DENTON LIVE
CELEBRATING ORIGINAL INDEPENDENCE IN NORTH TEXAS SPRING-SUMMER 2015

The dolls go...
#Dentoning!

Eat, Drink & Play
The “Denton Barbie” Way!

plus

Find Style on the Square
Hear The Denton Sound

Plan your next getaway at:
discoverdenton.com

Eat, Drink & Play

The “Denton Barbie” Way!
BIG-TIME SPEAKERS, BIG-TIME ENTERTAINMENT

At UNT, we host events to broaden your horizons, engage your intellect and turn on your heart. Please join us this winter and spring.

Bobby McFerrin

Most famous for his a cappella hit “Don't Worry, Be Happy,” McFerrin is a 10-time Grammy winner who combines pop music with fine art. As this year’s Glenn E. Gomez Residency Artist in the College of Music, he will join the One O’Clock Lab Band for its annual spring Glenn E. Gomez Endowment concert. Presented by the Fine Arts Series.

8 p.m. Feb. 5
Murchison Performing Arts Center — Winspear Hall | Tickets: thempac.com/tickets

Laverne Cox

Cox, an actress who can be seen on Netflix’s popular series Orange is the New Black, is a producer and transgender advocate who will talk about the transgender experience and representation of issues in the media. Presented by the Fine Arts Series.

7 p.m. Feb. 24
UNT Coliseum | Tickets: untuniontickets.com

Ben & Jerry

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, who started their company with an ice cream shop in Burlington, Vt., will speak about their experience building Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream into a cultural icon and popular consumer favorite. Presented by UNT’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

7 p.m. April 9
Murchison Performing Arts Center | Tickets: studentaffairs.unt.edu/distinguished-lecture-series

Once in a Lifetime

This comedic play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart — guest directed by Susan Sargeant, award-winning artistic director of Wingspan Theatre — takes place in 1927 Hollywood when the movie industry was on the cusp of the talkies revolution. Presented by the UNT Department of Dance and Theatre.

7:30 p.m. April 23-25, 30, May 1-2 and 2 p.m. April 26, May 3
Radio, Television, Film and Performing Arts Building — University Theatre
Tickets: danceandtheatre.unt.edu/productions-ticket-purchasing
Your adventure starts here...

Whether you fancy a feast or want to rock out to live music, we help you find Denton’s unique flair every week of the year!

9 | Midlake sound
Midlake’s lead singer, Eric Pulido, sits down for a little Q&A on music, the band’s hometown and Paschall Bar.

14 | Barbie’s favorite Denton spots
Denton Barbie shows off her favorite hangouts around town. Discover new favorites and historic spots for your own Denton adventures.

18 | Good ‘ol festival fun
Get your fill with three days of awesome at Denton Arts & Jazz Festival April 24-26 at Quakertown Park.

20 | Food truck noms
Find unique dining options for everyone’s taste at Austin St. Truck Stop. Denton’s new food truck park’s got what it takes to satisfy your cravings.
Fun for the family
We’ve got a roundup of the best places to bring the kids for good times in Denton.

A breath of fresh air
Take an adventure in Lil’ d and discover the best spots for outdoor activities.

[Discover Denton]

Denton at your fingertips

Go #dentoning

Local beats

Music takes over

Shop ‘til you drop

Getting crafty

Docs that delight

Tie the knot

Organic eats

Let your nerd flag fly

Save the Date!
Denton’s must-do list on p. 30!
Welcome to Denton, Texas.

Guests in Denton, like the nearly 125,000 people who choose to live here, have something quite definitive in common: we all seek uniquely-customized, Denton-centric adventures within the cool vibe for which Denton has gained international acclaim. We call it original, independent.

Original is a spirit manifested in the physical fabric of our city. It is energy fueled by our universities, arts community, music industry, business community, the North Texas Horse Country, and our vibrant, no-faux-about-it downtown square. We hold originality in high regard.

Independent is more of the same spirit and springs from our numerous expressions which are visual or musical or architectural or environmental or something that is so unique it has no label or category.

People come to Denton in pursuit of their passions. Take local artist Darien Orr. She gained Etsy fame when her “Barbie and Ken Live the Denton Life” photographic note card series took off several years ago. Now Barbie is stepping out of the note cards and authentically “dentoning” (the experience of enjoying/discovering/exploring all that the great City of Denton, TX has to offer). Scores of female and male Barbie dolls in various states of restyle sit in neat lines in her studio. Clothing and shoes just their size are piled to the side, and part of her new product line called Dentoning Dolls. Every doll is unique, rescued from someone’s discards then thoughtfully bathed, styled and dressed to fit into the many nuances of Denton life. People adopt their Dentoning Doll, each with a name, a background, an official dentoning tee shirt, and a hashtag for sharing its dentoning adventures on Instagram. The dolls come packaged in a clear box, the background an artistic image of our Courthouse.

“Denton has cool things to offer,” Darien says while showing off a doll whose body was made in 1966. “Dentoning Dolls are a cool way of getting people interested in the bigger Denton experience.”

See what I mean? Original. Independent. And Darien is one among hundreds whose expressions are visual or musical or architectural or environmental or something that is so unique it has no label or category.

Now it’s your turn. This is your adventure. So, create! Make it original. Embrace independence. Go enjoy Denton!

Kim Phillips
Vice President
Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau
PLACES OF HISTORY & INTEREST

1. Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square
2. Denton Crossing Shopping Center
3. Denton Enterprise Airport
4. Golden Triangle Mall
5. IOOF Cemetery
6. Oakwood Cemetery
7. Rayzor Ranch Shopping Center
8. North Texas Horse Country
9. Unicorn Lake Shopping Center

PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS

10. Civic Center
11. Denia Park
12. Denton Senior Center
13. Eureka! Playground
14. Fouts Field
15. Lake Ray Roberts Green Belt
16. North Lakes Park
17. North Texas Fairgrounds
18. Pioneer Hall
19. Quakertown Park
20. South Lakes Park
21. Texas Motor Speedway
22. UNT Apogee Stadium
23. UNT Coliseum
24. Water Works Park / City of Denton Natatorium / Skate Park & CH Collins Athletic Complex

Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau
414 W. Parkway St. | Denton, Texas 76201
940.382.7895 | 888.381.1818
www.discoverdenton.com

@discoverdenton

DENTON LIVE
There’s an app for that.

The fast, fun and free Dig Little d app is your companion for getting around.

North Texas is known for its vibrant culture and exciting places, but there’s only one independence capital of the world: Denton. The Little d has plenty to see and do all year round, but given so many options, how do visitors even know where to start? The brand-new Dig Little d app can help you decide what to do in Denton, all while being kind to your schedule — and your wallet. The app comes from Denton’s own talented game developers at From the Future and the supporters at the Denton Convention and Visitors Bureau. The crisp, clean and colorful app offers immediate options for planning your excursion, from local venues including arts and entertainment, food and nightlife to parking and professional services.

VENUES
The app itself is comprehensive and visually striking, from the shifting images of Denton’s premier hotspots to its easily navigable tabs. These hotspots include everything from the new LSA Burger Co. and its juicy rock-star-themed burgers to Atomic Candy lined with walls full of nostalgic treats. Should you take the family out to hear some original Denton music resounding through the Square? Grab a delicious scoop of red wine ice cream from Beth Marie’s? Or should you wait for the nightlife to gear up and head to Paschall Bar in downtown Denton for one-of-a-kind drinks and unique ambiance? The Dig Little d app has what you need to know and how to get there.

EVENTS
There’s always something going on somewhere in Denton, and the Dig Little d app is there to keep you updated on everything that’s happening. Conveniently organized by month and day, Dig Little d’s events hub shows the name, date, time, and location of upcoming events. It even separates them into relevant categories based on their theme, such as Arts/Culture, Sports/Recreation, and Community/Civic folders. Real-time updates eliminate worries of missing out or being late.

PARKING
Amidst its sunny weather and inviting atmosphere, Denton has plenty of parking... if you know where to look. The Dig Little d app includes a handy map to provide simple directions to your favorite Denton restaurants and shops. Detailed routes will guide the way to parking spaces and show you the easiest ways to get around its bustling downtown. If you prefer public transportation, Dig Little d has you covered. Up-to-the-minute bus and train schedules allow visitors to plan ahead and travel around and beyond the city of Denton stress-free.

PLAY
Want to win prizes just by playing a game? Then you’ll want to get your hands on the Dig Lil’ d game, included free of charge with the app. You play as Lil’ d, a Chihuahua with a blazing red Mohawk and headphones. Use your wits and reflexes to guide Lil’ d as he digs up coins, all while frantically avoiding being attacked by a rooster named Chuck Gable and his evil henchmen. The virtual coins can then be redeemed at the Denton CVB for prizes. These prizes include tons of Denton swag, such as gift certificates and homegrown music. You can win Horse Country tour tickets, “Dentoning” shirts, One O’Clock Lab Band and Brave Combo CDs, and more just by playing the game.

As Denton continues to grow, the Dig Little d app is a quick and easy way to connect with the city for Dentonites and visitors alike. It is now available for free on iOS and Android devices.
are you #dentoning?

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.

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE @jenny_onthespot knows a good thing when she hears it. Arts and jazz flow through the air during the annual festival of the same name. Soak up the fun during this weekend conclave of creativity.

OUR FUNKY SIDE @sharonlynnjared knows Denton is a hotbed for creativity. Handmade gems await on the square.

...AND DENTON LOVES YOU! @derbydoesdallas has a thing for Denton, and the feeling is mutual! Keep the love coming.
AV the Great “Man N Da City II”
Denton's own AV the Great brings the unique sounds of Little d to hip-hop. The marriage of his political verses, pulsating beats, and jazzy melodies in “Man N Da City 2” create catchy recurring dynamics throughout. The album’s thumping and bass-dropping vibes keep heads bobbing from start to finish. You’ve been warned.

Seryn
The 6-piece band that calls Denton home has a complex indie folk-rock sound. The harmonies of guitars, ukulele, accordion, bass, viola, banjo and numerous percussion ensembles give the music a well-layered texture. Seryn’s latest single, “Disappear,” establishes this complexity early on with a mellow guitar riff that crescendos into a rhythmic beat and then into chilling vocal harmonies.

Grey Sky Symphony
Dillon Hutyn brings his colorful mix of fun and emotional indie pop to his sophomore album, “Rise Over Run’s” plethora of sound ranges from mellow acoustic rhythms to energetic brassy overtones. The musical variety brings a hearty balance of composure to the indie pop band’s overall structure. Songs like “Glow” and “Rise Over Run” contribute to the album’s catchy spirit.

Pseudo Future
Pseudo Future’s final offering of Mosaic, a series of six singles-a-month, offers listeners another alternative/indie rock song filled with melodic, hard-hitting cadences. Each stanza brings a fantastic infusion of sound that will excite listeners and their eardrums. The band’s harmonious vocals are met with roaring crescendos and musically endowed surges that deliver a complete musical experience.

Steve Stanley and the Mercs
Steve Stanley and the Mercs follow up “The Unfortunate EP” with that familiar bluesy/pop-folk sound in their latest single, “Change.” Their Americana-like vocals lead listeners into a rhythmic acoustic and drum progression, greeting them with a heavy dose of captivating composition. A chorus of banjo reinforces the band’s status as a musically inclined pop-folk band. In other words, their catchy tunes present a variety of ear candy.

—Patrick Malone

DentonRadio.com is an online, 24/7 radio station devoted to Denton’s one-of-a-kind sound, playing original songs by Denton musicians—and nothing else.
World, Meet 35 Denton.

Index and pinky fingers fill the surrounding void of air above energetic fans and bystanders. The sounds of deep, slow-tempo bass chugs roll through hundreds of the “rock-on” symbols, as the distorted guitar riffs rip through the crowd’s eardrums. The scruffy vocals of Al Cisneros, bassist and singer of the rock band Sleep, flatters the grunge rock trio’s dirty musical arrangement. This is 35 Denton.

Denton, a city north of Dallas on I-35, is a rapidly growing community with a small-town vibe. And in the middle of all the small-town glory sits 35 Denton. The four-day music festival has become an annual staple of the downtown Denton area. It boasts a wide array of bands and musical acts, which in years past has included Midlake, Solange, Sleep and The Baptist Generals.

Matching local musicians with touring groups is important to 35 Denton and it makes for a distinctive overall experience exclusive to Denton. Besides great music, the festival includes panel discussions, workshops, and gourmet food trucks.

People often associate 35 Denton with South by Southwest (SXSW), which has led to it becoming a pre-party of sorts for the world-renowned Austin music festival. And it is there, deep in the urban setting of the state’s capital, that 35 Denton was first planted and took root. Back in 2005, festival founder Chris Flemmons (lead vocalist of the Baptist Generals) started what was then dubbed NX35: The Afternoon Party of the Other, Smaller, Music Town in Texas, held at Big Red Sun. Thirteen Denton bands played for an invite-only crowd. The concept of NX35 was simple: “Show the world what Denton’s all about.”

But don’t be fooled. 35 Denton doesn’t try to copy its brothers and sisters of the past. It is an intimate and honest experience. In fact, creatives and musicians around the community run the festival. Later, NX35 evolved into the NX35 Music Conferette. The festival slowly flourished as the band list of 13 grew to more than 120 musical acts and 4,000 attendees.

But it wasn’t until 2010 that the show popped up on the map. It was estimated that more than 20,000 people attended that year’s four-day event to watch more than 250 musicians take the stage. The festival’s highlight was a free — and what has now been dubbed “legendary” — Saturday night performance by the Flaming Lips and Denton’s own Midlake.

35 Denton aims to continue its success and add even more remarkable moments to its history of memories. This year’s festival begins Friday, March 13, and runs through Sunday, March 15.

— Patrick Malone

Photo courtesy of 35 Denton
Some bands crumble after the leading man, the lynchpin of the group, moves on. For the members of Denton-born Midlake, though, circumstance brought about a new type of togetherness. Initially formed in 1999 as the funk-inspired “Cornbread All-Stars,” the band began transcending into a new type of musical artistry.

Midlake has come a long way since their humble beginnings. Their musical stylings have caused their popularity in Europe to surge, giving rise to a new type of musical artistry. Midlake has come a long way since their humble beginnings. Their musical stylings have caused their popularity in Europe to surge, giving rise to a new type of musical artistry. Midlake has come a long way since their humble beginnings. Their musical stylings have caused their popularity in Europe to surge, giving rise to a new type of musical artistry. Midlake has come a long way since their humble beginnings. Their musical stylings have caused their popularity in Europe to surge, giving rise to a new type of musical artistry. Midlake has come a long way since their humble beginnings. Their musical stylings have caused their popularity in Europe to surge, giving rise to a new type of musical artistry. Midlake has come a long way since their humble beginnings. Their musical stylings have caused their popularity in Europe to surge, giving rise to a new type of musical artistry.

How did you make the transition from jazz/funk to folk?
Pulido: You know? What you listen to kind of comes out in your own music. You listen to a lot of different styles. And then there is this transition. Like what happened to what was first known as “rock.” It probably had too many chords in the progressions and may not have sounded a lot like rock as we think of it now. That’s because it was a time of transition, a desire to do something different, to grow, to create songs and melodies.

Tell us about Paschall Bar.
Pulido: We love many of the establishments in town and wanted to do something just a little bit different. We decided on a low-key, warm, woody, kind of mid-century English-pub-type atmosphere. We put on our interior decorator hats and transformed the space into something we might want our living rooms to look like. Our studio is just a stone’s throw away. If it’s a good day or a bad day, either way, the bar is just a block away.

How did the band sign with Bella Union, a label located in the UK?
Pulido: When Bella Union owner Simon Raymonde heard our demo, he got excited and gave us exposure in a whole new part of the world. After that, we started touring Europe. We’re not the only band from Denton that Bella Union has signed. Raymonde once said, “Something must be in the water in Denton.”

For more on Midlake and current tour dates, visit Midlake.net.
The Art of Denton Shopping

Vibrant, distinct, and never short of original, Denton is a nest of creative talent, musical geniuses, and cultural belonging. In the recent decade, the city has also become a fashion hotspot with its generous collection of retail stores and specialty shops. These local charms not only guarantee uniquely Denton items, but also make for popular statement pieces from game night to a field day. Whether the goal is dressing up or getting down, Denton provides a shopping experience unlike any other — and here’s the proof.

For Tailgating Barefoot Athletics
Denton’s main campus outfitter is the go-to for all things school pride. Barefoot Athletics offers apparel and accessories, except shoes (hence the name). Barefoot celebrates national holidays and special occasions by creating themed merchandise, such as their Independence Day Star Spangled and Barefoot t-shirt series. The 6,000-square-foot shop holds events such as a UNT fashion show. With a mix of southern hip fashion and college tailgating wear, showing team spirit has never looked fancier.

For Your Inner Shoe Junkie ShoeFly
This fashionista’s paradise – sister to the Square’s stylish La Di Da – is run by Emily Wiest and Diana Roblyer. ShoeFly is home to brands ranging from Seychelles to TOMS. Heels and flats line the shelves and tables, with chic accessories to boot (no pun intended). ShoeFly perfectly complements the clothing displayed next door at La Di Da. Whatever your fashion need, visit both ShoeFly and La Di Da to get yourself looking classy and fabulous in new duds.

For Your Favorite Handmades The DIME Store
Beginning as a virtual community of Etsy sellers, the Denton Independent Maker Exchange is now a brick-and-mortar store in the heart of downtown Denton. Its intimate living-room ambience and quaint interior is home to the wares of more than 400 members contributing
to DIME. Displaying everything from “I heart Denton”-stitched pillows to wooden kitchen utensils, the shop differs from other handmade markets by selling nearly every item in the store, including their coveted furniture. Owners Rachel Auquiry and Shelley Christner also organize an annual Summer Bazaar in June featuring wall art, gift packages and jewelry created by local artists.

510 S. Locust St.
940-381-2324, dimehandmade.com

For Your Cowboy
Weldon’s Saddle Shop
& Western Wear
Perhaps the most authentic Western wear shop in North Texas (their leather is made by hand inside the building), Weldon’s has been a cowboy and cowgirl staple since 1957. The store’s saddles and memorabilia, wide selection of boots and clothing, Big Boot markdown sales and Weldon’s grandson Clint Wilkinson’s Bell + Oak collection have attracted celebrities and travelers from around the world, such as four-star Army Gen. Tommy Franks. Come roam this historical shop. It’ll be worth every minute and penny.

345 E. Hickory St.
940-382-1921, weldonswestern.com

catalogue-meets-holiday spirit party. Best of all, storeowners are constantly refurbishing furniture and other items for selling, which means personalized pieces not only throughout the year, but also with each visit.

221 W. Oak St.
940-382-8670

For Mom and Pop (and the Rest of the Family)
Garden Gate
Satisfy Dad’s green thumb and Mom’s interior decorating skills with this gift shop’s planting arrangements and home décor. Specializing in silk and dried floral designs, Garden Gate has become a spring and summer favorite for garden-loving Dentonites. But that’s not all—the shop also offers woven pillows and ceramic dishware for the humble homemaker. Every nook and cranny is stacked with items of various sorts, so one can find something for big sis (jewelry from DaVinci and Grandmother’s Buttons), Fido (animal beds and costumes), and those who simply love holidays (hello, Easter eggs and Valentine-heart blankets). The shop has been on the Square for more than 20 years, but owner Traci Davis’ habit of constantly redesigning the store each season has been known to fool customers and passers-by into thinking Garden Gate is among Denton’s newest shopping additions.

121 N Elm St.
940-566-9090, facebook.com/gardengatedenton
Become the Creator of Denton’s Next Masterpiece

Denton is a city well known for its thriving artistic community. The Denton square is a hotbed of creativity and local talent, and anyone who visits the area can learn hands-on how to create their own works of art. Downtown businesses offer affordable classes and workshops on everything from painting a canvas and furniture to making new works of art from recycled materials.

Photos by Daniel Gonzalez

Serendipity on the Square
108 W. Oak St.

Serendipity on the Square hosts workshops where guests can transform dull pieces of furniture into custom Shabby Chic creations in less than two hours. Workshops at Serendipity are only $40, and the price includes a piece of furniture and all the supplies and guidance needed to make your piece unique. Some of the furniture pieces include floor lamps, chairs, clocks, jewelry boxes and end tables. The painting process is simple. There is no need to sand or prime, so all of the difficult and non-artistic parts of the process are taken out to skip right to the fun part. The color Colette (a vibrant hue of turquoise) is the most popular color choice. Black, light brown, dark brown or clear wax is also applied to preserve the work and render a fresh look and feel. Make your Pinterest ideas a reality and learn the art of Shabby Chic at Serendipity on the Square.

SCRAP Denton
420 S. Bell Ave.

SCRAP Denton is truly a crafter’s paradise with unconventional items like trophies, magazines, dolls, bottle caps, vinyl records and bicycle wheels lining the shelves. The crafting supplies at SCRAP Denton are distinctive, because locals donate their items from unfinished projects and leftover materials to this creative reuse store in an effort to reduce waste. During a variety of family-friendly classes, volunteers educate guests about the impact of recycling. Workshops include creating masks, journals, dream catchers, holiday décor, and more. A popular workshop is flower making. Use items like yarn, ribbon, tissue paper, duct tape and metals to craft a one-of-a-kind blossom. Workshops vary in price depending on the class, but the cost rarely exceeds $15. While at SCRAP Denton, visit the ReBoutique and ReVision Gallery, where artwork, jewelry and home décor are made of predominately recycled materials.

Painting with a Twist
208 W. Oak St.

The step-by-step instructions at Painting with a Twist eliminate fear of being a bad painter. There are a variety of classes for specific paintings ranging from chevron and monograms to animals and iconic Denton spots. The instructor on any day is likely to press a call bell to get the class amped up and exclaim “Woo-hoo!” The ‘80s music that plays in the room is upbeat, and sing-alongs are more than welcome. The painting sessions are $35 for the two-hour classes and $45 for the three-hour classes. The cost includes everything you’ll need: a canvas, paint, brushes and a smock to protect your clothing. Small breaks occur throughout the painting session, giving plenty of time to socialize with classmates. To help bring out the inner artist in anyone, the classes are BYOB. Make sure to grab a bottle at one of the wine shops on the square to enjoy with your friends as you create your next masterpiece at Painting with a Twist.
Barbie Does Dentoning!

Story by Morganne Cameron
Photos by Darien Orr
Ken escorts Barbie for an elegant evening at downtown Denton’s historic Campus Theatre. Built in 1949, the Campus Theatre was the first permanent home for all the performing arts organizations in the city. In its early years, the Campus Theatre was one of several state-of-the-art movie houses in the southwest. In fact, the world premiere of Bonnie and Clyde starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway screened here. Today, the 300-seat house is home to live theatre. Many performing arts groups claim this stage year-round: the Denton Community Theatre, Music Theatre of Denton, Denton Light Opera Company, Denton Bach Society, Denton Civic Ballet, Denton Community Band, and university performing arts faculty and students. From their seats, audiences tap into Denton’s artistic heartbeat.

Greetings from Little d, the cool North Texas city packed with creative aesthetics, culture, history, and unforgettable experiences. Denton is an original culture of arts, music, entertainment, shopping, and community. Visitors are captivated by the city’s local businesses, shops, and deep-seated history, because it is here that self-discovery and inspiration permeate the city’s sense of place. Seize the day and trek the city with Denton’s Barbie and Ken. One of the best things about Denton is that whatever original experience you unearth while you’re here, it will be the kind you cherish for a lifetime.

When the sun begins to escape behind the evening sky, the luminous, hot-pink Mr. Frosty sign radiates across the Denton horizon. Barbie and Ken are at the famous Frosty Drive N snuggled up in Ken’s convertible like a scene right out of “Happy Days,” especially surrounded with Mr. Frosty’s authentic 1950’s décor and ambience. Golden fries, Frito pies, grilled cheese sandwiches, and broiler burgers topped with secret-recipe mayonnaise sauce. Homemade root beer over soft-serve vanilla ice cream and delivered in a chilled Frosty mug - heaven to the sweet-tooth. Barbie and Ken tangle at pinball and listen to tunes on the jukebox. Ah, the old days. Frosty Drive N brings ‘em back.
After an afternoon stroll around Denton’s downtown square, Barbie and Ken settle on the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square lawn among friends and family to unwind in uniquely Denton-style. Pockets of people spread picnics on blankets. Others cluster in lawn chairs with little tables in the center laden with fruit, crackers, cheese and wine. Still others opt for takeout from one of many local eateries surrounding the square. The prelude is chatter, kids’ laughter, and late afternoon Indian summer. Then the music begins. This scene unfolds every Thursday night from 6:30 to 8:00 during May and June at the Denton Main Street Association’s award-winning Twilight Tunes concert series. The County Courthouse-on-the-Square is at 110 W. Hickory Street. In May, the concert sets up on the west side of the historic building. But, in June, the event moves to the east side, chasing the coolest shade of downtown’s summer evenings.

Darien Orr is part of Little d’s extra-special flair. The photographed chronicles of longtime Denton residents Barbie and Ken are the brainchild of her artist’s imagination and creative energy.

“I wanted to create a fun way to show what was going on in Denton,” she said. “I was working at a school when one day, the art teacher gave the students a perspective assignment. One little girl had taken a picture of Barbie in a car but showed a perspective that made Barbie look life-sized. Something clicked, and I felt like this was the perfect way to show Denton,” she says.

For Darien, Barbie is a symbol, a representative she uses to promote the complete Denton experience. “I take Barbie and her friends to places in town where I think people might enjoy, like taking a selfie at LSA Burger with the courthouse in the background or shopping at the Denton Community Market,” she says. “Denton Barbie gives people a chance to see Denton in a different way,” says Darien.

From her 1968 travel trailer “Bonnie D” to her own design shop, Denton Design Company, Darien cultivates a new type of Denton vivacity. “I love Denton and I want to be in the community. I chose Barbie for this project because it’s fun!” Darien exclaims.
After shopping downtown, Barbie and Ken cruise Industrial and Hickory Streets for a Denton-centric afternoon of music, food, fun! With so many options concentrated here, they opt to park and walk. There’s Rooster’s Roadhouse, home to some of Denton’s best BBQ and burgers. And Fuzzy’s Taco Shop just down the block is Denton’s go-to for baja tacos, jumbo burritos, and classic Mexican entrees. Oh, and there on the corner, Hoochie’s Oyster House has a live band to go with oysters on the half-shell, shrimp, and red beans and rice. There, across Hickory Street is Mellow Mushroom, where “Far East meets Far West meets Far Out” – a fantastical atmosphere and totally awesome pizza with really cool names. Oh, and there’s Andaman Thai and Rusty’s Taco and Weinbergers Deli… Barbie and Ken sit negotiating the dining spot. What they agree on without a doubt is the after dinner plan. They’re holding tickets for tonight’s show at Dan’s Silverleaf, the aqua blue, white-trimmed building with an enormous silver leaf on the rooftop, Denton’s premier live music listening room.

Barbie and her friend Dora spend Saturday mornings at the Denton Community Market. They love browsing the outdoor market, loading up on local produce, and shopping among handmade arts and crafts. Launched in April of 2010, Community Market is a celebration of creativity, community and organic finds. Local nonprofits, bakers, gardeners, artists and growers gather every Saturday morning between April 1 and November 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Denton County Historical Park at the corner of Carroll Boulevard and Mulberry Street.

SAVE NOW ON 2015 SEASON PASSES!

Treat your family to a season pass and enjoy unlimited fun!

Call before May 17 and save $25 on family season passes, or save $10 on individual season passes.

Get unlimited access to four giant outdoor water slides, one giant indoor water slide, a lazy river, a children’s water playground, sand volleyball, and much more!

For more information, visit www.dentonwaterworks.com or call (940) 349-8800!
Denton Arts & Jazz Festival

*Story by Olivia Sylvain*

The sounds of saxophones, trumpets and drums resonate through Quakertown Park and electrify the city. Crowds gather on the grass to see all-day music. Nightly concerts feature world-renown headliners, this year Randy Brecker, Dr. John the Night Tripper and Denton’s own Grammy winners Brave Combo. An array of cold beer combines with aromas of everything from succulent pulled pork to fresh, crisp eggrolls and sweet strawberry crepes, sending taste buds whirling. At the north side of the park, kids play instruments in the percussion tent, climb a rock wall, bungee fly and enjoy jugglers and clowns. Everyone is here for a one-of-a-kind festival only Denton delivers.

For 35 years music lovers have flocked to Denton every April for the sights, sounds and tastes of the Denton Arts and Jazz Festival. The free, three-day event showcases Denton’s amazing musicians of all genres alongside international superstar talent on seven different stages. More than 250 fine artists and local artisans are added to the mix attracting more than 200,000 people each year.

When it began, the festival was known as the Spring Fling, brought to the community by the Denton Festival Foundation. It was similar then, only smaller and without a specific musical focus. When Carol Short, Denton Festival Foundation director, took over in 1990 her vision was jazzy and grand. She moved the event to Quakertown Park in the heart of Denton from which the city’s cool vibe emanates. And she focused

**Just The Facts...**

**What:** Denton Arts & Jazz Festival

**When:** April 24-26, 2015

**Where:** Quakertown Park
321 East McKinney St.

**Hours:**
Friday 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Headliners:**
Randy Brecker
Dr. John the Night Tripper
Brave Combo

**Features:**
2,500 musicians / 7 stages
300 artisans
6 food courts
Children’s area

**Parking:**
Anywhere around the park grounds
on incorporating jazz, identified with Denton around the globe, thanks to the jazz music school at the University of North Texas. Finally, she determined to grow Arts & Jazz while keeping it free to the public.

“I wanted it to be an arts festival with a focus on jazz. We wanted it to be available to everybody regardless of their economic situation,” Short says, including the Festival Foundation Board’s commitment to the community.

Foo McBubba, the jazz band of Denton First United Methodist Church, has been featured at the festival since the band formed in 2003. Trumpet player Joe Roy looks forward to the festival as a way to celebrate jazz and its uniqueness.

“If you are a jazz group, it’s the place to be,” Roy says. “It’s a collection of regional and sometimes national bands, and you want to be part of it.”

Foo McBubba is invited back to the festival every year. It’s become a gateway for the band to show its love for jazz music while expressing band members’ individuality.

“Jazz is what we do, and the jazz fest is where we can do it. A lot of times we have to tone down our music, but at the jazz fest we can let it all hang out,” Roy says.

The festival’s art focus is as centric to the event as is music. Artists and crafters come from around the globe to showcase and sell their work. And true to Denton’s original, independent spirit of creativity, festival-goers even have opportunities to create their own pieces.

For instance, this year kids have a special innovative space courtesy of SCRAP, a local creative re-use center. Owner and Denton native Heather Gregory is excited about bringing a new hands-on creative experience to the festival.

“SCRAP has a pretty unique mission. People are used to the idea of a thrift store, but we’re kind of rare,” Gregory says. “We are all about inspiring people to think of possibilities for these re-usable materials.”

Children will get to create instruments like guitars made of tissue boxes and rubber bands and rain sticks from paper towel rolls and beads. For everyone, Gregory and SCRAP staff will be featuring a community art project, inviting anyone and everyone to contribute to a giant mural.

Gregory believes community is a key aspect of what makes the Denton Arts and Jazz Festival significant, bringing people together year after year to share in a unique, collective experience.

“It’s fun, and I appreciate the diversity of the community that comes to the festival. It’s not just Denton. There are people from all over,” Gregory says. “It’s a celebration of creativity.”

Denton Festival Foundation president Lisa Miller and her family have been involved with the festival for more than 20 years, starting as volunteers in the early ’90s. For Miller, the festival is a place where families come together to spend quality time.

“We have fun. We love being together and meeting other people,” Miller says. “Denton is such a unique place with many opportunities to help out, especially with the arts.”

Denton Arts and Jazz Festival will take place April 24, 25, and 26, 2015 at Quakertown Park just a short distance from the Square. Attendees can park for free anywhere downtown and around the festival grounds.
Movable Feast

Austin Street is Food Truck Central

The aroma of zesty basil and sweet bell pepper lingers delicately beneath the breeze of chipotle-limed marinated chicken and perfectly-seasoned street corn at Austin St. Truck Stop. Repurposed wood, car parts and license plates tastefully reimagined as seating options add a distinctly Denton touch to the tranquil vibes reverberating from the food truck park.

Denton already had food trucks, but now they have a home.

In April 2014, John Williams, owner of Oak St. Draffhouse and co-owner of East Side Denton unveiled the city’s first official food truck park. Directly adjacent to East Side Denton, the highly anticipated location provides a centralized space for food truck owners and consumers to gather for a new Denton food experience.

In addition to convenience, Waffle Wagon owner Rachel Black, says the food truck park cultivates a family-friendly scene for Dentonites and visitors.

“Austin St. brings families,” she says. “We have a really good community and it’s awesome.”

Seven trucks frequent Denton’s food truck park including the Waffle Wagon, Lean Machine, the Pickled Carrot, Kendrick’s BBQ, Doughboy’s Pizza, Say Kimchi and Flatlanders Taco Company.

“Austin St. gives people the opportunity to come out and have a nice night and enjoy a nice meal,” says Gabriel Kirkpatrick, owner of the Lean Machine food truck. “When you have this many trucks, you have options. Everyone can get what they want all in one central location.”

Whether you are yearning for a delectable Vietnamese noodle bowl, a mouth-watering plateful of sizzling barbeque or a sinful combination of bacon, peanut butter and banana atop a crispy waffle, Austin St. Truck Stop is the place for good vibes, good conversation and even better food.

Kendrick’s BBQ

The red-hot flames pictured on the exterior of Kendrick’s BBQ truck isn’t the only sizzle at Austin St. Truck Stop. Kendrick’s BBQ and More is Denton’s first barbeque truck serving luscious brisket sandwiches, signature sauce, hot link sausages, burgers, wings, hotdogs and more! Stop by Kendrick’s for your dose of old-fashioned southern zing.
The Waffle Wagon
Looking for a golden-crisped waffle with a side of full-flavored chicken strips? The Waffle Wagon serves up an assortment of waffle goodness. Keep it simple or spruce your Monte Cristo with seasonal fruits, whipped cream and bacon. The Waffle Wagon transforms an everyday breakfast food into crave-worthy creations!

The Pickled Carrot
Considered Denton’s Vietnamese food staple, the Pickled Carrot is a Little d delight. The menu touts pork, chicken, tofu and mushroom Banh Mi, plus exquisite combinations of soy vinaigrette salad bowls and cucumber limeade. The Pickled Carrot is serving Denton “one Banh Mi at a time.”

Lean Machine
Looking for a healthier alternative to your favorite comfort foods? How about a savory quesadilla minus the guilt? Lean Machine’s food truck fare has what it takes and will keep you coming back for more. Enjoy nutritious homemade recipes packed with delicious and healthy ingredients.

Doughboy’s Pizza
Doughboy’s gourmet pizza is DFW’s first pizza food truck to hit the scene. Their 8-inch pies will satisfy in no time, ready in just five minutes. The only thing cooler than the food truck’s Martian-themed decor is their tantalizing topping combinations. You’ll find yourself with a hankering for Doughboy’s specialties like buffalo chicken pizza long after it graces your taste buds.

Say Kimchi
Say Kimchi adds a Korean twist to American food staples, making for unique foodie favorites. They are well known for their Kimchi fries that are topped with Korean beef, grilled kimchi, freshly cut cilantro and spicy sriracha chili sauce.

Flatlanders Taco Company
This food truck’s menu boasts street tacos filled with tasty choices such as crawfish al pastor, habanero-marinated chicken, roasted chickpea and chorizo. Flatlanders will gratify your taste for tacos.

*Austin St. Food Truck Park website with schedule: austinstruckstop.com*
Toe the Line

Thin Line Fest can show you what life is really made of with documentaries, live music and photography.

The neon marquee beckons as you walk up to the ticket booth. After purchasing your ticket, you enter through the double doors of the historic Campus Theatre. You purchase popcorn and a Coke at the theatre’s original, old-timey concession stand. As you head into the theatre, the lights are dim, and you find your seat. Soon the lights go completely dark, and the screen comes to life. Thin Line Fest has begun.

Each February, throngs of film lovers gather under the Campus Theatre’s neon marquee to experience documentary films, live music, and a juried photography show.

This film festival that’s called Denton home for the last nine years, is the largest documentary film festival in the south. Thin Line focuses its films on documentaries based on the belief that real life is more exciting than fiction.

Culled from nearly 400 films, both feature and short, Thin Line’s lineup screens from February 18th through the 22nd. Last year, Thin Line added music to the schedule. New to this year’s festival, Thin Line has added photography exhibits that are set up around the Denton square and free of charge.

In between film screenings, discover new favorites in downtown Denton with these specially-picked pairings to get the full Thin Line experience.

—Kathryn Krevo
Not your average concession stand, here’s where to get a treat:

This shop may seem small on the outside, but take a step inside and you will be quickly proven wrong. Start the day at Jupiter House coffee shop and breathe the aroma of freshly roasted Costa Rican coffee. Try a cup of Denton’s favorite latte, Jupiter’s Nectar, abounding with flavors of hazelnut, chocolate and caramel. For five years, Jupiter House has been rated Denton’s best coffee shop. Jupiter House also features fruity drinks if coffee doesn’t suit your fancy. Refreshing smoothie varieties include titillating combinations of mango, blueberry, peach and strawberry, to name a few.

Find your own soundtrack

Prepare for your musical journey as you take a step back in time at Mad World Records on the Square. This shop doesn’t allow you to mistake its mission: to bring you every type of music you could possibly imagine. A line of CDs takes you from the front of the store to the back. The large selection of records may spark an interest in new tunes or bring back favorites of years gone by. Browse through the rows and rows of vinyl and find everything from Lorde’s Heroin album to Johnny Cash to Barry Manilow. Explore floor-to-ceiling shelves of DVDs and pick up a few documentary topics to get you ready for Thin Line. A stop inside can be as short as a few minutes, or you can lose track of time among the library of options offered in this uniquely Denton music and video store.

Dinner and a movie

After the film, grab a bite at LSA Burger Co. This burger joint is all about that Lone Star Attitude. The restaurant has gourmet burgers where you can have everything from a classic burger to the featured Attitude burger, made with mouth-watering smoked brisket. These burgers heighten senses the moment the server sets the tin plate on your table, and continues as you pick it up and hold that burger in your hand. Juice drips from cooked brisket as the spicy scent of barbeque fills the air. Finally you bite, and it’s amazing, and you know what Texas attitude tastes like.

Film snob, meet wine snob.

Want to add an element of romance or sophistication to your evening on the square? Wine2 is just the place to have some one-on-one time or spark conversation about the films you just watched. One unique fact about this bar is its option to get your wine or beer to go. Feel free to sip and enjoy your beverage worry free as you walk through the photo galleries lining the square. Open containers are allowed within the boundaries of the Denton square.
Tyler knew there was only one perfect place to pop the question—under the glistening lights on the Denton square.

Story by Augusta Robinson

Photos courtesy of Kelly Sparks Photography
Going to the chapel...

and the courthouse and the garden. Your guide to gettin’ hitched in Denton.

Denton is original and independent. There is hardly a time when this value is more important than a wedding day. Selecting the right place and setting the scene are the underpinning of brides’ dreams, and Denton has venues to makes them all come true.

Little Chapel in the Woods
Atop the hill on the edge of Texas Woman’s University campus stands the Little Chapel in the Woods. Inside, sun reflecting stained-glass makes rainbows dance on rock-tile floor. An ornate wood alter contrasts hand-mortared walls. Famous architect and Denton son O’Neal Ford designed, and university students and faculty built, the Little Chapel to accommodate 110 people. It was dedicated in 1939 by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Historic Courthouse Lawn
Where better for two hearts to become one than this iconic spot, Denton’s holy ground? The Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square is nearly 120 years old. A canopy of twinkling oak and pecan trees shade its native limestone blocks and pillars. A vast, lush lawn surrounds the beloved building like rich carpet. This crown of the county, Denton’s community living room, is a stunning backdrop to “I do.”

Buffalo Valley Event Center
Buffalo do indeed roam the plains spreading round the white, vaulted venue under wide open Texas sky. Here at Buffalo Valley, rustic nature meets elegant sophistication. A live band is the soundtrack to 550 guests enjoying multi-course dinners on fine china. A picturesque lakeside pagoda outside the ballroom is a favorite among Buffalo Valley’s stage options for presenting the new Mr. and Mrs.

Ashton Gardens
The fairy tale feel of Ashton Gardens is heightened by towering evergreen forest and natural light, outside and in, courtesy of wall after wall of floor-to-roof windows. Long timbers border the ceiling where chandeliers catch light and dazzle guests with tiny rainbows. Ashton Gardens’ elegant ambience is enhanced by exquisite décor. The chapel seats 300 guests, the reception hall up to 400. Fine champagne bubbles in crystal flutes, and cheers ring out as another bride’s dream comes true.

The Milestone
The Milestone mansion accommodates up to 300-person parties in grand, southern-plantation style: great, white pillars, fountains, polished wood floors, and a spiral staircase reminiscent of “Gone with the Wind.” Manicured lawn, gardens, and a water-side gazebo all surrounded by big Red Cedars make indoor and outdoor weddings equally spectacular.

Wildwood Inn
The Wildwood Inn’s architecture is so distinctly European, guests sometimes forget they are in Texas. The inn sits on four wooded acres minutes from Denton’s city center. Each of its 14 guest rooms are uniquely and richly appointed. Behind the inn, a shaded pool reflects a leafy green canopy. A stone path ambles to an arbor where couples exchange vows. Wildwood Inn’s extravagant atmosphere and formal-yet-alluring grace accommodates 125 guests for events.
Come on, get happy!

Story by Megan Wardlaw
Photo of Firefighters’ Museum by Mike Mezeul. Photos of Beth Marie’s and Minifigs by Ranjani Groth.

Denton is well-known for its music scene and creative culture. What some may not know is that the city is also rich in kids’ stuff for your little hipster-in-training: fun to-dos, interesting destinations and family-friendly adventures.

Denton Firefighters’ Museum:
Delve into firefighting past and present at the Denton Firefighters Museum, downtown at Central Fire Station. Kids get to try on a real uniform and helmet. Try lifting a fire hose. Check out gear, equipment and collectibles from the 1800s to today. When they’re not fighting fires, the firefighters love showing visitors the fire trucks and sometimes even a tour of the firehouse living quarters. Make a memory for your little hero.
discoverdenton.com/firefighters-museum
or 940-349-8840

Beth Marie’s Old Fashioned Ice Cream:
Fresh-baked waffle cones. Black-and-white checkered floor. Vintage parlor tables. Soda jerks. Fountain bar lined with swiveling stools. Beth Marie’s certainly lives up to the old-fashioned in their name. The shop is known far and wide for their more than 100 flavors of homemade ice cream. Between just chocolate and plain vanilla are scoops like Bees Knees balancing lavender and honey, and Salty Dog blending chocolate, salt, and caramel. Denton locations are on the Denton courthouse square and in Unicorn Lake Shopping Center.
bethmaries.com or 940-348-1818
Burger Time Machine:
Outside, it looks a bit worn. Some have called it a shack. But inside, red, yellow and white walls slathered with 1980s and ’90s era movie posters meet black-and-white tile floor. Classic arcade games, a pool table and a giant TV entertain while the burgers cook, and the burgers are what it’s all about. With names like The Terminator and The Star Wars, half the fun for kids is picking out and ordering on their own.
Facebook.com/BurgerTimeMachine or (940) 384-1133.

Minifigs Bricks and More:
Legos are the building blocks of kids’ imaginations. Here are Legos big and small, old and new, in primary colors red, yellow, green and blue. Shelves full of Lego models, Lego people, and Lego building plans line the space at Minifigs Bricks and More in Golden Triangle Mall. “Play before you buy” is the motto in this toy store, so it’s hands-on-shopping for kids of all ages.
minifigsbricksandmore.com or (940) 383-4040

Atomic Candy and the Candy Store:
Kids and candy. When the two get together it’s a treat. The Candy Store and Atomic Candy are sweet shops on the square. The Candy Store is dripping in chocolate. Atomic Candy is candy plus novelties and nostalgia. Packed with M&Ms, jelly beans, gumballs, soda pop and the like, the place is reminiscent of a dime store circa 1965.
The Candy Store (940) 382-1001
Atomic-candy.com or (940) 383-3780 or 940-349-8840

UNT Star Parties and UNT Sky Theater:
Kids are fascinated with space and stars and the mystery of “out there.” Aren’t we all? Get out of the city, and look up! Check out the Star Parties at UNT’s Rafes Urban Astronomy Center Observatory. Everyone gets to peer into the night sky through the observatory’s high-powered telescopes. For an indoor option, journey through space at Sky Theater planetarium on the UNT campus.
skytheater@unt.edu or (940)369-8213

Denton Fourth of July Festivities:
American flags line the square and bunting waves from buildings across the city. It’s the 4th of July! The party starts early in Denton with the Yankee Doodle Parade that marches around the square. Afterwards, trek over to Quakertown Park for old-fashioned games at the 4th of July Jubilee. End the day at the great Kiwanis Fireworks Show at UNT’s Apogee Stadium. American fun all day in the spirit of red, white and blue.
cityofdenton.com

Denton Water Works Park:
When temps start rising the fun is going down at Denton’s Water Works Park. Come get cool on giant water slides, an aquatic playground, pools and tubing along the winding, lazy river. Pack a picnic and make a day of it on the grass or at a shady table. Open day and night all summer long. The indoor natatorium next door lets the fish in kids come out in the cold months, too.
dentonwaterworks.com or (940) 349-7275
If you’re hungry for delicious, organic fare, you’ll find people right here in Denton are passionate about what’s served at their table.

For a heartwarming and filling breakfast or brunch, pop into the Seven Mile Café where the food is all organic. The menu has some vegan and gluten-free options as well. If you’re in the mood for a lighter entree, check out Denton favorite The Bowllery, featuring modern Asian-fusion fare and fresh-pressed juices.

With 92 percent of Denton County farms individually or family owned, it’s easy to find these artisans’ products at the Denton Community Market. The market is open April through November every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes live music, organic home products, and local produce. At Earthwise Gardens you can buy organic milk, eggs, meat and produce and attend workshops on topics like edible landscaping.

**Urban Farming is Growing in Denton**

Denton prides itself for giving back to the less fortunate and nowhere is that more clearly found than at Shiloh Field, the largest community garden in the country. The 14.5-acre garden was founded in 2009 by master gardener Gene Gumfory, inspired by a church message that people should care for each other. Denton Bible Church donated the land, which until then was considered useless and lay dormant for 30 years. Volunteers hope to grow 30,000 pounds of produce this year for people in need.

D&L Farm Store donates the seeds, but many of the operational costs and needs are donated anonymously. What’s harvested is given to 14 different non-profits in Denton County, and volunteers can take home bags of fresh, organic produce. All are welcome to Shiloh Field. Harvest times are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. and Mondays and Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Get off to a wholesome start at Seven Mile Café for mile-high stacked pancakes and California inspired brunch dishes. Vegan and gluten-free options are available. You won’t leave hungry.

Refresh with clean, bright flavors of The Bowllery’s eclectic Asian dishes and farm-to-table ingredients. Try the housemade sriracha made from fresh jalapenos.

Welcome to granola-ville! Denton Farmer’s Market has everything for the family: cool jazz, ripe produce, and laidback vibe. Try unique products like organic mosquito repellent or cleaning products from the Crunchy Chemist.

Sample raw, local wildflower honey from Blackland Prairie Honey. “We harass the bees and steal their honey,” says Jeanette Thomas of Blackland Prairie Honey.

Lather up in luxurious, unprocessed body products from Hen House Bath & Body. The Patchouli Lime soap is made with Texas brewed beer. This is how a Texas man should smell!

Shop for local organic meat, dairy and spices at Earthwise Gardens. Owners Ryan and Christina Crocker have turned their home into a store that spreads the joy of urban farming.

Lend a hand and take home fresh, organic produce from Shiloh Field.
A tall blonde-haired figure in a green hood tenses as he prepares for his nightly patrol. He steps onto a ledge overlooking the city and thinks of the training that led to this moment. He remembers the promise he made to his father to protect the city he calls his own. The masked vigilante known as the “Arrow,” will not fail his city. What he doesn’t realize is that he is a cardboard cutout and his “city” is a comic book store.

More Fun Comics and Games was founded in 2003 by Tim Stoltzfus and Keith Colvin. First known as Treasure Aisle, the store was placed under the More Fun family umbrella when it moved from Fry to Hickory Street. The store has been at its current location on the square since December 2008.

Batman and Harley Quinn themed key chains and POP! Vinyl figurines featuring the likenesses of Star Wars characters and the Dark Knight Trilogy line the shelves at More Fun Comics and Games. Card and board games are also common finds at the store, including classics like RISK and reimagined oldies, such as Big Bang Theory themed Monopoly.

From child novices to teen and middle-aged gurus, the experience levels of patrons vary. But everyone comes here for a common reason: to let his or her inner nerd roar. Employee Cat Hickman enjoys introducing people to new things and says that is the highlight of her job.

The store has a Game Center, located at 316 East Hickory St. The Center has been in existence for a year with a capacity of 62 (58 patrons and four employees). Initially, the store was located in Lancaster but moved to Denton because founder Tim Stoltzfus believed that Denton had more potential with the city’s two universities and nearly 50,000 students.

The Game Center buys, sells and trades trading cards, board games and miniatures. Items on the shelves include a Lord of the Rings Dice Building Game, Star Wars and Magic the Gathering game miniatures.

Manager Jarrad Taulman says the center focuses more on “hobby” portions of games like miniature making and deck building games.

It is a place for tournaments, game days and people to play Dungeons and Dragons, a game that really popularized miniature making. Jarrad says the center is considered the back room of the comic shop on the square, where people come to take their gaming to the next level and find new cards and miniatures to add to their collections.

The venue hosts one or two events every day, seven days a week, featuring a Press Ganger who teaches gaming novices and newbies the ropes of games that they are interested in. They also bring promotional materials to the center such as posters featuring lists of the center’s schedule and upcoming events plus descriptions of prizes to be awarded winners in center tournaments and events.

The store was founded for people to get involved with a particular game, customize it and make it their own. “This isn’t the era of the basement dwelling gamer,” Jarrad says. “My goal when I run events here is for people who never played before to feel welcome, have fun and keep coming back.”

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Cards, comics and games. Oh my!

Trading cards, comic books and board games bring generations together.
**FESTIVALS**

**Jan. 19:** Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, MLK Jr. Rec Center  
**Feb. 18-22:** Thin Line *(page 22)*  
**Feb. 21:** Black History Month Celebration, MLK Jr. Rec Center  
**March 12-15:** Texas Storytelling Festival, Denton Civic Center  
**March 13-15:** 35 Denton *(page 8)*  
**April 18:** Redbud Festival, Denton Civic Center  
**April 23-June, Thursday evenings:** Twilight Tunes, Courthouse lawn  
**April 24-26:** Denton Arts & Jazz Festival *(page 18)*  
**May 2:** Cinco de Mayo, Quakertown Park  
**June 19-20:** Denton Juneteenth, Fred Moore Park  
**June 20:** Denton Airshow, Denton Enterprise Airport

**UNT**  
**Feb. 12-15:** Faculty Dance Concert  
**March 11-14:** The Diver’s Wife  
**April 23-May 3:** Once in a Lifetime  
**TWU**  
**Feb 18-22:** Endgame  
**April 15-22:** Henry V  
**Campus Theatre**  
**Jan. 16-25:** Dividing the Estate  
**April 10-19:** Rent  
**June 5-14:** Enchanted April  
**Black Box Theatre**  
**Feb. 6-8:** The Food Chain  
**March 27-29:** A Feminine Ending

**MARKETS & OTHER EVENTS**

**April-Nov:** Denton Community Market, every Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Denton County Historical Park  
**March 7, April 4, May 2:** North Texas Horse Country Tours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Denton County Historical Park  
**First Friday of every month:** First Friday Denton, 7-10 p.m., downtown Denton square  
**May 8 & 9:** TWU Graduation, Kitty Magee Arena  
**May 15 & 16:** UNT Graduation, UNT Coliseum

For more calendar events in Denton, visit discoverdenton.com
» Stay and Play

From dusk ‘til dawn, Denton’s hospitality team will work to make your visit a memorable one!

ACCOMMODATIONS

AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN & SUITES
820 S. I-35E
(940) 387-0591
americasbestvalueinn.com

BEST WESTERN INN & SUITES
2910 W. University Drive
(940) 591-7726
bestwesterntexas.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) 382-4600
mariott.com/dfwde

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

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

HAMPTON INN & SUITES
1513 Centre Place Drive
(940) 891-4900
dentonsuites.hamptoninn.com

HILTON GARDEN INN & SUITES
3110 Colorado Blvd.
(940) 891-4700
denton.hgi.com

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES
4465 N. I-35
(940) 808-0600
hiedenton.com

HOLIDAY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER
1434 Centre Place Drive
(940) 383-4100
holidayinn.com/dentontx

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

HOWARD JOHNSON EXPRESS
3116 Bandera St.
(940) 383-1681
hojo.com

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES
4465 N. I-35
(940) 808-0444
laquinta.com

MOTEL 6
700 Fort Worth Drive
(940) 387-5840
motel6.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/tx836

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT
3761 S. I-35E
Opening Spring 2015
mariott.com

ROYAL INN & SUITES
1210 N. I-35E
(940) 383-2007
royalinnsuitesdenton.com

SUPER 8 MOTEL
4505 N. I-35
(940) 387-3400
super8.com

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

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DENTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/DENTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
414 Parkway
(940) 382-7895 (888) 381-1818
discoverdenton.com

CITY HALL
215 E. McKinney St.
(940) 349-8200
cityofdenton.com
Work up a sweat
In Denton’s backyard

Denton is chock-full of burgers, beer and music, and for good reason. Our town does all of those things extremely well. After enjoying the local cuisine, you’re going to need a way to burn off all of those calories. Here are some outdoor-related activities to do in and around Denton.

Denton Rail Trail
This is as urban as it gets. The Denton Rail Trail, which totals a little over eight miles in length, runs alongside the A-train track. Its trailhead is on Hickory St. beside the downtown Denton A-train station, and it weaves in and around Denton. While there are some quiet spots along the route, the trail passes through more than 20 road crossings and multiple high-traffic areas. Pure nature lovers, take notice.

Clear Creek Natural Heritage
The Clear Creek Natural Heritage Loop is a classic and wide open trail, offering seven smaller trails that range from a half mile to 1.75 miles. Some of the trails even run along Texas’ version of the wetlands. With vast sky views, this trail is the perfect spot to get out and see some astronomical events such as the total lunar eclipse (March 20), lunar eclipse (April 4), or any meteor shower (May 5 and 6, July 28 and 29).

Elm Fork Trail
Cardio is getting your heart rate up for an extended period of time, right? Old Alton Bridge (AKA Goatman’s Bridge) provides an alternative way to get your heart rate going. Legend has it that the bridge – which is on the 10.6 mile trail – is haunted by a man named Oscar Washburn (Goatman). So if you head to the bridge for a night run, get ready for your heart to race. Who knows, you might end up sprinting back to the car.

Greenbelt Trail
When deciding what outdoor passions to pursue on the Greenbelt Trail, options are abundant. You’ll forget you are anywhere near the developed North Texas area. It’s time to put the touch screens down and get in touch with the outdoors. Along with hiking, trail-running and mountain biking the 10-mile trail, enthusiasts can leisurely canoe and kayak down the Trinity River. Horseback-riding is another biggie out here, but BYO horse.

Fishing Spots
Spots like Lake Ray Roberts and the City of Denton’s Eureka Park are great fishing holes for bass, catfish and even trout during the winter. To reel one in, we suggest you bring stink bait or catch a grasshopper to slap on your hook. Regardless of the size of the haul, be sure to embellish it for your buddies back home. Then, and only then, have you got your fish tale.

Oak St. Draffhouse Social Run
The OSDH social run is a free 5K every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. (8 p.m. in the summer). Runners young and old, even stroller-pushing parents, meet up at the bar to socialize and get in their miles. The run starts and ends at OSDH, a Denton favorite with more than 70 craft beers on tap. Work up a sweat while you see downtown from a local’s perspective. Then enjoy a free shot on the house. How else did you think this would end, anyway?
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