

Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

March – April 2006

Service with Style

Residents and businesses in Historic Downtown Plano have many services at their disposal. People come to the area from all over North Texas to avail themselves of the wonderful offerings here.

Services for the Home



Services available in Historic Downtown Plano make it easy to acquire and maintain a home. Homes can be purchased or rented through **InTown Village, Eastside Village Apartments, Landis Realty Group** and **O.K. Mortgage**. **Lexington Luxury Builders** will have town homes available by year end. **Cal Young of cya design** provides both residential and retail architectural design services. **Kelly Geffert of Make It Mine Design** offers interior decorating consultation. **Southern Painting** provides full-service interior and exterior painting. Keep your home clean with **Maid Brigade**. Plants and landscaping services can be purchased through **Garrison Gardens**. Landscaping services are also provided through **Lisle, Inc.** along with irrigations and fences. **Precision Pavers** is available for patios, pool decks, driveways and walkways. **Gary Thompson of GHT Metals** can construct custom fencing, handrails, sculptures and home décor out of any metal.

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 full-service insurance agency with roots in the area. If you need a **Farmer's Insurance Group** representative, **Robert Capt** has an office on 14th Street and offers limited home foundation coverage. **Burchett & Roberts Appraisers** has specialized in relocation appraisals in the area for 30 years. For personal and business financial needs, there is a **Legacy Bank** branch on 14th Street. **Marcus Orr of Edward Jones** offers all types of investments and financial services. **Laurie Holgate of Tax Rx**, licensed by the IRS, is dedicated to your "tax health," providing assistance in all areas of tax planning. Other accountants in the area include **Dalh Alvin, CPA** and **Dale Quenzer, CPA**. **James Reese, CPA** offers tax services for both businesses and individuals. Historic Downtown Plano has bilingual tax assistance provided by **Alvaro Afanador**, who also provides notary service and passport assistance. His wife, **Guadalupe**, provides bilingual real estate help for the area.

Legal Services

The warm comfortable 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. The

firm of **Keller and Stark** has been practicing family law in Historic Downtown Plano for 13 years. **F.B. Larrea** is a bilingual attorney, practicing criminal and family law. **Stephen H. Miller** is a criminal defense attorney, practicing in Collin and Dallas counties. For personal injury law, visit with **Howard Hamilton, Jr.**, who has been in the neighborhood for over 18 years.

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, stop by **Central Vision Clinic**, a bilingual office. Hearing aids are offered at **Hearing Aid Express**. General family dentistry is available from the three dentists at **Bridgeman Dental** on Avenue G. **Lung Star** offers sleep studies and diagnosis, and offers diagnosis bed and breakfast style. To relieve stress, stop by **Body Grafix** for a massage. **Always at Peace Day Spa** provides a variety of massage types, along with treatments, nail services, microdermabrasions and facials. **The Village Spa** offers these services as well as permanent cosmetics, Restylane and Botox. **The Institute of Health Promotion** provides Restylane, Botox and spider vein treatment though its primary focus is on weight loss.

Historic Downtown Plano has a wide selection of hair and beauty services. For these services, you can contact **Anthony's Barber Shop, Baxter's Salon, Creative Collections, Dora's Salon, Hair'em and Nail'em, Mane Design, Penny's Salon, Phancy's Hair Salon, Plano Nailery, Sisters Two Salon, Today Tan and Nails and Williams Family Barbershop**. **Plano Barbers** offers 50% off for active military personnel.

Services for Your Heart and Soul

Services for your mind and spirit can also be found downtown. The **Assistance Center of Collin County's** ability to bring people and services together is unsurpassed. Linking those in need to the services provided includes both financial and material assistance. In 2005 the organization responded to more than 25,000 calls. **The Behavior Exchange** works with families to assist in behavior modification. Primarily geared towards children with autism, tools are taught to enable family members to interact more effectively with a special needs child.

Stonebriar Counseling Services provides unique comprehensive services to address the emotional, spiritual and mental needs of the entire family. **Joseph Parker at Transitions to Life** offers individual counseling on relationships, intimacy, career and health.

For spiritual guidance, the area boasts 12 churches: **First Assembly of God Church, First Baptist Church Plano, First Christian Church of Plano, First United Methodist Church Of Plano, Hill's Chapel CME Church, Holy Temple Church of God, Missionary Church Assembly, Providence Community Church, Shiloh Missionary Baptist, St Mary's Anglican Church, Streams of Life Church, Victory Baptist Church and Water Of Life Church**. In addition to regular religious services, many of these churches partner with the Assistance Center of Collin County to help serve needs.

(continued on page 2)

Happenings

March/April 2006

March

- 1 Dedication of Cox Building
972-941-7321
- 2-11 Agatha Christie's "Love from a Stranger", 972-849-0358
Rover Dramawerks
Cox Building Theater
- 8-31 PISD Art Exhibit, 972-423-7809
ArtCentre of Plano
- 6 A Love Supreme
Poetry, Art and Song
7:30 pm - ArtCentre Courtyard
- 17-19 Live From Plano
Courtyard Theater (CYT)
- 17 Adult Ceramics Night
972-423-4554
Art-A-Rama Plano
- 3-31 Plano Art Association Members
Exhibit, 972-941-7740, CYT
- 2-4 Rhythm Junkies Dance Concert
972-412-8300, CYT
- 24-31 Imagine Programs Children's Art
Exhibit - Plano Municipal Center
972-941-7740
- 26 Plano Book Festival
972-633-9603
CYT, Cox Bldg. Theater, Plano
Station, Haggard Park
- 31 Plano Metropolitan Ballet
Dance Performance
972-769-0017, CYT
- 31 The Nearsighted Knight &
The Far Sighted Dragon
972-849-0358
Rover Dramawerks
Cox Building Theater

April

- 1-9 The Nearsighted Knight &
The Far Sighted Dragon
972-849-0358
Rover Dramawerks
Cox Building Theater
- 1 Plano Metropolitan Ballet
Dance Performance
972-769-0017, CYT
- 3-30 Gallery VIII Exhibit
972-941-7740, CYT
- 4 A Love Supreme
Poetry, Art and Song
7:30 p.m., ArtCentre Courtyard
- 8-15 Plano Art Association Juried
Show, ArtCentre of Plano
- 15 Broadway's Best, 972-699-1130
Repertory Company Theatre, CYT
- 21 Adult Ceramics Night
972-423-4554
Art-A-Rama Plano
- 22 One Day Only - 7, 972-849-0358
7 Short Plays performed by
Rover Dramawerks, CYT
- 28-29 Men of Note Chorus
Annual Concert - CYT

Boot Camp in the Gallery is a boot camp style workout class offered free of charge by Providence Community Church each Monday at 9 a.m. in the ArtCentre. The church also offers free tutoring every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. for grades K to 8 at the ArtCentre.

For Your Business

If you have a business in Historic Downtown Plano, many of your needs can be met by your neighbors. **Integrated Corporate Consulting Group, Inc.** offers corporate financial consulting and commercial loans. **Luke Laman** practices corporate law and commercial litigation. **Source 1 Financial Services** on Avenue H assists small companies with employee retirement and benefit plans. **Fairway Group Real Estate** assists buyers and sellers in the purchase and development of raw land and buildings. **Stephens Engineering** provides structural engineering expertise on new construction for both commercial and residential buildings. **Swift Concrete** handles concrete decking for businesses and swimming pools. **W & M Environmental Group** on 18th Street has over 10 years experience in environmental consulting.

A Better Answer provides telephone answering services. **D.K. Wireless Networks** installs and maintains wireless Internet services and wireless surveillance equipment. Scott Copeland of **Aegis1 Computer Services** works on all brands of computers, offers loaners, preventative maintenance and monthly contracts. 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**. You can also purchase customer gift baskets from **What's the Big Occasion**. **What's the Big Idea** provides professional creative services for design and marketing. **Benoit Design, Inc.** has been in business since 1977 and can design and execute your ad campaign. For mass mailings contact the folks at **AdPages**. For promotional imprintable products for your company, team or event, visit **Impressions Marketing**, in business locally for 15 years.

Other Available Services

Complete car repair services are offered at **Sav-Mor Auto and Tire** and **Auto Fix It**. In addition to repair services, **Kwik Kar Auto Service Center** offers fast inspections – rain or shine. If you are in need of special hubcaps or tire repair, stop by at **Hubcap Homer's**. **Thompson Boatworks** provides custom handcrafted wooden boats, such as canoes, rowboats and sailboats.

For that special event, reserve space at **Wall-Robbins House**, have Ida Breiten at **Creative Imprints** handle the invitations, and have **Dallas Digital Video Productions** film it. Use one of our local photographers for your portrait, including **Love Photography** or **Kay Askew Photography**.

For kids the area has a child care center, **Children's Choice Day Care** on Avenue G. **Art-A-Rama Plano** provides art classes for children and adults. Families can exercise at **Eisenberg's Skatepark**.

Enjoy the convenience of **Plano Mini Mart**, and stop by **Film Depot** for your film processing needs, including black and white. **Let's Practice K-9 Obedience** offers dog day care and training classes for all ages of dogs. **Humane Animal Hospital** offers complete veterinary services.

The professional, friendly businesses in Historic Downtown Plano are here to serve and do it well.

City Scene

The **Downtown Task Force**, appointed by the Plano City Council, began meeting in January. The anticipated outcome may include a vision for downtown's future and exploration of financial tools to support the area's future development. Meetings are open to the public. Dates and agendas may be obtained through the City of Plano Planning Department at 972-941-7151 or at www.planotx.org/mtgagend.html.

The Interurban Railway Museum has been named to the **National Register of Historic Places** by the National Park Service. National Register properties "recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States...." With this distinctive honor, the Interurban Railway Museum joins nearly 79,000 other significant cultural resources worthy of preservation. Stay tuned for celebratory activities in May.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the **Spring For Art Studio & Gallery Tour** coming on May 13, from 4 to 8 p.m. Downtown studios and art galleries are hosting a spring art walk in addition to their successful fall Trick Art Treat event. Details will be available in the next issue, or you may contact Michael Holter Creative at 972-312-1808.



A new **Downtown Caretaker** took over duties at the first of the year. Antonio Rivera was born in New York and moved to Puerto Rico when



he was 14. After high school he attended a local university and received a certification in Landscape Design. After graduation he maintained the grounds at the Palace of the Governor of Puerto Rico for seven years, and then managed his own landscape company for the next 15 years. When he returned to the U.S., he began working at Stonebriar Centre. One year ago Antonio joined the Landscape Division of the City of Plano in the Parks and Recreation Department and now has been assigned to the downtown area. Antonio brings a vast amount of landscape experience and has already demonstrated his talents. He is very outgoing and quick with a smile and a hearty handshake. Look for him to welcome Antonio to Downtown Plano.

Village People

Peggy Jane Mitchell is a vibrant member of our community who takes pride in providing her historic expertise. Born in September of 1930, her family has been living in Plano since 1933. Peggy is the youngest of five siblings. Her family had a farm in the Cottonwood Creek area north of Plano when she was a child.

Though the family is well known in the area, it was her brother Ray (Boney), the football star, who is the most acclaimed. To this day, when someone asks Peggy which Mitchell family she is from, she responds that she is Boney's sister. While in high school, during weekends and breaks she took the Interurban to downtown Dallas to study art and take drawing classes. After high school, Peggy commuted to Dallas to her office at Atlantic Refining Company where she worked as a draftsman. In 1953 she married Bill Wilson, a high school classmate. The couple moved to Columbus, Georgia where Bill was stationed. This is where Peggy found her true enjoyment in work - creating window displays for Kirven's Department Store. A year later she began practicing her craft on window displays for Neiman Marcus. She worked for Neiman's in downtown Dallas for 16 years as Manager of Window Displays. Peggy also handled the staging for fashion shows. She resigned in 1970 and began her own business of contract interiors and exhibit design. During this period she traveled extensively. In 1976 she married her second husband, Steve Allman, and together they rented space in the Quadrangle shopping center in Dallas.



In 1981 the couple purchased a 1918 health sanitarium on the Paluxy River in the Glen Rose area and created the Inn on the River which became a family operation. The hotel was sold in 1991, and in 1995 she moved back to the Plano house where she was raised.

She is quite knowledgeable of the area, especially regarding the Cox School, Haggard Park and Rice Field area. Her family was instrumental in the lighting of Rice Field. E.A. Sigler, Superintendent of Schools, wanted to have the field lighted for night games. He asked Peggy's father to take a team of mules and a wagon to Dallas to the Texas Electric Company for utility poles. Peggy's father and brothers Ray and Walter, and Roscoe Parrish went on the overnight journey. When they returned the next evening, a group of men was ready to put the poles up right away. These are the poles that exist on the field today.

Peggy remains active in the community. The family home has a historical marker. Her sister, Dorothy Mitchell Johnston, is also a local historian and family genealogist. In addition to painting and writing her own memoirs, Peggy enjoys seeing friends at the Old Settlers Reunion twice annually at Rutledge Haggard's Barn. She is a valued historian who has been involved on several committees. Her input was requested for the Haggard Park public art project and the gymnasium conversion for the Courtyard Theater. She is part of the 14-member Heritage Classroom Committee, composed to design this historical room in the newly remodeled Cox Building with rotating displays to memorialize both the era and the people who made it great.

There's A Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight

If you haven't visited downtown lately, you are in for a delightful surprise. In addition to the charming shops and pedestrian-friendly environment, the scene is packed with fun things to do. Visitors and residents alike are able to choose from a variety of dining and entertainment opportunities and the energy and excitement on the streets is palpable!

As of March 2006, Downtown Plano can boast three theatres offering live performances of music, dance and theater, plus a lovely outdoor performance space in Haggard Park. On any given evening, one may find audiences enjoying a performance of a classic Agatha Christie thriller, or a delightful comedy in the new Cox Building Playhouse, or perhaps a crowd of parents and children taking in a show at the beautiful Courtyard Theater next door. Moving eastward through the park, your ears will be treated to lively music coming from the bandstand, especially when the Community Band season is underway.

Just a bit further up the hill, past the DART station, one comes upon the ArtCentre Theatre, former home of the Plano Repertory Theatre. This cozy little performance venue has recently undergone some sprucing up, thanks to a grant from the City of Plano, and a brand new musical comedy troupe hopes to present a season of popular hits and little known gems for lovers of musical theater.

There is much to see along the streets and inside the doors of the theaters, restaurants and shops. Public Art is becoming a familiar feature of the landscape with striking pieces in Haggard Park, at the DART station, and on the north face of the ArtCentre Theatre and the west face of the Eastside Village II parking facility.

In addition to rotating exhibits of art by local, national and international artists in the ArtCentre of Plano and the Courtyard Theater, art mavens have a number of other opportunities for visual stimulation. From Holman Pottery on 18th Street to 14th Street gallery just east of downtown, offerings range from colorful Impressionist works to evocative Western art and everything in between. You will want to stroll along both sides of 15th Street and look in the galleries and be sure not to miss out on 15th Place for a few surprises. The fine art of good cooking is practiced in downtown. Jorg's Café Vienna, Kelly's Eastside, the Tortilla Factory and others are there to fill you up while you feed your soul.

You can make a full day of it, touring the galleries, taking in a show or concert, shopping and eating well. Visit more than once, just so you don't miss anything! Take the DART train or park in one of the garages or lots around downtown. Walk, run or two step your way into downtown. However you get here, you'll have a hot time in the old town! For more information on the arts in downtown visit the City of Plano Web site, www.plano.gov and click on Arts, or call 972-941-5202.

Shopping the Village

The new Epicurean Line of products at **Holman Pottery** is a must see! Featuring a chicken baker, olive dipping trays, cobbler dishes, Brie and garlic bakers, a french butter crock and more, the line promises to be a hot seller!



Ambiance Décor has a new, truly original style of oil lamp. Created by Connie Sicotte Design, these lamps have been built to last a lifetime, and will add elegance to any room. Stop and pick one up, along with some clear smokeless lamp oil.



The latest styles of Taggies are in at **Nooks 'n Krannies**. Taggies were created by an early childhood educator based on the idea that babies and kids love to rub satin, clothing labels and tags. All unique, Taggies are "interactive blankets," providing the child with an activity and a security blanket simultaneously. The line includes blankets, soft books and toys.



Douglass Community Center

Douglass Community Center's **Expanding Horizon's Youth Program** has planned a college tour for the spring. Teens from the area will tour several universities in Houston and the surrounding areas, including Prairie View, A & M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas Southern University, Lamar University and the University of Houston. The tour will be during PISD spring break, from March 7 to 10 and is only \$100 per student, which is all-inclusive.

Douglass Community Center will also sponsor the **Young Ladies of Distinction Pageant** on June 10. Registration is open to all young ladies ages 11 to 17 and will end April 30, 2006.



Street Talk

On March 26, at **The 5th Annual Plano Book Festival**, authors will speak and discuss books in the Courtyard Theater, the newly remodeled Cox Building (westside of Haggard Park) and Plano Station next to the Downtown Plano DART light rail station. This event is **free**, fun-filled and family oriented. For more information call 972-839-9529 or visit www.planobookfestival.com



The Third Annual **Blackland Prairie Festival** will take place April 30 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This event "*recreates the character of Plano*" as it takes a step back in time for one day. The downtown area is transformed by activities reflecting the early 1900s; costumed performers, historic reenactments, artists and demonstrations, live music, and more. For details call 972-423-7809, 972-769-0017 or visit www.blacklandprairiefestival.org.

In May, don't miss the **Asian American Heritage Festival** in Haggard Park from noon to 5 p.m. on May 7, 2006. This event celebrates the diverse artistic and cultural experiences of Americans of Asian descent and admission is free. The event includes demonstrations of Asian cultural activities such as Chinese calligraphy, Asian painting, traditional dances, fashion shows, music and other cultural arts. Asian American Heritage Festival 2006 is about understanding the different spices that make up the wonderful American Melting Pot.

CYA Design Collaborative has relocated to the Historic Downtown Plano at 1024 15th Street. Owner Cal Young has 22 years architectural design experience and is a Texas A&M graduate. He has lived in the area for 14 years with his family and moved his office here at the beginning of the year.



Let's Practice K-9 Obedience reopened after a devastating fire last July. The facility opened February 6 with full services. Let's Practice K-9 Obedience provides fun, encouragement and practical training for improving the way pet owners responsibly train and care for their dogs.

Zoei's Closet recently opened on J Place. Owners LaDella Stone and Brenda Tagle are excited to be a part of Historic Downtown Plano. The shop carries cocktail dresses, casual clothing and accessories for misses and juniors. The fashions are mid to high end with brand names such as Mezmerize, Nally & Millie, Haven Bleu, Temper Tantrum, Lucy Love and Pure Color, which was featured on Oprah.



Watch Avenue K for the opening of **Porta di Roma of Plano!** The Italian restaurant is expected to open early April. Owner and Chef, Demi Beshiri, has over 19 years experience and owns another restaurant with the same title in downtown Dallas. Using only the finest ingredients and authentic Italian recipes, he promises to transport patrons to the heart of Italy.

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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