

# Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

March - April 2009

## Kids Just Want to Have Fun!

Historic Downtown Plano is an exciting place for kids. There is a wide variety of events, places, eateries and shopping for youth. The area is rich in culture, history and the arts, with hands on experiences for all ages.

In March, Rover Dramawerks will present the world premiere of *Around the World in 80 Days*, adapted from the novel by Jules Verne. Bring the family and enjoy this treat for all ages. The play will run from March 5 to 21 at the Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Avenue. For a list of all the area performances, see the calendar on the next page.

Another event your family won't want to miss is Kidsfest, presented by the Historic Downtown Plano Association (HDPA). Kidsfest will kick off the HDPA's 2009 Special Events Series. On Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., come downtown for an egg hunt, photos with the Easter Bunny, a Ronald McDonald area with characters and games, bounce houses, a petting zoo and much more. The Marketplace will feature vendors of homemade arts and crafts, gourmet foods, photography and art, along with business information. Local musicians will be there to entertain.

Fourth graders from Plano's public schools enjoy an action-packed field trip to Historic Downtown Plano. This full-day trip begins at the Interurban Railway Museum, where they learn about rail transit and its role in Plano's history, with a hands-on, state-of-the-art science display based on electric circuitry. After a tour of Car 360 by volunteers in motorman regalia, students learn about the DART rail system, including how to read the rail map, follow safety procedures and purchase a ticket to ride today's electric train. The group has lunch in Haggard Park, where they find the time capsule location and the wonderful piece of public art entitled *Through the Park*. After lunch, they follow the Historic Downtown Walking Tour, learning about architecture and the value of preserving history with adaptive reuse.

They stop at the Courtyard Theater for a behind-the-scenes tour of how a play is produced. Next door in the Cox Building, they visit the historic classroom and learn about the history of PISD. Everything these fourth graders enjoy is also free to the public and can serve as a wonderful day outing for anyone.

Another free event at The Interurban Railway Museum is Pre-Schooler Story Time on

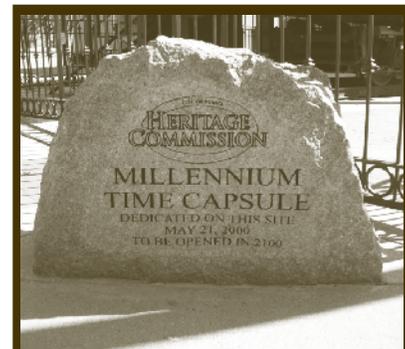
Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Storyteller Genie Hammel is a former librarian from the Gladys Harrington Library, a past president of the Texas Storytellers Guild and a professional puppeteer. Her skills bring books to life for your child during this 45-minute program. You can plan for a picnic afterwards in Haggard Park, which boasts a bandstand, two playgrounds, restrooms and a pond. No fishing poles, please.

Gladys Harrington Library hosts a weekly program entitled Totally Teens. This 90-minute free program is offered every Thursday at 4 p.m. and includes fun games, movies and more. On Wednesday, March 18, during spring break, they will host another teen-oriented program at this library called Press Play@ Your Library. On Friday, April 10, Harrington Library will also host Family Movie Time, and don't miss Family Fun Night on Monday, April 20. For details, go to the [www.planolibrary.org](http://www.planolibrary.org) Web site event calendar.

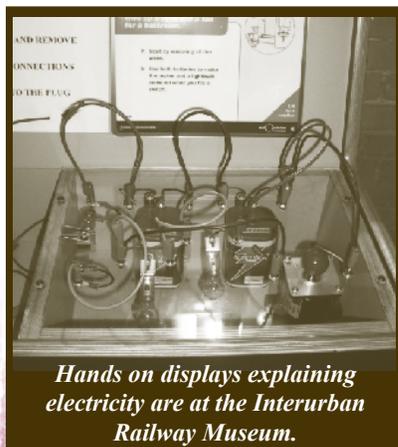
If your kids enjoy arts and crafts, visit Art-A-Rama Plano on J Avenue. Many kinds of art classes are available, with regular classes as well as camps. A popular event at this spot is the Pizza Party, offered once a month. For three hours your child enjoys pizza and creates a masterpiece while you enjoy time to yourself. For dates and prices visit [www.artaramaplano.com](http://www.artaramaplano.com).

At Holman Pottery your daughter's Girl Scout troop can learn pottery making and earn a badge. Badges are available for most levels and opportunities are customized to meet each troop's needs. For details and prices, visit [holmanpottery.com](http://holmanpottery.com).

For a little drama in your child's life, look for classes offered by Rover Dramawerks at the Cox Building beginning in April. These new acting classes will be for both children and adults. Look for them in the next issue of the "Leisure" publication and sign up [www.planoparks.org](http://www.planoparks.org).



The time capsule is outside the Interurban Railway Museum.



Hands on displays explaining electricity are at the Interurban Railway Museum.

continued inside

# Happenings

March - April 2009

3/5-21	Around the World in 80 Days Rover Dramawerks, Cox Building Playhouse	214-587-3859
3/8	Poundin' Percussion The Last Ensemble Concert Plano Symphony Orchestra, Courtyard Theater	972-473-7262 x22
3/10	Dedication Ceremony Fire Department Public Art, 1901 Avenue K	972-941-7740
3/10-4/2	PISD Senior AP/IB Exhibit ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
3/19	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
3/28	Everything on Tap Rhythm Junkies, Courtyard Theater	972-412-8300
3/28	A Celebration of Harmony Plano Civic Chorus, Courtyard Theater	972-529-1821
4/4	Plano Dance Festival Plano Metropolitan Ballet, Courtyard Theater	972-612-0835
4/4	Bowl Full of Blues II Ladies Sing the Blues Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	972-612-0835 www.planostages.tix.com
4/5	Swafford Music Recital Courtyard Theater	214-542-3823 sandymckinnon@tx.rr.com
4/10-5/9	Chris Blackhurst Exhibit ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
4/10-26	The Fantasticks Frisco Community Theatre, Cox Building Playhouse	972-754-2672
4/10-11	Broadway's Best IV Repertory Company Theatre, Courtyard Theater	972-690-5029
4/11	Kidsfest 15th Street, Haggard Park and J Place	972-941-5260
4/16	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
4/18	Live Green Expo Plano Centre	www.livegreenexpo.net

# Fun for Kids

High schoolers won't want to miss the PISD Senior AP/IB Art Exhibition at the ArtCentre of Plano from March 10 to April 2, where the works of Plano's talented Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate high school artists are on display.

The ArtCentre of Plano also provides JumpStart the Arts, a free summer program for children of economically-disadvantaged families, offering dance, music, drama and visual art classes for children ages 8 to 15. The program begins in June and is funded by the City of Plano.

Historic Downtown Plano is also the home of two private schools. Plano Christian Academy is a kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade classical Christian school committed to a small student-to-teacher ratio and individualized attention. The school is located on the same campus as First Christian Church of Plano at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue H.

At The Children's Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> Street at O Avenue, programs are offered for children 3 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, with half-day pre-school/kindergarten and a strong emphasis on hands-on learning in the areas of science, computer, cooking, language, music, Spanish and math.

For your musically inclined child, Waybright & Harrington on 15<sup>th</sup> Place has a unique selection of violins, violas and cellos, individually selected from around the world. This shop also provides services from basic bow re-hairs to full restoration of the finest instruments and bows.

Shopping and planning for your child is convenient in Historic Downtown Plano. Birthday parties can be arranged at either of the two tea rooms. Into My Garden is located inside Nooks n' Krannies on 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Nee Nee's Tea Room is inside Cobwebs Antiques and Consignments on J Place. Both venues have terrific party plans and wonderful kid-friendly food.

For shopping, Nooks n' Krannies has a wide variety of toys, clothes and books for your little one. Further east on 15<sup>th</sup> Street, you can get all kinds of bling for your teenager at Jewels and Jeans. Della's Depot also offers children's items. Next door at Candy Bouquet and Gifts you can pick up your child's favorite candy. Easter Baskets are also available at this lovely shop. While you are on 15<sup>th</sup> Street stop by the Plano Barbers to have Randy or James give your child a haircut. Across the street at Queen of Hearts, you can pick up a magic set or an outfit for a school project. Embellish will soon open at 1008 15<sup>th</sup> Street and will also offer a variety of children's clothing.

For all sorts of learning and fun, Historic Downtown Plano is the place to be this spring.

# Shopping

This new line of Kissy Kissy infant clothing is now available at **Nooks n' Krannies**. All items are made of extremely soft 100% Peruvian pima cotton. Custom Gift wrap is complimentary with your Kissy Kissy purchase. It's the perfect shower gift!



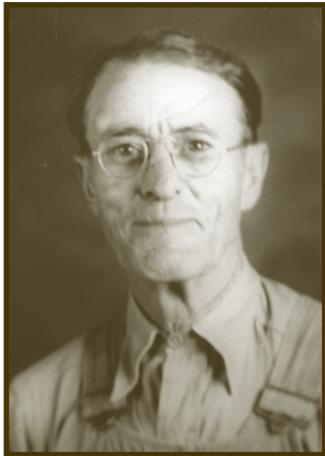
This space-age dichroic glass jewelry is hand made with multiple ultra-thin layers of metal oxide. No two pieces are the same. This jewelry, along with tons of other bling for your teen, is available at **Jewels and Jeans**.



Go to the back of the shop at **Della's Depot** to find the children's items. These Carter onesies have been embellished with tutus. Handcrafted by Kellie Herrerah, the decorations are removable. For children up to 3 years old, custom orders are welcome. Another big seller in the store is the Aurora animals and accessories for them. Featured here are the Mini YooHoos, which are very reasonably priced.

## Historic Views

The Plano Independent School District School Board hired English-born Ernest J. Cox as a janitor in 1919. "Shorty," as he was known to his friends, is thought to have traveled to the United States as a stowaway. E.A. Sigler, who arrived in Plano as a teacher and coach, and later became Superintendent, recalled hearing how Shorty had shoveled coal on Great Lakes ships before coming to Plano. Whatever his origins, he dedicated himself to the Plano public school system for over 30 years.



Shorty bandaged skinned knees and treated other wounds with his odorous Japanese Oil, part of the first aid he dispensed from his office under the stairs. He arrived for his work day at 3 or 4 in the morning to begin stoking the giant furnaces in the basement. He made wooden toys for the students and slept overnight at the school during bad weather to stoke the furnace to warm the building for the students and teachers.

The Cox Building, located on Avenue H, is a cooperative renovation project, between Plano Independent



*Historic items from the early 1900s are on display at the Cox Building.*

School District and the City of Plano. The building has unique historical significance as the oldest existing public building in Plano. From the 1920s to the 1940s it served as the central school for the city, housing grades K through 12. As the school system grew, the building housed the high school students only, then just the junior high school students. In 1961, some years after his death, the building was renamed the E.J. Cox Junior High School, and eventually became known as the Cox Administration Building.

Designated as a heritage resource, the Cox Building houses a performance area, meeting rooms, art classrooms and work rooms used for various PISD programs, including deaf education, human resource functions and training for the district, and other offices. The highlight of the building is the historic classroom available for view at no charge. Walls of the room are decorated with a variety of historical stories, including this one about Shorty Cox.

## Village People

Karis Jones has been a great asset to our city as the exhibition and event planner for the ArtCentre of Plano. Her busy work day includes helping artists plan their exhibits, curating the exhibits, helping organize fundraisers, coordinating facility rental and maintaining of the Web site, databases and press releases for this busy organization.

She is energetic, vibrant and a pleasure to be around. She jokes about the predicaments she has gotten herself into. On one occasion, she was alone in the building and decided since they had rented a cherry picker for an artist to suspend her work from the ceiling, she would utilize it to clean the light fixtures. She was able to use the machine to get herself up to the fixtures, but then could not figure out how to get herself down. After about 45 minutes, co-worker Sue



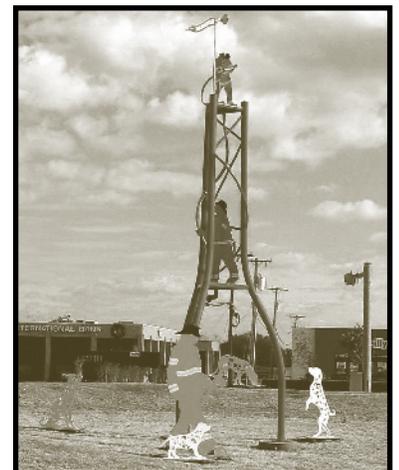
Oldham came in, not noticing her at first. She finally got Sue's attention and together they were able to maneuver her down, but she has not cleaned the fixtures since. Karis is from Oklahoma and went to East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. She majored in advertising and public relations, with a minor in vocal performance. She was active in dance during college and progressed in several competitions. During her senior year, her dance group competed against 200 other schools in the Southwestern Collegiate Dance Conference and became one of the top 10 dance groups to progress to the Gala in Austin.

After graduation in 2002, Karis honed her public relations skills at a jeweler, a retirement community and a real estate agency. She came to work at the ArtCentre of Plano in 2005 and thoroughly enjoys her work.

She and husband Kris were married in 2003 and live in Allen. Kris is the Youth Pastor at their church, Meadows Baptist Church. Kris is also working on his Masters of Divinity at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. Karis is active at the church, accompanying Kris on many youth outings, serving as a small group leader and as part of the church band. She even sings solos during Sunday service. The couple has led students on several mission trips, serving at homeless shelters and the retirement community for which Karis worked in Oklahoma. On their very first mission trip, the couple was at the church with the pastor's daughter. The three were to be the chaperones, but as parents came in to drop their kids they were repeatedly asking where were the adult supervisors.

## Everyone Goes Home

Plano's most recent public art project on the lawn in front of the Fire Administration building on Avenue K will be dedicated on Tuesday, March 10 at 4 p.m. The work is entitled *Everyone Goes Home*, following along the firefighters' informal motto. The Public Art Committee commissioned this project during the summer. Artist Jim Collins of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, was selected by a panel of members of the city, the fire department and the art community. Jim began working in the fall and completed and installed it in December. It features a ladder tower, hose, firefighters and Dalmatians.



# Street Talk

**Embellish** will open in mid-March in the space at 1008 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Owner Kathy McCabe is also the proprietor of My Favorite Room just east on the same street. Embellish will carry children's clothing, gifts and vintage European garden accessories, including both preserved and fresh flowers. Pick up your spring bouquet at this lovely shop.



**Vickery Park** is now open in the space at 1011 E. 15th Street. The menu includes elegant entrees, such as blackened salmon and shrimp and scallops with pasta, as well as sandwiches, burgers and pizza. Open for lunch and dinner daily, Vickery Park also serves brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



It will be more fun than ever to attend the St. Patrick's Day event at **Kelly's Eastside** this year. With the expansion complete, the new space has a stage for the band and seven additional televisions. The new bar offers 28 draft beers and over 50 bottled beers. T-shirts for the Sixth Annual St. Patrick's Day Bash will go on sale early March.



Cal Young of **cya design** has sublet some of his space to Donna Schneider for **The Studio Gallery**. She now hosts painting classes in the front of the space and the artists have their work on display. Cal has moved his office to the back half of the building.



**Georgia's Farmers Market** and **Lilly's Gifts and Garden Market** will be reopening at the beginning of March, so you can stock up for your spring planting. In addition to plants, Georgia's will also be stocked with fresh local produce.



Jeff Sparks will soon be moving **Ye Ole Butcher Shop** across the street. The new restaurant is just about ready for occupancy and has twice the seating space. Enjoy the same great food and service in a roomier atmosphere.



Nina Ricks, of **Cobwebs Antiques & Consignments**, is pleased to have another vendor in her space. Nita Boles, owner of **Nonnie's Little Notes**, provides photo restoration and enhancement, along with custom wall decor and cards. She uses your nostalgia to create unique items with the look of yesteryear. Stop by the shop and see her "Window in Time" shadow story box.

The spot at 1418 Avenue K, formerly **Plano Nailery**, is available for lease. Owner Patty Mason has recently installed a new roof, new double pane windows, new heat and air-conditioning systems and new electrical wiring.



Long time friends Joyce Shepherd and Katherine Ellis Barker have actualized a long time dream of a bakery offering creative baked goods in a charming neighborhood setting. **Bake Rejoice** on the corner of Avenue K and 15<sup>th</sup> Place is a neighborhood bakery offering a complete line of baked goods, cakes for weddings and all occasions. The shop is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday and Monday.



**The Emporium** is a new spot to shop! Formerly Teacups & Company, the space has become home to some new vendors. Now renting space are Shirts, Shoes and Such, The General Store, accoutré too and The Shady Lady. The building has come alive with these new vendors.



**The Fillmore Pub** now opens at 11 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with brunch until 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. With steady weekend morning traffic, the favorite brunch items are the Pub Breakfast and The Best Migas.



The **Live Green Expo** returns on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Folks will be able to learn more about how to live green, in all aspects of their lives, including transportation, energy, gardening, indoor air quality, food and agriculture, waste reduction, water usage, and construction. There will be a myriad of activities for kids, and Ed Begley Jr. of *Living with Ed* will be a keynote speaker. Hybrid cars will be on site, and there will be a food area where you can find out about local and organic foods. There will also be a place to bring your recyclables, including paper to be shredded, electronics and clothing.



*Oil & Water* is the title of **Michael Holter's** book, a collection of his paintings and writing. The book is a gift-book sized inspirational and devotional book you will enjoy reading again and again. You may preview and purchase the book online at [www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/545790](http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/545790). To have your copy signed by the author, stop by Michael Holter Studio & Gallery on 15th Place.



## 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.*