

BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY

Q1 Update FY2013



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DISCOVER DIVISION

The Division Street Corridor Strategy was approved by City Council on November 6, 2012. The strategy builds on previous planning efforts to address economic development, land use, and aesthetic concerns along the Division Street Corridor between Cooper and Collins Streets. The strategy identifies action steps to support private investment that will provide jobs and increase property values; provide an important link between Downtown, UT Arlington, and the Entertainment District; and implement lasting, valuable change in the appearance, character, and economic function of the corridor. Some of the recommendations include:

- Implement catalyst projects such as senior living, residential lofts, and a mobile food plaza.
- Create incentives for new business signs.
- Coordinate streetscape and utility improvements with redevelopment.
- Provide short-term parking solutions for existing businesses, while looking for ways to provide additional surface parking.

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.



DISCOVER DIVISION



HIGHLIGHTS

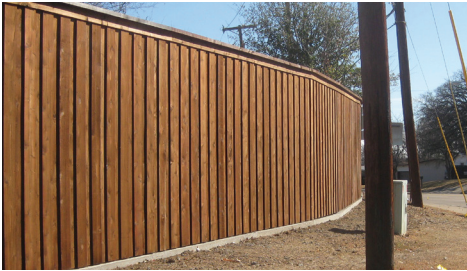
TORNADO RELEAF PROJECT

The Arlington Parks and Recreation Department and Keep Arlington Beautiful hosted the Tornado Re-LEAF Planting Event on November 9-10, 2012.

Over 550 volunteers showed up to help plant 1,000 trees for residents and businesses impacted by the devastating tornadoes on April 3, 2012. The Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, Oncor, Starbucks at Cooper and Park Row in Arlington, and Krispy Kreme Arlington donated funds, materials, and food to volunteers.



2012 marked the 12th annual craft fair at Dottie Lynn Recreation Center, with a record-breaking 76 vendors. During the two-day event, over 1,200 people came to shop, visit Santa, and be entertained by the Duff Elementary Choir, Arlington High School Show Choir, Arlington Womans Club Choir, and the Country Cousins.



The Randol Mill Park West COP neighborhood group constructed new fencing along Randol Mill Road. The 370 feet of new fence was funded through a \$10,000 grant from the City's Neighborhood Matching Grant program. Volunteer labor hours and other donations provided the match for the grant.



Over 600 residents dropped off electronic waste to be recycled at the City's Annual Computer Roundup on November 3, 2012 at UT Arlington. Nine, 30-cubic-yard containers full of e-waste was recycled through the event.



A public meeting about proposed improvements to Pirie Park was held on October 15, 2012, at Wimbish Elementary School. Over 20 residents attended to share their thoughts about the improvements.

ARLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY RENOVATES 2500TH HOME IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

Gene and Janis Gameson's home was built in 1957 and the couple has lived there for the past 20 years. Their home was in desperate need of repair, but the disabled veteran and his wife couldn't afford to make the improvements on their own. Then they heard about the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Arlington Housing Authority staff performed a unit assessment and cost estimate, and bid the work to approved contractors. The Gameson's home received a new central heat and air conditioner and new energy efficient windows were installed, improving the home's energy efficiency.

Since 1976, the Arlington City Council has recommended a portion of its federal grant funding to the Housing Rehabilitation Program. The purpose of the Housing Rehabilitation Program is to preserve affordable housing in Arlington by helping homeowners bring their dwelling into compliance with locally adopted housing standards to reduce ongoing and future maintenance costs and to promote energy efficiency. The Housing Rehabilitation Program is funded by Federal grant funds awarded to the City of Arlington by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

UPDATES

READING BRINGS THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS TOGETHER

Victoria "Tory" Clinton, 25, is a long way from her hometown of Brooklyn, NY. Many of the young kids she mentors each week wish they had a home to go to. What brings them all together every Tuesday and Thursday at Crow Elementary is a love for reading.

Clinton is a literacy coordinator for the Reading Corps, a program designed by the Arlington Public Library to help enhance the reading and writing skills of PK-third graders in Arlington ISD. Although most of the 27 students participating in the program live in local shelters, the Salvation Army – an Arlington Reads partner – has stepped in to provide transportation to the school.

Research shows early education is important for children, especially those in income-disadvantaged families. That's why Clinton moved to the Arlington area as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America)—to help fight poverty and illiteracy. As the leader of the Reading Corps, Clinton volunteers 40 hours per week and is paid a modest, monthly living allowance.

"Right now we have the Reading Corps program in two locations, here at Crow Elementary and the Literacy House (near City Hall), but we'll have 15 diverse locations in January when we start again," explained Tory. "So besides elementary schools we'll also be at the Boys & Girls Club and childcare centers throughout the city."

BUSINESS PLAN UPDATES

New York Avenue Corridor Strategy. A public open house was held on January 12 at the Senior Recreation Center on New York Avenue. The consultant presented information about existing conditions and market opportunities. Attendees provided comments and ideas that will be summarized in a future vision for the corridor.

HANA Neighborhood Action Plan. The resident task force completed a draft of the plan for presentation to the neighborhood on February 11. Following public input and comment, a final draft will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council in the Spring.



Eagle Scout Rand Barrett demonstrated leadership skills and talent as he led a team of ten. Barrett and his team built useful items for the Animal Services Center that help enhance shelter operations.



The Animal Services Center received a gift of volunteerism from 23 UT Arlington students on December 23. The shelter was scrubbed from top to bottom, and many pets enjoyed the socialization provided by this energetic and enthusiastic group.



The East Arlington Branch Library celebrated the cultural diversity of the community on October 20 at the annual Courtyard Celebration. Local performers included the Bowie High School Salseros, Thornton Strings, Show Stoppers Step Team from Hutcheson Junior High, the Spirit Squad dancers, and Irish step dancers.



The Mayor's Holiday Party for Children was held on December 8, 2012, at the George W. Hawkes Central Library. Performers from Theater Arlington and Symphony Arlington provided additional entertainment for the children.

NEXTSTEPS

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

New streets, water and sewer lines, and drainage improvements are taking place in several neighborhoods. The 2011 Residential Rebuild project started construction in November 2012. The \$4.8-million project includes improvements to the following streets:

- Arbor Lane [Kent Drive to Eden Lane]
- Daniel Drive [Park Row Drive to Lovers Lane]
- Fleet Circle [from Holiday Drive]
- Holiday Drive [Gilbert Circle to city limits]
- Lovers Lane [Daniel Drive to New York Avenue]
- Valley View Drive [Collins Street to Mitchell Street]

Drainage improvements are also being made in areas on Sequoia Lane, Green Hill Drive, Abbey Glen Court, and Aleta Street. Construction is expected to be completed in March 2014.

Construction on Park Row Drive between SH360 and the east city limits began on December 12, 2012. The \$4.3-million project includes reconstruction of the asphalt street to a concrete roadway. Work also includes storm drainage improvements, sidewalks, streetlights, and water and sewer line renewals. The construction is scheduled to last through February 2014.

CODY ROCAMONTES MEMORIAL SKATEPARK GRAND OPENING

The new Cody Rocamontes Memorial Skatepark will be officially unveiled at a dedication ceremony on March 12, 2013, at Randol Mill Park. The new 5,400 square-foot facility includes skating and BMX challenges for both beginner and intermediate users. The skatepark was designed to accommodate a wide range of skill levels.

Funding for phase one of the skatepark was provided by a donation from Cody Rocamontes



Inc., a Tony Hawk Foundation grant awarded to CRI and a grant from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation. Phase two of the project is still in need of funding.



StormTalkers is a free hour-long program geared toward children in the first through fourth grade. This environmental education program teaches children about clean water, pollution prevention, and problems with littering. From October to December, presentations were given at 13 schools in Arlington, reaching 988 children.



Free bike safety classes were held in November. The classes were coordinated by the Community Development and Planning Department after receiving a grant from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.



On December 13, 2012, the AISD Board of Trustees accepted the donation of a fire engine for use in the AISD Fire Academy program. The Arlington Fire Department donated the 1998 Quality/Freightliner Pumper to help train students on basic fire pump theory and operations, fire stream and hose skills, vehicle operation, and other safety operations associated with fire-fighting equipment.



Class #52 of the Citizens Police Academy graduated on December 6, 2012. Twenty-two adults and 13 high school students completed the program, which provides instruction aimed at helping the public understand safety and the role of law enforcement.