

Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

November - December 2006

Family Holidays

The holidays are a time of joy and celebration to gather with family and friends, get caught up on each other's lives, share laughs and reminisce. Doing things together, such as tree decorating, card writing, making cookies and shopping can become family traditions. Historic Downtown Plano is a wonderful place to make memories.

Join in the season's cheer at the annual **Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano**, on Friday, December 1 from 6 to 10 p.m.

The spirit of the season comes alive while you listen to the carolers, drink hot wassail, do some shopping, and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. A host of local talent will perform

on two stages, with a bevy of tasty holiday treats, from fresh stirred kettle corn and funnel cakes to smoked turkey legs and cotton candy! There will also be a Living Nativity Scene at First Christian Church. The official **Tree Lighting** will take place at 7

p.m. in Haggard Park. During the festival, take your family on a shuttle ride to Heritage Farmstead Museum's annual "**Lantern Light**" celebration, where you can enjoy family fun with children's crafts and activities, hayrides and candlelight house tours. Museum members receive a discount off admission to the Farmstead.

On Saturday, December 2, the **34th Annual Plano Christmas Parade** will begin at 9 a.m., with holiday floats and local high school bands, cheerleaders, City mascots, YMCA Indian Guides and Princesses, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and more. Bring the family and arrive early for a good spot for this year's gala trek - check www.planotxchristmasparade.com for the route.

See the calendar in this newsletter to find more holiday events, including plays, concerts and art exhibits to attend with your family. Visit

the First Baptist Church's Living Christmas Tree on December 9 and 10, with two performances daily at 4 and 7 p.m. For more than 15 years, the church choir has performed on a lit structure shaped like a holiday tree. The event is free, but tickets are required and may be picked up at the church.

Holiday shopping in Historic Downtown Plano is relaxing and enjoyable, away from frantic department stores. Unique items are available in every shop, and merchants are personable. Enjoy a snack, dessert or meal at any of the 16 eateries in Historic Downtown Plano.

The Southfork Hotel has lovely accommodations for your out of town visitors, with many rooms recently refurbished. **Super 8 Motel** is another option if your home is bursting at the seams with guests.



Homes for the Holidays

The holiday spirit lives year-long in the hearts of those at Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County (HfHSCC). HfHSCC began in 1997 as a chapter of Dallas Habitat for Humanity under the name of Plano Area Habitat for Humanity. From 1997 to 2002, the chapter built nine homes and refurbished many others in the Douglass Community. The pace has increased and HfHSCC has built a total of 25 homes in the Douglass area since 1997, sponsored by various organizations, churches and individuals. The group will soon be honored for this achievement by its parent international organization, based in Georgia.

This year, the first Faith Build home, dedicated in June, was a partnership between several area churches. Women Build began in April and was dedicated on Mother's Day. The Cisco Summer Build began in June and was completed in September. HfHSCC began building four houses this fall. While two were completed last month, construction on a special pair will continue through April 2007. HfHSCC 2006 Extreme Build for Youth has mobilized area young people from different schools, churches, youth organizations, faiths, age groups, races and backgrounds to build these two homes side by side on F Avenue.

Christ United Methodist Church also provides homes for Douglass Community families. Each year over 1,000 volunteers help to build a house on a corner of the church's Plano property. The house is relocated to the Douglass Community. Having built three homes thus far, Director of Communications Brian Jones envisions this "House on the Corner" program as a long-term commitment to the community.



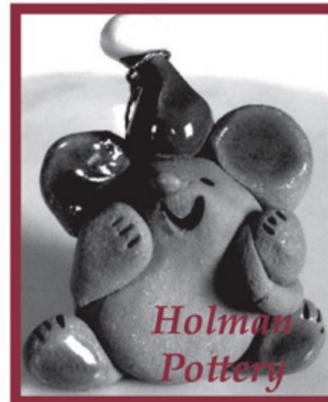
Happenings

November/December 2006

- 11/1-19 "Haute Arte" Exhibit, 972-423-7809
ArtCentre of Plano
- 11/1-3 "Cabaret", the musical, www.rctheatre.com
Repertory Company Theatre, Cox Playhouse
- 11/2-12/10 "Every Trick in the Book"
www.classicalactingcompany.com
Classical Acting Company, ArtCentre Theatre
- 11/3 "Amelia Earhart: First Lady of Flight"
www.classicsplano.org
The Classics, Courtyard Theater
- 11/4 Arbor Day Celebration, 972-941-7250
Plano Parks and Recreation, Preston Meadow Park
- 11/4 Dance Recital, 214-227-1843
Jiaping Shi Dance School, Courtyard Theater
- 11/4-19 "Goldilocks & the Three Bears"
www.roverdramawerks.com
Rover Dramawerks, Cox Playhouse
- 11/5 Kadri Gopalnath - Saxophone, www.ifaadfw.org
Indian Fine Arts Academy, Courtyard Theater
- 11/10 Christmas Kids' Pizza Party, 972-423-4554
Art-A-Rama Plano
- 11/10-12 "Neath the Wreath Holiday Gift Show," 972-769-1142
Junior League of Plano, Plano Centre
- 11/10 "The Ant & the Grasshopper," www.classicsplano.org
The Classics, Courtyard Theater
- 11/16-19 Story Book Childrens' Theatre, www.dancedepot.net
Courtyard Theater
- 11/17 Adult Ceramic Night, 972-423-4554
Art-A-Rama Plano
- 11/18 "Haute Arte: The Gala," 972-423-7809
ArtCentre of Plano
- 11/18 New Artist Reception at Fine Arts Events
972-955-4848
- 11/18-19 Christmas Crafts Fair, 972-941-5250
Plano Parks and Recreation, Plano Centre
- 11/25-12/31 "Cowboys & Indians: an Exhibit," 972-423-7809
ArtCentre of Plano
- 11/25-26 "The Night Before Christmas, www.planoband.com
Plano Community Band, Haggard Park
- 12/1 "Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano," 972-941-5250
City of Plano, Downtown
- 12/1-2 Holiday Concert, www.menofnote.org
Men of Note Chorus, Courtyard Theater
- 12/2 Plano Christmas Parade, 972-424-4714
- 12/3-17 "Madeline's Christmas"
www.planochildrenstheatre.com
Plano Children's Theatre, Courtyard Theater
- 12/9-10 Living Christmas Tree at First Baptist Church
972-424-8551
- 12/20-22 Toys for Tots Show, 214-287-7816
Plano Dance Theatre, Courtyard Theater
- 12/26-29 Theatre Camp, www.roverdramawerks.com
Rover Dramawerks, Courtyard Theater

Holiday Shopping in

Local merchants can help you spruce up your home for the season. Visit **Sutton Place** for reproductions, unique Indian painted furniture made from doors, and a wide selection of larger pieces. Antique furniture is available at **Cobwebs Antique Mall, Nanny Granny's Antiques** and **Simple Country Pleasures**. In addition to vintage items, Cobwebs' 14 vendors also offer gift certificates. Inside Simple Country Pleasures, you'll also find primitives, quilts, berry garland, hand-carved birch bowls and the ever popular Willow Tree angels. At Nanny Granny's you can purchase vintage signed jewelry, including cameos. The shop will have its monthly parking lot sale Thanksgiving weekend.



Many of the shops downtown offer home décor, including **Ambiance Décor, Holman Pottery** and **Accoutré**. "Little Guys" are the latest trend at Holman Pottery. These adorable handmade characters are 1 to 2 inches tall and no two are alike. At under \$10, they are a perfect gift for kids to give and collect. The shop also has handblown ornaments, melting snowmen, nativity scenes and limited edition, signed and numbered Santa collectibles. In addition to unique holiday gifts, **Natural Elegance** offers plants, fresh poinsettias, wreaths and custom arrangements to liven up your home this season.

Ambiance Décor has a new line of Pompeii wall plaques, available in a variety of sizes and themes. The shop also carries world-renowned Murano jewelry. Each handblown glass bead of this Italian line is unique.



Accoutré is a new shop in the area, nestled within Natural Elegance. There you will find many one-of-a-kind handmade items, such as throws, nightlights, yard art, clothing and gorgeous beaded handbags.



Historic Downtown Plano's many galleries boast artwork of all styles for home décor or as a gift. From contemporary to western, fine art to framed prints, sculpture to oils and pottery, along with custom designs, the galleries have it all. Visit the **14th Street Gallery, the ArtCentre of Plano, Eastside Art Gallery, Holman Pottery, Michael Holter Design Studio, Fine Art Events** and the **Carol Rupp Gallery**.

Nooks 'N Krannies has a wonderful selection of toys, dolls, books and puzzles for the child in all of us, along with holiday décor and art. This year, the store is themed with penguins of all sorts.

Ornaments, nativity scenes and other unique holiday items can be found at all of the Historic Downtown Plano stores. **Nature's Finest Art** is the place for unique Santas, up to 5 feet tall! The latest products are contemporary custom-blown glass vases, artfully filled by owner Susan Steblein with river stones, sea pods, silk orchids, lilies and amaryllis. Her "Winter Wonderland" reception will be the first week of November.

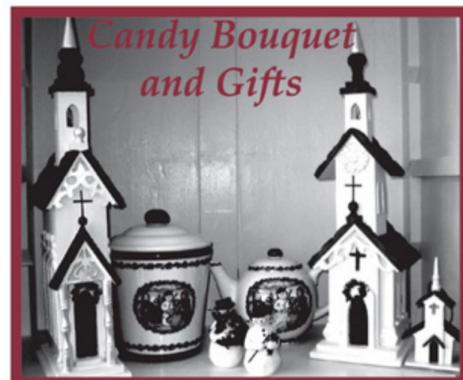
If you are looking for clothing and accessories, **Zoei's Closet** offers a little bling for the teens in your life, with their Treska line of jewelry. In this two-level shop, you'll find a selection of designer clothing and accessories for teens as well as a floor dedicated to women's apparel.



n the Village

New Addition offers a great selection of clothing for kids, while **Jewels & Jeans** caters to teens and young women, with designer jeans, tops, jewelry and custom-made handbags.

Save time at **Candy Bouquet and Gifts** - pick up some fudge from their more than 25 flavors (including holiday pumpkin), get a custom candy bouquet and buy your Burton & Burton Ho! Ho! collectible from this year's line, entitled "Tis the Season".



your own cookies, sample others' and watch a demonstration of Scandinavian cookies in the making.

Georgia's Farmer's Market has fresh produce for your family's holiday entertaining, as well as gift baskets. The latest basket addition is the Dr. Pepper cake mix. For the cigar aficionado on your list, visit **Two Brothers Cigars** for a wide selection of cigars and gifts. The family photographer will enjoy photo supplies from **Film Depot**, while **Lone Star Mint** is sure to have the perfect gift for your family coin collector.

Visit **Plano Cycling and Fitness** on 18th Street for your bicycle needs. Awarded "#1 Family Bike Shop in the Nation" by *Bicycle Retailer and Industry News*, the store carries a wide selection of bikes and accessories for all riders. **Custom Scooters** has the latest models of Razor and Currie electric motorcross bicycles, and the new Trail Ripper from Go-Ped.

Break up your shopping trip with a stop at **Body Grafix Massage Therapy** or **Always at Peace Day Spa** for a massage. Visit one of the many salons in downtown for a facial, manicure, pedicure or a holiday hairstyle. You can choose from **Anthony's Barber Shop**, **Baxter's Salon**, **Creative Collections Hair Design Studio**, **Dora's Salon**, **Latinos Unisex**, **Mane Design**, **Penny's Salon**, **Phancy's Hair Salon**, **Plano Barbers**, **Plano Nailery**, **Sisters Two Salon**, **Today Tan and Nails**, **Hair'em and Nail'em** and **Williams Family Barber Shop**. All offer gift certificates.

If you are hosting a holiday event, visit with Ida at **Creative Imprints** for invitations or holiday cards. The store also carries Royal Copenhagen and Bing & Grondahl limited edition holiday plates. Stop by **Queens of Hearts** for turkey costumes, and outfits for Santa and his elves, along with a wonderful selection of magic sets – a perfect gift for all ages. **Dallas Vintage** has a variety of costumes for holiday events, from the Victorian to contemporary, with the era-appropriate accessories. Most of the restaurants also offer catering for your event. Be sure to order your holiday supply of tamales from **Aparicio's Restaurant** before December 20 for Christmas. Available hot, cold or frozen, they are offered in 10 flavors and have become a tradition in many local homes.

The Wooden Spoon carries Scandinavian home décor and food products. The deadline for ordering a Christmas ham is November 30. Their annual cookie party will be Saturday, December 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. Bring a tray of

Village People



Mary Jo Montgomery has been at Nooks 'N Krannies/ Victoria's Dollhouse for 18 years. Following her years as a stay-at-home mom, she and teacher Diane Alvis joined the 12 vendors occupying separate booths which formed the original Nooks'N Krannies. With Diane's knowledge of books and Mary Jo's love for dolls, their venture was successful from the start. After two years, Diane moved to Houston; and Mary Jo was on her own. As other vendors left one by one, she took over their vacant spaces. Going from 300 square feet to 4,000 square feet of sales space, she ultimately reached her current position as owner. She has owned the building for six years.

Nooks 'N Krannies carries the largest selection of dolls in the area, with one of the only two Lee Middleton nurseries in the state. Her items are always top of the line, such as Madame Alexander dolls, Dept. 56, Byers Choice Carolers, Vera Bradley handbags and limited edition prints by P. Buckley Moss. Her inventory changes daily, and her unique selection keeps customers coming back.

Her business philosophy is simple. She treats those with whom she works respectfully, and they have become her friends. In choosing products, she relies on her own common sense. If she would not buy a product for her own family, she does not sell it in the store. Her husband, Mike, is quite a handyman and has done most of the construction work in the store, such as fabricating displays and creating the nursery.

Mary Jo was born in Paxton, Illinois, while her father was stationed at Chanute Air Force base in Rantoul. When he retired, they moved to El Paso where she met her husband of 40 years, Mike. The couple has three adult children. Sean and Mackenzie both live in the area, and daughter Samantha, lives in Los Angeles. She and Mike have two grandchildren.

Mary Jo loves her work and thoroughly enjoys being part of Historic Downtown Plano. She and her co-workers are looking forward to the area's continued progress.

City Scene

16th Street in the area of Avenue G is being modified to define parallel parking spaces along the south side of the new condominium development. The curb on 18th Street is also being rebuilt and will have two 11-foot wide opposing lanes. The purpose of these changes is to reduce the speed of traffic and increase safety for pedestrians.

Christmas Tree Recycling – you may drop off live trees at Carpenter Park, Enfield Park or Heritage Yards at Plano between December 26 and January 10. Remove the tree stand, lights and ornaments prior to drop off. All trees will be sent to the *Texas Pure* composting site to be used in future products.

Jon Hubach has joined the City of Plano as the Downtown Planner. Jon will serve as staff liaison for the downtown area and all related activities. Prior to joining Plano, Jon worked for the City of College Station serving as Economic Development Specialist. Jon was born and raised in Missouri, living in St. Louis prior to his move to College Station. He earned his Masters in Public Administration from University of Missouri-St. Louis and his Bachelor of Science from Southwest Missouri State University (Now Missouri State). He is also a member of Texas Economic Development Council, Texas City Management Association and International Economic Development Council. His background includes work on the redevelopment and revitalization of urban centers as well as work on increasing economic and development growth. Outside of work, he enjoys sports, traveling, movies, music and exploring Texas. Jon now resides with his girlfriend, Sarah, in Plano.



Street Talk

The Classical Acting Company is now resident tenant of The ArtCentre Theatre and is excited to add to Plano's rich artistic tradition. Emily Gray and Matthew Gray are co-artistic directors, Jennifer Owen is technical director and Traci Kaplan is resident stage manager. Classical Acting Company brings the greatest stories of all time alive on stage. To secure art's place in our community for the future, the company includes student artists as well as student audiences.

Accoutré opened in September. Shop owner Sherri Chapman makes the gorgeous throws in the shop, and can customize one to match your décor. Shop items are one-of-a-kind and most are handmade. The metal yard art is unique and contemporary. Her mother, Delores Lindsey, helps out in the store and makes wine bags.

Mascom Properties, LLC, of Germantown, Tennessee, has purchased the 9,100 square foot building at 1003 15th Street. They intend to renovate fully the building and obtain individual Heritage Landmark designation, with anticipated completion in spring 2007. The company's telemarketing firm, **Modern Marketing**, currently in Garland, will use the upper level for offices, and the street level will be leased as retail space. An outdoor courtyard is planned for the back of the building.

The Southfork Hotel is undergoing exciting updates. Fifty guestrooms will see new carpet. Fresh upholstery and paint will brighten its onsite restaurant, Remington's. The hotel hopes to continue further renovations next year.

Go-Gorditas La Paloma is now open on Avenue K, offering authentic Mexican gorditas with no additives. Fresh-squeezed orange juice and vitamin C packed tamarind water are made in the restaurant. There is music on the patio for entertainment, and catering is available. The restaurant is a joint venture between Bernadette and Pablo Dealba, and La Paloma.

Kelly's Eastside will be expanding into the vacant space next door. Renovations will be complete in early 2007. The additional 1,000 square feet will increase its patio space and 15th Street visibility.

Carlos Concha and his wife, Maliss, have opened a second restaurant in Plano, **Los Potrillos**, on the south side of 15th Street, toward U.S. 75. The food is authentic Mexican and the restaurant is open 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily. Catering is available. Their first location is El Pescador on Avenue K near Parker Road.

The Douglass Community

The Youth Fishing Derby in September was a huge success with 125 kids, thanks to Dallas Bass Hookers who co-sponsored the day by stocking the lake at Shawnee Park and providing fishing gear.

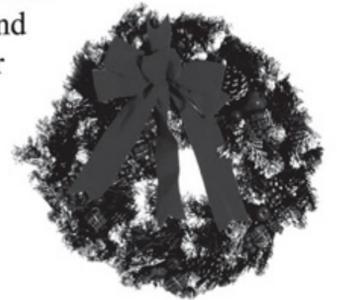
The Douglass Community Center's holiday traditions have served the community for years.

DCC Girl Talk organization will have its 5th annual Lock-In on November 3 to 4, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. The cost is \$20 per person.

The annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 16 at 6:30 p.m. Catered by Sweet Georgia Brown, this meal is free and open to all residents. It is co-sponsored by Douglass Community Center and local agencies who utilize the facility.

On December 9, the local office of The Links, Inc. will be hosting the Christmas Caravan at Douglass Community Center. This newer tradition began four years ago and provides gifts to kids and adults, then takes them to deliver a special Christmas to others.

On December 20, the traditions continue with the annual Christmas Luncheon for senior citizens in the area and those from the MLK Center in Denton at 11:30 a.m. At 6:30 p.m. the center will host the annual potluck community dinner.



VILLAGE NEWS

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The City of Plano provides the Village News to members of our community to keep citizens informed about the activities in the heart of Historic Downtown Plano.

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