

## **The Fielder Flash**

Arlington Historical Society  
September 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**

**Email:** [fielderh@swbell.net](mailto:fielderh@swbell.net)  
**Website:** [www.arlingtontxhistory.org](http://www.arlingtontxhistory.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum)  
**Phone:** 817-460-4001

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

We have many upcoming events, with something for everyone. Mark your calendars!

**Jason S. Sullivan, 09-28-23**

Newsletter Editor

[JasonSSullivan@gmail.com](mailto:JasonSSullivan@gmail.com)

### **Upcoming Events**

- **October 7**—Arlington Garden Club Plant Sale, Fielder Museum, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- **October 11**—Community Picnic at Knapp Heritage Park, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **October 12-14**—Parking Lot Sale at Fielder Museum, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily
- **October 19**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **October 22**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:30 PM
- **October 29**—"Honoring the Birthplace of DFW: A Presentation on Viridian's Planned Bird's Fort Cultural Center," Downtown Arlington Library, 4:00 PM
- **November 16**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **November 19**—Outdoor Painting session, Knapp Heritage Park, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- **December 1-3**—Christmas Programs at Knapp Heritage Park; more info coming soon
- **December 10**—Christmas Tour of Homes, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM; more info coming soon

## **Arlington Historical Society news**

### **North Texas Giving Day**

Thank you for your support on North Texas Giving Day! Through your generous donations, the Arlington Historical Society raised \$3,315 this year.

### **Parking Lot Sale at Fielder Museum | October 12-14, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Mark your calendars for our next fundraiser, which is a Parking Lot Sale at Fielder Museum—it will be something between an Estate Sale and Yard Sale. We'll have some deaccessioned items from the Fielder Museum collection for sale, as well as other odds and ends. Items include dishes, plates, glassware, kitchen items, housewares, jewelry, tools, new-in-the-box baby/pet gates, and other treasures. Many items are unique, antique, or collectible. We'll also have some Arlington Historical Society items for sale, including books, T-shirts, drink coasters, and other items. Rumor has it that O.K. Carter will be selling bowls of his world famous chili, and there may be delicious baked goods as well.

We're also accepting gently-used donations for the sale, including antiques, collectibles, household goods, yard or gardening objects, and similar items. No clothing, chemicals, or anything too big or bulky, please. Any donations that don't sell will be donated to a local charity at the sale's conclusion. Please drop off your donations at Fielder Museum on Thursday, October 12, by 8:30 AM. If you'd like to volunteer and help us run the sale, that's great, too!

The sale runs **October 12-14 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** in the Fielder Museum parking lot. We prefer cash or checks, but should be set up to accept credit or debit cards as well.



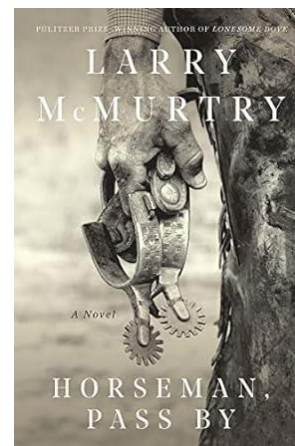
Contact Fielder Museum for more info. All proceeds benefit the Arlington Historical Society.

### **Texas Authors Book Club continues in October**

The Texas Authors Book Club had its first session earlier this month with "The Longhorns" by J. Frank Dobie. About a dozen people attended with folks enjoying the discussion. "Loved it!" commented attendee Patty Murphy on Facebook.

The next session is on **October 19**, with "Horseman, Pass By" by Larry McMurtry. It was his first published novel, and at less than 200 pages, you could possibly finish reading it in a few days.

The last session of this year is **November 16**, with "Goodbye to a River" by John Graves. We'll take a break in December for the holidays and then start up again in January. We hope to see you at



one of the sessions, which are held on the third Thursday of the month, at Fielder Museum at 6:30 PM. Folks are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

Note: Books are not provided to attendees, but check the Arlington Public Library, Amazon, or used bookstores for copies. Books may also be available as audiobooks or E-books as well.

Contact Fielder Museum or email [texasauthorbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:texasauthorbookclub@gmail.com) for more info.

### **Bird's Fort Cultural Center Presentation**

You're invited to an upcoming presentation about the planned Bird's Fort Cultural Center! This is an exclusive event only for Arlington Historical Society members. The presentation, by Bird's Fort Cultural Center planning committee director Richard Wray, will include a summary of the history of Bird's Fort, an audiovisual overview of the planned Bird's Fort Cultural Center, and a question/answer session with Mr. Wray.

#### **Event Details:**

- **What:** "Honoring the Birthplace of DFW: A Presentation on Viridian's Planned Bird's Fort Cultural Center"
- **Date:** Sunday, October 29
- **Time:** 4:00 PM
- **Place:** Downtown Library (100 S. Center Street, Arlington)

### **Events Return to Knapp Heritage Park in the Fall**

Fall is here and we'll eventually have pleasant weather. It's a great time of year to visit Knapp Heritage Park in Downtown Arlington, which is typically open **Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**

You may also be interested in two community events happening at the Knapp.

On **October 11 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**, there will be a **Community Picnic**. Gather your chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets for an outdoor evening amid the rustic atmosphere of our cabins. Bring your friends or make new ones. There will also be live music.



Then, on **November 19 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, there is the "**Downtown Impressions: A Plein Air Experience.**" Artists from all skill levels are encouraged to gather and paint in the open-air setting. The outdoor experience, which forgoes a traditional art studio, is said to awaken the senses and unlock creativity. Professional artists and painters will lead the sessions.

Both events are part of the Downtown Outdoors series presented by Downtown Arlington. Visit their [website](#) for more info, including other dates and locations.

### **Local History News**

#### **Mineral Well Gets Recognition with Downtown Landmark**

On September 16, a ceremony was held for the newly constructed Mineral Well Public Plaza. The space features a 40-foot clock tower and water fountain paying tribute to Arlington’s Mineral Well, which existed from 1892 until it was capped in 1951. The new public space is located near the original Mineral Well site and features landscaping, an area for seating, and is also a gathering place.

*Mineral Well Public Plaza*



#### **Arlington’s Train Depot and Platform Honored with Texas Historical Marker; Sister City Relationship Celebrated and Renewed**

It was a special day in Arlington on September 27, as we celebrated two intertwined occasions with a ceremony near the downtown train platform. First, the Arlington Texas & Pacific Depot and Platform was honored with a Texas Historical Marker, and second, there was a Recommitment Signing Ceremony between Arlington and our Sister City, Bad Königshofen, Germany—affectionately referred to as the City of B.K.

More than 125 people attended the ceremony. Attendees from Bad Königshofen included Mayor Thomas Helbling and other delegates, friends, and members of the Bad Königshofen Fire Department, Police Department, and Soccer Club. Local attendees included Tarrant County elected officials, City Council members, members of the Sister Cities of Arlington Texas organization, City of Arlington employees, members of Arlington Historical Society and Landmark Preservation Commission, proud citizens, and other special guests. The Arlington High School Alumni Band played music beforehand and performed the National Anthems of U.S. and Germany.



Our newest Texas Historical Marker honors the Arlington Texas & Pacific Depot and Platform. The depot and platform have been the site of many important parts of Arlington’s history, including our Sister City relationship with Bad Königshofen. After the unveiling of the new historical marker, which also included two additional informative plaques, the program segued into the Sister Cities Recommitment Signing Ceremony.



Although the Arlington and Bad Königshofen relationship began in 1951, President Eisenhower didn't develop the Sister Cities International organization until 1956. While our decades-long friendship has been fruitful and a mutually beneficial exchange of culture, it hasn't had an official document signed until now. To celebrate the 72nd anniversary, the recommitment ceremony included an official proclamation and signing by both mayors. The signatures, performed with a pen, were symbolic of the pen-pal relationship from which the friendship began. The celebration included speeches in English and German, gifts were exchanged, and stories shared reminiscing about the past and looking towards the future. The continuing theme of "Friendship – Solid as a Rock" was evident, and our relationship continues to grow.

*Photos from the ceremony*

