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FriscoStyle
BEST of
FRISCO
 2005

by Emily Foshee

TO DETERMINE THE “BEST” OF FRISCO is no small task. Let’s face it, there are countless reasons to feel very fortunate to call Frisco “home.” We’ve come up with some categories and ideas we think are not only fun, but also draw attention to some of the neat aspects of living in Frisco. How’d we do this? – many hours of scientific analysis and a thorough audit process (NOT)!

We’ve had some fun picking “winners” and we hope you’ll enjoy reading about this year’s “best.” It is important to note that none of the businesses mentioned have paid to be included – each has been covered based on our objective/subjective judgment. Read on and see if you don’t agree. We welcome your thoughts regarding what you think should be included among “the best” things in Frisco...





City Hall in progress

photo by Chris Johnson

Best Place to See the Future

Anyone who hasn't visited Frisco recently will be amazed at the growth! Construction is underway at Frisco's City Hall and Library at Frisco Square. Designed to be the heart of Frisco Square, the two buildings will actually be combined into one unique facility. The \$18 million, five-story City Hall and \$10 million five-story library will open in the spring of 2006.

"The new City Hall and Library, when complete, will allow us to consolidate the five to six buildings we're currently using into one building, which will facilitate improved communication and efficiency among city employees," said Frisco Mayor Mike Simpson. "This will ultimately contribute to accelerated growth for the retail and business entities located at Frisco Square."

Frisco Square, located off the Dallas North Tollway and Main Street, offers an integrated town center with restaurants, upscale retail, and commercial office space, apartments and town homes.



Example of Safety Town
photo provided by Safety Town in Ontario, Canada

Best Mini Hot Spot

A central fire station is another planned project that will be funded by Frisco's tax dollars. The new station, located on Main Street close to the existing facility, will be used for the housing and

maintenance of equipment as well as training personnel.

Safety Town, a miniature city of 20 to 25 buildings 1/8 the size of real buildings, will be located next to the new fire station. It is planned to be a place where children will learn real life strategies for dealing with emergencies. Complete with roads, stoplights, and crosswalks, Safety Town will be utilized for many things, including a variety of educational classes for youth. Planned activities include driver's education, how to escape a burning building, electrical and fire safety, and road safety. The new fire station and Safety Town will be completed in 2006.

A \$20 million recreation center, also to be completed in 2006, will include indoor and outdoor swimming pools, slides and other water features. Exercise and conditioning areas, as well as basketball and racquetball courts, will be included for Frisco's exercise buffs. The recreation center will be located east of Preston Road on Wade Street.



Joan and Vince Covert of *After All These Years* (top) photo provided by Joan Covert
 Construction at Frisco Soccer & Entertainment Center (bottom) photo by Andy Johnson

Best Place for a Love Affair with Antiques

If you want to revisit a romantic time, “After All These Years” is your destination! Located at 7111 Elm Street across from the historic water tower, this 103 year-old house (the third house built in Frisco after it became incorporated in 1902) is the perfect retail therapy opportunity for those that cherish the treasures of a life gone by. In addition to one-of-a-kind antiques, “After All These Years” features home accessories, collectables and painted furniture.

Joan and Vince Covert, owners of “After All These Years” are high school sweethearts that found each other again 30 years after high school graduation. “Although we do sell antiques,” says Joan, “we named our store ‘After All These Years’ because we wanted to celebrate our discovering each other after being out of high school for so long.”

After All These Years is a destination unto itself for those who view shopping as an experience, not just something to check off on a “to do” list. Be sure to drop by on Saturdays to join the Coverts and their clientele for mimosas. And, if knitting is your thing, check out the “knit and gnosh” group that meets every third Saturday.

Best Place to Step Back in Time

City officials have allocated \$3.5 million for the construction of Heritage Village, a development that will honor and showcase the way of life when Frisco was founded in 1902. An old church and a two-story Victorian house (to be remodeled into a bed and breakfast) that was originally located on Preston Road, have been transplanted to Heritage Village. Other historical buildings to be in Heritage Village include a museum housing a replica of old downtown Frisco and cars and clothing dating from the early 1900s. As visitors stroll through Heritage Village, they’ll view a replica of the old Frisco train station, an old steam engine and coal car, a one room schoolhouse, log cabin, and old blacksmith shop. A gazebo for summer concerts is also planned.

“We’re planning to include other buildings, such as a barber shop, bank, and drug store, that are reminiscent of the early 1900s way of life,” said Frisco Mayor Mike Simpson. “We want Heritage Village to be a “working village” so people can conduct business here as well as learn how our founding fathers lived.”

Best Place to See Boys in Shorts

A new 21,000-seat soccer complex is being constructed adjacent to Frisco Square. Temporarily named the Frisco Soccer and Entertainment Center, the sub-terranean stadium will be surrounded on the north and east sides by 17 soccer fields that will host youth soccer teams. High school football and soccer games as well as concerts and other performances will also be held there. The stadium will also be home to FC Dallas Major League Soccer team.

“We’re very excited about the new stadium, which will open August 6,” said Mayor Simpson. “In addition to international soccer tournaments and the MLS All Star Game, our new stadium will host the Dallas Cup in 2006, an honor of which we’re all very proud.”





Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory (above) photo by Andy Johnson

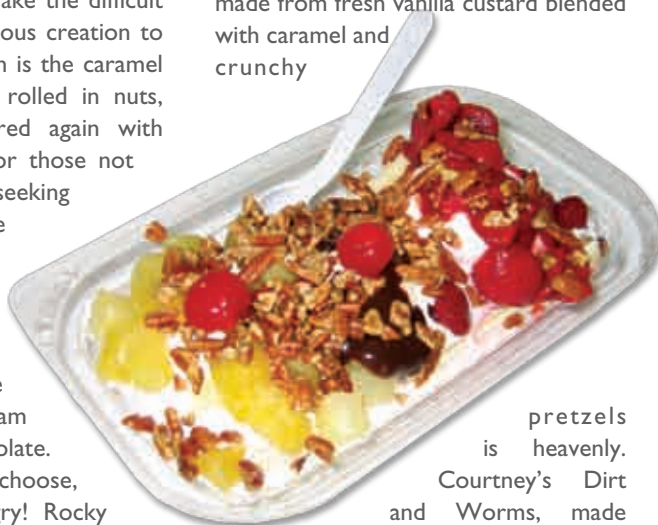
Banana Split at Sheridan's Frozen Custard photo by Beth Robinson

Best Place to get a Sweet Tooth Fix

For those chocoholics in Frisco, stopping by the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is a must. Famous for their decadent chocolate covered apples, visitors must make the difficult decision of which fabulous creation to try. A favorite selection is the caramel covered apple that is rolled in nuts, chips and then covered again with layers of chocolate. For those not quite as brave but still seeking their chocolate fix, the strawberries dipped in chocolate may be more appropriate. Or, take a chance and try either the marshmallows or graham crackers dipped in chocolate. No matter what you choose, you won't leave hungry! Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is in Shafer Plaza at Preston Ridge.

Sheridan's Frozen Custard offers more than 35 sinfully delightful frozen confections that never fail to impress even the most discriminating sweet tooth.

Eleven varieties of their signature delight, the "Concrete" will cool off just about anyone. What is "a Concrete?" It is fresh vanilla custard blended with your choice of toppings, but it's hard (like concrete). You can't drink it through a straw; you've got to eat it with a spoon. The Caramel Pretzel Crunch, made from fresh vanilla custard blended with caramel and crunchy



pretzels is heavenly. Courtney's Dirt and Worms, made from fresh vanilla custard and Oreo cookies blended and topped with chocolate sprinkles and gummy worms, is sure to be a favorite of the younger crowd. If you dare, try to consume Mount Rush Smore, made from fresh vanilla custard, hot fudge,

marshmallow crème and graham crackers blended together.

Or maybe the Royal Turtle Sundae (fresh vanilla custard topped with hot fudge, caramel and covered with roasted pecans and cherries) is more your style. If not, there are 13 other Sundaes to choose from.

For those yearning for the good 'ol days of summers past, Sheridan's proudly brings back the old fashioned soda. They'll mix the flavor of your choice (chocolate, cherry, raspberry key lime or strawberry) with soda water and fresh vanilla custard to create your very own custom drink. What could be better than that?

Best Playground for Kids 3 to 93 Years Old

Though it has not opened yet, Strikz, is destined to be heaven on earth for the kid at heart who just likes to have fun. The 43,000 square foot facility sports 32 state of the art bowling lanes, a LaZer Runner, an arcade featuring skeeball, video games and an assorted selection of games of skill. A great place to hang out during the hot summer months, kids of all ages will have the

opportunity to test their skills at the game of their choice.

Strikz, which is scheduled to open the first week of May, provides a unique venue for birthday parties, conferences, group meetings and corporate team building functions. A large meeting room, full bar, and cafe serving pizza, burgers and sandwiches is sure to make every event, whether it is a corporate event, a special birthday or just hangn' out with friends, an instant success.

Strikz is on the southwest corner of Lebanon and Preston.

Most Friendly Downtown Merchant

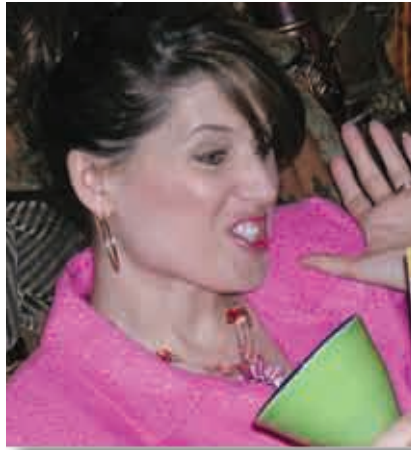
Frisco still has that small-town Texas charm and friendly merchants that have helped make our community the thriving area it is today. When it comes to interior decorating, Elaine Williamson, owner of Bella Cosa, gets our vote as the friendliest interior decorating advisor in Frisco. The staff at Bella Cosa can help you with any or all of your decorating and design needs...from paint selection, window treatments, redoing one room, selecting trim and fabric to recover existing furniture, or purchasing brand new furniture, for that matter. Approximately 50 to 100 lines of furniture offering sofas, coffee tables, and bedroom furniture, are available.

Even if you just want to spruce up a room or two, Elaine and her staff can help. They'll assist in selecting picture frames, lamps, candleholders, oil paintings, chandeliers, or any other type of accessory you're seeking. Whatever your decorating mission, Elaine and her staff will do their best to make your house feel like home.

Whether or not you decide on an "extreme makeover" for your house, the visit and talk at Bella Cosa is sure to be both enjoyable and beneficial.

Best Outdoor Experience

For the true outdoor lover, Frisco Commons is the place to go! Located at 8000 McKinney Drive, this beautiful park sports Frisco's



*Elaine Williamson of Bella Cosa
photos by Chris Johnson*

largest playground, walking trails, a large performing amphitheater, a grand pavilion, a Veterans Memorial nature garden, picnic tables with BBQ grills, and a fully stocked pond. Awarded the "Metroplex's Best Family Park" by Dallas Child Magazine, as well as receiving the 2005 Park Design Excellence Award by the Texas Recreation & Park Society, Frisco Commons is an entertainment

destination in and of itself.

The amphitheater is a popular spot for concerts and Frisco's annual Story Telling Festival, which is held in the autumn. The Grand Pavilion is ideal for weddings, birthday parties, church picnics, and much more.

For more information, contact Frisco's Parks and Recreation Department at 972.3355517.

Best Place to Wear the Kids Out

Pump It Up, located at 7164 Technology Drive, is the perfect place to jump, bounce, slide, tumble and climb. This indoor facility incorporates the latest inflatables and promises a great time for your children's birthday party, corporate event, or for that matter, any gathering. Kids of all ages can bounce till they're heart is content on a custom inflatable bounce house, inflatable slide, inflatable obstacle court, inflatable boxing arena or inflatable jousting arena.

Pump It Up is well-known for the awesome birthday parties they throw for kids. After wearing themselves out on the inflatables, the kids adjourn to a professionally decorated party room for pizza and birthday cake. Because the Pump It Up staff takes care of the organization, supervises the kids, sets up the party room and cleans up afterwards, parents can actually relax and enjoy themselves too!

Best Escape for Nature Lovers

It's true that Frisco is growing by leaps and bounds, but there are still secluded places that provide an ideal escape. West Rowlett Creek Trail, a delightful oasis passing through the Hunters Creek neighborhood just north of Highway 121 and Custer, offers a soothing respite for the nature lover. Located on the west Rowlett Creek corridor, the trail extends north from Isabel Elementary School to Rolater Road. The first phase, which has just been completed, is approximately one mile long. If you enjoy hiking, biking, jogging, or even walking, this wonderful



Hunters Creek Bike Trail (left) photo by Chris Johnson
Self-Portrait (below) photo by Steve Gallegos

trail takes you over a bridge spanning a delightfully bubbling creek and winds through tall, lush trees reminiscent of a secluded forest. If you're so inclined, stop by the fish-stocked pond that sports sparkling water features, relax in the covered gazebo or roast hotdogs on the grills provided. Spread out your blanket on the large rocks overlooking the pond or dine on the picnic tables nearby. If little ones are with your group, they'll delight in the playground, complete with swings and seesaws.

Central Park, located at 3155 Parkwood Drive, offers a completely different experience. This eight-acre park is well known for its numerous "hero-sized" bronze sculptures and a quotation representing the area's historic cattle drives along the Shawnee Trail. The park sports a small pond, an amphitheater, walking trails and picnic areas.

After exploring Central Park and the West Rowlett Creek Trail, Frisco residents have 273 acres comprising 21 park sites left to explore. To be sure...there is a park for everyone!



Best Way to Capture a Moment

Lone Star Photography Studios is a newcomer to the Frisco business community. In business since August 2004, the Studio produces some of the most original and exciting action photography and portraits to be seen anywhere. The company's owner, Steve Gallegos, or "Stevie G." is the creative mind behind the Studio's unique approach.

"Life is action. We were not born to look like a vase in a photograph. My goal is to capture you doing whatever it is you love to do. Are you a golfer? Let's shoot you driving onto that fairway. A motorcyclist? Let's shoot you leaning through those winding country lanes," he explains.

It does not matter who you are, what you do, how young or how old, he'll shoot you running, walking, swimming, jumping, bicycling, laughing, dancing, playing cards, sailing, flying, anything but standing still.



Manny's Tex Mex Grill (top), Enjoying a Martini on the patio at Terilli's (bottom)

photos by Andy Johnson & Leah Beckham

Best Place to Fill Up

Manny's Tex Mex Grill on Main Street in historic downtown Frisco is well known for its Wednesday night "all you can eat buffet." You won't leave hungry after indulging your Mexican food cravings by feasting on Manny's enchiladas, mini chimichangas, flautas, chili relleanos, chalupas and beef and chicken fajitas. Kids can even find their favorite foods, such as chicken fingers and corny dogs, at the buffet as well.

Manny's is family owned and operated. "We've gone back to basics at Manny's," said family member Richard Galvin, "and take pride in offering delicious Mexican food at affordable prices."

Best Place to Chill Out

If you're looking for a place to relax, unwind, and enjoy an adults-only afternoon or evening, Terilli's is the place! Their secluded outdoor patio is an ideal place to kick back after a stressful day. Be sure to partake in their happy hour, from 4 to 7pm every day. Terilli's is known for their excellent



martinis, but take a moment to look over their menu and adjourn inside for dinner. While enjoying a delicious dinner relax as you listen to the jazz band. If you require a more secluded atmosphere, Terilli's offers private, curtained booths and separate meeting rooms for larger gatherings. Terilli's is located on Preston Road about 1/4 mile north of Stonebriar Mall.

If you're in the mood for an exotic, Latin meal, stop by Tres Meridas on Preston Road. This unique restaurant, with a relaxing outdoor patio, features traditional Venezuelan, Spanish and Mexican dishes. Try one of their drink specials: The Meridita (a classic Margarita), Rumba (frozen Meridita with red sangria), or Chocolate Martini (a coconut rum concoction with white and dark Godiva chocolate).

Best Path to Fitness & Pampering

Kokopelli' Wellness Spa and Yoga Center offers the ultimate getaway for those wanting to be pampered while learning wellness and fitness techniques.



*Pilates Class at Kokopelli's (top) photo by Liz Bovard
Construction on Main Street (bottom) photo by Chris Johnson*

Owned by Christine Douglas and Jolene Raulerson, Kokopelli's is committed to providing services that help its clientele maintain a physically and mentally balanced lifestyle. Guests may choose from Kokopelli's spa services, wellness solutions, or Koko Pilates Center for Integration. Each program offers a menu of programs and treatments created to enhance the quality of life for each client.

High-quality spa services, including six different massage techniques, 12 types of body wraps, facials, make up techniques, nutrition counseling and personal coaching make anyone feel like a queen (or king!)

Koko Pilates Center for Core Integration is the newest addition to Kokopelli's service offerings. Rebecca Burnett Swieczkowski is the Center's director, and is a certified Power Pilates Trainer.

Pilates was created by Joseph H. Pilates in the early 1900s in Europe as a whole body-conditioning program to rehabilitate soldiers injured in World War I. It is an extremely effective science of fitness and healing that is designed to stretch, strengthen and balance the body. When practiced with focused breathing patterns, Pilates has become invaluable not only as a fitness endeavor, but also an important adjunct to professional sports training and physical rehabilitation of all kinds.

"Mr. Pilates passed down specific instructions for teaching Pilates to a handful of individuals," said Rebecca, "and I am a student of some of his most trusted pupils. I teach Mr. Pilates' New York method, but in addition I have passed a stringent certification program for Power Pilates, a scientific method of training Pilates trainers to teach the course in a very logical format that honors Mr. Pilates' original intentions," Rebecca concluded.

Best Place to See Your Tax Dollars at Work

While Main Street is currently undergoing a major overhaul, the end results will transform downtown from the sleepy, charming area it is today to a more modern, urban atmosphere befitting one of the most rapidly growing cities in the country.

The north side paving of Main Street in historic downtown (from 1st Street to County Road), is almost complete. Side street entrances and sidewalks have been completed, and at press time city officials predicted traffic should be ready to shift to the new lanes on the north side of Main Street by May 1 and construction will begin on the south lanes. The entire section of Main Street through historic downtown is expected to be complete by mid July of this year.

The new section of Main Street between the Dallas North Tollway and the railroad tracks will be a six-lane road to service Frisco Square and the new soccer complex. The entire Main Street construction project, when completed, will extend from Preston Road to the Dallas North Tollway.

Emily Foshee is a freelance writer living in Frisco.

