

Street Talk

Four G's Sports Grill and **The Fillmore Pub** are now open for business. Stop by and enjoy the food, beverages and unique atmosphere.

A Different Perspective is a new photography studio on 15th Street, sharing the space at Babies Bottoms and More. Benn Shannon and Jennifer Fochtman are turning their passion into reality with this new endeavor. They offer all types of photography and love location shoots where they can take spontaneous candid photos.

John Tarlton's Junction Property Management, now manages the building at the southeast corner of 15th Street and Central Expressway, purchased from Geo-Marine by **4 Green Houses Holdings, I, LLC**, last spring. It is undergoing complete renovation for multi-tenant use. By year end, Mr. Tarlton expects the building to be 50 percent occupied.

Jason and Laura Barnes, who co-own **15th Street Café and Bakery** with Jason's father, have just had another baby. Happy Birthday to Ella Grace and congratulations to big brother Austin, who is three.

Order your holiday tamales from **Aparicio's Restaurant** before December 20 for Christmas. Available hot, cold or frozen, they are offered in 10 flavors and have become a tradition in many local homes and are delivered nationwide.

November 24 is the last week for ordering your Christmas hams at **The Wooden Spoon**.

Beauty Café has just closed its doors. Owner Lisa Slavik is moving to California. **Jewels and Jeans** will move from Avenue K into the space on November 1 and will have a grand opening event later in the month.

Georgia's Farmer's Market will close from December 24 to March 1, or earlier, depending on the weather. Watch for the sign.

Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano will be Friday, November 30. With music, food, shopping, Santa and more, this free event is from 6 to 10 p.m., with the tree lighting at 7 p.m.

The City of Plano Health Department recently recognized foodservice establishments who have achieved and maintained the highest standards of food safety and sanitation at the Cox Building Playhouse on September 24. **Jorg's Café Vienna** was awarded the Food Safety Excellence Award in the category of Full Service Public Dining for the fourth consecutive year. Shown here are Jorg and Derek Fercher and several of the excellent team members who made the award possible.



We bid a fond farewell to Sandra Skaggs, who has been a part of Historic Downtown Plano for over 26 years. Sandra will be closing **New Additions** at year end to retire. She and husband Frank plan to pursue one of her favorite pastimes, traveling. She'll also have more time to spend gardening and visiting with her grandchildren.

A Better Answer, on Avenue G south of 15th Street, received the 2007 Award of Excellence.

The award is presented annually by the Association of TeleServices International (ATSI), the industry's trade association. Now a nine-time winner, A Better Answer earned the Sapphire Award for proven quality service to their customers.

The **Douglass Community Center** Thanksgiving Dinner is November 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Douglass Community Center. The annual Christmas Dinner is December 20. The center is also sponsoring a math tutoring program on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m..

City Scene

By Jon Hubach

The holidays are everyone's favorite time of the year, when Downtown brings out its finest for all to see. The streets are lined with lights and Haggard Park is filled with holiday decorations. The Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano celebration brings crowds and our stores offer unique holiday gifts as well as festive décor.

The Downtown@SunDown Series, held every second Saturday through November, has exceeded expectations. We started with 1,400 attendees, 16 vendors and over 90 percent of our stores stayed open. September's event had 2,300 attendees, 26 vendors and all of our 15th Street stores participated. The Silent Auction netted over \$700 for Crossroads Family Services.

If you haven't yet, please visit our Web site, www.visitdowntownplano.com ... the official site for everything Downtown.

Happy Holidays!



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.

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



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Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

November - December 2007

The Spirit of Giving

The spirit of giving lasts all year in Historic Downtown Plano. Area non-profit organizations give their time, energy and generosity year-round, reflecting the caring nature of our community.

The Assistance Center of Collin County is a referral service, linking those in need with appropriate resources. The center also coordinates financial and material assistance from various donating organizations. During this season of giving, the Assistance Center provides Thanksgiving meals and matches recipients with adopters for the Plano Santa program. Responding to over 24,000 telephone calls annually and numerous walk-in clients, the facility also has a Spanish bilingual assistant.

The Boys & Girls Club of Collin County helps adolescents develop skills crucial to becoming responsible, successful and caring citizens. Character and leadership programs provide opportunities for planning, decision-making and contributing to the community. Education and career programs prepare them for the future by teaching how to apply basic educational disciplines to everyday situations. Financial programs teach budgeting, banking, saving and investing.

Collin Intervention To Youth, more commonly known as CITY House, opened in 1989 when two school counselors realized some students brought everything they owned to school in trash bags because they were homeless. CITY House provides shelter, counseling and assistance to troubled youth of the area. In 2006, CITY House provided counseling and crisis intervention services to more than 2,400 families. Their two facilities, a 15-bed shelter for temporary housing and an eight-bed facility for transitional living, sheltered 250 youth. My Friend's House, for children ages newborn to nine, will open in the spring.

Crossroads Family Services works cooperatively with the Plano Police Department and the Texas Attorney General's Office to help victims and their families recover from the effects of crime. They provide education, intervention, counseling for victim assistance, substance abuse detection and prevention, and anger management. Their Victim Assistance Program's Crisis Response Team provides on-scene services and follow-up contact to victims of violent crimes.

Forrest Outreach Foundation provides educational opportunities for families in east Plano living below the poverty line, with a philosophy of long-term commitment. Their *Click for Success* digital literacy program offers students the technological tools necessary for a brighter future for themselves, their families and their community. After completing the three-year program, families are given the equipment on which they learned. Volunteers provide mentoring, childcare and transportation for

parents wishing to further their education. Forrest Outreach has helped 350 people in 90 families, and it continues to grow.

God's Food Pantry serves the community by providing food for those in dire circumstances. Believing that everyone deserves food, they request only basic information and turn no one away. This organization is run by volunteers, providing a week of groceries for a family or a simple meal for a homeless soul. In 2006, they served 60,000 people and more than 35 homeless people visit regularly.

By the end of 2007, Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County will have built 30 homes in the Douglass Community with funds donated by churches, businesses and groups. To provide funding for Habitat-built homes and related overhead costs, the organization operates ReStore on Summit Avenue, selling building materials to the public at discount prices.

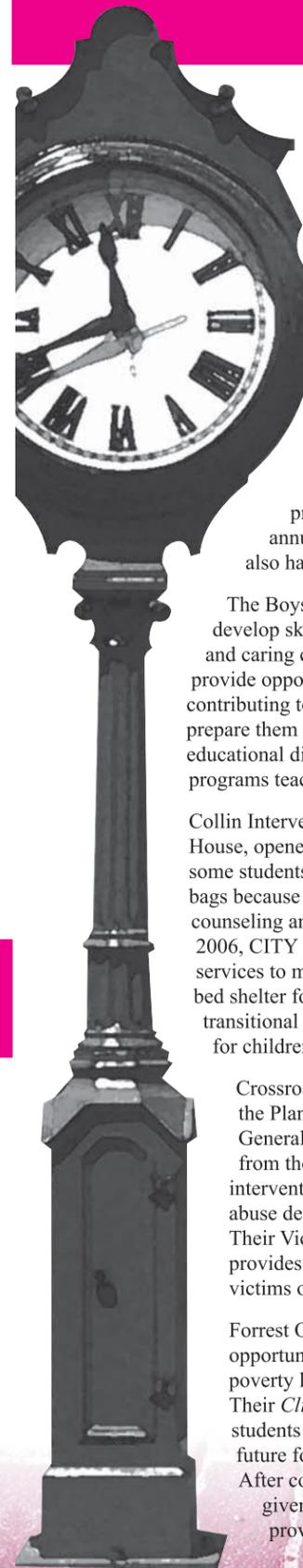
Another assistance effort is the Plano Housing Authority, which provides quality affordable housing and self-sufficiency opportunities to low-income families. This non-profit organization is busy year round making homeownership a reality for first-time homebuyers of low and moderate income.

For nearly two decades, the City of Plano's VIP (Volunteers in Plano) Program has utilized community volunteers in a myriad of activities to help make Plano a better place to live, work and play. Opportunities range from skilled assignments to a helping hand at events. In 2006, 5,201 volunteers provided 77,673 hours of assistance while learning new skills and maintaining current ones, exploring new career paths and making new friends. The VIP Program oversees the Workplace C.A.R.E.S. program, (City Advocates Recruiting Employees into Service), enlisting city employees in mentoring and tutoring programs, and donation drives.

Historic Downtown Plano is also home to many cultural non-profit organizations. The ArtCentre of Plano offers free exhibit space, including a family day with art projects for children. Their non-profit tenants (currently Plano Art Association, Providence Community Church and Rover Dramawerks) may use the main gallery for events free of charge. The ArtCentre also offers JumpStart for Arts, a free summer program designed for economically-disadvantaged children and funded by the City of Plano. Other area cultural non-profits include Plano Community Theater, Word of Mouth Productions and Rover Dramawerks. These theatre groups perform regularly at the Cox Building Playhouse, the Courtyard Theater and the ArtCentre Theatre.

Several downtown non-profit organizations focus on preserving Plano's history. The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation illuminates the past and maintains our heritage for the future. The Interurban Railway Museum, which houses the Plano Conservancy, offers a glimpse of the interurban railway system that began nearly 100 years ago. The Douglass Community Arts Advisory Committee works to preserve the heritage of the community for which it is named. Their *Tracks of our Past and Future* Italian glass mosaic mural adorns the DART masonry retaining wall on 12th Street. Also

continued inside



VILLAGE NEWS

PUBLISHER
Jon Hubach

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: jonhu@plano.gov

Happenings

November – December 2007

11/1-10	Barbara Frey & Thom Seawell 2D and 3D Artworks ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809 www.artcentreofplano.org
11/1-17	Two Rooms by Lee Blessing by Rover Dramawerks Cox Building Playhouse	972-849-0358 www.roverdramawerks.com
11/1	Ladies Night Out Della's Unique Boutique	972-398-3039
11/2-11	Little Shop of Horrors by Plano Community Theater Courtyard Theater	972-422-2575 www.planochildrenstheatre.com
11/3	Arbor Day Observance Bob Woodruff Park South	972-941-7250
11/10	Downtown at Sundown J Plaza & 15 th Street Live music, shopping, refreshments	972-941-5260 www.visitdowntownplano.com
11/15	Ladies' Night Out Della's Unique Boutique	972-398-2039
11/17-18	Jungle Book / Guys & Dolls Junior Storybook Childrens Theatre Courtyard Theater	972-516-1653 www.dancedepot.net
11/17-18	Christmas Crafts Fair Plano Centre	www.planoparks.org
11/19	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
11/16-12/22	Painting with Class ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809 www.artcentreofplano.org
11/24-25	The Night Before Christmas by Repertory Dance Theater of Texas Courtyard Theater	www.dcjdance.tix.com
11/30	Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano Music/crafts/food and more, Tree Lighting at 7 p.m.	www.planoparks.org
12/1	A Holiday Collage Plano Dance Theater Courtyard Theater	pdtnews@gmail.com web.mac.com/skigil/PDT_Website
12/1	The Music & the Magic of Christmas 35th Annual Children's Christmas Parade Independence from Park to Spring Creek	972-985-8260 gleasonl@airmail.net
12/1	Stella Olson Cookie Party The Wooden Spoon	972-424-6867
12/7-8	Holiday Concert Men of Note Courtyard Theater	888-288-3055 www.menofnote.org/index.php
12/14-23	Scrooge by Plano Community Theater Courtyard Theater	972-422-2575 www.planochildrenstheatre.com
12/27-1/2	Winter "Go Pro" Skateboard Camp Eisenbergs Skatepark	972-509-7725
12/31	New Year's Eve Lock-In Eisenbergs Skatepark	972-509-7725

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

The Spirit of Giving

continued from cover

in the Douglass Community, the Plano African-American Museum preserves one of Plano's oldest homes while celebrating the rich history of the Douglass Community and Historic Downtown Plano. Both enrich that community and illustrate its role in Plano's history.

Another non-profit organization in the area is the Historic Downtown Plano Association. Membership is open to businesses, property owners, non-profit organizations and anyone with an interest in the future of downtown Plano. This volunteer-based group has been working diligently to promote the area with events and programs drawing people here to live, shop, work and play.

Giving is a way of life in Historic Downtown Plano. If you wish to give of your time, energy or financial support, phone numbers are provided.

Area Non-Profit Organizations

Word of Mouth Productions	214-734-7326
ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
Assistance Center of Collin County	972-422-1850
Boys & Girls Club of Collin County	972-424-6301
City House	972-424-4626
Crossroads Family Services	972-578-2802
Douglass Community Art Advisory Committee	214-789-4461
Forrest Outreach Foundation	972-980-9847
God's Food Pantry	972-633-9777
Habitat for Humanity of SCC	972-398-0634
Historic Downtown Plano Association	972-941-5260
Plano Art Association	972-633-0099
Plano Community Theater	972-422-2575
Plano Housing Authority	972-423-4928
Rover Dramawerks	972-849-0358
The Plano Conservancy	972-941-2117
Volunteers in Plano	972-941-7114

Village People



Andy Anderson
1922-2007

Andy Anderson was a heart-warming and enthusiastic docent for the Interurban Railway Museum for more than 20 years and will be missed by all who knew him. His love for local history was obvious and the Interurban was a big part of his own past. As a youngster, Andy rode the Interurban regularly from Fort Worth to Oak Cliff regularly to visit family. It was only natural for him to become involved with the museum after he retired from his career in sales and as owner of a pet store. Story telling was effortless for him and he never seemed to run out of tales. He enjoyed talking about his own personal experiences and often his stories demonstrated how times changed over the years. When museum guests visited with Andy at the Interurban Railway Museum, its history would come to life as he told of its development over 50 years.

Holiday Shopping

Take care of your holiday preparation and gifts in Historic Downtown Plano. Visit **Sutton Place** for unique furniture and décor. Antiques are available at **Cobwebs Antiques and Consignments** and **Teacup Antiques**, as well as **Nanny Granny's Antiques** which has five new vendors and a seamstress for alterations. At Cobwebs new items arrive often, so you can always find something from the past to enhance your loved one's future. Inside **Teacup Antiques**, Ruby Jane offers holiday tablecloths, stockings, dish towels and mother/daughter aprons, along with 1940s and 1950s reproduction prints.

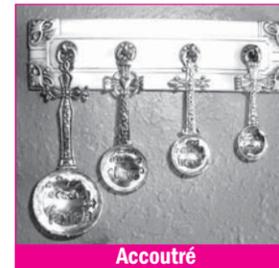
Many of the shops downtown offer home décor, including **Ambiance Décor**, and **Accoutré**. Visit **Ambiance Décor** for the smells and tastes of Christmas, with gourmet hot chocolate and teas, nativity scenes,



Ambiance Décor

angels and ornaments. Stop in and see the lovely Santa's workshop, a two-piece set which stands about 30-inches square.

Accoutré has a wall of crosses, each one unique. This interesting collection of measuring spoons, featuring cross handles, is made of pewter.



Accoutré

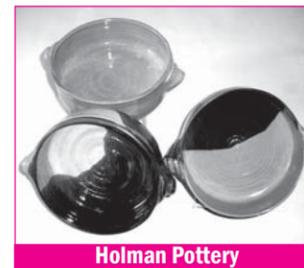


My Favorite Room

Next door at **My Favorite Room**, you'll find shimmering vintage ornaments and old world accessories for your holiday décor.

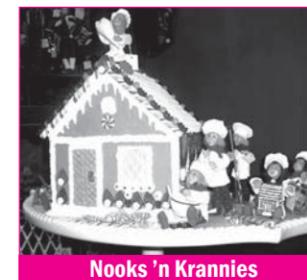
Natural Elegance offers fresh poinsettias, wreaths and custom arrangements to liven up your home this season.

Holman Pottery's big seller this year is the brie baker, handmade by master potter Tony Holman and complete with a recipe for your holiday entertaining.



Holman Pottery

Historic Downtown Plano's many galleries boast artwork of all styles for gift-giving or home décor, including fine art, framed prints, sculpture, oils and pottery. Visit **14th Street Gallery**, **ArtCentre of Plano**, **Eastside Art Gallery**, **Holman Pottery**, **Michael Holter Creative Studio** or **Stephanie Ward Gallery**. You can arrange a photo appointment at **Urban Kids Photography** or **A Different Perspective**, or a portrait sitting at **Legacy Portrait Painters**.



Nooks 'n Krannies

Nooks 'n Krannies is full of toys, dolls, books and puzzles for the child in all of us. Their Byers Carolers selection includes a two gingerbread houses and a wonderful assortment of accessories and Kindles.

Ornaments, nativity scenes and other unique holiday items can be found at all of the Historic Downtown Plano stores. **Nature's Finest Art** has a one-of-a-kind selection of jewelry, gifts and holiday

items, including woodland ducks and penguins, Santas, angels and reindeer. Neighboring **Creative Imprints** proudly displays the world famous Willow Tree hand-painted figurative sculptures, including this year's nativity scene.



Creative Imprints

If you are looking for clothing and accessories, **Della's Unique Boutique** now carries Fillmore t-shirts and jeans for men and women. The shop's hot new item is the Jimmy Crystal line of compacts, decorator perfume bottles, watches, fun rings and sun glasses, all made with Swarovski crystals.



Nature's Finest Art



Jewels & Jeans caters to teens and young women and has new arrivals weekly of designer jeans, tops, jewelry and custom-made handbags.



Jewels & Jeans

New Addition offers designer children's clothing at excellent prices, since the store will be closing at year end. A top seller is this dress by le.top in 100% cotton babywale corduroy, with matching tights and available in sizes 3 months to 6X.



New Addition

Another spot for baby items is **Babies Bottoms and More**, with the new Selecta line of toys, games and puzzles. There are items for all ages, made in Germany of wood and painted with lead-free paint.

The Wooden Spoon carries Scandinavian home décor and food products. Visit the Stella Olson Cookie Party on December 1 from

1 to 5 pm. Bring a tray of your cookies, sample others and watch a demonstration of Scandinavian cookie making.



Candy Bouquet and Gifts



Babies Bottoms and More ...

Buy your fresh produce, including East Texas sweet potatoes, at **Georgia's Farmer's Market**. Here you'll also find gift baskets and over 125 selections of nuts, trail mix and candies. For the cigar aficionado on your list, visit **Two Brothers Cigars** for a selection of cigars and gifts.



Custom Scooters

Visit **Plano Cycling and Fitness** for your bicycle needs. The store has been in the same spot since 1973 and has a long record of top-notch customer service, featuring a wide selection of bikes and accessories for all ages. **Custom Scooters** has the latest models of Razor and Currie electric motorcross bicycles, and the new light and manageable Go-Quad, designed to fit in the trunk, for lots of off-roading fun.

Keep your skaters happy with a gift card from **Eisenbergs Skatepark**. Sign them up for the year-end Winter "Go Pro" Skateboard Camp and the annual New Year's Eve lock-in.

Rent your turkey or Santa costume early from **Queen of Hearts**. The store also has a great selection of magic sets – a perfect gift for all ages. More costumes, from the Victorian to contemporary and with era-appropriate accessories, can be found at **Dallas Vintage**.