

## **The Fielder Flash**

Arlington Historical Society

April 2023 Newsletter



### **Our Venues**

**Fielder Museum** | 1616 W. Abram Street

**Knapp Heritage Park** | 201 W. Front Street

**Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds** | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

### **Contact Us**

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

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

Spring is in the air, and things are picking up! The Arlington Historical Society continues to stay busy with events, activities, and plans. We hope to see you soon at our venues and join us at one (or more!) of our upcoming events. Follow us on Facebook and visit our website often for news and updates.

**Jason S. Sullivan, 04-17-23**

Newsletter Editor

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### **Upcoming Events**

- **April 18-22**—Artium Art Association Show at Fielder Museum | [www.artiumtx.org](http://www.artiumtx.org)
- **April 29**—Arlington Garden Club Spring Plant Sale at Fielder Museum
- **May 12**—Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Dedication Ceremony, 11:00 AM
- **May 29**—Memorial Day; Special Event at Fielder Museum (more info coming soon)

## **Arlington Historical Society news**

### **New website continues to grow**

Have you been to the Arlington Historical Society's new website lately? If not, you're missing out! We have two new articles on our website for you to enjoy. The first article is "**Saga of the Seven Seas**" by AHS Board Member Brian Burns. The second is "**A History of Arlington Street Names**," by first-time contributor Jenny Holland. Visit our website at [www.arlingtontxhistory.org](http://www.arlingtontxhistory.org) to read these great articles and many others. And while there, you can also learn about our venues and our board members, donate, sign up to volunteer, or subscribe to our newsletter.

### **Christmas Tour of Homes – possible Holiday Fundraiser**

It may only be April, but we're already starting to think about Christmas. We're still working on the details but hope to organize a **Christmas Tour of Homes** as an Arlington Historical Society fundraiser. The plan is to feature about six homes in the community, including Fielder Museum and Knapp Heritage Park, and have them open for tours. Folks can tour the locations, visit with the owners, and admire the Christmas decorations. There will also likely be refreshments, raffle prizes, and other surprises, making it a fun and festive event. We'll provide further details once they're available.

### **Volunteers Wanted**

Have you wanted to get more involved with the Arlington Historical Society? If so, now is a perfect time, as April is National Volunteer Month. Opportunities include giving tours at Fielder Museum or Knapp Heritage Park, cataloging items into the museum's collection, writing an article for our website, assisting with administrative tasks, and much more. There's plenty to do and something for everyone. No experience is needed; contact us if you're interested!

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## **Fielder Museum news**

Fielder Museum continues to stay busy with visitors, especially during Spring Break, with many folks and families visiting the museum. Also, new exhibits and various events are happening and coming soon.

### **Seven Seas exhibit runs through June 14**

In March, a new exhibit called "Saga of the Seven Seas" opened at Fielder Museum. Seven Seas theme park opened in 1972, between Arlington Stadium and Six Flags. It was similar to SeaWorld, with marine-life animals, shows, and attractions. Although the park was short-

*Saga of the Seven Seas exhibit*



lived, many people have fond memories of it. Our exhibit includes photos, park maps, souvenirs, and memorabilia, with a few groovy outfits displayed from the era to set the mood.



### Fielder recognized National Medal of Honor Day & Neel E. Kearby

March 25 is **National Medal of Honor Day**. While it doesn't get the same attention as Memorial Day or Veterans Day, it's important to honor heroes who went above and beyond the call of duty. Fielder celebrated our hometown hero Colonel Neel E. Kearby, who was awarded the Medal of Honor in January 1944.

### Fielder hosted a special exhibit for National Vietnam Veterans Day

March 29 is **National Vietnam Veterans Day**, and this year marked the 50th anniversary of U.S. troops withdrawing from Vietnam.

The Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter, NSDAR, provided commemorative lapel pins to show gratitude for our Vietnam Veterans. Also on display was an issue of LIFE magazine from November 1963 chronicling the war and a supplement to a September 1967 edition of the Arlington Citizen newspaper saluting Arlington's men in service.

Thank you for your service!



*National Vietnam Veterans Day exhibit*

### Artium Art Association Show coming to Fielder Museum

Mark your calendars for **April 18-22** for a special event at Fielder. The **Artium Art Association** will set up a small art exhibit and sale at Fielder, with a reception on April 21 from 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM to meet the artists. The group, out of Mansfield, promotes visual arts and visual artists in North Texas. For more info, visit their website at [www.artiumtx.org](http://www.artiumtx.org).

### **Arlington Garden Club Spring Plant Sale returns to Fielder Museum**

It's time to start thinking about your spring gardening and yardwork projects. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 29**, and the **Arlington Garden Club Spring Plant Sale**. It's always a fun and popular event—we hope to see you there!

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### **Knapp Heritage Park news**

The weather is pleasant, and it's a perfect time to visit Knapp Heritage Park, home to our three historic cabins from the 1800s. The park is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Knapp Heritage Park's grassy area and prime location in Downtown Arlington make it perfect for community events. The "Arlington Locals" organization hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for Adults over Easter weekend at Knapp. Next year we're thinking about hosting one ourselves for children.

In the March newsletter, we mentioned the cabin roofs at Knapp and how they need repair. We're still figuring out different options but are considering a fundraising campaign for the cabins, either by seeking donations or applying for a grant. The cabins are an important part of Arlington's history; we want them to look their best for years to come.

*Easter Egg Hunt at Knapp Heritage Park*



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

Preparations continue for the **Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Dedication Ceremony**, which will be held at the cemetery on May 12. In addition to the new interior sidewalks, parking lot, and improved exterior fencing, the cemetery will have QR Codes that you can scan with your smartphone, allowing you to learn more about the cemetery and specific gravesites.

*Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds*



Come out on May 12 to celebrate this historic cemetery and tour the grounds.

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## Local History news

### **Arlington Public Library begins centennial celebration**

Did you know this year marks the Arlington Public Library's 100th anniversary? Arlington's first library opened on March 23, 1923, in the Farmer's National Bank. From a modest beginning with 500 books to a massive collection with more than 550,000 items, the library continues growing with Arlington. The library's centennial celebration, or "Celebrating 100 Chapters" as they call it, is underway, with several events planned over the next few months.

Visit their website, [www.arlingtonlibrary.org/centennial](http://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/centennial), to explore the library's timeline, view photos, browse popular books through the decades, and learn more.

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## On this day in local history

### **March 25**

Groundbreaking began for Arlington's **National Medal of Honor Museum** on this day last year, with the museum expected to open in late 2024. Unlike a war memorial or military museum, it will focus on the Medal of Honor recipients and their personal stories.

### **April 21**

Although founded in 1876, Arlington wouldn't officially incorporate until several years later. Community leaders drafted a dozen ordinances shortly before the town was incorporated. On April 19, with the ordinances approved by the Town Council, Arlington filed the paperwork with the Tarrant County Courthouse in Fort Worth. It became official on **April 21, 1884**: Arlington, Texas, was now a town. The population was only a few hundred people and wouldn't surpass 1,000 until 1900.

### **April 21**

The **Texas Rangers** baseball team, previously known as the Washington Senators, played their first game in Arlington on **April 21, 1972**. More than 20,000 fans packed Arlington Stadium to see the Rangers defeat the California Angels by a score of 7-6. The Rangers finished their first season with 54 wins and 100 losses.

### **April 21**

One year ago, more than 100 people attended the dedication ceremony honoring Geraldine Mills, where the grounds at Fielder Museum were renamed **Geraldine Mills Heritage Place**. Family, friends, colleagues, city council members, former mayors, residents, and Arlington Historical Society members joined her for the celebratory event.

*Geraldine showing off the new sign*

