

# Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

May - June 2009

## The Simple Pleasures

This summer enjoy the simple pleasures in life, and Historic Downtown Plano has many of them. Get your friends and family together and head to Haggard Park for a picnic. If you time it right, you might catch a free concert. The Plano Community Band will perform in the gazebo on June 1 and 15, July 13 and 27, all on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. On Friday, July 3, at 7 p.m. the band will entertain with its annual Independence Day concert in Haggard Park, 901 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St.

Take a walk with your family to the mosaic art wall, entitled *Tracks of Our Past and Future* at Avenue I and 10th Street. Take the Historic

Downtown Plano Walking Tour and learn the history of the neighborhood. Maps are available at the Interurban Railway Museum.

Take advantage of upcoming special events in Historic Downtown Plano to learn something new while enjoying some special time with your family. AsiaFest will be in Haggard Park on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Haggard Park.

Another local free event is the Juneteenth Celebration. To be held this year on Saturday, June 20. Join in the observance from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Enjoy a carnival atmosphere of community service, family fun and games, live music, basketball sporting events, and food vendors. For more information contact the Douglass Community Center at 972-941-7174.

There is always a new art exhibit to enjoy in Historic Downtown Plano. The current exhibit at the ArtCentre of Plano is by sculptors Chris Blackhurst and Andy Myers and extends until May 9. For those who qualify, this venue offers a free art program called JumpStart the Arts, sponsored by the City of Plano.



To celebrate Mother's Day or Father's Day, visit one of the many downtown restaurants, where there is a wide variety of food and a friendly atmosphere.

### Historic Downtown Plano Restaurants

15th Street Café, 1112 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-424-4700
Aparicio's, 1001 18 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-423-6980
Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 1211 14 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-423-9960
The Fillmore Pub, 1004 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-423-2400
Gregory's Bistro, 1022 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-578-4934
Into My Garden Tearoom, 1017 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-509-0292
Jorg's Café Vienna, 1037 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-509-5966
Kelly's Eastside, 1422 K Ave.	972-424-9200
La Paloma Taqueria, 1603 K Ave.	972-578-2267
Nee Nee's Tea Room, 1400 J Ave.	469-441-4679
Rainbow Donuts, 1730 K Ave.	972-881-3619
Sheik's, 1410 K Ave.	214-383-4544
Vickery Park, 1011 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-398-0200
Ye Ole Butcher Shop, 926 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St.	972-423-1848

For a unique entertainment option, consider Rover Dramawerks's "Pay What You Can" preview performances. These performances are scheduled the night before opening night and attendees pay whatever they can afford. The next show is *Days of Wine and Roses*, opening June 4 at 8 p.m. at the Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Ave.

Plano libraries offer a myriad of free activities to keep your kids active this summer. There are family fun nights, several special events and family movies, as well as reading clubs for all ages. For complete details visit any library for a schedule. The Summer Reading Program, available for all ages, has its kick off on June 4. It's free of charge and offers prizes. The Gladys Harrington Library also offers computer classes to enhance yours skills.

Reading for your preschooler is just a stroll away at the Interurban Railway Museum. All summer on Fridays at 10:30 a.m., Story Time is offered free of charge.

More than ever, folks are spending time with friends and enjoying such simple pleasures as backyard barbecues, tea on the front porch and a little stroll with the kids. Enjoy the lovely historic homes on your walk, get a piece of fruit from

*continued on back*

# Happenings

May - June 2009

May 2	AsiaFest, Haggard Park	www.asianamericanheritage.org
May 3	Springtime in New York, Plano Civic Chorus Courtyard Theater	972-529-1821 www.planocivicchorus.org
May 12	High Tech Career Fair Plano Centre	972-941-5840 www.planocentre.com
May 25	Memorial Day Observance, Plano Municipal Center	www.plano.gov
May 28	Preservation Awards, Heritage Farmstead Museum	972-941-5343
June 20	Juneteenth Celebration Douglass Community Center	972-941-7174 www.planoparks.org

## From the Publisher

Today you hold the May/June 2009 edition of the *Village News*. It also unfortunately will be the last. The tough times we are all experiencing has affected the marketing and promotion of Downtown. After review of the upcoming budget forecasts, the City of Plano has chosen to discontinue funding of the *Village News*.

In my time as Publisher, it has been a pleasure working with the editorial board including Pam Hatcher, Jim Wear, Debbie Holman and Mary Jo Montgomery. Their ideas have created issue after issue of *Village News* featuring great stories, unique downtown personalities and everything that makes Downtown Plano special.

*Village News* was not just possible because of the Editorial Board. It was the result of the great merchants of Downtown, with their eclectic styles and hard to find merchandise that gives flavor to the area.

A hearty thanks goes out to the members of the Historic Downtown Plano Association and its president, Rick Baldelli. These members have stocked copies and have given us stories while promoting the publication to their customers.

Thanks are due to our neighbors and residents who read the publication religiously and contacted me when suddenly they couldn't find it after we went digital. A publication is only as good as its readers. Your comments and suggestions can only make us better. I believe they did.

To Dana Conklin who helped start this publication back in 2002, thank you. As a strong downtown advocate and member of the editorial board, her advice and understanding of the neighborhood has helped guide the way many times.

And a very special thank you to Pat Dodge. As writer of the *Village News* since 2005, each issue was her voice and her passion in text. We all created the themes and ideas as a rough blueprint, but it was Pat who created the vision and the look. A personal thanks goes out to Pat who gave me the necessary info when I started as Downtown Planner and Publisher three years ago. Her knowledge of the shops, the people and the neighborhood made my job much easier, and it's been a pleasure to work with her. Her tireless efforts for the *Village News* and for Downtown as we all worked for the goal of revitalizing the area cannot be expressed in words. But we can try. Thank you, Pat.

While we say farewell to the *Village News* for now, remember what makes Downtown Plano great - the shops, the restaurants, the historic homes and the people. The future of Downtown is in good hands and we will continue to promote the area one way or another. Be sure to check out [www.visitdowntownplano.com](http://www.visitdowntownplano.com) for the latest news and information. Remember I am still available if you ever have questions about the area. Thanks again for reading.

Jon Hubach, Publisher

## Village People

The *Village News* has served as one of the City's most valuable efforts in building the reputation and population of Plano's historic downtown area. This was a concept of Dana Conklin, who was serving as the liaison between the City and downtown residents and shop owners. At that point she had been employed by the city for 14 years.

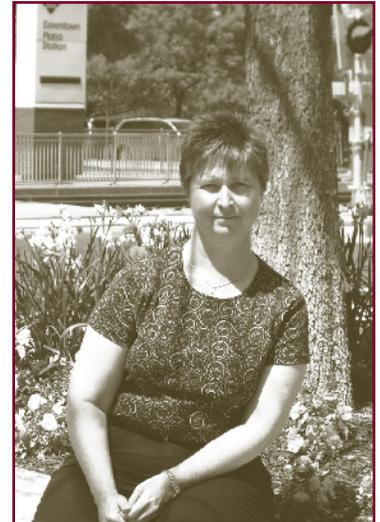
In her more than 20 years with the City, Dana Conklin has been part of many firsts for the community. This Lubbock-born Texan was only working for the City for two years when she became the Recreation Coordinator at Carpenter Park, the city's first free-standing recreation center. Less than a year later, Dana was promoted to Event Coordinator and moved to Municipal Center South in the fall of 1992. Shortly after, she was promoted to Marketing and Special Events Manager.

As Community Resources Manager, Dana loves her job, as no two days are alike. This nature aficionado enjoys being out in the community, solving problems or helping with an event. Her job now includes the Interurban Railway Museum, volunteer resources and Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. Dana especially loves this last one, as Oak Point Park will soon be the crown jewel of the City's park system. With 800 acres of nature in a suburban setting, this locale is already the setting for many special events, such as concerts and the annual balloon festival. The newest portion of the park will open later in the summer, with a structure added in 2010. The building will not be a recreation center, but 17,000 square feet of wildlife exhibits and nice open areas suitable for events, such as weddings and receptions. Surrounded by nature, it will also serve as a great escape and a wonderful setting for photographers.

Reconnecting to nature is a huge movement, as people are realizing that many aspects of our human nature are dependent on the nature around us. In fact, author and scientist Richard Louv identified a phenomenon we all knew existed but couldn't quite articulate - nature-deficit disorder. His research has inspired Leave 'No Child Inside' initiatives throughout the country. This is also Dana's passion - to encourage a connection with nature.

Dana is currently working on her Masters degree in Public Administration at the University of North Texas, which she hopes to finish in 2011. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from the same college in 1988. Two years ago she was appointed to the National Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies, a commission from which the City's Parks and Recreation Department received accreditation 1994.

Fittingly, Dana's love of nature sparked another love in her life as she met her husband hot air ballooning, a sport she and husband Jerry enjoyed together for over 10 years. Jerry is a realtor for ReMax. Ten-year-old daughter Lindsey completes the Conklin family. It's no surprise that the Conklin home is out in the relatively rural town of Melissa, with rolling hills and proximity to lakes.



# Summer Shopping

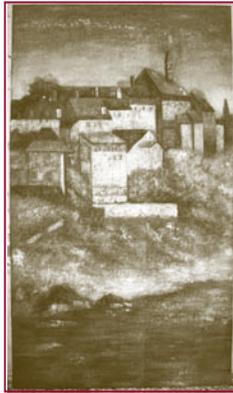
Make your own live gift at **Embellish**, the newest shop on 15th Street. Pick your own pot, plant and card, put them together and your unique living gift is ready to go! This lovely two-level shop has table settings, bath accessories, juvenile bedding, unique gift ideas, baskets and clothing.



Give your sweet tooth a treat at **Bake Rejoice** on the corner of 15th Place and Avenue K. The shop has new hours. On Monday it's open from 8 am to noon and from Tuesday through Friday, you can get your treats from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturdays, visit from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bake Rejoice has great scones, cinnamon rolls, cookies, cakes, muffins and pies, all made fresh daily. Co-owner, Joyce Shepherd's specialty is custom cakes. Made with the finest ingredients, all pieces for your special occasion cake are made in house and designed to your specifications. For prices and a gallery of truly unique cakes, go to [www.bakerejoice.com](http://www.bakerejoice.com).



**Ambiance Décor's** colorful hand-painted oils are available in several sizes. This one is a best seller, from Uttermost, and measures 40" wide and 70" high. The shop also carries custom made trees, unusual artwork, new accent piece furniture and unique jewelry.



This one-of-a-kind jewelry is made by Susie Steblein, jeweler, carver and owner of **Nature's Finest Art**. These necklaces are all made of semi-precious stones, such as garnet, tourmaline, topaz, tumbled rubies and labradite. The settings are all 14 carat yellow or white gold, or sterling silver. Custom orders are welcome.



Get your kids outside this summer with a new art – juggling! These professional juggling clubs at **Queen of Hearts** come with instructions. Magic sets are available in several sizes for most age groups and serve as a good way for kids to fill those long summer days.



At **A Toast to Texas**, the Heritage Pewter collectibles are a great gift. This high-grade pewter is molded into collegiate emblem



beer stein decorations, wine box gift sets, wine glasses and chillers, bottle stoppers and shot glasses. While you're there, be sure to pick up a bottle of wine from their terrific selection.

Artist Mirtha Aertker made this vase, available at **14th on 15th**. Entitled the Purple Rose, this beautiful piece is unique and irreplaceable. Mirtha has studied the art of pottery all over the world and settled in Allen. Her recent show at the ArtCentre of Plano was quite a success.



Get these very cool summer dresses at **Jewels & Jeans**. Made by Press Apparel, these cottons dresses are available in several colors, patterns and sizes. This trendy little shop is now also carrying Miss Me jeans and Yellow Box sandals.

At **Candy Bouquet and Gifts** there are frogs of all types. This whimsical frog is available in teapots, vases, planters and plush animals.



The faces on the frogs put a smile on the face of any frog lover.



The line of Kissy Kissy infant clothing available at **Nooks 'n Krannies** has become quite a hit. All items are made of extremely soft 100% Peruvian pima cotton. Custom gift wrap is complimentary with your Kissy Kissy purchase. What a great baby gift!

This beautiful top at **Della's Depot** can also be worn over the shoulders. The black bottom is complemented by either a fuchsia or white top portion in silk.



The *Home Sweet Home* look is in at **Baxter's Boutique and Salon**. Shown here are natural wood garden tool caddies, patina bugs and several eclectic items suitable for home and garden décor.

# Simple Pleasures

*continued from cover*

Georgia's Farmers Market or some of your favorite fudge from Candy Bouquet and Gifts, or perhaps a cookie from Bake Rejoice on K Avenue.



Another meaningful experience these days is volunteer work. The City of Plano has an extensive volunteer program. From becoming a docent at the Interurban Railway Museum or teaching a special-needs child to read, to helping at the animal shelter or cleaning up a park, volunteering gets you involved in the community. Learn new skills or sharpen your current ones while gaining the personal satisfaction that comes with helping others. There are even programs for groups and teens seeking a feeling of fulfillment. Through the City's VIP program, you can be matched with an opportunity that fits your schedule and your interests. For information, visit [www.VolunteersinPlano.org](http://www.VolunteersinPlano.org) or call 972-941-7617.

Living locally is more important now than ever before. Keep your dollars in the area while reconnecting with neighbors. This summer, sit back and enjoy life's simple pleasures.



## Street Talk

Kudos to **NeeNee's Tea Room** which has had an article published in *Tea in Texas*. Owner Denise Brady, a resident of the area for 18 years, is so proud of her new-found fame!

The **Interurban Railway Museum** has also recently been featured in *Plano Profile*. With a railroad pot-bellied stove recently installed, along with an antique drafting table from company headquarters for the Texas Electric Railway in Dallas, the place is really heating up. Visiting the museum is free, but donations are accepted.

The theme for this year's **Annual Plano Preservation Awards** is "Places That Matter." Nominations for awards for Certificate of Appreciation, Award of Excellence in Preservation and the Preservation Hall of Fame Award will be accepted by the Plano Preservation Awards Committee until May 1 and the awards will be announced and presented at the Heritage Farmstead Museum on May 28.

A warm welcome back to Ann Brashears, who has brought her shop, **Natural Elegance**, back to the area, in the space on Avenue K across from Kelly's Eastside.

To all who have become part of my life during these four years as Editor of this publication, a simple thank you could never be enough. Please *do* stay in touch. *Pat Dodge*

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

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### 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.*