

Street Talk

The shops on 15th Street showed their warm support of the Breast Cancer 3-Day walk on October 26. Vendors displayed pink balloons in honor of the walkers and cheered them on. Barb Cole of **Candy Bouquet & Gifts** handed out candy to thousands of people. To help her keep pace with the task, Betsy Larson of **Body Graphix** and her two granddaughters joined in. Sherri Chapman of **Accoutré** and Kathy Barnes of **My Favorite Room** also offered refreshments. It was a chilly day, but there was warmth in the hearts of these storeowners.

Another warm spot in Historic Downtown Plano is **The Wooden Spoon**. Owner Gwen Workman makes blankets for newborns and had an inspiration that took her to new heights in blanket making. She saw simple knotted felt blankets and began making them. She got together with a few friends and 37 blankets were the result. After asking at church for volunteers, 60 people went to her shop on a Sunday afternoon, making more than 100 blankets. The blankets went to Project Linus, a national non-profit organization, "providing security through blankets."

Ann Brashears of **Natural Elegance** has moved her floral and gift shop into Tea Cup Antiques. Stop and see her in her new space.

First Christian Church has a new program beginning in January. The Pioneer Club, a scout-type program with a more religious base for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, will begin January 16. This weekly program, from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, is open to everyone and will be introduced to parents at a meeting on January 6 at 12:30 p.m. The church will also be starting a program for blended families soon, so watch for details.

Stop by with a warm Plano welcome to Gregory Moreaux, owner of the area's newest restaurant, **Gregory's**. This new fine dining facility opened in December.

Artist **Cynthia Piper** felt the warmth and inspiration of historic downtown Plano, and has moved into the charming historic home at the corner of H Avenue and 17th Street with Mark McClellan. This painter of 20 years has worked in many media and recently had a successful show at the Stephanie Ward Gallery. We welcome her to the neighborhood!

Kelly's Eastside celebrated its fourth anniversary in November with a party, including gift card giveaways, decorations and many food and beverage specials. As always at Kelly's, a good time was had by all.

Douglass Community

Douglass Community Center will be busy in January and February, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. events and Black History Month.

This year's MLK celebration begins Saturday morning January 19 with a parade in Historic Downtown Plano. After the parade, a program and Health Fair will be held at Plano Municipal Center. The Sunday evening program will be held on January 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 1401 Mira Vista Boulevard in Plano. The MLK All Community Choir with 150 singers from local churches will provide a grand performance. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.planomlk.org.

On Thursday, February 14, the DCC Girl Talk group will host a Valentine party for Douglass Community senior citizens.

An essay contest is open to all youth with a deadline for submission of February 12. On Saturday, February 23, Douglass Community Center will host a program from 1 to 3:30 p.m. celebrating Black History. Winning essays will be read during the program. During the week, there will also be art contests sponsored by the schools and judged at the center. The event will include a variety of entertainment and refreshments.

Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

January - February 2008



Get Out of the Cold

It may be cold outside, but it's warm in Historic Downtown Plano. The folks are warm and friendly, and the stores and restaurants welcoming. Warm up with indoor entertainment at the various venues downtown, including the Cox Building Playhouse, Courtyard Theater and the ArtCentre Theatre. A heart-warming romantic comedy by David Schulner, "An Infinite Ache," will be at the Cox Building Playhouse from January 17 to February 9. Texas history comes to life in the play, "Texas," at the Courtyard Theater in early February.

Morning coffee and a hot breakfast at Rainbow Donuts will take the chill out. Later, have a cup of coffee by the fire at Fusion Café or enjoy a meal by the fireplace at Kelly's Eastside. A bowl of thick lemon chicken soup at Sheik's Restaurant will hit the spot, with some pita bread so you don't miss a drop. Both tea rooms, Into My Garden and Nee Nee's, have delicious homemade soups daily. Warm your spirits with a heated game on the big screen at 4G's Sports Bar and Grill. The Fillmore Pub carries all types of 'anti-freeze' to defrost

for the warm environment as well as many comfort dishes. Choose from a wide variety of foods in the many restaurants to warm both your body and soul. After your meal, relax in a comfortable chair with your friends at Two Brothers Cigars.

The galleries in Historic Downtown Plano have a warm and peaceful atmosphere, and many have special events and exhibits. Get in out of the cold to see the "World Lens" exhibit from January 9 to February 3 at the ArtCentre of Plano. The Stephanie Ward Gallery inside the Victorian House has jazz night on the third Friday of each month.

Many of the downtown shops can help you stay warm during the cold months. Shawls, scarves, sweaters, throws, warm-up suits and jackets can be found at Accoutré, Della's Unique Boutique, and Jewels & Jeans. Tea Cup Antiques serves hot tea and carries beautiful handmade quilts. Make your home warm and inviting with linens from My Favorite Room. Stop by Nooks 'n Krannies for ingredients for hot chocolate, tea or apple cider. Holman Pottery offers hand-thrown apple bakers for a tasty warm treat at home.



Apple Baker Recipe

Core an apple and place over the stem of the apple baker. Season with butter, cinnamon and sugar. Bake at 350° for about one hour, or in a microwave about 10 minutes on high, until tender. Top with ice cream and serve. Apple Bakers are available at Holman Pottery.

Historic Downtown Plano Restaurants

- 15th Street Café & Bakery 972-424-4700
- 4 G's Sports Bar and Grill 972-516-6611
- Aparicio's 972-423-6980
- Dickey's Barbecue Pit 972-423-9960
- Fusion Café 469-241-9099
- Gregory's 214-727-8097
- 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
- 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

This Valentine's Day, keep the fire alive with a bouquet of flowers from Natural Elegance, or visit Candy Bouquet and Gifts for a bouquet of a different type. Add more warmth to the occasion with dinner and a performance downtown. Teatro delle Muse will have a Valentine Broadway Review Dinner Theatre on February 14 to 16 at the ArtCentre Theatre. The Stephanie Ward Gallery will have Jazz Friday on February 15.

Home sales are heating up downtown as well. Phase II has begun at 15th Street Village, and the development is expanding to include a clubhouse as well as a fitness center, underground parking and a laundry facility. Construction has begun at Lexington Park at Rice Field and these lovely luxury townhomes are on the market. Lexington Park is a Green-Built, EnergyStar, sustainable neighborhood, featuring a heavily landscaped greenbelt. Stop by the sales office located on the property on the southwest corner of 18th Street and Avenue G.

Visit downtown this winter to thaw out in the warmth of Historic Downtown Plano.

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.

Village News
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Happenings

January - February 2008

1/3	Ladies Night Out at Della's Unique Boutique	972-398-3039
1/3-26	Gallery VIII Exhibit at ArtCentre of Plano, Reception 1/18, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.	972-423-7809
1/11-19	"The Story of Tinkerbelle" Plano Metropolitan Ballet at Courtyard Theater www.gottadanceplano.com/tinkerbelle.htm	972-769-0017
1/18	Jazz Friday at Stephanie Ward Gallery	469-229-0024
1/27	Swingin' Strings Plano Symphony Orchestra at Courtyard Theater www.planosymphony.org/learnmore/kids.htm	972-473-7262
1/17	Ladies Night Out at Della's Unique Boutique	972-398-3039
1/17-2/9	"An Infinite Ache" a love story by David Schulner Presented by Rover Dramawerks at Cox Building Playhouse www.roverdramawerks.com	972-849-0358
1/19	Adult Ceramics Night at Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
2/1-3/1	Texas Federation of Fiber Artists at ArtCentre of Plano Reception 2/1 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	972-423-7809
2/15	Jazz Friday at Stephanie Ward Gallery	469-229-0024
2/6-15	"Texas" Plano Community Theater at Courtyard Theater www.planochildrenstheatre.com	972-422-2575
2/1	Ladies Night Out at Della's Unique Boutique	972-398-3039
2/14-24	"1984" Frisco Community Theatre at Cox Building Playhouse www.friscocommunitytheatre.com	1-800-595-4849
2/16	Adult Ceramics Night at Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
2/17	Whirlin' Winds Plano Symphony Orchestra at Courtyard Theater www.planosymphony.org/learnmore/kids.htm	972-473-7262
2/21	Ladies Night Out at Della's Unique Boutique	972-398-3039
2/25-26	"Forbidden Fruit: Romeo & Juliet" Commedia Ballet Theatre at Courtyard Theatre www.commediaballettheatre.org	972-306-7782

Historic Downtown Plano Association meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at The Plano Chamber of Commerce.

Village People



Trains, restoration and woodworking have been his passion, and indeed his life, since the age of nine. At this young age, Johnnie J. Myers shadowed his grandfather at work, taking photos of the Interurban. His grandfather, who instilled in him a lifelong fascination with trains, was W.T. Jacobs, Dallas Railway and Terminal Company Motorman and Supervisor.

John's ancestors moved to the United States in 1679

from Kent, England. In 1868, they settled in North Texas. John was born and raised in Dallas, and earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Southern Methodist University. He earned his law degree from Oklahoma City University Law School and his Ph.D in history from Stamford Hill University in London, U.K. Nearly all of his employment positions, up to his recent retirement from DART, were transportation-related. He served as Assistant General Counsel for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation before he became the Southwest Regional Manager for Greyhound. He also served as the General Manager for the transit system of Ft. Myers, Florida for more than seven years before returning to Collin County as Assistant Vice President of Bus Operations for DART. After six years with DART, Mr. Myers retired in 2006. The only exception to his transportation career was a stint as a professional baseball player for the Cincinnati Reds during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

During his career, John amassed a large collection of data on railway systems and over 40,000 photographs - many featured in his book, "Texas Electric Railway," published in 1982 and dedicated to his grandfather. Retirement has given him time to pursue three interurban restoration projects, for the cities of Van Alstyne and Houston in Texas and Muskogee in Oklahoma. His master woodworking takes place in the expansive workshop at his home in Forney, where he lives and works with son Phil. In addition, John makes detailed model trains and is in the process of writing two books, covering the railway systems of Dallas and Fort Worth.

To see Mr. Myers' work, one need only visit the Interurban Railway Museum in Historic Downtown Plano. The majority of the photos lining the walls of the museum have been donated by Mr. Myers. He, his father and a close friend restored Rail Car 360 for the City of Plano, with assistance from the Plano Parks Department and other friends. Several artifacts were also donated from his collection. The recent renovation of the building made room for a research center upstairs, which will be named the John J. Myers Research Center and will house much of Mr. Myer's collection. The official naming will take place during Preservation Week this year. It is a rare occasion when one makes their passion a career and is so generous with the fruits of their labor.

Historic Views

The establishment of Masonry in the state of Texas preceded the settlement of many areas of the state. The Grand Lodge of Texas was formed in 1836 in south Texas. Masonry was not far behind in the North Texas area.

Plano Lodge No. 235, Collin County, was chartered in 1859. The first meeting place is assumed to be in a building on the George W. Barnett farm, near the banks of Spring Creek and a fresh water spring. The second meeting place for the lodge was located over the storehouse built by James C. Forman and Hampton H. Gossum on the southeast corner of Avenue K and 15th Street. The agreement between the two gentlemen was to give "the Masons the privilege of building a Masonic Hall or other building on top of the storehouse for the use and benefit of the Masonic fraternity forever." The lodge is believed to have been built and moved into this building sometime in 1860.

Fires plagued Plano during the 1880s and 1890s. The lodge building was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1881. Around this time, the Lodge began to fall on difficult times and was demised in 1888. Many members were determined to continue their masonic careers and affiliated themselves with White Rock Lodge No. 234, in Addison.

After some years, a number of Plano Masons decided it was again time for Plano to have its own lodge. A charter was granted in 1894 and became Plano Lodge No. 768. Charter members included many former members and officers of Plano Lodge No. 235, such as Dr. James Wilson, the Charter Master; F. R. Ball; Thomas F. Hughston; Joseph H. Gullidge; and William M. Weaver. Other charter members were F. M. Armstrong, E. W. Dinwiddee, M. J. Ford, J. A. Gant, C. S. Haggard and W. A. Vines, to name only a few.



façade of the building bears the year 1925, which may indicate the year it was permanently occupied by the lodge.

Active members of Plano Lodge 768 who served as Mayor of the City of Plano include William B. Blalack, Joe Bradshaw, Joseph. R. Dickerson, J. Frank Harrington, J. D. Harris, Wyatt D. McFarlin and James M. Willis. More than 20 active members served on the Plano City Council. The organization is also active in community service, holding blood drives twice a year to benefit Scottish Rite Children's Hospital. Both drives include breakfast and lunch.

Plano has had Masonry for over 140 years. Plano Lodge No. 768 has now had more than 100 years of success. The North Texas Masonic Historical Museum and Library will open in 2008 on the first floor of the Plano Masonic Lodge on J Place. It will serve as a research library and museum, covering the history of Texas, including early Plano and military history.

City Scene

By Jon Hubach

What a year 2007 has been. The area saw the opening of restaurants: Fillmore Pub, 4 G's Sports Bar and Grill, and Gregory's. The former Blue Goose building is well under construction and looks to be a major addition in the office, retail and restaurant markets in Downtown. Pinnacle assumed management of Eastside Village and went right to work repainting both phases as well as aggressively recruiting new business tenants. 15th Street also underwent major improvements with new sidewalks, pavement and the installation of utilities underground.

The Historic Downtown Plano Association (HDPA) also made major advancements with membership growing from 10 to 80 paid members now, including downtown merchants as well as non-profits, property owners and downtown supporters. The year 2007 featured the inaugural Downtown@Sunset, held monthly from August through November. The event has achieved increased awareness of the area and boosted traffic for the merchants. Future goals include running this event from March through November, as well as moving it onto 15th Street. A Taste of Downtown event will be added to the already successful elements of live music, food, vendors and entertainment.

As we say goodbye to the year that was, we also look forward to the year ahead. Be sure to join us at our monthly HDPA meetings, first Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Plano Chamber of Commerce building at 1200 E. 15th St. Membership is open to everyone.

Shopping

Stay snug with this handmade knit shawl with rabbit fur trim at Accoutré.

The coffee selection at Candy Bouquet and Gifts includes more than 15 flavors, several also available decaffeinated. Available in whole bean or ground.



This Lee Middleton Nursery outfit, trimmed in faux fur, at Nooks 'n Krannies will keep your baby's baby toasty.



At Tea Cup Antiques you can purchase a piece of history to keep you cozy. This rare handmade Red Cross quilt is from World War I.

