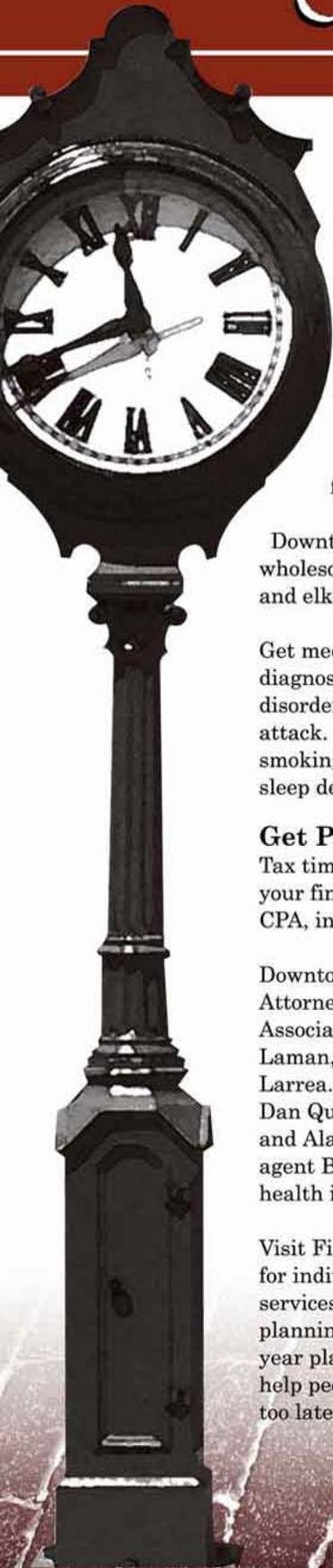


# Village News

*Views from the Heart of Historic Plano*



## **New Year's Resolutions**

Happy New Year! It's 2005 and time to turn over a new leaf. This year, look no further than Downtown Plano to help you make and stick to those New Year's resolutions.

### **Focus On Health**

One goal is shaping up with an improved lifestyle. Bike, walk the dog or jog along the trails in Haggard Park—one loop around the pond equals one sixth of a mile. Or join one of the City's recreation centers for only \$49 a year.

Downtown has resources for a healthier diet. Buy wholesome lean pork, beef, poultry and even buffalo and elk meat at Ye Ole Butcher Shop.

Get medical check ups. LungStar Diagnostics diagnoses pulmonary lung diseases and sleep disorders like sleep apnea, a major cause of heart attack. LungStar advises patients how to stop smoking, lose weight and cope with lung disease and sleep deprivation.

### **Get Papers In Order!**

Tax time is right around the corner. Take control of your finances! Make appointments with an attorney, CPA, insurance agent or financial advisor.

Downtown Plano boasts many professional services. Attorney services include Brisendine, Warmbrodt, & Associates; Meagan Rachel and Michael Dover; Luke Laman, Jeffrey Stark and Loretta Keller; and F.B. Larrea. Downtown CPA Services include Tax Rx, Dan Quenzer, Alvaro Afanado, Robert D. Keister and Alan L. Dahl & Associates. Farmer's Insurance agent Bob Capt can help with auto/home/life and health insurance needs.

Visit Financial Advisor Marcus Orr at Edward Jones for individual investing and financial planning services. "Most people spend 40 hours a year planning for a family vacation and only one hour a year planning for their retirement," said Orr. "We help people attain their financial goals—it's never too late to start."

### **Get Organized!**

Time to clean closets and get organized! Take boots or shoes to Plano Shoe & Boot Repair to be refurbished. Donate vintage clothing to the Treasure Box Thrift Store. Take used chemical products to the City's Household Chemical Reuse Center. For information call 972-769-4150. Donations are a tax write off!



### **Take Care Of Pets**

If your pet has bad habits, or just needs a place to go during the day, Let's Practice K-9 Obedience trains dogs using love and respect. For special dog beds, collars and gourmet treats Just Gotta Have It! sells lots of goodies for your pet.

### **Beautify Your Surroundings**

Downtown Plano has many interior design firms to transform a living space. The Blue Goose, Just Gotta Have It!, Oh, What A Find!, Ambiance Décor and Sherwood Interiors have professional designers. Many of the stores downtown can help with home, bed, bath and kitchen needs.

### **Do A Makeover**

There are numerous day spas, beauty salons, barber shops, and nail and tanning salons downtown to create a great new look.

### **Make Family Memories**

If you need to take a family photograph, schedule an appointment with Kay Askew or Love Photography. Both studios are great with kids! Get family photos framed at Old Towne Gallery and Frame.

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**New Year's  
Resolutions**

## HAPPENINGS

January/February 2005

### January:

- 6-5 "Gallery VIII,  
The Sequel" 972-423-7809  
**ArtCentre of Plano**
- 9 "Knock Yourself Out" 972-473-7262  
Plano Symphony Orchestra  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 15 "A Perfect 10" 972-473-7262  
Plano Symphony Orchestra  
**Eisemann Center**
- 15 "Cinderella" 972-769-0017  
Plano Metropolitan Ballet  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 16-19 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Celebration 972-941-7250  
**Douglass Community Center**
- 21-22 "Cinderella" 972-769-0017  
Plano Metropolitan Ballet  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 23 "Strings Attached" 972-473-7262  
Plano Symphony Orchestra  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 25 Very Special Arts Festival  
**Plano Centre** 972-941-7250
- 30 "Brass Bash" 972-473-7262  
Plano Symphony Orchestra  
**Courtyard Theater**

### February:

- 4&5 Theatre Festival 817-731-2238  
Texas Non-profit Theatres, Inc.  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 2/11-3/19 "Black History Month Exhibition"  
**ArtCentre of Plano** 972-423-7809
- 14 "A Valentine's Day Gala"  
Plano Symphony Orchestra  
**Eisemann Center** 972-473-7262
- 18&19 "Jack & the Beanstalk", a musical  
Dance Depot 972-516-1653  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 20 "Catch the Winds" 972-473-7262  
Plano Symphony Orchestra  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 21 "Ms. Senior Plano Pageant"  
**Plano Senior Center** 972-941-7250
- 26&27 "Cinderella" 972-769-0017  
Plano Metropolitan Ballet  
**Courtyard Theater**
- 28 "Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dance"  
**Plano Centre** 972-941-7250

## HISTORIC VIEWS

### Early Sports In Plano

Since the early days, when Plano was just a village, it has been a sports minded community. Different forms of entertainment were scarce and much of that was "homespun" and improvised. Adults and children alike enjoyed fishing and hunting, but other forms of entertainment in which groups of people could participate became popular as the community grew. One of these activities was "playing ball."



Early Plano Baseball Team

Photo courtesy of The Wells Collection

In 1940 in the Plano Star-Courier, a story written by the late R. B. Howey told of baseball in Plano in the early 1880s. In those early days, baseball was known as "scrub." Kids made their own baseballs, wrapping yarn around smooth stones or a ball of rags, and then obtained a homemade bat. The "scrub" days were followed by real baseball. "Plano," wrote Howey, "had a good team, but Wylie managed to give Plano a lot of trouble on the diamond." The Wylie team was known as the Shamrocks. Reprinted from "Plano, Texas: The Early Years," copyright 1985.

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

### Village Resident Enjoys Urban Lifestyle

Born and raised in the New York Bronx, Dan McNeill says living in Downtown Plano reminds him of a time he once lived in Greenwich Village as a child. Former New York policeman and private investigator, McNeill now enjoys his retirement by spending time with family and grandchildren, volunteering for the City of Plano and enjoying an urban lifestyle.

While visiting two of his four sons and their families in Plano in 2001, Dan first spied the Eastside Village Apartments during an outing to Haggard Park. "The brick streets, the stores, the buildings--all reminded me of the brownstones where I grew up," he said. He stopped to inquire about the neighborhood and decided on the spot to sign a lease and move to Plano.

"I thrive in this type of place because everything is here for me," said the gregarious Irishman. "I have a park, meet all these lovely people on the streets, and have the DART rail at my door--this is my home."

An avid patron of the arts, he takes advantage of the amenities the city has to offer. The tall, silver-haired gentleman attends the Meyerson Symphony Center on most Sundays and often accompanies one of his seven grandchildren to the Dallas Museum of Art, the Eisemann Center, the Dallas Opera or the Plano Repertory Theater. He often rides the DART Light Rail to events in Dallas and even to Ft. Worth. At home he

enjoys patio gardening and listening to Frank Sinatra and classical music. His 7-year-old granddaughter especially likes swimming in the Eastside Village pool.

McNeill, a Master Composter trained by the City of Plano, volunteers for the city's Household Chemical Reuse Center weekly and helps with the Keep Plano Beautiful program. In 2000, McNeill was recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award. "Being with the kids and grandkids, traveling and having things to look forward to--that's what keeps you young," grinned McNeill.



Dan McNeill

## STREET TALK

### New Business

- OK Mortgage/AAA Realtors is a multilingual company with offices on Avenue K. This location also carries a wide assortment of paperback and hardback books.
- Always at Peace Day Spa is now open for massage, facials, candles and peaceful gifts.
- LungStar is opening a new Sleep Apnea clinic on Avenue J. Unlike other sleep testing centers, this one is styled after a luxurious bed and breakfast with comfortable beds and private rooms.
- Oh, What A Find! has gifts, jewelry, interior decorating, and spa and nail services to beautify every area in your life.

### Way to go!

Eastside Village was awarded the Best New Development Award by the Texas Downtown Association at their annual conference in November.

A Better Answer was awarded the 2004 Award of Excellence for six consecutive years by the Association of Teleservices International. This communications call center has offices on Avenue G.

### Cultural Events

Visit the ArtCentre of Plano to view works by Gallery 8 in January and Black Artists for art history month in February. The Chamber of Commerce is hosting an art showing by the Plano Art Association. 14th Street Gallery has a new art opening featuring a group show in January and a photo restoration exhibit in February.



Buy season tickets for the Plano Repertory Theatre. The upcoming season beginning in April includes *Amadeus, Proof, Cinderella, Nine, Evita* and *Lend me a Tenor*. Call the ticket office at 972-422-7460.

Attention Red Hat Societies! All kinds of red hat collectibles and fashions are found in stores throughout downtown, including red hats like this one at Red Awning Antiques.

## SHOPPING THE VILLAGE



### Wind Art

Nature's Finest Art has copper art and wind chimes. These decorative works of art twirl in the wind to add magic to your garden or patio.

### Pillow Talk

Oh, What a Find! has custom decorator pillows at a great price. They will even custom design a pillow with fabrics and colors from your home!

### A Bath full of Jelly

Romance your loved one with a gift from The Master Suite. Try new Jelly Bath, a moisturizing blanket made from a Jello-like substance that keeps your tub warm for hours!



### Sweets for the Sweet

Find delectable gifts at the Candy Bouquet for both men and women. The perfect way to say 'I Love You.'

### Romancing the Home

Fill your home with fragrance and flowers. Look to the stores downtown to add romance to your Valentine's Day. Many stores sell candles, chocolates, candy and gifts. Send flowers to someone special with a beautiful arrangement from Dutch Mill Flowers.



# CITY SCENE

## Parking Made Permanent

Parking on Avenue K will be made permanent with the installation of permanent curbs, landscaped areas and street markings. The City anticipates completion of this project in May 2005.

## New Signage

New public parking signs will be installed along Avenue K to increase visibility of public parking spaces available downtown. These signs will point to the Plano Municipal Center parking via the south entrance from Avenue K, the Municipal Center South (Parks and Recreation) parking entrance, and the public parking lot on the southwest corner of Avenue K and 14th Streets.

## Bike Trails

For exercisers in the downtown area – did you know two bicycle routes, 408 and 404, are available through the Haggard Park neighborhood? These connect to other parts of the city. For those who walk in Haggard Park, one loop around the pond equals 1/6 mile. For a map of the City's recreational trail system and bicycle route system, please call the Parks and Recreation office at 972-941-7250 or stop by weekdays 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Downtown Plano has a new logo available for use by businesses in the greater Downtown Plano area. This logo may be used on print materials, goods for purchase, or on just about anything. Please contact Dana Conklin for a copy of the logo at 972-941-7321 or danac@plano.gov.



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Resolutions

## 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 Plano.

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