DFW hospital systems find room to grow in Southlake

Northeast Tarrant County attracts pediatric health centers

By Rachel Slade

After sitting empty for months, a large former shoe store at the corner of Southlake Boulevard and Nolen Drive is once again seeing a lot of foot traffic.

April 1, after months of renovations, a new Cook Children’s facility opened in the nearly 32,000-square-foot space and became the first urgent care and pediatric specialties center in the city. But by this time next week, area residents will have a second option for their pediatric care.

“We’re really excited as an organization to come up there,” said Trent Smith, senior vice president of network development for Children’s Medical Center. “We’ve been very well received, we’re excited about the Children’s Medical Center. “We’ve been the nearly 32,000-square-foot space and real have been for many years,” Last said. “Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southlake was one of the large catalysts for the area years ago... and we continue to see medical service growth in primary care as well as elective care and pediatric care.”

The city’s location, its proximity to Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine and its white-collar labor force make it a prime target for the medical industry, and we continue to see medical service growth in primary care as well as elective care and pediatric care.

White-coat industry

Southlake’s medical industry growth, like much of its retail and dining growth, has occurred in just the past couple of decades. Southlake Economic Development Director Greg Last joked that the city was not cold-calling doctors to see if they were interested in moving to Southlake; the growth was simply a product of the environment that the city has created since its residential boom in the ‘90s. “I think we’re really a strong cluster for medical services and really have been for many years,” Last said. “Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southlake was one of the large catalysts for the area years ago... and we continue to see medical service growth in primary care as well as elective care and pediatric care.”

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Market Publisher's Note

Driving around this area is really inspiring to me, especially now that the trees and flowers are in full bloom. Originally from a city that has grown to be somewhat of a “concrete jungle,” I really appreciate that Grapevine, Colleyville and Southlake have taken a mindful step in keeping the true integrity of this beautiful land we are so lucky to live in.

I know my daughter is thankful for all the parks the cities have to offer. Summer is her favorite time of year, but if your child is anything like mine, soon you will be hearing, “I’m bored!” and you will be looking for different things to do. Our park guide on Page 18 provides information about many of the parks in the area, including the amenities each park offers. This type of guide is something you can look forward to getting from us throughout the year. Look for our education and health care guides this fall. If there is a guide you would like to see, let us know.

With the rapid growth that this part of Northeast Tarrant County is seeing, all three cities have reconstruction of major throughways high on their priority lists. Grapevine and Colleyville will soon see real progress on Highway 26. This expansion will help make the commute through the cities more efficient and safe, and hopefully be great for business. Southlake is also giving Southlake Boulevard a facelift and making the center turn lanes safer. We will keep you updated on each of the projects as they develop. Feel free to drop us a line with any questions and drive safe.

—Nicole Johnson
njohnson@impactnews.com

Reader Feedback

Mad Duck Cyclery

more.impactnews.com/12639

“Great article about Mad Duck Cyclery in the Community Impact Newspaper. A few years ago, Clarence Muller built a bike for me to pull my kids in a trailer, and he and I recently served on the Citizens for a Better Grapevine political action committee promoting Grapevine’s Crime Control Prevention District. Your article was very in tune with Clarence’s personality and passions, and gave a good idea of how Mad Duck is a great place to stop in to talk shop about cycling or how to make our area a better place to recreate or navigate.”

—Cory Halliburton

Construction ramps up on DFW Connector project

more.impactnews.com/12023

“Just found your first edition in my mailbox. Love the format, love the “information dense” design. Terrific DFW Connector map, too. I’m looking forward to more. Good start!”

—Richard Posey

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April employment trends

Dallas/Fort Worth unemployment—7.7%*
Down from 8.1% in March
State unemployment—7.7%*
Down from 8.1% in March
National unemployment—9%*
Up from 8.8% in March

In the Dallas/Fort Worth area, education and health services added 7,100 jobs; leisure and hospitality; 6,400 jobs; trade, transportation and utilities, 5,000 jobs; professional and business services, 4,400 jobs; financial activities, 3,500 jobs; manufacturing, 600 jobs; other services, 600 jobs; mining, logging and construction, 300 jobs.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas Workforce Commission
*Seasonally adjusted numbers
Coming Soon

6 After making improvements to the former Peter’s Pizzeria at 5003 Colleyville Blvd., catering company Y2Kitchen will open NEXT Wood-fired Bistro & Vino by early August. It will feature Italian, French, Spanish and Tex-Mex food, and Y2Kitchen will remain available for catering and gourmet gifts. 682-325-4046, www.y2kitchen.com

7 Sephora, a national chain that offers high-end cosmetics, skincare, hair products and fragrances, opens later this month at 312 W. Grand Avenue in Southlake Town Square. www.sephora.com

8 Moving into The Sharper Image’s old space, Sushi Zushi will soon bring its extensive menu of more than 200 items to Southlake Town Square. The restaurant is expected to open at 1420 E. Southlake Blvd. in August. www.sushizushi.com

9 Winewood, an upscale American restaurant going up at 1265 S. Main St. in Grapevine, is set to open in July. 214-233-8563, www.thewinewoodgrill.com

10 Bag ‘n Baggage plans to open a new storefront at Southlake Town Square’s 128 State St. in July. www.coloradobaggage.com

11 The Southlake Corners shopping center will soon be home to Toys R Us and Babies R Us. The stores are set to open at 250 N. Kimball Ave. in August. www.toysrus.com, www.babiesrus.com

12 Mi Dia, a restaurant serving Mexican food with a Santa Fe twist, is expected to open in August at 1295 S. Main St. in Grapevine. 817-421-4747, www.midiafromscratch.com

13 Patina Floor Design Store is expected to open at 1251 E. Southlake Blvd., Ste. 315
Two new restaurants, Winewood Grill and Mia Dia, will open near sister properties Fireside Pies and Bob’s Steak & Chop House this summer.

Owner Felicia Gatlin shows off Batteries Plus’ new selection of lightbulbs, from the typical fluorescents to specialty bulbs.

Chicago transplants Frank and Al Useni moved to Colleyville three months ago to open Village Cafe, a classic American diner serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, at 5150 Colleyville Blvd.

Batteries Plus, at 2757 E. Southlake Blvd., Ste. A-120, now offers thousands of light bulbs to complement its batteries and battery-related products. Inventory will include normal bulbs such as for recessed lighting, flashlights and track lighting as well as hard-to-find bulbs for items like cars, healthcare equipment and aquariums.

817-488-6880, www.batteriesplus.com

New Ownership

Jagjitpal Singh is the new owner of Copy & Ship HQ located at 3930 Glade Road, Ste. 108 in Colleyville. Copy & Ship produces a variety of print materials, including business cards, fliers and T-shirts. 817-868-7447

B&B Theatres announced in late May that it had taken over management of the Colleyville Cinema+Grille with IMAX in Colleyville. The dine-in theater is located at 5655 Colleyville Blvd. 817-656-4600, www.bbt theatres.com

Foot Heaven, 4209 Colleyville Blvd., Ste. C in Colleyville, is now owned by Lianjun Cao. Foot Heaven provides massage therapy, reflexology and acupressure treatments. 817-576-2395

In the News

i5 web works, a Southlake-based website development and Internet marketing company, was named Small Business of the Year by the Southlake Chamber of Commerce. 888-893-7519, www.i5ww.com

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June

17–18 “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”
Texas Family Musicals presents three performances of the classic tale of Joseph at The Palace Theater. • June 17, 7:30 p.m.; June 18, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. • Ticket prices vary according to showtimes: $28–$35 adults, $14–$17.50 children and $27–$34 seniors • The Palace Theatre, 300 S. Main St., Grapevine 817-410-3100 • www.grapevinetexasusa.com

18–19 Family Campout
Adventure Team Outreach hosts a weekend of fishing, archery, target shooting, kayaking, outdoor games, food and campfire fun. Event includes dinner and s’mores Saturday and breakfast Sunday morning. • 3 p.m. June 18–noon June 19 • Meadowmere Park, 3000 Meadowmere Park in Grapevine • $35 adults, $25 kids (3 and older) and $11 per campsite 972-741-9169 • www.adventuredaycamps.com

July

1 “Jaws”
The Palace hosts a screening of the terrifying 1975 film spotlighting the rage of a giant white shark. Bring in a same-day receipt from any Grapevine business or restaurant and get free popcorn. • 7:30 p.m.; • Fair Park, 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. • 214-670-8400 • www.tasteofdallas.org

8–10 Taste of Dallas
The area’s top chefs, most popular restaurants, and artists and musicians celebrate the 25th anniversary of Taste of Dallas at Fair Park. Event features more than 150,000 square feet of booths offering food and drink samples, art, gifts and specialty foods for sale, cooking demonstrations and children’s activities. No pets allowed. Parking available at fairgrounds for $12 and the DART Green Line stops at the festival. Proceeds benefit the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. • July 8, 4–11 p.m.; July 9, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; July 10, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. • $8 adults, free, children (12 and under); • Fair Park, 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. • 214-670-8400 • www.tasteofdallas.org

18-26 Wellness Expo
Holistic Networker hosts a wellness expo featuring more than 70 exhibit booths. Event offers health exams, live blood cell analysis, hands-on demonstrations, nutritional products and more. • 11 a.m.–6 p.m. daily • Adult admission $7 or $10 for the weekend, free to seniors and children (12 and under) • Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine 972-441-4697 • www.holisticnetworker.com/expo

19 Showcase in the Square
The APEX Arts League hosts a Father’s Day drum and bugle corps performance featuring San Antonio-based The Crossmen. Event offers performances by Open Class Texas Drum Corps, including The Vigilantes, Forte and Frontier. • 6–8:30 p.m. • Free, but donations will benefit APEX and the participating corps • Rustin Family Park, in front of Southlake City Hall at 1400 Main St. • www.apexartsleague.org

25 Southlake Disposal Day
The City of Southlake, Fort Worth Environmental and Brinks Document Destruction offer hazardous waste disposal and paper-shredding services to residents. Participants must bring a current water bill or driver’s license as proof of residency. 9–11 a.m. or until full • Free • Public Works Operations Center, 1950 E. Continental Blvd. • www.cityofsouthlake.com

25–26 Wellness Expo
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3 Stars & Stripes
The City of Southlake and Southlake Town Square host a special 4th of July experience featuring tastings of three varieties from each winery and complimentary food. Participating businesses include Cross Timbers Winery, D’Vine Wine, Farina’s Winery, Homestead Winery, La Bodega Winery, La Buena Vida Vineyards and Su Vino Winery. • 11 a.m.–5 p.m. • $45 • www.grapevinewinetrail.com

Fort Worth’s Fourth
After a morning of July 4th children’s activities at the Fort Worth Stockyards, head over to the Trinity River bank behind LaGrave Field on North Main Street for festivities and fireworks. Event includes live music, family activities, concessions, free watermelon and water, jet ski shows, tubing on the Trinity River (tubes provided) and the Rock the Fourth Battle of the Bands. Fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. • Free admission, parking available at LaGrave Field for $5. • LaGrave Field, 301 N. Sixth St., Fort Worth • www.fortworth.com

Fair Park Fourth
Enjoy the dancing waters of the Esplanade Fountain, concessions, games and live entertainment at Dallas’ Fair Park starting at 6:30 p.m. Fireworks kick off at 9:30 p.m. • Free admission • 4:30–10 p.m. • Fair Park, 200 S. Second Ave., Dallas • www.fairpark.org
City buys historic home
Colleyville makes plans for Bidault House

By Rachel Slade

Following a recommendation from its Historical Preservation Committee, the City of Colleyville added a new facility to its holdings this spring. City Council members voted in May to purchase the historic Bidault House, a one-story home that is one of only a few remaining historic homes within city limits and the only one affixed with a Texas historical marker.

“My feeling was if the city didn’t get it and somebody else bought it, they might tear it down,” said Louis Miller, a committee member and resident for nearly 38 years. “That home is probably the best example of the early era of Colleyville that’s left.”

The Bidault House, at 1416 Glade Road, received its landmark status from the Texas Historical Commission in 1980. Designed and built by French native Anthelm Bidault, the home’s construction ran from 1905 to 11. Concrete blocks make up the house, and in its prime it was surrounded by orchards, berry fields and a vineyard.

The home’s last occupant, former Colleyville City Councilman Jim Moore, was a descendant of Bidault. But upon Moore’s death last year, the family put the house on the market — and caught the attention of the Colleyville Historical Preservation Committee.

With the council members’ vote this spring, the city purchased the Bidault home with $290,000 from the city’s Tomorrow Fund, which was established with the money Colleyville received when it signed mineral rights leases for city properties.

Now officials are working out what to do with it. The committee has already begun studying options for the home, and city spokeswoman Mona Gandy says there are three steps to be taken. First, the committee will spearhead a community cleanup of the home’s grounds. Members also hope to hire an expert consultant in July to assist them in planning for the home’s renovation and future use. Finally, Gandy said, the committee will take its recommendations before council for approval before reaching out to the community as part of what will likely be a “significant” fundraising effort.

“We will work to make sure that we preserve the integrity of the home from a historical standpoint, but we will also work with it in a way that makes it accessible to the general public,” Gandy said.

This is the second time Colleyville has purchased an historic home. It bought the Webb House at 405 Shelton Drive in 1979. After $240,000 in renovations, the home was dedicated in 2002 and is now rented out for private functions and opened for public events and tours.

Anthelm Bidault (1862-1951)

Born in 1862, Anthelm Bidault was once described as a dynamic and impatient man who believed anybody could do anything by reading what the experts had to say and applying common sense. He was the son of a cement and concrete master worker and, like many Europeans in the 19th century, he sought riches in America. He immigrated to New York City in the early 1880s and took a job as a dishwasher to learn English before returning to France, marrying Jeanne du Rhone and bringing her to America with him in 1885. The Bidaults and their family (10 children between 1887 and 1910) moved from New York to Alabama to Texas to California in search of the perfect home before finally settling in Fort Worth. Bidault toured Tarrant County farms by bicycle, and in 1897 he bought his 58-acre plot in what is now Colleyville for $500. The family lived in a two-room log cabin on the property while building their concrete home, and, after a few early years of hardship, worked the farm reputed to be fit for nothing but hard work and starvation into one of the most bountiful in the county.

Source: Colleyville: 1855–1956
TEX Rail project on track
Grapevine leaders begin rail station brainstorming
By Rachel Slade

It has been more than four years since Grapevine voters approved a sales tax increase dedicated to bringing a commuter rail to downtown. Now officials say the next few weeks will be crucial in getting the project out of the station.

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority expects to finish submitting its application for a federal New Start grant by the beginning of August. The commuter rail company is seeking $300 million, which will cover half of the anticipated cost of TEX Rail, a southwest-to-northeast rail corridor across Tarrant County stretching from southwest Fort Worth to Grapevine and the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

“We’re all very excited about the project and we do think it’s going to be a highly rated project,” said Dick Ruddell, president and executive director of The T. “We’re projecting 18,000 riders a day, which is really encouraging, and the continued growth in Tarrant County and its congestion should help with the application.”

Grapevine gears up

While The T handles plans on its end, City Manager Bruno Rumbelow said, Grapevine has some decisions of its own to make.

City officials began discussing dreams of a rail line in 2005, and in November 2006 more than 70 percent of voters approved a half-cent increase in the city sales tax, 3/8ths of which goes directly to The T on a monthly basis and 1/8th of which is saved in a city fund to help pay for an eventual downtown station. Grapevine’s participation in the project is indispensable, Ruddell said, but city officials are just as excited to see the rail come to fruition.

“Visitors are our lifeblood, so connectivity and better access is hugely important for us on an ongoing basis. From an air quality standpoint there are a lot of green benefits that excite a lot of people in town, and from an employment standpoint it is very important,” Rumbelow said. “We’re going to show, with this project, that commuter rail makes a lot of sense for the Metroplex.”

In early 2007 the city signed a 50-year commuter rail agreement with The T, and in early 2010 it used $1.4 million of the allocated sales tax revenue to purchase a four-acre station site at the northeast corner of Dallas Road and Main Street.

Now city council members need to decide whether to craft zoning regulations for the area surrounding the rail station property as well as whether the city should invest in more land in the area. Those decisions could take years, but staff members plan to organize public meetings this summer to allow residents to voice their opinions on another important matter: station design.

More, better, different

The T will pay for the most basic of station elements and up to half of the upgraded design that City Council members settle on, Rumbelow said.

In early May council members received a crash course in station options. A presentation of designs from around the country showed off the simplest of platforms paired with coffee shops to the grandest of stations complete with offices, retail and even higher education facilities.

During that meeting, council members seemed to lean toward a two-story design, perhaps with an open plaza out front for community events. They also focused on parking, questioning whether to take advantage of the space by building a garage to service both the station and surrounding historic downtown. Now they want feedback from the community.

“The station, what it is used for and the architectural design, will be heavily influenced by Grapevine,” Rumbelow said. “We want more, we want better, we want different.”

While public discussions will begin this summer, the city has plenty of time to decide. Ruddell said his team is working as quickly as possible, but he warned that large transportation projects take time.

The T is still negotiating with Dallas Area Rapid Transit to build its tracks in the Cotton Belt Rail Line’s right of way, and it could be early 2013 before the Federal Transit Administration gives its official green light in the form of a full funding grant agreement.

If the project is approved, Ruddell said, it will take an additional two years to build.

“Once you get that approval, you can start building right away,” he said. “We will finish the design, and then we’re looking at new tracks, new signaling. We’ll need to build the platforms, stations, bridges. We expect it to be at service by the end of 2015.”

For more information about TEX Rail, visit www.texrail.com.
Workers with Jagoe-Public Company, the Texas Department of Transportation contractor completing the deceleration lanes and median project on FM 1709, continued their move east at the end of May to begin work on the medians from Diamond Boulevard/Byron Nelson Parkway to Carroll Avenue.

Lane closures along Southlake Boulevard will be set from about 700 feet west of Byron Nelson Parkway to about 700 feet east of Carroll Avenue.

Construction of the medians from Waterford Drive/Southridge Lakes Parkway to about 700 feet east of Carroll Avenue will be completed after the deceleration lanes at Stone Lakes Drive, Timber Lake Place and Lake Crest Drive are finished.

**North Kimball Avenue**

**Phase I of expansion nears completion**

The City of Southlake is working to complete Phase I of the North Kimball Avenue expansion before the start of the 2011-12 school year. The improvements’ first phase includes the segment from Hwy. 114 to just north of the Kirkwood Boulevard intersection.

Workers will be adjusting underground utilities, installing storm drainage systems and sidewalks, replacing water and sewer facilities, and widening Kimball from a two-lane asphalt road to a four-lane concrete road with a divided center median. Officials say they want to have the first phase, which kicked off in December, finished by the start of the school year to minimize traffic congestion around Carroll ISD’s new middle school and the Gateway Church campus.

Throughout the project, city officials said, workers will maintain two lanes of traffic (one in each direction) and continuous access to all existing driveways. The city started work on the project’s second phase, which runs from Kirkwood Boulevard to Dove Road, this spring. Plans show Phase II construction wrapping up in early 2012.

City officials said motorists should also expect daily lane closures to continue between Pearson Lane and Peytonville Avenue until irrigation, stamped concrete and plantings are completed.

The Southlake Boulevard/FM 1709 project that kicked off in Keller and moved to Southlake in November 2010 is still on track for completion by fall of this year, weather permitting.

When the project is finished, raised medians will stretch from the Southlake/Keller border to Nolen Drive, right-turn deceleration lanes will be installed at 14 of the city’s most-used streets and sidewalks will be constructed along the length of each deceleration lane between Pearson Lane and Commerce Street.

City officials said the configuration with the medians will also increase traffic safety. It makes driving motions more predictable, and hence it makes them safer.

**Changing revenue sources**

The City of Grapevine was originally planning to pay for a significant portion of the project, Hodge said. Other funding was coming in from the county, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the state. Last July, though, the city received an exciting phone call.

“TxDOT called me and said they need a project that was ready for stimulus money,” Hodge said.

Now money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is covering the entire Grapevine section of the project, which amounts to about $11.9 million, Lopez said.

Though Grapevine is not paying to build the road, Dyer said the city moved some of its utilities in preparation for the project and will likely pay for landscaping and street lighting once work is complete. Grapevine Public Works will also stay busy working with businesses along the affected strip, keeping them informed and serving as liaisons between them and TxDOT, and will adjust the traffic signals as needed to keep motorists moving.

**History of congestion**

Area officials have been hoping to expand Hwy. 26 since the late ’90s, Hodge said. Congestion had already begun and transportation leaders knew it would eventually need to tie in to inevitable improvements to the other major highways passing through Grapevine. Soon after the communities made Hwy. 26 a priority, TxDOT began seriously considering improvements, Lopez said.

“Northeast Tarrant is a quickly growing part of Texas,” he said. “There is a tremendous amount of need for additional traffic capacity in that region, and this will help.”

The better the highway system, the better the economic viability of a city, Hodge said. For that reason, improving the city’s highways has been a city council priority for years.

“We recognized here years ago that unless we did something with all the traffic coming through Grapevine, we would get to a point where we would start losing businesses because of the traffic congestion,” Hodge said.

Hwy. 114 and Hwy. 121, now under construction as part of the $1.02 billion DFW Connector project, were obvious priorities because of the way they cut through town. But without Hwy. 26 in the mix, he said, improvements to the other highways would not be nearly as effective.

“We want to remove the bottlenecks,” Hodge said. “Without this, even if we had the Connector finished, we would have traffic backed up onto it because you’d just have people entering a bottleneck.”

**Handing off to Colleyville**

With stimulus funds paying for Grapevine’s portion of the highway expansion, money previously dedicated by the county, state and COG’s Regional Transportation Council has found a new purpose: extending the project. City spokeswoman Mona Gandy said Colleyville has been dreaming of significant improvements to Hwy. 26, one its most vital roads, for decades.

“It is our primary commercial corridor, so in terms of development and economic development, it is at the heart of that program,” she said. “We’ve been on the TxDOT list since 1999 and it had been on our docket as a priority well before we made it onto TxDOT’s list.”

Earlier this spring the city approved a memorandum of understanding with the county, COG and state to fund the reconstruction of Hwy. 26 — or Colleyville Boulevard — from the Brumlow/Pool intersection to 1,000 feet south of John McCain Road. It will cost $11.08 million, Hodge said. Colleyville’s portion is just more than $5 million. In exchange for the city’s contribution, TxDOT, the county and COG’s Regional Transportation Council has found a new source of funding for Hwy. 26, one its most vital roads, for decades.

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Colleyville

Police Chief Dye accepts Grand Prairie post

Colleyville Police Chief Steve Dye officially announced his resignation June 3. He has accepted an offer to become the police chief in Grand Prairie and will leave Colleyville in July. During Dye’s nearly two-year tenure, the city forged a partnership with Southlake and Keller to establish a tri-city 911 emergency communications center and jail operation, joined the regional Major Case Investigative Team and the Northeast Tarrant S.W.A.T. team, established a program geared toward improving access to senior citizens during emergencies, created a secure medicine disposal system for Colleyville residents and businesses, and toughened the city’s solicitation ordinance to better regulate door-to-door sales and promotions in Colleyville neighborhoods.

SGR Executive Search, which helped recruit Dye to Colleyville, will work with the city to recruit its next chief.

Main Street Days 2011 crowds break attendance record

Attendance at this year’s Grapevine Main Street Days Festival set a new record, city officials announced in May. With a final count showing that 160,990 people attended the 27th annual three-day event, this year’s pizza-themed festival attracted 46 percent more visitors than last year’s and blasted past the previous record — of 135,650 — set in 2008.

Grapevine

Grapevine approves $750,000 incentive agreement with EatZi’s

EatZi’s Market and Bakery, a Dallas favorite for gourmet-to-go foods and boutique groceries for the past 15 years, is headed to Grapevine.

City Council members and the city’s 4B Economic Development Board recently approved a $750,000 economic incentive package for the company, which plans to open a flagship store in Grapevine within a year and a second, smaller location within three.

EatZi’s offers an array of specialty foods as well as salad and sandwich stations, a full bakery, coffee bar and small on-site restaurant.

The company will build its flagship on the northwest corner of William D. Tate Avenue and Hwy. 114, renovating the old Lubly’s building that has sat vacant for about a year and a half.

The address of a second, satellite location has not yet been determined, but council members say it is being tentatively planned for the northeast area of the city near Grapevine Mills mall.

The $750,000 in incentives, offered because of the existing building’s renovation challenges and the ongoing challenges created by work on the DFW Connector, will be doled out in phases based on EatZi’s meeting construction deadlines and sales goals, City Manager Bruno Rumbelow said. For more information, visit www.eatzis.com.

Southlake

Southlake business listing gets a makeover

The Southlake Department of Economic Development & Tourism recently completed a number of improvements to its business listing at www.southlakebusinesses.com.

Director Greg Last said the updates were made as the department migrated its extensive database over to the city’s new website platform.

The most important of the changes offers several new ways to search for a business, including by name, industry and keyword.

Other upgrades include:
- Significantly faster speed accessing the Web and querying for Southlake businesses
- Results providing contact information to businesses
- A “map it” function that uses Google Maps to plot business locations
- Restaurant listings that include menu links
- Amenities listing

Southlake businesses can also now add or update their listing online to include logos, pictures, menus and more, Last said.

Including home-based businesses, there are more than 1,600 businesses listed in the regularly updated department database.

City earns AAA bond ratings from two agencies

Fitch Ratings upgraded the City of Southlake to an AAA bond rating in May. According to its report, the upgrade reflects “management’s evidenced ability to maintain its historically high level of financial flexibility, characterized by regular operating surpluses and high fund balance levels.”

City Manager Shana Yelvertson said reaching the company’s highest rating had been a city goal for years. The city also was rated AAA by Standard and Poor’s, a confirmation of last year’s rating. Thanks to the high ratings, Southlake will have an easier time receiving funding for new projects and should be able to refinance current debts at lower interest rates.

Tarrant County

Wright takes over as tax assessor-collector

Newly appointed Tarrant County Tax assessor-collector Ron Wright was sworn in May 24.

“It is a great honor to be selected to serve the people of Tarrant County,” Wright said. “It’s a big job: a staff of 184 people over eight offices handling more than $3 billion per year for 63 taxing agencies in the county. I’m delighted.”

The Arlington resident, selected during a Commissioners Court meeting earlier in the month, sat on the Arlington City Council for eight years, including serving as mayor pro tem from 2004-08. Prior to his appointment with the county, he was U.S. Congressman Joe Barton’s chief of staff. Wright replaces Betsy Price, who resigned in February when she announced her candidacy in the Fort Worth mayor’s race. His term expires in December 2012.

Meetings

- Colleyville City Council
  100 Main St., Colleyville
  817-503-1000
  July 5 and 19, 7:30 p.m.
  Meetings broadcast live on city cable channel 16. Replays air at 6 p.m. on the Thursdays and Sundays of meeting weeks. www.colleyville.com.

- Grapevine City Council
  250 S. Main St., Grapevine
  817-410-3000
  July 5 and 19, 7:30 p.m.
  Audio recordings available on the city’s website by noon the following day. www.grapevinetexas.gov

- Southlake City Council
  1400 Main St., Southlake
  817-748-8400
  July 5 and 19, 5:30 p.m.
  Public work sessions begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by a private executive session and public forum. Forum times vary. Meetings are broadcast live on city cable channels 27 and 34. Live streams and recordings also available on the city’s website. www.ci.southlake.tx.us

- Tarrant County Commissioners Court
  100 E. Weatherford St., Fort Worth
  817-884-1111, www.tarrantcounty.com
  Meetings are Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Last said.
He added that Southlake particularly makes sense as a destination for pediatric specialists.
“Our general populous is fairly young and we are very much a family-oriented demographic — lots of kids,” he said. “We’ve been one of the highest per capita households in Texas, with the most kids per household, for years.”

Follow the children
Though the Southlake facilities are opening just months apart, hospital officials say plans have been in the works for years.
“When we locate a facility, we’re not just looking at where a part of the region is today, we’re looking longterm — where is the greatest need for these services?” Smith said. “Certainly that area has grown dramatically and is projected to continue to grow dramatically.”

Officials with Fort Worth-based Cook Children’s say they had been considering a facility in Southlake for some time, and the decision to open was an easy one after reviewing data from 2009. That year Cook Children’s facilities had 36,024 patient encounters from the Southlake, Grapevine and Colleyville area, and that number is expected to grow as population in the region continues to expand.

“We have a longstanding established relationship with Northeast Tarrant County. It’s our largest service area,” said Tim Hanners, senior vice president of corporate and community affairs for Cook Children’s. “It only makes sense to continue bringing services where they are needed.”

Children’s Medical Center, too, has been seriously planning for a Northeast Tarrant County facility for about two years. With campuses in Dallas and Plano, the Southlake office represents a new frontier for the Dallas-based system.
“As an organization, we’re trying to respond to the growth and be prepared for the growth so we can serve the healthcare needs of these children and families,” Smith said. “In 2010 we saw slightly over 500 children from the Southlake area who either came to our Dallas campus or our Plano campus.”

Patients for all
The area’s current and future population growth, and Southlake’s accessibility from other Northeast Tarrant County communities, means there are plenty of patients to go around.
“We consider this to be a regional facility that draws the majority of its patients from about a 15-mile radius,” Smith said. “I don’t think anybody is concerned about a lack of demand; the state of Texas and this region in particular are among the fastest growing in the United States.”

Smith expects Children’s Medical Center’s 34,000-square-foot Southlake facility to have 20,000 patient visits in its first year, he said, and services and capacity will expand as demand increases. Hanners said Cook Children’s has already been averaging more than 600 patients a month among its pediatric specialties. Then there is the urgent care center, which is the primary component that sets Cook Children’s apart.
“All urgent care is not created equal,” Hanners said. “Equipment and medicine is age-appropriate, the physicians and nurses are specialized, and there is a child life specialist on hand to assist.”

Hanners said Cook Children’s has seen about 700 patients monthly in its urgent care center.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Gary Fickes said having two such powerful providers set up shop in the area was immensely exciting and would help keep Northeast Tarrant County among the best places to live in the Metroplex.
“I think somebody did their demographics work and probably after they’ve opened they’ll think they should have been here five years earlier,” Fickes said. “I think they’ll form a great niche and be very successful.”

To learn more about our new oncology unit and oncology services, please call 1.800.4BAYLOR or visit us online at BaylorHealth.com/GrapevineCancer.

expanding CANCER CARE
Announcing the New Oncology Unit at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine

Now you can benefit from expanded cancer care at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine. Our new oncology unit offers advanced technology and integrative therapies by a team specializing in oncology care. Treatment is provided in a peaceful, comfortable, healing environment. The tranquil room décor, music and spa-like atmosphere provides a restful solace for each patient and their family members.

1650 West College Street
Grapevine, Texas 76051

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BAYLOR Regional Medical Center at Grapevine

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Regional Medical Center at Grapevine, or Baylor Health Care Systems.
Colleyville Farmers Market
Owner brings fresh perspective to year-round operation

By Ashleigh Whaley

If the label is not “clean,” Robert Sonnen is not selling it.

As Colleyville Farmers Market’s new owner, Sonnen is making his vision of pure food a reality for those who appreciate the value of healthier, tastier foods unavailable elsewhere.

Having transitioned the store’s inventory roughly 35 percent since taking over in mid-February, Sonnen is confident the market’s new focus — fresh organic produce and high-quality prepared foods — will please patrons and newcomers alike.

“Even though we’re still a farmers market, we’re very unique in the sense that we are strictly focusing on making really healthy food convenient,” he said. “We are keeping the name, but we’re going to take Colleyville Farmers Market in a very cool and different direction.”

Keeping a farmers market open year-round can be difficult, Sonnen said. Many year-round markets begin offering non-edible products like yard art, plants and hay to stay in business, he said. But Sonnen is strictly a food man and believes his strategy of making healthy food convenient will increase Colleyville Farmers Market’s value in the community and compensate for any poor growing seasons.

Sonnen is boosting the market’s supply of organic produce and clearing the shelves of nutritional supplements and other non-food items.

“I’m not going to be in the pill, potion and motion business,” he said. “I believe in real food.”

The “real food” available at Colleyville Farmers Market is no mystery. Walking the perimeter of the store, shoppers will find the labels turned around for easy reading. And they will only find “clean” labels.

“I want you to see what I’m bringing you because it’s more important now to read our ingredient labels than ever before,” Sonnen said, picking up a loaf of Dallas-based Heartland Bread Company’s honey sunflower seed bread.

The weight of the bread is as heavy as a homemade loaf, which is the first sign it is not from your average grocer, he said. The second sign is the ingredients label.

“Untreated, unbleached whole-wheat flower, water, honey, sunflower seeds, salt and yeast,” Sonnen reads with satisfaction.

Sonnen prefers to sell local produce whenever possible and tries sticking to Texas beyond that.

His yellow squash traveled about a mile and a half in the back of a Colleyville farmer’s pick-up truck to reach the market’s shelf. Texas dairy farmers supply the organic soymilk and Colleyville bees make the popular raw, unfiltered honey.

Healthy El Lago tortilla chips and the raw Kombucha stocking the market’s fridge come from Austin, and the store also sells its own private label items such as salad dressings, apple preserves and fresh salsa.

While most of what Colleyville Farmers Market sells comes from less than 250 miles away, Sonnen does not limit his inventory by distance.

“If it’s a great product that comes across the ocean and it makes sense, I’m going to bring some of it in,” he said. “I have my labels backwards because I’m proud of the things we have in here.”

Colleyville Farmers Market
5409 Colleyville Blvd., Colleyville • 817-427-2333
www.colleyvillefarmersmarket.com

Grapevine High School
Senior Katy Watson
Won a 2010 Toyota Corolla at Project Graduation

Texas Toyota of Grapevine is a proud to giveaway a free 2010 Toyota Corolla to Katy Watson. She won the drawing held at Grapevine High School’s Project Graduation, an all-night lock-in to keep seniors safe.

Hwy 114 & Texan Trail in Grapevine

Robert Sonnen, owner of Colleyville Farmers Market, arranges his food label side out.

Robert Sonnen, owner of Colleyville Farmers Market, arranges his food label side out.
There were two things Blooming Colors Nursery and Landscaping owner Barry A. Johnson noticed while growing up as a kid in Shreveport, La. One, the positioning of his hands on the piano keys while dueling with his teacher; and two, the bountiful flowers and lush greenery growing in his instructor’s greenhouse.

“I was in the fourth grade,” Johnson said. “On breaks he would take me outside and teach me about the plants growing out there, and that’s when I decided that I wanted to start my own nursery business.”

At the age of 25, after leaving a budding career as a food engineer with Quaker Oats and Kraft Foods, Johnson set out to start his own nursery similar to his neighbor’s flower shop back in Louisiana.

“We had a nursery down the street that had good customer service and had anything you wanted,” he said. “The employees were knowledgeable about everything, and I knew that was the experience I wanted to create, only a Dallas scale.”

For more than 15 years Blooming Colors Nursery has been serving the needs of flora-growing, plant-loving customers across the Metroplex.

With an array of offerings ranging from morning glories to lawn decorations, Blooming Colors has found its niche in the thriving suburban and rural oasis that North Texas has become. The nursery also has a four-acre tree farm showcasing more than 1,000 trees, including oaks, maples, palms and magnolias.

The experienced personnel are able to engineer and design expansive backyard patio additions equipped with kitchens, fireplaces and plenty of greenery. Johnson said that his company also specializes in lawn care.

“We work one on one with the client and provide experienced customer service so people are satisfied with the end result,” Johnson said. “It’s what sets us apart from the competition, and it’s that principle that I wanted to build my business around.”

A number of Johnson’s employees are Texas Certified or Texas Master Certified Nursery Professionals, meaning that they had to take a special class at Texas A&M before working with customers and clients. Blooming Color professionals also offer various seminars for school children, garden clubs and those just greening up their thumb.

He said expanding quality and education is all in a day’s good work for him and his 50 part-time and full-time employees.

“It’s about being educated and passing on correct information to our customers,” Johnson said. “That’s what I wanted my business to be, and so far I feel we’re executing that vision.”

Wendy Levine, a Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional at Blooming Colors, said customers love the time she and many others take to talk to them about various plants.

“We have time to walk with you and discuss the different arrangements, and what would be a good match for your yard,” she said, passing a row of lantana perennials.

“It’s fun, and you hope in the end that the flowers and plants lifts people’s spirits.”

**Demonstration Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>Seven Successful Succulents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>Too Hot to Water?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Fall, the Other Growing Season</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Spring’s Beauty Sleep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Demonstrations are free and open to the public.

**Blooming Colors**

Nursery and Landscaping

2221 Ira E. Woods Road,

Grapevine • 817-416-6669

www.bloomingcolorsnursery.com
Features

Community Impact Newspaper
Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition

• Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition

Armend’s
Southlake family creates pasta and pizza haven

By Maria Saldivar

In its nearly 17 years since opening, Armend’s Italian Restaurant has gone from a fine dining establishment to a relaxed eatery while maintaining a family friendly atmosphere, making regulars out of many of its patrons.

Seji and Mirxhan Asim opened Armend’s Italian Restaurant in 1994, naming the restaurant after their oldest son. The couple also opened a sister restaurant in Corinth and called it Genti’s after their younger son. They later sold it, however, to extended family members.

Seji and Mirxhan were born in Macedonia. Mirxhan moved to the United States as an infant and later returned to Macedonia to attend school, where she met Seji. Seji had worked as a cook in Switzerland and Austria and met his soon-to-be wife while she attended school.

“I came with family, he came because he fell in love with me,” Mirxhan said.

Seji and Mirxhan later moved to Waterbury, Conn., where he worked in an Italian restaurant for eight years.

In an effort to move closer to family, Seji took his acquired culinary knowledge and moved his family to Southlake where they began their lives as restaurant owners.

“There was nothing here but a Dairy Queen,” Mirxhan remembers.

They started out as a restaurant serving fine cuisine on white linen tablecloths in the heart of town, but five years later when the opportunity to relocate along Southlake Boulevard became available, Seji decided to gear his business toward family dining.

It was a smart move, Armend and Mirxhan say.

“We love children,” Mirxhan said, “and we wanted to make it more convenient for parents to come in and eat.”

With their simple décor, their only art a floor-to-ceiling photo of downtown Fort Worth and a big-screen TV used to air sporting events, and a mere 20 tables, Armend’s is a comfortable, popular place among Southlake area residents.

Armend, 21, spends much of his time working in his parents’ restaurant, as he has done since his sophomore year of high school. He says 85 to 95 percent of their customers are regulars.

“It makes a lot of difference when they come in with children,” he said.

A menu designed by Seji showcases everything from pizza to veal Sicilian, and few dishes exceed $10.

Saving room for dessert is also a must, as the menu boasts a variety of flavored cheesecakes, creamy chocolate chip cream-filled cannolis and a tiramisu that Seji makes from scratch.

While a wine list won’t be found at Armend’s (they don’t serve alcohol of any kind), the restaurant welcomes patrons to bring in their own beverages of choice to enjoy with their meal.

“They can bring whatever they want,” Armend said.

Seji and Mirxhan say they hope this will be a business they can pass on to their children, one that will continue to benefit both their family and the families that have chosen it as a favorite dining venue.

Armend’s offers a variety of Italian dishes, including homemade pasta and meats in flavorful sauces.

Armend’s favorites:

Baked Ziti ($7.99)
Ziti pasta baked with cheese and the restaurant’s aurora sauce, a seasoned tomato-cream mix.

Chicken Rollitini ($14.99)
Chicken breast stuffed with spinach, ricotta and mozzarella cheeses in the aurora sauce with roasted red pepper. This off-menu special is served with a house salad.

Tiramisu ($4.99)
Angel food cake drenched in a delectable combination of coffee and brandy flavors topped with whipped cream.

Mirxhan’s favorites:

Pollo Dama Bianca ($11.99)
Chicken sauteed in brandy cream sauce with mushrooms

Vitello alla Siciliana ($14.99)
Veal scallopini sauteed in white wine, garlic, crushed red pepper and butter sauce topped with artichoke hearts and mushrooms.

Gamberi al Piccante ($14.99)
Shrimp sauteed in white wine and a light tomato sauce with hot pepper served over linguine.
ENTERTAINMENT

Sea Life Aquarium
Grapevine Mills attraction makes its splash July 1

By J.E. O’Neal

For months, Grapevine Mills mall shoppers have been greeted with graphics of oceanic views of octopi, sea turtles and schools of fish covering the walls of Entry 5. But in just weeks, patrons will get to see these sea creatures in person.

Sea Life, the world’s biggest aquarium brand with more than 30 aquariums worldwide, plans to make its Grapevine debut July 1.

The Grapevine location will be Merlin Entertainments Group’s 34th Sea Life Aquarium and the nation’s fourth, with aquariums already operating in California, Arizona and Minnesota.

Displays Curator Karen Rifenbury said the $15 million aquarium’s focus is on quality of experience rather than scale. She said she hopes all of the exhibits take visitors on an underwater journey and serve as an educational and entertaining experience for all ages.

“We pride ourselves as an information resource for children and adults,” Rifenbury said. “We want people to walk away from the exhibit and take with them knowledge about the life forms in our oceans and freshwater systems.”

Rifenbury said visitors will be treated to a two-story, 45,000-square-foot aquarium housing more than 30 displays of diverse marine life ranging from shrimp and starfish to seahorses, clown fish and stingrays.

“I think we’re going to have something for everyone once the aquarium opens,” said Rifenbury, a 21-year marine specialist veteran. “While we’re not going to house marine mammals, like sea lions or whales, many of the exhibits are going to closely mirror life for all marine life.”

Rifenbury said one of the more popular exhibits will be the Ocean Tank, a 161,000-gallon tank stocked with sharks, tropical schools of fish and stingrays that will give aquarists 360-degree views of the marine life.

“You do everything but get wet,” Rifenbury said. “People will feel as if they are in a bubble once they walk into this exhibit.”

Another exhibit that is expected to woo crowds, especially those who are used to fishing in the state’s copious lake system, is the Freshwater Gallery.

“The exhibit is going to mirror the Caddo Lake area in Northeast Texas,” Rifenbury said. “The gallery is going to house a number of native Texas fish.”

Rifenbury added that the aquarium will also be home to the largest jellyfish exhibit in the region.

“We’ll use different colored lights so people can see the full spectrum of the jellyfish,” Rifenbury said. “When they eat, the light will allow you to see them break their food down and digest it.”

And for those ready to flex their mental muscle, Rifenbury said visitors could participate in the aquarium’s Quiz Trail, in which the participants find hidden “Fish Facts” throughout the aquarium.

“Also, there will be two ‘pop-up’ tanks in which small children can crawl under an opening and stand at shoulder height in the middle of an exhibit to get a closer view of the underwater creatures.”

“There is something for everyone,” she said. “We want to inspire the next generation to further learn what is going on around them.”

Tickets:
$19 (age 13 and up) Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
$14 (age 3–12) Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Sea Life Aquarium
Grapevine Mills mall
3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway
Grapevine • 972-539-9386,
www.visitsealife.com/Grapevine

*Admission stops two hours before closing

For the full summer calendar of events, tickets and more information, visit www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com/Summer or call us at 817-410-8136.
PARKS GUIDE 2011

GRAPEVINE

Bear Creek Park
3230 S. Hwy. 360
The 51-acre Bear Creek Park was established in 1995. The park is set in a wooded area with a mile-long concrete sidewalk that meanders to all of its amenities, including a creek-side overlook, disc golf course, athletic fields, play areas, exercise stations, benches and picnic areas.

Big Bear Creek Nature Preserve
3010 Parr Lane
The Big Bear Creek Nature Preserve, which spans 39 acres, was established in 1979. It features a 0.8-mile concrete trail running along Big Bear Creek as well as rest areas and native flora and fauna.

Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park
411 Ball Street
The 9.9-acre Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park were established in 2000 and feature more than 250 species of plants and an 8,500-gallon water garden complete with two bridges, a waterfall, aquatic plants, koi, goldfish and a 1,000-gallon pond. The park includes loop walkways, benches, annual color planting areas, a garden court, performance stage, amphitheater seating, gazebo, perennial beds and the Great Lawn, perfect for play.

Heritage Park
201 Ball Street
Established in 1938, the 9.9-acre Heritage Park was the first park in Grapevine’s park system. The site was once a basket-making factory for the cantaloupe farming in the area. Connected to the city’s botanical gardens, Heritage Park also features two playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, picnic tables and benches.

Dove Park
1509 Hood Lane
Ten-acre Dove Park, established in 1970, is a community park complete with a swimming pool and courts for basketball, tennis, in-line hockey and volleyball. Casey’s Clubhouse, a handicap-accessible playground, sits in the southeast corner of the park, and other amenities include a half-mile concrete walking trail, a small dolphin-themed splash pad, two gazebos and restrooms.

Horseshoe Trails/Snakey Lane Park
2099 Hood Lane
This 19-acre community park was established in 1991. Horseshoe Trails Park features an asphalt trail and mountain bike trail as well as lovely, natural wooded views along Lake Grapevine.

Oak Grove
2520 Oak Grove Loop South
Oak Grove Park was leased in 1971 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It includes five soccer fields.

Parr Park
3010 Parr Lane
Parr Park, with just fewer than 32 acres, includes two playgrounds, picnic tables and benches that are handicap accessible. The park also features a pavilion, softball fields, multipurpose athletic fields and a trail system that circles the perimeter of the park and links to the Big Bear Creek Trail system.

L.D. Lockett Park
315 L.D. Lockett Road
Many of the Parks and Recreation department’s recreation classes are held at the L.D. Lockett House. This four-acre park also contains an open space area, a gazebo, picnic areas and two horseshoe pits.

McPherson Park
240 W. McDonwell School Rd.
This park features a multi-use trail, an open-space area, practice backstop, restrooms, pavilion, basketball and

COLLEYVILLE

Bransford Park
405 Shelton Dr.
This two-acre mini-park contains the historic Webb House, Bransford historic marker and open space. The historic Webb House, built circa 1914, is one of Colleyville’s most historic sites. It is available for rental and tours by calling 817-503-1120 or 817-503-1180.

City Park
5205 Bransford Road
This 40-acre community park features nine lighted baseball and softball fields, six lighted tennis courts, basketball courts, horseshoe pits, a concessions/restrooms building, a covered pavilion, pond, amphitheater and one-mile, multi-use trail.

Colleyville Nature Center
Mill Creek and Mill Wood Drive
The Colleyville Nature Center includes 46 acres of natural refuge. The park features nine ponds, 3.5 miles of trails, an amphitheater, the parks department’s only covered pavilion with a grill, rest benches, a playground and a fishing pier.

Pleasant Run Soccer Complex and Park
6501 Pleasant Run
One of the premier soccer complexes in the area, this award-winning 33-acre facility contains soccer game and practice fields, picnic areas, a one-mile trail, restrooms and concessions facilities.
sand volleyball courts, a children’s splash pad, pond, picnic areas and a playground.

**Kidsville**  
5109 Bransford Road  
This popular children’s destination includes outdoor picnic areas and a 10,000-square-foot playground. Parks and Recreation completed work on the new Kidsville playground in March, replacing an 18-year-old castle-themed park with a nature-themed one featuring a 20-foot-tall treehouse and 44 play components, including slides, a large play web, telescopes and talk tubes.

**Reagan Park**  
709 L.D. Lockett Road  
This five-acre park contains two lighted practice softball and baseball fields as well as batting cages.

**SOUTHLAKE**

**Bob Jones Park**  
3901 N. White Chapel Blvd.  
Bob Jones Park, now totaling nearly 500 acres, has evolved as a series of purchases and land leased to the city by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The first major construction at the park involved the completion of 13 soccer fields (several subsequently lighted) and parking, followed by support facilities. The park also hosts a six-acre pond with a fishing pavilion. On the far north drive entrance, an equestrian parking lot houses trailer parking, corral pens, hitching posts, a picnic area and a ranch faucet.  
Over the past few years new improvements, such as the fully lighted Girls’ Softball Complex, which also includes support facilities, a covered playground and an additional pond, were added to the park. Boo Boo's Bud-dies Dog Park, which sits on about 2.5 acres east of the Girls’ Softball Complex, was added in 2006. In April 2008, the Bob Jones Nature Center and Preserve opened at 355 E. Bob Jones Road. The 76-acre preserve features birding and wildlife viewing, gardens, a compost demonstration area, trails and a variety of programs, from star gazing to butterfly watching.

**McPherson Park**  
This 3.4-acre park is part of Southlake Town Square, adjacent to the Hilton Hotel. McPherson Park features a large pond and a loop trail, providing green space to a portion of the city’s most urban area.

**Noble Oaks Park**  
900 S. Carroll Ave.  
Those simply looking for open space can find it at Noble Oaks Park, a 5-acre area adjacent to Old Union Elementary School. It features open space, shade trees, a pavilion and a pond used for events and youth sports practices.

**Bicentennial Park**  
400 N. White’s Chapel Blvd.  
Once construction is complete, Bicentennial Park will feature more than $20 million in improvements. With Phase I’s grand opening, scheduled for September, residents will have access to four-plex baseball fields, concession buildings and five tennis courts. Phase II, scheduled for completion in 2013, will include baseball fields, a new playground, and additional parking and paths.

**Royal and Annie Smith Park**  
3001 Johnson Road  
The 13-acre Royal and Annie Smith Park, purchased from the Smith family, boasts a new playground, pavilion and walking trails.
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B y 2006 Robert Hodges, a popular Southlake motorcycle cop, had become a fixture in the community well-known for his sense of humor and Harley-Davidsons. Then he was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer.

That’s how it started.

“A group of former professional athletes and business and community leaders got together to raise funds for this police officer who’d done so much for the community,” said Erin Shoupp, vice chairwoman of the Pro Players Foundation. “At the time we didn’t know we’d become a nonprofit.”

Planning for a golf tournament to benefit the Hodges family began in 2006, and in the spring of 2007 just months before the decorated officer’s death, the community came together at Timarron Country Club to help.

That first tournament raised about $38,000 to put toward an education trust for Hodges’ son and inspired its organizers.

“After that, we all sat down and said this is great group of people to work with,” Shoupp said. “We really enjoyed raising funds, and at the time there wasn’t an organization geared toward helping families affected by catastrophic illness or injury.”

The Pro Players Foundation incorporated that year, and volunteers began looking for additional ways to serve area residents. What they found were opportunities to supply low-income children with tennis shoes, distribute thousands of bicycles around Christmas and continue their mission through annual golf tournaments that grew each year.

After organizing the foundation’s fourth tournament in spring 2010 — and raising more than $100,000 for Southlake native Bryce Saldi, who suffered a critical brain injury during a skateboarding accident — the game plan changed.

“We wanted to expand the organization and help more people, and we also decided we really enjoyed focusing on children,” Shoupp said.

Now the nonprofit has the support of every professional sports team in the region, and passionate current and former professional players ready to lend a hand. Paired with programs aimed at building character and rehabilitating old sports equipment, officials with the Pro Players Foundation feel they have found a winning combination.

Children encounter the athletes they idolize in character camps, an initiative called Play it Forward organized by North Texas high-schoolers donates sports equipment to children in need, and the Instant RePlay program revitalizes courts and fields in disadvantaged areas.

“Through this organization we can drop the equipment, the people and the facility into a community and make it instantly available for these kids to have access to a park or playground or a sports facility,” Shoupp said.

This year’s golf tournament raised more than $100,000, and the foundation partnered with the Dallas Mavericks this spring to rehabilitate a basketball court benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County. Now, teamed up with the Dallas Cowboys, it is working to make over a Salvation Army multi-purpose field in South Oak Cliff.

It may not be as immediate a need as food or shelter, but the foundation’s efforts are focused on providing something its volunteers consider nearly as important: a real childhood.

“It’s a critical feature of being a kid that you can get outside and play,” Shoupp said. “Every child needs to have access to some outlet for physical activity, and many people in our immediate area take for granted that they have community facilities where their kids can go play on a soccer field or playground.”

For more information or to donate to the Pro Players, visit www.proplayersfoundation.com.
REAL ESTATE

Saddlebrook Estates
Colleyville – 76034

Overview

Build-out year: 2003
Number of homes (estimated): 245
Average square footage: 3,219
Home values: $100,71–$116 (prices per square foot)
HOA dues (estimated): $140 semi-annually
Amenities: Perimeter fencing
Nearby attractions: Golf driving range, Lifetime Fitness, Colleyville Cinema Grille, and close to highways 26, 114, 121, 820 and 360.

Property taxes:
- City of Colleyville 0.3559
- Tarrant County 0.2640
- Tarrant County College 0.1377
- Grapevine-Colleyville ISD 0.2279
- Total (per $100 value) 2.2755

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Schools:
- Bransford Elementary School
- Colleyville Middle School
- Grapevine High School

On the market (As of June 6, 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of homes for sale</th>
<th>No. of homes under contract</th>
<th>Avg. days on the market</th>
<th>No. of homes sold in the last year</th>
<th>Square footage Low/High</th>
<th>Selling price Low/High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,351/4,855</td>
<td>$273,175/$599,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Featured homes

4201 Briar Ridge Dr.  
4 Bedroom / 3.5 Bath  
Agent: Mary Cornelius  
817-329-8850  
$364,500  
3,300 sq. ft.

602 Summertree Court  
4 Bedroom / 3 Bath  
Agent: Loyce Shirley  
817-329-8850  
$372,371  
3,027 sq. ft.

4100 Mockingbird Lane  
4 Bedroom / 3 Bath  
Agent: Patrice Convrey  
817-329-9005  
$419,989  
3,385 sq. ft.

1006 Saddlebrook Dr.  
5 Bedroom / 4.5 Bath  
Agent: Eloise Martin  
817-521-0044  
$497,500  
4,108 sq. ft.

Market Data  
Grapevine, Colleyville, Southlake

On the market (as of June 6th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Number of homes for sale</th>
<th>Average days on the market</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $100,000</td>
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<td>$150,000–$199,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>$200,000–$299,900</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>112</td>
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<tr>
<td>$400,000–$499,900</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500,000–$749,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>$750,000–$999,900</td>
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<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 million +</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>112</td>
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Monthly home sales

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of homes sold</th>
<th>Average price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>$221,741</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 2011</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>$261,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 2011</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$241,611</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2011</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>$258,766</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2011</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$228,589</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2010</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$260,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2010</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$245,091</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2010</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>$261,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2010</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>$233,343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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