

2009 Awards from the Collin County Historical Commission

Young Visionaries Award

Jessica Brouwer: Jessica Brouwer began volunteering at the Heritage Farmstead Museum since the summer of 2008. She began helping with the Heritage Livestock Program. She fed, groomed and learned about the care and keeping of mules and horses. Besides caring for the Farmstead livestock, Jessica has been involved in facilitating children's programs, girl scouts workshops, educational birthday parties, helped in the office and has volunteered for numerous special events. Jessica has also made significant contributions to the Farmstead preventative maintenance program through helping with repair projects on the grounds. Jessica is an extremely intelligent young woman, and deeply interesting in preserving history at the Heritage Farmstead Museum.

Excellence in Historical Education Award

Anne Gifford: In February 2008 and 2009 Anne Gifford organized and planned the Sam Bass Day activities for Allen. She secured a locomotive bell for children to ring and set up numerous "kid-friendly" activities that taught history about the railroads in Allen and Collin County. She engaged the students from Allen High School's drama classes to create a drama for each hour of the of the Saturday event. The Allen Heritage Center-Depot was packed for two years in a row.

Anne Gifford developed her "heart of the home kitchen exhibit" which depicted life on the north Texas prairie in the 1920's and 1930's. From this exhibit she made presentations to ten different schools talking to over one hundred thirty 6th graded Gifted and Talented students. Her agenda included: an antique guessing game, making lemonade from scratch, making butter cream and playing hopscotch. The exhibit was well received and the Allen Guild is very pleased that Anne took the historic exhibit featured at the depot and translated in into a terrific learning experience for Allen school children.

Excellence in Historical Education Award

Heritage Farmstead Museum: The Heritage Farmstead Museum crated a historical third grade program with the Plano Independent School District. This program has been beneficial for over twenty years. Over the years this program has helped over 50,000 children and involved hundreds of volunteers who donated over 15,000 hours to promote historical education in Collin County.

Field trips are made to the Heritage Farmstead Museum. The tour begins with the historic Farrell Wilson House. Some of the hands-on activities include beating rugs and washing clothes as they would have at the turn of the 20th Century. They touch artifacts such as hay hooks, butter molds, lye soap, horse muzzles, and samples of cotton, wool and coal.

The Farmstead provides a training program for each volunteer docent that provides the information needed to conduct a successful third grade tour. This brings adults in the community to a place where they can learn about another aspect of historic Collin County heritage.

Leadership in Preservation Award

City of Farmersville and the Main Street Program: The city of Farmersville has participated in the Main Street program since the year 2000 and has received numerous awards and recognition for its historic preservation efforts. From 2001-2009 the national main street designation has been given to Farmersville. The city was finalist for the “best renovation and new construction awards” by the Texas Downtown Associations. Also the city won the Community spirit award for Audie Murphy Day event.

The Farmersville Main Street Program has done numerous preservation projects with the city. This is some of those projects. Heritage Days events were celebrated March 2-7, 2009, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Main Street Square. Main Street researched the history of Onion Shed and prepared an application to the Collin County Historical Commission for a historical marker, which was granted. Main Street produced the downtown Historic Walking Tour brochures. Main Street is currently conducting a building survey of the buildings in the Main Street district to gauge the viability of the National Register District application process. Main Street coordinated with the Farmersville Historical Society and Brookshire's to provide historical photos for the new store's interior photo murals.

The City of Farmersville and the Main Street Program are strongly committed to preserving the History of Farmersville and Collin County.

Living Legacy of Collin County Award

Elisabeth Pink: Elisabeth Pink has worked to open history to many people, with volunteer work throughout Collin County since the 1970s.

Elisabeth Pink was a member of the Collin County Historical Commission from 1975-2001. She was chairman from 1977 to 1984 and again in 1999-2000. In 1979 she started working on saving and restoring the old Post Office in McKinney so it could become a museum. In May, 1982 the museum was dedicated. Elisabeth was director of the Old Post Museum from 1982 to 2002 which is now called the North Texas History Center.

Without Dr. and Mrs. Elisabeth Pink much of the History of Frisco would have been lost for ever. She was the first president of the Frisco Heritage Association. She helped to establish the Frisco Museum complex which is now known at the Heritage Center at Frisco Junction. This is where the past meets the present.

One cannot research history in Collin County without finding something that Elisabeth Pink has touched or done. Her contribution to Collin County, the cities of McKinney and Frisco, and the entire region will be felt for years to come.

Other Nominees for the Awards

Don Day

Guy Giersch