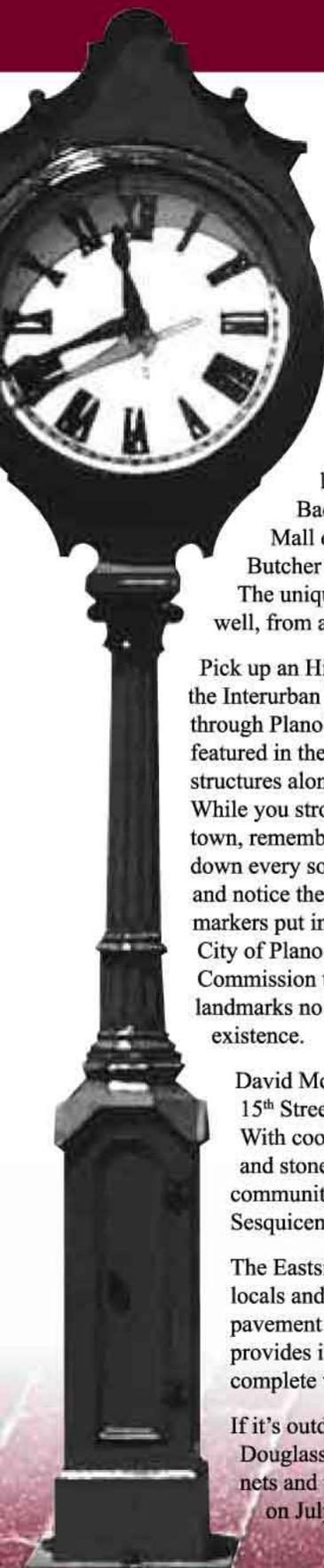


Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

July - August 2005

Out and About in Downtown



Get out this summer! Historic Downtown Plano has plenty to offer those who enjoy fresh air. Haggard Park, home of the Interurban Railway Museum, offers benches, picnic tables, large shade trees, a playground, a pond, fountains, restrooms, drinking fountains, a pavilion (available for reservations for private events) and even grills to cook on. If you'd rather not cook, get a picnic lunch from the newly opened Lillian's Back Porch located inside Cobwebs Antique Mall on Avenue J, or a burger from Ye Ole Butcher Shop across the street from Haggard Park. The unique art in the park warrants a second look as well, from a different point of view!

Pick up an Historic Plano Walking Tour Guide from the Interurban Railway Museum and take a short walk through Plano's long history. Twenty historic sites are featured in the guide and there are many other unique structures along the way. While you stroll through town, remember to look down every so often and notice the sidewalk markers put in by the City of Plano Heritage Commission to identify landmarks no longer in existence.

David McCall Plaza at the corner of Avenue J and 15th Street is another perfect spot for relaxation. With cool flowing water, comfortable benches and stone sculptures, the plaza was erected with community member donations. Dedicated in 1986 as Sesquicentennial Plaza, it was renamed in 2004.

The Eastside Village apartment complex offers locals and visitors alike a beautiful setting of brick pavement with trees and benches on J Place, and provides its tenants with a wonderful courtyard complete with swimming pool.

If it's outdoor competitive sports you crave, Douglass Community Center has shaded basketball nets and will host a 1-on-1 basketball tournament on July 19.

Other spots include outdoor seating at many of the historic district's restaurants and benches in front of many of the shops. There is a large courtyard area behind the restaurants and shops at Eastside Village II. It is brick-paved with plenty of tables and chairs. Jorg's Café Vienna has an outdoor biergarten in the back of the restaurant with fans, shade and seating for its patrons.

The ArtCentre's courtyard is a lovely setting for casual relaxation, and it can also be reserved for receptions and other outdoor social events. Richard Simmons of The Coffee Haus uses the courtyard to host an open drum circle from 7 to 9 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. Drummers of all ages are welcome to play. You can join the group, or join the audience.

For more music outdoors during the summer, visit Haggard Park on Monday evenings. There are concerts in the park every Monday at 7:30 p.m. The Plano Community Band, with Jim Carter as Associate Conductor, will be playing on July 3 (Sunday), July 18, and August 1. There is a jazz combo performing on alternate Mondays.

Stop by **Parrothead Fest 2005** on July 16 from noon to 10 p.m. Sponsored by Two Brothers Cigars, Kelly's Eastside, Jorg's Café Vienna and Macatrello's on 15th Street, this event is a Caribbean fiesta with Texas soul, providing music, food and fun for everyone. It will be held in the parking area connecting Macatrello's, Two Brothers and Kelly's. These businesses thank Juliet Lamar for permission to use her property for the event.

There are additional outdoor attractions in the works, including a Pedal Car Race for kids scheduled on September 25. Businesses will sponsor the cars and all proceeds will go to a local charity. The annual Trick Art Treat Art Walk will take place this year on October 30.

Experience the great outdoors in our fantastic city this summer. Relax outside, take a break from shopping, eat a meal, learn a little history, enjoy entertainment or just do a little people-watching.



Happenings

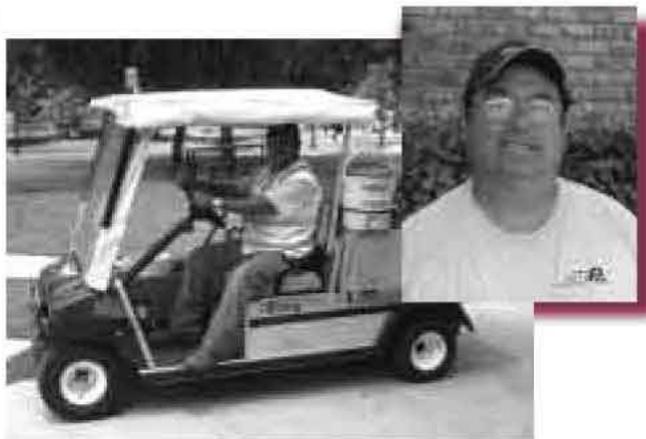
July/August 2005

- 7/1 -7/9 *Peter Rabbit and Me*
(972-422-7460)
ArtCentre Theatre
- 7/1 -7/27 Art Exhibit: Tom Johnson
(972-941-5201)
Courtyard Theater Gallery
- 7/1 – 8/10 Art Exhibit: *Visiones de Mexico*
(972-423-7809)
ArtCentre of Plano
- 7/1 – 7/29 *Jump Start for Arts*
Sponsored by the City of Plano
ArtCentre of Plano
- 7/3 Patriotic Concert by
Plano Community Band
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m.
- 7/4 25th Annual
Independence Day Parade
9:30 a.m. Independence Parkway
from Park Blvd to Spring
Creek Pkwy
- 7/4 Plano Symphony Patriotic Pops
Featuring the Men of Note
Eisemann Center, 3 p.m.
- 7/4 Fireworks Display
Presented by the City of Plano
High Point Park, 9:30 p.m.
(972-941-7250)
- 7/4 & 8/1 Drum Circle
ArtCentre Plaza, 7-9 p.m.
- 7/7- 8/7 *Cinderella* (972-422-7460)
Plano Repertory Theatre
Courtyard Theater
- 7/11 Concert in the Park
Jazz Combo
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m.
- 7/14 – 7/23 *Alladin*
ArtCentre Theatre
- 7/18 Concert in the Park
Plano Community Band
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m.
- 7/19 1-on-1 Basketball Tournament
Douglass Community Center
(972-941-7174)
- 7/25 Concert in the Park
Jazz Combo
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m.
- 7/28 – 8/6 *A Winnie the Pooh Birthday Tail*
ArtCentre Theatre
- 7/29 – 8/6 Art Exhibit:
Oil Paintings & Pottery
Courtyard Theatre Gallery
- 8/1 Concert in the Park
Plano Community Band
Haggard Park, 7:30 p.m.

Village People

Luis Vasquez and his family moved to Plano from Corpus Christi in 1980 and he began working for the City of Plano in 1984. Luis was employed by the city as a forestry technician for 21 years and has been the downtown caretaker for over 3 years. He is an extremely conscientious worker, keeping the downtown area spotless and helping out wherever he can. Luis will retire at the end of the year. Though he looks forward to spending more time with his family and his hobbies, he will miss his colleagues in the various city departments.

Luis and his wife Maria have been married for 35 years and have four adult children. His only daughter, Linda, lives in Plano with her family. Son Andy lives with his family in McKinney while son Eddy and his family live in Denton. His son Juan Luis is in the military, based in Kentucky. He served in Dessert Storm and returned to Iraq in July. Luis and Maria



have six grandchildren, one girl and five boys. Among them is a set of twins, which Luis refers to as “loaded guns.” The family visits Corpus Christi regularly, as Luis’ mother still lives there.

Luis’ retirement plans include spending more time with family, fishing and woodworking. In between building himself a workshop and his hobbies, Luis intends to continue visiting the various Parks and Recreation attractions.

Historic Views

The City of Plano is rich in cultural activities, especially music. And so it was in the 1920s. Pictured here is the Plano Chamber of Commerce Band or Men’s Commercial Club in 1923. Though the Chamber of Commerce was only incorporated in 1946, this men’s club took the name for their group. They stand here in front of the The Civic Auditorium. Construction began in 1906 on the land where the Courtyard Theater now stands. In 1917, ownership was transferred to P.I.S.D. The beautiful colonnaded structure served as a site for graduations and many other school functions until it was torn down in 1937 for a new gymnasium. The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation has kept the memory alive by using the outline of the tip of the building as its logo.

The Civic Auditorium and its land can be traced back in history relatively accurately, but no records could be found of The Chamber of Commerce Band. Who was in this organized group of 44 men? How often did they perform? If you can shed any light on the subject, please let us know.

Another outside custom from earlier years in Plano was Trades Day. J. W. Shepard helped establish this event in 1896. For half a century he was a familiar figure on the Jockey Yard lot. First Monday had been held in McKinney for



years. With the establishment of Second Monday in Plano, the merchants realized a surge in sales and activity in Plano as the monthly Trades Day brought to town wagons full of people from all over the county. Everyone came – men, women, children, whites, blacks – anyone who had anything to sell – pigs, cows, sheep, horses, mules, farm machinery and grains. There were medicine shows, lemonade stands and dancers on backs of wagons. Many stores stayed open until midnight because trade and business were so heavy. The public scales were located south of the corner of Mechanic and Main Streets where farmers weighed their wheat, oats and corn. Folks also gathered there for a bit of conversation during this long day.

Information found in Plano, Texas: The Early Years, copyright 1985 and A Century of Excellence Plano Independent School District, An Historical Perspective, copyright 1999, Photo courtesy of the Frances G. Wells Collection at the Gladys Harrington Library

Street Talk

The Douglass Community wall art project for the cul-de-sac at Avenue I and 12th Street will be a mosaic mural mounted on a 76' x 6' masonry wall. The artists are Lynne Chinn and Shug Jones of Tesserae Mosaic Studios in Plano. It is one third assembled and on display at the Courtyard Theatre. Continued donations are necessary for completion. Donations can be made at the Courtyard Theater or send your donation to DCAAC, P.O. Box 262434, Plano, TX 75026-2434. For information or to schedule a presentation, call Dolly Thomas at 214-789-4461.

The restored property at 1022 15th Street, next to Red Awning, is 60 days away from completion and the interior finish out will be done to the tenant's desires. The two story restaurant space will have a terrace on the upper level. Anyone interested in this 3,600 square foot space can call Jack Boggs of Eastside Partners at 214-616-1948.

Two businesses have moved into Eastside Village at 1410 Avenue K, next to Poppy's Restaurant. A new business, **Wireless Internet & Surveillance Networks**, owned by Andrew Kidd and Jack Duffy, has moved into unit #1105A. The business aims to provide wireless internet services to the area, along with wireless surveillance equipment. **Dallas Digital Video Productions** has moved in next door. Owned by Chris Vouras,

the company provides complete production of events, from producing the video, to providing reliable djs, photographers and florists. The company has been in business for 21 years. We welcome these new businesses to the area.

Cobwebs Antique Mall on Avenue J has opened a restaurant, **Lillian's Back Porch**. It is open 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and serves gourmet sandwiches, including paninis, pitas and tramezzanos. Joe Parker, who manages the restaurant, commented that it seats about 30 and is available for private social events.

Macatrello's on 15th Street is open for lunch and dinner, serving burgers, sandwiches and the like. Owned by Mattie Macaluso, Joey Macaluso and Angela and Chris Cantrell, the restaurant is on the social scene already as a co-sponsor for Parrothead Fest 2005.

Congratulations to the following **2005 Preservation Awards Winners:**
Certificate of Appreciation: Plano Fire Department (Lynch Building); Camille Bowie, Plano Police Dept. (Downtown); Clint O'Daniel, Eagle Scout (Young Cemetery); Michael Kaptain, Eagle Scout (Collinsworth Cemetery)
Excellence in Preservation: EDS (Bacchus Cemetery); Blackland Prairie Festival Steering Committee
Partners in Preservation: Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation; Heritage Farmstead Museum

Simple Country Pleasures has a new tenant! Ida Breiten recently opened **Persona Imprinting** in the rear area of the store, selling custom greeting cards and invitations.

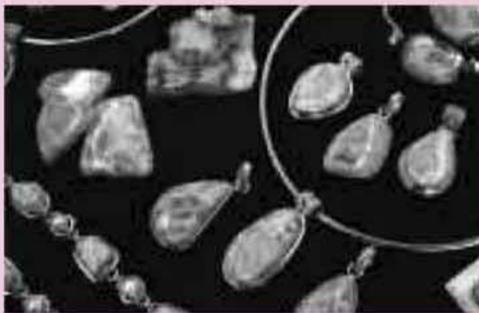
Aai Trophies and Awards has expanded into 1710 Avenue K. The phone number and email remain the same, but the showroom is larger and the products even more exciting.

During the recent Blackland Prairie Festival, **Nooks 'n Krannies** won a prize for the best decorated and most historically accurate storefront. Congratulations!

The Interurban Railway Museum has a new display. They now have a replica of a rotary converter. The electric trains that ran through Plano required direct current (DC). A main power station generated electricity and distributed it as high voltage alternating current (AC), so the rotary converter was used to convert the power to lower voltage DC power at substations such as Plano's interurban rail system. The display is interactive and a wonderful science tool. This same concept is used by DART today.



Shopping the Village



Nature's Finest Art is selling one of the newest and rarest gemstones ever discovered and cataloged – Larimar. It is found in only one square kilometer of the world in a remote mountain range of the Dominican Republic. The collection available at Nature's Finest Art is the largest in Texas and the second largest in the U.S.

Ketty Jasper and Patty McKenzie, owners of **Ambiance Décor** on Avenue J, have opened a store on 15th Street called **Ambiance Gifts**. The store offers unique elegant gifts at reasonable prices. Featured here are animals from a clay collection called *A Breed Apart*. Stop by and take a peek.



Tantowel towelettes are a revolution in self-tanning. The patented "wet wipe" technology makes the application process a breeze with

no mess! The tantowel is available at **The Master Suite**. Since being featured on Good Morning America, Good Morning Texas and two news broadcasts at the end of May, the phone has been "ringing off the hook," according to Jana Jones. This product is also recommended by dermatologists.



The Arts

ArtCentre of Plano is currently celebrating "Visiones de Mexico" exhibiting the art of Luis Cuellar and Huichol until August 10. The ArtCentre is also sponsoring Jump Start for Arts, a free children's program with experiences in music, art, dance and drama, through July 29. This free program is for kids ages 8-12 and is funded by the City of Plano. For details, contact 972-423-7809.

Plano Repertory Theatre (PRT) will have two plays for all audiences during July and August at The Courtyard Theater. *Cinderella* premieres on July 7 and continues through August 7. *Nine* will have performances from September 8 to October 2.

PRT's Summer Children's Series continues daily performances at the ArtCentre Theatre, with *Peter Rabbit and Me* (June 30 – July 9), *Alladin* (July 14 - August 23) and *A Winnie the Pooh Birthday Tail* (July 28 – August 6).

Art exhibits at **The Courtyard Theater** include water colorist Tom Johnson until July 27; followed by the mother-son team of Mary and Chris Gray from July 29 to August 6. Mary works in oils while her son specializes in ceramics.



VILLAGE NEWS

PUBLISHER
Dana Conklin

EDITOR
Pat Dodge

EDITORIAL BOARD
Pam Hatcher
Debbie Holman
Susan Lee
Mary Jo Montgomery
Dolly Thomas
Jim Wear

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

THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS:

Russell Kissick
Bonnie Peter
Alex Schell
Cheryl Smith
Maggie Sprague
Marcus Watson

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



City Scene

Blackland Prairie Festival organizers would like to say 'thank you' to everyone in Downtown Plano for a very successful event! If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact the Heritage Farmstead Museum at 972-881-0140. Next year's festival will be held on April 30, 2006.

To help its guests get the news and information they want, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is making several features from its popular website, www.DART.org, available via Really Simple Syndication (RSS). The free RSS feeds available for subscription include news releases and community meeting notices. Subscribers can also receive weekly updates on the new DART Music Station program, plus tips on where to take DART for fun each weekend. A list of feeds currently being offered, along with information on how to access them, is available at www.DART.org/RSS.

Complete your summer with a dip in the pool! The nearest public swimming facility is Oak Point Center at the corner of Jupiter and Spring Creek. With an outdoor activity pool area, it's perfect for summertime thrills! The outdoor pool is open 1-8 p.m. weekdays, 1-7 p.m. on Saturdays, and 1-5:45 p.m. on Sundays. The indoor swimming area is open for public swim 1-6 p.m. weekdays and the same weekend hours as the outdoor pool. Admission is \$3 per person.



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.

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Plano, Texas 75074
Permit No. 837