

Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

May - June 2008

Easy Living

People today are interested in convenience, health and the environment more than ever. Folks looking for a lifestyle that fits these demands are flocking to walkable neighborhoods. Walkable communities' discernable center and dense population allow businesses to thrive and public transportation to be cost effective. These communities have all types of housing, plenty of public places to gather, proximity to schools and workplaces, and narrow streets that cater to foot traffic. One company which rates neighborhoods with a "walkability score" to assist people in deciding where to live awards Historic Downtown Plano 83 out of a possible 100.

This easy, healthy lifestyle has been Historic Downtown Plano's attraction for many years. Residents exercise by walking to work, school, shopping, entertainment, dining and recreation, and support the local economy through shopping and volunteerism. They may spend less money on their car, or even have no car at all. Downtown Plano residents take a stroll to the performance venues for a show or saunter over to any of the seven art galleries. For a historical perspective, people visit the Interurban Railway Museum, one of the only two buildings in Plano on the National Register of Historic Places. The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation, housed inside, provides a downtown walking tour guide that can be followed to view the area's 16 sidewalk markers and 29 historic homes.

A stroll through history in the Douglass Community is also worthwhile to visit the Plano African American Museum or the Art Wall.

This easy lifestyle promotes sociability as well, with many gatherings at Haggard Park or in residents' yards. Downtown gatherings in the coming months include the AsiaFest on May 3, Blackland Prairie Festival on May 11, Downtown@Sundown on May 10 and June 14. In Haggard Park, enjoy the Interurban Railway Museum's Centennial Celebration on June 14. The Plano Community Band concerts are June 2 and 16, and their popular annual Independence Day program is July 3. The day following, Plano's Independence Day Parade will start at Park Boulevard and Independence Parkway, and travel north to Spring Creek Parkway. Fireworks will begin at 9 p.m. at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. It's a quick and easy ride to the area on DART. Pick up a schedule at the DART station and go on an adventure.



Another convenience of Historic Downtown Plano is the multitude of available services.

For the Home

Services in the area make it easy to acquire and maintain a home. Homes can be purchased or rented through Lexington Park at Rice Field, 15th Street Village and Eastside Village. Residential real estate services are offered through Sparling Mortgage and O.K. Mortgage. Southern Painting provides full-service interior and exterior painting. If you are building a home, visit architect Cal Young at cya design collective. Use the complete interior design services of My Favorite Room for your décor. Cleo Warden, inside Nanny Granny's, does alterations for both home décor and clothing. Make your décor truly unique with a family portrait from Legacy Portrait Painters. Take the pressure off cleaning your home with Maid Brigade. Plants and landscaping services are available through Garrison Gardens and Lisle, Inc. Precision Pavers and Patterned Concrete by Rey are available for patios, pool decks, driveways and walkways. Gary Thompson of GHT Metals can construct custom fencing, handrails and home décor out of any metal. Furniture refinishing is an art for the Horace family at Horace's Furniture Refinishing on 13th Street.

Financial and Security Services

Financial planning and security are available in the neighborhood. Independent insurance company A.R. Schell & Sons has been in the area since 1930. Guest Insurance Agency on 18th Street is a full-service insurance agency. If you need a Farmer's Insurance Group representative, Robert Capt has an office on 14th Street. Burchett & Roberts Appraisers specializes in relocation. For easy banking, the area has Legacy Texas Bank, First International and Washington Mutual, all just a stroll away. Marcus Orr of Edward Jones offers all types of investments and financial services. Laurie Holgate of Tax Rx is dedicated to her clients' tax health and is licensed by the IRS. Joy Andress provides bookkeeping and tax service, and is also licensed by the IRS. Other accountants in the area include Alvin Dahl and Dale Quenzer. James Reese offers tax services for both businesses and individuals. Historic Downtown Plano has bilingual tax assistance and notary service provided by Salvador Diego and Alvaro Afanador.

Legal Services

The easy atmosphere of Historic Downtown Plano has attracted several law firms. The Law Office of Megan B. Rachel serves neighbors in the area of family law, wills and probate. Brisendine, Warmbrodt and Associates has four lawyers practicing family law exclusively. Keller and Stark has been practicing family law in Historic Downtown Plano for 13 years. Jennifer Barnett, on 18th Street, practices criminal and family law. F.B. Larrea is a bilingual attorney, practicing criminal and family law. Robert J. Herrington and Mark S. Perez also offer bilingual legal service. Stephen H. Miller is a criminal defense attorney. For personal injury law, visit with Howard Hamilton, Jr.

Services for You

There are several medical services available in Historic Downtown Plano. The Downtown Medical Clinic has basic medical services and a bilingual staff. For eye care, walk over to Central Vision Clinic, a

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Happenings

May - June 2008

5/1-6	Lee Akins Retrospective Exhibit (3D) ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
5/2	Family Fun Night at Plano Library Harrington Library	972-941-7175
5/2-3	"Reflection of Mind" Art exhibit by Daryl Davis, Plano Centre	972-941-7250
5/3	AsiaFest '08 Haggard Park	www.asianamericanheritage.com
5/3	K-9 Kerplunk Oak Point Center, Canine Swimming Only	972-941-7540
5/6	Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation Preservation Awards Interurban Railway Museum	972-941-2117
5/6-6/14	Texas Sculpture Association Annual Exhibit ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
5/10	Downtown@Sundown 15th Street	972-941-5260
5/11	Blackland Prairie Festival 15th Street	214-808-1222
5/16	"Beatles Tribute Night" Featuring American English and Beatlegras Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	www.planostages.tix.com 972-941-5600
5/18	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
5/26	Memorial Day Observance Plano Municipal Center	972-941-7250
6/2	Summer Concert Plano Community Band, Haggard Park	www.planoband.com
6/5-28	"Gilligan's Island," The Musical Rover Dramawerks Cox Building Playhouse	www.roverdramawerks.com 972-849-0358
6/5	Picnic in the Park Concert Hoblitzelle Park	972-941-7250
6/6-15, 23-29	"Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" Plano Community Theater Courtyard Theater	972-422-2575
6/7	"Rock 'n' Roll in the Bowl" Featuring Voodoo Blue and the Carolyn Wonderland Band Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	www.planostages.tix.com 972-941-5600
6/9-13	"All the World's a Stage!" Summer Day Camp Rover Dramawerks, ArtCentre of Plano	www.roverdramawerks.com
6/12	Picnic in the Park Concert Russell Creek Park	972-941-7250
6/14	Interurban Centennial Celebration Haggard Park	972-941-2117
6/14	Downtown@Sundown 15th Street	972-941-5260
6/15	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
6/16	Kids Concert Plano Community Band, Haggard Park	www.planoband.com
6/19	Picnic in the Park Concert Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	972-941-7250
6/20-8/18	Jumpstart for Arts Summer Children's Exhibit ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
6/20-22	Summer Musical Chamberlain Performing Arts, Courtyard Theater	214-412-8589
6/21	Juneteenth Celebration Douglass Community Center	972-941-7174

Easy Living

continued

bilingual office. Hearing aids are available at Hearing Aid Express. Chiropractor Don Loeffler has an office on 15th Street. General family dentistry is provided by Bridgeman Dental. Ye Olde Sleep Inn is a diagnostic sleep lab offering sleep studies and diagnosis, bed and breakfast style. To relieve stress, stop by Body Grafix for a massage. Spa Habitat Organic Retreat provides a variety of massage types, and is completely organic. The Village Spa offers spa services as well, along with permanent cosmetics, Restylane and Botox. The Institute of Health Promotion provides Restylane, Botox and spider vein treatment with its primary focus on weight loss. All types of counseling for individuals and families are offered just a stroll away at Stonebriar Counseling Associates.

Historic Downtown Plano has a wide selection of salon services. Choices include Anthony's Barber & Beauty Shop, Baxter's Salon, Creative Collections, Dora's Salon, Hair'em and Nail'em, Lauren's Salon, Mane Design, Penny's Salon, Phancy's Hair Salon, Plano Nailery, Today Tan and Nails and Williams Family Barbershop. Plano Barbers offers 50 percent off for active military personnel.

For Your Business

If your business is in Historic Downtown Plano, many of your needs can be met by your neighbors. Integrated Corporate Consulting Group, Inc. offers financial consulting and commercial loans. Luke Laman practices corporate law and commercial litigation. Source 1 Financial Services assists companies with employee retirement and benefit plans. Rick Fambro at Fairway Group Real Estate facilitates the purchase and development of raw land and buildings. Swift Concrete handles concrete decking for businesses and swimming pools. W & M Environmental Group has over 10 years experience in environmental consulting. Geo Marine helps its customers meet the challenges of regulatory requirements for environmental compliance.

A Better Answer provides answering services. Scott Copeland of Aegis1 Computer Services works on all brands of computers, offering loaners, preventative maintenance and monthly contracts. Unified Data Systems provides technology integration and automation services to mid-sized companies. NetVision1 offers networked video surveillance for homes and businesses. For mailing, photocopying and packaging needs, visit United Mail and Business Center. Give your business a boost by joining the Plano Chamber of Commerce. Reward your employees or clients with products from aai Trophies and Awards.

To market your company there is a wealth of expertise within walking distance. What's the Big Idea? offers professional creative services for design, marketing and ad campaigns. Benoit Design, Inc. has been in business since 1977 and supplies graphic design, communications and advertising. Graphic design and printing are available at Plano Type & Graphics. Vialuna Group develops complete solutions for marketing and sales. For printing and mass mailings contact AdPages.

Other Available Services

Car repair is offered at Sav-Mor Auto and Tire, Jiffy Lube and Auto Fix It. In addition to repair services, Kwik Kar Auto Service Center offers quick inspections – rain or shine. If you are in need of hubcaps or tire repair, stop by at Hubcap Homer's. Thompson Boatworks makes custom handcrafted wooden canoes, rowboats and sailboats.

If you have a special occasion, walk over to Wall-Robbins House, Carpenter House or the ArtCentre of Plano to book a room or the entire facility. For events large and small, Elite Occasions for You is a one stop shop for planning, decor, favors, flowers, programs, limos and photographers. Videography is available through Dallas Digital Events.

For kids, the area has a bilingual preschool, Bilingual Beginnings, on 14th street. Art-A-Rama Plano and ArtCentre of Plano provide art classes for children and adults. Walk over to Urbankids Photography for a portrait of your child. If walking is not enough exercise, visit Eisenberg's Skatepark. Plano Cycling and Fitness organizes rides on Wednesdays, Thursdays and weekends. Visit them on 18th Street for their schedule of rides, with a variety of lengths and paces available.

Humane Animal Hospital offers complete veterinary services. Just walk your pet over for your appointment.

To work, play or socialize, life is easy in Historic Downtown Plano. Relax, enjoy, get things done and leave the car at home.

Street Talk

The Preservation Awards Ceremony and Celebration will be Tuesday, May 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Interurban Railway Museum. This year's recipients of Certificates of Appreciation are The PISD Social Studies Department (Donna Koch, Phyllis Stoup and Polly Schlosser); John J. Myers, J.D., Ph.D.; and The Fillmore Pub project (William Cravens, Gabe Whatley and Kelly Wesner). Winner of the Award of Excellence in Preservation is The Aldridge House Project (Clint Haggard and Daron Tapscott, architect). Preservation Hall of Fame recipients are Sheila Huckaby and Lolisa Moores Laenger. In addition to the presentation of the awards, the museum's new research library will be dedicated to John J. Myers. On Saturday, June 14, the **Interurban Centennial Celebration** will be in Haggard Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This family event celebrates the 100th birthday of the building housing the museum. The Children's Community Theatre will offer chalk art, face painting and a performance. Other fun activities include games, a clown, a train ride and Radio Disney.

Step into history at the City of Plano's **4th Annual Blackland Prairie Festival** on Sunday, May 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Encompassing the entire downtown area, the festival includes crafters, artisans, food vendors, dancers, jugglers, clowns, barbershop quartets, magicians and musical acts.

Tuscan Lights is the newest shop on 15th Street. Owners Scott and Carolyn Harper offer unique and distinctive wine room and home accent furnishings rarely found elsewhere, featuring items made from Honeycomb Calcite, a translucent natural stone. The shop also sells the exclusive 1803 Cellarworks brand of custom hand-carved furnishings and Riddling racks, imported from France.

Bill Lisle, owner of Lisle Inc., a landscape management and construction firm on Avenue K, has opened **Lilly's Gift and Garden Market** on 14th Street. The store offers specialty potted plants, live topiaries and garden accessories, as well as home accessories including candles and wall decor. Stop by and discover great ways to enhance your outdoor oasis. South on Avenue K, Mr. Lisle has also opened Billy Jack's Hitch and Trailer. The shop provides hitch installations, specialty hitch set-ups and replacement parts for trucks and SUVs.

Further east on 14th Street, a new school has opened – **Bilingual Beginnings**. This Spanish preschool teaches English speaking preschoolers a second language. For ages 18 months to 5 years, the school has two and three week sessions all summer from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with extended hours available. Taught by native Spanish speaking instructors, the school provides children the experience of a language immersion program.

The **ArtCentre of Plano** continues to partner with the Creative Arts Center of Dallas to offer a wide variety of classes and workshops for all ages. Walk over and get a schedule to expand your creativity. Join the fun at **ArtCentre Family Days** held on select Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. On May 17, kids will make a one-of-a-kind sculpture and on June 21 they'll create a self portrait mask.

Historic Downtown Plano now has a professional jeweler. Victor Pollen has opened **Renaissance & Custom Jewelry** inside Cobwebs Antiques & Consignments. Stop by the shop for jewelry repair, restoration and custom design by a master jeweler with 37 years experience.

15th Street Café has a new owner. Restaurant chef Publio Luciano purchased the café in January. Its fine quality, menu and service remain the same with new hours. The café is now open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, with brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spice up your day with a stroll over to **Burri To Go** on Avenue K for some tasty Mexican food. Managed by Miguel Martinez, this restaurant offers burritos, wraps, fajita plates, taco salads, breakfast items and great real-fruit smoothies.

Art-A-Rama has released its summer art camp schedule. Weekly camps are offered June 9 through August 22. The camps for ages 6 and up are five days a week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Camps for younger artists, ages 3 to 6, are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A new salon has opened on Vontress. Lauren Whitson, owner of **Lauren's Salon**, does all styles of cuts and color for all ages and specializes in razor cuts, and is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Ambiance Décor is now affiliated with an interior decorator, Morgan Taylor. Morgan has a degree in art, earning much of her design education in Europe. She is available for free consultation the second Saturday of each month at the store. Stop by with your swatches and photos to get her input.

Laurie Holgate of **Tax Rx** is moving her business to the corner of N Avenue and 16th Street at the end of June.

Also on the move is Betsy Larsen and her massage company, **Body Grafix**. Massages are available at her new location at 708 E 15th St., Suite C, at the corner of F Avenue.

Vialuna Group, the successful creative marketing group upstairs behind Queen of Hearts, is expanding into the space downstairs formerly occupied by Jewels and Jeans.

The "Joy" of Bookkeeping and Taxes has moved its office to 15th Street, east of Avenue K. Owner Joy Andress offers small business bookkeeping and tax preparation for businesses and individuals.

LungStar sleep lab on J Avenue has changed its name to **Ye Olde Sleep Inn**. This facility takes you away from the stuffy medical atmosphere while you are being diagnosed. Patients sleep in a cottage-style home with a wonderful breakfast as part of the program.

Always at Peace Day Spa has also changed its name. Owner Amy Bohn is expanding to another location and changed the name to **Spa Habitat Organic Retreat** to reflect the complete organic nature of the spa.

Village People

The Assistance Center of Collin County has been responding to people in crisis for 31 years. From beginning in one room in the Douglass area to now owning their building in the Haggard Park Heritage District, the agency has grown significantly. The first year they received 1,700 calls and now there are 25,000 annually. The Assistance Center is the primary referral service, linking those in crisis to needed services. The Center connects families to food, clothes, utilities, emergency financial assistance, prescription programs and social service referrals. Support is provided to over 3,000 families annually. Last year, 1,388 families received over \$270,000 for housing, utilities, prescriptions and transportation. Another 1,526 families received food or clothes. Many know the agency for its seasonal programs, including school supplies, shoe distribution and holiday help.

Volunteers are a major asset to the agency through answering phones, providing information and interviewing clients. One has been with the organization for 30 years and eight have volunteered between 13 and 25 years. Crucial to the organization, volunteers gave over 3,700 hours in 2007.

Jackie Hall has been the Assistance Center Executive Director for 24 years. This nine-year survivor of breast cancer was in Leadership Plano's inaugural 1984 class, and has been directing the facility since. Besides supervising up to 20 people, she



handles all financial aspects which include reporting to funders and working with the Board of Directors regarding activities and policies. She also writes grant applications, coordinates fundraising and covers public relations for this vital agency.

Volunteering in Memphis, where she was raised, led Jackie to a position with the American Lung Association. In 1979, she and her husband Bill moved to Plano, where she became a Branch Manager for Plano Health Services. After three years, she joined the Assistance Center of Collin County and has led the organization since. Bill, now retired, was first in the military and then in commercial real estate. The couple has four children and eight grandsons. After her recent knee surgery, she was teased that maybe she spent too much time on the football field with the eight of them.

Jackie loves her job. She enjoys meeting people she wouldn't otherwise have the chance to meet. Her career is fulfilling, by helping a single mother with an electric bill, housing, school supplies or food, or assisting senior citizens who can't stretch their limited incomes to cover high electric bills or necessary prescriptions. Knowing that children can start school with all their supplies and a new pair of shoes gives Jackie, her employees and her volunteers a great sense of accomplishment.

Shopping

Even with the convenience of walking, there is occasionally the need for wheels.

This Townie bicycle at Plano Cycling and Fitness has flat foot technology – your feet rest flat on the ground while seated. With upright seating, forward pedaling and a relaxed arm position, this bike is available for men or women, with single or multiple speeds.



For ease of mobility, try this revolution in personal mobility. Available at Custom Scooters, this Bladez Travel Mate has an adjustable tiller, sliding seat, on-board charger and flat-free tires. With 15 miles on a single charge this PMV (personal motor vehicle) can go up to 4.5 miles per hour.



This antique reproduction at Sutton Place is perfect for garden and patio décor. Available in three sizes, this bike is made of solid iron in the Orient.



Historic Downtown Plano Association meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at The Plano Chamber of Commerce, 1200 E. 15th St.

Douglass Community

There's a lot going on in the Douglass Community this spring. On Saturday, May 3 the Douglass Community Center, along with Greater New Birth Baptist Church Youth, will host a clothing give away to all in need. On Wednesday, May 21 Douglass seniors will host an Open House from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Annex Building next to the Douglass Community Center. Everyone is invited, especially senior citizens.

On Monday, June 9 there will be a free investor workshop for teens, ages 13 to 18, at the Douglass Center from 10 a.m. to noon. Mondays from June 9 to July 14, the Center will host its Girl Scout Summer Program from 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 6 to 13.

Kappa Basketball Kamp, for boys and girls ages 10 to 18, will be held at the Douglass Center from June 16 to 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Saturday, June 21 the Douglass Community Center will host the 2008 Juneteenth Celebration. Join in the observance from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and enjoy a carnival atmosphere of community service, family fun and games, live music, celebrity sporting event, and food vendors. For more information contact the Center at 972-941-7174.

City Scene

By Jon Hubach

As we put away those cold comforts of winter, we move towards images of springtime. For me that means renewal of downtown, and festivals and events. For the past year, we've endured the trials and travails of 15th Street construction. But as I write this, the end is near. Sidewalks are done, bricks are being laid and soon the old utility poles will be coming down and new acorn-style light poles installed.

Have you heard--Downtown@Sunset is back! This event promotes the best of what downtown has to offer. Held monthly on 15th Street the second Saturday from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., downtown comes alive with music, vendors, entertainment and extended shopping hours. For complete information, visit www.visitdowntownplano.com.

Construction is in full swing over at Lexington Park at Rice Field. Nestled up against the west side of the Haggard Park Heritage District, these gorgeous townhouses will bring upscale luxury to Downtown Plano.



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.

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