

2010 Awards from the Collin County Historical Commission

Collin McKinney Achievement Award

The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation: The Conservancy is a non-profit organization which has dedicated its focus and energy to numerous projects in multiple areas of historic preservation efforts. The first major undertaking was to locate a site that could house the organization. The Interurban Railway Building has been the perfect choice. During the past eight and one half years, the members have engaged in educational programs that include a mandatory Plano Independent school District fourth grade field trip to the Interurban Railway Museum servicing over 4500 students annually, a Friday morning story time with a focus on train transportation for preschool aged children with a weekly average attendance of 50 participants, an annual archaeology fair open to the general public under the guidance professional archaeologists, geologists and supporting staff. Other programs include the research, design, fabrication and installation of wayside signage at 5 pioneer cemetery sites within the Plano Community. Additionally, under the direction of Conservancy staff, funds were secured that provided for a major revitalization of the Interurban Railway Museum's interior and the restoration and opening for public tours of Texas Electric Railway Car #360. The museum was expanded to include a research center and was listed in the National Register of historic places; Volunteers have contributed over 9900 service hours which represents approximately \$217,800.00 in in-kind contributions. The Plano Conservancy has done an outstanding job in preserving Collin County history.

Excellence in Historical Education Award

Billy Gordon Hays: Bill Hays has promoted and preserved historical education about Collin County, and Prosper, Texas through writing and publishing a 540 page book, *Prosper, Texas Its History and Families*. The book has become a major teaching and resource book for the town of Prosper, Prosper independent School District, Prosper Historical Society/ Museum, other entities and organizations of area towns and communities as they search for accurate data concerning their heritage and their rich historical past. This book has been referred to as the "Prosper Bible." Bill's roots go back to 1877 in the establishment of a homestead of his great, great, grandparents in Collin County, Eli Hayes. The book was copyrighted in 2003 and has been published three times with approximately 400 copies sold, and there is now a waiting list of 100 names for the next publication. Mr. Bill Hays has made a huge impact on the Historical Education of Collin County. He has talked/listened to, written, e-mailed, collected and preserved the history of Collin County or over 50 years and has been willing to share this knowledge with anyone interested in learning about our rich past and great future.

Leadership in Preservation Award

The Farmersville Times: Chad Engbrock and his wife Sonia Duggan were chosen for their diligence in preserving and celebrating the rich history of *The Farmersville Times* news business, and the 1888 era building where the business is located. Since purchasing

the building and business in the year 2000, they have completed a beautiful restoration of the building, have thoroughly researched the building and business, obtained National Register status and Texas Historic landmark status for the building, and have taken the business into its 125th year. The building restoration was honored as a finalist for the best Restoration award of the Texas Downtown Association in 2006. *The Farmersville Times* building was built in 1888 as the Masonic Lodge No. 214. The building is an impressive two story Italianate design, built of locally quarried limestone. *The Farmersville Times* printed its first issue on March 23, 1885, and is credited to being the oldest newspaper in Collin County. The Masons occupied the building until they built a new building in town. Its completed restoration is a major milestone for the entire community.

Young Visionaries Award

Ashton Ruiz: Ashton began volunteering at the Heritage Farmstead Museum the fall of 2007 when she was sophomore student at Vines High School. There is no job that Ashton has not been willing to do, or to learn, at the Museum. When she does not know how to do something at the museum her standard answer is “I don’t know how to do that but I am sure I can learn.” Ashton has torn down an old dilapidated wall, cleaned sheep pens, chicken coops, and bathrooms. In addition she has given history tours, helped with events, summer camps and programs. Ashton was given the title of Assistant Volunteer Coordinator and at the Spring Festival in early April 2010 she coordinated over 100 youth volunteers without any help from the staff. Angie Carroll the volunteer coordinator of Heritage Farmstead Museum said “I have no doubt that Ashton’s love of history will be a part of her future and I am certain that she will be successful at whatever she choose to do in her future”

Living Legacy of Collin County Award

Mildred Juanice Terrell Stanton: Juanice has played an intricate part in developing the historical and cultural past of the Prosper and Collin County area. When one thumbs through all the newspaper clippings, meeting minutes, documents and memorabilia that she has collected since 1946, you see the same name over and over as a leader, chairman, president, lecturer and historian, Mrs. Juanice Terrell Stanton. She has been engaged in many civic and community affairs. She has been most helpful in directing the organization of the Prosper School PTO, Prosper Garden Club, Prosper Community Circle, Prosper Centennial Celebration Committee, and the Prosper Historical Society and Museum. She has been an active member of the Collin County Historical Society for many years and a supporter of the Collin County Historical Commission and encourager for the preservation of our cultural and educational heritage. At 81 Juanice is still giving interviews to school students, and interested county and local citizens. Several area papers, the *Dallas Morning News*, *McKinney Courier Gazette*, *McKinney Examiner*, *Celina Record*, *Prosper Press* and *Plano News* have news releases and human interest articles about this outstanding lady through the years. She is indeed an icon in Collin County.

Other Nominees for the Awards

Bonnie Borrello

Chandler's Gardens and Chambersville Tree Farm

City of Plano

Tre Colvin

Farmhand Apprentice Program

Jackson Harwell

Marcia Jowers

Tom Keener

Bonnie and Nathan Shea

Anna Shapovalova

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