

# Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

January - February 2009

## Baby, It's Cold Outside ...

*"Where could you be going when the wind is blowing and it's cold outside?"* To the warmth of Historic Downtown Plano!

Just step inside any of the restaurants downtown and drink a hot beverage to warm up. Into My Garden Tea Room and NeeNee's Tea Room have an ample selection of teas and superb coffees. At A Toast to Texas you can taste some mulled wine this winter or purchase the ingredients to make your own. Winter drinks at the Fillmore Pub include Irish Almond Chocolate Coffee, Café Mint Chocolate, Traditional Irish Coffee and Butterscotch Hot Chocolate. For maybe *"just a half a drink more,"* visit Kelly's Eastside for cocoa with peppermint Schnapps by the fireplace.

*"Say, what's in this drink?"* Jörg Fercher at Jörg's Café Vienna serves Glühwein, an Austrian spiced hot wine. The beverage is so spicy that it is only served when the temperature drops below 40°. Hmm, toasty!

Valentine specials will warm up sweethearts of all ages in February. Valentine tea parties are offered at both tea rooms on February 14. Reserve your spot early to enjoy these venues with your little one. Adults can enjoy a romantic meal at any of the downtown eateries, many of which will have specials. Gregory's Restaurant will offer a Valentine special all weekend including complimentary champagne and a chocolate lover's dessert.

Bring your sweetie to downtown Plano and you'll be singing, *"The welcome has been so nice and warm."*

Historic Downtown Plano's warmth has long attracted sweethearts. Alex and Shirley Schell met in college in 1947, were married the following year, and just celebrated their 60th anniversary. They settled in Plano and have been in the area since.

The couple has three adult children, Richard, Margaret and James. Jamie, Alex,

Shirley and their children are all graduates of Southern Methodist University (SMU). All three children continue to live in the state and Jamie works with his father at A.R. Schell Insurance on 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Jamie and his wife Jane will celebrate their 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this spring with their 13-year-old triplets.



Robert Harrington Jr. and his wife Ann celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary last fall and have lived in the area since 1955. They have been member of the First Christian Church and all four of their children were married there. In fact, Robert's mother, who passed away at the age of 105, had been the church's longest living member. The Harrington family has been in the Plano area for over a century.

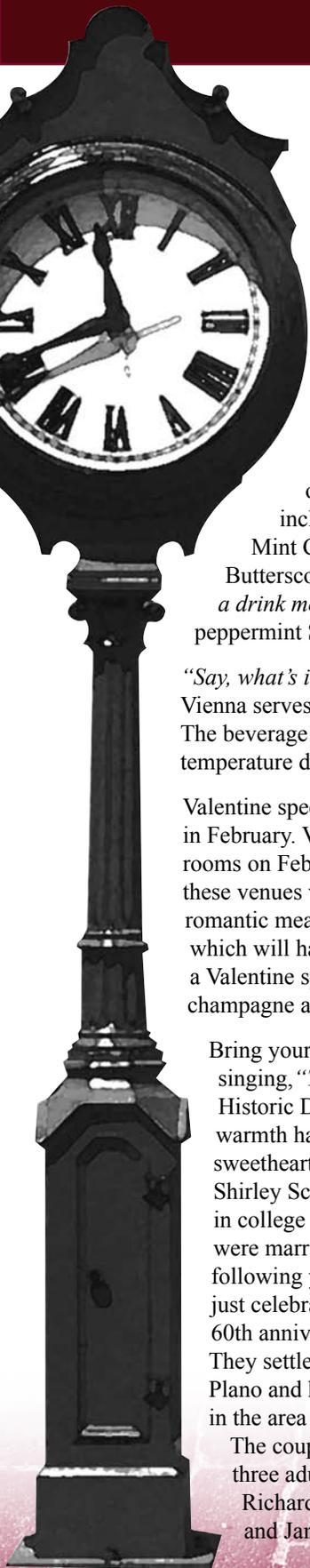
At Texas Tech, Rob Harrington served as fraternity big brother to another Historic Downtown Planoite, Jeff Garrison. Jeff and his wife Jane will celebrate their 48<sup>th</sup> year of marriage this summer. Their business, Garrison Gardens, has been in existence for 30 years, 15 of them at their location on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. The company recently closed its retail business and we wish the family much success in their service operation.

Our very own Downtown Planner, Jon Hubach, is about to begin a life with his sweetheart, Sarah Thomas. This spring the happy couple will travel to Las Vegas for their destination wedding. Following in the steps of these legendary lovers, they have purchased a home in Plano.



Historic Downtown Plano offers a large selection of venues for your wedding or anniversary party, Valentine's dance,

*continued inside*



# Happenings

January - February 2009

1/3, 9, 10 & 16	"Annie, the Orphan" An Original Ballet Plano Metropolitan Ballet Courtyard Theatre	972-612-0835 <a href="http://www.gottadanceplano.com">www.gottadanceplano.com</a>
1/16	Artist Exhibit Reception ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
1/19	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
1/19	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Douglass Community Center	<a href="http://www.planomlk.org">www.planomlk.org</a>
1/22-2/14	"The Star Spangled Girl," Rover Dramawerks Cox Building Playhouse	214-587-3859 <a href="http://www.roverdramawerks.com">www.roverdramawerks.com</a>
1/24	"The Sound of Music" from Salzburg Plano Symphony Orchestra Charles W. Eisemann Center	972-473-7262 <a href="http://www.planosymphony.org">www.planosymphony.org</a>
2/2	Sweetheart Ball Father/Daughter's Dance Chamberlain Ballet Ridgeview Ranch Country Club	214-412-8589 <a href="http://www.chamberlainperformingarts.com">www.chamberlainperformingarts.com</a>
2/13-2/22	"Pride and Prejudice" Repertory Company Theatre Promenade Theatre	972-690-5029 <a href="http://www.rcttheatre.com">www.rcttheatre.com</a>
2/16	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
2/20	A Tribute to John Williams Plano Symphony Orchestra Charles W. Eisemann Center	972-473-7262 <a href="http://www.planosymphony.org">www.planosymphony.org</a>
2/ 27-1/28	Hathaway Ballet Courtyard Theatre	972-747-0600

## One Hundred Years

The Interurban Railway Museum continues to celebrate its 100 year anniversary with the culmination of many projects. A beautiful ticket booth has been added in the front left side, fashioned in era-appropriate style with rich grain polished wood. The conference area to the right in the front has been transformed. It now boasts a very unique set of triple sliding doors that attach to a fourth door to fully enclose the area. This allows it to serve as a classroom for Plano Independent School District fourth graders as they visit on their field trips. The walls are adorned with historical information on Manifest Destiny, The Civil War, The Peters Colony, sharecropping and Native American Indian lifestyles.

Blending science with history, the Exploratorium in San Francisco created several pieces showing how resistors, magnets, generators and connectors work to create electricity. This hands-on interactive environment is fascinating for all ages.

Along with painting the exterior of the building, these projects complete the museum's long-range plans to revitalize the facility and bring it to current museum standards. The results have far surpassed the dream.

In looking to the future, The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation has also set up an endowment fund, to assist in educational programs and scholarships.

## Baby, It's Cold Outside

or other special occasion. Unique locations for your nuptials include Plano Station, capable of hosting events up to 120 and conveniently located near the DART rail station. Eastside Story on 18<sup>th</sup> Street is a recently renovated beautiful Victorian home large enough to accommodate 75 guests and offers all wedding services. Owner Pam Valentine also works with other downtown businesses for a variety of needs for her events.

For an arts ambiance, you can reserve the ArtCentre of Plano accommodating up to 200 guests.

For a more dramatic cultural venue is the lobby of the Courtyard Theater. The Chamber of Commerce also offers various rooms for meetings and events. For those preferring an

outdoor event, Haggard Park can accommodate a large number of guests and is perfect for parties and weddings, with its beautiful bandstand and graceful pond.

*Many thanks to Frank Loesser, whose lyrics to "Baby, It's Cold Outside" provided inspiration for this article.*

### Event Location Information

ArtCentre of Plano . . . . .	972-423-7809
Plano Chamber of Commerce . . . . .	972-424-7547
Courtyard Theater . . . . .	972-941-5611
Eastside Story . . . . .	972-424-7209
Plano Station . . . . .	972-422-0296

## Village People

On November 7, Historic Downtown Plano had 3,250 village people, and they were all wearing pink!

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the shops showed encouragement and served refreshments to the 3,250 walkers for the Breast Cancer 3-Day. The participants walked nearly a marathon every day for three days for a total of 60 miles, raising more than \$7.9 million for breast cancer research, education and outreach programs. In total, 14 cities participated and raised over \$80 million.

Shop owners lined the street with pink helium balloons inflated by Candy Bouquet and Gifts. Retailers and restaurants supplied an abundance of candy, brownies, pastries and cookies for the walkers. Gregory's Restaurant provided non-stop gourmet coffee, while My Favorite Room distributed water bottles displayed in a beautiful antique bathtub.

For nearly three hours, 15<sup>th</sup> Street shop owners and fans encouraged these dedicated walkers with applause and cheers. LaDella Stone, whose store had not yet opened, mentioned that her hands ached from three hours of clapping. Jörg Fercher, owner of Jörg's Café Vienna, sponsored a walker in memory of his mother.

The walkers certainly appreciated the warm and generous hearts of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street people.

## Historic Views

The decade just after the turn of the century seems to have spanned the golden years. It was a time of fulfillment of dreams. The frontier was long gone. Roasting bear meat and baking ash cake had become lost arts. This was the time of cut glass and parasols. Lovely Victorian homes gave dignity to the town and countryside. In fact, Plano was noted for having more lovely farm houses than any other section of the county. Plano was by now one of the most prosperous farming sections of the state, and had a large number of farms run personally by the owners.

Every single family prided itself on its hospitality, and no family had more right to do so than Uncle Clint and Aunt Kate Haggard. It was in 1909, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a party held in the splendid grove trees north of their home. A banner bearing the word "Welcome" was stretched across the gateway. A large platform was decorated in white and yellow streamers with the dates 1859-1909. The invitation was extended to all relatives and "as many friends as will come." Eight hundred came and most of them had been family guests many times before.

Mr. G. E. Carpenter, a nephew of Mrs. Haggard, acted as master of ceremonies. The Plano String Band furnished music, and piano numbers and songs were given by some of the guests. Mrs. Haggard, the sweet bride of 50 years, sang several old tunes and hymns. At noon, the guests gathered about long tables abundantly spread with barbecue meats and other delicious food.

The afternoon program consisted of talks by old friends and neighbors, among them: Elder B. F. Watson, General Gano, Jonas Huffman, W.C. McKamy and Elder Horn. This was followed by a grandchildren's program for the 25 grandchildren. At the very end, Aunt Kate sang "Auld Lang Syne."

A good time was had by all. It was a day to remember and it was a way of life to remember. The children and grandchildren of the first settlers were enjoying the dreams the early settlers had made come true.



Article taken from "Plano, Texas: The Early Years" and photo compliments of "HG Wells Collection" at the W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library.

## City Scene

By Jon Hubach

The last few months have been a trying time for all of us. In Downtown Plano, we've experienced the same economic struggles as everyone. The City of Plano has been aggressively promoting a slogan, "Shop Plano First" which we should all take to heart. Consider this fact: For every dollar spent in a locally owned business, nearly 60 cents stays in the area. On the other side, for every dollar spent at a Big Box store, only 15 cents stays in the area. The Small Business Administration estimates nearly 50 percent of all businesses in the United States are small businesses. That is why it is crucial we keep our money in town, because the next person you might help is someone you know.

We have been blessed that Downtown is still on the move. Recently, the City of Plano with the help of the Historic Downtown Plano Association (HDPA) has worked to implement Valet Service in Downtown. Enacted in November, any business in Downtown interested in Valet Parking Service is welcome to apply for a license. Valet Parking is being overseen by Traffic Planning in the Planning and Engineering Department. For more information contact them at 972-941-7151. Valet Parking will only be available on weekends and is free to use by everyone in the Downtown area.

At the Harrington Library on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, I encourage you to check out a very unique public art installation. The Plano Public Art Committee oversaw the permanent installation of this winding mobile honoring the train, located in the library's central reading room. Its armature – inspired by the steel curves of a stamp machine seen in the city's train museum – is shaped like train tracks that spiral through the space. Images of wheat, cotton, train cars, railroad workers, livestock, and mail sacks are digitally printed on chiffon and hung from the bundles of this curving track. Titled "Growing Ties," the exhibit was created by Teresa Camozzi, an artist chosen by a selection panel with community input.

As we plan for spring, be on the lookout for upcoming downtown events. The HDPA has chosen for 2009 to host three quarterly day-long events, beginning with *Mammoth Jack Fest* in late spring. For sponsorship and vendor information, contact me at [jonhu@plano.gov](mailto:jonhu@plano.gov).

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Historic Downtown Plano Association meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. the Plano Chamber of Commerce.

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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

On Saturday, January 17, individuals, organizations, churches, businesses and schools are all invited to be part of the MLK Parade. Line up starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Furniture Warehouse parking lot at 850 E. Parker Road, just west of Avenue K at Archerwood Street. Several marching bands will perform in the parade, along with floats, decorated vehicles and performances. Awards will be given for best designs and talents in floats. Starbucks will provide complimentary coffee and hot chocolate to participants. Following the parade, a program will be held in the Council Chamber at Plano Municipal Center, 1520 Avenue K with guest speaker Reverend Dr. Clara M. Reed, Sherman-McKinney District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church. Music will be provided by entertainer and recording artist Doc Gibbs. Awards for the Parade will be announced and art from the MLK art contest will be displayed.

## Shopping

**Candy Bouquet and Gifts** is the place for Valentine gifts with a wide selection of candy bouquets, chocolates, truffles and fudge. For something unique, try a musical balloon or plush animal.



**At A Toast to Texas** you can choose your sweetheart's favorite bottle of wine and have the label custom

made. The shop also carries delectable dessert wines, such as Chocolate Finale Port.

These necklaces, created by Ginny Henley, are made of polymer clay, using several layers to create the form and flow of color. With matching earrings, these unique pieces are available only at **14<sup>th</sup> on 15<sup>th</sup>** inside ArtCentre of Plano.



## Street Talk

The 14<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery has opened a satellite gift gallery inside the ArtCentre of Plano on 15<sup>th</sup> Street, called **14<sup>th</sup> on 15<sup>th</sup>**. The shop includes creations by community artists whose work has been on display at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery. Small works, prints, pottery, jewelry, sculptures, note cards and photography now adorn the space as you enter.



Stop by and say hi to LaDella Stone, who recently opened **Della's Depot** on 15<sup>th</sup> Street next to Plano Barbers. Folks in the area are excited to have her back. The store has a lovely assortment of clothing and gifts. Be sure to check out her Valentine's Day Sale. Store hours are Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



**Into My Garden Tea Room** will host its annual Valentine's Day Tea Party on Saturday, February 14, with seating times on the hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy heart-shaped tea sandwiches, English scones and tea breads, along with chocolate-dipped strawberries and other delectable pastries. Their own seasonal Rose Petal loose hot tea or any other beverage can be enjoyed in all the beautiful English fine bone china and crystal. Children attending will make a beautiful heart bracelet to take home!

**Fairway Group Real Estate** is pleased to announce the addition of Grant Glasco as a Sales Associate. Grant graduated from Kansas State University and spent the last four years working for a major commercial real estate brokerage company in the Dallas area. Grant has specialized in the brokerage of investment land properties in the emerging market areas of Collin, northeast Denton and southern Grayson Counties. He plans to continue his concentration in these market areas while expanding his experience in brokering development land and buildings.



**NeeNee's Tea Room** will also offer a Valentine's Day Tea Party on Saturday, February 14 with seating times on the hour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scrumptious homemade food will be accompanied by games and plenty of hats, boas, scarves and shoes for dress up!



**The North Texas Historical Museum & Library** is now open in the Plano Masonic Lodge building on J Place next to Fairway Group Real Estate. The hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. and will soon be open on Saturdays as well. The museum portrays Plano's history with books and artifacts. The museum continues to accept donations. If you have a piece of Plano's history looking for a home, please contact J. J. Miller at 214-733-1814.



### 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.*