



Fall Weekly

Reader

Volume 137, Issue 197, December 3, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

DOWNTOWN (ZAR

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Dec 3rd

Jeannie Alpert -
"PISD Foundation"

Dec 10th

Rick Horne -
"RYLA Program"

Dec 17th

Jamee Jolly-AlValente -
"State of the Chamber"

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Vance Bryson	Dec 03
James Lowe	Dec 03
Earl Simpkins	Dec 03
Nathan Barbera	Dec 09
Johnny Lewis	Dec 10
Kenny Wilson	Dec 11
Jamee Jolly	Dec 13
Nancy Humphrey	Dec 19
Jim Cooper	Dec 23
Herber Hoxie, Sr.	Dec 23
Wanda Russell	Dec 29

FINALLY we made it to our assigned meeting room. **President Paperweight** assures us that the teething pains of our venue move will abate come January. Then *Plano Rotary* will be truly integrated into the *Gleneagles* calendar of events. We'll see.

Kelly opened the festivities at 12:12, appointing **Blair Ritchey** to Pray and **Howard Shapiro** to Pledge. **John Caldwell** and **Larry FLASH Flannery** were credited with Greeting.

President Elect **David McWhorter** stood in today for the AWOL **SERGEANT BARBERA**. David welcomed (back) Visiting Rotarian **Shawn Foster** (*Park Cities*) and a former member. Kelly Palm-



er welcomed domestic construction mogul, **Clay Curtis**, while **Olin Jaye** did the same for overseas (Hawaii) construction mogul, **Satia Faaifo**. **Janis Allman** introduced **Candace Fountoulaksi**, and **Jerry Aris** introduced **Michael Couture**.



Kelly read us the birthday list (to the left), and **CAPTAIN KIRK** played a video of the *West Virginia University* Marching Band playing a medley of Armed Services anthems while producing service icons in formation on the field, including animated tanks and submarines. This was in (late) honor of **VETERAN'S**

DAY, and **KIRK** asked anyone even associated with service members to rise as their theme played.



John Caldwell had a relative in the Coast Guard but hadn't realized they had an anthem! The Air Force was represented by a jet bomber with fire-extinguisher smoke for

exhaust. A fighter pilot, **KIRK** lamented that they'd chosen a bomber, but someone sought to console him with the thought that "it's blowin' smoke!" thus improving the verisimilitude with fighter pilots.

Earnest Mr. Wonderful Burke played **Vanna White** to **Camille Ussery's Pat Sajak** as she waxed eloquent on the matter of *Angel Tree*. She rattled off our Partners in the effort and repeated the tale of **SECRET SANTA Sulli-**



van breaking into tears hearing a child's request that he repair its broken family. Earnest referred to those as big "crocodile tears," not realizing that meant them insincere. Camille pointed to the sweat equity opportunities on the back of the

Weekly Reader and sought donations to raise the current \$500 to last year's **\$2,700** or more.

Since Dep. City Mgr. **Frank Turner** was still putzing with his *PowerPoint™*, Kelly promised him we'd stall for time. David McWhorter read us the list of recommended nominees while **FLASH** kept interrupting with "Move to approve by acclamation!" But the new rules of engagement required that we hold nominations open for anyone who wished to make them until De-



continued on page 2

cember 3rd, at which point the slate would be published to be voted upon at the meeting of December 17th. The new officers take the reins of power with the beginning of the Rotary year next July.

The Nomination Committee has recommended Pres. McWhorter, PE **Rick Horne**, Secty. **Larry Bisno**, Treas. **Jim Cooper**, among others. Olin Jaye wanted to nominate himself Past President. As if in compensation for that *faux pas*, he rose to introduce the speaker.

As Deputy City Manager, Frank is responsible for coordinating the City's development-related functions, including planning, building inspections, engineering, public works, transportation, community development, and property standards...in short, everything that makes **Bruce** look good. He is also responsible for coordinating downtown redevelopment projects based on transit-oriented and new urbanism design principles. Mr. Turner also has extensive experience representing the City of Plano on State legislative issues.

Mr. Turner is active in several professional associations. He is a member of the International City/County Management Association. He is a Past President of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association and a former board member of the Texas Municipal League. Mr. Turner is a charter member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is a member of the AICP College of Fellows. He is also a full-member of the Urban Land Institute and serves on the executive committee of the North Texas District Council. Frank is a former vice-chair of the Advisory Board of the Municipal Legal Studies Center of the Center for American and International Law and is a past president of the Greater Dallas Planning Council.

Mr. Turner has organized and participated in many educational programs for citizens, planning commissioners, elected officials, planning professionals and students. He is a frequent speaker at professional conferences and universities. Mr. Turner has also worked to promote joint training programs and special topic seminars among professional and municipal associations. Frank has actively represented the legislative interests of the Texas Chapter of APA, including supporting passage of comprehensive planning legislation in 1997. His work as a planner and his efforts in support of the planning profession have been recognized by numerous awards of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association and other organizations.

Mr. Turner earned a B.S. degree from *Lambuth University* and an M.A. degree from the *University of Memphis*. He joined the City of Plano in 1984 as Planning Director and was appointed Deputy City Manager in 1998.

Olin concluded his remarks with "While I haven't always agreed with Frank on downtown..." And Frank responded, "I couldn't imagine anyone disagreeing with Olin." Then he commented on our administrative recommendations, "You have more officers that we have Boards and Commissions!"

Frank asked for a show of hands of those who had migrated to Texas from Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, et al. He said his family migrated from KY then returned home (just ahead of the sheriff?). Frank was reluctant to lecture the Geriatric Club of Plano on the City's history since so many pioneer families are represented among its members.

In the 1840s, the Republic of Texas issued a land grant to the Peters' Colony, a business enterprise out of Louisville, which included NW Plano within its boundaries. (Former TN Governor **Sam Houston** gave an impassioned speech to Tennesseans that fired up migration from there and KY mostly. Source: *Plano, The Early Years*. [PTEY]) But Plano

took off as a result of the location of the *Houston & Texas Central Railroad* line through the area in 1883. What had been a sleepy farming community in the 1860s took off in the 1870s, morphed into a bedroom community in the 1960s, a business center in the 1980s, and had now matured into an urbanized and diverse city of the present day.

Early milestones included the Cotton Belt RR (1888) and the formation of a school district in 1881. The Great Plano Fire of 1897 destroyed most of historic downtown, a few buildings, like Schell Insurance, are original from that era, but most date from more recent times.

Frank's grandfather was born in Copeville, TX, in 1894. His family had moved from northern AL to work on the railroad, then returned to AL and migrated to KY.

Plano's population before the fire had been 1,500. But folks packed up and left the area to the 1,300 hardy souls here in 1900.

The *Texas Traction Company* (later the *Texas Electric Railway*) began operation in 1901 as an interurban electric railway through downtown Plano and eventually extending from Sherman to Waxahachie. Plano School District had separated from the City in 1899, and a mere four years later, the school building burned to the ground to be resurrected from the Cox Gym to become the brick Cox Building [PTEY]. Eventually PISD produced an auditorium on the site of the Courtyard Theater, which went up in 1928.

1945 was a bellwether year: Plano Rotary Club arose. Presumably coincidentally, the Interurban Railway closed in 1948. In 1950 PISD consolidated eight school districts was it, **Wayne** (superintendent beginning 1961)? It now expands over 100 sq. mi., more than the City itself.

But the critical juncture in the City's development was arrival of the North Central Expressway in 1957. While the population of Plano in 1960 was only 3,695, we lied and said it was 5,000, the minimum necessary for home rule. Five years later, bingo, a City Hall appeared in the current Tech. Services Bldg. But the lie was white since by 1970, we'd grown to 17,000 with the suburban boom.

But with the attraction of Central Expressway, businesses abandoned the historic downtown for the seductive West Plano. "*Downtown lost its vibrancy.*" (which means, literally, it doesn't jiggle.)

1979 Ross Perot opens Legacy

1981 Collin Creek Mauled opens

The only commerce remaining in downtown "was not complimentary to" the City, no offense, **Jamie!**

With the impetus of the 1986 Texas Sesquicentennial, Plano restored its brick streets and updated sidewalks and lighting. Businesses yawned. 1990, PISD moved west, and the City Council debated jumping ship, but, wisely in hindsight, decided against.

For downtown, the critical development was arrival of DART. In 1983, 15 cities taxed themselves for DART's sake. Plano's was a leap of faith since the line wouldn't extend here for several years. It took two elections to remain loyal to DART's vision. The panic in our voices may have prompted DART to accelerate the 2010 planned appearance forward to 2003 instead.



3.5 acres of downtown were acquired for the development in advance of DART's arrival. A platform was created adjacent to Haggard Park. Urban blight was eliminated under eminent domain. A public-private partnership was found for Eastside Village, eventually expanded to Eastside Village Two.

1,000 dwelling units were envisaged a five-minute walking distance from the station. We are at 750 now, 200 more are being built with more planned.

Politically, it was tough. City Councils come and go, but the plan remained strong. So far \$200M in infrastructure improvements have netted a tax base increase of \$250M. And downtown is vital once more, with shops and restaurants like the Shinola Store (in the old Arts Center) and Vickery Park. And the vision calls for continued growth along the DART corridor, creating places for people.

Culture is not forgotten. New galleries and venues like McCall Plaza are springing up. Plano is now an area of "*heightened regional importance*." And we've been cited as a "*Great American Neighborhood*" by the American Planning Association.

Frank argues that Plano "*is not built out!*" But rather it's redeveloping itself thanks to example of Downtown Plano.

Kelly noted that Frank's been with the City for 31 years and plans to retire on March 2nd on the dot. Then he'll have fewer papers to hold down with our **PERPETUAL PAPER-WEIGHT**, but Kelly gave him one anyway. Frank asked if it interferes with pacemakers.

Kelly welcomed Jo Via and her new hip back, and cautioned us not to show up on Thanksgiving. "*Why not?*" one member wondered aloud. He reminded us of the **Holiday Party** on the evening of 10 December at the **Haggard Party Barn**, but it doesn't take the place of our regular meeting *the same day*.

David Bowman touted a 2016 sweat equity vacation in Nicaragua, saying there are two trips planned a week apart. He advocated bringing "*3-generations of family*" to work.

Rick Maucieri offered a Citizen of the Month makeup, **Phil Dyer** praised Frank, Kelly led us in the 4-Way Test and belled up out at 1:02.



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Olin Jaye

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Please consider joining us with the support of your personal time or financial resources to help make the holidays brighter.

This year, we are partnering with Barron Elementary, Samaritan Inn and YMCA to provide a holiday meal, Walmart gift card and children's toys & necessities. Mr. & Mrs. Claus (aka Ean & Jan) will arrive to celebrate with the children which will put a smile on your face and a tear in your eye.

Shopping:
Thursday Dec 10th @ 7:30am; Walmart at 1700 Dallas Pkwy near Park Blvd.

Wrapping:
Tuesday Dec 15th @ 5:00pm to 6:30pm; BTH Bank at 1801 Preston Rd south of Park Blvd.

Party:
Saturday Dec 19th @ 2:00pm to 4:00pm; BTH Bank at 1801 Preston Rd south of Park Blvd.
(volunteer times may vary due to preparation and clean up)

Please email Camille.ussery@bthbank.com if you would like to volunteer your time.