



No portion of this article may be reproduced without
express written permission of Style Publishing Group, LLC.
©2007 • All rights reserved.



Style Publishing Group
P.O. Box 1676
Frisco, Texas 75034
Phone: 972.335.1181
Toll Free: 877.781.7067
Fax: 214.722.2313

E-mail: info@friscostyle.com
Web: www.friscostyle.com

Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306



MAKING FRISCO HOME

BY DEANN DALEY HOLCOMB



*Preschool playtime and the Pham Family
photos from the Frisco STYLE archive and Andy Johnson*

A MAGNITUDE OF DECISIONS surround finding a home, a community to be a part of, a place to put down your roots and Frisco is that bright light in the Texas sky, attracting people and families from all across the country.

For some families, schools, children's activities and events may be important, for others it might be shopping or sports, proximity to recreational and park facilities or the cultural arts. But whatever you're searching for, Frisco is fast becoming known as one of the premier places to live in Texas. Recent census numbers show the population in Frisco at 71,490 and Frisco Mayor Mike Simpson announced a current population of greater than 76,000.

The Pham family moved to Frisco for its outstanding school district and to be a part of a community. Steven and Melissa Pham and their young son, Will, who is 15-months old, moved to Frisco this past January. They had

been living in Carrollton but didn't find the community connection they were looking for.

"After doing research on the surrounding communities we felt Frisco offered the best school system academically," Pham said.

Frisco ISD has been labeled one of the fastest growing school districts in the state, with an increasing student population of 20-30 percent annually. Frisco ISD now has fourteen elementary schools, four middle schools and two high schools along with a special programs school and alternative school with more schools expected to be built in the future. Frisco ISD boasts improved test scores well above the state and national averages. There are also several private schools.

Pham says part of the decision to live in Frisco was his desire for a family-oriented location with a community atmosphere.

"There are a lot of families our age

where we live and we wanted our son to have neighborhood kids to play with and parks and recreation easily available," Pham said.

"After doing research on the surrounding communities we felt Frisco offered the best school system academically."

Frisco city leaders have carefully sculpted community resources from the mega Stonebriar Centre and surrounding, signature retail stores to professional sports teams such as the Frisco RoughRiders baseball team, FC



Pizza Hut Park, new home of FC Dallas

photo by Chris Johnson

Dallas amateur soccer and the Texas Tornado amateur hockey team.

The locals and tourists can enjoy culinary delights from a variety of restaurants; steaks to Mexican food and the city is famous for the largest private collection of contemporary outdoor sculpture in the country with works of art by James Surls, Frances Bagley and Issac Smith.

Sharlene and Bob Chaney discovered Frisco the old fashion way - by word-of-mouth. Recent empty nesters with children off to college or involved in their careers and on their own, the Chaney's had moved from Midlothian where the family had lived for several years, to Dallas and weren't happy. They were searching for a community they could feel a part of. The Chaney's were thinking about moving out to one of the surrounding suburbs when their real estate agent suggested checking out Frisco.

"I had not been to Frisco since my high school played ball against them and I was amazed at what I found," Sharlene Chaney said. "We drove

through the neighborhoods and liked what we saw. My husband liked it too because of the way the town was planned and developing and, of course, I wanted to come here for the shopping."

"I had not been to Frisco since my high school played ball against them and I was amazed at what I found."

The Chaney's moved into a smaller home, thinking they wanted to downsize since the kids were gone. They decided they enjoyed a larger home better and were going to build in Frisco until they found the home of their dreams less than a year ago, moving in over the

Christmas holidays.

"I drive to Dallas for work so it's important to me to be able to run errands easily and do my shopping close to my home," Chaney said. "Unless one of our friends in Dallas is having a party, once the weekend is here we never leave Frisco."

Life is bustling in Frisco, especially with the new building, highway and roadway construction. Heritage Village will be an addition to the downtown area bridging Frisco Square with the historic downtown area.

According to Frisco Mayor Mike Simpson, Heritage Village will preserve Frisco's past and will include a museum, gazebo, one-room schoolhouse and a blacksmith shop. The old Lebanon Baptist Church building and the Crozier/Covington/Sickles house have already been permanently placed in the village.

Simpson says the village will be a living, working village with buildings, housing, shops, restaurants and retail stores and will be a landmark for Frisco residents and visitors.

Recreational sports, parks and mountain biking areas is what attracted Canadian-born Milind Ranade to Frisco.

Ranade, a marketing manager for Nortel, moved to Frisco about 18-months ago. He said he was looking around the Dallas area, searching for a place to call home that was relatively close to work and had excellent amenities.

"The retail is close, nice restaurants, easy access to work and the ability to get to downtown Dallas quickly, that's just a few of the reasons I enjoy living in Frisco," Ranade said.

Ranade had been traveling to the Dallas area for the last seven years because of his work. He says his friends told him he was crazy to consider moving to what they referred to as a "concrete jungle" with only country and western music available, but he finds Texas to be home and plans to make Frisco his permanent home. Ranade is renting a house now as he looks for a home to purchase that will be perfect for both he and his fiancé.

"I'm into mountain biking and there are areas close to where I live here in Frisco that I can go biking and that's important to me," Ranade said. "You want to play sports or see sports, it's here, or if you like the arts or festivals or concerts, it's all available within a reasonable distance."

Ranade says the easy access to the Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport was also a drawing point.

"I travel so much that being able to get on (State) Highway 121 and go straight to the airport was a big plus," Ranade said. "Plus, when I have family and friends visit, it's easy access and when we get to Frisco, the shopping

and restaurants are here for them."

In looking for a home, Ranade thinks Frisco offers the best price compared to the surrounding communities, especially with the expansion and growth that is happening within the city.



Milind Ranade takes a spin through Central Park.

photo by Andy Johnson

"I'm into mountain biking and there are areas close to where I live here in Frisco that I can go biking and that's important to me."

"I think Frisco has the best bang for the buck," Ranade said.

"Frisco gives me the best options to consider what type of home I am looking to buy because it is a thriving area."

The Frisco housing market continues to boom. Recent housing statistics from the city show 3,402 new single-family residence permits were issued by the city last year, up from 2,813 in 2003. So far, in 2005 1,593 permits have been issued.

On a drive through Frisco neighborhoods you can take your pick from any size, style or architectural design you're looking for from Mediterranean, ranch-style, colonial, French chateau to name a few. The

housing market offers old homes, new homes, town homes, condominiums and apartment living, whatever market fits your needs.

And, with all this new home building and construction going on, city leaders have "sweetened the pot" for residents by establishing ordinances to protect new homebuyers.

Frisco was the first city in the country to mandate "Energy Star," standards as part of its innovative "Green Building" program. In May 2001, the Frisco city council adopted the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Homes program requirements as the minimum standard for new home construction. It was a move to save new homeowners as much as 30-percent on their utility bills.

For each new home constructed after May 23, 2001, a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) test is conducted based on plan analysis, insulation and duct inspection and blower/door/duct pressurization testing. City leaders estimated a cost to builders of \$1,500 to \$3,000 to upgrade homes, however energy efficient mortgages and lower utility bills can offset those costs according to city leaders. The new homes must pass the HERS tests before homeowners can move in.

Under the "Green Building" ordinance, homeowners also learn

*The Castle Family at their new home.
photo by Chris Johnson*

how to reduce water consumption and prevent mold.

Frisco city leaders also plan to assist homeowners with efforts to make energy efficiency upgrades to existing homes.

Innovative thinking, planning, designing and the building of Frisco by novel city leaders caught the eye of thousands of families who have decided to move to the thriving and active community. The proof is in the on-going economic development continuing throughout the city.

Moving from the Northeast, the Castle family was looking for a place to live that included a metropolitan area with a small city design to it and that's why they looked to Frisco. The housing choices that were offered also attracted them to the city. They moved from Baltimore to Frisco last December with their three children.

"We really stumbled across Frisco after someone suggested looking out here and when we did, it seemed like Frisco was a perfect fit for us," Terri Castle said. "You can get a house for the price you want with the land and space we were looking for and it was like 'this is great' because we can get everything we want in one place."

John and Terri Castle checked out the private schools for their children and after additional research they felt Frisco had what they were looking for and decided on Legacy Christian Academy, where 7-year-old Daniel and 6-year-old Thomas attend school. Little sister, Kathryn, who is 18-months-old, will join her brothers there in a few years.

For outside activities for children, Castle says she's impressed with the Frisco Parks and Recreation Center and all of the camps and programs available for the children. Castle says Daniel has been involved with the swimming program this summer and Thomas has been taking swimming lessons, and attending basketball and soccer camps.

Castle says it's also nice to be able to live in an active city but still be able to get to the grocery store within minutes.

"The amenities are great in Frisco," Castle said. "I say I'm a city girl but it's nice to be able to get where I want to go, like five minutes here or five minutes there, without too much of a traffic problem."



ORGANIZATIONS

American Cancer Society, Collin County	214.819.1221
American Red Cross of North Texas	972.562.0601
Boy Scouts	214.902.6754
Boys and Girls Club.....	214.544.8924
Chamber of Commerce (Frisco)	972.335.9522
Collin County Association of Realtors.....	972.618.3800
Collin County Committee on Aging.....	972.562.6996
Daughters of the American Revolution.....	972.307.5906
Frisco Association for the Arts.....	972.668.5180
Frisco Community Theatre.....	972.377.3868
Frisco Garden Club	972.335.0300
Frisco Toastmasters.....	972.712.4611
Girl Scouts	972.349.2400
Heritage Association of Frisco.....	972.335.6684
Keep Frisco Beautiful.....	972.335.5519
Senior Center at Frisco Square.....	972.335.5515
Small Business Development Center	972.985.3770
SPCA.....	972.562.7387
Volunteer Center of Collin County	1.866.797.8268

HOSPITALS

Centennial Medical Center, 12505 Lebanon Rd., Frisco.....	972.963.3333
Frisco Medical Center, 5601 Warren Parkway, Frisco	214.618.2000

CITY OF FRISCO OFFICES

City Hall.....	972.335.5555
City Council.....	972.335.5551
Mayor - Mike Simpson.....	ext 170
Council Member - Jim Joyner.....	ext 171
Council Member - Matt Lafata.....	ext 172
Council Member - Mayer Maso.....	ext 173
Council Member - Bob Allen.....	ext 174
Council Member - Tony Felker.....	ext 175
Council Member - Joy West.....	ext 176

Castle adds, “We have the big city with Dallas if we want it, but a small town feeling living in Frisco.”

For the Thrash family, Frisco has been a perfect match. Chris and Toni Thrash moved their health care consulting business from Midland to Frisco this past March.

“It is so much easier on Chris to get in and out of Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport or Love Field and get home sooner because of the highway connections we have.”

“We’re enjoying living here with all of the opportunities, but specifically we moved to Frisco for the Lakes Tennis Academy,” Toni Thrash said. “For our two sons, Cameron, who is going into the 5th grade and Taylor, who is going into the 9th grade, because they are wonderful tennis players and wanted to improve on their tennis game. They wanted to be in a specialized, academy-type environment and after doing research we picked Frisco and actually moved into a home that is close to the academy.”

Thrash adds, “The boys are thriving and increasing their skills.”

The Thrash family enjoys Frisco’s location since Chris travels for work.

“It is so much easier on Chris to get in and out of DFW (Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport) or Love Field and get home sooner because of the highway connections we have,” Thrash said.

Every month Frisco’s residents, new as well as established, should read the “Mayor’s Message” by Mayor Simpson posted on the city of Frisco website, www.friscotexas.gov, with the latest on what is happening in Frisco from economic development to the city’s community events. With the fast pace of development in Frisco, who knows what you might learn about your new, or not so new, place to call home.

DeAnn Daley Holcomb is a freelance writer living in Plano.

CITY OF FRISCO DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services, 6827 Main Street	972.335.1695
City Manager’s Office, 6891 Main Street, George Purefoy,	972.335.5551
City Secretary’s Office, 6891 Main Street, Nan Parker,	972.335.5551
Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marla Roe, Executive Director	972.668.6656
Communications & Media Relations, 6891 Main Street, Dana Baird, Director	972.335.5555
Drivers License, 2109 W. Parker Rd., Plano.....	972.867.4221
Engineering Services, 6891 Main Street.....	972.335.5585
Economic Development, 6801 Gaylord Pkwy, Ste 200, Jim Gandy, President	972.668.5550
Environmental Services, 8820 Main Street, Ste 116	972.335.5519
Finance, 6827 Main Street.....	972.335.1695
Fire Department, Central, 8860 Tomlin Drive, Mack Borchardt, Chief	972.335.5525
Station 2, 3711 Ohio Drive	972.335.5535
Station 3, 5449 Warren Parkway	972.335.5537
Station 4, 4485 Platinum Parkway.....	972.335.5587
Human Resources, 6801 Main Street	972.335.5540
Job Line.....	972.335.0057
Information Technology, 6891 Main Street.....	972.335.5555
Library, 8750 McKinney Road	972.335.5510
Municipal Court, 8750 McKinney Road.....	972.335.5565
Parks & Recreation, 6726 Walnut	972.335.5517
Planning & Development Department, 6859 Main Street	972.335.5540
Police Department, 8750 McKinney Road, Todd Renshaw, Chief	972.335.5502
Public Works, 6726 Walnut.....	972.335.5520
Purchasing, 6827 Main Street	972.335.1695
Taxes, 6891 Main Street	972.335.5555
Utility Billing, 6891 Main Street.....	972.335.5575

SOCIAL SERVICES

Alcoholic Anonymous, 4801 Legendary Drive, Room 231, Frisco.....	972.708.5086
Court Appointed Special Advocates	
(CASA) of Collin County, 129 S. Tennessee, Ste. 150, McKinney TX 75069	972.529.2272
Frisco Al-Anon Family Group	972.712.0125
Frisco Family Services Center, 8780 Third Street, Frisco, Texas	972.335.9495
Frisco Resale Shop, 9805 Dogwood St., Frisco.....	972.712.7833
Collin Intervention to Youth, Inc.	
(C.I.T.Y. House), 902 16 th Street, Plano TX 75074.....	972.423.7057
The Samaritan Inn, 1710 N. McDonald, McKinney TX 75069.....	972.542.5302
Hopes Door, Crisis number: 972.422.7233	Office: 972. 422.2911
Turning Point, Rape Crisis	
P. O. Box 866754, Plano, TX 75086	24-Hour Hotline: 1.800.886.RAPE, Office 972.985.0951
Tough Love.....	972.558.1762

RECREATION

City of Frisco Recreation Department, www.friscotexas.gov/recreation/	972.335.5517
Alumni Hall Fitness Center, 9700 Wade Blvd., Frisco	972.377.1758
Frisco YMCA, 2595 Dallas Parkway, Ste. 208, Frisco.....	972.335.3222
Frisco Youth Soccer Association	972.712.4625
Frisco Baseball & Softball Association.....	972.712.2288
Frisco Football League	972.943.4335
Frisco Amateur Swim Team (FAST).....	972.335.5781

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Frisco Independent School District, 6942 Maple, Frisco.....	469.633.6000
Lewisville Independent School District, 1800 Timbercreek Rd., Lewisville.....	972 539.1551
Prosper Independent School District, 605 E. 7th St.....	972.346.3316
Little Elm Independent School District, 500 Lobo Lane, Little Elm.....	972.292.1847
Celina Independent School District, PO Box 188, Celina	972.382.2751