

Kindergartners through 8th graders are invited to participate in the annual *Wildflower!* art contest, this year focusing on Texas wildflowers to be designed in the style of artist Georgia O'Keefe. Entries must be submitted on a 12-inch square white poster board provided by the City and returned to the Community Events office by April 28. All entries will be displayed at the *Wildflower!* festival. Ribbons will be awarded in each grade level. Poster boards can also be obtained from school art teachers or by calling Suzanne Etman at 972-744-4584. Get *wild!* with art.

**Singers audition Feb. 19 & March 5; songwriter deadline March 21**

## Budding talent competition expands to include songwriters

The City of Richardson and The Classics Theatre and Art for Children have announced the *Wildflower!* Budding Talent Competition events for the 2006 festival. This year, Budding Talents will again showcase outstanding young vocalists in the area and young performing songwriters will have a chance to showcase their emerging song-writing talent.

Budding Talents Performing Songwriter is for young artists who both compose and perform their original work. Budding Talents Vocal Competition has no requirement of original composition and young vocalists may perform to taped accompaniment, piano or acoustic guitar. Both competitions require auditions. For all Budding Talents events, participants must live in the City of Richardson, or attend an RISD school, or attend a private school located in Richardson.

**To audition for Budding Talents**

### Performing Songwriter:

Request an entry form by e-mailing debbie@classicsplano.org or call 972-596-8948. Submit one CD with two recorded entry songs (no tapes). Total length of each song cannot exceed five minutes. Entries must be postmarked by March 21. Budding Talents Performing Songwriter participants may be 20 years of age or younger.

**To audition for Budding Talents Vocal Competition** each singer must prepare one song to sing in front of the judges. Bring an accompaniment CD. A piano will be available. Please call 972-596-8948 to schedule your time. Auditions will be held at the Senior Center on Arapaho Road. The audition dates are Feb. 19 for Grades 7 through 12 and March 5 for age 3 years through Grade 6.

For additional information, to receive an entry form or to schedule an audition, please contact Debbie Mulvenna at 972-596-8948 or e-mail debbie@classicsplano.org

**Entries must be postmarked by March 21**

## Songwriters to vie May 19-21

The 14th annual *Wildflower!* Arts & Music Festival is now accepting entries for its Performing Songwriter Contest. Recorded entries must be postmarked by March 21. Ten finalists will be selected to perform their entry songs May 20 at the *Wildflower!* Festival and compete for the three \$500 cash awards. The entry fee is \$20 per entry.

The *Wildflower!* Performing Songwriter Contest encourages the growth of the art of independent performing singer-songwriters. Past finalists include Ruthie Foster, Jack Hardy, Christopher Williams, Beth Wood, Erik Balkey and Karen Mal, to name just a few.

"Many people can write a song, however, it is a truly brave person who will expose themselves by putting their song down on paper .....then stand in front of the world and sing it for all to hear," said contest coordinator Al Johnson, former Richardson director of Parks and Recreation.

Entries will be judged by a team of respected persons in the music business who will determine the top 10 submittals. All previous finalists and winners are invited to submit, however, 2005 finalists and winners cannot submit until 2007.

Benefits for finalists include:

- The opportunity to compete at the festival for one of three \$500 cash awards
- Lodging for the duration of the festival
- Access to the Green Room for the duration of the festival
- A breakfast honoring the Performing Songwriter Contest's 10 finalists
- The opportunity to perform on the Acoustic Café Stage and market CDs
- The opportunity to get to know and hear outstanding nationally known singer-songwriters
- The opportunity to be exposed to people who book singer-songwriters in Texas
- A chance to experience a career-changing weekend of music and fun

Finalists will be notified by April 14. Complete contest rules and an entry form are available on the festival's Web site: [www.wildflowerfestival.com](http://www.wildflowerfestival.com). The festival will be held May 19-21 at Galatyn Park, an urban center on the east side of Central Expressway (US 75) just south of E. Lookout Dr. For more information on the contest please call Amanda in the Richardson Parks and Recreation Dept. between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at 972-744-4310.

## City's Fleet Department receives award

The City of Richardson's Fleet operation was recently named as one of the 100 Best Fleets in North America by Tom Johnson, industry magazine *Fleet Equipment* and CCG Systems, Inc. This is the third year of the award program that honors outstanding performance in fleet operations. The criteria for the award includes documented accountability, effective utilization of technology and information, evidence of high trust culture, effective acknowledgement and recognition programs, staff collaboration, creativ-

ity, celebration, repair performance, repair turn-around time and fair competitive pricing. There are more than 36,000 municipal fleets in North America eligible in the program that is designed to encourage the ongoing improvement of fleet operations. Other cities in Texas receiving the award were Austin, Arlington, Fort Worth, Galveston, Grapevine, San Antonio and Tyler; also, Dallas County, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Texas A&M University.

## City recognizes 12 properties for revitalization efforts

Four nonresidential properties, an infill residential subdivision and seven residences were recognized in January as part of the 11th annual Community Revitalization Awards program. The program allows the City to say "thank you" to property owners who have completed revitalization projects having a significant, positive impact on their property and the surrounding area.

The Judging Committee included Council Members Steve Mitchell and Rhea Allison; City Plan Commissioners Chris Davis and Jim Henderson; and Talynn Otsuki representing the Chamber of Commerce.



The **Valero Convenience Store** at 102 E. Arapaho received an award for its contemporary look, improved vehicular circulation, landscaping and inclusion of an outdoor eating area.



The **Prosper Center** at the intersection of Greenville and Polk was recognized for its pedestrian friendly design that is similar to the original Old Town commercial buildings in the area.

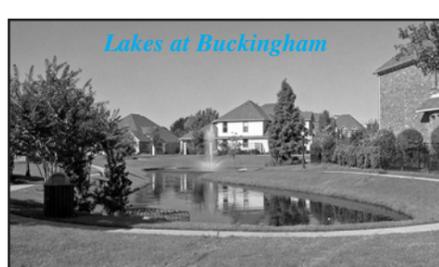
**Starbucks/Potbelly Sandwich Works** at 101 W. Campbell received a nonresidential award. The building replaced a gas station at the location and the committee cited the



architectural details and now complies with the US 75 Amenities Design Guidelines that include a meandering sidewalk, brick pavers and a variety of plant material.



**Capella Court**, a 1970s retail building, was recognized for a significant facelift done as part of the ongoing II Creeks retail and residential redevelopment in Canyon Creek. Committee members said the project exemplifies the importance of redevelopment in an established neighborhood.

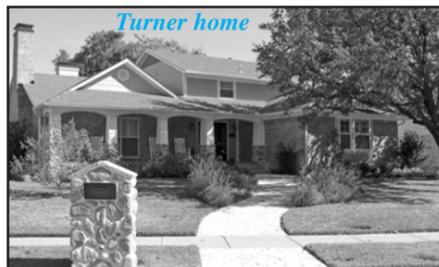


**The Lakes at Buckingham**, at Audelia and Buckingham roads, was recognized as an infill community surrounded by a variety of land uses that is an exemplary residential community created in the midst of diverse land uses with great success.

The **Genzell home** at 612 Scottsdale Dr., the **Kaup residence** at 605 Devonshire Dr. and the **Bitler home** at 314 Edgemoor Blvd. received awards from the committee for the



owners' commitment to reinvesting in established neighborhoods. The exteriors of the homes were improved either by painting or replacing siding, new windows and doors were installed and extensive landscaping greatly improved the appearance of the homes, all built in the 1950s.



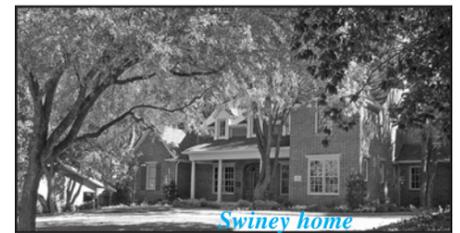
The **Turner residence** at 2518 Grandview Dr. was cited for a number of exterior enhancements including a new front porch, bay window and curving walk lined by drought-tolerant plants.



The **Pratt home** at 2507 Custer Parkway received an award for major exterior improvements including a gable front porch, stone veneer, cedar shutters, new windows, doors and gaslight fixtures at the entry.



The **Ringham residence** at 2516 Grandview was cited for its "extraordinary renovation" that transformed the home from an "hacienda" to a design that recalls a European country home.



The **Swiney home** at 27 Shady Cove was the last residential award given this year for the complete rebuild that retained most of the mature trees on the creek lot.

City officials have been awarding revitalization honors for the past 11 years, and more than 110 home and business owners have been recognized for their efforts to significantly enhance their properties, thereby enhancing the City as a whole.

Nominations are already being accepted for the 2006 awards. For more information, call City Planner Stephen Roberts at 972-744-4256.