to discuss problems in their neighborhood at any time. Additionally, beat officers can attend homeowner association meetings, if scheduled in advance, to address residents' concerns. To invite a beat officer to attend a neighborhood meeting, please call the Police Department's non-emergency number and request Patrol Administration during business hours or the Watch Commander after hours.

Crime Watch – Another crime prevention tool available to you is participation in your neighborhood Crime Watch. 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.

Coyotes in the Neighborhoods – We have much evidence regarding coyotes in the area of Ranch Estates and San Gabriel, and also around the large parks. The City has employed a professional trapper to survey, capture and remove these coyotes. Reports of sightings have assisted the trapper in the capture of several coyotes. If you wish to report a sighting, please contact the Animal Services Division at (972) 964-4360.

New Fire Station – The City is currently negotiating a contract with an architect for the construction of a new fire station northeast of Jupiter and Parker, in conjunction with Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. Construction at the site is expected to begin in early 2004.

Emergency Preparedness – The City of Plano has a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which is updated at least annually. We have recently developed an additional document to specifically address contingency planning/activities in the event that Plano should experience an act of terrorism. Attached to this letter is a copy of the City of Plano's Homeland Security Advisory System. This information can also be found as a link to the front page of the City's website at www.planotx.org. The City of Plano's capabilities to deal with terrorism today are as good as any other city in America and better than most. At this time, we have no indication there is any threat to the City or our residents and will continue to monitor new information as it becomes available.

Your City Council places public safety as a high priority and continues to allocate resources to this area during budgetary considerations to ensure we maintain a safe, secure environment for our community.

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

Continued Community Outreach - City Council is continually seeking and implementing new ways to better connect with citizens. The Neighborhood Roundtable meetings 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 website, on cable TV, by letter to Homeowner Associations and Crime Watch areas, and by individual post card notices sent to each residence in the targeted area. For your information, a map and listing of the remaining Neighborhood Roundtable meetings for 2003 is attached. While the

March 21, 2003

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meetings are designed to focus on issues involving the targeted district, all citizens are welcome to attend and participate.

As a result of a suggestion made at our District 2 meeting held in November 2002, you may now view past City Council Neighborhood Roundtable response letters at <http://www.planotx.org/mainagendas/councilrtr.html>.

Multi-Cultural Outreach – To facilitate communication between the City of Plano and its diverse community, City Council has approved the formation of a Multi-Cultural Roundtable Outreach program. This program is currently in the planning stages and proposed goals of this effort include:

- ◆ Determining the needs and desires of our diverse community that can be met by local government;
- ◆ Improving understanding of the local government process and increasing participation by persons from our diverse community;
- ◆ Enabling persons from these diverse cultures to be active participants in our community and government process;
- ◆ Recommending to City Council adaptation or addition of City programs and services that will promote community inclusiveness.

On behalf of City Council, I would like to again thank you for taking part in the Neighborhood Roundtable session on February 13th. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Evans
Mayor

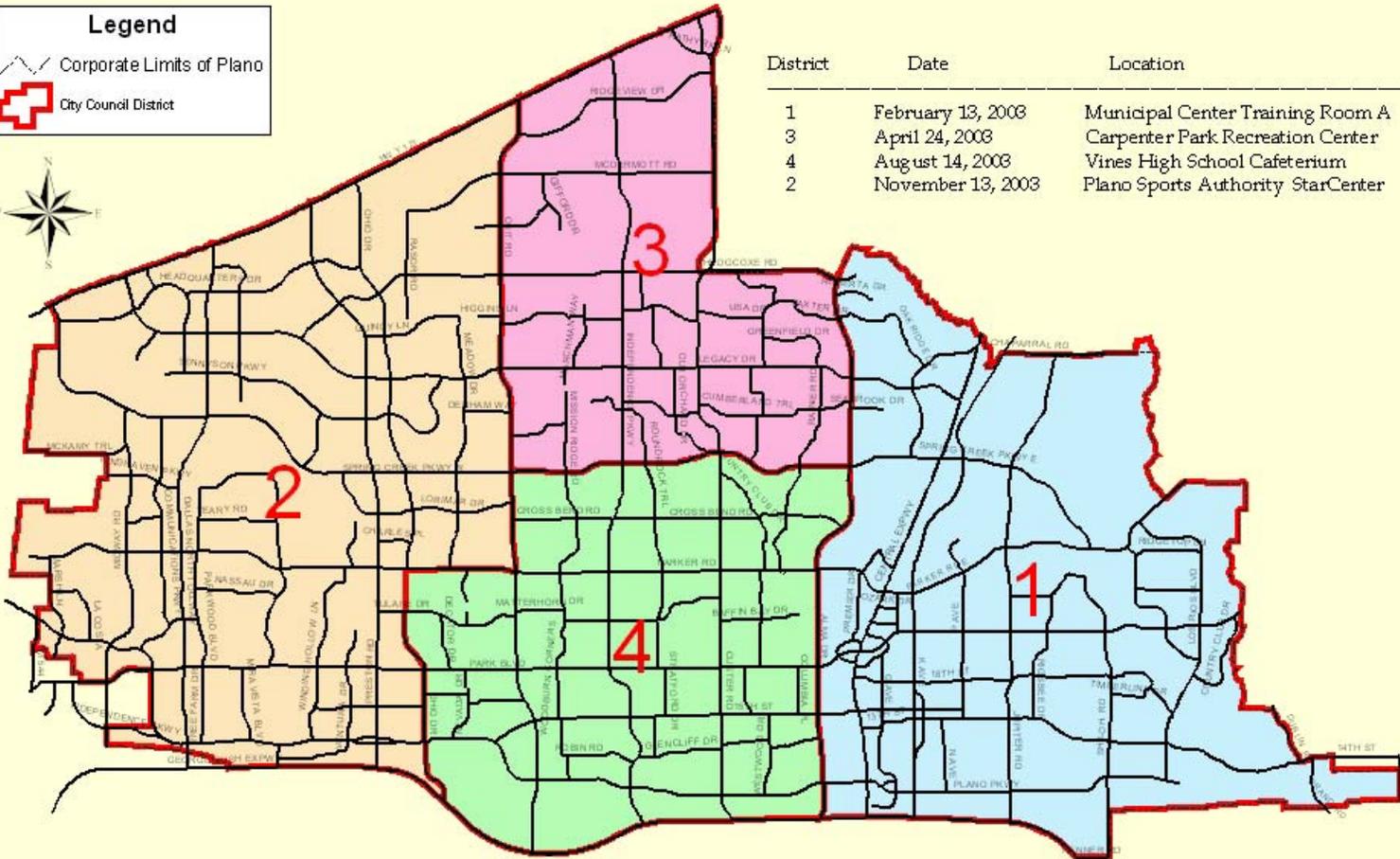
Attachments: Council District/Roundtable Map
Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) Map
City of Plano Homeland Security Advisory System
Great American Clean-Up Information

2003 Plano City Council Neighborhood Roundtable Meetings

Legend

 Corporate Limits of Plano

 City Council District

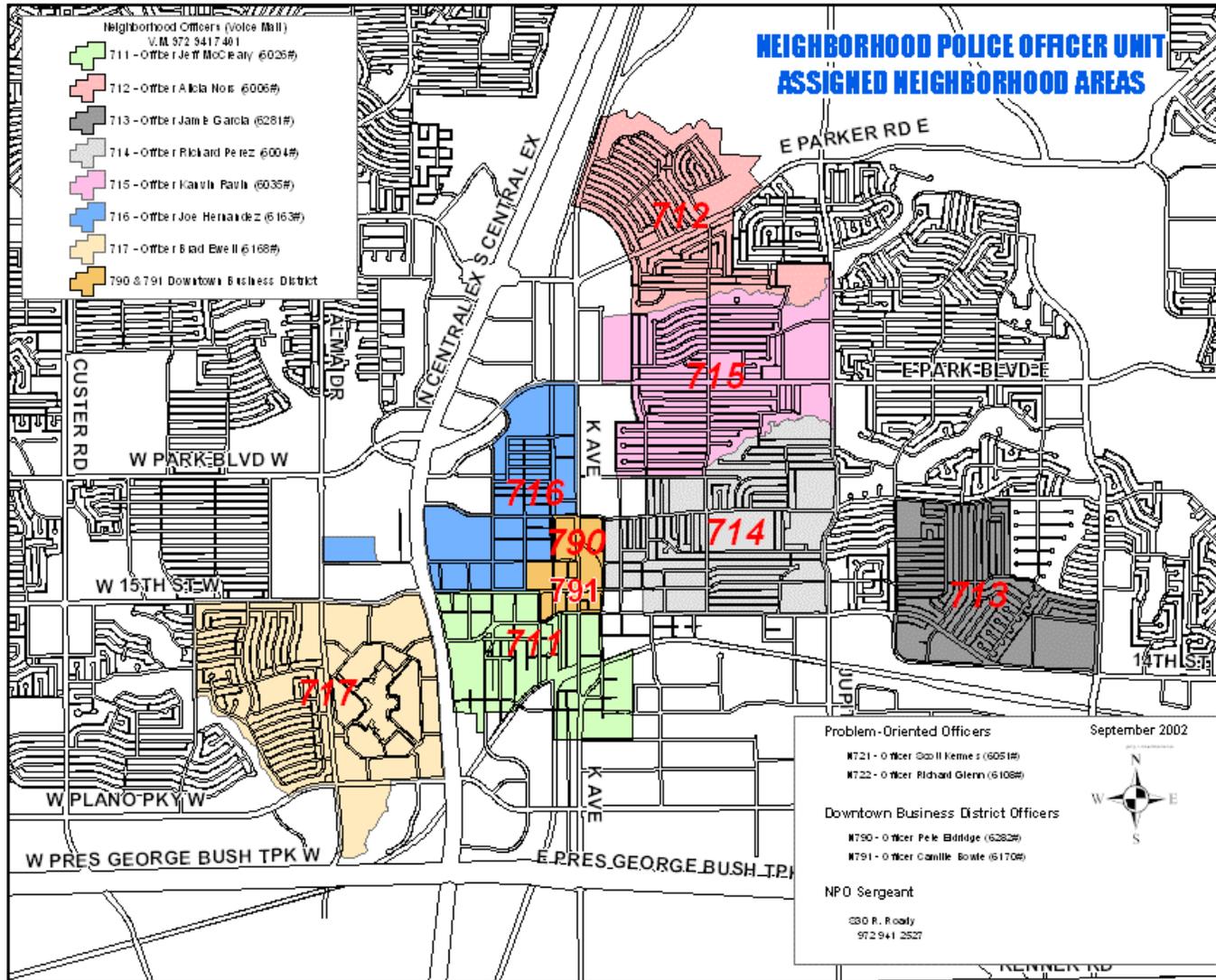


District	Date	Location
1	February 13, 2003	Municipal Center Training Room A
3	April 24, 2003	Carpenter Park Recreation Center
4	August 14, 2003	Vines High School Cafeterium
2	November 13, 2003	Plano Sports Authority StarCenter

Disclaimer: "This map and information contained in it were developed exclusively for use by the City of Plano. Any use or reliance on this map by anyone else is at that party's own risk and without liability to the City of Plano, its officials or employees for any discrepancies, errors, or variations which may exist."
GARREG L/ Projects/roundtable@aol



October 2002



City of Plano
Homeland Security Advisory System
For Individuals and Families

LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Develop a Family Disaster Plan and Disaster Supply Kit using the information in this guide-Examine volunteer opportunities within the City of Plano-Take a First Aid / CPR / AED class
GUARDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Be alert to suspicious activity and report it-Develop a communications plan with your family, friends and neighbors-Review stored disaster supplies and replace outdated items
ELEVATED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Complete tasks from lower levels-Update telephone numbers and email addresses in your personal communications plan-Continue to be alert to suspicious activity-Develop alternate routes to/from work/school
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Exercise caution and awareness when traveling-Review personal disaster plan-Have shelter-in-place materials available-Tune into radio and/or television news reports and be aware of the latest information
SEVERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Continue to listen to the latest news updates-Contact employer to determine status of work day-Adhere to travel restrictions, if any-Be prepared to shelter-in-place-Provide volunteer services only as requested

For more information about Homeland Security and what you can do to help, visit the following websites:

Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/>

Citizens Corps: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

Texas Homeland Security: <http://www.demwmd.net/>

Institute for Homeland Security: <http://www.homelandsecurity.org/>

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

What: Keep Plano Beautiful's annual citywide cleanup in partnership with the "THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP".

When: Saturday, April 5, 2003.

Where: Cleanups take place all over Plano. Concentrated group efforts focus on parks, creeks and roadways around the city. Bags will be provided to each volunteer to help collect the unwanted litter around the city.

Time: The cleanup will be from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

What Else: A picnic celebration and Earth Fest featuring a performance by Eddie Coker will follow the cleanup from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Who Can Participate: You Can! Everyone is invited to participate in the cleanup. Individuals, families, clubs, neighborhood associations and schools are encouraged to join in keeping Plano beautiful.

For more information, call Keep Plano Beautiful at 972-769-4130, or send an email to ritak@plano.gov