



# Champion Great NEIGHBORHOODS

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## 3rd Annual Homeownership Fair July 21

This free event at the Arlington Convention Center provides valuable information about City services and programs as well as quality and affordable housing opportunities. Participants will have the opportunity to interact one-on-one with exhibitors from mortgage lenders, real estate agents, housing specialists, state and federal agencies, home improvement experts and other housing industry professionals.

Lunch will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to register online to win door prizes. Activities for children ages 6 and up will be available at this family-friendly event.

Pre-registration will be available June 18 at [www.arlingtontx.gov/homeownershipfair](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/homeownershipfair).

## Join Arlington's Dog Walker Watch Program and Help Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe

Are you a dog owner and an active walker or jogger who cares about your neighborhood? Dog Walker Watch may be a great volunteer opportunity for you!

Dog Walker Watch is an awareness

program sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and coordinated locally by law enforcement agencies and community organizations that encourages neighbors nationwide to assist local law enforcement agencies in the ongoing community-policing efforts.

The Dog Walker Watch awareness program in Arlington is designed for residents who are familiar with their community and who are out in their neighborhood on a regular basis, with or without a dog. Unlike a community watch program, Dog Walker Watch requires no commitment beyond an individual's regular routine. Visit <http://www.arlington-tx.gov/apdvolunteer/dog-walker-watch/> for more information.



Connect with us on social media:



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# Highlights

## New 'Meet the Neighbors' Episode Highlights Viridian Neighborhood

Mindy and Brent Smart love living in Viridian so much they've recruited two friends and their children's grandmother to also buy homes in the scenic north Arlington community.

Besides being surrounded by nature and close to work with great schools and recreational amenities, the Smart family says they enjoy the numerous community events and activities that help keep them connected to their neighbors. The Smarts were among the first families to move to Viridian, which has grown to more than 1,000 homes since the first were built in 2012.

Recently, the Smarts stopped by the Viridian Lake Club on a Saturday afternoon to participate in one of Viridian's annual Acts of Kindness events, creating hundreds of colorful stuffed animals to be donated to hospitalized children.

"This is one of the many events happening throughout the year to bring the community together. That is what drew us to Viridian to live here, the sense of community and neighborhood," Mindy Smart said. "Everybody is so friendly here. It's a small-town feel. We've gotten to know our neighbors, and we've become very close with them."

Viridian boasts a 2,000-acre master plan with five major lakes, a sailing center, a lake club, 500 acres of open space and an additional 500 acres of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Residents in the rapidly growing community, located off Collins Street north of Green Oaks Boulevard, can also take advantage of miles of nature trails connecting to Arlington's River Legacy Parks and the River Legacy Living Science Center.

Activities and programs, including some open to the public, include artisan markets, movie nights, farm-fresh food deliveries, doggie socials, and holiday events. Viridian also features an on-site lifestyle director who plans an array of clubs, festivals, classes and other activities.

"Where I used to live, the people next door to me and across the streets I didn't even know their names. Here at Viridian, because of all the community events, I know people who live six and eight streets over, plus the neighbors right around me," said Annette Foltz, who has lived in Viridian nearly five years. "There is a lot of community involvement here. They really strive to make sure we all know each other."



Mindy Arvisu, whose family moved to Viridian nearly three years ago, agrees.

"We love it. I love it for my kids. They get to run around and play," Arvisu said. "You feel the sense of community here in Viridian."

The City of Arlington is proud to feature Viridian in this month's episode of Meet the Neighbors, a regularly scheduled web and video program spotlighting neighborhoods large and small across The American Dream City.

# Updates

## City, UTA, and Housing Channel Collaborate to Build Affordable Home in East Arlington

The Arlington community gathered at 820 Truman Street to celebrate an inventive and unique housing collaboration, known as Casa Cortile, that is bringing new affordable homeownership to Arlington. The house construction site, not far from AT&T Stadium, is a symbol of teamwork, hands-on education, community cohesiveness and the American Dream.

To make the project possible, the City of Arlington allocated \$125,000 federal HOME Investment Partnership funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the venture led by nonprofit organization Housing Channel and UT Arlington's College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs. The entities, in partnership with Wells Fargo, Wall Homes and other businesses, worked together to create a design-build project to give students the experience of designing and building a quality single-family home while working to provide affordable housing in the City.

"Besides real world applications, I hope students learn another lesson," said Council member Lana Wolff. "That lesson is that you can make a difference in your community."

UTA graduate Yesenia Brena and current senior Annaliese Snidow, whose design was selected for the project, were still in shock at the opportunity to see their architectural drawings come to life.

The Casa Cortile experience has meant so much to Snidow that she hopes the program continues, and Brena hopes the opportunity for hands-on experience at UTA encourages high school students to go to college and consider architecture as a major.

The house is expected to be completed in May, at which point it will become available for purchase by a first-time homebuyer who meets income thresholds and has completed a Homeownership Course through the Arlington Homebuyer Assistance Program.



## New Event Series: The Market at Knapp Heritage Park



There are two more chances to experience The Market at Knapp Heritage Park (201 W. Front Street), hosted by the Arlington Historical Society from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 26 and June 23. The inaugural event on April 28 allowed visitors to enjoy live music and local crafts, learn about the City's pioneer past, and participate in activities such as lawn games, weaving, butter making and more!

"There will be plenty to do and see for every member of the family. Tour the cabins, create a traditional craft, and visit the resident blacksmith, all while listening to live music under beautiful shade trees," said event organizer Liz

Covert. "Children's activities will include story hour, butter making, weaving, and lawn games."

The Market events are an expansion on the Arlington Historical Society's annual Front Street Festival, which is held at Knapp Heritage Park in the fall. Parking and entry into The Market will be free, although donations to the Arlington Historical Society are appreciated.

# By The Numbers

The International Folk Art Market will return to Arlington for its second year, and will include jewelry, beadwork, basketry, carvings, ceramics, glasswork, metalwork, paintings, mixed media, sculpture, textiles, musical instruments, and home goods from artists who have traveled from countries such as Italy, Ghana, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Ukraine, South Sudan, Myanmar, Peru and countless others. Visit [www.folkmarket.org/arlington](http://www.folkmarket.org/arlington) for more information.

International  
Folk Art Market  
**Arlington**

**3** days to visit the International Folk Art Market from June 14-16



**40** master folk artists from

**30** different countries



**\$350,000**

worth of art available for viewing and purchase

**75%**

of profits go directly to artists and their families



## Arlington Launches 'Be Mosquito Free' Campaign



April showers bring forth more than just May flowers. The warm, wet weather also kicks off the start of mosquito season, and the City of Arlington wants to help residents and visitors Be Mosquito Free.

The most effective strategy focuses on keeping down the mosquito population. The City of Arlington traps mosquitos to be tested by Tarrant County Public Health for the West Nile and St. Louis Encephalitis Viruses. If a trapped mosquito tests positive, the City's vector control contractor conducts targeted ground spraying within a half-mile radius of the trap site over two consecutive nights. Arlington also surveys low-lying areas for standing water and deploys larvicide at strategic locations to prevent mosquito larva from developing.

This year, the City will conduct targeted ground spraying on Wednesday and Thursday nights between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. from April through November. This targeted ground spraying schedule is intended to knock down the known virus-infected adult mosquito population not only as quickly as possible but also prior to the weekend when individuals and families are more likely to be outdoors.

The City uses an ultra-low volume application of Aqua-Reslin, a water-based permethrin product, in specific areas where deploying larvicide and other measures have not proven effective.

### TIPS:

- Dress in long sleeves and pants when you're outside. For extra protection, you may want to spray thin clothing with repellent.
- DEET is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Follow label instructions, and always wear repellent when outdoors.
- Drain standing water in your yard and neighborhood where mosquitoes can breed. This includes old tires, flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, etc. Mosquitoes may develop in any water stagnant for more than three or four days. For shallow standing water that cannot be eliminated, check regularly for the presence of mosquito larvae and if seen, apply a biological larvicide often referred to as "mosquito dunks," available at local hardware stores.