finding your Denton

Big Smiles and Open Hearts
Get a sneak peek into the new Discover Denton Welcome Center

UNT turns 125
Hear the inside scoop on the Denton Black Film Festival

Plan your next getaway at: discoverdenton.com
COMBINING CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

At UNT, we broaden your horizons, engage your intellect and touch your hearts. Below are a few of our upcoming events.

German Expressionist Prints from the Kopriva Collection
The UNT College of Visual Arts and Design Collections, Cultures and Collaborations Series will feature German modernist prints from the Collection of Gus Kopriva of Houston. Accompanying the collection of fine art prints will be a selection of film screenings as well as research by graduate students under the direction of Jennifer W punct. The exhibition is curated by Victoria D: C:
Jan. 21-Feb. 20
UNT Art Gallery
Information: gallery.unt.edu/exhibitions

Faculty Dance Concert
The event will include works created by UNT faculty Shelley Cashman and Teresa Cooper as well as student pieces. Students also will perform a dance created by choreographer Ana Maria Alvarez, founder and artistic director of Contra-Tiempo dance theatre in Los Angeles. Presented by the UNT Department of Dance and Theatre. Artistic director is faculty member Robin Lakes.
8 p.m. Feb. 11-13 and 2 p.m. Feb. 14
University Theatre in the Radio, Television, Film and Performing Arts Building
Information: danceandtheatre.unt.edu

Danilo Pérez & Panama 500 with the One O’Clock Lab Band
Jazz, Pan-American folkloric traditions and European classical music combine to create Danilo Pérez’s most ambitious project yet, an evolution of what Pérez calls “three dimensional music.” The first half of the concert will feature the UNT One O’Clock Lab Band, led by Jay Saunders, with guest artist Pérez, followed by a second half featuring Pérez and Panama 500 joined by members of the One O’Clock Lab Band. This performance is a presentation of the Gomez Endowment and Rawlins Fine Arts Series.
8 p.m. March 3
Murchison Performing Arts Center
Information: thempac.com

Bill Nye
Best known for his Bill Nye the Science Guy TV series that won 18 Emmy awards, the famous scientist, educator, engineer and former vice president of the Planetary Society will speak as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.
8 p.m. April 6
UNT Coliseum
Information: studentaffairs.unt.edu/distinguished-lecture-series

Denton’s making moves and now’s the time to be a part of the growing city. Start here and find out what the Little d has for you.

10 | Hannah’s
See what chef Sheena Croft serves up at this local favorite

16 | Discover Denton Welcome Center
Get a sneak peek at the new Denton spot on the Square

18 | Denton Black Film Festival
Hear the inside scoop on this second-year filmmaker event

24 | Rose Costumes
Dress up in vintage attire from this unique costume shop
When the Smoke Clears

Get a look from above Denton in the annual Denton Airshow

#DENTONING: It’s How We Roll

“Word. dentoning. Definition: Exploring the shops, restaurants, music venues and cultural attractions in Denton, TX.”
This is Livability’s summarized definition of dentoning, a word common in Denton culture. It is a word coined some years ago by Dentonite Scott Campbell who made up the word to describe “the experience of enjoying/discovering/exploring all that the great city of Denton, TX has to offer.”
Livability.com obviously understands its meaning, because Denton has appeared on itsscientifically deducted list of “Top 100 Places to Live”for the past two years. And just recently, Livability.com rolled out a measurement that named Denton No. 5 among the “10 Best College Towns” in the country.
Welcome to Denton Live magazine, a creatively written guide to discovering Denton and finding your personal #dentoning style.

Guests in Denton, like the 128,000 people who choose to live here, have something quite definitive in common: we all seek uniquely original, independent, and impassioned ways to explore the world around us and embrace the powerful uniqueness our differences lend to the character of this wonderful place.

Adventuring. This is your adventure. Make it original. Embrace independence. Go enjoy Denton!

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Sweet Dreams are Made of This
@snowberrylife knows all about Hypnotic Donuts, a popular Denton site, famous for its delicious chicken biscuits and homemade donuts.

FINDING LOCALLY MADE GOODIES @brittany_scmo discovered the Austin Street Truck Stop and how it is a popular spot to find a bite to eat, courtesy of a fleet of local food trucks. One of the food trucks, the Waffle Wagon, is a local favorite for Belgian waffles.

Join the dentoning craze by using the #dentoning hashtag on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. We’ll publish our favorites in the next issue of Denton Live and you’ll win a cool #dentoning t-shirt.

COME TOGETHER Community festivals and events often bring Dentonites together, usually on the Square, with #collagedntn putting on movie nights.
**J.R. BYRD**

If you like unplugged and stripped-down versions of songs, then give this album a good listen. This University of North Texas alum delivers acoustic versions of his most popular songs, such as “Planted” and “Robot Monkey.” Byrd creates a carefree vibe with a jazzy sound that transitions smoothly from song to song. His soothing voice makes you forget about your worries and simply enjoy the music.

**DARCY**

Tapping your feet to the beats of Darcy’s songs is irresistible. This Denton melodic rock band brings guitar-driven songs and their mellow sound to their sophomore album “The Fall of the Economy.” Darcy uses their lyrics and sound to paint a picture of a broken yet seemingly delightful America on this six-track album.

**MANY VOICES**

Many Voices captures your attention on each song with acoustic folk melodies. Simple, yet powerful lyrics are featured as the album progresses. Every few songs, Many Voices surprises their listeners with the soothing sounds of a single acoustic guitar. “Paper Tapes” will leave you more serene than you were before.

**EXIT GLACIERS**

Try listening to the “Moon Jelly EP” and not automatically sway to the beats of soothing folk and alternative melodies. Formed in 2012, Exit Glaciers has created the perfect combination of the two genres with their 2014 EP that is reminiscent of early 90s alternative rock.

**JESSIE FRYE**

This singer/songwriter and pianist delivers a fun combination of rock and pop to the table with her 2014 debut EP “Obisdian.” Frye shows off her versatility by fusing together multiple rhythmic avenues to make each song different than the last. Blasts of percussions begin the album with “Never Been to Paris” and “Teenage Luck,” a piano-led ballad ends the album on a strong note.

**SONAR LIGHTS**

This Denton rock trio has created a sound that has been deeply missed in the industry. “Here We Are” embodies the sound of heavy alternative rock with crunchy riffs, rhythmic textures and strong songwriting on songs such as “Goodman” and “Here We Are.”

**DENTON LIVE**

**Put a dent in Denton**

Dentonites understand what it means to celebrate a city built on history and the full support of each other. Visiting Denton doesn’t leave a sense of exploration but a sense of understanding what history to a community really means. A history that is present throughout every turn. A history that is fully present. 

*Haley Killman*

*Dan’s Silver Leaf is the perfect place for this group to end their night. Wearing and cheering the performers - Chris Caravan, Julie Livingston, and Dunashay Thomas – the group pull themselves between songs, giving feedback and interacting with the trio on stage. Bouncing back this love, the musicians smile, promising more, one after the other. This is what dentoning is all about: musicality, love and adventure.

*Samantha Sullivan*

Some downtowns are dead, but not this downtown. Denton is vibrant, and it paints every wall and every street corner with uniqueness down to the once plain walls behind businesses now covered in art. An atmosphere.

**Writer reflections**

Brittany Sadic

There is no greater feeling than to be in a space in which you can truly be your own self. Your home may allow that, but what if there was a whole city that could encompass this same feeling? What if there was a city that could not only do this, but also challenge and mold you for the better at the same time?

Brittany Lloyd

Denton’s eclectic music scene is inclusive and best showcased through its varying styles of artists, performing live. There is enough variety to meet any preferred sound and ample opportunity for finding the perfect patio to sit with friends, sip a beer and pass the time.

*Put a dent in Denton*
Audacity is a name for beer imported at most of 300 bars and restaurants in Denton alone. Working with one of the country’s most reputable distributors has proven to be a successful strategy, with Scott giving Ben E. Keith credit for making such success to date possible. The company helps put Audacity brews into tap spouts spanning from Wichita Falls to the San Antonio Riverwalk.

Audacity’s home-base is big and bulky, structurally something more expected of New-York City’s Warehouse District. Except instead of subtle sandstone and textured earth tones it stands less classically, in both shape and style comfortably shaded by overgrown oak trees. Not forest, emerald, sage or some other verdant hue. But instead it’s an unusually bright shade, and obtuse and stout in shape; closely resembling a pack of Wrigley’s Doublemint gum.

But despite its practically glowing presence, it maintains its obscurity, tucked beneath reaching branches of mature oak trees, amongst a diverse landscape of plants and sparsely placed cacti. It poetically fits, ever so nicely, its spot at 1012 Shady Oak Drive. Initially 13 taps allowed the wall behind the brew house bar. Standing side by side, they are uniform in color, shape and size. But the personality of each is unique with distinct flavor profiles.

“Creating a product is the coolest part,” Scott said. “We start with four ingredients... We have water, malted grain, hops and yeast. We take it and mix it together in just the right way, and we create a product that is really cool to see.”

“For us, Denton is everything. It’s so important to us. And if we can make more beer, that’s fine, and we’ll send a little bit to Denton...we’ll send it into Dallas, but we’ll always focus on Denton. This is our spot... We are Denton.”

DENTON LIVE 9
“Does it leave you wanting more?”

Hannah’s Off the Square chef Sheena Croft has worked hard to create plates of food to appeal to all for which the restaurant is known. At this moment, Sheena and her sous-chef work in tandem to approve and garnish dishes. While the sous-chef brings completed dinners to their worktable, Sheena looks over a salmon dish before lighting a blowtorch to delicately scorch a lemon to accompany it. She places the plate carefully in the window before continuing on to the next course – a crème brûlée, which also comes under the blowtorch’s flame, caramelizing the sugar on top to a subtly toasted shell. Sheena plates pieces of carrot cake for the large dinner party there that night. She handles each piece with precision and care, tops them with ribbon-cut carrots, then into the window and out to the guest they go.

Sheena is constantly thinking about plating when preparing a dish. “I think about what type of plate it needs to go on. Does it have enough color? Is there enough negative space? Is it not just sitting in a big pool of whatever? Does it leave you wanting more? Is it over indulgent? Everything.”

Hannah’s opened in 2001 in a small space off the square. The restaurant moved to its current location, at 111 W. Mulberry in July 2004. The building was a blacksmith shop, now beautifully refurbished and able to accommodate more diners.

Sheena likes the camaraderie in the kitchen. Sharing the cooking experiences with other people is a good day for her. As the orders slack off, she takes a break and grabs a drink of water, anticipating the next surge of diners. Out in the dining room the ambiance is elegant yet relaxed as patrons take their time eating and conversing.

Hannah’s is two different worlds: the kitchen is hot, noisy and busy, while the dining room is cool, quiet and relaxing. The tables are all adorned with crisp white tablecloths and the lighting is dim, creating an intimate atmosphere.

A sprig of rosemary, a cut of lemon or a flower garnish is thoughtfully placed on the plate to complete a dish. Chef Sheena Croft adds the finishing touches to each dish that comes out of the kitchen. She gives the plate a quick swipe, a final flourish, an artful presentation before placing it in the window with the rest of a table’s order.

Cooks in the kitchen portion salmon and crack eggs for the large dinner party there that night. She handles each piece with precision and care, tops them with ribbon-cut carrots, then into the window and out to the guest they go.

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Dining is intimate but not intimate. The tables are all adorned with crisp white tablecloths and the lighting is dim, creating an intimate atmosphere.

Story by Katie Gibbs  
Photos by Roberto Aguilar
UNT TURNS THE BIG 125
Story by Shelby Adelsen Photos courtesy of UNT

On the second floor of a small building in the middle of town, 70 students are gathered in a stuffy room. Young Texans are seated side-by-side with Creek Indians, a rare sight these days. They are beginning their educational journey toward teaching careers at Texas Normal College. It’s 1890, and, unbeknownst to them, these students are establishing a legacy of diversity, openness and education that will grow and shape the city around them for the next 125 years.

That time is long gone now, commemorated with a simple bronze plaque on the side of Thomas Ethan Creek Indians, a rare sight these days.

1990 - UNT founded as Texas Normal College and Teacher Training Institute by President John C. Chilton. First classes on Sept. 16 over a hardware store on the Denton town square.

1997 - The colors “green and white” were listed as the official colors. To honor that idea, this tartan plaid was created to commemorate UNT’s 125th anniversary.

1999 – The first official bachelor’s degree (B.A. in education – with language required – and B.S. in education – with no language requirement) were granted. (The first master’s degrees were not awarded until 1950.)

2014 – UNT’s current president, Dr. Neal Smatresk. Looking at UNT’s campus today, you can see this warm, accepting environment, something Dr. Smatresk has not seen many other places.

Johnny Quinn, 2014 Olympic silver-medalist, former NFL player, and UNT alumus brings this sense of community and family to life when he recalled the wellspring of support he received from UNT during his time at the Olympic Games. Encouragement came from fellow students of his UNT days, and from current students.

“One you wear the green and white, you’re part of the UNT family,” Johnny said.

Academically, UNT leads the nation in energy conservation, sustainability research, nationally-accredited schools, and areas of study. UNT began its focus on global sustainability in the mid-1970s with water quality research led by biologist J.K.C. Silvey, and has since made tremendous strides in green initiatives on campus and off, leading to the creation of the We Mean Green Campaign in 2008.

HELP CELEBRATE UNT125!
Wingspan Gala, April 14-17, 2016

One of the milestones of a more sustainable campus is nearly impossible to miss: Apogee Stadium. Green isn’t just a school color, but a North Texas lifestyle. But UNT, much like its students, excels at more than just this.

Thousands of musicians have flocked to North Texas to participate in a 70-year tradition of musical excellence. In 1946, jazz studies, the first of its kind in the nation, began under the direction of Gene Hall. The program has since contributed to the music school’s rise to No. 1 in the nation, producing many Grammy Award-winning alumni. While UNT takes pause to celebrate the past and present, eyes must be on the future too, so that the school can grow and flourish and continue its tradition of excellence.

“I’m incredibly proud of this institution,” Dr. Smatresk said. “And I know if President Chilton [UNT’s first president] were here with me today, he would be proud of what we’ve become as well.”

QUICK FACTS
ALL NAME INCARNATIONS:
1890-94 Texas Normal College and Teacher Training Institute
1894-1901 North Texas Normal College
1901-23 North Texas State Normal College
1923-49 North Texas State Teachers College
1949-61 North Texas State College
1961-88 North Texas State University
1988-present University of North Texas

First enrollment: 70 students
Current enrollment: 36,000 students

First graduate majors offered: biology, chemistry, economics, home economics, physical and health education, English, government, history, mathematics, Spanish, elementary education, secondary education and school administration.

Current majors offered: 99 undergraduate, 83 Master’s, 36 doctoral programs

First president: Joshua C. Chilton
First dormitory: Marquis Hall
First African-American student: A. Tennyson Miller (1954)
It hits you like a wave when you walk into Denton’s Quakertown Park—a sensory overload—music fills your ears, arts and crafts fill your eyes. And then there’s all that food. You can taste the smoky, hickory barbecue; and sugary funnel cakes just by smelling them. You come for the jazz and art. But even the food leaves an everlasting impact on Denton Arts & Jazz Festival goers.

Terry Nobles is the current President of the Denton Festival Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that produces the annual Denton Arts & Jazz Festival. The organization has a 35-member Board of Trustees, 2 paid staff, 400 members and 250 sponsors that contribute financial support to maintain the free event.

“I would recommend that festival goers go to the guy that does the kettle corn and make sure you get a gyro at one of the great places,” Terry said. “Try one of the beers from the beer wall too. Then find a shaded spot to sit down for a while, enjoy your food and your drink, and select a band or artist that you’d like to see.”

Terry said, “Just to see how much fun they were having.”

Terry has been working as a volunteer for the festival for the past 15 years. He worked in the hospitality tent at the Jazz Stage, the main stage for headliners. By showing up an hour before the festival opens each morning and not leaving until an hour after it closes—roughly 16 to 18 hours per day. Among his favors is working with the last person that left at 11:30 p.m. The original Blind Brothers—those guys were totally amazing.”

Of course, this being Texas, you can’t go 25 years without occasionally experiencing indifferent weather during the two and half day weekend event. The 2015 Arts and Jazz Festival experienced the worst weather in the history of the festival, according to Terry. There was so much rain the week of the festival that the festival grounds were a muddy mess. But the show went on regardless, with fans nary noticing or caring.

“We pulled together,” Terry said. “We all put on rain boots and ponchos and just kept going. You know, it’s when people pull together that it’s always a lot of fun.”

“A highly anticipated part of Arts & Jazz Festival is Lab Band Madness. Starting Saturday at 1 p.m., the UNT Jazz Bands perform every hour in reverse order from the Nine O’Clock to the One O’Clock, often running with “Things to Come,” a jazz piece once played by Dizzy Gillespie in 1968. The One O’Clock Lab Band has been the top jazz ensemble from UNT’s storied jazz program and music school for 67 years. The band has won numerous major awards including seven Grammy nominations. Every year they play the Denton Arts & Jazz Festival along with the other eight UNT jazz bands. The lab bands are named in numerical order by the Duke Ellington and his orchestra. Starting from the top One O’Clock all the way to Nine O’Clock. A highly anticipated part of Arts & Jazz Festival is Lab Band Madness. Starting Saturday at 1 p.m., the UNT Jazz Bands perform every hour in reverse order from the Nine O’Clock to the One O’Clock, often running with “Things to Come,” a jazz piece once played by Dizzy Gillespie in 1968.

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Big Smiles & Open Arms

Denton greeting extends beyond a quick ‘hello’ at Downtown Denton Welcome Center

Story by Aimy Smith
Photos by Alex Lilley

“Wow, I had no idea all this stuff was going on!”

This city is a cornucopia of sights, sounds, tastes and smells sure to fill just about any imaginable craving. Around every corner are opportunities to expand your physical, mental and spiritual self. Old homes converted into shops and workplaces bring a revitalized vibe to neighborhoods.

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Denton greeting extends beyond a quick ‘hello’ at Downtown Denton Welcome Center

Story by Aimy Smith
Photos by Alex Lilley

“Wow, I had no idea all this stuff was going on!”

This city is a cornucopia of sights, sounds, tastes and smells sure to fill just about any imaginable craving. Around every corner are opportunities to expand your physical, mental and spiritual self. Old homes converted into shops and workplaces bring a revitalized vibe to neighborhoods.
A rush of people fill the basement of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows lodge, scrambling about looking for friends and places to sit. The basement is packed wall-to-wall with people ranging from adults looking for friends and places to sit. The basement is packed wall-to-wall with people ranging from adults looking for friends and places to sit.

The film festival committee has tried to bring a “rich, colorful experience to the community,” said Mesha, the festival’s Special Projects coordinator. “Our goal is to attract independent filmmakers and an audience looking for great independent films.”

The festival shows a medley of movies ranging from independent award-winning feature films, documentaries and shorts produced by independent filmmakers from around the world, along with submissions from local high school and college students. The festivals major sponsor is the African-American Scholarship Foundation, a 31-year-old non-profit organization that awards scholarships to high school students in the Denton area.

Last year, the film festival opened to a full house at the Campus Theater. A diverse audience watched every film, poppers in hand, smiles lit up by the theater’s bright screen. After viewing films such as 2013 British period piece Belle and the critically acclaimed independent film Dear White People, attendees were able to enjoy a Q&A session with Texas actress Irma P. Hall, widely known for her roles in movies such as Ladykillers (2002) and Soul Food (1997).

DENTON BLACK FILM FESTIVAL BRINGS ‘RICH, COLORFUL EXPERIENCE’ TO TOWN

The Denton Black Film Festival will run January 29-31 at the Campus Theater on 2140 W. Hollywood St. Tickets prices are $7-$20, and you can buy them online at www.dbff.com.

According to James Martin, the festivals Artistic Director. Award-winning filmmaker Coy Poitier, Vice President of Nu Rho Entertainment, believes black film festivals are the fountainheads that allow filmmakers of all races to showcase their art and educate viewers on the multidimensional structure of black culture. African-American stories aren’t the most popular and are often not portrayed properly by mainstream media. Through black film festivals, spectators get the chance to accurately see black narratives.

“Have we found a way to create something that can change the way we look at race in America? I think we have.”

The focus of the film festival’s camera lens goes far beyond the African-American community. The festival is committed to changing perceptions.

“There are so many aspects that make African-Americans whole people that are very often not portrayed or even mentioned by mainstream cinema and Hollywood,” said Julie Wilson, Co-Founder of the festival. “The festival is committed to giving all people a glimpse into a culture that is uniquely their own. Media plays a huge role in how people see us, and until we’re able to control the way we’re portrayed in film, people are going to continue seeing us as exactly who we are.”

The focus of the film festival’s camera lens goes far beyond what the festival can do for the African-American community, but what it can do for all cultures in Denton. Through the compelling content exhibited, the festival organizers aim to give all people a glimpse into a culture that is uniquely different.

FESTIVAL EVENTS

Art Exhibit: January 6 – February 2, 2016
Pre-Film Festival Event: January 23, 2016
Irma P. Hall Lifetime Achievement Award
Award-Winning Films
Tribute to Gospel Music
Spoken Word
Music Venues

DENTON LIVE
Annual Denton Airshow brings aerobatic fun to Enterprise Airport

The engine hum turns into a roar as the beast comes to life. A giant swoosh of wind can be heard from the cockpit as the pilot comes online, signaling air control is ready to take flight. Her heart’s pounding is the only sound she can hear over the engines’ growing crescendo. Then the day’s most exciting three words are death-defying stunts. They’re sole masters of their craft and their audience is riveted. From the tarmac to the skies, every movement is calculated. The rush of adrenaline and resistance of gravity hit as they pull back on the yoke and fly straight up into their next tailslide. The sense of community is also a reason why the pilots love coming to Denton and participating in the airshow. They like the small-town feel here – something that extends to the spectators too, where pilots and fans mingle.

The Denton Airshow is a popular event drawing audience members from all over the state, country and even the world. The pilots are also from diverse backgrounds – some are private pilots and friends, Andrew Wright, in an airplane accident that killed his two pilots and friends, and group of pilots the Falcon Flight group. The pilots also take extra time to connect with audiences while in town. They host a breakfast the morning before the airshow for fans to meet and greet the pilots. Last year some of the pilots gave a demonstration for the kids at the Parks and Recreation’s Summer Day Camp. Gracie Cabrales was one of the lucky kids to participate. “It was awesome getting to see the equipment and how they work,” Gracie said. “They were so fun and nice too.”

Land ing gear jutting out, the planes make a swift descent until their wheels contact the tarmac. The screech and smell of burning rubber signal the end of another successful flight. Still amped-up on adrenaline, the pilots scramble out of their planes and are greeted by the cheers of the excited audience. Taking a bow, all the pilots can think about is the next time they’ll take off.
The Comforts of Madness

Mark Burke is rushed. Surrounding him are small neat stacks of CDs on one side, and records flowing out of cardboard boxes on the other. He is overwrought with things to do, with more stacks waiting to be sorted behind the counter. He looks at the time, moving fast - so fast that if you blinked too long you’d swear the shelves were stacking themselves.

It’s 11:00 a.m. at Mad World Records, and with the sound of keys accompanying Mark’s steps the place goes from “Sorry, we’re closed,” to “Yes, we’re open.” It’s in those brief moments as he walks back from unlocking the door that he’s finally able to relax. He is now ready for his guests of honor: his customers. This morning ritual is a daily routine for the scruffy, hat-and-glasses-wearing 42-year old, but today is special. For today is Record Store Day, the one day out of the entire year celebrating not just stores like Mark’s, but music lovers everywhere.

Since 2007, on the third Saturday of April, music aficionados around the world gather to salute vinyl – a format once written off after the emergence of the cassette, CD and MP3. Once an extinct contemporary of ‘50s-era clips of American Bandstand, the reemergence of vinyl has been quite remarkable. In fact, it was recently announced that vinyl is not only back but of artists ranging from King Crimson to Neu! as well as more common found artists like The Who or The Beatles. The store Growing up in the ‘90s, what attracts Kevin to vinyl is, “the sound, the art and the beauty of it,” he said. Personally amassing a hefty collection ranging from hip-hop, indie, to German experimental progg-rock – Kevin’s love for vinyl is deep.

Kevin is elated.

Growing up in the ‘90s, what attracts Kevin to vinyl is, “the sound, the art and the beauty of it,” he said. Personally amassing a hefty collection ranging from hip-hop, indie, to German experimental progg-rock – Kevin’s love for vinyl is deep.

Today, he is visiting Mad World for the first time with his girlfriend and fellow music lover, Caroline. He describes listening to vinyl as something “romantic – something I like to do to relax at home, even study to.” For Kevin, events like Record Store Day are well deserving of hype and anticipation. “Granted, I didn’t grow up listening to vinyl, but there is a difference between what I hear in my car to what I can hear at home from my records. There’s a feel behind it that I get a lot of enjoyment from. It’s hard to put into words,” he said.

At Mad World you can find rare gems like original pressings of artists ranging from King Crimson to Neu as well as more commonly found artists like The Who or The Beatles. The store buys and sells records, which make up a third of their inventory. You can also find gently used DVDs, memorabilia like buttons, and CDs and cassettes, which have also recently made a comeback.

Visitors come and go, one after the other, letting noise from outside add to sound of the music playing inside. Some come in to shop, while others come in just to look, attracted by the décor that Mark and staff exhibit so well. It’s like a miniature Rock ‘n’ Roll museum, decked out a teenager’s bedroom. Soon after the shop closes, with Mark and his employees well prepared for the day ahead.

THE DAY OF...

It’s 6:30 a.m. Across the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square, before the dew of morning grass, figures in sweaters wearing backpacks and carrying packable lawn chairs are seating themselves in front of the store. Every 15 minutes more people trickle in doing the same.

“Guess, I won’t be the first one in line,” said a boy of 17, as he approaches what is now a line of four people.

“Sorry,” said the slightly older guy in front, comfortably reclining in his lawn chair. They both laugh, with the boy pulling out his phone as he sits down on the sidewalk.

Hours pass, with the line grown to a dozen people. Talk about favorite records, concerts attended and musicians excites the people waiting, setting the mood for record shopping. Everyone is chatting but not forgotten, reminiscent of the days when people used to camp out for concert tickets, the age before the MP3 and online shopping. This is a celebration of music lovers.

Record Store Day will be Saturday, April 16th. It is an all-ages affair, welcoming everyone and anyone who appreciates the cultural exchange that happens through music. The local record store is back!

“The whole idea of Record Store Day is really just about bringing the whole community together,” said employee Bailey Lewis. Working at the store for a couple of years, he is a music junkie and avid supporter of Record Store Day.

Bailey credits his parents for getting him into music and relates what they found music is not something cliché or unfamiliar, but rather something he finds himself listening to.

Kevin Ryan, a student at UNT, couldn’t be happier about that. He eagerly approaches the checkout counter to ask about a record not stocked in the shelves. Informing him that the record will arrive later in the week, Mark offers to hold a copy for him.

Within the soft yellow walls of Mad World, posters and records decorate the shop. Shelves not only feature records from Frank Sinatra and Bob Dylan, but also share the space with action figures like He-Man and Godzilla. Campy to some, nostalgic to others, the concocted atmosphere invites visitors to please their ears no matter what the format. Whether it’s wax or plastic, it’s all here.

One cannot only find a wide selection of rock, indie, jazz, and hip-hop, but notable up-and-coming acts from the local circuit as well. A listening station sits ready to give visitors something new to check out. After all, Denton is a music town.

“There is no such thing as bad music,” Mark said. “You can have a 10-year-old girl get way more excited about the new Taylor Swift album than a 25-year old would get about a new Radiohead album coming out. That’s positive energy that you can’t ignore because that’s what I’m doing. I’m trying to make the neighborhood happy,” he said.

“Sure, it’s my creative outlet, but it’s for the community. I sell what the community wants,” Kevin Ryan, a student at UNT, couldn’t be happier about that. He eagerly approaches the checkout counter to ask about a record not stocked in the shelves. Informing him that the record will arrive later in the week, Mark offers to hold a copy for him.
Experience Secondhand Rose and her costumes

Rose Costumes
Secondhand clothes
That's why they call me
Secondhand Rose
Even our piano in the parlor
Daddy bought for ten cents on the dollar
I'm wearing secondhand curls

The outside looks like an old grocery store building with its beige stucco and Alamo arches on top. Even the big red lettering reads “Rose Costumes,” “Make-Up” and “Theatrical Accessories” doesn’t look like much – from the outside. As you enter through the doors, you escape the ordinary and step foot into a creative warehouse filled with thousands of theatrical-themed rooms that serve as a home to hand-stitched costumes.

The ceiling is black and ordinary like in any office building, except for the chickens. The ones nailed to the ceiling guiding you to the back of the store.

But before you get there, you’ll pass a massive ship identical to the Black Pearl in Pirates of the Caribbean. It nearly touches the back of the store. The ones nailed to the ceiling guiding you to the back of the store.

Still, the silent rubber chickens beckon you to follow them. So you do, into the Sherlock Holmes-themed restroom where a piano plays music all by itself. You almost don’t know if you’re where you’re supposed to be.

“Rose Costumes is an experience, not just a store,” said Judy Smith, the owner.

Just as a green thumb describes skillful gardening, Judy has the green thumb for the art of clothing. “Expect the weird,” she said as she herself is decoratively dressed in a long striped light blue dress with patterned stitches of a red bandana that was hand-sewn herself and likely found at one of the many garage sales she attends weekly. She can visit up to 25 in one Saturday.

The only clothes she wears are from garage sales. The same is true for her costumes, although you’d never know it.

“I’m a walking billboard for my store,” Judy said. Sometimes the stuff she finds at estate sales is better quality and unusual. Worn out fabric that most would see as undesirable is like finding gold for Judy.

“To me that shows it’s lived a life. It has a history.”

Judy’s latest location is in the Stonehill Center at 5800 I-35N. She outgrew her first shop, named after the Barbara Streisand song “Secondhand Rose,” which was on Denton’s popular Fry Street, opened in 1976. Judy has now become synonymous with the name Rose. On a typical day she spends most of it at home, sewing each of her costumes until about 2 p.m.

“My house is an extension of my store, and it’s a creative outlet for me to do things there that I can’t do here. It lets me just go crazy with ideas.”

She’s well known by Denton residents, and what makes her shop unique – other than the fact that everything is handmade and custom – is it allows her costumes to hang on the racks out in the open.

“I want people to feel inspired when they come in,” Judy said. To be able to touch, see and feel these costumes is what she really enjoys people doing while in her shop. “These costumes are my children, because I create these things and put my heart into them.”

Anything you ever wanted to be on Halloween, in a parade or in a theater performance fill the many racks of material creativity. The funny thing is that Halloween isn’t even Judy’s favorite time of year – it’s one act season.

On an average day, you might hear the laughter of local theater kids trying on their custom-made ensembles for the play they’ve been rehearsing. During their fittings (in six different themed rooms) with Rose’s helpful staff, they giggle and get into character wishing they could leave their costume on a little longer.

“Do I really need to take it off already?” one teenage boy protests as everyone laughs.

“Once we put them in a costume, we see them start singing and doing their lines better and walking the way they’re supposed to, all because they’re in the costume,” Judy said.

If there is one thing Judy hopes people take away from her shop, it is inspiration and creativity. Her employees are imagineers just as she is. One question on her job application is, “What did you dress up for last year on Halloween?” She wants to see what they can do with things they’d normally throw away. Just as Judy has done with all of her costumes.

“Take a tour through the storied history of Denton’s heroic firefighters!”

Learn about the amazing history of triumph, tragedy and true local heroes. Explore the museum as you honor our brave firefighters both past and present.

Open Weekdays 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Located inside the Denton Fire Department Headquarters
find out more at firefightermuseum.com
discoverdenton.com Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau
The bulldozer came in the night. The castle-like turret fell. The wraparound porch sunk into the ground. The diamond-shaped windows shattered. The widow’s walk, the balconies, the chimneys all followed suit. The century-old, three-story ivory mansion that was once an eclectic architectural marvel now lay in pieces on the ground. Residents of West Oak and Hickory Streets between Locust and Elm Streets, which had been standing since the late 19th century in ruins.

A few months before, the house was being inhabited by the son of long-time Dentonite A.E. Graham. After taking possession of the house from his father, Dentonite A.E. Graham. After taking possession of the house from his father, Donald and Dolores Vann, after moving into their salmon-colored, century-old home since 1981. They became quick friends with a couple across the street, a pair of brothers built two identical, identical houses near Denton High School. Owners a few more houses have seen the neighborhood change in recent years: A Christmas Eve brunch was hosted at the Christal House. These events helped create a close neighborhood.

A CHANCE TO MOVE FORWARD

“Historic preservation is not a club,” Randy said. “You never walk that dog.”

“Why would you say that?”

“Your neighbors want to expand. They’re working on changing the district’s name from Oak-Hickory Historical District to Denton Senior High Historical District to make the neighborhood more inclusive. Opening people’s minds, getting them out of their own homes to interact with their neighbors, and getting them all to work together to preserve their neighborhood is something in which Randy takes a lot of pride. He describes a conversation he heard between two neighbors who hadn’t seen each other in years: “I didn’t know you lived on this street,” a neighbor said one day. “I thought you’d die,” the other neighbor replied.

“Well, you’re never outside no more. You never walk that dog.”

“Well, the dog died.”

“Just to hear them talk, you do everything you can not to laugh,” he said.

“Historic preservation is not a club,” Randy said. “If you’re got an older house, or proud of it, be part of something.”

There are officially 90 houses in the district, and Randy and his team of historians want to expand. They’re working on getting the district on the National Park Service’s Register of Historic Places. Being part of the National Register shows that at least 75 percent of a district is historically preserved. Unlike many other historical designations, being on the National Register includes restrictions on what can and cannot be done to residents’ properties.

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MASSAGE THERAPY PROVIDES RELIEF FOR EVERYONE

“One, two, three, four, five...” The numbers roll off Amber Briggles’s tongue like gently flowing water over river rocks. She sits in her chair looking at her company’s schedule for the week, counting how many patients her company sees in a day. Candles, the relaxing smell of lavender and the calm and peaceful sound of a trickling water fountain greet you as soon as you walk in. The graceful flow of water is only the beginning to the relaxing ambiance. Amber, a massage therapist and owner of Soma Massage Therapy, knows how to make a space for participants that makes them feel like they belong in Denton. Even the soothing tone of Amber’s voice adds to the peaceful demeanor of the massage center. Her center has only been open for two years but has grown quickly in that short amount of time. Another room was recently added and is expected to bring in an extra 20 to 30 customers a week.

Massages can mean many things. It can include getting a deep tissue, Swedish, hot stone or even prenatal treatment. It has also been known to help ease the pain of arthritis and fibromyalgia. Swedish massage is a general massage that’s based on different strokes loosening muscle tissue in any given area.

Soma Massage Therapy specializes in deep tissue work but offers hot stone and aromatherapy massages. Amber has made it a point that specific prenatal treatments are done so that the comfort of the mother is always the first priority. There are also specialists at Soma who help with sports injuries, postural imbalances and other aches and ailments.

“Being able to ‘fix’ the pain,” said Brandy, one of Soma’s massage therapists. “I mean, you walk in and like being able to do that for somebody.” Brandy’s hands move gracefully down her client’s back, striking back and forth while the water fountain behind her calmly falls. The lighting is dim aside from a small lamp and the light from the fountain.

Denton is known for being original and independent, and the locally based restaurants and shops share this spirit. Soma massage loves this about Denton as well. Amber moved to Boulder, Colorado with her husband so he could begin graduate school. While there, she applied to one of the top massage therapy schools in the world and began her year-long studies which consisted of more than 1,000 hours of massage therapy training. They lived together in Holland for three years afterwards before finally settling down in Denton.

“I did not intend to be a business owner though, because I’ve never taken a business class,” Amber said. “I know nothing about marketing, I don’t do HR or tech support, but apparently you have to do those things as a small business owner.”

Being locally owned is significant to Amber. “I want everyone to feel at home and peaceful when they come for a treatment.”

“Makes us different than a lot of other places—because you can certainly get a good, relaxing massage, in a lot of places in Denton,” Amber said. “But there’s not a lot of places where you can get a good, relaxing massage that also will structurally change your body to make you balanced and healthier.”

The waiting room is dim and lit by the candles on the wall. Below the candles, a small bowl of water holds even smaller candles that help create a sense of peace within the room. From the moment customers enter and leave, their worries are left outside the front door. Here, inside, there’s healing and relief.

CHECK OUT THESE LOCAL SPAS

Soma Massage Therapy
520 Malone St, Suite 119, Denton
(940) 536-8720

Davanti Salon Spa
1800 S Loop 288, Suite 222, Denton
(940) 380-1196

Denton Massage on the Square
(940) 898-8500
109 East Oak St, Suite 100, Denton

Denton Massage
(940) 383-5780
1720 Westminster, Denton

Amber and her husband opened Soma Massage Therapy here in Denton, making it a point that specific prenatal treatments are done so that the pain can be fixed and so that the mother can feel at ease during her pregnancy.

DENTON LOVES LOCAL

On Saturday mornings, the Denton Community Market bustles with families and friends. Booths of different shapes and sizes create a labyrinth of handmade everything from ferments to food. Attendees browse the booths leisurely while listening to a local acoustic artist performing under a white-gazebo.

At the edge of the maze is a simple white tent, filled with colorful merchandise. Blue, red and green T-shirts flap in the wind and a rainbow assortment of koozies line the table. Hand-made, rustic-looking mugs with the Denton Community Market logo are proudly displayed on the white table cloth. The man stands behind the table smiling at passersby. Behind him, a large poster reads “Only In Denton” in bold, colorful letters.

“Only In Denton” is an online directory of more than 400 local businesses. When he thought it up, Scott Ballard said, “I knew we could promote and bring awareness to local businesses in Denton. Denton is a city that thrives on creativity, and residents take pride in supporting local businesses. Through Only In Denton, Scott cultivates and shares Denton’s love of local with the world.

“I realized that we live in a really cool city and there’s a million things to do and people to use for this type of stuff,” Ballard said.

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP

Every morning at 7 a.m., Ballard visits the locally-owned coffee shop Shift Coffee. He picks up his drink and works on Only In Denton business for about an hour before heading to his full time job in Flower Mound.

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FESTIVALS

January 29-13: Denton Black Film Festival, Campus Theatre (page 21)

February 17-21: Thin Line Film Festival, Downtown Denton

March 10-13: Texas Storytelling Festival, Denton Civic Center

March 19-23: Denton Downtown Denton

April 29-May 1: Denton Arts & Jazz Festival, Quakertown Park (page 17)

May 14: Cinco de Mayo, Quakertown Park

MARKETS & OTHER EVENTS

April-Nov: Denton Community Market, every Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Denton County Historical Park

March 5, April 2, May 7: North Texas Horse Country Tours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., DATCU parking lot, 210 S Elm Street

First Friday of every month: First Friday Denton, 7-10 p.m., downtown Denton square

May 13-14: TWU Graduation, Kitty Magee Arena

For more calendar events in Denton, visit discoverdenton.com

ACCOMMODATIONS

AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN & SUITES
620 S. 1301
(940) 387-0591
americasbestvalueinn.com

BEST WESTERN PLUS
2970 W. University Drive
(940) 591-7726
bestwesternplus.com/denton

BEST WESTERN PREMIER
2450 Brinker Road
(940) 387-1000
bestwesterntexas.com/premiercrownchase

BUFFALO VALLEY EVENT CENTER AND HOTEL
2946 Ganzer Road W.
(940) 482-3409
buffalovalleyeventcenter.com

COMFORT INN
4050 Mesa Drive
(940) 320-5150
comfortinndenton.com

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
2800 Colorado Blvd.
(940) 382-0420
denton.homewoodsuites.com

DAYS INN
4211 N. I-35
(940) 383-1471
daysinn.com/23887

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES
2900 W. University Drive
(940) 384-1700
marriott.com/DFWDN

HAMPTON INN & SUITES
1513 Centre Place Drive
(940) 381-4900
dentonsuites.hamptoninn.com

HILTON GARDEN INN & SUITES
3110 Colorado Blvd.
(940) 382-3636
denton.hgi.com

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES
4485 N. I-35
(940) 808-0600
hiedenton.com

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON
2907 Shoreline Drive
(940) 382-0420
denton.homewoodsuites.com

Howard Johnson Express
2970 Johnson Drive
(940) 582-0628
denton.hjexpress.com

HOTEL INN EXPRESS & SUITES
4485 N. I-35
(940) 380-0668
hotelinnexpresstexas.com

HOMERWOOD SUITES BY HILTON
2977 Johnson Drive
(940) 582-0628
denton.homerwoodsuites.com

LAQUINTA INN & SUITES
4463 N. I-35
(940) 380-0444
laquinta.com

MOTEL 6
4125 N. I-35E
(940) 566-4798
motel6.com

QUALITY INN AND SUITES
1500 Dallas Drive
(940) 387-3511
choicehotels.com/hotel/tex836

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT
3761 S. I-35E
Opening Spring 2016
940-591-8500
ResidenceInn.com/dfwrd

SPRINGHILL SUITES DENTON
1434 Centre Place Drive
(940) 383-4100
marriott.com/dfwsd

STUDIO 6
700 Fort Worth Drive
(940) 387-5840
motel6.com

SUPER 8 MOTEL
620 S. I-35E
(940) 380-8888
super8.com

VALUE PLACE
4505 N. I-35
(940) 387-3400
valueplace.com

THE WILDWOOD INN
2602 Lillian Miller Parkway
(940) 243-4919
denton-wildwoodinn.com

UNIVERSITY INN
1001 S. I-35E
(940) 387-1000
universityinn.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DENTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;
DENTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
414 Patton
(940) 384-7000 (800)381-1818
dentonchamber.com

DENTON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY
2001 W. University Dr.
(940) 382-8777
dentonmuseum.org

FESTIVAL THEATER
1001 E. New发作 Drive
(940) 382-8525
festivaltheater.com

GLEN HUNDRED ARTS CENTER
506 E. Hickory St.
(940) 384-8899
glenhundredartscenter.org

GREAT SCOT THEATRE
1111 W. Hickory
(940) 384-0004
greatscottoilet.org

MILTON H. HUTCHINSON JR. CONVENTION CENTER
3000 N. High St.
(940) 384-8585
miltonhutchinsoncenter.com

MAGNETA HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER
3121 Highland Ave.
(940) 387-1750
magnetawellnesscenter.com

MARTIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1128 F.M. 1188
(940) 391-8181
martinfair.jpg

MUSEUM OF NIAGARAN HISTORY
910 S. Hickory
(940) 384-1669
museumonhickory.com

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