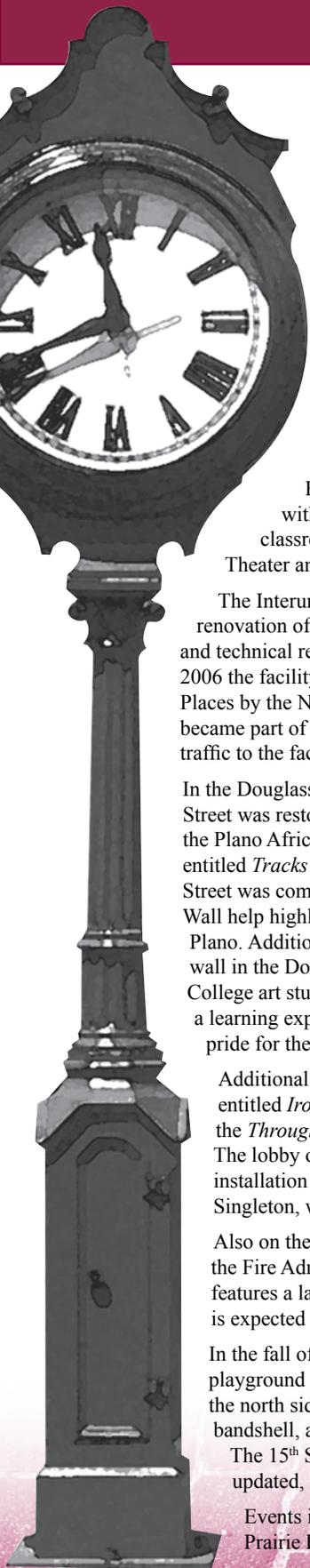


# Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

September - October 2008

## Over the Years



The "Village News", a concept of Dana Conklin as the downtown liaison for the City of Plano, has been in existence for over six years. During this time, Historic Downtown Plano has experienced incredible growth, with restoration, new construction and reorganization.

Our first issue's cover story was the opening of the Courtyard Theater in April of 2002.

This state-of-the-art theater is a cornerstone of the downtown cultural community. Next door, the Cox building qualified for heritage designation and was renovated in 2006. The Cox Building Playhouse is both historic and functional, with rehearsal/performance space, workrooms, art classrooms, a breezeway connecting it to the Courtyard Theater and a historic classroom.

The Interurban Railway Museum has also grown. The renovation of Car 360 was finished in 2002. Further structural and technical renovations include a research library upstairs. In 2006 the facility was named to the National Registry of Historic Places by the National Park Service. A visit to the museum became part of the PISD curriculum in 2007, further increasing traffic to the facility.

In the Douglass Community, the 1900s Thornton House on 13<sup>th</sup> Street was restored to its original condition and will serve as the Plano African-American Museum. The mosaic Art Wall, entitled *Tracks of our Past and Future* at Avenue I and 10<sup>th</sup> Street was completed two summers ago. The museum and Art Wall help highlight the ethnic diversity of Historic Downtown Plano. Additionally, a mural was painted on the game room wall in the Douglass Community Center by a group of Collin College art students. This community collaboration provided a learning experience for the art students and a great sense of pride for the center.

Additional public art includes the life-size bronze sculpture entitled *Iron Horse* at the DART station in 2004, along with the *Through The Park* metal sculpture in Haggard Park. The lobby of the Courtyard Theater now hosts a temporary installation of a bronze entitled *Maestro*, by sculptor Gib Singleton, whose work appears in the Vatican.

Also on the horizon is a public art project on the front lawn of the Fire Administration Building on Avenue K. The concept features a ladder tower, hose, firefighters and dogs. Installation is expected later this year.

In the fall of 2003, Haggard Park was renovated. The playground was restructured, additional space was added to the north side, a solid surface pad was installed around the bandshell, and the pond and drainage system were redesigned.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalks and street have recently been updated, and more street improvements are planned.

Events inaugurated during this time include Blackland Prairie Festival, AsiaFest, International Festival, Plano

Conservancy's Archaeology Fair, Annual Plano Book Festival and Trick Art Treat Gallery Night. With more events, venues and art, downtown is attracting quite a crowd.

With the arrival of DART Light Rail in 2002, traveling here became more enticing. Parking improvements were made to accommodate our increased number of visitors. Since the beginning of "Village News," available parking has increased nearly 30% with the addition of lots at the Eastside Village complexes, along Avenue J and other small pockets of space.

Another aspect of growth has been the renovation and restoration of businesses and homes. First Christian Church was hit by lightning in 2001, causing a fire which destroyed several areas of the church and severely damaged the chapel. Renovation preserved the original design of the chapel as much as possible, including the original stained glass windows salvaged from the fire. The church has since added a youth wing.

On 15<sup>th</sup> Street, renovated buildings now house Gregory's, The Epicurean and the Fillmore Pub. Owners of the Fillmore Pub received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Heritage Commission for their restoration effort. More work is underway next door at #1008 and across the street.

The owners of Aparicio's built a new restaurant in 2004 at Avenue I and 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Aparicio's has been in the area for years and the new building brought more growth. The Plano Housing Authority constructed a new facility on the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue H. In 2004, Peggy Ostrander constructed a historically appropriate

building at 617 E. 17<sup>th</sup> St., for her business, Institute of Health Promotion.

The historically designated Aldridge home on the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue H has been restored. Owner Clint Haggard received the Award of Excellence in Preservation from the Heritage Commission.



Alvie and Melissa O'Neal completely renovated their home at 906 17<sup>th</sup> St., and received heritage designation. Also, a new home was built by Leon Campise on the northwest corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue G, using historic guidelines.

John and Kathleen Brooks built a unique home at 813 17<sup>th</sup> St. near Avenue H. This house is historically appropriate, yet a model of energy efficiency. The home



continued inside

# Happenings

September - October 2008

8/26-9/27	SW Watercolor Society Exhibit ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
9/11-10/4	"Shakespeare in Hollywood" A zany comedy by Ken Ludwig Cox Building Playhouse	972-849-0358 <a href="http://www.roverdramawerks.com">www.roverdramawerks.com</a>
9/12	Poetry and Praise Event North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	972-437-3493
9/13	20th Anniversary Celebration The Wooden Spoon	972-424-6867
9/19-9/21	EDS Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival See Web site for times and prices	972-867-7566 <a href="http://www.planoballoonfest.com">www.planoballoonfest.com</a>
9/20	"Melodic Fireworks" Plano Symphony Orchestra Charles W. Eisemann Center	972-473-7262 <a href="http://www.planosymphony.org">www.planosymphony.org</a>
9/21	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
9/26	Southwest Water Color Society Closing Reception ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
10/3	Movies in the Park – Plano PARD Amphitheater at Oak Point Park For information on movies, times, prices, see Web site.	<a href="http://www.planoparks.org">www.planoparks.org</a>
10/3-10/31	Texas Visual Art Association Annual Citation Show ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
10/4	Plano International Festival Haggard Park	<a href="http://www.planointernationalfestival.org">www.planointernationalfestival.org</a>
10/4	Indian Festival Telangana Development Forum, USA	214-893-5995
10/10	Movies in the Park – Plano PARD Amphitheater at Oak Point Park For information on movies, times, prices, see Web site. Amphitheater at Oak Point Park	<a href="http://www.planoparks.org">www.planoparks.org</a>
10/11	The Interurban Museum/Plano Conservancy Archeology Fair Bob Woodruff Park	972-941-2117
10/17	Movies in the Park – Plano PARD Amphitheater at Oak Point Park For information on movies, times, prices, see Web site.	<a href="http://www.planoparks.org">www.planoparks.org</a>
10/10-10/19	"Urinetown," the Musical Repertory Company Theater Courtyard Theater	972-690-5029 <a href="http://www.rcttheatre.com">www.rcttheatre.com</a>
10/10-10/26	"Rounding Third" Frisco Community Theatre Cox Building Playhouse	1-800-595-4TIX <a href="mailto:tickets@friscocommunitytheatre.com">tickets@friscocommunitytheatre.com</a>
10/19	Adult Ceramic Night Art-A-Rama Plano	972-423-4554
10/24	Texas Visual Art Association Closing Reception ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809
10/24	Trick Art Treat Gallery Night Historic Downtown Galleries	972-423-7809 214-287-7816
10/24-10/25	"Haunted Hollywood" & "Rocky Horror Picture Show" Plano Dance Theatre Courtyard Theater	<a href="http://www.theplanodancetheatre.com">www.theplanodancetheatre.com</a>
11/1	Hot Art 2008 ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809

Historic Downtown Plano Association meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at The Plano Chamber of Commerce.

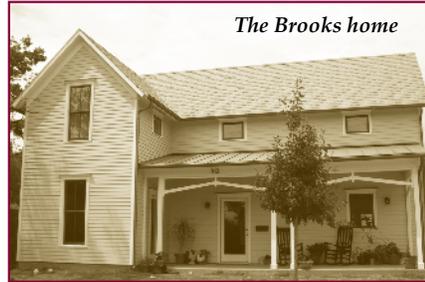
# Over the Years

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is so well insulated that the attic remains the same temperature as the house, saving in air conditioning maintenance and cost. The tank-less water heater operates only when needed, using one-third the energy of a regular water heater. The manifold plumbing gives each fixture its own line, making use and repairs more efficient. The home has 10% window



The Campise home



The Brooks home

space, all carefully positioned for maximum light and minimum energy. Mirror-finished sun tunnels are extremely efficient use of solar power. The house is set up for rainwater capture so the Brooks can use rainwater for landscaping irrigation.

The number of area apartments, townhomes and condominiums has increased as well. Eastside Village II was completed in 2002, adding

200 residences. 15th Street Village opened in 2004. With 80% of the residences sold, amenities are being added, including a clubhouse, fitness center and laundry facility. Lexington Park at Rice Field is a 98-unit townhome community on the Rice Field space, once the football stadium for PISD. Located within the Haggard Park Heritage District, these townhomes are unique in that they are Green-Built while maintaining historic appropriateness.

Residential expansion continues with a new apartment community, Eastside Station, to be situated on the southeast corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue I. Construction will begin this fall for the 200 residences and 15,000 square feet of retail space.

With the opening of Jorg's Café Vienna in 2002, the downtown area had its first evening dinner spot. Kelly's Eastside followed in 2003. Several restaurants have sprung up since, offering residents and shop keepers dining variety and convenience. Candy Bouquet & Gifts opened in the summer of 2002. Two Brothers Cigars opened later that year, followed by Nature's Finest Art in 2004. These additions enhanced the well-established retail mix and all three have been so successful they have since moved into larger spaces.

Susie Jones stepped in as the Director of the ArtCentre of Plano in the spring 2005. She increased public awareness with more exhibits, fundraising and educational programs. This past summer was the ArtCentre's seventh summer of the JumpStart for Arts program, and in May it coordinated the first-ever Art Awards Gala.

Another high point in the community was when Downtown Plano obtained heritage designation in 2003, and a new Historic Downtown Plano logo was developed shortly after.



Another meaningful milestone since 2002 has been the City's hiring of the first fully dedicated Downtown Planner. In his two years with the City of Plano, Jon Hubach's energy and ideas have helped the community progress. The reorganized merchants association, now The Historic Downtown Plano Association, has its own logo and Web site. With Jon's

assistance, the association has been more successful than ever. As it grows with more membership and volunteers, it will build on the strong base he has helped create. To implement the 2006 Retail Action Plan, Jon helped the Historic Downtown Plano Association become a 501(c)6 non-profit organization and created a variety of successful marketing materials designed to attract new businesses.

Since the "Village News" began, Historic Downtown Plano is a more vibrant community, as it continues to honor its past while looking to the future.



## Village People

Jeff Fuller works as Senior Equipment Operator for the Plano Parks Department. He enjoys the challenge of a complex project and the opportunity to think outside the box.

Jesse Davis, Park Compliance Coordinator, asked him to design a barrier to prevent the ducklings from entering the drain. Not interested in the ordinary cage-type covering, Jeff wanted something ornamental as well as protective. He used a PlasmaCam to cut the pattern in the border ring. This CNC plasma cutting machine uses desktop computer software to control an electro pneumatic torch to cut silhouettes for use in metal projects. Once the pattern was cut he formed a ring to the diameter of the drain. After welding a mounting base and top ring, he installed the duck guard, leaving it bare to rust and become part of its natural surroundings. This design allows water to pass through during heavy rains while protecting the ducklings.

Jeff also helped with the renovation of Car 360 for the Interurban Railway Museum. For this project, Jeff was asked to design two sets of steps. He wanted a heavy and nostalgic look, to appear to have been part of the original train. Both sets were handcrafted using a torch, band saw and welder. The small set has a set of antique seeder plates from an old seeder/planter welded into the shape of the State of Texas.

According to Jeff, his creative and artistic abilities are God given. As a child, he dabbled in oil painting, drawing and sculpting. He looks at everything from an artist's perspective. Though his welding and fabrication skills are self taught, he honed his skills working for a large oil company in the 1980s. With nearly 20 years in design and fabrication, he advanced as an expert metal fabricator during the last four years with the City of Plano Parks Department, where he is permitted to use his creativity and artistic talents by people who have trust and confidence in his ability. For that Jeff would like to thank Randy Balak, Doug Green, Jim Fox, Eric Klemm, Jesse Davis, Eric Kroese and Shellene Beach. Jeff's reward in his work comes from taking a project from conception to completion with his fresh ideas and hearing of its success.

Jeff was born in Peoria, Illinois, and moved to Texas in 1970 and attended high school in Plano. In his shop at home, he recently created the "steel farmer" that holds his mailbox, sculpted and welded out of old farm implement parts and tools. Jeff lives in Leonard, a small town about 35 miles northeast of Downtown Plano, with his wife Ann, and a variety of animals, including three cats, two dogs and five chickens.



Jeff and his steel farmer

## Historic Views

### First Christian Church of Plano

Taken from "Plano, Texas The Early Years"

The First Christian Church of Plano had its beginnings in the mid 1850s, but its first recorded meetings were in 1857. The people in the southern area of Collin County and the northern area of Dallas County met in the Spring Creek School, a small framed building used as a school and a church. In 1858-1959, Elder James Sanford Muse of McKinney preached for the congregation with regular monthly appointments and in 1860 the church was formally constituted.

The congregation continued its worship there until 1873, when a building was erected near the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue G. The church building was a fine structure for that day with a cupola and a bell, donated by New York merchants, that was used until a bolt of lightning began a fire in 2001. With continued growth, the church purchased the property at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue H, and built another structure which was completed in 1899. This structure housed the congregation for a half-century. The stained glass windows in the sanctuary are the same ones used today.

In 1947, during the pastorate of Rev. D. W. Nicholas, the decision was made to build a fourth house of worship. The parsonage which occupied the lot with the church was moved across the street. The new building was completed in 1951. In 1960, the church celebrated its first centennial, a high point in its history. Additional land around the church was procured during the 1960s and a modern education facility was added. The church has grown throughout the years, endeavoring to keep pace with a growing community both in its facilities and the services it provides.

The church received a historical marker from the Texas Heritage Commission in 1996, according to one of the church historians, Peggy Mitchell. She also pointed out several original pieces of furniture, dated in the late 1800s, currently in the church. Much of the history she has unearthed came from diaries written by the earliest women members. Peggy and her sister Dorothy have put together a comprehensive historical display for the church, including news articles, a book celebrating the centennial and a collection of photos.

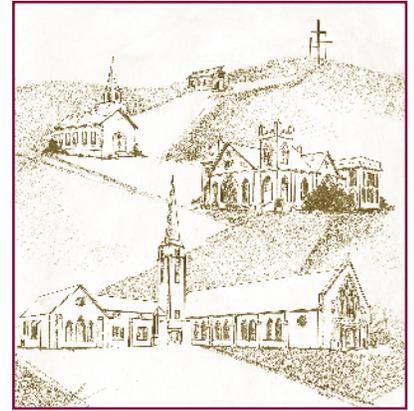


Photo courtesy of Collection of the Genealogy, Local History, Texana, and Archives Division of the Plano Public Library System.



## Street Talk

Folks west of the DART tracks are on the move. **Ye Ole Butcher Shop** and **Hearing Aid Express** are moving across the street to 811 15<sup>th</sup> St., the strip owned by First Christian Church. **Anthony's Barber & Beauty Shop** is now at 3200 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. (between Rigsbee and Shiloh) inside A & S Salon Suites.

**Eastside Story** is the newest bridal and wedding boutique in the area. Drop by the shop on the corner of 18th Street and Avenue I for everything you need, including a wedding planner, gowns, dresses and accessories for the entire party, a caterer, the wedding cake, flowers, invitations, entertainment, videography, photography, make-up and hair design, honeymoon arrangements, and financing for your first home. There are 11 businesses, already fully established elsewhere, that now have offices in this beautiful Victorian venue, including a personal valet! Check the company's site at [www.eastsidestoryplano.com](http://www.eastsidestoryplano.com) for regular specials.

Richard Sutton has purchased the building which he has been leasing for his store, **Sutton Place**, since 1984. He is busy redecorating the 7,000 square-foot space.

**aaI Trophies'** expansion is complete. Stop by the store on Avenue K and see what owner Jeff Karnuth has put in his expanded space.

Darrell Parrish, owner of **Queen of Hearts Costume and Magic Shop** is now on the road to recovery after being diagnosed with a life-threatening illness nearly a year ago.

Try a new experience in dining this fall on the rooftop patio of **Gregory's Restaurant**. Watch a breathtaking Texas sunset while you dine in style.

## Shopping

Getting ready for Halloween is simple in Historic Downtown Plano. Complete your décor with a visit to **Georgia's Farmers Market**. The market has all sizes and shapes of gourds, along with cornstalk, hay bales and pumpkins for decorating, carving and pies. The market has recently added an assortment of mozzarella cheeses made by Mozzarella Company in Dallas, including jalapeno, sun-dried tomatoes, green olive, basil pesto and Deep Ellum blue cheese.

**Queen of Hearts** has a wonderful selection for this year's trick-or-treaters. With the latest Batman movie in the theaters, the shop has stocked up on Joker costumes in adult and children's sizes. Look for extended hours during the Halloween rush at this unique shop.



**Dallas Vintage Shop** on Avenue K is the place for period costumes. This store is a great source for vintage clothing, for individuals, schools and professional organizations. The shop has costumes and accessories covering every decade and every style.



### VILLAGE NEWS

PUBLISHER • Jon Hubach

EDITOR • Pat Dodge

EDITORIAL BOARD

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City of Plano • P.O. Box 860358  
Plano, Texas 75086-0358  
972 941-7250  
email: jonhu@plano.gov

## Fall Events

**A Toast to Texas** is now having Wine Tastings every Sunday at 4 p.m., with the second Sunday dedicated to beer. This event is reservation only with limited seating. For details, call the shop at 972-325-4047.

**Gregory's Restaurant** is now hosting Wine Dinners on the second Monday of the month. Join Gregory and his staff on September 8 and October 13 for a five-course meal and a different wine with each course. The fixed price includes a wine education provided by representatives of the wineries. For reservations, call the restaurant at 972-578-4734.

**The Wooden Spoon** will celebrate 20 years in business this September. The anniversary celebration is on Saturday, September 13 from noon to 5 p.m. Music, dancing and complimentary food will be provided. Stop by for a taste of Scandinavia.

**ArtCentre of Plano** will host an evening closing reception for the Southwest Watercolor Society on September 26 and one for the Texas Visual Art Association on October 24. Mark your calendar for the evening of Saturday, November 1, for the Hot Art 2008 fundraising event.

**The Third Annual Plano International Festival** will be in Haggard Park, 901 E. 15th St. on Saturday, October 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Festival celebrates Plano's rich tapestry of culture with performances, cuisine, displays and a naturalization ceremony. This year's event will have an eye on the environment. Festival organizers are planning a host of initiatives designed to minimize the event's environmental impact, such as using 100% biodegradable plates and utensils in the food court area. The goal is to make the Festival a zero waste event while communicating the importance of environmental issues to its diverse audience.

Don't miss out on Jörg's biergarten or the upcoming October celebrations. Throughout the month, on Wednesdays, **Jörg's Café Vienna** will celebrate Oktoberfest with live music and loads of fun.

**Art-A-Rama Plano** will host a Halloween event on Friday, October 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. Children may wear their Halloween costumes. Kids will make a Halloween art project and eat pizza. Call for more information, 972-423-4554.

**The Interurban Museum/Plano Conservancy's Archaeology Fair** will be Saturday, October 11 at Bob Woodruff Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Archaeology Land will have many activities, including hands on Native American dance performances and crafts. Reservations for a mock dig time must be made in advance by contacting Michelle at 972-423-5480 or mwurtz@geo-marine.com.

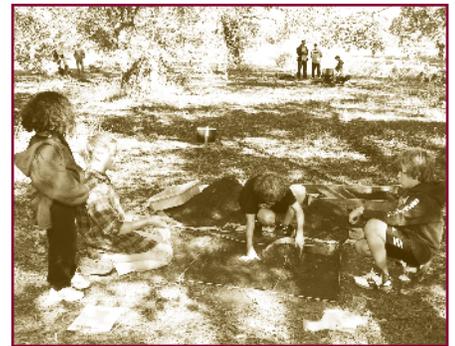
**Trick Art Treat Gallery Night** will be celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. This gallery night will be held

October 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. The

event features special

exhibits, refreshments and entertainment. Host galleries and studios include ArtCentre of Plano, CYA Design Collaborative, Eastside Gallery, 14th Street Gallery, Holman Pottery, Michael D. Holter Studio & Gallery and Legacy Portrait Painters. Guests can visit the galleries while enjoying the area's shops and restaurants. Shuttles are available to transport guests during the event.

Enjoy the Halloween Festival at the **Douglass Community Center**. Visit the center on Thursday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m. for food, games, costume contests and candy.



*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.*