

# BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY

Q4 Update FY2013



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## FIFTH ANNUAL ECOFEST ARLINGTON

Without a cloud in the sky, Arlington's fifth annual Ecofest was a day full of education, green giveaways, and family activities at Founders Plaza and Levitt Pavilion in Downtown Arlington on September 21.

For 2013, Ecofest Arlington partnered with Republic Services to provide a wide range of activities. More than 40 vendors participated, spotlighting their green products and services. Classes and demonstrations on environmental awareness took place throughout the day. Children's activities were part of the event as well with games, crafts, and educational presentations.

Live entertainment was on the schedule with local bands performing at the Levitt Pavilion. Julie Hazzard, Larry G(ee), and The Killdares entertained the crowd throughout the day.

In keeping with the message of Ecofest Arlington, event planners aimed for a zero-waste event. There were recycling stations set up and vendors used only materials that fit the recycling and composting guidelines.



Along with title sponsor, Republic Services, Ecofest Arlington joined with many other valuable partners in the community to bring this year's event to its citizens, including the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, University of Texas at Arlington, Friends of the Levitt Pavilion, Texas Power, Rental Stop, Fast Signs, Arlington Parks and Recreation, and numerous city departments.


**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.**



**“Skin That Speaks”**  
**The Dundun “Talking Drums” of Nigeria**

presented by  
**Dr. Michael Varner**  
*Associate Professor of Music*  
*UT Arlington*  
*premiering*

“Music for Talking Drum and Bassoon”  
*with Dr. Scott Pool, Bassoon Faculty*  
*and the UTA World Ensemble*



# HIGHLIGHTS

## DALLAS COWBOYS PLAY 60 CHALLENGE KICKS OFF AT CARTER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

At times the noise inside the Carter Junior High School gym was deafening, but that’s the way principal Rachael Brown wanted it. Students and teachers were excited to see Dallas Cowboys corner back Brandon Carr join team mascot Rowdy, the American Heart Association, the National Football League and Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck to kick off the 2013 Dallas Cowboys Play 60 Challenge – a six-week program designed to help schools create an active and healthy lifestyle for kids that will form positive habits that will last a lifetime.

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## ANIMAL SERVICES VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Even the animals seemed to be smiling at the 2nd annual Animal Services’ Center Volunteer Appreciation Event on September 7. A 1950s style theme had several volunteers and staff decked out in period attire to add to the fun and excitement of the event. Festivities included many gift give-a-ways and door prizes for the volunteers in gratitude for their outstanding service.

Volunteers were presented with an Arlington Animal Services 200 Hours! Volunteer pin for providing over 200 hours of service between August 2012 and August 2013.

Some of the award recipients included:

- Bill McCart Award for Volunteer of the Year for 2013: Bob Meister
- Volunteer with over 1,000 hours for 2012-2013: Gina Piner
- Foster Coordinator for 2013: Samantha Trimble

Lead volunteers were recognized for their leadership and for assisting with orientation of new volunteers and administering volunteer training and facilitating classes. Appreciation was expressed to all volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

Restaurants that donated gift cards for the volunteers included Starbucks, Red Robin, Chili’s, Applebee’s, Macaroni Grill, B.J.’s Brewhouse, Black-eyed Pea, and Cotton Patch.

The Nigerian dundun, or “talking drum,” has captivated drummers around the world for the way it captures the pitch and rhythms of native language. Michael Varner, associate professor of music at UT Arlington, took leave to study the dundun in West Africa four years ago. His research and reflections were recently published in the journal, *Percussive Notes*.



The Parkview neighborhood has 10 growing boxes at their community garden. Residents have planted peas, beans, carrots, squash, corn, and lots of tomatoes. Planning for a vegetable growing seminar put on by the Tarrant County Extension Agent is underway. Parkview hopes to host the seminar in their soon to be constructed pergola in the neighborhood park.



The Arlington Museum of Art continued its celebration of the Harlem Renaissance with a tribute to The Apollo Theater. The amateur night event was held on August 17, in conjunction with an event sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, and cosponsored by the Ford Motor Company.



The South West Arlington Geocachers (SWAG) and Keep Arlington Beautiful teamed up with the Water Department and Parks and Recreation Department to host the “Love Where You Live” Lake Arlington cleanup event at Eugene McCray Park on August 17. Volunteers picked up litter and debris along the shores and islands of Lake Arlington.

# UPDATES

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENHANCES CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Building a thriving community can take many forms and law enforcement is no exception. The Arlington Police Department (APD) has invested significant resources to develop a robust social media strategy to communicate with citizens.

Recently a lost dog had pawed his way into Sam Houston High School and the arms of School Resource Officer Thomas McLeod. Since the dog didn't have an address tag, Animal Services was called to take custody of the dog. APD posted a picture of Officer McLeod and the lost dog, temporarily called "Joey", on Facebook and Twitter in anticipation that someone would recognize the dog. The tweet went viral and was retweeted by citizens and local news media outlets.

When APD media personnel took a trip to visit Joey, officers learned that owner was contacted, but was not able to pay to get the dog released from the shelter. The owner, a woman who lived in the East side of Arlington, said the dog's real name was Chubby. The family adopted Chubby from a local shelter six months ago, and the woman's 6-year-old grandson was heartbroken that Chubby was lost.

APD staff arranged to pay the fees for housing Chubby. The woman was extremely happy of the nice gesture and drove to Animal Services to be reunited with her little Chubby. Social media brought the community together and helped return the dog to his rightful owner.

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## BUSINESS PLAN UPDATES

**Unified Development Code.** The Planning and Zoning Commission is reviewing a draft unified development code (UDC). The UDC is a document that consolidates zoning, subdivision regulations, and design and development standards into a single document. More information is online at [www.arlingtontx.gov/udc](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/udc).

**Arlington Comprehensive Plan.** An update is underway that 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. An Advisory Committee is assisting with this effort, and residents can discuss these issues on the City's Facebook page.



In August, Arlington Reads introduced a unique volunteer partner as part of the Reading Corps program - English Bulldog, Leroy Brown. Leroy Brown, famed pet therapy dog with Respect A Bull, Inc., shared his comfy pet pillow with youth as they curled up with good books and read stories to the attentive floppy eared listener.



After a social media campaign by the Arlington Police Department (APD) and the Animal Services staff on Facebook and Twitter, the lost dog Chubby was reunited with his family. APD regularly posts content on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Nixle. Social media enables the community to become a vital part of the APD team. More details are in the story on this page.



The 58-acre Southwest Nature Preserve, located at 5201 Bowman Springs Road, is officially open for business. Gates are open from 5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Recent improvements to the park included a boardwalk into a pond for fishing, a small amphitheater for educational programs, parking, and picnic areas.



A team of cyclists participating in Journey of Hope, presented by KRG Capital, arrived in Arlington on July 12 as a stop on their 4,000-mile cycling event across the country to raise funds and awareness for people with disabilities. This summer marks the 17th consecutive year the City of Arlington will host a team of cyclists from Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. The team cycles an average of 75 miles per day and began the journey in Seattle and San Francisco. The event ended in Washington, D.C., on August 10.

# NEXTSTEPS

## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

- Beginning August 1, a pavement evaluation vehicle began winding its way through the northern third of the city, from Park Row drive to the northern border. This high-tech vehicle will survey streets and capture high quality digital images of pavement surfaces. The technology aboard the vehicle will record the degrees of roughness and distress along street surfaces. This survey is part of a pavement management program funded by the City's street maintenance sales tax, which was first established in September 2002.
- Construction began on the River Legacy Play Trail near the southeast corner of the Great Meadow. Play Trails are a revolutionary and innovative collection of play equipment designed for installation as pockets of play along a path or trail. These nature-themed play pockets promote physical activity and fun, as well as educational signage with fun facts and activities related to the play pocket theme. United Health Care donated funds for this project.
- The Arlington Parks and Recreation Department and Arlington Public Library are proposing to complete a programmatic assessment for replacing the Hugh Smith Recreation Center and possibly co-locating recreation programming with the services provided by the East Arlington Branch Library. Work will also include an evaluation of alternatives for senior services.

## UT ARLINGTON ONE OF NATION'S MOST DIVERSE CAMPUSES

The University of Texas at Arlington ranks No. 5 among the nation's most ethnically diverse campuses, according to the 2014 rankings of national universities in U.S. News & World Report. The U.S. News "diversity index" is a measure of where college students seeking diversity are "most likely to encounter undergraduates from racial or ethnic groups different from their own," the news organization says.

"It is no surprise that UT Arlington would be recognized nationally for its commitment to diversity and for ensuring that students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to earn their education and become citizens of the global community. This is who we are and what we do every day," President Vistasp M. Karbhari said.



In advance of the annual National Night Out (NNO) event, the Oak Hill neighborhood took part in a food drive to support Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex. This year's community celebration promoted the grassroots spirit of neighbors helping neighbors. Oak Hill was one of many neighborhood groups to donate food items. The first 75 groups received a NNO party package that included a banner, T-shirts, and ball caps.



The first annual South St. Arts Festival was held September 27-29. Presented by Moya Art Events and Downtown Arlington Management Corporation, the festival showcased artists from around the country in 11 different mediums. Live music, food trucks, and downtown restaurants provided entertainment and dining options for attendees.



The new Mobile Litter Unit (MLU) is a trailer loaded with community clean-up supplies that is available for organizations, businesses and neighborhoods to reserve free of charge to aid in beautification of public spaces and neighborhoods. This MLU program assists in the strengthening of neighborhoods, beautification of right of ways, parks spaces, and promoting the efforts of Keep Arlington Beautiful. Funding for the MLU was provided by Arlington Water Utilities through a TCEQ approved Supplemental Environmental Project.



The newly unveiled Compassion Center at the Church on Rush Creek will seek to help hundreds of needy Arlington residents with budget management, English as Second Language instruction, clothing for job interviews, after-school tutoring for elementary-aged students, job fairs and more. A ribbon cutting and open house of the 2,200 square foot facility was held on August 18.