

Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

July • August 2003 Issue

Kids Are COOL Downtown This Summer

Take a trip to old downtown where culture, food, entertainment and adventure await children of all ages. Art classes, theater, museums, history, ice cream, toys and old-fashioned candy delight the senses. Enrich young lives—visit Historic Plano!

YEARNING TO LEARN

Classes and summer programs abound. Passages Life Training for Girls, located upstairs in the A.R. Schell building, teaches self-awareness, etiquette, esteem building and life skills to girls ages 8 to 17. The East Side Speech and Language Clinic specializes in reading and speech training. Art-a-Rama teaches art classes to kids of all ages. Jumpstart for Arts is an arts camp at the ArtCentre this summer for ages 9 to 15.

FUN THINGS TO DO

Take your young ones on a field trip to the Interurban Railway Museum. Visit the ArtCentre to see dozens of colorful kites on display during "Theatre of the Sky," a Japanese kite exhibit. Kites are a symbol of good luck for children in Japan. See the Plano Repertory Theatre's Summer Children's Series. Five plays are shown twice daily throughout the summer at the ArtCentre Theatre. For extreme sports, skate Eisenberg's or check out Custom Scooters. Queen of Hearts has free magic demonstrations, tricks, costumes and gag gifts. Take your child's photo at LOVE Photography. Ride the DART trolley bus from Downtown to the Collin Creek Mall, or explore the many offerings for kids along the DART light rail.



GOOD EATS

Cool off by eating ice cream purchased from the La Paloma pushcart vendor. Satisfy your sweet tooth with fudge, candy or ice cream cones at Espresso Yourself, or try a Madcap Monkey or Cosmic Caramello milkshake at the Coffee Haus. Grab hamburgers or turkey legs at Ye Olde Butcher Shop, or a take-out pizza from the International Bakery and Pizzeria. Georgia's Farmer's Market sells Texas watermelons and cold Dublin Dr Pepper. Aparicio's on 18th Street sells tacos and tamales. Try homemade Danish cookies at The Wooden Spoon.



SHOPPING SPREES!

MRJ sells affordable jewelry! Nooks and Krannies is the perfect shopping experience for toys and gifts. Hip hop wear and cool shoes and clothing are sold at Eisenberg's and F & A Urban Apparel. The Candy Bouquet has gifts galore for special occasions. While exploring downtown, find shaded parking in the garages at Eastside Villages I and II.



HAPPENINGS

July/August 2003

July:

- 1-31 Theatre of the Sky
A kite exhibition
ArtCentre of Plano 972-423-7809
- 1-25 Jump Start The Arts
Summer Workshops for Children
ArtCentre of Plano 972-423-7809
- 1-5 Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
PRT Summer Children's Series
ArtCentre Theatre 972-422-7460
- 4 **Independence Day Parade**
972-424-7547
- 4 Patriotic Pops Concert
**Plano Symphony Orchestra
& Plano Civic Chorus**
Eisemann Center 972-473-7262
- 4 All American Fourth
Fireworks
High Point Park 972-941-7250
- 10 - 8/3 Joseph & the Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat
Plano Repertory Theatre
Courtyard Theater 972-422-7460
- 14 & 28 YMCA in Legacy
**Plano Community Band
Summer Concerts**
www.planoband.com
- 14 - 19 The Revenge of the Space
Pandas, or Binky Rudich &
The Two Speed Clock
PRT Summer Children's Series
ArtCentre Theatre 972-422-7460
- 19 Home Show & Craft Bazaar
Chamber of Commerce 972-424-7547
- 17 Marsha Webb in Concert
Junction Americana Music Series
Plano Station 972-941-7740
- 28 /8.2 Cinderella
PRT Summer Children's Series
ArtCentre Theatre 972-422-7460

August:

- 1-3 Joseph & the Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat
Plano Repertory Theatre
Courtyard Theater 972-422-7460
- 1-23 **Carson Photography Exhibit**
ArtCentre of Plano 972-423-7809
- 15 Plano Community Band
Sections Recital
Courtyard Theater
www.planoband.com
- 19 **Home Show & Craft Bazaar**
Chamber of Commerce 972-424-7547
- 21 Elizabeth Wills in Concert
The Junction Americana Music Series
Plano Station 972-941-7740

HISTORIC VIEWS

Tony Holman crawled under his Victorian era home to check plumbing, and had scooped away some dirt, felt something hard and round rolling in the cool, moist dirt in his hand. Outside temperatures read ninety degrees, but under his old house he was cool and comfortable. He pulled up another handful of earth, letting most of it trickle away until he found the objects. Resting in his hand were marbles.

Tony hadn't just discovered toys; he'd dug up history – forgotten children's history. Before the comfort and convenience of air-conditioning, when a blistering sun baked the landscape, children had looked for shady places to play games. Sweltering indoors and out, Plano's youth would race to finish their chores. Feeding chickens, filling lamps, and cleaning stalls was hot, dull work when fishing, swimming or friends were waiting.

After hiking to the local water holes, kids would wander downtown. Begging chips of ice to suck on from the iceman, lumbering back into town with his wagon and horse, they'd find a shaded step to watch farmers trade. Digging out marbles, jacks, or challenging each other to a game of "mumblety-peg," boys and girls would head for home. Until the sun set, the only cool places to play were under houses resting on bois d'arc blocks. When breezes came up, another good spot was overhead. Passersby heard children's laughter emanating from under porches, or drifting down from leafy trees.



The "Twenty Tough Tamales."

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Jumpstart for Arts!

This summer, Plano children, ages 9 to 15 are heading downtown in droves for the ArtCentre of Plano's free summer arts program. Four art disciplines—visual art, music, dance and theater – are taught to kids by area professionals. "A City of Plano contract employed the ArtCentre and we've hired some of the area's best instructors in their fields of expertise," said Chelisa Herbrich, director for the program. The instructors are Gabriel Dubose - dance, Lisa Hale - dramatics, Cara Dugas - visual art, Christi Burkle and Tina Raymond - music and Betty Talamentez - Spanish interpreter.

In tandem with the ArtCentre's Japanese kite exhibit, kids are participating in kite making, creative movement, putting on plays and learning musical instruments.

"This is an incredible opportunity for kids who might not normally get involved in a program like this to be exposed to the arts and have new experiences," said Ms. Herbrich. Three two-week sessions beginning in June and running through July are age specific and last from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Overall there is space for about 80 children in each program. A special session for the physically challenged is offered in July.

To enroll in the program, or find out more information, call 972-423-7809 or pick up an entry form at the ArtCentre.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for children and we hope it will become a continuing program for the ArtCentre every year," said Ms. Herbrich.



STREET TALK

The East Side Speech and Language Clinic at 1201 15th Street specializes in learning differences for reading and speech. In business for more than 20 years, Anne Russell Bramlett, parent of an autistic child, has dedicated her lifework to helping children. For appointment call 972-424-0148.

The Summer Children's Theater Series at the ArtCentre Theatre is in full swing. For \$8, see Hank The Cowdog, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, The Revenge of the Space Pandas or Cinderella. Performances Monday through Friday 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Stop by the box office on Capital Avenue or call 972-578-7074 for tickets.

What do kids eat??? PIZZA! Plano's best, International Bakery and Pizzeria, is downtown. Try exciting new toppings like meatballs, chicken and broccoli. Treat the kids to pizza and subs this summer! Call ahead 469-467-7704 to order. Now delivers within a 3-mile radius.



Journey of Hope is a grief counseling foundation in Plano dedicated to children who have lost a loved one. Support groups and dinner are conducted Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the First United Methodist Church on Parker Road. Call Connie Calhoun at 214-505-6960 for information.

Our deepest sympathy to friends and family of Georgia Massey of Georgia's Farmer's Market. Georgia was profiled in the last issue of The Village News and died in April 2003. She was a wonderful person and a hard working storeowner downtown for many years. We will miss her. The new owners of Georgia's are dedicating a bench in Haggard Park in her honor.

Laurie Holgate, owner of Tax Rx, can assist in filing tax paperwork for those who filed extensions. See her at 1404 Vontress Drive, Suite 2127 or call 972-881-4731.

Into My Garden expanded to a second location in Cobwebs Antiques Mall. The new restaurant is The French Hen and features French

DID YOU KNOW?
IN THE 1920S, A CLUB OF MISCHIEVEOUS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WHO CALLED THEMSELVES THE "TWENTY TOUGH TAMALES" SECRETLY DID KIND DEEDS FOR THE YOUNG AND OLD.

SHOPPING THE VILLAGE

Jewelry

MRJ Creations sells the perfect jewelry and accessories for children and teens. Find the "in" jewelry from boys' beaded necklaces, to \$1 charm bracelets for girls, purses, cool shades and handmade soap. This is where kids love to spend their allowance.

Party Hats

New Addition sells satin crowns and party hats for the little prince and princess. Bedecked with feathers, sequins and ribbons, these party hats are the perfect accessories for birthdays.



Skaters' Paradise

Eisenberg's Skatepark, A Home for Skaters, is where kids go to inline skate, skateboard or bike.

With ramps, sponge pits and quarterpipes, this skate park is the best in the area for this extreme sport. Parents must sign a waiver for kids under 18, and helmets and other protective gear is mandatory. For a radical time, skate Eisenberg's!



Toys, Toys, Toys!

Next stop, Nooks & Krannies, to find BRIO train sets. Every accessory, table and train can be found here. Two demonstration stations are set up for kids to play. At Nooks & Krannies nursery, adopt a "baby," complete with adoption papers and birth certificates.

CITY SCENE

Downtown Parking Lots

The new parking lot at the SW corner of 14th Street and Avenue K is now open and available for parking. There are no restrictions on this lot.

Pedestrian Friendly Enhancements

The City of Plano is currently reviewing possible pedestrian-friendly enhancements to Avenue K, which may include additional landscaping and crosswalks. Other possibilities are to enhance the street banner program for color and interest, improved accessibility, and additional seating benches. These possibilities are currently not funded, but will be reviewed by the City Council.

Cox Building Renovation

The City of Plano, Plano Independent School District, and local colleges/universities are beginning plans for renovation and adaptation of the Cox Building on Avenue H. Plans include additional rehearsal space and associated administrative offices, along with space for arts education programs and training. The historic aspects of the exterior structure will not be affected in the adaptation.



Haggard Park Renovation

(see concept drawing)

Renovations began in April. The park will continue to be closed until renovations are complete. Changes will include the drainage way being placed underground, re-design of the pond, replacement of the playground, a solid surface pad around the bandshell, a new plaza on the west side of the Interurban Rail car, and a small maintenance yard. Construction is expected to be completed in early fall.

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PUBLISHER
Dana Conklin

EDITOR
Deborah Dickson

CONTRIBUTORS
Lisette Briley
Pam Hatcher
Debbie Holman
Susan Lee
Mary Jo Montgomery
Jan Peacock
Dolly Thomas
Nikki Tuttle
Jim Wear

City of Plano
P.O. Box 860358
75086-0358
972.941.7250
email: danac@plano.gov

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 Plano.

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



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