

# Put Technology TO WORK

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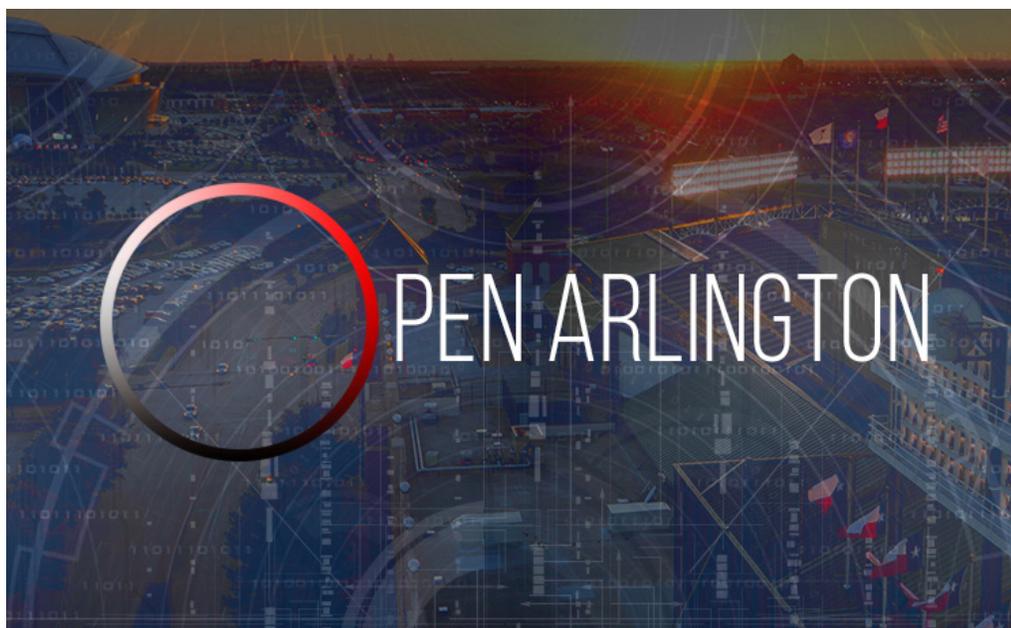


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“*Transparency is one of the hallmarks of good government. Opening data for public consumption instills both confidence and credibility in governing institutions. This data initiative is another example of Arlington putting technology to work.*”

- Theron L. Bowman  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Arlington



## City Data Strategic Plan Update: Open Arlington

In the early spring of 2016, the City began a year-long process to begin to “Engage Our Data” as part of a City Data Strategic Plan. The City’s project team included departmental data experts as well as outside consultants. The Strategic Plan’s goals were to gain an actionable understanding of the state of city-wide data, analyze current and future needs and opportunities, and develop a road map to further leverage data-driven decision making and increase transparency for Arlington’s citizens and business community.

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## Arlington Water Utilities Announces Changes to Payments

As part of its commitment to cost reduction, Arlington Water Utilities recently reviewed payment options it offers to residents. Results were presented to the Arlington City Council in January. As a result of this review of payment:

- Arlington Water Utilities' online billing contractor will add a \$3 convenience fee to credit/debit card payments starting June 1.
- Also starting June 1, credit/debit card payments at Water Utilities customer care locations will be accepted only at electronic customer service kiosks. A convenience fee will apply to kiosk payments. Customer care staff will continue to accept cash, checks and money orders and handle customer inquiries.

Arlington Water estimates these changes will save Arlington residents as much as \$540,000 yearly.

"Credit/debit card payments made online or with a customer care representative made up about 25 percent of total payments last year, but fees associated with those transactions have become a significant expense that has been charged to all Arlington residents," said Arlington Water Utilities Director Buzz Pushkur. "We are making this change to allocate the cost of credit/debit card payments to the customers making them."

# Updates

## Open Arlington (cont'd)

In the course of the Plan's development, the City's project team met with every City Department, reviewed all city-wide data systems and assets, and detailed existing data-oriented business processes. The project team then compared the current state of data to the City's strategic data objectives as part of its progress as a Smart City. These objectives are based on improved data organization, enhancement, understanding and use while improving data access and clarity. Business requirements were defined and a plan was developed to prioritize short-, mid-, and long-term data recommendations. Recommendations included, but were not limited to City organizational and business process changes, updates and growth of IT infrastructure, and increased transparency of existing City data and information.

Implementation of one of the recommendations has already taken a major step forward with the launch of OpenArlington.com, the City's Open Data site. Here the City provides app centric

and downloadable information to the public, businesses, or other institutions so they may use the same data the City utilizes to do their own data exploration or analyses. Action on other recommendations will move forward as approved by Council.

"Open Arlington provides the public with the same information we, as a city, use to make decisions. When we are reviewing building permits or code complaints, citizens are seeing the same data. Making this information more readily available and consolidated in one place means citizens don't have to figure out which city department to contact to get their questions answered," said Elaine Dennehy, Planning Manager of Research and Analytics for the Community Development and Planning Department. "The information is right at their fingertips."

More data, such as public safety, capital project elements and community features, will be added to the Open Arlington site over the coming year, Dennehy said.

**OPEN ARLINGTON** Open Arlington is intended to serve as a central clearinghouse for accessing, visualizing, and interacting with public open data sets.

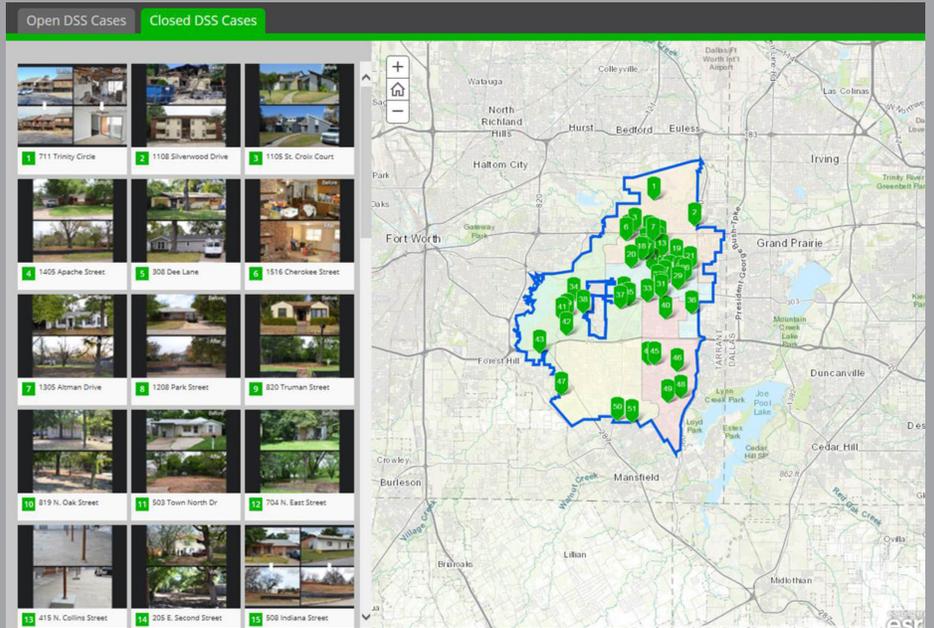
			
Open Data Portal	Ask Arlington	Bond Tracker	Crime Stats
			
Street Tracker	Plat Search	Parks & Facility Map	Maps Online

# Highlights

## Dangerous and Substandard Structures Program (DSS) Unveils New Website

The Dangerous and Substandard Structures (DSS) Team is busy supporting the City Council's priority to "Put Technology to Work" by providing an interactive map gallery showcasing success stories of properties posing a risk to public health being restored to good condition.

The new map tour delivers images and specific details regarding DSS property and case types, address locations and more. This technology also provides downloadable features and data through the city's Open Arlington community resources for citizens and other users of public open data sets.



- [Tour the DSS map gallery](#)
- [Click here to download the DSS map data set](#)
- [Visit the DSS web site](#)

By putting technology to

work, the DSS Team is enhancing communication with the community while working to make Arlington neighborhoods safe, strong and attractive.



## State Honors Mansfield ISD for Innovative Energy Efficiency Program

Mansfield ISD's energy efficiency program was recognized by the Office of the Governor and The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality with their Innovative Operations/Management award, the state's highest environmental honor given by the commission.

MISD is the only school district in Texas to earn this distinction at the 25th annual Texas Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony. These prestigious awards bring attention to the most innovative and effective projects that strive to protect the state's natural resources.

"As a public school district, we are not only educators, we are stewards of our community's resources," said Mansfield ISD Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas. "Our leadership makes it a priority to steward those resources well and for the past ten years our energy conservation programs have dramatically increased our energy efficiency, saved tax dollars and encouraged a culture that teaches our students and staff to practice energy saving behaviors at home as well as at school."

MISD serves more than 33,000 students, 40 percent who are Arlington residents, across more than 6 million square feet of building area. The district is committed to energy conservation and encourages its students and community to join them in saving energy at school and at home.

# Open Arlington *by the Numbers*



**130**  
DOWNLOADED  
DATASETS



**3,635**  
PAGE VIEWS SINCE  
SITE LAUNCHED



**TOP 5 DATASETS**  
Issued Permits  
Dangerous & Substandard Structures  
Code Complaints  
Municipal Boundary  
Road

## Arlington Exploring Innovative Transportation Technology

As part of its Smart Cities initiative, Arlington Public Works and Transportation is participating in two pilot programs designed to make the traffic signal network more efficient and also to let drivers know through a smart phone app how fast they should be going to avoid red lights. If successful, both programs could roll out to benefit drivers in The American Dream City later this year.

In one pilot program, the City is partnering with Connected Signals, Inc. to evaluate the company's Enlighten advance traveler information system. The technology, which communicates with the City's advanced transportation management system software, advises drivers what speed they need to be traveling to make a green light at the next intersection as well as wait times at that signalized intersection. The Connected Signals app displays information on a



user's smart phone or on displays available in certain smart vehicles.

Public Works and Transportation is also working with Acyclica Inc. to make Arlington's traffic signal network more efficient at intersections along select major corridors, such as Matlock Road. As part of the pilot program, the company's traffic counting and performance measuring devices are being deployed at 14 intersections to collect traffic data, such as volume, speed and percentage of vehicles turning left or right. This system can instantly analyze the data for performance measures, such as travel time, average speed, intersection delays, and signal synchronization performance. With these performance measures, City staff can set thresholds for operators to be automatically alerted, and proactive actions taken for efficient traffic management.

Public Works and Transportation Director Mindy Carmichael said the City is exploring how both these projects can aid in signal timing and phasing to move platoons of vehicles as efficiently as possible.