

# BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY

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**Arlington is a vibrant, diverse, and can-do community. Every part of our corporation contributes to the overall success and vitality as we make Arlington a better place to live, work, learn, and play. In a thriving and authentic community, residents believe they are invested in the city's well-being and growth.**



## GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICES DAY CELEBRATION

Youth groups from around town turned out to celebrate their contributions to the community at the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) event on April 27, sponsored by the Arlington Alliance for Youth and the City of Arlington.

The celebration included an awards presentation, hot dogs, music and plenty of chances to toss a Frisbee and enjoy the spring sunshine at the Levitt Pavilion in downtown Arlington.

Global Youth Service Day is an annual campaign, founded in the late 1980s, that celebrates and mobilizes children and teens for community service projects, many of which are funded by grants from corporate partners. According to the movement's website, the campaign is observed in more than 100 countries each year.

Locally, the project is anchored by the Arlington Alliance for Youth, a collaboration of youth advocates and agencies dedicated to the principles of the America's Promise Alliance.



Many of the groups that participated in Arlington's GYSD conducted service projects on the day of the event, organizing food drives, neighborhood clean-ups, and home improvement projects benefiting community members in need.

Marc Marchand, executive vice-president of the Arlington Alliance for Youth, said, "It's a fun event and a chance to celebrate the kids' projects, many of which were funded by grants from the Arlington Alliance for Youth."

# HIGHLIGHTS

## EPA BROWNFIELDS GRANT WILL AID IN SAFE REDEVELOPMENT

On May 8, 2013, the City received two Brownfields Assessment grants totaling \$400,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency to support redevelopment efforts, becoming the only Texas municipality to receive funds this grant cycle. Since 2006, the City has received \$1.2 million.

Through Arlington's Brownfields Grant Program, the City connects property owners or developers to much-needed capital to make sure the site is properly assessed for contaminants and, if necessary, create a cleanup plan. What's the best part about the program? There's no cost to property owners or developers for the assessments.

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## HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO THE ARLINGTON LIBRARY

When Pearl Wade managed the first Arlington Library collection, it was housed in the old Farmer's National Bank Building. It was in the lobby, stuck in the corner, in the back. Citizens could check out books as long as it was a Wednesday or Saturday, and in the afternoon.

Wonder what Wade would think of the Arlington Library System now, some 90 years later, with its seven branches, a literacy center and numerous Library LiNK locations available in schools? Or how it is now possible to access the library 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without ever leaving the comfort of the couch?

On June 1, patrons filled up the patio of the George W. Hawkes Central Library for a festive gathering to celebrate the nine decades of library service. They met Read, the cuddly Bookworm, listened to music from decades gone by and enjoyed lots of cake.

Through a visual timeline in displays, they also learned how the Arlington Public Library got its start and discovered some of its most memorable moments. The library website features "90 Great Things About the Arlington Public Library" and "90 Years of Groundbreaking Reads." Blog and travel through time with classic books from each decade.

The library timeline shows how libraries have changed over the years, from being "very much about books," said Director of Libraries Cary Siegfried, to being "very much about people."



On June 23, Arlington community members and dignitaries unveiled a new Texas Historical Marker for the Bankhead Highway. Bankhead was among the nation's first transcontinental highways, running from Washington DC to San Diego. The Arlington portion of the highway opened in November 1922, with more than 500 people gathering by Johnson Creek for a barbecue and dedication ceremony.



The City of Arlington partnered with the American Water Works Association to sponsor National Drinking Water Week from May 5-11 as a way of increasing public awareness of drinking water. The week included a proclamation from the Mayor and a high-efficiency showerhead exchange. The annual Water Quality Report was also published in the water bills.



The annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games was held May 3-5 at Maverick Stadium on the UT Arlington campus. The festival is the largest cultural event of its kind in the Southwest. This year's festival featured Highland dancing, bagpiping, drumming, folk music, Scottish athletic events, Celtic harp demonstrations, and much more.



Monday, June 3, was a big day for the Parkview neighborhood. Work began on two memorial bench locations to honor long-time residents of the neighborhood: Lucy Key and Evelyn Turner. The seating areas, located on Parkview Drive and Elder Drive, will also include a dedication name plate. The areas serve as casual meeting places for neighbors and even a place for kids to wait for the school bus. The project was funded in part by a neighborhood matching grant from the City.

# UPDATES

## GM WORKERS HELP RESTORE HOME FOR ARLINGTON FAMILY

There are do-it-yourselfers and extreme home makeovers. Then there's the Trinity Habitat for Humanity home at 2116 Foxcroft Lane in Arlington where 24 General Motors Assembly Plant employees ripped out cabinets, smashed through walls, and pounded floor tile to smithereens.

The Habitat for Humanity rebuild started on June 7 with GM Cares employee volunteers arriving well before 7:30 a.m., sledge hammers in hand, ready to work steadily until 1 p.m. Work continued over the next several days as the insides were demolished and the site made ready for the rebuild group to turn this gem of a home into, well, a home.

The project is one of a dozen taking place across the U.S. thanks to a \$1 million grant from the General Motors Foundation to Habitat for Humanity International. Funds provided to Trinity Habitat for Humanity will be used toward two home rehabilitation projects in partnership with local families, the first being on this tree-lined street on the southeast side of the city.

The house on Foxcroft is a three-bedroom ranch home of about 1,500 square feet with a sizable backyard. The new homeowner had a chance to view the home in its torn-up glory, and came out smiling.

"It's going to be so, so nice," said LeNeice Coffey, a GM worker who signed on as volunteer if only to tear down a wall. "I love it. It's a blessing to give back, especially when you are fortunate enough to have a job," she said. "That's what we all should do. Give back as much as we can."

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## BUSINESS PLAN UPDATES

**HANA Neighborhood Action Plan.** The City Council approved the plan on May 7. The plan establishes strategies to help the Heart of Arlington Neighborhood Association protect the integrity and character of the neighborhoods and build relationships among residents, local businesses, UT Arlington, and the City.

**New York Avenue Corridor Strategy.** A final public open house was held on June 1 at the Senior Recreation Center on New York Avenue. Over 70 people came to hear the final recommendations for the corridor plan, which is based on resident input from previous public meetings. Public hearings for adoption of the plan will be scheduled in August.



The South Davis neighborhood now has street sign toppers throughout their local area. The neighborhood is generally bounded by Park Row Drive, Fielder Road, Pioneer Parkway, and Cooper Street. South Davis Neighborhood funded the street sign toppers through donations and other association revenues.



The 2013 Texas Food Truckin' Fest took place on April 26-27 at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. Texas gourmet food trucks, live bands and performers, kids' activities, and a Rangers game giveaway greeted attendees. A portion of the proceeds benefitted the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Some overstocked food and items from the event were donated to the Arlington Life Shelter.



On May 18, the Arlington Historical Society and Arlington Public Library saluted heroes on Armed Forces Day with an afternoon of lectures and military exhibits. A highlight was the unveiling of Arlington's new World War II digital archives collection and museum display case. Military vehicles from the era were also on display.



The new sustainable concessions and restroom building at Randol Mill Park opened to the public with a ribbon cutting on April 6. The new solar-powered building was made possible through Chevrolet's participation in CBS EcoMedia's EcoAd advertising program. The unique partnership between the City of Arlington, Chevrolet and EcoMedia began in 2011 with the first phase of the project, which funded the sustainable landscape design and installation for the Barrier-Free Playground at Randol Mill.

# NEXTSTEPS

## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

On June 4, Union Pacific began construction to complete the Collins Street quiet zone, installing new signals and gates across Collins, just north of Abram Street. All three lanes will have flashing lights, new gates, and new signage at the track location.

In June, City Council approved a construction contract for the 1.5-mile section of East Lamar Boulevard that runs between Collins Street and Ballpark Way. The road will be widened from four to six lanes and completely rebuilt. New sanitary sewer and water lines as well as upgraded median landscaping, streetlights, sidewalks and signals also will be included, and will be built according to Entertainment District design standards. Construction is expected to be completed in September 2014.

The construction bid for the Vandergriff Skate Park was issued in June. The project includes construction of skateable terrain, including a skate plaza, snake run, and bowl features. Other improvements include accessible walkways, landscaping, irrigation, drinking fountains, and shade structures. The project is funded as part of the 2008 park bond program.



A public meeting to get input about improvements to Julia Burgen Park was held on June 13. Attendees reviewed the conceptual plan for the park, and the design components shown in construction plans from 2005. Priorities will be established from citizen feedback for the best use of available and future funding for the Johnson Creek Greenway in cooperation with planning efforts with the Army Corps of Engineers.



On May 6, thirty Arlington residents graduated from the Citizens Police Academy. Assistant Chief Jaime Ayala delivered the keynote address before a crowd of about 100 guests at City Hall. During the 11-week program, attendees developed citizen awareness and public understanding of law enforcement.



Over 200 people attended the ground breaking for the Vietnam War Memorial Monument at Veterans Park on June 22. When finished, the memorial will pay homage to both South Vietnamese and American veterans. The 10-foot tall granite monument will feature an American soldier standing next to a seated Vietnamese soldier, as well as flags, donor walls, and obelisks of various countries that participated in the war.

## “REMEMBER TURTLE” MANTRA TEACHES YOUTH NOT TO BULLY

A growing number of youth are committing to remembering Turtle's story and pledging not to bully. Since October 30, 2012, almost 2,000 students have been educated in anti-bullying.

Fourth through sixth grade students at Little Elementary heard about Turtle the Painting Pit Bull in May. Arlington Animal Services Center and school staff interacted with the attentive students – sharing thoughts and feelings about bullying and actions to take when a person is being bullied.

Each student received a “Remember Turtle” bracelet to wear in honor of Turtle and to serve as a reminder not to bully. Turtle's work of art will be on display in the school hallway to also reinforce this important message.



PetSmart® Adoption Team Volunteers were recognized on May 4 for their dedication to the success of the mobile adoption events which take place at PetSmart® at the Arlington Highlands on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Over 260 pets have found homes since this program's inception in January 2012.