

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.



STUDENTS AT SWIFT ELEMENTARY GET NEW PLAYGROUND

Some young students at Swift Elementary in Arlington now have the playground of their dreams. Thanks to a \$15,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, pre-kindergarten students at Swift Elementary are enjoying the new early childhood playground, which features a musical wall, a small four-seat teeter, a talk tube, and much more.

ARLINGTON BOY'S ADVENTURE HITS BIG SCREEN

The Arlington Police and Fire Departments made Kye Sapp's dream come true. Kye, a 7-year old diagnosed with leukemia, wished to spend the day with first responders and Batman, ridding the city of evil and wrongdoing.

A Wish with Wings, a local non-profit in Arlington, grants wishes to children who suffer from life-threatening illnesses. "I can remember getting the telephone call and asking if APD could help out with making Kye's day special," said Lt. Christopher Cook, who oversees the police department's media office. "My staff was ecstatic and immediately began planning a day Kye was sure to remember."

Kye spent the day fighting villains around the city, thwarted a bank robbery, nabbed a purse snatcher, and disarmed a pretend explosive device near City Hall. The police department made a video that went viral and captured over 265,000 views in just a few days. See the video on YouTube.



HIGHLIGHTS

NEW BASKETBALL COURT ALLOWS KIDS TO DREAM BIG

Thanks to generous donations from the NCAA, Nancy Lieberman, WorldVentures Foundation and others, Arlington now has its first NCAA DreamCourt, giving some area kids a chance to live out their Final Four dreams. Members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Arlington–East Branch looked on as the colorful, state-of-the-art basketball court was unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the facility on April 1, 2014.

Built as one of two Legacy Projects of the 2014 NCAA Final Four, the unique outdoor basketball court is the city's first. Kids will be able to play on a 35' x 60' DreamCourt that was constructed using the Sport Court SportGame™ high-performance safety surface in bright blue and orange colors. It also includes a walkway from the parking lot and a bleacher area.

The goal of the DreamCourt program is to build high-quality basketball courts in disadvantaged areas to provide children with a safe area to play, participate in free basketball clinics, interact socially, and learn important lessons about teamwork and good sportsmanship. Since 2010, Lieberman and the WorldVentures Foundation have built 11 basketball courts around the nation. The court was funded by the WorldVentures Foundation, Nancy Lieberman Foundation, NCAA Legacy Project, and Sport Court International.

EXPANDING SOCIAL MEDIA TO INCLUDE NEXTDOOR ARLINGTON

The Arlington Police Department has a lengthy history of finding innovative ways to communicate directly with the community, including a strong presence on social media. The department has now expanded that presence by going into Arlington's virtual neighborhoods of **Nextdoor**. Unlike other social media platforms that are generally open to anyone, Nextdoor is neighborhood-based and can be accessed only by people who live in that specific community.

Officers and police employees will utilize the Arlington Nextdoor site to provide information regarding various public safety topics. Arlington's Crime Prevention Officers are able to communicate time-sensitive and relevant information to residents in the forum where people are already communicating with one another. An involved and engaged city is a stronger and safer community, said Arlington Police Chief Will D. Johnson.



The 2014 Animal Essay Contest drew 1,018 contestants. The essays presented ways to address pet overpopulation and homelessness. The 12 student winners were honored with a recognition ceremony and a private behind-the-scenes tour of the Animal Services Center. Sponsors included Vantage Energy, EECU, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and UT Arlington's TRIO Pre-College Program.



Tarrant County Housing Partnership teamed up with the City to build one of the city's first homes using a Structural Insulated Panel system, which creates tight, well-insulated, housing structures that resist fire, wind, insects, and decay. The panels for this home were purchased from Korwall Industries, Inc., located in Arlington. Funding for this project was made possible by a City of Arlington HOME grant.



George Strait's final show in Arlington was big... really big. More than 105,000 people - a North American indoor concert record - packed AT&T Stadium on June 7, 2014, to say goodbye to the King of Country, who dazzled the crowd with a series of duets with some of the biggest names in country music.



Starting May 3, 2014, the Arlington Museum of Art opened *Ansel Adams: Masterworks*, a new exhibit that ran through August 3. The exhibit contained 48 photographs considered to be Adams' best work. Related programs including lectures, readings, demonstrations, documentaries, and photo contests, ran throughout the exhibition.

UPDATES

WILLIAMS SONOMA BRINGING REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION CENTER

One of the leading retailers offering specialty home furnishings and gourmet cookware is bringing its new regional distribution center to Arlington.

Williams Sonoma Direct, Inc. - parent company to all Pottery Barn lines, West Elm, Rejuvenation, and Williams Sonoma - is putting its 821,502 sq. ft. facility at the newly developed Arlington Commerce Center, located at 4900 Sherry Street near Interstate 20 and State Highway 360.

When complete, the company will have invested approximately \$15-\$20 million in furniture, fixtures, and equipment, and hired approximately 300-400 employees. Employment is planned to grow to 500-600 employees within two years.

This new location will allow Williams Sonoma to ship to its Southwest customer base with a 1-2 day drive time. The company's profits continue to increase with the help of its e-commerce business, with annual revenues exceeding \$4 billion.

An economic impact analysis indicates that approximately 818 direct and indirect jobs will be created, generating approximately \$246 million in direct and indirect salaries. Over a 10-year period, the City of Arlington will realize approximately \$4.4 million in net revenues.

BUSINESS PLAN UPDATES

Arlington Comprehensive Plan. This planning project provides an integrated approach to all aspects of Arlington's development, with an emphasis on developing attractive neighborhoods; fostering environmental and economic sustainability; and enhancing land use and transportation coordination. The draft document will be completed by October 2014. A 26-member Advisory Committee is assisting with this effort.

Housing Market Strategy. This strategy will provide a detailed analysis of housing data and trends, and will provide residents, businesses, and City leaders with a guide to meeting Arlington's housing needs over the next decade. Phase one of the project, data collection and a housing inventory, have been completed.



On May 17, 2014, community members came together to improve the Park Plaza Shopping Center near New York Avenue and Park Row Drive by covering the graffiti that tainted the building with beautiful art. Mark Joeckel, executive director of Arlington Proud, started the campaign on Facebook and Twitter. Sponsors provided money and supplies, and artists donated their time and talent.



On June 5, 2014, 13 students were recognized as newly elected officers in a ceremony held by the Mayor's Youth Commission, a youth-led organization with goals to help improve the environment for youth in Arlington. Members are Arlington ISD junior high and high school students. In addition to community events, the group hosts at least four volunteer service projects each year.



Arlington's water has once again been recognized as the "best tasting surface water" at a contest sponsored by the North Texas Laboratory Analyst Section of the Texas Water Utilities Association held May 12-16, 2014, at UT Arlington. Winners were selected on the basis of a flavor profile analysis during a blind taste test.



As part of the 60th anniversary celebration of the General Motors Assembly Plant on East Abram Street, the GM Foundation presented grants to several organizations, including the Arlington ISD. Through the Plant City Grants program, the Foundation this year will provide over \$1.7 million to 209 organizations in 45 plant cities. The foundation focuses on supporting education, health and human services, the environment, and community development initiatives.

NEXTSTEPS

INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Tri-Schools Road Project. On June 9, 2014, crews began a multi-million dollar project to improve Calender Road, Curry Road, Ledbetter Road, and Russell Road. The work includes water, sanitary sewer, storm water, drainage, street lighting, and street pavement improvements. The project will enhance traffic flow around three Mansfield ISD public schools in south Arlington: Carol Holt Elementary, Cross Timbers Intermediate, and TA Howard Middle School.

North Street Project. First United Methodist Church unveiled a safer North Street and a new plaza with a grand opening on April 27, 2014. Through the restoration project, the church created walkways, added accessible parking spaces and landscaped the area. The improvements were made possible by grants, including a \$225,000 challenge grant from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation and a \$200,000 grant from the Hesta Stuart Christian Charitable Trust, as well as donations from church members.

WESTADOR STRENGTHENS VOICE WITH NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

Having served on the Landmark Preservation Commission, Arlington resident Randy Hendricks has seen the unfortunate consequences of property neglect. This experience motivated Hendricks to spearhead an effort to create a neighborhood plan for Westador Addition, a unique 40-lot subdivision where he resides just north of the West Mayfield Road and South Cooper Street intersection.

Hendricks, along with Westador residents Carole Lemonds and Judy Northup, worked with Arlington Principal Planner Clayton Husband to set up meetings and create surveys to acquire feedback on issues facing the community. The small neighborhood was built more than 40 years ago, and almost half of its residents have lived there more than 25 years.

After working closely with the City, Hendricks knows Arlington is serious about supporting neighborhoods. "They recognize that great neighborhoods make for a great city. The fact they provided resources – it's made me realize they're trying hard to do that."

What's next for Westador? The City will continue to work with them, assisting with a grant application so Westador can enhance its neighborhood entrances and improve lighting with designs created by the Arlington Urban Design Center that are included in the official plan.



Food Truck Friday Nights returned in May and June 2014 at River Legacy Park. The evening series was created by the Parks and Recreation Department in response to public demand after Food Truck Fridays at Founders Plaza. The new evening event allowed locals to attend after work and on weekends.



The City, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, and Bike Friendly Mid-Cities celebrated Bike to Work Day on May 16, 2014, at the Trinity Railway Express CentrePort Station. Information was available about the Metro ArlingtonXpress (MAX) and biking to work, as well as free bicycle repairs, coffee, juice, snacks, and fruit for commuters.



The Parks and Recreation Department and St. Joseph's Catholic School spent a day at Johnson Creek in the Entertainment District planting trees in support of the City's commitment to the environment. More than 90 student volunteers and parents helped plant 400 trees in Richard Greene and Dr. Robert Cluck Linear Parks.



As part of UT Arlington's Big Event, the Heart of Arlington Neighborhood Association held a Johnson Creek cleanup event at Julia Burgen Park on April 12, 2014. Residents and students picked up trash and debris around the Center Street bridge area.