



Champion Great NEIGHBORHOODS

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In This Issue

- Page 1 Downtown Library and City Council Chamber Near Completion
- Page 2 'Meet the Neighbors' Episode Highlights Park Place Neighborhood | Free Tax Preparation Assistance
- Page 3 Lake House Construction Under Way at Richard Simpson Park | River Legacy Park Trail Expansions Under Way
- Page 4 By The Numbers: East Arlington Recreation Center and Library | Throw a Party for Your Pooch at Rush Creek Dog Park

Central Library Express to Close March 29

Central Express, the Arlington Public Library's temporary downtown location, is closing permanently on Friday, March 29. This closure is in preparation to move into the new Downtown Library, which will open to the public in June.

Patrons who pick up requests at Central Express are encouraged to change their hold location to a different library branch. Beginning in March, holds will not be delivered to Central Express.

The Library's six other branches will remain open during the Downtown Library move.



Downtown Library and City Council Chamber Near Completion!

After nearly 17 months of construction, two transformative Downtown projects are nearing completion.

The \$34-million Downtown Library is on target to complete construction in February.



Installation of the furniture, fixtures, and equipment is scheduled to take place during the spring, for a grand opening in June.

The three-story, 80,000-square-foot facility sets a new standard for public programming tailored to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population. The first floor will have customized collections, play areas, interactive activities, and technology dedicated to children from birth to 12 years old. A digital creativity lab, computing space, and small group study rooms are provided on the second floor and aimed at teen patrons. An adult literacy area, also on the second floor, includes a large classroom and small tutoring space to support adult literacy programs and workforce development. Genealogy and history enthusiasts will enjoy the section of the third-floor housing material, displays, and computers for research.

The second project, a 6,500-square-foot City Council Chamber, is also nearing completion. The first City Council meeting in the new chamber, which replaces a 35-year-old facility, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20.

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Highlights

New 'Meet the Neighbors' Episode Highlights Park Place "Monopoly" Neighborhood

They didn't pass Go and they didn't collect \$200, but Park Place neighbors landed at Linda and Roy Dean's Oriental Avenue home in January to enjoy an evening filled with food, friendship and laughter.

The annual Wine and Cheese night is just one of numerous events planned throughout the year for the Park Place neighborhood, better known as the "Monopoly Streets." Residents in the quiet North Arlington neighborhood, whose streets feature names such as Marvin Gardens, Ventnor and Boardwalk, participate in activities such as monthly quiz nights and coffee gatherings, a weekly bridge club, National Night Out, and even a Christmas cookie exchange.



Park Place, which has 176 homes, is located east of Collins Street and north of Lamar Boulevard. Residents keep an eye on each other's homes through an active community watch, stay in touch through newsletters and social media, and enjoy catching up with each other during regularly scheduled activities that range from golfing to book club meetings.

"We have a core of people who work real hard to preserve what we have," said Ray Warren, who has lived in Park Place with his wife, Kay, since 1991. Long-time residents, such as the Deans and the Warrens, say it's been nice to see younger families move in and become involved in neighborhood activities.

Hunter and Emily Hendrickson bought their first home in the neighborhood in 2015. Besides the sense of community they feel at Park Place, the young couple says they love how close they live to Arlington's Entertainment District and to city amenities such as the Crystal Canyon Natural Area, Clarence Thomson Park and the new Texas Rangers Golf Club.

The Hendricksons love their neighborhood so much that they recruited their best friends, Brandon and Suzanne Taylor, to move across the street from them. The Taylors say their fellow neighbors have truly given them and their infant daughter, Kate, a warm welcome.

"We have a very active and involved neighborhood. Everybody is very interested in taking care of each other," Suzanne Taylor said. "Kate is loved by so many neighbors. She has lots of adopted grandparents, lots of babysitters in our neighborhoods. It's a treat."

Residents have fun with their ties to the iconic family board game. "Everybody knows us as the 'Monopoly Streets' so that is what we are on Nextdoor," Linda Dean said. "We just don't have a jail," quipped her husband, who is also Community Watch Co-coordinator.

The City of Arlington is proud to feature Park Place in Meet the Neighbors, a regularly scheduled web and video program that spotlights neighborhoods across The American Dream City.



Free Tax Preparation Assistance Throughout Arlington!



Senior and low- to moderate-income households in Arlington are eligible for free tax preparation assistance again this tax season!

The Arlington Public Library will have AARP Tax Aide available at most library branches through April 17, 2018. Visit www.arlingtonlibrary.org to schedule an appointment today!

United Way is also hosting free tax assistance to households with income less than \$56,000 annually through April 18 at three locations. Contact 2-1-1 for more information.

Updates

Lake House Construction Under Way at Richard Simpson Park



Over the next 30 days, workers will continue constructing foundation concrete beams and begin forming for the building's concrete floor.

The current Lake House building is 1,288 square feet and will remain in place and operable throughout construction. The building will then be demolished, and the surrounding grounds reclaimed as greenspace per a subsequent contract.

The new Lake House will be 7,200 square feet and feature a community room, conference room, covered patio, kitchen, storage, office and park restrooms.

Phase one of park redevelopment improvements started late October 2017. The \$3.5-million project is scheduled to be complete by December 2018, and was funded through the 2008 Bond Election and the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.

River Legacy Park Hike and Bike Trail Extensions Under Way

A \$1.3-million, half-mile trail connection, expected to be complete by mid-September, will fill in one of the gaps in what will eventually become a 60-mile-long trail system along the Trinity River between Dallas and Fort Worth. These pathways are designed to create inviting amenities for long-distance runners, cyclists, and others who enjoy the outdoors. The 7-mile-long trail through River Legacy Parks, the crown jewel of Arlington's park system, is currently the largest continuous section in the regional hike and bike trail system.

This future section of trail will extend north from the existing 7 Mile Marker in the River Legacy Parks, curve around the western side of Riverside Golf Club and continue east to end at the SH 360 right of way. The new section will help link Arlington to Fort Worth and eventually to Grand Prairie and the CentrePort Trinity Railway Express station in Fort Worth.

A Transportation Alternative Program Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation will cover \$461,532 of Arlington's trail linkage project. The remaining portion will be paid for from the Arlington Parks and Recreation capital project budget.

The project, which was awarded last fall to Northstar Construction, LLC of Fort Worth, includes building a 12-foot-wide concrete trail, two pedestrian bridges over small tributaries, retaining walls, benches and directional/location signage.

While most of the construction will be in River Legacy Parks, two portions of trail will run through Viridian, a residential community bordering the park.



By The Numbers

In January, the City presented a design for the future East Arlington Recreation Center and Library to be built at Bob Cooke Park. Inspired by architectural and automotive designs from the 1950s, here are a few facts about the new neighborhood rec center and library!



\$26 million

approved for the joint facility project in the 2014 Bond Program

1963

the year Hugh Smith Recreation Center opened in East Arlington, operated by the YMCA

2014

the year Arlington voters approved a bond program to replace the two centers into one convenient location

2020

the year the East Arlington Recreation Center and Library is expected to open. The current library and Hugh Smith Rec Center will be open until the new facility is complete

Throw Your Pooch a Party at Rush Creek Dog Park

Calling all dog moms and dads! Arlington's newest park, Rush Creek Dog Park, will soon be offering park rentals for dog parties, dog weddings and more. This park is the perfect place to have your dog's next birthday party or social gathering! Let your dogs run free in the safe and secure area reserved just for you and your guests.

For a \$60 rental fee, you will be able to reserve one of the fenced-in pens for your group for a two-hour time slot. Starting Thursday, March 1, 2018, two-hour rentals are available daily* at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

*Excluding Wednesday mornings. The dog park is closed each Wednesday until noon for scheduled park maintenance.

Show your pup some love with a party! Call the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department at 817-459-5473 to book your party.

