

# Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

September – October 2007

## Change Will Do You Good

The changes taking place in Historic Downtown Plano are music to the ears of residents and visitors alike.

Downtown Plano abounds with musical venues. Kelly's Eastside offers live music Tuesdays through Saturdays, playing top 40s as well as country music. Catch a jazz event at the Stephanie Ward Gallery on the third Friday of each month. Fusion Café has live music on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8 to 10 p.m. Jörg's Café Vienna provides live traditional Austrian music on Friday nights. Two Brothers Cigars hires live musical entertainment on a regular basis. If you've been to any these venues, try another... the change will do you good.

Look for live music monthly at *Downtown@Sundown* on the second Saturday of each month and the annual *Trick Art Treat Art Walk* on Friday, October 26. Ever hear a hardanger fiddle? Hear this almost eerie instrument at The Wooden Spoon's 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, September 8. Two Brothers Cigars will host a charity casino event during *Downtown@Sundown* on Saturday, October 13.

The entertainment of the area is evolving into a more eclectic mix with something for everyone. With performances by Teatro della Muse, Word of Mouth Productions, Ameristage Players, Rover Dramawerks and Plano Children's Theatre, you'll see tradition with a new twist, as well old favorites. Visit [www.planostages.com](http://www.planostages.com) for new and other shows.

Revitalization, redevelopment and new housing construction are bringing changes as well. A sales office is now on the property at the Lexington Park at Rice Field property. Construction is moving along in many areas of downtown, including 15<sup>th</sup> Street and the remodeling of three recently purchased properties. The summer rains delayed progress, but all is back on track.

The business mix is ever-changing, morphing into a well-rounded blend of stores and restaurants, including fine dining, casual eateries and pubs. The addition of clothing stores to the already popular mix of specialty shops and boutiques makes the area a destination worthy of a new look.

Historic Downtown Plano's metamorphosis is anchored by a group of long standing owners and tenants. On 15<sup>th</sup> Street alone, there are many shops that have been in the area more than 10 years, some over 40! With sound business practices steeped in tradition, they have paved the way for the growth and change we

see today. A.R Schell & Son Insurance opened its doors in 1958. James and Randy Russell's father opened Plano Barber Shop in 1969. Queen of Hearts has been on that same corner since 1982. Richard Sutton opened Sutton Place next door in 1984. New Additions and Nooks 'n Krannies have also been firmly grounded on the street for over 20 years. Just west of the DART track, Eisenberg's Skatepark recently celebrated its 10 year anniversary. Ye Olde Butcher Shop has been in the area since 1976 and at its current location for 10 years. Its neighbor, Hearing Aid Express, has been a successful 15<sup>th</sup> Street business for more than 15 years, and Georgia's Farmers Market for over 10 years. Off 15<sup>th</sup> Street, many shops and services have thrived for more than 10 years. They are: A Better Answer, Hubcap Homers, aai Trophies, Art-A-Rama Plano, Aparicio's Restaurant, Benoit Design, Body Graphix, Bridgeman Dental, Baxter's Salon, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Garrison Gardens, Geo-Marine, Holman Pottery, Lone Star Mint, Nanny Granny's Antiques, Cobwebs Antique Mall, Sav-Mor Auto and Tire Center, and The Wooden Spoon.

Historic Downtown Plano is indeed seeing many changes, and change will do you good.

### Trick Art Treat Gallery Night

Historic Downtown Plano artists celebrate fall with their 4<sup>th</sup> annual *Trick Art Treat* Gallery Night on Friday, October 26 from 7 to 10 p.m. This free event features special exhibits, refreshments and entertainment.



"There is so much going on in the local arts community. *Trick Art Treat* is a great opportunity to come and experience all the vibrant art that is going on right here in downtown Plano," said Tony Holman, owner and master artist of Holman Pottery. "For one night, guests can enjoy it all – it's a great evening with something for everyone."

Host galleries and studios include: ArtCentre of Plano, Courtyard Theater, CYA Design Collaborative, Eastside Gallery, 14<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery, Holman Pottery, Michael D. Holter Studio & Gallery, Legacy Portrait Painters, Stephanie Ward Gallery and Plano Art Association.

Guests can stroll the galleries while enjoying the area's specialty shops and restaurants. Parking is plentiful and complimentary. In addition, horse-drawn wagons are available to transport guests during the event.

# Happenings

September – October 2007

9/6	Trout Fishing in America and Billy Jonas Texas Music Sundown Concert Series by Plano Parks and Recreation The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	972-941-5215 www.planostages.com
9/7-10/6	2D & 3D Works by Barbara Frey & Thom Seawell ArtCentre Plano	972-423-7809
9/8	Downtown@Sundown Concerts 15th Street & J Place	972-941-5260 www.visitdowntownplano.com
9/14	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
9/21	Jazz Night Stephanie Ward Gallery	469-229-0024
9/21-23	Plano Balloon Festival Oak Point Park	www.planoballoonfest.org
10/5	Movies it the Park Amphitheater at Oak Point	972-941-7250 www.planoparks.org
10/6	Archeology Fair Bob Woodruff Park	972-941-2117
10/5-14	First Kiss, Teatro delle Muse ArtCentre Theatre	972-424-6873
10/10-11/10	Texas Visual Art Association Annual Citation Show ArtCentre Plano	972-423-7809
10/11	Albert & Gage and Kelly Willis Texas Music Sundown Concert Series by Plano Parks and Recreation The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	972-941-5215 www.planostages.com
10/12	Movies it the Park Amphitheater at Oak Point	972-941-7250 www.planoparks.org
10/13	Downtown@Sundown Concerts 15th Street & J Place	972-941-5260 www.visitdowntownplano.com
10/13-16	Zero Tickets by Kevin O'Connor Cox Building Playhouse	www.planostages.com
10/20	Plano International Festival Haggard Park	214-495-7838
10/14-21	Sleepy Hollow by Word of Mouth Productions Courtyard Theater	214-734-7326
10/19	Movies it the Park Amphitheater at Oak Point	972-941-7250 www.planoparks.org
10/19	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
10/19	Jazz Night Stephanie Ward Gallery	469-229-0024
10/20	Plano International Festival Haggard Park	214-495-7838 www.planointernationalfestival.org
10/22-31	Shakespeare in the Park, Teatro delle Muse ArtCentre Theatre	972-424-6873
10/26	Trick Art Treat Art Walk Downtown Plano	972-941-5215

Historic Downtown Plano Association meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at Into My Garden Tea Room at 6 p.m.. (enter through back)

# Shopping

**Accoutre** has a lovely line of “bubble” shirts, tiny tops that stretch to fit anyone, available in all the latest colors and prints with a variety of sleeve lengths.

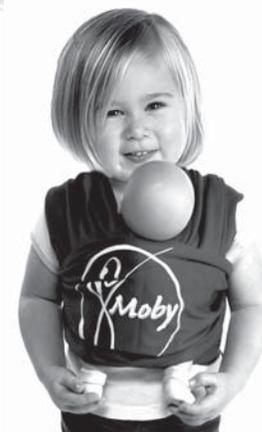
**Nail ‘Em and Hair ‘Em** is now carrying *essential bodywear*, a line of seamless bras and body wear. The company offers a large range of sizes, especially good for hard-to-fit women. Fittings are by appointment only.



**Nooks ‘n Krannies** has the full line of Groovy Girls dolls, including the newest Girl Scouts styles, complete with tents, sashes and patches. Groovy Girls dolls are made in all ethnicities and are a wonderful alternative.

**Della’s Unique Boutique** now carries the Fillmore line of casual clothing for men and women. These items are sure to be hot sellers with customers from the pub next door.

Top selling baby carrier company, Moby, is now selling its latest product, the Mini Moby Wrap, at **Babies, Bottoms and More**. It is a tiny version of the regular style for use by children for their dolls and pets. Mini Moby Wraps are available in four colors.



# Douglass Community

The DCC Girl Talk group will be teaming up in September with the Boys and Girls Club Keystone group for a fun event geared to those with special needs. On Saturday, September 29, from 10 a.m. to noon, these civic minded youth will offer arts and crafts, and games at Douglass Community Center, 1111 H Avenue.

On Wednesday, October 31, the Center will have its annual Halloween Carnival for local youth from 6 to 8 p.m. With food, games, prizes, and candy, this event promises to be lots of fun!

Call the Douglass Community Center before September 7 to register for the Cotillion Ball! Bring your escort to the Los Rios Country Club on Saturday, November 3 for this elegant dinner. For details and reservations, please call 972-941-7174.

Douglass Community Center is researching possible trips for 2008 for senior citizens. To find out more, to voice your opinion or to sign up, please call the center at 972-941-7174. Cities under consideration are New York, New Orleans, Biloxi, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

## Halloween

Getting ready for Halloween is simple in Historic Downtown Plano. Complete your décor with a visit to **Georgia's Farmers Market**. The market has all sizes and shapes of gourds, along with cornstalk and, hay bales. You can also get your pumpkins for decorating, carving and pies.



**Queens of Hearts** has a wonderful selection for this year's Trick or Treaters. Harry Potter items will be hotter than ever this year. Featured here is the cloak, glasses and a battery-operated magic wand.

The store has a large inventory of masks, make-up and costumes, including all types of wear and accessories for pirates, flappers, gangsters, priests and nuns, with more than 75 different wigs. Another hot item is the black Spiderman costume from the recent movie, available in adult and children sizes.

**Dallas Vintage Shop** on Avenue K is the place for period costumes. This store is a premier source of vintage clothing and costumes, serving as a supplier to schools and professional organizations for film, theatre and theme parties. The shop has costumes and accessories covering every decade and every style. From glamorous costumes to "trashy" outfits, you can find the perfect look at this one-of-a-kind shop.



## City Scene

By Jon Hubach

One of the biggest recent changes for downtown has been the creation of the Historic Downtown Plano Association. The association serves anyone with an interest in the future of downtown Plano. With 60 members, the association has already had an effect on downtown with the development of marketing/promotional brochures and the purchase of advertising in local publications, reaching over 75,000 households. Advertising at this level would normally be too high priced for a single merchant, but is included in membership which begins at \$50 per year.

The Fillmore Pub opens in September. Four G's Sports Bar and Grill will open in late fall. The most ambitious project yet, next to the Schell building, will be office space on the second floor and up to 3,500 square feet of retail space on the first floor.

Pinnacle Management at Eastside Village has brought upgrades to the property as well as new attention to more urban and downtown-oriented businesses for a more eclectic mix.

Watch [www.visitdowntownplano.com](http://www.visitdowntownplano.com) for details on **Downtown@ Sundown**, a monthly event held the second Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. With live music, vendors, food, extended shopping hours and a silent auction, this event supports such local charities as City House, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America.



## Hallow's Eve History

Downtown residents and shop owners alike have tales of the downtown that suit the season. When it comes to haunting, it seems most buildings have a story.

More than a decade ago, Michael Hamilton, an employee of the Blue Goose, heard what he thought was a cotton grader being rolled across the floor upstairs. Long ago the building served as a cotton gin, complete with an elevator to bring the cotton upstairs for grading. When Eastside Village was built and the DART railroad station came to town, this disturbed the Confederate marching ground and the unusual noises stopped.

When the ArtCentre of Plano was remodeled in the mid 1990s, a wicker transport casket was found in a cabinet upstairs. Apparently it was left from the days when the Harrington family had its furniture store with Andrew Wetsel, furniture maker and undertaker upstairs.

The Wall-Robbins house on Avenue K north of 18<sup>th</sup> Street has a tale of its own. It was built in the late 1800s by the Wall family, and later purchased by Jeff Robbins, whose wife died from burns sustained when her dress caught fire from fireplace embers. He had all five fireplaces sealed off. Another wife was killed by a train whose tracks ran just behind the property. Despite these unfortunate events, the house remained in the Robbins family for over 50 years. Joe Henry Huston, a local pastor, and his wife Kathleen resided in the house after the Robbins family with daughters Kathy and Marlena. The pastor hosted all kinds of church events for the children, including Halloween parties. One rainy afternoon while Marlena was playing on the porch, she observed an "unearthly visitor." When she screamed, it disappeared. Upon investigation, the attic was found still locked but with wet footprints coming down the stairs. On another occasion, Kathleen saw a visitor in her kitchen, through which she could see the refrigerator on the other side. After the Hustons, the house had several owners and is currently owned by the Garrisons. The spirits must be pleased with the ownership as the Garrisons have had no eerie visitors.

When Debbie and Tony Homan purchased their home on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, they heard stories of two previous deaths in the home. Interestingly enough, one was a daughter-in-law of one of the Robbins. Being the cautious folks they are, the Holmans had the home blessed by both a Presbyterian minister and a native American medicine man. "No spirits here," they claim.

Sharon Lloyd owns the home on the southwest corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and O Avenue and attests to the resident spirits in her home. She has named them "Mrs. Burns" (after her grandmother) and "the old lady." Though she has never seen them, she is sure the spirits are there. One bedroom on the home's second story is icy cold and Sharon cannot get her grandchildren to enter it. According to Sharon, the spirits even vacuumed for the previous owner when she became tired and left the vacuum out.

Further north, Michael Hamilton lived at 1300 16<sup>th</sup> Street for three years. He and his family were quite happy sharing the home with the spirits and the house had a "warm and fuzzy" feel about it. It just had a few quirks. For example, every night before they retired to sleep, he and his wife closed all the kitchen cabinets; and every morning they were open when they woke up, even the cabinets that one needed a ladder to reach. He and his wife wanted to purchase the home but it was not for sale. They did purchase the Schell home at 1012 16<sup>th</sup> Street. They have been there for five years. Though they love their home, they miss the "happenings" at the other location.

# Street Talk

Ammar Qashu has owned **Fusion Café** for three months now. In addition to the gourmet beverages and smoothies, the shop now sells sandwiches and pastries for both breakfast and lunch. Hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., seven days a week. Fusion offers live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 to 10 p.m. Along with free Wi-Fi for its customers, Amar has added three large screen televisions to the coffee shop.

**Teacup Antiques** is now open for business. Stop in and say hello to owner Sharon Lloyd, who also owns a historical home in the area and is president of the Blackland Prairie Festival, Inc.

In *D Magazine's Best of Big D*, July issue, **Jörg's Café Vienna** was named the best spot for schnitzel in Dallas. According to the magazine, "Nothing says central European cuisine like cream sauce and an umlaut. ... And don't miss out on Jörg's biergarten or the upcoming Oktoberfest celebration." Throughout October, on Wednesdays and Fridays, Jörg's has live music and give-aways to celebrate Oktoberfest.

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**UrbanKids Photography** has opened an office at 1015 15<sup>th</sup> Street in the space owned by Dian Sparling of Sparling Mortgage. A degreed photographer, Leslie Boren has 10 years of fashion and photography experience. She is a member is the Professional Photographers of America and Texas Professional Photographers associations.

**Plano Barber Shop** offers haircuts for active and retired military personnel at \$6. We appreciate their support of the military.

**Queen of Hearts** is growing and recently hired another full-time employee. Stop by and say hello to Josh. While you are there, it is never too early to reserve your Santa suit!

**The Wooden Spoon's** 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will include the **Sons of Norway** on Saturday, September 8 from noon to 6 p.m. Entertainment includes the hardanger fiddle, accordions, Norwegian dancers and Vikings in traditional garb, dueling, book signings, woodcarvers, complimentary food, prizes and instructions on Norwegian crafts. Various vendors and associations will be represented as well.

**Art-A-Rama Plano** will host a Halloween event on Friday, October 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. Children may wear their Halloween costumes. Kids will make a Halloween art project and eat pizza. Call for more information, 972-423-4554.

**The Interurban Museum/Plano Conservancy's** Archeology Fair will be Saturday, October 6 at Bob Woodruff Park, 2601 San Gabriel Drive. Reservations for a dig time must be made in advance at 972-941-2117. Ms. Genie and Rags, the Preschooler Story Time, is every Friday at 10:30 a.m., using the new books purchased with the proceeds from the March Book Fair. With Fourth Grade Field Trips to the museum now a part of the PISD curriculum, volunteers are needed to help.

The **Third Annual Plano International Festival** will be in Haggard Park, 901 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St. on Saturday, October 20 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Festival is designed to showcase the many cultures that make up Plano, Collin County and the surrounding areas. It will be a splendid outing for the entire family, offering an opportunity to become better acquainted with the myriad of ethnicities of a cosmopolitan city.

*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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