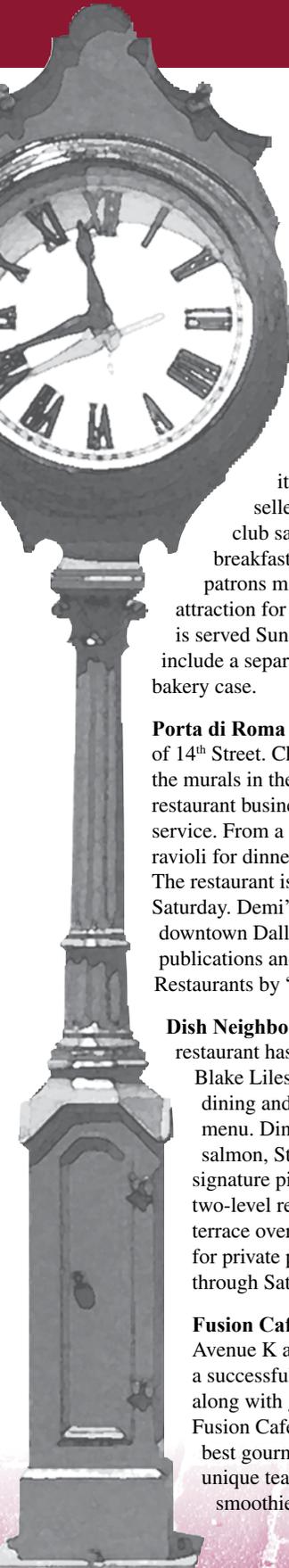


Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

July-August 2006

Homemade Cuisine Downtown



Historic Downtown Plano has more than a dozen eateries, all unique and serving an array of homemade delicacies to please any palate.

15th Street Café and Bakery opened May 1 and is co-owned by husband and wife Jason and Laura Barnes and Jason's father, Jeff. Jason has his associate's degree in Culinary Arts and has studied at the Culinary Institute of America in New York. The menu includes breakfast items, sandwiches, burgers and salads. Top sellers are the breakfast burrito and the chicken club sandwich, both with a unique flavor. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, patrons may order from the menu at any time – a nice attraction for those who enjoy breakfast for dinner. Brunch is served Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Future plans include a separate dinner menu, a catering service and a bakery case.

Porta di Roma also opened in early May, on Avenue K north of 14th Street. Chef and owner Demi enjoys art and painted the murals in the restaurant himself. Demi's 21 years in the restaurant business are evident in the menu selection and service. From a single slice of pizza for lunch to the seafood ravioli for dinner, everything is homemade and scrumptious. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Monday to Saturday. Demi's brother Vini runs a second location in downtown Dallas, which has been mentioned in several publications and named one of the Best Neighborhood Restaurants by "D Magazine" in 2005.

Dish Neighborhood Cuisine just opened on 15th Street. The restaurant has been the longtime dream of owner and chef Blake Liles. Dish reflects Liles' casual approach to fine dining and features an upscale bistro, American-style menu. Diners will enjoy such entrees as pan-roasted salmon, St. Louis ribs, sautéed rock shrimp and a signature pizza. The building, redesigned as the only two-level restaurant in Historic Downtown Plano, has a terrace overlooking the street and a separate dining room for private parties. Dish serves lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday.

Fusion Café is the new coffee house on the corner of Avenue K and 15th Place. Owner Chi Tran believes a successful coffee house provides superior service along with great coffee in a warm, inviting atmosphere. Fusion Café provides all of these and more, using the best gourmet coffee beans, top quality syrups and unique teas. Offering a unique combination of coffees, smoothies and sandwiches, Fusion also has

free wireless Internet access for its customers and live music on the weekends, and will introduce a book exchange program.

Jorg's Café Vienna offers a convivial atmosphere. Owners Jorg and Cathy Kercher make diners feel like part of the family. The menu is a culinary tour of Austria, including a variety of schnitzels and bratwursts, along with unique house specialties, such as "Mamma's recipe" Austrian-Hungarian Goulash. Patrons can also enjoy a wonderful selection of German beers, served in the restaurant or outside in the biergarten. The popular restaurant is now offering several new summer specials. Jorg's has received accolades from many publications and awards from the Heritage Commission.

Kelly's Eastside was opened by Tim and Carin Kelly two and a half years ago. With live music on the patio from Wednesday through Saturday and happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, this locale is very popular. Tim and Carin have over 20 years of experience in food service and know how to keep customers coming back for good food, great atmosphere and attentive service. Known for its tasty burgers cooked on a wood-burning grill, Kelly's also has wonderful hand-breaded chicken fried steaks, tender brisket and a variety of sandwiches. With a children's menu and a great salad selection, Kelly's is a great family eatery. Tim is a Texas A & M grad, so sports fans can catch any Aggie game on six big screen televisions.

Feels Like Home on Avenue K is under new management. The restaurant's new hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Still serving cheese steaks, the restaurant now offers Chinese food. This favorite lunch spot cooks eight Chinese entrees, all at one price and served with soup and rice. Dishes include prawns, chicken wings, calamari, flounder, chow mein, black pepper beef and barbecued shrimp.

Ye Ole Butcher Shop, owned by Jeff Sparks, has been open since 1976. Jeff isn't bragging when he says he makes the best hot links in Texas. The recipe is original and the links are mostly pork with a smidgen of beef. This butcher shop is also a popular lunch spot. The burgers certainly are "a cut above," available in beef, buffalo and elk. Smoked on the premises, barbecue and turkey legs are also available, as well as homemade side dishes such as potato salad and coleslaw.



(continued on page 2)

Happenings

July/August 2006

July

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------------|
| 1 | "Shades of Dark and Light"
Ewert & Company Dance Concert
Courtyard Theater | 972-769-0017 |
| 1 | "The Baltimore Waltz"
Rover Dramawerks, Cox Building Playhouse | 972-849-0358 |
| 1-2 | "A Midsummer Night's Dream",
Oak Point Shakespeare Festival
Quad C Theatre of Collin County
Amphitheater at Oak Point Park | 972-881-5679 |
| 1-16 | "Vertu" a juried arts exhibit
by Collage, Courtyard Theater lobby | 972-941-7740 |
| 1-31 | "Once Upon a Time"
The art of children's book illustration
by Mary Sullivan and Regan Johnson
ArtCentre of Plano | 972-423-7809 |
| 3 | Free Concert by Plano Community Band
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m. | |
| 4 | All American Fourth of July
Sponsored by City of Plano
Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve, 9:30 p.m. | 972-941-7250 |
| 15 | Concert in the Park
Texas All Star Jazz Band with guests,
Matt Harris, pianist and Rosana Eckert, vocalist
Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 8:30 p.m. | |
| 17 | Free Concert by Plano Community Band
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m. | |
| 20-8/29 | Paintings by Liz Netherlands
Courtyard Theater lobby | 972-941-7740 |
| 21-30 | "Sideways Stories
from Wayside School"
Rover Dramawerks, Cox Building Playhouse | 972-849-0358 |
| 21-31 | "Cats", the musical
Repertory Company Theatre, Courtyard Theater | 972-690-5029 |
| 31 | Free Concert by Plano Community Band
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m. | |

August

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------|
| 5 | "Western Corral"
Mother-Son Hoedown, Senior Center | 972-941-7250 |
| 9-20 | "Weekend Comedy"
Ameristage Players, Cox Building Playhouse | 469-223-6409 |
| 10 & 11 | "Back to Broadway",
a musical review, Plano Children's Theatre
Courtyard Theater | 972-422-2575 |
| 11 | Country Music Concert
featuring Ray Wylie Hubbard
Presented by KHYI 95.3 The Range
The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park | 972-789-2655 |
| 18 | Country Music Concert
The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park | 972-789-2655 |
| 18-20 | Dance Concert
by The Dance Depot, Courtyard Theater | 972-516-1653 |
| 20-31 | Sculpture Exhibit
by Sherry Giryotas, ArtCentre of Plano | 972-423-7809 |
| 25 | Country Music Concert
The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park | 972-789-2655 |
| 27 | Section Recital by Plano Community Band
www.planoband.org, Courtyard Theater | |

Dickey's Barbecue Pit has had a steady stream of diners since it opened in 1972. The scrumptious brisket is smoked for 12 hours. For those with a lighter appetite, the boneless chicken breast marinated in Dickey's secret sauce is grilled to perfection. The pulled pork is also popular. Everything is made on the premises. With daily specials, 18 different vegetables and free ice cream, there is something for everyone. Dickey's also offers custom cooking to go and catering services.

Aparicio's Restaurant on 18th Street creates delicious homemade Mexican food in a casual atmosphere. Open for all meals seven days a week, Aparicio's also provides catering services. The restaurant is great for families, and known for its attentive service and mouth watering chile rellenos, and tortillas and tamales made fresh daily. Menu orders can be split and many items can be purchased individually, so the possibilities are endless. The walls of the restaurant feature paintings by local artist Franco Sastre. The tequila bar is a friendly meeting place with extended hours.

La Paloma Restaurant on Avenue K offers Mexican-style quick meals and a convenient drive-through. Serving all meals daily, this spot carries all the classics and more. All kinds of tacos and tortas are available along with other specialties such as shrimp tostadas, or cocktail and cactus with cheese. **La Paloma's Bakery** on Avenue G at 18th Street sells Mexican pastries, including the ever-popular conchas and mantecadas. Beverages, candies and birthday cakes complete the selection. This spot also offers newspapers and magazines in Spanish.

Into My Garden Tea Room, inside **Nooks 'n Krannies** on 15th Street, offers freshly prepared quiches, soups, salads, sandwiches and decadent desserts. Their most popular order is the sampler plate. Items are made from scratch daily by chef Jennifer Minor. Owned by friends Sue Nagy and Linda Turrentine, the restaurant is open for lunch Monday through Saturday. The tea room is available anytime for private events, such as traditional high English teas, little girl tea parties and bridal/baby showers. Into My Garden now offers age-appropriate etiquette classes.

Lillian's Back Porch is separated by garden screening from the antique booths of **Cobwebs Antiques & Collectibles** on Avenue J. Owner Joe Parker named the restaurant after his mother, whose photo is displayed on the wall. Lillian's is open Monday through Saturday for lunch. Chef Sarge McMasters makes everything from scratch daily and his specialty is chicken salad. The menu also includes a variety of desserts.

Rainbow Donuts on Avenue K is the spot for the early riser who wants a tasty, quick breakfast. Open Monday through Saturday at 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Sunday, this eatery offers gourmet coffees and many types of breakfast pastries. For lunch, sausage rolls and sandwiches are available.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 15th Street Café & Bakery | 972-424-4700 |
| Aparicio's | 972-423-6980 |
| Dickey's Barbecue Pit | 972-423-9960 |
| Dish Neighborhood Cuisine | 972-633-1200 |
| Feels Like Home | 972-578-2204 |
| 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's Bakery | 972-422-4860 |
| La Paloma Restaurant | 972-578-2267 |
| Lillian's Back Porch | 214-207-0772 |
| Porta di Roma | 972-943-3533 |
| Rainbow Donuts | 972-881-3619 |
| Ye Ole Butcher Shop | 972-423-1848 |

In addition to restaurants, Downtown Plano shops offer other food possibilities. Visit **Georgia's Farmers Market** for fresh produce and other food products. Also on 15th Street, **Red Awning Antiques and Collectibles** has nostalgic candy and gourmet coffee beans. Stop by **Candy Bouquet** for a taste of the fudge of the day from their large selection. The shop also carries a variety of candy, soft drinks and ice cream novelties. Visit **The Wooden Spoon** on Avenue K for Scandinavian food products such as imported canned fish, patés, cheese, jams, soups, coffees and cookies.

The ArtCentre of Plano

Jump Start for Arts, a free arts program for children sponsored by the City of Plano, continues its summer session until July 28 at the Cox Building. Instruction is provided by The ArtCentre of Plano.

The ArtCentre Plano is also offering **Art Start**, a summer art experience for five to seven year olds. The July session (7/6-7/20) meets twice weekly from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Creative Arts Center of Dallas is offering adult art classes at The ArtCentre of Plano all summer. There are one day classes and courses running for six to eight sessions. Mediums include paper, clay, glass jewelry, casting, felting, mosaics, photography and basic drawing. Stop by for a brochure.



Village People

The Garzas Are On The Move

Ruben and Mary Alice Garza are both native Texans, born in Edinburg, where they met and married. Ruben's job with Texas Instruments (TI) transferred them to the Dallas area, finally bringing them to Plano in 1973. The Garzas' three daughters are all graduates of Plano Independent School District. The two oldest still live in Plano. The youngest recently moved to San Antonio. Ruben and Mary Alice have four grandchildren.



In the late '60s, with the passing of new environmental compliance laws, Ruben saw an opportunity. He and two friends left TI to begin Geo-Marine Inc. to help customers meet the challenges of regulatory requirements.

Six years later, Ruben bought most of his partners' interest in the company, and he was on his own. His entrepreneurial instinct, outgoing personality and persistence paid off in 1984 when Geo-Marine got into the federal market. The company hasn't stopped growing since.

When Mary Alice retired from teaching in 1987, her husband talked her into working part time for the company. She is now vice president in charge of special projects and truly an asset to the business.

Geo-Marine Inc. has a worldwide reputation for its expertise in analyzing and managing potential hazards to the environment and cultural resources. The company provides studies, solutions, equipment and ongoing services to both Federal and private projects. The company recently developed a mobile avian radar system, now used by the Royal Air Force in Scotland to track the migratory patterns of snow geese.

With more than 150 degreed professionals, the company is large enough to provide all the technical expertise its clients need, yet small enough to give them the personalized service they demand. The firm has five branch offices and has executed projects in every state in the United States and many countries abroad. Geo-Marine has outgrown its space at the corner of 15th Street and Central Expressway, and will soon be moving to Avenue K between 18th Street and Park Boulevard.

The firm has won many local and state awards for its business activities and philanthropic efforts, including the E. Mott Davis Award for Public Outreach. The Garzas have played an integral part in creating heritage tourism concepts, museum exhibits and documentary films, all to preserve our rich heritage and environment. The company participates in such local events as the Archeological Fair. Both Mary Alice and Ruben have their own favored causes. Mary Alice assists in the Community Cares Clinic, devoted to the care of those who have no medical insurance. Ruben devotes his spare time to prison ministry.

The Garzas have deep roots in this community and are a great asset to it. No doubt their success will continue in their new location.

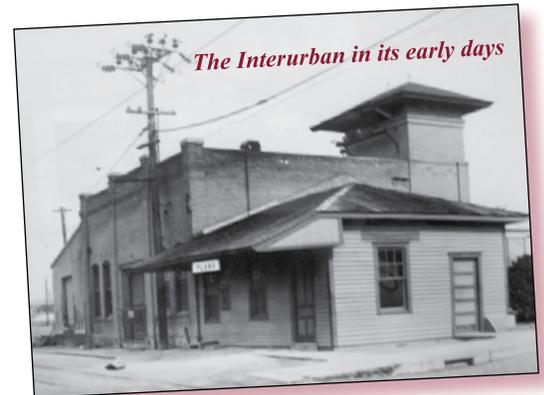
Historic Views

The Interurban Railway system came to Plano in 1908. It connected isolated farming communities to the more urban areas. Moving not only people, it also carried mail to the many small towns along the line. The Interurban building in Plano also served as an electric substation, converting-high voltage alternating current to direct current needed to power the line. The impact on communication and commerce was dramatic.

The invention of the automobile contributed to the system's closing, and the Plano station closed in 1948. The building then housed a variety of companies until it was vacated in 1982. In 1990, the City of Plano purchased and restored the property. In 1991 it reopened as the Interurban Railway Museum, and was designated a Texas Historical Landmark.

The Museum was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places and is about to undergo another change. The City of Plano will be expanding the facility, replicating a storage space found on the building's north side in its early years.

The expansion will be used for office space and artifact storage, currently near the building's south entrance. The reception area's original appearance will then be restored, including a pot-bellied stove and office equipment used in its early years. These antiques are part of a larger and newly catalogued collection in storage to be brought back for display, loan and research. They will be a welcomed addition to the museum's educational programs, which have been expanded to include storytime for preschoolers on Fridays at 10:30 a.m.



The Museum's expansion supports the vision of Historic Downtown Plano as a cultural district. Other venues include the Cox Building and Courtyard Theatre, the Plano African American Museum, the Douglass Art Wall, and a variety of art galleries and studios. These, combined with many cultural events, contribute to a vibrant city center.

Shopping the Village

There is a lovely wedding display set up at **Cobwebs Antiques and Collectibles** on Avenue J, with gowns from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s, vintage photos and trousseaus, wedding crystal, china and silver, bride's books, shoes and lingerie.



Just Gotta Have It!

is showing their wares in a space at **Simple Country Pleasures**.



Custom Scooters has long been popular with younger customers for carrying scooters of all types and electric bicycles. In addition, they are now offering several models of mobility-assist scooters, and sales are taking off!

Street Talk

Two Brothers Cigars has moved to the corner of 14th Street and Avenue K with a more spacious and upscale décor. Owners Gary Irvin and Rick Baldelli now have plenty of room for private parties and game nights. Watch for the Grand Opening!

United Mail and Business Center on 14th Street now serves as a representative for The Drop Post, a drop-off location for eBay sale items. The Drop Post professionals do all the work to sell your item, and United Mail handles the packaging and shipping.

Did you know Historic Downtown Plano has a neural monitoring company? **Neuromed** on 15th Place is a neurophysiologist practice managed by Jason Fanselau. The group works with hospitals and surgeons to record, interpret and provide feedback on the nervous system during surgeries.

Eisenberg's Skate Park will be having a Free Skate Day on July 16 to celebrate its 9th anniversary. Summer camps continue through August 4 and their next periodic lock-in is August 11.

Mandee Kerico's **Creative Collections** salon on Vontress has added another stylist, specializing in extensions.

Did you know that **Nanny Granny's** has a monthly flea market, rain or shine, in front of the Avenue J shop. Watch for the signs!

Cal Young of **CYA Design Collective** on 15th Street had so much success at the Spring for Art Artwalk, he is extending his display of the limited editions prints by Joe Sorren, Nora Riley's jewelry and Dale Buchanan's wood sculptures. If you missed them during the Artwalk, it's not too late.

Body Grafix on Avenue K next to Kelly's Eastside will celebrate its ten year anniversary on July 15. Watch for specials and prizes. Owner Elizabeth Larsen has expanded her services to include Hot Rocks massages and Belavi facials.

Michael D. Holter Studio and Gallery on 15th Place is the only place you can find the Wakengeli collection, by local artist Carl Bindhammer. These bronze statues are cast from wood carvings, a time-consuming method resulting in dramatic detail. All proceeds from the sale of these bronzes go directly to Carl, who is battling cancer.



The groundbreaking ceremony for **Lexington Park at Rice Field** project was held June 8. The development will include 98 two-and-three story townhouses, ranging in size from 1,400 square feet to 3,000 square feet. Lexington Luxury Builders is the developer and units are available for sale for occupancy by year end. Completion of the project is expected in 2009.

Summer Music at Oak Point Amphitheater

The City of Plano is offering summer entertainment in the new Amphitheater at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve, 2801 E. Spring Creek Pkwy.

Picnic in the Park – On the Road starts June 15 at 7 p.m. with a concert by **King Creole**, offering a Mardi Gras of classic party music.

The Oak Point Shakespeare Festival will perform Shakespeare's classic comedy, **A Midsummer Night's Dream** June 22-25, 29-30 and July 1-2 at 8 p.m. The festival is produced by the Quad C Theatre of Collin County Community College in partnership with the City of Plano. General admission, cash only, is \$10 (students and seniors - \$5).

The City of Plano's **Star Spangled Fourth** fireworks display will be at the Special Events Area, beginning at 9:30 p.m. on July 4.

The **Collin County Community College Texas All Star Jazz Band**, with special guests Matt Harris, pianist and Rosanna Eckert, vocalist, will perform on Saturday, July 15 at 8:30 p.m.

Area youth groups will sponsor an "**End of Summer Bash**" on Friday, August 4 at 7 p.m., featuring Christian rock bands Casting Pearls and Remedy Drive, food concessions and activities. Admission is \$13 in advance (\$15 at the gate), and tickets may be purchased at www.itickets.com or 972-867-6704.

Plano-based radio station KHYI 95.3 The Range will present **Friday Night Country Music** events, kicking off August 11 at 8 p.m. with Ray Wylie Hubbard. Other dates are August 18, August 25 and September 2. For information, call 972-633-0953.



VILLAGE NEWS

PUBLISHER
Dana Conklin

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: danac@plano.gov

Village News
City of Plano
P.O. Box 860358
Plano, TX 75086-0358



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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