



# Champion Great NEIGHBORHOODS

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## In This Issue

- Page 1 Remembering the Life of N.L. Robinson | Homeownership Partnership in Arlington
- Page 2 Homeownership Partnership, cont. | Spectrum Offers Low-Cost High-Speed Internet
- Page 3 \$161,000 in Neighborhood Matching Grants Approved | N.L. Robinson, cont.
- Page 4 By The Numbers - United Way

### Homeownership Partnership: Dreams Come True in Arlington

Arlington residents Sarah and Rudy Rosales have been busy these past few weeks, unpacking boxes, arranging furniture and deciding where to hang pictures in their new Sanford Street home.

These tasks mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the couple, who became first-time homeowners in March after years of renting thanks to a partnership between the City of Arlington and the Development Corporation of Tarrant County. The Rosales family, who received down payment and closing cost assistance, opened their home to the public earlier this month as part of an event designed to showcase neighborhood revitalization efforts and quality, affordable housing options in Arlington: The American Dream City.

cont. on page 2



### Remembering the Life of Mount Olive Baptist Church Senior Pastor N.L. Robinson

Dr. Norman Lee Robinson's congregation was only 17 members total when he began pastoring Mount Olive Baptist Church in 1966. But under his decades of vision and leadership, the Downtown Arlington church grew to more than 12,000 members strong and launched dozens of ministries that helped make Mount Olive a cornerstone of the community.

Senior Pastor N.L. Robinson, a well-known and beloved community leader, died on Friday, April 28. He was 96.

cont. on page 3

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# Highlights

## Spectrum Internet Assist Offers Low-Cost High-Speed Internet for Qualified Households

Arlington residents may be eligible for low-cost, high-speed internet through Charter's new Spectrum Internet Assist (SIA) program.

Charter is offering the fastest internet speeds (30/4 Mbps) for \$14.99 per month for qualified customers in an effort to make broadband more affordable for low-income families and seniors.

A recent Federal Communication Commission report on broadband access found that 34 million Americans lack access to high-speed broadband in the home. About 5 million families with school-aged children in the United States don't have access in the home, according to the Pew Research Center.

To qualify, a member of the household must be a recipient of one of the following programs: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) free or reduced lunch, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the NSLP, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) age 65 and older only.

Programs that do not qualify for Spectrum Internet Assist: Social Security Disability (SSD), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Social Security Retirement and Survivor Benefits.

Spectrum was formerly known as Time Warner.

To determine eligibility, Charter encourages families and individuals to visit <http://www.spectruminternetassist.com/> or call the Spectrum Internet Assist toll-free number at 1-844-525-1574.

## Homeownership Partnership, cont.

"It's definitely a dream to be able to own our own home," said Sarah Rosales, mother of two.

The Rosales' three-bedroom, two-bathroom house is one of 10 affordable, single-family homes built in Arlington by the Development Corporation of Tarrant County since 2011. The Development Corporation recently invited city and community leaders and the public to tour the new two-story brick home it also constructed next door to the Rosales family as well as a remodeled home on nearby Orange Street.

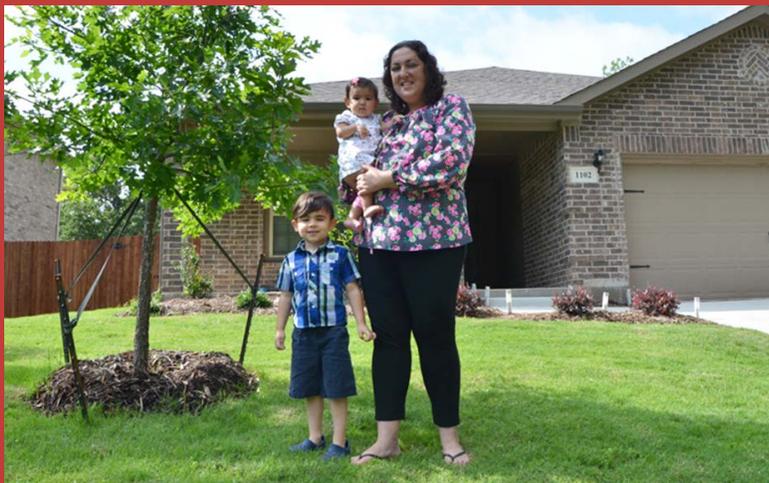
The open house for the three new single family homes took place on April 20th, during National Community Development month to highlight the benefit of HOME and Community Development Block Grant funding from the U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development. These funds help further the City Council priority to Champion Great Neighborhoods by helping Arlington families with access to improved housing, neighborhood infrastructure, and numerous community services.

With features such as solar panels, rain barrels and Energy Star appliances, the homes built by the Development Corporation are sustainable and energy efficient to lessen expenses for the new owners.

Those energy savings will come in handy for Sarah and Rudy Rosales, who are parents to 10-month-old daughter Esther and 3-year-old son Ezra.

"This house exceeded our expectations," Sarah Rosales said. "There's so much space. I can see us being here for several years."

The Development Corporation built the Sanford Street and Orange Street homes through a collaborative effort between the City of Arlington HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Wells Fargo, History Maker Homes, BBVA Compass, BB&T Bank, and Liberty Bank.



# Updates

## Arlington Approves Nearly \$161,000 in Neighborhood Matching Grants

On April 25, the Arlington City Council approved nearly \$161,000 in grant funds for 12 projects proposed by neighborhoods across The American Dream City. Neighborhood entrance signs, a butterfly garden and playground enhancements are just a few of the projects that will receive funding this year through the City of Arlington's Neighborhood Matching Grant program.

Each neighborhood group went through an application and review process, which started last November, detailing how members would use the grant money to improve their community.

The residents of Shorewood Estates, for example, are planning additional beautification projects this summer to complement landscaping and entrance sign improvements made last year thanks to grant funding. "The residents of our neighborhood love the additions and we continue to receive compliments from surrounding neighborhoods as well," said Shorewood Estates resident Ethan McDaniel. "We are blessed to have a city that champions great neighborhoods like Shorewood Estates!"

The goal of the Neighborhood Matching Grant program is to provide financial support for resident and community-based programs and activities that foster civic pride, enhance and beautify neighborhoods and improve neighborhood vitality and participation. This program aligns with the City Council priority to Champion Great Neighborhoods.



## Remembering N.L. Robinson, cont.

Mount Olive Baptist Church, 301 W. Sanford St., celebrated a century of service in 1997. Among its many ministries, the church created the nonprofit Water from the Rock, which assists economically disadvantaged individuals, and Arlington New Beginnings, a housing complex to serve low-income seniors.

The Rev. Robinson, a United States Army veteran who served during World War II, worked for the Dallas Housing Authority from 1946 until his retirement in 1976, according to his church biography. A graduate of the Southern Bible Institute of Dallas, Dr. Robinson began his ministry at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie in 1962. He was also briefly a pastor at Lucille Baptist Church in Palmer before joining Mount Olive Baptist Church in Arlington in 1966.

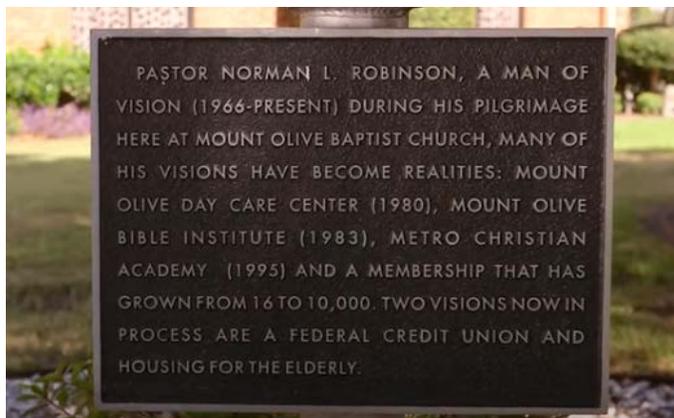
In recognition of his years of service to his congregation and the community, the Rev. Robinson received keys to both the City of Arlington and the City of Grand Prairie. In 1992, the City of Arlington also renamed a section of North West Street which runs alongside Mount Olive Baptist Church as 'N.L. Robinson Drive.'

The City of Arlington lowered its flags half staff from

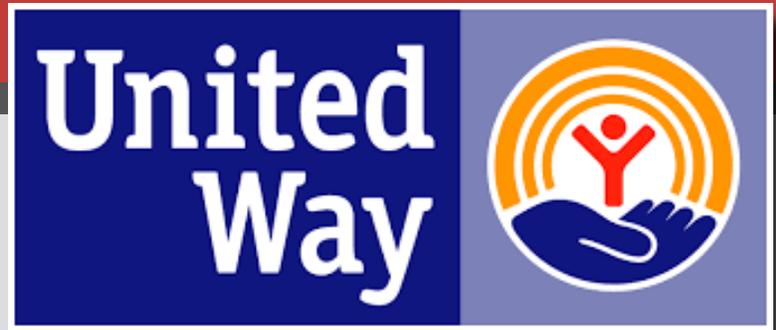
Saturday, April 29 to Saturday, May 6 in memory of the Rev. Robinson.

The Rev. Robinson is preceded in death by his wife Pearl Marie Taylor Robinson. He is survived by his three daughters and their spouses, as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In 2015, the Rev. Robinson sat down with the City of Arlington's Office of Communication to talk about living his American Dream and how he and his church have helped others in the community. You can watch that video on the City's YouTube Channel.



# By The Numbers:



On April 12, United Way hosted its annual Report to the Community Luncheon to share examples of how their work is changing lives in Arlington. Major accomplishments from partner agencies in Arlington include:



## 23

United Way partner agencies serving Arlington



## 150

free flu shots provided by Walgreens and FamilyWize to those without health insurance or were unable to afford a flu shot

## 40

pounds of groceries delivered to each of 600 families by Arlington Urban Ministries on the first Wednesday of each month



## 800

children in Arlington under the age of 5 receiving free books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program in partnership with Workforce Solutions



[unitedwaytarrant.org/volunteer](http://unitedwaytarrant.org/volunteer)