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PLANO EDITION

Volume 2, Issue 7 | March 24–April 27, 2016

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Plano ISD approves bond package for May 7 election

By Vallari Gupte

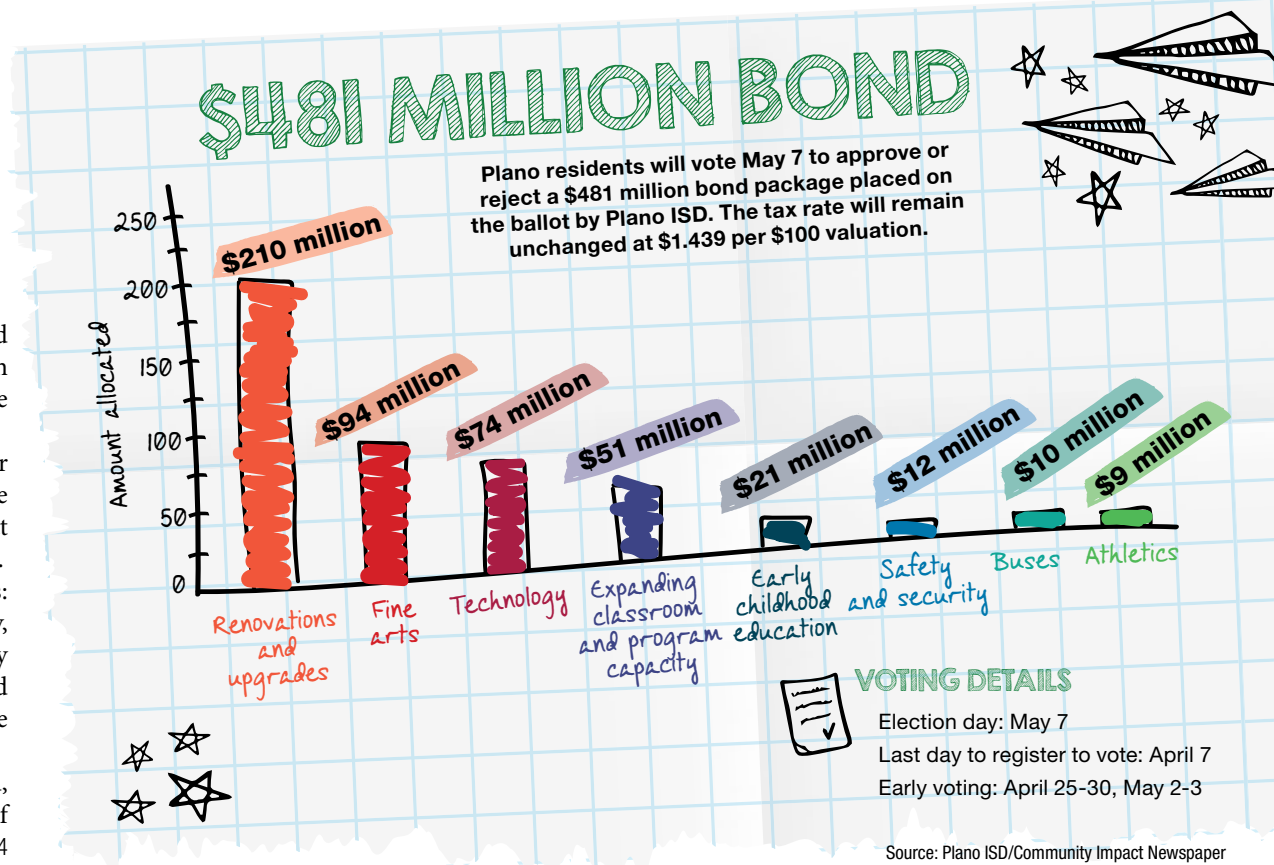
It has been eight years since Plano voters approved Plano ISD's last bond package. Now, they will weigh in on the district's proposed \$481 million bond package May 7.

The PISD board of trustees appointed a 29-member facilities and technology task force in August to come up with a plan and proposal for the bond package that would meet current and expected needs of its schools.

The bond package is divided into eight categories: renovations and upgrades, fine arts, technology, classroom and program capacity expansion, early childhood education, safety and security, buses and athletics. The bond package will be voted on in a single proposition.

PISD officials said the bond package, if passed, would not raise the district's current tax rate of

See **Bond package** | 24



Workers ready a construction area on Dallas Parkway at the President George Bush Turnpike.

Road projects prep city for growth

By Kelley Crimmins

When Eiko Christian opened Rifle Gear at Windhaven Parkway and the Dallas North Tollway in Plano last April, she and her husband were looking for an ideal spot to grow their business.

Although nearby road construction has posed difficulties for Christian's employees and customers, the California native said these projects are a necessary evil for accommodating the growth

taking place in Plano.

To Christian, expanding the DNT by one lane in both directions may not be enough, however.

"In California, you can have eight lanes on one side. I'm more concerned ... that this is not going to be enough unless you widen the service road or add another freeway," she said.

With the first phases of Legacy West

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Now Open, Coming Soon & more



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Heritage Creekside spurs growth



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Collin County Sheriff Terry Box





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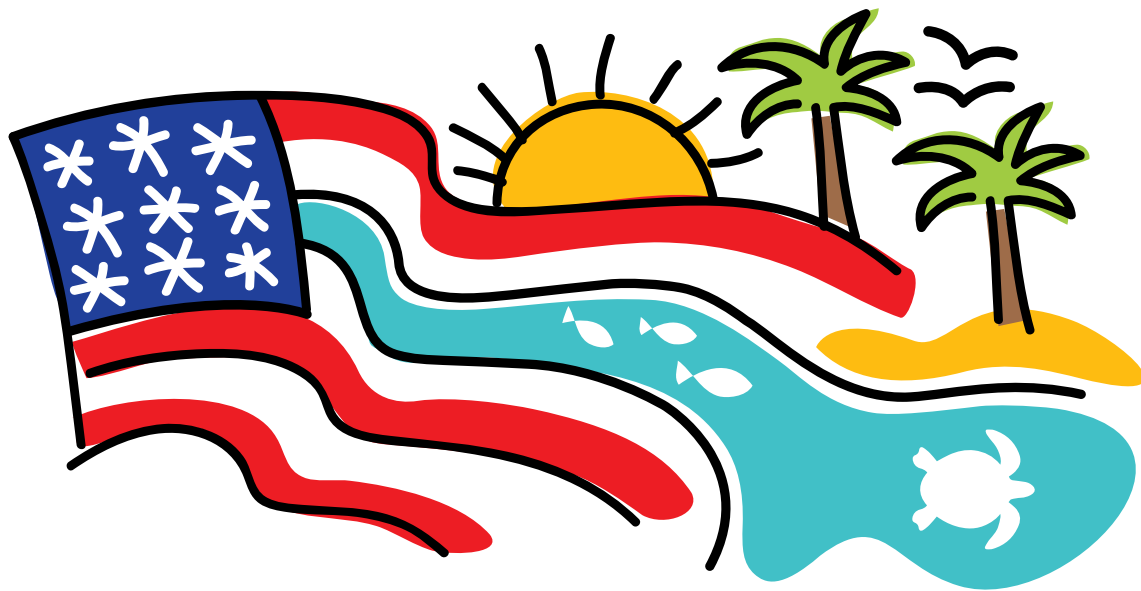


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About us

John and Jennifer Garrett began *Community Impact Newspaper* in 2005 in Pflugerville, Texas. The company's mission is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team. Now, with 20 markets in the Austin, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth metro areas, the paper is distributed monthly to more than 1.5 million homes and businesses.

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



The day has arrived for me that every mother looks forward to with bated breath: I signed my daughter up for kindergarten. This bittersweet day has been on the horizon since we purchased our first home in Plano in 2003, long before she was born.

Plano ISD and its record of exemplary education is one of the primary considerations for families like us who choose to call Plano home. In this issue, parents and taxpayers in Plano will enjoy an informative lead story on Page 24 that provides details about PISD's upcoming bond election.

Plano residents are also probably noticing a lot of

orange cones on the roads as construction projects are on the rise. It is easy to see the Dallas North Tollway is undergoing major changes as we prepare for population growth in this region. Drivers who travel the DNT and Dallas Parkway can view a map with details about the project on Page 22.

Our goal is to keep you updated on business development as our city grows. Multiple projects are underway along Plano Parkway. We highlight the details of what is coming soon to this booming thoroughfare on Page 14. We love your feedback! Visit us at communityimpact.com and look for us on social media as well.

Leanne Libby
GENERAL MANAGER
llibby@communityimpact.com

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Correction: Volume 2, Issue 6

In the cover story "Plano merchants, leaders discuss open-carry law," licensed gun holders are not prohibited from carrying firearms in hospitals under Texas' open-carry law unless effective notice is given.

Correction: Volume 2, Issue 6

In the cover story "State housing tax credits aiding local developers," developers may submit a resolution of support to the city before a rezoning request is approved. The city also compares developments to its consolidated plan when considering a resolution.

TAKE THE POLL

Will you support Plano ISD's bond program on the ballot this May?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided

Take the poll at communityimpact.com/pln-poll

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

LAST MONTH'S POLL RESULTS

Median home prices in Plano have increased 20 to 50 percent in the past year. With the need for additional housing on the rise, investors are also buying homes with cash, sometimes paying more than the asking price.

Do you think the real estate boom in Plano is pricing people out of the market?



Results from an unscientific Web survey collected 2/25/16-3/10/16.

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IMPACTS | NORTH



Now Open

1 My House Fitness opened Feb. 29 at 8200 Preston Road, Ste. 125, Plano. The fitness studio combines core fitness techniques and advances in nutrition and cardiovascular training to create its personal training programs. 972-468-9555. www.myhousefitness.com

2 Sushi Lover opened Feb. 29 at 8908 Ohio Drive, Plano. Founder and head chef Frankie Shin moved to Texas from Las Vegas, Nevada, to open the restaurant, which features specialty sushi rolls as well as entrees, salads and lunch specials. 972-294-5844. www.sushiloverdfw.com

3 The city of Plano's **Go Ape Zipline and Treetop Adventure** opened March 12 at 5901 Los Rios Blvd., Plano, just south of Oak Point Nature and

Retreat Center. The course consists of rope ladders, 39 crossings, two Tarzan swings and five zip lines for participants 10 years of age and older. 800-971-8271. www.goape.com

4 Teeth R Us Children's Dentistry opened March 14 at 4865 Hedgcoxe Road, Ste. 100, Plano. The dental practice specializes in pediatric dentistry and provides services, including sealants, mouthguards, pediatric crowns and tooth extractions. 972-820-2022. www.teethruschildrensdentistry.com

5 ZaLat Pizza opened its second Plano location March 7 at 7224 Independence Parkway, Ste. 316, Plano. The restaurant offers delivery and takeout services. ZaLat Pizza's second Plano location at 1032 E. 15th St. offers dine-in services. 972-208-2371. www.zalatzpizza.com

6 Dallas chef Tre Wilcox's **TRE Cooking Concepts** opened March 14 at 8200 Preston Road, Ste. 135, Plano. The venue provides well-stocked demonstration kitchens and several chef's tables for group dining. Guests can also take cooking classes and hold corporate team-building events with tips and assistance by Wilcox's culinary team in the 3,200-square-foot space. 844-776-8200. www.trewilcox.com

7 Personal trainer Julie Hoang opened her second gym concept, **LFT Personal Training** on Feb. 22 at 3309 Dallas Parkway, Ste. 431, Plano. Owner of Fit180, a personal training center geared toward high-end customers, Hoang decided to create a new personal training center to provide coaching, training and motivation for those who want to work out with the help of expert trainers. 469-248-6158. www.lftpersnalttraining.com

Coming Soon

8 Dallas restaurateur Carolina Rodriguez will open her new restaurant, **Lita's**, at 7224 Independence Parkway, Ste. 356, Plano, in mid-April. The restaurant, whose name is a shortened version of the Spanish word "abuelita," will serve authentic Mexican cuisine. Rodriguez is a co-founder of Mi Cocina. 972-618-4542.

9 The **University of Texas Co-op** store will be opening in June at 5800 Legacy Drive Ste. C7, Plano, after the previous location at 7700 Northwest Hwy., Dallas, closed at the end of December. The store, which opened in 1896, sells Longhorns apparel, souvenirs and supplies for University of Texas students as well as Texas-themed souvenirs and gift items. 512-476-7211. www.universitycoop.com

Relocations

10 Campisi's, a Dallas-based Italian restaurant, is relocating its Plano location from 3115 W. Parker Road to 4709 W. Parker Road, Ste. 400, in the first week of April. The new restaurant will provide delivery services throughout Plano. The company, which has 10 locations in the Dallas area, is also celebrating its 70th year in the Metroplex. 972-612-1177. www.campisis.us

11 Luxury Sweet Escape Spa and Salon is relocating from 4140 Legacy Drive, Ste. 30, Plano, into a 1400-square-foot space at 2105 W. Spring Parkway, Ste. 350-C, Plano. Owners Julie and Chris Forte opened the salon and spa about two years ago and are moving to a larger space

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with plans to include manicures and pedicures as a part of the service later in the year. 940-320-9383.
www.jcsweetescape.com

12 Tailgaters Pub and Grill opened Feb. 12 at 8906 Ohio Drive, Plano, after moving from 7777 Warren Parkway, Frisco. The sports bar features more than two dozen big-screen TVs where guests can watch up to five different sports games at a time. 469-362-5771.
www.tailgaterssportbar.com

13 Not Your Mama's Quilt Store has relocated from inside Marketplace Boutiques to a stand-alone store at 4152 W. Spring Creek Parkway, Ste. 156, Plano. The shop reopened in mid-March and offers quality fabrics and quilting and sewing supplies. 469-600-7818.
www.notyourmamasquiltstore.com

New Management

14 The Shops at Legacy welcomed its new general manager, Justin Roche, on Jan. 25. Roche is the former general manager for the Shops at Willow Bend and oversees all aspects of the center, including operations, marketing, accounting, business development and security. Located at 5741 Legacy Drive, Plano, the Shops at Legacy features a number of restaurants and retail. 469-467-9995.
www.shopsatlegacy.com

New Ownership

15 The Local businessman Suman Atteti acquired **Tom's Cleaners** at 3501 Midway Road, Ste. 210, Plano, on March 1. Atteti said he wants to blend technology and innovation to the dry cleaning business, which has been at that location since 1999. Atteti will focus on eco-friendly alternatives for providing quality service with quicker turnaround. He also plans on expanding the business' delivery service and providing 24/7 drop-off services in the future. 972-473-7727.
www.toms-cleaners.com

Anniversaries

16 **Corner Wines** will celebrate its 10th anniversary April 21. Located at 4017 Preston Road, Ste. 535, Plano, the store will host wine tastings April 21-23. Owners Jim and Lynda McDevitt will donate 15 percent of the store's sales to Hope's Door. 972-403-9463.
www.cornerwines.com

Compiled by Kelley Crimmins
and Vallari Gupte

News or questions about Plano?
Email us at plnnews@communityimpact.com



Owner Frankie Shin (left) and Danny Gim of **Sushi Lover** are from Las Vegas, Nevada.



TRE Cooking Concepts provides event space for team-building and corporate functions.



David Campisi's family opened **Campisi's** restaurant in Plano in October 1994.



Corner Wines carries more than 450 boutique wines ranging from \$14-\$250 per bottle.

Closed

17 **BBQ Nation Live Grill & Banquet** closed its doors at 3825 W. Spring Creek Parkway, Ste. 206, Plano. The restaurant served international dishes, such as kababs, lamb chops and halal steaks, and offered banquet space and catering services.
www.bbqnationusa.com

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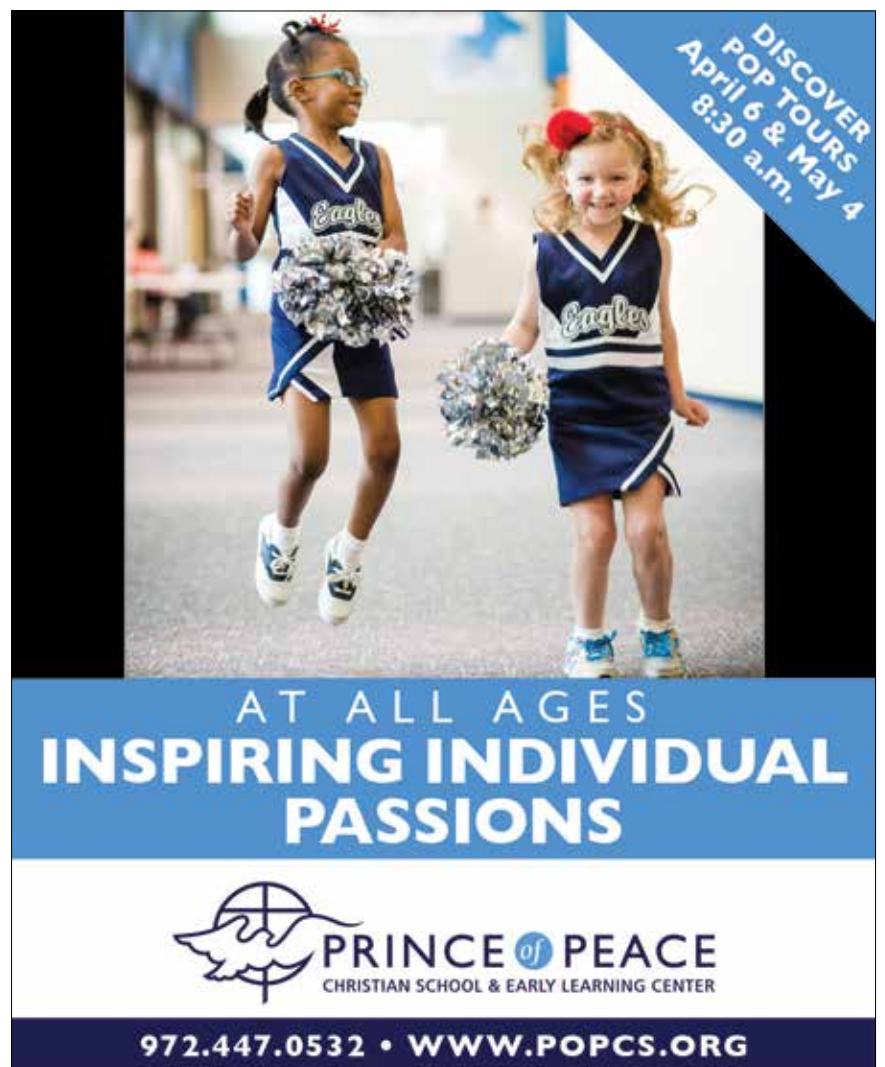
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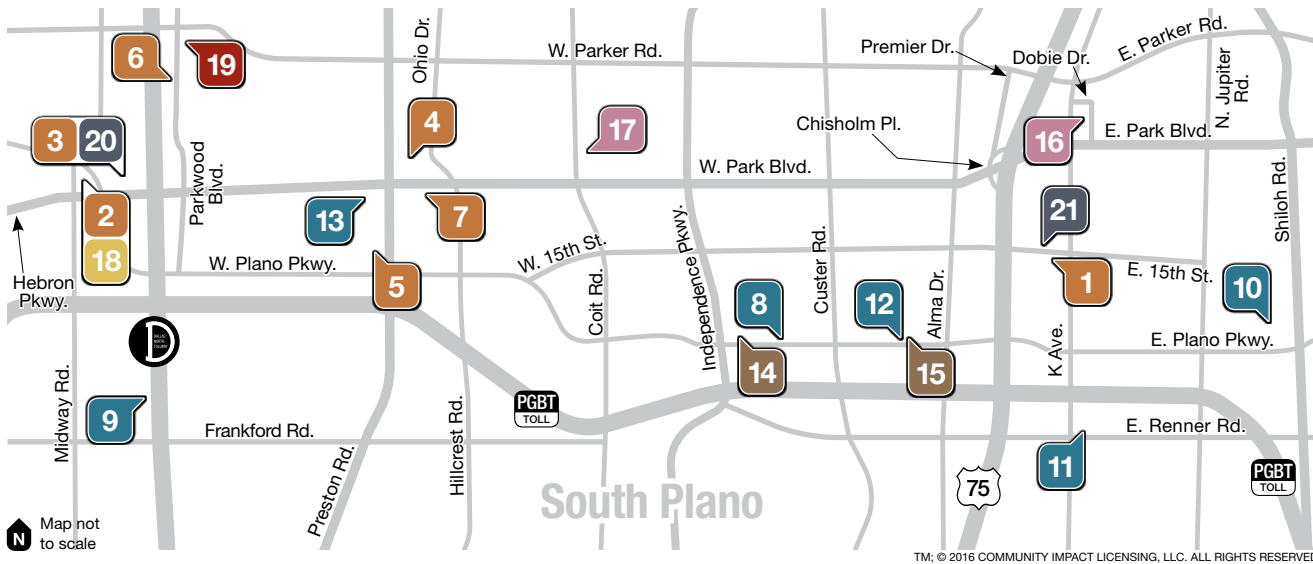
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IMPACTS | SOUTH



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Now Open

1 Ten 20 Gallery held an opening party Feb. 26 at 1020 E. 15th St., Plano, in Historic Downtown Plano. Created by downtown merchants Jeff Bergus, owner of Lockhart Smokehouse, and Jorg's Cafe Vienna owner Jorg Fercher, the gallery serves as a co-op for local artists to display their works. www.facebook.com/20TenGallery

2 Brothers Adrian and Abraham Cardenas opened **Premier Martial Arts** at 6505 W. Park Blvd., Ste. 210, Plano, on March 14. The studio provides karate lessons for children as well as kickboxing, krav maga and Brazilian jiu-jitsu for adults. 469-569-6175. www.premiermartialartspiano.com

3 Little Belt Shop opened at 6121 W. Park Blvd., Plano, in the Shops at Willow Bend on March 2. The custom belt shop offers exotic leathers, such as python, anaconda, caiman crocodile, ostrich and bison, as well as designer belt buckles. 214-609-3116. www.littlebeltshop.com

4 Memphis-based store Hollywood Feed opened in mid-February at 4817 W. Park Blvd., Ste. 815, Plano. The company, which began as a feed store, carries household pet supplies. Hollywood Feed opened its first Plano location at 6940 Coit Road, Ste. 202, last October. 469-814-0275. www.hollywoodfeed.com

5 School of Rock Plano opened March 1 at 1501 Preston Road. The school follows a season-based style of instruction where students can enroll for 15- to 16-weeklong lessons. Lessons include weekly sessions and rehearsals, after which students perform at Dallas venues. 469-567-3962. www.schoolofrock.com

6 Cryo Treatment Room opened in late January at 2845 Parkwood Blvd., Ste. 200, Plano. The office offers cryotherapy and chiropractic services for pain management and muscle recovery. Cryotherapy is used by athletes and for those with chronic pain. 972-781-1160. www.cryotreatmentroom.com

7 Hash House A Go Go opened March 25 at 1900 Preston Road, Ste. 343, Plano. The restaurant offers a wide-ranging menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily with breakfast items served throughout lunch and selected breakfast items available at dinner. 972-867-4646. www.hashhouseagogo.com

Coming Soon

8 Sunbelt Storage will open its second North Texas location at 2445 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, sometime this summer. The storage facility offers outdoor and indoor climate control as well as outdoor and enclosed RV storage space. www.sunbeltstorage.com

9 Austin-based fast-casual restaurant Verts Kebap is opening its fourth Dallas-Fort Worth location at 1885 Dallas Parkway, Ste. 300, Plano, in mid-April. The restaurant offers Mediterranean style sandwiches, wraps and salads with falafel, veggies or meat. www.vertskebap.com

10 Areva Med, a subsidiary of Areva, created in order to research and develop new therapies to fight cancer, has completed construction on its second high-purity lead-212 production facility at 700 Klein Road, Plano. It will be used as a research and development facility for production of therapies to fight cancer. www.arevamed.areva.com

11 The Joint Chiropractic is set to open at 1415 E. Renner Road, Ste. 220, Richardson, near the Plano border on April 7. The practice offers chiropractic care and is focused on routine and affordable care. No appointment or insurance is necessary and the office will be open on evenings and weekends. The new clinic is the network's 15th location in the Metroplex. 972-234-4333. www.thejoint.com

12 Austin-based developer 5C Memory Care is building a memory care center at 1667 W. Plano Parkway, Plano. The center will be named **Bader House at Pitman Creek** after a World War II British flying ace. The 11,000-square-foot facility will feature 24 private rooms and is set to open this fall. www.baderhouse.com

13 Cafe Izmir is expected to open its second location at 1921 Preston Road, Ste. 100, Plano, in May. The restaurant opened in 1996 at 3711 Greenville Ave., Dallas, and specializes in home-cooked entrees and tapas with old world recipes from Greece, Turkey, Lebanon and Iran. 214-824-8484. www.cafeizmir.com

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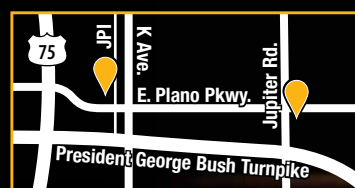
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Hash House A Go Go's stuffed burgers come with lettuce, tomato and red onion.



The Joint Chiropractic offers corrective therapy with no appointment necessary.



Memory care center **Bader House at Pitman Creek** is expected to open this fall.



Hyatt Place will hold a grand reopening on March 30 after its recent renovations.

Relocation

14 The **Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple of DFW** is relocating from its current location at 2109 W. Parker Road, Ste. 212, to 2699 W. Plano Parkway, Plano. The new temple will provide 17,000 square feet of space. The temple the land in October 2011 and hopes to have the new facility complete by December. 469-467-3388. www.shirdisaidallas.org

15 Construction is underway at 1751 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, for a new office for **The Barber Law Firm** and is expected to be complete by May. The firm is located at 1000 E. 14th St., Ste. 200, Plano, and was founded by Kristopher Barber in 2008. 972-231-5800. www.thebarberlawfirm.com

Anniversary

16 **Metroflex Gym** celebrated its one-year anniversary March 7 at 2701 Dobie Drive, Ste 200, Plano. The 200-member gym now has five trainers and added new equipment in the last year. The fitness center personal training, group training and physical therapy. 972-423-9647. www.metroflexgym.com

17 **Tasty Cup**, at 2220 Coit Road, Ste. 560, Plano, celebrated its one-year anniversary on March 6. The cafe specializes in coffee, milkshakes, bubble tea, hot teas, smoothies and an assortment of pastry options as well. 512-241-9804. www.facebook.com/TastyCup

Expansion

18 **Advantage Storage** is expanding its Plano facilities at 6500 W. Plano Parkway and 6720 Parkwood Blvd. Both projects will add roughly 40,000 square footage in rental space. The Parkwood location is expected to be complete in early June, while the West Plano Parkway expansion will be complete in late June. 972-905-9243 www.advantagestorage.net

Renovation

19 **Hyatt Place** recently completed renovations to its location at 3100 Dallas Parkway, Plano. The renovations started in mid-August and include upgrades to the hotel's guest rooms and lobby area. The four-story

hotel will hold a grand reopening March 30. 972-378-3997. www.dallasplano.place.hyatt.com

Closed

20 **SOHO Jewelry** closed Jan. 31 at 6121 W. Park Boulevard, Plano, in the Shops at Willow Bend when its lease expired. The boutique sold jewelry styles inspired by SoHo New York. www.sohojewelry.com

21 **Olive Mae Children's Boutique** closed its shop at 1023 E. 15th St, Plano in early March. The shop sold children's clothing and offered event space. Owner Lacy Gutierrez said the store is relocating to another location in Plano. Its online store is accepting orders. www.olivemaeclothing.com

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Tax Facts

Expert helps taxpayers understand the IRS

By Vallari Gupte

After working in accounting as a college graduate for a few months, Regina Resch-Schneidewent said she realized she did not want to simply add and subtract numbers for a living. She said she wanted to help people understand the complex world of taxes.

So Regina decided to pursue the highest degree of education and became a U. S. Tax Court Practitioner counsel, licensed by the U.S. Tax

Court. She said there are about 850 of these federally licensed tax attorneys in the country with her credentials and only three in the state of Texas.

Originally based in Washington, D.C., Tax Facts has practicing tax court attorneys who help both businesses and individuals in financial management, tax preparation and planning. The company also provides state and federal representation in tax-related matters across the country.

Regina and her husband, Mark Schneidewent, own and run the company's south office at 5164 Village Creek Drive, Ste. 200, in Plano. She and Mark, who serves as the operations director, serve clients from throughout the U.S. with a focus on the southern region and the Dallas-Forth Worth area.

"We are here to help the taxpayers understand the underlying situation: what were their responsibilities? What

are their responsibilities in the future? What transpired? How can it be fixed? How can it be resolved?" Regina said.

About 70 percent of her clients are business owners and corporations seeking representation in federal tax court. Regina is also an enrolled agent by the U.S. Treasury.

"We don't give a false impression that their tax will be released down to zero--that they would have to pay nothing," Regina said. "We explain

things to them the realistic laws and what can be done to help them."

Many times people ignore the letters they receive in the mail from the

Internal Revenue Service. Once the pile gets larger, they realize they need help from an expert in filing their taxes or rectifying an error on their previous tax claims, Regina said.

"It depends on how many notices they threw in the drawer before they contacted us," Mark said. "A lot of people let those [letters] pile up."

Many business owners and individuals also seek a tax attorney when their reduction claims do not line up with their expenses. Often, business owners do not have all of the receipts to substantiate a claim and the IRS starts sending them notices. Regina advises everyone to keep a meticulous record of all expenses they are planning to claim as deductions, such as mileage, meals and office

"These are also things that people don't just talk about. People don't sit at a restaurant table and discuss, 'Hey! I have IRS tax problems.'"

—Regina Resch-Schneidewent



Tax attorney Regina Resch-Schneidewent and husband Mark opened Tax Facts in Plano in 2015.

supplies.

A line item on a bank statement is not enough proof, she said. Saving a scanned copy of itemized bills on one's computer can be the proof the IRS needs in case of an investigation.

"This happens very frequently with businesses. They lack the appropriate records to substantiate their expenses," she said.

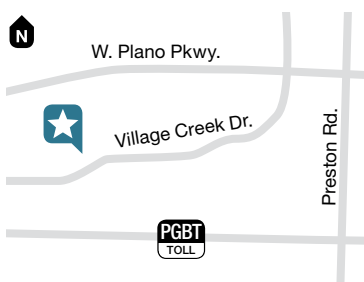
Regina said her aim is to simplify the complex tax codes a taxpayer is expected to know, understand and follow. Given the thousands of pages of code, however, taxpayers can become

intimidated and are often ill-equipped to handle a financial crisis created as a result of misinformation, she said.

Getting the right help from an expert can help reduce the penalties associated with erroneous reduction claims, Regina said.

"These are also things that people don't just talk about. People don't sit at a restaurant table and discuss, 'Hey! I have IRS tax problems,'" she said. "If people talk[ed] about it, they would learn much more and enhance their understanding and help their family [and] friends."

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March 27th

7:00 am Song Service

9:00 am Festival Service

10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am Festival Service

Easter Breakfast served

8:00 - 10:30 am



DINING FEATURE

Coconut's Fish Cafe

Family brings Hawaiian flavor to Plano

By Vallari Gupta

Father and son duo Tim and Nathan Brasher wanted to bring the flavor of Hawaiian seafood to Plano when they opened Coconut's Fish Cafe at Preston Park Village, 1900 Preston Road, Ste. 329, Plano, in 2015.

Tim traveled to Maui, Hawaii—where the original Coconut's Fish Cafe is based—to learn more about the recipes and find a way to tailor the fast-casual seafood concept to Plano's current dining landscape.

"We went out to Maui, visited the restaurant [and] really

came to love the fact that it was fresh, healthy and a little different," he said.

With wooden tables in the shape of surfboards and a spacious outdoor patio, the cafe covers a space of about 2,700 square feet. Tim also wanted to start a business that would involve his son, Nathan.

The signature fish tacos served at Coconut's Fish Cafe feature grilled chunks of fresh fish, such as mahi-mahi or ono, with cheese, red salsa, diced tomatoes and mango salsa on two white tortillas. Given the size of the tacos, Nathan said he and his staff members always encourage guests to eat them with their hands rather than using a knife and fork.

"That's how you taste all the flavors," he said.

Executive Chef Eric Lea joined the Brashers and draws from his experience working in kitchens in

Las Vegas and Miami to ensure the quality of the food is maintained at Coconut's Fish Cafe, where most of the ingredients come from Hawaii.

"The emphasis is on fresh and healthy food. All the fish is handline caught out of Maui, Hawaii," Lea said. "All of the ingredients we use ... they all come from Hawaii so they have a different kind of flavor profile."

Staff members at the cafe cut fresh fish and veggies and prepare the restaurant's variety of sauces for the day, Nathan said. Tim said his customers expect

a different level of service and quality from a fast-casual restaurant like Coconut's.

In addition, the Brashers decided to reduce their prices in January in order to meet their guests' expectations.

"We don't have the overhead costs that some of the full-service restaurants do," he said.

For Nathan, working with family helps him instill the same level of trust and familiarity among his employees. Tim said his son works about 70 hours a week, if need be, and keeps the other staff members motivated about their work as well.

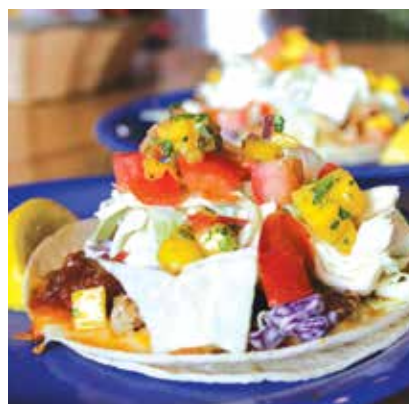
"I have always loved going out and trying new food," Nathan said. "This is a great opportunity for me to learn something new and get entrenched in a different world that I hadn't been in and take advantage of that and learn all that I could."

"The emphasis is on fresh and healthy food. All the fish is handline caught out of Maui, Hawaii,"

— Eric Lea, executive chef, Coconut's Fish Cafe



Coconut's Fish Cafe General Manager Nathan Brasher, left, with father and owner Tim Brasher and Executive Chef Eric Lea at the restaurant. The Brashers opened Coconut's last January.



The fish tacos (\$11.49) include mango salsa.



Coconut's offers a beach-themed decor.

New ventures

Owner Tim Brasher is planning to open a full-service restaurant called Texas Scratch Kitchen in Dallas. The concept is based on serving traditional Texas food with a modern twist and all food will be prepared from scratch.

Coconut's Fish Cafe

1900 Preston Road, Ste. 329
Preston Park Village, Plano
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www.coconutsfishcafe.com
Hours: Mon.-Sun.: 11 a.m. —9 p.m.

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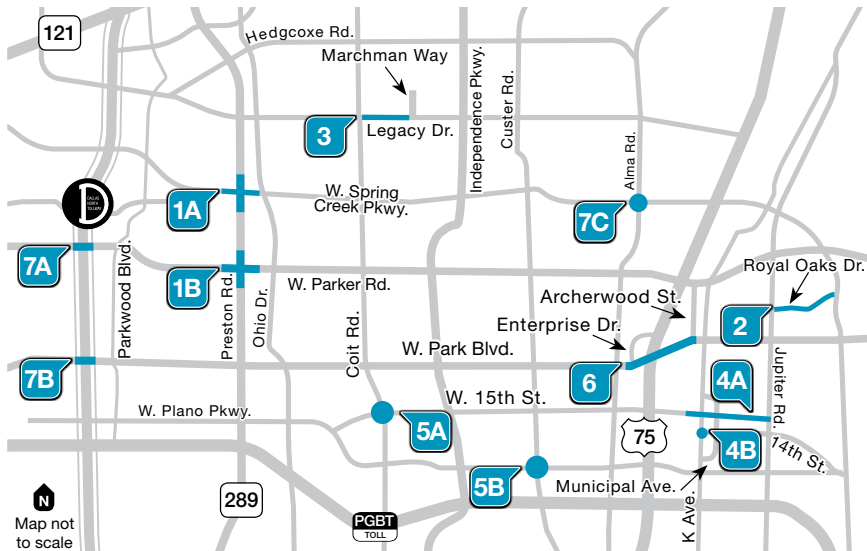
TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Major projects in the area

Compiled by Kelley Crimmins



News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at plnnews@communityimpact.com



New project



Photos by Kelley Crimmins/Community Impact Newspaper

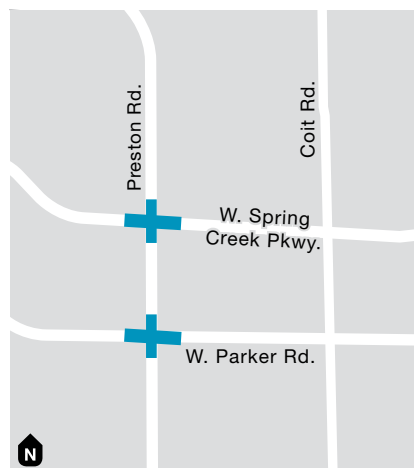
1 Preston Road improvements

The projects to add double left-turn lanes on the northbound and southbound sides of **A** Preston Road at Spring Creek Parkway and **B** Parker Road are nearing completion. Various lane closures will continue to take place as construction crews finish lane creation and realign the existing lanes. Expected completion for both projects is mid- to late May.

Timeline: September 2013-May 2016

Cost: \$4.6 million

Funding sources: city of Plano, North Central Texas Council of Governments



2 Royal Oaks Drive repaving project

A repaving project on Royal Oaks Drive from Jupiter Road to Spring Creek Parkway is nearing completion. Construction crews are working on sidewalk installation and irrigation repairs. The entire project is expected to be complete in April.

Timeline: October 2015-April 2016

Cost: \$2.2 million

Funding sources: city of Plano

Project update



3 Legacy Drive repairs

Some westbound and eastbound lanes along Legacy Drive between Coit Road and Marchman Way are closed for concrete repairs in this multiphase project. The repair work is expected to be complete by April, weather permitting.

Timeline: April 2015-April 2016

Cost: \$1.8 million

Funding sources: city of Plano

4 15th Street improvements

The design phase is 90 percent complete for a project to improve the intersections at **A** 15th Street and Municipal Avenue and **B** 14th Street and K Avenue. The project also includes spot repairs to the brick pavement along 15th Street through Historic Downtown Plano. Work is expected to begin in May.

Timeline: May-December

Cost: \$1.1 million

Funding sources: city of Plano

5 Coit Road/15th Street, Custer Road/Plano Parkway projects

Utility relocations have begun for a project to improve the intersections at **A** Coit Road and 15th Street and **B** Custer Road and Plano Parkway. When complete, these intersections will have double left-hand turn lanes in each direction. The intersections will also feature dedicated right-hand turn lanes in each direction in order to increase capacity for motorists.

Timeline: October 2016-April 2017

Cost: \$1.1 million

Funding sources: city of Plano, Collin County

6 Park Boulevard/US 75 pedestrian crossing project

Work is about 90 percent complete on a project to construct a 12-foot-wide hike and bike trail and pedestrian bridge along the north side of Park Boulevard between Archerwood Street and Enterprise Drive. Crews are working on irrigation and landscaping near the trail.

Timeline: April 2015-March 2016

Cost: \$6.4 million

Funding sources: city of Plano, NCTCOG

7 Dallas Parkway improvements

Design work is now about 95 percent complete for a project to add dedicated northbound and southbound right-turn lanes along Dallas Parkway at **A** Parker Road and **B** Park Boulevard. When complete, the intersections will also feature an additional through lane to increase capacity and lower congestion at these intersections. The project also includes similar intersection improvements at **C** Alma Drive and Spring Creek Parkway

Timeline: March-August

Cost: \$1.4 million

Funding sources: city of Plano, Collin County



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DEVELOPMENT

Heritage Creekside spurs business development along Plano Parkway

By Kelley Crimmins

A mix of development from housing to health care is taking shape along Plano Parkway between Coit Road and K Avenue as a result of the 156-acre, \$900 million mixed-use project—Heritage Creekside—under construction nearby.

“This area includes a few of the remaining large undeveloped commercial properties in Plano,” said Eric Hill, development review manager for the city of Plano’s Planning Department. “This area is attractive because of the large greenfield properties [that] have good access and visibility to [the President] George Bush [Turnpike].”

Located at the southwest corner of Plano Parkway and Alma Drive, Heritage Creekside will add more than 400 mixed-use apartments, lofts, townhomes and single-family homes to Plano’s east side. The first phase of the project, which includes 327 multifamily units, has begun and is expected to be complete by the end of

the year, Hill said.

The development by Rosewood Property Company of Dallas will also feature 127 single-family homes, 2.3 million square feet of office space, three restaurants, limited retail and a 15-story hotel. Rosewood has owned the land for roughly 40 years and was waiting for the right opportunity before solidifying any plans, Rosewood Property President

Bill Flaherty said. Up until 2014, the property was zoned for dense office space. Flaherty submitted a rezoning request that year and learned city planners were working to create a new urban mixed-use zoning ordinance at the time. The ordinance was approved by the City Council last May.

“It was my contention that if we were granted [the urban mixed-use] zoning we would lead the start of a renaissance for eastern Plano,” he said. “There is a lack of quality development in central and east Plano.”

Austin developer 5C Memory Care is building a new memory care center at Plano Parkway’s vacant creekside property. Located across the street from Heritage Creekside, the center will provide professional care, pro-

grams and activities to individuals suffering from dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. The facility, named Bader House at Pit-

man Creek, was named after a World War II British flying ace.

The 11,000-square-foot facility will feature 24 private rooms and will open this fall. The company chose Plano—and Plano Parkway in particular—for its diverse population as well as its proximity to new mixed-use

developments, such as CityLine in Richardson and Heritage Creekside, said Brad Laughlin, managing partner for 5C Memory Care.

The company also plans to build a second facility next door.

“Our goal is to locate in areas where we’ve got our target audience of 65 [years of age] and up and we also wanted to be in an area with adult children,” Laughlin said. “It’s in a really good location demographically.”

Another newcomer to the Plano Parkway corridor is the Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple of DFW. The temple, which has been at 2109 W. Parker Road, Ste. 212, since 2003, bought the land in 2011. The 17,600-square-foot temple is expected to be complete by the end of December.

“We have wanted to build this temple for the entire DFW community. One of the reasons why we chose Plano Parkway is because a lot of cities like Frisco [and] McKinney are growing north of Dallas,” said Gopal Narra, a member of the temple’s board of directors. “[The city of] Plano is so cooperative with the building permits and [is] very good with promoting diverse cultures in Plano.”

“It was my contention that ... we would lead the start of a renaissance for eastern Plano.”

—Bill Flaherty, Rosewood Property Co. president

New Growth

As mixed-use development Heritage Creekside begins to take shape, other businesses are working to expand along Plano Parkway on some of Plano’s remaining vacant commercial land. Many of these developments are expected to be complete by the end of this year.

- Healthcare Resort of Plano**
Estimated completion: April 2016
- Villas at Middleton**
Estimated completion: fall 2016 (townhomes)
- Alcatel**
Estimated completion: May 2016 (four-story office building)
- North Texas Dental Associates**
Estimated completion: fall 2016
- Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple of DFW**
Estimated completion: December 2016
- Sunbelt Storage**
Estimated completion: summer 2016
- Barber Law Firm**
Estimated completion: May 2016
- Bader House at Pitman Creek Memory Care Center**
Estimated completion: fall 2016
- Heritage Creekside**
Estimated completion: late 2016 (apartments)
- AuraOne90**
Completed: January 2016 (apartments)



CITY, COUNTY AND SCHOOLS

News from the city of Plano, Plano ISD and Collin College

Compiled by Kelley Crimmins

Trustees approve new boundary changes

PLANO The Plano ISD board of trustees at a March 1 regular meeting agreed to change its attendance boundaries for Brinker, Aldridge and Mendenhall elementary schools beginning in August. The changes were made to prepare for future enrollment and to ensure that the students move smoothly from one school to the next in the feeder pattern, according to district officials.

"The value in that realignment was not only moving students out of the campus that was at capacity but also moving them out of the feeder pattern altogether," board President Nancy said.

Since this realignment is conducted to address capacity challenges in the future, the board voted to let these students stay in their present school as long as they are able to

provide their own transportation. New students must adhere to the new boundary lines. Public input sessions on the affected campuses will be held before the transition to help families prepare for the change in the upcoming school year.

Students living in the area surrounded by Preston Road, Spring Creek Parkway, Parkwood Boulevard and the northern boundary of Plano ISD will move from Brinker Elementary School to Haun Elementary School. As far as realigning of boundaries for students at Mendenhall Elementary School is concerned, the area enclosed by the Dallas Area Rapid Transit rail, Plano Parkway, Jupiter Road and Renner Road will be moved to Forman Elementary School. For more information on these changes, visit www.pisd.edu.

Plano Youth Leadership now accepting applications for 2016-17 school year

PLANO Plano Youth Leadership is accepting applications for its 2016-17 class. Students entering the 10th grade during the 2016-17 school year are eligible to apply. Applicants must currently be attending a public or private school or be home-schooled within the city of Plano.

PYL provides an opportunity for students to learn more about becoming an effective leader. The program also prepares students to work with other leadership styles and become more aware of their community to raise awareness and prepare them to make positive changes in their community today and in the future. Through a series of monthly class sessions running concurrently with the school year, students learn about

leadership and service opportunities in the community, said Jeri Chambers, incoming PYL board president.

"Plano Youth Leadership is designed for 10th-grade students ... when they are developing an interest and comprehension of the broader community in which they live," she said. "PYL provides participants a unique opportunity to meet with and to learn from community leaders ... and business in an effort to maximize their individual leadership skills."

Tuition for the program is \$175 per participant, and need based scholarships are available for qualified students. Completed application must be submitted by April 29. Applications are available at www.planoyouthleadership.org.



A crowd listens to the Collin College board of trustees at its Feb. 23 meeting.

Collin College raising tuition to grow workforce programs

COLLIN COUNTY Collin College students will see an increase to their tuition beginning in fall 2016.

The Collin College board of trustees unanimously approved the increase during the Feb. 23 board meeting. There will be an increase of \$3 per credit hour for in-district students and a \$5 increase per credit hour for out-of-district and out-of-state/out-of-country students effective fall 2016. Collin College President Neil Matkin said the increase is expected to generate nearly \$2 million in additional revenue during fiscal year

2016-17. The tuition rates will increase from \$39 to \$42 per hour. The additional revenue will help in the expansion of workforce programs and support the additional student services planned as part of the quality enhancement plan required for the regional Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation.

The last time Collin College increased tuition was in 2014. Matkin said he and the board expect tuition to increase again in the next five years as the county continues to grow in both scope and population.

Meetings

▶ Plano City Council

Regular meetings are scheduled at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Plano Municipal Center, 1520 K Ave.
Live webcasts are available online.
972-941-7000. www.plano.gov

▶ Plano Independent School District

Meetings are scheduled at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Plano ISD Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th St., Plano
469-752-8100. www.pisd.edu

▶ Collin County Commissioners Court

Meetings are generally scheduled at 1:30 p.m. each Monday.

Jack Hatchell Collin County Administration Building, 2300 Bloomdale Road, McKinney.
972-424-1460. www.co.collin.tx.us

Tweetings

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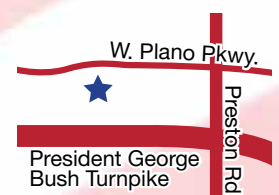
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Arts District Comes to Life with Opening of McCall Plaza

Downtown Plano features a vibrant mix of residential spaces, performing arts, galleries, event venues, unique shops and restaurants. All are nestled in or near the familiar historic buildings, convenient DART rail, beautiful Haggard Park and unique Interurban Railway Museum.

"The community in the Downtown Plano Arts District is really seeing a renaissance," said City of Plano Administrator of Arts, Culture & Heritage Michelle Hawkins. "The downtown merchants, the local arts groups, the neighbors and the City all want this funky, inspiring area to be recognized, and McCall Plaza is another aspect that is helping that vision."

Slightly larger than half an acre, the newly-revamped McCall Plaza is designed as a flexible outdoor space with a covered stage designed for musical performances. The venue is ideally located among the various bars and shops in the area and is in immediate walking distance from the DART's Downtown Plano Station.

"This is the perfect venue for intimate outdoor concerts in a vibrant downtown setting," said Hawkins.

McCall Plaza construction started last year and is soon to be completed. The featured stage is unique because it can be

used from two sides. If performing talent is facing 15th Street, an audience of 150 can be served. If the talent is facing 14th street (which would require the closing of the adjoining parking lot), a standing-room crowd of more than 1,000 people can view the stage.

McCall Plaza is part of the expansion of the arts vision in Historic Downtown Plano. The plaza is named for former Plano Mayor and civic leader David B. McCall.

Prior to its revitalization, McCall Plaza featured Dish, Block and Feather, a granite public art piece by sculptor John Thomas Campbell. It has been relocated to Harrington Library on 18th Street.

"That art had been there for as long as I can remember, along with a water feature that lined the area. It was a great area to let the kids play and to take a break under the trees," said Hawkins. "With the McCall Plaza stage, you can still let the kids play and take a break, but this allows us to bring some entertainment into downtown, too."

McCall Plaza's grand opening will welcome the weekend on Friday, April 15 at 4:30 p.m. with remarks from Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere and David McCall, Jr., as well as a performance from Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band.

On Saturday, April 16, the Downtown Plano Arts District will host an artists' showcase. Several local arts organizations will be featured throughout the day including DAAYO, Shine, Plano Children's Theater, Chamberlain Dance, Plano Metropolitan Ballet, Art Centre Theatre, Collin County Ballet Theater, Edge Dance, Plano Community Band and Plano Dance Theater. Joe and Vicki Price will wind down the evening with their blues band on the McCall Plaza stage.

When McCall Plaza is not being used for City-sponsored events, the stage will be available for rent via Plano Stages (www.planostages.com). Plano Stages also manages Plano's Courtyard Theater, the Cox Building Playhouse and the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park.

Hawkins pointed out a rich history is tied to the downtown Plano area that many residents have yet to explore.

"The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation, housed in the Interurban Railway Museum, is very dedicated to preserving and promoting the area's history," she said.

The group has two events coming up in the downtown area: Tombstone Mysteries on Saturday, April 16 and Hike Through History on June 4. Tombstone Mysteries is a preservation effort to repair and restore headstones in Plano Mutual Cemetery, as well as perform general cemetery cleanup and maintenance. Hike Through History

walks guests through the downtown area pointing out items and places of historical significance.

Another fun event coming soon is the Downtown Plano Art & Wine Walk. This unique event will be conducted on the second Thursday of the month, April through November of this year. Participants of this "sip and shop" event will sample selected wines at favorite shops throughout the arts district while enjoying live music and curated art exhibitions.

"There's a revitalization downtown... more people want to be downtown and do things," said Hawkins. "Former Deputy City Manager Frank Turner had a vision for this place...to provide music and night life. We're right near the DART track, there is so much close by. Downtown is beginning to expand beyond just a little piece of 15th Street. We are working with the downtown merchants to really revitalize this area. If you haven't been to downtown lately, come. The community has really come together. There's a lot of new energy. It's a really unique part of Plano that everyone should experience."

Follow the performance schedule in McCall Plaza and learn about upcoming activities on the Downtown Plano Arts District's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



McCall Plaza Performance Schedule

April 15

Grand Opening 4:30 PM
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band

April 16

Artist Showcase
Local art organizations perform 10 AM to 6 PM
Joe & Vicki Price Playin' the Blues 7 PM



This is a paid advertisement.



Take the Discover Plano Challenge

There's a new kind of summer fun coming to the City of Plano June 1 through August 31. Get ready for Discover Plano!

Discover Plano is the new name for the program that some may remember as Suburban Dare. The program was initially developed to promote the City's library summer reading programs, while also giving residents the opportunity to learn about different departments within the City.

This year the program has a new name and some new opportunities for participants.

Discover Plano is for residents of all ages and will be driven via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

"We hope to not only gain our community's involvement in learning more about the City, but also to encourage people to seek, learn and share their experiences," explained Todd Rice, Senior Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the City of Plano. "Discover Plano will focus more on the City of Plano as a whole with

hopes to eventually include Plano businesses as well."

Each City department will create three challenges, one for each of the program's targeted age groups.

"A lot of the challenges will include taking selfies around the City and sharing milestones and memories," added Rice.

To participate, residents will download the Discover Plano map which features icons for each City department, its corresponding challenges and the age group targeted.

"Each of the challenges will be included on the map along with fun facts about Plano. We encourage participants to subscribe to the Discover Plano e-newsletter, which will be sent out weekly with instructions and details on certain challenges. Updates and information will also be shared via social media. Participants can display their progress using the hashtag #DiscoverPlano.



Receive Traffic Alerts at Your Fingertips

Keeping up to speed on road construction along the commute through Plano is about to get easier.

Residents and commuter drivers will soon be able to sign up for email and text updates about road construction, road conditions and road closures. The traffic alert system is in the final stages of development.

"The idea came from our engineering department," explained Stephen Tanner, Senior Marketing Coordinator with the City of Plano. "We wanted to create a system to help our residents know what road construction projects are underway so they can plan their commute, their weekends and their rush hour times."

Residents can currently check the City of Plano website, plano.gov, for weekly road construction projects, but Tanner said this new system will allow residents to receive

real-time updates via text or email. Alerts will be customized to target roadways that drivers frequently use.

"We wanted to create an alert system to push this important information out to our residents instead of them having to search for it," added Tanner. "Traffic and road construction are on the minds of many Plano residents. We understand it can be really frustrating. We are working hard to keep residents informed. We are making sure they are better prepared for their commutes with this program."

"This type of traffic notification system is unique," said Tanner. Many other cities rely solely on websites to provide traffic and construction information to residents.

The program is expected to be introduced this spring.

Plano First in Texas with Wi-Fi in Parks and Recreation Centers

Most City of Plano recreation centers and parks now feature free Wi-Fi, thanks to Toyota, Time Warner Cable and American Park Network (APN).

"Many patrons have asked for Wi-Fi access while they are working out at recreation centers or while they sit on the bleachers watching a game," said Tony Han, Strategic Technology and Special Projects Manager with City of Plano Technology Services. "They want to send a quick text to the grandparents with pictures of their children playing baseball or soccer, or to check emails on the run. Wi-Fi allows parents to connect to friends and family while enjoying the parks and the recreation centers in Plano."

APN's "Oh, Ranger!" Wi-Fi is made possible by financial support from Toyota. All equipment and installation is being provided at no cost to City taxpayers as a function of this

public-private sponsorship between the City of Plano, Toyota and APN. Plano is the first city in Texas to be served by the partnership.

APN's service will cover Carpenter Park, Jack Carter Pool (when construction is complete), Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve and the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, High Point Tennis Center and Haggard Park. For these locations, access is free.

The Time Warner Cable (TWC) free Wi-Fi program is two years old and started as a nationwide business hotspot service that is now being used in parks and elsewhere. TWC will cover all costs to install and operate the Wi-Fi services.

TWC's service will cover Liberty Recreation Center, Plano Aquatic Center, Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Center, Carpenter Recreation Center,



Oak Point Recreation Center (when remodeling is complete), High Point Park, Heritage Yards and Enfield Park. For these locations, access is free for the first 60 minutes and \$2.95 for each additional hour. TWC customers can enjoy unlimited free Wi-Fi time.

Meet new Deputy City Manager Jack Carr



Plano's new Deputy City Manager, Jack Carr, moved to North Texas in 1980 to lead the City of McKinney engineering team. He joined the City of Plano as director of engineering in December 2013.

His promotion to deputy city manager comes on the heels of the retirement of long-time City employee Frank Turner.

"As deputy city manager, my most important role is being a facilitator," added Carr. "I ensure collaboration between the various development services departments. I make sure the interests of current citizens, future citizens, developers, contractors and motorists are all taken into consideration."

Carr said he loves working for the City of Plano and enjoys all the city has to offer.

"The North Texas area is really good, but Plano is great," he said. "I am proud to be a member of the team that is taking the City of Excellence to the next level."

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CALENDAR

March

26 through April 3 **'The Complete History of America'**

The Art Centre of Plano hosts this comedy from touring American acting troupe, the Reduced Shakespeare Company. This production explores famous events in American history from Christopher Columbus to Watergate. 1 p.m. (March 26-27, April 2-3), 6 p.m. (March 26, April 1-2). \$15. Art Centre Theatre, 5220 Village Creek Drive, Plano. 214-810-3228. www.artcentretheatre.com

29 Great Update Rebate presentation

The city of Plano's Neighborhood Services Department provides information on this revitalization program, which is available to owners of homes 35 years or older in city limits. Attendees learn about eligibility and how the rebate process works. 7-8 p.m. Free. Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road, Plano. 972-769-4200. www.plano.gov

April

02 Trinkets to Treasures resale

This annual event is hosted by the Junior League of Collin County and raises funds to support its projects and programs. Visitors may also purchase shopping certificates to be given to local nonprofit organizations for families in need. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. 972-769-0557. www.jlcollincounty.org

07 Legacy of Love Benefit and Fashion Show

The Children's Medical Center Foundation presents its fourth annual fundraiser for the Women's Auxiliary to Children's Medical Center Plano. Co-hosted by Mercedes-Benz of Plano, honorary chairmen at this red carpet benefit include former Dallas Cowboys player Daryl Johnston as well as WFAA Chief Meteorologist Pete Delkus. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$125. Mercedes-Benz of Plano, 6455 Dallas Parkway, Plano. 214-456-8360. <https://give.childrens.com>

07 Jason Boland concert

The Plano Courtyard Texas Music Series welcomes the Oklahoma native for a night of Texas country music. This solo acoustic concert features hits from Boland's time as frontman for Jason Boland and the Stragglers. 7:30 p.m. \$25. Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Ave., Plano. 972-941-5611. www.plano.gov

08 Adapted recreation kids night out

This respite program gives children ages 1-10 with disabilities and their siblings the opportunity to socialize, reducing the risk of social isolation. Snacks are provided and volunteers are on hand to buddy up with participants. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$15 (per family), \$30 (per family with four or more children). Liberty Recreation Center, 2601 Glenciff Drive, Plano. 972-941-7272. www.plano.gov

08 through May 1 **'Perfect Wedding'**

A wedding day goes wrong as misunderstandings, mistaken identities and farcical shenanigans take place in this comedy written by Robin Hawden and performed by Theatre Britain. 2:30 p.m. (April 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30, May 1), 7 p.m. (April 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30). \$16-\$21. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. 972-490-4202. www.theatre-britain.com



Courtesy Plano Symphony Orchestra

10 Family Symphony Sunday Series

Children ages 3-10 and their families can participate in this interactive concert with arts and crafts, an instrument petting zoo and a chance to be a conductor. The orchestra presents "Movie Magic" with marionettes as they dance and perform to music from "Star Wars," "Jurassic Park," "Frozen" and other favorite movies. 2:15 p.m. (activities), 3 p.m. (concert begins). \$7-\$11. Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Ave. 972-473-7262. www.planosymphony.org

14 Art and wine walk

Hosted by *Plano Magazine* and the Historic Downtown Plano Association, this event allows guests to view curated art exhibits, listen to live music and participate in raffles and wine tastings. Shops are also open late to accommodate attendees for the evening. 5 p.m. \$10. Downtown Plano Arts District, 998 E. 15th St., Plano. 972-543-8840. www.visitdowntownplano.com

15 McCall Plaza reopening

Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere and former Plano Mayor David McCall kick off the grand reopening celebration of McCall Plaza as Historic Downtown Plano's newest outdoor music venue

with music by Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band. Bands take to the stage the next day in 30-minute intervals. Time TBA. Free. McCall Plaza, 1003 E. 15th St., Plano. 972-941-7000. www.plano.gov

15 through 16 Flower show

The Plano Garden Club hosts its "Rising to New Heights" event featuring floral designs and youth and educational exhibits. 4-9 p.m. (April 15) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (April 16). Free. Collin Creek Mall, 811 N. Central Expressway, Plano. <http://xl1.esiteasp.com/planogardenclub/home.nxg>

16 Beethoven No. 9 concert

Presented by the Plano Symphony Orchestra, this concert concludes the PSO's 2015-16 season and features Beethoven's famous "Ode to Joy" sung by four soloists and the Plano Civic Chorus. 8 p.m. \$13-\$90. St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano. 972-380-8001. www.planosymphony.org



Courtesy Hasda Punjab

16 Great American Cleanup and beach party

Cleanup crews focus on the Chisholm Trail as Plano participates in its annual Keep America Beautiful program followed by a beach party complete with live music and exhibitor booths. Crews consist of individuals, businesses, schools and neighborhood groups. Free cleaning supplies are provided by the city of Plano. Lunch is also provided. Preregistration for the event is required. 8-11 a.m. (cleanup), 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (beach party). Chase Oaks Church parking lot, 281 Legacy Drive, Plano. 972-769-4130. www.plano.gov/1387/Community-Cleanup

16 Tombstone Mysteries

Presented by the city of Plano and organized by the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation, this event helps restore Plano Mutual Cemetery. Participants also learn about symbolism and local historic figures. Flowers are provided for placing on the graves of veterans. Space is limited and participants must register online. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Plano Mutual Cemetery, 2128 18th St., Plano. 972-941-2117. www.planoconservancy.org

Worth the TRIP



Courtesy Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County

APR
23

Children's Advocacy Center annual gala

The Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County hosts its annual gala featuring Creedence Clearwater Revisited. This black-tie event features a Lexus car raffle and silent auctions. Money raised supports the center's programs supporting abused and neglected children. Sponsorship opportunities are available. 6 p.m. \$275 (individual ticket). Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. 972-633-6602. www.caccollincounty.org/gala



Courtesy Hasda Punjab

23 Vaisakhi Mela

This spring festival hosted by Hasda Punjab celebrates the food, music and culture of the Indian state of Punjab and includes dance performances, athletic events and an awards ceremony. 3-11:30 p.m. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. 214-405-0172. www.hasdapunjab.net

26 Entrepreneurs Evening

Local business owners, potential business owners and other entrepreneurs gather for this annual event sponsored by Collin College. Visitors can network and learn from one another in a come-and-go setting. Businesses are encouraged to reserve a table prior to the event. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Living Legends Conference Center, Collin College Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. 972-881-5790. www.collin.edu

28 through 30 'Beauty & the Beast Jr.'

Edge Dance and Performing Arts Theatre recreates this Disney classic. 2 p.m. (April 30), 7 p.m. (April 28-30). \$12. Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Ave., Plano. 972-516-1653. www.edgedance.com

Featured LIVE MUSIC



Courtesy Julie Holmer

The Iron Fist of Duncan performs April 1.

Angela's at the Crosswalk 1010 E. 15th St.

972-633-9500
www.angelascrosswalk.com

March

25 Tom Galgano and Patricia Castillo, 7 p.m.

26 Dallas Songwriters Showcase, 7 p.m.

April

1 The Iron Fist of Duncan, 7 p.m.

2 Vinyl Rewind, 7 p.m.

8 Jerry Rizzi and Friends, 7 p.m.

9 Josh Osgood, 7 p.m.

15 Septien Entertainment Showcase, 7 p.m.

Online Calendar

Find more or submit Plano events at communityimpact.com/pln-calendar.

To have Plano events considered for the print edition, they must be submitted online by the first Friday of the month.



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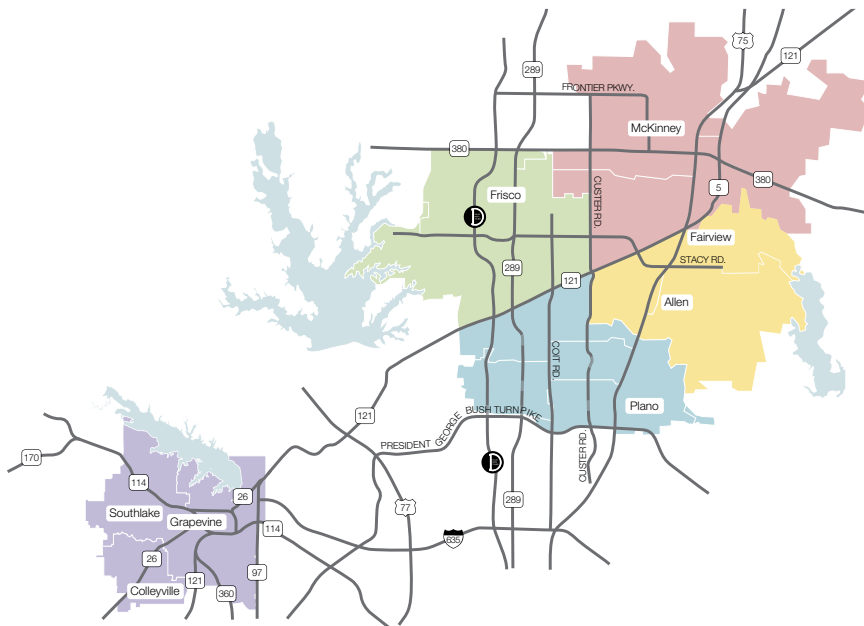
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PEOPLE

Collin County Sheriff Terry Box

Longtime county staple set to retire in December

By Marthe Rennels

For some it might be hard to imagine Collin County as an area filled with rural communities and small cities mainly linked by dirt or gravel roads. But that is exactly what the county consisted of when Collin County Sheriff Terry Box took office Feb. 14, 1985—a position he holds until Dec. 31. Box said the biggest challenge during his time as sheriff was keeping up with the explosive growth in the county.

During his more than 30 years as sheriff, Box has seen the county grow from more than 204,000 people to a projected 2015 population of 949,673.

There were roughly 35 inmates in the Collin County Jail when Box began his tenure. Today, he said, there are about 900 inmates housed in a facility Box led into a statewide spotlight.

The facility, which Box had a hand in helping come to fruition, is the longest-standing jail to be certified by the state and has been certified by the state for 28 years, Box said.

The facility has received so much attention that Box was appointed by then Gov. George Bush to serve on the Texas Commission of Jail Standards first as a board member then as chairman. The board is tasked with overseeing jail standards and their enforcement for county, municipal and private jails.

Now, with several accomplishments under his belt and a career that he said took him further than expected, Box plans to enjoy the friendships he has created with no plans to work on anything other than a '55 Chevy or perhaps his golf swing.



Collin County Sheriff Terry Box officially ends his 31-year tenure Dec. 31.

You have been Collin County sheriff for more than 30 years. What made you decide it was time to retire?

Until you live in that environment for that many years, it doesn't appear on the outside to be much stress. But when you respond to the public and everyone wants to meet with you and you have to make time for them, plus I never leave home without returning a phone call, it just adds up. I had open-heart surgery years ago; I have had bypasses; it's just time. Plus, I feel myself slipping and maybe not pushing things as hard as I did before, and I think it's time for new leadership to come in here and take this operation to a new level. My career has been wonderful, I have been blessed and I am ready to not have to worry every day about what new laws are coming and what the Commissioners Court is going to do budget-wise.

In your time as sheriff, you have established a reputation of being fair and honest. What do you think contributed to that?

I was raised in McKinney, and I didn't know anybody else who loved

one another as much as my mother and daddy. I was raised in the Church of Christ, and I was taught what's right and what's wrong. My family growing up taught me that our family name means something; my character means something.

I remember my dad owned an upholstery shop downtown where the cycle shop is now. He got into the used furniture business and sold a bunch of used furniture on credit. He got into some debt with the bank because people weren't paying him. He went to the bank and told them he was getting out of the business and asked to set up a payment plan for what he owed. Filing for bankruptcy wasn't even a thought in his mind. He paid them \$66 a month for years to get it paid off.

I grew up in a time when a handshake meant something. If I owed you money, I owed you money and I was going to pay you. I think if you always do what you think is the right thing, you can always live with it.

Have you had to work to keep up that reputation?

I've had to fire folks who did the wrong thing who were very dear to us.

We have cried when they have left the room. People know that I am fair and honest, but if you lie or steal or something like that, you won't be working here.

I always had the theory—and this is how I have lived my whole life—and that is whatever the perception of you is, that is how you are. I always thought, I have no college degree, but if I dress right, act right and have people around me who have degrees, then we will be perceived professionally.

Do you worry about how the sheriff's office will operate once you leave?

You always worry that things will change when you leave, but I have talked to [sheriff candidate] Jim Skinner a lot lately and he wants to pick up right where I left off and keep things running smoothly.

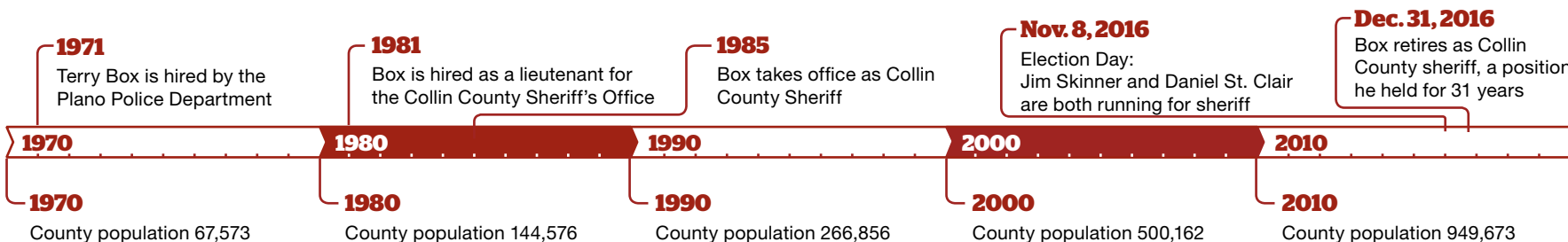
What accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am probably the proudest of the [Annual Terry Box Shoot Out 'Fore' Kids] golf tournament out of everything in my whole career. No other elected official has raised \$2.2 million

for charity in their whole career and I am really, really proud of that. They wanted me to start that in the beginning to help fund my campaign. I thought about it and decided to do it for charity instead. And in the past 24-25 years it has done pretty good.

How will you spend your time once retired?

I have a building at AeroCountry, so I have a place to go in the mornings to get out of my wife's hair. I will have a place to go with an office area, a four-post lift for my cars and a little place to go to keep busy and hang out. I go to the Barrett-Jackson car auction and the Mecum auction every year. It's a mecca. I was on TV last year driving a 'Cuda four-speed Hemi across the auction block. It's really cool. I do that, and it's away from my job—you're not talking law enforcement. Every day I am here at about 7:30 a.m. There is so much stuff going on around here that if you ever get out of the loop, you'll lose it. I have 500 employees and personnel issues, new things coming up constantly. Our world is evolving so much and I am a dinosaur.



DALLAS NORTH TOLLWAY CONGESTION

Designed by Aubrey Cade and Stephanie Torres

With construction underway on the mixed-use project Legacy West and the first of Frisco's \$5 Billion Mile opening this year to the north, motorists traveling through Plano on the Dallas North Tollway are also experiencing growing pains in the way of the North Texas Tollway Authority's \$281 million improvement project. Along with the DNT being widened, Dallas Parkway improvements are also planned for construction by the city of Plano.

1 Legacy Drive u-turn lane

Motorists traveling southbound on the DNT will be able to use a new U-turn lane at Legacy Drive.

2 Tennyson Parkway bridge

The NTTA is creating detours as the existing bridge will be rebuilt to accommodate added width.

3 Windhaven Parkway

New entrance and exit ramps will be constructed between Windhaven and Spring Creek parkways.

4 Park Boulevard, Parker Road exit/entrance ramps

These ramps are being relocated farther back from Park Boulevard to give exiting motorists time to merge.

5 Park Blvd./Parker Road, Dallas Parkway intersections

The city of Plano is creating additional through lanes and extended dedicated right-hand turn lanes at these intersections.

6 President George Bush Turnpike/DNT interchange

Dedicated, or braided, exit and entrance ramps will be created at this intersection to avoid merging.

TOLLWAY FUNDING

The North Texas Tollway Authority is widening the Dallas North Tollway from the SH 121 to Beltline Road to accommodate the area's current and anticipated growth.

These projects are funded with bonds, which are paid off through toll revenue. The NTTA is currently paying off approximately \$9 billion in debt.

Tollway

Continued from I 1

in Plano and the \$5 Billion Dollar Mile in Frisco taking shape, these and other budding commercial developments along the Dallas North Tollway are expected to bring thousands of jobs to the area—as well as increased traffic congestion.

The North Texas Tollway Authority projects an estimated 3,000 more drivers will travel on the DNT through Plano each day this year than in 2015. To help accommodate the growth, the NTTA began a multiphase project last summer that, when complete, will widen the DNT from I-635 south of Addison northward to SH 121 in Dallas.

The first phase of the DNT expansion project extends from the President George Bush Turnpike to SH 121 and includes the addition of a fourth lane on the southbound and northbound sides of the road. The project also includes the addition of on and off ramps at Windhaven Parkway, the reconstruction of the Tennyson Parkway bridge, and the extension of existing on and off ramps. This \$281 million phase of the project is expected to be complete in 2018.

Another lane will also be added to the direct-connector ramps at the DNT and PGBT interchange. These braided ramps are expected to remedy congestion that occurs from merging motorists, NTTA Construction Manager Enrique Guillen said. After the reconfiguration, motorists trying to get onto the DNT traveling south from Park

since December 2013.

In February, the city completed a \$4.4 million widening project along Windhaven Parkway. Traffic along this road is expected to increase as the land around it becomes developed, Carr said. Tollway construction may also result in motorists using alternate routes, temporarily increasing traffic volume on parallel streets like Parkwood Boulevard.

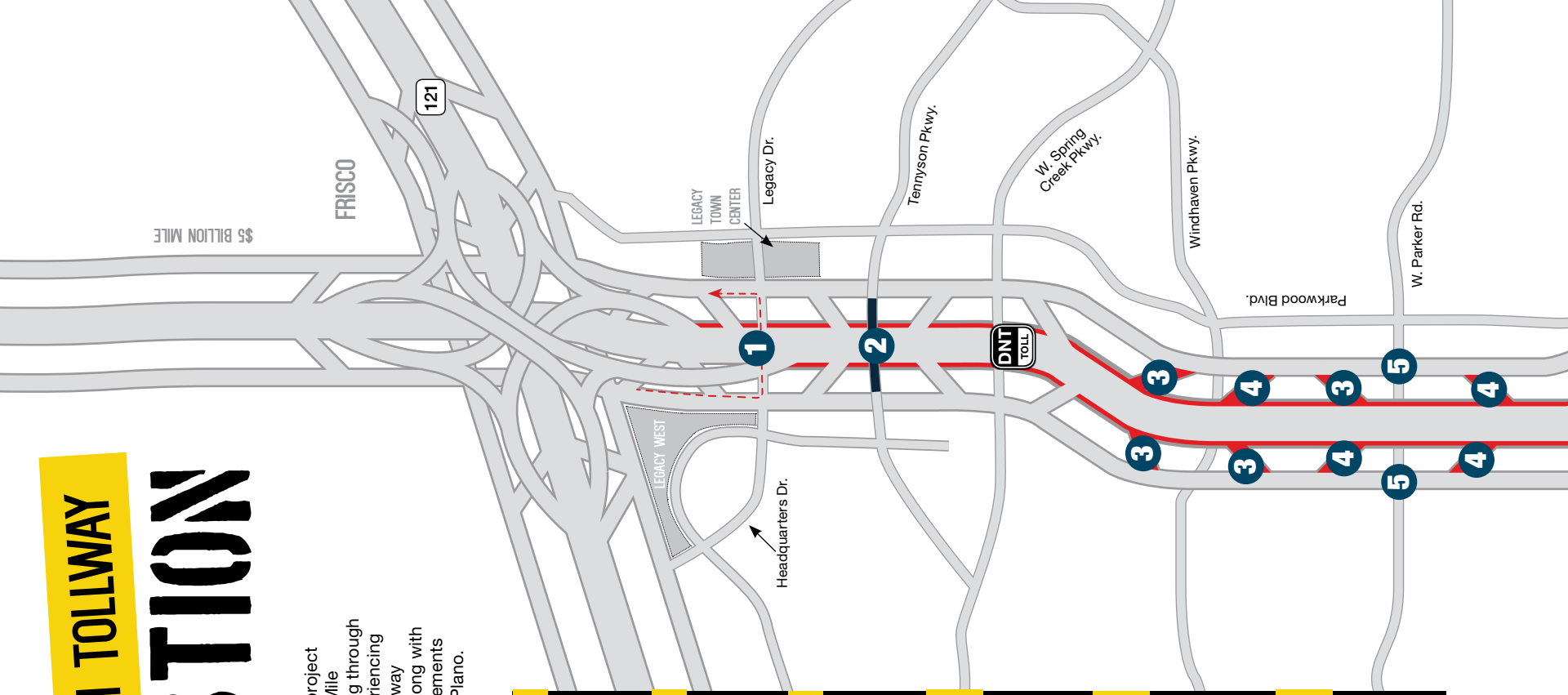
"As development occurs across Collin County, more vehicles are added to the road network," Carr said. "In most cases, traffic control and turning movements at intersections limit the capacity of the intersecting roadways. The city of Plano has identified intersections where the overall capacity will be improved by adding turn lanes."

Motorist safety

The Texas Highway Patrol is responsible for enforcing motorist safety along the Dallas North Tollway. Highway patrol officers patrolling the DNT stressed the importance of watching for lane closures when driving through work zones, as these can change from day to day, said Lonnie Haschel, spokesperson for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Motorists should also adhere to the reduced 60 mph speed limit, as speeding is the main cause of accidents along the DNT. All traffic fines are doubled within these work zones.

"What's happening is that the faster cars are crashing into [other drivers] in the construction zone and rear-ending them," Haschel



PLANO TRAFFIC NUMBERS

Average weekday traffic on the Dallas North Tollway*

2015: **143,000**

2016: **146,000** (projected)

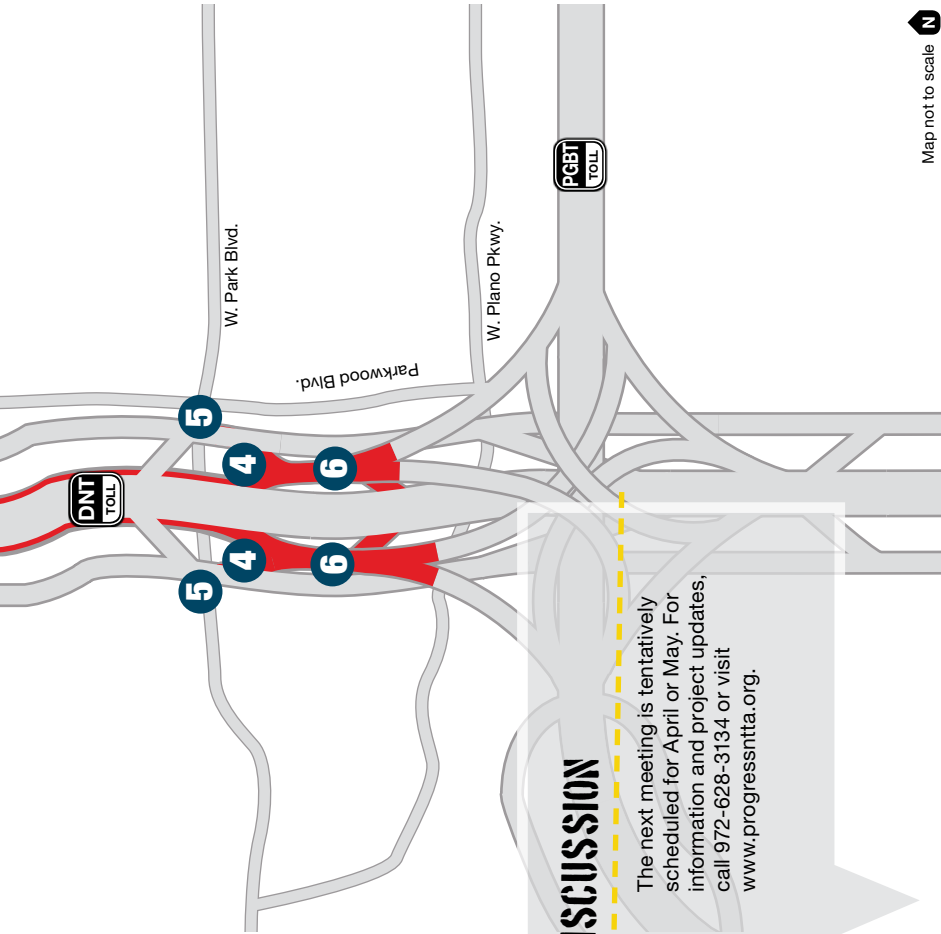
*Average weekday traffic counts are measured at the main-lane main lane toll plazas on the DNT.

BE A PART OF THE DISCUSSION

The NTTA holds periodic public meetings to update residents and local business owners on the project's progress. The last meeting was held Jan. 27 at the Christopher A. Parr Library, 6200 Windhaven Parkway, Plano.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April or May. For information and project updates, call 972-628-3134 or visit www.progressntta.org.

Sources: city of Plano, North Texas Tollway Authority/Community Impact Newspaper



Map not to scale

Tell us what you think.

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Boulevard will be able to use two dedicated lanes that will take them directly to southbound DNT.

“Currently we have both movements merging into one lane [and] everybody’s trying to figure out where they want to go and then they finally separate,” he said. “We’re going to separate them with concrete.”

City projects

Enhancements are not limited to just the DNT. The city of Plano has been working to increase capacity at intersections on the Dallas Parkway frontage road. Construction will soon begin to add a second dedicated center lane and extend the right-turn lanes at Park Boulevard and Parker Road. Design for the improvements began in 2013, Deputy City Manager Jack Carr said. Carr, who was promoted to serve as the city’s deputy city manager earlier this year, had served as the city’s engineering director

said. “Those workers out there are in those work zones, and we really need motorists to do as the sign says [and] give them a break.”

While the Plano Police Department is responsible for monitoring the frontage road, it also works with DPS to enforce traffic laws along the DNT, said officer David Tilley, spokesperson for the Plano Police Department. Plano police have seen a slight increase in the number of car crashes along both roadways, something Tilley said is typical of construction zones. “When you build up traffic, you start getting people who are impatient [and] they do things that they normally wouldn’t do—like a fast lane change,” Tilley said. “Defensive driving is more applicable today with more cars on the road.”

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BOND EXPENDITURES

Plano ISD's \$481 million bond package includes improvements in eight categories under one proposition. If the measure is approved on May 7, the bonds will be issued over the next five years. Funded projects include classroom renovations, technology and athletic upgrades, and fine arts development.

Renovations and Upgrades

Six elementary schools

- ★ Barksdale Elementary School
- ★ Gullledge Elementary School
- ★ Haggar Elementary School
- ★ Haun Elementary School
- ★ Miller Elementary School
- ★ Skaggs Elementary School

Three middle schools

- ★ Bowman Middle School
- ★ Robinson Middle School
- ★ Wilson Middle School

Three high schools

- ★ Jasper High School
- ★ Shepton High School
- ★ Williams High School



Safety and Security

- ★ Purchase security cameras
- ★ Enhance campuswide panic alarm systems
- ★ Purchase emergency communication equipment
- ★ Provide funding for high school security enhancements
- ★ Pay for safety upgrades to Clark Stadium



Buses

- ★ Ninety buses will be replaced over a five-year period, to maintain their 12-15-year life span



Athletics

- ★ Replace artificial turf at Clark Stadium and the indoor practice areas at all three high schools
- ★ Add artificial turf at Clark Triple Fields, Williams High School field and the outdoor fields at Plano's senior high schools
- ★ Replace of Clark Stadium's scoreboard
- ★ Expand locker room space at Clark East Field
- ★ Fund renovations to Plano East Senior High School's locker room and outdoor bleachers

WHY \$481 MILLION?

$$\begin{array}{l} \$524 \text{ million} - (\$16 \text{ million} + \$27 \text{ million}) = \$481 \text{ million} \\ \text{Original recommendation} \quad \text{Unissued bond funds} \quad \text{Surplus funds from} \quad \text{2016 total bond package value} \\ \text{from the task force} \quad \text{from 2008 bond program} \quad \text{2013 Tax Ratification} \\ \text{Election (TRE)} \end{array}$$

???

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2008 bond package approved in the May 10, 2008 election allocated about **\$140 million** to build new schools including Schell Elementary School, Isaacs Early Childhood School, Otto Middle School and McMillen High School.

Bond package

Continued from I 1

\$1.439 per \$100 of valuation—the second-lowest tax rate in Collin County. Plano ISD Superintendent Brian Binggeli said the proposed bond package is different than the 2008 bond package because the district is in a different phase of its development.

“Our enrollment has stabilized. Accordingly, we did not need to include multiple new schools in this bond package as was the case in previous bond packages,” he said.

Nancy Humphrey, PISD Board of

Trustees president, said the 2008 bond program was intended to last for four years. However, the district's state funding was cut and the workforce was reduced in 2011.

“Those were leaner times and we it wasn't a good time to go out for a bond,” she said. “It was just not a good economic time.”

Single proposition rationale

Trustees discussed at length the merits of a single proposition bond versus a bond package with multiple proposals. Trustee Missy Bender said in a regular meeting Feb. 2 that a single proposition

bond program provides flexibility in using available funds if economic conditions change in the years to come.

PISD Chief Financial Officer Steve Fortenberry said a single proposition bond package does not affect the way money will be spent. However, it will provide for more movement in terms of savings and adjusting to the changing prices in the market.

Trustee Yoram Solomon cast the lone dissenting vote at the Feb. 2 meeting, during which the board voted to put the bond program on the ballot.

Solomon said he wanted the program to be divided into multiple items in

order to give the residents more voting options.

“I am not objecting to any specific item on the bond,” he said. “The only fact that I am objecting to is the single proposition. The only thing I was hoping for was the multiproposition bond package. It is a matter of giving people a choice.”

Major bond items

The major bond package items proposed to receive most of the funding would be renovations and upgrades, fine arts and technology. During a public hearing Dec. 17, parents, teachers and



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presents

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Buda City Park – Buda, Texas

April 23 & 24, 2016– 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wiener Dog Races – Saturday 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. & Sunday 10:00 a.m. with finals Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

New This Year! Mixed Breed Dachshund Races

Saturday 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. & Sunday at 11:30 a.m. with finals Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Other Happenings during the weekend - BBQ Cook-Off (Saturday), Arts & Craft Booths, Food, Kid Games includes Bouncy Houses, Petting Zoo and Fish Pond, Live Music, The Buda Bee and Bake-Off (Sunday)

\$5.00 General Admission - Kids 12 years & under get in FREE

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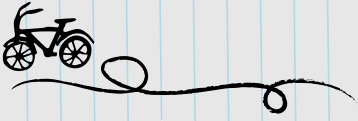


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Technology

- ★ Purchase additional classroom equipment for teachers and students
- ★ Maintain the district's 2013-16 Technology Plan
- ★ Funds used for technology will be repaid over a period of five years



Expanding classroom and program capacity

- ★ Purchase new property
- ★ Build new facilities, including a new elementary school and employee childcare center



Early Childhood Education

- ★ Build the fourth early childhood center in PISD
- ★ Expand pre-K education



Fine arts

More than **60 percent** of PISD secondary school students participate in fine arts programs. Parents and parent groups spend about **\$45,000** per year on rental space for student performances.

Allocated funds will be used to:

- ★ Find a suitable site and build a performing arts center that will be used by all PISD students
- ★ Increase classroom size
- ★ Improve available dance floors
- ★ Increase storage capacity
- ★ Make the available space in individual schools functional for fine arts activities

This list is not comprehensive.

Source: Plano ISD/Community Impact Newspaper

other community members expressed a need for a performing arts center in Plano complete with a stage, improved acoustics and ample seating space. About \$94 million would be allocated to the district's fine arts program, out of which about \$68 million will go to land acquisition and construction. The remaining \$26 million would be used to update fine arts facilities on individual school campuses.

About 18,000 secondary school students are involved in fine arts programs, Binggeli said. Some orchestra programs currently perform in gymnasiums in order to accommodate more people. Parent groups spend about \$45,000 a year in renting a facility outside of PISD venues for concerts.

"At least 70 times this year, one of our fine arts programs will actually need to rent a venue because more people will want to come watch them perform than we have the facility to hold them," he said.

Parents expressed another concern regarding technology upgrades in schools at the public hearing. The proposed bond package includes about \$73 million for improvements to PISD's wireless connectivity, and career and

technical education programs as well as to replace and purchase additional devices for staff and students.

"The first critical part of the technology part was to get us on a five-year replacement cycle," Binggeli said about investing periodically in updating technology.

If approved, this bond package would

"At least 70 times this year one of our fine arts programs will actually need to rent a venue..."

—Brian Binggeli, Plano ISD Superintendent

be rolled out over a five-year period. Some bonds will be sold within the first year while others will be sold later, Fortenberry said. For example, the bonds allocated for the fine arts center might be used after a site is acquired and the layout, architecture and construction plan is finalized, which would take more time. On the other hand, projects such as renovations and upgrades could begin within the next year, he said.

The \$9 million allocated toward

the replacement of 90 school buses would be spent over a five-year period to prevent them from reaching their 15-year life span all in the same year, according to the district. Portable classrooms will also be replaced with permanent classroom space.

Funds have also been allocated for the creation of a Special Education Transition Center. All three of Plano's senior high schools have a special education transition program for adults 18 to 22 years old who need to remain in the school system. Creating a consolidated center for these students would enable the district to improve special needs education and create additional space in the senior high schools.

"We can offer expanded opportunities and partner with different companies for life skills training and find job opportunities for these adults," Humphrey said.

Additional district projects

Initially, the bond task force recommended a bond package of \$524 million. In a Jan. 19 special called meeting, trustees decided to reduce the amount of additional debt by \$43 million.

In order to still fund what the

trustees saw as worthwhile projects while not adding to the existing bond debt, the district decided to allocate \$16 million in unissued bonds from the 2008 program and \$27 million from the surplus funds generated through the 2013 Tax Ratification Election to make up the \$43 million difference.

If the bond package of \$481 million is not approved, the \$43 million might be reallocated for other projects in order of importance.

A portion of the funds—\$16 million—will be allocated to replace the four portable buildings at Plano East Senior High School.

"We never sold the \$16 million of debt [from the 2008 bond package] so the taxpayers have never been paying interest on it. We generally sell the bond money when we need it. So this money just sat unsold," Fortenberry said. "The cost to replace the portables was roughly \$16 million, and so it matched pretty well."

The remaining \$27 million is expected to be spent on reroofing projects for district buildings.

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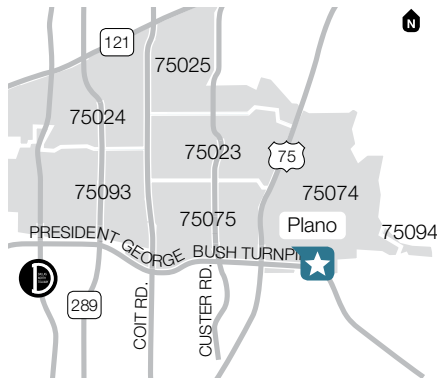
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Source: Market Data provided by Steve Haid of Collin County Association of Realtors, courtesy of North Texas Real Estate Information System. Property information courtesy of Grand Homes.



Market Pulse - March 2015

FROM THE PROS

SELLERS



Cheryl Webb, Keller Williams Realty

"The real estate climate of 2016 is looking to be one of the strongest in the foreseeable future to make a real estate move as home prices are up (actually about 50 percent in the past five to six years in our area). It is a great time to sell and is still a great time as a buyer, too, as prices are still going to be lower now than in upcoming years. Plus, interest rates are still at historic lows."

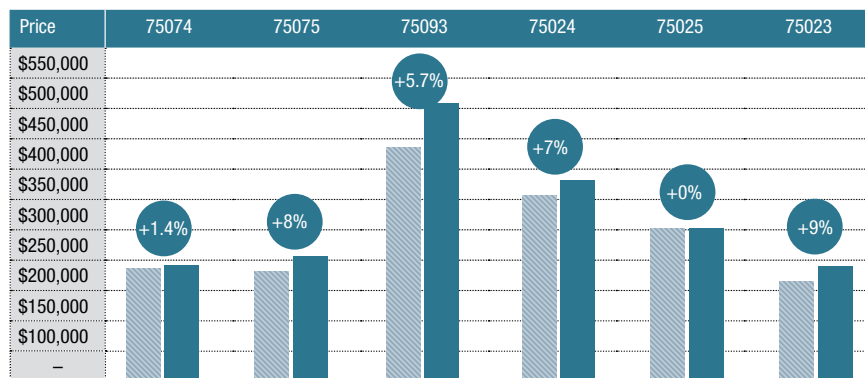
BUYERS



Terri McCoy, The Real McCoys

"Buyers in the \$300,000 range are oftentimes competing against a multitude of others submitting offers on the same property. If [a] buyer is in the position that he or she has extra funds available, we will also offer to pay over the appraised value up to the sales contract price. That gives the seller comfort knowing [the buyer] does not have to worry about the house appraising for the contract amount."

Median price of homes sold by ZIP code



FEATURED DEVELOPMENT

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Address: 704 Director Ave., Plano

Number of homes: 75

Square footage: 2,592-4,489

Price range: \$440,000s-\$560,000s

Completion date: May 2015

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Schools: Schell Elementary School, Otto Middle School, Williams High School, Plano East Senior High School

Photos Courtesy Grand Homes

Average days on the market



39

Average days on the market in Plano from listing date to closing date

Feb. new listings

2015 vs. 2016

Plano

313

338

Market Data comparison

Feb 2015

Feb 2016

Homes on the market

380



388

Homes under contract

251



270

Median sale price

\$272,013



\$289,450

Percent of original price received

98.6%



98.2%

Collin County

1,222

1,479

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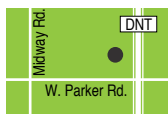
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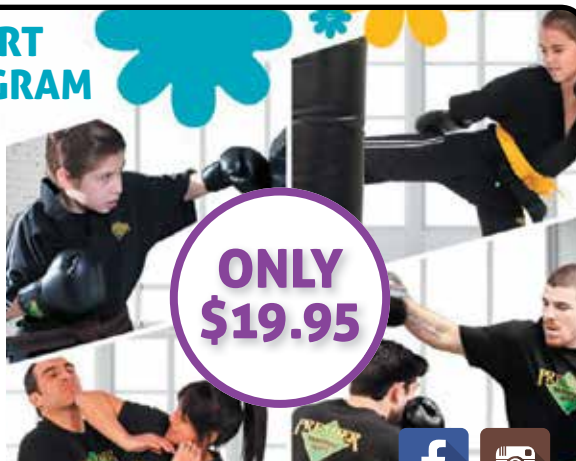
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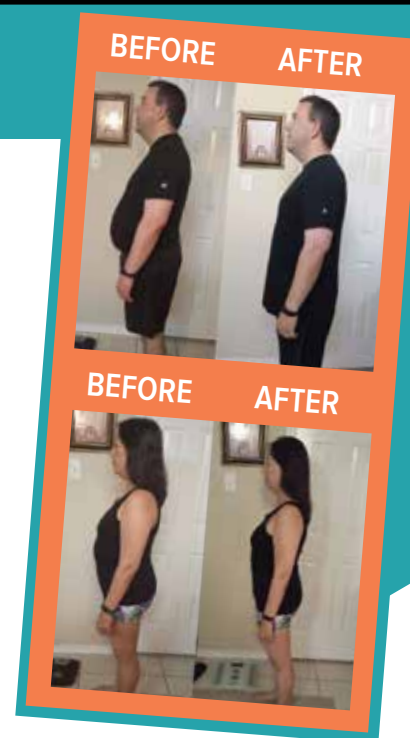


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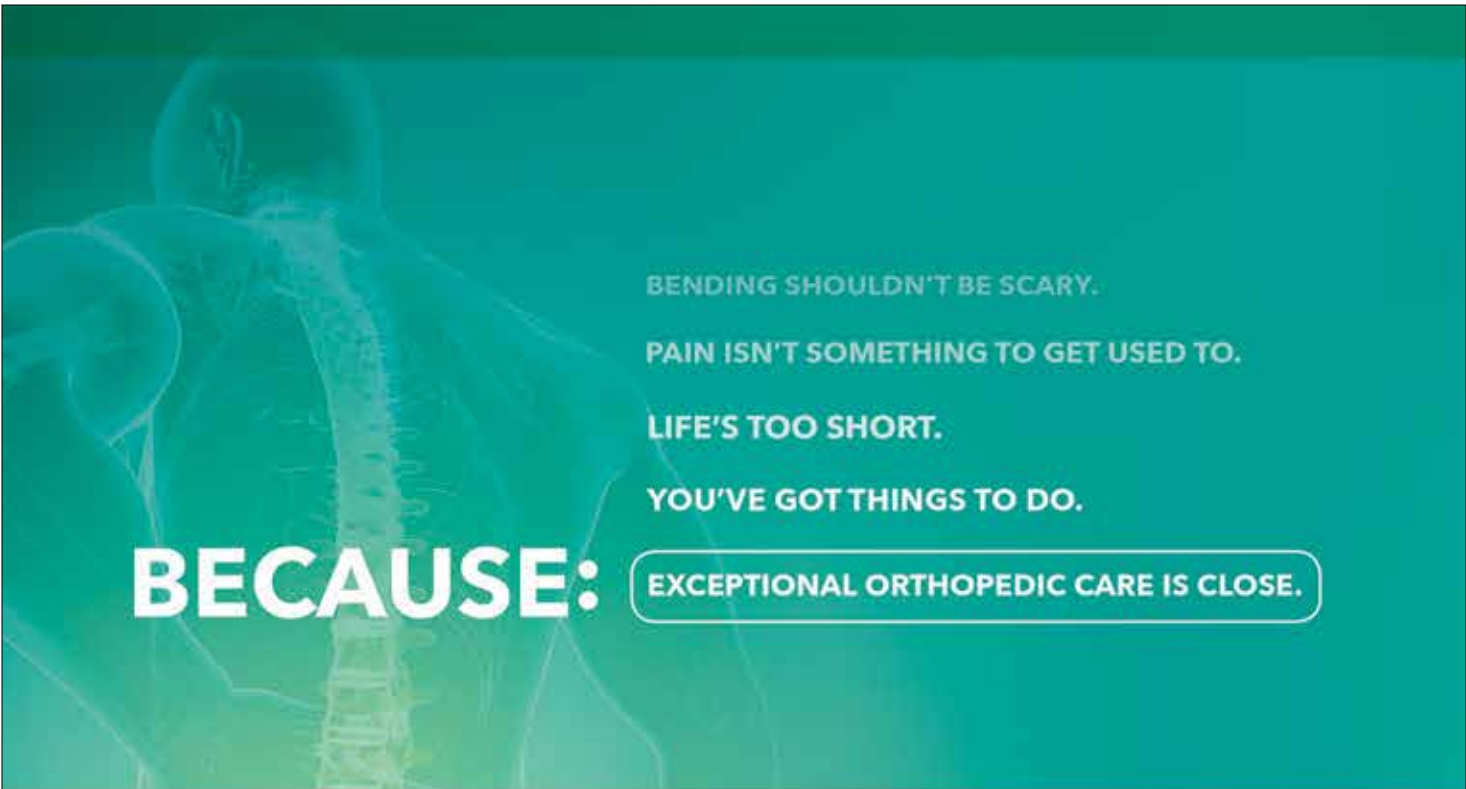
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