

DOWN TOWN ^{by} DESIGN

November 2006

Issue 2

NEW FACADES IN TOWN

There are several unique new restaurants to choose from in downtown Hillsboro.

Paola's is a family-owned and operated Mexican restaurant located next to the Civic Center North Plaza at 180 E Main Street. Sisters Maribel Rodriguez and Aide Aguilar are very efficient and friendly wait staff while brother-in-law Osvaldo Lopez cooks all of the food. Paola's is working on improving the night life in downtown by staying open as an over-21 establishment every Friday and Saturday night from 8 pm to 2 am.



Hours: M-Th: 10 am – 7 pm, Fri: 10 am – 2 pm, 8 pm – 2 am, Saturday: 11 am – 5 pm, 8 pm – 2 am, closed Sunday

Phone: 503-640-6392

Price: \$3.99-\$11.25 with daily specials

Los Chapines Restaurant & Bakery specializes in Guatemalan cuisine and pastries. Harder to find, they are located on the Lincoln side of the Weil Arcade, down the alley from the Influence Art Gallery at 232 NE Lincoln St. Ste. M. Los Chapines offers catering and orders to go as well as a cozy dining room.



Business hours: M-F 10:00 am - 7:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

Phone: 503-640-8018

Price: Breakfast entrees are all \$3.99, other menu items are under \$8.99.

See Facades, Continued on page 3

HILLSBORO HOLLY DAYS

Mark your calendars for December 2, 2006 to join us downtown at the annual Hillsboro Holly Days celebration sponsored by the Hillsboro Downtown Business Association (HDBA). The day will be a festive, fun-filled holiday celebration featuring a caroling parade, Santa Claus, and finishing off with the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Start your day off with shopping in picturesque downtown Hillsboro which will be adorned with holiday decorations. Children can express their dearest holiday wishes to Santa Claus and his elves at Influence Art Gallery where Santa will make his list for this season's good little girls and boys. The cold and thirsty can stop off

for some free hot chocolate or hot coffee and goodies supplied by Sunrise Church. Also in the alcove in front of the Town Theater, complementary gift wrapping will be provided by Let's Play Toy Store and the HDBA. Take a break from shopping and enjoy a hayride. Throughout the day, carolers will be serenading shoppers.

Participating downtown merchants will have their store windows decorated to compete for best decorated store honors. Shoppers will choose the winner by casting ballots for their favorite. As an extra bonus, when a ballot is turned in, the voter will receive a coupon for a 10% discount for a purchase at any participating business.

At 4:45 pm, revelers will gather at the Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center to participate in the second annual Caroling Parade. At 5:00 they will follow Santa Claus and the Hillsboro Fire Department to the Civic Center North Plaza, caroling all the way. Please feel free to join in the fun. All singers are welcome.

Santa will join Mayor Tom Hughes in the Tree Lighting Ceremony, where the Holiday Tree that reigns over Main Street will be lit to shine over the city throughout the holiday season. Sunrise Church will provide free hot drinks and goodies in the plaza.

After the holidays are over, the tree will be taken to Jackson bottom to be used as habitat.

DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

The Cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton have secured an ODOT grant to study parking solutions in each city's downtown area. Both Downtown Parking Studies are underway with the help of a consultant team which is helping them to assess downtown parking needs and develop a downtown parking management plan. The study began in the summer when over 500 surveys were sent to



Hillsboro downtown businesses to gather information on the parking needs and attitudes of the owners, employees, and customers.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Downtown Parking Solutions Project has met twice since the study began. At the kick-off meeting in August, consultants from Parametrix and Rick Williams Consulting highlighted how better parking management can help

lower the cost for the public and private sector and create a more appealing downtown.

During the month of September, a detailed data collection process was undertaken. On September 19th, sixteen individuals monitored street and lot parking areas, collecting data for the study area extending roughly from SW Walnut to NW Lincoln and from SW Adams to SE 10th. The information is intended to show what percentage of the city's available parking is being utilized and whether there is a need for a change in time restricted parking spaces.

The consultant team presented initial findings to the advisory committee members and city staff at the meeting on October 26th. The consultants provided some of the parking data findings and some of the business survey results at that time, asking the group for ideas, feedback, and information in return. The committee is looking forward to meeting again in November to learn more about solving the community's parking issues.

TOWN THEATER UPDATE

The City of Hillsboro owns the vintage Town Theater and a small adjoining commercial structure, located on Main Street in the heart of downtown Hillsboro. The building has been vacant since the City acquired it in 1996. The City recently issued a Request for Expressions of Interest, seeking developer/operator teams who are interested in rehabilitating



the building as a theater or other entertainment venue which supports the City's efforts to revitalize downtown Hillsboro. If you are interested in this project, or know someone who might be, please contact John Southgate, Economic Development Manager, at (503) 681-6229, or johnso@ci.hillsboro.or.us.

Did you know? Washington County was originally named Tuality County.

COUNCIL, STATE ADOPT NEW TOOL FOR INVESTMENT

This past summer, the Hillsboro City Council adopted a resolution to form an Enterprise Zone in three areas of the city: the south industrial area, parts of the central business district, and the north industrial area. The State has since formally approved the zone. Enterprise Zones are intended to attract and retain private investment and jobs in areas needing economic assistance.

Eligible firms for the Enterprise Zone include manufacturers, processors, shippers, headquarters

and call centers. Benefits of the zone include a property tax abatement for any new improvements to the property for up to five years. Property tax for land and any existing improvement to a site are not included in the abatement. New improvements such as buildings and machinery/equipment may be exempt from property tax. To qualify, there must be a minimum new investment of \$1,000,000.

To learn more about the Enterprise Zone, contact Val Okada at (503) 681-6112.

Fun Fact: Hillsboro is the second largest city in fast-growing Washington County and the sixth largest in the state.

FACADES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Another dining alternative is the Hawaiian Grill restaurant, located on the northeast corner of Baseline and 1st Avenue. With a tempting array of Hawaiian

style foods, including teriyakis and the Hawaiian staple, plate lunch, the restaurant also offers a daily lunch special for just \$5.95.

Located at 386 S 1st Avenue off of Oak, Muchas Gracias is open 24 hours a day to serve tasty Mexican food to its customers from breakfast to dinner to midnight snack. The casual restaurant features a walk-up order style with a spacious dining room and a fresh salsa



bar. A special children's menu offers smaller portions for the young appetite.

Phone: 503-601-4116 or fax in orders at 503-601-4118

Price: all entrees are \$6.90 or under

The Copperstone Restaurant and Bar is planning to re-open soon. Although no opening date has been announced, the cuisine of choice will be southwestern cowboy style smoked meats and sandwiches. They will offer karaoke and line dancing at 264 E Main Street.

These restaurants are only a small sample of the diverse dining experience to be found in downtown Hillsboro. They join a others including Syun, Taco del Mar, Tengoku, Players, the Sports Look, CB Deli, Main Steet Teriyaki, the Hillsboro Pharmacy and Fountain, and McDonalds, to name a few.

DOWNTOWN RENAISSANCE

The purpose of the Renaissance project is to explore arts and culture as an avenue to stimulate downtown vitality and revitalization. The information gathering phase has been completed through stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and a community and an artist survey.

What did we learn?

- The community's shared vision for downtown Hillsboro is a more active place, with new evening and weekend activities, more restaurants, entertainment and other attractions.
- Hillsboro area residents are interested in the arts, and are already active arts / culture consumers – but not locally (yet).

The community survey results clearly suggest arts and culture could contribute significantly to energizing the downtown and Hillsboro citizens are eager to gather and connect through enhanced cultural activities. The next question is how the City, in partnership with downtown businesses and property owners, will make it happen.

Fortunately several ideas were suggested during the artist and creative services focus groups, as well as the artist survey. The ideas were than vetted by the project advisory committee and include:

- Development of affordable studio space & art galleries (currently in the works, please see artist solicitation below).
- Complementary business (restaurants, retail)

recruitment program.

- Artist resource center providing business & marketing assistance.

These are only a few of the ideas. The project consultant team is developing a work program to implement

these and other projects and programs. Watch for future articles or visit the downtown website (www.downtownhillsboro.org) to find out more about the *Downtown Renaissance* project.



An example of a gallery which could be imitated.

The City of Hillsboro is requesting applications from Washington County artists interested in affordable studio space and/or cooperative gallery membership in downtown Hillsboro.

The City is in the process of creating an art facility housing studios, a cooperative gallery and classroom space. Selected artists will assist the City in site selection, design and renovation.

For more information or to request an application packet, call or email Rene Heade at (503) 681-6468 or reneh@ci.hillsboro.or.us. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2006 to be considered. Space is limited.

KEEPING DOWNTOWN SAFE AND ENJOYABLE

The next time you come downtown to visit the shops on Main Street or use the Hillsboro Transit Center at 3rd & Washington, you may see a uniformed officer from Portland Patrol. The officers from Portland Patrol are not sworn officers, but they all have years of experience in law enforcement. The firm provides private security services to a number of clients. Earlier this year, the City of Hillsboro contracted with Portland Patrol to provide security services in the new Hillsboro City Hall and Civic Center Plaza. They have recently extended their “beat” to include the downtown retail district including the Transit Center.

Officers with Portland Patrol are assisting the Hillsboro Police Department to keep downtown safe. The downtown district has been revitalized by the Civic Center project and so we have to pay more attention to livability issues. The Portland Patrol, in collaboration with our local police, will be walking downtown streets, meeting business owners and customers, and keeping their eyes on any trouble that may arise. A few firm words from the officers are usually enough to keep trouble-causers away. Should a situation escalate, the Portland Patrol officers have direct radio access to the Hillsboro Police Department.

Next time you’re downtown, say hello to our friends from Portland Patrol.



HILLSBORO HOLIDAY TREE

There was one last large tree on Jay Kittams’ Christmas tree farm when he offered it to the City of Hillsboro to be used as the annual Hillsboro Holiday Tree. The blue spruce, which stands over 20 feet tall, will be placed in the North Plaza at the Hillsboro Civic Center and be lit for the season at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2, 2006 at 5:30 pm.



WHAT’S DOIN’ DOWNTOWN?

December

- 1 6:00 pm Hillsboro Rotary Club’s Christmas Dinner and Auction, Walters Cultural Arts Center, benefits local charities
- 2 10:00 am Hillsboro Holly Days
5:30 pm Hillsboro Holiday Tree Lighting, Civic Center Plaza
- 7:00 pm New local artist Eileen S. Kane water-color show at Artfull Garden. Catered event, live music. 6 8:00 pm The Bills in concert, Cultural Arts Center, tickets \$15 / \$17 Day of Show
- 8 8:00 pm John Nilsen Trio concert, Cultural Arts Center, tickets \$15 / \$17 Day of Show

January

- 2 6:00 pm First Tuesday Art Event, Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center and Influence Art Gallery

HART PRODUCTIONS

Hillsboro Artist’s Regional Theatre (HART) winter Productions are held in the Civic Center Auditorium at 150 E Main Street. Showtimes: Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 2:00 pm.

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Senior, \$8 Youth
For **reservations** call: 503-693-7815

ORPHAN TRAIN December 1 - 17, 2006

Based on Historical WWII events, this heartwarming musical production is perfect holiday entertainment for the entire family. A stranded train



of children bound for the English countryside is the setting for this evening. The bewildered kids find that holiday love, hope and happiness transcend political involvement. Highly recommended (rated G-family).

PLAZA SUITE January 12 – 28, 2006

This laugh-a-minute Neil Simon farce is an evening of extraordinary one-act plays all set in New York’s famous Plaza Hotel. The antics of a has-been Hollywood playboy, a frustrated middle-aged married couple and a terrified bride locked in the bathroom will keep you laughing all evening. (PG)