

## Arlington Historical Society | June 2022 Newsletter

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### **Arlington Historical Society**

#### **Executive Board Members**

Geraldine Mills | Executive Director

Nancy Tice | President

Claudia Perkins | Vice President

Lydia Brosowsky | Secretary

Wanda Marshall | Treasurer

#### **Contact Us**

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#### **Our Venues**

##### **Fielder Museum**

1616 W. Abram Street

Arlington, Texas 76013

[www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum)

##### **Knapp Heritage Park**

201 W. Front Street

Arlington, Texas 76011

[www.facebook.com/knapp.park](https://www.facebook.com/knapp.park)

##### **Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds**

600 W. Arkansas Lane

Arlington, Texas 76010

[www.ahmgc.org](http://www.ahmgc.org)

### **A note from the editor**

Summer in Arlington. Six Flags, Hurricane Harbor, Texas Rangers baseball, city parks and pools, Lake Arlington, the annual Fourth of July parade, fireworks, summer festivals, and outdoor concerts at the Levitt Pavilion – there's lots to do!

And, if it's too hot, head back inside to the ice-cold A/C. Visit our museums and galleries, go shopping at small businesses, eat at local restaurants, or check out events at the Arlington Public Library, Arlington Music Hall, and UTA Park Center – summer fun isn't limited to the outdoors. Get out there this summer and enjoy the unique aspects of our city!

This month's newsletter features an event recap of the "Echoes From The Hill" documentary premiere. I'm a huge fan of documentaries, and it was exciting to see one about a significant part of Arlington's history that doesn't get enough attention.

Also, be sure to join the new "Friends of Bird's Fort" Group on Facebook and check out our new website! More info on page 5.

**Jason S. Sullivan, 06-30-22**

Newsletter Editor

Arlington Historical Society

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### **Upcoming Events**

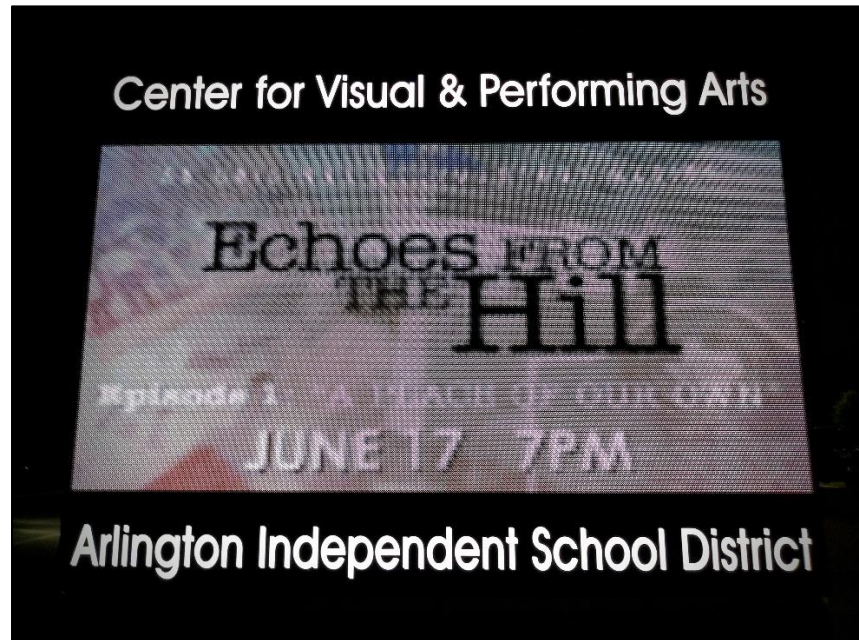
- **July 3** – New exhibit opens at Fielder Museum celebrating the Texas Rangers and their 50<sup>th</sup> Season in Arlington; special preview on July 3 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Fielder Museum
- **August 8** – AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **September 22** – North Texas Giving Day (more info coming soon!)
- **November 14** – AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **December 17** – National Wreaths Across America Day, locally recognizing veterans at Arlington Cemetery and Parkdale Cemetery (more info coming soon!)
- **TBD** – Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Celebration (original date postponed)



**"Echoes From The Hill" Documentary Premieres**

June 17-19 was the second annual Arlington Juneteenth Jubilee, a community-wide celebration with events and activities.

One of the biggest events was the premiere of the "Echoes from The Hill" documentary and its first episode, "A Place of Our Own." The documentary focuses on life for residents in The Hill – a historic community for Black residents in Arlington. AHS Executive Director Geraldine Mills is an associate producer of the documentary and appears on-screen in interviews. The AHS contributed to the documentary with photos and additional resources, while the Fielder Museum was used as one of the filming locations. The Arlington Tomorrow Foundation provided significant funding for the documentary.



*AISD Center for Visual and Performing Arts – Echoes From The Hill*

"Echoes From The Hill" premiered on June 17 at the AISD Center for Visual and Performing Arts. More than 200 people attended the event, including Arlington Mayor Jim Ross.

The program began with remarks from guest speakers.

Director Lindell Singleton introduced the documentary as a multi-part connected story. He added, "We live in a complicated world. Stories create a focused action for reconciliation."

Director King Hollis remarked that he wanted to tell the truth about the residents of The Hill and that this film "takes you to church."

Mrs. Shirley Adams, Treasurer of the MLK Jr. Celebration Committee, said, "This is a story that needed to be told."

Geraldine Mills wanted to ensure that the filmmakers "told the story big, because it is a big story."

Everyone involved in the project was passionate about wanting to preserve the stories, as The Hill is a vital part of Arlington's history.

The documentary included photos, interviews, and personal stories of former residents of The Hill, interwoven with the historical context of slavery and segregation. Other topics included the community, schools, churches, businesses, entertainment, and many others. The filmmakers are professionals, and this was a well-done documentary.

"What a tribute to Arlington," Master of Ceremonies David Small remarked after the closing credits rolled.

Afterward, the filmmakers and special guests participated in a Question-and-Answer session. Questions from the audience included ones about filmmaking, specific questions about The Hill, and how to support the film.

The filmmakers planned for the documentary to be a five-part series. Proceeds from this first episode will help finance the other four. It's hoped that the film can be screened at UTA or other venues and may be available for online viewing after its completion.

Visit the [website](#) for more information about the documentary, including behind-the-scenes photos and additional content.



*The group poses as the evening comes to an end. From left to right – King Hollis, Lindell Singleton, Rev. Carl Pointer, Doug Taylor, Beverly Jackson, Geraldine Mills, and David Small.*

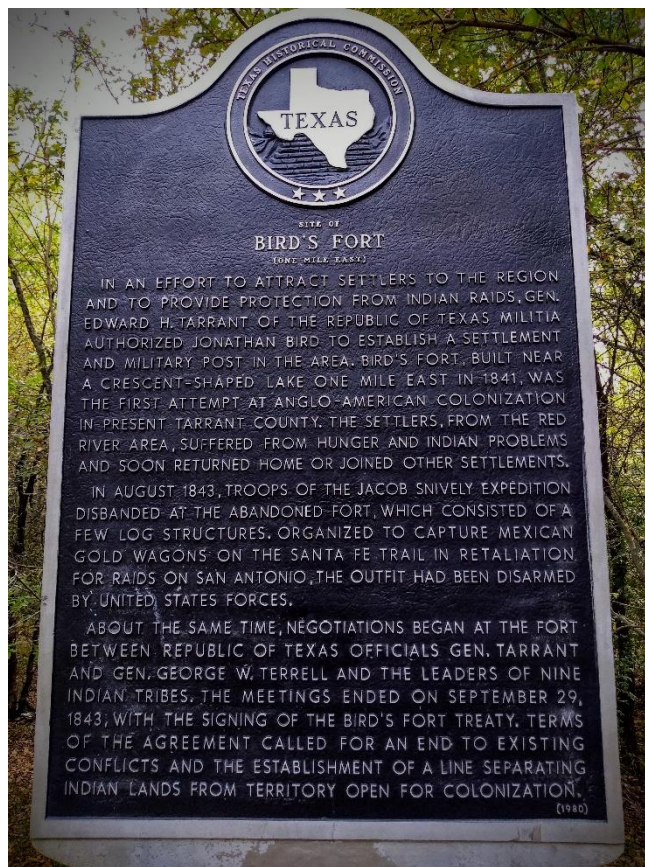
### **"Friends of Bird's Fort" Group Growing on Facebook**

If you're on Facebook, check out the new "Friends of Bird's Fort" Group. AHS Board Member Brian Burns started the group in late April, and it already has nearly 350 members. Their mission is to preserve the site as well as its history. There has been a great sharing of information, resources, and photos within the group, with surely much more to come.

Bird's Fort has a fascinating history and is often considered the birthplace of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The settlement began in 1841 and was the first attempted Anglo settlement in the area. It would become known as "Bird's Fort," after Major Jonathan Bird. Today, the site is part of the Viridian development in North Arlington. Its location makes it vulnerable, though, as the area continues to develop.

To join the group, go to Facebook.com and search for "Friends of Bird's Fort" or visit the link below. It's a public group, and anyone can join.

[Friends of Bird's Fort – Facebook Group](#)



*Bird's Fort – Texas Historical Marker, relocated to River Legacy Parks in 2003.*

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### **Arlington Historical Society has a new website**

[www.arlingtontxhistory.org](http://www.arlingtontxhistory.org)

Exciting news! The Arlington Historical Society has a new website. A special thank you to AHS Board Member Brian Burns for his hard work building the new site!

Our new website has a clean and modern look – plus it's easy to navigate and even has a search feature. There are articles and videos, plus information about the AHS, our venues, and Arlington's history. It has many resources and will continue to grow. We envision it being a significant resource for the AHS and Arlington's history.

If you haven't already, check out the new website and let us know your thoughts!