

BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY

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IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

GM Opens Stamping Facility

Page 2

Play Trails | Dunn Elementary

Page 3

Epic Cones Creative Cuisine
| Business Plan Updates

Page 4

Community Investments

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.



THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTKINDL MARKET

The third annual Christkindl Market ran from November 29 to December 22, 2013. The market was held on the grounds of the Ballpark in Arlington, and was a perfect complement to Six Flags Holiday in the Park and other holiday events.

In addition to numerous food options such as Austrian and Dutch breads and pastries, vendors offered authentic German wares, wood carvings, jewelry, and other gifts from European artisans.

GM OPENS NEW STAMPING FACILITY

With heavy thuds and the steady roar of machinery in the background, General Motors unveiled a new \$200 million stamping facility on October 14, 2013. The three-story facility will produce vehicle body panel parts, such as doors, hoods, fenders and side panels. Previously, those parts were stamped at plants in the Midwest and shipped to Arlington. Having an on-site stamping facility will increase production efficiency and save GM roughly \$40 million a year in transportation and logistics costs.

To operate the three presses, the plant hired about 200 new workers, bringing the total number of workers in Arlington to more than 4,500. Mayor Robert Cluck said the strength of the workers has kept GM in Arlington since the plant first opened in 1954. The Arlington plant produces 260,000 to 270,000 SUVs every year, but that number could grow to more than 300,000 in coming years.



HIGHLIGHTS

PLAY TRAILS AT RIVER LEGACY UNVEILED

The City of Arlington and UnitedHealthcare celebrated the completion of the new River Legacy Parks 'Play Trail' on October 7, 2013, with a ribbon-cutting event at the park that included elected officials, community leaders, corporate VIPs, local families, and volunteers. UnitedHealthcare's funding for the Play Trail included two new play pods installed along the existing accessible trail loop that connects back to the main playground area. The funding was made possible through CBS EcoMedia's WellnessAd program.

The River Legacy Parks 'Play Trail' project is the latest in UnitedHealthcare's "Do Good. Live Well." employee-volunteer initiative, whose mission is to prevent hunger and obesity and inspire service and encourage volunteerism. Through partnerships, financial support and the helping hands of employee volunteers, UnitedHealthcare is working to help build healthier communities.

PlayTrails are a revolutionary and innovative collection of play equipment designed for installation as pockets of play along a path or trail. As children and families explore a trail, they encounter nature-themed play pockets that promote physical activity and fun, as well as educational signage with fun facts and activities related to the play pocket theme.

DUNN ELEMENTARY PINCHES PENNIES AND SHARES SUCCESS

A penny war turned into a celebration as Dunn Elementary second graders presented a check for \$415 aimed at helping the homeless animals of the Arlington Animal Services Center.

It all started when second grade students at Dunn were given an assignment called "Learning about Your Community" and asked to choose a place where they wanted to make a donation. These thoughtful, animal loving students chose the Animal Services Center because of its many homeless animals in need of good homes.

Mrs. Rush, a second grade student teacher at Dunn, said, "The kids had a penny war that ran for two weeks. Student Navaeh P. gave \$10 which was her birthday money. Mrs. Klett's 2nd grade class raised \$180 alone. The kids were very excited that they raised a total of \$415!"



At block parties and social gatherings on October 1, 2013, residents joined together to heighten awareness and support for local crime prevention efforts. On the 30th anniversary of National Night Out, over 143 registered neighborhoods held outdoor events to celebrate police and community partnerships and strengthen neighborhood spirit.



Arlington celebrated Texas Recycles Day on November 23, 2013, by disposing of unwanted computers, televisions, and mobile phones. The free annual event was held at the UT Arlington parking lot at Mitchell and Cooper streets. Other recycled items included old monitors, keyboards, printers, radios, VCR's, and video cameras.



Mayor Robert Cluck helped to light a giant menorah on December 2, 2013. The ceremonial lighting at City Hall, led by Chabad of Arlington, helped celebrate the fifth day of Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. People enjoyed a Chanukah musical, arts and crafts for kids, as well as latkes and donuts.



The Lights at Interlochen returned December 14, 2013, running through Christmas night. More than 200 homeowners in this northwest Arlington neighborhood celebrated the season by adorning their property with twinkling lights and holiday-themed displays. Thousands of spectators, including tour buses from all over the state, traveled through the area to enjoy the free event.

UPDATES

EPIC CONES BRINGS CREATIVE CUISINE TO ARLINGTON

As the ice cream cone revolutionized the way Americans eat ice cream, the "Epic Cone" might just change the way we eat...well, anything. Epic Cones incorporates unique ingredients with a patented cone recipe, similar to pizza crust, to create anything: pizza cones, burger cones, breakfast cones, and even the creative curry chicken salad cone.

The company was created when owner Chris Martinez and his mother stumbled across a cone oven a couple years ago at a food show. Instead of filling the cones with the advertised strawberries and whipped cream, they decided to try meats and cheeses instead. Even though Chris had no previous culinary experience or technical training, he was confident he could create a delicious product. "I know what tastes good together and if it tastes good together, it should be fine in a cone," said the entrepreneur.

Chris and his wife, Shelley, originally opened Epic Cones in Deep Ellum about a year ago. After their lease was up, they wanted to move to a family friendly area where they could grow their brand. Chris knew that place was in his hometown of Arlington.

Chris and Shelley bought a gas station and now run Epic Cones out of the restaurant side at 4331 Kelly Elliott Road in Arlington. So far, the move to Arlington has been very successful, providing almost triple the business of the former Deep Ellum location. He recently invested in a delivery cart, offering delicious cones on the go, and a couple of food trucks that should be in service soon.

BUSINESS PLAN UPDATES

Arlington Comprehensive Plan. Residents can discuss issues related to Arlington's Comprehensive Plan update on the City's Facebook page. This planning project will provide an integrated approach to all aspects of Arlington's development with an emphasis on developing attractive neighborhoods; having environmental and economic sustainability; and enhancing land use and transportation coordination. A 26-member Advisory Committee is assisting with this effort.



On November 2, 2013, a memorial brick was placed in front of the Arlington Animal Services Center for Catherine Hubbard, a six-year old who lost her life during the Sandy Hook school shooting. The brick was paid for by donations. Catherine was an animal lover, with a dream to open her own animal shelter. A group photo of donators will be sent to the family in Newtown, Connecticut.



On October 22, 2013, hundreds of visitors from Arlington and surrounding communities gathered at the Arlington Convention Center for the 31st Taste of Arlington. The event's proceeds benefit two instrumental community organizations: Theatre Arlington and the YMCA of Arlington. In addition to dining, visitors listened to live music and took part in silent and live auctions.



The UT Arlington Wind Symphony hosted world-renowned composer, conductor, and performer Gunther Schuller as a guest artist-in-residence November 11-13, 2013. In addition to numerous awards that include the Pulitzer Prize (1994), he is an original member of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame.



With pride-filled fanfare and some somber reflections of sacrifices made in service to others, Arlington celebrated Veterans Day with several special events throughout the city, including a Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony at Veterans Park. The tradition-rich event, which included Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck, State Representative Diane Patrick and other local dignitaries, honored U.S. veterans of all wars.

NEXTSTEPS

INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Lovers Lane and Lackland Street. A briefing meeting was held on October 2, 2013, regarding construction on Lovers Lane between Collins Street and Wynn Terrace, and on Lackland Street between Park Row Drive and Daniel Drive. Improvements are to include new concrete streets, sidewalks, and water and sanitary sewer renewals.

Youth Education Town (YET). The North Texas YET, 712 West Abram Street, opened on October 14, 2013, to provide educational and recreational opportunities for the region's disadvantaged youth. The multi-million dollar facility was funded by the National Football League and the Gene and Jerry Jones Family Arlington Youth Foundation as a Super Bowl XLV legacy project.

Southwest Nature Preserve. On October 19, 2013, the city's first nature preserve opened at 5201 Bowman Springs Road. The preserve includes 1.5 miles of hiking trails, an amphitheater, shaded picnic tables, and a boardwalk leading to a fishing pier on one of the four ponds.

27TH ANNUAL SANTA COPS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The sound of children's laughter and holiday music filled the air during the 27th Annual Santa Cops Christmas Party. This tradition is a very rewarding experience for officers, kids and families. The program targets families in the Arlington ISD who need a little extra help in making Christmas special for their children.

Families complete a "wish list" of gifts for each child, with the holiday magic coming together at the Arlington Convention Center. Parents and kids line up and receive their box of goodies that were hand-selected by officers and volunteers. Six Flags Over Texas participated again by bringing along Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck to brighten the holiday mood. Families also enjoyed balloons, clowns, a DJ with live music, and Old Saint Nicholas himself.

In 2013, Santa Cops served over 377 families, with 1,062 children receiving assistance and gifts. Other community partners included Arlington Children's Toys Inc., Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni, Girl Scouts, Arlington Music Hall, The Margarita Society of Arlington, Mattel, and Six Flags Over Texas and Hurricane Harbor.



Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck delivered his annual State of the City address on October 22, 2013, at the Arlington Convention Center. This is the seventh consecutive year the Arlington Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the State of the City address.



Gander Mountain, the popular outdoor specialty store for firearms, hunting, fishing, camping, and marine products and services, is coming to Arlington. The Minnesota-based retailer has filed permits to build a 52,000-square-foot store at 3901 South Center Street on an undeveloped 7.1-acre tract just east of Costco. The estimated cost of construction is \$4.2 million.

EGG ROLL FESTIVAL AND BUSINESS EXPO

The Egg Roll Festival, Health Care, and Business Expo was held on October 5, 2013, at the Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church Hall at 801 East Mayfield Road. In addition to the health fair, attendees experienced Asian cultural exhibits, fresh food, and live entertainment. Yen Nguyen, an organizer of the event, said it created a fun environment, with cultural exhibits and performances from local Korean, Vietnamese, Indian, and Hawaiian communities.