

Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

May • June 2003 Issue

Spring into Summer Fun Downtown

As the season turns to summer, and days become longer and warmer, downtown springs alive with an abundance of gardening, food and gift ideas for family celebrations.

Landscape

Several downtown businesses cater to gardens and outdoor improvements. *Nature's Garden* on 18th Street specializes in native plants and flowers. For a large selection of trees, shrubs and bedding plants, *Garrison Gardens* is a popular nursery on Avenue K. *Georgia's Farmers Market* offers flowers, herbs and beautiful hanging baskets. For hardscape installation, *Precision Pavers* on 18th Street installs walkways, retaining walls and architecture. Visit the many gift shops downtown for garden and patio accents.

Shopping and Dining

Stores along the brick streets fling open their doors to customers searching for the perfect gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation ceremonies, weddings and baby showers. Stroll the streets one afternoon to enjoy the many fragrances, colors, sights and sounds. Downtown is the place to find unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your shopping list. During your shopping excursions, cool off with Blue Bell Ice Cream or enjoy homemade fudge. Make a day of it and dine in one of the many restaurants and tea rooms open for lunch.

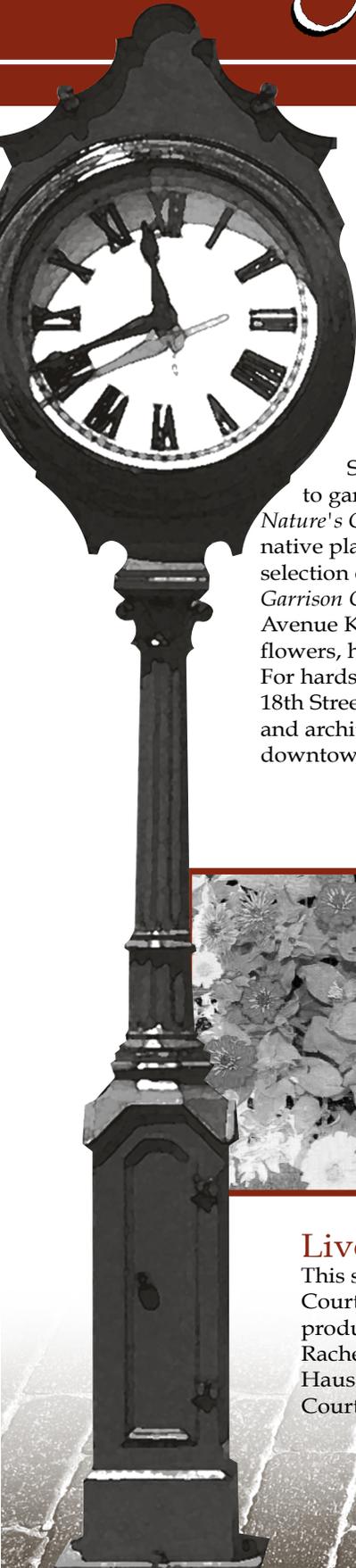


Summer cook outs

Don't touch that stove! Texas summers are too hot to cook indoors. Texans are wild for picnics and outdoor barbecues. Grab ready-to-eat turkey legs for the kids and thick, meaty ribeyes for the grown-ups at *Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe*. Then next door at *Georgia's Farmers Market*, pick up fresh asparagus, bell pepper, squash, corn or onions to throw on the grill.

Live Entertainment

This summer theater, jazz, poetry, live music and outdoor art exhibits are blossoming! The Courtyard Theater season is in full swing. Season tickets are available for wonderful productions including *Cyrano* through May 4 and *The Last Five Years* in June. Don't miss Rachel Bissex and Alton Rex in concert at Plano Station. Listen to live jazz at the Coffee Haus or sit outside at Jorg's Beer Garden and view the sculpture exhibit in the Art Centre Courtyard. Make Downtown Plano your destination for dining, shopping and nightlife!



HAPPENINGS

May/June 2003

| | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| May: | | |
| 1 - 4 | Courtyard Theater "Cyrano", The Musical | |
| | Plano Repertory Theatre | 972-422-7460 |
| 1 - 31 | ArtCentre of Plano "In Their Mothers' Eyes," | |
| | Photography by Women | 972-423-7809 |
| 1 - 31 | Plano Municipal Center Paula Mischel "Photographs" | 972-941-5201 |
| 1 - 31 | The Arts Gallery - CCCC Texas Sculpture Association | |
| | Members' Exhibition | 972-881-5873 |
| 9 & 10 | Courtyard Theater Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" | |
| | Plano Symphony Orchestra | 972-473-7262 |
| 14 & 15 | Courtyard Theater "Dreamcatcher" Concert | 972-964-5377 |
| 15 | Plano Station "Rachel Bissex in Concert" | 972-941-7740 |
| 16 & 17 | Courtyard Theater Men of Note in concert | 972-606-7575 |
| 26 | Plano Municipal Center Memorial Day Observance | 972-941-7250 |
| 27 | Plano Senior Center Senior Wellness and Info. Fair | 972-941-7155 |
| 29-31 | Courtyard Theater "The Last Five Years" | |
| | Plano Repertory Theatre | 972-422-7460 |
| June: | | |
| 1 - 22 | Courtyard Theater "The Last Five Years" | |
| | Plano Repertory Theatre | 972-422-7460 |
| 5 | Picnic in the Park - Hoblitzelle Park "Kraig Parker's | |
| | Ultimate Elvis Tribute" | 972-941-7255 |
| 4 - 30 | ArtCentre of Plano "The Kite Exhibition" | 972-423-7809 |
| 12 | Picnic in the Park - Arbor Hills Nature Preserve "Me & My Monkey | |
| | Beatles Tribute" | 972-941-7255 |
| 15 | Douglass Community Center "Juneteenth Celebration" | 972-941-7255 |
| 19 | Picnic in the Park - Bob Woodruff Park "Crawfish" | 972-941-7255 |
| 19 | Plano Station "Alton Rex in Concert" | 972-941-7740 |
| 23 - 8/1 | ArtCentre of Plano "Jump Start the Arts" | |
| | Classes for 8 - 15 year olds | 972-423-7809 |

HISTORIC VIEWS

Lizzie Carpenter took a deep breath, surveying her front yard. Her knees ached from kneeling in the warm soil, but her reward would be flowers blooming through the long summer of 1860. Generally Lizzie had all she could handle with housework and children. Cleaning lamps alone took two hours every morning, while washing and cooking consumed the week. She'd waited all winter for this, wondering if the frosts would ever end. Poring over seed catalogues, nurturing cuttings and planning for easy care, she'd dreamt of her garden.

Coming to Texas in the early 1850s, Lizzie was excited to find trees and plant life in abundance, even if they were strange to her. Missing Kentucky's beautiful apple blossoms during her first Plano Spring, she'd wondered how to add a little color to her newly-built cabin. Wandering through prairie grasses, Lizzie found native bushes blooming beautiful flowers and sprouting berries. Slowly, in the little spare time she had, Lizzie began to transplant purple flowering sages, blue-berried wax myrtles, feathery clumps of grass, and



lavender horsemint around her front porch. Clearing some brush, she discovered a coral flowering honeysuckle climbing one wall. Martha Harrington gave her some hardy yellow lily cuttings, which she'd divided and planted with success. Sunflowers peeked around corners of her home, and purple prairie verbena ran under one window. In May, red and blue wildflowers showed through tiny white daisies, and pink primrose decorated the ground. Someone had brought her a red flowering yucca, and another gift of "green and gold" thrived under a shady cottonwood.

A breeze ruffled Lizzie's hair as she viewed her handiwork. She'd selected carefully, and her choices needed little water or attention. Brushing off her hands she decided she had as pretty a garden as she'd ever seen.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

The "Squash Lady"



Born to a farming family in Seagoville, Texas, Georgia Machala Massie began working the fields with her brothers at age five. While there was not always money for material goods, there was plenty of food on the table for the large, close-knit family. Folks said of her mother, "Bertha could cook a meal out of sawdust and it'd taste good."

At 18, Georgia attended business school, then married, raised a family and worked in banking. When her husband lost his job, the couple began helping her brothers on the farm and Georgia gladly "went back to her roots," farming and selling at Farmer's Market in Dallas. Children who came by the booth were curious about squash. She'd tell them, "chop it up, saute in butter and put grated cheese on top." This earned her the nickname "squash lady." In the 1970s the family was the first to market "baby" vegetables, which became a national food trend for the culinary arts.

They moved to Fairview Farms in 1986 and two years later, Georgia opened Georgia's Farmers Market downtown with her two brothers. Nearby restaurants and residents have relished Georgia's fresh produce and gourmet canned vegetables and salad dressings ever since.

An accomplished cook, Georgia gained a reputation for handing out recipe ideas, so she began compiling a cookbook. After five years, she published the vegetable encyclopedia called "Fresh Ideas for Vegetable Cooking." To this day, the book is an indispensable resource for harvesting, canning and cooking fresh vegetables.

Georgia retired this year and sold the market to Vic and Camilla Woosley in a friendly buy-out. She still works there part-time and her brother Al, in his seventies, still works full-time.

There are so many things to do! said Georgia. After working 17-hour days, 7 days a week for so long, she is now fixing up her home in Lake Highlands, trying new recipes on her son, volunteering at church, reading and restoring antiques. She may even try water aerobics. "Who knows, I might even write another cookbook," she says.

Her secret for a long and healthful life: "Eat lots of fruit and vegetables, be involved, get moderate exercise and have a positive attitude - it keeps you younger," she says.

STREET TALK

PRT's 2003 season kicks off with "Cyrano" through May 4 and continues with "The Last Five Years," a romantic musical, beginning May 29. Call 972-422-7460 for tickets.

The Plano Plodders Walking Club, PISD and the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation are sponsoring a free walk through Plano's Historic District from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 3 to celebrate National Preservation Week. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Need to rent a tuxedo for that prom or wedding? **Bridal Warehouse** on 14th Street in the Eastside Village has all occasion tuxedo rentals. Also offering wedding dresses at discounted prices or by special order. For all your wedding needs, visit **Bridal Warehouse**.

For June weddings, look no further than downtown. **Sherwood Interiors**, **Just Gotta Have It**, **Blue Goose**, **The Master Suite**, **Holman Pottery** and many others have one-of-a-kind gifts and china for the bride-to-be. And for wedding photography and invitations, **LOVE Photography** and **Newmark's Printing** are your wedding professionals.

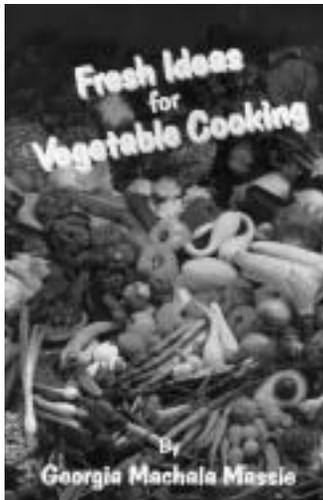
Plano Symphony Orchestra performs Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" for Mother's Day at the Courtyard Theater May 11.

Take the kids for a ride on DART. Visit the Dallas Zoo or Dallas Aquarium for a special field trip this summer! The DART light rail has installed the new "Iron Horse" sculpture by artist Tom Askman. Enjoy the new native landscape lining the rail with plantings of Texas natives and perennials.

Need cash fast? The **Plano Mini-Mart** has an ATM machine. Also find lottery tickets, beverages and foods.

DID YOU KNOW?
IN THE 1800s, PLANO BEGAN HOSTING THE OLD SETTLERS PICNIC HONORING SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR. FOLKS FROM ALL OVER BROUGHT WAGONS AND BUGGIES FILLED WITH BASKET DINNERS.

SHOPPING THE VILLAGE



Cookbook

Georgia Machala Massie, former owner of **Georgia's Farmers Market**, wrote this classic cookbook, *Fresh Ideas for Vegetable Cooking*. Look for this book at Georgia's where you can also find fresh fruits and vegetables, gourmet coffees, teas and spices, hanging baskets, herbs and gardening plants. Also sold here is the original Dublin Dr Pepper and fresh roasted peanuts.

Light up Father's Day

For Father's Day, stop by the **Two Brothers Cigars** for a wide variety of gifts for the pipe and cigar smokers. Even for non-smokers, this store has gadgets like lighters, flasks and talking bottle openers. A great find is this Zippo multi-purpose lighter. Ideal for lighting the grill, it comes with a refillable butane tank.



Head to Toe Pampering

Mothers deserve more than anyone a day of pampering. For the special woman in your life, purchase a gift certificate to **Spa St. Claire** for a head-to-toe experience. Pamper her with a body massage, facial, waxing or pedicure. For a post-spa gift, stop by **The Master Suite** for *After Hours* bath products. These sumptuous powders, lotions and oils come in crystal bottles with refills sold in exquisite Italian boxes.

BABY Shower Gifts Galore

New Addition has the perfect gift for baby. From blankets and toys to clothing and shoes, this downtown shop has the perfect shower gifts. Gift wrapping available.

CITY SCENE

Downtown Parking Lots

Construction on the new parking lot at the corner of 14th Street and Avenue K, as well as the lot at 14th Street and Avenue J, should be complete by early fall.

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 a rehearsal studio and associated administrative space, along with classrooms for programs and training for arts educators. The historic aspects of the exterior structure will be preserved in the adaptation.

Historic District Designation

Central downtown Plano has been designated as an official Historic District. Results of this designation are protection of structures, tax abatements for building owners, and preservation of an important part of Plano's history.

Haggard Park Renovation

Renovations began in April. The park will remain 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 complete in early fall.

NEW CONCERT LOCATION

Due to Haggard Park reconstruction, the Plano Community Band summer concert series will be performed at the YMCA grounds on Tennyson Parkway in West Plano. Bring a picnic and enjoy every other Monday night beginning June 2 at 7:30 p.m.



DOWNTOWN PLANO IS A DESIGNATED LOCATION FOR KLIF RADIO'S "OPERATION DROP-OFF" TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. DROP OFF BOX IS IN FRONT OF THE MASTER SUITE.

VILLAGEN EWS MAY • JUNE 2003

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