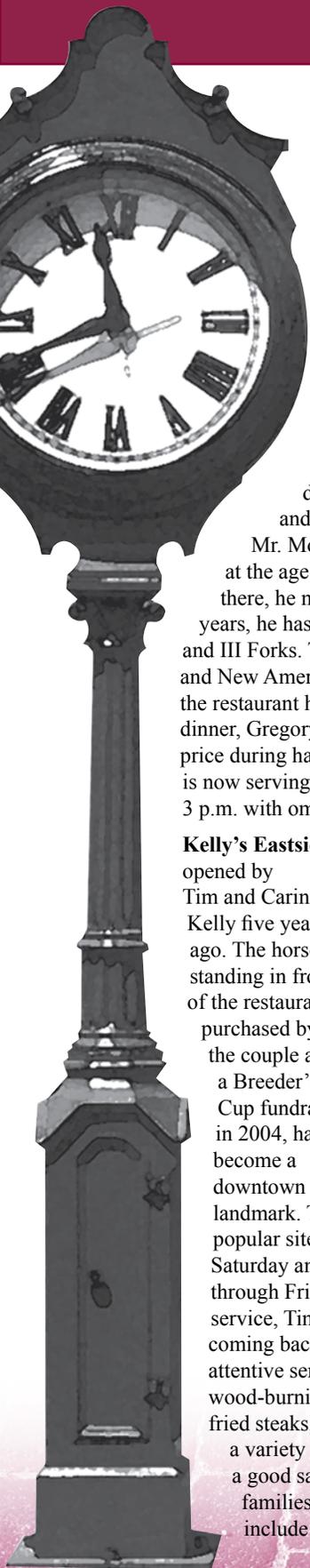


Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

July - August 2008

Downtown Dining



Dining in Historic Downtown Plano is as diverse as the area itself, from fine dining to ethnic cuisine and take-out meals, the area has it all. Each restaurant has its own specialties with a unique twist. Dine out before or after a show or a visit to a gallery.

At **Gregory's Restaurant**, chef and proprietor Gregory Moreaux prepares everything fresh. The fish for the restaurant's signature dish, baked Chilean sea bass, is delivered daily. Another signature dish is duck, cooked "two ways" duck confit and roasted duck breast with Bing cherry sauce.

Mr. Moreaux finished his formal culinary education at the age of 18 in France. After practicing his craft there, he moved to the DFW metroplex in 1991. Over the years, he has served as chef for Cacharel, The Silver Fox and III Forks. The menu includes a mix of French, Italian and New American concepts. With a casual chic atmosphere, the restaurant has a rooftop patio. Open daily for lunch and dinner, Gregory's serves select wine, beer and alcohol at half price during happy hour from 5 to 7 p.m. daily. The restaurant is now serving a buffet-style Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with omelets, pastries and crepes.

Kelly's Eastside was opened by Tim and Carin Kelly five years ago. The horse standing in front of the restaurant, purchased by the couple at a Breeder's Cup fundraiser in 2004, has become a downtown landmark. This popular site has live music from Wednesday through Saturday and happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. With over 20 years of experience in food service, Tim and Carin know how to keep customers coming back for good food, great atmosphere and attentive service. Along with tasty burgers cooked on a wood-burning grill, Kelly's has hand-breaded chicken fried steaks, smoked beef and pork baby back ribs, and a variety of sandwiches. With a children's menu and a good salad selection, Kelly's is a great choice for families. Watch for the opening of their expansion, to include a bar with 20 draft beers and a music stage.



The Fillmore Pub opened last October and became an instant success. Owners Gabe Watley and Kelly Wesner offer a friendly neighborhood pub with a warm, inviting atmosphere and excellent food. Along with chef Kirk Mexia, these gentlemen created a fish and chip meal rumored to be the best in town. For Guinness lovers, the menu includes a Guinness-cheddar burger, made with Guinness-marbled cheddar cheese. The pub offers 65 imported and domestic craft beers, 12 varieties of draft beer and a selection of fine scotches and American whiskeys. The Fillmore is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday and from 4 p.m. on Monday. The restaurateurs were honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Heritage Commission in May.



Jorg's Café Vienna offers a warm atmosphere. Owners Jorg and Cathy Fercher make diners feel like part of the family. The menu is a slice of Vienna, with a variety of schnitzels and bratwursts, along with unique house specialties, such as "Mamma's recipe" Austrian-Hungarian Goulash. Patrons can enjoy a wonderful selection of fresh German beers, served in the restaurant or outside in the biergarten. Jorg's has received accolades from many publications and awards from the Heritage Commission. The restaurant has received the Plano Health Department's Food Safety Excellence Award for four consecutive years and "D Magazine" named it one of the best neighborhood restaurants, with the best schnitzel in the metroplex. Jorg's is open Wednesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Jorg just purchased a motorcycle, so watch for Biker Night specials.

15th Street Café is owned by Publio Luciano. The menu at the busy lunch spot includes sandwiches, burgers and salads. Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Friday, patrons may order from the extensive regular menu or the daily specials, which include a soup, a salad, a gourmet entrée and a specialty sandwich. During dinner, a complimentary glass of wine or beer is served with your entrée. Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ye Ole Butcher Shop, owned by Jeff Sparks, opened in 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 stop. 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

continued inside

Happenings

July - August 2008

7/1-8/18	JumpStart For Arts Summer Children's Exhibit,	972-423-7809 ArtCentre of Plano
7/3	A Star Spangled Salute Plano Community Band, Haggard Park	planoband.com
7/4	All American 4th of July Independence Day Parade - 9 am All American 4th Fireworks at Oak Point Park	972-941-7250
7/4	2008 Patriotic Pops Plano Symphony Orchestra Charles W. Eisemann Center	972-473-7262 planosymphony.org
7/8	Seniors Dance, Dance Dance Plano Senior Center (Also on 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19, 8/26)	972-941-7155
7/10-8/2	"Mary's Wedding" Rover Dramawerks Cox Building Playhouse	972-849-0358 roverdramawerks.com
7/11	Beatlegras Concert Courtyard Theater	beatlegras.com
7/12	Downtown@Sundown Taste of Downtown Plano 15th Street	972-941-5260 visitdowntownplano.com
7/13	"Bye Bye, Birdie" Chamberlain Performing Arts Eisemann Center	972-985-1374 chamberlainperformingarts.org
7/18-30	"Footloose - The Musical" Repertory Company Theatre Courtyard Theatre	972-690-5029
7/20	Adult Ceramics Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
7/31-8/2	Annual Book Sale Friends of the Library, Plano Centre	972-208-8002 planolibrary.org
8/9	Downtown@Sundown's KidFest 15th Street	972-941-5260 visitdowntownplano.com
8/17	Adult Ceramics Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
8/22-24	"Pied Piper" and "Into the Woods" Storybook Children's Theatre Courtyard Theater	972-516-1653 mpacplano.com
8/26-9/27	Southwest Watercolor Society Exhibit ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809 rcttheatre.com

Historic Downtown Plano Restaurants

15 th Street Café	972-424-4700
Aparicio's	972-423-6980
Burri To Go	469-241-0017
Dickey's Barbecue Pit	972-423-9960
The Fillmore Pub	972-423-2400
Fusion Café	469-241-9099
Gregory's Restaurant	972-578-4734
Into My Garden Tearoom	972-509-0292
Jorg's Café Vienna	972-509-5966
Kelly's Eastside	972-424-9200
La Paloma's Panaderia	972-422-4860
La Paloma Taqueria	972-578-2267
Nee Nee's Tea Room	469-441-4679
Rainbow Donuts	972-881-3619
Sheik's	214-383-4544
Ye Ole Butcher Shop	972-423-1848

Village People

Helen Macey was born in the small town of Wister, Oklahoma. As a minister's child, the urge to help others was ingrained in her at a very early age. As an adult, she moved to Texas in the late 1970s. While working in Houston in bankruptcy court, she discovered her niche in assisting in finding housing for the needy.

Her career in public housing began with her certification in 1980. In 1987 she achieved her Executive Director certification and became the Executive Director of public housing in Pinal County, Arizona. She moved to Plano in 1993 and became the Executive Director of Plano Housing Authority. The PHA assists 804 families annually through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The PHA owns and manages 50 public housing units in the city and gives low income families the opportunity to enjoy safe, decent and drug-free housing at an affordable rental rate. The agency also owns 24 single family homes in mixed income neighborhoods for future client home ownership. PHA partners with several social service agencies, freeing up time for this agency while allowing others to do what they do best.



Ms. Macey played an integral role in the development of the Family Self Sufficiency Program and the Home Ownership Program. Her strong belief that public housing should not be a way of life, but a stepping stone to becoming self-sufficient gave her the insight to take the self-sufficiency program and develop a five-year plan to help families thrive on their own, with education, job training and life skills. Once families have achieved economic independence and self-sufficiency, they can progress to the Home Ownership Program and purchase a home with the assistance of the PHA. To celebrate the successes of these families, PHA hosts an annual fall festival in October.

Ms. Macey had quite a hands-on experience in the wake of hurricane Katrina. One can only imagine the profound effect it had on her to stand in Reunion Arena, surrounded by a sea of people, each holding in their hands a plastic bag containing all their possessions. Returning to Plano, she directed the PHA to assist 250 families in the first phase of Katrina. For the second phase, HUD and FEMA entered an agreement to fund the hiring of four social service people to help in this daunting task. As a result, PHA was able to assist an additional 270 families.

Her optimism and can-do attitude have served Ms. Macey well in her position. She derives great satisfaction from her job, and does it well. She has been honored with serving on national, regional and state housing committees, and one international committee during her career. She also worked with the designers and architects to make the new facility on 18th Street and Avenue G a warm and welcoming place.

Ms. Macey's blended family includes husband Daniel Snyder, who is retired from EDS, two daughters, two sons and four grandchildren. She is quite close to her daughters and feels blessed they include her in their lives with frequent contact and a close friendship. She is an avid sports fan and attends about a dozen football, basketball and baseball events annually, following the players and their statistics closely. Until recently, her sport was bowling in a local league.

Downtown Dining

continued from cover

potato salad and coleslaw. This eatery also has a substantial “take out” business with folks purchasing meat for social events, some purchasing an entire cow!

Dickey’s Barbecue Pit has had a steady stream of diners since it opened in 1972. The tender brisket is smoked for 12 hours. On the lighter side, the menu’s boneless chicken breast marinated in Dickey’s secret sauce is grilled to perfection. 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. The restaurant recently extended its hours and is now open until 9 p.m.

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

Nee Nee’s Tea Room is tucked in a quaint corner of Cobwebs Antiques & Consignments. Owner Denise Brady recently celebrated the restaurant’s first anniversary. Her customers enjoy a quiet atmosphere with attentive service and scrumptious Heavenly Hash chocolate cake. Denise and her family take pleasure in making and serving the ever-changing specials that accompany her tea room fare. Saturday afternoon tea parties include stories, songs and plenty of fun. This cozy spot is open for lunch Monday through Saturday, and offers catering and free local delivery.

Fusion Café is the coffee house with much more than coffee. Owners Ben and Nancy Motie also offer all kinds of smoothies, chais, bubble tea and 20 flavors of Italian soda, with many items available sugar-free. Sandwiches include low-fat ham and turkey. Ben makes scrumptious cake in apple and banana flavors. A variety of pastries are offered for breakfast or dessert. Beat the heat with fruit-flavored cream freeze or a dish of ice cream. Fusion has free wireless Internet access for its customers, live music on the weekends and books for browsing. This is a comfortable quiet spot to relax, read or surf.

Aparicio’s Restaurant 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 good service and mouth watering chile rellenos. The tortillas and tamales are made fresh daily. Art by local artist Franco Sastre adorns the walls. The tequila bar is a friendly meeting place with extended hours.

La Paloma Taqueria offers Mexican-style quick meals and a convenient drive-through. Serving all meals daily, this spot carries the classics and more. A large variety of tacos and tortas are available, along with other specialties such as shrimp tostadas, or cocktail and cactus with cheese. **La Paloma Panaderia** on 18th Street sells Mexican pastries, including the ever-popular conchas and mantecadas. Beverages, candies and birthday cakes complete the selection. Check out the hot food frequently offered from the cart outside.

The latest addition to local Mexican fare is **Burri To Go**. Manager Miguel Martinez is proud of the fact that everything is made fresh. The restaurant opens at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday, with steady sales of breakfast burritos. All are made with eggs and cheese, and can be customized with, steak, chicken, ham, bacon, chorizo, smoked sausage or potatoes. In addition to burritos, burrito bowls and wraps, tacos and salads are also available. The children’s menu includes nachos, quesadillas, and bean and cheese burritos. Miguel is community-minded, seeking opportunities to help the community, churches, schools and teams. He is currently working on a church fundraiser.

Rainbow Donuts on Avenue K attracts early risers wanting a tasty, quick breakfast. Open Monday through Saturday at 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Sunday, this eatery offers delicious coffee and many types of breakfast pastries. For lunch, sausage rolls and sandwiches are available.

Sheiks, the destination for Mediterranean food, is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Everything served is made on the premises by owner Hassam Abbas and his staff. Meat and Chicken Shawarma are slow cooked on a roller and served with zesty side dishes. The selection of seafood includes broiled tilapia, grilled or fried shrimp, fish and chips, and baked salmon. The menu has all the Mediterranean favorites, such as tabbouli, hummous, baba ghanouge, falafel, stuffed grape leaves and baklava.

In addition to restaurants, Downtown Plano shops offer other food possibilities. Pick up some steaks or burgers at Ye Old Butcher Shop, then visit **Georgia’s Farmers Market** for fresh produce and other food products to cook at home. **The Epicurean** has oils, spices, and mixes for soup or dessert, along with a variety of culinary tools. Complement your meal with a bottle of wine from **A Toast to Texas**. Stop by **Candy Bouquet and Gifts** for some fudge for dessert. The shop also carries a variety of candy, soft drinks and ice cream novelties. Visit **The Wooden Spoon** for Scandinavian food products such as imported canned fish, patés, cheese, lingonberry jam, peperkaker cookies Danish kringle and lefse.

City Scene

By Jon Hubach

2009 will be another year of transition in Downtown Plano. The old Blue Goose is finally showing life again with the opening of the Epicurean Market in May. Work has begun at 1006 E. 15th St. with the goal of a pizzeria moving in once the project finishes in 2009.

The biggest change on the horizon is the *Eastside Station* project on the Eisenbergs/Ye Ole Butcher Shop sites. It will add 235 apartments, 15,000 square feet of retail, a promenade connecting 15th and 14th streets, and a parking garage. City Council has approved an agreement between City of Plano and Pinnacle Realty to move forward with the project. Construction is expected to begin in late fall.

Elsewhere the Historic Downtown Plano Association is working on Downtown@Sundown. Be sure to visit every second Saturday from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. for a night of fun, food and live music. This summer will be unique for the event, as the HDPA holds its first ever Downtown@Sundown: *Summer Nights Series*, featuring Taste of Downtown Plano and KidsFest. Taste of Downtown Plano will be July 12, featuring restaurants of Downtown and east Plano eateries. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 5 to 10 and kids under 5 are free. KidsFest will be held on August 9 and will feature plenty of activities for kids, including our friends from the Plano Balloon Festival.

More of the stores and shops downtown have extended their regular hours to 8 p.m. on weekends. Some even open on Sunday! Be sure to check www.visitdowntownplano.com for details and participating stores.

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

Shopping

At **A Toast to Texas** offers a wide assortment of wines to accompany your meal. Crafted by two hunters and a salesman, 12 Gauge CAB is a full-bodied wine from NAPA Valley. Airlie, a German-style white wine was recently named "Drink of the Week" by "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" and is from the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Meeker Cabernet Sauvignon is from Santa Rosa, California and created by a Texan with big Texas flavor and a longhorn label. Turn your wine into a wine-a-rita with Wine Glacé.



Barb Cole at **Candy Bouquet and Gifts** is now offering new summer flavors of fudge. This melt-in-your-mouth fudge is a perfect dessert or hostess gift. Now included in the selection of over 30 flavors are



lemon meringue, orange cream, strawberry cheesecake and maple chiffon. Sample some today!

Do some gourmet cooking of your own with a stop at **The Epicurean**. Cooking in the hand thrown Pomaware pot from Chile will keep your food warm for an hour. Try the bread dipping sauces from Dean Jacobs and the Colavita Olive Oil imported from Italy. Stir up dessert with Plentiful Pantry Cobbler Mix or Dean Jacobs Crème Brûlée Mix.



VILLAGE NEWS

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Street Talk

Baxter's Salon and Boutique is now open again for business! The shop is next door to Kelly's Eastside and carries home décor and gifts, along with the salon services they have offered for years. Their new hours are Monday to Wednesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 1 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

The **14th Street Gallery** will have a wonderful exhibit in July entitled "Fierce." The exhibit runs from July 7 to August 1 and features 39 artists, sculptors, painters and photographers. Noted Dallas photographer J.R. Compton will serve as curator for the event. From August 9 to 29, work by two photographers Gaby Pruitt and Sharon Stevenson, and sculptor Mirtha Aerkter will be on exhibit. Hours for the gallery are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

aai Trophies and Awards is doubling its space! Owner Jeff Karnuth is now leasing the space to the left of his current store, effective June 1. He hopes to have the space remodeled and in full use by September.

The Epicurean opened its doors at 1007 15th Street in mid-May. The gourmet kitchen shop carries upscale cook ware, pot racks, cutlery, culinary accessories, spices, herbs, oils, olives, and mixes for soups, dips and desserts. Name brand items, such as the Porsche cutlery used by famous chefs, are prominent in the shop. Others brands include Culinary Institute of America, Gourmet Standard, Romertopf and Vollrath. Stop by and say hello to shop owner Terry Morgan.

Eisenbergs SkatePark continues its exciting summer camps through July 12, offering day camps as well as overnight camps. Summer camps at the **ArtCentre of Plano** continue through August 18. **Art-A-Rama Plano** will host its summer camps until August 22, with a different theme every week. Get your kids in on the fun!

Symmetry Architects has opened an office on 14th Street, next to The Village Spa. Since founding the company in 1998, Clint Pearson has built a growing reputation as a much sought after professional, with a portfolio reflecting work in several different residential styles. The work of Clint and his team has been featured in "LUXE Texas," "Dream Homes of Texas," "D Home's Dallas Design Book" and "Building Savvy Magazine."

There is a little known area on 15th Street just east of Municipal Avenue. Next door to the Plano Chamber of Commerce is **PCS, Inc.**, Patient Centered Services. This Medicare licensed and certified facility provides all types of home health care, including home health aides, skilled nurses, physical therapy, care for the elderly, the chronically ill, heart patients and stroke victims. Across 15th Street in Chaddick Center, **Speech and Language Services of North Texas, LLC** provides comprehensive speech, language and occupational therapy, assessments and consultations to the pediatric population in the Collin County area. Next door is **Body and Soul Massage Therapy**, offering many different massage methods, including regular, deep tissue, hot river rocks, Belavi facial massages and foot reflexology.



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.