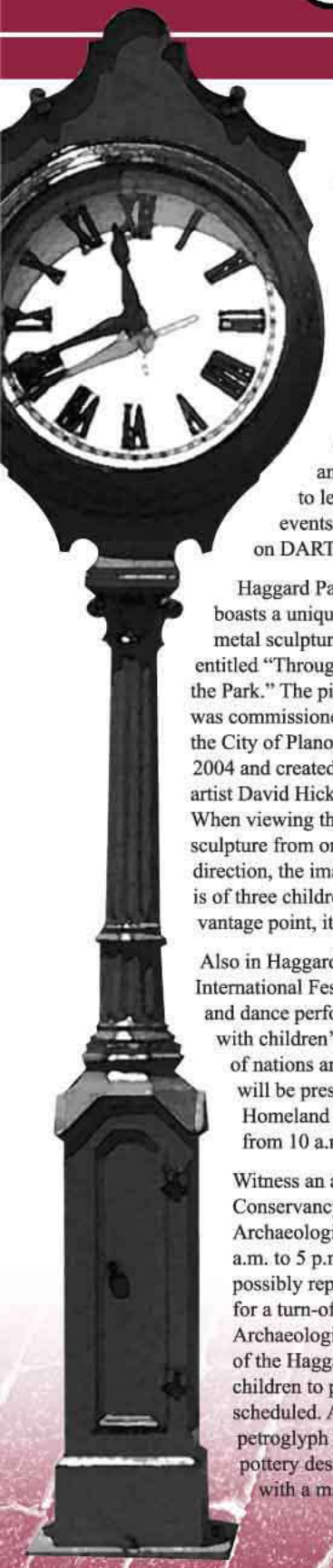
Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

September - October 2005



Something Is In The Air

The pleasant fall weather has begun and things are looking up. September 16 to 19 is a perfect time to give the sky more than a glance, as the **26th Annual Plano Balloon Festival** will be in full swing. Sponsored by the Community Credit Union, the event has plenty to offer, including entertainment, food and hands-on activities. Many of the attendees will also visit the downtown area for the **Balloon Bash** on September 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Balloon Bash provides an opportunity to meet hot air balloon pilots and to learn more about the sport. The remainder of the events will take place at Oak Point Park, a short ride on DART from the Parker Road station.

Haggard Park boasts a unique metal sculpture entitled "Through the Park." The piece was commissioned by the City of Plano in 2004 and created by artist David Hickman. When viewing the sculpture from one direction, the image is of three children running. If you examine it from a different vantage point, it appears to be a train conductor.

Also in Haggard Park this fall, experience the Plano International Festival. This new event will feature musical and dance performances from a variety of cultures along with children's geography and language games, a parade of nations and ethnic food. A naturalization ceremony will be presented in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security. Join the fun Saturday, October 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Witness an actual archaeological dig by joining the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation for the 2005 Archaeological Fair in Haggard Park on October 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. During a recent renovation, brick features, possibly representing a well or cistern, or footings for a turn-of-the-century building were encountered. Archaeologists will be on site to interpret the findings of the Haggard Park dig. Mock dig units for groups of children to participate in a hands-on experience will be scheduled. Archaeology Land, for ages 5 to 12, includes: petroglyph site, pictograph wall, pottery village site, pottery design replication, rock painting, grinding corn with a mano and metate, and fire drill. Presentations are scheduled throughout the day at the Tent of Learning and will appeal to archaeology and history buffs. Reservations are necessary at (972) 941-2117 for participation in the mock dig.

Music will be in the air on Friday, October 28 at the **Trick Art Treat Art Walk**. This free celebration is open to the public from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and features art from the area's 10 fine art galleries, as well as music and refreshments.

Applause is in the air for **A Better Answer, Inc.**, a telephone answering service on Avenue G. The company was honored with the international Award of Excellence for the seventh consecutive year by the Association of TeleServices International, Inc. A Better Answer opened more than 35 years ago in the Dallas area. With so many of their customers in Plano, they were pulled up, up and away to the Historic Downtown Plano area to make it their permanent home. With state-of-the-art equipment and customized software, they are truly a full-service bureau. According to owner and CEO Dee Hawkins, keep looking up because that is where they are going.

Our sense of smell is also stimulated in Historic Downtown Plano. As you walk north on Avenue K, the aromas of cooking – Italian food at **Vito's Italian Bistro**, cheesesteak at **Feels Like Home**, brisket at **Kelly's Eastside**, coffees at the **Coffee Haus**, Mexican food at **Metro Burrito**, **Taqueria La Paloma** and **Aparicio's** and pastries at **Rainbow Donuts**. Before you leave Avenue K, sniff the aroma of fine cigars at **Two Brothers Cigars**. On 15th Street, the smell of Mama's goulash at **Jorg's Café Vienna** makes your mouth water. From aromatic brews at **Into My Garden Tea Room** to chocolates and fudge at **Candy Bouquet**, the senses are aroused. Many of the 15th Street gift shops offer scented candles, lamp oils, teas, coffee, potpourri, scented bath oils, lotions and fresh flowers, including **Simple Country Pleasures**, **Nooks 'n Krannies**, **The Master Suite**, **Natural Elegance**, **Ambiance Gifts**, **Nature's Finest Art**, **Red Awning Antiques and Collectibles** and **Sherwood House**. At **Plano Barbers** experience the fresh clean scent of after-shave.

The smell of success is in the air for the area's college-bound residents as the Douglass Community Center will provide its annual college tour during fall break. This year's trip will be to the Houston area October 3 to 7, with tours of Sam Houston State University, Texas A & M, University of Houston, Rice University, Texas Southern University and Lamar University. The trip is offered to all high school students.

Awaken your senses this fall with a trip to Historic Downtown Plano.

Happenings

September/October 2005

8/20-9/24	Art Exhibit: Fire, Form and Fiction ArtCentre of Plano (972-423-7809)
8/31-9/29	Plano Photography Club Exhibit Plano Municipal Center (972-941-7740)
9/2-10/17	Gallery VIII Art Exhibit Courtyard Theater (972-941-5610)
9/5	Drum Circle (972-312-3544) ArtCentre Plaza, 7-9 p.m.
9/10	17th Annual Anniversary Party The Wooden Spoon 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (972-424-6867)
9/12	Drum Circle ArtCentre Plaza, 7-9 p.m.
9/16-9/19	Plano Balloon Festival Oak Point Park (972-941-7250)
9/17	Balloon Bash (972-941-7250) Haggard Park 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
9/27	Friends of Plano Public Library Courtyard Theater (972-208-8345)
9/30-10/29	Art Exhibit: Michael Cross ArtCentre of Plano
10/3	Drum Circle ArtCentre Plaza, 7-9 p.m.
10/3-10/7	Douglass Community Center's Annual College Tour (972-941-7174)
10/3-10/28	Plano Art Association Exhibit Plano Municipal Center (972-941-7740)
10/15	2005 Archaeological Fair (972-941-2117) Haggard Park, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
10/17	Drum Circle ArtCentre Plaza, 7-9 p.m.
10/21-12/2	Art Exhibit by Tony Holman & Julio Suarez Courtyard Theater (972-941-5610)
10/23	Plano International Festival Haggard Park, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (972-898-6582)
10/28	Trick Art Treat Art Walk Historic Downtown Plano 6-10 p.m. (972-424-9982)

Village People

The Rodenbaugh family has a long history in Collin County. Donald P. Rodenbaugh was born on May 26, 1931 in Kansas. He met and married his wife Connie in Lawton, Oklahoma. For a time, Don worked at Cape Canaveral for RCA. In an effort to get back to the Southwest, he accepted a job at Collins Radio and they moved to Allen.

While working his way up at Collins Radio, he opened his own shop for television and radio repair in Allen. It quickly grew to two stores, one of them in Plano on the southeast corner on Avenue K and 18th Street. For four years, he managed both stores while participating in church groups and helping Connie raise their five children. The Plano store became too much to handle and was closed in 1967. He left Collins Radio in 1968 to manage his own business exclusively.

The Rodenbaugh family once again has a store in Plano. The Rodenbaughs purchased the business from Bill Wheeler, long-time friend of Don Rodenbaugh and a store owner in the Historic Downtown Plano area since 1958.

Don was a civic leader in Allen and served as mayor of Allen from 1986 to 1988. He passed away October 1, 1999. The city of Allen built an indoor natatorium in 2000 and honored Mr. Rodenbaugh's contributions to Allen by naming it after him.

Of their children, daughter Dona lives in Maryland; daughter Linda in Mansfield; and daughter Cindy in California. Their two sons, Ronald and Gary, live in the area and manage the Allen store while their mother handles the accounting. Connie has a total of 16 grandchildren. Gary's wife, Kim is currently taking courses at Collin County Community College, with plans to help out in the bookkeeping of the store so Connie can someday retire.

The Rodenbaugh business evolved with the times. It began as a radio and television store and repair shop, then began selling and repairing major appliances. In 1972, central heating and air conditioning were added. By 1980, the heating/air conditioning and electronics segments of the business were sold, and in the early 1980s the flooring department was added.

Don Rodenbaugh was a true entrepreneur with a heart of gold, helping wherever he could to better the community. The Rodenbaugh Flooring and Appliance store on Main Street in Allen is the oldest business in Allen and one of the cornerstones of Allen's business community.

Historic Views

There almost was something in the air over Plano back in 1914. The following appeared on December 10, 1914 in the Plano Star Courier.

It's Coming to Plano Monday - Don't Miss It

The Most Gigantic, Exciting, Thrilling and Stupendous Event that Ever Occurred in the History of Plano

The day is at hand and you don't have long to think it over. Just get the children together, hitch old Beck and Jude to the wagon and come to Plano Monday, December 14, and see a real man fly in a real air ship. This will not cost you one cent and will be the best chance of your life for you and your family to see and behold the most stupendous fete (sic) ever achieved by man. This is not going to be as far as Dallas or some other town, but it is going to be right here at your door and will be the golden opportunity of your life to see the real thing in operation.

This will be the greatest day that has ever occurred in the history of Plano. Never before in the past or present history of our city have we seen men sailing among the clouds like the fowls of the air. The cost will be nothing. It is free. Absolutely free! Without charges. We hear every day of something new and great that is being brought about by the genious (sic) of man, but the greatest thing that has been given man by man is the art of lying among the heavens with as much ease as the smallest sparrow that flitters from limb to limb, or the mighty eagle whose broad pinions soar over the vast domains without tire.

Besides this great attraction there will be Bronco Busting and many more interesting things that will be out of the ordinary.

The flight will be sometime between 10 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the afternoon and it is very necessary that you come early to be sure that you do not miss any of the attractions that will be here free of charge for you on that day.

Be here with all your family and your neighbors and see for yourself.

A similar piece appeared the same day in the McKinney Weekly Democrat. One week later the Plano Star Courier printed a small article stating the plane had split a propeller and fell near Victory. The aviation company requested an extension on their contract to appear over the city of Plano, and was turned down.

Street Talk

Stonebriar Counseling Associates opened an office on 14th Street, across from Eastside Village, in August. SCA'a first office was established in Frisco four years ago. The center provides counseling from a Christian/psychological perspective. It is a unique counseling service that is completely comprehensive, addressing the emotional, mental and spiritual needs of all family members, so a family can heal together. Owner Bob Good (Th. M, MA, LPC), a professor of psychology at Collin County Community College, expects to have four clinicians. With an office in the 14th Street corridor, SCA will also be convenient for those in the eastern areas of Murphy, Sachse and Farmersville.

Historic Downtown Plano has a new upscale Italian restaurant. **Vito's Italian Bistro** is owned by Vito Memeci and managed by his sons Tony and Mike. On Avenue K in the facility formerly known as Poppy's, the restaurant has a new chef, new waitstaff, a new look and a tantalizing new menu.

Natural Elegance on 15th Street opened its doors in July. Owner Ann Brashears is a certified Texas Master Florist and has been in the industry for eight years. The store's main focus is fresh floral arrangements and exotic plants, with delivery. It also offers silk arrangements, candles and gifts.

The Institute of Health Promotion opened for business July 8. Located on 16th Street and Avenue G, the institute's primary concentration is medical weight loss. Other services offered include Botox, Restylane and spider vein treatment. Owner Peggy Ostrander has enjoyed being in the area for the past six years. With her business' success on Avenue K, she decided to purchase the 16th Street property and build her own facility. She has kept the building design in line with the look of this historic area.

Art-A-Rama Plano on Avenue J joined the Plano Chamber of Commerce and had its ribbon cutting on July 15. Though the facility has been in the same location since the late 90s, Perry Presto and Susan Colip purchased it in late 2003. In addition to classes, camps and private parties, Art-A-Rama Plano offers monthly pizza/art parties and ceramic nights. On September 12 the facility will begin offering art classes for home schoolers.

Liz Peitzner of **Mane Design** on Avenue K has developed a new partnership with Abundant Life Massage Therapist Janet Murray – a winning combination!

Susan Steblein of **Nature's Finest Art** will be promoting historic downtown Plano at the Texas State Fair this year. She has taken a spot in the Embarcadero for her store and will also hand out literature for the area.

Phancy's Hair Salon on 18th Street has a new stylist. Nora Perez has been in the business for five years, working mainly in Dallas. She has joined the staff at Phancy's on a part-time basis.

The Rodenbaugh family has purchased Wheeler Appliance from Bill Wheeler. Located on 14th Street across from Eastside Village, **Rodenbaugh's Outlet** serves as an appliance and flooring outlet, managed by Steve Lemmon. The store joined the Plano Chamber of Commerce and the ribbon cutting ceremony was in November 2004. (article on page 2)

Imagine looking online at a painting, then having your interior decorator get the print custom matched, in size and color, to your room's décor. Local artist Dorothy d'Bertine is doing just that! **Old Towne Too Gallery's** Carol Rupp, William Wilkerson, Dianne Winford and Dorothy d'Bertine have begun showing their work at www.dbertine.com, with rights to reproduction for more than 2,000 pieces of art. Dorothy d'Bertine has an art career spanning over 50 years and is a signature member of the Southwestern Water Color Society.

Visit the **Interurban Railway Museum** to see their new look. The museum has a new audio-visual display, providing clips of the museum and Car 360 currently, with much more to follow. The interior has been redecorated to accommodate the display and to provide an updated look.

Plano Christian Academy (PCA) has recently moved into its new facilities in historic downtown Plano, within First Christian Church of Plano at 15th Street and H Avenue. The Headmaster is Scott Harris, Th M, PhD. The school is non-denominational Christian classical. PCA offers small classes and a shorter school day.

Ida Breiten of **Persona Imprinting** will be hosting an Open House on September 24 with special pricing and refreshments. Her shop is inside Simple Country Pleasures.

Shopping the Village

Simple Country Pleasures has a new Western-style line of pillows, handcrafted in Plano by Lorraine Mannarino, with such embellishments as feathers, beads and leather. They can be custom made to any décor. And the store offers primitive ironwork to complete the look.

The new line of Vera Bradley handbags has arrived at **Nooks 'n Krannies**. This popular line of U.S. made handbags adds new patterns and designs twice annually.

The Arts

ArtCentre of Plano is currently exhibiting "Fire, Form and Fiction" featuring the current 3-D works by Brookhaven Professors Lisa Erich, Rick Maxwell and Maria Ziegler. From September 30 to October 29 the abstract art of Michael Cross will be on display. ArtCentre of Plano also offers after school art classes for children. For details, call (972) 423-7809.

Art Exhibits at **The Courtyard Theater** include Gallery VIII Group from September 2 to October 17 and Julio Juarez and Tony Holman from October 12 to December 2.

Art at **The Plano Municipal Center** includes the Plano Photography Club from August 31 to September 29 and the Plano Art Association from October 3 to 28.

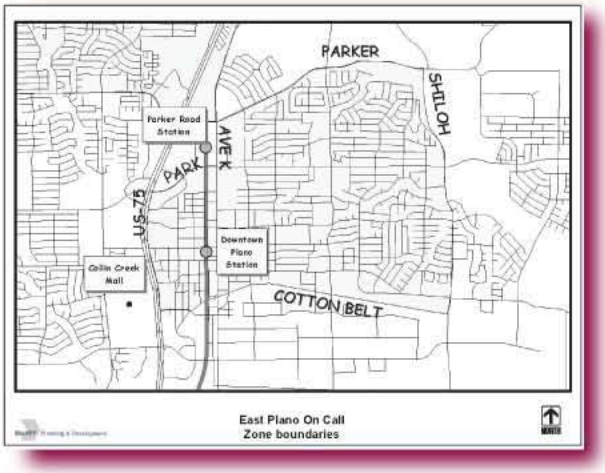
Costumes & Customs

The excitement of Halloween is in the air and Historic Downtown Plano is ready. **Queen of Hearts** has a huge inventory of the latest in masks, make-up and costumes, including Harry Potter costumes and accessories. The store is one of the area's only magic shops, providing instruction on magic purchases. The store offers private magic lessons.

Treasure Box Benefit Thrift Shop on Avenue K is the place to go for vintage clothing. This benefit thrift shop opened in 2000 and has evolved to a premier source of vintage clothing and costumes, serving as a supplier to many schools and professional organizations for film, theatre and theme parties. The selection is quite diverse in price and quality.

Halloween is a national custom, but our area's **The Wooden Spoon** has a custom of its own. Its 17th Annual Anniversary Party will be held Saturday, September 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be Norwegian dancers and Vikings in original garb, dueling, book signings, woodcarvers, complimentary food, prizes and instructions on Norwegian crafts. Various vendors and associations will be represented as well.

City Scene



Don't forget that DART provides DART On Call service in our area. Calls may be made to make reservations for trips to Collin Creek Mall, the Parker Road Transit Center and other places in the area. Also be sure to hop on bus 760 to ride the rout between the Downtown Plano station and Collin Creek Mall areas. This is a simpl way to get around when you don't feel like walking!

Street reconstruction plans for 15th Street between Avenue G and Avenue I are moving forward. The work is anticipated to begin in January and last approximate nine months and includes improvements to drainage, utilities and resurfacing the street.

The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve is available for musical dramatic performances. After $1,000,000 in enhancements to the site, the facility i now capable of seating 1,000 in an outdoor venue filled with the beauty of the park Rental of the facility by public groups and organizations is coordinated by the Park and Recreation Offices, Creative Arts Department at (972) 941-5202.

Renovation continues on the Cox Building and should be complete by the end of t year. Watch for more details in future issues about the 1920's school room museum to be included inside the building. Grand opening ceremonies are being planned fo January.

DOWNTOWN PLANO

VILLAGE NEWS

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The City of Plano provides the Village News to members of our community to kee citizens informed about the activities in the heart of Historic Downtown Plano.

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