



# All Aboard!

## Next Stop: 6th Street at Landmark Depot Crossing



*City of Garland Downtown Master Plan*

**Artist's sketch shows relocated Landmark Santa Fe Depot/Museum, top center, in new park, with Pullman car at its side, just below Nicholson Memorial Library (white building at upper right). Sixth Street is beside the Museum, intersecting Walnut Street, foreground. View looks southeast showing park-like corridor to be known as Landmark Depot Crossing. Museum entrance will be on Sixth St.**

The Santa Fe Railroad Depot, home to Garland Landmark Society and its museum of Garland history, will move next month for only the second time since it was built in 1901. And with it will go the railroad car that has sat in front of it since 1978.

A new site will be prepared for the depot/museum and the rail car a few blocks away in a newly created city park behind Nicholson Memorial (Central) Library, just in front of the DART rail tracks.

**(See AFTER, Page 3)**

Landmark Society  
Garland

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## Dallas Dealey Plaza: Two new beginnings for Lyndon Johnson

In 1935, as young Lyndon Johnson was embarking on his political career as a Texas activist for President Franklin Roosevelt, he was appointed to lead the newly-created National Youth Corps (NYA) in Texas.

In concert with the Works Projects Administration (WPA), one of the organization's programs was construction of Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, designed as a gateway to the city through a triple underpass to the west.

On a visit to Dallas on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated as his car drove through Dealey Plaza. Vice President Johnson, who was in the caravan following the Kennedy car, was sworn in as President later that same day.

That strange coincidence was one of the stories related by Sally Rodriguez, a planning coordinator of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, as she addressed members of the Garland Landmark Society April 1 at their annual meeting in the Santa Fe Depot/Museum. That meeting was the last for the Society in Heritage Park, its home for the last 40 years. The depot moves to a new home in the next few weeks, and is scheduled to reopen this fall in the new location on Sixth Street in the newly named corridor to be called Landmark Depot Crossing.

In her talk, titled "Little Known Histories and Scandals from Dallas Parks," Ms. Rodriguez revealed other stories of well-known parks, the most scandalous being the discovery, back in 1906, that a skating rink on the Fair Park site offered rooms for rent that later proved to be a brothel operation.

Another important Dallas park had its beginnings in 1913 as Oak Lawn Park, on Turtle Creek Blvd. at Hall. It was renamed Robert E. Lee Park in 1930 as a memorial to the great Southern general of the Civil War. In 1936, the heroic double equestrian statue of Gen. Lee astride his horse Traveler, and an accompanying aide, was unveiled by President Franklin Roosevelt, visiting Dallas for the opening of the Texas Centennial at Fair Park.

In 1939, Arlington Hall, a two-thirds replica of the Custis-Lee Mansion, Lee's pre-war home in Arlington, Va., was added to the park.

Dallas' first city park, on the outskirts of downtown, was called "City Park" when it was acquired in 1876, the year of the Custer Massacre at Little Big Horn. The park today is known as Heritage Village at Old City Park, and several historic homes occupy the site.

Dallas' present parks director is Willis Winters, a native of Garland, who, in the 1970s, aided in restoration of Landmark's railcar.

# After 40 years, a new location



*City of Garland Downtown Master Plan*

**West Walnut Street is at top in this artist's sketch. Arrows show re-located museum, rail car.**

**(Continued from Page 1)**

A corridor-like entrance is planned to the Downtown Garland area on Walnut Street to be christened Landmark Depot Crossing, with an entrance to the depot/museum from Sixth Street just south of its intersection with Walnut. Landscaped strip parks will be created on Walnut from Glenbrook east to Fifth Street on either side of the DART rail line.

A strip park north of the DART line on Walnut will complement a similar park south of the line that will be the new site of the Landmark depot/museum. The museum will share the library's parking lot. Entrance to the museum at its new address, 393 N. Sixth Street, will be from Sixth Street south of the DART line.

A date for the move of the depot and the railroad car has not yet been determined, nor has the route, but that event will be announced later and will likely draw crowds to watch.

Other present occupants of Landmark's site in Heritage Park on Museum Drive just south of the Patty Granville Performing Arts Center are

two early 20th Century homes -- the Lyles House and the Pace House. The Pace House, owned and maintained by the City of Garland and rented to citizens for weddings, receptions and other private events, will be moved to Central Park to a site just behind the Granger Recreation Center and its Annex.

The Lyles House, in need of much expensive repair and renovation for which there are no funds, is now used for storage by the Landmark museum. Its future is uncertain, but it is probably destined for destruction.

The 1901 Santa Fe Depot was originally located south of the track crossing at present Main Street and was moved to its present site in 1972 as it faced demolition with the relocation of Fifth Street. Its survival was ensured with the creation that year of the Landmark Society, which was given oversight for the newly created Heritage Park where the Depot found a new home and new life as a museum.

The Santa Fe Railroad donated the railcar  
(See **REOPENING** on Page 4)

# Reopening date to be set later

**(Continued from Page 3)**

in 1977 and it was moved to a track placed in front of the Depot/Museum in 1978. The Lyles House came to Heritage Park in 1979 under the auspices of the Environmental Council's "Keep Garland Beautiful" campaign.

Heritage Park will be cleared to make way for residential/retail/parking development that continues to transform the downtown Garland area as part of the City's Downtown Redevelopment Plan, entering its second stage.

Janice Black, president of Landmark Society, said that the depot must be cleared of its exhibits and other material by the end of April. The city is furnishing ample storage for these materials in Landmark's temporary new home in a city building at 203 North Fifth. That address will also offer office space and a meeting room for Landmark's monthly meetings, she said, until the relocation is completed, projected to be in late August.

A grand re-opening will be planned for museum at a date to be announced later, probably in September, Ms. Black said.

## First Presbyterian Church Celebrating 125th anniversary in April

A representative of the 83rd Texas House will present a resolution commemorating the 125th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Garland during a special Heritage Service at the church on Sunday, April 21, at 10:50 am.

Former pastors, former members and other special friends are particularly invited to attend the milestone celebration.

Originally organized in 1888 as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Garland, its name was changed in 1906 and the church moved to the present site at 930 West Avenue B in 1994.

First Presbyterian serves the community by supporting Garland's elderly with Meals on Wheels and social programs and aids the needy with home building, food donations, a week-day lunch program and a community breakfast every Saturday. The church's mission work extends into Mexico, Guatemala and other areas in the Third World.

### The Museum

**200 Museum Plaza  
Downtown Garland**

**The Depot Museum and Rail Car, are operated by the Garland Landmark Society, a non-profit and volunteer organization.**

*The Museum will be closed until its relocation to a site on Sixth Street is completed, probably in late August or early September. A re-opening date will be announced in a forthcoming edition of **On Track**, Landmark's quarterly newsletter.*



### Membership

**Memberships are available at these rates:**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Couple</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>\$100</b>

**To join or renew, enclose payment with this information and mail to:**

**Garland Landmark Society  
P. O. Box 462232  
Garland TX 75046-2232**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Website

[www.garlandhistorical.org](http://www.garlandhistorical.org)

# Garland Central Park Gets “Legacy” Designation

Garland's Central Park, established in 1948 as the city's first public park, has been designated a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Park Society.

The Garland park was one of only five city parks in Texas to win the designation this year. Jim Stone, managing director of Garland Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, accepted the award at the society's annual meeting in Lubbock on March 6. TRPS is a professional and educational organization that promotes Texas park services. Other city parks winning the Lone Star Legacy label were Texarkana's Spring Lake Park (est. 1924), Houston's Sam Houston State Park (1899), Corpus Christi's Artesian Park (1948) and Abilene's Oscar Rose Park (1914).

To win the Lone Star Legacy designation, parks must: 1) have distinctive design; 2) be associated with historic events or sites; 3) be associated with events specific to the community or state, and 4) be home to unique natural features.

Central Park, which encompasses about 50

acres, is not the largest of the Garland's 63 parks, but its history dates from earliest days of settlement along the Duck Creek area near present Forest Lane, before the establishment of the first



*Landmark Society Archives*

## Lake Garland, early 1930s

communities that later became modern Garland. The area that is now part of Central Park was an informal playground and picnic area for families as early as the late 1890s, and later was known as "the old Garland Park grounds."

Michael Hayslip, a founding member of Garland Landmark Society, says the first effort to make the acreage along Duck Creek a park was in 1926 when D. Cecil Williams acquired the "Old Park Grounds," combined it with his family's adjacent creekside property

and renamed it "Williams Park." He later built a dam on the creek and the swimming pool it created was dubbed by Williams as "Lake Garland." The Williams Park operation closed in 1939.

In 1948, the City of Garland purchased the 50-acre tract from the Williams family to create the city's first municipal park, and a City Easter Egg Hunt was one of the first official events to be staged there.

Today, the park includes a large public indoor facility, the Granger Recreation Center and its annex, tennis courts, a football field, three baseball diamonds, a soccer field and several acres designated as picnic areas. In the next few months, it will become the home of the Pace House, an early 20th Century home that originally was in Heritage Park in Downtown Garland. The house is rented to the public for weddings, receptions and other private events.

The park's fields are home to the South Garland Little League, the Garland PeeWee Football Association, and the Garland Baseball Association.

## President Janice Black, other Landmark officers, re-elected

Landmark Society officers and seven directors were re-elected for new 1-year terms at the organization's annual meeting April 1.

An eighth director, longtime member and former recording secretary Wylene Taft, is retiring from the active board of directors for health reasons. She was named a director emeritus, joining Chuck Cabaniss to become only the second member to hold that title.

Janice Black continues as president, joined by Bill Dickson, vice-president, development/museum affairs; Debbie Goldin, vice-president, membership; Mary Dingle, secretary-treasurer, and Michael Hayslip, curator.

To replace Ms. Taft on the the board of directors, members elected Rick Eads, who will join continuing directors Robert Compton (editor, *On Track*), Claude Doane,

Bob Dunn, Jay Jones, Joann Nelson and Pete Nelson.

Eads, a 12-year resident of Garland, has been a member of Landmark for four years. A native of Ohio, he spent much of his career as a consultant in Chicago and southern California working on computer systems with the aerospace and defense industry. He retired from Northrop Corporation in 1995. His interests include history, especially the U.S. Civil War. A model railroad buff, he is particularly interested in the steam era of railroading.

His wife of 33 years is the former Carolyn McCarty, a graduate of Garland High School and a member of the tennis team that won a 1955 Texas high school championship, earning her a place in the Garland Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

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