

# BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY

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## NEW TECHLINK MOBILE TECHNOLOGY LAB ROLLS INTO TOWN

Arlington's newest branch library isn't filled with books and it doesn't come with its own parking lot. Instead, the impressive TechLiNK Mobile Technology Lab is a 39-foot bus that boasts 11 sit-down computer stations and will travel throughout the city, especially into neighborhoods not in close proximity to a city library.

The mobile unit allows the library to provide computer access and Internet services to families who don't have their own and have few public computers to use. The bus also will offer a location for free classes in technology, ESL, online literacy and other training.

The TechLiNK vehicle can be requested for Arlington community events, with priority given to locations that target underserved populations. The unit's wireless capability is provided through AT&T. It was funded as part of a federal grant administered through the statewide Technology Expertise, Access and Learning for all Texans (TEAL) project.

Patrons at the East Arlington Branch Library got a look at the rig as city officials christened it at an open house and ribbon-cutting on March 7. Students from Berry Elementary, who attended a family literacy night at the East Arlington Branch Library, scrambled aboard the bus to try out the computers.



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.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ARLINGTON CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA

On March 2, children of all ages celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with puppet shows, crafts, a photo booth, and free books. *Dr. Seuss' Birthday: Blaze through Reading* is part of the National Education Association's annual Read Across America initiative to encourage children to read.

The event is a collaboration between the Arlington Public Library, UT Arlington's Freshmen Leaders on Campus and UTA Volunteers. Arlington is one of 124 communities nationwide working with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading to ensure that students are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. The event was held on the UT Arlington campus.



Arlington partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to promote National Flood Safety Awareness Week for March 18-22. The week highlighted some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what residents can do to save lives and property.



The Parkview annual Easter Egg Hunt took place on March 23 at their private neighborhood park on Circle Drive. Many families gathered to participate in the hunt, and enjoyed other activities such as face painting and a bunny petting area. The park is also the site of Parkview's new community garden.



The Public Works and Transportation Department made needed repairs to a pedestrian bridge that crosses a drainage channel on Sherry Street in the Britannia Gardens/Brandyridge area, north of East Arbrog Boulevard. Broken boards were replaced and the rails will be repainted.



Over 450 attended the Third Annual Black History Month festival at the Central Library on February 23. Along with numerous speakers, the winners of the "Sharing the Dream Celebration 2013" essay contest were announced. Students from Ashworth Elementary, Ousley Junior High, and Cornerstone Baptist Church performed, with a final show from the Bandan Koro African Drum and Dance Ensemble.

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## COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR DRAWS HUNDREDS OF ARLINGTON FAMILIES

Sponsored by the Arlington Independent School District (AISD), the second annual Community Resource Fair was held on January 26. Hundreds of families from Arlington attended to learn more about activities and services available in their community. Representatives from more than 80 organizations from across North Texas — including Head Start, Easter Seals, JPS Health and United Way — were on hand to answer questions and provide information.

Electra Kitchin, AISD coordinator for dropout prevention, said families seek assistance for a variety of reasons, including job loss or financial woes, health problems and special education need.

Help is available, but navigating various aid agencies can be difficult for time-strapped families, said Antrice Newsome, AISD special education coordinator. Schools can help lessen that burden. "We want parents to know we are looking at the needs of the entire family," Newsome said. "We look at the whole child and what they need to be successful."

Susan Diaz, who attended the fair with her 9-year-old son, Daniel, said she was pleased to learn about the educational assistance available to students and families. "I was not familiar with most of these organizations," Diaz said. "It's good to know where to turn for help."

# UPDATES

## SUPER BOWL YET CENTER SHOULD BE READY BY FALL

The new North Texas Youth Education Town, or YET Center, is a community center being erected in downtown Arlington on West Abram Street. The YET Center will occupy an expanded Salvation Army center, adding 8,000 square feet that will include community rooms, computer lab, dance studio, music room, and art room.

To make the new center possible, the National Football League donated \$1 million. The Super Bowl XLV Host Committee provided another \$1 million courtesy of the Gene and Jerry Jones Family Arlington Youth Foundation. Some of the design and construction costs have been donated or performed at cost.

"This is something that will serve Arlington youth for a long time to come," said Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck, who was joined by Salvation Army officials and a number of local dignitaries, including City Council members, AISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos and school board trustees, and NFL Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith. They were split into one of four groups for guided tours of the facility on March 14.

While the center will embrace any Arlington youth, the investments made to these centers across the country are, for the most part, targeting neighborhoods in need. The Salvation Army will create and run a number of the classes but is eager to partner with local businesses and nonprofits to help with programming such as homework assistance and even spiritual instruction.

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## BUSINESS PLAN UPDATES

**New York Avenue Corridor Strategy.** A second public open house was held on March 23 at the Senior Recreation Center on New York Avenue. Over 80 people attended to hear the consultant present the preliminary recommendations for the corridor, which is based on resident input from previous meetings. A final public meeting will be held on June 1.

**HANA Neighborhood Action Plan.** The proposed plan was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission on March 30. A public hearing before the Commission takes place on April 3, with City Council action scheduled for May 7.



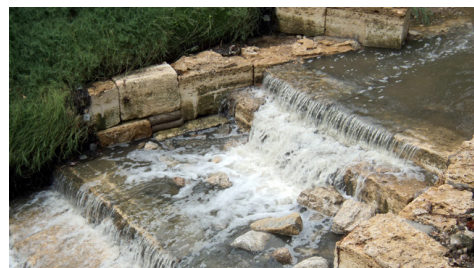
Morton Elementary became the latest Arlington ISD school to partner with the Arlington Public Library and become a LibraryLiNK. Students and parents can drop by the school and check out books just as they would at a City branch. Since more than 60% of Morton students come from Spanish-speaking families, a majority of the books are bilingual.



Local volunteers and City employees teamed up with Trinity Habitat for Humanity to make some much needed exterior repairs on three houses for needy families in east Arlington. Repairs included replacing trim and siding, caulking, and painting. The project was made possible with funds contributed by the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.



The City is joining the Tarrant Regional Water District and other North Texas cities in an anti-litter, public awareness campaign aimed at improving water quality. One of the initiatives is "Ten on Tuesday," a challenge to DFW businesses, schools, community groups, and individuals to pick up ten pieces of litter every Tuesday.



A project to restore eroded banks located near a northeast Arlington neighborhood was completed in January. The Water Utilities and Public Works departments began a stream bank stabilization project to address serious erosion near a manhole and 27" sanitary sewer line located in a tributary to the Trinity River. This more natural solution saved at least \$160,000 compared to methods currently used.

# NEXTSTEPS

## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

New street improvements and water line and sewer renewals are taking place in Brandyridge, Britannia Gardens, and Arbrook Heights. This area is generally located at the northeast corner of New York Avenue and East Arbrook Boulevard. The \$5.6-million project includes 23,000 feet of water line renewals and 8,800 feet of sewer line renewals. After completion of the renewals, all streets in the project area will be repaved by street reclamation.



A residential street rebuild project paid for by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is taking place in east Arlington neighborhoods. Southmoor Drive, Jeanette Court, Elaine Court, Laura Court, LeJuan Court, and Glynn Oaks Drive are being rebuilt as part of this project.

Also as a result of CDBG funding, Bob Cooke Park received new playground equipment, as well as a new drinking fountain, picnic tables, parking spaces and a concrete walk. Bob Cooke Park is located at 2025 Craig Hanking Drive.



## DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE 2013

Dr. Suess-inspired fun was had at the Parks and Recreation Department's Daddy Daughter Dance on February 23 at the Arlington Convention Center. Light appetizers, desserts, punch, and tea were served as daddies and daughters danced the night away. Girls also received a corsage, parting gift, and a complimentary photo. Select packages also included a stretch Hummer limo ride for couples. Attendees at the event participated in the Daddy Daughter Dance "Harlem Shake" video. The event attracted a record attendance of 1,196 participants.



The second annual Art on the Greene arts festival took place March 22-24 at Richard Greene Linear Park. More than 75 artists attended the show, which was nestled among shade trees and sculptures of Caelum Moor. Thousands of like-minded art lovers filled the park to listen to live music and check out sculptures, jewelry, paintings, photographs, sketches, ceramics, and more.



In March, the Parks and Recreation Department began public meetings in order to update the City's Park Recreation and Open Space Plan. Recognizing that citizen input is vital to providing exceptional opportunities for the community, five meetings were scheduled throughout the city.



A spirit of tradition continued March 8 at Miller Elementary School when Arlington police officers and firefighters met Miller Elementary students on the basketball court. Players said the game was an opportunity to have fun and strengthen bonds with the youth and the community. The final score was Miller Elementary 46 - APD/FD 44.



The Dive/Swift Water Rescue Team of the Arlington Fire Department, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, was on hand on March 23 to inspect boats at Richard Simpson Park Boat Ramp at Lake Arlington. The free voluntary inspection program can help owners apply for a reduction in premiums from their insurance provider.