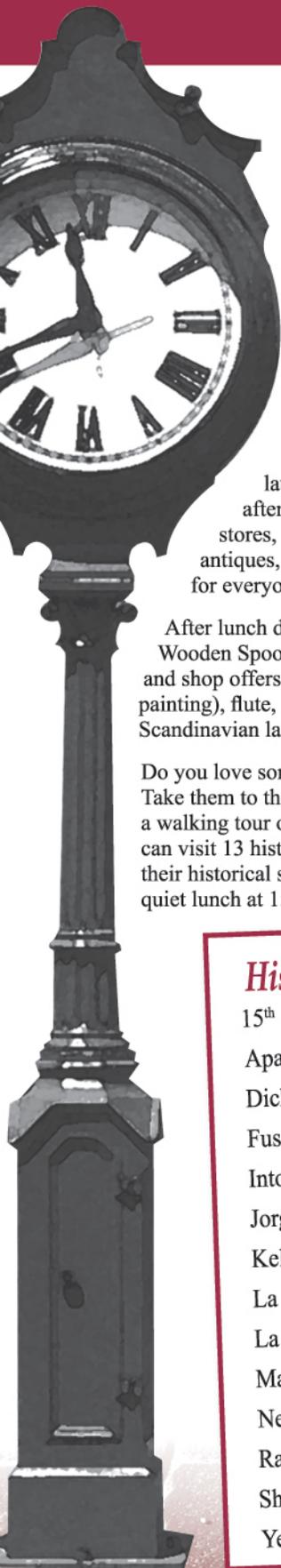


# Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

July - August 2007

## Make It a Date in Downtown



Make your next date in Historic Downtown Plano ... with your spouse, friends and anyone else whose company you enjoy. There is plenty of excitement and fun in the downtown area. Enjoy a romantic night out, see a show, take in the latest art exhibit, learn a craft, hear live music, play a game or two, and get some gift shopping done, all within walking distance.

Have a scrumptious lunch with a friend at Into My Garden Tea Room or the latest tea room, NeeNee's, then pass the afternoon shopping at the diverse selection of stores, including clothing, home décor, jewelry, antiques, furniture and a wide range of unique gifts for everyone.

After lunch downtown, learn something new at The Wooden Spoon. This Scandinavian cultural center and shop offers classes in rosemaling (Norwegian painting), flute, Scandinavian history, handiwork and Scandinavian languages.

Do you love someone with an interest in Plano's history? Take them to the Interurban Railway Museum and pick up a walking tour of downtown map. In a 2½-mile stroll, you can visit 13 historic structures, with markers explaining their historical significance. Follow your stroll with a quiet lunch at 15th Street Café & Bakery.

### Historic Downtown Plano Restaurants

15 <sup>th</sup> Street Café & Bakery .....	972-424-4700
Aparicio's .....	972-423-6980
Dickey's Barbecue Pit.....	972-423-9960
Fusion Café .....	469-241-9099
Into My Garden Tearoom.....	972-509-0292
Jorg's Café Vienna .....	972-509-5966
Kelly's Eastside.....	972-424-9200
La Paloma Bakery .....	972-422-4860
La Paloma Restaurant .....	972-578-2267
Massimiliano's Italian Restaurant.....	214-556-3419
NeeNee's Tea Room.....	469-441-4679
Rainbow Donuts.....	972-881-3619
Sheik's Restaurant.....	972-578-1500
Ye Ole Butcher Shop.....	972-423-1848

### Historic Downtown Plano Art Galleries

ArtCentre of Plano .....	972-423-4554
Eastside Gallery .....	972-424-7073
14 <sup>th</sup> Street Gallery .....	972-633-3822
Holman Pottery .....	972-424-9982
Legacy Portrait Painters.....	214-442-8850
Michael D. Holter Studio.....	972-312-1808
Stephanie Ward Gallery .....	469-229-0024

On the second Saturday of each month, you and your loved one should head downtown for Downtown@Sundown. This new monthly event begins at 5 p.m. and includes music, art, food and vendors. Many of the shops and art galleries will have extended hours on these days.

How about a group date? Set up a pottery event for a hands-on experience. Choose an item in bisque form at Art-A-Rama Plano and make it your own with a wide array of glazes. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverages ... pick up a pizza or two at Massimiliano's Restaurant. Learn to make wheel-thrown pottery at a workshop at Holman Pottery, and enjoy complimentary wine and pretzels. Across the street on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Aparicio's offers wonderful Mexican food. Reservations are required for both pottery venues.

Summer evenings are always a good time to grab your partner (or family) and a blanket for a picnic in Haggard Park. Purchase your dinner to go from Ye Olde Butcher Shop across the street from the park. On June 4 and 18, July 3, 16 and 18 enjoy music by the Plano Community Band. Performances begin at 7 p.m.

The Stephanie Ward Gallery offers another musical venue for you and your date. With live performances on the third Friday of each month, this new gallery combines music with an artist exhibit, hot food and good wine ... a relaxing night out for you and your date. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door.

Visit Always at Peace Day Spa for a couples massage, and then stroll through the historic Haggard Park neighborhood to Jorg's Café Vienna. According to owners Jorg and Cathy Fercher, their restaurant has been the scene of many first dates. This is a romantic spot with expert service, and has been the prelude to many engagements and anniversaries.

*continued*

# Happenings

July - August 2007

7/1-30	Vertu, a juried exhibition by Collage Courtyard Theater	972-941-7740
7/1-8/31	Jeff Green: The Art of the Book ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
7/3	"Star Spangled Spectacular" Free Concert Plano Community Band, Haggard Park, 7 p.m.	www.planoband.com
7/1 - 8/3	Jumpstart for Art - Arts Camp for Kids ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
7/4	Fourth of July Fireworks Oak Point Special Events area, 9:30 p.m.	www.planoparks.com
7/12	Tom Russell & Eliza Gilkyson in Concert Texas Music Sundown Concert Series, by Plano Parks and Recreation, The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 7:30 p.m.	www.planostages.com
7/12-13	Dance Recital Commedia Ballet Theatre, Courtyard Theater	972-306-7782
7/16	"Celebrating Air and Space" Free Concert Plano Community Band, Haggard Park, 7 p.m.	www.planoband.com
7/27-8/12	"High School Musical" by Teatro delle Muse, ArtCentre Theater	www.teatrodelleuse.us 972-424-6873
7/20	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
7/20	Jazz Night Stephanie Ward Gallery	469-229-0024
7/27	The Faces of Children Exhibition Stephanie Ward Gallery, 6-8 p.m.	469-229-0024
7/30	"Big Band Blowout!" Featuring Stockton Helbing, former drummer for Maynard Ferguson Band. Free Concert, Plano Community Band, 7 p.m.	www.planoband.com
8/2-12	The Sweetest Swing In Baseball The Cox's Building Playhouse	469-223-6409
8/9-11	"The Music Man", by Plano Community Theatre, Courtyard Theater	www.planochildrenstheatre.com
8/9	Jimmy Lafave and Gary P. Nunn in concert Texas Music Sundown Concert Series, by Plano Parks and Recreation, The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 7:30 p.m.	www.planostages.com
8/11	Downtown@Sundown Historic Downtown Plano & J Place, 5-10 p.m.	972-941-5260
8/17-19	Disney's "101 Dalmatians" & "Alice in Wonderland" Storybook Children's Theatre, Courtyard Theater	972-516-1653
8/23-26	"Thoroughly Modern Millie" Plano Youth Theatre, Courtyard Theater	www.planochildrenstheatre.com
8/23-9/15	"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" by Rover Dramawerks, Courtyard Theater	www.roverdramawerks.com
8/24	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
8/24	Jazz Night Stephanie Ward Gallery	469-229-0024

Historic Downtown Plano Association meetings  
are the first Tuesday of each month at  
Into My Garden Tea Room at 6 p.m..  
(enter through back)

## Make It a Date Downtown

continued from cover

There is a wide variety of theater performances at the Cox Building Playhouse, the Courtyard Theater and ArtCentre Plano. Just check the calendar in this newsletter. Pick a performance and find a restaurant in the area to suit the mood ... Historic Downtown Plano offers fun family restaurants as well as elegant adult dining experiences.

After a casual dinner, stop at Agent Gaming for some 'virtual' fun with computer and role playing games. Open until 3 a.m., they offer a special discount for students with good grades.

Before or after church service, visit 15<sup>th</sup> Street Café for a fabulous brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays. Have dinner at any of the great Historic Downtown Plano restaurants before your Bible study class, singles' ministry, choir practice or other church event.

A favorite after-dinner spot is Two Brothers Cigars. With regular live entertainment, a large humidor and high quality cigars, this setting is the perfect place to visit with friends and catch up on their lives.

Get your friends together for a night out at Kelly's Eastside. This casual restaurant has six big-screen televisions with live entertainment on the weekends.

Whatever your interests, Historic Downtown Plano has something for you, so make it a date downtown.

## Shopping

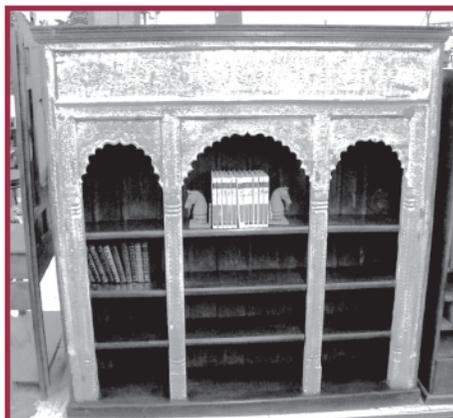


**Aai Trophies** offers a wide assortment of trophies and plaques for your summer baseball league. From participation trophies to first place awards, there is something in every price range. The latest in corporate awards, engraved glass, is also available in the shop in every shape and size imaginable.

**Ambiance Décor** has expanded its line of Murano mouth-blown glass giftware. This world-renowned glass is hand made in Venice, Italy using centuries old techniques. In addition to the breathtaking jewelry in the shop, they now also sell, vases, candleholders and perfume decanters. Stop by for a look at these magnificent pieces.



**Sutton Place's** latest trend features India's recycled old building elements. These century old hand-carved wooden sections are now one of a kind antiques. There are several pieces in the store, including bookcases, sideboards and armoires. This piece measures 6 feet by 6 feet.



## Village People

Jason Fehrm, Theater Technician, is the man behind the scenes at the Courtyard Theater, Cox Building Playhouse and the Amphitheater at Oak Point. This 21-year-old technician was born in Dallas and moved to Lake Dallas shortly after. He began his career there on the school's theater crew, where he found his passion in the technical aspects of theater. He quickly became the go-to guy for theater performances. After graduation he applied for a position at the Courtyard Theater. Michelle Burdeaux, Event Coordinator, and Russell Reed, Venue Supervisor, recognized Jason's passion and potential, hired him and trained him for this full-time position.

Supervising a crew of five, Jason meets with those renting the performance venues to confirm their needs. Then he gets his crew into action, climbing the catwalks, hanging speakers and getting the lighting in order. He supervises everything technical for every performance at each of the three locations. He attends nearly every performance to troubleshoot. Jim Wear, City Creative Arts Manager, describes Jason as being a reliable, hard-working self-starter with a unique sense of humor. An entertainer himself, Jason plays the guitar. Jason loves his job and feels blessed to have had Michelle and Russell in his corner from the beginning.

Another of Jason's blessings is his fiancée Sarah Wachlin. The couple met at Lake Dallas High School and has been dating for six years. Their wedding will be in August at the Courtyard Theater, with the ceremony on the stage and the reception in the art gallery lobby.



## Historic Downtown Plano Association

Members of the HDPA have been organizing several activities, including their first Networking Event held in May when Julie Glover, Downtown Denton Main Street Director, presented Downtown 101, an overview of how business owners can improve their image and marketing. We also took a group to Bishop Arts District as part of our Downtown Tours. These tours spotlight other emerging downtown areas.

As part of our revitalization efforts, many of our merchants will offer extended shopping hours. The group is also developing monthly events called Downtown@Sunset, every second Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Follow the music to J Place for entertainment, food and vendors. The first ones will be July 14 and August 11. For more information, call 972-941-5260 or e-mail [jonhu@plano.gov](mailto:jonhu@plano.gov).

Our Web site, [www.visitdowntownplano.com](http://www.visitdowntownplano.com), is currently under construction. Watch for the official kickoff.

Building occupancy is at an all time high. The historic buildings on 15th Street are fully occupied with the old Blue Goose and 1004 E. 15th St. under renovation, opening set for winter 2007. The Fillmore Pub is also well underway.

Jon Hubach, Downtown Planner and "Village News" Publisher



## Historic Views

The Blue Room is part of the Douglass Community's history. Opened during World War II, the building had been a grocery store owned by V.L. Reed. It then became a café owned by Milford Moody, with a barber shop in one room. Henderson Hesback was the barber. Arthur Williams remembers that Lil Williams turned the location into a restaurant or café, holding no more than 40 people. Serving sandwiches and soft drinks, it provided a place for black members of the community to socialize. The barber's room then became a dance area and later a pool room.

On weekend nights, the jukebox would play into the wee hours, and good time was had by all. According to a local resident, on occasion "white folks would stop by and put money in the juke box to watch the dancing." About 20 years later, Ms. Williams passed away and the Blue Room was then owned by Jack Major. At this point, it became more of a snack spot except for the weekends when barbecue was also served. Saturday and Sunday afternoons, it served as a place for families to get candy, moon cookies and pickles from Mr. Jack, with a separate room for men to play pool. At night it was still the place to be for dancing the night away. It lasted another 12 to 15 years at that spot before closing.

Eastell Horace remembers the one and only live performance at the location. In the late 1950s, someone in the community was a friend of Z.Z. Hill's (from Frisco) and talked him into playing there to the largest crowd the building ever held – 75.

The Blue Room did have a reputation since patrons were permitted to bring in alcoholic beverages. Robert Harrington, mayor of Plano from 1964 to 1968, commented that he knew of no disturbances requiring the police. In fact, it may have helped to stop problems by providing a place for the younger population to spend time.

In existence for over 35 years, the Blue Room is an important part of Plano's history and is featured on the art wall at I Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street.



## Douglass Community

The Douglass Community Center will have its annual summer trip to Six Flags on Thursday, July 19. For details, contact Terrence Wright at 972-941-7174. Terrence can also tell you about the next Male Summit to be held on Friday, August 31 at Collin County Community College.

DCC Girl Talk group will host its Annual Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 20 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. DCC Girl Talk group continues to meet during the summer. This group began in the summer of 2001. Girls in the community, ages 9 to 16, meet twice monthly for guest speakers, educational sessions, field trips, lock ins and philanthropy. They perform a vital service to the community, hosting events for seniors and kids, while forming a bond with their peers. For more information about this ever growing group, please call the Douglass Community Center at 972-941-7174.

This year's Back to School Drive will be held on Saturday, August 18. With school supplies for those in need, activities and booths, this event is fun and educational. Watch for information about the time of the event.

# Street Talk

**Hubcap Homer's** on G Avenue is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year in business. The shop was located in Dallas until 1996 when it moved to its current location. The store offers a unique collection of hubcaps, including those for antique vehicles as well as current model luxury vehicles.

**My Favorite Room** has opened between Plano Barber Shop and Accoutre on 15th Street. Operated by owner Kathy McCabe, the store offers home décor and furnishings of the highest quality. Kathy brings 14 years of experience in interior decorating and has decorators April Miller, Christie Berry and Lindsey Horton working with her to offer both one of a kind retail items and design services. Kathy feels the charm and vintage of the area is right in line with the style and look she prefers for her customers.



## THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS

Arthur Williams, Eastell Horace  
Robert Harrington, Alex Schell.



## VILLAGE NEWS

PUBLISHER  
Jon Hubach

EDITOR  
Pat Dodge

EDITORIAL BOARD  
Pam Hatcher  
Debbie Holman  
Mary Jo Montgomery  
Dolly Thomas  
Jim Wear

City of Plano  
P.O. Box 860358  
75086-0358  
972 941-7250  
email: jonhu@plano.gov

**Agent Gaming**, operated by Axel LaForest and Chad Davis, has opened in Nikki's old spot. Open from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m., the entertainment and gaming center invites everyone to visit and satisfy their curiosity. Bring your grade report for special discounts.

Sharon Lloyd, president of Blackland Prairie Festival, has purchased the Simple Country Pleasures spot and has opened **Teacup Antiques**. Customers are invited to bring their teacups for a cup of tea and if she likes your teacup she will offer you a trade. **Natural Elegance**, the flower shop owned by Ann Brashears, has also moved into the space. Sharon invites you to check out her great treasures.

Nina Ricks, owner of Cobwebs Antiques, invites you to meet Denise Brady, proprietor of **NeeNee's Tea Room** located inside the shop. This new lunch spot opened in June and offers quality tea room fare. A children's menu is included and dress up accessories add a little whimsy to lunch with your little one. Open Monday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., everything is homemade and groups of 30 or less are welcome for private events.

Check out the new items at **Nanny Granny's**, including turn of the century signed costume jewelry. Norma Buck has six new dealers in her space and continues with Historic Plano Trade Days. Watch for signs for the next one.

Area art camps continue throughout the summer. At **Art-A-Rama Plano**, camps are each week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. all five days. **JumpStart for Arts**, held at the ArtCentre, is a free summer arts camp for children ages 8 to 15 funded by the City of Plano. Designed for children of economically disadvantaged families, the program offers instruction and enrichment in dance, music, drama and visual art. **Stephanie Ward Gallery** has three more weeks of camps available, July 9 to 13, July 23 to 27 and August 6 to 10.

The Schell family will be honored with the opening of **Schell Elementary School** this fall, just north of Renner Road in east Plano.

**Sheik's Restaurant** is now open on Avenue K just north of 14<sup>th</sup> Street inside Eastside Village. Open Monday through Saturday, the menu includes shish kabob, shrimp or chicken gallaya, tabbouli, houmous, baba ghanouge and other Middle Eastern dishes. Several American dishes are also on the menu.

**Jorg's Café Vienna** will add a day to its schedule for the months of September and October. It will be open on Tuesday as well during these months in the celebration of Oktoberfest.

The art of **Carol Rupp** is now on display and for sale at **Accoutre**. Stop by for a visit.

*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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City of Plano  
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